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Dear readers,

I am extremely happy to announce that finally NewDIST has turned English. Starting from this issue we would like to reach as many readers as possible all around the world, letting them know who we are and what we do.

Since our first issue back in 2012, one of our main goal has always been to widen as much as possible our audience sharing our research project, conferences and many other initiatives we have been building on with researchers spread worldwide hoping to create or reinforce links. And now the moment has come, so welcome on board and enjoy reading this issue.

In this number you will taste a bit of this international flair by travelling with our researchers through different destinations. We start travelling to Japan, where **Andrea Bocco**, **Claudia Cassatella** and **Mauro Volpiano** spent a period for research. Andrea thanks to a JSPS research fellowship – the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science encourages highly qualified researchers from the world over to come to and conduct joint research activities with colleagues at Japanese universities and research institutes – while Claudia and Mauro were Visiting Research Fellow at the Nagoya University. Then you will move to Venice where within the Collateral events of the Biennale Architettura 2016 – Reporting from the Front – **Fabio Armao** has coordinated a team to build the project: *Gangcity*, which documents the phenomenon of urban clusters devoid of any kind of legal controls, in order to enable processes of reappropriation and the care of private and public spaces. The project aims to reveal the reciprocal influence between the violence and geography of cities, paying particular attention to the gangs as primary groups born in, and spread throughout the urban ghettos, predominantly through the involvement of teenagers. Along the axis Vienna-Torino, **Bianca Maria Rinaldi** has jointly organized an international student design workshop on the topic of “Urban hybrid landscapes”. The laboratory aimed at discussing the role of open spaces as the active agents in urban transformation processes and in the redefinition of the city. The “Urban Impact of Climate Change in Africa” was the title of the conference organised in Turin by **Maurizio Tiepolo** to discuss about climate change and risk reduction at the local scale. Finally, we would like to mention the beginning of the H2020-EURO-6-2015a – research project “WeGovNow” – Towards We-Government: collective and participative approaches for addressing local policy challenges whose DIST researcher is **Angioletta Voghera**. WeGovNow is a project designed to better understand and validate in a near-to-real environment how emerging technologies can be successfully harnessed by the public sector for helping Europe in overcoming the crisis.

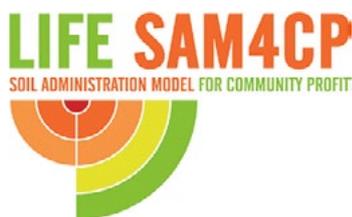
Hoping you enjoy reading the issue,

best regards

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LIFE SAM4CP

From knowledge of ecosystem services values to the planning processes



<http://www.sam4cp.eu/>

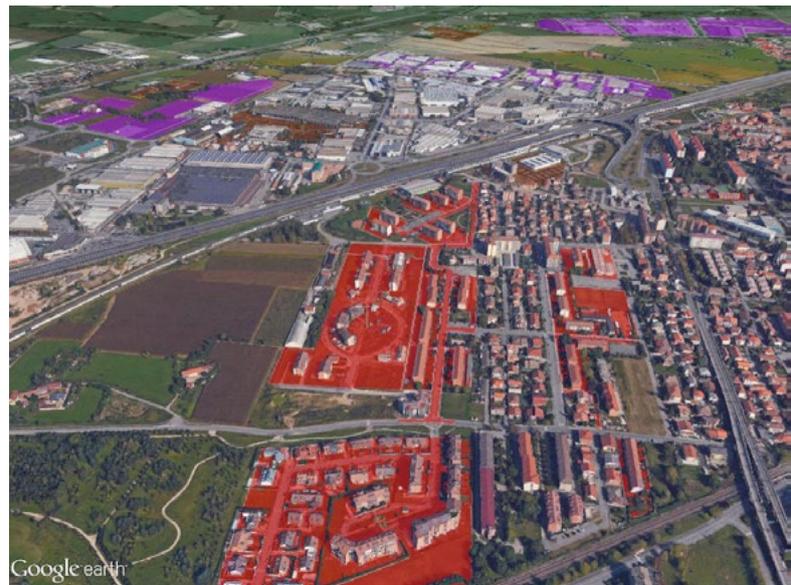
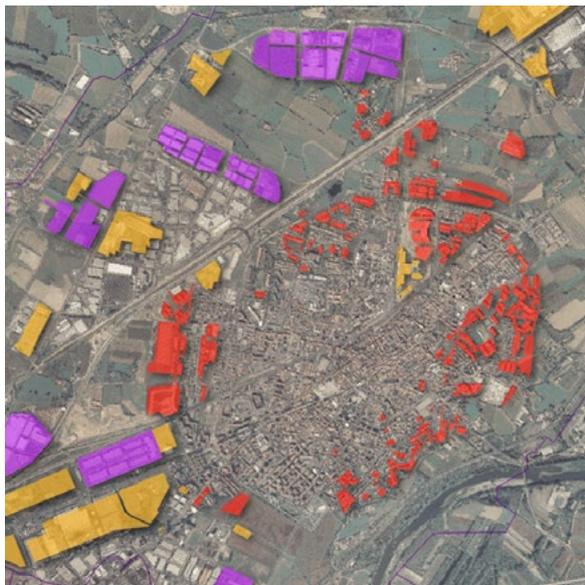
The **LIFE SAM4CP** European project (described in NewDIST, December 2015) has completed the mapping and the biophysical and economic assessment of ecosystem services (actions B1 and B2) and initiated the activities dedicated to the relationship between ecosystem assessment and spatial planning (urban and territorial), with the ultimate aim of defining urban models to reduce land consumption and promote a good use of the soil.

These activities consist in drawing up an urban plan through the joint planning procedure called Co-planning, provided for by the planning legislation of Piedmont. They will first be tested in the pilot of the Municipality of Bruino and later in the other three Municipalities (Settimo T.se, Chieri e None) selected through a public tender addressed to all the Municipalities of Città Metropolitana di Torino.

The Co-planning procedure is a 'horizontal' decision-making process where the governance authorities at the different levels work together in assessing the municipal urban plan. The prerequisite is to define a shared cognitive framework to assess the range of planning options available, based on the mapping and evaluation of ecosystems and their services. The goal is to build a strong consensus among local decision-makers and citizens as well as decision makers at all institutional levels on planning measures and management policies geared towards soil protection.

Supporting policy makers with information on ecosystem services will explicitly include the environmental, economic, social and cultural components of planning and establish clear links between decisions and ecosystem services. Moreover, the risk of losing services or the ability to maintain or





enhance specific services under different policy options and management can also be assessed.

In addition to the activities ongoing in the pilot Municipality of Bruino (action B5) around building consensus on planning choices (specifically provided for the B6 action), first results began to be seen also in Settimo and None.

In Settimo, the dialogue between the City Council and the citizens about the general review of the current Local urban Plan (Prg) was first developed through an internal debate involving the members of the Municipal Planning Commission with the participation of the DIST research group (March 2016) and later (during the months of March and April 2016) through a series of meetings with various stakeholders, representing the key local associations: Unions and Commerce, Professionals and contractors, Crafts and Industry, Agriculture, Environmentalism, Citizenship. The goal is to carry out the technical proposal of the Local plan-Preliminary Projects by the end of August and then to start the first Co-planning Conference.

