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CSX IN ACTION.

SALVATORE DI DIO

FROM CITIZENS TO COMMUNITIES: “THE TRUE DIMENSION OF CITIES IS NOT SPACE, BUT TIME”

Kōnstantinos Doxiadīs, the Greek architect to whom this insightful phrase is attributed, might not have envisioned how his perspective would spark a vital international discourse on the concept of Citizen Experience. His emphasis on shifting from the spatial dimension to that of time places the focus on the individual’s scale of perception. This shift illuminates how personal experiences—how individuals spend their time—shape and infuse our environments with meaning, influencing social dynamics and cultural values. This perspective serves as the foundation for understanding how cultural practices, societal modes, and codes have dramatically transformed urban life. The Next Generation EU project exemplifies this shift by integrating lifestyle and environmental sustainability into urban planning. The goal is to facilitate a just transition to a circular economy, redefining not only the physical layout of cities but also the lived experience of its citizens within these evolving spaces. The evolution from the “Citizens’ Sustainable eXperience” to the “Communities’ Sustainable eXperience” in the interdisciplinary research funded by the European Union underscores a significant expansion in scope. This progression from individual to collective experience mirrors the broader shift from User Experience (UX) to Community Experience (CX). UX, rooted in human-centered design, focuses on optimizing products and environments for personal use and

satisfaction. It emphasizes functional, emotional, and societal benefits through co-design and co-creation but often within the context of individual user interaction. In contrast, CX expands these principles into the realm of more-than-human-centered design, where the focus extends beyond individual users to include wider community interactions and ecosystems. This approach embraces the complexity of community dynamics and recognizes the integral role of various stakeholders, including non-human elements, in co-creating shared urban spaces. While citizenship inherently involves being part of a community, CX emphasizes the ethical imperative to foster collaborative and cooperative futures, contrasting sharply with the individualistic focus typical of some UX applications. Therefore, the shift from UX to CX in urban planning and design is not merely operational but profoundly ethical. It calls for a paradigm that prioritizes collective well-being and sustainable development, steering future urban transformations towards inclusivity and cooperation. This transition underlines the necessity for design practices and policies that champion a cooperative ethos, ensuring that the evolution of urban spaces enriches the lives of all community members, both human and non-human. By doing so, it promises a more holistic and just urban future, where time and collective experiences are valued as critical dimensions in city planning. A socially sustainable and just ecological transition profoundly depends on various social, economic, and environmental

factors that act at different levels. In this respect, to effectively approach and tackle the negative impacts of both consumption and production of energy at a local (community) level, it is crucial to use both a bottom-up and a top-down approach, starting with analyzing the specific needs of local communities and then finding possible solutions and policies to be scaled and replicated. The Communities' Sustainable eXperiences project, convened in the Madonie Region of Sicily, embodied a pivotal convergence of over 400 diverse participants, including activists, researchers, and policy-makers, aimed at fostering a socially sustainable and just ecological transition. Anchored by the principles of the New European Bauhaus initiative, it sought to address the multifaceted challenges of energy consumption, community resilience, and systemic innovation through a holistic blend of bottom-up and top-down approaches. This gathering marked a significant stride towards delineating actionable pathways for sustainable, circular, and responsible innovation, emphasizing the critical role of community-led initiatives and participatory green policies in sculpting a sustainable future for inner areas.

CSX IN MADONIE

The Communities' Sustainable eXperience project found in the Madonie Region in Sicily a great field of study. The Madonie Region, embodying a rich tapestry of historical and cultural heritage, confronts the dual challenges of social and environmental desertification. Over the last three decades, this area has experienced a significant exodus of its youth, drawn away by the allure of opportunities elsewhere, a phenomenon exacerbated by climate change's adverse effects. In response, the Madonie Living Lab emerges as a beacon of hope, aspiring to reverse these trends through fostering innovation, sustainability, and community engagement. It represents a critical intervention aimed at revitalizing the region by leveraging local strengths and addressing its most pressing needs. CSX convened in the Madonie Region of Sicily in September 2023, embodied a pivotal convergence of over 400 diverse participants, including activists, researchers, and policy-makers, aimed at fostering a socially sustainable and just ecological transition. Anchored by the principles of the New European Bauhaus initiative and the New Urban Campaign framework, it sought to address the multifaceted challenges of energy consumption, community resilience, and systemic innovation through a holistic blend of bottom-up and top-down approaches. This gathering, scheduled in three different moments 1) a residency for innovators, 2) an Urban Thinkers Campus and 3) a service design intensive school, marked a significant stride towards delineating actionable pathways for sustainable, circular, and responsible innovation, emphasizing the critical role of community-led initiatives and participatory green policies in sculpting a sustainable future for inner areas.

The "Creative Peaks" residency, held in Petralia Sottana, served as an incubator for innovative solutions to the region's challenges. This initiative brought together researchers and innovators in a collaborative environment, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and exploration. The residency emphasized sustainable development, leveraging local resources, and community engagement, setting the groundwork for systemic and impactful innovations. This phase was instru-

mental in catalyzing ideas and partnerships that would later be elaborated upon during the symposium, embodying a forward-thinking approach to addressing the socio-economic and environmental issues facing the Madonie Region. During the core days of the Urban Thinkers Campus, the symposium engaged international participants in an immersive exploration of sustainable and just ecological transitions. Through a series of conferences, scientific abstract paper dissertations, roundtables, and workshops, the event delved into three primary tracks: sustainable communities and behaviors, green and energy solutions, and living labs and planning policies. These discussions aimed to harness a diverse range of insights and strategies, fostering a collaborative dialogue among activists, students, entrepreneurs, researchers, and decision-makers to identify actionable solutions for the challenges facing the Madonie Region. The Intensive School and Civic Engagement segment of the symposium focused on nurturing civic participation and fostering sustainable behavior changes through educational initiatives. It involved students from the Madonie region in an immersive learning experience, designed to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary for active involvement in sustainable community development. This educational endeavor aimed at instilling a deep understanding of the importance of civic engagement and the potential of individual and collective actions in driving meaningful change within communities, underscoring the symposium's commitment to empowering future generations. The symposium addressed pressing challenges such as the lack of essential services and inadequate infrastructure, which are pivotal for reversing the "brain drain" and fostering sustainable development. Solutions emphasized the necessity of addressing basic needs and rights through integrated, community-led initiatives and innovative strategies. This approach aims to catalyze sustainable, inclusive growth and resilience in the Madonie Region, highlighting the importance of foundational changes in public services and infrastructure to ensure the region's long-term viability and attractiveness.

