INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
MAY 18 | 19, 2017
SHAPING REGIONAL FUTURES
Designing and visioning in governance rescaling

Medici Riccardi Palace
Luca Giordano Conference Hall
Via Cavour 1, Florence, Italy
**Scientific committee:** Valeria Lingua & Giuseppe De Luca (University of Florence, Italy), Wil Zonneveld & Verena Balz (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands), Alain Thierstein & Lukas Gilliard (Munich University of Technology, Germany)

**Organised by:** University of Florence, Department of Architecture, Regional Design Lab, with the support of: Delft University of Technology (Netherlands), Munich University of Technology (Germany), MIUR - Ministry of Education, University and Research (SIR programme), Metropolitan City of Florence, Fondazione Architetti Firenze, Ordine degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori della provincia di Firenze, INU - Italian National Institute of Planning

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*The conference is founded by:*
SHAPING REGIONAL FUTURES
Designing and visioning in governance rescaling

The conference SHAPING REGIONAL FUTURES: DESIGNING AND VISIONING IN GOVERNANCE RESCALING discusses the role of regional design and visioning in the formation of regional territorial governance. The conference aims at an increased understanding of how practices, engaged with the imagination of possible futures, support the creation of institutional capacity for strategic spatial planning at regional scales.

Governance rescaling in spatial planning is about shifts in organisational and institutional structures that are the result of a search for efficiency, effectiveness and legitimation in planning. Such processes of rescaling take place in many European countries and find different expression: the amalgamation of municipalities, the definition of new urban/metropolitan authorities and the emergence of new commitments to co-operate in planning, for instance. Rescaling of governance has generated considerable debate, particularly in metropolitan regions, leading to a wide set of questions. Who is best equipped for regional planning? How can planning actions across administrative boundaries be motivated? How can they be legitimated?

Regional design concerns the imagination of spatial solutions for problems in particular regions and the use of these visions, even in the form of metaphors, for planning purposes. Both processes are deeply engaged with specific spatial environments and their distinct geographies. Both processes have territorial implications. They challenge formal planning by leading to the definition and re-definition of boundaries, often around non-statutory areas.

Focus of the conference SHAPING REGIONAL FUTURES is the role of designing and visioning in processes of governance rescaling. It investigates two prepositions: 1) by recognising and understanding spatial dynamics within metropolitan regions, regional design and visioning, connecting administrative boundaries; 2) the imagination of possible spatial futures through regional design and visioning contributes to shared planning agendas which seek connect broader planning objectives with concrete spatial interventions.

Discussion around these two prepositions is expected to lead to a more profound understanding of how design, visioning and governance rescaling are interrelated. Practices of regional design and visioning differ across European regions depending on planning cultures and planning systems as well as shared histories of regional governance and capacity building. This is why the conference seeks a comparative perspective: a variety of governance rescaling processes and of design and visioning practices are discussed.
Day 1 – 18th May 2017
Metropolitan cities in the context of governance rescaling

8.30 – 9.00  Participant registration

9.00 – 9.45  Welcome and Introduction
Valeria Lingua, Assistant professor of Urban & Regional Planning, Department of Architecture, University of Florence
Marco Bindi, Vice-President (Pro-Rettore) of the University of Florence
Saverio Mecca, Dean of the Department of Architecture, University of Florence
Pietro Rubellini, Director of the Metropolitan City of Florence
Andrea Simoncini, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Florence, Coordinator of the Strategic Plan for the Metropolitan City of Florence
Silvia Viviani, President of National Town Planning Institute (INU)
Roberto Masini, President of the Association of Architects Planners, Landscape architects and Conservators of the Metropolitan City of Florence

9.45 – 11.30  Regional design and visioning in governance rescaling
Chair: Giuseppe De Luca, Associate professor of Urban & Regional Planning, Department of Architecture, University of Florence

Introduction: visioning and designing in interactive governance, between soft and hard spaces for planning.
Valeria Lingua, University of Florence

Prepositions: Enhancing governance capacity in metropolitan regions through regional design.
Wil Zonneveld, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, Delft University of Technology

The renaissance of big plans. The role of regional design
Alain Thierstein, Professor of Urban Development, Faculty of Architecture, Munich University of Technology

11.30 – 12.00  Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.00  The context: Governance rescaling across Europe
Chair: Valeria Lingua, University of Florence

Governance rescaling and strategic planning in England
Graham Haughton, Professor of Urban Planning, School of Environment, Education and Development, University of Manchester

Territorial administrative organization and spatial planning from regional to soft spaces in Portugal
João Pedro Costa and Cristina Cavaco, Assistant Professors of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture, University of Lisbon
13.00 – 14.30  Lunch

14.30 – 16.00  **Effects of governance rescaling in spatial planning practices**
Chair: **Wil Zonneveld**, Delft University of Technology

*The strategic role of spatial planning in redefining scales and governance structures in Denmark*

**Daniel Galland**, Associate Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, Department of Development & Planning, Aalborg University

