Edited by Jörg Schröder,
Maurizio Carta,
Maddalena Ferretti,
Barbara Lino
“Territories” addresses potentials of multiplicities of places in larger-scale perspectives, and in a rural-urban view of linkages and cooperation for human and natural habitat. Territorial and human capital, and their valorisation for innovative spatial development and resilience strategies, constitutes a field of great public and political interest. Extended urban-rural metropolitan regions, new associations of rural areas and middle-city-networks, and coastline and mountain settlements are seen not only as targets of different policies and places of their realisation, but as active factors and potential for economic, ecological, and social futures—discussed in this book for areas in Sicily, Northern Germany, Liguria, Trentino, Catalonia, Campania, but also in Brazil and US.

“Territories” introduces innovative design and research perspectives of urbanism, planning, landscape, and architecture. It suggests a design-based approach to the dynamics of larger spatial contexts: with the double task to enfold an actualised view of territories, and to synthesise visions of future perspectives between spaces and societies. “Territories” displays design and research positions from Italy, Spain, and Germany. In city and countryside, in between metropolises and rural settlements, a wide range of spatial figures, patterns, places, of cores and peripheries, are shown as spatial bases and crucial fields of action for European territorial development. Opposed to traditional dystopic concepts of urban and rural, “Territories” engages in the potentials of rural-urban interfaces for a vision of rural-urban futures: built on implicit knowledge, and on knowledge gained by design. “Territories” promotes an overall clear shift in public awareness and sectorial policies towards territory-based strategies. “Territories” is targeted towards rural-urban interfaces—in terms of space, function, and significance. How can implicit knowledge be used systematically for these new perspectives and how can knowledge be gained by design? How can this approach contribute to relating development strategies to places and spaces in a new way, with regard both to public awareness and to increasingly separate specialist policies?

The leading themes throughout the book are Territorial Visions: actual understandings and strategies, relating development projects to a rural-urban perspective (mapping, typologies, compari-
sons, scenarios, and concepts); and Designing Processes: the explicit and implicit roles of architecture, urban and rural design and planning for territorial futures, rural-urban cooperation, and governance models (concepts, approaches, tools, and strategies). The research approaches collected in the book are connected to interdisciplinary cooperation, especially with socio-economic and cultural scientists, and to cooperation with local experts and stakeholders. The overall aim is to set into dialogue a large picture of different architectural-urbanistic approaches—on the border between urban and rural—to explain and to compass the strengths of our disciplines into transdisciplinary research. Based on the dialogue between German, Italian, and Spanish urban planners and architects, the cultural differences in spatial planning attitudes and frameworks are presented as incentive for a more differentiated, adapted but nevertheless decisively place- and space-related orientation for territorial futures—a topic of high political, cultural, social, economic, and ecological relevance.

"Territories" collects contributions to an open discussion, started with an international conference in Hanover in April 2016 (see p. 10). The project and this book is part of the "Hochschuldialog Süd-europa" (University Dialog Southern Europe) funded by DAAD, with contributions from German, Italian, and Spanish universities, for example from Jörg Schröder, Maurizio Carta, Manuel Gausa, Mosè Ricci, and Carles Llop. Practice and research projects and emerging research approaches from eighteen scientists in the conference (organised in the book in “Flows, Places, Patterns, Fields, Practices, Tactics”) have been combined with a colloquium debate with fourteen young scientists (“Visions, Processes”), and with a master student laboratory (“Workshop”).

The organising university partners from the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo, and from the Chair for Regional Building and Urban Planning of Leibniz Universität Hannover wish to thank all participants for collaborating for this important experience and great book. We are convinced that working about forty-four multiplicities of places (see p. 8) will provide an innovative view of actual challenges that territories are facing.
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Towards an Architecture of Territories

