General Lecture #3

Maurizio Carta
Mosé Ricci
Martin Rein-Cano

International Forum
MED.NET 3 Resili(g)ence
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
The Student’s Survey

LECTURES #2
October, 27th 2016

Maurizio Carta
Mosé Ricci
Martin Rein-Cano

students:
Cristina Accomasso
Martina Bettati
Chiara Borgo
STUDENTS:
Simone Pollaci
Diego Nicola
Pietro Ruisi
Léo Cany
Introduction / Manuel Gausa

To introduce the general lectures of the international symposium’s second day closing conference, M. Gausa remembered us that the landscape is at the center of our discussions. Indeed, we’ve talked about active spaces not only for their social or economic aspects, but also for the emotions that they comport. For his introduction, the professor questions us about the possible form of the resil(g)ente city.

Furthermore, M. Gausa presents Mosè Ricci who was at the first edition MedNet 1. The architect works in Italy, where he performs his researches, in particular about recycling architecture. Mosè Ricci had worked at the Genoa Faculty of Architecture, in a way really next to the Spanish architect.

Moreover, the second speaker of the evening, Martin Rein-Cano (Topotek 1), is presented as a creator of reactivated spaces. The projects of the german studio are important, provide a clear vision of what is possible to do with our actual city, at a social and concrete level.
«For me we’re not talking about projects which are exportable, but which depend of the context. The projects that we are proposing, represent a philosophic change and increase our imagination. Furthermore, wherever there are conflicts, it’s possible to resolve them thanks to the positive impact of participation. In Italy people loves festive projects, so these have to be different from the foreign projects.»

Martin Rein-Cano
«Sometimes the studios with which we collaborate demand us to redo some elements of projects, but we know that’s not possible. We always have to innovate to stay efficient, otherwise we will not be stimulated anymore (like a writer). We don’t know where we come from and where we go, then, we continue to use our imagination.»

Martin Rein-Cano
Maurizio Carta is an architect and the director of the Polytechnic School of the Università degli Studi di Palermo (UNIPA). The name of the conference that he had presented for the MedNet was « Augmented City » - Unibanism as operative system. By this name the theoretician wants to significate the idea of a city where the resilience is matter of responsibility with respect to all the fields of the urban life.

« We have to increase the dividend of the creativity »
Maurizio Carta

^ Maurizio Carta, ©Younipa
The Sicilian architect explains that we’ve gone through four metamorphosis in architecture: the first is about the fact to think our work as a project, the second is the creating innovation, the third is the productive innovation (for example the presence of the FABLAB « Fabrication Laboratory ») and the last one is about the sharing creativity. M. Carta stresses a thing which seems very important: all those metamorphosis are imperceptible. With a kind of tragic way of talking, the architect told us that on the 14th of September 2015 a gravitational and intangible wave was radical, had changed everything. For M. Carta the theme of the symposium talks about a soundless revolution. The city is vibrant though all its scales (sensitive, material, etc.). A new horizon is coming for a world more circular and virtuous. The economy will be circular, the city will be a metabolism, the territory will be resilient, etc.

In this context, of a world which is changing, the question of the protocol is very important. How do we have to work? For M.C, we’ve to say goodbye to the masterplan, this would feed of old concepts unusable nowadays. For example, the future is more and more unpredictable, so it’s impossible to continue to make rigid projects. The architect should colonize, consolidate, develop, create signs to « cultivate the soil and create life ». The result of this new way of thinking should allow to anybody to have an access to the public services at every moments, the human and the technology should be more confounded for an important encounter between the city and its citizens. Furthermore, the city have to be social, entrepreneurial, made by itself, cultural, full of interfaces… This discourse is very far away from the conformism, it promotes the inertia of the behaviors and uses a lot the technological tools.
« Bootcamp » defines a project piloted by M.C. in Palermo, this project took the form of a workshop named « Cityform Palermo », it was about to create or to find many places of production and to link them. Thanks to a research the group of architects had seen that in Palermo there’re 400 places equivalent to FABLabs. It ever was the innovations but without synergy. Moreover, the « opendatas » (ex : internet) allowed to find where are located the real social interests of the city. Therefore, the porosity, the identity, the places of « colonization » had been analyzed. To advance that kind of areas M.C. prescribes inter alia an opposition against the cars, for him it seems impossible to be resilient and to use the car.

