Honors thesis

COURSE OF
ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Abstract

The Parma borough of Pablo:
from a study of the area to a community project proposal

Tutor

VOGHERA ANGIOLETTA
FORNI ELISABETTA
POZZATI ALICE

by

Comelli Tania

February 2018
After an observation period, and a series of contacts “on the field”, this thesis' project was born with the aim of giving an historical, local, enviromental, and social perspective on the borough, with the potential of becoming the cornerstone for future projects of urban and community regeneration. The most academic analysis was combined with perceptive surveys as well as interviews with local residents.

The place's specificity and the local identity are the common thread of each study's phase and the key of their interpretation. Through the attentive comprehension of the borough's transformations that throughout the years shaped it in its present form, the challenge is bringing to light the real community's bonds, and thus to energize that complex network that can produce a real metamorphosis of public spaces and social relationships.

The thesis surveys the area starting from archival documentation about the historical alterations the borough underwent in relation to the urban context. At the same time it involves the present population through a series of interviews about place identity, gathering fundamental pieces of collective memory. After this, a social analysis based upon statistical data is combined with a second series of interviews about needs and desires of the residents. This revealed a rich picture full of potential “re-narrations” of the borough. The work is concluded with the proposal of a community project.
The general conclusion is that there is no possible single conclusion. The key remains who lives in the borough. The sense of belonging and the identity stemming from a shared perception do transcend even the project of a city without citizens. Society changes also by transforming the urban fabric, but maintaining its historical strata. It is necessary to follow such changes driven by a permanent multidisciplinary study that can shape the needs of a new, sustainable community.

For further information please contact:
Tania Comelli – comelli.tania@gmail.com