

## - DAL MERCATO COPERTO AL FOODHUB -

Verso un'architettura ibrida al servizio delle filiere agroalimentari locali

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a b s t r a c t

**Food Society Architecture.** An indissoluble trio that attempts to integrate the multiple dimensions of food in contemporary society. What is the relationship between food systems, architecture and territory? Why are **food policies** of fundamental importance for the future? What are the main criticalities of local supply chains? How can food become a vector of important transformations in the way we look at the relationship between urban and rural areas? What can the architect's role be in defining new local development trajectories? From the food crisis of 2008 to the problem of "land grabbing", from the sustainability of agronomic practices to the debate on food sovereignty, from the harmful processes of deterritorialization to the resistance and fighting back of regional economies and local systems; in short, issues of a global nature which also have important repercussions on both a regional and local scale. The intention of this work is to outline a process - through study, investigation and elaboration - to arrive at the formulation of an **innovative business proposal** and of a **hybrid concept** of architecture at the service of regional economies and agri-food chains that aspire to the reconstruction of relations between the countryside and the city, between **food systems** and local populations. Architecture is not intended as an object of sustainability but as a means to achieve specific objectives of an economic, environmental, territorial and cultural nature.

The thesis consists of two main sections. The first aims to investigate the role food has in contemporary society through the study of what are referred to as "food systems", food supply chains and policies, and the relationships that are established between food, architecture and territory; the study of the **role of markets** in history and the analysis of nine case studies, with the awareness that behind the urban revolution there is the revolution of food systems. The second intends to apply the acquired knowledge in order to develop an innovative business model and to formulate a **"mixed-use for food"** architectural proposal. A process that starts from an idea, passes through the study of related issues, confronts the mission and the planned activities, to then arrive at the identification of the functions and the translation of these into architectural spaces. The objectives of this work are three: to **change** the **architectural reference model** for food distribution, to use food and food systems to **reconnect** the city to the countryside and finally to develop an architectural proposal in line with an innovative business model; in essence, trying to develop holistic reasoning that uses **food** as a means to shape the future of our **cities** and countryside, through changes in the way we look at them as well as the way we **design** them.

