Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

• Paper / Proposal Title:
‘The open typology’: towards socially and economically sustainable architectural and care models.

• Format:
Written paper (if possible with an oral presentation at the conference)

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• Abstract (300 words):
One aspect that characterizes the 21st century is its accomplishments such as better healthcare systems, improved economies, a reduction in infant mortality, and a growing number of adults living longer. However these accomplishments can have a downside. For example people are living longer while at the same time dementia rates are increasing significantly. Aware of the increase in demand for high dependency related services, while at the same time costs are spiralling possibly out of control of societal budgets, there is a need for a care model-shift. Additionally, difficulties in defining a clear dividing line between normal ageing and pathological ageing have led to a stigmatisation of older adults as a social and economic burden. This type of segregation and stigmatisation must be addressed to ensure future care delivery is inclusive. The positive benefits of an inclusive care system are both social and economic, and at an
individual level it can positively impact upon an older adult’s mental and physical wellbeing.

Taking this position into consideration, the aim of this paper is to describe and empirically explore the Humanitas in Deventer. A nursing home with a population of 50 older adults with dementia, 80 people with severe physical suffering, 20 people with social difficulties, 10 people in short stay for recovery and 6 university students. This analysis will be adopted as a ‘tool’ for the definition of a new way of conceiving architectural typology; based on the concept of “open system”, described by Richard Sennet. An “open system” that is able to promote a new paradigm of care built on collaboration and teamwork between different categories of health care providers, volunteers, residents and their families. Consequently, this will allow new models in care to “normalize” ageing and its related mental and physical impairments rather than to “medicalize” and stigmatise.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Davide Landi is a registered architect and researcher. He has been working in different countries such as Japan, China, Italy and United Kingdom. Alongside his professional experiences, he obtained his degree in architectural-engineering from the Università Politecnica delle Marche. Furthermore, his proficiency in architectural design was improved with a second Masters degree in “Architecture, Archeology and Museum Design innovative design and management of archaeological heritage”. My abilities were especially valuable in “the 10th international seminar and competition of museum design at Hadrian’s villa, Gianbattista Piranesi,” where his international team and he won a special mention. “The plan award: future projects 2015, category culture,” where his team and he were shortlisted member of that international competition, and “Perugia in centro: temporary structures for exhibitions and markets,” where he won a special mention as the most innovative project in that national competition. Now, he is a PhD candidate at LJMU School of Art and Design and member as a research assistant of the 2016 RIBA research trust award winning team.