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adriatica

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edited by Pepe Barbieri

OP\_2

Public Works and the Adriatic City  
Guidelines for the Qualification of Urban and Territorial Projects  
PRIN 2006/2008

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# 5

## Guidelines

### Territories of Energy

#### 1. Electropolis Adriatica.

#### 3 Actions / 5 Guidelines (+1) for Progressively More Energetic Territories.

The Electropolis Adriatica (part of the research OP Opere pubbliche e città adriatica) investigates new planetary scenarios created by the energy crisis: it is located in a study area that is compressed, like the continuous Adriatic city (250 km in length) between the coastline and infrastructural bands; it is configured, through design, revealing possible occasions and tracing spatial hypotheses for a territory rich with opportunities of transformation, also in relation to the possibility of designing an energetic Adriatic territory.

##### ASSUMPTIONS

The research begins with a declaration of the validity of a number of hypotheses, research and reflections:

- recognising, in the current energy situation,

- the cause and effect of growing environmental problems, climate issues and possible geopolitical conflicts, dependent upon the increased cost of non-renewable energies (petroleum, natural gas) and the progressive exhaustion of fossil fuels;

- the acceptance of configurative scenarios as the spatial results generated by theories of contemporary research (Jeremy Rifkin<sup>[1]</sup>, Peter Droege<sup>[2]</sup>, Walt Petterson<sup>[3]</sup>) that leads to the diffusion and pulverisation of the system of energy production that attribute the city with the role of energy production: configured cities as true and proper ISLANDS of energy (*in situ* production and consumption);

- the consideration that each day 797 billion kWh of solar energy are available on earth (of

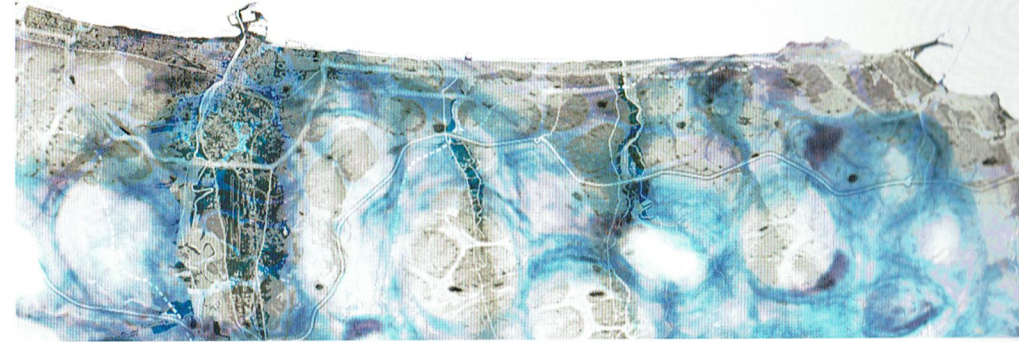


fig. 1 Cell-City - elaboration of a system of energetic functioning using a cellular-rhizomatic device in the Adriatic City (Alberto Ulisse)

which only 3% is used);

- allowing the inhabitants of the Adriatic to become "citizens of the Network" (the new status of *netizen*<sup>[4]</sup>) in order to determine a parallel growth, development and application, between the Internet and an Energy-net for use in the city;

- the belief that we live fully immersed in the contemporaneity that Peter Eisenman calls the "Late Moment"<sup>[5]</sup> (quoting Edward W. Said, the author of *On Late Style*), understood as a period in history devoid of new paradigms; ... where the late style describes a moment in the evolution of culture that precedes the passage to a new paradigm, inherently containing the possibility of innovation and transformation; How in the era of the Third Industrial Revolution (energy), is it possible to reappropriate configurative materials and re-read the characteristics of the Adriatic city, defining new energy paradigms and different spatial instruments for the creation of form?

Within the OP research (Opere pubbliche e città adriatica) energy is one of the keys to a synoptic reading of the central Adriatic territory.

The scenarios of reference must necessarily raise questions and confront one another, with respect to models and actions based on new forms of energy production.

Three actions have been defined: the energetic re-generation, revitalisation and colonisation of Adriatic territories, activating a short circuit capable of creating a system composed of the territory itself and facilities for the production

of energy, attributing a determinant role to issues of form.

