

call for
papers, images, projects

Coexistence

bodies, actions and hybrid spaces in the contemporary city

editors
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Topic

In regards to cities, the word “coexistence” evokes different ways to habit and build urban spaces, involving different, multiple intentions and reactions. Coexistence can take many paths, such as through exchange, joining, inserting, and layering heterogeneous activities and expressions, (sometimes even incoherently).

This Call welcomes contributions which investigate the various circumstances and situations through which the coexistence – whether spontaneous, arranged or suggested – takes place in the contemporary city and hosts the gathering of different bodies, behaviors, spaces, times, and cultures.

The city has a long history of providing a place of coexistence, since ever; it often is not at all harmonious, nevertheless alive and proactive, just because pugnacious. Regardless, for long we resorted to separation, detachment, specialization, and generated singular spaces, in formal, social and functional terms; we wanted to normalize the city, subdue conflicts, contain the bursting power of melting difference; then, we worked out a distorted idea of control and built reassuring and forcedly quiet places, for obvious, programmed and obliged behaviors. On the contrary, coexistence tells us about intensity, that is: density of opportunities for urban experiences and meanings, spreading up from our habitat; vitality and fervor, rising from disturbance and discordance; ambiguity, contradictions and complexity, able to give sense and value to inhabited places.

Coexistence consists of situations: actions taking place in space and time. It gives chances to communities – provisionally realized by singular subjects – to express their own needs, regulate themselves and so build intentional and aware social meaning. Coexistence is not static nor privative; conversely, it's changeable and plural. It gets nourished by the inconsistency of “living together” and is recognized and legitimated just where contents are continuously realigned.

Coexistence joins existing and arising ensemble, as new plural sets of singular beings. The resulting urban space is elastic; any distinction between inside/outside, open/close, public/private, natural/manmade gets outdated. Urban spaces multiply in temporary settings, where each subject displays his own presence just taking care of places, making them personal, familiar, tame. Designed as well re-arranged architectures offer this chance, provided that allow intentional omissions and get ready for individualizing and so opening to plurality. Coexistence asks to rethink and reclaim the role, sense and tools of design, so that design could hold, support and suggest an inventive attitude to inhabit shared urban spaces.

Question

This Call invites submissions which address urban histories and case studies that expose coexistence, or register and observe practices of adoption and arrangement of contradiction. Arguments should move beyond static categories of type, function, and language: instead, they should address the challenges of contemporary urban spaces, produced by the bundling up unstable codes, meanings, materials, behaviors. The issues and concerns of coexistence have long been addressed in contemporary design but is often overlooked or ignored by landscape architects. Hence this call encourages works and thoughts that examines the particularities of places that are deeply entangled with the concept of coexistence. Buildings, quite regardless of scale and purpose, come to be rewritable platform: crossbreeding, change, inconstancy, are the relevant categories, joining and endorsing the changeableness, sometimes few predictable, of social, economical, also weather conditions. Working, residential, spare time places, come back to overlie and blend each other, according with a new overlapping between domestic and public realm. Pop-up architecture is no longer just ephemeral, but permeates also permanent design, which, in fact, is durably temporary. In turn, for landscape architecture this means examining specific places, such as squares, streets, parking-lots, gardens, playgrounds and so in terms of integration and overlapping. In particular, contributions that explore how coexistence is often the product of behaviors that accomplice dynamics and cycles of natural elements and suggest a deep empathic bond are welcome. So are submissions that examine how nature and artifice lose their boundaries, fatally and mutually improper. Such as how nature triggers new expressive and functional interpretations for mostly marginal urban spaces – in terms of meaning and not just of geography – bringing there unexpected centrality.

This Call welcomes contributions that addresses informal practices and firm design, buildings and open spaces, didactics works as well as those that are theoretical or applied research. Works and Paper that prompt questions such as: which are the current urban dynamics suitable to host and display coexistence? Which chronologies do they solicit and describe? Which tools, attitudes and skills do we need to design places for coexistence? Which are the favored places to test actions, practices and proposals of coexistence? Which are the new categories of public spaces suggested by realized or proposed forms of coexistence? May coexistence help to read and re-read past design, architecture and places?

How to apply

The Call is open to all disciplines and perspectives that examine the contemporary city. Accepted entries will be discussed in a workshop that will take place in Rome in 2017 May, displayed in an exhibition, and published in a book.

To apply, please comply with the following sections:

Picture:

You can apply photographs, portraying actual social and space situation, able to display coexistence conditions. Otherwise, you can apply with fictional images, product of composition, collage, assembly of pictures and so on.

Text:

This format suits theory and critic works about habitat, design and urban dynamics, dealing with the call topic, to spread thought about contemporary city, even in case the works refer to experience, design and places of other epochs.

Design:

This section will select design about contemporary urban spaces, with no regards to scale, geographical area or theme conditions. You can apply realized works, competitions design, degree thesis and didactic works.

Authors can apply to more than one section.

The application formats are in the [download page](#).

Please, remind that this is a just on line application for digital files.

Paper materials as well other shipping forms will be not taken into account and evaluated.

First
Stage
-
deadline
2016.12.31

01. Picture

File Dimension: 800×800 pixels, 150 dpi, max 3MB

File Format: .jpg

File Name for applying: IM_Surname Name.jpg

A pdf file, as the facsimile, is also required, with the following information: Name and Surname; Affiliation (if applicable); Email Address; Title of the Work; 3 to 5 Keywords.

02. Text

Language: Italian or English

Dimension: 3.000 bytes, spaces included

File Format: .doc (or .docx) and .pdf

File Name for applying: PA_Surname Name.doc

Another doc file, as the facsimile, is also required, with the following information: Name and Surname; Affiliation (if applicable); Email Address; Title of the Work; 3 to 5 Keywords; Basic References (Harward Style).

03. Design

We require a single pdf file with:

- 5 pictures, photographs as well drawings, squared shape;
- data sheet, as the facsimile, with the following information: Name and Surname or Name of the Design Team; Email Address; place and time of design; Client; Total amount (if applicable); Consultants and Partner (if applicable); 1000 bytes descriptions, spaces included (type Times New Roman, 11).

It will be a max 3MG file. It will be so named: PR_Surname Name.pdf (otherwise, PR_Team Name.pdf).

The first stage application is for free.

The works will be submitted according to the directions posted on the website <http://compresenze.uniroma3.it/en>. Applications must inscribe [here](#), signed a declaration (as the facsimile, this is required for copyrights reasons).

Selected authors for every section will receive notice of their status via email.

Second
Stage
-
deadline
2017.03.15

All admitted works will be published in the book and displayed in the exhibition. For this reason, all the selected works will be given back according to the layouts that will be uploaded on the website. Please, note that in the Text Section, the authors of the final 10 papers will be asked to develop their topic in an expanded essay, of 10.000 bytes.

The participation fee amount for the selected works is:

- 01. Picture: 20,00 euro
- 02.a Short Text: 20,00 euro
- 02.b Text: 50,00 euro
- 03. Design: 50,00 euro

The second stage works will be uploaded using the proper page of the [website](#).

Authors of works selected for the exhibition and publication are required to sign a copyright transfer agreement with the Editors.

Schedule

- 2016.12.31 first stage deadline
- 2017.02.01 acceptance notification and peer-reviewers feedback
- 2017.15.03 authors' registration and second stage submission
- 2017.05.15 exhibition opening

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