



Editorial

Less Waste and Waste Towards Landscape: Needs and Opportunities

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facing page

Gasometro, Roma 2007. (Photo A. Scippa).

In scientific research it is normal to investigate a specific question also by empirical way. It assumes different connotations according to the field in which it is experienced. However, design research assumes as common denominator of its various expressions the fact that it is not possible to perform experiments. This is due to substantial reasons and involves more than one significant condition. It is not possible to isolate the experiment from the reality in which it is performed, nor to avoid the effects on it, which are also substantial of the indicative capacity of the experience. The places of the project and the landscape to which they belong to constitute the only practicable laboratory. It is then not possible to replicate the experiment a number of times and in ways suitable for obtaining statistical evaluations. In fact, the space-time uniqueness of the 'laboratory' does not allow it, and before them, the execution times and costs. Finally, it is not possible to perform the experiment through models of reality. They are necessarily partial, thematic, however complex and sensitive. Therefore, the models do not allow complete simulations of the structures, the operations and the dynamics of

the landscapes and the systems that compose and connote them. However, these same variables are fundamental for the design synthesis, which cannot avoid the joint consideration. In design research, the experiment and experience coincide as the laboratory with reality, with its peculiar identity of place, landscape and population.

In order to focus on an argument empirically, it is necessary to find the availability of a numerically significant set of 'experiments' performed or experiences made, becoming part of the change of a place, a landscape, a population. The availability of experience data allows studying a theme through the multiple perspective of the conceived, developed and implemented design solutions to address their generalities, necessarily entering into relation with the specifics. This is the case of the number we publish, in which a question is precisely investigated through a set of projects, in more cases realized, which have faced it in many specific problems. Focusing on a topic in the form of a magazine requires that you dedicate at least one volume to it, which for the thematic profile of these articles configures a special number. In this case, the unique prove-

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nance of the contributions from a technical conference also determined a further feature that requires a special contextualization for a scientific journal. Some articles deal with technical and technological aspects directly related to specific applications, thus not assuming the typical forms and contents of scientific publishing. They return significant information to research as also practical applications to trigger possible theoretical setups.

The contemporary interpretation of the relationship between waste and habitat is the theme of this special issue. The subject is increasingly treated, not only in the technical and technological terms of environmental engineering. What do we do with the waste that must be stored anyway, even considering efficient processes for the selection and recycling of waste generated by production and consumption? The latter processes are still under way, but still far from reaching optimal dissemination, efficiency and effectiveness requirements. What do we do with everything we abandon, after a more or less intelligent use, and we cannot return to the production cycle under any useful form, being it 'matter' or 'energy'?

Ultimately, do we have to let waste to occupy areas to be considered completely reserved for the sole purpose of their storage for hygiene and environmental protection, precluding any other use and any

other function of the spaces involved in the landscape of which they are part? It is evident that the waste storage and treatment sites have their own functioning and management. However, this does not mean that ecological and sociological processes are excluded from the transformation of these spaces, once their load capacities are exhausted, as with specific conditioning, even during the cultivation stages. Many experiences are increasingly demonstrating the potentials of integrated approaches that look beyond sectoral needs. Some cases emerge on the international scene due to the particular effectiveness and the demonstrative meaning that they express in the evolution of the sites towards stages of environmental and visual regeneration and identification and social colonization. There are experiences like those of Barcelona, with the Vall d'en Joan, in the El Garraf massif; of New York, with the Fresh Kills Park; the one of Tel Aviv metropolitan area, for which we invited Tilman Latz to explain us the project of the conversion of Hiriya landfill. These are convincing demonstrations of the possibility of changing the more thrust marginality into precious centrality, of how and how much the landscape can develop a vital layer on what has been rejected and accumulated. However, it is not only the striking cases known to be significant. It is essential to study the problem also

in its most common expressions, in the smaller dimensions of the sites, as well as the available financial resources and, last but not least, in the different cultures expressed by the territories in the landscapes and in the populations.

The International Waste Working Group (IWWG) has a well-established organization of the Sardinia Symposium, a two-year international initiative on waste management and storage. The Arcoplan studio in Padua is responsible for the Waste Architecture section of the symposium. We publish some works proposed by them based on a selection of what was discussed in the editions of 2015 and 2017. The colleagues who introduce this number on the following pages accompany us in the history and structure of this articulated international initiative that constitutes a reference point for researchers, technicians and managers.

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