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## Call for papers EWT 19/2019

### Urban Design for Small Towns

Opening call 25 March 2019 | **deadline for submission of abstracts 7 April 2019**

In recent issues EWT has treated themes around the difficulty of urban design in renovating the outskirts of metropolitan areas and in the preserving and valorising of contexts rich in history. The themes to be treated in issue 19 of EWT will be to explore the possibility of intervening with urban projects in small towns.

The goal is to identify research experiences and planning experimentation that can demonstrate the usefulness and feasibility of urban design, or the possible needs for revision, to overcome the limits which are often generated by a too formalistic approach which does not satisfy the more complex intervention conditions found in any given urban context.

The theme is to investigate from three points of view:

#### *The usefulness of urban design in small towns*

Experience of the last few years has shown us that the urban planning tools is being used less and less by municipal governments that resort to single interventions, which can be started immediately, though they may be fragmentary or unconnected to any overall vision of the city and its future. This is happening in complex urban realities but it is also found in small towns where everything should be easier.

There is a tendency to sacrifice the benefit that can be gained through an urban project in favour of a factual empiricism that induces a preference for the solidity of the present as compared to the real utility and meaning to the city of the available projects.

#### *The feasibility of urban design in small towns*

Undoubtedly, the urban design crisis is partly because of limits in the implementation of intervention to be carried out, but there are also more complex conditions that obstruct economic-financial, administrative and social feasibility.

So for example the crisis in the real estate market has held back excessively complex and high risk public and private projects where return on investments is uncertain. Further these projects require a variety of juridical-administrative tools, as well as complex agreements, to manage the wide variety of situations in play and at any rate force the taking of responsibility for shared decisions. Finally the conflictual realities that arise in any complex project induce difficult strategies in the building of consensuses and compensation of the interests in play, all of which the political world often prefers to avoid.

#### *Ideas for the future of urban design in small towns*

The EWT opinion is that urban design will only be possible through a profound renovation of concept, contents, and the methodology it uses in elaboration. In the currently situation of severe uncertainty and with the unpredictability of urban dynamics, we need flexible and evolutive projects that can be done in stages, rather than rigid and binding medium-long term programs in which the rules, forms, dispositions and public-private agreements at the base of the project are fixed. The form of projects is destined to change, with the development of a progressive convergence of a multitude of actions which are place-based and endogenous, but also top-down and often multi-scalar and heterogeneous among them, though having in common their coherence to a shared vision of the future. How do we make these objectives (e.g. quality, functional performance, socially legitimate remunerability) taken initially, compatible with the necessary changes that take place during the work, will become the central theme of the project; It is a theme particularly complicated but one from which it is impossible to escape.

The proposals for articles in EWT 19, which look at the subject of Urban Design for Small Towns, may contain theoretic or methodological reflections, concerning analyses of case studies or results reached in research activities or project experimentation, keeping in mind the following subjects:

1. The actuality of urban design in small towns
2. Reasons for and the utility of urban design in small towns
3. Obstacles that today impede the success of urban design in small towns
4. Innovations to be introduced to urban design in Italy to improve the effectiveness, feasibility and quality of results.

The authors are invited to send an **abstract of 3,000 keystrokes, including spaces**, in Italian or in English if the author/s is/are foreigners by midnight CET **7 April 2019**.

The abstract must contain a synthesis of the main content of the article that is being proposed, and it must be written clearly and responding to the themes indicated by EWT.

The abstracts must also explain effectively the goals of the proposal, the possible originality of the article and the methodologies used, specifying:

- The title of the article
- The name and surname of the author/s who are proposing it
- Five keywords coherent with the theme and sub-theme
- The goal of the proposal of the article and the characteristics of its originality
- The approach and the methodology used in developing the article
- The expected results or the results achieved that will be presented in the article

Not respecting the above conditions will be a motive for exclusion.

The abstract is to be sent using the form annexed to this call and must be sent to the Editorial Board of EWT at the address [ecowebtown@unich.it](mailto:ecowebtown@unich.it) by midnight CET **7 April 2019**.

