

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna

DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN  
ARCHITETTURA E CULTURE DEL PROGETTO

Ciclo 33

**Settore Concorsuale:** 08/E2 - RESTAURO E STORIA DELL'ARCHITETTURA

**Settore Scientifico Disciplinare:** ICAR/18 - STORIA DELL'ARCHITETTURA

LEONARDO RICCI IN THE UNITED STATES (1952-1972). A TWENTY-YEAR  
AMERICAN TRANSFER AS A TURNING EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING AND  
DESIGN.

**Presentata da:** Ilaria Cattabriga

**Coordinatore Dottorato**

Annalisa Trentin

**Supervisore**

Giovanni Leoni

**Co-supervisore**

Matteo Cassani Simonetti

**Esame finale anno 2021**

# Leonardo Ricci in the United States (1952-1972).

A twenty-year American transfer as a turning experience in teaching and design.

Introduction	5
Phases of the research	9
Acknowledgements	11

## PART I

### Leonardo Ricci's gaze towards the United States

<b>1. Contacts between Italy and U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s</b>	
1.1. The relations between the Italian and American design and building cultures (1945-1960s)	12
1.2. Bruno Zevi and Florence: the influence of the American model of "democratic architecture" on Leonardo Ricci's work	18
1.3. Leonardo Ricci and the group of the Florentine architects	25
1.4. Ricci and his master: a detachment that does not exist. From "La Nuova Città" to the <i>City of the Earth</i>	45
<b>2. Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts</b>	
2.1. The reasons of a "free and relieved painting"	52
2.2. A first approach to the United States: the architect thanks the painter	66
2.3. A "coast to coast" cycle of conferences on painting and architecture (1952-1960)	69
2.4. First reflections on morphological generations in painting: the Informal	80
<b>3. Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method</b>	
3.1. Architecture and urban planning educational offer in the U.S.A. and at M.I.T.	89
3.2. M.I.T.: the J.C.U.S. and Pietro Belluschi's call (1959-1960)	93
3.3. Leonardo Ricci at Pennsylvania State University (1965-1969)	107

# Index

## PART II

### Italian identity, American experimentations: themes and projects

#### 4. Community

- 4.1. Italy and U.S.A.: the project of community religious, political, and socio-cultural models and the design of neighborhood units. 140
- 4.2. Leonardo Ricci and the community as a spatial model for human existence: “Agàpe” and “Monte degli Ulivi” 149

#### GUIDE PROJECTS

- 1. Project for a “Theoretical House” (1956-1958) 168
- 2. The popular neighborhood of Sorgane (1957-1974) 174
- 3. Fabbrica Goti – Goti Factory (1959) 182
- 4. Project for the competition for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington, District of Columbia U.S.A. (1959-1960) 186

#### AUXILIARY PROJECTS

- 5. The project of the private residence:
  - Fausto Maria Ricci’s House: Beverly Hills, California (1952) 196
  - Mann Borgese House: Forte dei Marmi (1958-1960) 197
  - Balmain House: Marciana, Isola d’Elba (1958-1960) 199
  - Project for Pleydell Bouverie House: Marciana, Isola d’Elba (1958-1960) 202
  - Giannini House: Agro Romano, Rome (1963-1965) 203
  - Project for Rossi House: Montepiano, Florence (1965) 203
- 6. Project for the Camera di Commercio of Carrara (1956) 204
- 7. “La Casa Abitata” Exhibition set up, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (1965) 208
- 8. Italian Pavilion of the International Exposition in Montréal of 1967 (1967) 211

## Index

### 5. Megastructure

5.1. The architectural debate in the U.S.A. in the Sixties, the birth of Megastructures and the international planning theories	218
5.2. Henri Lefèbvre and Leonardo Ricci: an architect: for what society?	222
5.2.1. A new university for a new society: the idealistic against the relational view	229
5.2.2. Social involvement of the revolt in 1968 – comparison Italy and U.S.A.	238
5.3. Fighting against urban segregation. The tension of architectural reasoning at urban scale	251
5.4. From Urban to Visual Design: György Kepes and the foundation of CAVS, a radical visual academia	257
5.4.1. Matrices for Megastructures. Social, economic, and physical tools to design a normal and continuous growth of life	261
5.5. Leonardo Ricci at the University of Florida and the “Model Cities” program	266
5.6. Ricci’s professional work in the U.S.A.: a useful laboratory for teaching	276
5.7. <i>The City of the Earth</i>	282

### GUIDE PROJECT

291

1. Ricci’s general plan for Miami Model Cities Area - Project for a macrostructure in Miami at Florida University (a study for the 95.000 people neighborhood within the «Model Cities» program 1968-1970)	290
--	-----

### AUXILIARY PROJECTS

294

2. Project for a macrostructure for Dog Island, Orlando, Florida (1968-1970)	294
3. “Terrasecittà”-“City of Terraces”, Orlando, Florida (1972)	300
4. Plan of the Leather District for Regione Toscana (1975-1978)	304
5. “Terza Porta” – Integrated Center, Parterre, Florence (1982)	306

# Index

## 6. The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

6.1. An existentialist view as a moral instance to design the anonymous space	314
6.2. The translation of anonymous architecture in megastructures	322
6.2.1. Urban Design: possible spatial configurations	324
6.2.2. “Anthro-sociological aspects of human acts” and psychological implications of macrostructures	332
6.3. “Open Work” in architecture: the city as a collective work of art”	339

<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>345</b>
-------------------	------------

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX I Bibliography	349
APPENDIX II List of the works	386
APPENDIX III Anthology	402

### Introduction

My research deals with Leonardo Ricci's work both as architect and visiting professor in eminent north American universities from 1952 to 1972.

At first my interest in Leonardo Ricci's work was centered on his determined will to investigate and realize the ideal of anonymous architecture and, consequently, to embody the figure of the anonymous architect. Secondly, Ricci's dichotomous and controversial research as architect and man, always concentrated in solving a tension between opposites affecting his activity of painter, architect and teacher increased my interest to investigate on his experience in the United States to understand how he tried to solve it by looking overseas.

After a first bibliographic and archival research phase, which revealed a historiographical lacuna on the American transfer carried on by Leonardo Ricci from 1952 to 1972, the research concentrated on the study of that period. Indeed, if Ricci's American transfer is mentioned several times in the few monographical studies, it was not studied and reconstructed in depth. None of those studies investigated to what extent the American transfer, even described as a fundamental period for Ricci, influenced the architect's work. Ricci's American transfer was often told as a constant exchange with the United States, as it began in the early Fifties, but it accompanied him until the end of his life and involved his professional work with his associates in "Ricci, Branch and Dallerba Architects and Planning" and "Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design" offices, but its role and importance have not been exhaustively covered.

The decision to deal with the twenty-year period 1952-1972 was also dictated by the discovery in Ricci home-studio archive of an unpublished manuscript by Leonardo Ricci dated 1969. In this book, Leonardo Ricci declared that he had succeeded in completing his own personal academic, didactic and design research, thanks to his American transfer. 1969 is also the date of Leonardo Ricci's project for the Miami plan, thanks to which he completed the development of a design model for the city of the future applicable to reality.

The aim of this research was therefore to focus on this period from 1952 to 1972, considered by Ricci himself a fundamental and turning point for his research as architect and painter, in which the premises of his second professional phase dictated by the contact with American universities and by the work with his students are traceable as well. The research has produced important results from the didactic and design point of view in Ricci's work, which are the present work's object of study.

The considered twenty-year period on which this study is based is defined between Leonardo Ricci's first travel to the United States (1952) and the date in which Ricci left the University of Florida, when he resigned from his position of research professor (1972), one year before his resignation from the deanship of the faculty of architecture of Florence (1973).

The research retraced philologically the stages of Leonardo Ricci's journeys to the United States unveiling the premises and results of the architect's American transfer in the chosen period, and to what extent it marked a turning period for Ricci's work as educator and designer.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

The main results of Ricci's research in the U.S.A. were the two books he wrote, the two fundamental archival sources on which this work is based, because they describe Leonardo Ricci's idea of architecture, and the architectural questions he asked himself, the basic principles his research started from, and the architect's synopsis of the City of the Earth, which constituted the answer he found thanks to his American transfer, or better, the result of his applied research of his first theoretical reflections.

Both books can be considered as results of Ricci's research since they were written between the end of the Fifties and the end of the Sixties, a crucial period for the author's architectural production marked by the construction of his funding community projects as the Ecumenical Center of Agàpe to the Community Village "Monte degli Ulivi" in Riesi, the first just finished in 1951 while the second in 1968. *Anonymous (XX century)*, begun in 1957, was finished after the first turning stage at M.I.T. during which Ricci explored new horizons in teaching and in the research on architecture and urban planning, in the founding years of Urban Design, thanks to the shared research intents of Harvard University and M.I.T.. Ricci finished the drafting of the text after the debates about architectural issues that took place during his lessons to the M.I.T. students. The same teaching method to discuss with the students about his own design was practiced by Ricci both in Italy and in the United States, not only at M.I.T. but also in the other courses at Pennsylvania State University and University of Florida and across all his long experience as academic teacher.

If the first book ends with a hopeless Ricci who thought not to be able to build the city of the future he had studied in his theoretical research, the second unpublished book *City of the Earth*, written in 1969, explained the second important outcome of Ricci's applied research: the model of the City of the Earth, the urban macrostructure representing the synopia of the integrated city.