This volume presents the main outcomes of the symposium and also brings together 22 scientific papers developed post-symposium, each undergoing a rigorous double-blind review process. This collection not only reflects the symposium's rich discourse but also stands as a testament to the ongoing commitment to fostering sustainable and just ecological transitions in the Madonie Region and beyond.

This publication couldn't be possible without the University of Palermo "CSX - Eurostart project" and its multidisciplinary team members: Elisabetta Di Giovanni, Maria Garro, Santo Giunta, Daria Mendola, Santa Giuseppina Tumminelli, Maria La Gennusa, Stefano Mangione, Gaetano Sabato, Michele Tiberio, Domenico Schillaci and Mauro Filippi.

Moreover the support of the Madonie Living Lab and its actors has been essential, and particularly PUSH Design Lab team members Emilia Pardi, Alessandro Riva, Roberto Filippi, Francesco Massa and Claudia Schillaci.

CSX: PEOPLE, PLACES, POLICIES

SALVATORE DI DIO

In the contemporary discourse on sustainability and resilience, the delineation of strategic frameworks that encapsulate the integration of people, places, and policies emerges as a critical pathway toward the realisation of sustainable futures. This compendium presents a curated selection of 22 double-blind reviewed scientific papers developed after the Madonie symposium, inspired by three thematic tracks that underscore the multifaceted nature of this discourse. Each track, distinct yet interconnected, provided a scholarly examination of innovative approaches, best practices, and transformative policies aimed at fostering sustainable development.

PEOPLE: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND BEHAVIOURS-

Delivering a blueprint for citizens and communities to enable low carbon footprint lifestyles and make communities more sustainable, resilient, accessible, and inclusive, it is needed to fully valorise local material and immaterial resources to frame and build a complex and multi-touchpoint strategy and develop new processes and services to achieve lasting behavioural change. Moving beyond the classical conception of design based solely on the needs of individuals to embrace an alternative systemic and community-based approach, this track aims to gather contributions and reflections on the More-Than-Human-centered paradigm as proposed by the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Among the 12 contributions selected for this track, it is possible to highlight connections revealing a comprehensive approach to sustainable community design that is inherently interdisciplinary. By weaving together co-design, sustainability principles, cultural preservation, technological innovation, and ethnographic research, these studies offer a roadmap for creating resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable communities. And in particular it is possible to see six ribbons that link them together.

CO-DESIGN AS A CATALYST FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

At the heart of sustainable development lies the principle of co-design, a methodological approach that fosters community engagement by actively involving stakeholders in the design process. Marzia Arico's exploration of urban regeneration and Samuele Morvillo's analysis of the "Innova-Pollina" project exemplify how co-design serves not only as a tool for social integration but also as a strategy for environmental sustainability. Both researchers emphasize the significance of participatory action research in generating solutions that are deeply embedded in the community's social fabric, thereby ensuring resilience and inclusivity.

THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sustainability, in its multifaceted dimensions, forms the backbone of environmental and community development. The works of Saverio Massaro, Benedetto Inzerillo, and Dario Russo converge on the notion that sustainable practices—from circular economy to sustainable mobility and ecological transitions—are pivotal in addressing the challenges faced by both urban and rural areas. These approaches underscore the necessity of integrating sustainability principles into the planning and implementation phases to achieve a balance between ecological preservation and socio-economic development.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION WITHIN THE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The integration of cultural and historical heritage into sustainable development initiatives is crucial for maintaining community identity and continuity. Fabrizio Giuffrè and Francesco Monterosso advocate for the preservation of cultural heritage as a component of community development, highlighting how sustainable restoration and digital humanities can facilitate a deeper connection between communities and their historical legacies. This approach not only ensures the conservation of cultural assets but also leverages them as catalysts for social cohesion and community engagement.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO URBAN AND RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Addressing the sustainability challenges of rural and urban areas demands innovative solutions that transcend traditional planning and design paradigms. The contributions of Fabrizio Ferreri and Santo Giunta illustrate the potential for reimagining the spatial and social dynamics of small towns and rural regions through innovative design and architectural strategies. These approaches encourage a reevaluation of the urban-rural dichotomy, advocating for solutions that enhance the viability and attractiveness of rural areas as spaces for sustainable living.

THE CONVERGENCE OF TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Technological and design innovation plays a pivotal role in addressing contemporary social and environmental challenges. Annapaola Vacanti and Luigi Vella's research underscores the importance of leveraging technology and design thinking to create inclusive and sustainable ecosystems. From digital "downgrading" for broader accessibility to the application of game design principles in community engagement, these studies highlight the transformative potential of technology and design in fostering sustainable development.

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AS A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DESIGN

The application of ethnographic and participatory research methods enriches our understanding of community dynamics and cultural nuances, which is essential for designing sustainable interventions. Sergio Degiacomi's investigation into creativity and Dario Russo's call for a cultural paradigm shift towards sustainability exemplify how deep engagement with

community perspectives can inform more effective and empathetic design strategies. These methods ensure that sustainability initiatives are grounded in the realities of community life, facilitating more meaningful and lasting impacts.

