

LET'S PROTECT PEOPLE BEFORE WE THINK ABOUT THE PLANET

The constant changes in the weather that are ravaging the entire planet at the moment and creating real risks and dangers for the world's population will soon radically change people's habits and behaviour on all continents until mankind finally realises that his laziness is the real cause of what is happening. Unfortunately, there are still some people who believe that these changes are just part of our planet's normal cycles and do not deserve any real attention.

Despite these few reckless people, it is now widely acknowledged that the real cause is simply the constant and widespread polluting of the air we breathe; air that is increasingly affected by noxious emissions from industry, inappropriate means of generating electricity, and the kind of engines powering our personal and communal means of transport. To avoid accepting responsibility for all this, respectable society (the working and manufacturing world) has set itself the civil goal of "protecting the Planet and the environment" ignoring the fact that our planet is resistant to almost any change that people can impose and, easily adapting to any attacks from mankind, will continue to exist in the universe for millions of years to come.

I think the time has come to start focusing on protecting mankind rather than not our planet. Mankind seems increasingly bent on self-destruction, ignoring two gigantic problems that must be tackled and solved as quickly as possible: uncontrolled, exponential demographic growth and the polluting of the air we breathe, the ground we walk on and the water we drink. Not only will we poison ourselves, we will soon run out of resources for the billions of people in our growing population. The only solutions are now clear: we need to change our lifestyle, manufacturing systems and means of consumption and, if we hope to maintain our standards of well-being, we need to start economising and manufacturing (particularly energy) using different methods from those currently employed. Progress can help us by providing new tried-and-tested technology, such as generating energy from hydrogen, atomic sources, the wind, sun and movement of the waves. All processes and methods that do not pollute the air and can be controlled scientifically. Farming methods must also change and begin drawing on systems and technology that traditionally do not harm the soil or deplete our water sources. Industry must provide products that respect the circular nature of materials and invest in research into suitable new and efficient materials that will not harm the health or well-being of the people inhabiting the planet over the next few centuries.

The way we design our homes and cities must also take into account these new parameters focused more on people and their families than on transport and work needs. Projects will have to focus on ideas and creative thinking that respects health and life in new environments envisaged and built taking into account all the appropriate preventive measures to be employed in the use of materials. These materials which should mainly be recyclable and not require indestructible materials or waste energy for their production.

The time has finally come to open up a new book of architecture and town-planning for future generations to write, seeing as our generation is still hiding behind a fake kind of naturalism full of good but useless intentions focused solely on preserving landscapes and nature, while forgetting to study, put forward and design (even radical) solutions for a future that will not be friendly to us unless we change right now.

Young architects and designers must be encouraged to look for new solutions for the city and home aimed at maintaining living standards while respecting and protecting people's health and happiness. And, whether they like it or not, people will have to change their current socio-political attitudes. We need to come up with new situations based on an awareness and knowledge of the problems at hand, providing an antidote to the 'couldn't care less' attitude of a world that refuses to engage for fear of losing political power or simply because it prefers to accumulate wealth, all the time jeopardising the life of the people who will come after us.

We have a fantastic opportunity that we will never have again.

Cesare Maria Casati

EDITORIALE / EDITORIAL / EDITOR'S TEXT

GÊNES VERTICALE

Les villes sont-elles horizontales ou verticales ? Les deux. Tout dépend de l'angle duquel on les observe. Dans son guide, Stefano Spina, collaborateur du Centre international d'études italiennes de l'université de Gênes, a choisi d'observer et de photographier les constructions hautes... d'en bas, indépendamment de la période de construction et de la valeur architecturale du bâtiment. Cela va des clochers romans, comme celui de l'église des Vignes (980), aux anciennes portes dans le centre historique de la ville (Porte Soprana et Porta dei Vacca), en passant par la Lanterne du port reconstruite en 1528 et restaurée au XVIIIe siècle, devenue aujourd'hui l'emblème de Gênes et que nous retrouvons même sur les petits pots de pesto. Puis les tours modernes : celles de Piero Gambacciani et d'Aristo Ciruzzi (l'ex tour Sip et Corte Lambruschini) et celles de l'époque fasciste de Marcello Piacentini, le clocher de l'affreuse église de Via Antonio Cecchi dans le quartier de

la Foce, l'ascenseur panoramique Bigo de Renzo Piano dans l'ancien quartier portuaire redessiné par l'architecte. Cet ouvrage présente également une image du pont Morandi, devenu tristement célèbre à la suite de son effondrement le 14 août 2018, lorsque ce livre était déjà sous presse. Il a été décidé de ne pas retirer cette image et d'ajouter, à la dernière page : "À la mémoire des victimes de l'événement tragique et d'un fragment de l'histoire récente de Gênes qui, malheureusement, disparaît".



GENOVA VERTICALE

Le città sono orizzontali o verticali? Entrambe le prospettive sono valide, dipende solo dal punto di vista dal quale si osservano. Stefano Spina, collaboratore del Centro Internazionale di Studi Italiani dell'Università di Genova, ha scelto, nel suo libretto-guida, di osservare e fotografare le architetture alte... dal basso, indipendentemente dal periodo di costruzione e dal valore architettonico del manufatto. Si va da campanili romanici come quello delle Vigne (980) alle porte antiche della città (quella di Vacca e quella Soprana), nel centro storico, alla Lanterna del porto, ricostruita nel 1528 e rimaneggiata nel XVIII secolo, oggi icona genovese che ritroviamo persino sui vasetti di pesto.

E poi i grattacieli moderni: quelli di Piero Gambacciani e Aristò Ciruzzi (l'ex Sip e Corte Lambruschini) e quelli d'epoca fascista di Marcello Piacentini; il campanile dell'orribile chiesa di via Cecchi, alla Foce; il bigo-ascensore di Renzo Piano nel rinato Porto Antico. Il libro contiene anche un'immagine del ponte Morandi, tristemente noto per il luttuoso crollo del 14 agosto 2018, avvenuto quando il volume era già in stampa.

La scelta è stata quella di non togliere quell'immagine aggiungendo, nell'ultima pagina: "In memoria delle vittime del tragico evento e di un pezzo di storia recente di Genova che purtroppo se ne va".