

The city of the child

by Elena Daviero

Tutor: Giorgio Preto

Co-tutor: Dario Minuetti (Association "La città possibile" (The feasible city))

Web Site: www.cittapossibile.org

E-mail: lacittapossibile@iol.it

"Changing the city in consideration of the needs of the child doesn't mean only to improve child care services, but to plan the urban space in order to let the youngest live in the city in autonomy, freedom and security."

In my thesis I have meant to elaborate an evaluation of the sustainability of contemporary cities from the point of view of the child.

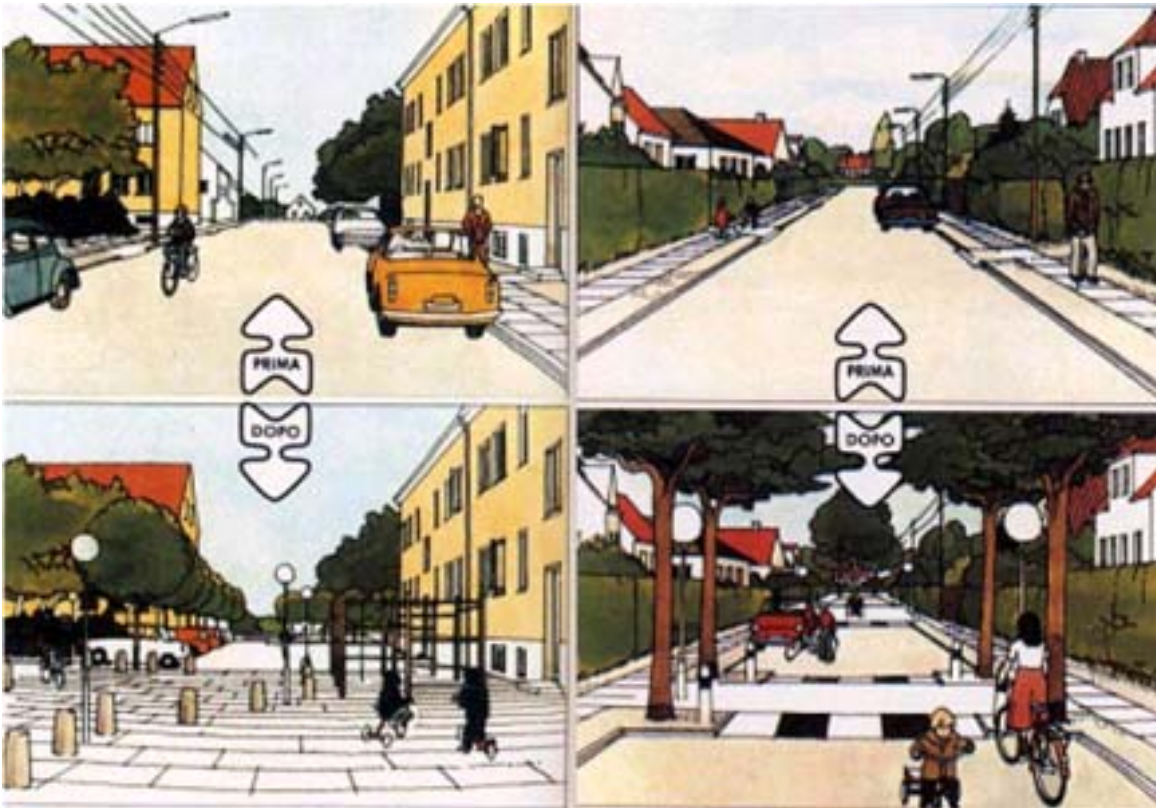
The analysis is based on the assumption that the needs of the youngest, who are the most concerned subjects in the intergenerational sustainability of development, can be the foundation of balanced town planning.

In my work I have outlined some ecological and socio-cultural factors which make nowadays cities unbearable, the concept of sustainability, the International Conferences and the documents in which it has been examined. From the point of view of the child, particular importance is to be acknowledged to pollution, the low level of accessibility, the problematic relation between the habitation and the outdoors, the high degree of insecurity.

The project "*Città sostenibili delle bambine e dei bambini*" (the children's sustainable cities), promoted by the Ministry of the Environment, is presented, with other local initiatives managed by Local Authorities: "*la città possibile*" (the feasible city), "*la città educativa*" (the educational city), "*la città sana*" (the healthy city), "*sindaci difensori ideali dei bambini*" (Mayors as symbolic defenders of the child), "*Consiglio Comunale dei ragazzi*" (City Council of teenagers). Common feature: shared planning as an exchange of information for the creation of a common critical know-how.

Focusing on safe mobility and availability of outdoors suitable for the development of psycho-physical capabilities as the principal needs of the children, I have described some feasible projects aimed at creating sustainable conditions:

- Residential routes (regulated by the Highway Code). They let also weaker subjects, the elderly and the child, avail themselves of the outdoors, fostering peaceful coexistence among road users and the restoration of the routes to their ancient function of centre of socialization and life through speed control, the arrangement of furniture, the renovation of the green zones within the urban area. The creation of residential routes implies the reorganisation of the roadway in order to allow not only movement, autonomy and freedom of the pedestrians, but also the recovery of wide transit areas dedicated to parking.



Sources of illustrations: Gandino, Manuetti, 1998

Traffic control doesn't mean therefore excluding cars, but permitting their more appropriate use, according to the needs of human beings, who must be allowed to live freely also on the roads.

- The cycle tracks (regulated by the ministerial decree number 557 of November 30th, 1999). In planning different elements must be taken in consideration: protective measures for the division of vehicular transit from bicycles', appropriate traffic signs, red painting of the asphalt in critical points (such as crossings), advanced stop-lines at traffic lights, slopes for cyclists, railway service with bicycles allowed on trains, parking for bicycles. The continuity of the tracks is fundamental as it lets the cyclists cover long routes.
- Safe home-school ways (not regulated). For their realization Local Authorities must adopt measures which protect the access of the schools, the routes reaching the educational institutes and the most frequented stops of public transport.



Sources of illustrations: Forni, 2002 - Gandino, Manuetti, 1998

- the playing spaces (regulated by the technical norms UNI EN 1176 and UNI EN 1177). The urban area can become a playing field through the insertion of vegetation and natural elements, the creation of walkways and tunnels, the arrangement of entertainment equipment, the setting of meeting and resting areas, the planning of the zone according to the amusement function of the natural and artificial elements on the spot.



Source of illustration: Gandino, Manuetti, 2001

For further information, please contact Elena Daviero, e-mail: elendavi@hotmail.com