

Urban project and physical geography

Theoretical and design experiences of Italian architecture in the second half of XX century

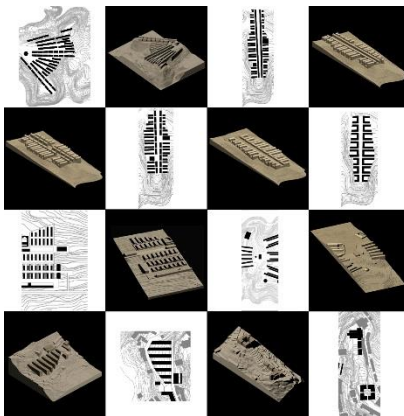
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Abstract. Today, the huge expansion of contemporary cities, their progressive dispersion over a large territory, reveals a moment of crisis in the relationship between natural and human environments.

However, this crisis could also represent a chance for reflection, and its structural, dimensional and spatial problems could hold positive potentials for contemporary cities.

For this reason, the relationship between urban project and physical geography is the central core of the problems assumed by the research.



The paper analyses the work of some emblematic figures of Italian architectural culture in the second half of the XX century because it is possible to recognize a common leitmotiv that brings together the different experiences of that period: they try to define the syntax of urban construction in relation to the orographic conformation.

The aim of the paper is to recognize the methods assumed by these projects, through the analysis of some case studies, in order to understand if they can be useful to the contemporary urban project.

Keywords: Urban project; physical geography; urban form; topography.