

SYMPOSIUM MED.NET.3

The Student's Survey



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International Forum

MED.NET 3 RESILIGENCE

Intelligent Cities /
Resilient Landscapes

SYMPOSIUM MED.NET.3

The Student's Survey

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR
Manuel Gausa, DSA, UNIGE

DIRECTION AND COORDINATION
Nicola Canessa, DSA, UNIGE
Alessia Ronco Milanaccio, DSA, UNIGE
Giorgia Tucci, DSA, UNIGE

CURATOR AND EDITORIAL COORDINATION
Giorgia Tucci, DSA, UNIGE

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Alessia Ronco Milanaccio, DSA, UNIGE

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xxxxxxx
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salesnewyork@actar-d.com
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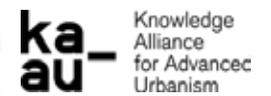
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ADDGenova - Dottorato in Architettura e Design
Università degli Studi di Genova

MED.NET.3 Resili(g)ence
Intelligent Cities/Resilient Landscapes

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Informational Contexts Laboratory
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Lecture #1 and lecture #2

Daniel Vasini
Salvatore Iaconesi
Ezio Manzini

International Forum

MED.NET 3 RESILIGENCE

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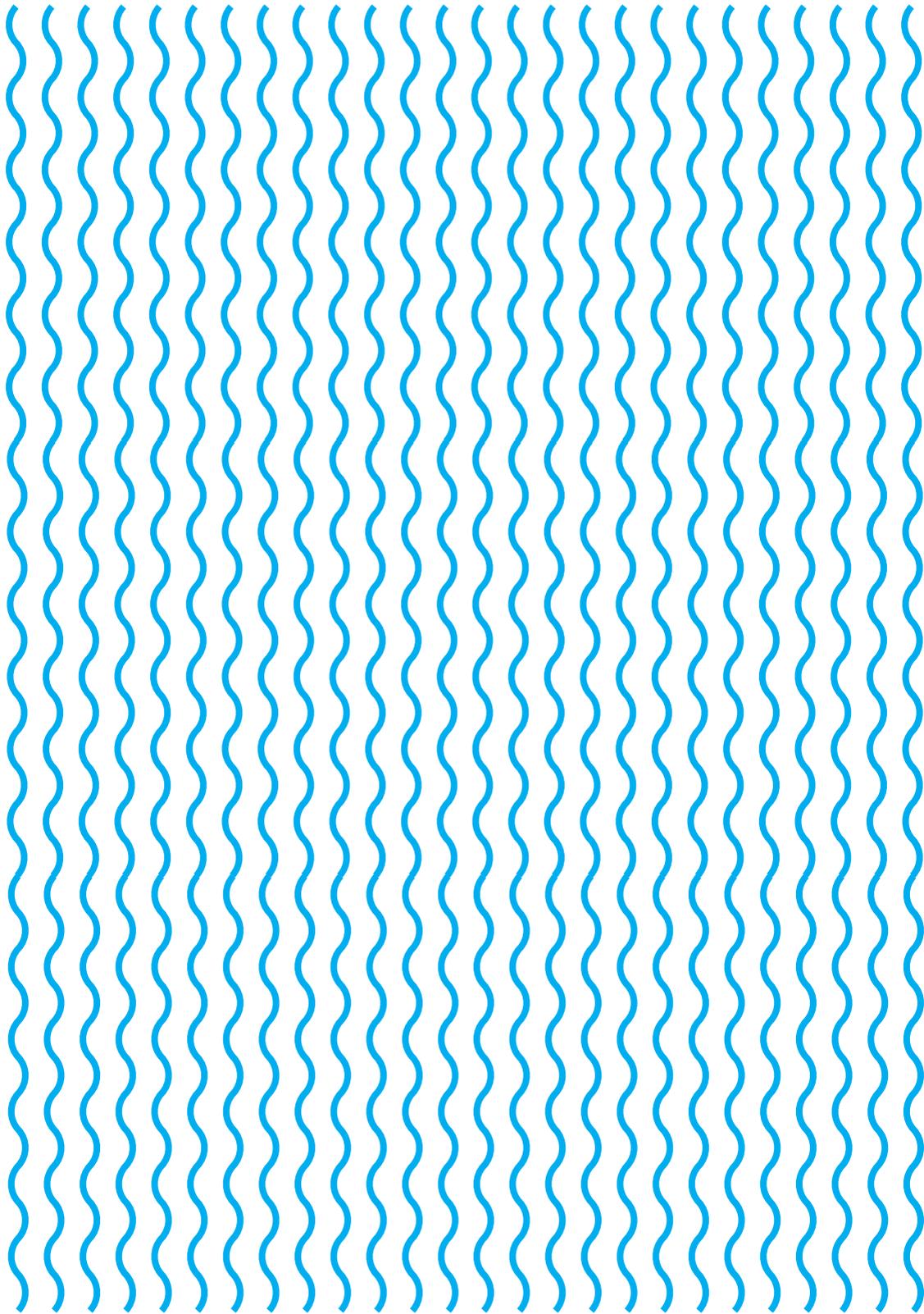
MED.NET.3 Resili(g)ence INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Student's Survey

LECTURES #1

October, 26th 2016

Daniel Vasini
Salvatore Iaconesi
Ezio Manzini



STUDENTS:

Andrea Ferrando

Ilaria Gozza

Giulia Nuredini

Emanuela Passadore

Wednesday October 26 th, on the occasion of the International Forum MED.NET 3 RESILIGENCE at the University of Genoa, we had the honour to hear these three guests opinion about what they think RESILIENCE, or better RESILIGENCE is. What does it means for them?

R E S I L I E N C E is “the ability of adaptation, of being strong, in front of a dramatic event or any adverse situation”. It’s someone’s capacity to react, to face and go beyond traumatic events or a period of difficulties, in a positive way, reorganizing positively its life. This term can be used in different settings: architectural, sociological, economical, etc., and it can be associated to other different words.

With Daniel Vasini, of West 8, we saw why we can connect resilience with ADAPTATION but also with lots of other terms. To be resilient we have to face adversity and to adapt and react at it, but we have also to remember the adversity and then, mostly thinking about architecture, to renovate, respect, recreate, protect and recover.

With Ezio Manzini we learned that resilience it’s not about coming back to where we were, but it means to go where we can go after having a problem, and to be resilient first we have to create resilient systems. The necessity is to create SOCIAL INNOVATION, by thinking distributed and collaborative, because the more the system is distributed, the more people have to collaborate to be part of it.

Finally Salvatore Iaconesi taught us that an extremisation of resilience, meant as resistance, then movement and so overcoming and innovation, is TRANSGRESSION. Transgression is “an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offence”. But Mikhail Bakhtin said that “transgression pushes the limits of experience”.

In fact we can say that transgressors don’t break borders. They recognise them, and they move them, and by moving them, they innovate. So sometimes it’s useful to transgress and to free the creativity, because this way it’s possible to go on.

Daniel Vasini, West 8

Daniel Vasini, an important member of West 8, was hosted in our university in order to show us some of their projects. The first one was the **Rotterdam Central Station**: that's **one of the most important transport hubs in The Netherlands** because of its central position that links it very well with cities such as Paris. Let's focus on the station's aspect now; the entrance on the north side has a modest **aspect**. Large architectural extensions are avoided, the presence of green is ameliorated and the station is transparent. On the south side the station derives its new international identity from the hall made of glass and wood. The roof of the hall, fully clad with stainless steel, gives rise to building's iconic character and points to the heart of the city. The esplanade in front of the station is a continuous public space; the red stone of the station floor continues into the forecourt, merging the station with the city.

