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CODE: ATHENS!

RAILWAY AND CITY DEVELOPMENT IN ATHENS

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IMPRESSUM

Title

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Since the onset of the current and enduring global crisis, Europe has been facing the greatest challenge of the last sixty years: to overcome the crucial issue of inequality, and to open a new era of prosperity. The privileged strategy for pursuing the 'smart, sustainable and inclusive' Europe 2020 vision, as anchored in the EU's ambitious Cohesion Policy, was conceived to tackle the persistent social, economic and cultural gap between EU regions. One of the most intriguing ideas supporting the regeneration of the European space is embedded within the 'network paradigm', with a crucial role given to rail transportation systems.

The authors of *CODE: ATHENS! Railway and City Development in Athens* focus attention back onto the 'space of movement' in all its polysemous dimensions. Not limited to considering the techno/functional nature of rail networks, the book also explores the evolution of that domain in terms of a mature 'relationship space' with the concomitant social, economic, environmental and symbolic layers that enrich the traditional goal of merely facilitating movement within urban and territorial settlements.

Within the book's structure, in both essays and case studies, a virtuous background emerges: the reference to the fundamental components of 'Network Urbanism', which has been codified since the late 1980s by the French School of Gabriel Dupuy and Jean-Marc Offner. 'Topology', 'kinetics', and 'adaptivity' represent the key features of mobility network systems, and can be beneficially used to regenerate the metropolitan territory providing new identities to the archipelago of European conurbations.

The common lessons that emerge within the book from the more advanced European experiences illustrate the quality of the 'space of flows' in terms of 'urbanity', closely related to the level of multi-scalarity and flexible interconnection of the strategic railway nodes that embody privileged exchange hubs for global/local spaces, and epicentres of the most significant urban regeneration projects.

Rome

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