

UNISCAPE Research and Teaching

University of Brescia

- **REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF UNISCAPE:** Barbara Angi
- **POSITION:** Assistant Professor of Architectural & Urban Design
- **Email:** barbara.angi@unibs.it
- **UNIVERSITY:** University of Brescia
- **DEPARTMENT(S) INVOLVED:** DICATAM - Department of Civil, Architectural, Environmental, Land Planning Engineering and Mathematics

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Bachelor or equivalent:

[5-year Single Cycle Master's Degree Programme in ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING](#)

RESEARCH ON LANDSCAPE

main issues/ topics of research

01 EUTOPIA URBANSCAPE

The urban regeneration is today crucial not only for the disciplines involved (architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, engineering, economics, sociology, etc.), but also for the economic growth and for the safety of the Countries. It appears fundamental to begin with the definition of an interdisciplinary methodological approach to face the problem. It is therefore necessary to promote a dialogue between different actors and an interaction of different skills, able to produce new virtuous forms of hybridization addressed jointly to the practice of combined redevelopment of the environment.

Urban regeneration is not a utopia. Utopia, as it's known, is the title of the Thomas More book that describes an ideal society, conceived in a non-place (ou-topos). The place of urban regeneration (that makes a real peculiar landscape), despite its optative character, has instead quantifiable dimensions and a definite place in the world. 37percent of residential buildings in Italy originated between 1946 and 1971 of which about 800.000 units are obsolescent in terms of energy performance, of response to the earthquake, etc., more or less the dimensions of a prism as big as a football field 24.000 meters tall. This is the place, you need to defragment in order to grasp its real proportions. Why does not reveal itself only in the peripheral metropolitan intensives but consists of a fine dust of semi-detached houses, huge carparks,

neglected brownfields, etc. ... What makes it a unique place-object is the appeal of characteristics and pathologies that the artifacts, despite in its typological and technological diversity, present.

If we decide that all those things cannot be demolished, what you can do – because the intrinsic value and the meaning of this housing and land stock (including the public ones) are renewed – is changing the “utopia” in “eutopia” (eu-topos), transforming the non-place in a multitude of good places, to re-establish and care for. Trying different paths, working on what is already there. Operating thanks to international good practices (France, Germany, UK, etc.) to formulate new guidelines and organic techniques (and sustainable, also economically) of building and land remodelage, reckless enough to be effective and valid over time, to retrain the buildings and the surrounding spaces.

The goal, now unavoidable, is to revive the parts of the city subject to obsolescence. Not accepting them passively, but managing and programming the 'combined' redevelopment of the (built) environment. We must learn from the urban contexts, "listen" to the places and measure the fragility trying to use the same care and wisdom that, in the past, allowed “mending” the clothes all kinds of signs of wear or tearing. In this regard Italian architect Renzo Piano refers to the practice of «mending [it will be] the physical structural, hydrological, but also functional, relational and aesthetic» through «small interventions in stitching that can trigger regeneration through new crafts, micro-enterprises, start-up, lightweight construction and widespread, thus creating new jobs. It is a modern vision (lightweight and diffuse like any effective network), much more dynamic and realistic heavy of the urban gigantism that led to endless rows of tenements anonymous [...] » (Piano, 2014).

So, it will need to taking care to what already exists, not to crystallize, but to suggest a revolutionary development, one of the few practicable in a building landscape that, full of empty rooms and after consuming thousands hectares of land, you may find that many good places are already (almost) ready.

TOPICS

- EUTOPIA URBANSCAPE
- COMBINED REDEVELOPMENT
- PERIPHERAL LANDSCAPES
- BROWNFIELD

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Angi B. Roda M. (2018) “Learning from REA Project”. Siracusa, Lettera Ventidue.

Angi B. (2018). “Ricomposizioni architettoniche. Parallelismi e analogie”. Siracusa, Lettera Ventidue.

Angi B. (ed.) 2016. “Eutopia Urbana, La riqualificazione integrata dell’edilizia sociale / Eutopia Urbanscape, the combined redevelopment of social housing”. Siracusa, Lettera Ventidue.

Angi B. (2016). Amnistia per l’esistente. Siracusa, Lettera Ventidue.