Jörg Schröder

Two photographies of Munich with its prealpine horizon and of the Allgäu (Fig. 1) formed the central part of the graphic project for the conference “Food and the City” in the framework of the EU project Rurbance.¹ In the Munich picture, the articulated urban contexts, settlement patterns, monuments and landscape pieces interweave into extended metropolitan figures, and connect to themes of integration, density, and ecology; they are asking about a re-definition of the centre of a hyper-complex metropolitan region with over five million inhabitants that touches the limits of concentration. It is framed by the prealpine horizon as constructed countryside and important part of identities, life quality, resilience, and economic positioning. With one crucial difference: the spatial challenges and chances of the city are coherently, yet contestedly discussed, even beyond the limits of administrative boundaries; for the prealpine horizon, a common discussion about spatial futures just begins, but only in dissecting, contradicting, and merely parallel alleys; also for the areas of prealpine plains between the city and the mountain border. The Allgäu picture in contrast is green, with the near mountains as sculptures behind prealpine lakes. In explorations of forming processes, different and even contradictory themes can be addressed: the green meadows
based on dairy farming are part of an economic and cultural repositioning; commuting, decentralised industries, services, crafts, or tourism perspectives are manifest in and driven by spatial configurations; the lake Forggensee as part of the river Lech water energy production is emptied in winter, and becomes a moon-topography of clay; it is part of the figure of the ecological system of prealpine rivers and valleys crossing also the plains around Munich; Neuschwanstein castle in the background attracts over six million visitors per year, a potential for local added value not really explored; conflicts between winter tourism, its infrastructures and ecological protection, and the future perspectives of settlements debating monument protection and energy-efficiency, development chances, and identities, as well as mobility innovations for extended networks and for remote areas, etc. At least in Allgäu with the regional development agency Allgäu GmbH, the political bodies are entering into a comprehensive and larger scale setup for territorial futures, starting from tourism, branding, and economic positioning issues—one of the first cases in Germany for areas outside of the metropolitan regions. The interplay of public awareness, of quest for participation, of coordination of policies and socio-economic processes that influence spatial setups, calls for
Planning for the Rur-Urban Anthropocene

Maurizio Carta

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Rur-Urban Anthropocene’s metamorphosis: the re-cyclical urbanism. When Crutzen and Stoermer propagated the term Anthropocene to indicate the consequences on the planet produced by the pervasive presence of human activities since the industrial revolution through the acceleration of territorial, social and climate changes, they never imagined that, in the last twenty years, a massive “anthropo-development” would have produced such anabolic effects able to generate an enormous human footprint on the planet. The human footprint produced a steady erosion of resources, of which the soil is the most obvious and alarming. Beyond the soil, the cultural identities and the vegetation patterns of the habitats were consumed, vital urban and rural metabolisms were anaesthetised, water and waste cycles were interrupted, and mobility became sclerotic and ineffective. It eroded the capacity of urban settlements to entertain ecological and productive relationships with rural land, it sedated the productive and generative capacity of local manufacturing, anaesthetising the endogenous factors of development, and neglected the regenerative value of building maintenance and care of places as circular processes have been interrupted or diverted. After numerous planet’s alarms went unheeded, after crossing many times the limits of growth,
often with dramatic consequences, the economic crisis of the past decade—with its virulence that has infected the productive, social, cultural, and even political structures—showed all the critical points of the linear expansive development model. On the one hand, this process produced the evangelists of the de-growth and development objectors, prompting planners to “disengagement or a crippling sense of guilt” (Sijmons 2014a). On the other it generated active planners and city makers—including us—as proponents of an effective sustainable development, visionary and pragmatic at the same time, and convinced us that we can live in a “good Anthropocene”\(^2\). We must be able to manage the transition from consumer Paleoanthropocene towards emerging prosumer Neoanthropocene, reactivating the traditional alliance between human and natural components such as co-acting forces,\(^3\) guided by an ethic of the integration of man and nature, and of cities and the environment as collective responsibility against the Global Change, starting from the cities.\(^4\) The Neoanthropocene—for us a “rur-urban Anthropocene”—challenges us as researchers, educators, and designers to adopt a responsible and militant approach and to have the courage of a metamorphosis that not only reduces the ecological footprint of human activity, but which uses the
tion device” that allows permanent interaction between different types of spatial/social entities. In rur-urban settlements, each entity exhibits a face (an agricultural area, infrastructure accessibility, a village, an archaeological park, a protected area, an urban fringe, etc.), with its own language and communication protocol, derived from its identity and its prevalent users. The interface device interposed between them takes charge of activating communication through a multi-language translation that allows you to generate a new site with a new identity in which different components work together in order to constantly innovate new rur-urban archipelagos. The interfaces generate new rur-urban metabolisms based on continuous flows and two-way cultural, social, productive, and economic settlements, producing a constant breath between the two dimensions. The rur-urban interface is configured as a device capable of establishing a relationship between the time/place of spatial supply and the experience/place of use, establishing an amending connection of space and time, that is the localisation and fruition mode of the activities and facilities in the rur-urban archipelago. The interface area becomes a fluid communication infrastructure that provides cultural, social, and productive services and generates the one that which in computer science is called a ubiquitous interaction: an interaction that involves multiple, dynamic and distributed interfaces. An ubiquitous interaction between past and future, place and community, formal and informal actors, heritage and creativity, based on a variety of interfaces—with different styles, languages, and ways—which establishes a multi-level and contextual interaction.

