

Politecnico di Milano – School of Architecture and Society  
Master of Science in Urban Planning and Policy Design, I year, II semester  
a.y. 2011/2012

Integrated Course

## Contemporary City: Descriptions and Projects

### Professors

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with Giulia Fini (fini.giulia@gmail.com).

### Time-table and Location

Monday, from 10.15 to 13.15, classroom •V2

Thursday, from 14.15 to 17.15, classroom IV

## 1. Content and lessons organisation

The integrated course *Contemporary City: Descriptions and Projects* is organised in two sections, which are strictly connected and integrated: *Urban Planning and Design* and *Infrastructure and Urban Planning*. The course aims is to allow students to analyse and discuss the main questions of new urban planning and design profiles, starting from a new description of physical and social dimensions of the contemporary city dynamics and changes. The approach is referred to several scale of intervention and it is interdisciplinary.

For this reasons, to focus and clarify the deep urban changes, the course – originally founded by Patrizia Gabellini in the academic year 2006-2007 – has chosen to hold several and different contribution from scholars of different disciplines. Today the course would continue on the same track in order to investigate the urban phenomenon and to outline updated technical intervention modalities.

The Course is organised into three different parts.

The first one (“Descriptions and tools for contemporary cities”) offers several suggestions and tools for interpreting and designing the contemporary city.

In this part the *Urban Planning and Design* section will be organised considering these main issues: the analysis of the ongoing changes within the traditional European landscapes and the emergence of new complex urban and territorial patterns; the analysis and design of different territorial patterns within the historical city (historical cores), the modern city (planned districts) and the contemporary city (diffused settlements and citadels); the problems and dimensions of contemporary planning practices considering recent technical approaches useful for contemporary cities building and management.

The *Infrastructure and Urban Planning* section will be organised around these main issues: the crucial changes within the contemporary city deriving from new kind of relationships between spatial organisation and socio-economic dynamics; the spatial dynamics of Italian cities and territories in connection with a long run development process; the characteristics of the urban populations and the socio-spatial phenomena in the contemporary city (mobility, pluralisation of spatial practices, conflicts).

The second part ("Situations, projects, policies") introduces and discusses several urban situations and territorial patterns which can be identified in different contemporary cities, in Europe and around the world. For each pattern different features, projects and policies, are presented by some guest scholars (researchers and practitioners).

The third part ("Cities") will conclude the course through the presentation – by small groups of students (three people at maximum) – of one or more specific urban situation referred to some main Italian and international cities, connected with the patterns presented during the previous sections of the course. The presentations provided by the students will follow a defined format that will be given during the semester.

## 2. Evaluation

The evaluation will be based on an oral examination and on the exercise.

Each student have to discuss the contents of the lectures and: the complete list of English texts; the whole list of Italian books (if the student wants to give the examination in Italian).

## 3. Reading list and references

The documents and presentation referred to each lecture are part of the bibliography for the exam. They will be available on the course website [http://www.laboratoriorapu.it/CI\\_ProgUrb/index.html](http://www.laboratoriorapu.it/CI_ProgUrb/index.html).

The texts for the final examination are:

### Program for attending students

#### [English texts]

- Amin A., Thrift N. (2002), *Cities. Reimagining the Urban*, Polity Press, Cambridge (UK) (ch. 1).  
Hall P., Pain K (2006), *The Polycentric Metropolis. Learning from Mega-City Regions in Europe*, Earthscan, London-Sterling (ch. 1).  
Balducci A., Fedeli V., Pasqui G. (2011), *Strategic Planning for Contemporary Urban Regions* (chs. 0, 0.1, 1.1, 2.1).  
Lynch K. (1984), "The Immature Arts of City Design", in T. Banerjee, M. Southworth (eds.), *City Sense and City Design. Writings and Projects of Kevin Lynch*, Mit Press, Cambridge-London 1996.  
Gabellini P. (2011), "Echoes of the 'Berkeley School': an Italian experience of urban planning", *Journal of Urban Design*, 16.2.  
Gabellini P. (2011), "Devising a new program for habitability. Some ideas on the new urban question with regard to the Bauhaus legacy", in Eckardt F., Colini L., (eds), *Bauhaus and the city*, Königshausen and Neumann, Würzburg (forthcoming).

#### [Italian texts]

- Gabellini P. (2010), *Fare urbanistica. Esperienze, comunicazione, memoria*, Carocci, Roma (chs. 1-2).  
Gabellini P (2001), *Tecniche urbanistiche*, Carocci, Roma (chs. 9,10).  
Pasqui G. (2008), *Città, popolazioni, politiche*, Jaca Book, Milano (whole book).  
Lanzani A., Pasqui A. (2011), *L'Italia al futuro. Città e paesaggi, economie e società*, Franco Angeli, Milano (chs. 1-6).

