

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR “RECOVERING RIVER LANDSCAPES” SEPTEMBER THE 28TH-30TH, 2015

The International Seminar “Recovering River Landscapes” held in Naples on September 2015 (from 28th to 30th) was organized by the UNISCAPE Group of Naples University Federico II (<http://www.uniscape.unina.it>) and supported by Sustainable Mediterranean Construction (SMC). UNISCAPE, established in 2008, is an Association of European Universities, a Network of Universities dedicated to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, which aims to support and reinforce scientific interdisciplinary co-operation among European universities regarding landscape issues, especially in the areas of research and teaching, study and experimentation activities relating to landscapes, and their evolution and transformations. UNISCAPE encourages and assists its member to provide each other technical and scientific assistance in landscapes matters through exchange of experiences and results of research projects. The University of Naples Federico II is one of the UNISCAPE founders, engaged in study and training on topics related to the landscape in general and on landscapes of the Campania region, in particular

The three days of international Seminar are part of the initiative “UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminars”, and have been coordinated by professors E. Petroncelli and F.D. Moccia. The aim of this initiative was to investigate the issue of re-appropriation and the recovery of river landscapes, often compromised and degraded as a result of human or natural changes. During the three days, there have been many different activities. The first day, in the morning, three keynote speakers, professor J.M. Palerm Salazar, professor C. Gonzalez Vives and the architect Dr. E. Costa Pinto have given three outstanding lectures (the first: Green Corridors and Riverbeds with rocks and water. Which Landscape?; the second: Fluid urbanism and hydrophilic architecture: reconsidering the flow of water through urban environment; the third: Trajectories Landscapes – Designing for Openness in Space and Time). Four different thematic sessions have also been organized: Conservation and transformation of dynamic landscapes and Resilient spaces of river fruition, in the afternoon of the September 28, and Geographical approaches and visual and interactive strategies for river landscapes and Water and land in the landscape project, in the morning of September 30.

All the day of September 29 activities in situ have been held: to provide ample opportunity for a truly international scientific and cultural debate, and promote “hands on” experience of river territories. In particular two were the study areas: the Sarno Plain and the Irno Valley. The participants have been divided in two groups and they have had the opportunity to visit each

territory, meet the actors involved, exchange ideas and experiences, examine convergent urban policies and their effects on landscape, and finally, devise projects of landscapes re-appropriation from which to learn.

A Round Table, at the end of the three days, has focused the debate on the rich resources of these territories, the issues and the challenges. The participation of different kinds of stakeholders and responsible of public administrations now allows to hope for new forms of cooperation among technicians and public administrators and/or for the beginning of a new collaboration between the University and the stakeholders.

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