

Alcuni concetti chiave per una nuova “architettura urbana”

di Marco Pietrolucci

Dall'oggetto autoreferente alla città

Key concepts for a new “urban architecture”

From the self-referring object to the city

Città europea
Tipologia edilizia
Morfologia urbana

European city
Building typology
Urban morphology

Once the spectacular drift of the 1990s has disappeared, architecture seems to rediscover its urban dimension and a new political vision that focuses on the relations between objects, individuals and spaces. The design experiences and theoretical reflections of European architects more sensitive to the theme of the city, as well as the concrete realization of a series of neighborhoods in recent decades, seem to outline a common research oriented to the construction of a new “urban architecture” that looks at the model of the European historical city without nostalgia and regrets. This research focuses on some themes: the recovery of a relation between building type and urban space, that in the historical city gave rise to a set of full and empty spaces conceived as a single “molded matter”; a series of morphological strategies based on the intertwining and overlapping of different spatial dimensions (full and empty, domestic and collective, fabric and specific types); the aggregation of different components oriented to the realization of the conditions for spatial, social and functional integration.

However, if we exclude the large urban projects built over the past decades in Europe, we must note the lack of a clear urban policy based on recognizable settlement models and formal paradigms and so the urgent need to define a framework of cultural references capable of giving a lasting sense to the transformation of our cities.

«Relations are just as important as the things themselves»

Aldo van Eyck, *Statement against Rationalism*, 1947

Sembra essersi definitivamente conclusa, per via economica più che culturale, la stagione dell'architettura concepita come oggetto autoreferente che si presenta come un episodio eccezionale nella struttura urbana. Non si tratta di una vittoria vinta sul piano delle idee, che sono ancora al di qua di un punto di svolta largamente condiviso, ma di una delle conseguenze positive di quella profonda ristrutturazione del mondo del lavoro che chiamiamo globalizzazione.