The work delineates a new metaphor for the organisation, functioning and configuration of the Adriatic city: Cell-city Adriatica - a metabolic labyrinth and spatial model capable of energetically nurturing the space of the city.

We thus pass from a branch-like model of procurement to a rhizomatic apparatus of energy producing districts: energy producing cells.

This method of imagining the Adriatic territory has led to the definition of ideas, projects and scenarios of configuration using a common denominator: the diverse method-model of producing (or self-producing) energy. The city awaits a transition (Jeremy Rifkin), a new and true configurative metamorphosis that will lead the city to become a progressively more *No Oil*<sup>[6]</sup> city (Fabio Orecchini, Vincenzo Nash), converting the current model, the result of the era of petroleum, through the strategy of *energetic autonomy*<sup>[7]</sup> (Herman Scheer).

##### 3 ACTIONS

We have identified three configurative actions for the Adriatic Cell-City that express the characteristics of a space in mutation and represent the occasion for a territory defined not only as a consumer, but also a producer of energy.

**A1- Re-Generation:** experiments in the Pescara Valley have considered the metropolitan area as a single energy district (The Valley and Energies) composed of different and specific



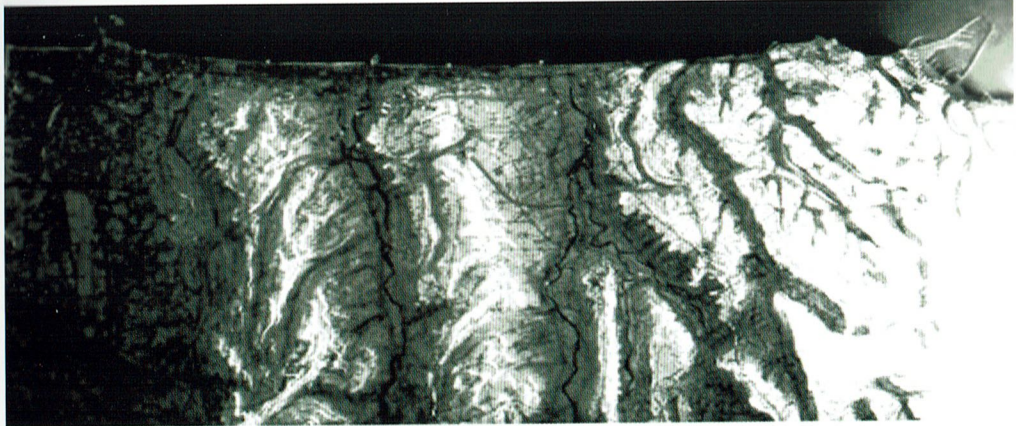
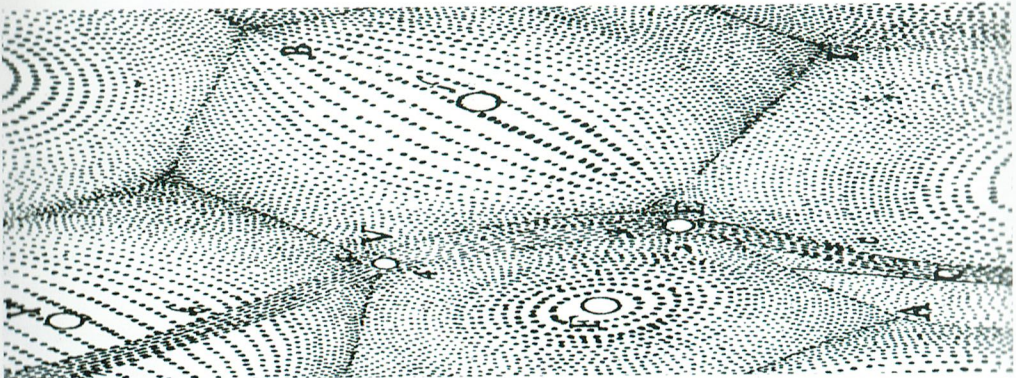


fig. 2 The Principles of Philosophy - Image III showing the sky and vortexes, René Descartes, 1647, ed. Vrin, Paris, 1964  
 fig. 3 In the Shade of the Valleys - from urban acupuncture (Luca Galella, Valentina Micozzi) a tool for a critical reading of the Adriatic City (Alberto Ulisse)

