Gaze Algorithms.

The urban landscape between representation and design

Introduction: urban landscape, representation and climatic emergencies

In continuity with the research "*Mouvement et perception. La représentation du paysage urbain comme moteur du projet*" [1], the conference wants to identify the possible relationships between seeing and designing the urban landscape. That is, between the landscape representation and its project.

The urban landscape representation is configured as a preliminary and necessary operation for the reinvention of our cities; reinvention that seems decisive in relation to the role played by metropolises also in the context of the urgent contemporary climate-environmental crisis.

The advent of the so-called Anthropocene [2] era requires that the construction of the landscape becomes the *construction of another world*, in which environmental priorities are the engine of a rethinking of all the political-economic, social and anthropological paradigms characterizing modernity.

In this context, the landscape aesthetic category also seems to be the ethical *category of another coming world* [3].

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1   *The representation of architecture and urban landscape as method of conceptual reading and transcription of visual perception linked to movement, for redevelopment purposes* is the subject of the research agreement stipulated between the Department "Architettura e Design", dAD, Polytechnic School, University of Genova and the Laboratoire de recherche LéaV, École nationale supérieure d'architecture Versailles - responsible: ML Falcidieno and E. Bistagnino (dAD); G. Pierluisi and A. Viati Navone (LéaV). See "Le ragioni di una ricerca", in GUD, magazine about Architecture, Design and Cities - SGUARDI, special issue, Stefano Termanini Editore, May 2021, p. 20-27.

2   In the context of the large literature on the Anthropocene and its interpretation, the reference is to three essays by Bruno Latour: Latour, Bruno, *Face à Gaïa. Huit conférences sur le nouveau régime climatique*, La decouverte, Paris, 2015. Latour, Bruno, *Où grandirir? Comme s'orienter en politique*, La decouverte, Paris, 2017 et Latour, Bruno, *Où Suis-je? Leçon du confinement à l'usage des terrestres*, La decouverte, Paris, 2021.

3   In this regard, see G. Clemént's interpretation of the garden and landscape in which the limited space of the garden and its care by the gardener becomes a symbolic example of the whole earth as a planetary garden. Among his other texts, see: Clément, Gilles, *Une bréve Histoire du Jardin*, JC Béhar, Paris, 2012.

Well, this landscape – this is the first thesis that the conference proposes to investigate – to be built must first of all be s*een*. That is, the *landscape representation* can be a *foresight* of a different world.

We share the idea that figurative / figural themes of representation often have the power to bring out some hidden *visibility* from reality, that is, to bring out themes of relationship with the world that were previously invisible. This is one of the roles – if not the role – of the artistic experience.

Therefore a political capacity[4] is here attributed to representation, in the sense that it visualizes issues of social debate.

Talking about urban landscape is very different from talking about natural or rural landscape, the difference lies in the continuity of interaction between citizens and cities, which no longer have that sense of transition between man and environment, generator of our natural landscapes.

As is well known, the landscape is the result of an interaction between a place as a physical datum and a culture interpreting and constructing it at the same time. It is a vital system of relations between inhabitants and territories that takes on a physical and symbolic dimension at the same time.

This profound connection between nature and culture is normally not found in the spaces of our metropolises, on the contrary urban spatialities re-propose the dissension and distance between the individual and the world, generated by the logic of late modernity, characterized by the almost ubiquitous presence of advanced capitalism.

About the contemporary city

We can say that contemporary late modern city does not have a landscape. Precisely in this state of "absence", the non-landscape of our metropolises, on the basis of the need for urgent environmental policies, can become urban landscape; that is to present itself as an alternative type of landscape, design solution to the hybrid and uncertain spaces of our metropolises.

In current urban scenarios, which increasingly express the Anthropocene themes, large urban contexts – more similar to hypertexts than to previous urban structures, governed by hierarchical relationships between center and periphery, linear systems between city and non-city – are searching a new landscape, corresponding to their state of *Hyperville*[5].

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4   Particularly, we refer to Jaques Ranciére's interpretation. Crf. Rancière, Jaques, *Le travail des images. Conversations with Andrea Soto Calderón*. Le presses du réel, Paris, 2019.

5   There are many possible definitions of space and landscape of the contemporary city, here the definition of Hyperville by André Corboz is used, because of it's inclusive of more concepts and because it's more general. Crf. Corboz, André,

Similarly to hypertext, *Hyperville* is characterized by a loss of linear hierarchies, as a function of an extended and equivalent system, a diffuse and porous city in which specific local conditions occur, but which, in some way, have a their possible generalization as global urban systems[6].

Today, solving the landscape issues of our cities means, given their global environmental impact, contributing to solve some of the climate issues of our planet.

