



UIA | TORINO | 2008

XXIII WORLD CONGRESS | ARCHITECTURE

JUNE, 29 | JULY, 3

Democracy | urban democracy, participation, mediation, decision | **July, 1**

MAIN SESSION | URBAN CENTER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

The first question will invite to think about the difference between the time of the communication and the time of urban life, which don't find an effective translation in a communication structure. The first problem for an urban center is the problem of time: the time of the design, the time of the decision, the time of the construction site, the time of the building. These times offer different actors; they produce different scenes that cause different actions. If you want that the communication became involvement, you may face and manage first of all the transparency and the complexity of these times.

How to witness the length and the complexity of times of decision? How approach the city dwellers not only to projects and final results, but also to the main process and to its different times?

La prima questione sarà riflettere tra tempo della comunicazione e tempo della vita urbana, tempi che difficilmente trovano un'efficace, effettiva trasposizione all'interno di una struttura di comunicazione. Un urban center ha come primo problema quello dei tempi: il tempo dei progetti, il tempo delle decisioni, il tempo del cantiere, il tempo dell'opera. Sono tempi che presentano attori diversi, che generano scene diverse, che determinano azioni diverse. Fare della comunicazione un modo della partecipazione significa affrontare e gestire in primo luogo la trasparenza e la complessità di questi tempi.

Le prime domande cui la sessione dovrà rispondere sono sul come restituire la durata e la complessità dei tempi della decisione e sul come avvicinare i cittadini non solo a progetti ed esiti, ma all'intero processo e ai suoi diversi tempi.

The second question is about which is the meaning to demand a role for the urban design and for the morphology as tools to build a hierarchy between social values: must urban center, for its own nature, be spokesman? The question on which reflect is also if urban center can play an active role in order to follow and accompany transformation projects according to the quality, it must earn a legitimacy to be third subject between buyers and designers.

Is it possible, for example, that it became promoter of a shareable set of principles about quality standards, actions of assessments and trading, procedures and rules? This position as third party is not guaranteed by an institutional role, but by a cultural and scientific authority.

La seconda questione riguarda quale significato ha rivendicare il ruolo del disegno urbano e della morfologia come strumento di messa in ordine e in gerarchia dei valori sociali, di cui un urban center deve per sua natura farsi portavoce? Se l'urban center intende svolgere un ruolo attivo nell'accompagnamento dei progetti di trasformazione e nell'indirizzo della qualità, deve guadagnarsi una legittimazione anche ad essere soggetto terzo tra committenza e progettisti.

È possibile ad esempio che si faccia promotore di un set of principles da condividere, una sorta di "carta di principi" riguardante la qualità e i criteri su cui si basano le valutazioni, le contrattazioni, gli interventi, ma anche di procedure e regole? Una terzietà non garantita da un ruolo istituzionale, ma da un'autorità culturale e scientifica.



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In the second session of the congress which focuses on democracy as its key topic, Urban Center Metropolitano coordinates the *main session* "Urban Center throughout the world", devoted to **urban centers** – public or private organisations that are involved in informing the citizens about the city transformations, in fostering an understanding of community planning and building processes and, in the most successful cases, in monitoring the quality of the projects and "accompany" the transformation through concrete and concerted actions. Particularly, in the *main session* we shall discuss about two core issues, closely related to the essence of urban centers in relation to the key role that such organisations can play in terms of urban change and decision-making processes.

The first issue is **liability**, for which the city players – architects, builders, policy-makers – are to be accountable more and more strongly. Can the urban center, as a place for debating among the stakeholders about potential choices concerning transformation, make this process easier? Can urban centers play a supportive role for the local government, not only in communicating its decisions but also in defining them? How can they give an important contribution to the liability that policy-makers have to assume as to the choices that have been made?

The second issue, closely related to the former, is that urban centers are a **third party**, i.e. the political nature ("*nature*" or "*neutrality*") of these organisations being a prerequisite of their legitimation. How can an urban center ensure its "third party" role? What are the tools that enable an urban center to adopt this stance? How can an urban center legitimize its active role in the transformation and reorganisation of the urban scene (and not only in communicating it and promoting its understanding) without losing such thirdness? To what extent can an urban center "accompany" urban development projects by using the tools of urban morphology and design without being in conflict with the other players involved in such transformation?

Programme

Part one (09:00 – 11:00 am)

Jung Ho Chang, Director, Department of Architecture, MIT, Boston

Rahul Mehrotra, Department of Architecture, MIT, Boston

Tarek Naga, Naga Studio Architecture, Los Angeles

Coordination: Carlo Olmo, Director, Urban Center Metropolitano, Torino

Part two (11:00 am – 01:00 pm)

Diane Filippi, Director, SPUR Urban Center, San Francisco

Olympia Kazi, Executive Director, Institute for Urban Design, New York

Piera Busacca, Casa dell'Architettura, Catania

Maurizio Carta, Urban Center, Palermo

Coordination: Luigi Mazza, Politecnico, Milano