



EUROPAN 13 THEMES CONTRIBUTIONS

Title of the contribution	The Agronomic City
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The Agronomic City

The city is the most pleasant garden, useful as well.

From the Eighteenth Century agronomy configure itself as experimental science, beyond the standards of botany. A polished scholar, indeed, a certain Ippolito Pindemonte in 1792 summarize with poetic manners a necessary principle from then on largely affirmed in the age of Illuminism, the research of the union between beauty and utility, applied in every human production. In the specific of its literally work, the dissertation is related to an esthetical discipline par excellence, the art of crafting nature in a garden. As affirm Carla Benocci ("Storia dell'urbanistica", 3/2011) in the aftermath of the french revolution 'the economic condition of the european countries surely aren't happy and booming and since several decades the aim for the "economic" in every productive field has been firmly pursued, locating moreover innovative technical solutions in the sectors of hydraulics, botany and agriculture, just to stay in the setting described by Pindemonte.

The gain is a concrete achievement, therefore without the pleasure of beauty, wisely combined with all that in the art of cultivation produce richness, especially with innovative manners, there's no hope for a prosperous future for the Europe of that time.

Since some decades, the movements of urban farming have found stimulations shared by numerous communities that lived the urban areas. Sustained by their own food production, by their own educational aims, united with the idea of build sustainable situations, importants extraeuropeans cities (Tokyo and Vancouver for example) have adopted the model of urban farming. What Piedimonte hoped for the progress of the eighteenth century garden read again, in a more conscious manner, esthetic and profit, what was spontaneous and void of esthetic consciousness. In the same time Pierluigi Nicolini in a recent publishing of Lotus, states that '[...] if in the nineteenth century with the advancement of industrial capitalism was identified in the separation between city and country the first cause of division between manual work and intellectual work, the present agriculture with its dexterity could function as soothing for that historical contrast'.

The city rethink itself, then, as center of farming production. Maybe some failures of the consumer society and the inability, then, of planification to control the processes triggered by a global economy more and more pervading and troubled have left to the urban edges vast areas of dissolution between city and country. Here is possible to settle down the agronomic city. The city, under the pressure from that withdraw of the consumer society, could rethink these areas but even internal parts of the historical city as spaces of farming production.

Community neighborhood and community of farming production set themselves as elements to reconsider for the intervention in those areas of limit. With the passing of farming cultures at the end of the '50, it seems lie to the city of today to maintain something of that world.

How?

'[...] si formerà così l'architettura esterna e questa deve essere composta dall'artista giardiniere dando a questa fabbrica una forma bizzarra, semplice o seria secondo che lo esige la situazione e la condizione del sito dove sorgerà la fabbrica. Una legge però bisogna stabilire in questa città fatta di giardini, nei quali deve trionfare la semplicità, di conseguenza deve essere eliminato ogni forma di lusso e di magnificenza, il buon gusto solo dovrà essere impiegato non solamente in questa, ma in tutte le altre fabbriche del giardino. Il cortile davanti alla casa del proprietario sarà abbastanza grande per potervi contenere carrozze, carretti, la figura del quale sarà irregolare, contornato da gruppi d'alberi dai quali poter ottenere legna da bruciare e sarebbero licini, querci, faggi ecc.; nei centri del cortile vi si fabbricherà il forno, in un'altro sito la stalla, in un'altro il pollaio. Da questo cortile partiranno due strade o viali, i quali

