

## READING THE BUILDING TYPE INTO THE URBAN FORM

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### ABSTRACT

*Gian Luigi has developed important studies on the basic building type in the urban fabric in the city. Important texts of this research are the book on Florence in 1990 and the book on Rome, The last book edited on the 2000 is that I felt like the baton to be picked up to complete the running. I mean that for me this was his legacy, a work of analysis about the city and the building types to continue to develop by reflecting and applying what he had proposed in the basic building texts, with Gianfranco theorized for the history of the house and the city.*

*Recently about the research on the city and the Roman fabric did I have again the opportunity to reflect on what we had discussed with Gian Luigi about the city of Rome.*

*In this short text, I will want to present some of the results of this reflection together with the boards reproduced in the text on the Roman house, which just before the recent ISUFItaly conference in Rome, I was able to present to Paolo Carafa (an important Roman archaeologist) who, as Chevalier (French archaeologist who studied Paris) in a meeting with Gian Luigi and Caniggia in the faculty of literature in Rome, recognized this type of research as a valid tool for the reading of the urban process transformation..*

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### TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY TO UNDERSTAND THE COLLECTIVE WORK OF THE TOWN

I met Gian Luigi in 1986 in Rome in the Gianfranco Caniggia's studio, while we were working on the International Competition for the reuse of the Murate prison in Florence I had the opportunity to learn about his research on basic building and in particular that of his city of Florence.

A few years later Gianfranco's death in 1989, for my PhD work, I begun working with him instead. We were in the Caniggia's study placed in the Parioli neighborhood in Rome, - we had taken over with his wife and a former collaborator Luciana Bascià - for us it was an important space because it was the place where he had collected all his works and research done in the university activity. This is where I started working with Gian Luigi; First for a research funded by the Lazio region, where we had the opportunity to reflect on the practical results of morphological research for landscape and master regional plan, and after for the research on the Roman house in the history of the city, where I could see how much care and attention Gian Luigi pursued to research on urban form and building types. A research funded by the University of Florence, which, in those years we had the opportunity to present a preview at the ISUF conference in Florence in 1989.

The search for Rome started after that of Florence and after too, that's done by Paolo Maretto on the Venetian house. Two important texts that represented two milestones for typology researches and about urban studies.

Gian Luigi had developed a particular know how to the fabrics and building types of many Italian and Tuscan cities. He understood that the city told its past only if you have the patience to listen, to read the signs, to recognize in the archaeological traces the chapters of a past and where the new paths are new chapters of a story that must be read and studied without haste. A job that took 10 years; from 1989 until 2000 we met at least twice in a month to carry on the reading of the

building types and the analysis of the urban process; confronting and reorganizing us about the improve of the work from time to time based on what has been collected and known again. Gian Luigi spent particular attention to the analysis of the archival sources that he had already had the opportunity to appreciate during his long university career in Florence and which, in some way, continued to fascinate him. He was fascinated by the archive documents that he used for new research and new publications relating to other cities and contexts. Texts that he did not fail to give us to stimulate us to carry out research on Rome.

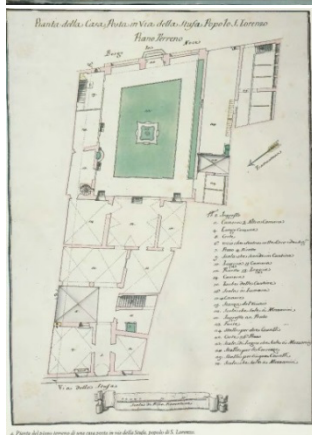
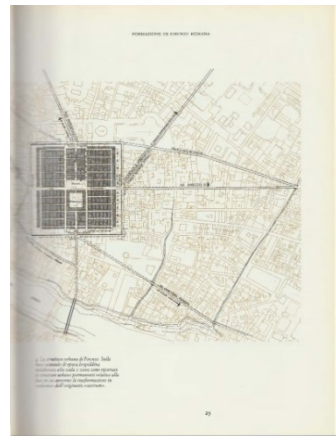


Figure 1-3. A few pages of the book about Firenze. (top)

Figure 4-6 The book 'La casa romana' and the book about Anagni (botton)

Among the many works, in those years, I got to the opportunity to deal with Gian Luigi about the analysis of the historical urban fabric of Anagni. A job that I have begun with Caniggia and that Gian Luigi allowed me to publish. I present, in the book, an archival document of the 1700s document the process of transforming the elementary courtyard house, composed of a single room and of an enclosure consisting of simple branches, in the pseudoschiera building type.

However, it was Rome that Gian Luigi was interested in, for whom, for in years, we have collected the archival material that I have now physically inherited and which documented in great detail the slow process of exchange between the building type and the fabric of the city which was then published.

