

Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura e Società  
Corso di Laurea magistrale in Pianificazione Urbana e Politiche Territoriali  
Master of Science in Urban Planning and Policy Design  
**Academic Year 2010/2011**

## **Urban Planning and Design Studio**

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**3.**

## **PATTERNS**

11th October 2010

Prof. P. Gabellini

### **The selection starts from a hypothesis:**

a drastic change, like an “explosion”, produces new urban materials, new spaces, new urban patterns, new places and ways to live.

**Planners have to use different strategies and different modes to qualify each of these “landscapes”**, adapting their instruments to the new conditions. “Landscape” is used in reference to typical and perceivable relationships between places and inhabitants, between space and society. A landscape may be formed by different patterns, that is compositions of urban materials organised according an order.

**Pattern is the word chosen to communicate a concept useful for the**

**project:** in the sprawl, at a meso-level, it is possible to recognize some compositions of “simple” urban materials (built and open spaces) organised in an order which has a morphological evidence.

**According to the dictionary** ( Collins Cobuild) “Pattern is the repeated or regular way in which something happens or is done ... is an arrangement of lines or shapes, especially a design in which the same shape is repeated at regular intervals over a surface ... is a diagram or shape that you can use as a guide when you are making something such as a model or a piece of clothing”.

**The patterns considered in this slide show are:**

**Historical centres**

**Planned districts**

**Citadels**

(complex settlements devoted to some specialised functions)

**Diffused settlements**

They sign contemporary territory like milestones, materials to compose new cities among cities.

**Each pattern is “photographed” with two different images:** the first one shows the pattern in its context (the photo covers about 5 km latitude), the second one is a zoom (the photo covers about 1 km latitude). Comparing two different scales stimulates thinking on measure and similarity but also on articulation of patterns and landscapes that characterise European cities.

