Sense of place in the era of Anthropocene: how architectural drawings imagines the urban ecological shift

Written paper

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The ecological emergencies of the Anthropocene era such as lack of biodiversity and environmental disasters forced us to think in terms of global scale. This new awareness changes the concept of place which is no more locally recognized and instead acquires a universal value. Urban agricultural projects such as floating greenhouses and visionary urban farms represent this ecological paradigm shift. These projects need to deal with pollutants that might be created miles away or with droughts that originate in another ecological basin. If on one hand cultivation creates a local sense of place typical of agricultural culture, on the other these designs work within an idea of a place that is global due to climate change. The juxtaposition between global place and local sense of place is still unexplored, yet urgent. Can urban agriculture projects create a sense of place from a global meaning of place?

As Marco Frascari believed, a sense of place develops first and foremost in the mind and it becomes visible in the imaginative drawings of architecture. This paper analyses the drawings of three European architectural firms engaged in this ecological challenge –
GravalosDiMonte arquitectos, Studiomobile, and Conceptual Devices. Their drawings enlighten a oneiric realm of possibilities that envision future cities development. The global sense of place is described through three levels of placemaking. The underground, the moral value of a cultivated place, the ground, its appearance, and the sky, its allegory. The analysis of these planes contributes to unfold the architectural critique to the ecological shift and helps to understand how architecture can be placemaking in the era of globalization. At the same time, the paper presents drawings as a methodology of research for the ecological challenges of the 21st post-industrial city.

**Author Biography:**

Carla Brisotto is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Architecture at the University of Florida. Her research seeks to understand how ecological thinking influences the practice of European architecture looking at those designers that focus on urban agricultural projects. She earned her architectural degree from IUAV and gained the professional license in 2001. Since then, she has been working in Italy and UK on residential, historic preservation, and interior architecture projects. She is Teaching Assistant for the College of Design, Construction and Planning. In 2016, she organized the interdisciplinary symposium “Ethics and the Built Environment” at UF. Currently, she is co-organizing the graduate student symposium “Poetic/Ethic Measures of Place and Placemaking” to be held in 2018. She won competitive grants from the Center for the European Study, UF graduate school, and the UF Office of Research to conduct research in Italy and divulge the results at conferences. She has co-authored the book chapter “Agripoetic Resistance in Urban Architecture and Planning in the European World” in *Neo-liberalism and the Architecture of the Post Professional Era*, edited by Dr. Hossein Sadri, in publication.