The second project he showed us was The Governors Island Park and Public Space Master Plan with the Hills. The project proposes a transformation of this once-abandoned island and accentuates the qualities of this unique place, transforming Governors Island into both a destination and landmark. The Island offers a world apart from New York City, an extraordinary vantage point on New York Harbor, and the chance to experience the sensations of a green Island surrounded by water and sky. Governors Island wants to re-emerge as new public park that embraces all New York Harbor: an icon for the city, a beacon in the harbor. West 8 understood from the outset that the new Park and Public Spaces would need to be resilient in the face of rising waters. Rather than withdrawing in the face of the advancing waters, island out of the flood zone. Allowing people to enjoy the connection to the salt winds, swirling waters and expansive views of the harbor while ensuring that the trees

"Resilience aims to combine a new "intelligent city" (information, knowledge, projection and adaptation) with a "resilient" (resistance and recycling, reaction and recovery, renovation and adaptation) in a new responsive and sensory condition, sensorized and sensitive at the same time." (Daniel Vasini)



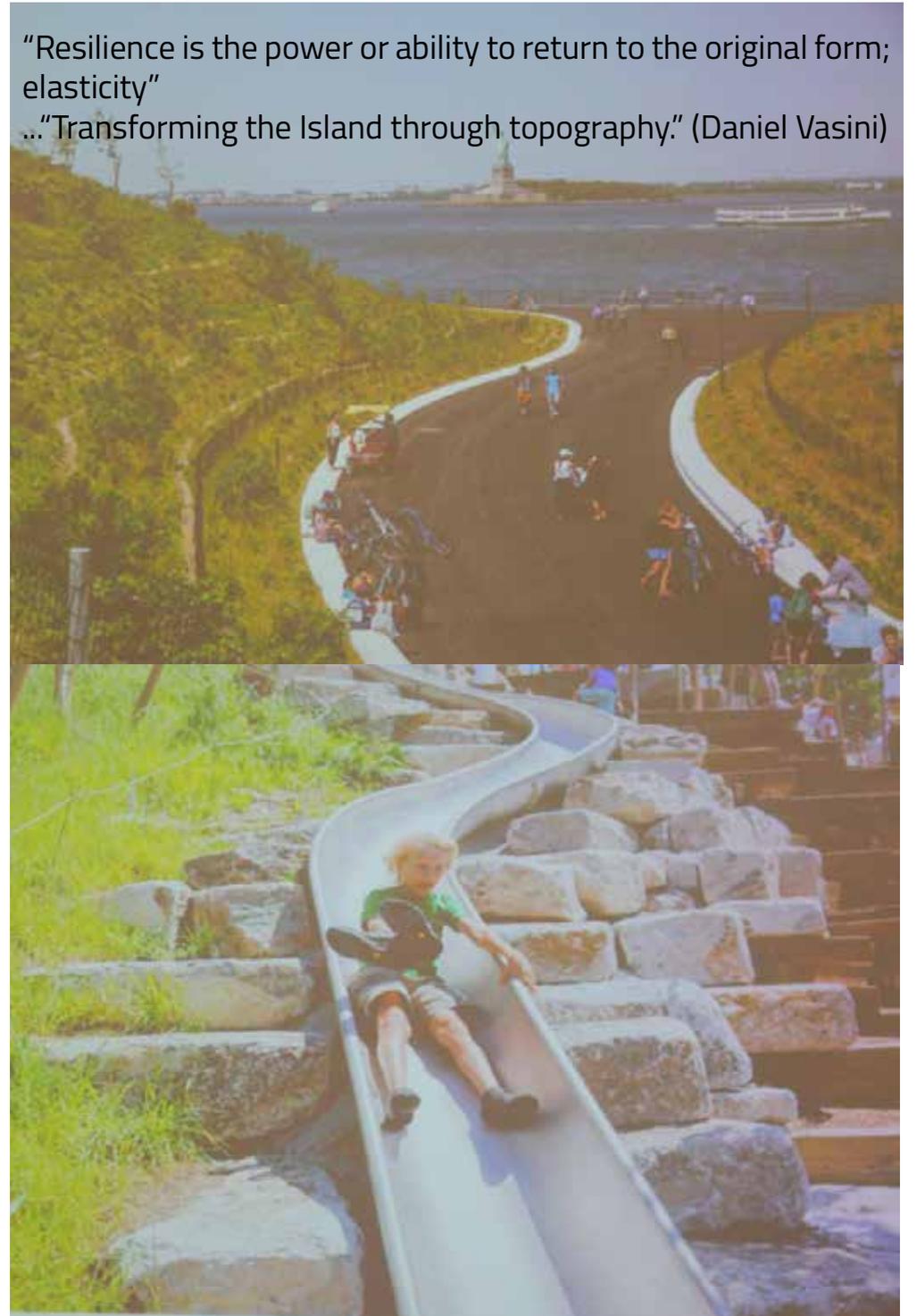
“Adaptation has to do a renovation not only on a psychological level, but in architectural facts” (Daniel Vasini)

Rotterdam Central Station



"Resilience is the power or ability to return to the original form;
elasticity"
..."Transforming the Island through topography." (Daniel Vasini)

The Governors Island Park





Salvatore Iaconesi

Transgression

Salvatore Iaconesi has imprinted his discussion about transgression. Transgression is a transversal subject that closely touches other subjects like design, engineering, architecture, European projects, biopolitics of data, future design: in all of these subjects the concept of transgression is present. Transgression is for Iaconesi the best way to write our future. About the meaning of transgression many authors have different opinions and Iaconesi depicted many of these opinions in his discussion. The definition of the dictionary for transgression is: "an act that goes against a law, rule, or a code of conduct; an offence."

In their practice Oriana and Salvatore try to understand what is transgression analysing small things, the microhistories, to try to understand the bigger ones. About the rules of our society Iaconesi said: "there are many rules in our society... a skater is transgressive? what is he doing? he is using something that is generally used for other objectives in another way and this is fantastic because transgressors don't break really borders, they recognise borders, they recognise things that can be opportunities." The handrail that is normally the opportunity to go safely down the steps, is used by skaters in a different way: the handrail is for the skaters also the opportunity to skate, to do something different. In the handrail they recognise a border, a limit, a boundary and they don't brake it, they move them and to move them they have to know that border." In this example we can find the essence of the thought of Salvatore Iaconesi: the transgression is the opportunity to read the reality in a new way, which is maybe better than the normal one.





"Art takes reality and replaces it. Art and the other transgressions create spaces and innovate or they enable innovation. Arts are about possibility and opportunity, about sensing the present, and exposing it in ways that suggest reflection and the insurgence of imagination "(Salvatore laconesi)



" The clandestine , the unknowledged find their survival in the transgression of social norms . This same limits which have excluded them in the first place. The recycled trash appropriates spaces , invents communications channel ,styles ,fashion and trends. They don't cross borders , they move on them nad moving on them they innovate." (Elizabet Grosz)

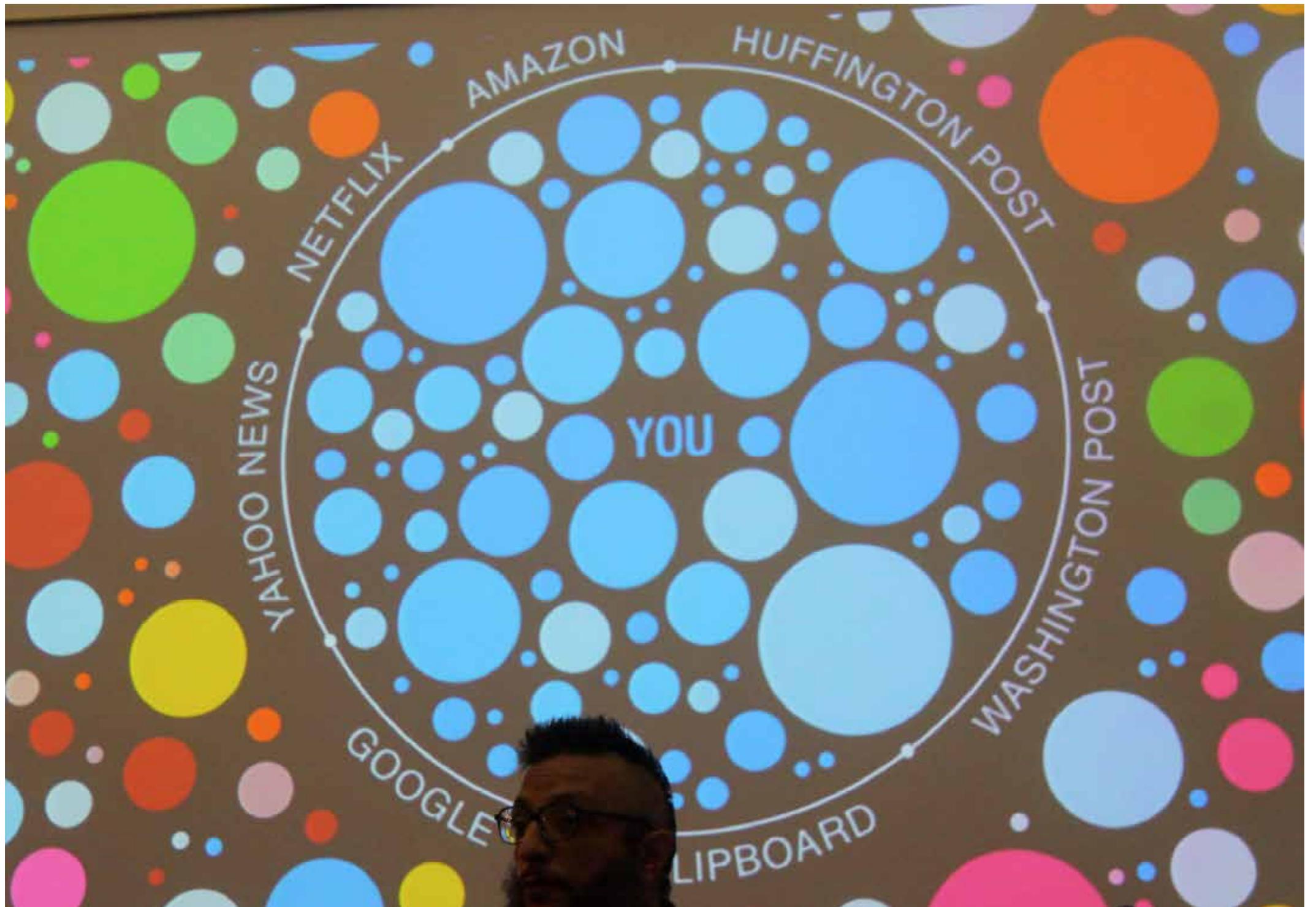
"The emergence of the Experience Economy coincided with , not coincidentally , heightened interest for creative thinking. It also intriduced a real need for greater improvisational skills in the work place."
(Gilmore and Pines)