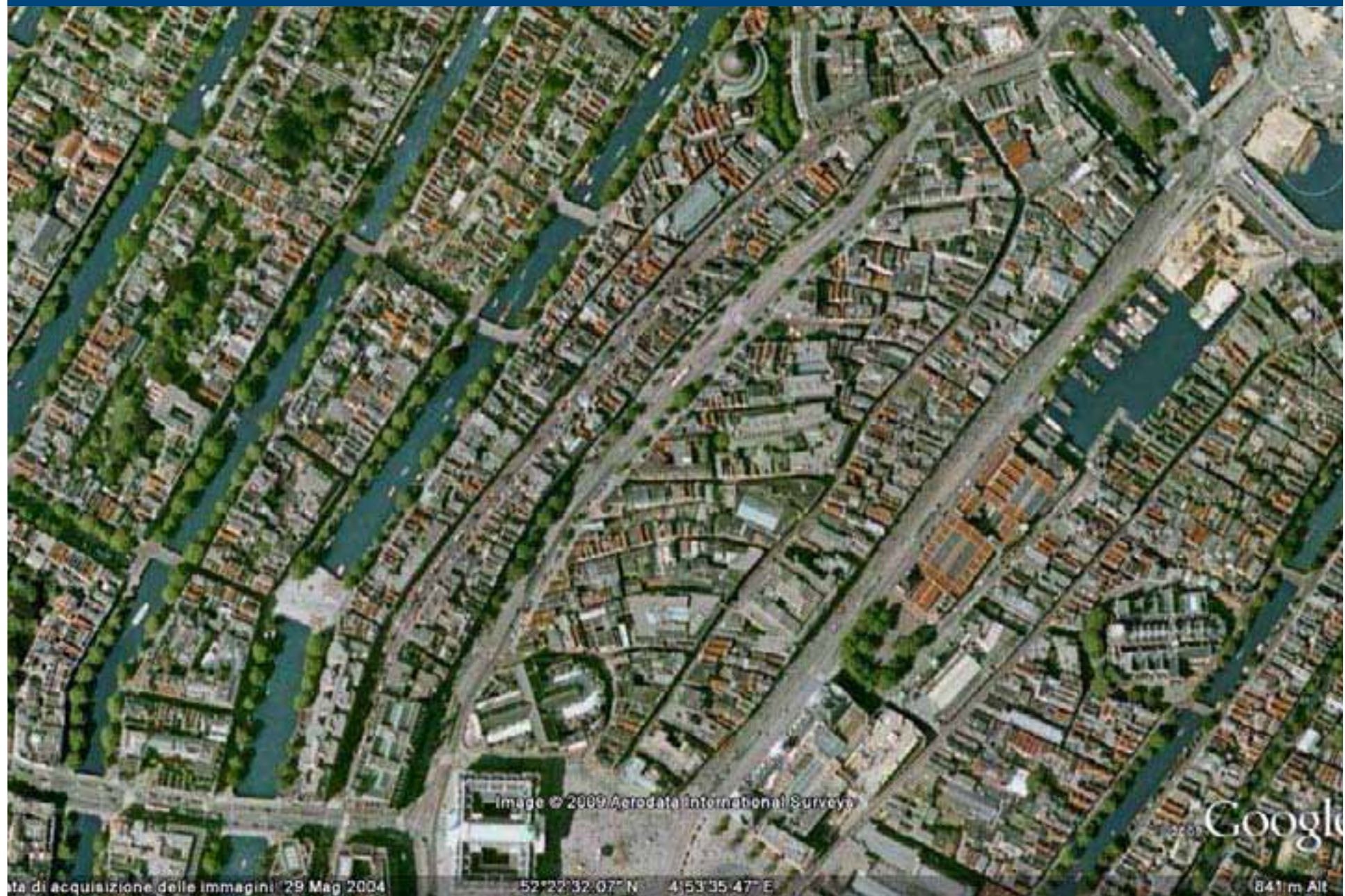


## Historical centers: Amsterdam





## Historical centers: Amsterdam





## Historical centers: Barcelona





## Historical centers: Barcelona





## Historical centers: Bologna





## Historical centers: Bologna





## Historical centers: Copenhagen





## Historical centers: Copenhagen





## Historical centers: Lisboa



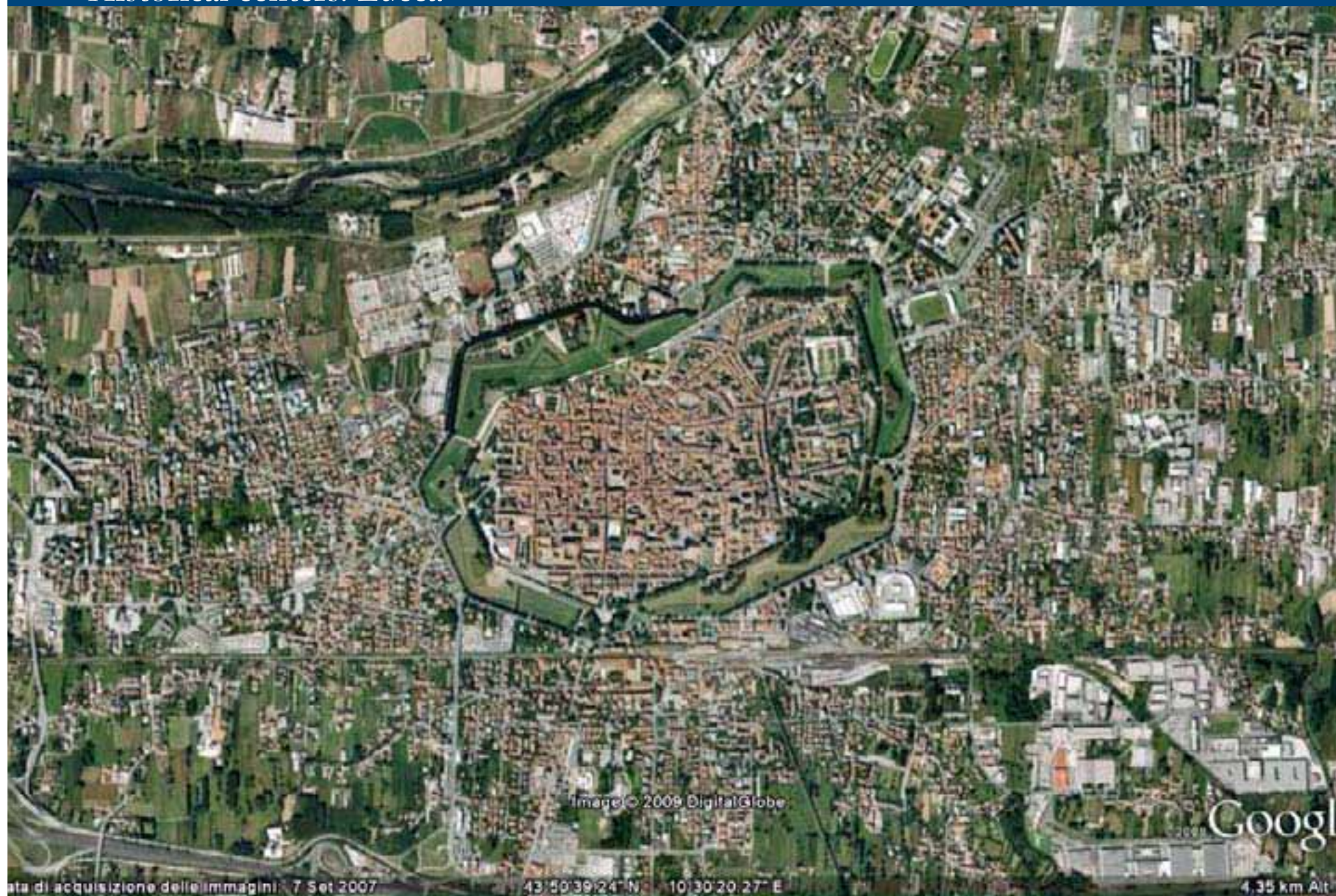


## Historical centers: Lisboa





## Historical centers: Lucca





## Historical centers: Lucca





## Historical centers: Lucca





## Historical centers: Lugo di Romagna





## Historical centers: Lugo di Romagna



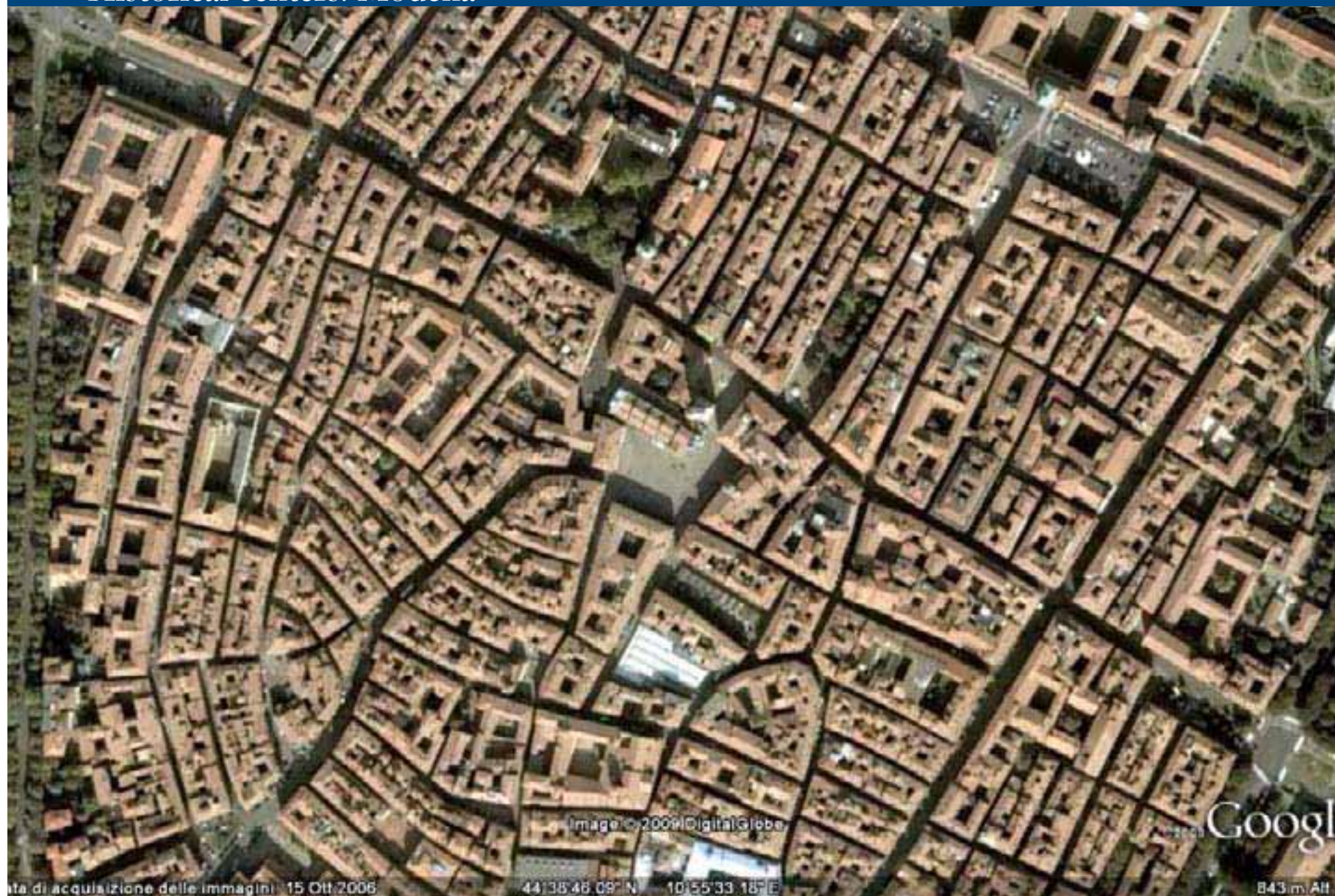


## Historical centers: Modena



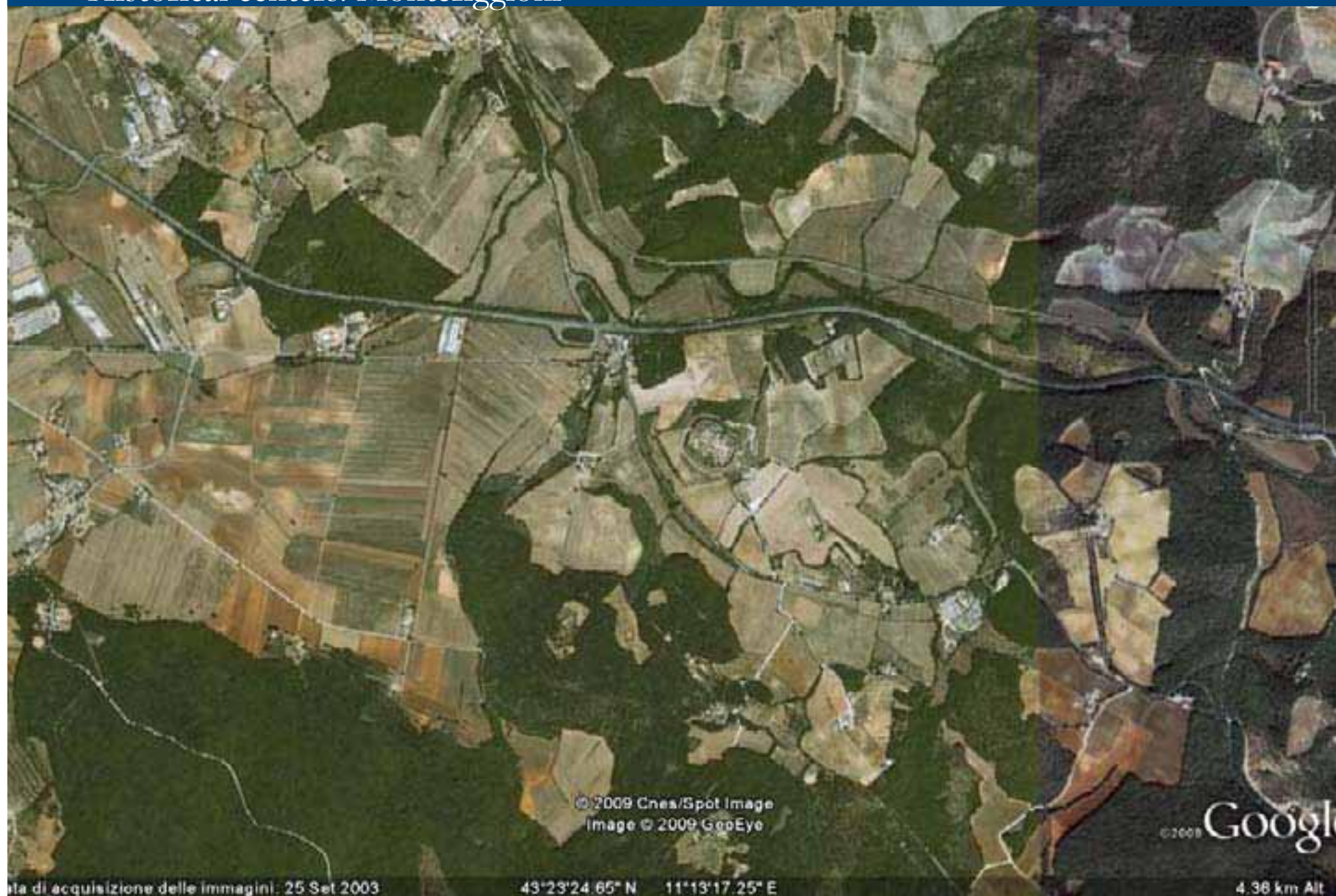