Then, Farm cultural Park (Favara, LAPS Architecture + Castelli Studio, 2013) is an other project of the professor. The place created is very famous nowadays, M.C. doesn’t forget to say that’s Favara had welcomed the summer camp of the Google company thanks to this new places. The main aspect of the « Cultural park » is social, indeed, we can say that this project is a synonym of urban revitalization because of its multi-functionality. After the eloquent project other appeared in the city like for example the transformation of the castle to a place of agricultural productions. But more than this example we can highlight the visit of M.C. into classes of children to speak about architecture, for us this could be the demonstration of a new dimension getting by the architects.

With his ton of voice very impacting Maurizio Carta awakes our reflexion about the place of the architect in the society. Even if all the concepts quoted by the professor are difficult to understand, we can realize the necessity that we’ve more than never to work at different scales. From the local to the global, the technological to the social, or the citizen to the architect… The citizen seems to be the primary cell of the resilience.
Mosé Ricci's intervention starts with an image of the film *Only lovers left alive* (Jim Jarmusch, 2013). This film offers an experience of the moving city because as Mosé Ricci says; the architecture is a part of our life. We can note that, according to the professor, the city can be described as beauty and alive by other medias. During the conference we could listen for example Heaven of the Talking Heads.
At first, in the movie Spotlight (Tom McCarthy, 2016) the director has rebuilt with perfection the 1999's settings, the year when the real story took place. This raises the question of what we want to do with spaces; we can for example review the past. In our quotidian life every days we can see a lot of elements that we've ever seen yet; clothes, music and others expressions demonstrate that the fashion is a cycle. About architecture, the situation is steel the same, the masterplans of Milan or Rome can provide that. The age in which an architect likes Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe presented a project which didn't concern the past seems very far away. Mister Ricci brings up the question of an artistic movement well defined. Although this, we don't make copies of buildings realized sixty years ago. However for mister Ricci all of this is not about radical innovations because the buildings continue to obey to codes that we've already seen and belong to an uniform group. For the italian architect, the CCTV headquarter, Bjarke Ingels's projects, or Zaha Hadid's projects belong to the same family. All of this signifies that we've in a no-win situation. Though the various creations we note that our imagination success to product projects for the human future but nothing for the architecture. For example, the album Fear of Music (Talking Heads, 1979) speaks about a new kind of intelligence but the form stays invisible. All of this signifies that we've in a no-win situation. Though the various creations we note that our imagination success to product projects for the human future but nothing for the architecture. For example, the album Fear of Music (Talking Heads, 1979) speaks about a new kind of intelligence but the form stays invisible.
Moreover, our incapacity to interpretate the space had already been illustrated by architects like Aldo Rossi (Teatro del Mondo, Venice, 1979). Nowadays we learn the space though a new way thanks to the technology, the game Pokemon Go shows this. The virtual reality is always more present. The architect has to be adapted to this new paradigm, for example, we can take in consideration the fact that, with this new way of reality, we need less space. Now, quotidian places are empty, but before were full. This change is observable at all the scales because of many reasons, for example, the city of Detroit grasps destructured spaces. Furthermore, the new reality allows to enter in other places that the one in which we’re. For example, now is possible to visit the Roman Forum as it was created, thanks to the tridimensional reconstruction.

To conclude, today we can say that the « forms follow functions » by Mies Van Der Rohe aims to be substituted by « performance vs. function ». In this way, the form is not mentioned because it’s became the result of a dialogue between function and performance. IAAC (Institute for advanced architecture of Catalonia)’s projects display the new paradigm and what it includes. They demonstrate that we’ve to colonize the existing, influence the form more than change it radically, mix the design and the architecture, have more participations, etc. The senses are substituted by signs offered by the existing. The architecture becomes a strong performance of signs, as the image of a contemporary show in Rome about the story of the city, thanks to strong symbols skillfully manipulated.
For Martin Rein-Cano, like Mosé Ricci, the form don’t follow the function anymore, the architect and his work should be part of the society. Where the modernism created and divided of the space, now it’s resilience.
At first, the architect emphasizes the expression of his studio about the context. Where the projects are now over, the architectes had started by a diagnosis and had proceed by negotiation of the space. For a carpark in a green space in Berlin or a swimmingpool and a football field in Hambourg, the challenge was to communicate the functions to the self-interested. Often the response given is unusual, it allows to the citizens to create their own rules and to shape all the surrounding spaces. Moreover, the project’s aim of a park with tables for picnic located in a lake is to raise the social exchanges. For a new attraction in the city the studio wants to provide a cohabitation. For example, in Copenhagen, in an area where a lot of persons are coming from many communities, Topotek had projected a park in which we’ve the impression to be in an outdoor gym. In a space which doesn’t have any link with the usual reality, we can invent new rules and realize a new identity. The citizens become active thanks to the architecture.
For Rein-Cano, to make a project is « like to have a baby », we’re happy when he’s born, but the birth only represents the start of a new process. To realize its projects the studio is based on the participation of the inhabitants, a dialogue which should allow to resolve quotidian problems. For example, we can be interesting to increase new forms of communication which allow to overcome the barriers of the language. An other possible thing is to unificate the persons thanks to famous images known by everybody. The architect takes as example a place where were shoot scenes of Rocky Balboa, where nowadays many people are going to value its evocation. For Topotek there’s not a good or a bad way to do architecture. With the images used as signs the studio success to create new stories, using them in a creative and innovative way.

