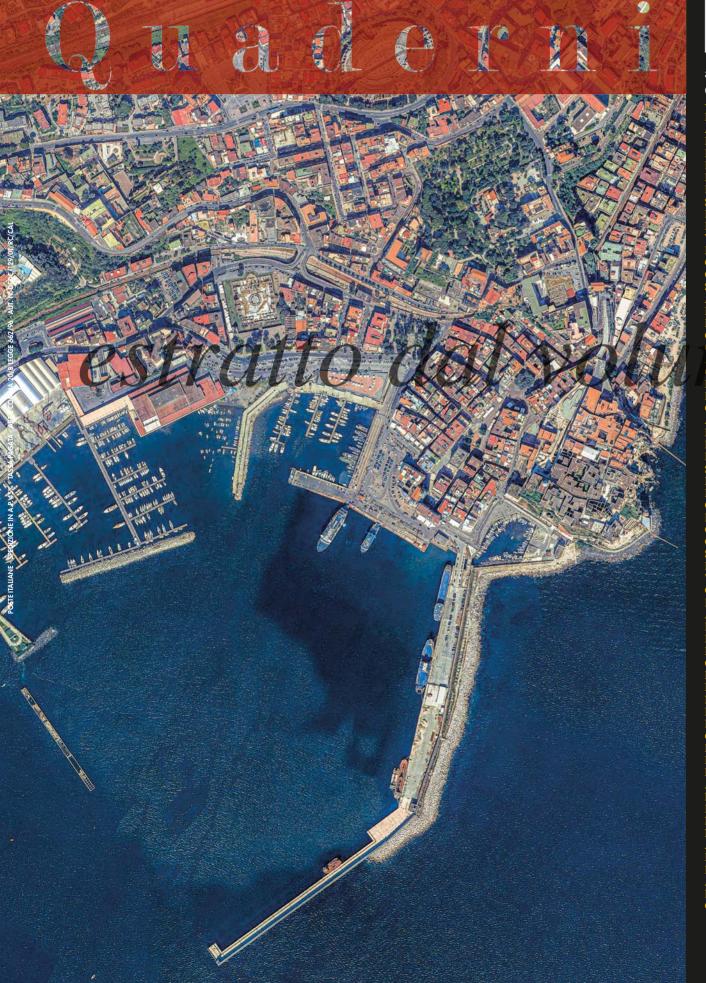
# Abitare la Terra Dwelling on Earth

rivista di geoarchitettura a magazine of geoarchitecture





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a cura di / edited by Carmine GAMBARDELLA

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on il numero 37 la rivista

"Abitare la Terra", a quattordici anni dalla sua nascita, cambia il suo formato, ma non il suo obiettivo: la tutela dell'ambiente e obiettivo: la tutela dell'ambiente e la promozione di una architettura, che abbandonata la tendenza all'esaltazione individualistica delle grandi personalità creative, che ha condizionato la produzione architettonica degli ultimi decenni, termi od acome me divisibilito architettonica degli ultimi decenni, torni ad essere una disciplina rigorosa, che ha per obiettivo il miglioramento della vita di tutti gli esseri viventi e per questo non rinuncia a utilizzare i frutti di una esperienza secolare che coinvolge le diverse civiltà umane. Il termine Geo-architettura, che si legge nella testata, è stato coniato da Le Cothusier, nel 1042 per la su:

legge nella testata, e stato comato da Le Corbusier, nel 1942 per la sua riflessione su Les trois établissements humains e allude a una architettura che abbracci tutto ciò che l'uomo ha costruito sulla superficie terrestre. Per noi oggi Geo-architettura vuol dire una architettura umile, che cia arte scorzo nev sueste vuol dire una architettura umile, che, sia arte senza per questo ammantarsi della superbia del nuovo fine a sé stesso, che si faccia carico della necessità di proteggere l'ambiente, di ridurre i processi di inquinamento, di combattere la disuguaglianza tra i popoli, di ridurre i processi che attraverso i cambiamenti climatici rischiano di distrugere e di conulibri del niameta cambiamenti climatici rischiano di distruggere gli equilibri del pianeta e il suo paesaggio. Per fondare la Geo-architettura è necessario a nostro parere: imparare dalla natura e dalla storia, rispettare l'identità dei luoghi, recuperare la "coralità" degli spazi urbani, abbattere gli sprechi di risorse non rinnovabili e di tempo umane, contrannora e une scilupno umano, contrapporte a uno sviluppo senza limiti, che presuppone una impossibile "crescita infinita", una crescita spirituale di cui si avvertono i primi sintomi anche nella architettura.