No more masterplan: the Cityforming© Protocol. In Europe, the season of urban regeneration has produced important effects both in the review of the design devices and in the rethinking of the settlement forms and their spatial and human relations. But it cannot be denied that certain diseases emerged which often have anaesthetised, if not cancelled, the regenerative effects envisaged. The transition, while it has increased the use of urban regeneration processes from the bottom, has at the same time extended the epidemic of failures derived from a top-down approach. The critical issues of hierarchical urban regeneration cannot be solved by revising the procedures for participation, improving design devices, or innovating implementation processes, but by overturning the view. For the regeneration of urban areas characterised by marginalisation and decline, by the disposal of buildings and infrastructure, and by the functional underuse or weak reactivation cycles (mobility, water, waste), we need a real and effective process that must take an approach that not only refuses the traditional and ineffective top-down strategy, but that will not yield to the, rhetorical and superficially comforting, tactical bottom-up.

We need a hyper-strategic circular approach, programmatically incremental, procedurally recursive and projectually flexible, rather than a closed and simultaneous strategy. The traditional masterplan, inflexible, instantaneous, and almost unchanging in its implementation—ineffective in areas that cannot enjoy the destination of significant public or private resources (now almost disappeared in transition European cities)—must be replaced with a “masterprogram” knowingly temporised and adaptive, capable of composing a comprehensive vision by implementing piecemeal, capable of timely and temporary action, but one that has the generative force of a new future, and that knows how to turn on some autopoietic and self-sufficient processes. In times of crisis of develop-
Figure 4. The three phases of the Cityforming© Protocol: colonisation, consolidation, development, and their paradigms and devices. Source: M. Carta
are supporting a balance between agricultural production and the conservation of environmental and cultural aspects of the rural landscape. The prevailing perspective is to create clusters of highly efficient multifunctional agriculture, in order to provide not only food and material products, but also services: business activities, energy production, research and education, leisure, etc. Around Barcelona, in recent years the loss of agriculture’s economic strength, compared with other productive sectors, invited an uncontrolled urban expansion and construction pressure in the surrounding municipalities, invading and filling spaces, together with large facilities for industry and commerce, and with large mobility infrastructures. Preserving the Llobregat Park primarily as an agricultural space means also to recover a stronger definition of landscape elements, combining them with new strategies, uses, and practices (traditional or innovative), in order to enrich its economic, social, and cultural dimension (Gausa 2015). These two cases are joined by two complementary studies:

_________Barcelona-Maresme 2.0. (Barcelona, ES). The project Maresme 2.0 highlights the possible evolvement of a complex spatial structure for the Maresme Coast, able to coordinate and recover new (and old) settlement and landscape patches in a common territorial vision, bound to the Strategic Plan of 2015. The necessary redefinition and intermodality of mobility systems (railways, public transport, highways, secondary roads, bicycle and foot circuits) represents the starting point for a new scenario that reconfigures traditional relations between agricultural, industrial-manufacturing, residential, and touristic functions that repositions old and new centralities and nodes—aiming at a combined model of inter-urban upgrading and trans-territorial articulation that gains from the inclusion of functional and spatial externalities and that calibrates the geo-urban topology for complex localities (Gausa et al. 2009).

_________AGROMA, Roma 2025 (Rome, IT). The research AGROMA (Agro-Roma) is part of the international and inter-university research project ROMA 20-25 (MAXXI Foundation, Rome 2016); it explores the role and characteristics of the traditional Roman agricultural spaces known as ‘Agro Romano’ and their holistic transformation into a possible eco-productive matrix for the Rome metro-region (Gausa et al. 2016, 2016a).

The case studies recognize the contexts in which a new hyper-agricultural scenario and its different strategic repercussions (urban, cultural, economic, social, ecological, aesthetic) can be developed—from the point of view of high spatial and environmental values and their (inter-)connection with urban-touristic-productive dynamics. The different readings are oriented towards urban and regional analysis (structural qualities of morphology and relations between scales, potential connectivities of settlements and landscapes, intentional strategies and programmatic guidelines, SWOT analysis, etc). This methodology combines ICT analysis (Inter Cities & Territories) and explorative urban design projects through intentional mapping processes (datascapes, datascans) and strategic diagrammatisation (diagrammaticities, diagram-cities), and is associated with an intentional approach to inherent structuring conditions of spatial textures: historic maps, thematic cartography, georeferenced data are re-drawn as schemes (structures), diagrammes (criteria), and ideogrammes (concepts and strategies)—acquiring a progressive “intentionality” (Gausa 2014a).
Figure 11. City-Territory, a synthetic analysis approach. Levels of information and conflict mapping. Image: Manuel Gausa, with Mathilde Marengo

