

Preface

La città del futuro, nella quale già viviamo, è una città del tempo. È il tempo – non più lo spazio – il medium dell'innovazione più radicale dei modi di vita, dei processi economici globalizzati, delle tecnologie di relazione e d'incontro, dell'utilizzo dei territori. Occupata da abitanti definitivamente temporanei, la città del tempo è una forma cangiante strutturata dai flussi materiali e immateriali degli spostamenti e degli scambi e da molteplici scale spaziali.¹ (Bonfiglioli 2011, p. 343)

Two new phenomena drive the transformation of the contemporary city: the emergence of globalization and the technological revolution.

In the 1970s and 1980s in Europe, the Tayloristic order of industrial production was disrupted. This led towards what many authors call the Information Society (Castells 1996), a social system, whose economic counterpart is Knowledge Economy, where the creation, distribution and handling of information are in the centre of the cultural and economic activity and where wealth and development are created through the use of knowledge. The development of IT technologies created new statutes of space and time, the periurban distribution of populations increased along with the use of private transport means, new uses of daily time arose in relation with new lifestyles and different urban situations were formed, characterized by the diffusion of settlements, marking the transformation of the industrial city and its shape. In the same period, the trend towards more and more dispersed and fragmented forms of settlement became evident.

The contemporary city in western countries has become a city with no limits (endless city – Burdett and Sudjic 2007); it has lost its traditional shape due to its vanishing boundary, once well marked by its circle of walls: a physical but also juridical limit that distinguished the city from the countryside. The traditional

¹The city of the future, in which we live now, is a city of time. This time – no longer space – has most radically innovated our ways of life, globalized economic processes, methods of meeting and relational technologies and our use of the territories. Permanently occupied by temporary inhabitants, the city is a shifting form of time, structured by material and immaterial flows of trips, exchanges and multiple spatial scales (Bonfiglioli 2011).

city is still the centre of a dispersed urbanization. But this dispersed urbanization is a configuration of indefinite shape which is hard to grasp and to define. Some authors call this spatial configuration a *city of flows*. Presently we have a new spatial configuration, which is shaped by new uses and new calendars of the citizens. This last condition has been defined, attempting a synthetical description, with terms such as the '*place of discontinuity, of heterogeneity, of fragmentation and uninterrupted transformation*' (Léveillé 1993), '*diffuse city*' (Indovina 1990), *hypercity* (Corboz 1995), but also '*city networks, urban systems, third generation metropolises*' (Dupuy 1995; Roncayolo 1990; Martinotti 1993). More than others, the definition of the '*ville à la carte*' (Chalas 1997) suggests on the one hand that the city can be assembled differently by each citizen, by choosing a combination of opportunities dispersed over a territory, and on the other hand that we inhabit the city by choosing and varying our routes according to different needs and calendars. Today, innovative proposals that are relevant for the design of this city emerge, such as '*ville malleable*' (*flexible or resilient city*): the idea of a *sustainable city* that can be *shaped* without being *broken* (Gwiazdzinski 2007).

With Information Society, the use of time and urban rhythms changes but also the forms of inhabiting urban space, which creates new disparities based on the access to knowledge and to the services available in the urban environment. The spatial and temporal accessibility of services is a central issue for the development of contemporary urban environments: It relates to themes such as social cohesion, democratic use of the city, local welfare, quality of life of citizens, urban quality and urban sustainability. By focusing on the supply and accessibility of services, one challenges the equitable and sustainable development of contemporary urban systems.

We address this topic starting from the notion of the inhabited city, the physical city including the citizens who inhabit it, in the path of the innovation produced during the last 20 years in Europe: the space-time approach to urban policies, urban design and planning.

The key features of the space-time approach include the following assumptions:

- Adopting individual life practices as the scientific point of observation gives new value to the daily scale of urban life as a measure of quality of life and integrates the private sphere of family life with the public sphere of work (Edensor 2010).
- Focusing methods and instruments on the development of *capabilities* (Sen 1985) empowers public bodies in the objective of enhancing the capabilities of weak categories, including the ability of self-organization.
- The notion of proximity to services is not reduced to a spatial criterion of contiguity, but it takes into account the relation among individual time, working hours and the opening hours and Web accessibility.
- The urban/architectural and temporal qualities of supply and accessibility of services are taken as leading factors and measures of urban quality, quality of life and social cohesion.