PLACES: GREEN AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Several organisational models exist for energy communities, including cooperatives, citizen energy initiatives, and virtual power plants. Some own and operate their renewable energy projects, while others participate in collective purchasing or sharing arrangements to access renewable energy. Many also engage in demand-side management, energy efficiency, and other activities to reduce energy consumption and valorise local materials and resources. The objective of this thematic track is to gather best practices and case studies at the local, national and international levels to showcase, analyse and compare different approaches adopted territorially and foster a discussion of possible solutions in the context of rural areas. Within the 5 contributions chosen for this track, connections emerge that illustrate a holistic approach to intertwining cultural heritage with environmental sustainability. Leveraging the insights of historical wisdom, incorporating modern technological innovations, and promoting community engagement, these studies provide a deep understanding of the diverse strategies needed to propel sustainable development forward. Specifically, four distinct threads bind these contributions together.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

Mario Calderaro and Pietro Maria Torregrossa's studies epitomize the symbiotic relationship between cultural heritage and environmental sustainability. Calderaro's exploration of the unfinished Blufi Dam as a potential monument and site of environmental interest highlights the capacity of architectural remnants to embody cultural narratives while promoting environmental consciousness. Similarly, Torregrossa views dams as ecosystemic energy devices, capable of nurturing cultural value alongside their functional role in water management and energy production. Both studies suggest a paradigm shift in how infrastructural projects are perceived and utilized, advocating for their potential as catalysts for cultural and environmental sustainability.

BRIDGING HISTORICAL CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES WITH MODERN SUSTAINABILITY

The research by Erica La Placa and Lusio Lombardo reveals the critical interplay between historical construction techniques and contemporary sustainability efforts. La Placa's meticulous study of Sicilian masonry offers valuable insights into the inherent sustainability of traditional building practices, emphasizing the relevance of these techniques in today's quest for sustainable architecture. Lombardo's advocacy for Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) further illustrates how modern technological advancements in energy production can complement and enhance the sustainability of historical built environments. Together, these studies advocate for a harmonious blending of old and new, suggesting that the path to sustainable development may well lie in the wisdom of the past, integrated with the innovations of the present.

COMMUNITY-FOCUSED DESIGN AND SOCIAL HOUSING

At the heart of sustainable development lies the concept of community. Renzo Lecardane and Lusía Lombardo's works highlight the centrality of community engagement in driving sustainable outcomes. Lecardane's focus on social housing within Sicilian minor centers points to a future where living spaces are designed to foster social cohesion and adapt to evolving community needs. Lombardo's exploration of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) extends this community-centric approach to energy production, illustrating how sustainability initiatives can empower communities, making them active participants in their energy ecosystems. This emphasis on community underscores the importance of designing with and for the people, ensuring that sustainable development initiatives are grounded in the needs, aspirations, and well-being of local populations.

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES ACROSS SCALES

The seamless integration of sustainable practices across different scales is a recurring theme that binds these studies. From the micro-level of construction materials and techniques to the macro-level of community planning and infrastructural development, each research piece contributes to a comprehensive view of sustainability. This holistic approach underscores the interconnectedness of various sustainability practices, advocating for a systemic perspective that recognizes the impact of individual elements within a larger ecological and social framework.

POLICIES: LIVING LABS AND PLANNING POLICIES

Rural areas' most urgent issues are marginalisation, depopulation or desertification. To create an authentic and measurable regenerative impact, deploying a strategy involving all actors of the quintuple helix model (public administration, academia, businesses, civil society and the environment) in co-designing technological solutions and collaborative governance policies. To this purpose, the "living lab" approach helps to reach a more in-depth, contextualised research and testing for collaboration and co-creation between researchers, developers, and users. By working in a real-world environment, researchers can gather more accurate data and insights about how a product or service will be used and experienced by consumers. This track aims to collect cases of community-led practices guided by living lab initiatives and open innovation formats that improve planning processes and lead to changes in local regulations. Among the five papers selected for this track, various connections highlight the importance of innovative frameworks and interdisciplinary collaboration as essential strategies for tackling modern challenges in both urban and rural policy development. By promoting active community involvement, capitalizing on the capabilities of Living Labs, ensuring policies resonate with local economic and democratic requirements, and seamlessly integrating theoretical knowledge with practical application, these approaches provide a holistic model for future policy development. This model serves to enlighten and direct policymakers, educators, and community leaders globally. Four specific themes unify these contributions, illustrating the depth and scope of their interconnectedness.

PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Guido Di Bella and Mauro Filippi underscore the importance of engaging communities directly in the development and implementation of policies. Di Bella's examination of open and distributed manufacturing processes through Living Labs illustrates how these platforms can facilitate participatory development, creating opportunities for local input and innovation. Similarly, Filippi uses Participatory Budgeting to reveal the disconnect between national funding priorities and the actual needs of the Madonie region's inhabitants, advocating for a realignment based on community feedback. Both approaches highlight the critical role that community engagement plays in ensuring policies are not only responsive but also inclusive and tailored to the specific needs and potentials of the population.

LIVING LABS AS CATALYSTS FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The concept of Living Labs is central to the works of both Di Bella and Erasmo Mormino, who view these as transformative spaces for innovation and participatory governance. Di Bella focuses on their application in manufacturing, where Living Labs facilitate the co-creation and testing of new ideas and products, directly involving community stakeholders. Mormino extends this idea to the management of the commons, suggesting that Living Labs can serve as a democratic platform for communities to co-manage resources and enhance the local quality of democracy. These perspectives showcase Living Labs as not just physical spaces but as methodological frameworks that support sustainable community development and innovation.

ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL ECONOMIES THROUGH POLICY INNOVATION

The alignment of policy initiatives with local economic and democratic realities is a concern shared by Filippi and Mormino. Filippi's critical analysis of investment misalignments highlights the need for policies that support sustainable economic growth and counteract issues like depopulation and brain drain. Mormino's discussion on Living Labs touches on similar themes, suggesting that these labs can help tailor policies to enhance local economic conditions while supporting democratic engagement and sustainability. Both researchers emphasize that policy innovations should be holistic, supporting economic objectives while fostering an engaged, informed, and resilient civic community.

BRIDGING THEORY AND PRACTICE IN POLICY AND EDUCATION

Dario Russo and Irene Fiesoli advocate for a seamless integration of theory and practice, particularly in the realms of education and territorial development. Russo reflects on the historical and ongoing efforts to blend academic knowledge with business practice, drawing lessons from the Bauhaus and other influential institutions that have successfully married these domains. Fiesoli, on the other hand, discusses the role of interdisciplinary collaboration in enhancing territorial innovation, showing how practical applications of design and collaboration can lead to substantial improvements in local production systems.

Both abstracts argue for educational and policy frameworks that are not only theoretically robust but also practically relevant, ensuring that academic insights are effectively translated into real-world applications.

COMMUNITIES' SUSTAINABLE EXPERIENCE'S BLUE-PRINT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The synthesis of the thematic tracks "PEOPLE," "PLACES," and "POLICIES" presents a comprehensive and interconnected framework for addressing the multifaceted challenges of sustainable urban and rural development. Central to this framework is the emphasis on community engagement and participation, which underscores the necessity of involving diverse stakeholders in the co-creation of solutions that are culturally relevant, socially acceptable, and environmentally sustainable. This approach is echoed across the tracks, demonstrating a unified commitment to harnessing local insights and participation to inform and empower sustainable initiatives.

Furthermore, the integration of sustainability and environmental considerations into all aspects of planning, design, and policy-making highlights a holistic approach that not only seeks to mitigate environmental impacts but also to foster resilient and adaptable communities. This cross-disciplinary integration is vital in ensuring that sustainable practices are woven into the fabric of daily life and governance, reflecting an alignment with global sustainability goals while addressing local needs.

The role of interdisciplinary collaboration in fostering innovation is another key element that connects these tracks. By bridging diverse fields such as design, technology, sociology, and environmental science, these approaches facilitate the development of innovative solutions that are robust and multifunctional. This collaborative ethos is crucial in tackling the complex problems of modern societies, where challenges are often interconnected and require a comprehensive understanding that spans multiple domains.

Moreover, the strategic use of technology as a tool for advancing sustainable development goals across these tracks illustrates the potential of digital and manufacturing innovations in enhancing the efficiency and impact of sustainable practices. From participatory budgeting tools that improve policy alignment with community needs to advanced manufacturing techniques that reduce environmental footprints, the thoughtful integration of technology acts as a catalyst for sustainable progress. The connections between the "PEOPLE," "PLACES," and "POLICIES" tracks reveal a sophisticated blueprint for sustainable development that is inclusive, innovative, and integrated. By focusing on community-centric approaches, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, and leveraging technological advancements, this framework sets a formidable foundation for crafting environments that are not only sustainable and resilient but also equitable and thriving. As such, these considerations offer a powerful guide for policymakers, educators, and community leaders worldwide, aiming to reconcile the urgent needs of the present with the ambitious vision of a sustainable future.

An aerial photograph of a forested landscape. A winding road or path is visible, along with a river or stream in the lower-left quadrant. The terrain is rugged and densely wooded. The word "PEOPLE" is overlaid in the center in a bold, italicized, black font.

PEOPLE

REGENERATION PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CO-DESIGNING SPACES AND SERVICES FOR SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

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ABSTRACT

The paper reflects on urban (re)developments to generate socially and environmentally integrated, resilient urban fabrics through a service design (SD) approach. In line with participatory action research conducted in three case studies within different geographical contexts, the authors delve into how co-design and user-generated design approaches within SD can serve as a means for community engagement, the creation of community-inspired service-system designs, the coordination of various stakeholders, and the practice of place-making. The novelty of this work lies in a design approach that fully intertwines places and social practices, culminating in a coordinated strategy for interpreting culture-led regeneration of territories. The paper poses two central inquiries: I) how an SD approach contributes to the transformation of urban areas into resilient environments, fostering synergies between social, environmental, and business interests (where applicable), and II) how to fortify relationships among local economic and social agents to support the purposeful endeavours and strategies of these locales.

SERVICE DESIGN, PARTICIPATORY DESIGN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY REGENERATION

CREATIVE PRACTICE. AN ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ACROSS THE DIVERSE ITALIAN CREATIVITY

SERGIO DEGIACOMI

POLYTECHNIC OF TURIN

CHIARA L. REMONDINO

POLYTECHNIC OF TURIN

PAOLO TAMBORRINI

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation is going to provide a practical application of the research through design about creativity. In particular, the analysis started from a theoretical state of the art of the concept of creativity. The understanding moved from a general overview of the topic to its involvement in practical contexts. Furthermore, after a brief description of the purpose of the research, the analysis was oriented towards the practical activity of ethnographic research.

This research activity — which condenses the idea of workshops and ethnographic investigation — is a crucial first experiment to get closer to validating the state of the art. This field analysis, therefore, allowed us to start comprehending the meaning creativity can have for a diverse group of people — composed of eleven participants —, according to their background and know-how. Finally, after analysing the qualitative data collected from a definition of the concept, some considerations have been made that validate the concept itself and implement the role of creativity with diverse disciplinary and socio-cultural insights.