*Strategic planning in Russia: From national to local government approaches*

**Limonov Leonid**, Director of ICSER “Leontief Centre”, NRU HSE, St. Petersburg, Russia

*The institutional reforms on spatial planning for French metropolitan cities and agglomerations*

**Anna Geppert**, Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Paris-Sorbonne, France. President of AESOP, the Association of European Schools of Planning

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30  Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00  **Visioning in governance rescaling: Florence**
Chair: **Saverio Mecca**, University of Florence

*Introduction*

**Luigi Dei**, President (Rettore) of the University of Florence

**Dario Nardella**, President of the Metropolitan City of Florence

*The Metropolitan Strategic Plan and the Government Rescaling*

**Andrea Simoncini**, Professor of Constitutional Law University of Florence

*Representing and communicating the metropolis: Florence*

**Fabio Lucchesi**, Associate professor of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Florence

*Metropolitan renaissance: A vision for Florence Metropolitan City*

**Valeria Lingua**, University of Florence

18.00 – 18.30  Conclusion

**Valeria Lingua**, University of Florence & **Verena Balz**, Chair of Spatial Planning & Strategy, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
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<td>Michiel Dehaene, Associate professor in Urban analysis and design, Department of Architecture &amp; Urban Planning, University of Gent</td>
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14.30 – 16.00  **Shaping regional futures: metropolitan visions and plans**  
Chair: **Alain Thierstein**, TUMunich  
*Zurich Metropolitan visions*  
**Anna Schindler**, Head of Urban Development, City of Zurich  
*Antwerp, City of Tomorrow*  
**Katlijn Van der Veken**, director of the Department of Urban Space, City of Antwerp, and Katrijn Apostel, project leader Strategic Structure Plan of Antwerp  
*The vision for the general local plans of Kruja, Kurbin and Lezha in the framework of the Albanian Administrative-Territorial Reform*  
**Roberto Mascarucci**, University of Chieti-Pescara, Charged of the general local plans  
*Discussion*

**Shaping regional futures: design approaches**  
Chair: **Verena Balz**, TUDelft  
*Designing the Process*  
**Jelte Boeijenga**, reporter on Atelier Making Projects, independent researcher, planner and author  
*Palermo Mediterranean Gateway City*  
**Daniele Ronsivalle**, University of Palermo, charged for the Strategic Plan for the metropolitan city of Palermo  
*Munich Metropolitan City*  
**Agnes Förster**, Studio Stadt Region, München  
*Discussion*

16.00 – 16.30  Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30  **Conclusion**  
Chair: **Valeria Lingua & Giuseppe De Luca**, University of Florence  
*Syntesis of case studies discussions - Roundtable*  
*Conclusion*
SHAPING REGIONAL FUTURES
Designing and visioning in governance rescaling

Wil Zonneveld
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Marco Bindi
Saverio Mecca
Pietro Rubellini
Andrea Simoncini
Valeria Lingua

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
Day 1
18th May 2017

Metropolitan cities in the context of governance rescaling
Visioning and Designing in Interactive Governance, Between Soft and Hard Spaces for Planning

Valeria Lingua
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Focus of the contribution are the forms and outcomes of cooperative spatial planning practices at a supra-local level in Western and Southern Europe, where processes of governance rescaling are widespread. These processes of governance rescaling challenge planning systems and practices conveying, in some cases, to the weakening of planning instruments (as Provincial Plans in Italy) or even to the abolition of a planning level, as the regional one in England. In any case, a correspondent increasing development of planning practices across local boundaries is required: in a context of meta-governance, Governments expect Local Planning Authorities to undertake joint work on sub-regional planning issues. This conveys to processes of defining and re-defining sub-regional boundaries, calling for spatial visioning for non-statutory areas.

The contribution investigates processes of governance rescaling across Europe using the concept of interactive governance as the conceptual framework for analysing processes of interactions among statutory planning processes and soft spaces of governance across local boundaries. In particular, focusing on the interrelation between images and instruments as elements of interactive governance, the research investigates the interrelation among regional design, governance and planning.

In this framework, the author argues that visioning and regional design practices can matter both for shaping the boundaries of urban regions and for conceiving shared visions of their spatial development.

References
ENHANCING GOVERNANCE CAPACITY IN METROPOLITAN REGIONS THROUGH REGIONAL DESIGN

Wil Zonneveld
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Metropolitan regions nowadays straddle beyond the contours of the urban agglomeration and – at least in Europe – often include entire clusters of cities and towns. To understand the structure of these regions is a difficult task, the governance is even more challenging. Regional design can play an important role here. A fundamental issue become then how to perceive regional design. The products of regional design – cartographies and underlying storylines – are not primarily meant to implement but provide arguments for intervention. The prime function is framing. To enable this regional design arena’s should stand in a loose connection with decision-making but nevertheless reach out to critical actors and stakeholder.

References
THE RENAISSANCE OF BIG PLANS. THE ROLE OF REGIONAL DESIGN

Alain Thierstein
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Regional design is to be considered as a valuable and effective complement to statutory supra local spatial planning. Lack of vision of statutory planning may lie at the outset for the call for regional design, but such a strategy has to prove its ambition and deliver results. Regional design is so far not a fixed set of ‘ingredients’. We propose to consider as robust backbone six elements, which are apt to deliver the intended image: inter-scalarity, relational notion of space, impact orientation, futures-oriented thinking, strategic orientation, debatability through visualization.