*daranno la comunicazione a tutto il giardino, ai quali sarà necessario un cancello di legno. Questi viali devono essere abbastanza larghi che vi si possa passare i carretti ed anche le carrozze, (...) e questi perché possano servire anche per un comodo passeggio sarà bene di alberarli per procurarsi l'ombra per l'estate (col piantarvi a prossione degli viali degli alberi d'olivi, altra prossione degli alberi di fichi, abricoccole, pesche, mandorli, mella, pera ecc.); nei siti dove vi fosse qualche bella verdura o vicina o lontana, e lì vi si lascerà un piccolo spiazzo, dove potersi radunare più persone, con delle panche di legno per potersi sedere; in questi siti per procurarsi un'ombra fresca si potrà piantare qualche vite e posizionare tronchi d'albero formando un feudo di verdura. Il terreno che si avrà percorso fin qui sarà coltivato (supponiamo) una parte a orto, a legumi, patate, broccoli ed altro per uso della tavola, dall'altra parte del viale granoturco, miglio, orzo, lino, tabacco ed altro, in queste vicinanze vi si fabbricherà la casa per il vinaio o colono, la quale deve essere nel sito più evidente che si potrà, quando si possa combinare con un servizio d'acqua perenne o almeno una buona cisterna o pozzo. La casa del colono potrebbe avere nel fronte esterno il carattere fiammingo, e deve poter ospitare più persone in relazione all'estensione territoriale da coltivarsi a vigna e a orto, oltre alle abitazioni per gli uomini ci vorrà un magazzino per riporre legumi e frutta, una stanza per i polli, con il recinto scoperto per li medesimi, dove si possa tenere ogni tipo di pollo, anatre, papere, conigli, una stalla per uno o due maiali ecc. Questo sito si potrà ridurre in una scena interessante decorandola d'alberi, disponendoli di buon gusto, mescolando ai fichi, i castagni o qualche licino ecc. con dei cespugli di rose, gelsi. Tali alberi potrebbero servire per fare le fratte di questo recinto contiguo a questa casa; si potrebbero piantare delle viti in diverse forme cioè a albero, come è tipico in Friuli, Granada e di Borgogna e di Champagne [...]. (Francesco Bettini, 1795)**

* [...] Will form the external architecture and so it must be composed by the gardener giving to this fabric a bizarre shape, simple or serious depending on what the situation demands to it, and on the condition of the site where the *fabrica* will be built. A law, however, must be established in this city made up of gardens, which must triumph simplicity, therefore must be eliminated every form of luxury and magnificence. Good taste will only be used not only in this but in all other *fabricae* of the garden. The front yard of the house of the owner will be big enough to be able to contain carriages, carts. Whose figure will be uneven, surrounded by groups of trees from which to obtain firewood and would oaks, beeches and so on... In the centers of yard will be manufactured the oven, in a different site, the barn and the chicken coop in another. From this courtyard will start two roads or paths, which will communicate to any garden, which will require a wooden gate. These avenues must be large enough so we can move the carts, and even the coaches, (...), and because these can also serve for a comfortable walking, to plant tree will be good to get the shade for the summer (...), the sites where there were some nice vegetables or near or far, and there you will leave a small open space, where they can gather more people, with wooden benches of space to sit. On these sites you will get a shadow fresh to plant a few screws and place the tree trunks forming a field of vegetables. The land that you will have traveled so far will be cultivated with legumes, potatoes, broccoli and more for kitchen, on the other side of the avenue maize, millet, barley, flax, tobacco, and other matters these neighborhoods there will manufacture the house for the wine merchant or farmer, which should be more evident when you can combine it with a perennial water service or at least a good tank or pit. The house of the farmer might have a Flemish character, and must be able to accommodate more people in relation to the territorial, and will be cultivated to vineyard and orchard, in addition to housing for men will take a warehouse for storing vegetables and fruit, a room for chickens, with the fence discovered for themselves, where it can hold any type of chicken, ducks, geese, rabbits, a stable for one or two pigs etc. This site can be reduced in an interesting scene decorating trees, arranging them in good taste, mixing with figs and chestnuts or some licino, with rose bushes and mulberry trees. Such trees could be used to make the thickets of this fence adjacent to this house could be planting of vines in various forms of trees, as is typical in Friuli, Granada and Burgundy and Champagne.[...] (Francesco Bettini, 1795)