LIVING AS A NEW TERRITORIAL ACT

FABRIZIO FERRERI
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ABSTRACT

Italy's inland areas are a great vacuum, but, at the same time, they can represent a great opportunity.

It is necessary to start thinking about small towns again and re-imagine them outside the dominant urban-centric narrative, which has debased, undermined, and represented them as ballasts of time.

Being "like" the city or "against" the city are two ways for the small town to depend on the city. Along this path, there is no future for inland areas.

The territorialist school offers us the tools of a certain paradigm for local development to give centrality again to the different territories in their peculiarities and specific differences.

A place and community-based vision of development help to re-frame the dwelling itself, which should return to being a founding territorial act.

SERVICE DESIGN, PARTICIPATORY DESIGN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY REGENERATION

KNOWLEDGE DESIGN AND ATTITUDE TO CARE: ASPECTS FOR THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC CENTERS IN INNER AREAS OF SICILY

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ABSTRACT

The historic built heritage of depopulating towns, no longer undergoing care and maintenance, threatens ruin in many cases. In the small towns of the inner areas, some practices have been initiated thanks to public initiatives or private.

Today, a 'sustainable' restoration, while aiming at maximizing permanence (Bellini), is characterized by an openness to innovations and the possibility of changes, reasoned and compatible, for needs of adaptation to the culture of safety, but also as a verification of the technical-economic feasibility of the project, and as the ability to involve communities in the choices, proposing itself with *bottom up* actions.

INNER AREAS, SMALL TOWNS, ABANDONMENT, RESTORATION, HERITAGE PRACTICES

HIGH MADONIE: INNOVATE WITH BUILDING MAINTENANCE. A PARADIGM OF THOUGHT FOR THE CARE OF URBAN AND RURAL PLACES.

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ABSTRACT

The rediscovery of doubt invites the architectural designer to seek new realities with a curious eye. A true act of architectural design recognition to glimpse and trigger, in experiences of measured scope, a wealth of social relationships. *The High Madonie* groups together rather different areas, but united by constraints and opportunities in large similar parts: few services, rarefied production structures, and demographic fragility. How do we attract young people (and not only), highly skilled and highly motivated in these areas? What are the new ways to re-inhabit the high Madonie? We are aware that, before the pandemic of COVID-19, the idea of a necessary distance, physical and social, coincided only with a form of housing and work dispersion.

If we think more closely about the compositional principles of the architectural project, what elements give meaning to the entire physical and visible environment? Today this experience can be considered as an opportunity.

Experimenting with forms of interaction is one of the most effective ways to innovate with the maintenance of buildings and exploit the compositional potential of free spaces by looking at the spaces in between.

SPACES IN-BETWEEN, PARTICIPATION, INTERACTION

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND TOURISTIC VALORIZATION OF INLAND AREAS: THE TERRITORY OF POLLINA BETWEEN IDENTITY AND LANDSCAPE

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ABSTRACT

This study explores how the territory of Pollina can leverage cycling tourism and other forms of sustainable mobility to promote tourism in inland areas. It draws inspiration from projects conducted in the Italian territory.

The goal is to integrate the beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage with eco-friendly travel modes such as cycling tourism, trains, and bike-sharing. Collaboration with local stakeholders is crucial to create a comprehensive tourist experience. The case of Pollina demonstrates how careful planning and collaboration with various stakeholders can develop a model of sustainable mobility that contributes to economic growth and environmental sustainability, while enhancing the unique characteristics of the territory.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, INLAND AREAS, MIDDLE LANDS, INCLUSION

CIRCULAR PRACTICES AS DRIVERS FOR URBAN REGENERATION PROCESSES

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ABSTRACT

This paper delves into the global waste crisis, centering on the Wasteocene concept, a paradigm that challenges the prevailing Anthropocene narrative. It underscores waste's impact on the organosphere, highlighting the centrality of the body in commoning practices aimed at sustaining resources.

The paper advocates three strategic actions: revitalizing waste's informational value, reshaping societal waste relationships through educational and cultural interventions, and exploring innovative civic architecture to establish a symbiotic connection between cities and waste. Framing urban waste as a communal resource, the paper advocates for models grounded in care and collaboration. Significantly, cultural entities such as universities and foundations are identified as pivotal contributors, empowering communities and nurturing open innovation. The "city of the inverted pyramid" concept is introduced, emphasizing the imperative to transition from landfills to waste prevention and proposing the integration of waste prevention spaces into the urban fabric.

The paper concludes by asserting that libraries and community spaces can serve as catalysts for circular thinking, social innovation, and the development of a localized circular micro-supply chain.

CIVIC ARCHITECTURE, WASTEocene, INVERTED PYRAMID, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

DESIGN TO CONNECT HERITAGES AND COMMUNITIES. URGENT PROJECTS (AI DRIVEN) FOR NEW “CONVERSATIONS”

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ABSTRACT

Contemporary “digital” societies are going through a phase of chaotic growth that imposes the search for a new balance between nature, humanity and technology. Technical dystopias - datacracy [De Kerckhove, 2019], surveillance capitalism [Zuboff, 2019], prepotence of algorithms, deep fake, etc. - impose a rethinking of societies in the direction of a “digital humanism” [Nida-Rümelin & Weidenfeld 2019] based on the challenge related to the major transversal issues of the present-future such as sustainability, equity and inclusivity.

Through the articulated point of view of design (Speculative design, design for future, etc.), today it is possible to explore and decode our hyperconnected world (Infosphere) to discover “relevant, original and more meaningful connections between people and communities, people and things, people and places, etc.. In an educational, cultural and sustainable development perspective mediated by open and low-cost technologies, at the intersection of design, science, technology and humanities, the paper aims to focus on some research trajectories that see in the use of generative AI, “ethical” [Floridi, 2022], “queer” and “community” [Iaconesi & Persico, 2022] new and original possibilities for experimentation and innovation. Mixing new theoretical approaches and new design practices it is possible to connect [Germak, 2022; Trapani, 2022; Monterosso, 2022] - in an original and innovative way mediated by emerging technologies related to LLM (Language Large Scale Models) - assets (material and intangible), places (real and virtual), people and communities to re-launch new, “polyphonic” conversations between humans and non-humans, past, present and future.

