

L'alternativa paesaggistica

The Landscape Option

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Architettura del paesaggio
Progettare nel frattempo
Lyon Confluence

Landscape architecture
Interim Design
Lyon Confluence

Urban design, as it has been traditionally released in Europe between the XX and the XXI centuries, has the praiseworthy aim to regenerate entire part of the city as a whole, inspired by coherence and unity. For a handful of years, the whirling speed of political, financial and climatic changes affecting the contemporary habitat is turning this laudable ambition into an inescapable failure. In this backdrop, the peculiar approach inscribed into the DNA of landscape architecture can be a powerful resource, able to enrich and expand the toolbox of urban design. Primarily, because landscape architecture deals with time in an open way, often looking at the project in terms of cultivation and creation of fertile conditions, more than of production of a final result. Without renouncing to pursue an idea of completeness, landscape architecture works through the conscious construction of states – intended as temporary fulfilled situations – instead of stages – that are promises of a future that could never succeed, due to imponderable conditions. This requires shifting from the paradigm of waiting (and possible frustration), typical of the sequence of phases, to the paradigm of an everlasting transience. This requires, as well, thinking about urban design in terms of evolving formulas, more than of established forms. What is regardless undeniable is the duty of design, that is a precise mandate and imperative investiture, especially when entrusted in the name of a public interest.

The case of Lyon Confluence is taken as an opportunity to argue about these issues and the role of landscape architecture, as one of the most outstanding and well-known case-studies of recent European urban design.

La Confluence, a Lionne, è l'estremità della penisola compresa tra i fiumi Rodano e Saona, lì dove essi mescolano le proprie acque. Sul finire del Settecento, vi si concentrarono numerose attività industriali, manifatturiere e logistiche, variamente attive e fiorenti sino al termine del secolo scorso, quando si avviò un percorso di riconversione e ristrutturazione urbana ancor oggi in fase di realizzazione. Sono infatti ormai trascorsi venti anni da quando, nel 1999, il *comité de pilotage*, appositamente costituito, approvava il progetto elaborato da Oriol Bohigas, Therry Melot e Catherine Mosbach (MBM) per trasformare