Reggio Calabria Reggio Calabria *Mediterranean* University

Program of the course

"Territorial and Urban recovery and requalification"

Optional Course SSD: ICAR 21, 6 CFU

Triennial Degree Course in Architecture Sciences Classe L-17
II Year

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Objectives

The purpose of the course is to illustrate to students the main issues related to the issues of **recovery and requalification** of the city and the territory in order to enable them *to develop a methodology of analysis and action*, taking in account the various existing tools of town planning and design

For this purpose it will be identified the spatial, social and environmental elements that, in the context of the disciplines that deal with territorial and urban transformation, contribute to the construction of urban wellbeing or to spatial and social sustainability.

A number of indicators useful for reading and verifying effectiveness and social, functional and environmental efficiency, will be proposed in relation to the multiple problems of territories and cities. That is starting from the conditions of the peripheral areas, of the areas of historical and architectural value, of the areas in industrial disposal, of the internal territories with problems of abandonment, of those of the coasts of sea, river or lake, by the use of the natural resources such as water, green, energy, will be identified the need for recovery action, territorial and urban redevelopment. By highlighting the specific conditions of the context, models of analysis and design are articulated, expression of the different social, economic and cultural realities, having as an indispensable condition the ground as a scarce and non-renewable resource.

With the awareness of the need for a development different from the one that occurred from the first industrial revolution because the predictions of its unsustainability, elaborated in the report *The limits to Growth* from the MIT of Boston on commission of the Club of Rome in 1972, are having confirmation.

Contents

By *facing with the cases of study*, proposed by both the students and the teaching staff, *an organic framework* will be provided for the main issues of retraining and recovery: from those linked to the transformation of historical centers, with frequent phenomena of gentrification, to the dismantling of industrial areas, the abandonment of widespread mountainous or

pedemontaneous territorial realities to the strong man-made pressures that are affecting coastal territories and ancient urban settlements, etc ...

The relationship between recovery and requalification and **natural resources** such as water, energy is one of the relevant topics of the Course.

The issues of **accessibility** and **liveability** of space are other important issues that will be addressed. Especially considering the **growing elongation of life expectancy**.

The **analysis of risk and vulnerability** is certainly an essential element in the intervention on the existent. It is increasingly evident the need to identify *the overall safety conditions*, that is, the *exposure* to the various, natural and not, risks to which urban settlements, areas for productive activities, and generally the anthropization, are subject. Especially when these relate to ancient realities, therefore with serious and multiple *static-structural and/or geo-morphological* issues, or when they derive from *environmental factors and/or pollution-related* factors.

The interventions will therefore be aimed at recovery and upgrading of cities and territories that pose **problems of non-security, abandonment, re-use and resignification**. All this are the reasons for *territorial and/or town re-planning*: plans and projects for proposing and building, or reconstruction, of local identities and sense of places, urban and territorial quality. Among the tools that will be hypothesized, depending on the different theme, will also be considered those that refer to "urban regeneration" highlighting potentials and risks.

The overall course **strategy** is built on a non-fragmentary logic that requires a *holistic*, *negotive*, *participative* approach in the identification/construction of both the objectives/problems and the plans/solutions because *"...future is not given, is uncertain, events are not foreseeable. But ... even without anticipating future we can prepare it. Obviously only an analysis of the various possibilities can lead to a reasonable action plan."*

(I. Prigogine, final report to the 'Nobel for the Future'', 1994).

Themes

The course will propose the following topics:

a) *Historic centers in major cities and small non-central communities;*
b) *Abandoned industrial areas and not*;
c) *Coasts, settlements, ports*;
d) *Intervantation for large link infrastructure, culture, etc.*

Specific arguments

1) the relationship between urban and territorial recovery and upgrading and *environmental and social sustainability*;
2) the relationship between *geomorphological conditions* and urban settlements;
3) the construction and design of the *"contemporary" city, diffused and not*;
4) the relationship with the main *demographic*, *social* and *economical transformations*;
5) the contribution of the *material and immaterial components* in achieving urban quality.

Particular attention will be given to the *relationship between "time" and "space"*, synchronic or not, between the fruition and management of places, functions and forms, and therefore their design or redesign.

Working Mode

Part of the lessons is devoted to deepening or, if necessary, the introduction of disciplines that can help in confronting the above-mentioned themes.

Two macro areas characterize these areas:

- one dedicated to **technical disciplines**;
- a second speaks and refers to areas **far away from canonical fields**, eg. the case of space perception.

Comparison with concrete situations is the other important element of the course.

Due to the different, possible, individual training stories this part can be done in two different ways.

- One of these is *to consider a project*, on a territorial or urban scale, and analyze it according to the philosophy above exposed.

- The other mode consists in *design a proposal* constructed following the suggested approach.

In both cases, students can to present *group work*, at most composed of three components

The ability to know how to apply the theoretical knowledge learned in the Course, the appropriation of tools in the operational dimension, will be checked in the exercise that the student will produce during the year. The grow of the student will be seen thanks to *periodic reviews*.

Exam

The exam, besides verifying the student's preparation in relation to the *program*, is a critical discussion of the elaboration of the student or the working group..

As *the exam is individual*, the candidate must, however, demonstrate knowledge of the main issues dealt with in the course as well as the issues covered by the exercise.

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b) Natural resources and landscapes of territories and cities

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c) Effectiveness and efficiency in the territories and cities: strategies, plans, projects

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