

Defense from the catastrophes of development: Tricase

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TRICASE : DEFENSE FROM THE CATASTROPHES OF DEVELOPMENT, is a highly provocative definition.

The term "catastrophe " is used in its specific meaning of " ELEMENT BREAKING THE STABILITY OF A SYSTEM", that is the break of discontinuity into a uniform context.

Well, this uniform context is the historical centre of Tricase (small town in Salento district, located near the Adriatic coast, 52 kilometres south of Lecce, Southern Italy) and the catastrophes are man's inconsiderate behaviour, bound to the building activity and threatening the original urban web.

This research suggests a reading and an interpretation of the ancient town through the analysis of the "forma urbis".

"In describing a town we mainly look at its "forma " , this "forma" is a positive element (...), summing it up into the architecture of the town". (ALDO ROSSI, The architecture of the town, Ed.Città Studi, page 21)

We have purposed to analyse the urban business for what it means, obviously also as a result of human behaviour, but keeping into account that the most essential aspects of what is built can be understood neither by the history of architecture nor by the urban science , but only by architecture tout court.

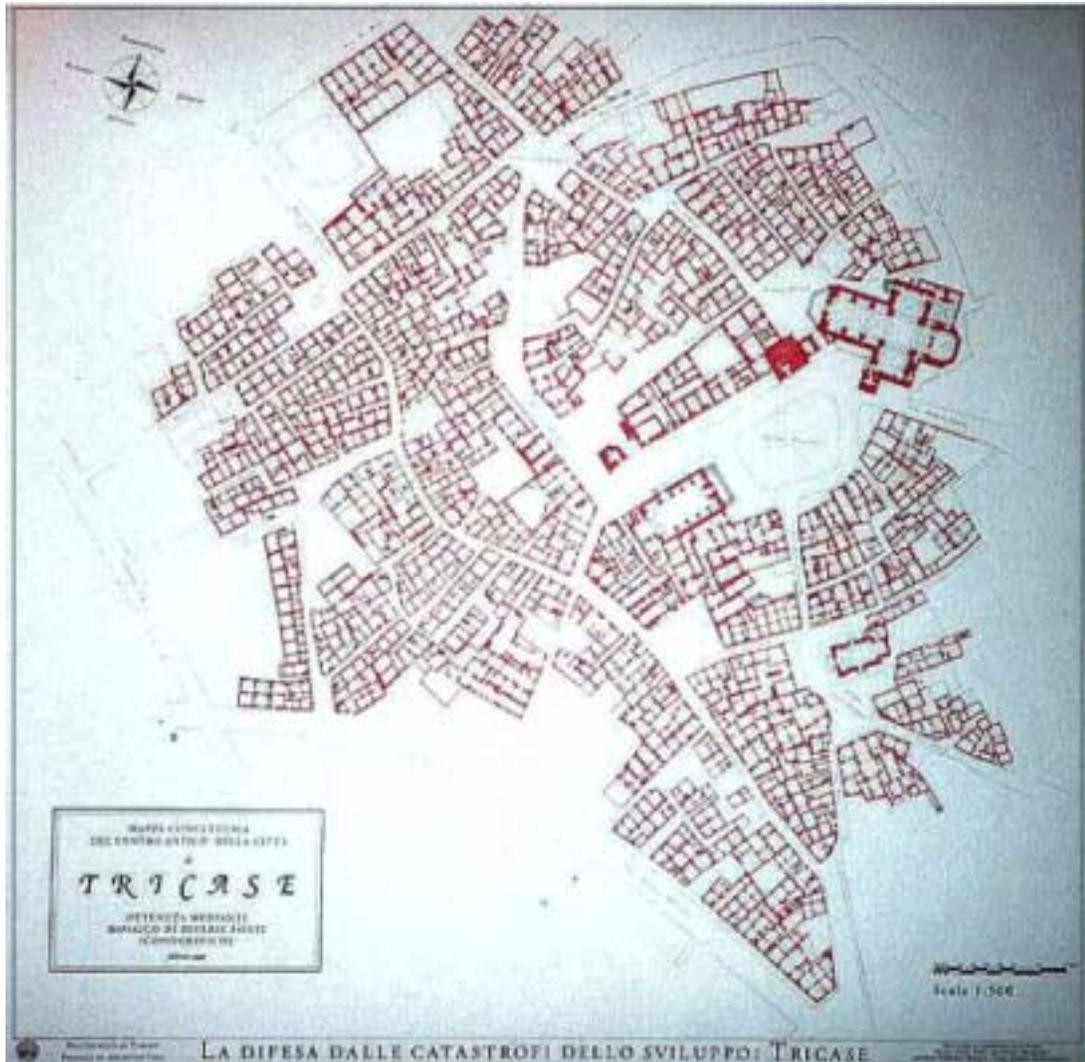
Only architecture analyses and proposes the "forma " of the town.