The methodology taken by None is somewhat different because the Municipality will implement a variant of the Local plan and not a general review. For this reason, the consensus building began with the institutional authorities of Città metropolitana and Piedmont Region (May 2016) to share the method (ecosystem services evaluation) and the procedural aspects. In July took place another important phase of information on ongoing activities and consensus building on how to proceed in the preparation of the Local plan variant, meeting the members of the Planning Commission. In addition, the comparison was open to the citizens.

LIFE SAM4CP will demonstrate, even in the case of a highly urbanized and infrastructured Municipality like Settimo T.se, the importance of adopting an ecosystem approach susceptible of improving urban ecological quality through a reorganization of the city (in some cases eliminating the previous settlement forecasts), without consuming any additional land and raising more awareness of the citizens and the authorities on biodiversity values.



Municipality None. Discussion in the Plannig Commission of the Project LIFE SAM4CP.

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SAFFRON

Semantic Analysis against Foreign Fighters Recruitment Online Networks



SAFFRON is a two years (2016-2018) project funded by the European Commission Directorate General Home Affairs in the context of the PREVENTING RADICALISATION TO TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM program

Klausen, J., 2015. Tweeting the jihad: Social media networks of Western foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 38(1), pp.1-22.

Malet, D., 2013. *Foreign Fighters: Transnational Identity in Civil Conflicts*. Oxford University Press.

Neumann, P.R. 2015. *Foreign Fighter Total in Syria/Iraq Now Exceeds 20,000; Surpasses Afghanistan Conflict in the 1980s*. ICSR. <http://icsr.info/2015/01/foreign-fighter-total-syriairaq-now-exceeds-20000-surpasses-afghanistanconflict-1980s/>.

Neumann P. et al., 2014. *#Greenbirds: Measuring Importance and Influence in Syrian Foreign Fighter Networks*, Report by ICSR, King's College. <http://icsr.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ICSR-Report-Greenbirds-Measuring-Importance-and-Influence-in-Syrian-Foreign-Fighter-Networks.pdf>.

TheSoufanGroup report, 2015. *FOREIGN FIGHTERS: An Updated Assessment of the Flow of Foreign Fighters into Syria and Iraq*.

<http://www.saffron-project.eu>

The war in Syria along with the political crisis in Iraq involved, since 2014 and even before an increasing number of foreign fighters. Multiple sources estimate that, between 2014 and 2015, between 27.000 and 30.000 foreign fighters joined different terrorist organizations such as ISIS (Islamic State of Syria and Iraq), Al-Qaeda, Al Nusra etc.: the most part were coming from countries such as Tunisia, Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, but a significant number of them were French, English, German, Belgian, Norwegian, Canadian and Americans (TSG report, 2015; Neumann P., 2015). The phenomenon of foreign fighter is not entirely new especially in the Middle East region where since the Israel's War of Independence (1947-1949) against UK and then with the Afghanistan war against the Russian invasion, a huge number of western citizens from US and Canada and from Saudi Arabia, Palestine and Jordan in the latter case, joined the cause of the insurgents armies (Malet, 2013).

Nevertheless, Syria may be the first conflict in which a large number of Western fighters have been documenting their involvement in conflict in real-time thanks to on line media, and where – in turn – social media represents an essential source of information and inspiration to them. Different papers report that, for foreign fighters, social media is no longer virtual: it has become an essential facet of what happens on the ground. A large number of foreign fighters receive their information about the conflict not from the official channels provided by their fighting groups, but through so-called disseminators (Neumann P. et al., 2014) – unaffiliated but broadly sympathetic individuals who sometimes appear to offer moral and intellectual support to jihadist opposition groups. Along with the “disseminators”, *foreign fighters* social network is also articulated among multiples “facilitators” in the European countries who function as recruiters (Klausen, 2015) especially oriented to young people and second generation immigrants.



Thus, the main objectives of **SAFFRON** are:

- Deliver and test a tool to be used by all relevant players - which are also part of the consortium - to identify in a timely fashion both all internet activities of direct and indirect recruitment of Foreign Fighters and all signals (weak or strong) pointing at radicalization of single individuals;
- Analyse the recent trends about recruitment of young European people by terrorist groups;
- Analyse the online communication strategy of terrorist groups and develop a social media campaign to contrast their propaganda.

DIST (Fabio Armao, Sara Monaci) involvement in **SAFFRON** is focused on the analysis of ISIS and Al-Qaeda communication on line strategy and in the design of a social media campaign aimed at increasing, especially among young people, the awareness related to the foreign fighter phenomenon and terrorist organizations radicalization strategies.

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Considering digital innovation in public service delivery, views that power has shifted to the ‘customer’ have gained ground over the past few years not only in the private sector but in the public sector as well. At the same time, emerging technologies – notably the so-called SMAC technologies (social, mobile, analytics, cloud technologies) – are expected to have a powerful transformational impact on public services, or at least have a great potential to. Against this background, the European Commission’s e-Government Action Plan 2011-2015 identifies a number of fields for action offering great potentials for improving public services with the help of ICT: user empowerment; collaborative production of services; re-use of public sector information (PSI).

WeGovNow! is a “Research & Innovation Action” responding to **H2020-EURO-6-2015a**, topic “Meeting new societal needs by using emerging technologies in the public sector” and designed to better understand and validate in a near-to-real environment how emerging technologies can be successfully harnessed by the public sector for helping Europe in overcoming the crisis by empowering civil society to play a far more active and collaborative role in fields of activity that have traditionally been the preserve of public service providers. The project builds upon earlier research and development work concerning both citizen-driven systems for local public service improvement and digital neighbourhood platforms. It will progress the current state of the art by further developing existing solutions and integrating them within a single community engagement platform, that will allow people to report problems and suggest improvements, to discuss their relevance, explore ways to fix problems through collective action, find solutions to compensate for resource shortages affecting the quality of publicly provided services, debate topics of strategic nature, and develop and vote upon concrete suggestions for local policy action.

The key project output is a new type of digital engagement platform, which will be validated and evaluated from multi stakeholder perspective. For this reason, Politecnico di Torino will participate in **WeGovNow!** through the Interuniversity Department of Urban and Regional Studies & Planning (DIST), with OnToMap which is the result of a joint venture between Politecnico and Università di Torino (cfr. NewsDist n.5/Dec. 2015): it will support the creation of interactive community maps for user involvement in participatory decision-making projects and for information sharing within public communities.

EU Programme: Horizon 2020

Start date: 01/02/2016

End date: 31/01/2019

Overall budget: € 4,195,169

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WEGOVNOW!

**Towards We-Government:
collective and participative
approaches for addressing
local policy challenges**



Partners:

Università degli Studi di Torino;

Infalia;

FlexiGuided GmbH;

*University College London
(UCL);*

Mapping for Change (MFC);

Universität Heidelberg (UHei);

Funka Nu AB;

*Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini
(FGB);*

Città di Torino;

London Borough of Southwark;

Comune di San Donà di Piave;

Empirica (lead partner).

ESRI YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD 2016



Marta Repice

On the occasion of the **Young Scholars Award 2016** competition, promoted by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), the research study concerning energy sustainability at urban scale conducted by a student of the Politecnico di Torino, **Marta Repice**, has been proposed ([http://www.politocomunica.polito.it/press_room/news/\(idnews\)/7499](http://www.politocomunica.polito.it/press_room/news/(idnews)/7499)).