SPECULATIVE DESIGN, FUTURE STUDIES, DESIGN FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION, CONNECTED HERITAGES, ETHIC AI.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE IN-BETWEEN LANDS THE CASE STUDY OF POLLINA

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ABSTRACT

The “Innova-Pollina” project aims for territorial valorization through a Design-Driven approach and Action-Research, positioning the designer as a facilitator within the “peripheral” territory of Pollina. The analysis of local community needs, mapping of stakeholders, and collaboration with the local administration were key steps. Issues such as abandonment of houses, underutilization of the manna museum and scenic trails guided the design of new scenarios to stimulate investments and create opportunities, whilst preserving the essence of the “slow territory.”

Solutions like sporting trails, wellness projects, widespread hotels, and valorization for south working emerge as promising avenues to rejuvenate the areas, welcoming residents, tourists, and South Workers, and highlighting the local peculiarities, with the designer acting as a process facilitator.

DESIGN-DRIVEN APPROACH, INNER AREAS, DESIGN INNOVATION, DESIGN THINKING.

ADDRESSING SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN, ECOLOGICAL BIFURCATION AND HUMAN FACTOR

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ABSTRACT

Since the 1970s, authoritative voices have raised concerns about the sustainability that is jeopardized by our socio-economic system, specifically the intrinsic logic of free-market capitalism. Regrettably, in recent decades, planetary boundaries have been excessively transgressed. Environmental and social sustainability has always been central to the critical reflection on design. Hence, today the discourse has shifted from merely product design to service design, embracing a systemic approach within a strategic framework. Addressing sustainability means grappling with the complexity of an increasingly unsustainable world – environmentally, socially, and economically. Theoretically, the solutions for an ecological transition are already at hand: agroecology, renewable energy, circular economy, service enhancement, regeneration of small towns, and more. In practice, a cultural paradigm shift is required, one that encompasses society from education to institutions. The crux of the issue lies in the anthropological dimension, in the way different communities interact with the world, whose visions and strategic interests now appear irreconcilable. By intertwining technology, design, and geopolitics, this study aims to draw a conclusion, or rather, to problematize the stakes involved.

SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, SYSTEM, SERVICES, DEGROWTH, GEOPOLITICS

DOWNGRADE BY DESIGN. LIGHTENING THE WEB TO INCREASE ACCESS

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ABSTRACT

In the quest for sustainable, resilient, and inclusive digital ecosystems, the paper underscores the significance of energy-centred design in bridging the digital divide. Highlighting the disparities between urban and rural digital access, it emphasises the role of design in achieving equitable digital accessibility for all. As the digital landscape evolves, a pressing concern is the increasing carbon footprint of the internet and the challenges users with limited resources face. These reflections are a product of interdisciplinary research at CTRL+JUNK LAB and explore the concept of 'downgrading' in the digital domain. With an emphasis on energy responsiveness and scalability, the paper underscores the importance of design choices in addressing the energy consumption and carbon footprint of digital platforms. By drawing on innovative case studies, such as Low Tech Magazine and Branch, it showcases practical design solutions that prioritise energy efficiency and adaptability. These solutions not only contribute to digital sustainability but also enhance user experience, especially for those with limited connectivity and older devices. The paper concludes with the proposition of an adaptive digital ecosystem prototype, emphasising the ideals of sobriety and moderation in web design.

ENERGY CENTRED DESIGN, DIGITAL DIVIDE, INTERNET CARBON FOOTPRINT, USER EXPERIENCE, INCLUSIVENESS

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DESIGN, A TIME OF IDEAS TRANSITION

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ABSTRACT

Today's human-centered design approach pays attention to users' needs, and the designer's job becomes an analysis of behaviours and the iterative effort of answering specific evidence they've found [IDEO, 2015].

Even though this approach remains fundamental to bring users and customers closer to the design practices and to better respond to their needs, in our times, more than ever, we feel the absence of practical tools useful to read communities considering the complex relationships that define them.

Using Marta Mainieri's studies on community design and Jane McGonigal and Yu Kai Chou's studies on game design, this paper proposes a model of representation of communities based on six parameters: identity, goal, rewards, rules, magic circle and resources. In order to better understand the model, it is applied to different examples, both analytical and planned ones.

COMMUNITY-BASED DESIGN, GAME DESIGN, DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY, DESIGN TOOL, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH.

An aerial photograph of a forested landscape. A winding road or path is visible, curving through the trees. A river or stream flows through the lower left portion of the image. The terrain appears to be hilly or mountainous, with varying shades of green and brown. The word "PLACES" is overlaid in the center in a bold, italicized, black font.

PLACES

RE-TERRITORIALIZING AN ABUSE: THE CASE OF THE BLUFI DAM.

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AZIENDA AGRICOLA SANTA MARINA

ABSTRACT

Within the most recurring and wicked revivals of projects related to the so-called Grandi Opere the unfinished Dam of Blufi in the province of Palermo seems to have a leading role. In 2011, a field research sponsored by the University of Turin was conducted on this case to certify the effective regeneration of a natural ecosystem specifically targeting the soundscape amplified by the resonance phenomena of the structures already built. Surprisingly, according to political fluctuations, there is a cyclical return of fantasies about the resumption of the construction works, pretending to ignore the fact that it is unthinkable to imagine an allocation of funds for a work that has already cost too much, and whose basic idea is after all unrealistic. There's a gap on a core element the entire project is founded: namely the water.