Figure 12. Diagrammaticities, territorial diagrams, and ideograms. Image: Manuel Gausa, Open-Space-Time-Information, ed Actar, Barcelona 2010
Back to the Land

Mosè Ricci, Sara Favargiotti

Lecce is a beautiful Mediterranean city with a Baroque soul sculpted in its white stones. It seems to be a made of just one colour: White the stone of churches. White the colour of palaces and homes. White the colour of paving stones. White that reflects the sun and outlines the unforgettable wind-swept blue sky. It’s hot in Lecce, a sweet heat that stays with you and won’t let you leave. Lecce is the only Italian city among the top ten cities in the world to visit according to Lonely Planet 2010.¹ In 2011, it was the highest ranked city in southern Italy for quality of life. It’s the southern city with the highest percentage of young residents. It’s the place young people most desire to come back to live in after their studies. Lecce is a city in crisis. Originally based on agriculture and commerce, for a long time its economic engine has been replaced by construction and urban growth. The first city expansion plan beyond the historic town walls goes back to the post-unification period of the 1800s, but the real changes would come later. In the fascist period after the Crash of 1929 and in the aftermath of WWII when building became the biggest economic driver of the city. In Lecce, like in many other cities of Southern Italy, the building boom of the 1980s supported the shift from an agriculture-based economy to an urban development land-value-based income. In fact, the expan-
sion of Lecce beyond its Baroque walls dates back to late nineteenth century, reinforced by the development of the construction industry that by the middle of the nineteenth century had become the first economic driving force of the city. In the last decades of the century, the consumption of soil became systematic with city planning being the institution in charge of regulating the occupation of the countryside and providing the necessary infrastructure. However, this model ceased to work in the 2000s. The 1983 Urban Plan of Lecce had defined the “zones” for a new expansion towards the periphery, tracing a new suburban ring that would contain this expansion and create new centralities for later development plans. Something very similar to what Cedric Price had defined the model of a “city as fried egg”: a hard core, a yolk, surrounded by a (possibly) never-ending series of concentric rings driving the urban expansion towards the edges. The “fried-egg” model for Lecce’s urban growth allowed the city to grow continually beyond the dense, antique yoke of the city centre, expanding just like the white of an egg spreads uncontrolled in a pan. The new suburban ring road, rather than being a border, offers a framework that supports new centres in the periphery. The hospital is an example. However, in the case of Lecce, the plan has not been fulfilled

Figure 1. The historical city centre of Lecce. Image: authors
Figures 4–8. Reshaping the metropolitan city with re-naturalisation. The Barcelona green corridor.

JORNET LLOP PASTOR ARCH

1 See our publication: Llop Torné C., Bosc, S. (2012) Contemporary spatial phenomena. Working with the territory: strategies for the new territorialities. Barcelona, Actar. pp. 281–293. ISBN:978-84-92861-84-2. In this book we developed the project CRE-PUD-MED which has allowed a group of European experts, local elected officials, academics, architects, planners, geographers, sociologists... to combine their skills and to question the notion of territorial development understood as a “project-process”. Four case-studies of four European regions are presented within: Val de Durance (Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur), Funo (Provincia di Bologna), Metropolitan Region of Barcelona and Eleonas (Athens); in the form of an atlas, as a knowledge instrument of the territory; and a project book, where different strategies that can lead to a contemporary and interterritorial project are proposed.

2 This name is used by Arturo Calderón in his doctoral thesis to be presented in my department under my supervision.

Lübeck St. Jürgen, Seminar Landportraits, Regionales Bauen und Siedlungsplanung LUH, 2016, Image: Michél Viertel, Valentin Zellmer
TERRITORIES
FIELDS
Emerging design practices are based on sharing assets and bottom-up processes, nurturing social innovation, and experimenting forms of dialogue between citizens and policymakers.

Recently, we are observing an exponential growth of empty spaces in our cities, triggered by the economic crisis and changes. In parallel, a lot of social exchanges and activities are transferring from the physical spaces to the Internet, and this phenomenon is increasing according to the diffusion of the so-called sharing economy. If, on one hand, the vacant spaces are resources taken away from the cities, unsafe places of physical and social decline, they represent, on the other hand, a fertile ground for experiencing social innovation. Historical buildings and sites equally improve and define the view and character of our territories. They contribute to building identity and stories. Empty buildings and spaces are therefore an experimental laboratory where informal actions, events, and temporary reuse practices become innovative instruments.

