Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Italian Road Narratives.

Infrastructures as spaces of the everyday through the Italian cinema experience.

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• University or Company Affiliation:

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:

i. present via skype (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):

This paper investigates the role of the great infrastructures through the eyes of the cinema during the 1960s in Italy, that is along the time of the main highway construction within the Italian territory. In 1964 the so-called Autostrada del Sole (the Motorway of the Sun) was opened, running through the Italian peninsula from Milan to Naples for a length of nearly 800 kilometres. The infrastructure network constituted an important moment for the national culture because through its use people came in contact with the diversity and the richness of the Italian landscape.
The motorway overlapped on the landscape, connecting cities; it also became an important opportunity for the construction of new spaces and elements related to the infrastructure such as shelters, bridges, viaducts, motorway toll stations and places like the service areas.

The construction of the infrastructure networks brought not only a transformation in the geography of sites but also a cultural change and the infrastructures have become – through a metamorphosis of the collective imaginary - places of the everyday.

It was the Italian cinema that showed the cultural change of the modern life that infrastructures contributed to create. Films like Destination Piovarolo (1955) by Domenico Paolella, L’ingorgo (1978) by Luigi Comencini, Il vigile (1961) by Luigi Zampa or Café Express (1980) by Nanny Loy were filmed on roads, highways, carriages and railway stations. These are the places where modern life is lived, where stories, relational places, and real sets of life fragments are born.

The construction of the great Italian motorway and the interpretation through the cinema show how even the great infrastructure can become a place, a space that can be described through perceptions and the subjective experience of the crossing.

**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.

**Luisa Smeragliuolo Perrotta** is Research Assistant at the University of Salerno (Italy) and also contract faculty of Design Studio. She discussed her PhD dissertation on the concept of Measure within the design process at the doctoral program at the University of Salerno. She graduated in Architectural and Urban Design at the Faculty of Architecture of SUN (2nd University of Naples, Italy) cum laude and dignity of the press. She participated at various workshops and design competitions on the topics of urban and architectural design and landscape. She is part of the National Association of Journalists, writing on architecture.
**Carlo Vece** is a Research Assistant at the University of Salerno (Italy). He discussed his Ph.D thesis on the Urban and Territorial Transformations through the Infrastructures design projects. He graduated with honors in Building and Architectural Engineering at the University of Salerno (Italy) in 2012 with a design thesis in Architectural and Urban Design concerning the complex area of Mayfield in Manchester (UK), after an Erasmus Placement experience. From September 2013 he worked professionally at the Studio Fuksas in Rome (Italy). Currently he also works within the Urban Office of the municipality of Eboli.