NEW MEDITERRANEAN URBAN FACE

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Abstract

The land coast, with particular emphasis the port-city, are in fact used more and more like a menu in which different users increasingly move freely according to their needs.

The new definition parameters with respect to which the landscapes are recognizable, articulating configurations, immutable, and not concluded, but on the contrary, variables are always open and more leads, not the placement of functions, but the interaction between subjects, and actually pushed social, cultural, political and economic ...

The port city now seems more like a miscellany, and a composite variable, the definition of which combine multiple devices and whose understanding and operational management appears to be no longer in the perimeter of registers and formal, but the identification of rules and tactics logical drive and able to predict particular outcomes and the evolution of the different dynamics and vocations.

"Dream City", "Dream Lands" and "Dream Country" will constitute the new benchmarks in the definition of geographies based on imagination, perception and use of spaces and scenarios from the sensitivity of each individual and class user, until the size of the global imaginary fantasy, with respect to which space, urbanity and territories are distinguished as "complementary" or "complementary" depending on the specific "action brands" and "areas of opportunity".

Keywords: Mediterranean cities, new paradigm, urban face.

1

Introduction. New cultural planning

The saturation and stratification of contemporary urban territories added to the speed of the changes brought about by instances, fashions, trend development of social, political, economic ... ever new and ever changing, has madding it increasingly difficult to define intervention programs and operations planning on a larger scale.

Although these processes are ongoing for some time and the administration and governance at all levels should seek to adapt continually defining and newly developed tools for faster and more flexible action, starting from the 90s town planning is becoming strategy planning, the ever increasing speed of change of the boundary conditions and the increased exponentially of the variables involved continues to highlight the need for more targeted approaches and clear horizons, dividing independently shares and function.

In essence, today the planning seems to be working primarily through the identification of future scenarios and strategies operational times not to determine, but to coordinate a set of projects and actions of intervention on the cities and territories.
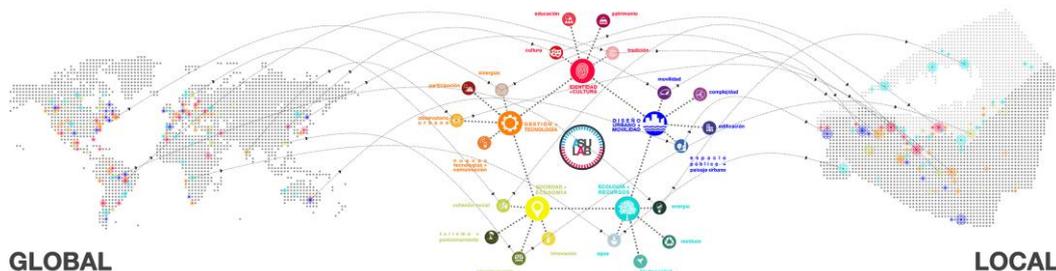

Fig.1. Representation of the contemporary connections between the global and local. [Digital Library of *Ecosistema Urbano*, www.ecosistemaurbano.org]

This condition, combined with the increasing scarcity of resources due to the economic crisis and to imposing a renewed ecological awareness, produces the emergence of a whole system of new paradigms which recognize their own definition in the use of the suffix re - : re-cycle, re-activation, re- naturalization, re-connect, ...

The interesting aspect of the emergence of these logics is the substantial re-breaking and re-versing these underlying trend with respect to the consolidated implementation and continuous addition typical zoning and planning of the operations of the recent past.

In this sense, the scenarios are re-interpreted.

Logic of Stress > Logic of Empathies

The return to nature desire inevitably introduces changes in the relationship between solids and voids turning the green from being just a urban complement, infiltrated and often almost accidental, in an important and articulated organization and space-time modulation device able to modulate it, to interact and interface with weight and percentage surface to the built.

The strengthened natural system not only becomes a potential alternative to the infrastructure system in favor of a pedestrian mobility, bicycle or any other alternative to the car, but in a way even more interesting, it assumes the role of a reliever and a diaphragm replacing limits and tensions for empathy and exchange between the parties. The urban limit, however, is dissolving completely and permanently in the landscape and in the same way the boundary between public space and building, in terms of area and permeability, tends to dissolve. Hybridization, in this view, seems to impose itself strongly as a new way of resolving spatial and formal disputes, mingling and overlapping, prefiguring urban realities made of multi-purpose convertible and usable spaces and systems, at the same time in a different way, and objects as buildings, infrastructure, social spaces and energy sources.