systems of procurement and production (specific, linear and aerial energy systems).  
**A2 - Re-Vitalisation:** reflections on the design of large mono-functional urban areas (such as the Pescara Port) have allowed for the definition of configurative models that differ in their functioning and organisation using a mixture of functions, spaces and alternative morphological forms (Energy Platforms, Infra-Green, Infra-Line);  
**A3 - Energy Colonisation.** In the case study in Francavilla Foro, we have tested the alternative methods of equipping, inhabiting and colonising the space of water - the sea (cabled pontoons) and configuring a new interport district (Energy Industry\_Link) capable of producing energy for its own consumption and that of a portion of the adjacent territory.<sup>[8]</sup>

The experiments shared a common assumption: determining, through design, new models and different morpho-Energetic configurations, activating the spatial devices of form in order to respond to concepts alternative to the questions of procurement, production (in loco) and consumption of energy by the city. This change in the point of view defines the key element to be activated on a case-by-case basis in the reading and design of territories (not only Adriatic).

**From the continuous city ...**

Over time infrastructural systems have been juxtaposed through an elementary operation of summation, leaving, only in some rare points (nodes/ports) the exceptionality of becoming synapses between different Adriatic systems: defining the rhyzomatic qualities of a dynamic city.

**In the valleys**

The central Adriatic city is characterised by the singular morphological model of a "comb-like" valley system rendering so recognisable those qualities that differentiate it from other Mediterranean contexts. The peculiar and subtle signs of this system are rendered less immediate by a zenithal vision that we continue to use to interpret, design and represent a highly characteristic territory. Proposing a reading of the Adriatic city also means changing our point of view, changing our gaze, for example, "observing the coast from the sea"<sup>[9]</sup>, read as a sequence of spaces of transition, of ecotones: hybrid spaces to be observed in section rather than in plan; or the activation of a reading exercise from an oblique eastern point of view (or better yet, east/south-east). A look at Adriatic geographies through a heliothermal visual path would render instantaneous the unique qualities of the central Adriatic territory.

**An oblique gaze from the east**

A point of observation that is geo-referenced and through which we can capture the rhythmic belonging to different exposures, of the system of central Adriatic valleys. In the shadow of these valleys (these territories are exposed to the north/north-east) the key to the reading becomes the "comb-like" system of the valleys-coast. Over time, river systems flowing into the sea have determined the different symmetry of the hillsides. Even the representation of the sections of the valleys highlights a clearly a-symmetry created by the different slopes of the ridges; this can also be seen in the different ratios of vegetation-settlement, contrary to the edges and ridges exposed to the south/south-west. This reading activate a selective filter that redesigns a sequence of active territories and territories in shadow in the central Adriatic city. The future methods of development, growth and expansion of the city cannot avoid considering the exposure of the system of bands on the hill slopes, prefiguring, through design, a morpho-energetic device for those territories in shadow.

**Along the coast**

"In the case of the seaside cities, or better yet, port cities, the *cardus* and *decumanus* are created by the void"<sup>[10]</sup> (this is how Raffaele

Mennella describes the singular and diffuse structure of the Adriatic city). Sergio Anselmi, when writing about the Adriatic city speaks of a *sea-lake-gulf*<sup>[11]</sup> where the water has the same power as the mainland, the void the same as the solid, the positive the same as the negative, with which the Adriatic city continually confronts and measures itself.

The infrastructural development that has taken place along the coast has created parallel bands (...in, -tra, -fra), resulting in the creation of the deformed city<sup>[12]</sup>: a continuity of small metropolises that have, intermittently, activated synapses in proximity to public spaces and sites (of historic interest and local or extra-local relevance) and in correspondence with intersections between the linear coastal system and the transversal valley system (north/south, west/east).

Within this ecotonal territory characterised by the overlapping of multiple uses in one field, another system of infrastructural development has been superimposed, added, settled: the network of energy distribution and supply.

**... To the adriatic cell-city**

The architecture of energy distribution that has defined and structured this continuous (250 km long) city is based, planned, organised and managed on a fossil fuel energy model (a city born in the era of petroleum).

