

NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES 2018

THEMATIC SESSIONS - TS

TS-03

UTOPIIC SCENARIOS AND REAL DESIGNS FOR THE NEXT CITIES

Keywords: Urban Utopias; Urban Planning; Next City; Green Design; Sustainable Environment.

Historians will probably describe the hundred years to 2050 as the „century of the city“ as that period when people around the world moved away from the countryside to the urban agglomerations in search of jobs and opportunities for a better and more qualified level of life. For sure, when L. Mumford talked around “Megalopolis”, he probably could not imagine, in his catastrophic utopic vision about the future of the city, the real extent of the changes and challenges it should reach.

Given that cities will host more than 80% of humans by the end of the century, Next Cities can only be fully sustainable and environmentalism will be one of their core features. A modern utopia need to be eco-friendly to overcome the shadow of a global human-environmental crisis.

Beyond the numbers lies the crucial question of how governments and individuals may help build and shape the cities that will increasingly determine our collective quality of life. Well-designed cities can bring clear benefits, including social inclusion, economic development, prosperity and all those relations that can encourage creativity and education.

A new approach that have to aim to improve cities through means that encompass Urban planning, strategic planning, economic planning, architectural development, environmental sustainability, information technology and effective use of local natural resources. The next cities will be those that use innovative methods for solving daily problems and many scholars and professionals were in the past and are nowadays, working on developing the future vision of improving the standard of living of its inhabitants. Most of the emerging countries are redesigning their new cities while the countries of the „old world“ are rethinking their existing cities within their own body, sometimes pursuing logics of densification and others of spreading in rural areas.

Building and rebuilding the „next cities“ and managing them facilities and services - such as the electricity production, water re-cycling, soil consumption, green infrastructures, transportation and communication systems - are some of the objectives and the focuses of such kind of development. Furthermore, the main role that the „next cities“ concept plays is to help its citizens to become more awareness and flexible in coming up with bottom-up solutions of issues faced together with the grafting of the web 4.0 and the ICT in everyday life.

This session would to explore what designs are on-going in imagining or in re-imagining „next cities“ but also the number of utopias are rising based on the new needs and on the new topics that have emerged in the turn of the century. Which balance the next city will reach between “urban concentration” and “rural dispersion” inside the several intermediate possibilities.

The core of the session is what will be the future of the cities, not only in real terms but also through ideas and visions (utopias) of scientists and professionals from worldwide.

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