The competition program recognizes the exemplary work of current undergraduate and graduate students majoring in geospatial science disciplines at international universities. Winning entries are selected by a university panel formed by Esri's distributor in the recipient's respective country. Award winners will travel to San Diego (California) to present their work to the "ESRI International Conference 2016" and join more than 15,500 GIS professionals in a weeklong program of presentations, workshops and social events.

The ESRI Italia commission, formed by Prof. Piero FANTOZZI (Università di Siena), Prof. Roberto ROSSI (Università di Padova) and Prof. Paolo GULL (Università del Salento), has selected the candidate Marta Repice for the participation at the "ESRI International Conference 2016" and award ceremony that will be held in San Diego from 27 June to 1 July. Moreover, it will be also a chance to meet Jack Dangermond, the founder and president of ESRI, and other Young Scholars Award recipients from around the world.

The submitted study, Master's Degree Thesis entitled **Urban form and buildings' energy consumption. The case study of Settimo Torinese (TO, Italy)** has been carried out under the supervision of Prof. Guglielmina MUTANI (Department of Energy, DENERG, Collegio di Pianificazione) and the Arch. Francesco FIERMONTE (Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, DIST, LARTU and S3+Lab laboratories).

The aim of this study is to identify the correlation between the heating energy consumption of residential buildings and urban morphology variables, through the case study of Settimo Torinese, a small town belonging to the Metropolitan City of Turin, in Italy, with an area of 32366,46 km², divided into 347 census sections. Thus the purpose consists in analyzing how buildings' energy consumption is influenced not only by the characteristics of the buildings (such as technological solutions, types of plant or shape, energy systems efficiency, etc.), but also by an urban component determined by the context itself.

The analysis was conducted only on residential buildings (i.e. 2960 buildings) and heating energy consumption data have been provided for 343 buildings, therefore a first selection has been done. A second selection has been done comparing heated volumes to GIS measured volumes, thus 46 buildings have been analysed, according to the breakdown by period of construction (1946-70, 1971-80) and surface to volume ratio in order to obtain and compare homogenous sets of buildings.

In particular, in this study the following data have been used:

- CTC (urban plan) of Settimo Torinese;
- ISTAT 2011 (Italy's National Statistics Institute) data;
- ASTER 2004 data, thanks to CSI Piemonte;
- residential heating energy consumption data, thanks to Pianeta-Global (district heating provider).

Considering the space heating energy-use of a building, the goal is to determine and quantify the change in the energy consumption only varying the parameters that characterize the urban context. In order to reach this aim, the morphological parameters that mainly influence the variation of the buildings consumption and that define the value of $f[\text{kWh}]_{\text{URBAN CONTEXT}}$ have been identified:

- Building density, BD [m^3/m^2];
- Building height, H [m];
- Building coverage ratio, BCR [m^2/m^2];
- Aspect ratio (canyon effect), H/W [m/m];
- Solar exposure factor, H/H_{AVG} [m/m];
- Main orientation of the streets, MOS [-];
- Albedo of outside surfaces, A [-];
- Floor area ratio, FAR [m^2/m^2].

Considering the parameters identified above, a relationship of mutual dependence among some of them can be defined. Thus, in order to understand the role of urban form in influencing the energy consumptions of buildings, two statistical factors were calculated: the urban morphology factor (UM) and the solar factor (S). A new parameter could describe the urban form taking into account the reciprocity of such factors: this relationship is defined as Global Urban Morphology and Solar Factor: $\text{GUMS} = \text{UM} * \text{S} [-]$

where:

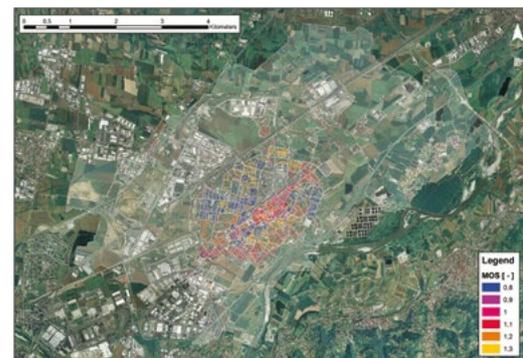
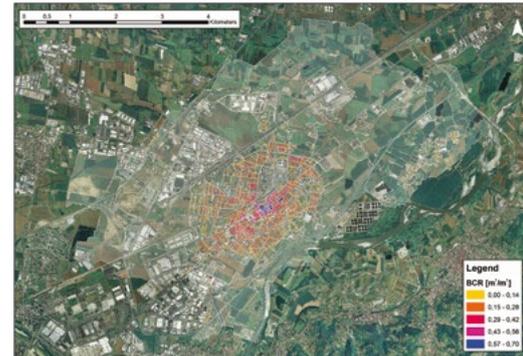
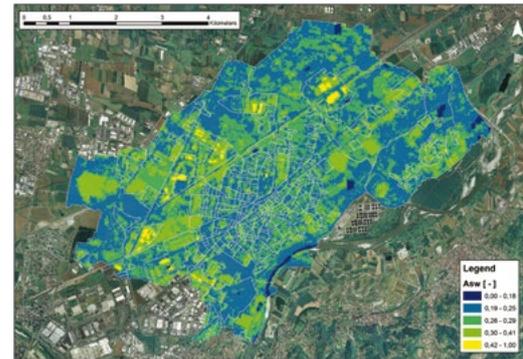
- Urban Morphology Factor, $\text{UM} = (\text{BCR} * \text{H}) / \text{W} = \text{BD} / \text{W} [-]$
- Solar Factor, $\text{S} = (\text{H}/\text{H}_{\text{AVG}}) * \text{MOS} [-]$.

The calculation of these parameters was possible thanks to the use of a GIS (ESRI product, version 10.3 - Student One Year Option), a software that allows to work with maps and to manage geographic information in a database. With ArcGIS it has been possible – through the analysis, the visualization, and the representation of information derived from geographical and geo-referenced data – to associate to each building information related to the urban morphology and urban context, and finally the creation of thematic maps for each variable in the analysis. The study of urban characteristics was conducted referring to the territorial unit of the census section.

Moreover, georeferencing the energy consumption data related to the buildings in analysis, it was possible to compare the consumptions with every single morphological variable, in order to understand the mutual correlation. The results of this study show that the energy consumption of a single building depends not only on its intrinsic characteristics (the level of thermal insulation, the compactness, the energy efficiency of the system, the climate, etc.), but there is also a direct correspondence between some urban morphological variables and energy needs.

This conclusion can become a useful tool for urban planners working on new urban areas spatial definition, in order to reduce energy consumption in buildings, to improve air quality and, more generally, to improve the livability of urban spaces through a more sustainable planning.

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2016 IFLA CHARETTE FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

53rd IFLA World Congress
April 20-22, 2016
Turin

**2016 IFLA Charette for
Landscape Architecture
Students**
April 16-19, 2016
Turin

*From left to right: Dr. Beverly
A. Sandalack, Stefano Di
Carlantonio, Lorenza Di Marco,
Luca d'Anna, Martin Manichelli
and Marco Nelli (Photo:
courtesy of Lorenza Di Marco)*

<http://www.ifla2016.com/p-71/students-competition>

With their project titled "Patch-scape" **Luca d'Anna, Stefano Di Carlantonio, Lorenza Di Marco, Martin Manichelli** and **Marco Nelli**, a team of students of the **Interuniversity Master Program in Green Areas and Landscape Design**, have been awarded the third prize for the **2016 IFLA Charette for Landscape Architecture Students**.