From the didactical standpoint, the interdisciplinary approach to urban studies carried on by the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies, which had begun under Pietro Belluschi's purpose in 1957, including the revolutionary research of György Kepes in Visual Design and Kevin Lynch's research project titled "The Perceptual Form of the City", signed a fundamental stage in the foundation of Urban Design for its interdisciplinary approach and for the choice of innovative investigation fields and methods and represented a turning point for Ricci, who succeeded in proposing the same vigorous program in the field of representational drawing, developed in Cambridge by György Kepes, with his students of the course of Architectural Composition in Florence. Indeed, the changing of the program of the course titled "Plastica Ornamentale", attended by the students in the first two-years of architecture, into "Visual Design" signed the most important stage in Ricci's educational method. In that way he was able to demonstrate and, therefore, teach his Italian students that the architectural design arose from the artistic practice of the "studio work" on different techniques and materials, and not from the architect's predetermined ideas. As Ricci had experienced in painting since the age of sixteen, art should satisfy the need for the human being to communicate with the other and had to express human experience. A deep focus on painting was therefore needed to understand the existential premises of his interest in Informal painting and in the synthesis of the arts that brought him to the United States and affected his work in architecture.

As painting, architecture derived from the artistic sign to be able to satisfy human needs. Ricci's intent to change the "plastica ornamentale" course was already clear before going to M.I.T. in 1959 and allowed Leonardo Ricci to

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

ask for new laboratories and equipments as he later underlined in his suggestion for a new program for the faculty of Architecture in Florence after the student revolt.

Moreover, the research project titled “Aspetti Antropologici degli Atti Umani” [“Anthropological Aspects of Human Acts”] approved and developed both at the University of Florence and at the Pennsylvania State University and the applied research studies on models for the integrated city were the core of Leonardo Ricci’s studies with his students at the Pennsylvania State University from 1965 to 1969. Ricci and his students elaborated several polymateric models by applying an experimental approach, between architecture and art, and worked on the most famous “Model for an Integrated Town”, also known as “MODEL I: Harbor-center with water-sea-earth communication routes”, exhibited at the Montréal Expo of 1967, and required by the Centre Pompidou several years later for the exhibition “Vision Urbaines” (1992).

At the University of Florida Ricci definitely grounded his educational model facing the Miami Model Cities project with his fifth year students. The plan had to solve the important social issues of the black communities in the underdeveloped areas of the ghettos, within the existing political program of the “Model Cities”, by applying interdisciplinary research and providing clear structural evaluations. That meant to Ricci the achievement of the most important educational goal: let the students face a real architectural problem and find the solution by means of a common effort of the teacher with the students and with the future dwellers. That was a turning moment because of two main reasons: firstly, in Florida Leonardo Ricci had managed to achieve one of his didactic objectives: to submit to architecture students, during the student revolt, a real design theme concerning social problems, leading them to work and be able to discuss with a group of different disciplines’ experts. Secondly, the didactic experiment put the roles of professor, students, scholars, politicians, and future inhabitants on an equal level, thus realizing the ideal of anonymous architecture, it is to say the disappearance of the architect in front of the project and next to other professionals. It was not secondary the fact that Ricci, Daniel Paulck Branch and Riccardo Morandi were the founders of the course in Urban Design at the University of Florida, where he also became the Director of the Urban Design Studio, where work on real case studies was done and all the students who wanted to collaborate were hosted. Ricci established the Urban Design Studio to realize the decentralization of powers from the inside of the university and for which he fought against the Floridian University bureaucracy. The same fight against bureaucracy and the central power -the theme of decentralization- was alive also in Italy in the same years, and was extremely important to Ricci, who sided with the students during the 1968 revolt and studied it deeply to propose a new program for the University of Florence during his deanship, re-working on the previous educational programs and, therefore, focusing on teaching again.

From the design standpoint, the research has identified a single common thread in Ricci's research, with which he himself cultivated a controversial relationship: the application of the “form-act” as the best tool to conceive urban design. Leonardo Ricci found in the discipline of Urban Design the key to develop his work as architect and teacher, as in that discipline he encountered the balance point between architecture and urban planning, between the sign of the architect and the anonymous, between the collective and the individual dimension. Urban design’s main goal to design the city as a collective work of art from the habitat to the megalopolis scale was the solution of that dichotomous research that enlivened Leonardo Ricci’s work and one possible answer to that tension useful for him to get the project true, meaningful, and successful.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

The aim of the research is to demonstrate how, after having faced the formative and guiding moment with the master Giovanni Michelucci and a first approach to the theme of the synthesis of the arts that gave him a first impulse to find new meanings for the postwar architecture, Ricci was looking at the megastructural dimension since his formative period -in the design for the destroyed bridges of Florence- and throughout his entire work. That impulse led Ricci overseas, and the analysis of his design experience that crossed different architectural programs from the end of the Forties to the Seventies, different scales, both in the American and Italian projects, helped confirm the thesis that the form-act and the research of anonymous architecture were the guiding principle that accompanied Ricci during all his life and career.

Urban design considered that variation in time and space Ricci experienced in his life and design, in line with the twentieth century discoveries, to find new relations and effective ways to express morphological results in function of more complex processes open to the continuous change of human life. While always keeping in mind the type of research undertaken in the United States, which excluded the *a priori* conception of form in art and architecture, both at the urban and architectural scale, permeated by the studies of Kevin Lynch, György Kepes, and Christopher Alexander, it was important to observe how these formative moments resulted in Ricci's architectural production in Italy.

By observing the completely different formal results reached by Ricci in his work, consistent with urban design principles, it is therefore possible to trace the evolution and the constant application of the "form-act" design from the habitat, to the community, to megastructural projects, precisely thanks to his American transfer.

Therefore, the research needed to analyze how Ricci applied the form-act across different times, places and programs, so it implied the analysis of a selection of projects, chosen following two main criteria: they are firstly elaborations of the "form-act" for different programs such as residential units, public buildings, exhibitions' set-up, monuments, pavilions, factories, a masterplan and less known megastructural projects in Italy and abroad. On this point, it is important to specify that the choice relapsed on two last projects (Plan of the Leather District for Regione Toscana and the project for the integrated center "Terza Porta" in Florence) designed after 1972, in the second half of the Seventies and at the beginning of the Eighties, as examples of urban design projects elaborated with the "form-act" method of the last Ricci. This also demonstrated to what extent the American transfer influenced Ricci's late work. Secondly, the chosen projects had to tell, in chronological order, the evolution of Ricci's method across the two main design themes: the community and the megastructure.

One further classification into "guide projects" and "auxiliary projects" was useful to enrich the treatise of the "form-act" dealt in the first ones, enriched by a deeper reflection on the second ones. It did not consist in a classification on importance, but on the previous mentioned parameters.

### Phases of the research

The research began with the archival research in the two accessible funds: Casa Studio Ricci in Monterinaldi (Florence) and the Ricci's fund in CSAC (Centro Studi e Archivio della Comunicazione [“Parma Study Center and Archive of Communication”]) archive. In the first, the architect's personal archive, the family kept the materials found in Leonardo Ricci's study after his donation to CSAC of large part of his archive in 1983. In Casa Studio Ricci 2013 drawings and 3660 documents covering the time span 1941-1993 are kept, whereas Leonardo Ricci's fund of CSAC, never completely listed<sup>1</sup>, consists of 923 drawings realized between 1959 and 1990.

Ricci's fund at CSAC is organized in "project folders", distinguished by unique numerical codes, which contain the drawings related to each project. The cataloging is at the drafting stage of "project sheets" ("P" sheets) containing the general data and the consistency of each project. Only some of the documents contained in the folders have been encoded and described in the "single files" ("S" sheets), each identifying and describing a single drawing individually.

The present research contributed not only to the cataloging but also to the complete digitalizing of the graphic material and documents kept in Leonardo Ricci's personal archive of Casa Studio Ricci. There is still a lot of material to be investigated, which has not yet been examined, useful to the study of Leonardo Ricci as an architect, artist, set designer, and lecturer. Therefore, a further aim of the research was to create a unique digital archive collecting the whole corpus of documents and drawings kept in the existing funds.

Indeed, the acquisition at CSAC of the fund kept in Ricci home-studio would be fundamental, but, so far, this physical movement of the entire archive of Monterinaldi to Parma was not possible.

A series of drawings kept in CSAC or Casa Studio Ricci archives had neither date nor site references, but the archival research helped organize them all in the correct chronological order as reported in the appendix titled “List of the works”, and to attribute the untitled or unreferenced drawings to the correct title.

One further aim was to collect the whole body of materials in an online geo-referenced archive elaborated by means of the software ArcGis Online. The online archive was built to provide a digital research tool to allow the scholars to undertake further research on the architect.

The digital archive I have built is divided into two main parts titled "works" and "writings". The "works" folder contains further folders, each concerning a project, sorted in chronological order, with the drawings found at the CSAC and/or in Monterinaldi. For each project, an archive table – a “project sheet” was elaborated summarizing the data relating to each project: title, type, code, location, year of design and construction, place, number of pieces in total, the authors of the project (Ricci's collaborators), and all the bibliographic references concerning each project.

A first cataloging of the remaining drawings at Monterinaldi was carried out by Corinna Vasić Vatovec, daughter of the artist Dusan Vasić, architect, artist, Ricci's friend and collaborator, but it was not completed since other scrolls were later found in the study. As for the numbering of the Monterinaldi rolls, one part is

---

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason why not all the drawings chosen from CSAC fund and appearing in this work are identified by a univocal code.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

found, from number 1 to number 82, cataloged by Vasić, while I have assigned to the others a numbering that goes from the number 1I to 42I.

