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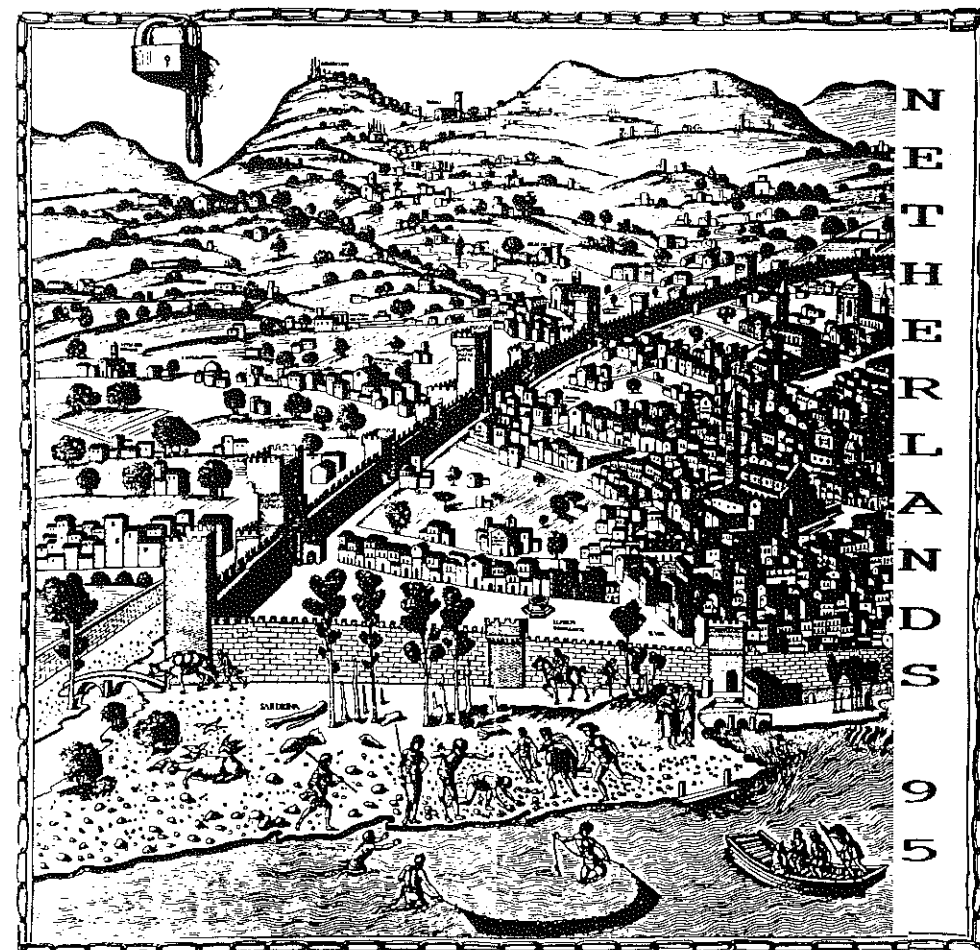Tel. --32/2/6503373
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NETHERLANDS 95

City Territory Environment
ITALIA 94

INURA CONFERENCE 1994 PROGRAMME

Title: **City Territory Environment.**
Research and Action for a Socio-ecological Transformation

Monday 23th May

am	- INURA introductions and brief update
	- Presentation of the theme
	"Socio-ecological Transformation"
	- Programme definition
pm	- Theoretical issues related to theme: local identity,
	marginalisation, community planning, environment,
	quality of living
evening	- The Time and the City: experimental workshop

Tuesday 24th May

am	- Socio-ecological transformation: case studies, projects
pm	- Local development, third sector
evening	- Multiracial, multicultural cities, societies

Wednesday 25th May

am/pm	- Piccole città tour (Siena, Volterra, San Gimignano)
evening	- Small cities, heritage, cultural tourism

Thursday 26th May

am	- Environmental issues, globalization, world cities,
	waterfronts
pm	- INURA business: membership, bullettin, foundation,
	joint publications, financing
evening	- Party

Friday 27th May

am	- Return to Florence

Contents

EDITORIAL

Raffaele Paloscia

The 1994 INURA conference was held last May in Tuscany, in an old country house, Villa Cennina, which is situated in the superb and ravishing landscape stretching between Siena and the Medieval fort of Monteriggioni.

The four days of discussion in the isolation of the Tuscan countryside have followed two touring days in Florence and its metropolitan area. We have thus renewed the custom of devoting the first part of the annual conference to the analysis of problem-areas of particular interest in a metropolitan context, in this case the vast periphery stretching in the plain between Florence and Prato.

The visit was introduced by a presentation of the area and its complex issues, and had its climax in the meeting at the headquarters of Quartiere 4 in Florence, with the representatives of the local community and the members of the working group of the Laboratory for ecological design of settlements operating in this borough. A presentation was made of the inspiring principles and the featuring lines of the projects, alternative to the institutional ones, worked out through an on-going exchange between the inhabitants, engaged in defining their requirements of space and urban quality, and the technicians called in to convey such requirements into project elaborations and viable urban plans (see abstract by Giancarlo Paba and Daniela Poli).

While all participants have been able to notice that, even at the gates of Renaissance Florence, the periphery shows considerable problems of social and environmental degradation, the visit to the hills just facing the plain has taken their eyes and minds back to a context of very high architectural and landscape quality. In particular, the visit to the Medici Villa La Petraia has provided a valuable example of the relationship between architecture, territory and environment, a certain source of inspiration for those who have a project outlook aiming at the improvement of the quality of living in its fullest and deepest sense.

As rich of emotions for our guests - thus many of them stated -seemed to be the tour we went on, a few days later, with the aid of a couple of great connoisseurs of the Tuscan land like Rita Micarelli and Giorgio Pizziolo. We visited a few small towns: Siena, Volterra, and San Gimignano.

Many among the participants should have directly acquired new elements, maybe resolutive this time, to unravel that complicated concept of territory that the Florentine group of INURA regularly proposes in every annual meeting (!!) as well as, obviously, in this one being titled "City, territory, environment. Research and action for a socio-ecological transformation".

Beyond the specific interest of the individual reports presented, what made this meeting particularly effective and constructive - as already happened in the three previous ones - was the very deep level, and never academic at the same time, of the discussion that involved all the participants.

The theoretical, multifaced exchange, paralleled by a variegated comparative analysis, often improvised but always relevant, enabled us to bring into focus the relationships between the different phenomena and processes and their recurrence or absence in the most varied contexts, according to the many regions and countries of origin of the participants. We hope that all this can immediately and positively affect the research activities and urban performance that each of us is carrying on in the reality where we are operating.

The positive result of the meeting was once more due mainly to its relaxed and informal atmosphere, also thanks to the small number of participants being 30 as in the annual conferences held so far. The full-pace work, with morning, afternoon, and after-supper sessions, and the breaks for meals and leisure time, since they were not split as separate moments, have been shared by all attendants representing a time for exchange at various levels.

The presentations - whose abstracts are reported here summing up contents and viewpoints - have revealed this feeling: there has been a succession of theoretical reports and informal reports on direct experiences, scientific works achieved and slide presentations, professional videofilms and improvised coverage of metropolitan situations. An interesting and at the same time amusing workshop on the perception of time in space has been a moment of collective involvement. Each work session always ended with a very lively discussion on the subjects presented.

