

Fragmented landscape: socio-cultural features of urban courtyards in the compact city

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Starting from the XIX century we are fully living in an urban era and the anthropic landscape of the city is the scenario where we spend most of our lives. If it is true that, especially as architects and planners, we are designing and shaping the city, it is also true that the city is shaping us, our habitat, ways of living and social interactions. The urbanization processes determined a huge distance between Men and nature, breaking the continuity of relationships within the biosphere and causing unsustainable consequences. Only in recent decades we reached awareness about the importance of re-establishing a balance between Men and nature, urban and natural environments. The pandemic accelerated this process making the ecological approach an imperative for any kind of discussion about urban environments.

Starting from the state of the art of our cities, this thesis work will focus on the spaces of urban courtyards, as surviving fragments of a common landscape in the progressively more dense and individualistic scenario of the city. The main aim is to explore the cultural and social features of courtyards, compared with the other dominant categories of urban open spaces (streets, squares...) to identify underestimated habits, underused potentials and possible paths for improving community cohesion and resilience.

The proposed case study is the city of Milano, other comparative cases can be discussed with the student.