People cooperate to get results not only for themselves but also to produce social, economic, and environmental benefits. With an undeniable delay compared to other European countries, Italy started its route towards recycling; in 2012, the Re-Cycle exhibition at MAXXI, Rome, opened
up a network for PRIN Re-Cycle Italy, with the aim of exploring the operational consequences of recycling processes on the urban system. Because of these activities, currently an agreement with Genoa’s Municipality has allowed for the monitoring of experiences implemented by active citizens, in order to manage policies and procedures for temporary reuse. This is an opportunity to prove design as a tool for enhancing territory, as political advantage, and as way of making research on projects. Design discovers its active role within the social, cultural, political, and environmental context we are living in, and contributes to facilitating processes of social innovation, providing designers with new opportunities.

According to Gui Bonsiepe, “To raise our awareness about the contradictions that become obvious between the socially desirable, the technologically possible, the environmentally beneficial, the economically viable, and the culturally tenable should be one of the central goals of contemporary design ethics” (Groll, 2015). Designers are involved and committed to the public patrimony and welfare, ideologically differing by the most commercial aspects of product design, outlining the field of action of social design. It “highlights design-based practices towards collective and social
Towards Productive Landscapes
A search for self-sufficiency,
research at the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia

Mathilde Marengo
“Managing urban areas has become one of the most important development challenges of the 21st century. Our success or failure in building sustainable cities will be a major factor in the success of the post-2015 UN development agenda.” Hence, a challenge in the return to productivity in our cities. The former chief architect of Barcelona suggests that we have the potential to make this happen by sharing knowledge through networks and using the resources that are available to us locally in order to produce the things that we need to live: energy, food, and goods (Vicente Guallart, 2012).

Can we produce everything we need to live? This article is hence the excursus of a series of research projects and multi-scalar strategies developed at IaaC that strive towards this goal, implementing self-sufficient and productive landscapes.

1. THINGS
2. FOOD
3. ENERGY
Productive and extractive districts in a state of neglect are in dire need of regeneration, especially brownfields that are located in rur-urban sites and could disfigure the landscape. These elements should be considered as resources to define a new territorial value. The renovated metabolism\(^1\) develops different horizons and would improve the attractiveness of the place. Brownfields, actually, are catalysts of social, economic, cultural, and ecological revitalisation. This aspect assigns to these elements a value of peri-urban resource for a sustainable and participatory multi-scale enhancement. The involvement of citizens and local authorities is fundamental in order to rediscover memories, avoid tensions between developers\(^2\) and the community, and promote integrating multiple perspectives. The literature shows many examples of brownfield regeneration in which citizens and institutions have cooperated for the common objective of recycling. Their participation has represented a fundamental factor of renovation and the revitalisation of the area over time.

Brownfields as elements for a new peri-urban sustainable ecosystem over time. In an attempt to carry out a sustainable recycling process over time, it would be appropriate to consider...
many regeneration phases. The Cityforming Protocol, developed by Maurizio Carta, is a process capable of reactivating with subsequent stages the metabolism of an area starting from these components and creating a new sustainable ecosystem over time (Carta 2015, p. 159): "a design protocol able to reactivate with subsequent steps the metabolism of an area starting from the latent regenerative components, activating different cycles of increasing intensity to create a new urban sustainable ecosystem over time." By following this process it is possible to find some functions that can activate the new environment, through the action of ‘colonisation’; this gives to the place specific functions in relation to their characteristics: e.g. brownfield fields could represent activator elements of spatial development. Therefore, the ecosystem is reactivated using the ‘consolidation’ of predefined functions and thanks to the progressive increase in the attractiveness of the territory. Finally, the process involves an evolution of the site over time, developing the area transformed through targeted intervention strategies. The new metabolism develops new horizons to pursue from brownfield regeneration. What is a brownfield? According to a definition from Alker et al. (2000, p. 64), a brownfield area is: “any land or premises which has previously been used or
city without port’. The port itself is planned separately and its presence seems to affect minimally or only harmfully the land-use transformations. It is clear that this approach cannot express the economic and symbolic role that a port still holds for its own city. The evolution of the complex relationship between a city and its port is well described by the International Maritime Geography models (Hoyle 1988), thanks to which it is possible to understand steps and reasons that led to the contemporary condition of contrast and marginality. In brief, as described by the geographer Brian S. Hoyle, in the first phase, lasting about fourteen centuries, city and port lived in a symbiotic, spatial, and functional integration. From the beginning of the nineteenth century, the growth of maritime traffic and the advent of the industrial age caused the first strong separation of the two organisms. The complexity and automation of port mechanisms accelerated the exodus of ports from the centre to the suburbs. Furthermore, this phenomenon is increased when containerised trade spread worldwide, together with a gradual but steady evolution of the fleet size (naval gigantism). At this time, the first ports consortiums are set up as independent administrative realities and new laws impose specific restrictions between operative spaces and inner city. The new port territory
generated and developed throughout the nineteenth century in Europe was conceptually closer to a support mechanism than to a district of the city. In the last decades of the twentieth century, the final separation takes place: ports became national gateways while cities became centres of local and regional dynamics. For these reasons, the original port core is abandoned due to new portual dynamics; indeed, the last phase describes the renewal of the waterfront and the reactivation of material and immaterial connections between coastal areas and historical inner city.

