



AIAPP Associazione Italiana di Architettura del Paesaggio
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Futurescapes: Rethinking Urban Landscapes

Pecha Kucha Presentation
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IFLA EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Rethinking > Reformulating > Riconstructing



$$x^2 + bx = c$$



How can landscape architects contribute?



Constructing resilient spaces able to **adapt to changes**
and “urban landscapes without borders”

(That’s easy, isn’t it?)

... adapt to changes due to:

physiologic/natural transformation of living systems = **no problem**

economic and environmental crisis = **problem**

social/natural emergencies = **big problem**

New situations demand for new solutions globally and locally



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Globally

The core scenario of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development sets priorities: **health and wellbeing of the population, social justice, environmental protection**, democracy and transparency.

European

“... Guided by this program the economic policies of the EU must go hand in hand with **strong social and environmental policies**. ...” (from the appeal “for the people, the planet and global prosperity” promoted by WWF, Concord* and Etuc**, signed by over 170 European and national Civil Society Organisations)

*European NGO confederation for relief and development **European Trade Union Confederation

Ibidem inter alia, some more titles: Face the challenges together; Fight for a sustainable social Europe, for the population and our planet; Listen and involve;

...

These issues should be on top of the list of whoever designs our future.

These issues are evidently in line with the themes we have treated in the scientific concept of the 53rd IFLA World Congress in Turin last April: Sharing Landscapes; Connected Landscapes; Layered Landscapes; Inspiring Landscapes.



These issues are in our minds and in our hearts, as human beings and as landscape architects in Italy.

Economic and environmental crisis

After the economic crisis of 2008 the **relationship with the city** and its spaces has changed. We are witnessing a return to agriculture, in particular in the form of **periurban agriculture**. After the abandonment of land, for example in Rome there is a decline of 11% in construction and an increase of 12% in new farms for sustainable agriculture in line with local development plans. The growth of responsible tourism and eco-tourism as well as a shared concern for the protection of landscapes and natural sites open up **new frontiers for landscape economy**.

(How can landscape architecture contribute?)

A slowly **changing perception of what is “beautiful”** in landscape calls for quality projects in any scale and for well focused communication everywhere. We have to rethink the urban metabolism.



Social emergencies

Cities are where social conflicts surface. Apart from the average urban social problems Italy faces **growing conflicts due to the continued immigration**, which is particularly perceived in urban spaces. A massive commitment of the politics, the administration and the community to urban landscape issues is needed. Now.

(How can landscape architecture contribute?)

Landscape architecture has a great potential in **creating the base for integration and social engagement** (Playgrounds, urban gardening and collective multifunctional open spaces ...) Maybe this will not solve the immigration problem, but certainly may smooth out the sharp edge of everyday conflicts.



Temporary Settlements

Immigration emergencies as well as post natural disaster emergencies call for the planning and the construction of temporary settlements, which should be realized in the **respect of local landscape and territorial identity**, even when needed to be set up in extremely short time. Experience has taught that they often become permanent forming - in addition to the momentary shelter for the infortunate users – new communities with a long term impact on landscape.

(How can landscape architecture contribute?)

Too little effort has been spent so far into planning and designing these settlements in advance and elaborate a sort of **emergency protocol** with **quality landscape projects** as part of the lot.



Natural Emergencies

Italy's fragile and vulnerable territorial conditions are a permanent challenge and call for a more serious prevention than the one we can actually count on. The creation of resilient spaces and an overall strategy for **responsible territorial management** are an imperative requirement for our country.

(How can landscape architects contribute?)



Landscape architects are to be included in teams, working groups, advisory panels, etc. wherever landscape issues are under examination or discussion. The involvement of landscape architects in preventive and decisive processes must be ensured by law.

The single countries must not be left alone to fight their battles. The support and shared engagement of the international community of landscape architects is essential. The creation of a network of skills, exchange and solidarity is vital.
