

E13 TH

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### **URBAN POLARITIES / MICRO CENTRALITIES**

Actually, one of the primary hypothesis for cities is the question, how we can create urban polarities that have the capacity to work as urban centres. Rather than pushing one single centre one has to explore 'centrality-making' parameters.

These are parameters which are able to create a place which supercedes the functional character of an area, be it residential, industrial, or recreational. It follows that urbanistic terms such as densification, mixing of uses and infrastructural supply have to be reviewed: if one aims at micro-centralities the "critical"-point has to shift from the level of quantity to the level of strategy: high density means programmed densification, mixed-use means to abandon mere coexistence, integrating cultural (=transfunctional) uses and public space, infrastructure supply means to "negotiate" social services ....the re-working of urbanism in such a manner would be a real challenge for the mission of European in European 13.

I am aware that this is a very complex task, but european is a model in which one can just think through some radical solutions. One thing is certain, to establish an urban center, it takes courage and money.

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