In the mid of the 1980s, in Italy, the women of '*double presence*' (work and family care), or '*double yes*' women (Diotima 1987; Balbo 1991), had new

demands regarding accessibility and inhabiting the city. The public project for urban transformation that subsequently followed is known in Europe as Urban Times. This innovation movement was characterized by new ways, sensitive to time, to address the problem of planning and design in a city that, building on the experience and culture of women, is a city for all. International cases and projects demonstrate how gender approaches and more general approaches, based on the acknowledgement of diversity, are particularly apt instruments for promoting an active citizenship, inclusive of communities, hospitable cities and urban quality.

Universities and cities of several European countries (e.g. Italy, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Spain) have for at least 15 years studied and implemented urban policies and projects with a participative approach and with methodologies striving to hold together the physical and temporal features of a place. The themes of conciliation of private time and working time, accessibility and quality of services and public spaces, awareness of age and gender, etc. are already well acknowledged in this international debate. Thematic networks of academies and territories have been often supported by the EU. Materials, products and experiences are rich and well connected to the territories and disciplines.

The Authors

The collection of essays shows the richness and the multiplicity of research themes of the ENCiTi network (European Network City Time). The subjects find a common theoretical ground and common objectives in the attention to the practices of use of time and space by the inhabitants of the contemporary city.

ENCiTi is an international network of researchers and professionals with interdisciplinary competences and various backgrounds, who are strongly connected to their respective territorial contexts. They share the interest to construct a common toolkit of theoretical and instrumental references that could take charge in such debate and animate the city administrations to employ action research in their own territories.

The partners involved in the publication of this book are actors and pioneers of the international debate regarding urban development and urban quality. The core competences and experiences of the network are the analyses of contemporary economic and social trends – especially the analyses of the relations between spatial and temporal development and planning, the definition of themes for the urban agenda, problems of sustainable development and urban quality, the development of time-oriented methodologies and consultancy in space-time planning-related projects. It also integrates the network of young scientists who wish to start and animate the international scientific debate. Their intention is to fuel research, and subsequently action on these topics, while calling into play innovative competences and points of view, such as that of women, without fear of contemporary international challenges and with a willingness to involve the European territories in future projects.

The Structure of the Book

In the book, the authors' efforts are clustered into thematic sections, to reduce complexity and to create a more straightforward reading. It is a necessary simplification that allows us to highlight three different themes. The first one concerns the transformations of time and space in the contemporary city and the multiple practices of a diversity of inhabitants: different in their body, gender, age, social and economic conditions, stage of life, culture, etc. The second theme raises the issue of mobility and accessibility to services and spaces of the city. The third presents space-time planning while addressing the debate on the 'right to the city' and the evaluation of time-oriented policies and projects. Between the main parts, artistic interludes expound on the theme of time in relation to the city adding different perspectives on the topic.

But it is in the proposal (re-proposal) of innovative research topics and projects that the authors focus their attention: on the relationship between sustainable mobility, social justice and the right to the city; on planning urban services paying attention to the practices of use of the inhabitants; on the new calendars for work and use of time (e.g. at night, on Sundays) with the implications they have on the quality of life of individuals and families; on the functioning and organization of the city, its rhythms and its performance and on the methods of evaluation of those policies and space-time projects.

Part I, Rhythms and Diversity, offers different approaches to assessing the role of people and their calendar with respect to the physical space, construction and organization of the city.

Marco Mareggi's contribution uses the concept of the 'rhythm of the city' to propose the analysis of urban rhythms as an approach to better understand how cities are functioning and how rhythms can be used to enrich contemporary planning practices. Following the notion of Lefebvre's Rhythm analysis 'Everywhere where there is interaction between place, time and expenditure of energy, there is rhythm' (Lefebvre 2004, p. 15), Mareggi works with urban rhythms in an evocative manner, using musical terms such as 'harmonies and dissonances' and 'constant sounds and silences'.

