

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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SOCIAL HOUSING. Between dream and need answers to possible new application

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Today the problems of public housing are not only for the layer of people in conditions of poverty, but reach now a large part of the population that, for different reasons, can suddenly pass from an economical situation of stability to one of social vulnerability. Sociology defines these targets with the limited parameters of "grey" or "weak", whose variations in income, influence and lifestyles creates a **"new question" for the market with respect to the stereotype of the traditional family.** I propose, therefore, to present some strategies of action **to close the gap, now visible, between the dreams and the needs of the user**; to ponder on the features of the question that are in continuous change, and to consider the role of the residents- the bearers of interest in this matter.

The product of these reflections is a pamphlet, entitled **"Social Housing. Guides to the Project"**, written with the intent of extrapolating some guidelines- which are today still absent in the Italian panorama- from the comparison between programs and projects confronted in the last decade within Italy and in foreign countries.



The prospect of a structural solution to the problems of public housing gets under way a new start for social housing projects in which **the public take on a role of direction and of guidance**, promoting integral politics that realize a system of partnerships between public and private aimed at experimentation which until now has been almost unexplored.

Analyzing more closely the role of the designer/planner, there is the creation of a **new offer, more flexible and diversified** with respect to standard building practices that the economical production of buildings has become accustomed to in the past century.

From the conversation with the consignees of the interventions, beyond that from the reflection on the statistical inquiries, it takes the shape of a true and socially responsible project, based above all on a **mix of functions, generations and typologies**- for the creation of an active social fabric. Made districts of residences provided **accessible common spaces, visible and open to the neighborhood**, to prime proceeded of reciprocal knowledge, selfhelp and microeconomics. There is a possibility to transform residual spaces to zones for meeting, where the services to the persons enter within the buildings, exploiting roof surfaces, the entrances and the fulfilments.

But also structures thought to protect **privacy**, so that every user can choose freely when to participate in collective life, in the creation of "islands" and of "public bands, seeds-collective and deprived".

Reassuring places, that also compensate for the psychological needs of the consignees, bright, protected for the safety of the whole neighborhood.

And simultaneously capable of strengthening **the sense of belonging to the actual territory**, because it is unique and identifiable thanks to the compositional variety with which they are realized, representative in the most important bodies and the fantasy of the systems of facade, also conjugable with experimentation in sustainability and the use of low cost materials.

Evolutionary buildings in which the innovation serves the functional and generational changes that accompany the life cycle of the user: across opportunities for the internal flexibility such as mobile walls, and also outside, because they are intended to change their shape in time, thanks to the presence of galleries and shared lodgings, where it is possible to introduce new openings, surfaces or actual building forms.

The new City, therefore, learns from the examples beyond the boundary, where the obligation for density and the requirement to standardize across industrial production becomes the theme of a project, to use prefabrication to meet the requests of the continuous changes and uses of the ephemeral space that characterize our society.

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