POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 1 Degree in Architecture <u>Honors theses</u>

From the "archaeology" of accessibility to archaeology without barriers" by Caterina Ceresa Tutor: Eugenia Monzeglio Co-tutors: Emanuele Romeo and Rocco Rolli

Everything man builds, fulfils the same fundamental tasks: protect people from environment and climatic solicitations, let them accomplish their activities related to work, life, free time and relive the tensions of living beneath their own alcove, and all these together with a comfortable and agreeable appearance.

Anyways, the existence of a reciprocal belonging between man and architecture underlines the fact that architecture can not be such, only by existing, but it exists and can be named that way only if it "belongs" to man, that's to say, only if man can enjoy, what he had created as an image of his need of protection, of a comfortable and pleasurable place.

Therefore, at the moment when you plan something, the point to start from should be the man, with all his needs, the phases he goes through in life, his skills and abilities. We have to understand that not only people with diseases can fall in troubles or feel uneasy in some places, it could happen to everyone.

To worry about making a place, an environment enjoyable, accessible, doesn't mean to follow strictly the law, submit the plan to duties, but to be stimulated to find new solutions to the problems, solutions able to make life of people more agreeable. It's because of this personal belief that I decided to base my final work of University on the problem of accessibility.

The first thing I did in order to understand the current situation about the concept of accessibility, was to go back in time to analyze and understand what has changed and how this concept has changed meaning and fields of interests, whether in law field or in the culture of the people.

The idea that the anthropized space should be enjoyable by everyone, nowadays seems banality, but it hasn't ever been so and the street to walk on is still long. A sign that something has changed, is given by the fact that the problem of accessibility is nowadays investing fields where the question was not asked before such as buildings with historical interest, open spaces and also archaeological areas.



L' archeologo" di Giorgio De Chirico, 1917

The idea to actually focus my attention on this last field was a sort of challenge: if it is possible to make accessible and enjoyable areas where it is so difficult to deal with because of their features, than moreover all the other places and building also should be.

The inquiry about the theme of accessibility, in relation to the structures related to archaeology, has seen his practical application in the collaboration starter with the association "Consulta Persone in Difficoltà". During this collaboration a series of schedules was created valuing the accessibility level of 34 structures related to archaeology, divided into museums, areas or archaeological parks and monuments, and located on the whole piedmont territory.



Example of schedules

In the third and last part of the work, after the analysis of the situation on the Piemont territory, and with the intent to characterize the main points of a plan about accessibility for archaeological areas, the work focuses on the constitutive elements of these structures.



Elements for an Immediate Experience, elements for an Overrefined Experience

For each one of this elements technical and projectual solutions were shown able to face the needs of the users and to answer to the requirements of a project for an Enlarged Group of Users. Even if the solutions proposed time by time may appear sometimes simple and immediate, these are only a little part of the hundreds and thousands of solutions that can be found and chosen.

This is, as a matter of fact, one of the most interesting, peculiar and stimulating aspects of a project that focuses on the theme of accessibility.

In fact problems can be solved in different ways: with big, important works and plans, with refined techniques and technologies or with little simple things, with attentions that help to transform the anthropized space in something agreeable, liveable.

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