Urban sprawl processes characterize the landscape of the areas surrounding cities. These landscapes show different features according to the geographical area that cities belong to, though some common factors can be identified: land consumption, indifference to the peculiarities of the context, homogeneity of activities and building typologies, mobility needs exasperately delegated to private cars.
TeMA - Journal of Land Use, Mobility and Environment offers researches, applications and contributions with a unified approach to planning and mobility and publishes original inter-disciplinary papers on the interaction of transport, land use and Environment. Domains include: engineering, planning, modeling, behavior, economics, geography, regional science, sociology, architecture and design, network science, and complex systems.

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MOBILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS 3 (2012)

Contents

EDITORIALE

Mobility and Competitiveness
Rocco Papa 3

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Mobility and Competitiveness
Rocco Papa

FOCUS

The Clustering Effect of Industrial Sites: Turning Morphology into Guidelines for future Developments within the Turin Metropolitan Area
Giuseppe Roccasalva, Amanda Pluviano 7

The New Cispadana Motorway. Impact on Industrial Buildings Property Values
Simona Tondelli, Filippo Scarsi 21

Trasporti, ICT e la città. Perché alla città interessano le ICT?
Ilaria Delponte 33

The Clustering Effect of Industrial Sites: Turning Morphology into Guidelines for future Developments within the Turin Metropolitan Area
Giuseppe Roccasalva, Amanda Pluviano

The New Cispadana Motorway. Impact on Industrial Buildings Property Values
Simona Tondelli, Filippo Scarsi

Trasporti, ICT e la città. Perché alla città interessano le ICT?
Ilaria Delponte
The Relationship Between Urban Structure and Travel Behaviour: Challenges and Practices
Mehdi Moeinaddini, Zohreh Asadi-Shekari, Muhammad Zaly Shah

Housing Policy. A Critical Analysis on the Brazilian Experience
Paulo Nascimento Neto, Tomás Moreira, Zulma Schussel

The Italian Way to Carsharing
Antonio Laurino, Raffaele Grimaldi

L’utente debole quale misura dell’attrattività urbana
Michela Tiboni, Silvia Rossetti

Resilience? Insights into the Role of Critical Infrastructures
Disaster Mitigation Strategies
Sara Bouchon, Carmelo Di Mauro

Urban Spaces and Safety
Rosa Grazia De Paoli

Fruizioni immateriali per la promozione territoriale
Mauro Francini, Maria Colucci, Annunziata Palermo, Maria Francesca Viapiana

OSSERVATORI
Laura Russo, Giuseppe Mazzeo, Valentina Pinto, Floriana Zucaro, Gennaro Angiello, Rosa Alba Giannoccaro

REVIEW PAGES
Laura Russo, Giuseppe Mazzeo, Valentina Pinto, Floriana Zucaro, Gennaro Angiello, Rosa Alba Giannoccaro
The identification of sources and factors of regional and urban competitiveness is of central importance in a period of increasing globalization.

In spatial economics, the important role of transport and communication is one of the fundamental principles of spatial economics, and the theme of the relations between competition among regions and cities and policies and/or infrastructural facilities related to mobility has been widely faced in urban planning, social science, and urban economy fields. Regions and cities with better access to locations and markets and with better connections with global centers of commerce will be more productive and competitive than more isolated regions and cities.

Policies to improve economic competitiveness of regions and urban areas by investments in transport and communications infrastructures are a primary policy field of economic policy. However, the relation between transport and economic development is more complex (Spiekermann and Wegener, 2012). Transport infrastructure has been a necessary, though not sufficient, catalyst to economic growth and expansion, particularly in urban areas (Cervero, 2009). Negative impacts that congestion, pollution, poor efficiency of transport systems can drop the competitiveness levels of a city.

This issue of TeMA argues for carving a new relationship between transport infrastructure and cities' competitiveness that balances the goals of economic productivity and community place-making. Often considered to be in conflict, they need not be. In other words, the issue explores the contribution that infrastructural systems and/or procedures and tools for mobility planning and management can provide to the levels of competitiveness and livability that cities achieve. The broad topic includes both theoretical contributions and others more closely linked to policies/practices for mobility that positively affect the efficiency and livability of urban systems, increasing their potential for attracting businesses and families.

This general theme can regard different topics:

Contributions may explore the following topics: competitiveness and interrelationships (material/immaterial) among territories; widespread mobility, land values and territorial marketing, accessibility, mobility infrastructure and urban efficiency; local public transport and increase in urban livability; government policies for competitive mobility in
historical cities; the parking network as a strategic factor for urban competitiveness; infrastructure and innovative systems for public transport.

In the FOCUS section of this issue the subject of competitiveness is faced through its several aspects. In particular, the paper by Giuseppe Roccasalva and Amanda Pluviano focuses on the morphological clustering of industrial sites and how alternative concepts for planning development may be generated, using space syntax methodology and a comprehensive mapping of industrial distribution to analyze the evolution of Turin (capital of car manufacturing in Italy) and its relationship to industry from 1920 to the present. The paper by Simona Tondelli and Filippo Scarsi the estimation of the costs and benefits generated from the building of the new Cispadana regional motorway (Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy) is described. The study focuses on the price variations of the industrial buildings property values in the real estate market after the new motorway will be built, aiming at developing a forecasting method, which could be repeatable and applicable to other kinds of externalities. The paper by Ilaria Delponte focuses on the existent relationship among transport system, ICT and the city. The article by Mehdi Meoinaddinia, Zahreh Asadl-Shekarib and Muhammad Zaly Shahc deals with the relationship between urban structure and travel behavior. The article of Paulo Nascimento Neto, Tomás Moreira and Zulma Schussel focuses on housing policy with a critical analysis on the brazilian experience. The paper ends up that technology involvement in transport is carrying on a new way of planning them and tries to draw out some further conclusions regarding the intervention on existent cities in a changing world and the demand of updated skills in the planning field.

The LUME section includes different papers on the general subject of the integration between Land use, mobility and environment: the paper by Antonio Laurino and Raffaele Grimaldi, which studies the existing Italian carsharing experiences, trying to understand its strengths, that have allowed its development, but also possible limits and weaknesses; the article by Tiboni Michela and Silvia Rossetti which argues the need to regain the right measure while dealing with urban planning: only in this way the usability of the urban public spaces will increase for everyone, both vulnerable users and not; the article by Sara Bouchon and Carmelo Dimarco, aimed at providing some insights related to the evolution of the critical infrastructures disaster mitigation strategies from the sole protection towards resilience; the paper by Rosa Grazia De Paoli, which focuses on the mitigation of seismic risk, and which intends to blaze a new methodological trail that aims to identify safety traits in urban spaces; the article by Mauro Francini, Maria Colucci, Annunziata Palermo and Maria Francesca Viapiana which starts from the topic of smart cities and communities and present the research program whose objective is embodied in the virtualization of the territorial heritage in general and, in particular, of the cultural heritage in order to restore it in network as a “common good” for citizens and visitors.

References:


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