SOCIAL HOUSING

TECHNE issue no. 4 will contain articles in the form of papers, the results of research and experiments, reviews and contributions to the discussion on the topic of Social Housing.

The issue of housing is always a highly topical subject and calls into question aspects concerning planning, funding, procedures, architectural characteristics and technology.

During the periods of public housing designed to address the problems of the housing crises in the postwar period and the Sixties and Seventies, research and experiments on the topic of housing moved to the scale of urban planning, linked to the government policies of cities and metropolitan areas, and to the building scale, in accordance with residential and technical models oriented at low costs and reproducibility, which did not always properly include qualitative aspects linked to the cultural and construction traditions of the individual places. The Seventies were witness to studies on the technical regulations for Public Housing, with a new role for Regional Governments and the development of innovative technologies and processes, in the purpose of promoting industrialization in the building sector. In the Eighties and Nineties the demand for housing dropped and policies were established aimed at encouraging the renovation of existing buildings, in specific opposition to the failure of many of the outlying residential areas of the previous years. Even research in the field of architectural technology has followed these paths, with less and less interest in the ‘standard’ topics of innovative housing models and industrialization. At the same time, however, a new emergency developed, driven by demographic and economic changes, with the redistribution of the wealth of families and individuals in Italy, much as occurred throughout Europe. Since 2000 a housing crisis has emerged that also concerns medium-low income families, those that do not have access to ‘council housing’, rented housing on the free market or a mortgage.

Today, even in Italy, housing policy trends lean towards the delineation of a new welfare system for housing aimed at wider groups of inhabitants, through the opportunities offered to private parties to benefit from aid and public assistance within so-called ‘Social Housing’.

Upgrading public asset of social building is always a highly critical need, allowing to use it as an instrument of housing policies. At the same time new environmental constraints and the need to think about the urban environment as an ‘area for saving resources’, provide the housing project with a scenario of observations, experiences and research worth considering.

The adaptability and flexibility, personalization and recognizability of one’s own home among others, the search for privacy, integration in the context and environmental sustainability, the low cost of building works and the urgency to resolve critical issues concerning energy consumption, are set to become the new paradigms of the housing project. Contributions on the above-mentioned topics are particularly encouraged.

Papers, articles on research and experiments, and contributions for the SITdA Network section must be sent to the address redazionetechne@tecnologi.net by 31 July 2012.

Papers and articles on research and experiments must be written entirely in Italian and English, contributions for the SITdA Network section must be written in Italian, with abstracts in Italian and English. Preparation of the article should follow the editorial guidelines posted on the journal’s website (see Information for Authors). The procedure for the acceptance and review of papers, articles and contributions is set out at the web addresses http://www.fupress.net/index.php/techne/about/editorialPolicies.