The student design competition was held on April 16-19, 2016 as part of the 53rd IFLA World Congress, which took place in Turin on April 20-22. Ten team of five students each from different universities from Germany, Lithuania, Hong Kong, Sweden, Indonesia, Italy, Brazil, and the United Kingdom were selected to participate in the intensive design workshop that aimed at proposing new landscape architecture design solutions for the Barca-Bertolla area, in suburban Turin, and at enhancing the ecological value of the site.

The design strategy proposed by the "**Patch-scape**" project was based on a large, central park conceived as a connective tissue of the different fragments of open spaces and residential areas that characterize the site; at the same time, the park would provide a new ecological network.

An international jury chaired by Dr. Beverly A. Sandalack from the University of Calgary selected the three best student works that were awarded during the IFLA Awarding Ceremony at the Venaria Reale. The first prize was awarded to the team of the La Sapienza University in Rome, and the second prize to the team of the University of Brasilia.

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The Politecnico di Torino and the **Institute of Landscape Architecture, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Boku) in Vienna**, together with Università di Torino, have jointly organized an international student design workshop on the topic of “Urban hybrid landscapes”. It aimed at discussing the role of open spaces as the active agents in urban transformation processes and in the redefinition of the city.

For two weeks, 18 students of the **Interuniversity MS in “Green Areas and Landscape Design”** worked together with 12 students of the Viennese university to investigate possible design solutions for the future of a post-industrial linear railway site, envisioning new uses and practices for an area that has rapidly changed within the past few years. The project site is a reduced railway line of the Westbahnhof train station in Vienna’s 15th district. It is a strategic urban development area for the expanding city of Vienna and it is intended to become a new core for the city’s 15th district, which the railway tracks have historically divided into two parts. The students’ task was to develop a multi-layered park, a urban hybrid landscape that had to include housing, office places, public amenities, open spaces, parks, and infrastructures. The northern physical limit of the project site is Felberstrasse, a 1,5 km long road and one of the main routes connecting the city with the outer districts to the West. Running 8 m above the railway tracks, Felberstrasse is separated from the project site by a steep slope. One of the workshop’s key question was how to transform such a physical boundary into design opportunities and new possibilities to improve accessibility and connections.

The workshop was articulated into two phases; the first one took place in Vienna from May 23rd to 27th, while the second phase took place in Torino, from June 6th to 10th. During the first phase, the different teams had to develop proposals for a masterplan for the regeneration of the project site, together with a functional program. The second phase was aimed at the design of public parks and open spaces envisioned by the masterplans.

Both in Vienna and Torino, the design experience was supported by lectures and critics by Prof Lilli Licka, Prof Bianca Maria Rinaldi and Prof Carlo Tosco as well as by several guests: in Vienna, landscape architect Anna Detzlhofer gave a lecture on *Infrastructure Landscapes*; Prof Erich Raith of the Vienna University of Technology discussed the evolution of the project site through time analyzing a series of historical documents and maps; Dr Roland Tusch, of the Institute of Landscape Architecture, joined the workshop as a guest critic. In Torino, Prof Isabella Lami and Dr Francesca Abastante opened the second phase of the workshops with two lectures on urban transformation and evaluation processes; Dr Andrea Vigetti, of the University di Torino, accompanied the group on a one-day field trip to explore urban transformations in Torino in contexts of dramatic change, focusing on the future of urban railways.

The workshop was conceived by Prof Lilli Licka, Head of the Institute of Landscape Architecture, University of Applied Life Sciences (Boku) in Vienna and Prof Bianca Maria Rinaldi of the Politecnico di Torino, with an important contribution by Prof Carlo Tosco, of the Politecnico di Torino, and Prof Marco Devecchi of the Università di Torino.

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URBAN HYBRID LANDSCAPES: VIENNA/TORINO

International student
design workshop

URBAN HYBRID LANDSCAPES

International student
design workshop

Vienna, May 23-27, 2016

Torino, June 6-10, 2016



Visit to the project site (Photo by Andrea Vigetti)



Workshop phase 1 at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna (Photos B.M. Rinaldi)

UICCA3
URBAN IMPACT OF
CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA



UICCA3
URBAN IMPACT OF CLIMATE
CHANGE IN AFRICA
 Third International Conference
 Politecnico di Torino
 Valentino castle
 March 11, 2016

[http://www.dist.polito.it/news/\(idnews\)/7199](http://www.dist.polito.it/news/(idnews)/7199)

The third **UICCA Conference** was organized by the DIST-Politecnico and University of Turin in partnership with the Institute of Biometeorology (IBIMET) of the Italian National Research Council (NRC) and sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss about climate change and risk reduction at the local scale. The typical focus of the Conference on Africa was this time widened to the Tropics. Case studies from Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania were integrated by others from Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominica, Haiti, Mexico, Nepal to inspire a renewal of risk reduction practices in the Subcontinent. The aim of the Conference was to share the outcomes achieved by the ANADIA project, implemented by IBIMET-NRC, DIST - Politecnico di Torino and the National Meteorological Directorate of Niger between 2014 and 2016, with those of other similar initiatives.

Patrizia Lombardi (DIST director) and Antonio Raschi (IBIMET CNR director) welcomed the UICCA3 participants. Then Maurizio Tiepolo (DIST and general chair of the Conference) invited speakers to relate on the collaboration between traditional/local and modern knowledge to enhance disaster risk reduction. Twenty presentations were organized into two parallel sessions: "Climate" (chair Alessandro Pezzoli) and "Analysis, evaluation and planning" (chair Vieri Tarchiani). Speakers from the Politecnico di Torino, the Universities of Turin, Rome-La Sapienza and IBIMET-NRC introduced the potential of climate services, risk analysis and evaluation as well as back casting in generating new tools for local decision making. Speakers from The Higher Foundation, the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, Geoadaptive and the University of Florence focus on the potential of an adaptation credits system, crop insurance and the integration of climate adaptation within local development plans. The Conference was attended by PhD, master and high school students, researchers, NGOs representatives, local governments, testifying climate change is a concern for all of us.

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In recent years, botanical gardens have changed their character, consistently widening their scope. From specialized areas for the collection and display of plants, they are transforming into public parks and include varied opportunities for recreational activities, in order to involve local communities and address a broader public. While maintaining their functions related to collection and conservation of plants as well as research and education about botanical species and their diversity, botanical gardens provide also green spaces in dense urban areas.

Jointly convened by Professor Consolata Siniscalco, director of the **Orto Botanico di Torino**, and Professor Bianca Maria Rinaldi of the **Politecnico di Torino**, together with Professor Stefano Ferraris, **Università di Torino**, the one-day seminar **“Plants for the People: Present and Future of Botanical Gardens”** brought together a variety of scholars, specialists and practitioners to discuss the current challenges botanical gardens, both historical and newly designed, are facing.

