

## THE CITY AND THE WATER

The recent re-discovery of urban waterways is distinguishing the development of those cities which have a connection with water: Although great seas and oceans are often talked about, sometimes the mere presence of a watercourse is enough to trigger vital transformation processes in a city.

Water is more and more often the protagonist in urban matters, whether coexisting as a centuries old, familiar element or whether denied over long periods of time. Urban waterfronts are therefore not only an image of and an entrance to a city but are also areas of intense vitality, naturally fitted to relationships and trade and to the contra-flow in the currents through the urban network; outwards, towards overseas and inwards towards the city centre. The common denominator in this urban transformation process is the attention being given to the water courses which are becoming the axes of reconfigured urban space.

The first part therefore deals with theoretical proposals and with the dossiers of finalised projects aimed at re-inventing the relationship between a city and its waterways and to the creation of new urban architecture.

## THE HISTORICAL CITY AS DWELLING PLACE

The second part is open to thoughts on the future of an historical city as a dwelling place and covers all aspects of day-to-day city life. Once the attitudes which consider a historical city to be self-sufficient, or those which see it as a "management centre", with tertiary or commercial functions and luxury-orientated residential areas, are overcome it is clear that new interpretations will be needed which can visualise it as a lively nucleus, contributing actively to the development of the city as a whole.

Reflections on the theme of this second part regard the experience and proposals able to recuperate the sense of a renewable, strengthened, mobile identity of a historical city so that it can reflect in its own urban shape, the manners and customs of those who live there.

## THE PLURAL CITY AS A SYNTHESIS OF CIVILISATION

This third part pays particular attention to theoretical considerations and to the planning experience able to reflect the identity and linguistic complexity in the urban areas typical of a plural city.

The theme offers an opportunity to reflect on how a project can anticipate a city's renewed wishes, blending the culture and the habits of the inhabitants and on how both citizens and migrant communities would wish the urban area to be. A new urban quality might spring from the synthesis of multiple citizenship using as a starting point the basic areas of the existing city and the fruitful integration of these places into the broader significance of a multicultural society.

The principal scope is to favour confrontation, knowledge and communication among different experiences and visions of architecture; to search for concrete planning ideas for a city able to absorb the various shapes of different dwelling cultures and make them flow together into a richer and more complex expression of a lively Mediterranean civilisation, open to all peoples.

The titles of contributions and abstracts of 1000 keystrokes maximum should be forwarded by email to:  
[daacmforum2008@unirc.it](mailto:daacmforum2008@unirc.it) by 31 March

Texts will be acknowledged by the 7 April

Papers of 8.000 keystrokes (together with two illustrations) should be forwarded by April 30th 2008.