This must mean that the power lines (high, medium and low voltage) are exclusively infrastructures for the transport and supply (procurement) of energy, leaving other territories (true and proper territorial Hubs: the non-site of energy) with the function of producing and storing/accumulating energy to be distributed through *branched-networks*<sup>[13]</sup> ("*branching*" out to the point of exhaustion of material).

**No-stop energy city<sup>[14]</sup>**

Today, in reference to the theories of pulverisation of systems of energy production (capturing and producing using renewable sources), in light of the theory expressed by Jeremy Rifkin on the creation of the Worldwide Energy Web, the space, fabric, object, relations, sites, non-sites, voids, solids, the mainland, the sea... all the materials that make up the city become **new territories for the in situ self-production, accumulation and**



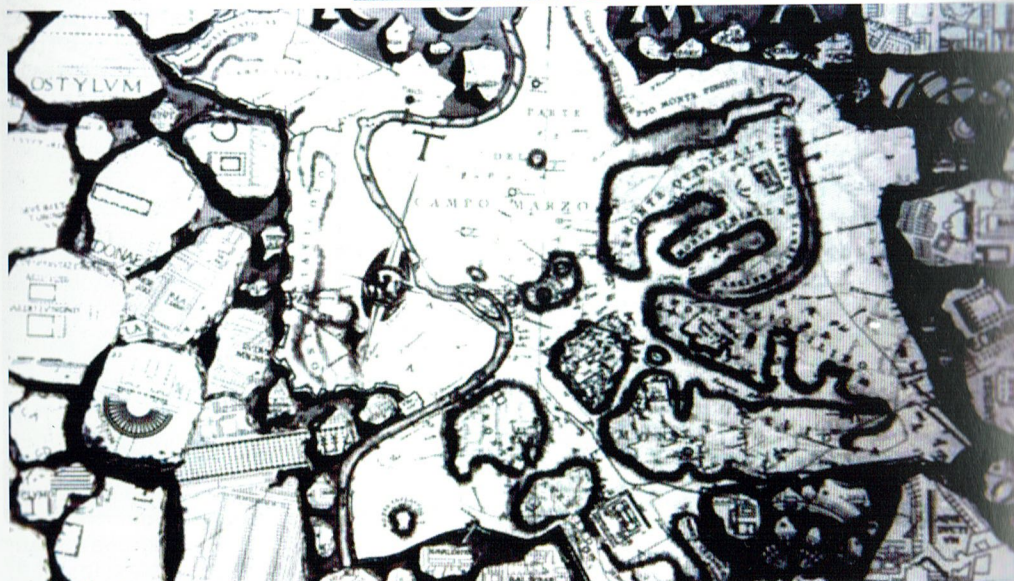
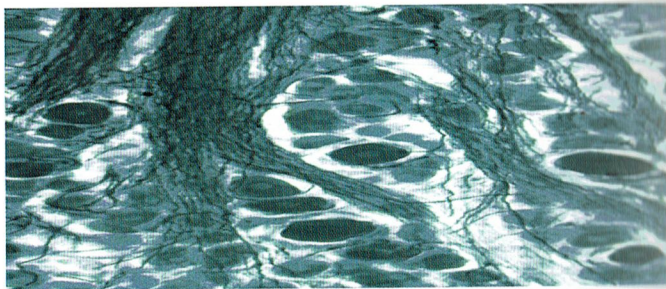
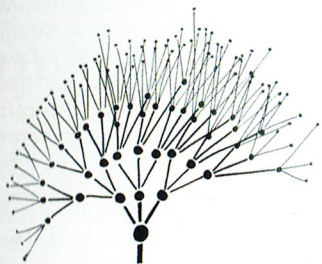


fig. 4 Branches - Bruno Munari  
 fig. 5 Nerve Tissue - Human Spinal Column (174.3x), Histology, Giunti Scientific Atlas  
 fig. 6 Campo Marzio - interpretazione del Piranesi del Campo Marzio, Roma.

consumption of energy. We can imagine the form of the Adriatic city if Andrea Branzi had ever considered a No-Stop Adriatic City (or No-Stop Energy City); as an alternative we can always stop to reflect on the comics of Kate Evans, the most scornful comic artist today (Funny Weather: Everything You Didn't Want to Know About Climate Change But Probably Should Find Out).

