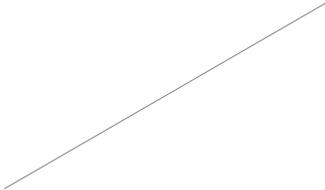


# Foreword

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The subjects of urban regeneration, health, environmental sustainability, and social sustainability are strongly linked to each others' and they represent a great challenge that cities around the world have to face in the latest years. The experience made in the field of transition towards environmental and social sustainability has brought out quite clearly the importance of local dimension. In fact, every sustainable solution is acceptable, if it is effective also at local level. The latest considered, the recovery of buildings and urban spaces can be done using solutions of technological retrofit which tend to change the buildings' originally intended use. These elements today represent one of the tools

cities have to use so as to reinvigorate the social fabrics of their territory while at the same time stimulating new interactions that generate innovative solutions responding to the multiple challenges they face.

Following this logic, even iconic locations that have not been used for long periods can be transformed or at least starting again to be active part of an urban ecosystem aimed at stimulating the contamination between different sectors, such as the projectuality, the economy or the urban social sphere. The rebirth of these places can also generate new connections between organized groups of citizens that are able to express their needs through organized, stable and inclusive actions.

A vocation and a clear long term design are then necessary, but above all, the different energies that all the main stakeholders can supply in these spaces in order to transform them into attractors and generators of what is new and an actual potential of utility for cities. This all becomes possible once “the needs of the territory are listened” (Manzini, 2008; Trocchianesi, 2008) in order to understand the requests of transformation that the territory itself is capable of express, through the institutions that govern it, the companies that produce within it and above all, the communities that populate it reflecting the values that have emerged over time.

We could use the terminology “customer territory”, which is capable of representing the most relevant local needs, by expanding itself towards strategic and reasoned external contributions. These contributions are characterized by different missions and vocations which become part of the overall vision of a contemporary city in the composition of actual local ecosystems for the innovation.

The main objective is to provide answers to the needs of the citizen-user, while at the same time respecting the environment with increasingly scarce resources across from greater and greater challenges.

These forwords have prompted the book’s editors to structure the collected contributions starting from the scientific assumption that: in

the study of issues related to health and climate impacts on constructed spaces, the environmental design, the bio-architecture and the technology are the most suitable approaches; in fact they constitute a reference field for all the collected knowledge involved in the discipline due to their disciplinary tradition along with their significant advancements in these subjects.

The experience of the editors and authors of this book have all contributed in various fields at enriching the debate on *healthcare facilities* thanks to their own experience and reflections in the items of academic and professional research. These contributions also concern subjects of health, environmental space, compositional architectural performance, as well as the subjects of interior design and medical equipment as well as perception of the environment.

The structure of the book was calibrated to provide a fluid treatment of the subject. The volume is developed according to original scientific approaches, providing a solid cognitive and design perspective on the subject of sustainable architecture for *healthcare facilities*.

The different parts of the essay contain various multidisciplinary contributions: this array has not only enriched the subject from the point of view of the various converging scientific contributions, but represented the necessary transition to the construction of scenarios and operation models that guide the design

strategies aimed at resilience, decrease of land consumption and at ease and improvement of health spaces.

Advancement in research and an in-depth analysis of inter-scalar character between the different disciplines and areas of the project can provide - eventually - suitable responses to some open question, like the following ones.

What are the characteristics and performance aspects of built in-areas on which it is necessary to act so that targeted and sustainable interventions can be carried out? What are the levels of intensity and extension of such interventions, as the interconnections required in those design choices which are coherent, among other things, to appropriate strategy of exploitation and conversion of a building site?

What are the guidelines of technological recover that should be adopted so that the condition of climate hazard is preliminarily incorporated into meta-design and proper design approaches for urban resilience, with the assurance that actions on the mitigation of the causes that move climate change will only be successful in the medium-long term? What are the design and distribution choices that are most suited to the subject of those health spaces which can be "adapted" to existing structures of architectural and urban trends? To these questions, as part of the process of decision-making, which takes into consideration the aspects of disciplinary autonomy and heteronomy, the case studies

and experiences collected in this essay try to give an adequate answer, by identifying lines of in-depth analysis capable of determining innovation in the approach to health space design and regeneration of abandoned buildings: while at the same time by emphasizing how architecture becomes both the bearer and guardian of harmony between "home" and those who live within it as well as of the links between man's work and its surroundings by mediating the relationship between climatic agents and the human body. (Albrecht, 2017, p. 8).