Nevertheless, the recent cultural interest in the historical-architectural Unfinished phenomenon - as an interpretative paradigm of Italian architecture from the second post-war period to today - leads one to fantasize about an unprecedented form of tourism constituted by the listening experience at the slopes of the mountain, in front of the huge Face made from the openings and holes in it. The Unfinished Blufi Dam, therefore, as a natural park of significant environmental interest with regards to the study of soundscape. Yet, the first need to be addressed in this sense is to invert the cultural connotations (reterritorialization) of the dismissed place by enhancing its function as a Monument: historical testimony of the fight to occult powers, a warning for future generations, and a post-modern sphinx, imagining an original and particularly suggestive excursion formula.

BLUFI DAM, INCOMPIUTO, SICILY, MADONIE, SOUNDSCAPE, ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE MASONRY TYPES OF PETRALIA SOTTANA

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ABSTRACT

The presented work is part of a broader research aimed at the development of a database containing the mechanical and hygrothermal characteristics of historical masonry in Sicily. The database is intended to support the analysis of the performance of the historical building envelope and to integrate data collected through in-situ measurements and laboratory tests. The method is based on the analysis of typological recurrences in local contexts: masonry types are classified from a construction perspective through a visual and non-destructive examination of the historical building heritage. Specifically, this work focuses on historical masonry construction in Petralia Sottana, where exposed facades have become an identifying feature, even following the systematic removal of plaster. The abundant availability of exposed facades provides a larger sample of masonry types and, consequently, a more reliable statistical analysis. The mechanical performance of each masonry category has been evaluated using the masonry quality index, thermal resistance has been determined through in-situ tests, and the thermal conductivity of natural stone materials through laboratory tests. The paper illustrates the results of the study and discusses further developments.

MASONRY, ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE, U-VALUE, MASONRY QUALITY INDEX (MQI), SICILY.

LIVING THE TRANSITION IN THE INNER AREAS OF SICILY VALLEDOLMO 2030: SUMMER SCHOOL WORKSHOP CAMPUS ASIA 2023¹

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ABSTRACT

The energy, ecological and digital transition is strongly emerging in the European cultural and social landscape, influencing local practices and policies, and redefining some of the architectural design's themes. Within this frame, the paper focuses on the theme of transition through the continuity of the research-action by LabCity Architecture (DARCH-UNIPA) in synergy with the Municipality of Valledolmo, fitting into a broader program of transformation of the Minor Centers within the territories included in the Trasversale Sicula.

Addressing the topic of housing transition in the Minor Centers in Sicily allows to deepen the specific issues of temporary housing, in order to develop modalities, methodologies and design approaches through the experimentation of Social Housing Community, a new way of thinking about the dwelling within the idea of a social and changing community. This kind of innovative urban project aims to improve and enhance the existing material and cultural heritage, along with public space. By contributing to the definition of new ways of living that can support ecological and energy transition, the projects elaborated combine open space- layouts together with residences, for a renewed community, as to accommodate migrant families, self-sufficient elderly people, and young returning graduates to live temporarily in Valledolmo.

RESEARCH-ACTION, SOCIAL HOUSING COMMUNITY, ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION, SUSTAINABILITY, INNER AREAS, VALLEDOLMO

¹This paper is the result of a shared reflection of the authors. However, for the sole purpose of competition evaluations, the paragraph 'The frame of the research' is to be attributed to Renzo Lecardane, the paragraph 'A political project' is to be attributed to Zeila Tesoriere, the paragraph 'Valledolmo: research-action laboratory' is to be attributed to Paola La Scala and the paragraph 'Valledolmo 2030: living the transition' is to be attributed to Bianca Andaloro.

Fig.1 - A political manifesto. Designing for an inclusive neighbourhood (©LabCity Architecture, 2023) / Fig.2 - Project 'Neighborhood in Transition. New living habitats', Group ATESIP / Fig. 3 - Project 'Instant Crush: Social Housing Community for the Roccafanara district in Valledolmo', Group Daelvasa, Palermo

“RENEWABLE AND SOLIDARITY ENERGY COMMUNITY” FOR THE MADONIE PARK: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF 26 SICILIAN MUNICIPALITIES

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to highlight how the Investment Program in favor of Sicilian municipalities is actually starting the establishment of REC. Their birth today can be faster with the approval of the new directive that the European Council approved on 9 October 2023: the RED III (Renewable energy directive). It is a further step towards simplifying and speeding up bureaucratic procedures and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Will be illustrated studies on the establishment of energy community “Blue green energy” of Blufi, one of the municipalities of the Madonie Park beneficiaries of contributions from the Sicilian Region. The goal is to promote the use of technical and compatible solutions for renewable energy and the right to share, among all those who want to establish a REC, the energy self-produced by the community. The reduction of bureaucratic time will allow new possible constitutions of communities of self-consumption for the Madonie Park. It is hoped that the observations produced by this study may be useful for improving the regulatory aspects and for enhancing, creating smart villages, the 26 municipalities of the Madonie Park.

ENERGY COMMUNITY, RENEWABLE ENERGY, SMART VILLAGES, MADONIE PARK, INNER RURAL AREAS

KEEPERS OF THE FUTURE THE ROLE OF DAMS AS ECOSYSTEMIC ENERGY DEVICE FOR INNER COMMUNITY IN SICILY

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ABSTRACT

In Italy, the processes of enhancing publicly owned cultural assets involve the integration of related infrastructures and productive sectors to ensure accessibility, inclusion, and sustainability of interventions. Therefore, reflecting on the relationship between heritage, infrastructure, and rural communities is possible searching for transformative practices and adaptations that contribute to the construction of inter-territorial redevelopment imaginaries. In the fight against desertification, drought, and hydrogeological instability for the safeguarding of rural small towns, this essay aims to investigate the relationship between water, intended as heritage, and the infrastructure of the large dam as an ecosystemic energy device capable of generating cultural value. In Sicily, starting from the second half of the 20th century, the transition of rural territory began precisely from this relationship, which defined a platform to enhance for the requalification of the cultural heritage of inland area.