*Energy cabling is the beginning of a new electrification of the city and its territories (the Third Industrial Revolution), primarily for the space of networks and flows that characterise the Adriatic city, converting it into a true "inhabitable infrastructure" (Saskia Sassen). The substantial transformation to captured*

lies in changes to methods of accessing the network.

Overcoming the concept of a centralised hub serving large territorial areas, prefiguring a scenario of distributed energy production (diffuse/pulverised), differentiated (micro-meso-macro) and consumed in loco (self-produced/consumed).

**Towards a city archipelago**  
 Self-production is designed around the spatial territorial devices (clusters or energy platforms) that we refer to as islands.

Each island can be connected to other islands to create an archipelago. One example of innovative experimentation for the energetic planning of the territory

that calls for a *Rete Distribuita di Energia* (RDE) [15] [Energy Distribution Network] with a possible passage in scale (if compared to the archipelago city, or one of the energetic islands) can be found in the proposal for the Sapienza University Campus in Rome, for the production and distribution of energy. The campus will be organised in autonomous districts (energetic and zero environmental impact). Each district will be part of a territorial network composed of grids, relating in an aggregated manner under the form of relations and interactions with adjacent grids. The islands inside the same district will pool together their available resources, diversified and completed based on the availability in each single territory: solar energy, wind power, cogeneration. The surplus from any one island will be used by the other islands in the same district prior to being supplied to the external network.

**Result**

The spatial device at the foundation of the model of the Cell-City is the consequence of an architecture of networks of energy distribution (in continuous evolution, determined by the phenomena of pulverisation and diffusion of systems of production in progressively more intelligent territories), capable of restoring models of dynamic cities, able to remodel themselves in a rhizomatic manner, in a condition of contemporaneity that is continually more related to the exchange of services and relations. Thanks to the research taking place, innovative instruments and technological innovations further reinforce this model of energetic-district organisation of the city.

In organisational terms, the Cell-City is not very different from the spatial conditions expressed in the Japanese ideogram for "country" (kuni), where the fence contains the founding elements of Japanese society (the people, diagrammatically represented with the symbol for a mouth, and the army, defined by the symbol of the bow). Without moving far from the Adriatic territories of the 6th century B.C., the tribe of the Sanniti Carricini (the people of the rocks) organised the majority of Abruzzo's villages through the political, administrative and configurative unity of the Touto.

The district system of the Touto is a device

composed of a fence-perimeter that contains all the materials of the city: the Vicus, the Pagus and the Oppidum, as well as the connective system of roads. It is in the architectural and spatial tools of the research of the Metabolists that we find the formal concept of a cellular system of growth for a city projected towards the future.

In configurative terms, the Adriatic city can be tied to an interpretation, interjecting certain values such as the histological figure of a fabric, composed of connective elements, strings, sensitive fibres, nuclei, mucous membranes, epithelium, that mean that it belongs to a cellular entity, though without "organic" intents. The urban configuration of the Cell-City can be tied to Francesco di Giorgio Martini's Renaissance models for the ideal cities. A singular example is that of the similarity of the cell-city device with Sir Patrick Abercrombie's vision for the Greater London Plan (1944), where he presents configurative systems for London similar to membranes (cells) immersed in a cytoplasmatic connective tissue.

**Energetic relations as opportunities**

This delineates an organisational system for the Adriatic city that is no longer founded on branch-like devices, but on true and proper energetic relations for a future that is progressively more related to the exchange of services (and not of products: a *Naked City* [16]).

Through the creation of new forms of energy production (towards a *con-figurative model of the Cell-City*), we recognise the *energy district* [17] as an element with a singular dynamic character and rhizomatic functioning, for progressively more energetic Adriatic territories.

**5 guidelines (+1) for the deformed city**  
 01) *the pulverisation and diffusion of systems of energy production*

The city (and in particular the deformed Adriatic city) is understood as an energetic-vigorous device, progressively called upon to produce its own energy.