This bulletin closes the Italian year of INURA. We are looking forward to the Dutch one!
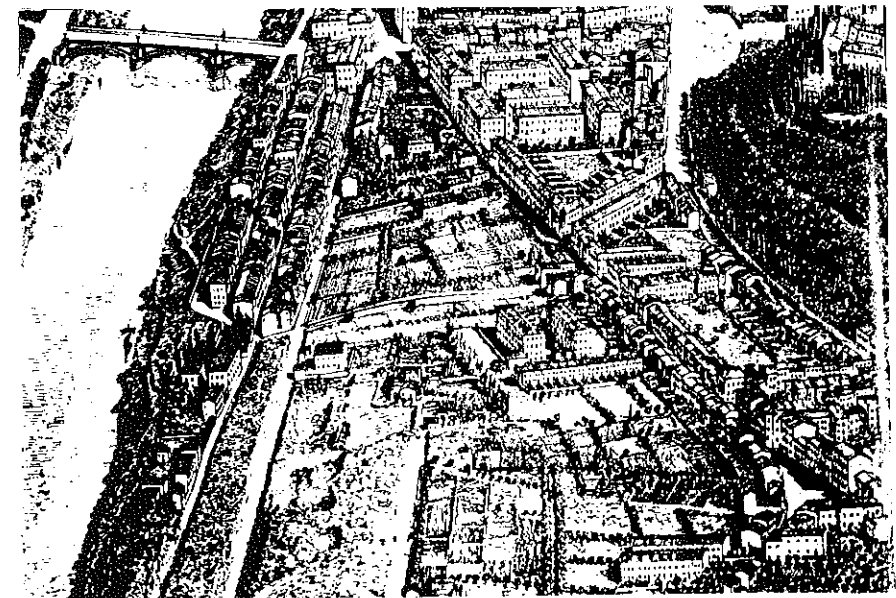
- Partecipation and Community Designing

MILAN: CITY WITHIN A CITY THE ADRIANO EXPERIENCE
Maurizio Cabras

Ecopolis: who are we?
Ecopolis is an independent organisation founded for the promotion and production of socially-based, ecologically-friendly architectural projects.
We are a collection of volunteers drawing upon a wide range of specialisms to apply a multidisciplinary holistic approach to architectural issues in the modern world.
We rely upon the highest technical and scientific standards, supported by the Politecnico di Milano, with whom we enjoy a close collaborative relationship, including work placements for several final-year Architecture undergraduates.

Our aims and methods
Our aims: to improve the living conditions and general environment of city dwellers, to enrich both the urban areas, and the cultural life of residents; in effect to create 'The Living City'.
Our methods: to use close collaboration with the local inhabitants to create socially-based developments. We are seeking a wholly new approach to architectural issues, replacing the traditional methodology in which 'expert solutions' are imposed from above upon the recipients, creating instead a collaborationist approach in which the people play an equal part in the process of shaping their own surroundings from the inception of the project through to the finished living environment.

Progress report on the Adriano project

The FIRST PHASE of the project is to gain the interest and the involvement of the local population, to encourage the perception of a 'neighbourhood' project.
After taking on board the results of the FIRST PHASE, the SECOND PHASE will aim to consolidate the development of a 'project conscience' amongst both the current residents of the area, and the expected newcomers.
This phase will be structured around a next public meeting which will form a committee of local volunteers, and technicians, to manage the project. At this point, all the volunteers will be informed in detail of the project plans and deadlines.
A series of intiatives will be undertaken in order to involve the rest of the inhabitants, step by step, in the progress of the project. Some of them will involve the local people on an individual basis.
These activities are aimed to develop a 'common language' amongst all the participants, 'experts' and non-experts alike.
In the THIRD PHASE, after reviewing the progress thus far, we will identify any problem areas that may have arisen.
A series of specialist sub-groups will be formed by the participants, to deal both with specific problem areas, and to pursue project ideas suggested by the residents themselves.

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It is impossible at this time to say what the solutions to the various problems will be, but our overall intention is to develop a strategy paper of ideas, outlining community-based activities to help bring about the regeneration of the area.

A CASE OF TOP-DOWN POWER CONFLICTS IN URBAN PLANNING
Jussi Jauhiainen

Local construction enterprises have had an important role in the development of Turku, a medium-size (160.000 inhab.) city on the southwestern coast of Finland. In the post-war period they have been active in the building of suburban areas. However, during the last 20 years the city has been declining slowly and the number of population has decreased, so the construction activities were concentrated in the building of the city center for shopping activities. The local construction enterprises have had strong linkages between local politicians and city's planning office and during the 1970s a small corruption scandal regarding urban development was experienced in the city.

The aim of this presentation is to discuss about the problems of power in the city and especially in the context of urban planning. The focus is on city development and on the conflicts that may emerge because of the different views of development, for example between the local urban elite and local activist groups. The case is about planning problems in Turku and how a small flexible group of activists, consisted of students, university teachers, housewifes, freelance professionals, etc., has started to "fight" against the consolidated local power elite, consisted of certain persons in construction industry, one architecture studio, the city planning office, the city council and the local newspaper.

The activist group "Meidän Turku" (Our Turku) was born in the spring 1993 due to discussion whether an underground parking hall should be built in the city center or not. Since that the activities have been spread to various fields from public manifestations to academic seminars, from "irritating" writing on newspapers to appeal procedures in the court in respect of local plans.
The group has directed their critique, on the one hand, toward "mistakes" done in city's urban planning (surplus construction of shopping space to the city centre during the 1980s and surplus construction of shopping malls to the city fringe during the 1990s), and toward some questions that are still open (the construction of motorway between Turku and Helsinki arriving close to the city centre of Turku, the construction of parking halls in the heart of the city, the aim to built massive housing area to the islands close to inner city, the aim to develop the waterfront for office space and leisure activities); on the other hand, the group demands more democracy and people's participation in urban planning and open discussion about the linkages between the power elite, urban development and urban planning in Turku.

In the paper I present some strategies chosen by the group and what kind of results were achieved during the first year and what are the future prospects. There is a place for self-criticism as well: what is "our vs. their" and is there really a possibility for "the real democracy" and people's participation in urban planning?

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PARTECIPATION URBAN PLANNING AND SELFMANAGEMENT. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND SOCIAL CHANGE
Marvi Maggio

In the urban transformation come out a conflict between who is lead by the market value (the idea of the city as a land for investment) and who live and use the town as an inhabitant. These two interests create already a big social gap but we have to add different reproduction needs. The ruling class can easily find in the market what they need as housing, recreation, culture, and be sure to get rid of deprived people and social problems around them thanks to the prices. Deprivation and urban decay move away from their areas and quality is segregated sometimes with police, with walls somewhere else.

How could we have another way of living the town more collective, more social, no more segregated?

Partecipation in urban planning of the inhabitants and selfmanagement could help in building it, giving voice not only to the economic forces but also to the other, not strictly economics needs.