In the "writings" folder it is also possible to find all the documents found in Casa Studio Ricci Archive, chronologically ordered. This part therefore includes all the digitalized published bibliography by Leonardo Ricci and about Leonardo Ricci's work in addition to all the writings of the architect and the so-called "Giornali di bordo". These "Giornali di bordo" – as Ricci called them - are a sort of diaries, logbooks of two main types: a systematic collection arranged chronologically of all the newspaper articles, Italian and foreign specialized journals, invitations to Ricci's exhibitions and photographs of the models, from 1938 to 1963, or a portfolio of Ricci's teaching and professional activities including *curriculum vitae*, collections of letters and institutional documents from the eminent Italian and foreign universities where Ricci worked, typescripts of lectures and conferences.

Since it was not possible to digitize Ricci's graphic drawings directly at the Monterinaldi Home-Studio, the Fondazione Michelucci ["Michelucci Foundation"] of Fiesole kindly made its own equipment available to complete the digitization of all the materials.

The research was possible thanks to the availability of Ricci's funds at CSAC and in Casa Studio Ricci but it was also carried on at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections), as it was important to retrace Ricci's stages in the United States. It was possible, despite the pandemic effects on the international mobility that avoided the possibility to reach physically the Pennsylvania State University and University of Florida archives, thanks to Pennsylvania State University archive digital help and to the testimony on the shared experience of some former students and assistants of Leonardo Ricci. All the fundamental documents, useful to narrate Ricci's American experience were collected in Appendix III.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

### Acknowledgements

I gratefully acknowledge my tutor Professor Giovanni Leoni and my co-tutor, Dott. Matteo Cassani Simonetti for their support and profound interest in my research work.

My heartfelt thanks go to the president of the *Ricci 100* Committee Clementina Ricci, granddaughter of Leonardo Ricci, who gave me access to Ricci's personal archive kept in Casa Studio Ricci, to Andrea Aleardi and to the staff of the Fondazione Michelucci in Fiesole for their kindness, hospitality and for having made the technological equipment available to me to complete the process of digitizing the materials.

The archival work was useful to arrange the two exhibitions on Leonardo Ricci, organized on the occasion of the celebrations of the centenary of Leonardo Ricci's birth (June 8, 1918) by the *Ricci 100* Committee, which gave me the possibility to take part in the group work of both exhibitions: *Leonardo Ricci Architetto. I linguaggi della rappresentazione* (Parma, CSAC, from December 1, 2018-to April 7, 2019) and *Leonardo Ricci 100. Scrittura, pittura e architettura. 100 Note a margine dell'Anonimo del XX secolo* (Florence, Ex Refettorio Santa Maria Novella from April 12, 2019 to May 18, 2019). My gratitude goes to Francesca Zanella and Simona Riva, Director and archivist of CSAC, who wisely guided me during the preparations for the exhibition held in Parma, inside their important institute, and to Professor Paul Amatuzzo for sharing with me his personal and professional experience he had with Leonardo Ricci.

## PART I

### Leonardo Ricci's gaze towards the United States

#### 1. Contacts between Italy and U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

##### 1.1. The relations between the Italian and American design and building cultures (1945-1960s).

To introduce Leonardo Ricci's transfer to the United States it is worth describing, even briefly, the relation between Italy and the United States in the postwar period to understand the general historical and cultural background in which the architect's transfer occurred.

The Second World War had a strong impact on architecture, but the previously existing social and economic order were already affected by the effects of the First World War, which had destroyed the inputs of Modern Architecture, of the technological progress, and caused the cultural and physical destruction in Europe, Soviet Union, and Japan. The exchanges between Europe and the United States began during the political and economic crisis Europe suffered since the 1930s. The social measures of the New Deal in the United States produced a huge emigration of European intellectuals to the U.S.A. and wide planning programs for the welfare and social reforms<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> To deepen the political, economic, and social situation and the exchanges between Europe and the United States in that period: William W. Watkin, "The Advent of the New Manner in America: Impressions of Modern Architecture III", *Pencil Points*, no.12 (July 1931): 523-531; Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, foreword by Alfred Barr, *The International Style: Architecture since 1922* (New York: Norton, 1932); Kenneth K. Stowell, "Housing and the Emergency", *Architectural Forum*, no. 56 (March 1932): 253; Clarence S. Stein, "Community Housing Procedure", *Architectural Forum*, no. 56 (March 1932): 221-228; Charles Butler and the Committee on Housing Exhibition, "The Planned Community", *Architectural Forum*, no. 58 (April 1933): 253-254; Philip C. Johnson, "Architecture in the Third Reich," *Hound and Horn* 7 (October-December 1933): 137-139; Catherine K. Bauer, *Modern Housing* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1934); Oswald G. Villard, "Issues and Men, Words and Houses: Will Action Come?", *The Nation*, no. 138 (30 May 1934): 609; Albert Mayer, "Housing: A Call to Action", *The Nation*, no. 138 (18 April 1934): 435-436; Walter Gropius, "Formal and Technical Problems of Modern Architecture and Planning", *R.I.B.A. Journal*, no. 41 (1934): 679; Marcel Breuer, "Where Do We Stand?", *Architectural Review* 77, no. 461 (April 1935): 133-136; Joseph Hudnut, Foreword to *Walter Gropius, The New Architecture and the Bauhaus* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1936); Sigfried Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture: The Growth of a New Tradition*. (Cambridge-MA: Harvard University Press, 1941), 5th ed., Cambridge, Mass. 1967; Reyner Banham, *Theory and Design in the First Machine Age* (New York: Praeger Publishers Inc., 1960); Reyner Banham, "On Trial: Mies van der Rohe. Almost Nothing Is Too Much.", *Architectural Review*, no. 132 (August 1962): 125-128; Peter Gay, *Weimar Culture* (London: Norton, 1968); Harold Bush-Brown, *Beaux Arts to Bauhaus and Beyond* (New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1976); Kenneth Frampton and Yukio Futagawa, *Modern Architecture, 1851-1945* (New York: Rizzoli, 1982); Manfredo Tafuri and Francesco Dal Co, *Modern Architecture*. 2 vols. (New York: Electa/Rizzoli, 1986). Among the many books on the topic, a complete overview about the relationship between Europe and U.S.A. in the 1920s and 1930s is in Margaret Kentgens-Craig, *The Bauhaus and America. First Contacts 1919-1936* (Cambridge-MA, MIT Press, 2001), 3-33, 204-231.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

In the second postwar period, from 1945 to 1960s the masters tried to face the reconstruction using their previous discoveries to find new solutions, but a contrast between an international formula and the revitalizing research still existed. Undoubtedly a new creative transformation was necessary, and the repeating of the solutions used between the two world wars could have been intended as an academic exercise. The United States played a fundamental role in the implementation of the trade internationalization and in the diffusion of the modernization models thanks to the spreading of images and texts. Modern forms were applied to local realities and, during the migration of the architects in the Thirties, very different architects as Sert, Aalto, Barragán or Niemeyer studied new modern solutions suitable for local lifestyles, climates, and customs.

Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius arrived in the U.S.A. in 1937, Mendelsohn in 1941, their contribution was fundamental to increase the Modern Movement prestige in North and South America. Gropius was called by the Dean of the Harvard School of Design Joseph Hudnut to direct the Department of Architecture, a school influenced by national and international approaches where a teaching system based on Beaux Arts was arriving to its end and tradition was being replaced by the rationality of technical details according to the concept of a «new architecture» based on the contemporary social and technological reality. Gropius insisted on the importance of working in groups and on the need to find an anonymous direction starting from the concepts of objectivity, program, and structure.

In the United States Siegfried Giedion was a crucial figure in the creation of the Modern Movement myth, when he wrote about it as a unique movement coming from a common intention and its realization in the CIAM in *Space, Time and Architecture*<sup>3</sup>. For Giedion the pioneers of the Modern Movement were the same indicated by Pevsner in *Pioneers of the Modern Movement from William Morris to Walter Gropius* (1936): Morris and the Arts and Crafts artists, the Art Nouveau and Chicago School exponents. Its masters were Gropius, Le Corbusier, Wright, Mies van der Rohe and Aalto, compared by a similar conception of space and time based on the knowledge that space and time were interdependent and strictly linked. Giedion, as co-founder and secretary of the CIAM, wanted to create an abstract place where the modern architecture masters could meet and discuss in order to promote its common general principles.

In Italy, during the Reconstruction, architecture had to face new themes and, later, new scales of intervention. A qualitative datum was added to the quantitative and emergency datum, to provide both the solution of the physical reconstruction, especially of dwellings, and quality of design and building techniques. In the planning of the territory the role, methods and tools of architecture were rethought and the most important figures of Italian architecture took part in the reconstruction, proposed new forms of architectural language to reconnect the existing structures, and grounded their research on that important intent.

If firstly the European masters emigrated to the U.S.A. exerted an important effect on the perception of the Modern Movement and introduced the “New Objectivity” overseas, the post-1945 years saw a great influence of the United States in Europe and in Italy because of the huge amount of funds coming from the approval of the European Recovery Act, also known as the Marshall Plan from the name of its proponent –the Secretary of State George C. Marshall- signed by the American President Harry Truman on April 3, 1948.

---

<sup>3</sup> Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture*.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

The wide net of themes that helped the transatlantic connection between Italy and the United States is deeply investigated in the book *Building Transatlantic Italy* by Paolo Scrivano<sup>4</sup>, the most exhaustive study on the matter. The European Recovery Act provided technical and financial help to the European countries hoping in an integrated approach to the economic problems of the old country, by reaching the improvement of the industrial productivity. In Italy, where social and political changes were expected after the end of the war, the U.S. aid aimed not only at achieving the positive appraisal of the Italian people, but also «at the constitution of a framework of financial and productive systems compatible with the economic model of the United States<sup>5</sup>». In the immediate postwar period, the fascination for the American culture was not homogeneous in Italy, but the political, cultural, and architectural issues that followed the approval of the Marshall Plan strongly affected the perception of the United States in Italy.