A model of periodic and capillary pulverisation is the consequence of a phenomenon of diffusion and fragmentation that determines a pulverisation of systems of energy collection.





fig. 7 Greater London Plan - by Sir Patrick Abercrombie (1944), in His Majesty's Stationary Office, London 1945  
 fig. 8 Rarefaction/Concentration - towards the pulverisation and diffusion of systems of energy production (from the Doctoral Thesis by Alberto Ulisse)

Energy will be: renewable, such as the sun and wind, and distributed. Each of us can create our own energy and provide it to others as part of a network: do-it-yourself energy (Jeremy Rifkin).  
 Passing from the concentration of large production sites to more diffuse, medium-sized installations offers a less uncertain and less problematic prospect of development.  
 02) the exponential summation of different systems of energy production and savings [a.s.a.e. + p.s.a.e.]  
 The energy supplied by the sun (solar thermal and photovoltaic) and by the wind (turbine and micro-turbine) and that which can be obtained from level changes in watercourses or using biomass, the kinetic energy of the sea and thermal energy from the earth: all are renewable!

The integration of different energy devices becomes one of the primary elements for a progressively more self-sufficient territory. [A.S.A.E. + P.S.A.E.] = the exponential sum of Active Systems of Alternative Energy and Passive Systems of Alternative Energy determines a greater result with respect to a simple summation, thanks to the enthalpic principle and the exponential factor of correlation between different systems (there is a trend to seek systems with closed combinatory cycles).  
 03) the integration of different energetic systems  
 In a dusty model of production (the consequence of a territory of decentring of the production using renewable sources) and the logic of an exponential sum between [A.S.A.E. + P.S.A.E.], the INTEGRATION of

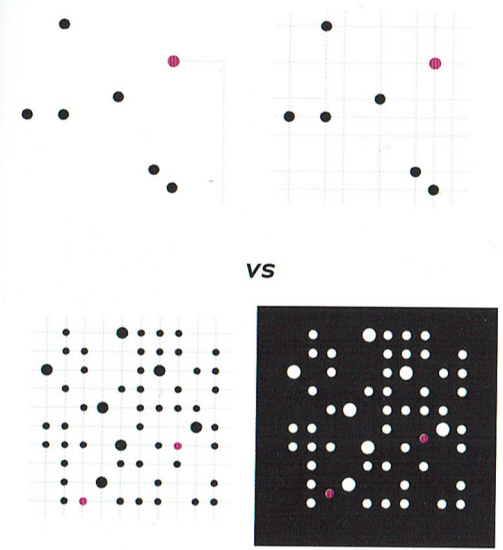
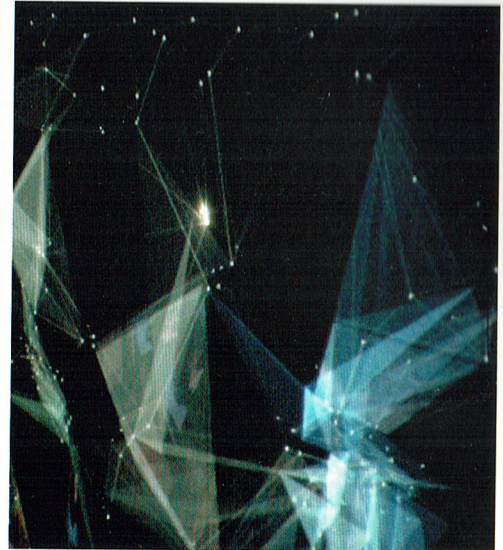


fig. 9 01 pulverisation and diffusion in systems of energy production.  
 fig. 10 02 the exponential sum of the different systems of energy production and energy-savings [A.S.A.E. + P.S.A.E.]

different sources of energy and an attentive programming of complex systems capable of bringing into play the devices of form plays a determinant role.  
 04) the definition of new spatial paradigms  
 In our contemporary era we recognise a belonging to a late style (or Late Moment, Peter Eisenman and Edward W. Said) that precedes the passage to a new paradigm, assigning the transformation of territories with a role: the investigation/prefiguration/verification of NEW URBAN FIGURES and NEW ENERGETIC DEVICES in the territories of the Adriatic city.  
 The objective is that of identifying the variables of a family of forms capable of optimising, thanks primarily to their CONFIGURATION (considering exposure, S/V ratios, roof ratios, latitude, longitude, as applied by Buckminster Fuller in 1960 to the World Game, a recognised system that envelops and anticipates the energetic and social problems faced by our planet. World Game was the revisitation of a model and idea of the mathematician John von Neumann who, in 1944, proposed a study for the War Game) capable of becoming new spatial paradigms for the Adriatic city. This was the mission<sup>[18]</sup> at the base of the exploration of the *Cube Deformable*