## AbitarelaTerra

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Fourteen years after Abitare la Terra was published for the first time we have decided to change its format, but not its goal: to protect the environment and promote architecture. No longer an architecture that has abandoned its tendency to praise and exalt larger-than-life creative individuals and the architectural works that have influenced recent decades, but an architecture that is once again a meticulous discipline focusing on improving the lives of all living creatures; an architecture that exploits the 'fruits' of its centuries-old history and many different civilisations. The term Geo-architecture at the ton of the foreation.

The term Geo-architecture at the top of the front cover of this the top of the front cover of this issue number was coined by Le Corbusier in 1942 when he wrote *Les trios établissements humains;* the term refers to an architecture that embraces everything man has built on the earth's surface. For us, Geo-architecture means humble architecture, on architecture Geo-architecture means humble architecture, an architecture that is art without necessarily the arrogance of being an end unto itself; an architecture that assumes the responsibility of protecting the environment, reducing pollution, fighting inequality between peoples, reducing the processes of climate change that may destroy the reducing the processes of climate change that may destroy the balance that exists here on earth and its landscapes. We believe that to create Geo-architecture we need to: learn from nature and history; respect the identity of places; reinstate the "choral nature" of urban spaces; drastically reduce the way we waste non-renewable resources and human time; and replace unlimited growth (involving impossible "endless growth") with spiritual growth, the seeds of which are now beginning to grow in architecture.

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IN COPERTINA / FRONT COVER Campi Flegrei, Pozzuoli: georeferenced image taken from the monitoring carried out with the Benecon technological platform, twin-engine aircraft equipped with PhaseOne 150Mpix and TABI 1800 TSR Thermal Search & Rescuse sensors.

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### estratto

# From past to future. Analysis and reinterpretation of Rome's 1960 Olympics Games in the age of sustainability

# CATERINA PALESTINI, CELESTE D'ERCOLI

Department of Architecture. "G. D'Annunzio" University Chieti, Pescara *caterina.palestini@unich.it*; *celeste.dercoli@unich.it Topics*: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Development (UNESCO 2030 Development Goal) *Keywords*: event, legacy, sustainability

his article means to investigate the logistic process concerning a major event such as Rome's 1960 Summer Olympics, reinterpreting it in light of the current sustainability standards. The analysis will be the basis of a critical path aimed at spreading awareness of the essential requirements listed in the UN Agenda for 2030. These principles provided guidelines for organising sustainable events in the future.

## 1. Premises

The climate crisis and the recent pandemic compelled us to reconsider many aspects of our day-to-day life and to see all activities outside our household put on hold, including events.

COVID-19 challenged the already struggling industry of event planning, forcing the introduction of essential security. The significant cost of resources calls for early planning and respect for the necessary care for the environment. From this moment on, event management needs to consider side effects and to take solution-oriented actions aiming at sustainable development. In the words of the United

Nations Environment Programme,<sup>1</sup> a sustainable event is "designed, organised and implemented in a way that minimises potential negative impacts and leaves a beneficial legacy for the host community and all involved".

The term 'sustainability' was first introduced in 1987 in what became known as the Brundtland Report.<sup>2</sup> Before this concept, it came down to the awareness of the architect or the customer. The organisation of Rome's 1960 Summer Olympics considered some interesting ideas regarding this topic, back when the term 'sustainability' was yet to come into both our dictionary and our mindset.

# 2. 1960 Olympic Games: Signs of Legacy

The event took place from August 25<sup>th</sup> to September 11<sup>th</sup> and to this day they are the last Summer Olympics held in Italy, and the first to be broadcasted globally. It was a worldwide renowned event which involved the whole capital and highlighted the beauty of its historical and artistic heritage. It was planned from the perspective of the urban as well as environmental dimension, with the individual in mind.

The project masterplan involved new architecture and existing facilities, some of which were readjusted. Some of the most capable and influential Italian architects and engineers of their time worked on this project, with names such as P.L. Nervi, L. Moretti, and A. Libera.<sup>3</sup>

The highlight of the urban achievements is the building of the Villaggio Olimpico, where athletes stayed for the duration of the games. More and more facilities were added, including temporary stands scattered around the city centre, where people could watch the games while enjoying the beauty of Ancient Rome (Fig. 1).

