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E13 TH Managing the paradox between innovation and resilience

Cities and beyond, all actors who produce it, are faced with a seemingly paradoxical situation that probably requires a change of method to address the architectural and urban design. On one side, they are subject to a competition that drives them to innovate, to develop themselves, to provide a quality of services and public spaces, and therefore invest to make their cities more attractive on a regional, national or international "market", always more competitive. On the other, they are forced to adopt a resolutely resilient attitude in front to economic, environmental, energetic, social impacts that affect them in a context of crisis that we can assume constant, and in any case cyclical.

This apparent paradox between innovation and resilience may contain a good source of creativity for designers of architectural and urban projects. It is particularly interesting to think across urban-architectural scale which is the scale of European, as this paradox involves all levels of intervention, from the level of the building to that of the large territory. In addition, it would be interesting to decline it according European extremely diverse local contexts and many generated topics.

For example : in front of risks - economic, environmental, natural (floods and other disasters), social, etc. - which have a weight on the urban systems, we can wonder about the conditions of implementation of architectural and urban innovations (whether radical or incremental) - and thus how to mobilize an entire chain of actors in order they legitimate lifestyle changes they imply - while reflecting the ability of the system to absorb the change in a resilient attitude : ability to absorb perturbations, of self-organization, of learning and adaptation, and ultimately, of flexibility in the long term.

Some sub-themes of this topic are particularly current, and the competition could focus on one or more of them, or otherwise leave open the field of possibilities : floods for example, and water management in a more general way. But one can think of many other themes European has already addressed more or less directly, mobility, urban agriculture, knowledge management, etc. - which would ensure some sort of continuity with previous sessions.