The United States had been exerting a strong influence on Italy since the Twenties and Thirties for the scientific modes of industrial production that had significant implications also on architecture, when Italian entrepreneurs of the most known Italian factories as FIAT began looking at the industrial and spatial solutions of the best American industrial plants as models to follow<sup>6</sup>. Indeed, between the two world wars the United States and the taylorist productive and organizational method had become a working model and the industrial plants' design inevitably affected the space organization of Italian factories since Italian engineers started visiting the north American factories in the 1920s and 1930s. In that moment, the U.S.A. represented in Italy the myth of a first-rate model of modernity and technological innovation. Among the entrepreneurs looking at the American myth and industrial model Camillo Olivetti, and his son Adriano after him, also looked at their American competitors' plants to improve the production process and, after having studied it, employed, and exploited the best Italian designers to build their Italian and foreign industries, shops, and offices, once the productivity increased.

According to Paolo Scrivano, that myth turned into the best model to follow for the creation of a new and wider public for transatlantic imagery<sup>7</sup> in the period of the so called "Cold War", but this transformation occurred in the 1950s, when the influence of the United States in Italy increased quite quickly thanks to the rapid availability of the funds of the Marshall Plan. Italy's dependence on the United States intensified because the American aid allowed an acceleration of the industrial recovery, of production, new job opportunities and the reconstruction of missing dwellings for the population.

From that moment the United States and Italy were connected by a cooperative action as the U.S.A. provided for materials, funds, machines, and "know-how", whereas Italy contributed and answered to the innovative changes with a worldwide known ability in the handicraft sector and industrial design. The main intent of the mutual action was to foster that collaboration, but it also implied to leave Italy and other European countries

---

<sup>4</sup> Paolo Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy* (London: Routledge, 2013), 29-81.

<sup>5</sup> Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 11.

<sup>6</sup> The FIAT Lingotto factory for instance became a «paradigmatic example of how information imported from the United States could be taken as a template for concrete action but also to contribute to the creation of a set of symbolic references» and the prototype that Fiat managers had in mind was the Ford Highland Park plant in Detroit, the first factory built to follow the model of the assembly line concept with the project signed by Albert Kahn and Ernest Wilby in 1909. Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 16.

<sup>7</sup> Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 20-23.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

their own autonomy, which did not always helped preserving an easy relationship between the old and the new countries.

Architectural design was not immediately implied as a primary tool, because both the Italian and American authorities did not use architecture as a propaganda tool as Fascism did, but it was involved when the United States tried to spread images and publications to persuade the public opinion and culture to democratic values. Indeed, through the action of several institutions and governmental agencies as the United States Information Service and the Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs the United States promoted the U.S. cultural and political model and controlled the use of U.S. funds for the reconstruction by organizing cultural activities (projections of movies and documentaries, distribution of magazines, leaflets, books, technical materials, and the foundation of USIS libraries). Besides, architecture was the object of two main exhibitions held in Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Turin in 1947 and 1949: The “Mostra Internazionale di Edilizia” [“International Building Exhibition”] and the “Mostra della Casa Moderna” [“Modern Home Exhibition”], in which, as in further exhibitions and fairs, American housing prototypes were promoted to display architectural examples, also presented on books and periodicals from the United States as “Architectural Forum”, “American Building”, “Better Homes”, “Home Plan” and the reconstruction of the country starting from heavy industrialization.

The American housing and design models affected Italian culture and lifestyle, when, in the same year of the “Mostra della Casa Moderna”, the Italian government approved the “Legge Fanfani Case” [“Fanfani Case Law”] that began the INA Casa Program.

By the beginning of the 1950s architecture was used in several initiatives of cultural diplomacy and, to Paolo Scrivano, the start of this new trend coincided with the institution by the State Department of the Foreign Buildings Operations, directed by Leland W. King with the help of Pietro Belluschi and Henry Shepley.

The FBO [Foreign Buildings Operations] took control over the realization of embassies, consulates, information centers and staff quarters abroad. Its initial goals were to represent American culture and society only through “the best U.S. architecture and the best U.S. architects” and to give “...the rest of the world a colorful picture of a young progressive and modern America [...]. As Belluschi made clear in a communication to the State Department, FBO designers were invited to “...give serious study to local conditions of climate and site, to understand and sympathize with local customs and people, and to grasp the historical meaning of the particular environment.

[...]

USIA (United States Information Agency)’s establishment in the early 1950s alongside the initiatives by the State Department and the Department of Commerce coincided with a substantial change in the way the United States was presented throughout the world. American agencies and governmental institutions inaugurated policies based on hiring highly recognized professionals (including artists, industrial designers and architects) whose work was thought to best represent the image of the country abroad<sup>8</sup>.

---

<sup>8</sup> Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 33, 34.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

The transatlantic connection was physically built through the work of Italian architects and designers that applied their skills to the building programs financed by American funds such as the European Recovery Plan, or “Fondo per l’Incremento Edilizio”<sup>9</sup>, the “INA CASA” and UNNRA CASAS” programs.

The assets therefore remained in the hands of the Italians and this caused conflicts between Italy and the United States over where to use the funds and the timing of their use. The same difficulty to manage the real relationship among the two countries was to be faced during the actuation of the INA CASA<sup>10</sup> and UNNRA CASAS plans<sup>11</sup>. The connections between Italy and the United States and the construction of the transnational relationship between the two states was also marked by the publication in 1946 of the *Manuale dell’Architetto* [“Architect’s Manual”] edited by the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche and by the United States Information Service. Furthermore, the theme of the travel to the United States of professionals, and architects among them, was central for reshaping the conception of American culture in Italy. The Fulbright program, derived from the agreement of the U.S.A. and Belgium, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Italy enabled the international exchange of scholars and experts granted among universities and technical institutes that helped Italian and European architects to advance their work and research. Among them, Leonardo Ricci was also expected to use Fulbright funds<sup>12</sup> for his first travel to the United States, but the Massachusetts Institute of Technology had the suitable resources to welcome him for his first educational experience in the United States and to support his course with equipments and assistants<sup>13</sup>.

In the book *Building Transatlantic Italy* Paolo Scrivano also deals with the work of important mediators of the transatlantic relationship between Italy and the United States, identified in the figures of the historian and critic Bruno Zevi and the industrialist Adriano Olivetti, «the former through his writings, pro-American activism and dynamic role in several bi-national endeavors, the latter with his business relations and institutional activity<sup>14</sup>». Their intermediary role was fundamental to enhance the dialogue between Italy and the U.S.A. because

---

<sup>9</sup> The “Fondo per l’incremento edilizio” was a program thought in favor of savers who received 67 percent of the funds from the “Fondo Lire”, one of the special funds established by the European Recovery Plan used to finance reconstruction works in Europe. While the eighty-five percent of the funds offered by the United States were not to be returned, the remaining amount was made accessible through the procedure of the special funds as the “Fondo Lire” in Italy. Through those funds the entrepreneurs interested in acquiring imported goods were allowed to pay local governments in national currency, with payments accumulated in those special funds used to finance reconstruction works. Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 20.

<sup>10</sup> About the INA CASA plan see Istituto Luigi Sturzo, ed., *Fanfani e la casa: gli anni Cinquanta e il modello italiano di welfare state, il piano INA-Casa* (Soveria Mannelli: Rubbettino, 2002); Paola di Biagi, *La grande ricostruzione: il piano INA-casa e l’Italia degli anni Cinquanta* (Roma: Donzelli, 2001); “Quartieri e città nell’Italia degli anni Cinquanta: il piano Ina Casa 1949-1963”, *Mélanges de l’École Française de Rome. Italie et Méditerranée / Ecole Française Roma. Italie et Méditerranée*, no. 115 (2003-2004): 511-524.

<sup>11</sup> About the UNNRA CASAS see Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica, *Esperienze Urbanistiche in Italia* (Roma: 1952), Nicole De Togni, “Italian postwar reconstruction and the contribution of UNNRA-CASAS: ideologies, models, and actors for architecture and society”, *Architektur und Akteure* (2018): 21-31.

<sup>12</sup> The history of Leonardo Ricci’s call at M.I.T. as visiting Professor began with a letter by Mrs. Elizabeth Mann Borgese to the M.I.T. Dean Pietro Belluschi (Letter from Elizabeth Mann Borgese to Dean Pietro Belluschi, typescript preserved at MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections. News Office (AC400 0001), in which Mann Borgese explained that Ricci could count on a Fulbright scholarship to cover the expenses. The history is told in chapter 3, paragraph 3.2.

<sup>13</sup> See chapter 3.

<sup>14</sup> Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 83.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

intermediary views helped the transmission of American ideas on architecture as well as the adaptation of the imported models and ideas to the local dimension<sup>15</sup>.

In the Sixties the emergency climate expired and all the studies on housing experimented in the Fifties led to structuralism and megastructural projects in the elaboration of new forms and solutions of dwelling to satisfy larger scale requirements.

Because of the worldwide influence of the United States, the effects of this boredom and uncertainty could have been dangerous for a moment in which a new tradition was coming and a new approach on architecture was needed in the transition from the nineteenth to the twentieth century. No notion of “style” in the nineteenth-century meaning was needed, because, in Giedion’s opinion, when we try to «fence architecture within a notion of style, we open the door to a formalistic approach<sup>16</sup>». That was the reason why it was not important how everyone called it, death or metamorphosis, contemporary architecture had to translate the way of life of the period and follow the evolving of a tradition.

In the introduction to the fifth edition of *Space, Time and Architecture* Siegfried Giedion wrote about the confusion that existed in the Sixties in contemporary architecture as in painting: «a kind of pause, even a kind of exhaustion<sup>17</sup>».

---

<sup>15</sup> For the complete treatise on the role of mediators of Bruno Zevi and Adriano Olivetti: Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 83-129; Paolo Scrivano, *Olivetti Builds* (Milano: Skira Editore, 2001).

