

Activism for Cities Vision - L'Attivismo come Visione per le Città

Paolo Cottino_Pier Luigi Crosta_Glenn Jenkins_Marvi Maggio

4 Maggio 2012, dalle ore 10.00, aula Tafuri, palazzo Badoer, San Polo 2468, Venezia

During the first conference of the After Crisis project, *Building citizenship to make cities*, the debate was focused on the concept of “citizenship”, an ambiguous and exclusive term (in Italy the right of citizenship is based on ‘ius sanguinis’) that now must be re-declared and re-represented from the new social, cultural, political changes, overtaking the inadequate present systems.

The seminar “Activism for Cities Visions” will be developed starting from a fact, the crisis of the urban space, and from a criticism, the failure of democratic institutions as form of administration and governance.

“Non si può negare che esistano tutte le ragioni, sociali, politiche ed umane, per opporsi alla situazione esistente.” (Marvi Maggio)

Today is it possible to sustain a new renaissance of space in which the subjectivities move, produce, consume, desire, create?

Is it still possible to imagine an urban and cultural rebirth inside the existing institutions and hierarchies, or a new constituent process is needed?

Probably a new paradigm, a new zeitgeist (Josep Lluís Mateo) is birth: it is not more based on big, on global, on generalities, but it is developed from small and widespread, from practical and direct action and insurgent as well.

Accepting that territory “is the use that is done of it” (Pier Luigi Crosta), it must be understood if top-down projects have still sense, in spite of their purposes and intentions.

How the institutional role that a planner, an architect, or an artist have, can face the informality and the insurgent action, the needs and claims of movements and active groups operating on urban spaces and territories?

Which is the relation between Movements and practices with our disciplines?

Which contradictions are generated when an activist, who has lived the experience of the practices of conflict, aware of the relation between legitimacy and legality, become a public administrator or a private economical operator?

These questions try to think about how the practices produced by conflict and from movements, from self-generated and self-organized situations, can become fundamental for planning, become project, transforming what is now marginal subject, in central subject.

New learning processes are needed. They are necessary for develop a planning competence that can make explicit the implicit knowledge of people.

"Si diventa capaci di nuove competenze soltanto se messi nelle condizioni di interagire con le risorse a esse necessarie." (Paolo Cottino)

We hope that the points of view of the speakers about knowledge of urbanization process and of effectiveness of urban movements, can light up new ways of understanding, reflection, discussion and action that can bring to create new cities and territories.