All the abstracts which are received and correspond to the requirements indicated by the call will be submitted, anonymously to a selection operated collegially by the Scientific and Editorial Committees of EcoWebTown.

The Editorial Secretary will notify to the authors the acceptance of the abstracts by **12 April 2019**. Silence denial will be the rule for the abstracts that are not accepted.

The authors of the abstracts accepted will be requested to send final versions of their articles by **15 May 2019**. The final article must respect the following requirements:

- Text length: a maximum length of 25,000 keystrokes, including spaces, comprehensive of any non-bibliographic notes, text to any images or tables and bibliographic references included, all according to the Harvard notation style.
- Two final abstracts one in Italian and one in English that do not exceed a maximum of 800 keystrokes, including spaces.
- Five keywords in Italian and English.
- Any images or tables must be in a jpeg or tiff format with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (RGB or CMYK) and relative permission to use the images where these images are not the property of the author/s or subjected to copyright.
- The (IT/ENG) abstracts and keywords, the text, images, tables, notes, captions and bibliographic references will respect the rules of the templates which will be provided. Not respecting these rules will be a motive for the non-publication of the article.

The articles will be submitted to a procedure of single blind peer review, according to the indications found in the ANVUR regulations for the classification of scientific reviews in non-bibliometric areas.

The anonymous reviewers will be asked to evaluate the articles as regards the following aspects:

- The article's pertinence to the general theme and sub-themes of the call
- The clarity of the text and appropriateness of the notes and images where present
- The accuracy of bibliographic references
- The quality of the methodological approaches proposed
- The quality of the analyses and the pertinence of case studies mentioned
- The quality and innovation of the results
- The transferability and replicability of the results.

The articles submitted for review may be accepted, accepted with a request for a minor revision, accepted with a request for a significant revision or refused (not suitable for publication).

The outcomes of the reviews will be communicated to the authors by **25 May 2019**.

Based on the evaluations of the anonymous reviewers, the authors will be requested to complete any recommended revisions and to resubmit the article in its final camera ready version by **15 June 2019**.

EWT is an ANVUR accredited *full open access* on-line scientific journal that guarantees free public access to all scholars, libraries and readers while requiring no subscription, payment or pay per view contribution.

To support its editorial services EWT has chosen to make use of a contribution from the authors when their article is accepted for publication. EWT does not receive any income from the sale of subscriptions or the review's on-line publication.

The authors will thus be requested to make a free VAT excluded donation (as per art. 4 del DPR No. 633/1972) of **€ 80,00** before the article is published.

### **Deadlines of call for EWT 19/2019**

- Opening call **25 March 2019**
- Deadline for sending the abstract by **7 April 2019**
- Abstract evaluation and acceptance communicated to the authors by **12 April 2019**
- Submission of accepted articles by **15 May 2019**
- Communication to the authors of the results of the single blind peer review by **25 May 2019**
- Submission of the final camera ready article by **15 June 2019**
- Publication of the article in EWT 19/2019 following the payment of the contribution of €80,00.

## EcoWebTown

EcoWebTown, *Journal of Sustainable Design* is a full open access on-line journal (<http://www.ecowebtown.it>). It is edited by the editorial center of the academic spinoff SUT *Sustainable Urban Transformation* of the “G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara and is inserted in the ANVUR official list of the scientific journals (ISSN 2039-2656) Reg. Tribunale di Pescara No, 9/2011 of 07/04/2011.

EWT review was founded with the conviction that there was a need for a culture of the digitally infrastructured and sustainable urban project, to better understand some of the big issues facing our times including: the exhaustion of non-renewable resources and climate change; the coexistence among value systems and increasingly irreducible social objectives; the need for an ‘informed’ and shared consensus as regards choices made by those who depend on the quality of life in cities and the countryside.

Following a first cycle under the brand of Sustainability Sensitive Urban Design, we have now turned our focus to the question of Urban Design in their architectonic, urban, technologic, environmental and social articulations. In particular, the new focus theme of EWT regards the real practicability on Urban Design in the current contexts of Italian and European cities in which encounters growing difficulties in managing transformations through projects with a strategic valence and inspired by the new values of contemporary times.

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