There are society that allow more easily for their culture, for political or social fights in operation, for a bigger attention to the consent, a democratic and direct intervention of the inhabitants of the town in the decision making process in urban planning. In some places we find not only sophisticated planning tools to allow partecipation but also the chance for informal groups to menage social and public spaces by their own. In Amsterdam, Nederland, for the long and lucky history of the squatter movement, together with the attitude of the administration and the politicians, we find a selfmanagment with social aims and even if less frequently political aims. In London, Great Britain, the memory of the past political fights, the radical support of the GLC between 1980 and 1986 for the partecipation of inhabitants against the urban transformation proposed by the big real estate firms, even in the Thatcher era contribute to create fights against plans characterized by the only aim of producing revenues and without attention to the big social and economic problems of London: disoccupation, lack of housing. Also because of the danger of any real estate development, very well known in London: gentrification.

The quality that can come out from partecipation have something to do with a network of social relations, solidarity, identity. Many partecipation exercises have something to do with the care for the environment, (trees grown in industrial decayed land for example) and for the memory of the past (the factory once place of work of that neighbourhood). The people that propose themselves as user of a decayed areas not always are already inhabitants of the area, sometimes they have an idea on how to use these spaces that do not find a place somewhere else, as to say that their social needs do not find resolution in the existent offer (very often for both the prices in the market and political reason, as happened in squatting, but also for the "social centre" now very common in italian towns). Part of the town in transformation look as the more appropriate place to use for these scope very often with selfmanagement and selfbuilding. The squatting or the temporary use represent very often a way to create social spaces that the more advanced administrations look for their good effects in the quality of living. Of course we could have conflicts between different social groups of the neighbourhood: some of them could be against the squatters or the other groups and all depend of the kind of social space that are in being.

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These very special and radical proposal together with the partecipation in urban planning of the neighbours that could be affected by the planning choices of the city or by the choices of the real estate market could help in building a more livable town: with more answers to social needs and less dangerous devotion for the rights of the land and real estate market.

CHINESE CHILDREN IN ITALIAN SCHOOLS: A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE OF CULTURAL CONTAMINATION IN SOME TUSCAN CITIES
Maria Omodeo

In Italian schools the presence of foreign children has always been very limited, except for a few districts in Milan, Rome and other larger cities.

In the last few years, however, the migration flow of children coming from developing countries has widely increased, so that today there are over 20.000 foreign children in Italian schools. In Tuscany alone, about 20.000 Chinese people are living, but the high number of illegal immigrants makes it impossible to establish the exact figure. Chinese families usually migrate with all members, therefore there is a high number of children in schools, thanks to the international children's rights, which allow even illegal immigrant children to attend schools.

Many teachers accept the cultural challenge resulting from the presence in their classes of children coming from different cultures, and speaking different languages, but very often they lack the necessary teaching competence, such as the methodology for teaching Italian as a second language. The experience that teachers acquire is often lost because of the provisional character of their post, and due to the general lack of education planning. There is also an increasing number of people who consider this new presence only as a problem hindering the normal running of routine teaching and causing some damage to Italian children. The response of this kind of teachers is an instrumental use of the saying "foreign children are like Italian ones": thus, immigrant children are abandoned to themselves, whether they understand or not what their teacher says, and sometimes are even rejected.

Following the guidelines of the Ministry of Public Education, immigrant students must be assigned to a class according to their age. But these guidelines are very often ignored, with the reason that the children who have just arrived in Italy do not speak Italian, as if the only unit to measure the maturity and knowledge of a young student were his/her knowledge of the language that is foreign to him/her. Often those children who do not feel right in classes with much too younger children quit school before due time.

In order to carry out appropriate education strategies, in 1990, the Non-governmental organization COSPE (Cooperation for the development of emerging countries), the organization I work for, started some experimental projects in different situations in Italy with children coming from various countries, and in particular, in Tuscany, with pupils in many schools of different levels in Florence, Prato, S. Donnino, Campi (small towns near Florence), involving in the whole about 380 Chinese students and their families, many full classes and 150 teachers. The main idea of this operation is to propose teaching interventions aimed at a harmonious integration in the school thus giving all the students the same educational opportunities, while highlighting their knowledge of the mother tongue and culture.

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The results obtained in these first few years of activity are remarkable, though not without problems, e.g., the school performance of Chinese children often reaches the highest level, but this sometimes causes some personal jealousies; participation of Chinese families in school life is now high. Furthermore, Chinese families are currently using the school as a reference and information point to get to know Italian life. But in recent months, after the political elections, social tension against immigrants has clearly risen, therefore Chinese children and their families are less confident in what institutions, schools, individual teachers, and even volunteers who work in this field are doing.

The most relevant results are those reached in children classes. Looking at the material produced by the pupils themselves, we can see that each one feels confident in expressing his own identity regardless of their being native or foreign. For instance, in an activity of paper cuts made according to the Chinese traditional method in a primary school, Italian and Chinese pupils tried to conform to the models proposed by the teachers, whereas, an Iranian girl in her work showed how she has conquered back her personal cultural identity after realizing the teachers' appreciation for cultural differences: until last year, when we started to work in her school, she rejected the fact that she was not Italian. The difference lay in that, everybody had the rectangular sheet and used it that way. Instead, she cut it out square. Everybody arranged the drawing on a horizontal plane, whereas she put it diagonally. All the other children drew up one branch of plum flowers, whereas she drew many small flowers on a straight base.

To conclude, although it is an old-fashioned slogan, it is true that ignoring other people's culture leads to fear and therefore to intolerance to different people. Making Italian children aware of the interesting universe that lies behind foreign children, they are actually intrigued by and interested in a real cultural exchange. Moreover, immigrant children, during this type of activities, take on a leading role that makes them feel accepted in the daily school life.
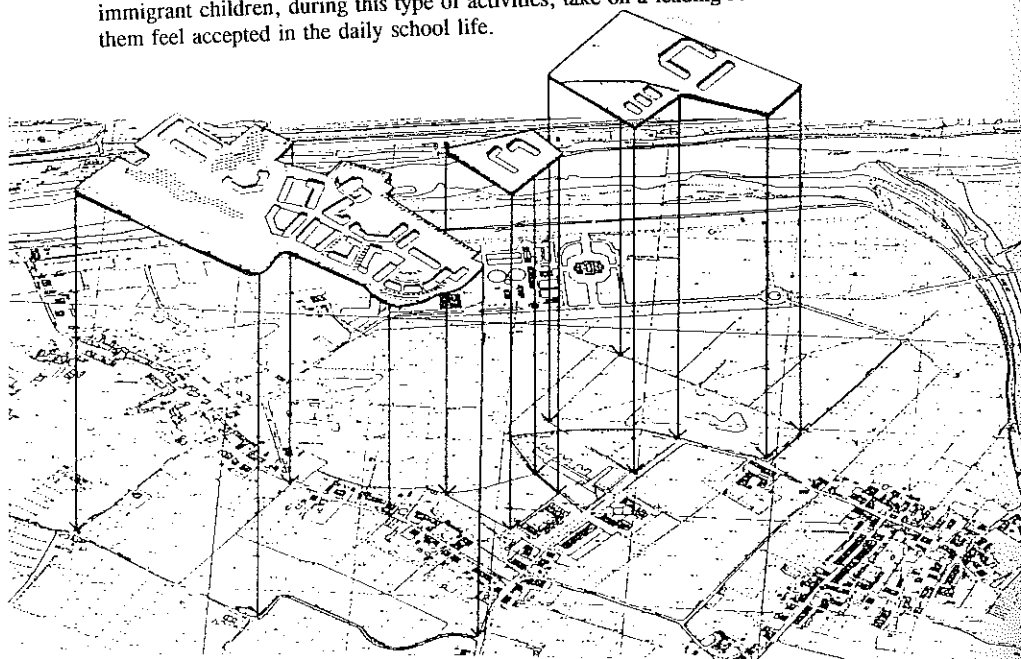
TURNING A PERIPHERY INTO A CITY. EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNITY DESIGN IN A BOROUGH OF FLORENCE

