airport urbanism

airports, landscapes and cities

01
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The airplane, flying over forests, rivers, mountains, and seas and revealing supremely powerful laws, the simple principles which regulate natural phenomena, will arrive at the city of the new era of machine civilization.

Le Corbusier

The book series welcomes research works and research by design projects dealing with the airport landscape theme. The interdisciplinary approach aims to stimulate debate and knowledge of a topic which is still marginal in international scientific debate and the teaching field.

La collana accoglie ricerca e sperimentazioni progettuali relativamente alla tematica aeroporti e paesaggio. L’approccio interdisciplinare adottato intende stimolare il dibattito e la conoscenza su un tema ancora marginale nella formazione didattica e nel dibattito scientifico internazionale.
This volume presents a number of reflections on the airport landscape theme, fruit of a series of meetings between the researcher and the Veneto Region Department of Regional and Strategic Planning on Venice airport-city and the data collected and considerations matured by the researcher during the Marie Curie COFUND-PAT programme at Trento University.

Trento University

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ECOLOGICAL AIRPORT URBANISM
AIRPORTS AND LANDSCAPES IN THE ITALIAN NORTH EAST

Laura Cipriani
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This volume presents a number of reflections on the airport landscape theme, fruit of the study matured by the researcher during the Marie Curie Cofund-PAT programme at Trento University and of a series of meetings between the researcher and the Veneto Region Department of Regional and Strategic Planning on Venice airport-city.

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INTRODUCTION

By their nature, use, form and size, airports are often considered as spaces extraneous to the landscape and difficult to integrate into the local context. Yet airport infrastructure is playing an ever more important role in local development, modifying not just the aspect, but also the social structure, economy and environmental quality of the surrounding area. Infrastructure on this scale benefits society as a whole, but the environmental effects are a particularly heavy burden on the communities directly involved.

How is the landscape modified by air transportation? What is meant by "ecological airport urbanism"? Can the landscape and airport infrastructure be integrated following ecological criteria? How can an airport be integrated into the local context? What design devices can be used? How can we combine today's technological requirements with the need for unforeseen new functions in the future? In the future, how might disused airport infrastructure possibly be "recycled"?

This study aims to make an initial contribution to research on the airport system in North East Italy in relation to current landscape transformation dynamics.

The first part provides a theoretical background to the theme of airports, cities and the landscape. The intention is to provide an overview of contemporary scientific literature in order to open a dialogue on the hitherto little explored theme of airports in relation to the landscape.

The second part examines the particular characteristics of Italy's national airport system, then goes on to consider airports in North East Italy through original data and documents.

Particular attention is given to the study of Venice airport, identifying the environmental risks and scenarios deriving from the urgent effects of climate change. Historical documents and accurate themed maps highlight the conflicts emerging around the airport and the possible short, medium and long term
scenarios for the future. The study aims to develop a method to orient planning and design of an "ecological" airport system, identifying possible alternative development scenarios on multiple scales. The final section of the study therefore presents a series of designed projects proposing targeted design devices able to guide definition of the strategies and decisions to be taken today for the future. In an era dominated by uncertainty about tomorrow and by a race towards real or presumed sustainability, infrastructure must be re-planned, not just to accommodate today's technological functions or contingent needs, but also with a view to possible future re-cycle, generating a method for re-inventing the landscape and thus becoming fertile ground for the unexpected.