Logic of Agreements > Logic of Resonances

The revaluation of each single reality enriches the territory defining it as a set of independent and, at the same time, consistent and concurrent specificities in the definition of the set.

This constitutes an important shift in territory design and action because it inserts and gives role also to minor realities, while the already worthy recognized areas are, in this way, unmarked, freed by an excessive pressure, which redistributes itself in adjacent areas, recovering breath and quality.

Constantly changing, the logical dynamics clarification and understanding involve the choice and the proposition of directions able to determine and drive the renewal and the interface between different territory's devices, outlining new configurations, prepositions, evolving and alternatives geographies of landscape.

In this logical context, the landscape takes shape, therefore, in new geographies no longer tied to the traditional categories of natural and artificial or urban and agricultural [1]. In this new dimension, the territory founds these natures mixed and overwritten and, at the same time, distinguishes and organizes itself respect to their valences:

- Propulsive, as a generator of new arrangements, configurations;
- Potential, as reinforcement of situations and processes already in place;
- Connective, as an articulating binder not only at physical level, but also cognitive;
- Suspensive, as a pause or a buffer [2].

Basically, we are witnessing the gradual establish and codify of a contrast way to the densification at all costs and to the indifference to the asset values (ecological, landscape, architectural , ...) [3]. You go to an awareness of the impossibility to procrastinate further actions to rebalance and correction of destructive and speculative processes following the first industrial revolution and increased, more and more alarming, with the development of technologies and industrialization.

This new approach gives rise not only to new and ever more complex models of strategic planning, but, most interestingly, it will define and give value to a whole system of territories (networks of urban spaces and not) so far ignored considered marginal or waste, but instead are being rediscovered as potential engines of new models and horizons of development and the city (or cities) in a sustainable way.
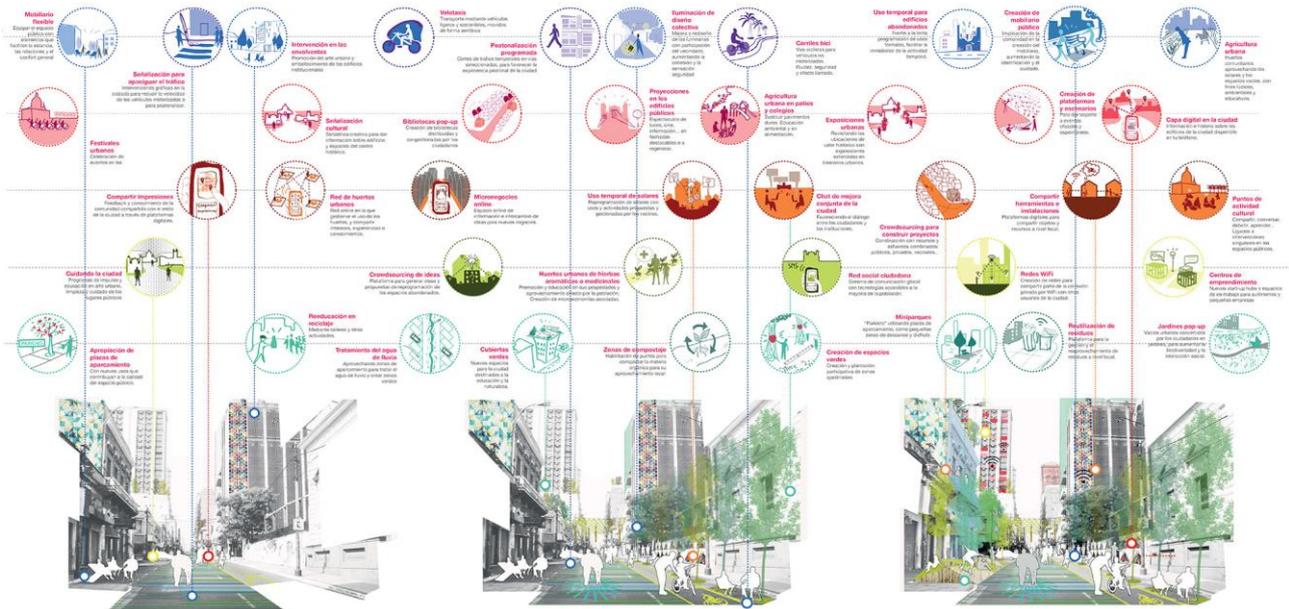
2

