

LE CARRE BLEU - 1/2012

Starting from sparks

sustainable city: 20 provocations

by Federico M. Butera



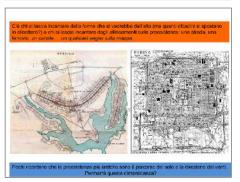
Will this still be the skyline of modernity, alike everywhere? Glass gives buildings lightness and transparency. The more glass, the lighter and more transparent buildings.

.. A lightness weighing thousands, millions of tons of CO2; a transparency reducing the atmosphere's, strengthening the greenhouse effect.

Transparency and lightness hiding the huge weight of machines, pipes, raceways preserving decent environmental conditions.



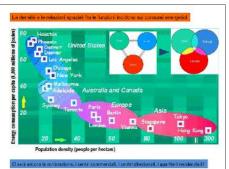
Perhaps modern architecture is not yet aware of climate change, of its causes and effects. Will the icons of modern architecture be all like each other? How will the new architecture be like?



Some are spellbound by the form revealed from above (but how many citizens fly by helicopter?)

Some are spellbound by alignment to pre-existence: a street, a railway, and a canal... any mark on the map.

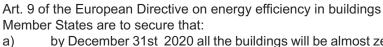
Few remember that the oldest pre-existence is the course of the sun and the direction of winds. Will all this be always forgotten?



Density and spatial relations between functions affect energy consumption.

Will there still be zoning, trade centres, office districts, residential districts?





- by December 31st 2020 all the buildings will be almost zero energy ones
- by December 31st 2018, public institutions occupying or owning a new b) building are to secure that the building be a zero energy building

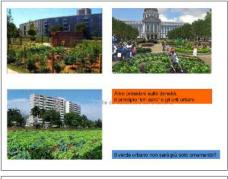
Will zero energy residential buildings be tall or low, close to one another or distant?



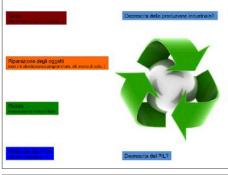
According to FAO, 18% of all climate-altering gases are produced by livestockbreeding.

1 kilo of beef causes CO2 emissions equivalent to the ones of a medium-powered car covering 250 kilometres or of a 100 Watt lamp on for 20 days.

Shall we change our eating habits?



Other pressures on density: the "zero kilometre" principle and urban gardens: will urban green be no longer only embellishment?



Repairing instead to disposing of: the craftsman's revenge on the alienated worker at the assembly line.



The death of consumerism. Will industrial production have to decrease in favour of crafts?



We too, today, have a Hitler to fight: CO2 emissions.

Is there room for the individual ownership of cars in the sustainable city?



Information technology and telematics at the service of urban mobility. Car on demand : the same principle as video on demand.

Will cities empty out of cars, which will be few and electric, to leave room to bikes and pedestrians?



Will there be less streets and more cycling tracks?



Less cars; less road haulage.

How many roads and highways will end up in this way?



Reducing the environmental impact of tourism.

For hasty tourists, virtual tourism. For travellers, real travel.



The distributed generation: urban metabolism (energy, water, transports, waste) will be much more integrated than today, and employment will remarkably increase (maintenance); new economic activities will rise.

"Cloud" and city. What impact on the organization and working of the city?