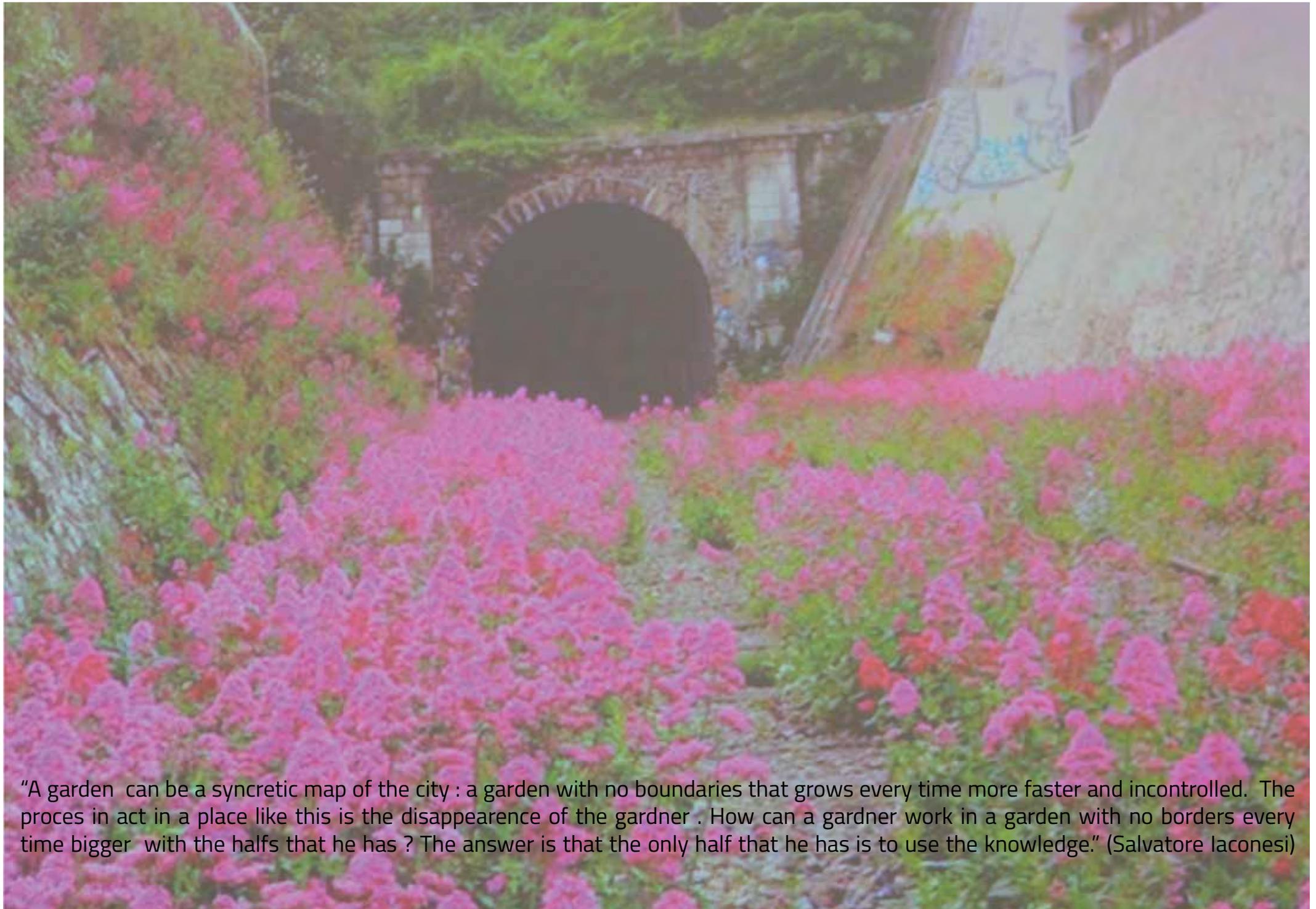
"The role of artist is the key to be able to deal in times when what is possible is not tecnically determi-nated but is the result of a conti-nous negotiation between people and tecnology."
(Roy Ascott)

"The term cultural industry is vague and inaccurate . Consciousness can be induced and reproduced by industrial means but it cannot be produced. Consciousness is a so-cial product and the result of a dialogue. No industrial process is able to generate the pe-ople who generate it."
(Hans Magnus Enzensberger)



"When we look at the visual language through which the smart city is represented, it is typically with simplistic, child-like rounded edges and bright colours. The citizens the smart city claims to serve are treated like infants. We are fed cute icons of urban life, integrated with harmless devices, cohering into pleasant diagrams in which citizens and business are surrounded by more and more circles of service that create bubbles of control". (Rem Koolhaas)





"A garden can be a syncretic map of the city : a garden with no boundaries that grows every time more faster and incontrolled. The proces in act in a place like this is the disappearance of the gardner . How can a gardner work in a garden with no borders every time bigger with the halves that he has ? The answer is that the only half that he has is to use the knowledge." (Salvatore Iaonesi)

Ezio Manzini

DESIS Network

Ezio Manzini is a designer, professor of the politecnical University of Milan.

He sustains that there are two ways to concept resilience: a Radical way and a Non-Radical one.

Radical view

In his opinion to build a system that is resilient we have to go out from the frail world we live in.

In order to create a system, structure or design that can "resist", changes in our world, we have to develop technology, generate ideas, implement cultural and aesthetic interpretations; all this to achieve a product that can 'outlast' the present. We have to leave our reality to look forward in order to create something that is resilient.

Something that has the capability to deal with the unknown.

Non-radical view.

If we can produce a diversified, mature and efficient system we obtain a resilient system. Manzini also explained what a multicultural society is: it is a society that integrates people from different cultures and origins. A resilient system needs to be able to do the same things. It must be able to handle the diversity of the task, do it effectively and handle "feedback" that allows it to further improve, to learn and become more resilient.

A system that can accomplish all of these things is not guaranteed to succeed, however it is more likely to survive and work, it is a more resilient system than another.

