

Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City

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Abstract Submission Form

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Hatfield, Letchworth and Welwyn Garden City - Generating in-depth scenarios of cities and public spaces

2. Format: Written paper / Verbal presentation.

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6. Abstract:

Over the last two years the Architecture Research Team within the Digital HackLab (DHL) at the University of Hertfordshire has been exploring new modes to observe and understand people's real use of space, their demand for activities, the offer provided by urban facilities, and the overall perception of the built environment.

The Team is currently working on the analyses of the use of public and private space in Hatfield, Letchworth and Welwyn and their interconnections by using a combination of social-science and humanities-based methods with real-time algorithm-based technologies and advanced capture techniques.

This contribution illustrates the methodology developed by the Team (a combination of technological tools with social sciences and humanities methods), and a series of on-going projects that explore the potentialities for social and strategic development of the observed conurbation of New Towns and Garden Cities in Hertfordshire.

7. Author(s) Biography:

Silvio Carta Ph.D., Doctor Europaeus, architect and researcher based in London. His main fields of interest are architectural design and design theory. His studies have focused on the

understanding of the contemporary architecture, digital design, architectural criticism, research through making, and the analysis of the design process. He taught at the University of Cagliari (Italy), Willem de Kooning Academy (University of Rotterdam) and Delft University of Technology, Department of Public Building.

He is now Programme Leader in Architecture- Interior Architecture and Design at the University of Hertfordshire, where is investigating the potentialities of the digital design and big data for architecture with special focus on the interior space. His articles have appeared in A10, Mark, Frame, Bauwelt, Domus et al. Since 2008 he is editor-at-large for C3-Korea and he has recently edited the monograph *Urban Presences, Maurice Nio – Complete Works 2000–2011 (2010)*, and *CEBRA, from Drawing to Building (2012)*. He is currently working on a series of forthcoming publications about the use of big data in the most recent digital designs.

Eva Sopeoglou's research, academic and professional expertise is in performative and environmental processes in architectural design. Her practice-based research explores creative outlooks in architecture and urban design that consider the environment and fabrication technologies.

In particular, the research critically Eva is currently completing her practice-based PhD in Architectural Design at the Bartlett School of Architecture, where she explores thermal comfort as a multi-dimensional quality of inhabitable space, place and the environment. Her research considers an expanded definition of comfort which includes the tectonic, aesthetic, environmental and social-cultural characterisations of spaces and its implication in architectural design. It questions the hierarchy and spatial sequence between the indoor and outdoor spaces in buildings and cities, which include both the public and domestic spheres. Temporary and transitional spaces and the types of activities they support can emerge as places where comfort is met in both urban and rural contexts.

Eva is currently teaching Design Studio and Technology modules at the University of Hertfordshire. She has previously taught at Central St Martins, the Architectural Association and is affiliated with institutions in London and in Greece where she is often an invited critic.

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