



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

Abstract

InFormal City

Interaction between formal and informal city

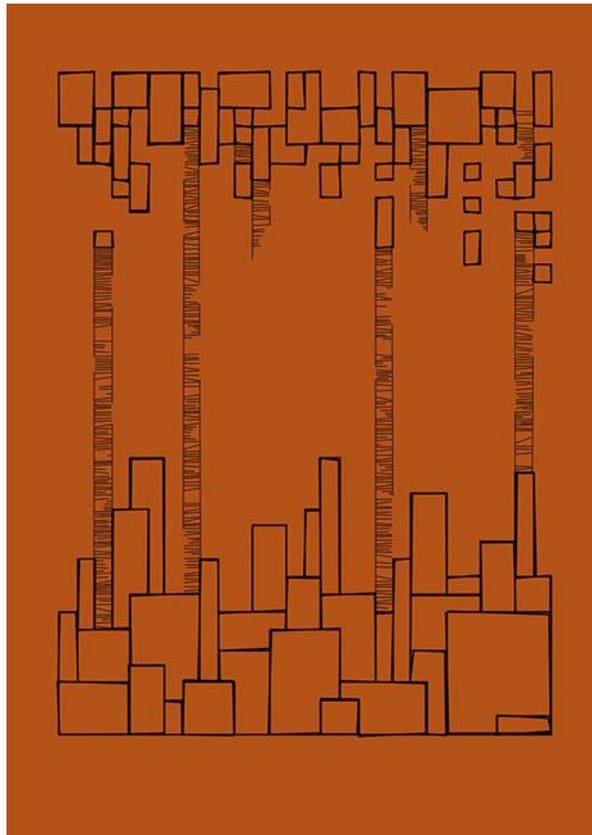
Tutor

Silvia Malcovati
Christian Rapp
Haike Apelt

by

Mariangela Riu

September 2016



This work originates from the necessity to establish a set of tools useful for the urban and architectural planning in order to find an interaction between formal and informal city. In the architectural speech, the informal city means the part of the self-built city, which finds spontaneous solutions, the city of the precarious housing, the lack of infrastructure and environmental degradation. It is the only solution to the housing crisis when the private market is inaccessible and community facilities are not enough.

The formal city, on the other hand, is planned, organized, ruled and legitimate. It normally consists of inflexible plan designed by urbanists and architects.

Usually between formal and informal city, there are clear differences in terms of spatial, social and economic characteristics. That is why I find it interesting to investigate the interaction between these two situations.

Nowadays, urban population and spontaneous settlements are constantly increasing and the idea to stop this phenomenon is not realistic anymore. Today, if out of three billion people living in cities, one billion are below the poverty line. Having said that, in 2030, out of five billion people living in cities, two billion will be below the poverty line.

In the history of urban cities, the migration flows have always been frequent and the destination of immigrants, most of the time, is an urban centre, a place from which they can draw wealth. In the 19th century cities, the most common practice was to relocate poor people from the city centre to the outskirts where the factories were located. The result is that the cities of 20th century are characterized by a clear division, not just social but also spatial, between rich and poor people.

Not only the great South American or Asian cities are an example, but also the city of Rome, which is famous for its majestic monuments but has a dark side in the public eye. Nowadays, Rome is occupied by informal settlements in those places considered no man's land, hidden and deprived of services, such as the banks of the Tiber, under viaducts and bridges and along aqueducts. This is the consequence of policies of exclusion, that emerge even in the field of urban planning and architecture.

That is why the urban planning and architecture has great responsibility for the worsening of inequalities and for the future welfare of the cities of 21st century.

Based on this, my proposal has the objective to meet the demand for spatial and social integration of these populations without losing their spatial, social and cultural values. Therefore, I consider the codification of this spontaneous settlement essential in order to identify the tools that are important for their integration in the formal and traditional city.

The analysis process of the informal settlement, enriched by a direct experience, has been the starting point for the formulation of a planning strategy that has the goal of breaking down the barriers between formal and informal city.

The strategy is extended from the scale of the city to the scale of individual living unit, in a process whose key words are transformation, connection and duplication.



This work wants to find a middle point between the planning at the top, on a large scale, and the bottom-up participation, on a small scale. With these preconditions, I do not consider this work as a finished project. It is a method with the objective of managing the evolution of the city through guidelines in an urban scale and, simultaneously, taking into consideration the temporary nature that characterizes the modern society.

The user's inclusion in the process of construction of their homes not only allows to cut costs, but also it gives to the house a greater sense of intimacy without excluding nature, the city and the people who live there.



For further information please contact:
Mariangela Riu, mariangela.riu@gmail.com