Both interpretations of resilience with relevance to design require a complex and smart system. It was most likely "not possible 50 years ago," but with technological development, social innovation and an

"Resilience is something that is capable to resist." (Ezio Manzini)



“To build a system that is resilient we have to go out from the world that we are in now, that is intrinsically very fragile”
(Ezio Manzini)

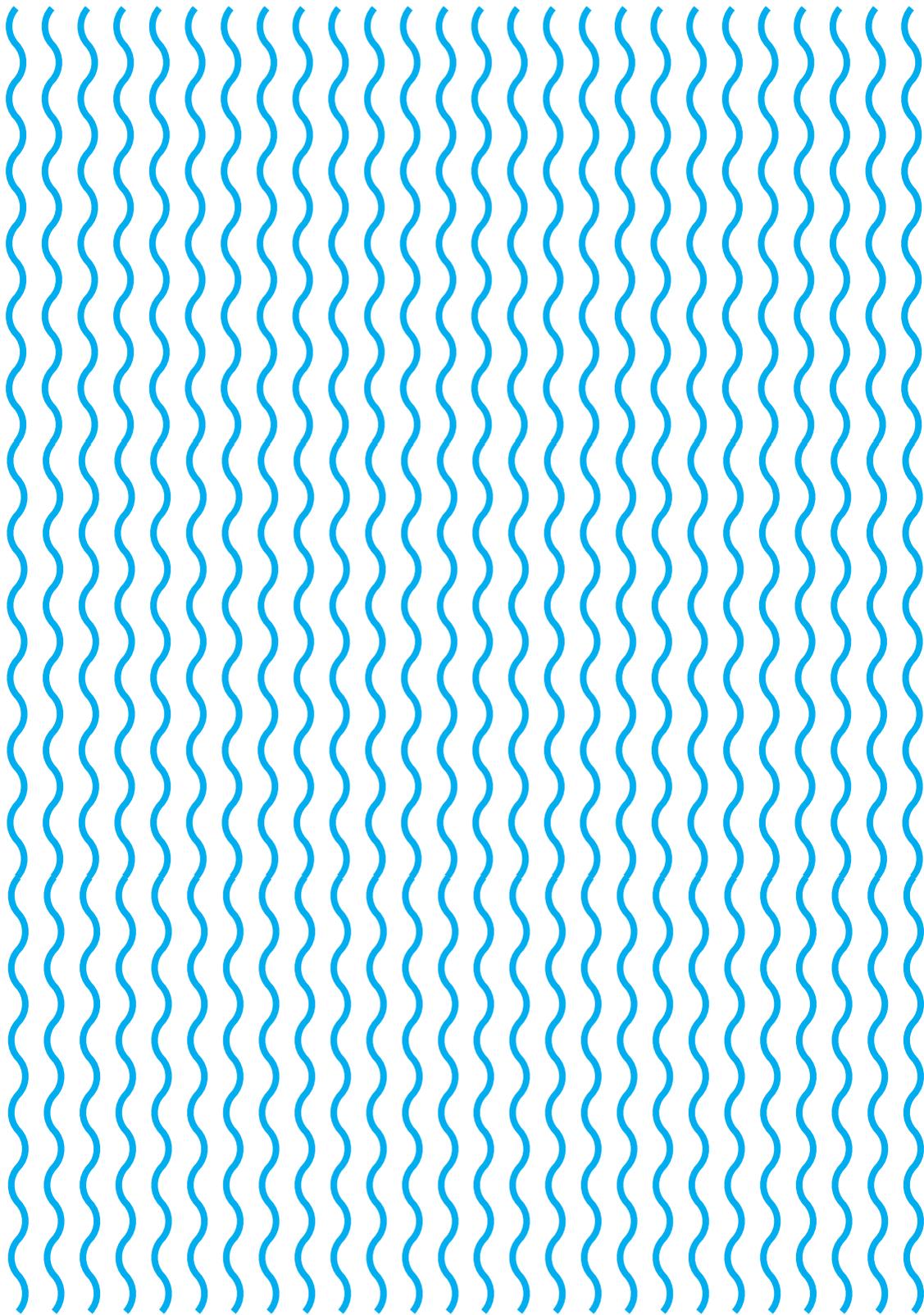


“ A resilient system needs to be sustainable in three ways – diversification, efficiency, and finally it must learn from feedback or results.”
(Ezio Manzini)



"A cosmopolitan society is very multicultural, it adapts to groups and individuals from different cultures and backgrounds, allowing them to live, work and play in harmony." (Ezio Manzini)





STUDENTS:

Beatrice Boido

Lisa Ineine

Giuli Letoni

Arianna Mogni

DANIEL VASINI

WEST8

Daniel Vasini in his lecture, has given some typical examples of the architectural and moral ideology of WEST8, based on economy, ecology, innovation, technology and new forms of Architecture. Starting with their project of the Rotterdam Central Station, a project created in the first place with care and sensibility for the residents of the city, he proceeded to the Polders project; Economy, energy and ecology are all combined to this particularly interesting and "healthy-wealthy" project.

Finally, he introduced some technological and innovative solutions, such as removable flood wall systems, before describing one of the most innovative projects of WEST8; an offshore barrier island, called the Blue Dunes.



Rotterdam Central Station

Psychological and technical renovation

The central station of Rotterdam is a project which had in the first place two main goals : technical and psychological renovation. The first one has been achieved by the connection of the old and the new city of Rotterdam, when the second, by using some of the most recognised symbols of the past structure and placing them in evident and strategic parts of the new one (such as on the facade). This move has the ambition that, by recycling the past infrastructure, the people will accept the new one more easily, since it will be more familiar and warm for them. Also by creating big open spaces allow people to interact and relate. The need of creating a memory for what the city used to be was in the center of the concept of this project.



Polders

Make new land...
... defending the Agriculture

By exporting water from the lake and sand from the sea, supporting and preserving the ecosystem. Economy and ecology, both win with this human intervention.

This rational landscape is unique, but also fragile. The Netherlands has more than three thousands polders, which have undergone various spatial developments over the years. They will continue to change as a result of pressures from urban and rural factors.

Polders in the Netherlands has more than economic significance. They also signify that society and farming are again at speaking terms. Citizens and farmers work together to preserve the unique system reclaiming the National identity.



A **coastline flood wall** is a form of coastal defense constructed where the sea and associated coastal processes impact directly upon the landforms of the coast.

The purpose of a sea wall is to protect areas of human habitations, conservation and leisure activities from the actions of tides and waves. Even if it's a long term solution, flood wall is a static feature that conflicts with the dynamic nature of the coast and impede the exchange of sediment between land and sea.

A technological and innovate solution are the removable flood wall systems, so to keep protecting from floats minimizing the disadvantages of static flood walls.

An even better solution, proposed by WEST 8, is to create an of-shore barrier island chain centered on the NY/NJ harbor called « **the Blue Dunes** » ; WEST 8 investigated a new form of designed coastal protection that would, on a large scale, mitigate risk for life, economy and property within coastal zone.



Resilience

« Ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity. »

« The more you create, the less you import. »

« Resilience does not mean going back. It means RECOVER. »

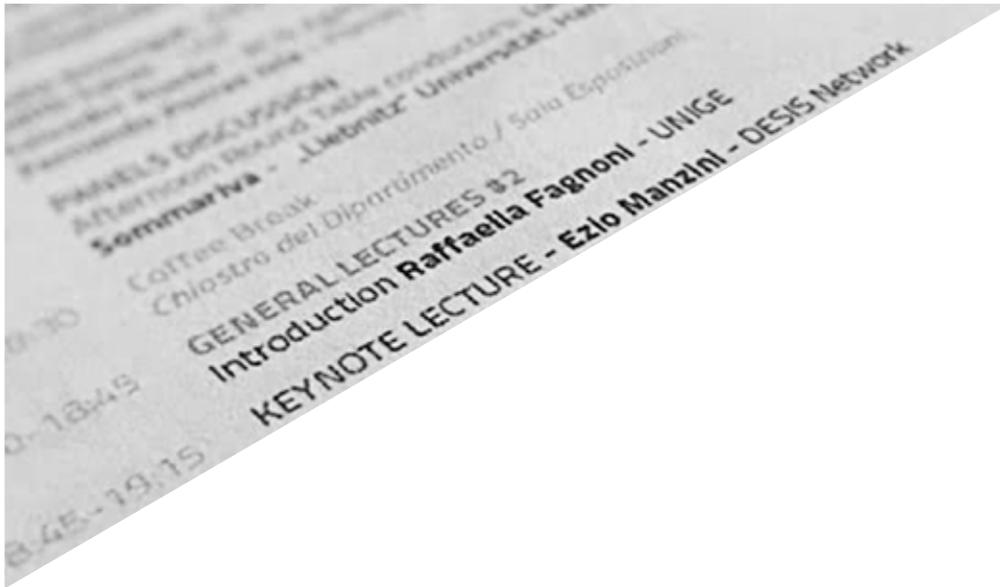
« Adaptation is equal to Resilience. »

Daniel Vasini

« Our ultimate goal is not the mastery of nature, or the avoidance of the sea level rise. Instead we seek to understand and work with the processes of nature to create a multi-layered system with the inherent capacity to adapt and change over time. »

WEST 8





EZIO MANZINI

Collaboration, neighbourhood care and distributed systems were in the center of the Ezio Manzini's lecture; a very interesting and sensitive point of view, which may be able to face the several situations created by the globalization we have known until now.