Orientation about intended alternative futures are to be discussed against the backdrop of structural spatial transformation. Spatial transformation is an evolutionary process that takes time. It represents not merely the physical and morphological transformation of space, but encompasses also aspects related to functions and processes. Spatial transformation is the transformation of the intricate multi-scalar workings of morphologies, functions and processes. Regional Design thus helps profoundly to make visible und imaginable those changes. Multi-scalarity is necessary for analytic purposes; more importantly though it puts the consideration of the impact of spatial interventions at the forefront. Impact orientation means considering the impact of interventions on future developments. Impact can be experienced in the short-term, medium-term or long-term. Regional design thus can be regarded as contributing to a more widespread renaissance of big plans.

References
Wiese, Anne, Agnes Förster, Lukas Gilliard and Alain Thierstein (2014): A spatial strategy for the production of place in two German cities - Urban design interventions as a driver for spatial transformation. In: City, Territory and Architecture 1(13), 1-9.
GOVERNANCE RESCALING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING IN ENGLAND

Graham Haughton
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This presentation will examine the evolution of city-regional planning for Greater Manchester in England. The interest of this case is not so much the history, which is well known, and more the recent experience of moving towards planning once again at the city-regional scale. Manchester is central to the current English debates on devolution, emerging as a pioneer for new forms of city-regional governance. One of the innovations involved is the creation of an elected mayor at city region scale for the first time, with elections due in early May 2017. In 2016-2017 the publication of a draft Spatial Framework in advance of the Mayoral Elections provoked considerable public debate including many demonstrations against aspects of the plan. The plan quickly turned political as mayoral hopefuls were forced to respond to the public’s concerns. This presentation will focus on this period of Greater Manchester’s experimentation with doing planning differently, drawing on previous work on soft spaces (e.g Haughton et al 2010, Allmendinger et al 2015), recent work on Manchester’s devolution (Haughton et al 2016), and on-going research into the Spatial Framework

References
Traditionally rooted in a Napoleonic legal and administrative tradition, Portugal has always balanced between a strong degree of centralization (strengthened by decades of dictatorship, but also by an enduring instability of the public finances and the national economy) and a firm municipal tradition that dates back from medieval times. Strong linkages between the central and the local tiers of government have long been recognized. However, specific historical developments (such as the forty years of dictatorship, the reestablishment of democracy or the entry into the European Economic Community) have deflected the system into a number of variances towards either centralism or municipalism, or even a mitigated regionalism, which have brought complexity into the system, including its administrative structure and territorial distribution of government powers.

With a specific insight into the case study of the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon, the paper aims to discuss how regionalism and new soft planning spaces have emerged and developed over the background of Portugal’s territorial administrative organization and spatial planning system. Due to its exceptional position as the capital city and greater metropolitan area of the country, and often being at the forefront of the policy system as an experimental field for study and planning, the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon constitutes a good example to explore how the relationships between the different tiers of government, territorial scales and planning tools have evolved, as well as how hard spaces and traditional statutory planning have accommodated the rising up of new soft spaces very much embedded in the development of functional urban regions and new governance spaces.

Between 2013 and 2015, a new wave of reforms took place including changes in either the spatial planning policy or the administrative reconfiguration of local authorities, namely at the supra-municipal organization level, respective powers, tasks and responsibilities. Once again metropolitan areas are at the fore of the political debate. But rescaling movements seem to be short and ambiguous. Although the wording is very much in line with the European mainstream (decentralise responsibilities to the local level; harness inter-municipal efforts and capacities, namely in regard to mobility and the share of public facilities; reinforce integrated development-oriented approaches),
in practice changes are hardly able to meet the expected goals. The articulation between spatial planning and operational programming at the scope of European Structural Funds is also still far away from being accomplished. The paper intends to look into these latest developments with a particular insight at a metropolitan level.

References

THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF SPATIAL PLANNING IN REDEFINING SCALES AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN DENMARK

Daniel Galland
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Over the past two decades, spatial planning systems in Europe have become increasingly differentiated as regards their attempt to influence and shape spatial development processes. Their portrayal of discrete, permanent and fixed scales, conventionally depicted by nested hierarchies (i.e. municipal, regional and national) has long conflicted with processes of spatial transformation. On-going dynamics of territorial integration thereby demand reconsideration of spatial mismatches between the boundaries of administrative jurisdictions and the rather fluid territories of functional regions (Harvey, 1989; Keating, 1997).

The grounds and motivations behind evolving conceptions of scale as well as representations of space portrayed in spatial plans and strategies need be reassessed in attempting to understand both rescaling implications as well as the increasing differentiation of spatial planning roles across administrative levels in western European nation-states. In this respect, it is worth delving into how ‘fixed’ spatial planning systems, based on conventional territorial scales, are instrumentally reinterpreted to cope with current territorial dynamics. In contributing to on-going debates concerning contemporary rescaling processes, this paper centres on the case of Denmark, where spatial planning has been exposed to significant reorientations resulting in the redefinition and reinterpretation of territorial scales via the dual adoption and articulation of legal instruments and spatial strategies at different administrative levels (Galland 2012a, 2012b; Galland and Enemark 2013).