The actual framework has greatly changed from Hoyle’s models: today the evolution of the ‘portuality’ paradigm demands the development of flexible and advanced tools capable of improving the receptivity and resilience of the most sensitive and changeable territories. Contemporary portuality shows that ports have increasingly spread over the centuries but, since the beginning of the twenty-first century and still today, European policies and global trends have led to an increase in maritime ocean traffic and the resumption of pendulum routes across the Mediterranean Sea has resulted in a growing interest in ports and motorways of the sea. Moreover, the phenomenon of port regionalisation has greatly affected current port conditions and has generated the ‘port-
Over the last decade, the interest in the identification of development scenarios for the local contexts has renewed the model of macro-regions, which encompass areas related conceptually to each other beyond the geographical localisation. One of these is the Mediterranean area, intended as a theoretical concept that interprets the idea of “Mediterranean character”. The Mediterranean multi-city is the place of relationships and exchanges among different landscapes and cultures, contaminated by the wide networks of relationships that touch the shores of this sea, with ideas, styles, techniques, and knowledge, which spreads its effects along the whole coastal areas. Thanks to this biodiversity along the Mediterranean coast, there are very heterogeneous urban centres, which keep changing and evolving with continuous territorial consumption, and which today has led to the outline “the global shape of the Mediterranean city” as defined by Cardarelli (Cardarelli 1987, p. 84). Today, therefore, we are faced with a situation in which the cities of the coast have, in some aspects, been consolidated thanks to decades of urban sprawl. For others, however, the urban contexts have spontaneously occupied peripheral areas. The so-called sprawl towns, superimposed over the surrounding rural territory, have given way to a formless and chaotic
expansion of the urban core over the years. Several national and international conferences (Plan urban and rural development, 2014–2020; Agricultural production and new landscapes, 2007; European Environment, 2010), scientific societies (CRA, EEA, ENEA), university researchers, local authorities, and also the citizen awareness groups have focused on the importance of agriculture and rural areas—commonly conceived as a waiting space to be occupied—that would be transformed by large infrastructures aggregating urban centres in a sort of metropolitan constellation. The irrational consumption of soil deletes the identity value of a place, creating hybrid and undefined suburban spaces, full of unexpressed potentialities but empty of content, which need to be reinvented and reorganised to become one of our land resources and not a problem. Future goals must identify clearly the importance of the existing relation between Mediterranean territories, focusing on the future development dynamics and the creation of new relationships between the coast and city, town and country, as well as countryside and city. Agricultural and rural dimensions of the Mediterranean have been—and still continue to be—essential determinants for the economies and societies of the area. In 2005, a third of the Mediterranean population resided in
This research investigates the ongoing transformations of historical building with a context-related approach that includes a design-oriented cultural landscape perspective. The aim is to establish a basis for the evaluation of potentials and constraints of the building stock as a territorial resource.

The marshlands of the administrative district of Steinburg, located north of the Elbe River and north-west of the city of Hamburg in the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg, are a highly cultivated and artificial territory. Their usage is dependent on drainage and flood protection. On an area of 422 square kilometres, around 2,400 kilometres of drainage channels build up a dense net, structuring the territory. Buildings like pump houses and sluices are part of this technical infrastructure, which has to be maintained constantly. Eighty-four per cent of the territory is still used for agriculture,¹ which therefore greatly impacts on the appearance of the landscape. Although the share of the population working in the field of agriculture is comparably high,² the economic relevance of agriculture³ has significantly decreased in comparison to former times when the agricultural production was the main reason for appropriating territory.
Farmsteads have been laid out in direct spatial and functional connection to the allocated, cultivated fields. The resulting structure of linear and dispersed settlements and adjacent long, narrow plots spreads throughout the whole territory. The farmsteads are commonly characterised by dwelling mounds and surrounding drainage channels to protect against the water, rows of trees around the lot to protect against the wind, trees nearby the buildings to keep cellars dry, and not least the large historical buildings, serving for both housing and agriculture under one roof. This special materiality, morphology, and structure are substantial elements of the marshlands territory. The spread out structure of the farmsteads with their historical buildings, and their linkage to agriculture, adds to the distinct regional identity by its spatial presence and characteristic, and also by its historical depth as cultural evidence.

