Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City

Abstract Submission Form

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Space-Time Montages. Heterotopian Visions for the Contemporary Design Project

2. Format: Written paper

3. Author(s) Name: Alessandra Como, Luisa Smeragliuolo Perrotta

4. Email contact details: acomo@unisa.it , lsmeragliuoloperrotta@unisa.it

5. University or Company Affiliation: University of Salerno (Italy)

6. Abstract (300 words):

This paper addresses the issue of research in architectural composition as experimentation between theory and practice through the work of a design laboratory on urban spaces weaving places from medium-sized and distant cities. The relationship between places is the theme that creates a thinking machine, an intuitive and visual process that becomes the trace of the design project.

The experimentation is based on a sequence of steps. The first level is a perceptual reading of the urban sites through a short film and a collection of images, taken from the reality and also from internet search, as well as from other sources - books, films and photographs, which tell of places and cities. The films and the images of a site become a collective material from distant locations and by different workgroups. The exchange becomes a moment of sharing of sights of the city. Internet allows the understanding of distant site through a virtual experience. Virtual and Real intertwine.

The second step is the realisation of a section through a montage of images extracted from the collection of images and films: fragments of sites are juxtaposed through geometric and spatial relationships. From this visual trace the design project is finally developed, constituting the last and third phase of the process.

The project is based on the aim of interpreting and re-designing a site starting from the relationship with other sites through a work of associations and personal perceptions.

The experimentation opens up to reflections on the process of the making in architecture and on the use of images and internet in the architectural design.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Alessandra COMO is Associate Professor in Architecture at the University of Salerno (Italy). She studied at the University of Naples, where she also received a PhD in Architectural Design with a thesis dealing with the relationship between ruin and design in the work of Sir John Soane. She began her university career in the UK and the USA teaching design studio courses and history and theory courses at various architectural schools - Washington State University, Architectural Association, University of Manchester (U.K.) – before returning to Italy. She has worked professionally several years at Francesco Venezia studio (Naples), then on her own and with other colleagues. Architecture in her teaching, research, and also design work, is seen as an interpretative act, a work of manipulation, construction of narratives, and re-design. Research topics focus on the relationship between Design Process and History & Theory.

Luisa SMERAGLIUOLO PERROTTA is an Architect, Research Assistant at the University of Salerno, PhD with a dissertation on the concept of measure within the design process, within the doctoral program at the University of Salerno (Italy). She is involved in the teaching activities within the Program of Engineering and Architecture as teaching assistant for the studio design courses of 2nd and 4th years for design reviews and delivering lectures. She graduated in Architectural and Urban Design at the Faculty of Architecture of SUN (2nd University of Naples) cum laudem and dignity of the press. She participated at various workshops and design competitions on the themes of urban and architectural design, as well as landscape. She is part of the National Association of Journalists, writing on architecture.

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