## Historical centers: Modena





## Historical centers: Monteriggioni





## Historical centers: Monteriggioni





## Historical centers:Paris





## Historical centers:Paris

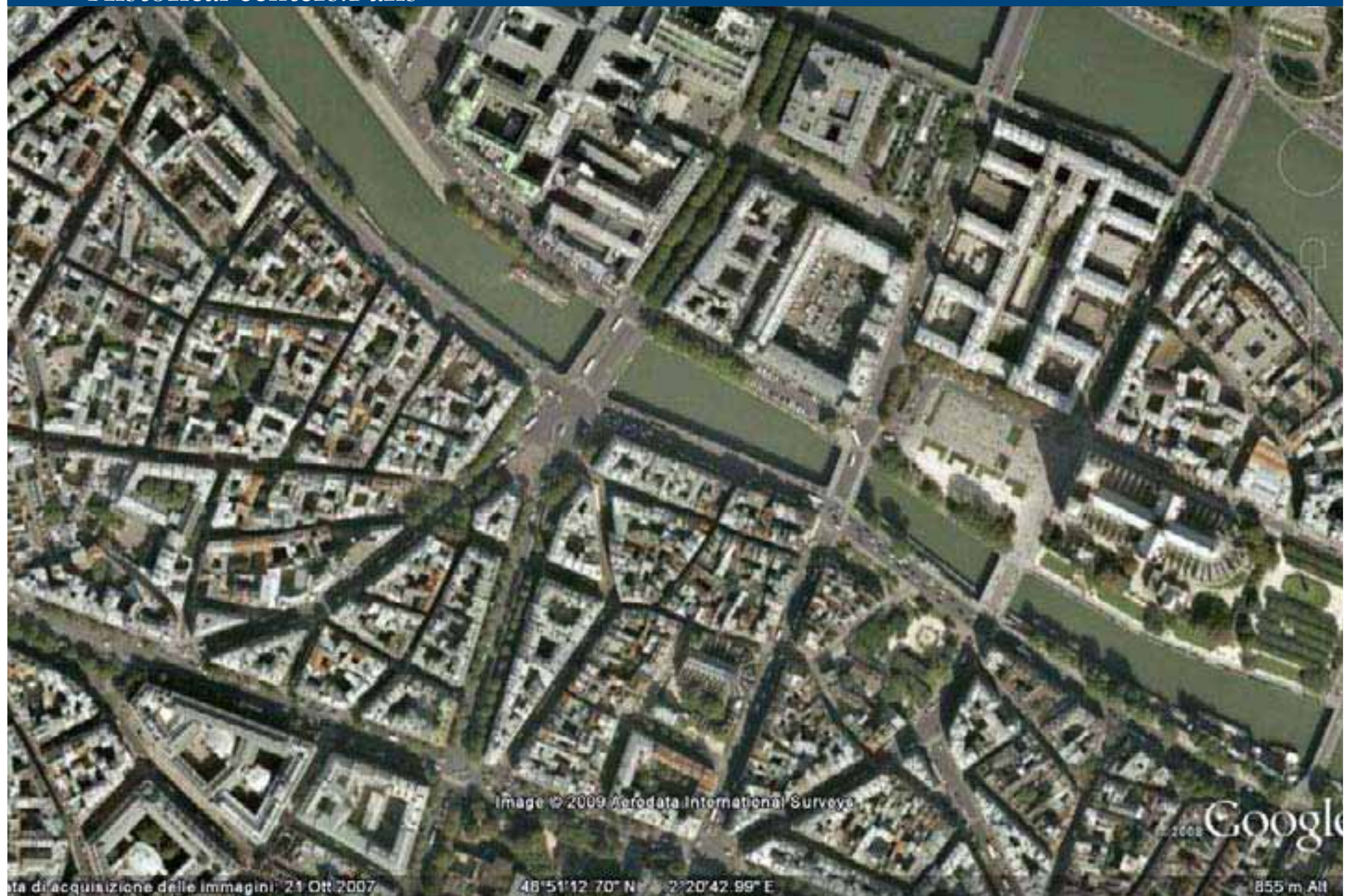


Image © 2009 Aerodata International Survey

2008 Google

Data di acquisizione delle immagini: 21 Ott 2007

48°51'12.70" N 2°20'42.99" E

1855m Alt



## Historical centers: Roma





## Historical centers: Roma





## Historical centers: Siena





## Historical centers: Siena





## Historical centers: Venice





## Historical centers: Venice









## HISTORICAL CENTERS

The images of large, medium, and small historical centers show that every settlement is unique. The large and medium ones are usually the result of a long history, which may produce complex and sometimes complicated compositions of many patterns. Many of them are like a palimpsest to decode, but they all have a strong “figurability” and a symbolic value.