But which landscape? Well, a landscape basing on the double movement of contemporary urban space, that is the pulsation of the city between the *urbanization of the territory* and the reverse movement, of *territorialization of the city*.

What new urban landscapes must define is a *Hyperville* generated starting from the *urban void*. An architecture defined starting from the territory. A *sponge* city capable of integrating emptiness and population density (not only human). It is therefore a city that puts *living* at the center of its policies and that considers hospitality, exchange and common spaces as a political-planning horizon.

About the idea of project

The second hypothesis that this conference intends to verify is the roots of the project in the landscape vision. The hypothesis put forward is that project - be it architecture, design or even interiors - derives from a constant relationship with the idea of the urban landscape. In other words, a project generated by a "landscape thought"[7].

We can affirm that the interpretation of the city, of its landscape, as above defined, can act as a new paradigm for the culture of design.

This topic is not new in European architectural culture, indeed we could say that it is one of the basic constants, what changes is the type of landscape of reference.

In fact, the classical *intra-muros* city and the modern city with the absurd charm of its suburbs, are replaced by the extensive dimension of *Hyperville*, city-territory in which the two previously opposed terms of territorialization and urbanization, with the consequent implications in the countryside relationship -city or nature-culture, should find a new relationship tending to the symbiosis of one in the other.

Sorton enfin du labyrinthe!, Infolio, Gollion, 2009. p. 51-61.

6   See Gausa, Manuel, "Land-Links / Lands-In-Land / Lands / Xeno-Lands. Le Paysage comme Infra - / Intra- / Trans- / Éco-, Socio- (Et Info) Structure Territoriale ", in GUD, A magazine about Architecture, Design and Cities - SGUARDI, special issue, Stefano Termanini Editore, May 2021, p . 94-102.

7   The reference is to the interpretation of the relationship between man and *milieu*, as a landscape attitude, by Augustin Berque, in particular see Berque, Augustin, *La pensée paysagère,* Archibooks + Sautereau Éd. 2008.

At the present, looking at the urban landscape to make the project implies, according to this thesis, a look at these mutant territories and, therefore, at the assumption of the environmental-landscape question as the matrix of the project.

Vision algorithm, landscape image and design production

Based on these premises, the conference is structured around two themes that coincide over the two days of work:

- urban landscape as representation and representation as project;
- urban landscape as project and project as representation;

The idea articulating the two themes is that the urban landscape design is a continuous action between the definition of its image, the vision that expresses it and the actual design action; that is, the aesthetic dimension expressed in the representation can become, through interesting transformations, a specific figure of the project.

Ultimately, we intend to see which links and relationships are interwoven between vision and representation as landscape "invention" and creative act of the project; how - and with which logical / figurative passages - the project can be determined starting from a *phenomenological* datum of interpretation of the city, which first becomes a graphic language and finally a design figure.

A conference for who and why?

The invitation to participate in the conference is aimed at researchers, artists and designers who deal with the city in relation to its landscape, both in terms of theoretical reflection and in terms of visual experimentation, highlighting how an image or an urban vision can become *action* or even more *project*.

Therefore, the conference is aimed at a wide audience, the issues it intends to develop, being linked to the destinies or visions of the city, concern every inhabitant of this territory, today no longer just a physical place, but also a conceptual system of networks and relationships both infrastructural and theoretical, both physical and virtual.

Participants in this "call", in their proposal, must explicitly refer to the themes presented and take a position between those working on representation and those on urban landscape project; therefore they have to refer explicitly to the theme of the first or second day and respond, with their interventions, to the themes of productive interaction between representation of the city and urban landscape design.

Type of expected proposal and participation

Proposals, with a maximum length of 15,000 characters (spaces included, notes included), in English, French or Italian, must be accompanied by a maximum of 3 images with a legend and a short biography of the author (or authors) of 1000 characters (spaces included).

They must be sent by 04 February 2022 to this address: irene.denatale@edu.unige.it

The selected proposals will be published in the collection of proceedings that will be presented following the conference itself.

Editorial rules will be attached to the notification of the selected contributions.

Dates and deadlines

17 December 2021	Call for papers
04 February 2022	Full paper submission
25 February 2022	Full paper acceptance
08 aprile 2022	Ready for press
29, 30 aprile 2022	Conference

Where

Architecture and Design Department (University of Genova), Stradone Sant'Agostino, 37, Genova, Italia.

Scientific committe

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Gabriele Pierluisi, architect, Maître Assistent Art and Technique of Representation, Ensa Versailles, Researcher at LéaV, France.

Livio Sacchi, architect, Professor of Drawing, Department of Architettura, University "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara, Italy.

Annalisa Viati Navone, architect, Professor of History and Architectural Cultures, Ensa Versailles, Researcher at LéaV, France, and at Archivio del Moderno, Svizzera.

Scientific curators

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