Jean-Yves Boulin discusses the way the ongoing trend to work on Sundays has caused change within in the daily lives and rhythms of Sunday workers in comparison to all-day workers. In describing the development in France, he also shows the spatial differences and therefore sets out to recommend the local regulation of Sunday work by local time policies.

Another key factor that influences the rhythms of contemporary cities is the extension of activities into the night-time leading to a trend towards a 24-hour society. Economic and social night-time activities both need and cause artificial lighting. Merle Pottharst and Benjamin Könecke elaborate on the impacts of artificial light and the implications of the loss of the night on urban society. A taxonomy of relevant positive and negative effects of nocturnal artificial light

reveals conflicts between the natural rhythms of animals and human beings and the rhythm of urban structures associated with the 24-hour society and their complex and dynamic interdependencies.

The fastening urban heartbeat of the night signals economic as well as cultural activities. Adam Eldridge and Marion Roberts explore the city at night as a place of economy, leisure and cultural practices and the role of socioeconomic and demographic developments in shaping these night-time activities of the city. They argue that the city at night is no longer a homogenous space-time that is just used by a limited group of people carrying out similar leisure activities. Rather their research shows how societal changes as well as new urban infrastructures and services have resulted in changed habits and time patterns, shaped by gender, age and class.

Luc Gwiazdzinski calls for a broader understanding of the temporalities of the youth that goes beyond their evening and night-time activities. He stresses that a spatio-temporal approach to youth can offer important insights about their daily rhythms and the way they adapt the urban realm. By outlining the diverse and multiple ties of teenagers to the urban territory and their specific temporalities, behaviours and needs, he transcends the typically biased images of teenagers. Gwiazdzinski's observations disclose 'plural and polychronic life modes' with manifold networks and scales that require a rethinking of contemporary urban design and planning practices.

Whereas the last two above-mentioned articles discuss human behavioural practices, the following essays evolve from this starting point to explain urban rhythms themselves. Gemma Vilà focuses on the question how the spatial configuration of a city influences people's life space and time use. An analysis of the Barcelona metropolitan area illustrates the relation between urban morphology, city accessibility, individual and collective time management. A comparison of the compact city model and the dispersed city reveals differences in service and infrastructure accessibility and mobility options. Thus, also the use of time and space and the degree of dependency differ greatly between the two city models, generating specific urban rhythms.

Part I is followed by the first artistic intermezzo, a time walk by the artists and researchers Albert Mayr and Antonella Radicchi: Time walk serves as an approach based on senses and observation to enrich the awareness of places and time. The artists urge our attention on the need to develop aesthetic instruments as a necessary component of space-time design.

Sociological literature and urbanism inspire the topics for Part II, Mobility and Accessibility of Spaces and Services: their temporal relationship; the opportunities that this view offers on the contemporary city, looking at the 'right to the city'; and the contradictions in the allocation and efficiency of city services.

It is the time, the efficiency of the city, the methods of investigating and comparing different cities and its value in terms of urban competitiveness and social justice which Dietrich Henckel and Susanne Thomaier contemplate, and accordingly propose, as an issue for project planners.

In terms of city planning and within the context of theoretical neodisciplinary time planning, Stefano Stabilini, Roberto Zedda and Lucia Zanettichini present the

chronographic instruments, developed at Polytechnic of Milan, for time-oriented analyses of territorial planning and urban design. These rely on their time-oriented (action) research and their experience in implementing time planning project in Italian cities. This approach addresses the urban planning of the inhabited city, i.e. a physical space that has been built throughout history, characterized by a multitude of practices and calendars.

Regarding mobility, accessibility and social equity, Mario Boffi and Matteo Colleoni create a comparative and interdisciplinary empirical study of the metropolitan areas of Milan, Turin and Bologna. The objective of their study is to analyse the way urban residential areas are structured, looking at the influence, presence and availability of opportunities and how the proximity of residential areas to opportunities is combined with the resident's 'mobility capital', their mobility styles and how it influences their accessibility to urban assets and services.