Fig.2. Representation of the contemporary city spaces. [Digital Library of *Ecosistema Urbano*, www.ecosistemaurbano.org]

Paragraph 1. Trands from urban mediterranean territories

The Mediterranean is a unique setting and a kaleidoscopic melting pot; a calm, protected basin which thanks to its central position has for centuries been a crossroads connecting three continents; a place for meeting and exchange. The Mediterranean coasts possess an accumulation of exceptional urban places that are uniquely rich, layered and complex, and whose physical and geographical features have enabled them to play a fundamental role in the development of civilisations. The port cities around the Mediterranean are highly sophisticated artefacts of major heritage value and are the outcome of a process dating back to the beginning of time but also expressing the varied, many-sided present day as well as looking forward to the future [4]. But the complex connotations of this urban fabric cannot simply be explained as a consequence or a product of the interaction between the morphology of the Mediterranean territory, the evolution of a single civilisation, or the result of applying different rules. More interestingly, they are the end product of contaminations and cross-fertilisations that were mainly spontaneous and peaceful and that came about thanks to the contacts, exchanges and interchanges between the various populations and cultures of the basin. Because of these processes, which took place over time and across cultures, each Mediterranean port city developed its own identity and each one is completely different from the others, whilst at the same time being undeniably and indissolubly connected to them as an inextricable part of a whole system.

The Mediterranean port cities, which are linked not merely by formal similarities (or by their similarities of form), but with respect to a number of key concepts (their interactions, exchanges, dependencies) in a more underlying, intrinsic way, can be identified and defined using a logical analogy according to which as the system of the Mediterranean basin they are something like a biological organism. In this different perspective they reveal themselves to be perfect space-systemic workshops whose greater or lesser complexity of interconnectedness defines the Mediterranean itself as a relational phenomenological model that embodies, in summary form, the logics and relationships of the global network as a whole [5].

The special condition of this context, in the new dimension of attention to energy development of cities and territories, highlights new ways to define spaces. In particular three trends emerge:

• Rinaturactivation, as recovery of that relationship-interdependence between settlements and territories. The Mediterranean urbanity developed for centuries in harmony with its territory by exploiting the morphology and optimizing the available resources in a manner calculated to achieve maximum energy efficiency with less effort and waste.

• Sharingswitch, as mutual correlation between the different spaces and areas of the city and territory into a game for activation and deactivation constantly exchange flows and energy.
• Upcycling, as recovery of ancient uses and spaces with new meanings and roles in relation to both the definition that the operation of the city and the territory.

On the one hand because of their structural complexity, their internal mixed, and their strong interactivity within (and with respect to) the basin as a system, and on the other because of their strong desire to affirm themselves and be protagonists within (and with respect to) the global level, the Mediterranean territories show that without any loss of meaning they can fully intercept and absorb the various logical and use-related modifications imposed by today's dynamics and equally, in this process, can reveal that in response to the new demands and stresses they are able to suggest, develop, and propose paradigmatic scenarios and tactics that are expressed in the conjunction, conversion, harmonization and completion of the existing, whether or not it has heritage value.