The Olympics gave the city a huge chance to grow, especially through developing the north of town. Important infrastructures were built or finalised, such the **Metro B**, the **Corso Francia Viaduct**, the **Via Olimpica** – symbolically connecting the **Foro Italico** with the EUR quarter in the south – and finally **Fiumicino Airport**.

The Olympic Games triggered a virtuous cycle that led the way to the city's expansion in relation with the demographic growth anticipated by the 1962 masterplan (Fig. 2).

# 3. Sustainability. Analysis and prospects

Big events have a major local impact, whether it may be a positive one that will trigger virtuous cycles, or a negative one which will weaken its territory.

How can we call the 1960 Olympics a sustainable event? By analysing its strengths in relation to the goals set by the 2030 UN Agenda. We can consider these merits from a sustainability perspective, aiming at recognising the legacy for future opportunities (Fig. 3).

**3.1 Future Legacies.** Analysing goals **8**, **11**, **and 12** we should reflect on setting a well-thought path for the organisation of future events. What does the city have to show, for all the large investments and the lavish ceremo-

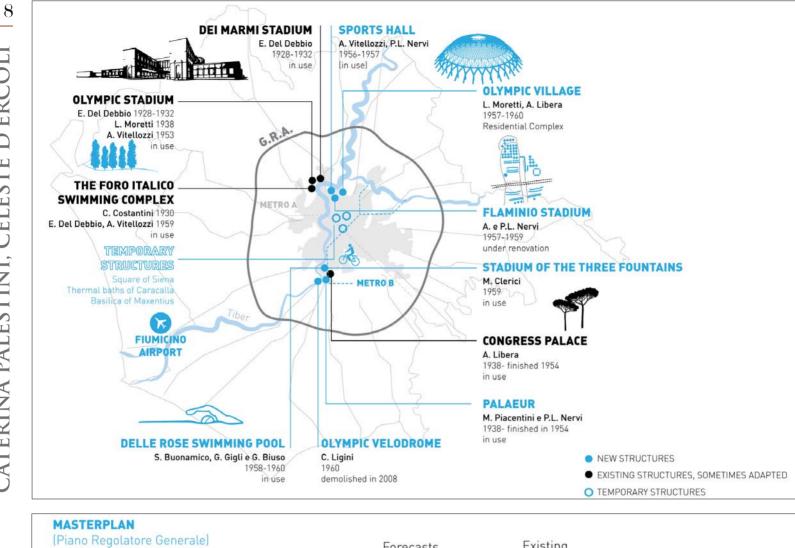
nies? This event left the capital with actual infrastructure and a programmatic design which is still relevant today.

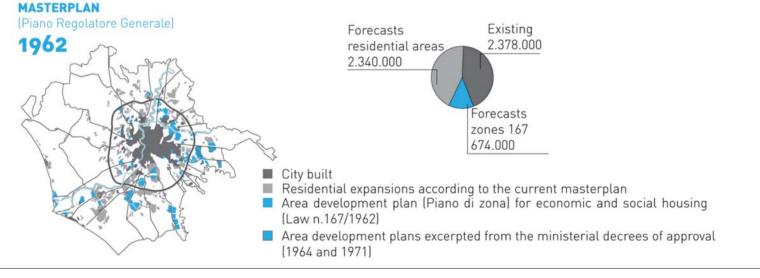
All facilities are still operational and actively working, except for the currently undergoing renovation of Stadio Flaminio and the Velodromo Olimpico, which was demolished in 2008. After the Games, the Villaggio Olimpico was given to INCIS (National Institute of Housing for Civil Servants) and became a middle-class residential area. This new vision in the target of collective housing was different from previous urban projects of this kind, usually aimed at the less affluent classes.

Because of its forward-thinking and competent planning, this event set off a virtuous cycle that through the years resulted in urban expansion. The design system that introduced quality residential buildings in once suburban districts contributed to the creation of architectures and green areas on human scale and great public artworks to uphold them.

Those areas are home to important architectural works such as the MAXXI, the Parco della Musica, and Fuksas' 'The Cloud'. Because major events give the chance to create such important public works, they provide opportunities for economic growth. During planning, it is therefore necessary to keep in mind the cultural heritage and the prospects of the local area the event will be set in (Fig. 4).

3.2 Connection with the local area. Goals 3, 11, and 12, listed in the present in-





vestigation, reveal a care for re-using and attention to the living dimension in relation to people and green areas. An example is the Stadio Olimpico, official home of the celebrations and landmark of the Rome Olympics. Del Debbio chose green terraced spaces instead of wall structures. He planned everything in respect of the local landscape setting, adjusting to the slope of the terrain. His work is structurally leaning on the hill as to blend it in the local topography (Fig. 5). This proved to be a ground-breaking and environmentally friendly approach.