The reflections and the items above described have characterized, by the way, the experience of the *International Design Workshop on " Sustainable Spaces for Healthcare"*, held in Naples from February the 27th to March the 2nd, 2019. The workshop represented an opportunity for research advancement within the fields of healthcare architecture. Undergraduate students from the University of Naples "Federico II" and PhD students both Italian and from other foreign universities joined this workshop.

It is not a coincidence that the attendance of *Sustainable Spaces for Healthcare Architecture* has been reserved to last-year undergraduate and PhD students, many of whom have already entered the job or at least partly. This has allowed universities to launch a high-level training process capable of giving life, immediately, to an effective and immediate driving force.

However, this does not take place until a nurturing close relationship with the world of education is upheld, which is a natural reservoir of resources. In the future, it will have the opportunity and duty to carry on and manage the great process of change and innovation taking place in society, without which no territory can be really competitive. In the essay the description of the context and the case study along with their process and expected results have been transmitted from the authors' personal perspective. By doing so they describe an activity that starts from a specific theoretical and methodological background and goes through real interaction with the local territory. It also interacts with the environment, the community and ultimately this activity is going to generate concepts that can be considered visions, scenarios, or perspectives capable of suggesting a possible transition into a sustainable future. During the workshop, the students were invited to develop new and sustainable design solutions that could be applied to a disused building in the "San Giovanni a Teduccio" neighborhood in the Eastern part of the city of Naples. The building was selected by the scientific responsables, Paola De Joanna, and Evangelos Chrysafides, for its territorial position and the physical dimension that would allow for its future recovery. The conversion from its previous function (a private building for living and commercial activities) would be

transformed into a space for healthcare facilities. According to the specific planning, this should be done using technologies and materials that are sustainable and that follow the bioregional criteria.

The projects in the fourth part of this essay are the result of a collection of knowledge theories applied to the proposed case study and, following an empathic excursion proposed to allow the participants to personally enetering in contact with the studied territory, with the urban space, the case study building, as well as the local population. This allows a 360° view of the entire panorama of the project.

The specific expressed needs have then offered multiple interpretations about the raised issues, drawing out of a series of different approaches and thus giving life to a matrix of multiple combinations stimulated by discussions, negotiations, and shared objectives. This is accomplished through personal participation and daily self-organization, individuality, and own cultural autonomy. The creation of a preliminary project, with an indication of functions and spaces, with proposals for sustainable materials and technologies in the different interpretations of the participant's interactions, have yielded guidelines and solutions that represent a valid support for the decisions so as to tackle, in an innovative way the problem of reusing what already exists and of the specific focus on *healthcare architecture*.

What these projects do not explicitly say, but that they address as a whole, is an architectural quality, is a cognition of space linked to function, a sense of beauty and gratification of the “forms of the project” that goes beyond the rhetoric of choices respectful of the environment, the territory, and the quality, and to that a particular attention should be given, at least comparable with the contents.

The latest ones are not limited to the superficiality of an image, which is built for intercepting the interest of less aware users but they also provide real quality, beauty, sociality, flexibility, and inclusiveness to the proposed solutions.

Ultimately, the proposals as a whole have a value for those who took part in it that goes beyond the underlying project. They represent a didactic experience in designing spaces for health as well as an experience of growth that lines up not only with the ideas of “knowledge” and “know-how” design but also with the concept of “knowing how to be” designers in a multicultural social scenario. With this publication, the objective is to contribute with some considerations that arise from case studies and from the individuals involved in varying degrees and efforts, in developing actions for health space and urban regeneration. The hope is that, in the future, experiments in this interesting field of work would multiply and that publications like this would be treasured.

To conclude this foreword, I would like to thank all my colleagues within this field and all the institutions and individuals whose skills and dedication have contributed to the production of this book.

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