Paragraph 2. New Mediterranean urban face
The land coast, with particular emphasis the mediterranean port-city, are used more and more like a menu in which different users increasingly move freely according to their needs.
The new definition parameters with respect to which the landscapes are recognizable, articulating configurations, immutable, and not concluded, but on the contrary, variables are always open and more leads, not the placement of functions, but the interaction between subjects, and actually pushed social, cultural, political and economic ...
The port city now seems more like a miscellany, and a composite variable, the definition of which combine multiple devices and whose understanding and operational management appears to be no longer in the perimeter of registers and formal, but the identification of rules and tactics logical drive and able to predict particular outcomes and the evolution of the different dynamics and vocations.
'Dream City', 'Dream Lands' and 'Dream Country' will constitute the new benchmarks in the definition of geographies based on imagination, perception and use of spaces and scenarios from the sensitivity of each individual and class user, until the size of the global imaginary fantasy, with respect to which space, urbanity and territories are distinguished as 'complementary' or 'complementary' depending on the specific 'action brands' and 'areas of opportunity'.
The concepts of limit and shape related to the determination of urban systems have lost their meaning and sense in the face of current processes.
To determine the spatial geography no longer, in fact, both the spatial and temporal factors as those information and relationship with respect to which urban maps are distorted by compression and expansion.
The new parameters defined with respect to which, today, the urbanized areas are recognized by articulating configurations, not ended and immutable, but on the contrary, variable and open, more and more outlets, not the position of features, but the interaction between subjects, and have really pushed the social, cultural, political and economic ...
Topics and times at the base of the structure and definition of the territories are, in fact, profoundly changed the speed of the process makes it, in fact, useless and misleading operations of long-term planning, while the multitude of demands and pressures require ever-increasing convertibility and variability interventions.
The area, if some time is taken on the meaning of the integrated system, now looks more like a mixture, composite and variable definitions which contribute to a variety of devices and whose understanding and operational management appears to be no longer in the scope of records and formal, but the identification of logical rules and tactics to guide and predict the outcome and development of the different dynamics and vocations.
The urban face of these dynamics, can and must, therefore, still play a key role in the structuring and establishment of territories in general and urban areas in particular, but not with more radical actions and bakery additives, as with the renewal of propositions, concepts and applications.
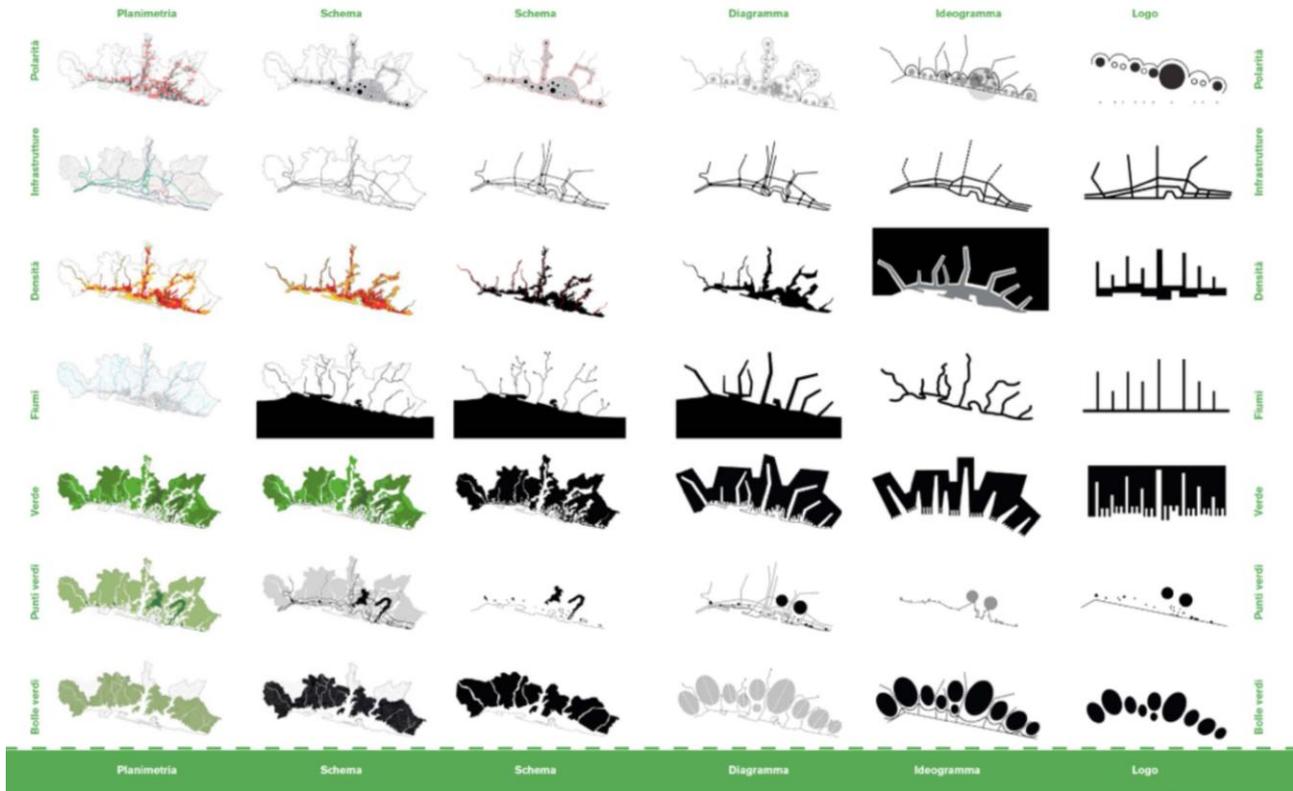
Fig.3. Diagram city of Genoa. [Digital Library of Gausa M. Ricci M., *Atlante Urbano del Mediterraneo 01*, Canessa N. Marengo M Nan E. (a cura di) List, Trento/Barcellona, 2013]

If the whole country is today under the action of an energy field which is constantly changing, the planner's action, can no longer be in control with a static, fixed design, but which includes the development and understanding of logical dynamics of choice and the proposition becomes the addresses of those to be determined, driving, the renewal of the various interface devices spatial convertible new geographies and emerging alternatives, in which the response to the problems of sustainability is not a limit, but as resource capable of providing answers to the needs of daily living.