The Danish case is analysed through: i) the strategic spatial role attributed to each level of planning; and ii) the redefinition of territorial scales as a result of changing political objectives and spatial relationships occurring between planning levels. The assessment pertaining to the strategic role of spatial planning instruments as well as the evolving redefinition of territorial scales in Denmark suggests that the conventional, hierarchical ‘cascade-shaped’ ideal of policy implementation (the comprehensive-integrated approach to spatial planning) is clearly superseded. While the Danish spatial planning case converges with other European cases, the implications stemming from rescaling processes diverge given the suppression of the formal regional scale and the distinctive means to reassure a ‘vertical spatial anchor’ for the stability and permanence of power structures.

References
Territorial strategic planning in post-soviet Russia started in 1997, when the first sub-national Strategic Plan for St Petersburg was approved. Since then most of the Russian regions and many municipalities developed and then updated their strategies. In 2014 the Federal Law on Strategic Planning was adopted, which made strategic planning at regional and local levels obligatory. Paradoxically, Russia still doesn’t have a Spatial Development Strategy at the national level, though a draft of such document is now under preparation and discussion. New Strategy of social and economic development of the country is also now in preparation and soon should be presented by the Government.

20 years of strategic planning experience in post-soviet Russia revealed a number of specific features and general problems:

- **Mechanism of implementation.** In spite of the fact that according to the Federal Law the detailed plan of activities should be included in the strategic planning documents, in practice this plan is often not coordinated with the budget and may be a subject of regular revisions. Strategies are often used mostly to justify inclusion in specific federal (or regional for municipalities) targeted programs.

- **Strategic Plans usually more focused on economic and social development, then on spatial/territorial planning.** It is still a challenge how to ensure continuity of planning process from main strategic goals and priorities to the detailed master plans for particular areas.

- **Coordination between regional and local plans is still an issue.** According to federal recommendations such continuity of planning should be provided, but in practice preparation of strategic plans by regions and municipalities is not synchronised and may use different methodologies. As a result, the documents of different levels may be not compatible.

- **Still a big problem is planning for metropolitan areas.** Even for ones, located inside one region, cooperation of municipalities in planning and implementation is a big challenge. In cases of Moscow and St Petersburg the situation is more difficult, because most of their metropolitan area municipalities are located in neighbour regions. For joint planning in this case some amendments of the federal Law is needed.

During my presentation more attention will be paid to two particular cases: strategic planning in St Petersburg.

**References**


THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS ON SPATIAL PLANNING FOR FRENCH METROPOLITAN CITIES AND AGGLOMERATIONS

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Since 2015, France has re-designed the two levels which are competent for spatial planning. On one hand, the pre-existing 22 regions have been merged in 13 larger ones, with a stronger competence in spatial planning and economic development. On the other hand, the level of municipal groupings, gathering in larger conglomerates the 36,000 existing municipalities, has been deeply reshaped, with enlarged perimeters and more competences. An additional type of municipal grouping has been established. Called “metropolis”, it may overtake responsibilities from other governmental tiers through tailor-made asymmetric devolutions of competences.

The rationale invoked for this series of institutional reforms tackles the challenges of globalization (support growth-and-jobs in metropolitan regions) and of efficient public spending (deliver services to the inhabitants at lower cost). The new institutional setting is also expected to improve regional planning policies, by concentrating decisional power at the actual metropolitan scale, across which people live and work.

But is big so beautiful? According to Neil Brenner, the rescaling of powers that occurred since the late 1970s in Western Europe follows a neo-liberal agenda by giving birth to a “transformed form of (national) capitalism, not to imply its erosion, withering or demise” (Brenner 2004: 4). The presentation will address this question. First, we will “set the scene”, introducing the French institutional design and the metropolitan issue. Second, we will present the administrative reforms of the years 2010, 2014 and 2015. Finally, we will analyze the first outcomes of the process, which generates winners and losers.

References
On 1st Jan. 2015 a new institution, the metropolitan city, took its place among the Italian territorial authorities. Despite its incorporation in the Italian Constitution since 2001, the metropolitan city became a reality only when the national government carried out process of reform and transformation of Italian territorial government with Law No. 56 of 2014, transforming ten large cities and into metropolitan cities and depriving other intermediate governments (regions and provinces) of their fundamental competencies.

Metropolitan cities have now the opportunity of playing a central role in economic and social development, good governance and collaboration. These new institutions, in fact, have new competences that allow them to integrate metropolitan functions or to create new networks at the inter-municipal, national, and European level, involving a complex systems of actors and different forms of action, based on flexibility, partnership, voluntary participation, and, to some extent, competition.

The specific competence made available to Metropolitan Cities to reach these objects is the adoption of the three-year strategic plan. In particular, strategic plan represents a tool disciplined in Italy for the first time by juridical rules. However, this legal act is not regulated at length by legislator, so that every body should freely choose how to inflect it.

