

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE IN HISTORICAL CONTEXTS: FUNCTIONS, PROCESSES AND INNOVATIVE DESIGN.

Urban centres, among the various ideas evocated by this term, are at the same time scenario and main actors of some of the most relevant evolutionary dynamics not only of settlement systems but also of those socio-economic XXI Century's structures born as a consequence of urbanization phenomena of rural areas, of complex processes of attraction and concentration of economic activities or born from the most dynamic social groups.

In Italy and Europe traditional land-use and urban development processes faced a whole new reality. Expansive phases, supported by national policies, are nowadays dealing with a strong crisis of request and need, which leads back the debate on the issue of reuse and renovation of the existing assets and its entire component, from the historical heritage to the most recent structures. Historical contexts can express identity values, together with a sense of memory and witness, which, within a dynamic vision of the urban development, request grafting of new architectures and functions or a harmonious recreation of the most ancient ones.

The delicate balance between preservation and transformation is threatened by the various deficit it faces, such as the underuse of the buildings, the widespread poor quality of the existing asset or degradation and functional inadequacy. Moreover, the issues mentioned contribute to sharpen phenomena as social unease and environmental degradation.

Nowadays, all these critical aspects are often not properly faced and they are highlighted by the economic crisis, by the weaknesses and the limitations of a construction sector, where also suggestions of innovation are missing.

Even the most consolidated urban structure face, nowadays, the risk of losing their initial entirety, towards the threaten of a future fragmentation and poorness due to excessively heterogeneous contexts, made by episodic and shattering situations.

Due to this, the conservation or transformation processes are facing very challenging situations, on different scales and approaches, which require sensibility and adequate instruments, able to reframe complex and diversified needs through a wide range of skills, essential to propose effective solutions.

The relationship between historical heritage and contemporary needs brings to the project the need to find a coherent identity between continuity and discontinuity, between integration and innovation, camouflaging and displaying in terms of functions, processes, languages, technologies, materials.

This can start from a reading of the context capable of rebuilding an architectural memory, which goes beyond the work intended as a single building and which can catch and interpretate its invisible components and relationships.

Such a challenge involves significantly the disciplines of Architecture and, in particular, Technology of Architecture for its capacity to develop strategies, design and innovative technical solutions for the built environment, following innovative systemic approaches and processes.

Techne | 12 proposes the issue of contemporary interventions in historical and consolidated urban contexts and aims at collecting research and design experimentation contributions, essays and critical thinking to define and characterize the problem, to document best-practice and case studies, to explore innovative perspectives and approaches.

The proposed contributions are asked to enrich the reflection on the role of the design process along maintenance, reuse and refurbishment processes also taking into account the transformations of the urban context they are located in. Particular attention should be given to strategies and design processes based on a strong awareness towards the preexistences. Moreover, the contributions should consider issues as green economy and coherence between functional, formal and technological choices.

With this reading key, the main topics of the call can be outlined as it follows:

- the study of intervention programs and projects, which include evaluation and comparison of different scenarios; the study of design strategies and their consequences, both considering the impact of the new elements on existing contexts and assets; the study of profitability and responsiveness to the needs of the citizens and the workers of the construction sector;
- the study of intervention methods (process models, functional layouts, technologies, materials), able to explain the idea of "pertinence" with accurate analysis of the preexistences and their features and how their specific conditions can influence design, construction choices so as the organization of the construction site and the fruition of the manufactures - their management during their expected life-cycle -;
- the study of the "construction quality" of the interventions, in terms of definition and realization of new solutions and their control along the time of the expected performance levels;
- tools, methods and analysis' procedures of the needs, potentials and limitations, so as tools for predictive simulation and evaluation of intervention programs;
- innovative and experimental design solutions.

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2016**

Authors are invited to send an **abstract of 4000 characters**, in Italian or -in case of foreign author- English, which has to explain the main topics expected to be in the final paper.

The abstract has to be clear and concise, showing clear response to the topic of the CALL and with a structure based on the following points:

- subject of the proposal and goal of the contribution;
- approach and/or methodology.

Authors are invited to point out whether the contribution is targeted to the "research and experimentation" or "essays and points of view" section. In particular, papers indicated as "research and experimentation" have to outline:

- results: analytical, propositive, debate aspects.
- originality: explain what is new and whom it is addressed to.
- limits of the research and significative developments;
- cultural, practical and socio-economic -when present- involvements;
- references to other researches, relevance of the topic, involved actors, funding.

The abstract, for both sections, has to be followed by specific **key-words**, which indicate the essential aspects of the paper. The abstract has to be sent at redazionetechne@sitda.net by **April, 4th 2016**. Authors will receive an e-mail with the response by **April, 15th 2016**.

Once the abstract has been accepted, the authors are invited to send the paper, with a maximum of 18000 characters, by **June, 10th 2016**. The papers will be blind-reviewed and the authors will receive the results of this second selection phase by **July, 12th 2016**. The final version of the paper, eventually refined with the suggestions of the referees, will have to be delivered not later than **September, 1st 2016**.

For each paper, a contribution for the publication is required. The amount of the contribution is **150€+IVA** for SITdA members and **200€+IVA** for non-members. Further information about payment will be given once the abstracts are selected.

Please note that the proposals of two young researchers members of SITdA will be selected for a free publication of the paper.

Final papers have to be delivered in both Italian and English, including captions and texts eventually present in the images and tables.

Texts, bibliographic references, images and notes have to follow the rules for the authors, available at the following address:

<http://www.fupress.net/index.php/techne/information/authors>.

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