

COMPACT CITY ARCHITECTURE

Parma
Italy

13>28
september
2012

historical city centre design in Europe

Erasmus Intensive Programme



DIPARTIMENTO DI INGEGNERIA CIVILE, DELL'AMBIENTE, DEL TERRITORIO, E DELL'ARCHITETTURA



ETSAB
Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona



ARQUITECTURA SALA DEPARTAMENTO DE ARQUITECTURA
ARQUITECTURA GOI ESCOLA TECNICA ESCUELA TECNICA SUPERIOR DE ARQUITECTURA



Wydział Architektury



Design Workshop



Lifelong Learning Programme



Scientific direction (teachers):

Carlo Quintelli, Università degli Studi di Parma, Facoltà di Architettura; *Eduard Bru*, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona; *Uwe Schröder*, RWTH, Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule of Aachen – Fakultät für Architektur; *Manuel Iñiguez & Alberto Ustarroz*, Universidad del País Vasco – Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Donostia-San Sebastian; *Piotr Gajewski*, Politechnika Krakowska - Wydział Architektury

Integrated teachers:

Lamberto Amistadi, *Enrico Prandi*, *Marco Maretto*, *Stefano Cusatelli*, *Renato Rizzi*, *Davide Papotti*, *Franca Miani*, *Nicola Marzot*, *Francesca Zanella*, *Marco Scotti*, *Elisabetta Modena*

Guest expert:

Luciano Serchia, *Mariella Utili*, *Alessandro Tassi Carboni*, *Michele Alinovi*

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Comune di Parma
Assessorato all'Urbanistica
Assessorato alla Cultura



Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali
Direzione regionale per i beni culturali
e paesaggistici dell'Emilia Romagna
Soprintendenza per il Patrimonio Storico,
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di Parma e Piacenza



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FESTIVAL DELL'ARCHITETTURA

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ZUELLI IMPIANTI s.r.l.