Metropolitan Cities have now to consider many variables to fill of contents the new function, taking regard of the principal experiences in past strategic planning (in Italy as in other legal systems), the more diffused scientific and theoretical interpretations, the legal rules adopted by each Region and by each Metropolitan City, especially in respective Charter of autonomy. Every strategic plan have to be adopted resorting to new forms of negotiated and participated practices and have to express the vision of how each Metropolitan City will conceive themselves in the next future. So it will be necessary that each Metropolitan City invents new forms of politics and governance also for the implementation of strategic plans, always taking care of the characteristics of respective socio-economic contest, enhancing at the same time effectiveness and democracy in terms of citizen and institutional participation.

References
Maps and other cartographic representations are used to directly express spatial policies, or to support verbal statements of policies. The visual illustration of spatial policy options through can be very powerful both in the planning process and in communicating the key messages of planning strategies.

Cartographic representations, and, in particular, those realized in support of spatial planning, have polysemic codes in the sense that they can transfer multiple levels of meaning. Maps are cultural objects and do not transmit purely denotative messages: every single sign has many meanings, sometimes different from those foreseen by the cartographer. Visual nature gives maps a connotative quality: they can generate feelings or emotions in the user, often dependent on culture.

The contribution intends to present a critical reading of the relationship between visual variables, spatial policy options and communicative effectiveness of the cartographic and visual materials produced over the last decades to describe the visions of spatial solution for problems in Florence metropolitan area.
Following the revision of the institutional system conveyed by Law 7 April 2014, n. 56, important changes are occurring to ten main Italian regional cities, obliged to form joint metropolitan city governments and to provide for strategic planning. Metropolitan Cities are now in the early stages of definition of their strategic plans and questions emerge about the dimensions and characteristics of the metropolitan area, as well as its image in the metropolitan community and Metropolitan City’s ambition and vision. A great need for regional design and visioning practices emerges, both to build up the urban region (from the administrative border to a collective identity), and to define a shared vision of its territorial development.

Focus of the paper is the process of definition of the Vision for the Metropolitan City of Florence. The forms of governance in place and the boundaries they assume are discussed, as well as the process of Regional Design that – through the shaping and discussion of targeted visions – is conveying to the definition of a shared vision.

The case of the strategic plan for the metropolitan city of Florence is presented as a vision-making process based on regional design theories, that conveyed to an approach aimed at considering into a synergistic and integrated way two different design scales (macro and micro), with their projects and practices (stories). These resulted in questions of identities among the diverse territories within the metropolitan city (from the Chianti Shire to the Mugello’ region, passing through the Historic Centre of Florence - UNESCO World Heritage Site), integration among city uses and users (inhabitants, tourists, city users and, more recently, migrants) and new forms of housing and living (co-living, co-working). If the macro-stories are derived from statutory, traditional planning, micro-stories are related to the field of tactics, and became a fundamental element for achieving the three strategic visions of the plan, aimed to reach a new ‘metropolitan renaissance’.

The aim of the paper is to contribute to a better understanding of the way designing and visioning can enhance the process of strategic planning by shaping the boundaries of urban regions and conceive a shared vision for their spatial futures.
SHAPING REGIONAL FUTURES
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Daniele Ronsivalle
Agnes Förster

Shaping the future of metropolitan cities: theories and practices
In the Netherlands there is a long tradition of collaborative planning decision making. Levels of government co-operate in the formulation of planning guidance and its application to particular areas. Similarly, design - as an explorative search for solutions to problems in the built environment - is an important and stable component of Dutch planning. It is positively associated with innovation in planning and operationalisation of it and with the legitimacy of planning by consent among a broad array of actors. Despite frequent use and high expectations, roles of design-led approaches in planning decision making are not well defined tough. Design professionals have unclear positions in constellations among decision makers and performances of design in political or administrative decision-making processes are often unforeseen. As a result the impact of design-led approaches on decision making is not well understood and unaccountable.

This presentation elaborates on interrelations between regional design-led approaches and planning. It argues that design in the realm of planning resembles discretionary action. The argument implies that design is an integral part of planning: a practice that informs or is informed by prevailing planning guidance. Theoretical notions from the fields of design and planning are combined to highlight aspects of design practices and planning frameworks that shape these interrelations. A analytical framework, derived from notions, is applied to a set of regional design initiatives that evolved in the context of Dutch national indicative plans between 1988 and 2012. Examples demonstrate that roles of design in planning decision making changed substantially over the period. Regional design turned first from a practice that criticised national plans from an extra-governmental perspective into one that worked to collaboratively define national planning with various levels of government, and then further into a practice that challenged national plans on behalf of the national government.