## Planned districts:Almere





## Planned districts:Almere



Image © 2009 Aerodata International Surveys

Google

data di acquisizione delle immagini: 2005

52°24'01.44" N 5°18'05.42" E

4.30 km Alt



## Planned districts:Almere





## Planned districts: Amsterdam





## Planned districts: Amsterdam





## Planned districts: Bologna



Imago © 2009 DigitalGlobe

Google  
© 2009

data di acquisizione delle immagini: 28 Ago 2007

44°30'28.75" N 11°23'54.67" E

4.37 km Alt



## Planned districts: Bologna





## Planned districts: Frankfurt on Main





## Planned districts: Frankfurt on Main



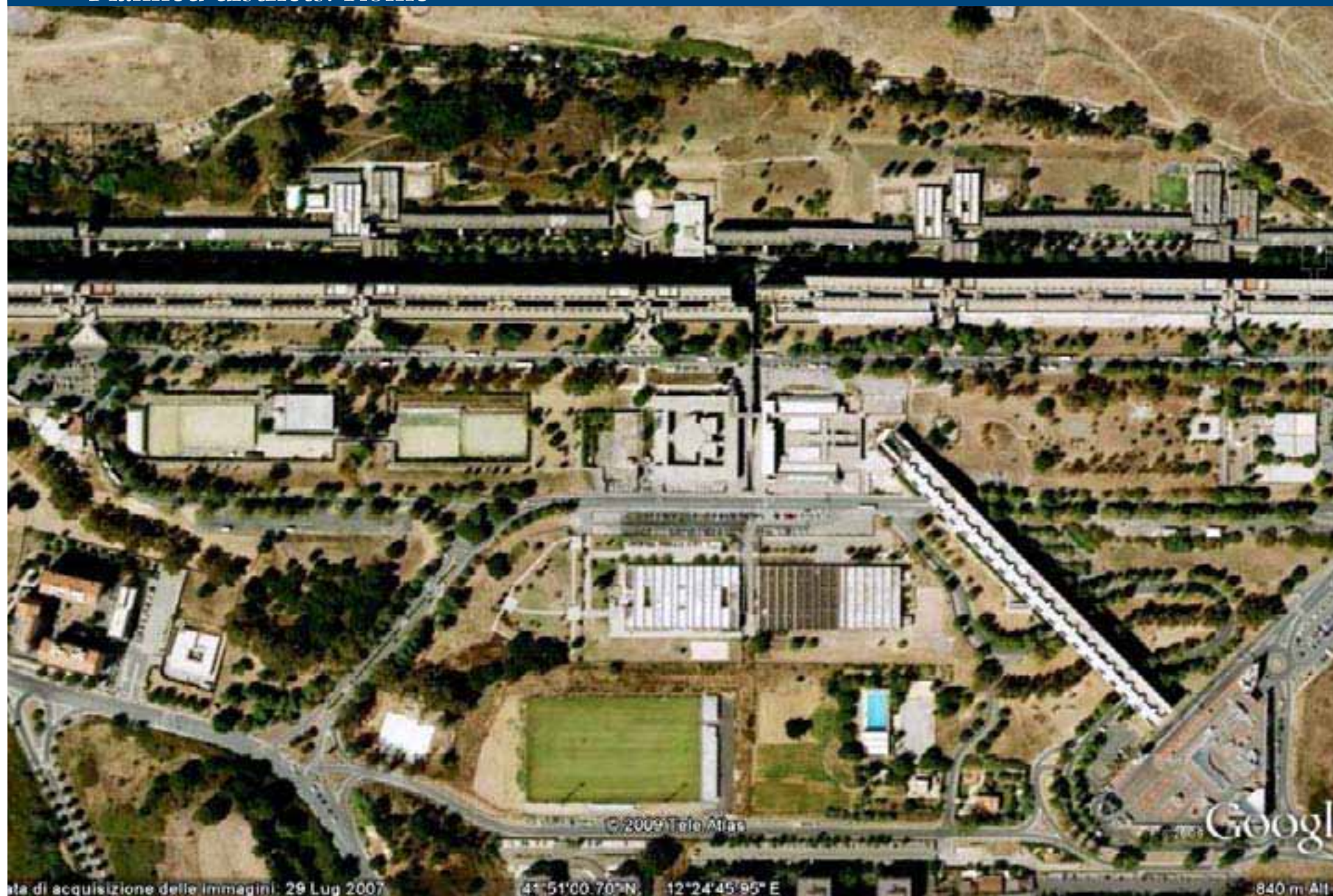


## Planned districts: Rome





## Planned districts: Rome



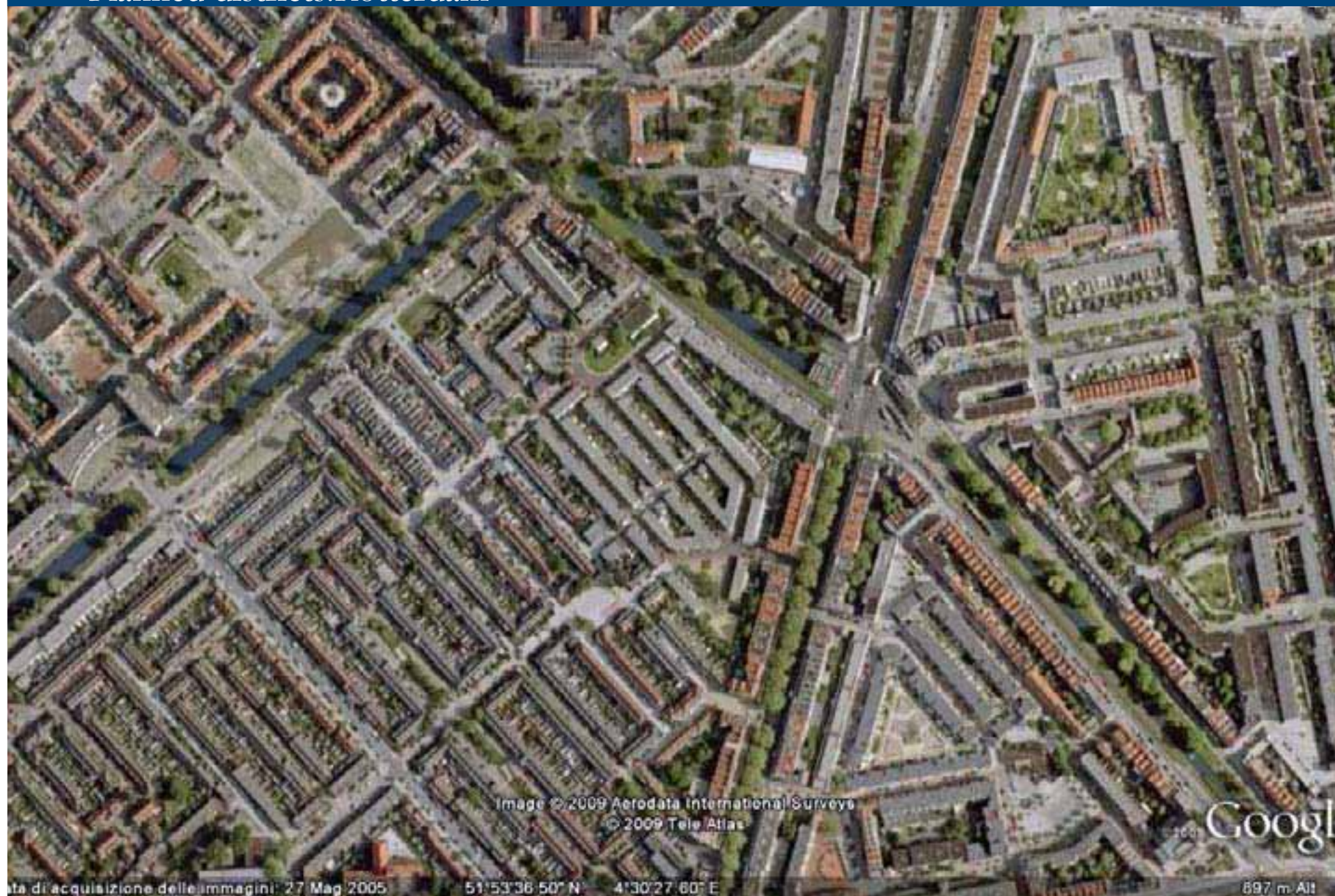


## Planned districts: Rotterdam





## Planned districts: Rotterdam





## Planned districts:Siena





## Planned districts:Siena









## PLANNED DISTRICTS

Although planned districts are generally public housing quarters, industrial and financial districts were built in the last decades as well. It is necessary to distinguish these districts, as in the case of historical centers. For example: we learn that it is possible to recognize a certain number of main patterns and landscapes according to the period of their design and realization, when considering the studies on public housing quarters.



