

## LANDSCAPE PLANNING: LOCAL DIVERSITIES AND GENERAL STRATEGIES

### - 1 Over the Boundaries

The Italian landscape, with its rich archaeological and architectural heritage is closely linked to the events and changes caused by men over the centuries.

If we think about the recent history of the country we can see how before 1870 Italy was divided into several states; each of these single states was characterised by a specific culture and different rules. Being influenced by these factors, the landscape showed clearly these differences that were present at the time of the formation of the unified State during the cancellation of the borders. For example, the landscapes of the Papal State was influenced by the presence of a kind of agriculture based on wide-open fields and a less dynamic economy than the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. Therefore, the control of the transformations of the territory after the unification of Italy had to keep in consideration these different realities, protecting local landscapes while giving general rules. This seems to be exactly the current situation in Europe where we need to give general methodological rules that have to be effective in very different situations.

For over a century the Italian legislation focused on the identification, safeguard and conservation of what was defined in Law (1939) as *natural beauty*, now known as *landscape heritage* establishing restrictive measures to protect this heritage, with the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code, the Italian landscape's law (D.Lgs 42/2004).

Ratification of the *European Landscape Convention* induced the Legislator to broaden the scope of the Code; for the first time in Article 131 landscape was defined as *territory representing the identity the traits and features which are created by natural and human factors and their interrelationship*.

Landscape coincides with the territory in which the key element is its identity and therefore the way in which social groups relate to it. The object to be safeguarded are all the features that constitute the material and visible of national identity in so far as they express cultural values.

Another important innovation introduced by the Code is the concept of landscape's enhancement), that *helps to promote the growth of culture*. For the first time the dynamic concept of enhancement became part of the classical concept of safeguard.

The promotion of the landscape culture, in turn, is the most important activity that allows the safeguard and the improvement of the landscape.

Not only the landscape heritage, but the entire Italian landscape cannot be controlled without a central assessment and management tools. For this reason, Code, includes *Landscape regional plans* which coordinate the competences of the central and of the local governments but, first of all, proceeds with

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<sup>1</sup> Part 1 is edited by Giovanni Manieri Elia, part 2 and 3 are edited by Marina Gentili.

an accurate study of the territory and its values in a general and local scale. This activity of study allows to detect and to give values to the different identities and cultures that characterise the Country.

## - 2 The Landscape Regional Plans

The *Landscape Regional Plans* are the result of the collaboration between the local offices and the central offices of the State. The latter guarantees the uniformity of the rules all over the country's territory, keeping in consideration the safeguard of the local characters.

The Ministry should edit the basic guidelines about the safeguard of the national landscape in order to find common strategies all over the Country (article 145 of the Code).

This task turned out soon to be difficult without a deep knowledge of the territories, so the Ministry, by the *Direzione Generale* office, started between 2009 and 2011, some projects of study called "The landscape planning: institutional collaboration" focus specifically on three regions: Calabria, Campania and Puglia, which had the purpose of providing support to the activity of landscape planning and some results were reported on official documents<sup>2</sup>.

Another institutional organism of coordination is the *National Observatory for the quality of Landscape*, provided by art. 133 of the Code; it promotes studies and analyses to elaborate proposals suitable for the definition of policies for the protection and enhancement of the Italian landscape.

Its aim is to coordinate different governance levels and institutions (Universities, the professional sectors and other institutions involved in the management of the landscape) in accordance with the *European Landscape Convention*.

(Example: Tuscany Regional Plan. See Power Point file attached)

## - 3 Landscape and historical towns

The impressive diversity of the physical characters of the territory in the various parts of the Country and its characterising historical deeds have determined a stunning variety of landscapes, various typologies of settlements and the identity characters of the various regional areas.

Such a secular settling story has generated a large number of urban settlements, almost always conserving, even today, their original historical characters.

The Italian cultural heritage is characterised by a network of numerous historical centres spread on its territory assuming different figurative characters in the different regional realities and so assuming strong identities even more than the large famous heritage cities.

These historical centres have been considered - for a while now- cultural heritage at all effects and they are subject to policies and interventions of conservation and protection, safeguarding and improvement.

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<sup>2</sup> Circolare n. 121/2011: Linee guida per la definizione dei criteri metodologici da adottare ai fini della ricognizione, delimitazione e rappresentazione dei beni paesaggistici, come stabilito dall'art. 143 del Codice.

Circolare n. 10/2012: Approfondimenti in merito alla ricognizione dei fiumi, torrenti e corsi d'acqua (aree tutelate per legge ai sensi dell'art. 142, comma 1, lett. c).

Other topic:

Circolare n. 28/2011: Configurazione e modalità di riconoscimento delle "zone di interesse archeologico; il rapporto intercorrente tra la tutela delle "zone di interesse archeologico" e i piani paesaggistici.

Circolare n. 30/2011: Le prescrizioni d'uso delle dichiarazioni di notevole interesse pubblico. Una proposta metodologica.

Circolari nn. 8 e 34/2013: Interventi di trasformazione del territorio - individuazione delle misure necessarie per il corretto inserimento.

Circolare n. 34/2014: Linee guida per la progettazione di interventi di riqualificazione e di restauro paesaggistico in aree a rischio per fenomeni geomorfologici e geo-idrologici (cosiddetto dissesto idrogeologico).

A relevant aspect, coming from the most recent Italian experience, consists, alongside to traditional instrument of territorial planning, in the drafting and use of instruments (at the same time more detailed and agile), based not only on prescriptions and abstract regulations, but also on guidelines and input to the activation of "*best practices*" for correct interventions on the historical buildings, addressed to municipal administrations to building companies, professionals and citizens.

Our recent experience has confirmed the importance of improving and using guidelines and *best practices* manuals for the intervention on historical buildings, that start from the study and comprehension of the distinctive elements and characters, both stylistic and constructive.

The careful recognition of the ancient constructive typologies and modalities of constructions should certainly enhance awareness on their conservation improving the use of the most compatible and useful techniques of intervention. The combination of various typical constructive elements helps to preserve and to "build" the typical and recognisable historical characters of ancient contexts; on the other end, the introduction of not correct interventions could modify the historical image and, overcoming a certain limit, destroying it.

A typical common problem is the use of cement and industrial products (acrylic paintings) in the remaking of the plaster and in its subsequent coloring: the *best practice* consists in the use of traditional lime plasters and lime paintings. A good norm is also to conserve up, where possible, the original plaster with its original colour, using strengthening injections between the plaster and the wall or inside the cracks, instead of proceeding with its demolition and complete remaking, in line with the Italian concept in restoration that gives great importance to the preservation of the material authenticity.

Another important point is the choice of coloring to be reused, considering that the maintenance interventions of historic centres produces a change of coloring during the centuries through the overlapping of various layers of painting on the facades. The detection and selection of the most adequate (usually the most ancient or the one most traditional) is crucial.

Also the road pavings have great importance among the elements contributing to define the typical aspect of ancient historic urban landscape.

They need to be conserved, both in terms of materials and of their laying geometrical scheme; in case of gaps or in need to proceed to partial replacements, it is important to ensure the use of identical or, at least analog materials

Of course, in order to proceed correctly it is necessary to "know". The guidelines may be extended to give information about the various methods of diagnosis or about the historical sources: historical cartography, documents, antique photos, old pictures, geometric survey, cataloging, material survey and state of degradation.

## **Bibliography**

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