<sup>16</sup> Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture*, XXXIII.

<sup>17</sup> Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture*, XXXII.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

### 1.2. Bruno Zevi and Florence: the influence of the American model of “democratic architecture” on Leonardo Ricci’s work

Leonardo Ricci was an architect, painter, scenographer, designer, teacher<sup>18</sup>, but «above all a visionary profoundly concerned with the state of twentieth-century man in what he consider[ed] to be a time of transition between an old civilization and a new civilization struggling to be born». [...] He [saw] architecture as a creative act, and the obligation of the architect "to make the actions of man come alive"<sup>19</sup>». With these words George Braziller, the editor of Leonardo Ricci’s book *Anonymous (XX century)*<sup>20</sup> described the author, who was strongly convinced in the potentiality of art and architecture to build a suitable world for the man of the twentieth century, completely overturned by the war.

To understand Leonardo Ricci’s American transfer, it is important to deal firstly with the influence he lived of the American culture and from the model of “democratic architecture” Frank Lloyd Wright had suggested, before 1952, and secondly with his master Giovanni Michelucci’s approach towards organicism.

Ricci’s revolutionary idea of spatial architectural research derived from the conception of architecture as democratic device fostered in Italy by Bruno Zevi and by the Associazione Per l’Architettura Organica (APAO), by grounding it on a morphological level with the refusal of *a priori* forms. Ricci’s “form-act” design method was based on this belief, and on the study of human acts and activities that could inspire and conform the final urban or architectural design. That method was the main focus of Leonardo Ricci’s academic and professional work, which, according to him, could have provided new architectural and urban design results, opposed to superimposed functional models and predetermined morphological results.

Bruno Zevi recognized in Leonardo Ricci himself and the figure of the architect of the future:

I found in him all my faults in a luminous version: gestural, ready at any moment to abandon and break up, authentic existentialist, and without exhibitionism, in the agitated hours and in those of collapse, deaf to health problems and to those of a mythical aesthetical coherence, Ricci could not stand institutions [...] he embodied expressionism and passed it on to his master, wrote illegible but highly successful books in America, in short, he personified life as chaos and creativity<sup>21</sup>

The theoretical affinity on the conception of the spatial research and generation of design was what joined Bruno Zevi and Leonardo Ricci’s ideas on architecture. In Ricci’s personal archive only a few letters by Zevi are kept,

---

<sup>18</sup> For Leonardo Ricci’s biography see Michele Costanzo, “Biografia”, in *Leonardo Ricci e l’idea di spazio comunitario* (Macerata: Quodlibet, 2009), 75-79.

<sup>19</sup> George Braziller, Introductory notes on the author of the first edition of Leonardo Ricci’s book *Anonymous (XX century)* (New York: Braziller, 1962).

<sup>20</sup> Leonardo Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)* (New York: Braziller, 1962).

<sup>21</sup> Bruno Zevi, “Tra i due Leonardi Fiorentini”, letter to Flora Savioli and Lara-Vinca Masini, in *Leonardo Savioli: il segno generatore di forma-spazio, catalogo della mostra (Firenze, Archivio di Stato, 23 September-25 November 1995)*, eds., Rosalia Manno Tolu, Lara-Vinca Masini, Alessandro Poli (Città di Castello: Edimond, 1995), 42, also published in *Gli Architetti di Zevi. Storia e controscoria dell’architettura italiana 1944-2000* (Roma: MAXXI Quodlibet, 2018), 122. In the present work, all the translations into English of quotation taken from Italian publications or archival documents in Italian, if not differently specified, were done by the author.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

but their importance lies in their content. They tell that Ricci asked Zevi his opinion on his first book *Anonymous (XX century)*<sup>22</sup> and that he sent to Zevi a copy of his unpublished manuscript of *Città della Terra. Disegno per una urbanistica non alienata* [“City of the Earth. Design for a non-alienated urban planning”] to have his comments on it. Unfortunately, in Ricci’s archive (Casa Studio Ricci in Monterinaldi, Florence) there is no trace of Zevi’s comments on Ricci’s manuscript, but only the critic’s purpose to Ricci to found a new journal sustained by a political party<sup>23</sup>. Indeed, Bruno Zevi thought that Ricci wrote «illegible books» as quoted above, but he agreed with Ricci on the way of conceiving architecture and its possible social function implemented by political forces. Zevi’s purpose to establish a new political party came in 1970, after the 1968 revolt, in which Leonardo Ricci was particularly involved in Florence with Leonardo Savioli and Umberto Eco<sup>24</sup>. Therefore, he suggested to Ricci the idea to work on a new journal to spread that precise idea of architectural design.

Leaving aside political issues<sup>25</sup>, Bruno Zevi and Leonardo Ricci’s shared ideas on architecture were grounded on Frank Lloyd Wright’s organic theory, and on the belief that organic architecture had to be intended as the invention of temporalized space for the human individual and collective life, and on the primary role the architectural space played in the creative process.

If we compare Zevi and Ricci’s definitions of architecture, we can immediately trace their common attitude towards the conception of space and towards the importance they both attributed to it.

In 1960, in *Architettura in nuce*, Zevi dedicated the first part of the volume to the etymological definitions of architecture conferred to the discipline by famous architects and critics, and concluded that «architecture [was] therefore the art of spatial spaces, of enclosed voids, of the dynamic sequences of multi-dimensional and multi-perspective cavities, in which the life of human associations [was] physically and spiritually expressed and the creative drive of architects [was] embodied. The experience of the interior space [was] the peculiar phenomenon of architecture, what define[d] and consolidate[d] its social contents, technical tools and expressive values of every degree»<sup>26</sup>.

Ricci explained the design process is in the chapter of the *Anonymous* titled “On Architecture”. To him «within the architect’s mind a subtle image is taking shape which reaches from the earth through the structure, creating a space and enclosing a form which, altogether, will be like one living organism, adapted to those who will live

---

<sup>22</sup> Letter to Ricci by Zevi dated February 18, 1962, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>23</sup> This stems from Zevi’s letters to Ricci dated October 24 and November 11, 1970, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>24</sup> Leonardo Ricci’s political and academic involvement in the 1968 student revolt in Florence is explained in chapter 5, paragraph 5.2.2. of the present work.

<sup>25</sup> Always engaged on the political and civil rights front, during the fascism, Zevi was a member of the movement “Giustizia e Libertà” and directed the Italian “Quaderni”. His democratic view of architecture was grafted on political issues since the second world war, when he emigrated to the United States after the proclamation of the racial laws in Italy and began, through his writings, a pro-American activism and dynamic role in several bi-national endeavors. In the community of Italian refugees and anti-fascist activists in the U.S.A. he grounded his critical revision of modern architecture by suggesting the American model of organic architecture as democratic architecture: Wright’s work conveyed the message of freedom of choice and free expression of the people. Bruno Zevi, *Zevi su Zevi: architettura come profezia* (Venezia: Marsilio, 1993); Francesco Bello, *Bruno Zevi, intellettuale di confine: l’esilio e la guerra fredda culturale italiana, 1938-1950* (Roma: Viella, 2019). To deepen the figure of Zevi as transatlantic mediator between Italy and U.S.A.: Scrivano, *Building Transatlantic Italy*, 29-81.

<sup>26</sup> Bruno Zevi, *Architettura in nuce* (Venezia-Roma: Istituto per la collaborazione culturale, 1960), 44.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

in it. And for every moment of planning there will be a particular contact with the object which will give flesh and blood to the object itself»<sup>27</sup>.

On March 28, 1945 Bruno Zevi founded in Rome a free school of architecture and urban planning under the name of "School of organic Architecture", around which the APAO also aggregated later<sup>28</sup>. A broader political project founded on the ethic conception anchored to political freedom and social justice found its place before in the Partito D'Azione and then in the APAO, which saw in the identification between organic architecture and democracy one of the most evident points of its program. As Roberto Dulio reported in *Introduzione a Bruno Zevi*, Zevi declared that the school had two aims: « [...] allow the architects that came home from the war to revise their professional work; [...] fight the faculty of Architecture in Rome, epicenter of the fascist reaction<sup>29</sup>».

Bruno Zevi was not the only critic who identified Ricci as organic architect, but also Giovanni Klaus Koenig described him as «the most "organic" of the Italian architects: organic understood not in a formal sense, but as the development of the creative process, as the origin of the spatial configuration, regardless of the formal language with which the space [was] expressed<sup>30</sup>».

Leonardo Ricci himself admitted his esteem and admiration for Frank Lloyd Wright in the chapter "Farewell Masters; Farewell Geniuses"<sup>31</sup>. In that chapter Ricci defined Wright with these words:

The one most deserving the name genius by antonomasia [...] But Wright was the first example of pioneering in the field of the spirit an expression which, to my ear, is equivocal, but still perfectly befits the figure that he was<sup>32</sup>.

In the same chapter, after a critique of the Guggenheim Museum in New York as architecture in which Wright «does not bother about the place», «he does not care about the function of the building», «he doesn't give a hoot about the client», we read: «Yet Wright is the architect whom in certain respects I love most. I hope the reader will forgive my brusque way of writing these pages. It may be offensive, irritating, I know. But that Anonymous (20th Century) presses on our hearts and revolts against a state of things that must come to an end, if we want a simple, new life in peace<sup>33</sup>».

Besides, Ricci's critic about Wright, Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier's work, his democratic view on architecture and painting was due to the masters' absence and to their lessons' unusefulness during and after the war. Geniuses could have not helped in restoring the world, because only common men knew human needs and could work together using their different and complementary qualities to build a world made of real actions, not

---

<sup>27</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous*, 230.

