

TOWARDS REGENERATIVE PROJECTS: THE CARE HYPOTHESIS

Europan is publishing the results of a research that was carried out on the analysis of European projects (winners and runners-up) from the point of view of the Care hypothesis in architectural, urban and landscape design, and focusing mainly on the trilogy of the sessions on the topics of Adaptable Cities (European 12 and 13), Productive Cities (European 14 and 15) and Living Cities (European 16 and 17). This perspective becomes strategic in this context of vulnerability of inhabited milieus, impacted by climate change caused by a boundless productivist system and a domination of nature by man.

The great narratives of Care and social-spatial justice establish new bifurcating dynamics in the ways of making human settlements. Against a backdrop of climate change, falling biodiversity and obvious inequalities, we need to understand and change our relationships with nature, with others and with ourselves by activating the powers of Care and by resisting forms of domination in order to respond to vulnerabilities.

The culture of Care doesn't just apply to the health and social sectors. While including them, it extends far beyond. This approach represents an ethical, aesthetic and political threshold. The very meaning of architecture and of its existential role in sustaining life and its future is therefore regenerated as close as possible to embodied situations and experiences, both near and far. From this point of view, the challenge is to awaken sensitivities, to encourage caring gestures and responsibilities, so as not only to be accountable for our actions, but also to respond to what brings us into contact, to what we depend on, to what we value, to what keeps on resisting and to what affects us. This ethos - as a way of relating to the world - is steeped in belonging and interdependence, but also in recognition and transmission, taking into consideration cultural diversity and other living beings, the ordinary and the exceptional, the imprints and the impacts. The aim is to bring about forms of rebirth and rejuvenating metamorphosis.

Four axes of thought and action are particularly significant in regenerative care projects: Welcoming, Maintaining, Holding and Tuning. Each is divided into two sub-sections, each of which identifies one of its main facets. These four processual axes of thought and action give rise to entangled passages, symbioses and synergies that sustain and reinvent a plurality of approaches to care within architecture.

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