Giancarlo Paba and Daniela Poli

Quartiere 4 in Florence is a common suburban borough: factories and low-income housing going back to early 1900, the post-war *garden city* of Isolotto, and public housing, motorways, ring roads, traffic. That is where the gipsies are based, at Poderaccio, together with the state prison at Sollicciano, as well as the headquarters of alternative religious and political communities, and of a thousand committees, associations, volunteers, community groups. It is a borough which is experiencing maybe the most devastating problems of Florence, but also the most stubborn and incisive solidarity.

For over a year this borough has been experiencing an important event: some researchers from the Laboratory of ecological design of settlements of the Faculty of Architecture and some citizens' associations are designing their own city together. The first part of the work has been completed these months and the projects are being shown and discussed in meetings, festivals and small moving exhibitions.

The starting idea, discussed in January 1994 in a large popular meeting, was to transform the suburbs step by step in order to recover four small villages on the river Arno, each with its own personality and autonomy. Now, the first project concerns the "small village" of San Bartolo: complete and self-sufficient, with its own centre, the small borough and district squares, the green-area roads free of cars, the vegetable gardens and the countryside, the small lake and the pedestrian areas, tramways and gardens.

The second project concerns a large courtyard, now empty and abandoned, on which overlook 340 families. This place is called Canova 25, interestingly one only road number for all those blocks of flats. The project challenges the anonymous and hostile character of such a space. Through a very complex process of meetings, workshops and collective design, that we called "social production of the plan", the courtyard has become a living space. The courtyard project, with reduced parking spaces and without asphalt, shows green space trees and shade interwoven with a neighbourhood square and an "activity space" for the daily life of children, old people and families. A space that the inhabitants of Canova 25 want to start building by themselves, with the support of the University, the borough and town councils, offering their time and the variety and richness of their own crafts.

This is when a new phase of the work is starting, on which the university researchers, the Canova 25 and of San Bartolo people, and the borough Council are asking for the support of the administration and mobilization of the town Council and the other local authorities.

They are asking that this work be not annihilated and that a mixed design team be set up to study these projects in depth thus making their implementation possible in the shortest time possible. The inhabitants are asking to compare their own project with the city general ones, to match it with the other initiatives, even to modify it, involving public and private subjects, hence to start carrying it out, by steps and successive phases. Finally, they want to set up some works, the inhabitants themselves having a leading role in the project: they want to build the courtyard of Via Canova, the squares and the centre of San Bartolo, pedestrian and cycling green areas, vegetable gardens, water-ponds, and sport spaces by the river.

The inhabitants will take care of setting up new and creative activities, in order to turn them into community places: open-air markets, crafts workshops, experimental vegetable gardens, children parks, meeting places, collective spaces, artistic and training activities. *Let's design together* was the original motto of the work: indeed, designing together in order to live together.

Thus the pre-history of partecipation has ended: the childish attempts to involve the users in some phases of the project, with a few questionnaires and meetings. The planning processes in today's cities are, in fact, very complex processes entailing an increasingly higher range of public and private actors. However, the inhabitants are always left out of decision-making and implementation. Hence, their involvement is not only a problem of democracy, however important it may be, but also a problem of knowledge, with technical and implementation aspects. There are some choices of transformation of the city that cannot work and cannot be fair and effective, if they do not include a real empowerment of people: by using their knowledge of the places, their competence and wisdom, their will to be involved in the design and reconstruction of the city at any time.
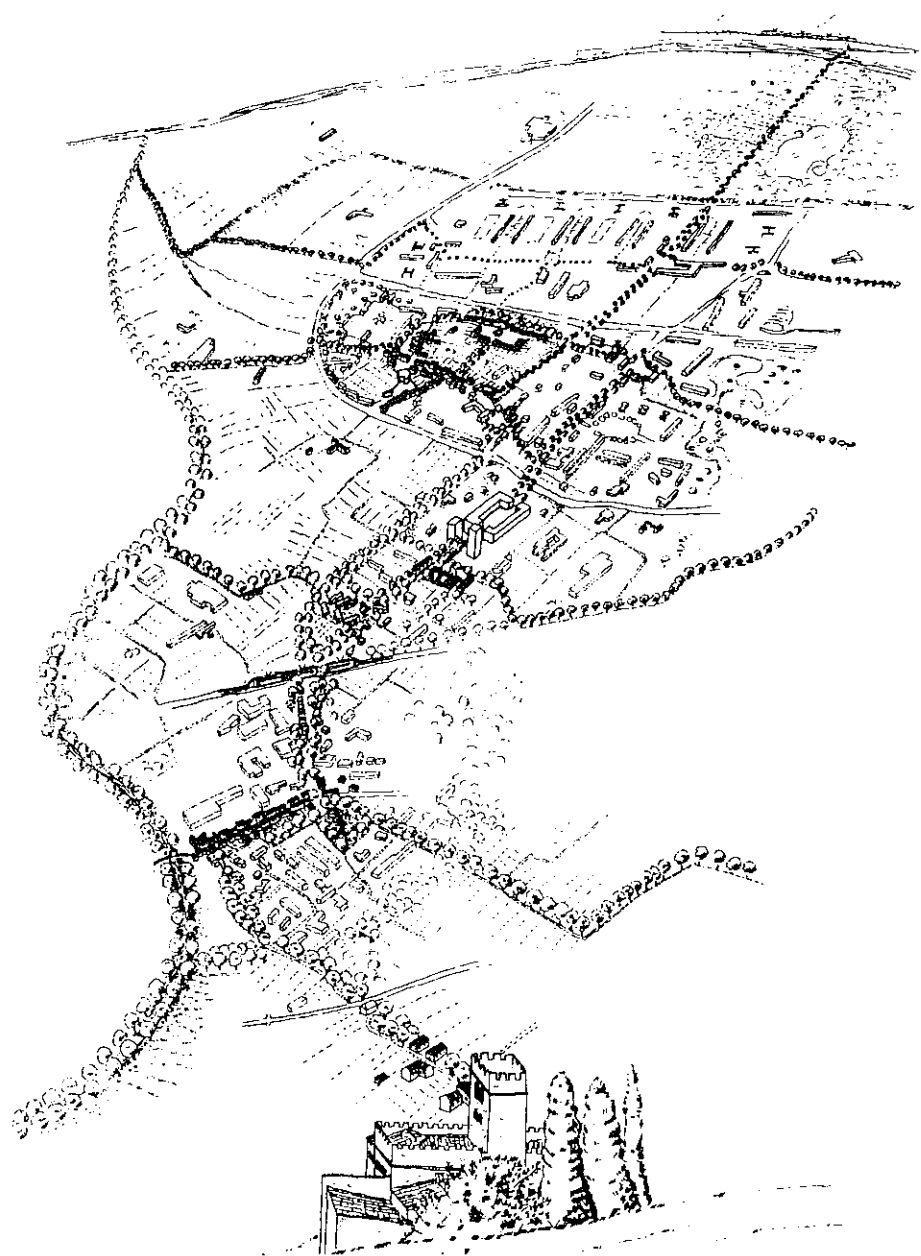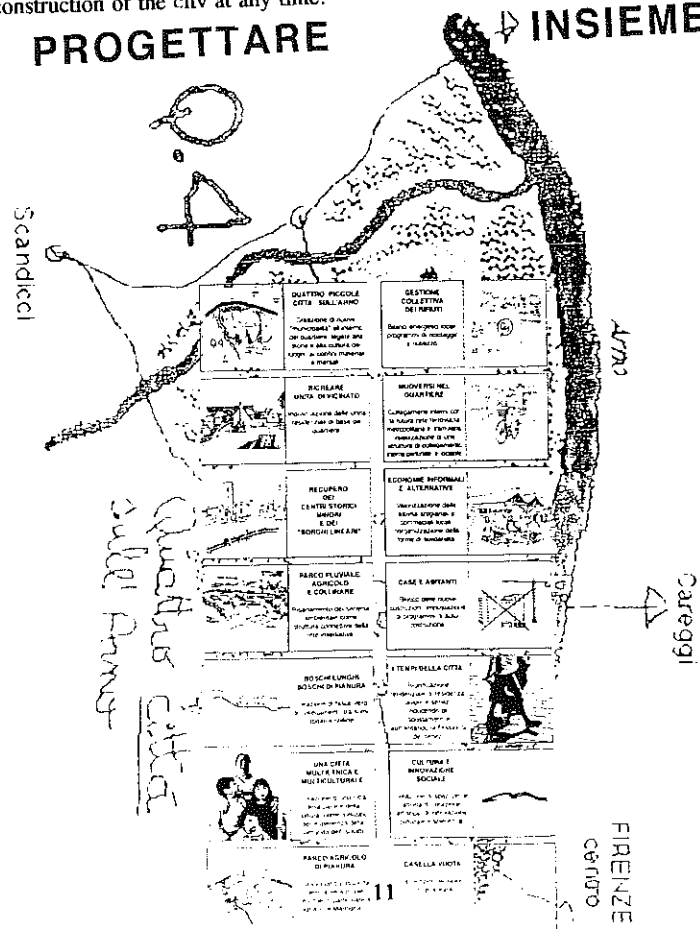
PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR: IS AN EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIP POSSIBLE?
Louanne Tranchell