Bianca Maria Rinaldi introduced the core themes of the seminar and discussed the design strategy of recently completed botanical gardens that aim at offering both didactic opportunities, an aesthetic experience, and public spaces. Analyzing several international case studies – such as the design for the University of Puerto Rico Botanical Garden in San Juan by landscape architect James Corner of Field Operation (2006); the Jardin Botanique de la Bastide in Bordeaux designed by landscape architect Catherine Mosbach and completed in 2005; and Bay South at Gardens by the Bay in Singapore designed by a team led by landscape architects Grant Associates and completed in 2012 – Rinaldi showed how contemporary botanical gardens combine an articulate botanical program with a varied recreation program that include spaces for leisure, temporary exhibitions and performances engaging the visitors with both plant diversity and a variety of activities.

Professor Wybe Kuitert of the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Seoul National University, in Seoul, discussed how plants, heritage, and the character of the local landscape inspired the three landscape architecture projects that he designed in the Netherlands. He showed how the cultural heritage of the lime tree (*Tilia*) influenced his design for the *Tilia* Arboretum in Winterswijk. The arboretum explores the different possibilities offered by lindens, which are planted isolated or in groups, to form berceaux, and etagères. It was first completed in 1995, but can be considered a work in progress as the local community is largely involved in its extension, planting new trees and caring for them. The ornamental plants brought back to Europe from Japan by Philipp Franz von Siebold in the mid-nineteenth century are the main compositional elements of the Von Siebold Memorial Garden designed as part of the Hortus, the Botanical Garden of Leiden University and completed in 2001. The memorial is an enclosed Japanese-style garden designed around a large specimen of *Zelkova serrata*, once introduced by Siebold. The heritage of old potted plants in the collection of the Amsterdam Botanical Garden inspired the landscape of the tropical rain forest designed for the Three Climate Glass House for the Hortus Botanicus Plantage (completed in 2001). Heritage is not only found in existing old plants or buildings in

PLANTS FOR THE PEOPLE: PRESENT AND FUTURE OF BOTANICAL GARDEN

PLANTS FOR THE PEOPLE: PRESENT AND FUTURE OF BOTANICAL GARDEN

One-day Seminar
Orto Botanico di Torino
April 19, 2016



a botanical garden, but also found in the extended meaning that the history of plants carry for us. It is the challenge to express this in design.

Consolata Siniscalco discussed the evolution of historical botanical gardens' scope over time, focusing on their role as places for the collection and study of botanical species. She emphasized how, in more contemporary times, botanical gardens are becoming "advocates" for plants and, more generally, for the conservation of nature and its diversity. While the appreciation of the beauty of plants, the aesthetic of their arrangements and display engage the public' interest, botanical gardens also address the relationship between man and plants, as well as the importance of biodiversity conservation, raising awareness about the human impact upon the environment. Siniscalco discussed also the role of the Orto Botanico di Torino in this process.

As one of the main challenges of botanical gardens in contemporary times is to engage a broader public and local communities, Andrea Martinez, Deputy Managing Director at SINLOC, presented their proposed project for the development of the Orto Botanico di Torino. Architect Giorgio Strappazon, founder and principal at vs Associati of Padua, concluded the seminar showing his recently completed project for the expansion of the botanical garden of Padua and the new glasshouses. In his talk, he emphasized the challenge of establishing a harmonious dialogue between the new design and the heritage site of the world's first botanical garden.

The seminar was jointly organized by the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), Politecnico and Università di Torino, with Orto Botanico di Torino, and was conceived as one of the Special Events that preceded the **53rd IFLA World Congress** of the International Federation of Landscape Architects. It took place on April 19, 2016, at the Orto Botanico di Torino.

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On the anniversary of the official opening of the new Hospital founded by the Ordine Mauriziano and entitled to the king Umberto I, **Politecnico di Torino DIST**, the **Fondazione Ordine Mauriziano** and its extremely rich Archives, with the **Azienda Ospedaliera Ordine Mauriziano di Torino** have promoted an exhibition opened for three months in the central corridor and original hall of the hospital. The exhibition, made possible thanks to the collaboration between those institutions is based on an imposing photographic campaign on archival material and a simultaneously information on modern healthcare facilities. Inaugurated on December, 11 2016, composed by a series of panels, in number of 20, has been specifically prepared to show the very long history of the so called "Ospedale Magistrale" of the Order and its importance in the history and culture of the city in relation with its current centrality in the Regional healthcare system. The exhibition, set up in a special and significant place as the main entrance of the historical site of the hospital, offered to the public a journey into the history of the institution and its building, created by the will of Duke Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy in 1575, in the very central area of Porta Palazzo, and moved to the present site in 1885. Through images reproducing documents, photographs, drawings and projects, but also memories of the dark moment of the bombardment and destruction of a large part of the building during the Second World War, the long history of the institution and its active and constant presence in the city shown.

The exhibition has been accompanied by its catalogue.

Exhibition

by Chiara Devoti e Cristina Scalon, with the assistance of Erika Cristina

Exhibition dressing

by Pier Luigi Armano – S.C. Tecnico
Azienda Ospedaliera Ordine Mauriziano di Torino

Catalogue

by Chiara Devoti e Cristina Scalon, with the assistance of Erika Cristina;
editing by Chiara Tanadini, with the supervision by Luisa Montobbio;
photos and documents reproductions by Dino Capodiferro

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**DOCUMENTS AND IMAGES FOR THE
OSPEDALE MAURIZIANO IN TURIN**
**440 years after the foundation (1575)
and 130 from the inauguration
of the new building (1885)**

Exhibition

December 11, 2015

March 30, 2016

Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I
Torino

Fondazione Ordine Mauriziano
Dipartimento Interateneo di Scienze, Progetto e Politiche del Territorio
del Politecnico di Torino
Azienda Ospedaliera Ordine Mauriziano di Torino
presentano
MOSTRA DOCUMENTARIA
**DOCUMENTI E IMMAGINI
DELL'OSPEDALE MAURIZIANO DI TORINO**
a 440 anni dalla fondazione (1575)
e a 130 dall'inaugurazione della nuova sede (1885)
Mostra a cura di Chiara Devoti e Cristina Scalon con la collaborazione di Erika Cristina
Allottimento mostra a cura di Pier Luigi Armano - S.C. Tecnico Azienda Ospedaliera
Cedlas Maurizio di Torino
Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I - Torino
Corridoio Turati dal 12 dicembre 2015 al 30 marzo 2016
INAUGURAZIONE
Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I - Torino
corso Filippo Turati 46
venerdì 11 dicembre 2015, ore 16
CON IL PATROCINIO DI
CITTÀ DI TORINO TORINO METROPOL CONSIGLIO REGIONALE DEL PIEMONTE
grazie al contributo di
UniCredit noesis

GANGCITY

YOUTH CRIME SPACES AND THE STRATEGIES OF URBAN RESILIENCE



<http://www.gangcity.it/>

Gangcity documents the phenomenon of urban clusters, void of any form of control of legality, and ruled by a growing multitude of violent non-state actors – gangs, mafias, terrorists – with the aim of activating processes for the reappropriation and securitization of public and private spaces.

The project is intended to disclose the mutual influence between violence and the geography of the city, paying peculiar attention to the gangs as primary groups – both in structural terms, and because mostly involving adolescents – showing how they constitute and spread within the urban ghettos. Emphasis will be given to how the various urban elements contribute to facilitating or obstructing the sprawling of criminal activities: borderline areas, derelict industrial zones, high density residential zones with a low quality of life, compared to more positive elements such as the presence of public transport systems, urban structures with a range of functions, commercial connective tissues, youth clubs, social services, public or private parks and gardens.

