

## ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

The term "**social**" increasingly denotes the current design praxis, characterizing in a decisive manner the contents of architecture and the cultural debate on the ethical role of the architect. In recent years, technological architecture became aware of issues, problems and emerging design situations. This new intellectual attitude seeks who operates in the real world and it appears to be detached from the self-reference, which characterized and still characterizes many contemporary architectural productions.

We are facing a paradigm shift: architecture returns to the actual needs of people, trying to be useful and meaningful even with little means and limited resources. Architecture turns from a producer of languages into a spark of shared processes. It finds in **social commitment** new ways of working by paying attention to the resources (tangible and intangible) of the territory, to the material culture of the communities and to the technical, economic and productive conditions of the contexts. We are facing housing emergencies, generated by new forms of social distress and exacerbated by massive phenomena of migration, together with forms of marginalization of many urban peripheries. These emergencies require a cultural position aimed at strengthening and enhancing a research capable of interacting with new social issues of **inclusiveness, identity, accessibility, sharing, integration, security, proximity**, by fostering and fueling new forms of creativity and government of the processes of transformation of the built environment.

In recent years, a new generation of architects, designers and landscape architects has produced projects of great architectural and environmental value. A clear political and social attitude has emerged, aiming at transforming the constraints into spatial, design and operational inventions, worthy of the great Architecture and which often find their best occurs on the aesthetic and expressive level. These are examples, which offer an idea of architecture as the "**art of building for all**" and as a "**common good**", highlighting its original purpose of "service". According to a broad and deep concept of sustainability (environmental, social and economic), and within a framework of rules, appropriate for the collectivity, the goal is to satisfy the needs trying to achieve the best results (in terms of quality for users) with minimum effort (in terms of resources, economic, materials, energy).

This newfound **social dimension** of architecture gives a renovated value to the concept of **participation** and gives a new role to the designer, which is understood not much as a demiurge who dispenses solutions and answers from above, but rather as a mediator between the demands of the community and the interests of the users, and as a facilitator of the implementation processes.

These questions find resonance in the technological design, which has always focused its thought on issues such as the housing emergency -as a possible field of experimentation- and the environmental quality of collective spaces - as a tool to facilitate exchange, sharing and integration between individuals. At the same time, technological design pursues an approach of needs - performance, open and problematic, which has always sought to identify processes and intervention strategies based on the **responsibility of the project** and on the **innovation of the demand**. Thus, it has avoided of falling into ideological and moralistic assumptions and forms of "aestheticization of ethics".

In the light of these considerations, the call identifies some areas of thought regarding programs, processes, strategies and projects aimed at encouraging the implementation of interventions in terms of **cohesion, inclusiveness, sharing, integration**, in order to enable **social innovation** processes:

- the improvement of the quality of the "peripheral residential areas" through the environmental redevelopment of residual and intermediate open spaces with public function; adopt collective practices as a tool for the management of social tensions and for the reduction of cultural marginality;
- the critical revisitation of typologies, technologies and traditional knowledge in the interventions of reconstruction and renovation of small and medium-sized urban areas. The aim is to enhance the participation and guided self-construction practices and promote the economic and social development of local communities;
- the definition of settlement/housing systems open, temporary, modular, increasable, and adaptable, to intervene on the built environment and a space-functional redevelopment of the obsolete existing assets and degraded in response to ordinary migration and emergency (migrants, refugees, earthquake victims , ...), by reducing land consumption;
- the potential of the new technologies to create forms of accessibility, proximity and sharing beyond the physical limitations of traditional settlement patterns;
- the transformation of abandoned buildings and architectural heritage into areas of opportunity for new working- and welfare- communities, creating places for production, culture, art, innovation, research.

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Authors are invited to send an abstract of **4000 characters** (spaces included) in Italian (or English, in case of foreign author). The abstract is intended to report the main contents planned to be proposed in the article. The abstract has to be written in a clear and concise

manner, showing an effective correspondence to the topic of the call. Furthermore, the abstract has to follow the following structure:

- object of the proposal and aim of the article;
- approach and/or methodology.

Authors are invited to specify if their contribution is targeting the “research and experimentation” or “essays and viewpoints” section.

In particular, the “research and experimentation paper has to outline:

- results: analytical aspects, proposals, debates;
- originality: by explaining what is new and for whom;
- limits of the research and significative results;
- cultural implications (practical or socio-economic) when present;
- reference to research/researches, relevance of the topic, subjects involved, fundings.

In the case of an “essays and viewpoints” proposal, attention has to be given to:

- cultural and scientific background with regard to the proposed topic;
- analytical aspects, the state of the art of the critical fields and debates on the topic.

For both sections, the abstract has to be introduced by specific keywords, reflecting the essential elements of the paper. The abstract has to be sent to [redazionetechne@sitda.net](mailto:redazionetechne@sitda.net) by **April, 7th 2017**. The authors of the accepted abstract will receive information by the Editorial Team by **April, 12th 2017**.

Once the abstract has been accepted, the authors are invited to submit the paper by **May, 22nd 2017**. The paper has to respect the limit of **max 20.000 characters**, spaces included, in the case of single author; **max 24.000 characters**, spaces included, in the case of multiple authors. The papers will be submitted to a double blind review and the authors, whose papers have been accepted, will receive further information by **June, 25th 2017**. The final

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