The landscape, in that sense, it seems, in fact, become more and more potential and power to influence the definition of plans and strategies. The growing attention to ecology, the willingness to give up resources and polluting the turning tourism and economic interests, in general, in contexts in which natural and artificial environments are showing more and more comprehensive, extensive and branched, is that if the past have been the settlements, with their development, to lead the transformation of the territories, today, are without doubt the landscape.

Branching and infiltrating the settlements and increasingly taking the role of the devices themselves, while over land and in the system, such as connection networks, like infrastructure, and as structural factors and structuring, the landscapes become, today, in the articulation of green, private and public, wild, agricultural and urban water, river or sea and also built, which is full of gaps, the new ordering element and link the different contexts and realities.

The intensification of the networks of physical, economic and cultural exchange have gradually led to a reduction of distances; maps and domains are increasingly being defined in terms of compression and saturation. Since it is the aim of these dynamics to restructure and define the whole world as a single global network, it might have been expected that the Mediterranean and its coastal urban structures would have lost their role as Europe's centre of gravity, and become peripheral. But on the contrary, thanks to the systemic reality that defines and regulates the Mediterranean basin as a unique whole and – at the same time – as a multiple corollary of particular individual features, it has reconfirmed its position and has indeed strengthened it, and has become the most important basin for receiving the inward flows of all the migratory currents that relate to tourism, new residence, immigration, and work.

Today's dynamics and processes and as compared to other more technologically evolved or more structurally functional systems and scenarios, each of these Mediterranean port-cities seems to be maintaining its peculiarities and upholding the importance of its particular role in relation to the wider world geography, whilst identifying an 'increased' complexity that is the consequence of a genetic, intrinsic and permanent predisposition to embrace an 'open', flexible, but always dynamically coherent evolution.

Clementi looks like the coasts of the Mediterranean connote, in this context, logic, peculiarly for the fact that "for hundreds of kilometers, rooted and nomadic populations intersect at different times of the day, week, seasons, places that do not are designed for those who live there, but to pander to the processes of a market, a tourist economy more competitive" (Clementi, 1995).

It 'clear that today in the design and management of the different scenarios that define the Mediterranean coast are not only important from the needs and desires of the population stable, which also have less and less, but also and increasingly, identification and understanding of perspectives and logical changes that are imposed by new needs and sensitivities of who joins and uses only temporarily and partially this space.

Tourism, in this context, although it always plays an important role, it has acquired and is acquiring an ever more decisive, revealing values and meanings increasingly varied and complex, well beyond the limited and traditional view of seasonal-related practices for bathing.

The economic importance coated, for the temporary Mediterranean coastal areas and variety of users is the fact that a major if not the first goals of the actions of transformation today is undoubtedly increase of palatability, by creating expectations and ease of enjoyment for an ever increasing number of subjects.

If the Mediterranean was once a system of relational devices and is now a system of trans-devices and other devices (devices of/between/among/with/in devices), today more than ever it presents itself as the theatre of excesses: an intricate system of correspondences in which each port-city, within itself, exhibits the variations of relational logics that engage and connect all scales, the whole basin, and the global system, in terms of its non-spatial, but international, proximity or distance from the others.

The Mediterranean port cities, which are linked not merely by formal similarities (or by their similarities of form), but with respect to a number of key concepts (their interactions, exchanges, dependencies) in a more underlying, intrinsic way, can be identified and defined using a logical analogy according to which as the system of the Mediterranean basin they are something like a biological organism. In this different perspective they reveal themselves to be perfect space-systemic workshops whose greater or lesser complexity of interconnectedness defines the Mediterranean itself as a relational phenomenological model that embodies, in summary form, the logics and relationships of the global network as a whole.

