

ACC Lectures
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LATITUDE

ANDREA ARAGONE

Andrea Aragone can be called an urbanist and researcher on the relevance of urban changes and socio-ecological duration. His area of interest is Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences. He works at ULB, UCLouvain universities as researcher in many studies carried on by institutions (ULB: Potential organic waste in the Brussels Capital Region, funded by Brussels Environment; UCLouvain: Language of Water, a hydrographic study for the Dender Valley, funded by Department Omgeving-Flanders Government; Green With Grey, Proeftuinen Ontharding funded by Department Omgeving). He graduated from TU Delft with a master's thesis which is about the socio-spatial potential of the public realm and the processes that occur between different communities in the Matonge region of Bruxelles. He is a member of Latitude Platform since 2012 as a for urban researcher and designer. He has worked on the relationship between water dynamics and urban changes. He worked at technique drawing the territorial master plan for the cities of Durrës, Shijak, and Vorë in Albania as an in loco expert for the environmental assets in 2016.

Latitude is a platform which is about exceedingly interested in design and research, rallying people who are well educated and professionals from particular territories. It has sight to find out a place in its many extents. It focuses on appearance, space problems in unhoped times. It works well-settled urban circumstances and regions with physical and social cases which use investigation and separating at the relation between urban design and anthropology. The process of the project is research and practice based approach generates visually directional works for instenance broadcasts, exhibitions, work of arts and other attempts. It includes workshops and seminars. Latitude is an active group which cooperates with universities, design offices, civil society organizations, public corporations and artists. Some of the works of Latitude platform can be followed as; Language of Water, Cities of Making, Visualising Waste, GLP Durrës, Shijak, and Vorë, Îlot d'Eau, Cadastre des Citernes, Reducing Boundaries, The Wave, Landscape traces and stories, Reading the Incremental Occupation of Territories, Ma2K Luanda, Local Experimental Observatory of the Landscape of the Veronese Plain, Revealing the Sile River, Reforestation for Urban Resilience, Living with Water.

“Language of Water” project was in Belgium, year 2019, about close and systematic study throughout the different space, socio-economic and political extents of water. Water has to be unveiled chaos, not just as only technical but also visualizing. The restructure of the same materials into synthetic space actings of water systems and movements, where quantities and qualities are visualized at once in a synchronic view; the identification of a set of potential regional water sequences.

“Cities of Making” project was in Brussels, Belgium; London, UK; Rotterdam, the Netherlands, exploring opportunities for strengthening urban based manufacturing in European cities following years of decline and offshoring. Three main themes: what kinds of technologies and materials will drive contemporary urban manufacturing; where will urban manufacturing be found in cities that have effectively evicted a large manufacturing base and finally how will we bring manufacturing into cities. The goal of the project is to develop a reflection on space, practices and policies with a focus on public authorities and stakeholders.

“Visualizing Waste” project was in Belgium, year 2017, about understanding the complex structure of stakeholders that in Brussels are concerned with waste management. The work about 1970s by ecologists Duvigneaud and Denayer-De Smet on the biological productivity of green spaces of the region, and through the vectorialisation and land-cover classification of green places from contemporary satellite images, the GIS model allows to quantify potential production of organic waste from the various resource identified.

“GLP Durrës, Shijak, and Vorë” project was in Durrës, Shijak and Vorë, Albania, year 2016, about offer a new exploring of the region of Durrës, Shijak and Vorë by highlighting their existing potentials and making them looking for a new vision. This vision helps future development to be placed in such a way as to reinforce the landscape, enhancing economic development and avoiding further land consumption. The strategy is to expound the region as a park: an urban system in which the materials of the landscape become the main criteria.

“Îlot d’Eau” project was in Forest, Brussels, Belgium between 2015-2017 year, about the opportunity to find room for water within the private realm of the building block. During four different co-design workshops, students and tutors have worked in close contact with the occupants, to discuss ideas, constraints and opportunities for a sensitive every-day water management. The bottom-up water management projects born from the first atelier have now been realized and will serve as pilot projects for the rest of the initiatives.