## Citadels:Skipol (Airport Amsterdam)



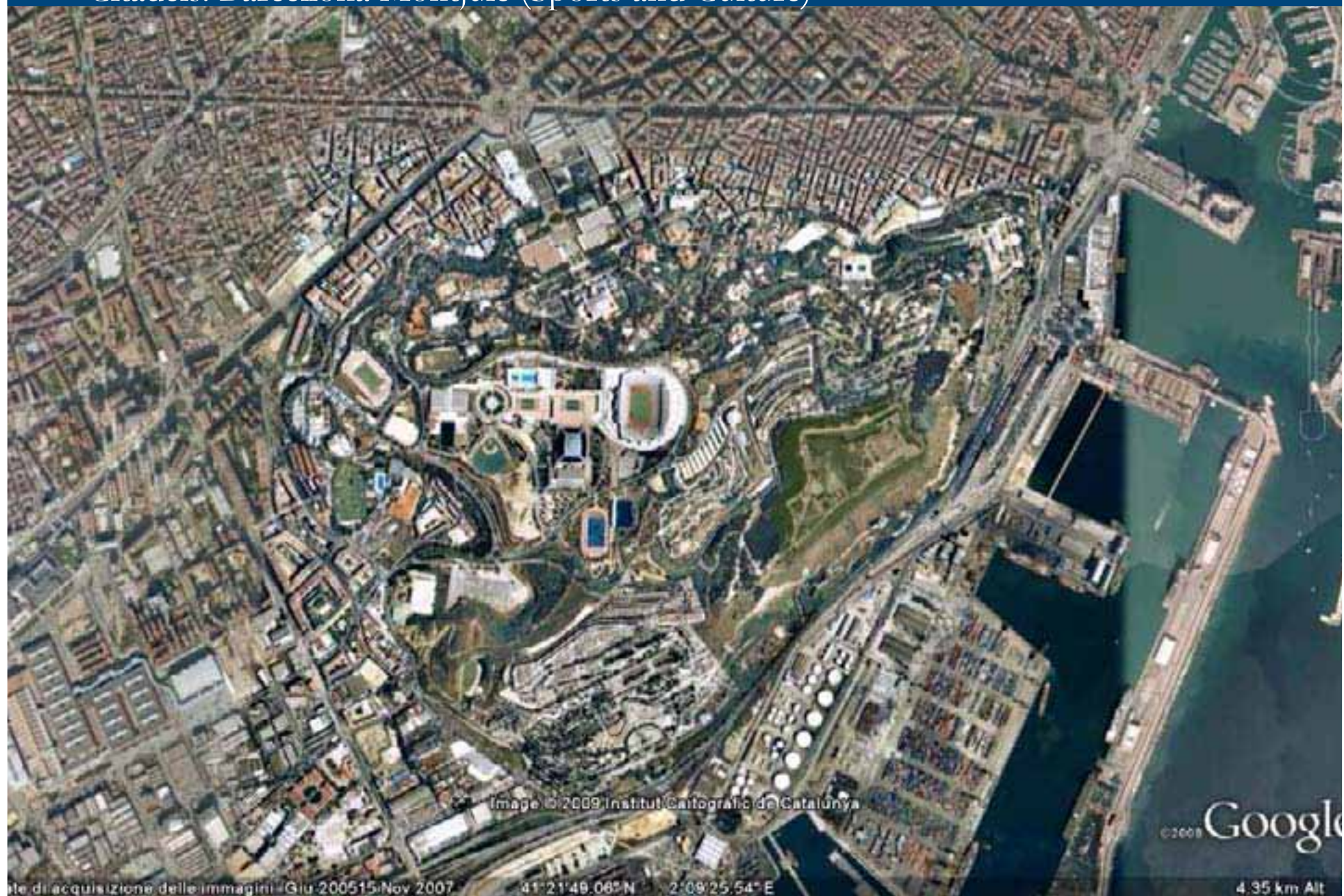


## Citadels:Skipol (Airport Amsterdam)





## Citadels: Barcelona Montjuic (Sports and Culture)





## Citadels: Barcellona Montjuic (Sports and Culture)





## Citadels: Barcelona Forum





## Citadels: Barcelona Forum





## Citadels: Casalecchio di Reno (Commercial Complex and Palasport)





## Citadels: Casalecchio di Reno (Commercial Complex and Palasport)





## Citadels: Bologna (Logistic and Interchange Center)





## Citadels: Bologna (Logistic and Interchange Center)





## Citadels: Euralille (Station Lille)





## Citadels: Euralille (Station Lille)



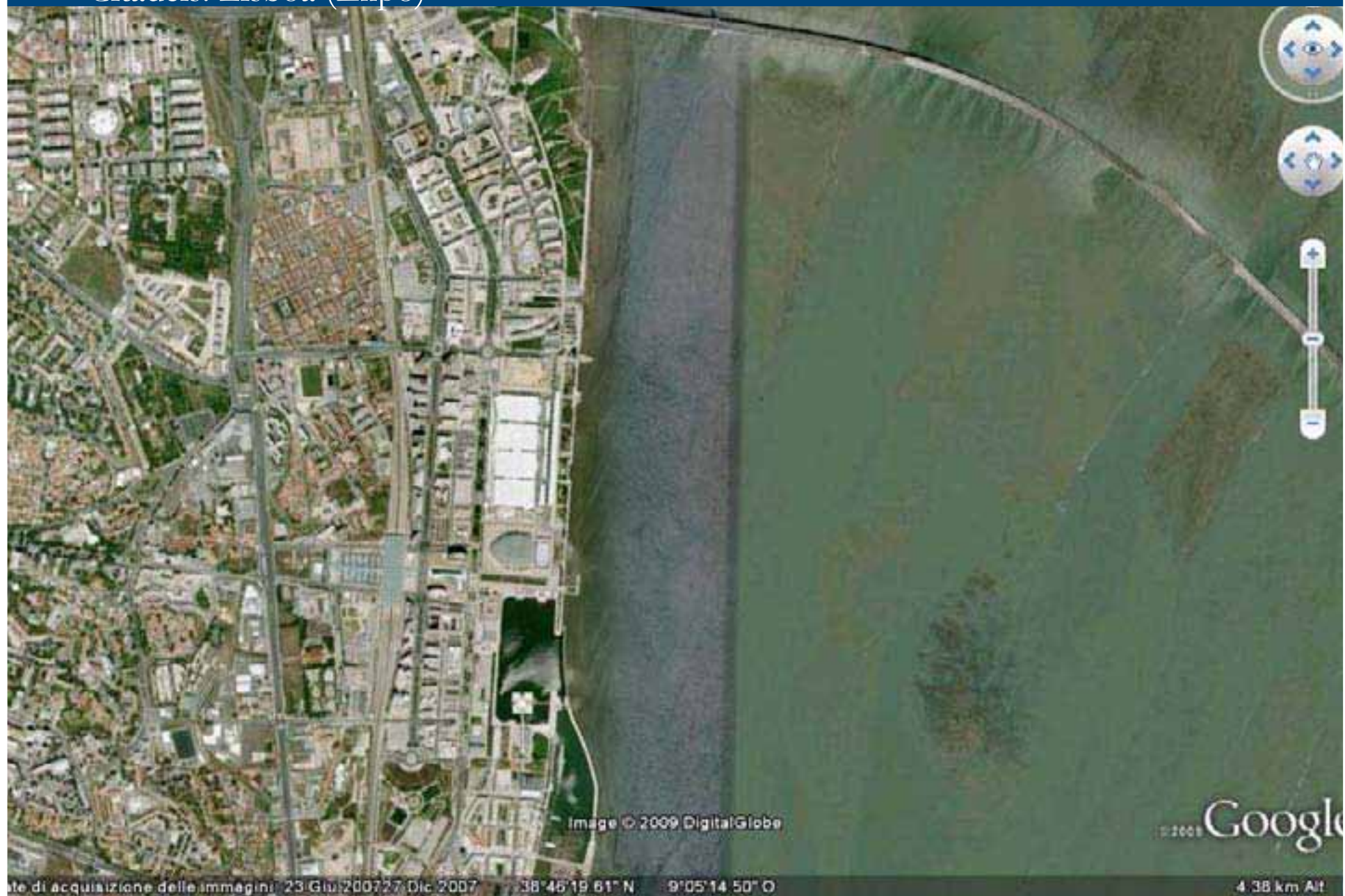


## Citadels: Euralille (Station Lille)





## Citadels: Lisboa (Expo)





## Citadels: Lisboa (Expo)





## Citadels: Paris La Villette (Scientific Park)





## Citadels: Paris La Villette (Scientific Park)





## Citadels: Paris La Villette (Scientific Park)





## Citadels: Rome (Auditorium)





## Citadels: Rome (Auditorium)





## Citadels: Fiumicino (Airport)





## Citadels: Fiumicino (Airport)





## Citadels: Fiumicino (Commercial Park and Housing)





## Citadels: Fiumicino (Commercial Park and Housing)





## Citadels: Serravalle Scrivia (Outlet Store)





## Citadels: Serravalle Scrivia (Outlet Store)





## Citadels: Venice Arsenale





## Citadels: Venice Arsenale









## CITADELS

I use the name citadels to define complex settlements devoted to some specialized functions, which are often the result of an “urban project”. Some years ago, in 1992, the French anthropologist Marc Augé called them “Non-lieux” (Non-places). Recently, in 2006, the Province of Bologna promoted a research-event called “Super-places”. It is easy to see the difference between these two expressions: the first one is negative and the second one has a positive accent.