[Deformable Cubes], considered as a model of design that investigated form as a real instrument of control, management and design, capable of defining new morpho-Energetic spatial configurations for the realisation of models in the archipelago city.  
 05) activating procedures and models of economic-financial feasibility for a new market  
 We must identify an apparatus capable of ensuring the feasibility (of process and product), activating procedures and models of economic-financial feasibility that can (self) support and nurture not only projects for the production and integration of energy (made possible by national and European funding), but primarily of identifying illuminated channels and subjects (the new patrons of the Third Industrial Revolution), capable of defining themselves as the new market demand, for activating innovative ideas, projects and patents.  
 (+1) an *iedaa index for the adriatic city* (Index of Energy Development in the Adriatic Area)  
 The definition of an INDEX of energy performance and sustainable development in the Adriatic city: ISSI Adriatic. The ISSI index, developed by the Istituto



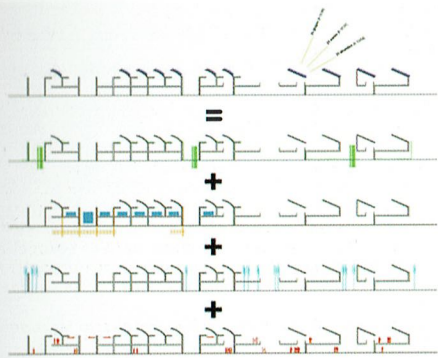


fig. 11 03 integration of different energy systems.

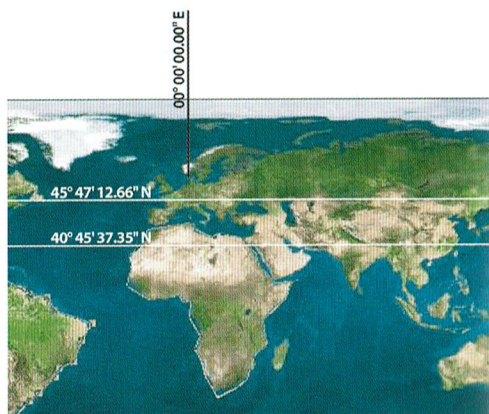
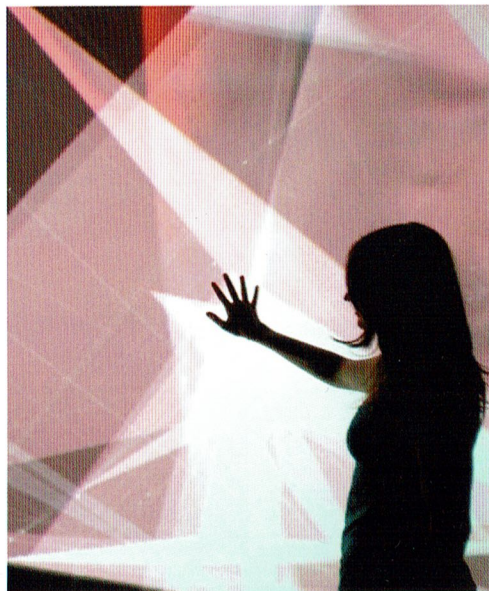
fig. 12 04 definition of new spatial paradigms.

fig. 13 05 activation of procedures and models of economic-financial feasibility for a new market.

fig. 14 (+1) identification of an IEDAA index for the Adriatic City (Index of Energy Development in the Adriatic Area)

Sviluppo Sostenibile Italia, provides a set of thirty key indicators, subdivided with respect to three domains (Social and Economic Development – Environment – Use of Resources).

The ISSI is an index of performance that defines objectives for each indicator in terms of targets and times of implementation, measuring the progress of the territory as it



moves towards sustainable development. By varying the set of indicators, it is possible to manipulate the system, defining the targets, final objectives and identifying an eventual IEDAA (Index of Energy Development in the Adriatic Area).