The U.K. Government have been busy setting up new mechanism and reorganizing local government. They have now introduced 10 Integrated Regional Offices (IROS) throughout the U.K., with a GOL in London (Government of London). These offices will be in charge of the budgets for the Single Regeneration Bids (SRBS). This new programme, or approach, replaces the Estate Action Bids & City Challenges. No extra public money, only new procedures, new competitions - and confusion.

Recently, local authorities & voluntary groups in London have been required to grapple with new plan-making in the Unitary Development Plans (UDPS); new Strategic Advice drawn up by the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC); boundary changes; Enviromental Management Audit Surveys (EMAS) and Local Agenda " to follow up from Rio! Official invitations to the voluntary sector to be part of "Partnership - the key of success" are also popular with the Government. They have helped to set up a Development Trust Association (DTA) to assist local projects and help groups to "be involved".

The obvious question is: does decision making in "partnership" really work on an equitable basis between the public, private & voluntary sectors - or are we only being submerged in Three Letter Acronyms (TLAS) and "Robbed of Resources" "(ROR)"?
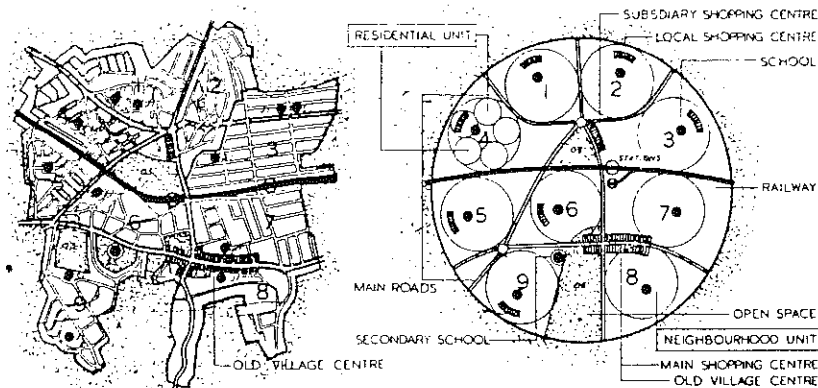
NEIGHBOURHOOD UNITS AS EXISTING   DIAGRAMMATIC ANALYSIS

CITY, TERRITORY AND ENVIRONMENT

BUILDING CITIES - BUILDING NATURES: URBANIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Roger Keil

When we build cities, we build natures. The urbanization process destroys, transforms and produces natures in and around cities. Some have called this nature "second nature." As cities develop, their inhabitants create ever new relationships with nature. These relationships are, for example, physical and biological, economic, aesthetic or cultural. In any case, rather than thinking of urbanization as a changing process in opposition to an eternal nature governed purely by its own laws, nature is partly to be understood as a social relationship subject to the praxis of humans. Yet, this also means that the discourse on the city will have to take into account the natural base of society, the material and symbolic processes that constitute humans as part of nature. Social differentiation, relationships of power and other characteristics of society can be expected to be reflected in the process of building cities and natures. Nature is not the same to everyone in the city. Neither is the city.

This paper addresses the city-nature relationship in three steps. First, it deals with urban perceptions of nature. The way we see nature(s), it is argued, affects both the building of cities and the construction of our environment. Perceptions of nature influence the way in which humans appropriate natural environments. This discussion is tied into and borrows from the current discourse on space and place. Secondly, the paper presents a short analysis of current urbanization dynamics. It is important to understand where and how the praxis of urbanism as well as urban growth and decline intersect with natural environment in each historical period of city building. Where can we expect to find the most rapid urban growth? How does nature fit in? The paper pays particular attention to transitory spaces where the city has not fully arrived and nature has not fully receded. Thirdly, in the light of perceptions and practices that link the city to its natures, the paper posits that the reevaluation of nature in the city opens a window of reform: social and political action that attempts to extablish more beneficial nature-city relationships. This possibility of (progressive) social and political action around urban environments will partly depend on the way in which the quality of the city's nature reflects the social justice demands of an increasingly direrse, internationalized and fragmented metropolis. In this sense, the struggle over nature in the city is a struggle over the right to the city.

QUALITY IN THE TERRITORIALIST APPROACH TO ECOLOGICAL DESIGN
Raffaele Paloscia

The aim of this paper is to explain what we mean - as members of the Laboratory of Ecological Design of Settlements of the Florence University - by a territorialist approach to ecological design and to define the significance that quality assumes in the context of this approach.