“Cadastre des Citernes” project was in Forest, Brussels, Belgium, 2015, raising awareness among the inhabitants and the city users about the consequences of private and public management of rainwater in urban issues. A table has been arranged in the public square and occupants were asked to fill in their own rainwater tank real or imaginary on the map to express if they had water-related problems in their region, to describe the measures they take to face the problems, to tell how they use water at home.

“Reducing Boundaries” project was in Porto Alegre, Brazil; Brussels, Belgium, between 2014- 2017, about understanding exclusion through informal security defensive systems in substantial urban regions. The methodology about anthropology, urbanism and design was applied to the research ranging from space and media analysis to ethnographic fieldwork and in depth interviews with the aim of unfolding spatial modifications and behaviors of urban elites according to their perception of security, and their related discourses and practices.

“The wave” project was in Vajont Dam, Italy, year 2015, about one of the most tragic and paradigmatic man-driven disasters that has affected the Italian territory in the

last century. It's about landslides and waves in an abstract (a model) or contextual (a serigraphy) way are measurable images of the past; to "give voice" and "shape the body" of the event. The base is an offset printed map of the Italian Military Geographic Institute of 1962. The suspended model shows the pure shapes and the exact quantities of material (water, soil) involved in the disaster, which have never been represented as such. The choice is to not represent the context, but rather just the tension between the two elements that generated the event in their exact position.

"Landscape traces and stories" project was in Ronco all'Adige, Verona, Italy, between 2014-2015 years, about the evolution of the surrounding landscape over the last three centuries. Five fragments 'cropped' from the surrounding landscape and 'planted in the garden' to tell about some of the key spatial on-going processes, emergencies and materials of the same landscape.

Reading the Incremental Occupation of Territories" project was in São Paulo, Brazil, year 2013, about raising awareness about the effects that small actions, repeated hundreds of thousands of times, can have on the territory. In a time that brings together the global economic crisis and a strong urbanization.

"Mobile Access to Knowledge: Culture and Safety in Africa. Documenting and assessing the impact of cultural events and public art on urban safety" project was in Luanda, Angola, 2012-2014 year, focused on safety using a pluri-disciplinary and comparative approach. The study is based on the analysis of cultural events and public art installations produced in three African cities characterized by high levels of insecurity: Douala (Cameroon), Johannesburg (South Africa), and Luanda (Angola).

"Local Experimental Observatory of the Landscape of the Veronese Plain" project was in Verona, Italy, 2012-2014 year, about experience in urban, socio-economic and landscape research. The heterogeneous composition of the observatory and the coexistence of subjects with different heritage and technical, historical, economical and social experiences, could guarantee the design of realistic projects.

"Revealing the Sile River" project was in Treviso, Italy, 2012 - 2013 year, about The assignment was the research of to what extent and how the urban development processes of the last 60 years affected the water flow of the Sile River. The transformations have been studied at the alterations occurring to the basic spatial elements of the territory and how the management of water changed at this fine-grained scale.

"Reforestation for Urban Resilience" project was in Milan, Italy, 2012 year, about design tools to reoccur urban regions as new integrated reforestation devices. Both public spaces and unbuilt private areas can be temporarily forested to support the urban texture providing a number of productive and public services.

"Veneto 2100: Living with Water" project was in Veneto Region, Italy, between 2011-2013, about the risk related to water flow dysfunctions affecting three very different landscape of the Veneto Region (Italy): the pervasively urbanized landscape of the flatlands along the Piave River (Treviso), the Verona's hilly landscape, and the delta areas of the Po River just south of the Venice Lagoon.

“Urban Research and Design” since 2012, it’s a relationship between urban transformations and water dynamics as well as on local and regional planning, and participatory design.