But new functions, stakeholders, and spatial practices are changing rural territories fundamentally and to a high degree: “The countryside is now the frontline of transformation. A world formerly dictated by the seasons and the organisation of agriculture is now a toxic mix of genetic experiment, science, industrial nostalgia, seasonal immigration, territorial buying sprees, massive subsidies,
Workshop Programme
Scenarios for Griese Gegend—Elbe Valley
International master students’ workshop
Programme, by Jörg Schröder. Since the imbalance between rural and urban spaces in Germany and in Italy is currently addressed as a major challenge, the Chair for Regional Building and Urban Planning of Leibniz Universität Hannover (LUH) and the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo (UniPa) organised the international conference “Territories. Rural-urban Strategies” in Hannover on 15 and 16 April 2016. “Territories” specifically faces the role of urban design and planning, and the role of architecture, which all have the double task explaining and enfolding an actualised view of the territory, and of its future perspectives. Connected to the conference, the international “Workshop Territories” for master students from Germany and Italy aims to directly involve graduate students in innovative research.

Case study and scopes. The selected case study for the international workshop includes strategic scenarios of spatial futures for the area of Griese Gegend—Elbe Valley in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Niedersachsen.
Workshop Projects

The project focuses on the settlements along the water system as a potential for future development. The region is crossed by the Müritz-Elde-Wasserstrasse, connecting the Elbe with the lakes Müritz, Köpinsee, Fleesensee, and Plauer See in Mecklenburg, and mostly used as recreational area. The proposed scenario aims to improve the water connections, as a mean of transport, as a protected natural space, but also as a leisure area with sport facilities, in order to attract more tourists. At the same it has the goal to reduce the flood risk and enhance the attractivity of the whole region.

The concept idea is to create a regional brand based on ecology and sustainability. As a first step, the “Griesefest” is launched to discuss about future scenarios. As a second step, a former military area is used for a new music festival, and vacant structures are recycled all over the area. In the third step, previously established agri-laboratories and educational farms start to be consolidated, and attract new residents. A solar tower is erected as a new landmark. Finally, with the the implementation of the “Green Grieze Festival”, the environmentalist vocation of Grieze Gegend is confirmed and strengthened.
The concept is based on three phases:

1. Colonies: new local markets recycling old buildings and selling regional food are implemented. Cultural facilities are linked to the system, in order to promote an overall regional branding. Good connections to big cities via high-speed train allow for a quicker spreading of the new concept.

2. Consolidation: new activities related to alternative jobs (e.g. a Fab Lab) attract new young residents to come and live in the region.

3. Development: new regional products are shipped to Hamburg and Berlin, further enhancing regional brand and tourism.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the identity of Griese Gegend and fully engage with the existing environment by focusing on the main aspect of agriculture. The ground here is a very sandy and dry soil which makes traditional farming extremely difficult. Alternative ways of agriculture must be found in order to establish a more stable and beneficial way of farming, to enhance the biodiversity, and to make the region thrive. Through the introduction of new plants and exchanging crops, a new farming culture is established, enabling Griese Gegend to gain international visibility.
Authors—Conference contributions

Silvia Brandi, architect, worked from 2006 to 2012 with Josep Miàs in the international architectural firm MiAS Architects as head architect; she is part of the direction committee of IAAC Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia since 2013, and teaching in the Open Thesis Fabrication Program at IAAC (since 2013) as well as for the Experimental Structure Course (since 2012); academic coordinator, 2012–2015, and now head of communication and institutional relations of IAAC, since 2016.

Nicola Valentino Canessa, architect, PhD in architecture; lecturer in Design Culture at the University of Genoa; coordinator, since 2009, of GIC-LAB. Professional experience in the office of Stefano Boeri, and as founder of Goagroup, in 2015 he establishes with P. Raffetto Go-Up Architecture Office. Founder in 2004 and president of “PdA_Pensieri di Architettura”. PdA deals with the promotion of young architecture. Since 2008 President of the “Young Architects of Genoa.