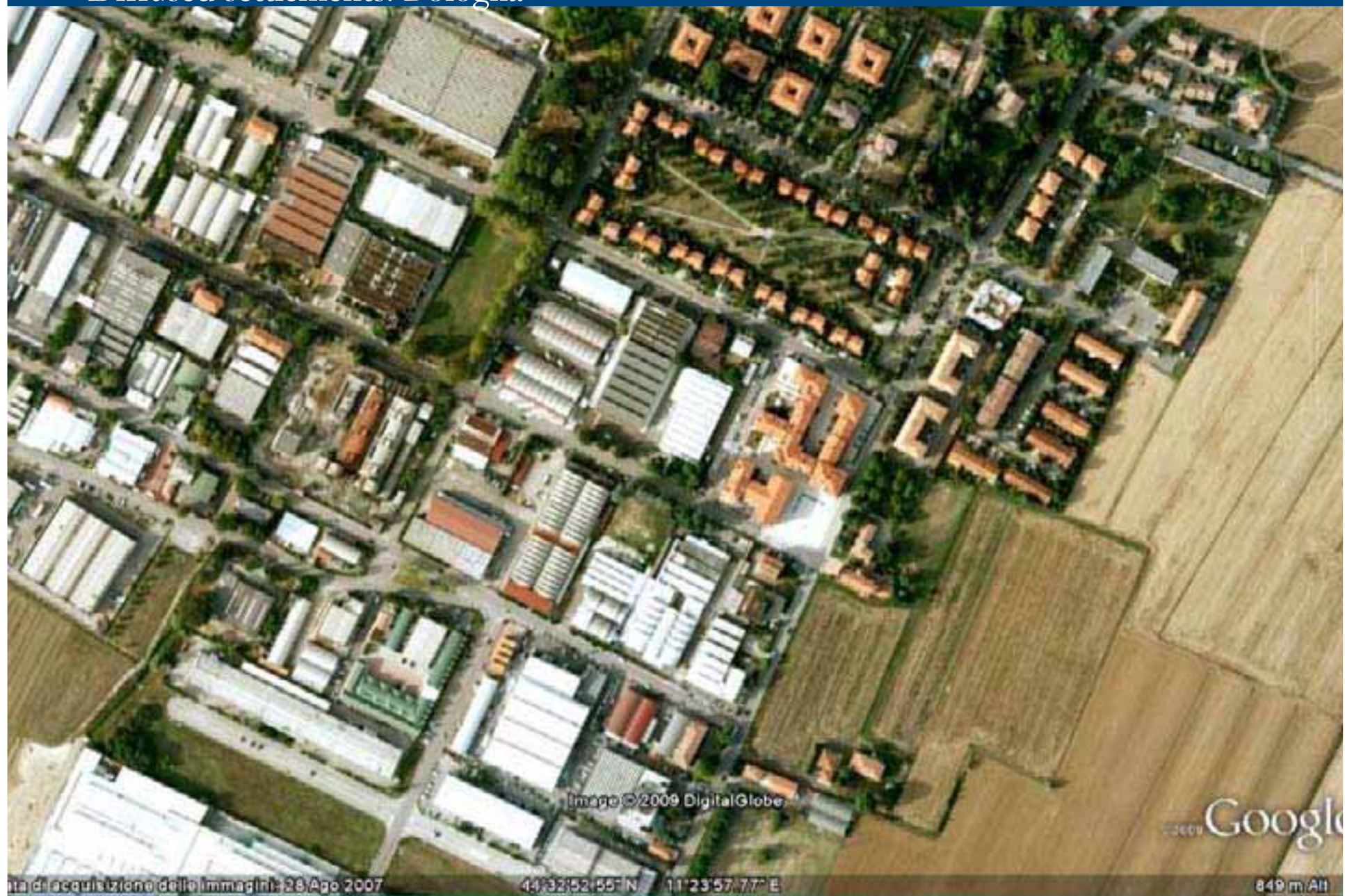


## Diffused settlements: Bologna





## Diffused settlements: Bologna





## Diffused settlements: Adriatic coastline



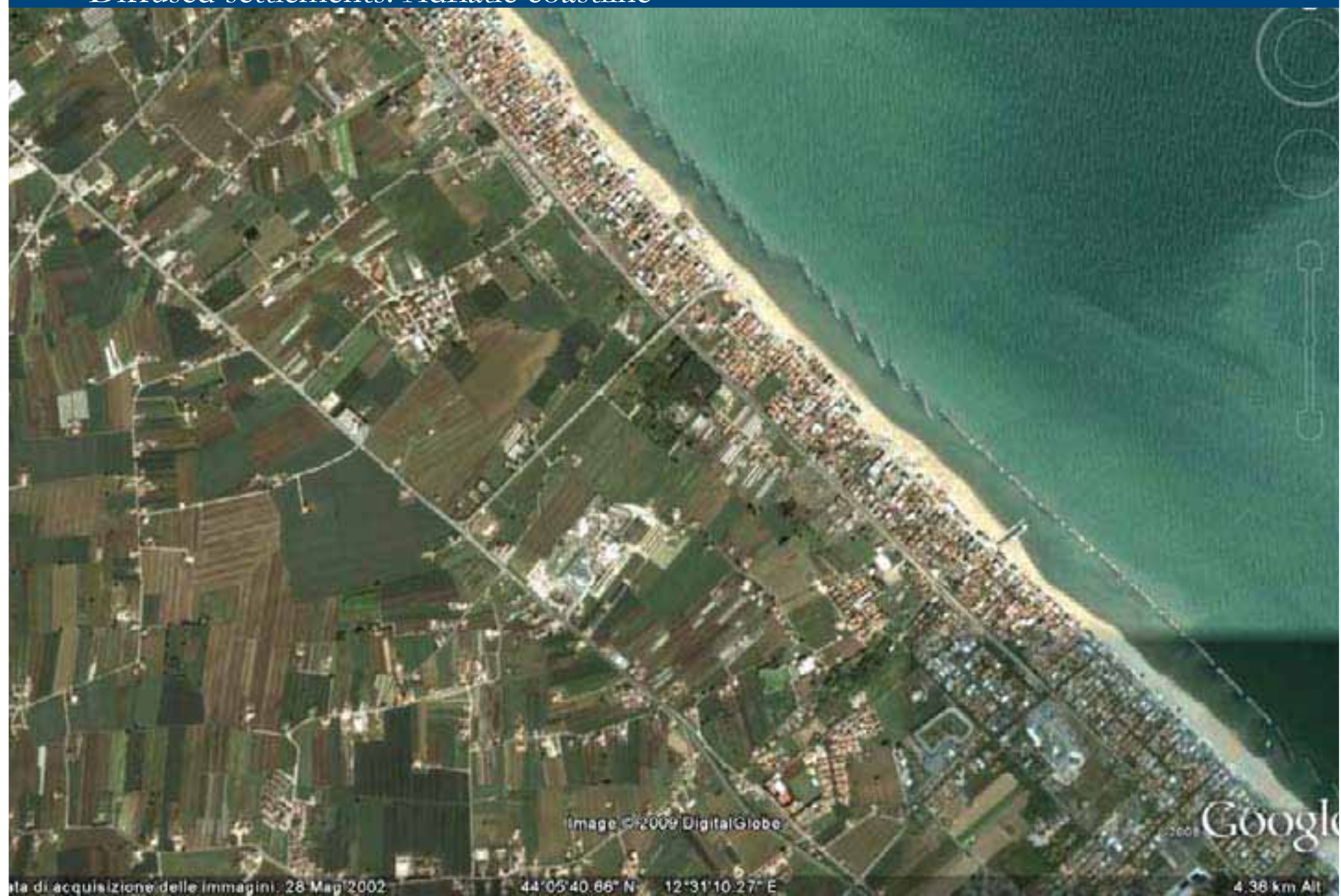


## Diffused settlements: Adriatic coastline





## Diffused settlements: Adriatic coastline





## Diffused settlements: Adriatic coastline





## Diffused settlements: Andalusian coast





## Diffused settlements: Andalusian coast



ta di acquisizione delle immagini: 15 Ago 2007

36°34'47.41" N 4°34'36.65" O

835 m Alt



## Diffused settlements: Tronto Valley (Marche region)



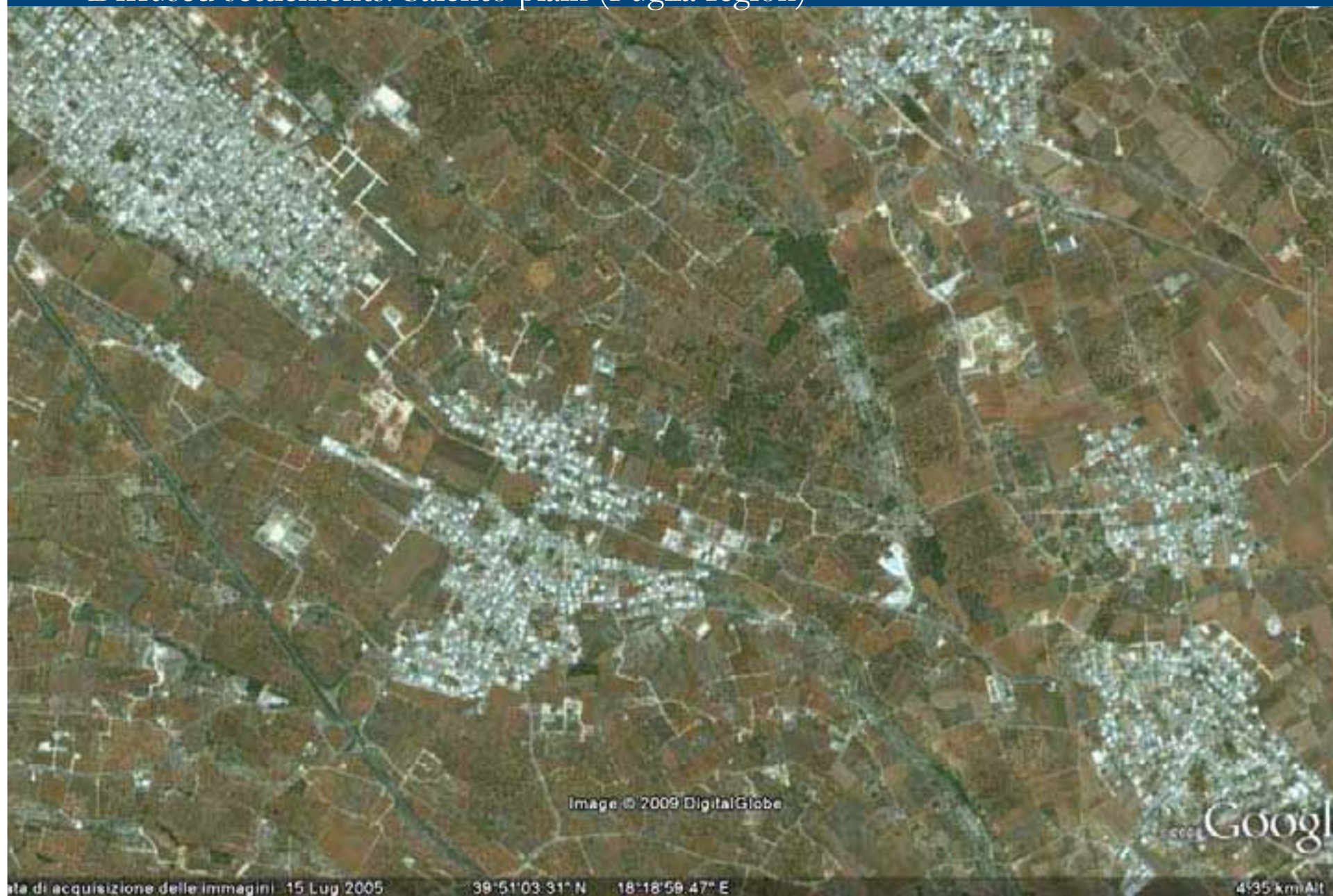


## Diffused settlements: Tronto Valley (Marche region)





## Diffused settlements: Salento plain (Puglia region)





## Diffused settlements: Salento plain (Puglia region)





## Diffused settlements: Veneto plain 1





## Diffused settlements: Veneto plain 1





## Diffused settlements: Veneto plain 1





## Diffused settlements: Veneto plain 1









## **DIFFUSED SETTLEMENTS**

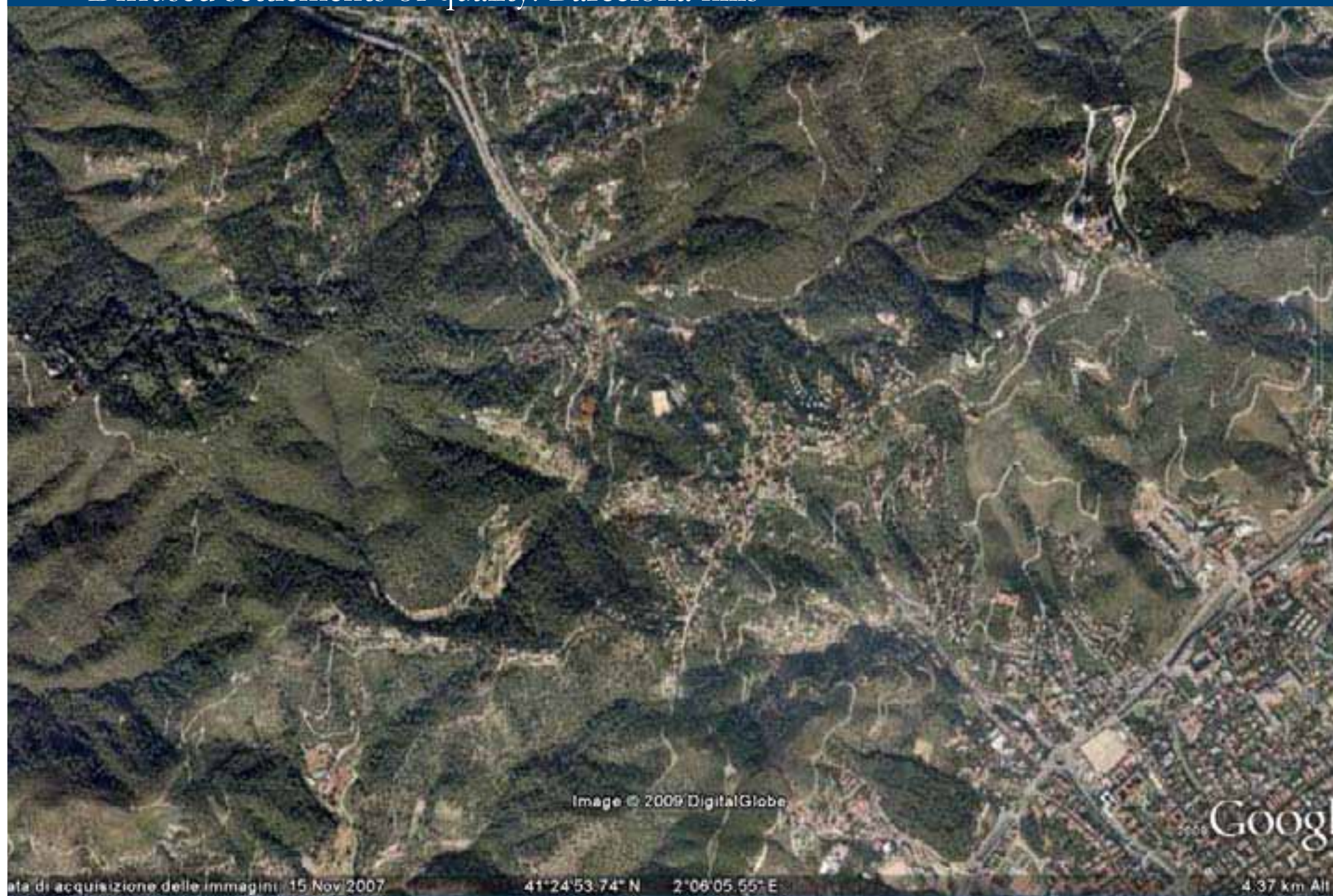
Together with the citadels, the diffused settlements are considered typical expressions marking the explosion of the city. The monotonous repetition of similar objects, such as family homes, factories, warehouses, and hotels, forms the patterns of the diffused settlements along coasts, roads, valleys and on the hills. There are important differences in this case too.

