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PER UNA TARCHITETTURA DELLA RESPONSABILITÀ FORTANTARCHITECTURE OF RESPONSIBILIT





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on il numero 37 la rivista "Abitare la Terra", a quattordici anni dalla sua nascita, cambia il suo formato, ma non il suo obiettivo: la tutela dell'ambiente e

obiettivo: la tutela dell'ambiente e la promozione di una architettura, che abbandonata la tendenza all'esaltazione individualistica delle grandi personalità creative, che la condizionato la produzione architettonica degli ultimi decenni, tomi ad accese medicialina. architettonica degli ultimi decenni, torni ad essere una disciplina rigorosa, che ha per obiettivo il miglioramento della vita di tutti gli esseri viventi e per questo non rinuncia a utilizzare i frutti di una esperienza secolare che coinvolge le diverse civiltà umane.

Il termine Geo-architettura, che si legge nella testata, è stato coniato

legge nella testata, e stato conato da Le Corbusier, nel 1942 per la sua riflessione su *Les trois établissements humains* e allude a una architettura che abbracci tutto ciò che l'uomo ha costruito sulla superficie terrestre. Per noi oggi Geo-architettura vuol dire una architettura umile, che sia arte sonza per superfice. vuol dire una architettura umile, che, sia arte senza per questo ammantarsi della superbia del nuovo fine a sé stesso, che si faccia carico della necessità di proteggere l'ambiente, di ridurre i processi di inquinamento, di combattere la disuguaglianza tra i popoli, di ridurre i processi che attraverso i cambiamenti climatici rischiano di distruogere gli equilibri del pianeta cambiamenti climatici rischiano di distruggere gli equilibri del pianeta e il suo paesaggio. Per fondare la Geo-architettura è necessario a nostro parere: imparare dalla natura e dalla storia, rispettare l'identità dei luoghi, recuperare la "coralità" degli spazi urbani, abbattere gli sprechi di risorse non rinnovabili e di tempo umano, contrapporre a uno sviluppo umano, contrapporre a uno sviluppo senza limiti, che presuppone una impossibile "crescita infinita", una crescita spirituale di cui si avvertono i primi sintomi anche nella architettura.

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ourteen years after Abitare la Terra was published for the first time we have decided to change its format, but not its goal: to protect the environment and promote architecture. No longer an architecture that has abandoned its tendency to praise and exalt larger-than-life creative individuals and the architectural works that have influenced recent decades, but an architecture that is once again a meticulous discipline focusing on improving the lives of all living creatures; an architecture that exploits the 'fruits' of its centuries-old history and many different civilisations.

The term Geo-architecture at the tone fishe fearther of the fearther or the state of the fearther or the fearther o

The term Geo-architecture at the top of the front cover of this the top of the front cover of this issue number was coined by Le Corbusier in 1942 when he wrote Les trios établissements humains; the term refers to an architecture that embraces everything man has built on the earth's surface. For us, Geo-architecture means humble architecture, on architecture, on explications. Geo-architecture means humble architecture, an architecture that is art without necessarily the arrogance of being an end unto itself; an architecture that assumes the responsibility of protecting the environment, reducing pollution, fighting inequality between peoples, reducing the processes of climate channe that may destroy the reducing the processes of climate change that may destroy the balance that exists here on earth and its landscapes. We believe that to create Geo-architecture we need to: learn from nature and history; respect the identity of places; reinstate the "choral nature" of urban spaces; drastically reduce the way we waste non-renewable resources and human time; and replace unlimited growth (involving impossible "endless growth") with spiritual growth, the seeds of which are now beginning to grow in architecture.

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Abitare la Terra



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I Quaderni di Abitare la Terra sono a cura di Carmine Gambardella

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Campi Flegrei, Pozzuoli: georeferenced image taken from the monitoring carried out with the Benecon technological platform, twin-engine aircraft equipped with PhaseOne 150Mpix and TABI 1800 TSR Thermal Search & Rescuse sensors.

Rewilding Urban Space. The Regeneration of Budolfi Plads (Aalborg, DK)

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ackling environmental degradation and halting the growing loss of biodiversity are among the most urgent imperatives at the turn of the third millennium. In response to the global environmental crisis, different approaches to nature conservation, biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration are emerging. Among these, rewilding is conquering large fields of experimentation, an approach that aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of ecosystems by restoring natural processes and minimizing human intervention or management [1-3].

Although rewilding was originally associated with rural projects, it is also experiencing growing interest in the field of urban regeneration. Urban rewilding is an urban design approach that can deliver quality built environments through the use of natural resources and the incorporation of native plants and animals [4].

Urban rewilding can help mitigate the effects of climate change by making cities more resilient and delivering a number of benefits, including:

- Promote biodiversity by providing food and habitat for wildlife and forming green corridors to connect fragments of nature together;
- Reconnect city dwellers with nature, enabling people to receive physical and psychological benefits, develop stronger connections

- with nature, and appreciate ecosystem dynamics and aesthetic values of wilderness;
- Help create or inspire ecological and cultural change in society;
- Reduce the management costs of urban green using native species able to survive and reproduce in an almost autonomous way and without expensive maintenance interventions
- (planting, pruning, cleaning, irrigation);
- Contribute to local rainwater management, enabling the collection, storage and purification of rainwater and its subsequent reuse;





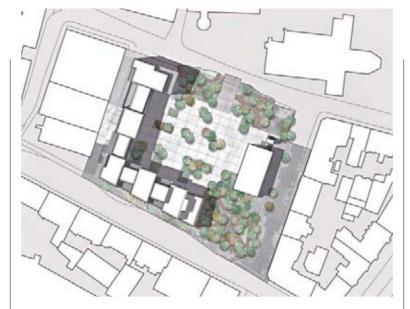
- Contribute to the reduction of urban pollution;
- Help reduce the heat island effect in cities.