## Program for non attending students

Students which will not attend at least to 70% of the course lectures can give the oral examination studying and discussing the following texts:

### [English texts]

- Amin A., Thrift N. (2002), *Cities. Reimagining the Urban*, Polity Press, Cambridge (UK) (whole book).
- Hall P., Pain K (2006), *The Polycentric Metropolis. Learning from Mega-City Regions in Europe*, Earthscan, London-Sterling (ch. 1).
- Balducci A., Fedeli V., Pasqui G. (2011), *Strategic Planning for Contemporary Urban Regions* (chs. 0, 0.1, 1.1, 2.1).
- Lynch K. (1984), "The Immature Arts of City Design", in T. Banerjee, M. Southworth (eds.), *City Sense and City Design. Writings and Projects of Kevin Lynch*, Mit Press, Cambridge-London 1996.
- Gabellini P. (2011), "Echoes of the 'Berkeley School': an Italian experience of urban planning", *Journal of Urban Design*, 16.2.
- Gabellini P. (2011), "Devising a new program for habitability. Some ideas on the new urban question with regard to the Bauhaus legacy", in Eckardt F., Colini L., (eds), *Bauhaus and the city*, Königshausen and Neumann, Würzburg (forthcoming).
- Banham R. (1971), *Los Angeles. The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Harper and Row, London (whole book).

### [Italian texts]

- Gabellini P. (2010), *Fare urbanistica. Esperienze, comunicazione, memoria*, Carocci, Roma (whole book).
- Gabellini P (2001), *Tecniche urbanistiche*, Carocci, Roma (chs. 9,10).
- Pasqui G. (2008), *Città, popolazioni, politiche*, Jaca Book, Milano (whole book).
- Lanzani A., Pasqui A. (2011), *L'Italia al futuro. Città e paesaggi, economie e società*, Franco Angeli, Milano (whole book).
- Banham R. (1983), *Los Angeles. L'architettura di quattro ecologie*, Costa&Nolan, Genova (whole book).

## 4. Lecture calendar

### Part I. Descriptions and tools for contemporary cities

- Monday, March 12, 2012 - *Course presentation*
- Thursday, March 15, 2012 - *Contemporary City: Descriptions and Projects* [opening lecture given by Patrizia Gabellini]
- Monday, March 19, 2012 - *Cities, landscapes, and economic development: the Italian case*
- Thursday, March 22, 2012 - *Sprawl and Diffusion in Italy*
- Monday, March 26, 2012 - *Cities, space and everyday life*
- Thursday, March 29, 2012 - *Patterns*
- Monday, April 2, 2012 - *The economics of contemporary cities: the Falck Area*
- Thursday, April 5, 2012 - *No lecture*
- Monday, April 9, 2012 - *No lecture*
- Thursday, April 12, 2012 - *Composition*
- Monday, April 16, 2012 - *Urban populations*

- Thursday, April 19, 2012 - *Infrastructure*
- Monday, April 23, 2012 - *Cities, strategies and projects: the City of cities strategic project*
- Thursday, April 26, 2012 - *Urbanism today*
- Monday, April 30, 2012 - *No lecture*

## **Part II. *Situations, projects, policies***

- Thursday, May 3, 2012 - *Planned Districts*
- Monday, May 7, 2012 - *Open Spaces and Urban Fringes*
- Thursday, May 10, 2012 - *Citadels and Superplaces*
- Monday, May 14, 2012 - *Historical Cores*
- Thursday, May 17, 2012 - *Diffused Residential Settlements*
- Monday, May 21, 2012 - *Productive Settlements and Work Spaces*

## **Part III. *Cities***

- Thursday, May 24, 2012 - *Students Group on Patterns of City 1*
- Monday, May 28, 2012 - *Students Group on Patterns of City 2*
- Thursday, May 31, 2012 - *Students Group on Patterns of City 3*
- Monday, June 4, 2012 - *Students Group on Patterns of City 4*
- Thursday, June 7, 2012 - *Students Group on Patterns of City 5*
- Monday, June 11, 2012 - *Students Group on Patterns of City 6*
- Thursday, June 14, 2012 - *Students Group on Patterns of City 7*
- Monday, June 18, 2012 - *Course Content Review*
- Thursday, June 21, 2012 - *Possible Lecture*