1. We define our approach as territorialist because it stresses its attention and action on the territory considered - contrary to urban and territorial planning of functionalist tradition - as an interlacement historically produced between anthropic, constructed and physical environment to which correspond quality and precise territorial values to be conserved and reproduced, to be considered as an instrument and at the same time an end to ecological planning. (see abstract INURA bulletin n. 6)
This concept of territory has the same significance whether we refer to the North or to the South of the world. Varied in type and intensity, according to the specific contexts and places, are the actions to be taken, but certain presuppositions - belonging to a design dimension which intends to prefigure a process of ecological transformation - should be instead common to every type of intervention. Four of them are very important:

a. environmental equilibrium   b. identity of sites
c. local scale of action   d. partecipation

2. The quality to which we refer to is the quality of "inhabiting" the territory in its fullest sense of a relation between individuals, collectivity and the places that are the setting of their existence. "Man is the only species - says Ignacy Sachs - that lives simultaneously in two enviroments: the physical one and the symbolic one".
The quality indicators, to be singled out, must be referred to both these environments, to which correspond needs - partially or totally ignored by traditional planning - to be specified and satisfied.
Two basic needs (though others may be found) are:
1) the quality of the environment, a need which emerges from the generalised environmental degradation, referring to the physical environment;
2) identification, a need which emerges from the progressive homologation of spaces and functions, from the destruction of sites and consequent feeling of eradication, referring to the symbolic environment.
From these two fundamental needs it is possible to outline a preliminary list of quality indicators that correspond to them, a list which can be lengthened by new elements.

For the environmental quality:
- quality of the biological space (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere)
- quality of the landscape (constructed, natural, rural)
- quality of the common space (services, parks, mobility, meeting places)

For identification:
- identity of the site (history, memory, genius loci, symbols)
- sense of belonging (traditions, life-styles, participation, language)
- degree of self-determination of the sitting community (political, productive, cultural, media autonomy).
These elements are combined in various ways but never in the same way in different places. Each one is inter-linked to the other by a rich system of relations, though they all lead to the main one: the relation between the place and the sitting community. It is precisely these relations which are the principal object of analysis and therefore of a project which is finalized towards the production of quality of inhabiting the territory.

THE SMALL TOWNS NETWORK IN CENTRAL ITALY
Giorgio Pizziolo

The small towns network is an association created by a Scientific Committee -a group of different disciplines and activities- and a number of local administrations in central Italy. After four years, at last the association is increasing and improving its organization. Since it takes a long time for things to happen in Italy, we hope to develop our ideas, even against difficulties.

Since last year we have organized a small towns network "government", as well as its first activities. The government and the scientific committee are the two main components on which this "network" is based.
In the last meeting about the small towns network, a general assembly on May 10th, 1993, we decided to create several new groups for various activities and experiments concerning culture, politics, new possible economics, and methods of "socio-ecological" design. This last group is organized by us, with the collaboration of Albert Mayr (time's subjects and views) and Vasco Mancini and Wyllis Bandler (spatial and a-spatial relations between society and environment).

Based on our previous projects, which we have started work on in several different places, both on the "network scale" and on the local scale, we are developing our new activities:
- on the small scale: a step-by-step designing and building process for the urban river park, which will be built through the cooperation of both designers and local people, learning from the local culture. With this project, we hope to improve the public's knowledge of both the gardens and the environment, since they have ignored them recently, even though Tuscany is known for its rich, artistic heritage. We hope to create a process of participation. Two years ago we presented to you this park, and I showed you a scheme. We are continuing the work.
- on the network scale: we have proposed some other activities in many other forms, as "network projects", which can be developed in several different places and in various ways. For example, a new synchronization of existing railway and bus systems and the proposal of new specific interactive itineraries for the small towns network by simply using the existing structure better. Another network project involves the mental and practical reconquest of the territory and of the "network geography" by various local people.
All these projects are based on common theoretical principles which we will explain in the following text, using two specific examples.

THE MICRO PUBLIC WORKS AND THE NETWORK PROJECTS FOR THE SMALL TOWNS
Rita Micarelli

The "micro public works" are a particular kind of "Public Works" which go against the common philosophy of "Public Works".
The "network projects" are an original way to propose the network activities which regard all forms of circulation including: social, cultural, environmental, economical,

etc.

To describe both subjects better, we define their common characteristics in the following way:

a- they must be organized through the collaboration of both professionals and different social groups

b- they should be easily administrated by local social groups

c- they should deal with a wide range of social issues including: education, environment, management, urban and rural management, local economic management, etc.

d- they must create new ways of interaction between local groups, politicians and professionals. Each of these components **must also change** their own way of working as well. These new ideas require profound changes in the Italian mentality and in the political system.

e- they should be realistic and affordable in their cost, incorporating the idea of incrementally planned projects where necessary. The incremental design also allows the projects to adapt to various factors and to be re-evaluated over time.

f- the projects should reflect the natural, evolutionary processes, as found in the natural world

Some examples of micro public works:

1- thermal hot springs garden in Rapolano (near Siena) *(proposal)*

2- cypress garden in Bucine *(in progress)*

3- local time management and projects, by Albert Mayr. We proposed to connect these projects with the "Elsa River Park" which is being developed within the territory of Comune of Castelfiorentino. In the "Elsa River Park", we are trying to develop an ecological design process with the local people on both the local scale and the network scale. *(in progress)*

4- waste water and compost gardens *(in progress and starting in different places)*

5- gardens near local water systems to celebrate the importance of fresh water as found in examples from the past *(proposal in several different places and starting soon somewhere)*

Some examples of "network projects":

1- railway and bus itineraries both for easier access and for social and environmental understanding of historical heritage

2- social experiences network, or human information exchange, for example the circulation of local food production

3- the "Mind" for the network, as defined by Gregory Bateson, or rather the new kind of organization taken from social information by Vasco Mancini and Wyllis Bandler. We are using this idea in our "Elsa river park project" and in "Cypress garden in Bucine". We use specific questionnaires which are then evaluated by a computer program to give us results reflecting social complexity instead of common "statistical simplicity".

In conclusion it is very important to emphasize that all "micro public works" and "network projects" can only reach their full meaning if they are within the "small towns network" and only if they are reviewed periodically and re-evaluated through discussions and actions.

AFRICAN URBAN ISSUES

URBAN POLICY ISSUES IN A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA
Robin Bloch

Despite the violence which marked the process up to and including the voting days, the recent election in South Africa succeeded in its primary intent and has resulted in the formation of a Government of National Unity (GNU: a nicely apposite South African acronym). The African National Congress, which took over 60 per cent of the vote, is predominant in this government; both the National Party and Inkatha will, nonetheless, strive to exert their influence. These latter parties also each control a province, giving them further potential leverage in the federal system South Africa has adopted (perhapx "semi federal" would be better: the relationship between central government and the nine provinces has to be constitutionally clarified).

