Scienze del Territorio, no. 2 - "Back to the City"
Call for paper

A famous motto that goes back to the formation of the first Italian and European communes recites: *city's air makes you free*. It referred originally to the fact that serfs could free themselves from slavery by finding a job in the city. This phrase took on a wider and more political significance when Karl Marx used it against the anti-urban ideology (sustained by Fourier, Saint-Simon, Cabet, Godin, Owen, Babeuf) who saw the city as a place of corruption, ill practices, deceitful lawyers and corrupt bankers. On his part, the philosopher from Trier saw industrial cities as places of emancipation of individuals finally saved from the fate of rural idiocy. The industrial (or modern) city thus became a site of concentration of individuals, the meeting place of socialization. It became, in the first place, a *community of free men*. Marx interprets and anticipates the incoming modernization: the process of urban concentration is seen as a necessary condition, implied by history itself. Marx announces the idea of progress against pre-capitalist forms of production, against countryside and the medieval village. The history of modern city becomes history of urbanization of the countryside, and no longer of the interchange between town and country. In the pre-industrial stage European city has been one of the most successful outcomes of co-evolution between nature and culture, wise use of natural, territorial and landscape resources, a successful experiment of "second nature", more complex and at the same time more fragile than the first one.

An increased productive force creates a urban landscape hitherto unknown. The modern city was in fact the result of industrial revolution, of the advent of the Great Factory located in the territory, of the exploitation of mines from which to extract raw materials, of trade development, of banks, mutual aid societies, public institutions, the first forms of welfare. *This* town was qualified as "modern".

In the second half of the last century we see a giant mutation of the world, which led to the overcoming of the modern city. The de-territorialization of the Great Fordist factory in the first place affected dramatically the physical and social organization of the city. The Fordist city explodes and disintegrates in the main functions of the system dictated by the great factory, and in doing so it buried towns, villages, rural landscapes, cultures and communities. The machine civilization didn't stop its way to the separation of culture and nature. The dominance of economy outlines definitely the new landscape of the contemporary world, its life and inhabiting way; it overthrows borders (morphological, ecological, social);   affects living forms and replaces politics in giving sense (or non- sense) to the territory. The process of contemporary urbanization goes beyond the rules of the modern city by producing a boundless periphery. Today half the world's population lives in such a urban context and, with the exponential growth of cities in the South and East of the world, six billion and 400 thousand people will be urbanized by 2050. At the same time emigration from poor countries to *mega-cities* reproduces the periphery scheme at a global level. The whole planet is turning into a huge *meta-city-world*.

This process of global urbanization in Europe, along with demographic stagnation, has assumed the characteristics of a *metropolisation* of regional systems: an undifferentiated continuum of functions and flows from the centre to the surrounding municipalities that obliterates borders, countrysides, recognizable limits, communities. The globalization of territory appears as a steamroller which reduces to a flat unity a landscape of memories, stories, experiences, diversity and turns everything into a land to be crossed without stopping, without signs of identity.

Yet this trend is not only not hindered, opposed, fought by those who believe that diversity, places, identities, socio-cultural models and even the local languages and dialects are undeniable cultural, anthropological and social assets, but rather it is theorized and welcomed as a progressive event. Homogenizing urbanization of the world becomes the inescapable destiny of humanity. No one notices a strange paradox in the fact that the same supporters of this concept on the one hand are doing their utmost to put the brakes on territory consumption and, on the other hand, they support the reasons for such an anonymous monstrosity that literally obliterates any trace of agricultural land in favour of an undifferentiated fabric of homes, shopping

centres, intermodal hubs, warehouses, storage facilities, banks, estate agencies, mere clusters of services and functions, thus favouring the very ideology of unlimited growth. Mega-cities of the South and East of the world - whose skyscrapers, slums, *favelas*, are completely alien to the Western historical culture (even if they are the product of Western globalization) - sanction *la mort de la ville* with their serial spaces undifferentiated, decontextualized, with no services, no urbanity. In addition, the growth of mega-cities, with billions of urbanized people coming from a countryside that will no more produce food, is parallel to the ongoing global process of reduction of fertile land, dramatically emphasizing a contradiction already incurable.