In the following essay, Jenni Kuoppa questions the construction of meaning and identity of the places regarding mobility. She specifically addresses the issue of soft mobility as a way to achieve a given service or location and as a recovered value or investment in the sense of belonging to a place and the construction of the place itself. The paper presents the results of a study that analysed the reasons and problems encountered by the Helsinki inhabitants regarding their pedestrian mobility.

Similarly, the essay by Konrad Miciukiewicz and Geoff Vigar presents the notion that – from the point of view of the traveller – the time spent in motion and mobility constitutes a value itself. Using a language dear to planners and time-oriented architects, they focus on the issue of 'inhabiting' mobility, i.e. the temporary appropriation of the places of mobility by citizens with certain calendars, the quality of this life and the consequences in terms of social justice. This vantage point calls for a reorientation of mobility design: from a purely efficiency-focused transport to an understanding of mobility as a quality of the space system.

The second artistic intermezzo offers a different perspective on time and space by illustrating the artwork of Mark Formanek and Datenstrudel. Their standard time is an inspiring 24-hour artwork, demonstrating how time could be regarded as a building material, but it also reminds us of the meaning of *kairos*: the right time that gives sense to an action.

The last part of the book, *Time Urban Policies and Urban Planning Time*, analyses the role of a space-time (neo)discipline and includes viewpoints and examples of time-oriented urban planning on the national and regional level. Especially the Italian projects are based on a national policy framework and aim at an integrated perspective to improve the quality of the territory and the quality of citizens' life. Moreover the section provides insights on the policies' relation to sustainability, how they regard the citizens' right to the city and the role and timing of the policies.

Jeroen van Schaick presents a comprehensive overview of the European debate on time-oriented projects and policies. He identifies the interdisciplinary matrix of research and discusses the claim of space-time design being a neodiscipline.

Fermín Rodríguez Gutiérrez traces an interpretative approach to the construction of cities urging the reader to investigate the potential of a temporal approach in the context of social sustainability and the right to the city.

Marina Zambianchi presents the city of Bergamo's experience working with time-oriented urban planning, laying out the background gained by the municipal administration over 20 years of projects on time policies and practices. Describing Bergamo's approach, she provides a model for demonstrating the capability of integrating time and space into the urban planning.

In Italy, the time-oriented projects and policies are supported by a substantial set of legislation on national and regional levels. Raffaella Radoccia unfolds two cases of regional policy implementation in the mid-Adriatic Apulia and Abruzzo regions. She shows how the interdisciplinary nature of the temporal policies and time planning can be acquired by the legislature and how it strives to allow connections between specific laws that affect social cohesion, equal opportunities, the timing of the city and in general for the construction of a new welfare.

The final two articles concern the subject of evaluation. Giancarlo Vecchi faces a central theme of the diffusion of innovative policies: the problem of transferring experiences from one national, cultural or administrative context to another. Over the years, since the discussion and dissemination of administering and projecting urban time policy in Europe began, problems in transferring the 'best practices' from one national context to another became clear. The author refers to this scientific debate and proposes a method to reorganize the innovative projects for the Court of Milan.

Finally Ulrich Mückenberger raises two basic questions for every public decision: Do urban time policies have a real impact on the quality of life? Which methods are appropriate to evaluate them? The contribution presents a methodology for evaluating projects and the results of case studies in Germany. These case studies show the necessity of win-win situations for successful projects and the potential to achieve them.

The concluding remarks by Dietrich Henckel, Benjamin Könecke and Susanne Thomaier offer a categorical grid for the analysis of the different articles in the book and their different approaches. It is obvious that space-time analysis requires multidisciplinary approaches and an integration of different perspectives and actors in planning and design. Despite a growing body of theoretical and methodological literature, empirical analyses and practical experiences in space-time planning and design, we are still at a rather infant state of knowledge. Here, a preliminary agenda for further research is presented.

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