Maurizio Carta, architect, PhD, full professor of urbanism and regional planning at the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo; current President of the Polytechnic School of the University of Palermo. Member of the steering committees of the Italian Society of Urban Planners (SIU), Accademia Urbana (AU) and National Institute of Urbanism (INU), and senior expert in strategic planning, urban design and local development. Author of several urban, landscape and strategic plans in Italy. He is the responsible of the “Smart Planning Lab” for improving the smartness of cities and communities, and was visiting professor at several universities and institutions. Author of several publications, among the most recent: Next City: Culture City (Matter, 2004), Creative City (List, 2007), Governare l’evoluzione (Franco Angeli, 2009) Re-think, Re-load, Re-cycle: Mediterranean Urban Metamorphosis (Le Carré Bleu, 2013), Reimagining Urbanism (ListLab, 2014), Urban Hyper-Metabolism (with B. Lino, 2015), The Fluid City Paradigm (with D. Ronsivalle, Springer, 2016).


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Marco Ingrassia, architect, studied architecture in UNIPA and ETSAM UPM in Madrid. Since 2014 he is based in Barcelona, working with different architectural offices and taking part in many projects and competition. Since 2010 he has been faculty assistant in the Faculty of Architecture of Palermo. Since 2014 he is curating for IAAC the participation in the international research “Rome 2025. New Life Cycles for the Metropolis”.

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Luciana Macakova, architect, PhD in Architectural Design, teaches and researches at the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo; she taught also at the University of Parma; participated in the PRIN research “From the urbanized countryside to the extending town” 2011–13 with the University of Palermo; DAAD Research Grant for Young Scientists in 2014–15, at Leibniz Universität Hannover. Books: The Main Church of Gibellina (Roma, 2013), Rural-urban Intersections (Parma, 2016).

Mathilde Merinopp, architect, PhD, obtained her International PhD at the University of Genova, with “Multi City Coast. The evolving forms and structures of the Mediterranean multi-city. New models of urban thinking and perspective”. From 2013 to 2015 she was in charge of Communication & Publications at IAAC, and since 2015 as academic coordinator of the maestras&research, as well as being a PhD Supervisor as part of the InnoChain EU research project.

Mosè Ricci, architect, PhD, full professor of Urban Design and Architectural Design, Chair of Landscape Architecture of the University of Trento. From 2006 to 2015 he has been Full Professor of Urban design at University of Genoa. He is co-director and co-founder of the international PhD programme Villard d’Honneucourt with IUAV University of Venice since 2004, and of the Villard master seminar since 1999; and has been visiting professor at Technische Universität München TUM, at Lisbon, Cornell, Rome. His research focuses on innovation in spatial patterns of development and particularly on the interactions among architecture, urbanism and landscape design in an ecological framework. He is author of several books and articles and books such as A22 Nuove Ecolgie per Infrastrutture osmotiche (ListLab, 2013, with P. Scaglione); New Paradigms (ListLab, 2012); UniverCity (ListLab, 2010, with J. Schröder). His research includes recently: “Ecolecco, analysis of the transformations in infrastructural systems and in agricultural territories of landscape of Lecce” (2015–16), and “RECYCLE Italy” (PRIN 2012–16); curator of the “RECYCLE Exhibition” 2011–12.

Chiara Rizzi, architect, international PhD, research fellow and lecturer at the University of Trento. The main theme of her research is to involve ecological issues and collaborative urbanism approach in landscape architecture. She is author of several chapters in edited books and papers for peer-reviewed international journals. She is author of the books Fourth Landscape (2014) and Joao Nunes—Progettare paesaggi (2015).

Pino Scaglione, architect, professor of Urban Planning at the University of Trento and has been invited to teach at many other Italian and foreign universities; he is editor of the international magazines “monograph.it” and ALPS. His important editing activity includes ListLab with Actar. He more recently founded and currently coordinates TALL/TrentinoAltoAdige Advanced Landscape design Lab (University of Trento), an international laboratory for urban strategies and projects, and related editorial work and exhibitions. He is also a member of the following scientific committees: Osservatorio del Paesaggio della Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Escuela de Arquitectura de Sevilla, rivista “Fasajas de Arquitectura”, “Paessaggio Urbano”, Casa Editrice ListLab.

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Jörg Schröder, architect and urban planner, full professor and Chair for Regional Building and Urban Planning of Leibniz Universität Hannover, since 2012; with focus on the incentive and strategic role of a territory- and design-based approach for rural-urban reconfiguration, sustainable development and regional architecture. Graduated with Technische Universität München TUM; 2001–12 he has been teaching and researching at TUM. From 2013–15 he was Dean for Research of the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Sciences of LUH; he is member of the TRUST research centre of LUH, and of the scientific board of Bavarian Academy for Rural Areas. Recent research projects: RURBANCE—Rural-Urban inclusive governance strategies and tools for sustainable development, funded by ERDF; AlpBc—Capitalising knowledge on Alpine Building Culture, funded by ERDF; Regiobranding, funded by BMBF; German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Book: Landraum (with K. Weigert, Jovis, 2010).
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