The "forma " includes the full aspects of a urban cluster and is the only figure where the built rises, parted from the former or latter realities.

Let's quote one of Aldo Rossi's statements again: "Have a look at the horizontal sections of the town unveiled by the archaeologists; they are the everlasting and antediluvian plot of human living; an unchanging scheme". (Aldo Rossi, above mentioned, page 11)

Il this work is set to identify the "thought map" of the ancient town, the same goal to which the archaeologists aimed in order to reach the hidden scheme, the underground plot.

The "thought map" is the analysis of the ancient centre of the town of Tricase, obtained from the mosaic of all building maps, each of them coming from different iconographic sources.

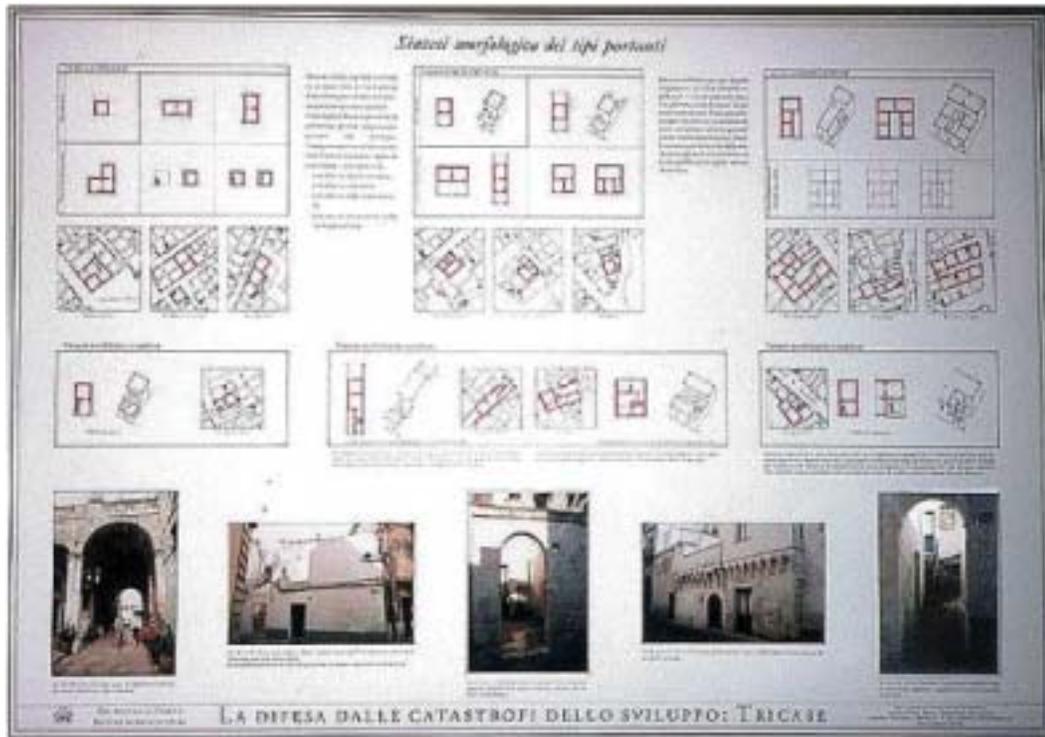


thought map

The main task required to the "thought map" is to show the "forma urbis", that is the ratio between type of buildings and urban morphology, revealing all the aspects detectable from the urban actions.