In urban rewilding, nature cannot be left completely free to conquer its spaces; it requires careful planning and is configured as a transdisciplinary practice involving the disciplines of urban design, landscape architecture, botany, environmental engineering and hydraulic engineering.

One of the most recent urban regeneration projects inspired by rewilding is the redevelopment of Budolfi Plads, the cathedral square of Aalborg in Denmark. The project started in March 2017 and completed in November 2019 - addresses the delicate issue of introducing wild nature into the historic city centre and is part of Aalborg's transition process from an industrial hub to a city of culture and knowledge [5]. The transformation of histori-

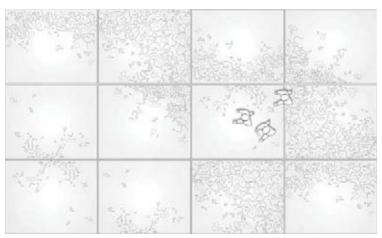
cal context had to deal with a

radical change in the historicised image of places. This required a long and intense public debate, supported by the Municipality of Aalborg, which was attended by citizens and experts in landscape architecture and environmental engineering [6]. The general vision emerged from the debate was to create an oasis of peace and tranquillity in the centre of Aalborg, a green recreation area equipped for playing, meeting and socializing. Before the transformation, the square looked like an anonymous parking lot and was separated from the church by a building built in the 1960s. The project involved the following transformations [7]: the building was demolished to reconnect the square to the cathedral; the walking surface was raised so as to leave the surface entirely pedestrian and cover the parking areas; the buildings surrounding the square have a common architectural language and are built in red brick to recall traditional building materials; all the environments that open onto the square host public functions (restaurants, cafés, art galleries, shops) and interact with the public space, favouring











a good synergy between the urban space and the function of the buildings; green roofs and green facades support local stormwater management solutions; most of the square is destined for greenery.

On the south and north sides of the square there are two large stairways intersected by ramps that blend into the vegetation, like paths in the woods. The large square above is paved with large white cement tiles interspersed with flowerbeds, like natural ground on which paving stones are laid for circulation. The tiles are marked by sinuous grooves that recall the traces that microorganisms leave in the plaster deposits, also acting as an anti-slip.

The general image appears as a slight hill full of vegetation inside which the paths leading to the top are inserted. The mix of plants restores the experience of a forest, importing a piece of Danish natural landscape into the historic city centre.

The Budofli Plads regeneration project, starting from the greenery, provides an innovative contribution to urban planning in historical contexts for the original conception of urban green. The innovative value of the project consists in enhancing the ecosystem balances of nature, regardless of the principles of aesthetic-formal evaluation of urban green intended as mere decoration. Trees, shrubs, tall and perennial grasses, flower bulbs and ground cover plants were selected that are able to adapt to local climatic conditions and within an urbanized environment. The plants were planted according to specific associations, adopting the principle of collaboration, i.e. the ability to adapt, live, reproduce and support each other.

The project represents a breakthrough in traditional urban design and received the Aalborg Municipality Architecture Award in 2020 for the harmonious combination of wilderness and architecture in the historic city centre. The open space was designed following the principles of natural ecosystems, reconstructing a piece of the Danish forest landscape. Covered surfaces

and buildings adapt and integrate into this space, and not vice versa, reaffirming the priority role of greenery.

The urban policies implemented for the realization of the project involved citizens, specialists, investors and stakeholders in a process of cooperation. Dialogue and collective participation preceded the design phase and were the basis of the design choices. This ensured the appreciation of a project that transformed the appearance of the central square of the historic centre to the maximum. Moreover, the multifunctionality of the square has made it possible to respond to the various questions and expectations expressed by the different users. The project has made a significant contribution to the environment and biodiversity. The vegetation is varied, lush and verdant, appealing to the senses and ensuring different experiences as the seasons change. The species planted have been chosen to increase biodiversity, to create variety in terms of spatiality and to insert a new green volume in a dense part of the city.

The large biomass, that the project has introduced into the area through the green roofs, flower beds and trees, has multiple effects on the microclimate of the area: the vegetation absorbs CO2, absorbs polluting particles from the air and reduces the acoustic resonance between buildings; provides shade in the summer months reducing the urban heat island effect; helps reduce rainwater runoff and increases evaporation.

With the transformation of Budolfi Plads, a new green identity has been created in the heart of Aalborg offering accessible meeting places for people of all ages, thus strengthening social cohesion. Today the square is buzzing with life and has become one of the busiest and most loved central points in the city.

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- 1. P. 36. Budolfi Plads before the transformation. The Budolfihus building separated the church from the square. The square was entirely occupied by a parking lot. Source: Aalborg Kommune, 2017.
- **2.** P. 36. Budolfi Plads after the transformation. An artificial hill covers the underground car park. The pedestrian area is richly planted with native plant species. Ph. A. Badami, 2022.
- 3. P. 37. Transformation project of Budolfi Plads. Planimetry. Source: Aalborg Kommune, 2017.
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