References
Regional designing is a form of large scale spatial design that engages with the future physical form and arrangement of settlements, infrastructures, water features, nature reserves and other land uses in a region, including the relationships between them, their aesthetic appearances and how it can come about. As such, regional designing is closely entangled with spatial planning. Moreover, it affects and influences spatial planning processes. Firstly, the envisioned regional future directs the aims of spatial planning. Secondly, regional designing influences spatial planning processes by enabling informed decision making (Kempenaar et al., 2016b), and by proposing actions and suggestions for upcoming planning stages (Kempenaar et al., 2016a). Thirdly, the collaborative regional design process alters the opinions and perspectives of stakeholders and changes their relationships (Kempenaar et al., 2016b). Fourthly and finally, regional designing can affect the development of the spatial planning and design disciplines (Kempenaar et al., in review). This accounts particularly for those regional design projects that focus on ‘new’ planning issues and receive attention in professional media.

The influences of regional designing on spatial planning result from the regional design process. In our current democratic, pluralistic and networked society, not only a plan, but also the process in which a plan is created, is critical in its future success and use (Christensen, 2015, Forester, 2013). Regional designing is a collaborative reflexion in action process (Schön, 1983), in which the regional designer and stakeholders engage in an open-ended conversation with the situation. Regional designers design, organise and facilitate the design process, and contribute to it with their professional expertise. These processes have to be tailor-made to the regional planning situation. Grounded in years of practical experience, designers have developed multiple principles that guide them in the design process and enable them to respond to the specifics of each regional situation. Stakeholders also hold a critical position in the regional design process. They bring in their knowledge of the planning situation, and they participate in the development and evaluations of ideas and proposals. This enables them to develop ownership over the regional design ideas and prepares them for future action. It is from these processes that the influence of regional designing emerges.

References
THE SYNTHESISING COMPETENCIES OF REGIONAL DESIGNERS

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The aim of this presentation is to reflect on the competencies that prepare planners for today’s and tomorrow’s interdisciplinary regional development and transformation challenges. I propose a ‘re-coupling’ of both design and social sciences with the currently established normative, policy-based approaches of spatial planning. I argue that design provides a profound integrative skill-set that allows students to employ knowledge of the above-mentioned domains and ‘couple’ them in form of transformative regional design proposals. I present a framework of ten key competencies of various complexity that has been developed in collaboration with colleagues from TU Delft and TU Munich.

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Gilliard, Lukas; Rooij, Remon; Alaily-Mattar, Nadia; Zonneveld, Wil; Thierstein, Alain (forthcoming): Re-coupling Regional Planning, Regional Design and the Social Sciences. Didactic Approaches to Prepare Students for Tomorrow’s Regional Development Challenges
Over the last 20 years territorial development plans in Flanders have readily invoked an explicit urban framing in order to position the proposed spatial policies against the grain of a long history of horizontal urbanization and sprawl. These development plans sought to reinforce emerging metropolitan patterns, placing a symbolic bonus on the city as the preferred spatial expression of equitable, efficient and sustainable development.

These policies (rather unsuccessfully) seek to break with the longue durée of a tradition of regional development that have translated questions of redistribution in territorial terms and deliberately spread development opportunities evenly over the territory. At the same time, the everyday realities of these proposed metropolitan territories are not governed through an urban, let alone, metropolitan mindset.

The territorial design strategies promoting a metropolitan vision for Flanders, while invoking urban imaginaries, have failed to produce design models geared at shaping the urban solidarities and logics of territorial differentiation necessary to establish the urban rationality these strategies seek to promote. Starting from the intellectual embarrassment of an urban project without a proper theory of the urban, this intervention seeks to reground regional design in a theory of urbanization. Accepting the dominant reality of municipal local government this paper tries to identify possibilities to construct urban solidarities from below, imagining the basis upon which the ‘urban’ solidarities and logics of territorial differentiation could be established.
As inherent part of modernity, the notion of the metropolis and fragmentation has always been closely connected from the first (Berman, 1982). From Georg Simmel, who intended the metropolis in terms of flows and fragmentation, to Adorno (1970), that highlighted the distance between modernity and the idea of harmonic aesthetic completion, the juxtaposition, accumulation, or succession of fragments has been intended as an intimate quality of the modern metropolis able to interpret its complex and chaotic composition.

A ride through the contemporary territory discloses strange juxtapositions of wealth and poverty, of highly productive areas and abandoned spaces, places of pleasure and places of work. The differences and the contrasts appear gradually more evident; the pieces, of which the territory is composed, seem to have lost their context, appear hardly ascribable to a single unitary figure, they are taking distance from their surroundings, causing a growing segregation of activities, functions and social groups.

While a part of Western culture has tried to counteract this process by withdrawing itself in the reassuring universe of past continuity (see Secchi, 2000), other scholars have accepted this condition turning it into a manifesto (see Viganò, 1999).

This is the position that the young Dutch architect Willem Jan Neutelings assumes as a starting point, interpreting a portion of the Dutch territory, which stretches from The Hague to Rotterdam, as a patchwork in which different patches are juxtaposed to one another and each one is characterized by a specific functional program and physical structure.