In the simultaneous concomitancies and competitives links of different territorial/urban situations and their demands, their rapid variation over time, and faced with the now obvious need for sustainability that the economic crisis has rendered mandatory, today's contradictory, de-structured and changeable circumstances are bringing about an ever-increasing, ever-faster flexibility and transformability of paradigms that can no longer be regarded as models for rupturing ancient equilibriums, structures, and organisations in a logical perspective markedly different from the past, but as a re-structuring of their coherence, interconnectedness and continuity, in and between the various urbanised settings and landscapes.

In the Mediterranean regions is evident, therefore, perhaps more than elsewhere, what we remember Ricci as emphasizing "Landscape and Environment Society are the great themes of ethical confrontation, economic and political crisis after. The culture of the development plan can not remain insensitive or to pretend that these problems do not overwhelm forcing her to profound changes.

In few years the global crisis has brought forth a different sense of social values and economic changes that the objectives of the change. A new geography of desire is changing so fast development processes that produces the crisis itself in the economic and cultural aggregates or more resistant to the forces of change, making them suddenly old, out of time.

The direct relationship between activities and places is no longer a necessary condition. Cities tend to lose a physical connotation defined to assume the size of the fluid fields of relationships. Reduces the need of land, intended as a space to move and communicate, increases the demand for "security" than the size of environmental risk and significantly increases the need for landscapes in which to live and identify with. The recent economic and energy crisis is changing decisively the way of thinking about the future and its forms" (Ricci, 2013).

6

The different geographies of desire show, so, the articulation of different territories according to speed and capable of activating cycles and inter-turn, according to specific purposes and contexts, spaces, links and devices, thus defining new tactics choice of actions in the interface and interpolation processing with respect to the different proposals and demands imposed on the culture and lifestyle needs.

Conclusion

The new scenarios result in new propositions of the imagination, so the new logic become the engine of projects, research and visions as Multi-Hiper-Catalunya Barcelona, Picity, Adriatic City ... where the landscape, as an active converter, territorial, defines the set in "a complex matrix of 'points' and 'counterpoint' - of fingers intertwined - referring to basic standards, flexible and intermittent, open to possible changes but always aware of the tactics of spaces available for development and report" (Gausa, 2009).
If the new size of the landscape is therefore on the scale today, one switch, the plurality of complexity and geographies through which it defines, in this sense, are nothing but the expression of the complexity of the interactions, not only within the unfolding of each particular scenario, but especially in the dialogue between local and global.
An increased size, which makes the territory similar to a network, a network, in which the vertical and transverse connections have assumed much more strength and valence of the horizontal ones, so that, today affects more timely a transformation on the whole system that the contrary.
The micro-scale and large-scale rediscover and reacquire thus their centrality in the triumph of localism and the landscape is strengthened and enriched by new instances of self-feeding it into a virtuous circle.

Notes

[1] "Cities happen to be problems in organized complexity, like the life sciences. They present situations in which half a dozen of several dozen of quantities are all varying simultaneously and in subtly interconnected ways…the variables are many, but they are not helter skelter; they are inter-related into an organic whole" Jacobs J.: *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Random House and Vintage Books, New York, 1961.
[2] Nan E.: *Dynamic Geographies of Desire's Territories*, in Planum n. 2, Vol. 27/2013.
[3] In this scenario arises the Landscape Urbanism. The term Landscape Urbanism appears for the first time, as a branch of Landscape Ecology that focuses on the organization of human activities into the natural landscape (Shane 2004), the exhibition Landscape Urbanism (1997) edited by Charles Waldheim. It posed to light the study of the interrelationships between human activities and the natural landscape: the interstitial spaces, the spaces infrastructure and ecology are considered as the background of the social activities planned and unplanned on public land. It is therefore a model of performative urbanism (Corner 1997), or performing practice (Shane 2005), as an analysis of the development of cities attentive to the needs of the reconstitution of the delicate ecological balance between the built and unbuilt. The thorny problem of how urban density emerges from the landscape and how the urban ecologies and technologies define the spaces in which case the Company's business is dealt with according to a bottom-up approach.
[4] The literature on the Mediterranean is very large, in particular with regard the complexity of the scenarios are the reference works are Matvejevic' P.: *Breviario mediterraneo*, Garzanti, Milano, 1991 and Braudel F.: *Il Mediterraneo. Lo spazio e la storia, gli uomini e la tradizione*, Milano, Bompiani, 1987.
[5] Troin J. F.: *Le Metropoli del Mediterraneo. Città di frontiera, città cerniera*, Jaca Book, Milano, 1997.

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