After mentioning that present socio-technical systems, to be resilient, must be radically changed, he supported the need to build a desirable future within organisations where human relationships remain lively and personal.



Resilient systems in a risky society

Whatever else our future society will be, it will be a “risk society”; a society likely to be affected by different kinds of traumatic events. From natural catastrophes, to war and terrorism, to financial and economic crises. The precondition for any conceivable sustainable society is resilience; its capacity to overcome the risks it will be exposed to and the stresses and breakdowns that will inevitably take place. Today, the implications of this risk society are no longer only future projections. They are becoming evident all around the world in our daily life experiences and in the fragility of our socio-technical system. As a consequence, the notion of resilience has become part of the vocabulary of an increasing number of people and organizations. Resilience means the system’s capacity to cope with stress and local failures without collapsing. It urgently needs to be adopted onto the agendas of those concerned with the formulation and implementation of policy.

Cosmopolitan localism

Cosmopolitan localism produces a new model of well-being ; a well-being in which a major role is played by the recognition of how much socio-cultural and environmental contexts can contribute to people’s quality of life and to the resilience of the overall society. A healthy environment, a beautiful landscape or, last but not least, the richness of diversity that the place can express.

Small-scale is an important quality for cosmopolitan localism for two sets of reasons. Firstly, it enables the actors involved to understand and manage complex social-technical systems in an open and democratic way. Secondly, it enables individuals to carry out their activities, to fulfil their needs and to build their desirable futures from within organisations where human relationships remain lively and personal.



neighbourhood care (Norway)

neighbourhood care (Chile)

elderly mutual help (China)

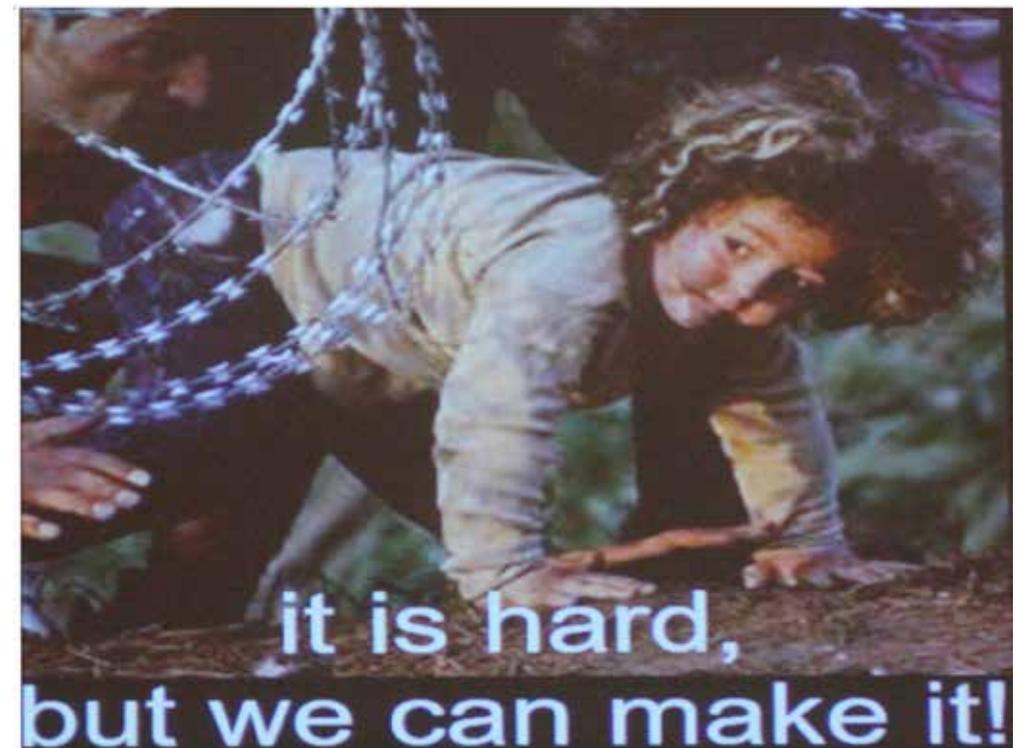
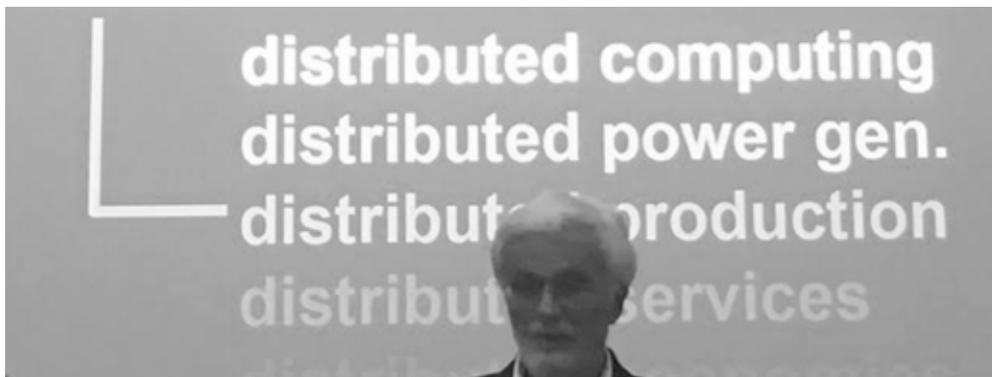
“In my view, cosmopolitan localism based on **distributed systems** has several advantages over the globalization we have known until now. To put it in a nutshell, we can say that it is a globalization based on interconnected

localities, where many important decisions are made locally by the people directly concerned, and more importantly, where for each step of the process of production and consumption, much of the decision-making, know-how and economic value remains in the hands, minds and pockets of the local community.”

Ezio Manzini



Distributed Systems...



**A scenario of open, interconnected
communities -in-place**

Collaborative neighbourhoods
social street
neighbourhood care
street festivals
community gardens
co-housing
circles of care
elderly mutual help
community-supported agriculture
co-working

“ In my view, the reason why cosmopolitan localism is becoming a viable project is because distributed systems have changed the meaning of “ local ” and “ small ”. Thanks to them,in fact, we can say today that the small is not small and the local is not local.“

“Present socio-technical systems, to be resilient, must be radically changed”