The second issue of *Scienze del territorio*, which is titled "Back to the city" because we believe that the processes of contemporary urbanization have buried the very idea of city, intends to answer the following question: is this calamitous fate of urbanization in the world really inevitable? Therefore it intends to address the above mentioned themes soliciting contributions that provide alternative and innovative experiences and paths of various kinds, and that invest the forms as well as the process of rebuilding city, such as: how to foster a relationship based on co-evolution and care between human settlements and environment; how to find back the ecosystemic balance that used to bind the city with its environmental base (bioregional approach) and that allows to close the life cycles (water, food, energy, waste) and to produce new territory; how to make urban environment compatible with both the satisfaction of these life cycles and with social proximity, participation and self-government; how to rebuild the quality of urban life, i. e. through peri-urban agricultural belts producing healthy food and extended multifunctional agricultural parks; how to redefine and restore the urban edges; how to safeguard cities from the increasingly catastrophic consequences of hydrogeological and climate change; how to prevent neglected areas through rules of "reconstruction", the recovery of forms of knowledge related to building and urban planning, the restoration of rules of cohabitation; how to promote the development of polycentric urban bioregions, that are a variety of local networks organized into clusters of small and medium cities. A major role in overcoming the metropolitan model is played by the processes and practices of re-appropriation, construction and self-organization acted by inhabitants; the models of inclusive and effective participation in urban planning and in defining public policies; the use of interactive tools and facilitation devices; the experimentation of networks and alternative economies and economies of proximity, as well as the production of aesthetic quality, including public art with its integrated and participated processes.

This issue of the journal intends to propose a collective viable alternative to the problems raised, asking scholars to contribute with articles that show, in a form as much as possible integrated and dialectical, theories, tools, actions and case studies which will be useful not only to the progress of science, but also to the institutional, political, economic, cultural and social players that operate with the goal of going "back to the city".

Submission guidelines

Information for contributors

Submitted articles should present a clear consistency with the Journal's aims and with the issue's core theme, and use a language suitable to be enjoyed not by experts only, but also by all who expect to get practical information on their contents. They can be theoretical reflections, critical or reasoned reports on case studies, or narrations about research/action experiences. Once received by the editors, they will undergo an external peer review process.

Always maintaining a personal style in presentation and argument, the articles should all have the following features, intended as assessment criteria for referees:

- originality and innovativeness
- methodological rigour
- arguments clarity
- trans-disciplinary orientation
- mastery of the relevant literature(s)
- effectiveness in raising awareness and in transmitting knowledge to active citizenship
- effectiveness in raising awareness and in transmitting knowledge to politicians, administrators and technicians.

Articles can be written in one of the following languages: Italian, French, Spanish, English, and once accepted, they should be translated into (British or American) English. The English version suitability will be checked by the editors: in case of negative check, the article will be rejected; possible Italian translations are by the editors.

Texts should be maximum 20,000 characters in length, spaces and footnotes included, and may be accompanied by pictures, photographs, drawings, figures, charts, tables. In exceptional cases, for experiences which are particularly significant or hard to summarize, they may reach 25,000 characters in length, including spaces and notes.

All articles should be accompanied by:
- a 1,500 characters abstract (spaces included), written both in the selected language and in English;
- 5 keywords (in both languages) apt to position the work within the proper thematic area;
- a 300 characters (spaces included) brief bio-bibliography of the author, also in both languages, accompanied by: i) academic or professional qualification, ii) disciplinary field(s), iii) board of belonging, iv) telephone number, v) e-mail address.

All of these additional information should be placed at the text bottom.

Writer's guidelines

1. Articles should be submitted in their final version in a single editable digital file (Word or Rich Text Format, *not* PDF), including all text parts that are being submitted for publication.
2. In typing, Authors must carefully avoid: irregular margins or returns, insertion (even automatic) of spaces before and after paragraphs and changes in line spacing, dimension or position of characters, as well as the insertion of non-textual objects such as smart tags, drawings , graphics, and any type of hyperlink.
3. Text organisation:
   - the text has to be written in Garamond font, size 12;
   - the paper title should be written in size 14, **bold**, flush left, followed at the next line by first and last name of the Authors (listed in alphabetical order by last name), size 14, normal, followed in turn by four

blank lines; e.g.:

Landscape agriculture as an antidote to landscape trivialisation: the case of Fosdinovo in Tuscany

Giovanni W. Adorno, Filippo Baudo

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- section titles should be numbered and written in **bold**, size 12, preceded by two and followed by one blank line, e.g.:

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1. Section title

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- subsection titles should be numbered, as well, and written in *italic*, size 12, preceded by one blank line, e.g.:

