



## **OBSOLESCENCE and RENOVATION**

### **20th Century Housing in the New Millennium**

Conference: 14-15 December 2015

#### **Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:**

**1. Paper / Proposal Title:** Social housing and urban regeneration. The case of Milan's West sector.

**2. Format:** Written paper / verbal presentation

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**6. Abstract (300 words):**

The obsolescence of social housing estates is one of the crucial topics in cities like Milan, where the majority of buildings were completed more than forty years ago. In addition to problems like physical decay, technological inefficiency and poor functionality they can be added a variety of social questions, partly related to the mono-functional conception of these settlements and partly to their physical configuration. This condition can be extended to the urban contexts where these buildings are placed, allowing to broaden the debate about the possibilities and the procedures useful for their recovery into a wider process of urban regeneration.

Indeed the relationship between these settlements, the urban context and the process of city renewal represents one of the most relevant and less discussed opportunity, especially if compared to the common root between public ground floors, adjacent underutilized spaces, pavements, streets, public open spaces; all of them requiring improvement and new ideas. For this reason it can be argued that the public nature of

social housing estates enables the opportunity to renew the public dimension of the whole city. Considering the confusion and the weaknesses of the contemporary urban forms, the fixity, despite their poor quality, of built up spaces, and the lacking of an integrated network of public spaces, it can be proved that the only possible way to recompose the scattered parts of our cities, should depend on the rethinking of open spaces.

In conclusion the obsolescence and the necessity of renovation of housing estates, especially if public, represents a great opportunity for the contemporary, unstable urban forms, shifting the attention from a series of architectonic objects to their relationship with the ground, the collective city and the network of public spaces and connections. The aim of this paper is to address these issues from the theoretical point of view integrating them with the results of a design research developed on the West sector of Milan.

#### **7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors):**

Andrea Oldani graduated in Architecture at the Politecnico of Milano and received his PhD in Architectural and Urban Design by the Department of Architecture and Planning (DIAP) of the same Athenaeum in 2011. He developed a research on the relation between architectural design, water's infrastructure and crossed landscapes, trying to find a possible role for architecture and urban design into complex and interdisciplinary projects. Today he is working in the same University as adjunct lecturer and research fellow carrying out works in the field of urban and architectural design. He works into his studio of architecture and he participates, in team with other architects, in the drafting of architecture and urban design projects and competition.

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