Furthermore, this was an already existing structure, and it was readjusted as necessary for the occasion. Re-using existing structures succeeded in empowering the local heritage and reducing land use. The Villaggio Olimpico was created in respect of the physical and mental wellbeing of its inhabitants, with the intent of providing the best stay experience. The buildings are connected through a continuum of squares and green areas (Fig. 6).

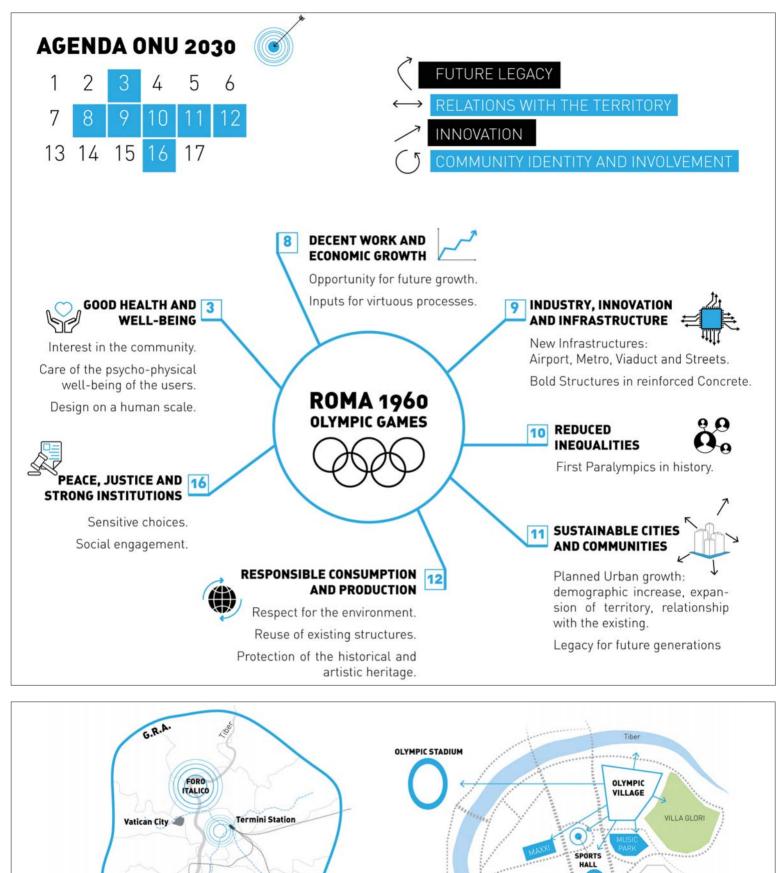
3.3. Innovation. Regarding goals 8 and 9, when considering innovation, it is im-

possible not to mention the works of architecture and engineering. The Palazzetto dello Sport in particular has been able to combine a structural appearance with the formal and aesthetic look of its architecture. Nervi goes beyond structural calculations and experiments boldly with reinforced concrete, giving it spaciousness and levity. Nowadays this material is not considered properly sustainable, but we must work cleverly for its maintenance (Fig. 7).

3.4. Identity and community engagement. It is customary for important events to be held

in the outskirts of a city, where construction is easier due to lack of pre-existing structures. In the case of Rome, urban acupuncture interventions were put in place, enriching the area and allowing the Games to be held across the city centre. This way, the event was planned to be accessible by all instead of staying separate from the urban fabric, consistent with goals 3, 10, 11, and 16. Everybody could enjoy the Games, from the athletes who could feel the welcoming spirit of the locals to the community itself taking part in the events. From north to south and through the mar-

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vels of the city centre, Rome fully welcomed the Games in a homely and accessible way. This aspect made the 1960 Games a successful and memorable event for the public. In addition to this, the community identified with the architecture put in place for the event and to this day still recognises its significance, which goes way beyond sport. It is also worth mentioning that Rome 1960 held the first Paralympic Games, which was a huge symbolic gesture of social sustainability against inequality.