Interpreted as a general manifesto or as the explanation of a specific territorial configuration, the patchwork discourse crosses many of the preeminent topics of the modernity – the figure of the fragment, the issue of the peripheral condition and the territorial layout of the contemporary city – but also many other metaphors and researches – cities in between (Sieverts, 2003), the territory as a palimpsests (Corboz, 1983), the city territory (Corboz, 1990), the città diffusa (Indovina, 1990), the archipelago city (Hertweck, Marot, 2013) – preserving and enriching each time its precious ambiguity.

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ZURICH METROPOLITAN VISIONS

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The intervention gives a summary of the multiple cooperation activities in the metropolitan area of Zurich. In 2009 the Zurich Metropolitan Area Society was founded. Its aim is enforcing the metropolitan area of Zurich as a national and international business location. Zurich Metropolitan Area Society is a political organization compound by eight member cantons as well as 120 member cities and municipalities. Though the Zurich Metropolitan Area Society has its strengths, it has to deal with challenges as well: the expected strong population growth, the increasing need of resources or the relations between municipalities as concurrents and co-operators in the same time. The Metropolitan Conference represents the general meeting of all member municipalities and cantons. Through common projects in the fields of economy, traffic, society and living environment, the Metropolitan Conference gets active and visible. A sustainable spatial planning needs coordination across municipal borders and a view on the region as a whole. The intervention puts a focus on the project «Metrobild» which builds the basis for a spatial master plan. The structure of the Zurich Metropolitan Area Society is characterized by a correlation of the different subspaces but also by the competitiveness for advantages of location between the member municipalities. With this background the cantons, cities and municipalities should develop a common awareness for the functional and spatial qualities in the metropolitan area and their distribution. The Metropolitan Conference invited three planning teams to develop an innovative and realistic picture (Bild) for the metropolitan area. The process was separated in three parts: 1. Reading 2. Developing ideas 3. Sketch a picture of the metropolitan area (Metrobild). The result were three pictures, which all had a different vision for the development of the metropolitan area. The three pictures were published in a jury report, which builds the basis for a consultation amongst the members of the Metropolitan Conference. The majority voted for the elaboration of a spatial master plan under the lead of the Canton of Zurich. In parallel to the Metrobild project, cantonal planners of the eight member cantons started first reflections on a Metro-ROK (regional planning concept). It fulfills the important task of strengthening understanding of the metropolitan area as a coherent functional space and complies with the requirements of the spatial concept for Switzerland. In succession the member cantons identified the common denominators in their development plans. This cooperation flows into several projects in subspaces of the metropolitan area.

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Website Zurich Metropolitan Area Society: https://www.metropolitanraum-zuerich.ch/home.html
Since 2000 the city of Antwerp had to cope with a middle-class urban flight and a larger-than-expected population growth with an increasingly divers composition. The city had turned its back on the river Scheldt and the old harbour sites near the city centre had become neglected urban spaces. In 2003 the city decided to organise an international design competition to revive the ‘city in decline’. The team of Bernardo Secchi & Paola Viganò won the competition and in 2006 they had delivered the strategic spatial structure plan of Antwerp (s-RSA). When the s-RSA was approved, the urban administration has been reformed to be able to execute the strategic projects and visions defined in the plan. Since then the city has rediscovered its river and has started planning the renewal of the Scheldt quays. The harbour docks in the north of the city and the old industrial areas in the south are being converted into new sustainable residential areas and a business park for the 21st century. An urban park was developed on an abandoned railway site, the dense urban tissue was opened up to allow for much needed green spaces for the inhabitants and the planned international motorway has been downsized to a tunnelled light version.

Today we are ready to update the s-RSA according to new insights in an ever evolving city. In order to have a true future-proof plan that is sustained by all inhabitants, we organise various city debates and urban labs to discuss the new challenges of our city with a broad community of stakeholders and inhabitants. It is an interactive process that will lead to the new structure plan from 2019 onwards.

One of the first key assumptions of the new plan is the vision of the city as a living organism, where the different streams – not only the blue-and green infrastructure, but also streams of food, traffic, energy and waste- make up the city’s ‘metabolism’. These streams have an impact far beyond the city borders. That is why we need to look for a dialogue with our neighbouring municipalities to confront issues such as ecology, blue-green infrastructure, mobility and population growth. Last year we have established a cooperation with the 13 municipalities in the south of Antwerp.
THE VISION FOR THE GENERAL LOCAL PLANS OF KRUJA, KURBIN AND LEZHA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ALBANIAN ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL REFORM

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I am the “team leader” of a working group that has been charged of carry out the GLP (General Local Plan) for three municipalities in Albania (Lezha, Kurbin and Kruja), that globally include the territory between Tirane and Shkodra, 20 local sub-units, 148 urban areas (cities and villages), more than 1.100 square kilometers and about 200.000 inhabitants.

We all know that, recently, the innovative evolution of urban planning has attempted to overcome the traditional urban planning, introducing a new strategic approach. The most important innovation in a strategic approach is the notion that the quality of the outcome of a planning process meanly relates to interdependence among its constituent variables and among the different decisions that we take at the different scales.

The spatial strategy for this territory rests on the concept of “landscape”. We use the term “landscape” in its strategic-planning sense, as local units characterized by a comparable basis in terms of: (i) the geographical and spatial morphological characteristics; (ii) the man-sedimentation and prevailing uses; (iii) the policy perspective and the transformations government.

