CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD:
QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Title: Feasible solutions for the Post-Covid-19 City.

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• Abstract (300 words):
The essay focuses on three current strategies proposed to tackle urban, infrastructure and climate issues inherited from the evolution of the capitalist city in response to the outbreak of the Covid-19. Authors dealt with the application of the concept of the 15-Minute City, Tactical Urbanism, and Superblock by an analysis of the cases of Barcelona, Milan and Shanghai. The research questions are the following: May the experiences of these global cities may succor health, social, and economic inequities and, consequently, may prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as Covid-19? A desk research activity and specific fieldworks carried out in 2020 and 2021 helped us to understand the way these cities have been implementing these concepts. In particular, we dealt with three main
aspects for each city. First, the renewal of the existing built environment; second, governance issues in the short, medium and long term; third, the concerns on the possible risk of gentrification as the improvement in the quality of citizens’ life may lead to the rise of real estate values. The analysis results in two main outcomes. First, this research aimed to compare different global cities and diverse ways to deal with the impacts of the pandemic outbreak. Second, the study demonstrated that 15-Minute City, Tactical Urbanism, and Superblock can provide feasible solutions for the post-Covid-19 city to be applied also in other contexts through a correct assessment of the three variables we analyzed.

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

Riccardo Balzarotti studied architecture in Milan and Paris. He graduated at the Politecnico di Milano in 2007. He worked at Cino Zucchi (2008) and at Italo Rota architecture office (2008-2011). In 2012, he established the architecture office AOUMM with his partners Luca Astorri, Rossella Locatelli and Matteo Poli. Since then he developed many design and research projects at different scale. A selection includes the third prize at the competition for the Vigorelli Velodrome in Milan; the participation at the XIV Biennale, curated by Rem Koolhaas; the design for the Save the Children pavilion for the 2015 EXPO; The first prize at the international competition for a pedestrian bridge in Milan. Since 2015, he has been Teaching Assistant for different design classes at Politecnico di Milano. Since 2018, he writes for the Italian technical architectural magazine YouBuild. He is currently Fellow Researcher at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Politecnico di Milano; his research focuses on the revitalization of the Community Cinemas in the Italian parishes. The research is published with the co-author and scientific coordinator, Prof. Luca M.F. Fabris, in the volume “La Sala del Futuro. Linee guida per la rigenerazione delle Sale della Comunità” published by Maggioli.

Luca Maria Francesco Fabris, architect and journalist, obtained a PhD in Architectural and Environmental Technology, a Master in Urban Planning and Environment, and is Distinguished Expert at Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture (China) and associate professor in Environmental Design at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Politecnico di Milano (Italy) where he’s teaching since 1997 at the AUIC School’s MS in Architecture and MS in Landscape Architecture – Land Landscape Heritage. He’s writing for leading international architectural reviews as ThePlan and Abitare and is editorial director of the Italian technical architectural magazine ‘YouBuild’. Scientific Director of the ‘Environscapes’ book series published by Maggioli, visiting professor at European, American, and Asian Universities, he focuses on research related to contemporary built environment, sustainability, and landscape collaborating with several international universities. Editor and scientific referee of various university publications, he has written several books and essays about the above-mentioned subjects and contributes as well to international specialized journals.
Federico Camerin, city planner, I am postdoctoral research fellow in Urban Planning at the Dept. of Culture del Progetto of Università IUAV di Venezia (Italy). I obtained in 2020 a double PhD degree in the frame of European Joint Doctorate “UrbanHist” between the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística of the University UVA of Valladolid (Spain) and the Fakultät Architektur und Urbanistik of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (Germany). In 2014 I obtained the Inter-University-Programme Graduate Degree in “City and Environment: planning and policies" which included a European postgraduate degree in “Planning and Policies for Cities, Environment and Landscape" at Università IUAV di Venezia. I have been awarded in 2014-15 and 2016-17 with two “Urban Planning" fellow research grants at the Università IUAV di Venezia. My research interest focuses on the understanding of the European city-making process starting from the late 19th century onwards with a particular focus on the dismissal-regeneration of military assets, mega-events and urban transformation, and Spanish and Italian urban regeneration processes. I took part into more than 35 conferences and co-authored a monograph and a co-edited book, 35 papers among international and national journals from 2012 and 9 conference proceedings from 2016 2014 in Italian, English, Spanish, and Catalan.

Gerardo Sembrebon, architect, he is Research Fellow at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Politecnico di Milano. He is recipient of two doctoral degrees, one from the Shanghai Jiao Tong University and one from the Politecnico di Milano. His research has a focus on design strategies for the revitalization of rural settlements with regard to China and Italy. After the Master in Architecture (2013), he has carried out both didactic and design activity, at the competition, professional and research level. In 2019 he is visiting scholar at the Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Future Urban Design (UDC) of Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture (BUCEA). Since 2018 he regularly writes for the Italian quarterly architectural magazine YouBuild (ISSN 2532 – 5345), published by Virginia Gambino Editore. Between 2017 and 2020 he is member of the Sino-European Partnership Project in Urbanization. Development programming for Zhangyang Village, Hanjiang, Putian, Fujian Province. Since 2017 he is member of the Association of the Italian Scholars in China (AAIIC) | 中国意大利学者协会. His research is published on indexed national and international journals.