<sup>28</sup> Bruno Zevi, "La costituzione dell'Associazione per l'Architettura Organica a Roma", *Metron*, no. 2 (September, 1945): 75-76.

<sup>29</sup> "Scuola di Architettura Organica. Programma e descrizione dei corsi per l'anno 1945", Tipografia Armando Alesi, Roma 1945. AZ, Bruno Zevi, "Risposte al questionario di F. Brunetti", typescript, Rome 1983, as quoted by Roberto Dulio, *Introduzione a Bruno Zevi* (Roma Bari: Laterza, 2008), 53.

<sup>30</sup> Giovanni Klaus Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la "casa teorica" (alla ricerca di un nuovo spazio architettonico)", *Bollettino Tecnico*, no. 7-8 (July, August 1958): 3-34.

<sup>31</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous* (XX century), 79-99.

<sup>32</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous* (XX century), 85-86.

<sup>33</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous* (XX century), 88-89.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

of personal ideas<sup>34</sup>. In *Anonymous (XX century)*, Leonardo Ricci focused on the idea of “democratic” architecture and on the new “mission” of the architect to plan around human private and public needs following contemporary social changes rather than on predetermined forms<sup>35</sup>.

Ricci’s idea of architecture as a democratic device derived from the repulsion of the tragedy of the war he himself lived and was connected to the theme of the “Anonymous” which emerged from his narrowing to existentialism<sup>36</sup> and from the reflections on the architectural and urban form elaborated by the group of the Florentine architects under Giovanni Michelucci’s guide.

The figures of Giovanni Michelucci and Bruno Zevi are fundamental to understand Leonardo Ricci’s view on architecture and the existing connections between the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and the existence of an “organic experience” of Giovanni Michelucci’s students in the second postwar period. Although the theme is still to be studied in an exhaustively<sup>37</sup>, as Giovanni Klaus Koenig pointed out, in Italy Wright’s influence was clear in the Venetian school of the IUAV for the joint action of Bruno Zevi, Giuseppe Samonà and Carlo Scarpa<sup>38</sup>, while in Florence Wright’s lesson did not find immediate and widespread acceptance.

---

<sup>34</sup> On the importance of the masters maybe a deep difference exists between Bruno Zevi and Leonardo Ricci’s conceptions: the former wrote on the central role of the masters and built his reasoning on their figures, whereas the latter tried to avoid completely their leading role.

<sup>35</sup> Despite the common admiration towards Frank Lloyd Wright, Bruno Zevi and Leonardo Ricci had one fundamental difference in the development of their work: if Leonardo Ricci, even recognizing the importance of the masters’ lesson, opposed to their authoritative guiding role as geniuses, favoring “anonymous architecture” and the disappearance of the architect in the project, Bruno Zevi strongly believed in the master’s work authority and prestige, building his critical contribution on that belief.

<sup>36</sup> From 1948 to 1950 Ricci spent two years in Paris, where he met, among other artists and intellectuals Albert Camus, Jean-Paul Sartre, Pablo Picasso, and Alberto Giacometti. Corinna Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto “esistenzialista”* (Firenze: Edifir, 2005), 28, Costanzo, *Leonardo Ricci e l’idea di spazio comunitario*, 25.

<sup>37</sup> To deepen the theme: Italo Insolera, “Wright in Italia: 1921-1963”, *Comunità*, no.118 (April 1964): 48–63. Maristella Casciato, “Wright and Italy. The Promise of Organic Architecture”, in *Frank Lloyd Wright. Europe and Beyond*, ed. Anthony Alfonsin (Berkeley-Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1999), 76-99, 231-241, Federica Lehmann and Augusto Rossari, *Wright e l’Italia 1910-1960* (Milano: UNICOPLI, 1999); Ferruccio Canali, “La stagione delle grandi mostre internazionali di architettura a Firenze. 1951: ‘Frank Lloyd Wright: Sixty Years of Living Architecture’; ‘Carissimo Bruno ... Carissimo Carlo’, il carteggio tra Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti e Bruno Zevi (1948-1951)”, *Bollettino della Società di Studi Fiorentini / Società di Studi Fiorentini*, no. 18-19 (2010): 163-177; Ferruccio Canali, “La promozione della modernità: la stagione delle grandi mostre internazionali di architettura a Firenze; 1951, “Frank Lloyd Wright, Sixty Years of Living Architecture” ... e il contributo di Oskar Stonorov, di Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti e di Edoardo Detti,” *Bollettino della Società di Studi Fiorentini / Società di Studi Fiorentini*, no. 20-21 (2012): 52-88.

<sup>38</sup> «While Florence snubbed the exhibition at Palazzo Strozzi, in Venice, with a solemn ceremony in the Doge’s Palace, an honorary degree was conferred on the American master. Already before 1951 the pilgrimage of some of the best students to Taliesin and the tour began from the Iuav American to discover his works: Angelo Masieri, Bruno Morassutti, Gino Valle. The first-hand information or the abundance of documentation circulating in the Venetian institution had given life to a Wrightian manner, clearly identifiable in its use of the regulatory patterns with triangular, rhomboid or hexagonal mesh, in variations on the theme of the circular plan or in the clear tracing of certain formal motifs of the last Wright, to which the work of Marcello D’Olivo offers a large sample.». Ezio Godoli, “L’APAO, Frank Lloyd Wright e la cultura architettonica toscana”, in *Gli architetti del Mercato dei fiori di Pescia negli anni della Ricostruzione postbellica Giuseppe G. Gori, Enzo Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Leonardo Ricci, Emilio Brizzi*, eds. Mauro Cozzi and Ulisse Tramonti (Pisa: Edizioni ETS, 2020), 110.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

Dealing with the influences of organic architecture in Italy Giovanni Klaus Koenig suggested to circumscribe it chronologically to the period of publication of ten years of "Metron" between 1945 and 1954, although the effects of Wright's influence continued to be felt in subsequent years as well. Koenig framed the organic season of the Florentine school and recognized the concept of "organicity" in Michelucci's interpretation as independent from Wright's formulations, whose operating influence on the training of the students would have ended early in 1948 with his transfer to the Faculty of Engineering in Bologna<sup>39</sup>. Giovanni Michelucci's work had to be «viewed not as a source of formal models or ways to control the development of the project according to harmonic paths, but as an experience which stimulated transgression from the rules of academic composition as well as from new codes of functionalism, from the austerity of language, from purism and from geometry elementary of rationalism. From Wright, filtered through the revisitation proposed by him of the architects of De Stijl, the procedure of breaking the volumetric box, present in different architectures of the two Leonardo -Ricci and Savioli- is derived, but it is also perceptible, in less radical form, in the aggregations of different volumes of certain buildings by Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Riccardo Gizdulich<sup>40</sup>».

Giovanni Michelucci, on the occasion of the exhibition dedicated to Frank Lloyd Wright held in Florence in 1951 at Palazzo Strozzi, had already declared the distance between his work and Wright's teachings, highlighting the pioneering individualism of the American master as Ricci did in his book. To Michelucci the exhibition was the occasion of an «interview sought and not taken place», also due to the reflections of Wright's egocentric and narcissistic personality in the forms of his architecture:

The difficulty of intimately approaching Wright's work thus finds [...] its own origin in the exclusion of others from his work: he teaches, does not collaborate; he is a master, not a colleague. But it is demonstrable that every valid teaching is fruit of the experience, intelligence and contribution of not just one, but also of others, and that when works and men are conceived through the myth, they lose the possibility of being understood and end up being alone and museum objects<sup>41</sup>.

Michelucci's critique of Wright's work focused on the artifice applied in the combination of materials, therefore in the search for an unusual language that did not reach a "relationship between the end and the means" and which, in this he revealed the artifice and unnaturalness, and on the stressed revolution of organic architecture to find the connection between the interior and the exterior of the buildings, since it was already widely experimented in the Mediterranean architectural tradition of the old civilizations across the centuries<sup>42</sup>. Organicism, in Michelucci's opinion, laid in the naturalness of the relationships between the parts expressed in nature and already sought in primitive architecture, which had nothing to do with the forced search for the relationship between construction and environment: beauty was in the agreement between architecture and nature because it «[arose] from the intuition of vital relationships between things<sup>43</sup>», not in formal relationships.

---

<sup>39</sup> Giovanni Klaus Koenig, "L'esperienza organica in Italia e la "scuola fiorentina"", *Casabella*, no. 337 (1969): 9-12.

<sup>40</sup> Godoli, "L'APAO, Frank Lloyd Wright e la cultura architettonica toscana", III.

<sup>41</sup> Giovanni Michelucci, "Un colloquio mancato", *Letteratura e arte contemporanea*, no. II (September-October 1951): 19.

<sup>42</sup> Michelucci, "Un colloquio mancato", 19.

<sup>43</sup> Michelucci, "Un colloquio mancato", II.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Ricci's view of democratic architecture in an existential and relational perspective came from his master's thought: it was an architecture concerning human life, thus organic.

In Italy Frank Lloyd Wright's work was not published before the Thirties<sup>44</sup> and the debate around organic architecture began in Italy in 1945 after the publication of Bruno Zevi's *Verso un'Architettura Organica*<sup>45</sup> and with the promotion of the establishment in March of the School of Organic Architecture and in July of the APAO, with the related celebration of the figure of Frank Lloyd Wright. The APAO found in Florence a significant resistance by the Florentine intellectuals, academics, and influential characters in culture<sup>46</sup>. The debate increased after the opening of the exhibition dedicated to Frank Lloyd Wright on June 24, 1951 in Palazzo Strozzi, firstly inaugurated in Philadelphia by Oskar Stonorov. In the executive committee chaired by Zevi, none of the teachers by the Faculty of Architecture appeared, after Roberto Papini had declined Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti's invitation to be part of it. Among the teachers of the faculty only Edoardo Detti, close to Ragghianti since the time of the C.T.L.N. (Comitato Toscano di Liberazione Nazionale ["Tuscan Committee of National Liberation"]), collaborated in the realization of the exhibition, participating in its set up.

Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti opposed the positions resistant to organic movement of Roberto Papini<sup>47</sup> and Piero Bargellini<sup>48</sup>, while Giovanni Michelucci's position was that of a detached observer to the debate. He published

---

<sup>44</sup> Some publications on Wright's work appeared in Italy before 1945 are Frank Lloyd Wright, "Per la causa dell'architettura", *Casabella*, vol. X (June, 1937), 2-3; Frank Lloyd Wright, "The Architectural Forum", (January, 1938); Giuseppe De Finetti, "L'America di Frank Lloyd Wright", *Rassegna di Architettura*, vol. 10 (February, 1938): 49-61; Raffello Giolli, "L'ultimo Wright", *Casabella*, (March, 1938); Giuseppe De Finetti, "Frank Lloyd Wright il più illustre architetto americano", *L'Ambrosiano* (March, 1938); Giulio Carlo Argan, "Autobiografia di Wright", *Casabella* (June, 1941); Frank Lloyd Wright, *Architettura e Democrazia* (Milano: Rosa e Ballo, 1945). A clear contribution on Frank Lloyd Wright and Italy before 1945 is Federica Lehmann, "Wright e l'Italia 1910-1945", in *Wright e l'Italia 1910-1960*, 7-24.

The Thirties saw Wright's work living a new impulse, while, in Italy, the few publications and images on his work appeared as cultural and political issues charged with a strong ideological meaning. They were intertwining on the interpretation of the figure of the American architect, while the fascist regime was fortifying its coercive action. In 1935 Edoardo Persico pronounced an intervention titled "La profezia dell'Architettura" charged with an ideological message: after having listed the main features of organic architecture, Persico focused on Wright's work's message of freedom and refusal of the authority principle, in which, to the author, the analogy between Wright's work and Impressionism lied for the same breaking function it had - in painting - with the academy. Faced with the dictatorship, the European social crisis, art and architecture had to convey the message of the freedom of the spirit, launch the idea of their "prophetic capacity" by awakening the collective conscience. Edoardo Persico's message anticipated the architectural debate that brought to a revision of rationalism. Edoardo Persico, "Profezia dell'architettura", *Casabella*, vol. V (June-July, 1936): 2-5.

<sup>45</sup> Bruno Zevi, *Verso un'Architettura Organica. Saggio sullo sviluppo del pensiero architettonico negli ultimi cinquant'anni* (Torino: Einaudi, 1945).

<sup>46</sup> On the theme see Ezio Godoli, "Zevi e la Toscana", in *Bruno Zevi e la sua eresia necessaria. Atti del convegno, 23-24 maggio 2018*, Palermo-Catania, edited by Antonietta Iolanda Lima (Palermo: Dario Flaccovio Editore, 2018), 185-199.

<sup>47</sup> The review of the exhibition written by Papini for the most influential local newspaper, began with the statement that «Wright today enjoys, almost by sudden revelation, an international resonance», Roberto Papini, "Mostra di architettura moderna in palazzo Strozzi. Il fenomeno Wright", *La Nazione Italiana*, June 24, 1951.

<sup>48</sup> Piero Bargellini, *Libello contro l'architettura organica* (Firenze: Vallecchi Editore, 1946).

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

the debate on the first issues of the magazine he directed "La Nuova Città", between Giusta Nicco Fasola and Renato Bonelli, following the publication of Zevi's book *Towards an organic architecture*<sup>49</sup>.

After a first attitude as observer of the debate in which Giovanni Michelucci decided not to take sides, he declined Bruno Zevi's invitation to found with Italo Gamberini the Tuscan section of the APAO in Florence. Therefore in 1949 Bruno Zevi turned to Edoardo Detti for the foundation of the APAO in Florence, inviting him to collaborate with Gamberini for the Tuscan section, which was also sustained by Raffaello Fagnoni<sup>50</sup>.

Giovanni Michelucci's view on organic architecture inevitably affected the work of Leonardo Ricci and his students' view of architecture, but organic architecture was also elaborated and introjected in the Tuscan architecture in the multidirectional fluidity of interior spaces driven by conduction, expansion, contraction, and concatenation as it happened in Leonardo Ricci's project for the "Theoretical House" (1956-1958)<sup>51</sup>. Ricci's training and first professional activity took place from the early Forties and went on in the climate of the Reconstruction under Giovanni Michelucci's guide, which immediately felt the need to overcome the practical difficulties of life in the immediate post-war period, to improve the living hygienic conditions of the destroyed Florentine buildings and bridges on the Arno river. Following his master Giovanni Michelucci's teachings, Ricci approached the problem by implementing a reconstruction based on a hierarchy of interventions without distorting the historical balance.

The first houses of Monterinaldi designed by Ricci, proposed a different interpretation of the relationship between architecture and nature<sup>52</sup> illustrated by Leonardo Ricci in an interview given to Thomas Hawk Creighton, talking about himself in the third person: «Wright tried to integrate his buildings with the natural landscape; Ricci [tried] to create a landscape, in the Italian tradition<sup>53</sup>», and specified that «Wright's detailing [...] was "refined - in a certain way decadent," while his is often characterized as "brutal"<sup>54</sup>».

In Ezio Godoli's opinion, in Leonardo Ricci's architecture «the operating influence of Wright's language can be grasped in the play of plans and of linear elements that are crossed by projecting beyond the points and lines of intersection, in the importance of the role attributed to the fireplace in the interior spaces, in the taste for unusual material combinations or in the introduction inside the house of the shapeless natural element, as in "Fallingwater" the rocks emerging from the floor near the fireplace; moreover, also in certain lexical elements, for example the narrow bands of ribbon windows located below the tax plane of the roof - also present in the

---

<sup>49</sup> Giusta Nicco Fasola, "Architettura 'organica'", *La Nuova Città*, no. 1-2 (December 1945-January 1946): 35-38. Renato Bonelli, "Principi e teoria dell'architettura organica", *La Nuova Città*, no. 4-5 (March-April 1946): 29-36.

<sup>50</sup> The correspondence between Bruno Zevi and Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti which tells the intention to convince Michelucci (December 23, 1947) is kept in Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti Archive in Lucca, Correspondence, Folder Zevi. Bruno Zevi's letter to Edoardo Detti inviting him to found the APAO section of Tuscany (October 26, 1949) is kept in Archivio di Stato in Florence, Detti Archive, series n. 9 Correspondence (1943-1983), n. 42 Bruno Zevi. Ezio Godoli explained the whole history in Ezio Godoli, "L'APAO, Frank Lloyd Wright e la cultura architettonica toscana", 104-105.

<sup>51</sup> See PART II, chapter 4, guide project n.1.

<sup>52</sup> See Chiara Baglione, "Leonardo Ricci e le Case di Monterinaldi", *Casabella*, no. 669 (July-August, 1999): 46-61.

<sup>53</sup> Thomas Hawk Creighton, "The Involved Man Leonardo Ricci", *Progressive Architecture* (August, 1960): 150.

<sup>54</sup> Creighton, "The Involved Man Leonardo Ricci", 150.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

side fronts of the Pescia Flower Market - which, separating the vertical walls from the roof, performed a role essential in the Wrightian procedure of breaking the volumetric box<sup>55</sup>».

Following the teaching of Giovanni Michelucci and of the philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, the first of the existentialists, Leonardo Ricci postulated and embodied in architecture the architect of the "open work", understood as a building or city, able to welcome the flow and the constant life changing. Ricci's conception of "anonymous architecture" was consistent with the concept of "open work in architecture" Bruno Zevi also analyzed in 1962 in an article published on "L'Architettura: cronache e storia"<sup>56</sup>. Indeed, in the same year, with Ricci's *Anonymous (XX century)*, *Opera Aperta* by Umberto Eco<sup>57</sup> was published and developed the theme of the XII International Conference of Philosophy titled "The problem of the open work" (1958)<sup>58</sup>.

### 1.3. Leonardo Ricci and the group of the Florentine architects

Leonardo Ricci's education started at the Faculty of Architecture of Florence, he was a pupil and then the assistant professor of Giovanni Michelucci, he initially worked with other students of the master such as Leonardo Savioli, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Emilio Brizzi and Riccardo Gizdulich. In particular, the project activity of the group focused on the design of the bridges of Florence destroyed by the war. Their work was strongly influenced by the distinctive features of Tuscan architecture, which underwent the charm of minor, rural and peasant architecture and sought the ideal solution in the combination of art and spontaneity of nature, between architecture, will of art, and landscape, pre-existing art. Giovanni Klaus Koenig precisely identified four salient features of Tuscan architecture that Michelucci's students also followed: the street surrounded by walls: following the contour lines leads to the continuous undulation of the street level, the walls enclose the houses and villas and open only for accesses, the height of the walls goes from two meters and twenty to two and seventy meters and are on a human scale, the wall binds seamlessly to the buildings that flank the road<sup>59</sup>.

The experience in the bridges' design with the Tuscan group<sup>60</sup> and the first projects under the guide of Michelucci affected the development of Ricci's work to such an extent that he was able to identify in those projects the premises for design solutions adopted later.

The bridges had a monumental emphasis in the stairways at various levels and in the opening of the squares to the heads on the pylons with round arches. These components were already present in the project for the "Ponte alla Vittoria", where the stairs placed along the extrados of the three downstream arches made it possible to reach the base of each pile, which was perforated and passable along its entire length to allow the passage on the slope upstream. Leonardo Ricci participated in the competition for the "Ponte alla Vittoria", dated January 15,

---

<sup>55</sup> Ezio Godoli, "L'APAO, Frank Lloyd Wright e la cultura architettonica toscana", 113.

