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 urbanists

Second generation European

CONTENT / CONCEPTS:

The thematic of European 12 on "adaptable city" is undoubtedly vast and rich enough to be reiterated on European 13 issue.

In fact, I think this topic is a turning mark and might be the starting point of the 2nd era of European, and most certainly, the common crucible of a "2nd generation European."

The first era and the first generation were European, from session 1 to 11 and all thematic sessions together, rooted in a more general theme: the quest, the search for new forms of European urbanity, in the context of economic expansion and profusion of ideas (for better or for worse, by the way...) ...

If they were asked sometimes, the issue of time's project, its ability to adapt, to "resist" in its quality to be able going from concept to the realization, these strategic questions were not necessarily finding the answers and remained "secondary", behind the main question: the one of innovation in matters of "urban forms" and lifestyles evolutions in new social-geographical contexts.

European 11, with its theme on "Resonance between territories and ways of life", probably marks the transition to both a broader and more uncertain urban environment ... the territory.

European 12 on "adaptable city" began in my opinion, the general theme of the next decade, the foundation of the 2nd era and announces the thought of a "2nd generation European": the question that predominates is that of "the time of the project", its adaptability, its ability to evolve.

Innovation, creativity and inventiveness reside in the "how", in the search for evolving processes of project to set up, rather than in new urban forms.

The reflection focuses on the conditions of the project, its uncertainty, and its ability of evolution in a global context of economic and social crisis ..

European 13 must strengthen this shift in priorities on recurring questions from the European competition for nearly 25 years.

Albert Einstein once stated: "We can not solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used to create them ."

IDEAS / PROJECTS:

ACTORS / PROCESSES:

More than ever, the process of implementation of the project is at the heart of the European competition: it is both the theme, in terms of ideas, and the method, in terms of operational. This creative approach, both strategic and pragmatic, required by changing the contents of European, claims, in reality, a much more mature skills for young designers, if responses want to be credible enough to trigger operational processes.

Perhaps this is the moment in this significant evolution of European competition, to define differently the 2nd generation of architects that will emerge from?

The first European sessions were open widely, to become known and to acquire its current reputation. Today, the competition is almost "victim" of its popularity, as it attracts more and more of very young designers (students or just diplomas ...) which, obviously, cannot have the maturity, the distance and experience required by those questions raised by this new era European 12-13, on the adaptability and processes, to provide answers together consistent, forward-looking and long-term operational

If European 13, with those much more complex topics, wants to keep both the quality and the large diversity of projects and approaches, wants to boost the number of proposals that will have access to the command, the competition should perhaps install a more careful selection of candidates: open the competition to young agencies or professionals who has already faced actors of urban and architectural command, rather than young architects freshly degrees ...

A good way to support in-depth, the new era that opens for European, in sessions 12 -13, with a "grown-up" competition...