



To deal with Complexity. Istanbul City of Muses. Architecture Infrastructure Archaeology: Spreading the Culture of Transformation

Antonella CONTIN, Assistant Professor
Politecnico di Milano _ Facoltà di Architettura, Italy
antonella.contin@polimi.it,

Alessandro FRIGERIO, Politecnico di Milano _ Facoltà di Architettura, Italy
alefrigerio@hotmail.com

Francesca GUFFANTI, Politecnico di Milano _ Facoltà di Architettura, Italy

The aim of our research is presenting a design method to deal with complexity, making possible the development of awareness and the description and design of those urban transformation phenomena linked to a leap in scale, which have today given rise to radical changes in the building typologies and in the morphologies of urban spaces and landscapes. Our focus is re-thinking about the power of an identity image of the local space through the Milanese architectural and urban design method, beyond the Rationalist Movement, the experience of the Anglo-Saxon Urban Design and the new theories about the Recombinant Urbanism.

The Marmaray project belongs to a long-term strategy that expresses the effective dimension of the Istanbul urban archipelago and considers it as the net to enforce with intermodal nodes of urban intensively connecting with the local nets. Among these, Yenikapi is a site where various time perceptions, infrastructure, archeology, historical urban tissue and costal park need a synthesizing operation to express the attractiveness and power of place.

We are presenting a work on the reading and interpretation of urban tissues which tries to understand and classify analytically different urban moments emphasizing the two main urban models of the city history - roman and ottoman - which represent, other than a geopolitical and chronological opposition, even a substantial socio-cultural difference in perceiving and organizing urban spaces. If the roman model set the geographical armature, the ottoman model was based on a special equilibrium between formal and informal spaces managed through different spatial devices (mahalle, naihye, kulliye) strengthening the polycentric structure of the city. In particular, the kulliye, religious and social welfare complex, highly charged with symbolic value, represent an interesting precedent for the study of urban genetic systems able to integrate rare functions at the net-city scale. It's a model that opposes - seeming more successful - to a 19th century engineering perspective and doesn't find innovative ideas of urban space representing a valid alternative. These elements, which operate out-of-scale compared with the close-by urban tissue, are however able to manage it granting high livability and enhancing interactions.

Starting by these studies, the multi-scalar dimension that our projects for Yenikapi propose has been made to react according to the formal/informal dichotomy, which linked the landmarks and big attractors to the north-south orientation through a strong geometrical approach, while produced a small-scale urban tissue based on ottoman building practices and strongly related with the context.

KEY WORDS: Architecture infrastructure archaeology complexity identity image of the local space urban intensity socio-cultural difference geographical armature formal and informal spaces.