

Within the Program for the 140th Anniversary of Rome the Capital

Present

ARCHITECTURE AND PSYCHE MEETING
From the man henceforth
New spaces for the man in the city – metropolis
Towards a laboratory of integrated design
Architecture and Psyche

ROME, September 28th 2010 h. 9-18

Casa dell'Architettura all'Acquario Romano
Piazza Manfredo Fanti 47 (Termini Station)

with the sponsorship of
Ministero dell'Ambiente e della tutela del Territorio e del Mare



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

Architecture and Psyche: the Meeting

AN INVITATION FOR EXPERTS, SCHOLARS, AND OPERATORS TO ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS ON THE SPACE FOR MEN:

1. Houses, Schools, Hospitals, Communities, Prisons, Malls: how can we build the diversity?
2. The collective urban spaces: how can we design the relations?
3. The contemporary house: how can we design today a personal space?

3 QUESTIONS FOR THE MEETING "ARCHITECTURE AND PSYCHE"

that aims to begin – through the different disciplines – a design methodology for living spaces in the cities – metropolis: collective and personal, urban and residential, of care and detention.

AN INVITATION FOR EXPERTS, SCHOLARS AND OPERATORS

to discuss three themes of strategic importance for the creation of new spaces for men:

spaces of "diversities"

spaces for collective relations

personal spaces

TO COMBINE DISCIPLINES that focus on the man and his space is at the same time the philosophy of Architecture and Psyche and the only operative instrument capable to respond to the needs of the individual and the community, reaffirming the centrality of the space and the architecture in the evolutionary process of the man.

Architecture and Psyche: the idea and concept

Architecture and Psyche is a research started in 2007 by Rosario Marrocco. It entails the creation of spaces for men starting off with the analysis of the relation between the space designed and the one perceived, that is the study of the connections between space and psyche.

It is the research of a design methodology capable to elaborate creations of living spaces (houses, schools, hospitals, prisons, neighbourhoods) starting off with the person, putting together different experiences and professions but cooperative to the study of the man and his spaces.

Working Group Architecture and Psyche

Architettura e psiche is a research started in 2007.

Subsequently it forms the Gruppo di Progettazione Integrata Architettura e Psiche



founded and directed:

Elio Cappuccio (Filosofo, Presidente del Collegio Siciliano di Filosofia),

Alessandra Ciolfi (Psicologa, Resp.salute mentale Fondazione Internazionale Don Luigi Di Liegro),

Josè Mannu (Psichiatra, Direttore Scientifico Fondazione Internazionale Don Luigi Di Liegro),

Rosario Marrocco (architetto, Fondatore e direttore lalineabiancastudio).

with

Antonella Castellucci architect, M. Rosaria Calabrò, doctor, Anna Esposito architect, Carmela Pace professor, Alessandro Romelli, doctor

Architecture and Psyche

Main goal of the project “From the man henceforth” is to escape the dichotomy between the built space and the social relations.

We do think that as well as the relations that take place within a space defining the structure of the space itself, also the space defines the social relations that occur inside the space itself.

The most remarkable examples of interaction between social relations and built spaces are prisons and mental hospitals, where spaces determine the life that occur inside. It would be sufficient to think about the isolation and the “silence” of the “socializing spaces” in the mental houses, where the loss of private life temporarily brought the loss of any chance to build relationships. We can also think about prisons where the attention to the control has produced spaces “without hope” that define the imprisoning and disregard the rehabilitation.

We do think that this dichotomy appears in a less evident but more subtle way in the schools where fixed rectangular spaces defines a dual relationship student-teacher preventing a learning experience based on a peer and cooperative relation, as well as the whole structure defines a separation between the culture inside and the social culture outside the school itself.

We do think that malls reproduce this dichotomy recalling the principles that determined the born of the “Bon Marchè” (client-product relation) isolating the psychological wellness of the person.

In today’s healthcare the importance of mental health becomes more and more evident (if not treated appropriately, the post stroke depression may increase the risk of death four times) even for what concerns the reduction of healing time.

Many projects go in this direction, and we have the goal of continue on this route for hospitals, community and rehabilitative houses.

Neighbourhoods, urban spaces, small centres pose the question of environment as support to the relationship. Kaplan, an American psychiatrist defined four criteria for a “pleasant” environment. Two of these are connected to the being: **comprehension** – satisfied by the coherence and easiness to read the environment - and **exploration** – related to the complexity of the information produced by different stimuli and the mystery produced by new information. Then neighbourhood as “open system” to embrace diversities, spaces of aggregation, personal spaces, transit spaces, and the opportunity of continuously transforming places.

The house as expression not only of the needs but also of the desires. The capability to “listen” on the basis of the active listening rules, in order to build a project in which personal desires are supported by a place recognized as own space. We do think it is necessary to scientifically define, then in a reproducible way, the relations between man and space and fix the methodological strategies of intervention.

These strategies of intervention are based on three pillars:

the first concerns the knowledge of perceptive, emotional, and cognitive principles of the human being; **the second** regards the relational capability of who elaborates the project, therefore the necessity of a personal awareness process of his/her own emotional and representative world;

the third concerns the space designed within the architectonic rules.

The goal is to conjugate together the three pillars in a project produced as an interdisciplinary team work with the scope to divulgate the research towards a designing development, even through the creation of the Laboratory of Integrated Design “Architecture and Psyche”.

The group is meant to be extended to experts (architects, psychiatrists, psychologists, anthropologists, sociologists, engineers, operators, etc...)