INNER AREAS, CRITICAL HERITAGE, WATER LANDSCAPES, COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURES

An aerial photograph of a mountainous region. The terrain is rugged and covered in dense green forest. A prominent river valley runs through the center, with a winding road visible. The lighting creates strong shadows, highlighting the topography. The word "POLICIES" is superimposed in large, bold, black, italicized letters across the middle of the image.

POLICIES

OPEN AND DISTRIBUTED MANUFACTURING PROCESSES FOR DEVELOPING RURAL AND URBAN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

Creating functional spaces for generating opportunities can represent a visionary addition to develop both urban and, most importantly, rural areas, especially for young people and women. These spaces, open to research, best practices, innovation, creativity, and imagination, provide not only a new and revitalized outlook but also a broader perspective. In this context, the attention toward the Living Lab approach is significantly increased because it allows creating long-term and complex opportunities promoting inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient environments. These spaces can also introduce a new vision of production characterized by an open and distributed manufacturing, able to meet product demand in face of market fragility, mass-customization, supply chain uncertainty, and circular economy. One example is Additive Manufacturing farm, wherein numerous machines are housed in warehouses distributed across the globe. The aim of this work is to highlight how the Living Labs and the Additive Manufacturing can represent a success combination capable of generating shared value to enhance the life of the community and the territory through an ecosystem of Open Innovation based on the sharing of knowledge and individual capabilities.

LIVING LAB, ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING, OPEN INNOVATION, MANUFACTURING, RURAL CONTEXT, URBAN CONTEXT.

THE MADONIE MISALIGNMENT: PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING INSIGHTS ON PNRR FUNDED MEASURES.

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the alignment of the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan investments with the foundational needs of the Madonie region, Sicily, amidst challenges like brain drain and depopulation. Leveraging Participatory Budgeting and “The City We Need Now” principles, our research assesses whether PNRR-funded local policies effectively address critical areas such as health and well-being, learning and innovation, housing, services, and mobility. A unique survey among the Madonie community reveals a discrepancy between these crucial needs and the current focus of PNRR investments, which are predominantly aimed at enhancing tourism. This misalignment risks exacerbating social desertification by potentially accelerating migration from the region. The study highlights the urgency of re-evaluating investment priorities to foster sustainable, inclusive growth and proposes further investigation into innovative health solutions like telemedicine to address the rural health crisis.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING, THE CITY WE NEED NOW, RURAL HEALTH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PNRR

DESIGNING FOR AND WITH TERRITORIES: INNOVATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STRATEGIES FOR SHARING KNOWLEDGE

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ABSTRACT

In a time marked by environmental, digital, and social transformations, design together with other disciplines must try to respond to possible future scenarios. The context investigated is that of territorial models, not yet strategically organized, characterized by the lack of active synergies between territorial actors, and bottom-up activities. It is precisely in this context that design is one of the disciplines that can attempt to dictate times and strategic directions with interdisciplinary and collaborative methods.

Adhering to this vision is the “NOTLab - network of living laboratories for materials” project which, starting from materials as drivers of action and innovation, develops a collaborative strategy between universities and businesses. More generally, for the innovation of the territorial production system, with consequences in the competitive growth of the system.

STRATEGIC DESIGN, TERRITORIAL NETWORK, MATERIALS, TRADITION, INNOVATION, HUB, CONNECTIONS, SHARING, BRIDGES, MATCH, PARTICIPATION, SKILLS, VALUE, PRACTICE, KNOWLEDGE.

THE ROLE OF LIVING LABS IN GOVERNING THE COMMONS.

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ABSTRACT

The living lab, conceptualized as a relational space of open innovation and a methodology promoting a participatory and collaborative approach among various stakeholders, emerges as a pivotal arena not only for the genesis of innovative business and entrepreneurship models but also as a crucible for the nurturing, designing, production, and regeneration of cognitive, digital, and cultural commons. These commons encompass essential goods and services, both tangible and intangible, indispensable for individual and community development, and from which no one should be excluded from benefitting. When examined through the lens of the commons, the living lab can be construed as a frontier outpost, capable of elevating the innovation quotient of a territory while concurrently enhancing certain dimensions of the quality of local democracy. Commencing with an exploration of the evolution of the concept of commons, this study scrutinizes the relationship between these commons and the quality of local democracy.

UNIVERSITY AND ENTERPRISE: A NEW UNITY.

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ABSTRACT

Is it difficult to find a meeting point between two very distant worlds, the theoretical one of education and the practical one of business? The answer comes immediately: very much so, especially in Italy. In design, however, this apparent dichotomy seems to melt into a single entity; in fact, it is somewhat foundational. In 1924, Walter Gropius, director of the Bauhaus (the legendary State School of Weimar), stated: "Art and technology: a new unity." His Institute was somewhat atypical: it was an experimental laboratory for the creation of corporate prototypes (1919-1933). This synergy between education and business, upon closer inspection, had already been inaugurated in 1837 with the foundation of the Government School of Design in London. This theoretical-practical approach would be carried forward by the Ulm School, considered by many to be the most important design educational institution of the second half of the 20th Century (1954-1968). And so, even today, the most advanced universities around the world seek a meeting point between critical depth and the concrete application of businesses and productions. Thus, paraphrasing Gropius's words, one might say: "University and business: a new unity."

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, INLAND AREAS, MIDDLE LANDS, INCLUSION