Palazzo della Pilotta, Voltoni del Guazzatoio

- 13th** 9:00 registration of participants and forming of work groups. Handing out of basic materials
9:30 **Opening and presentation of Workshop** with *Carlo Quintelli*, Scientific Head of the Workshop, *Paolo Mignosa*, Director of the Department of Civil Engineering, Environment, Land and Architecture of the University of Parma, *Mariella Utili*, Superintendent for the Historical Patrimony, Artistic and Ethno-anthropological Heritage of Parma and Piacenza, *Laura Ferraris*, Councillor for Culture of the Municipality of Parma, *Michele Alinovi*, Councillor for Town Planning for the Municipality of Parma, *Alessandro Tassi Carboni*, Order of Architects Planners Landscapists and Conservationists of the Province of Parma
10:00 **An urban gate for the University Campus in Parma's Oltretorrente district.** *Carlo Quintelli*, University of Parma
11:30 guided survey of the project area
14:30>18:00 workshop
18:00 **Historic centres and the architectural project. An Italian journey.** *Enrico Prandi*, University of Parma
18:30 **Compact as redefinition. The semantic densification.** *Lamberto Amistadi*, University of Parma
20:00 starting party, Café Shakespeare, Parma
- 14th** 9:00 **Morphological growth of the historical city.** *Marco Maretto*, University of Parma
9:30 **Parma historical city.** *Stefano Cusatelli*, University of Parma
10:30>17:00 workshop
17:00 **PARMA INATTESA / UNEXPECTED PARMA.** Opening and presentation of an exhibition by Renato Rizzi
17:30 **Decency's space.** *Renato Rizzi*, IUAV University of Venice
- 15th 16th** cultural trip to the 13th International Exhibition of Architecture at the Venice Biennial as part of the Biennial Session
17th 9:00>18:00 workshop
18:00 **Spaces of the city. Toward a Reorientation of Architecture.** *Uwe Schröder*, RWTH, Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule of Aachen – Fakultät für Architektur
- 18th** 9:00>17:30 workshop
17:30 **Parma as a multicultural city? Migratory dynamics and ethnic landscapes.** *Davide Papotti*, University of Parma
18:00 **New image and functionality for the historical city.** *Franca Miani*, University of Parma
- 19th** 9:00>11:00 workshop
11:00 round table **Designing in the historical centre.** with *Luciano Serchia*, Soprointendent for Architectural Heritage and the Landscape for the provinces of Parma and Piacenza, *Mariella Utili*, Soprointendent for the Historical Patrimony, Artistic and Ethno-anthropological Heritage of Parma and Piacenza, *Michele Alinovi*, Municipality of Parma, *Alessandro Tassi Carboni*, Order of Architects Planners Landscapists and Conservationists of the Province of Parma, *Carlo Quintelli*, University of Parma
14:30>17:30 workshop
17:30 **Dutch experiences of interventions in the compact city: the case of Rotterdam.** *Nicola Marzot*, University of Ferrara
18:00 **Architecture and Visual Arts: a research field at the University of Parma.** *Francesca Zanella*, *Elisabetta Modena*, *Marco Scotti*, University of Parma
- 20th** 9:00>19:00 workshop
21st 9:00>13:00 workshop
14:00>18:00 reports from the project groups taking part and a collective review
18:00 **The Architecture of CITTAEMILIA.** *Carlo Quintelli*, University of Parma
- 22nd 23rd** cultural itinerary of the city's monumental architecture (architecture by F. Albini, B. Antelami, N. Bettoli, G. Canali, G. Canella, C. Dardi, A. Petitot, R. Piano)
24th 9:00>17:30 workshop
17:30 **Context, character and material in the architectural interventions in the historical city centre: some experiences in medium size cities in Spain.** *Alberto Ustarroz & Manuel Iniguez*, Universidad del País Vasco – Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Donostia-San Sebastian
- 25th** 9:00>18:00 workshop
18:00 **Cities: firm or elastic.** *Piotr Gajewski*, Politechnika Krakowska - Wydział Architektury
- 26th** 9:00 organizing mounting of Exhibition. Defining layout for final panels
27th 11:00>23:00 workshop
9:00>18:00 final Workshop, pagination and printing of works
18:00 **Barcelona: The renewal of an urban laboratory.** *Eduard Bru*, Universidad Politecnica de Catalunya – Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona
19:00>23:00 mounting of exhibition
- 28th** 9:00>11:00 presentation of projects to the commission. Final reports by *Lamberto Amistadi*, *Urtzi Llano Castresana*, *Enric Llorach*, *Wieslaw Michalek*, *Christopher Schriener*, and *Alessandro Tognon*
11:00>13:30 finale debate and awarding of credits with: *Carlo Quintelli*, *Bruno Adorni*, *Paolo Giandebiaggi*, *Giorgio Muratore*, *Alberto Ferlenga*
18:00 presentation of the projects to the city as part of the study day "Inhabiting the Forgotten City" organised by the Order of Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservationists of the Province of Parma, Foundation of Architects of Parma and Piacenza
21:00 ending party, Ex Scedep Via Pasubio.



which tends however over time to enrich and articulate the palimpsest of its own constructed, as well as social and identity structure. Beyond a series of nonetheless significant interventions to transform passages of historic fabric, a phenomenon decidedly more prevalent within the north European rather than Italian context, the recent powerful expansion dynamic of cities has pretended the conquest of new territorial spaces, has projected itself opportunistically along the infrastructural arteries of the territory, and has involved and transformed villages and

2 The renewed role of the historic centre in the strategy to transform cities

The peculiarity of the historic urban centre, with significantly analogous aspects in both Italian and European contexts, lies first and foremost in the settlement compactness which has established itself over time in line with varying morphological and functional structures, in support of intense and diversified relational conditions, according to an economy of anthropic transformation beginning from "space" material. The construction of the historic centre availed itself of a lengthy time process, following intermittent phases of development and crisis, of densification and contraction, through a dialectic of transformation

pre-existing rural situations in line with a standardizing urbanisation. In this match, the historic city's traditional dialectic of construction for substitution through modification of pre-existing settlement devices, according to structures that renew themselves through the insertion of new components in place of others no longer suitable to support the variations in urban physiology, give way to the continuously additive and consuming situation of a city that replicates its own suburban nature, between the diseconomy of dilated spaces and the evanescence of the urban effect at a human scale. Hence the city not only tends to identify itself less and less with the historic centre, at least as a centrality of reference to be adopted

