



OBSOLESCENCE and RENOVATION

20th Century Housing in the New Millennium

Conference: 14-15 December 2015

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: 'Figures of Demolitions'. Processes between demolition and construction for the housing renovation

2. Format: Verbal presentation (ppt) or written paper

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6. Abstract (300 words):

Nowadays is always more evident that the obsolescence phenomenon of 20th century housing asks a conceptual and operative answer. In the past one of the solutions was to totally raze down the degraded buildings to build up new sites. Today that way to

proceed does not work anymore because not create a durable and sustainable urban system. The conditions are changed and impose new visions for the future coming from obsolescence.

One of these new visions comes from the possibility to consider the obsolete buildings as material in transformation, able to accept changes that can regenerate the existing conditions. Not to act with total demolitions, but to intervene through a process in between demolition and construction. With precise and controlled actions seems possible to give a 'new genesis' (spatial and social) to the obsolete built housing heritage.

Conceptually means to carry out a theoretical and operational relocation of the demolition within the processes of architectural and urban transformation. It is about to articulate the modes of relationship between demolition and construction towards the existing in obsolescence, in a way able to instill a regenerative process along the time.

Appears possible to propose a taxonomy of actions in between demolition and construction called 'Figures of demolition'. These 'figures' can be grouped into categories defined by concepts of measurement, vacuum and memory:

1-"Measure distances" (separate | reduce | insert). Considers the demolition as a strategic action that can give measure to those areas considered too large or inaccessible.

2 -"Designing absences" (subtract | include | connect). Considers the demolition as an essential action of the overly dense areas, where the concept of emptiness requires a re-signification.

3 - "Redial memories" (stratify | excavate | recompose) . Traces the particular cultural values in cases where the architecture is presented as an 'dismantled artifact'.

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

Ph.d Architect and Research Fellow (Assegno di Ricerca) at Politecnico di Milano.

Doctored with Laude at Politecnico di Milano in 2013, her Ph.D topic title was 'Building demolition. Interrupted design and discontinuity within the process of urban settlement regeneration'.

Starting from 2010 she collaborate as tutor in courses of Urban and Architectonic Design in Politecnico di Milano and in International Workshop. In 2014 and 2015 she is Coordinator of the OC Open City International Summer School of Politecnico di Milano, Polo Territoriale di Piacenza. Starting from A.A. 2013-2014 she is Adjunct Professor (docente a Contratto) of Politecnico di Milano.