Fostering a cross-over of disciplines and methodologies, **Gangcity** proposes an **International Symposium**, and a **Photographic Exhibition**; together with an array of other scientific workshops and shows. The narrative register that emerges from the scientific of the gangs blends with the choral stories of architects, urbanists, and artists, actors together with the inhabitants of new life cycles of urban clusters finally freed from gangs violence through the practice of social inclusion instead of repression.

The project is coordinated by Fabio Armao, Professor at the University of Turin; and unites social scientists, architects and urban planners, as well as artists and performers from around the world.





PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Shots from the Urban Frontiers

The exhibition 'Gangcity' is a display of 80 photographs. The artists behind the images are well-known for their dedication and commitment to illustrating and emphasizing the close relationship that exists between urban squalor and social and civil degeneration.

The works by Letizia Battaglia, Francesco Cito, Donna De Cesare, Salvatore Esposito, Walter Leonardi, Valerio Polici will be presented in the spacious building of industrial archeology Lamierini of Spazio Thetis, in the North portion of the Arsenale in Venice.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Dialogues on Spaces of Urban Resistance

The International Symposium epitomizes the scientific itinerary used to devise the project Gangcity and will communicate thought-trains and extract pro-active suggestions. The conference is split into three separate parts that will introduce, explicate, and problematize the widespread presence of gangs in the urban milieu.

Among the participants: Michele Bonino (Politecnico di Torino), David C. Brotherton (City University of New York), Luisa Collina (Politecnico di Milano), Diane E. Davis (Harvard University, Boston), Donna De Cesare (University of Texas at Austin), Stephen Graham (Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne), Carlo Ratti (Mit, Boston), Marco Santangelo (Politecnico di Torino).

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A NOTE ON MY JSPS FELLOWSHIP

Between March and April I spent 41 days in Japan thanks to a JSPS research fellowship. My activity was formally based at the Hokkaido University with prof. Takao Ozasa as a host, but during most of my time I moved around the country, with the help of prof. Hisashi Komatsu of the University of Nagoya, Kosei Shirotani of Karimizu-an (Obama city, Nagasaki prefecture), and Yosuke Taki (an independent author living in Rome).

The program included many occasions for knowledge transfer on local development, both in marginal, mountain areas through the requalification of built heritage and in urban contexts through the establishment of neighbourhood centres.

The first theme was grounded on the recent publication of the Japanese edition of my book *Flessibile come di pietra*, written in 2008 with Gianfranco Cavaglià, and on the subsequent research and actions.

The latter was focussed on Torino's *Casa del quartiere* ('neighbourhood houses') and particularly those whose establishment I contributed to – the *Casa del quartiere di San Salvario* and the *Laboratori di Barriera* in via Baltea.

This knowledge transfer activity aroused much interest among local audiences, perhaps because of Japanese trends towards demographic decline, depopulation of marginal areas, availability of large stocks of buildings (e.g. schools) which might be reused as public facilities, and internal migration of young adults who wish to leave the big cities in search of more liveable places. Nevertheless, it captured some attention in Nagoya and Tokyo as well, where local groups are engaged in providing social services, particularly in a few inner-city neighbourhoods. Among the many acquaintances it seems to me that Karimizu – a neighbourhood in the spa town of Obama that is now recovering thanks to the initiative of Kosei Shirotani, an architect-designer who formerly co-operated with Enzo Mari – and Omishima – an island in the inland sea, whose development Toyo Ito has decided, after the Fukushima catastrophe, to commit himself to – are particularly promising.





During the rest of my fellowship I tried to analyse “low tech” experiences, that might be useful in my research centred on the architectural field but extending to local development, agriculture, man-made environment and material culture. I will just mention here some of the key encounters: professor Hirokazu Toki of the University of Shiga Prefecture; Yuuki and Kuniji Kumagai of Kitokuras; Alex Kerr of the Chiiori Trust; professor Akiko Okabe of the University of Tokyo; Yoshikazu Kawaguchi of the Akame Natural Farming School; and many actors in the Asahi district of Toyota city, where many actions are being taken both to manage the land according to the principles of satoyama and to attract new residents.

A lesson I’ve learnt is that local development and “low tech” are deeply congruent and possibly are just two facets of the same research: in planning the development of ecologically and socially resilient places, which might still offer a decent quality of life it is fundamental to make use of material resources and traditional knowledge, re-create skills in the employment of natural materials, reconsider our given thoughts on “efficiency” and “profitability” in favour of more appropriate, slower, more labour-intensive solutions, which produce more durable outcomes.

This issue appears much relevant in Italy as well as in Japan: both are industrially-developed countries, in economic and demographical decline, with huge tangible and intangible cultural heritage, low environmental awareness, high urbanisation (especially of their comparatively small flatlands), and high risk of natural disasters.

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VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW PROGRAM IN NAGOYA UNIVERSITY

LECTURES

M. Volpiano

Torino, urban history of an heritage city

C. Cassatella

Landscape and environmental planning in Turin's metropolitan area. Born and raising of a green infrastructure



Lecture to the Nagoya University, School of Environmental Studies, Dept. of Engineering and Architecture.

Lecture to The Tokyo University, The University of Tokyo, Department of Urban Engineering. Among the participants, there is the Deputy Director, National Planning Division, National Spatial Planning and Regional Planning Bureau.

During our stay as Visiting Research Fellow to the Nagoya University, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Department of Architecture, we did some research activities in landscape and urban planning and conservation policies of cultural heritage.

We gave lessons and attended conferences showing the case of Turin, starting from its urban history to the spatial planning policies occurred in the latest twenty years involving landscape and cultural heritage, to which various activities of the Politecnico di Torino have contributed. The audience who attended our lessons were not only made of academics but also of civil servants of regional and national authorities (prefecture, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) and of professional (Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture). We were also invited to present the case of Turin in different places (Nagoya University, The Tokyo University, Hokkaido University) and to different meeting where we had the opportunity of meeting people who visited Turin or who have been working with colleagues of the Politecnico di Torino. In particular, we were invited to take part to seminars to discuss how to set a national policy agenda on green infrastructures (in one of these seminar we met the Deputy Director of the National Planning Division, National Spatial Planning and Regional Planning Bureau).

We also took part to laboratory activities working as visiting critic of the outcomes of the participant students (in particular the lab of prof. Shimizu e Miyawaki at Nagoya University; prof. Akiko Okabe at The Tokyo University).

Thanks to the network of colleagues coming from different Universities, we were able to improve our knowledge of the Japanese policies on landscape and built environment through study visits to Unesco sites, historical centre and parks. Besides, thanks to this intense seminar activity, we were able to compare and sharing our planning methodologies in such areas.

We are very happy of such an experience in which we have met generous and helpful colleagues and we have build up a network we hope useful and fruitful for further research activities with us and/or by us.