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4. Quotations, in text body or footnotes, must be written between high English quotes: " "; in all other cases (such as to mark a slang expression or words taken from other thematic context), quotation marks to use are the single English: ' '. Extended quotations (more than 3 lines long) should be reported without quotes, all in *italic* and preceded and followed by a carriage return; omitted parts are indicated by [...].
5. Footnotes - reserved for explanatory necessities or to illustrate details that the authors don't intend to insert within the text - are not used for bibliographic references. Their reference mark must be affixed systematically *after* punctuation marks.
6. References, both in the text body or in footnotes, are shown in brackets, indicating the author's last name in SMALL CAPS, publication date and starting-ending page (ROSSI 1995, 234-249).
7. The term "*ibidem*" after a quotation refers to the text mentioned above, and is followed by the page indication in case of a different one (*ibid*., 23), used alone in case of the same page (*ibidem*).
8. Cited codes and authors should always be given in small capitals: IGM; (ROSSI 1995, 13); in the text and in the references, the use of capital letters for names of organizations and institutions, written in full, should be limited to the first term of phrase (e.g., Department of urban and regional planning, etc..
9. Using bold or underlined is not allowed in the text body, whereas the use of italic is exclusively reserved to:
   a) expressions which have to be highlighted;
   b) scientific/technical terms;
   c) foreign terms not of current use in the selected language;

d) ancient languages terms.

10. Graphs and tables should be inserted in the text and numbered consecutively (Table 1, Table 2, etc.).; names and possible captions go *above* with respect to each entry.

11. Mathematical expressions, numbered consecutively in brackets on the left side, must be submitted with the utmost clarity and reduced to the essentials. Except for the numbers, all letters of those expressions, including those mentioned in the text, are in *italic*.

12. Images should be numbered consecutively in the order they appear in the text: Figure 1, Figure 2 etc.. They should not be included in the text file but sent separately, each one in a digital file, TIFF format, denominated only by this consecutive numbering: Fig01, Fig02 etc. (thus having care of adding a 0 prefix to the serial numbers of a single digit). Their resolution, at the print size, can not be less than 300 dpi (800 dpi for line drawings).

13. Within the text, isolated between two carriage returns, the Author should indicate the exact point where each image has to be inserted, marking it by the reference: [FIG. 3].

14. Captions for images, numbered consecutively as well, will be sent in a separate text file (Word or Rich Text Format) called CAPTIONS.

15. There is no general bibliography, but only references to the texts cited in the articles. The references, placed at the end of the text, follow the alphabetical order for the authors and the chronological order for the publication of each item. In case of more items by the same author in the same year, a letter in alphabetical order is added immediately after the publishing year (ROSSI 1995a; ROSSI 1995b, etc.), both in text body and footnotes. In any case, for printed works, the date to affix is referred to the actually consulted edition (even if in translation); in case of remarkable differences, the original date can be cited by adding it at the end of each item, in text body as in final references (ROSSI 1995a, orig. 1923).

16. For references, use the standard international criteria
    - volume: SURNAME N. (year), *Title*, Publisher, Place;
    - edited volume: SURNAME N. (year - ed.), *Title*, Publisher, Place;
    - article in book: SURNAME N. (year), "Title", in EDITORSURNAME N. (ed.), *VolumeTitle*, Publisher, Place, pp. xx-xx;
    - article in journal: SURNAME N. (year), "Title", *Journal*, vol. x, no. y, pp. zz-zz.
    Examples:

DEMATTEIS G. (1985), *Le metafore della Terra. La geografia umana fra mito e scienza*, Feltrinelli, Milano.
FRABBONI F., GAVIOLI G., VIANELLO G. (1998 - eds.), *Ambiente s'impara*, Franco Angeli, Milano.
HALSETH G., DODDRIDGE J. (2000), "Children's cognitive mapping: a potential tool for neighbourhood planning", *Environment and planning B,* vol. 27, pp. 15-23.
VALENTINE G. (1997), ""«Oh yes I can». «Oh no you can't». Children and parents' under-standings of kids' competence to negotiate public space safely", *Antipode. A radical journal of geography,* vol. 28, n. 1.
KUHN T.S. (1969), *La struttura delle rivoluzioni scientifiche. Come mutano le idee nella scienza*, Einaudi, Torino (orig. 1962).

17. Each mentioned website, whose URL has to be given between the signs < and >, should be accompanied by the date (month and year) in which it's been actually visited: <http://www.nuovomunicipio.net> (last visit: February 2013).