postgraduate European Master in Urbanism_EMU

TU Delft
KU Leuven
UPC Barcelona
Iuav Venezia

fall_semester 2011 - 2012

design studio
situations, scenarios
15 ECTS
Bernardo Secchi, Paola Viganò

seminar:
The GIS in the territorial project and 3D design

knowledge fields
forms of knowledge,
forms of rationality: the scenario construction
3 ECTS

instruments of design
the project as knowledge producer
3 ECTS
Paola Viganò

tools of representation
intensified visions: technique and the art of photography
3 ECTS
Guido Guidi

techniques of production of cities and territories
landscape ecology and urban systems
3 ECTS
Sybrand Tjallingii

mobility and territories of dispersion
3 ECTS
Agostino Cappelli

26 September 2011 - January 2012

palazzo Badoer, Venice
The Design Studio will reflect on research/design through description and scenarios. The Italian territories of dispersion, the new form of the contemporary metropolis, are taken as a reference for comparison with other European or non-European cases. The hypothesis that leads the Studio is that these territories are today facing a strong mutation. The Studio will observe and read places and territories in transformation, questioning them with different hypothesis about their future. Scenarios related to new way of living, moving, inhabiting the city and the territory will be explored to understand the ways in which the territories of dispersion have been, will and might be shared or conflictual resources and support of an innovative ecological project; looking for new representations of the territory as infrastructure and living place.
In the epoch of the important economic and social changes also the diffused city, the territory of urban sprawl with the small enterprises and individual housing, is changing. About a third part of the industrial buildings is empty, the inhabitants are getting old; that means that a new immigrant population will reutilize the old urban tissue introducing their variety of lifestyles. At the same time the environmental and economical crises are pushing to reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

The hypothesis “100% recycled” has a large consensus. However, it is often quite apparent or episodic.

The construction of the scenario “100% recycling” intend to explore the capacity of the dispersed territories to transform themself reusing and recycling their existing elements. The analysis of the forces that cause the degradation or, on the contrary, the regeneration, shows the processes of self-destruction of functional diversity: reflecting on the conditions that produce more diversity brings us closer to the understanding of the urban system created by the mix of uses. Therefore, recycle does not means only to reuse, but to propose a new cycle of life.
Part of the design studio consists of a workshop to be held in October at a university or institution to be decided. It will continue the reflections begun with the previous workshops (Extreme city, Venice, April 2010; An idea of greater Saint Petersburg, Saint Petersburg, October 2010).

The results of the last workshops can be seen in:

www.extremecities.net

Paola Viganò, Lorenzo Fabian (eds), Extreme city. The climate change and the transformation of the waterscape, IUAV, 2010.
The aim of the seminar is to give the basic knowledge to manage and process plans and territorial maps. The aim will be pursued through a practical seminar where some graphic exercises and statistic analysis will be developed and some geographically referenced data will be managed. The program is focused on practical exercises of mapping, monitoring, modeling and visualization using geographic information technologies such as GIS, image processing tools, simulation tools and spatial multimedia to manipulate and analyze geographically referenced data. In addition to these exercises some knowledge of 3D design will be given.
- a space of description: the project as a reading tool of contemporary cities and territories. An analytic and elementaristic approach.
- a space of hypothesis: the project as a collection of hypothesis on the future of contemporary cities and territories. The technique of scenarios.

**PLACES OF EXCHANGE**

Cities are, in a traditional definition, the places without agricultural production (R.E. Dickinson), with a heterogeneous population (Wirth), related with transportation, industry and commerce (Aurousseau).

However, today, the concept is more complex: “The world is an urban place” (David Clark). In the diffused city, a fractal of the global city, these traditional definitions no longer hold. So we must understand the key characteristics of a city in a different way. “The city is an essential element of the economic system precisely as a PLACE OF EXCHANGE” (Remy). The “place with the greatest wealth of trade” (Meier).

In the diffused city exchange takes place at two different scales. The scale of the pedestrian and the scale of the car. Looking at a sample of the diffused city we see two main different typologies of built up areas. The concentric and the linear. Exchange at pedestrian scale occurs more in the concentric and by car more in the linear.
The forms of rationality that support and legitimize the production of urban-spatial plans and projects is the focus of the program in an international historical perspective, from the scientific rationality to the communicative rationality. The discussion of each form of rationality implies a reflection not only about the epistemic properties of the plan (and of the survey for/in/about the plan, and, more generally, about the argumentative or demonstrative analytical and interpretative “materials” that, in an implicit or explicit way, frame plans and projects), but also on the pragmatic rationality (uses of plans, meanings of the intentionality, process management, etc.) and social rationality (images of the society, the urban, the territory, the “modernity”).

Each form of rationality is obviously strongly affected by the perception of what is knowledge, who is legitimate to produce it and how. Some lectures will discuss the connection between forms of rationality and forms of knowledge (expert, technical, ordinary, interactive), and the relationship with different typologies of public choice. All this points will be mainly discussed with reference to the question and practice of production of scenarios and, more generally, to the question of the “future” in urban planning.
Since its very beginning, photography has established a close relationship with the built environment and has activated a new manner of looking at the “intractable reality” of our world (to quote Roland Barthes’ words). The course will explore this evolving relationship over the 19th and 20th centuries promoting hand-on work in the field and the analysis of visual texts related to the modern city and its landscapes. The aim of the course is to overcome the traditional dichotomy between the technique and the art of photography, in search of the medium’s deeper ethos – what Laszló Moholy-Nagy has called the “intensified vision” of the camera as a democratic and enriching tool of observation.

The course will be held in the form of a workshop mainly on site, using the tool of photography to enrich and modify the traditional eye of the architect and urbanist. The students will be asked to produce and discuss their own photos work.
The aim of the courses is to introduce to the theories and the applications of the landscape ecology in strong relation with the studio issues and to provide tools in order to deal with mobility issues.

Among them:

1. Theories in landscape ecology (ecotones, percolation, metapopulation, source-sink systems).
2. Methods to evaluate and manage the urban systems by using the methods of landscape ecology.
3. Information theory, biosemiotics and eco-field as tools to approach the dynamics of the urban systems.
5. Interactions between social systems and the spatial organization of urban systems.
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