According to that, we have recognized five different types of landscape: (i) mountain area; (ii) coastal area; (iii) agricultural plain; (iv) foothill settlement system; (v) infrastructure corridor. Normally these five landscapes are considered as specialized strips of territory arranged parallel to the coast. In our vision, we think that is necessary to sew up them in order to help the integration between different assets and synergy between local communities.

The overall strategy, therefore, is based on the functional integration among the five landscapes, through environmental corridors formed by the river courses, in order to obtain advantages that are:

- the possible ecological integration between the territory of the coast and the mountain;
- the complementary integration between urban functions of the historic settlement system (foothills road) and the productive functions localized behind the new infrastructure system (freeway);
- the synergy that can be created between environmental protection areas (coastal
and mountain) and their possible use for economic purposes, through integrated forms of environmental tourism;

- the different role to be given to the various parts of the system, without overlap and duplication, but with supplementary specialization of different offers;
- the ability to assign to the various specialized functions specific places in the logic of the respective integration according to a project of complementary functions.
Observations of recent regional design and visioning projects in The Netherlands and Flanders reveal that these projects often tend to remain relatively non-binding experiments, lacking the continuity or long term impact sought for. Some of these projects show the characteristics of intellectually interesting, but relatively free-floating exercises, without longer term commitment, let alone attached obligations from the parties involved. Often, these exercises are moderately understood by the outside world and limitedly connected to other actors or decision makers. Although the search for the right actors, commitment and influence on the formal system is often inherently part of these projects, and therefore rarely a given, the sometimes splendid isolation of these projects is remarkable. Good exceptions to this (somewhat exaggerated) analysis, show a strong focus on a specifically designed process, for embedding the design in a larger network of institutions and creating an environment where all partners involved can meet. In this cases the investment in ‘design’ is coupled with at least a comparable investment in setting up an environment, making coalitions and creating relations, be it with other governments, knowledge partners or communities. If we want design and designers to be able to mobilize their added value of comprehensiveness, the connection and integration of design with other policy fields, other actors, with politics as well as bureaucracy, seems vital.
The metropolitan transformations of Palermo Mediterranean city include within them, inevitably, affect the nature of gateway cities within a broader vision.

The strategic vision for Palermo in 2025 was inspired by this crucial statement to include within it the three key components: 1. the relevance of the Palermo-hub area for what concerns the territorial and infrastructure development policies at the European level; 2. the urban and regional experience of “Fluid city” as portal and as a place of interaction and exchanges (not just in terms of goods and people); 3. the renewed metropolitan vision that comes from new regional and national legislation on metropolitan areas.

The contribution develops these three interpretations and applies them to the reality of Palermo metropolitan area: it identifies how the strategic spatial plan (with the advice of the Carta, Stanghellini, Creta srl) approved by the City Council in 2016 selects these issues and connects in a coherent vision, both at the urban level, both at the metropolitan level.

It also emphasizes how the Strategic Plan incorporates the regulatory actions (PRG) and funding options resulting from national and EU operational programs.

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GOVERNING THE GROWING MUNICH METROPOLITAN REGION: INCREMENTAL APPROACHES TO REGIONAL DESIGN

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In regions and metropolitan areas, municipal borders have long since been traversed and transcended by spatial patterns of interaction and land-use. In the emergence of spatial patterns, multiple spatial scales intertwine – from the neighborhood up to the functional region and beyond. Governments and their administrations often experience statutory limitations when trying to address these developments. In response to these deficiencies politicians, planning authorities and also civil and private organizations in many European regions are participating in governance arrangements, in order to coordinate sector issues and issues that play at different levels of scale. They seek, for instance, to integrate economic, transport and housing development, stretching across multiple and multi-scalar boundaries.

Being voluntary associations with few formal planning instruments available to them, the resulting partnerships collaboratively engage in jointly creating inspiring and encouraging spatial agendas with the help of regional design. Design is a creative practice, orientated towards finding solutions to problems in the built (and unbuilt) environment. It is a ‘conversation with the situation’, driven by normative, desirable futures, and also by a wish to understand holistic wholes and dependencies among parts.

The Munich metropolitan region is one of the fastest growing regions in Germany in terms of jobs and inhabitants. In consequence enormous challenges have to be addressed and coordinated among a broad variety of responsible players: the creation of new housing on the large-scale, the development of new integrated and mixed-use business districts, the expansion and qualification of green space and the upgrading of the transport infrastructure with a strong shift towards public transport and non-motorized transport.

These challenges can only be addressed, when municipalities and cities cooperate and coordinate spatial development within the metropolitan region. But regional planning had for a long time an only weak position and a regulating rather than an active role to jointly steer spatial development in the Munich metropolitan region. In recent years, a new generation of politicians and officials kick-started new initiatives to jointly manage the growing region. Instead of one overall planning approach, cooperation and coordination starts with sub-regional issues and priority areas as well as with newly established platforms for dialogue that incrementally shape a joint spatial future at the spatial scale of the metropolitan region.
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