in terms of concentration of services and representation of the urban community, but does not reproduce its rate of formal structure, of combinatory hierarchy, densification, complementarity and heterogeneity of its components that lie at the root of the very city concept. Otherwise, the importance of exchanges and the dynamics of territorial use do not allow historical centres to interpret a total recovery of their own rôle, and there is the risk of that inexorably ingenuous alternative behaviour of nostalgia for a not-well-identified "traditional city" or "beautiful city" which hearsay would have proposed by the historical visionaries, from Leon Krier to Marco Romano. If anything the historic centre must be once again a fundamental component in the process of regaining the instrumental value of the city as a whole, including everything already built and which we emphasize through a physical/morphological continuity between historical suburb and the latest generation of extreme suburb. The relaunching of the historic centre's involvement, the real authenticity of its contribution, then lies in this open consideration, both as regards the city which surrounds it and with which it must find reasons for formal and functional exchange and reciprocity, and towards itself, as an artefact that is unquestionably complex and stratified but unfinished, as the work of man it takes part

is not either, in the urban matter in hand, a plethora of individualities and forms of collective representation in continuous evolution over time.

3 The Project Theme: a gate for the University Campus in Parma's Oltretorrente district

The theme of the workshop's project experimentation finds expression above all within a heavily characteristic area of Parma: that of the Oltretorrente, the part of the city that extends, after the ancient Roman settlement to the east, on the west bank of the Parma torrent. The Via Emilia is the historic axis that brings continuity and settlement regularity to this part of the city which has constantly grown - but in particular from the fourteenth-century phase - as a large suburb devoted to production activities and services with respect to the city of civic and religious representation of the eastern part. The triangular-shaped urban sector delimited by the Via Emilia/Via D'Azeglio to the south, by Via Kennedy and the Parco Ducale to the north, by the torrent to the east, sees its western vertex conclude in front of the roundabout that acts as hub to the city's internal ring road system, created at the beginning of the Twentieth Century on the foundations of the demolished city walls.

In the complex divisions of the morphology of its sites the area mainly features residential and service components above all connected with the university, housed in settlements from various epochs right up to today. Departments linked to classical studies, ancient and modern literature, art and show business but also economics. Last but not least the seat of the post-graduate school, the European College of Parma. Another fundamental characterising component is that of the historical Ospedale Vecchio building, begun in the XV century and continually developed until the end of the nineteenth century. In this complex context amongst the many themes open and available for project interventions emerges that of the head of the triangular urban sector overlooking the Piazzale Santa Croce interchange. At that urban point converges a system of distribution spaces interstitial to the buildings of the university complex, among various pavilions, the former San Francesco da Paola monastery, the Ospedale Vecchio itself and the New Economics

lecture rooms, able to grant them high potential in terms of representation and diaphragmatic significance between historical urban reality and inner suburb as well as between university city and ring road city. The typological suggestions that might help us interpret the sense of this new element to be designed, are very many. It is necessary to imagine an "embouchure" or "head" as we might say of an "urban quarter"; a "gate" that leads into a settlement complex which evolves according to an articulate linearity by means of interstitial routes with complementary spaces and volumes; a "storehouse" where can be imagined logistics, exchange, ingoing and outgoing representation of the university complex; the "pavilion" that assumes a settlement lying at the back heavily characterised by the types of pavilion that once sprouted along the edge of the park; the "xenodochium" which, in allusion to the parish church of Santa Croce lying alongside, reproduces that sentiment of welcoming and protection of the university community on the Via Emilia. The theme and the site that feed the interpretation of the project would summon further suggestions, according to other marriages and analogies of sense that might help in feeding the identity profile of this new head component, however it is up to each individual to interpret this from their own readings of the project at the workshop.

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1 Introduction

The Workshop IP Erasmus entitled, "Compact City Architecture: historical city centre design in Europe" will be reflecting upon the way the fabric of the historical city is currently being altered in response to the indiscriminate and disorganised way cities have invaded and occupied agricultural land over the last twenty years i.e. as an anti-sprawl strategy. To do so calls for differentiated disciplinary skills such as architectural design, a knowledge of the history of the city and its territory, sociology and urban marketing as well as economic assessments for interventions, which the architect must be able to give a unitary form to. In this sense, the project's sustainability is seen as a varying, articulated process which aims to recover and give a new lease of life to empty abandoned spaces within the historical fabric of the city, improving central areas and delivering them back to the urban physiology. Consequently, the theme proposed will involve analytical and project reasoning applied to various sites (the city of Parma being taken as case study) and a theme (intervention in historical centres), whose chief objective is to introduce the student to knowledge of a project methodology that is calibrated and tried and tested for average-sized European cities, i.e. equally applicable to other European contexts with similar historical and environmental characteristics and critical situations.