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<http://www.piemontevisualcontest.eu/>

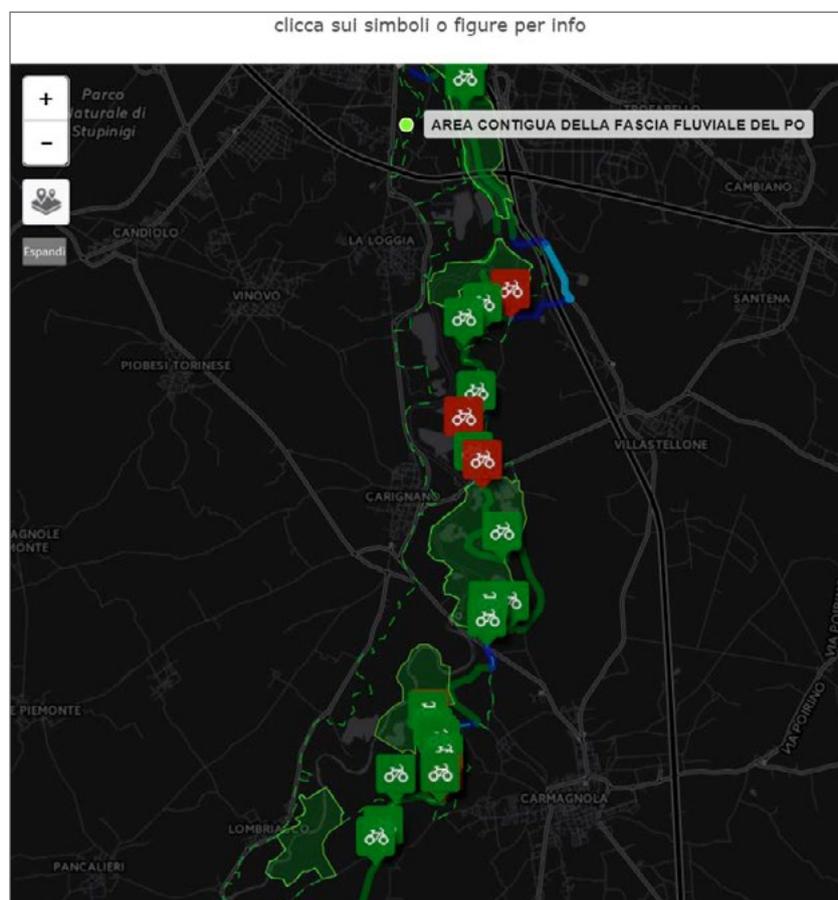
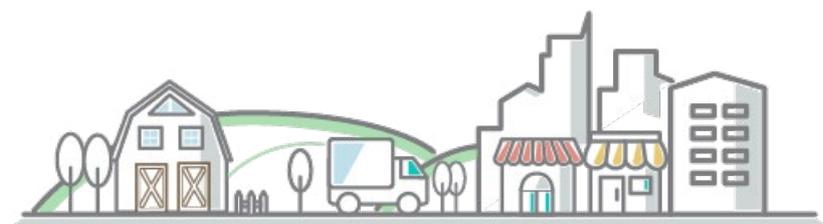
Roberto Brazzelli, recently awarded in the “Piedmont Visual contest 2015-2016” for the digital map category with his **Pista Verde** project, is a young surveyor studying Informatic engineering who obtained his GIS patent in our GIS test center.

The 2015-2016 edition of the Piedmont Visual Contest asked for digital projects which could describe the Piedmontese territory using data, information and instruments in an original and creative way.

Roberto Brazzelli obtained his **ECDL-GIS** patent by **LARTU**, the Laboratory of Analysis and Urban and Territorial Representation of the Turin Polytechnic University.

To read about his experience it is possible to download the attached PDF “Piedmont Visual Contest 2016”.

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THE VISUAL CONTEST WINNER FOR PIEDMONT HAS OUR GIS PATENT



**IDEAS OF CHINESE GARDENS:
WESTERN ACCOUNTS, 1300-1860**

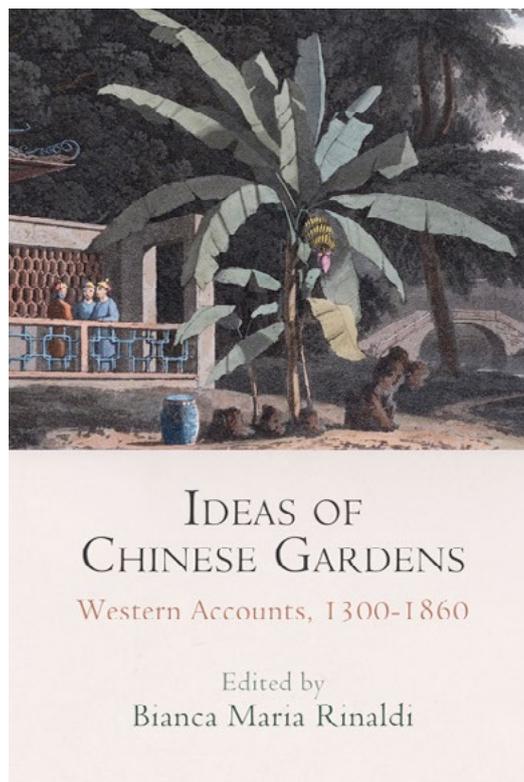
Bianca Maria Rinaldi

University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015

Europeans may be said to have first encountered the Chinese garden in Marco Polo's late medieval narrative of his travels through the Mongol Empire and his years at the court of Kublai Khan. His account of a man-made lake abundant with fish, a verdant green hill lush with trees, raised walkways, and a plethora of beasts and birds took root in the European imagination as the description of a kind of Eden. Beginning in the sixteenth century, interaction between Europe and China became more common, and Jesuit missionaries and travelers recorded in letters and memoirs their admiration of Chinese gardens for the seeming naturalness. In the eighteenth century, European taste for *chinoiserie* reached its height, and informed observers of the Far East discovered that sophisticated and codified design principles lay behind the apparent simplicity of the Chinese garden. The widespread appreciation of the eighteenth century gave way to rejection in the nineteenth, a result of tensions over practical concerns such as trade imbalances and symbolized by the destruction of the imperial park of Yuanming yuan by a joint Anglo-French military expedition.

In *Ideas of Chinese Gardens*, Bianca Maria Rinaldi has gathered an unparalleled collection of westerners' accounts, many freshly translated and all expertly annotated, as well as images that would have accompanied the texts as they circulated in Europe. Representing a great diversity of material and literary genres, Rinaldi's book includes more than thirty-five sources that span centuries, countries, languages, occupational biases, and political aims. By providing unmediated firsthand accounts of the testimony of these observers, travelers, and expatriates, Rinaldi illustrates how the Chinese garden was progressively lifted out of the realm of fantasy into something that could be compared with, and have an impact on, European tradition.

www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15440.html



In the western Sahel, climate adaptation planning has not progressed at the same time that the process of political and administrative decentralization. It is only in recent years that local development plans begin to address climate change. However these plans do not identify the intensity and trends of climate change nor assess the expected effects of the planned measures in reducing disaster risk. This book shows how to strengthen local planning with new decision making tools. The case of application is the Tillabéri region, and Niamey that is in his heart, in western Niger: an area of 95,000 km² and 4 million people already affected by floods and catastrophic droughts. The book characterizes the climate, presents the expected changes to the horizons 2025 and 2050, offers a multi-risk analysis and evaluation (floods and agricultural drought) at regional, municipal and village level using preliminary flood risk maps. The book gathers some of the main outcomes of a 3 years action-research project cofounded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Ibimet-National Research Council of Italy, DIST-Politecnico di Torino, and the Directorate National for Meteorology of Niger.