The partners in the GNU are professedly unified by a belief in the necessities of both national reconciliation and reconstruction. Incarnating this is the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), an election platform which is now to be reshaped into a consensual national development policy for the new government. The primary terrain for implementing the ambitious targets set by the RDP -- the building of one million houses, large-scale electrification and other infrastructural programmes, the provision of jobs -- will be South Africa's cities and towns, notably the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal metropolitan complex (nine to ten million population now), Durban (four million) and Cape Town (three million).

These national development imperatives affect the content and design of urban development policy. Indeed, they raise the stakes for the formulation of such policy to guide the successful implementation of the urban aspects of the RDP. This contention can be illustrated with reference to three policy spheres in which I have been working: urban regeneration (given widespread urban and economic decline); metropolitan spatial restructuring (given an urban form believed to be inefficient and inequitable); and local economic development (given poor economic performance and massive unemployment). In these, as in other policy spheres (not least environmental policy), much work is required. This raises a crucial issue: of what, in the face of both a (consensus-required) GNU situation and competing development precepts and the networks which promote them, can be truly useful and usable progressive conceptions of theory to inform the many and diverse sites of urban development practice in South Africa. This is not an issue for South Africans alone.

URBAN PLANNING AND ACTIONS IN AFRICAN SECONDARY CITIES
Giacomo Ghisolfi

Africa '70 is an Italian Non Governmental Organisation involved since 1975 in strengthening the relationship between rural villages and urban sites. We concentrate on urban centres that will have in the future an increasing role of vital linkage between rural areas and the big cities (often state capitals).

Africa '70 has participated, directly or implementation through its collaborators, at

the elaboration of the following studies:
* urban and infrastructure development plan Kaedi (Mauritania);
* urban and infrastructure development plan Mirriah (Niger);
* urban and infrastructure development plan Santa Maria (Cabo Verde);
* several parcelation plans Sao Tiago (Cabo Verde);
* infrastructure development plan Asmara (Ethiopia);
* several parcelation plans Salvador (San Salvador);
* parcelation plan Shashamane (Ethiopia).

Development of these municipalities depends on the awareness of their social and economical resources, as well on the ability to exploit them.
In development countries one often runs the risk of making an useless research, a plan enable to get any practical result: economical, physical and political situations may suddenly change. To overtake this hindrance, the way out is to draw a flexible and manageable plan involving immediate and coherent actions.
All economical development and physical planning should be detailed in modules since any investment at regional or urban level must suit at any time to the above mentioned rapid changes. Planners must therefore identify several scenarios and several hypotheses of urban development solutions related to different external conditions. Any investment should be defined in such a way that the related infrastructure reaches a scheduled life-span coherent with the economical horizon of the town. Different scenarios encompass different deadlines: the time-span in which the town will start a process of self-motored development or will hopelessly decay. A viable urban management tool, that might be enforced as a national law, can be drawn only through a team-work involving local authorities at national and regional level. In fact they will be responsible for the application of the plan.
Kaedi's urban development plan is an example of such a plan, it became a national law, it drew funds from different donors and mastered the investments in the town.

Africa '70 choose the following as priorities:
1. improvement of municipal services' information on the social and physical environment;
2. improvement of the sanitary conditions;
3. construction of basic social services as schools, health posts, market-squares;
4. improvement of clean water supply;
5. housing upgrading introducing more appropriate building materials and building techniques;
6. construction of 150 self-help low-cost houses;
7. improvement of urban population nutritional standards through the increase of the agricultural production;
8. improvement of services to farmers;
9. creation of green spaces for enviromental protection;
10. intensive use of local human resources in order to improve local skills and technological standards.

All activities were carried out by local small enterprises fostered by the project. Now Kaedi development project is entering its third phase, and will pursuit the municipal institutional building dedicated to urban management and infrastructure maintenance.

WORKSHOP

A TIME WALK AT VILLA CENNINA
Albert Mayr

Our concern for the quality of natural or urban environments tends to be one-sided: it usually focuses on the static, spatial, visual-optic components. We tend to pay little attention to the immaterial, ephimeral components, such as the temporal characteristics of events and the fabric of temporal and spatio-temporal relations that are to be found in a given area or settlement.

With regard to the daily life of city dwellers, with its many temporal constrainst and incongruities, some researchers and administrators have become aware of the negative impact that our way of organizing social time has on the overall quality of life. This has led to numerous specialized studies and, in some cases, to new administrative measures, such as paragraph 36 in Italy's law n. 142 of 1990.

I believe that such adminidrative measures, much as they are needed, risk to touch only the surface of our many temporal discomforts. In order to really grasp the role of time in human settlements, to devise measures that may bring forth an organization of time more suited to individual and collective needs, we have, first, to increase our awareness of the temporal components of the environment, sharpen our perception of the temporal qualities of the events around us and of the way they relate to our own cadences. We also need an appropriate vocabulary for these observations.

This is what *Time Walks* are about. They are short excursions, undertaken in rural or urban settings. During such a walk we stop at one or more stations. We assess our common overall perception range and/or establish individual observation windows. Then we observe, estimate, measure, and compare temporal and rhythmic features, such as durations, periodicities, phase relations, speed, successions, overlappings, simultaneities, beginnings and endings, in living organisms, objects, events and situations around us.

Billed as an "experimental workshop", a *Time Walk* was on one of the evening programmes of the Inura meeting. The suggestive nocturnal surroundings of Villa Cennina did certainly not exceed in sensory stimuli, nevertheless the participants were able to detect a variety of events whose temporal characteristics could be observed.

The final assignment in a *Time Walk* consists in drawing a simple graphic score of the observed events in their spatio-temporal distribution; a task which the participants, divided in small groups, undertook with a good deal of inventiveness. This resulted in a series of colourful pages.

INURA Conference 1994 Partecipants

Resident at Villa Cennina

Robin Bloch	Johannesburg
Maurizio Cabras	Milano
Bob Colenutt	London
Gene Desfor	Toronto
Pino Di Mascio	Toronto
Ralph Doring	Berlin
Davide Fortini	Milano
Giacomo Ghisolfi	Milano
Hansruedi Hitz	Zurich
Andreas Hofer	Zurich
Jussi Jauhiainien	Helsinki
Roger Keil	Toronto
Oliver Kraus	Konstanz
Ute Lehrer	Los Angeles
Marvi Maggio	Torino
Giancarlo Paba	Firenze
Raffaele Paloscia	Firenze
Daniela Poli	Firenze
Rosanna Russo	Genova
Christian Schmid	Zurich
Claudia Scwarz	Berlin
Fabian Tompsett	London
Rachel Tompsett	London
Louanne Tranchell	London
Arie van Wijngaarden	Amsterdam
Christian Zeller	Basel

Day visitors

Marenna Davoli	Firenze
Albert Mayr	Firenze
Rita Micarelli	Firenze
Maria Omodeo	Firenze
Annalisa Pecoriello	Firenze
Giorgio Pizziolo	Firenze
Beatrice Romano	Firenze
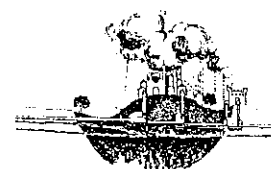
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A LOCAL AND SOCIAL ECONOMY
Ralph Döring

The Members and the Structure

In November 1992 more than 40 individuals from several countries, all active in their areas and regions developing and applying local economic strategies both in the practical and academic contexts, came together to found a European network.
Now there are some 60 members of the European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development in ten countries (England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, France, Danmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria and Romania).
They represent around 50 non-profit organizations, which range from small, local self-help groups or cooperatives via development agencies, employment support units and academic institutes over to regional and national associations.
Their areas of activity can be roughly divided into following categories:
- research, consultancy work and training geared to developing local employment and economic policies as well as social forms of technology,
- developing and realizing projects and enterprises within the social economy, partly on the basis of community work,
- local and regional networking and lobbying by and for campaigns for local development and economic self-help.

