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At the beginning, we thought that the title could be “Smart Landscape”, but after discussions we have decided that the word “Intelligent” means something more than just being ‘smart’. Smart means we take something and simply make it work better, whereas ‘intelligent’ means many things. In this editorial series, we are not just interested in smart ways to solve inefficiencies; we are interested in the depth of what is means to apply intelligence to landscapes. Today, everything seems to be smart: smart phones, smart growth, but intelligence looks for something unusual, to understand the things behind appearances, to understand things beyond just their systematic instrumentality. The “INTELLIGENT LANDSCAPE”, wants to connect the discipline of landscape architecture with the life of our cities, and the extended territories they now influence. With this editorial series, we want to cross the large and small scale of design intelligence and influence the forms of the world we have inherited. We think that landscape intelligence is not about just making images of nice places; it is about the process: the process of analyzing, exploring, thinking and designing new futures for places.
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PROF. VALERIO MORABITO - LARP 701 A.A. 2012/13
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Agriculture has always been the main factor in the settlement and modification of large parts of the territory man-made. In the history of agrarian landscapes are interwoven eating habits, geo-climatic conditions, socio-economic factors and propitiatory rituals. All this left a profound mark on the ground giving us an impression that production reasons still appear as the main reason for the morphological findings that have given a clear identity and recognition of the multitude of landscapes man. The villages and towns, as opposed to the countryside, have grown dramatically and it has gradually revealed a strong need for settlement, which was accompanied by uncontrolled hybridization of a large part of the agricultural areas to the city.

The macroscopic effects of this process are visible in the spontaneous proliferation of conurbations, or badly governed, and the decrease of the stability factor and health care, which guaranteed the agricultural lands and in parallel the progressive decay of the aesthetic quality of the rural landscape. A new alliance seems to be born for a few years between these two opposing conditions. The cities, incapable to govern themselves, to produce quality new settlements or to recover the lost lands in the suburbs and in the countryside now urbanized, are asking for help to agriculture in order to find new and more livable
CONFIGURATIONS.

An urban design, that takes the landscape as a focal point to a different way of thinking about the Forma Urbis, seem to find in the synthesis between city and country renewed stimuli and more adherents forms of life in which to live, grow and enjoy nature and are increasingly taking a central role. Agrarian Urbanism has recently become a buzzword for those who think of designing or re-establish parts of the city. A method of planning and design that incorporates and enhances farming promoting economic, environmental and social benefits and that affects the center of the city until rural edge. Basic reasons plus a factor no less important than the aesthetic quality, the "beauty" in the final analysis of the new conurbations, embellished by beauty of the useful of which are still witness all agricultural landscapes in the world.

This publication, dedicated to Morocco and one of his most beautiful and celebrated city, Marrakech, is a useful educational experiment in this direction. It was shaping new parts of the city expanding recovering agriculture, traditional cultural and economic factors of Morocco, in the new districts. A process of hybridization of living traditions of this place with the opportunities offered by cultural practices that bring economic and environmental benefits in an urban context characterized by a pre-existing poor economy and by different forms of progressive environmental degradation. This resulted in ideas and solutions to a teaching experience, with some overspill utopian, which demonstrated the fertility of the logical process. Beautiful designs and stimulating the morphological configurations that give hope for the future continuation of the research in aesthetic and environmental implications, in the wake of the idea of garden city that remains a key unresolved of contemporary landscape.
I am not the first and certainly I am not the last to take care of urban agriculture, and surely I am not the most scientifically and technically qualified. When the University of Rabat, represented by Professor Iman Benkirane, proposed me to work in the city of Marrakesh and to work in this enormous piece of abandoned industrial city, I instantly thought that agriculture should be a fundamental element to pass on to the students as a message.

I have visited many new foundation cities, built or under construction, in the past years in Morocco, and what made me reflect the most concerned the lack of an “immediate” identity of these cities. I use the word “immediate” because we know that the history of the cities is in a continuous evolution and maybe in 50 or 100 years these cities will become a model to follow.

However, if you visit them today, neither the quality of the architecture (various for languages and shapes) nor the quality of the urban system, for its strategy and geometries, seem to give a harmonious condition of the living. These cities arise because many people decide to move from the open country to the cities (a very common worldwide phenomenon) and they still bring a strong connection with the agricultural world in general along with them. In a very intuitive and personal way, I tied this phenomenon of movement between the open country and the city to the Studio, asking my students to work with agriculture. Not a simple interference of the agriculture with the urban, but, extending the concept of the Riad (a traditional Arabian building with a court), the agriculture was supposed to become the big court of the new urban structure: the immediate identity of the city.
My Students, interrelating the concept of agriculture with the process of identity, produced diverse urban configurations in which the forms of the didactical and productive agriculture connect and organize the forms of buildings expressions. Someone produced different agriculture “gardens” plotting unusual fragmented spaces of agriculture urban points of “identity”. In this case, the urban structure is dynamic and differentiated: the idea to pass from one landscape to another one forms a dynamic city. Someone structured two different significant spaces, one for the urban settlement and another one for the productive agriculture. In these examples, the two systems worked together as a massive strong city body; the simultaneous interactions produce an ecological and cultural unique environment: a city of dualities and relationships. Someone worked imagining sequences of edges made by linear lines of buildings forming the urban settlement; anchoring to them specific productive agriculture, it is possible to establish social and ecological detailed urban activities. The system, characterized by long axes with multiple social aggregation places, forms a city of a significant collection of progressive spaces. Someone started with a big central agriculture park surrounded by a double line of buildings that produce a urban energetic street in the middle, organizing, in this space, a sequence of restaurants, shops, coffees and many other urban activities. This concept is exceptional for its clear and remarkable urban structure, easy to understand in its functional processes. Everything is a consequence of something else, everything composes unique relationships that forms spaces the most integrated possible: the city is simply clear.

An obviously extreme concept that the students interpreted through free strategies and express it with innovative divisions of space on the basis of concepts to them more close. In this process, there is the willingness to build that immediate “identity” of a city made of people and their traditions. The identity of a belonging to agriculture in this case interpret an initial moment of the city’s process, in which it is the agriculture that gives to the buildings the possibility to exist.