This work has been made in order to get suggestions, ideas, models to be used in the field of planning and remaking, mainly for all the technical aspects to apply to the new city houses to be built in the open spaces left by the deserted or ruined old ones inside the urban web .

A new orientation toward the architectural analysis and the planning typologies is therefore possible through a critical analysis of the "thought map", as showed in the following chapters of this work



planning typologies

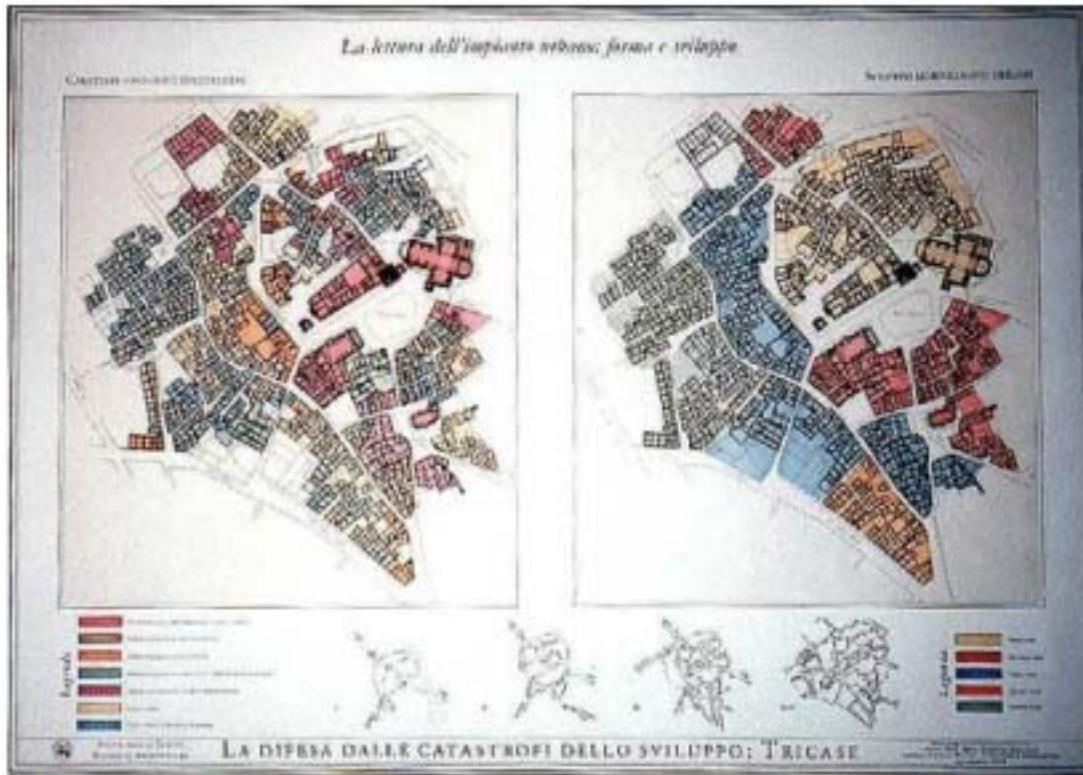
Chapter 1 : a brief historical introduction of the town of Tricase is followed by the definition of the concept of catastrophe.

Chapter 2 : description of the ways we consider more suitable to limit the danger of unplanned architecture, preserving the integrity of the ancient town centre.

Chapter 3 : research, development and selection of the different iconographic references to provide a coherent shape to the "thought map".

Chapter 4 : analysis of the "thought map", particularly of the building typologies and their relationship to the close courtyard, which is the typical expression of Southern Italy architecture, especially of Salento region.

Chapter 5 : emphasis on the specific features of the urban structure related to the "thought map".



urban structure

Chapter 6 : key to read those typical elements of the facades of the town buildings, that are part of the analysed urban architecture. Their repertoire allows not only a deeper approach to the analytical knowledge of the town, but is also a necessary implement to the planning, outfitting and completion of the map.

Conclusions : we hope that our work may be the starting point for a wider debate on the problems of all historical centres and that a new methodology of intervention may be defined in order to safeguard the historical centres, their beauty and their history, as we are confident that history can be the key of the past to open the door to a better present.

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