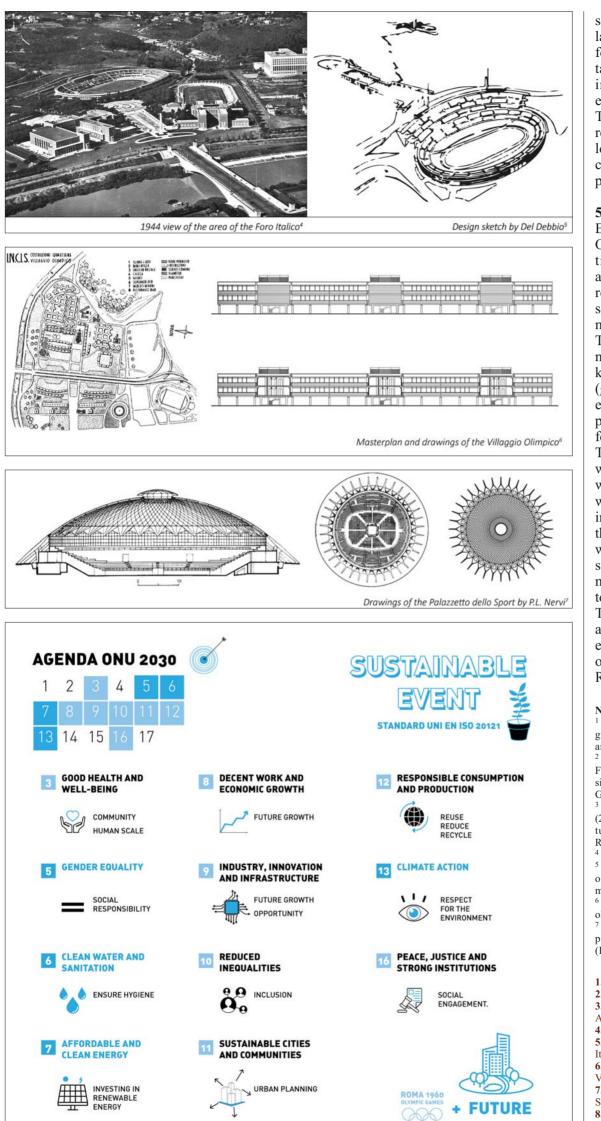
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# 4. Regulations

Rome 1960 lacked the subject of sustainability in its planning, which was first introduced with the London 2012 Olympic Games. The question of what happens at the end of the event was finally translated into regulations. The Standard ISO 20121, known as "Event Sustainability management systems – Requirements with guidance for use", is based on established principles for management systems and embodies some elements of the ISO 26000 Guidance on

STADIUM

PINCIANO DISTRICT



social responsibility. This act lays down the requirements for the organisation of sustainable events to reduce their impact on society and the environment to a minimum. This also allows to strengthen relations among stakeholders, local authorities, suppliers, customers, workers and all participants.

# 5. Conclusions

Even though Rome's 1960 Olympic Games organisation was far from today's awareness towards the environment, it showed several sensible choices and is a role model with much to teach.

Today, however, there are new additional objectives to keep in mind for an event (goals 5, 6, 7 and 13). A great event must reflect its country providing a great opportunity for growth (Fig. 8).

The next Summer Olympics will be held in Paris in 2024, where the guiding principles will be sustainability and hosting the Games in the centre of the city. With less construction work and more temporary structures, the plan is to promote the existing heritage and to improve the infrastructures. This is an ambitious project, and we hope it won't disappoint expectations, after the results of the old yet forward-thinking Roman legacy.

# Notes

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (February 2010) UNEP 2009 annual report. ISBN 978-92-807-3071-5 <sup>2</sup> Brundtland, G.H. (1987) Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Geneva, UN-Dokument A/42/427. <sup>3</sup> Marcosano dell'Erba, C., Vittorini, R. (2010) Roma 1960 Guida alle architet-

ture della XVII Olimpiade. Edizione Roma: Do.Co.Mo.Mo. Italia. <sup>4</sup> http://www.asromaultras.org

<sup>5</sup> http://www.pabaac.beniculturali.it/ opencms/approfondimenti/Debbio/ materiali.htm

6 https://archidiap.com/opera/villaggioolimpico/

<sup>7</sup> https://www.urbipedia.org/index. php?title=Palacete\_de\_deportes\_ (Roma).

### 1. P. 8. Villaggio Olimpico.

**2.** P. 8. 1962 masterplan.

3. P. 9. Roma 1960 Olympic Games and Agenda ONU 2030.

4. P. 9. Area of the olympic village in. 5. P. 10. 1944 view of the area of the Foro Italico

6. P. 11. Masterplan and drawings of the Villaggio Olimpico.

7. P. 12. Drawings of the Palazzetto dello

Sport by P.L. Nervi". 8. P. 13. Roma 1960 Olympic Games + Future (Agenda ONU 2030).