

DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

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XXIII cycle

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**Fragments of spaces along the roads.
Recycling deleted areas**

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Abstract

*"... Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;
... Acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas ..."*¹.

The starting point of this research is the innovative definition of landscape, given by the "European Landscape Convention", that draws the attention to the need of:

- examining the territory as a spatial and temporal continuity;
- considering the territory transformations as a value;
- giving equal dignity to ruined territory, refusing the idea that only beautiful landscape deserve to be protected.

Among the several and diverse European studies on infrastructure and landscape relation, the research focuses on marginal areas created by the infrastructure for mobility (road and highway) in the landscape. These areas are lacking a clearly defined function, they are not anymore part of the landscape, but they have not become part of the infrastructure. These areas are defined as infrastructural refuses.

¹"European Landscape Convention", Preamble and Art.1, Firenze, October 20th 2009

The attention is shifted from the design of the road and from the aesthetic of mobility to the new spaces created by the infrastructure in the landscape. Moreover, the research tries to analyze the infrastructural refuses only ex-post, when these spaces have already been created by the construction and use of a road, or theoretically created in-fieri by an infrastructure project that has overlooked these areas, forgetting to design them, or simply not taking into account their existence.

The first part of the research is devoted to define the identity of the infrastructural refuse through the critical analysis of the main theories of the protagonists of the international debate supported by the identification of literature related to the topic.

The infrastructural refuse is then described through analytical tools (morphology and perception) that show the effects of infrastructural transformation focussing mainly on mobility infrastructure transformation in Trentino Alto-Adige. The case study analyzed is the trunk road 12 on the stretch called Tangenziale di Trento, and more specifically the transformation caused by the junctions close to urban areas. The Tangenziale is a great artery of traffic that often cuts through the surrounding areas leading to real marginal areas.

The research then proceeds to the definition of refuse as a value and tries to highlight its potential for transformation mainly by analyzing the strategy of recycling. Different types of re-use of infrastructural refuses are described: the artistic-temporary use, the daily spontaneous use by the population, and finally the illegal use.

The research analyzes the mobility infrastructural refuses: outlining possible transformations, design, re-inventions; illustrating the unexpressed features of the places; re-drawing with different connotation signs that have lost their original meaning; eventually reaching the "operatività dello scarto"². Negative actions like abandon, refuse, waste can become occasions to re-shape and re-think the landscape.

The results of the research show the possibility to re-think the infrastructural refuse spaces as a reserves of soil, suggest alternatives to the mentality of the compensation and mitigation, calling for the evolution of the protocols of mobility infrastructure design.

²"European Landscape Convention", Preamble and Art.1, Firenze, October 20th 2009

Recalling again the European Landscape Convention: “[...]“Landscape planning” means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes””.³

³“European Landscape Convention”, Preamble and Art.1, Firenze, October 20th 2009