The performance index may be defined for both the Adriatic city, the archipelago city (city-fabric), as well as for the island system

(single entities - cell-territories). The spatial concept of the island is intended in a trans-scalar manner; the edges that define the island (cell) often do not coincide with political-administrative borders; the island may be an extra-local figure, the island can be defined as an urban system, as an urban planning unit, a new unit of energy proximity, a city block, an island can be a building ... the island is the peninsula! The concept of the island or cell-city is to be used as a reference for an energetic method or cellular organisation for a rhizomatic functioning of the territory of the deformed Adriatic city.

[2] Peter Droge - *The Renewable City*

[3] Walt Patterson - *Transforming Electricity: The Coming Generation of Change*

[4] netizen - On March 3, 2001, Stockholm, the capital of the Baltic Region, hosted the first netizen global conference. The Baltic States decided to offer their citizens the status of 'netizens', to render them "citizens of the Net". The concept of the netizen is based on another initiative from the 1990s. The creation of the Internet – the so-called Net – revolutionised communications using electronics and, ignoring the confines between countries, allows anyone with a telephone and a modem and the desire to "navigate" to connect with others in the same conditions ... Netizens around the world, come together! A vision of the year 2021, in an epochal turn by Gunter Paull.

[5] Momento Tardo - Peter Eisenman, Sei punti, in Casabella n. 769.

[6] La società No Oil - Un nuovo sviluppo è possibile ma senza petrolio (Fabio Orecchini, Vincenzo Naso).

[7] Energy Autonomy - The Economic, Social and Technological Case for Renewable Energy (Hermann Scheer, president of EUROSOLAR and Director of the World Council for Renewable Energy).

[8] re-generation, re-vitalisation, energetic colonisation - key words for European 10 (2009).

[9] Observing the coast from the sea, - in *Interfacce costiere*, by Antonio di Campi.

[10] City-landing point - Raffaele Mennella, *Questioni per una città di mare: Ancona, un preteso*, in *"La città adriatica"*, PPC n. 15/1995.

[11] sea-lake-gulf - Sergio Anselmi, *Adriatico: omogeneità culturali e differenze nel lungo periodo*, in *"La città adriatica"*, PPC n. 15/1995.

[12] the deformed city - for a study of this city, which can be called "deformed" (using the Latin medieval etymology tied to form, less dismissive than the classic deformis, lacking beauty), it would be more effective to proceed with a process of indirect, articulated and progressive approach based on a multitude of investigations related to singular aspects, both well and lesser known, common and uncommon, with the intent of finding, if it exists, a key to a synthetic reading that is valid for the entire city. From: *Congetture sulla città difforme*, Massimo Bilò, in *"La città adriatica"*, PPC n. 15/1995;

[13] branched-network - from the concept of "branching" that proceeds to the point of exhaustion of material. Bruno Munari, *Design e comunicazione visiva*.

[14] No-Stop City - Residential Parkings. Climatic Universal System, Archizoom associates - Andrea Branzi.

Homogenous inhabitation diagram, hypothesis of a non-figurative architectural language.

[15] *Rete Distribuita di Energia (RDE) - Lectio magistralis* for the inauguration of the 2005-2006 scholastic year at the Valle Giulia Faculty of Architecture, by Livio de Santoli, *Energia e Architettura: l'innovazione tecnologica nella progettazione e nella gestione*.

[16] *The Naked City*, illustration de l'hypothese des plaques tournantes en psychogéographie, in *Guide psychogéographique de Paris*, 1957

[17] Energy districts - as industrial districts; ... it is worth remembering that an industrial district is a sub-system of production in a market system, characterised in a predominant manner by geographically concentrated small to medium-sized businesses concentrated organised in a decentred and distributed network. *Competitività nei distretti. Le relazioni industriali come opportunità*, Mimmo Carrieri and Augusto Megale.

[18] *Le Cube Deformable - Sistemi energetici e nuove configurazioni spaziali nella città medio-adriatica*, from the Doctorate Thesis in Architecture and Urban Planning by Alberto Ulisse (tutors: Pepe Barbieri, Renato Ricci, Nicolas Tixier).

#### Notes

[1] Jeremy Rifkin - *he Hydrogen Economy: The Creation of the Worldwide Energy Web and the Redistribution of Power on Earth*



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