

A new role for a river " hidden "

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Track b: Resilient spaces of river fruition

Abstract

The river is a living organism that changes over time, it expands and contracts in the seasons, changes its track slowly over the years. It is a material that evolves naturally, but it is also subject to strong transformations by man.

Specific scope of this reflection is the Secchia Valley, as it flows through the ceramic industrial district of Sassuolo (Modena) and has been for years the main source for the procurement of raw materials for the production of ceramics.

Numerous quarries presence and processing area of materials witness the prevailing activity that featured the relationship between practices and territory. Today, such activities, because of the need to reduce production costs, turn their attention to distant territories, often to foreign countries.

This process, supported by the development of major infrastructure network, allowing the release of the environment of the river Secchia from all activities contrary to the naturalness of the place, leaving clear traces of heavy use of the soil and subsoil and making it possible to reassess the environmental value and landscape that until now has been hidden.

The reflection therefore try to imagine a new role for this landscape " hidden " to the territory as a whole, starting with the context that is changing, and focus the attention on the river and its unpredictability , as evidenced by the exceptional events of full , amending its course , the banks and damaged the works along its bank .

Now, can you imagine giving back to the river new spaces and attempting for a new identity to restore harmony and dialogue in a region extremely exploited like this?

It is possible to address concerns regarding the safety of the hydraulic system not limited to find solutions to the engineering nature, but through a landscape design, able to exploit the important natural presence, to outline a new accessibility and a new sense in the collective practices?

Starting from some work experiences, undertaken in the field of maintenance in other river landscapes, and through exploration projects developed in teaching activities in recent years, this contribution aims to reflect, then, on a possible development of the theme, on which design approach is desirable process to re-enter the river in a new cycle of life, other than industrial and mining, that entertain new relationships with the environment and surrounding landscapes .

At the centre of the design approach some issues that are the framework within which to operate: the resources, increasingly limited in a situation of great economic hardship; the time, meaning as period of realization in which a large project could undergo corrections and changes during his process; interventions, minimum and ordinary representing a constant comparison between

artefacts and balance of natural engineering and architecture artificial, in a continuous dialectic between nature and artifice.

More generally it is rethinking the role that some systems of open spaces, the river among others, could take within a city - district at a time of crisis and transition. The city-district of Sassuolo could leverage, for its rethinking, right on the presence of some quality spaces to be entrusted with the reconstruction of his image, which is associated with a better quality of life, of living, of working in this territory.

Keywords

Landscape, nature, artifice

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