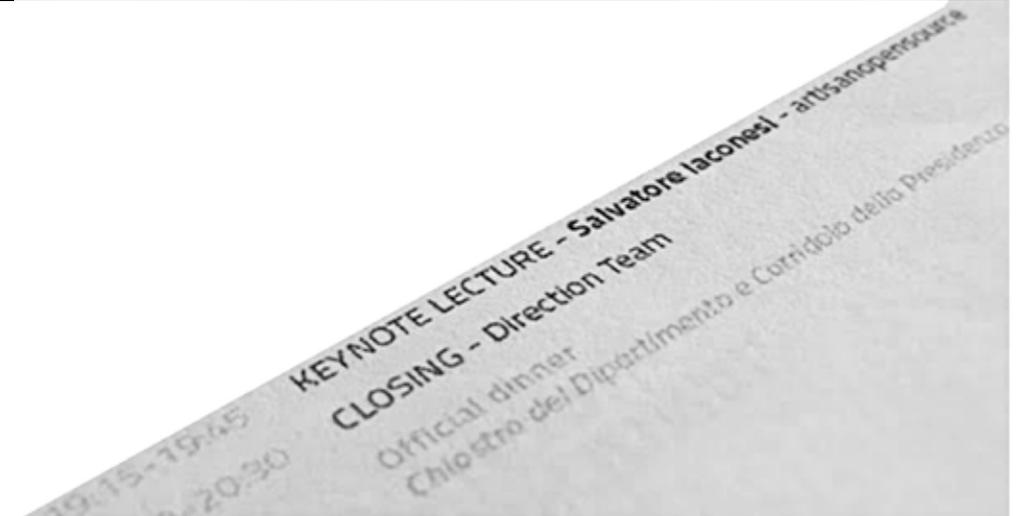
Ezio Manzini





SALVATORE IACONESI

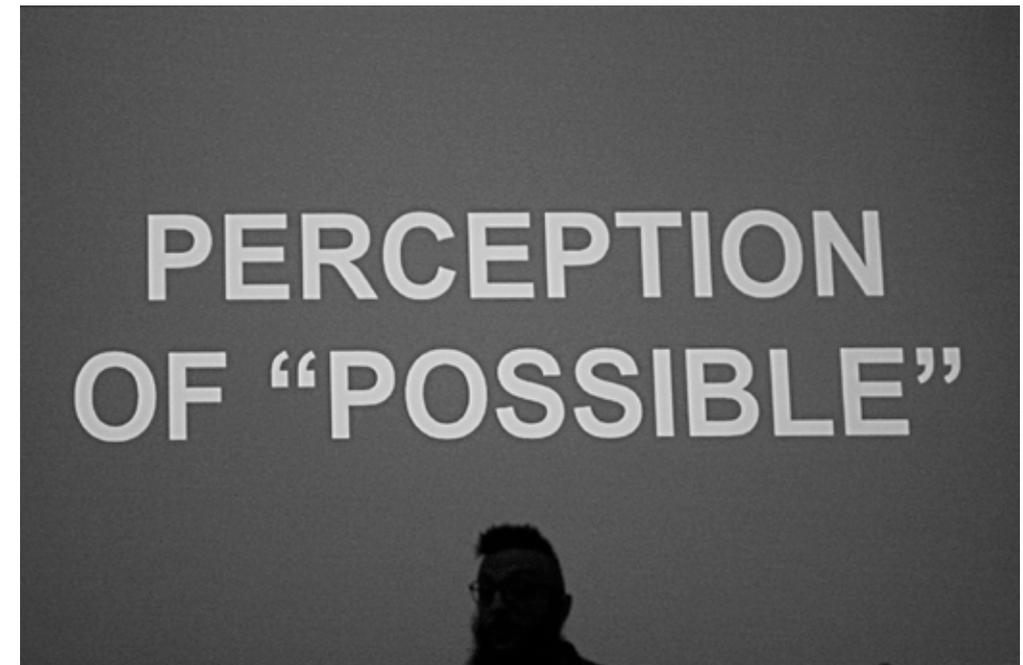
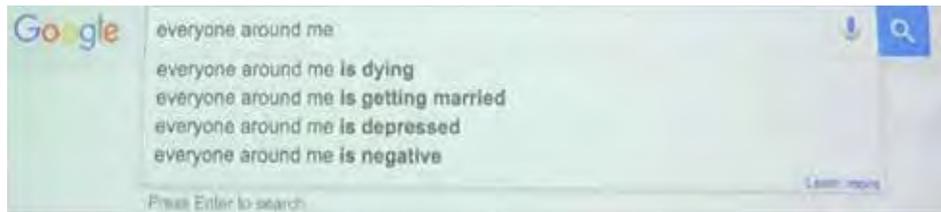
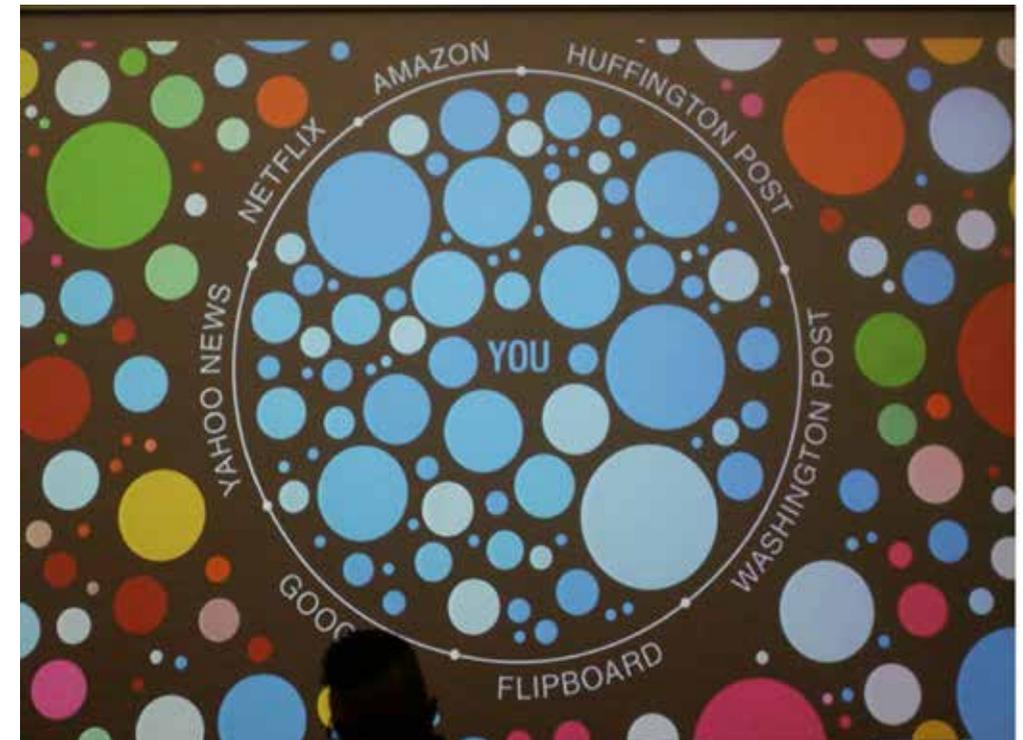
Salvatore Iaconesi, gave a revolutionary translation on “trasgression” as we know it. If we learn how to open our minds and recognise the opportunities that are given to us, avoiding any situation trying to trick us, we will be able to enjoy and promote innovation in many levels.



Transgression as a word and as a meaning, has two totally different sides, being always thought, on the same coin. One side is expressed by its definition; an act that goes against the law, rule, or code of conduct; an offence. The other one, is the side wher transgression rispnds to a state of mind where someone recognises the opportunities given to him in different way than others. He transforms the initial sense of each object.

While some people support the idea that innovation has been created by polyphonics, or talk about metodological indiscipline, we have to confront with a big problem. The bubbles that try to influence our choices, our thoughts and our needs. It is most likely that in the end, we probably choose what is offered to us.

It becomes impossible to have the perception that there are other things to see, because of these bubbles and when the perception of possible decreases, becomes impossible to perform transgression.