On one side we can observe the invasion of the beautiful natural surroundings of the city - the foothills and the enclosed rural areas. These patterns are characterized by the repetition of high quality homes and the absence of factories and warehouses.

On the other side we can find illegal settlements, made by a progressive addition of unfinished houses without infrastructures.



## Diffused settlements of quality: Barcelona hills





## Diffused settlements of quality: Barcelona hills





## Diffused settlements of quality: Bologna hills



Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

Google

Data di acquisizione delle immagini: 28 Ago 2007

44°28'21.34" N 11°19'26.49" E

4.38 km Alt



## Diffused settlements of quality: Bologna hills





## Diffused settlements of quality: Roma “Appia Antica”





## Diffused settlements of quality: Roma “Appia Antica”



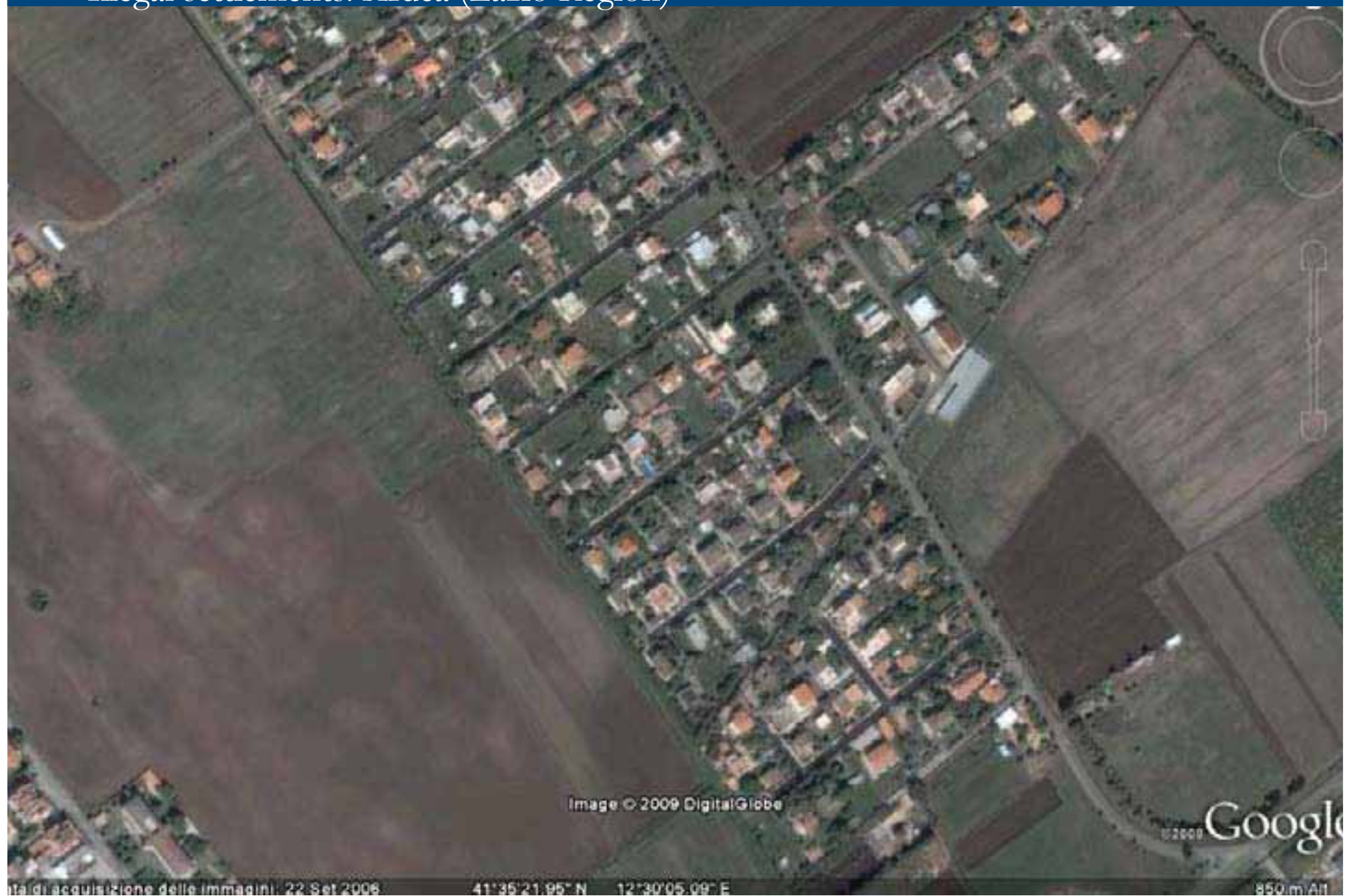


## Illegal settlements: Ardea (Lazio Region)



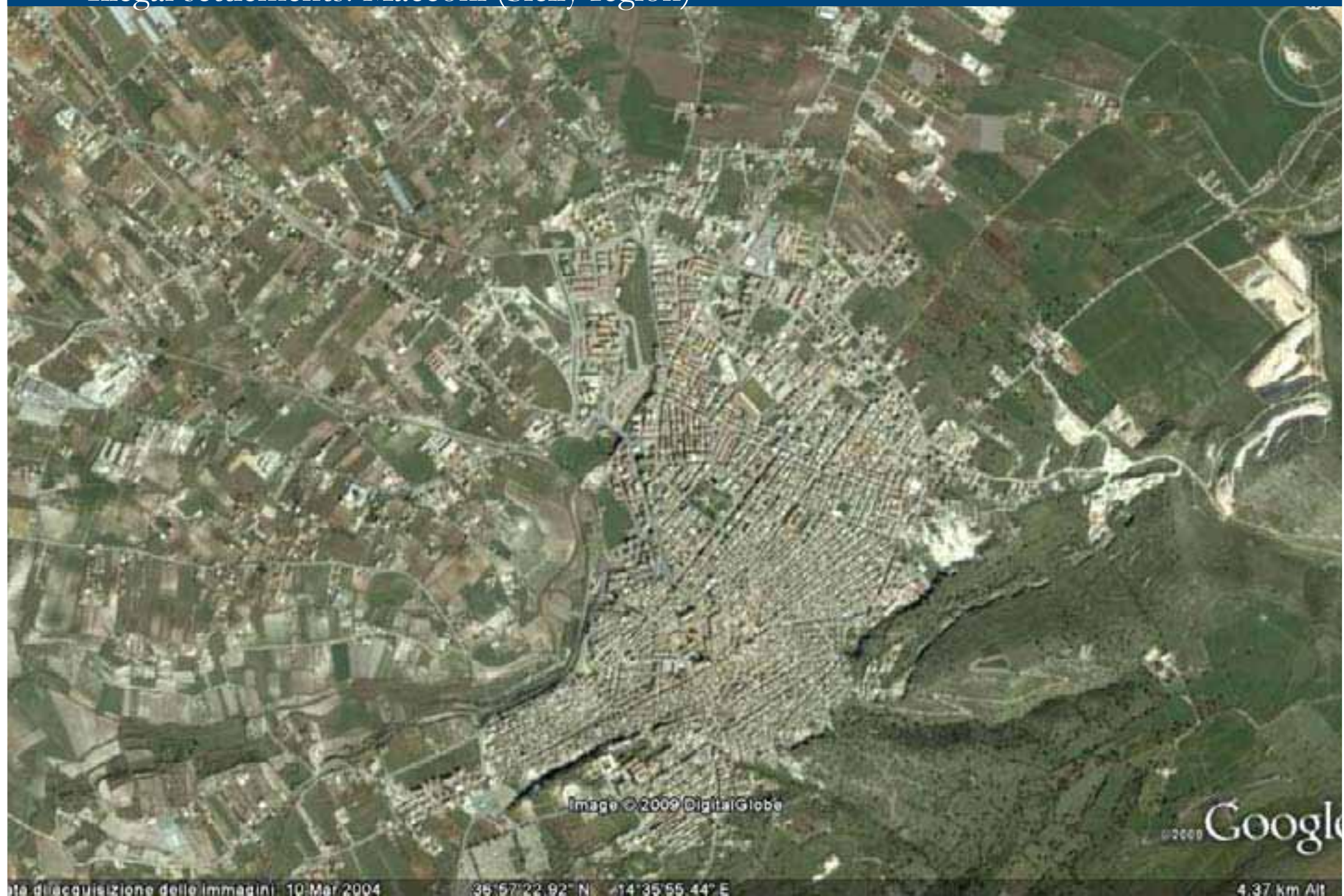


## Illegal settlements: Ardea (Lazio Region)





## Illegal settlements: Macconi (Sicily region)





## Illegal settlements: Comiso (Sicily region)





## Illegal settlements: Macconi (Sicily region)



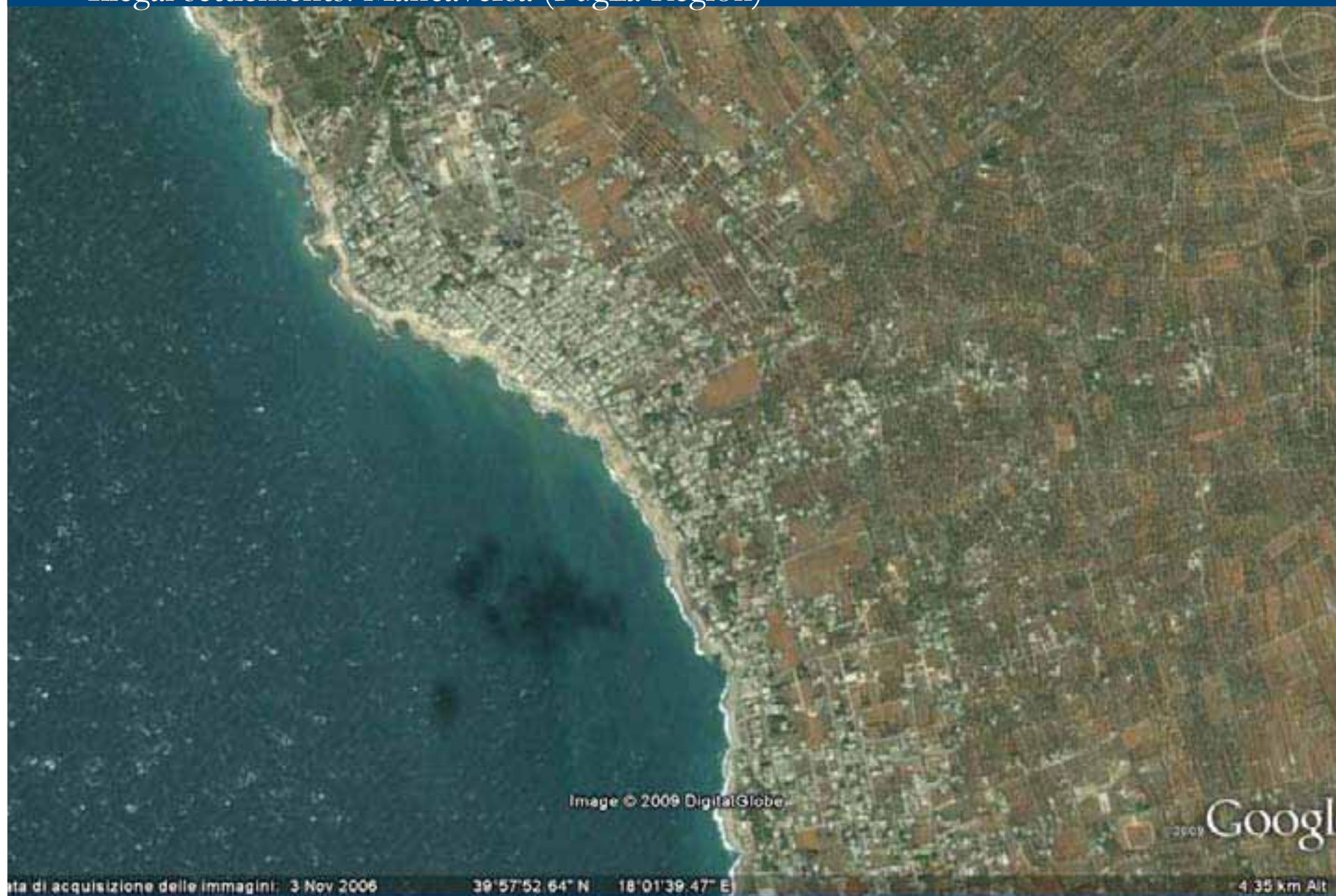


## Illegal settlements: Macconi (Sicily region)



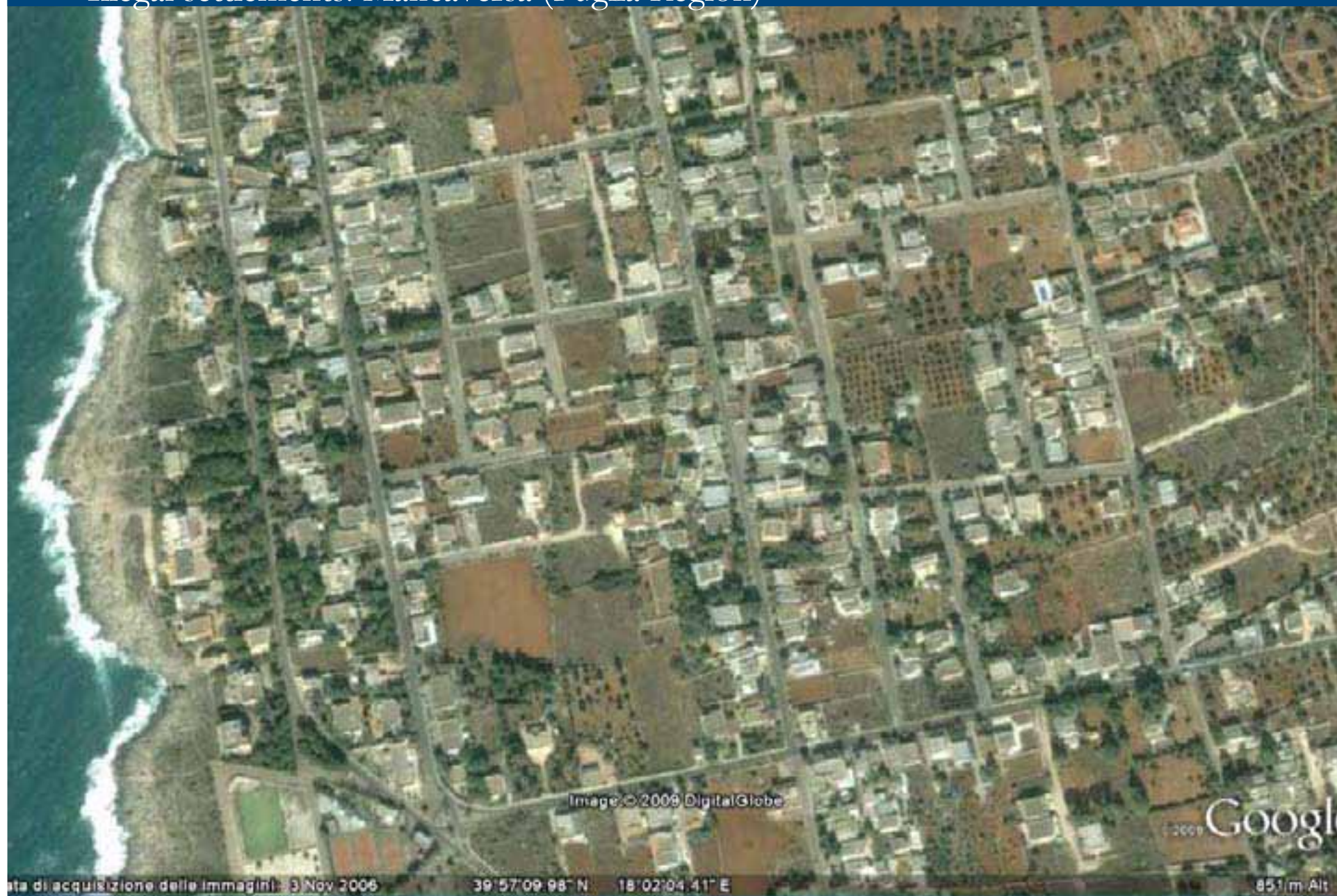


## Illegal settlements: Mancaversa (Puglia Region)





## Illegal settlements: Mancaversa (Puglia Region)





## Illegal settlements: Vesuvio





## Illegal settlements: Vesuvio