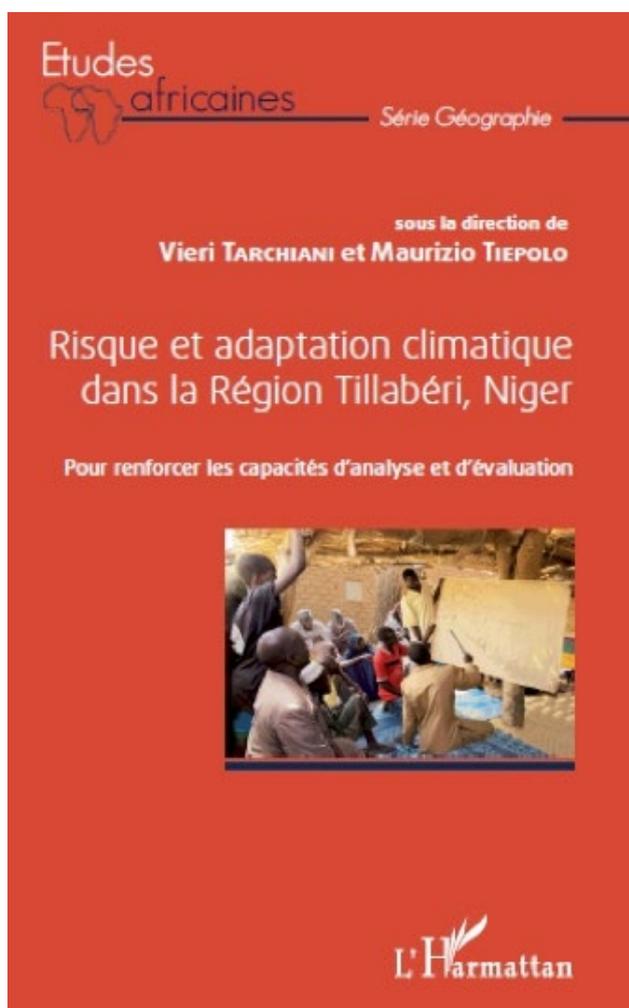
www.editions-harmattan.fr/index.asp?navig=catalogue&obj=livre&no=49951

**RISQUE ET ADAPTATION
CLIMATIQUE DANS LA RÉGION
TILLABÉRI, NIGER**

**Pour renforcer les capacités
d'analyse et d'évaluation**

Vieri Tarchiani and Maurizio Tiepolo

**Études africaines / Géographie series
L'Harmattan, 2016**



L'ARCHITETTURA MEDIEVALE IN ITALIA (600-1200)

Carlo Tosco

Le vie della civiltà
il Mulino 2016

Nel tracciare la storia dell'architettura medievale italiana l'autore legge le trasformazioni del paesaggio monumentale alla luce dei grandi eventi storici e dello sviluppo politico-economico che le hanno condizionate. Ne emerge un quadro di grande ricchezza, che segue un percorso cronologico dal dominio longobardo all'età carolingia, dalla crisi della prima età feudale all'avvento dell'Impero germanico, dalla ripresa delle città al regno normanno nel Mezzogiorno.

Al centro, la cultura dei territori, che ha segnato in profondità la storia delle regioni italiane, lasciando un patrimonio straordinario di edifici e di opere d'arte.

Carlo Tosco ha pubblicato volumi e saggi sull'architettura medievale, sull'archeologia del territorio e sulla storia del paesaggio. Con il Mulino ha pubblicato anche "Il paesaggio come storia" (2007) e "I beni culturali: storia, tutela e valorizzazione" (2014).

www.mulino.it/isbn/9788815263445



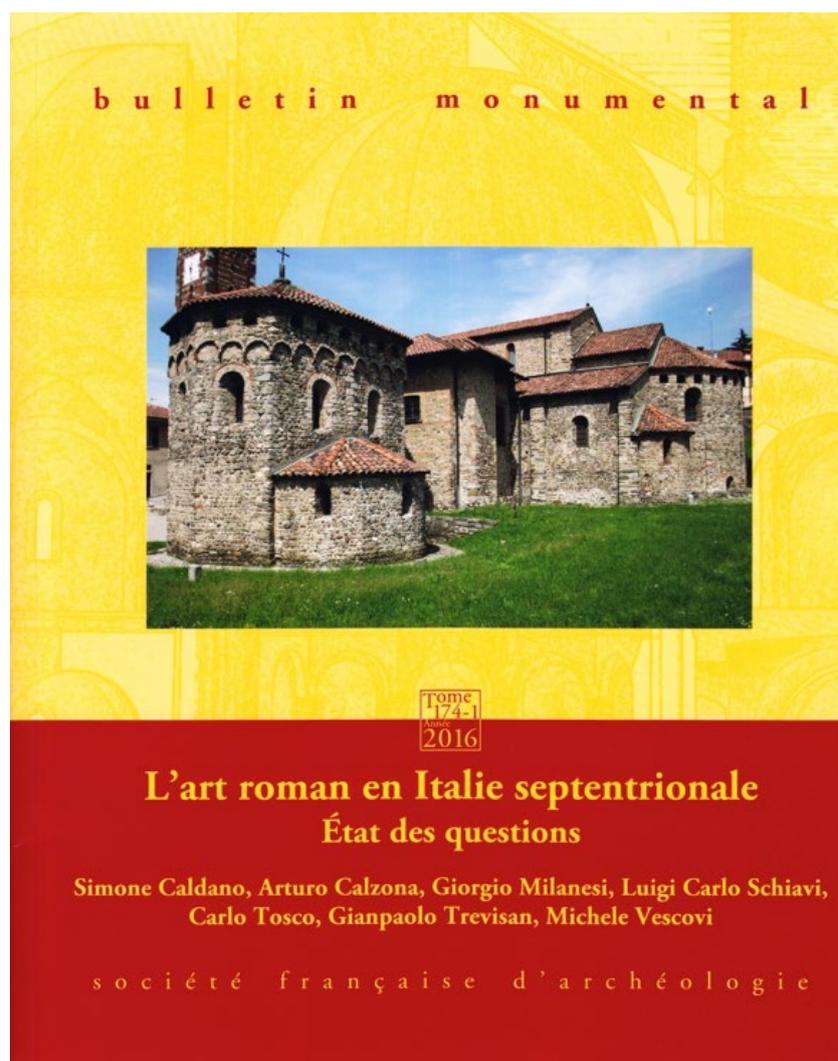
Between the 10th and 12th century, the Lombard region was one of the most urbanized in Europe and architecture developed there mainly in the urban centers. The birth of the communes around 1100 led to the creation of large worksites, attesting to the vitality and cohesion of the cities around the cult of their patron saint. In this special number of "Bulletin monumental" the most original tendencies in Lombard architecture are outlined along two thematic lines: the affirmation of the role of architects who were publicly recognized and honored, and the relation between architecture and liturgy, an area of research that has greatly evolved in recent years.

www.sf-archeologie.net/-Bulletin-monumental-.html

**L'ART ROMAN EN ITALIE
SEPTENTRIONALE.
ÉTAT DES QUESTIONS**

**Société française d'archéologie
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Carlo Tosco et Éliane Vergnolle**





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