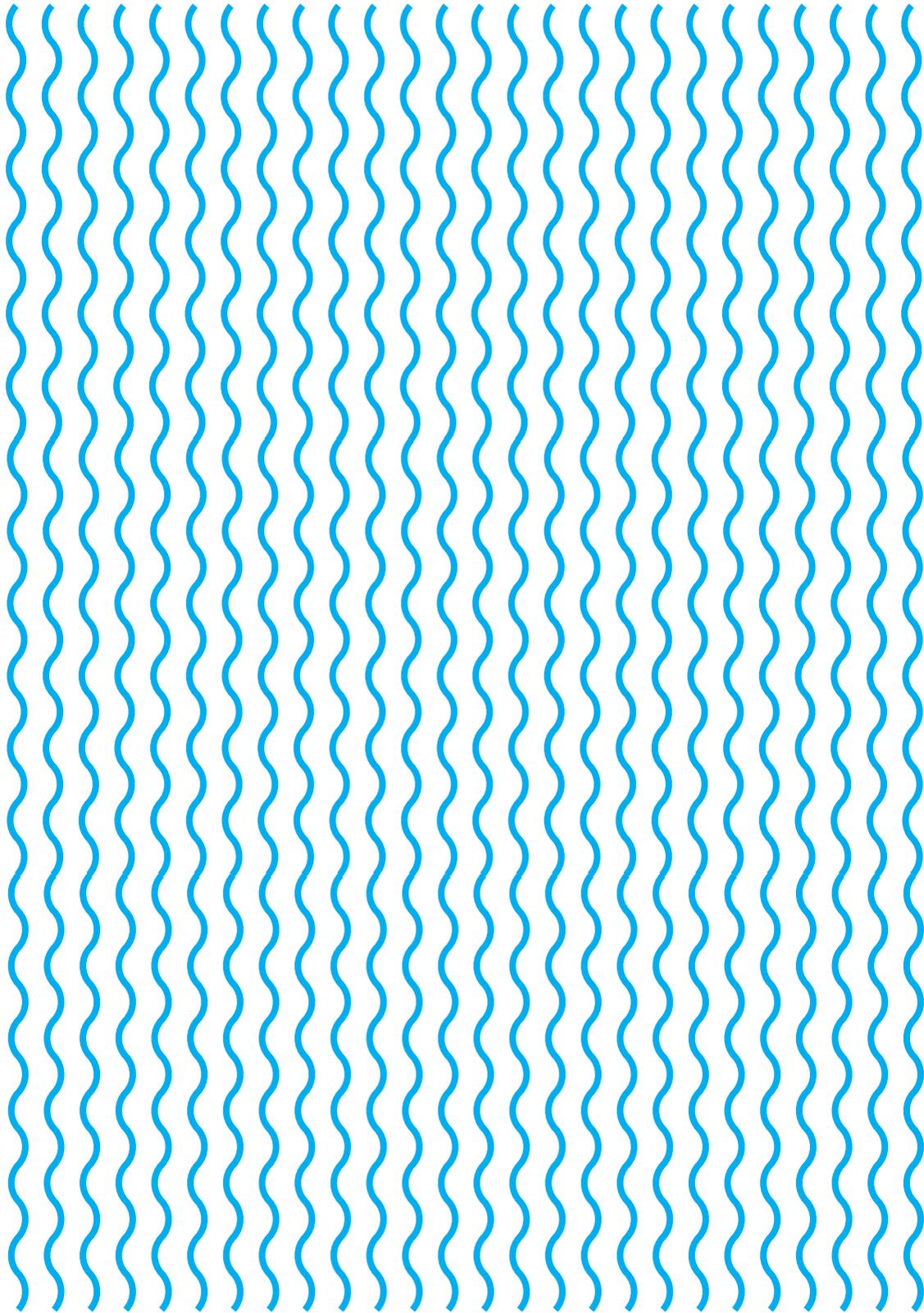


Transgressors do not
break borders.
They recognise them
and they move them.

By moving them,
they innovate.

Transgression creates a Space, and
innovates

OBSERVE
knowledge
future
CONSCIENCE
TRANSGRESSION
rules
google
PERCEPTION
troublemakers
AMAZON
clarity
OFFENCE
RESILIENCE
BUBBLES
borders
creativity
EXPERIENCE
beyond limits
CULTURAL INDUSTRIES
INNOVATE



STUDENTS:

Andrea Acquisgrana

Filippo Brunengo

Giulia Frisone

Giorgia Soleri

Lecture #1 - Daniel Vasini

Liaison for West 8 NY.

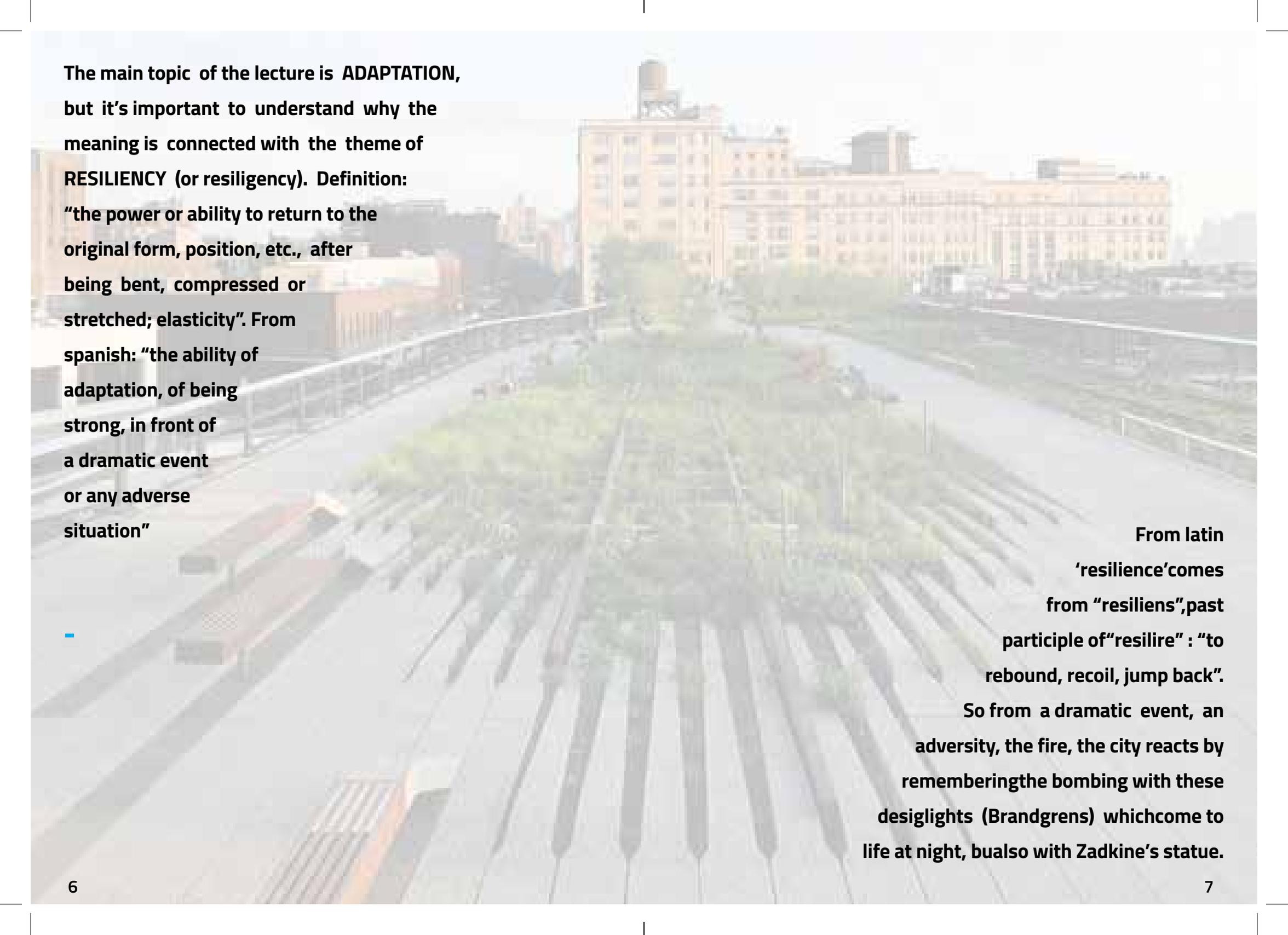
RESILIENCY (or resiliency) is "the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed or stretched; elasticity". But this term has different origins and assume different acceptations depending on the languages. In fact in spanish (but also in italian or french) it's a psychological term: "the ability of adaptation, of being strong, in front of a dramatic event or any adverse situation". This definition itself explain why the term ADAPTATION can be connected with resiliency. But these two terms are linked also to other words like: ADVERSITY, RENOVATION, FLEXIBILITY, LEAP/EXTENSION, COMPRESSION, ELASTICITY, RECOVERING. Resilience in fact starts from an adversity; it's the reaction to a dramatic event or simply a not ordinary situation, and it can take place even by remembering the adversity. That's what happened in Rotterdam

with Brandgrens, the Memorial of the great fire caused by the bombing of the Second World War. Then, mostly thinking about architecture, it's important to renovate the territory, creating new landscapes or skylines, but still respecting traditions and historical existences (as happened with Rotterdam Centraal Station).

Respecting a territory means also create or re-create it, extend it in case of compression or overpopulation, protect it and recover it.

Project's examples of West 8 can be Governor Island Park, or The Blue Dunes, both in New York. The first is a once-abandoned island renovated for the community, the second one are barrier islands for coastal protection by storms.





