

"Madness Box" – Among psychiatric truth, architectonic truth and "Small-Laces" of laws. A possible fantasy?

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The closing of mental hospitals is one of the most burning questions in this period in sanitary sphere, since the maturity already passed of 31 December 1996 for its accomplishment. But which and how many constructions in existence on territory are suitable to receive patients discharged from mental hospitals?

It is necessary to go back at 1978 to find out the origins of changing carried out. In fact, the law 180 to order Regions putting into effect gradual overcoming of the mental hospitals and the achievement of alternative constructions.

Examining the present situation, we can realize that the intermediate constructions provided for laws in force, are insufficient and often unsuited to answer consumers requirements.

The not many technical laws, issued to regulate planning of these constructions, at first much generic, (have become) became in the time so detailed in some aspects, to be of difficult accomplishment, omitting particulars very important for the specific matter.

Even if the most important aspect in psychiatry is the relation between operator and patient, is also important the role of mental construction, for the point of view of the space. Suffering patient that takes advantage of these constructions, should be finding in these not only cures, but also a good atmosphere that relief, physically and morally of temporary dejection. So, these constructions, more than others, should be attended in all details, to achieve pre-established purposes.

Beginning from an approach in psychiatric field, our work propose itself to specify the role of Architecture in this sphere and possible compromise points. Final object is providing hints of laws for the planners operating in this sphere.

We made a supposition on a plan of a psychiatric construction making use of our hints of laws as following references.

ARTICULATION OF GRADUATION THESIS

- Notices on psychiatry
- Legislative references
- Researches on field
- Hints on laws Supposition of plan

CONTENTS

NOTICES ON PSYCHIATRY

Have been considered historical evolution of psychiatry and construction for mental sick, psychiatric nosology and modern therapies.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

In order to know evolution of laws in psychiatric field and modalities with whom is guaranteed psychiatric assistance in Italy, treatment is so hinged:

- National laws;
- National medical plan 1994-96;
- Comparative analysis of psychiatric services in Italian Regions;
- Psychiatric laws of Regione Piemonte.

RESEARCHES ON FIELD

To take conscience on present reality of psychiatric assistance and on exigencies of real user of structures have been used these instruments:

- Visits of psychiatric constructions operating on Torinese territory;
- Conversations with operators actives on Torinese territory;
- Questionnaires, distributed to operators to extend the research at the great number of persons possible (?);
- Questionnaires distributed to patients.

This research displayed different realities:

- Scarcity of laws in force on specific exigencies of the patients.
- The real exigencies developing in psychiatric services of Diagnosis and care of hospitals, as well as the necessity of others residential constructions.
- The existence of indispensable expedients to realize psychiatric constructions, functionals and safes in every apect.
- Clash between a persistent and groundless "refusal" of the idea of the (long stay in hospital?) and the admission of its utility and necessity to warrant a good assistance at chronic patients or at patients resisting to pharmacologic treatments.

HINTS ON LAWS

From the research on field have resulted some indications to realize mental constructions, giving particular attention at qualifications requested from premises destined to the development of therapeutical and occupational activities.

SUPPOSITION OF PLAN

Is a set of distributive proposal, to realize a new psychiatric service of Diagnosis and care for the Mauriziano Hospital of Turin, on suggestion of Dr. Giorgio Bisacca, head physician of the psychiatric service in this hospital.

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