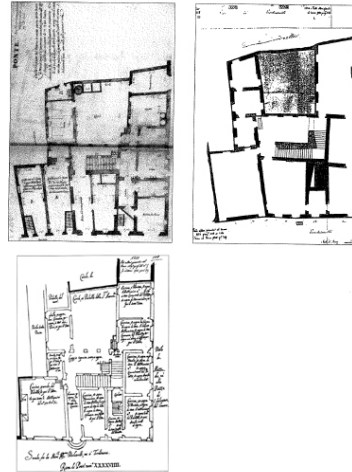
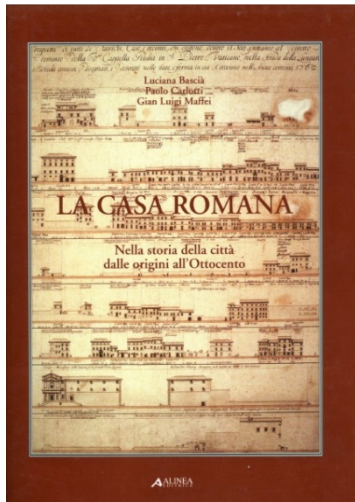


Figure 7-8. Morphological analysis of the ancient original settlement, with the analysis of the ridge, the hills and river valley with the first Roman settlement. (Bascia L., Carloti. P, Maffei G.L., 2000)

The most consistent legacy that I can personally testify is therefore linked to this work about the city of Rome, for which we began to work with, at first, reconstructing the shape of the place. Then collecting fundamental archaeological documentation to recompose that unity capable of allowing us to redesign the different phases of urban development. It was a long work, perhaps incomplete and which was also used for the formulation of the Rome PRG - It was the same Campus Venuti that told me this, when I met him at the university, he testifies to me the importance of work for the master plan of Rome.

We have destined years to collect the valuable documentation, essential for distilling the building type; material dispersed in various archives including the most important and ancient, the Vatican one. A huge number of documents that no much appears in the book that we completed and printed only at the beginning of the new millennium. A book that collates only a small part of the historical documentation used for typology studies. A text that I felt like the baton to be picked up to complete the running.

I mean that for me this was his legacy, a work of analysis about the city and the building types to continue to develop by reflecting and applying what he had proposed in the basic building texts, with Gianfranco theorized for the history of the house and the city.

So I picked up the baton continue the running, during the years of teaching in Bari, to working on the types and on the morphology of Apulian cities such as Bitonto, Modugno, Altamura, Bisceglie etc. about which I applied that method learned from Gian Luigi with patience and precision.

Recently about the research on the city and the Roman fabric did I have again the opportunity to reflect on what we had discussed with Gian Luigi about the city of Rome. They had worked on the Gregorian Cadastre drawing, re-digitizing it to analyze that fabric that then perhaps we were not yet able to read and that today, having collected its legacy, I try to interpret. In this short text, I will want to present some of the results of this reflection together with the boards reproduced in the text on the Roman house, which just before the recent ISUFItaly conference in Rome, I was able to present to Paolo Carafa (an important Roman archaeologist) - whom we had the pleasure of inviting as a K-note speaker at the last ISUFItaly conference, hold last February - who, as Chevalier (French archaeologist who studied Paris) in a meeting with Gian Luigi and Caniggia in the faculty of literature in Rome, recognized this type of research as a valid tool for the reading of the urban process transformation.

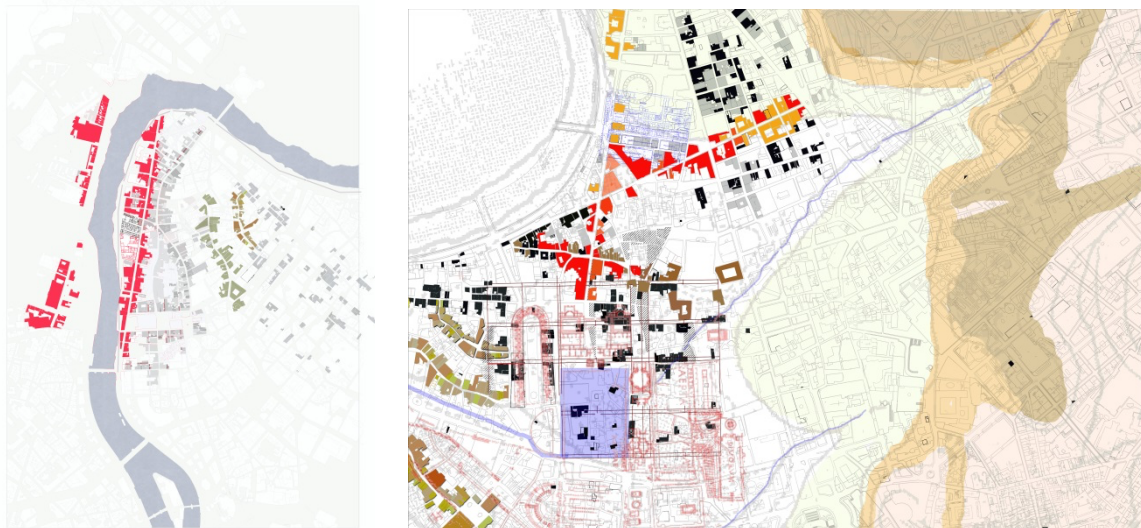


Figure 9-10. Two samples of the Morphological analysis of the central urban fabric, applying and improving the Caniggia's concept of 'percorso di ristrutturazione'. It is put in evidence the 'breakthrough road'. In red latest superimposed street (16th century). In black, grey and yellow, matrix and building roads of different phases of the urban transformation. The form of the plot allows us to recognize the character and behavior of the path.

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## CONCLUSIONS

The graphical reading of the urban storytelling offered me as well as many students of Caniggia the practical value of the texts for the analysis of the types and the urban fabric of the city. Theoretical and illustrative tools, which have shown the importance of a method for the deep understanding of the rules that led to the shape of the city and that can be useful for the design of architecture in and for the town.

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