The main topic of the lecture is **ADAPTATION**, but it's important to understand why the meaning is connected with the theme of **RESILIENCY** (or resiliency). Definition: "the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed or stretched; elasticity". From spanish: "the ability of adaptation, of being strong, in front of a dramatic event or any adverse situation"

From latin 'resilience' comes from "resiliens", past participle of "resilire" : "to rebound, recoil, jump back". So from a dramatic event, an adversity, the fire, the city reacts by remembering the bombing with these desighlts (Brandgrens) which come to life at night, bualso with Zadkine's statue.

Lecture #2 - Salvatore Iaconesi

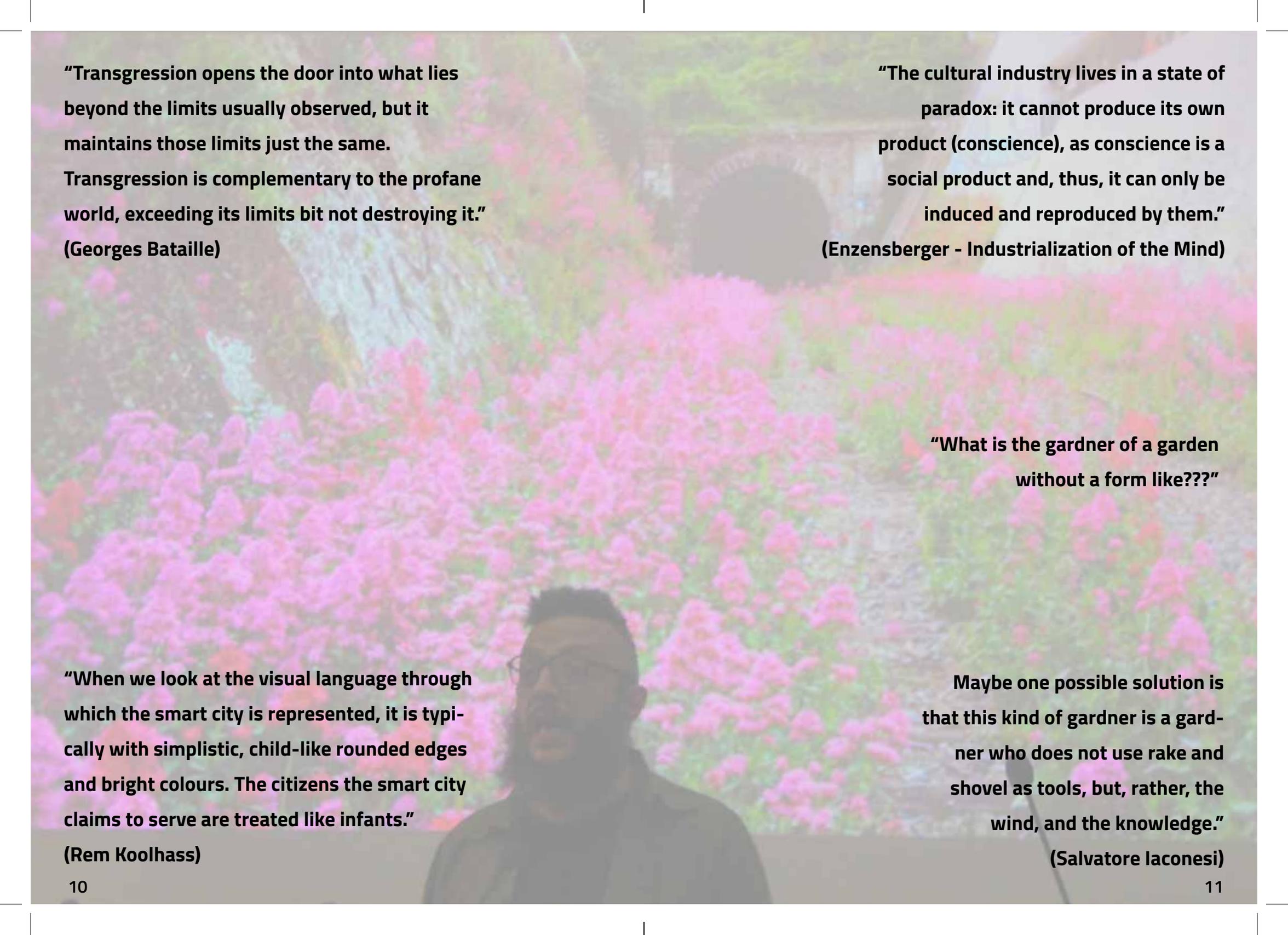
TRANSGRESSION - "We transgress whenever we infringing a certain social norm"

Transgression implies going beyond a boundary, a limit, but also its existence. As described by Bataille in *Eroticism*: "Transgression opens the doors towards what is beyond the limits of what is usually observed, preserving them."

There is little space for transgression in this age of smart (smart cities, smart communities), of innovation and creativity. Thus, there is little space for conflict. The creative class has already been absorbed by the industry. The larger part of production is of the derivative type, and in which only a limited few (the troublemakers) are able to really innovate. How can we preserve the possibility for conflict and transgression, to maintain all of their positive effects on the world? To look for a possible answer, it can be useful to adopt the metaphor of the Moving Garden: a new type of garden, emergent, mobile and in perennial

mutation. We also need a new conception of garden. "It is hard to imagine which aspect these gardens will assume, in which existence is expected to assume no form. From my point of view, gardens of this kind should not be judged on account of their form, but, rather, on the basis of their capacity to generate and translate a certain joy of existence."





“Transgression opens the door into what lies beyond the limits usually observed, but it maintains those limits just the same.

Transgression is complementary to the profane world, exceeding its limits but not destroying it.”

(Georges Bataille)

“The cultural industry lives in a state of paradox: it cannot produce its own product (conscience), as conscience is a social product and, thus, it can only be induced and reproduced by them.”

(Enzensberger - Industrialization of the Mind)

“What is the gardener of a garden without a form like???”

“When we look at the visual language through which the smart city is represented, it is typically with simplistic, child-like rounded edges and bright colours. The citizens the smart city claims to serve are treated like infants.”

(Rem Koolhaas)

Maybe one possible solution is that this kind of gardener is a gardener who does not use rake and shovel as tools, but, rather, the wind, and the knowledge.”

(Salvatore Iaconesi)

Lecture #2 - Ezio Manzini

The theme of the discussion is **COMMUNITY BUILDING** and **PLACE MAKING**. A few years ago no one talked about resiliency, nowadays we all talk about this term. Why? Because we have to face reality with its advantages but also with its problems. We have to create **RESILIENT SYSTEMS** to be ready in case of natural disasters or any other possible problems. That's the meaning of resiliency: it's not about coming back to where we were, but going where we **CAN** go after the problem. Then learn from it and adapt to new situations. Therefore resilience is not totally static, it's dynamic because we can transform what happens in a lesson to improve our abilities. In a rhetorical way, used in decades from now, was used to say "if you don't do something today, you will have problems tomorrow". But this tomorrow is now. That's why we have to create resilient systems, to adapt in different ways and learn, and these systems have to be **SOCIO-TECHNICAL** and **DISTRIBUTED**. This

means create distributed production, computing, services, economies. And that's not an utopia, far away from reality, but a combination of many activities. So in terms of design we have to **THINK DISTRIBUTED**, whatever we do, and **THINK COLLABORATIVE**, because the more the system is distributed, the more people have to collaborate, to be part of it, and that's how we can create **SOCIAL INNOVATION**, generate social value, by sharing and collaborating.

cosmopolitan localism



RESILIENCE. Why today?

Because of tangible fragility.

If you don't do something today, You will have problems tomorrow.

But tomorrow is now.

The future is arrived.

There is no facade to reality.

We have to do our best to succeed.

Resilience says : "I don't know what will happen, so I have to prepare for something that I don't know what to do about".

Learn from the problems and try to adapt in a higher level.

Therefore resilience is not totally static, because we can learn, and therefore whatever happens, we can transform what happens in a learning and improving our ability.

It's not only about the shape of a system, because a system is formed by human beings and different people with different opinions may go to progression.

Diversity. Reboundancy. Feedbacks.

If the system is distributed, it maintains the knowledge and you can contain the problem, so it is easier to solve it.

If it's all concentrated you are in the wrong system.

The distributed system is not an utopia totally far away from where we are.

In terms of design: **THINK DISTRIBUTED** whatever you do ; and **THINK COLLABORATIVE.**