Political Economic Philosophy

The members of the European Network regard their work as a contribution to the global movement for a people-centred, socially and ecologically useful economy: 'Local work for local people using local resources' (*James Robertson, Turning Point 2000*).
For this goal to be realized, a change in perspective is required: away from the dominant, exogenous-orientated philosophy of development and towards independent strategies for economic selfhelp and local development with the key principles:
- Mobilizing local resources,
- Investing in the skills of local people,
- Financing socially and ecologically useful work instead of unemployment,
- strenghthening and revitalizing the structures of local and regional economic circulation.

Networking in Practice

The goals of the network are the promotion of transnational cooperation by organizations and campaigns working for local development and economic self-help, the enabling of joint research and pratical project work, and last but not least the creation of a strog lobby in Europe for our interests.
Cooperation, the exchange of experiences takes place in different forms:

Information services and publications
The coordinating group in Berlin has provided so far a loose-leaf directory to the members, the 'Network Giude', and circulars, which are distribuited in a simple form

to the members. Both organs could be produced on a more professional basis if more resources can be obtained. A collection of essays discussing local (economic) development is in preparation.

Most important, however, is the direct contact and exchange of information and knowledge between the members.

Direct visit, work placement programmes and study trips,
Over the last year project visit could be realized mainly on the basis of direct contacts, often in conjunction with invitations to seminar/conferences/exchange schemes.

In June the Rural Forum Scotland, Kommunales Forum Wedding (Berlin) and ODILE Alsace (France) took part in an exchange programme for local development agents organized by the European Group for Local Employment Initiatives (EGLEI, Brussels). This gave 3 persons of each organization the opportunity to visit other projets and get visited for one week in each direction.

The programmes follow-up in 1995 should again be a chance for Network members to extend and intensify their intenational contacts, while getting at least their travel expenses sponsored. Other desirable visit, study trips and work placements depend on own resources or additional funds, which can applied for both on national and European levels (see below).

Conferences, international working groups, partnership projects
The first big event co-organized by the European Network through its Berlin based coordinating group is the Congress "People's Economy", which will take place in Dessau from 31. Aug. to 4. Sept. 1994.

A multilateral partnership project between East and West European non-profit organizations mainly in the field of social housing and employment shall be started in autumn/winter with a symposion in Moscow.

8Other partnership projects and international working groups in research and practical development areas are envisaged:
* interlingual comparison of concepts like 'Third Sector', 'Community (Economic) Development' (UK, USA), 'Economie Sociale' (F,B), 'Cooperative Sociali' (I), 'Neue Gemeinnützigkeit' (D) and others;
* alternative financial instruments - concepts and practical application (together with Alternative Money Seminar in Europe);
* transeuropean training programmes for community development workers: development of methods and curricula, international workshops, personal exchanges.

Further information can be obtained from:

European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development
Wiesenstrasse 29
D-13357 Berlin

Tel: +49-30-462-8177
Fax: +49-30-462-9447

INURA TRACK RECORD 1993-94
Inura Zurich

INURA has completed its third year of existence. It was marked by a shift of the network's centre of gravity from England to Italy. Bulletin 6 published in December '93 with the proceedings of the Beamish INURA 93 conference brought British leadership to an end. Louanne Tranchell, Fred Robinson, Bob Colenutt and Michael Edwards deserve special thanks for the great amount of energy and time they have invested in our common project.

This Bulletin contains the proceedings of the INURA 94 conference in Tuscany, giving proof of the great deal of work our colleagues in Florence have performed. Participants were very pleased with the organisation and would like to thank Gian-Carlo Paba, Raffaele Paloscia and Daniela Poli for their efforts.

Other activities of our network and its members include contacts between members from Toronto, Los Angeles, Genoa, Turku, Torino, Frankfurt, London, Paris, Zurich, Milano, Bucarest, Berlin, Nairobi and Firenze, a few INURA projects - like the Zurich / Frankfurt book "Capitales Fatales" to be published this year, some international promotion of our network through articles published by Jussi Jauhiainen in Finland and Raffaele Paloscia in Italy.

While the past INURA year cannot boast with revolutionary developments or spectacular news, the network has on the other hand attained some maturity. It can rely on a solid albeit non-centralized and non-hierarchical structure and it is based on well established, friendly and personal contacts between members. We can summarize by saying that it was the "courant normal" that prevailed and that the past year has been a year of consolidation.

This gives us room for some more general remarks: Looking back at three years of networking, four conferences and eight Bulletins we like to attempt a brief evaluation: Where did we start off? What is the present state of INURA? What can we expect from the future?

When INURA was founded in 1991, its central aim was to overcome the gap between urban activists and theorists in order to "create strong and diverse visions of the future urban life" (INURA founding principles). In 1994, the desire, the need for a tighter cooperation/interchange between theorists and activists has not lost any of its explosive power. This was proven once again in
a conference held in Oxford commemorating the 25th anniversary of David Harvey's path-breaking book "Social Justice and the City". Somewhat disillusioned by their limited impact on policies, the top echelon of today's (Anglo-Saxon) urban scientists deplored the "missing links" between theory and action and demanded more such interaction/cooperation as a way of finding viable solutions for today's urban problems. The only key speaker in this field of theorists to give an example of how academia and practice can come together was a founding member of INURA, talking about the political impact of the regeneration of London Docklands.

INURA is the network where people from the most varied of backgrounds come together because they like to share and exchange experiences. Campaigners, activists, video artists, researchers and epistemologists have formed a body where they can discuss new ways of interpreting and moulding the course of urban development. INURA is showing continuity and bears even more potentials for the future. While much remains to be done to actually fill or narrow the gap between theory and action, the path chosen by INURA seems to be pointing into the right direction.

For the future we hope to continuously elaborate our views on possible fructifications between theory and practice. Current problems of urban development and change shall be discussed without any limits of perspective. In order to further develop the association we might have to talk about broader and intensified cooperation, structures and finances. The continuity we have thus far achieved shall form the base, a new point of departure from where further goals can be formulated and aimed at. Join in, participate in this process, in this work in progress!

With a strong belief in our common future we would like to thank all members for their continued assistance and support. In view of dikes, canals and tulips and our next meeting in Amsterdam we would like to close with a cordial

tot ziens, INURA Zurich

After splashing conferences in the Alps, along Baltic coast, in the Great North and around Tuscany

COME TO NETHERLANDS

INURA 1995
AMSTERDAM — DORDRECHT
TUESDAY 6 — SUNDAY 11
JUNE 1995

Main topic:
Local Action and
the Regional States

Annexes:
The Waterfront Rivisited
Infrastructure and Action

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Further details will be published in the next INURA Bullettin 9 (March 1995)