The image of boxers who are fighting outside of a ring where children are playing illustrates the way to project of Topotek. The private and the public are not distinguished as before, the rules are modified. Among the using elements of the architects we can quote barbecues located on pavements, a game for children with a form of an octopus, etc. The projects are not only architectonic, but also social. The significance of the german studio is visible through ads; for example Apple used an image of their project for an ad.
STUDENTS:
Cristina Accomasso
Martina Bettati
Chiara Borgo
Talking about Resilience today in such a fragile and not at all resilient environment takes on the responsibility of the questions about urbanism we deal with.

This questions focus on four kind of metamorphosis we are getting through: design component, creative and productive model, networks and then sharing component. These kind of metamorphoses operate in our everyday living, even if we don’t realize. All this factors are included in the general challenge of the “Augmented City”, in which the attention for development is constant.

It is composed by ten element which help it in getting “augmented” for the community and for the space: sentient city, opens source, smart, creative, productive, recycling, resilient, reticular and strategic.
The question we always wonder about in a project is: what is the impact of these metamorphosis on our lives?

Urban planners have to be able to underline the changes and so they have to be more sensitive.

A new sensor to feel the effects of the metamorphosis is first of all the horizon one, the circular land horizon.

I developed a protocol called City Forming, which works through long term strategies, well timed and instant tactics.

The “Augmented City” is the challenge able to face the four fundamental domain for designers: tactics.

The metamorphosing cities are entities of relationships, interconnections, collisions, conflicts between places and functions, between data and knowledge.
Mosé Ricci’s lecture focused on the reflection about the relationship that people have with the surrounding space and about the relationship we had and still have about the future.

Cinematographic plays and songs showed this kind of connection with the future. The future is an idea, it doesn’t have any form. Once people, as architects, thought that it could be embodied into something real, such as buildings, etc. That’s wrong. The question we wonder about is: “Future-present, what’s the difference?” No doubts we can say that the main element of change is technology. Not just how it has developed through time, but how it takes up space (form the first huge computers to compact disks and so on).

Space and technology focus on virtual reconstruction, in order to make us live a place without being into it. “Form Follows Function” is not valid anymore. So what is changing for us? Performance vs Function Sharing vs Participation Narrative vs Description.
The future is an idea, it doesn’t have any form.

Future-present, what’s the difference?

The main element of change is technology.

Performance vs Function

Sharing vs Participation

Narrative vs Description
Resilience. Modern time was to create order through cities. One of the things that get a city resilient is the conflicts between the people who lives in it.

One of the most meaningful example shown to us that communicate their idea of resiliGence is no doubt the “Superkilen park” in Copenhagen. The problem to face was immigration of minorities needing emancipation.

They proposed to use a physical interaction language than a verbal language. The differences between many cultures has been successfully transformed in a positive process. From this very important exchange, Topotek1 achieved something real. What has been made here is a ResiliGent project, because in front of a problem, they faced it and they even brought some solutions thanks to a change of perspective. The consequence of this process is an extraordinary mix of cultures, customs, and colors from all around the world that tell many stories belonging to past and future too.
Creation of contradiction in terms of space association.

Creating own rules to live the space, play with it.

Sense of community against something not ordinary.

Sharing experience

Differences make culture

Negotiation of space