<sup>56</sup> Bruno Zevi, "La poetica dell'opera aperta' in architettura", *Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 84 (October, 1962): 362-363.

<sup>57</sup> Umberto Eco, *Opera Aperta* (Milano: Bompiani, 1962).

<sup>58</sup> The theme of the "open work" in architecture is taken on in chapter 6 (paragraph 6.3).

<sup>59</sup> Giovanni Klaus Koenig, *Architettura in Toscana 1931-1968*, (Torino: ERI-Edizioni RAI, 1968), 6.

<sup>60</sup> The group worked at the design of the bridges from 1944 to 1949, to revise all the projects see APPENDIX II titled "List of the works", which includes all Ricci's works in chronological order.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

1945, with Leonardo Savioli, Riccardo Gizdulich, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Giorgio Neumann with a project titled "L'uomo sul Ponte" ["The man on the Bridge"] and it was selected for the second session of the competition. It was then awarded with the second prize by the jury composed by Giovanni Michelucci, Roberto Salvini and Roberto Longhi, after Nello Baroni, Italo Gamberini, Lando Bartoli, Carlo Maggiora and Carlo Focacci's project titled "Il Ponte" [The Bridge]. In the same project the almost neoclassical temples erected on the central arch, as well as the theme of the "Casette" ["Little Houses"] for the "Ponte alle Grazie", anticipated the theme of panoramic views as "paintings" or "telescopes" that will become the generating themes of entire projects with a fan plant. The "Casette" was the second version of the project for the "Ponte alle Grazie", object of a competition held in 1946. Ricci firstly participated in the competition with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli and Emilio Brizzi with a purpose titled "Le Piazze" ["The Squares"] based on the same principle of the project for "Ponte alla Carraia" on five arches with squares at the ends, from which the river is accessed with stairways. The version entitled "Le Casette" showed an accentuated plasticity, in which the five lowered arches were integrated with the triangular curvilinear spurs and tapered in the lower part that connected to the overhanging small houses-niches, from which the project version took its name.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



*1.1-1.2-1.3: Leonardo Ricci, sketches for the bridges of Florence to be rebuilt after the destruction of the war. The sketches are undated and untitled, Casa Studio Ricci.*

Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.



1.4-1.5: Leonardo Ricci, sketches for the bridges of Florence to be rebuilt after the destruction of the war. The sketches are undated and untitled, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



1.6: Leonardo Ricci, sketch for the bridges of Florence to be rebuilt after the destruction of the war. The sketches are undated and untitled, Casa Studio Ricci.

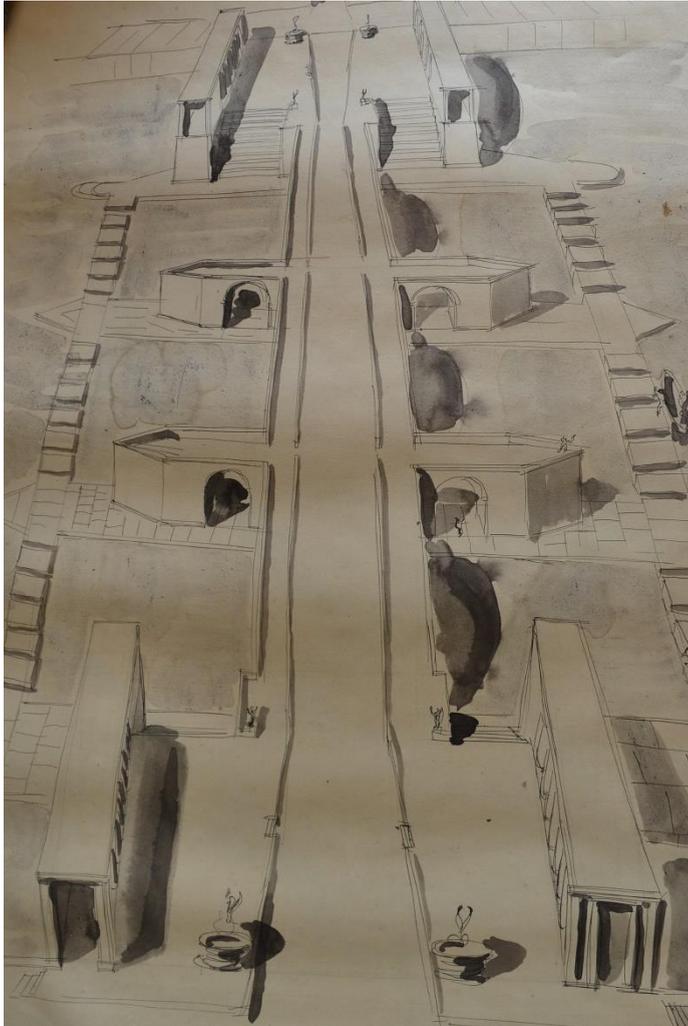
Leonardo Ricci had participated in the competition for the reconstruction of the Ponte alla Carraia in July 1945 with Leonardo Savioli, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Giorgio Neumann with the project entitled “Ponte di Città” [“Bridge of Cities”]. From 1945 to 1946 the group elaborated four versions of increasing complexity following the theme of full usability for humans, but the winner version was the first, the simplest one. It prefigured a bridge with five arches in reinforced concrete with stone formworks to make the cladding an integral part of the structure, which was neither a subsidiary nor a decorative element<sup>61</sup>. The bridges were, as it was evident in the fourth version of the project for the “Ponte alla Carraia”, “city pieces”, architectural-urban-landscape, parks, and route junctions, because they interacted with the river and offered new views.

In 1946 the group of Leonardo Ricci, Leonardo Savioli, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, and Giulio Krall took part in the competition for “Ponte San Niccolò” with two projects: the first of a bridge with a single arch that reflected the

---

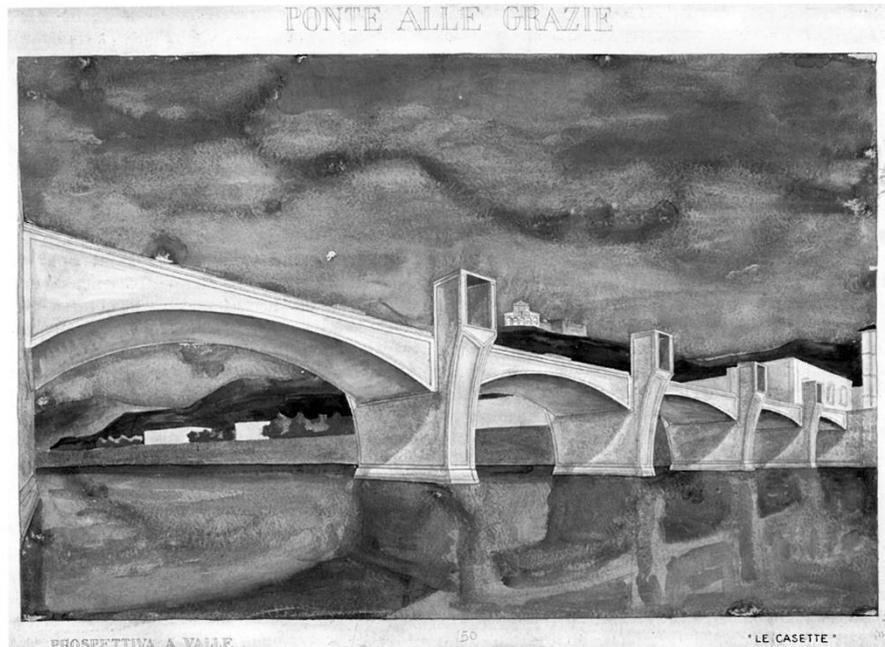
<sup>61</sup> Unfortunately, the competition was suspended because Edoardo Detti, member of the jury, contested the regularity of the competition. The civil genius did not consider Ricci's project proposal feasible and in 1949 launched another national competition-contract, in which Ricci participated with the brothers Gori and Piero Melucci. The project by Ettore Fagioli for the Bertelè company in Turin was the winner.

Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.



1.7-1.8: Leonardo Ricci, sketches for the bridges of Florence to be rebuilt after the destruction of the war. The sketches are undated and untitled, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



1.9 - 1.10: Second version of the project for the "Ponte alle Grazie": "Le Casette" (1946), table of the project and undated and untitled sketch, Casa Studio Ricci.



requests of the competition, characterized by access stairs to the river leaning against the shoulders, and a version with three lowered arches on perforated piles connected to the road level<sup>62</sup>.

According to Corinna Vasić Vatovec there were lots of examples among Leonardo Ricci's projects, where the influence of the bridges' projects were clear: the "curtain" of the living room terrace of Leonardo Ricci's home-studio, the original rationalist plant of the Casa Masi, then Santori, the study and the opening of the hanging garden of Casa Selleri in Monterinaldi, the plant and the study-pensieve of Casa Micheletti I, then Giannelli, in Montepiano, the glass telescopes projecting from the Palace of Justice of Savona. In Vasić Vatovec's opinion «the pictorial experience, the lesson of Michelucci, the panoramic "pictures" of modern architecture, and especially the terrace and solarium of Ville Savoye or the terrace of Le Corbusier's Chandigarh Secretariat contributed to the definition of the theme<sup>63</sup>». In Bellandi home-studio and the Coisson house in Monterinaldi, the Rosselli house in Le Focette, the bridge houses for Elisabeth Mann Borgese in Forte dei Marmi and Balmain House it was also evident how the bridges allowed Ricci to investigate the theme of the releasing or anchoring of the building from the ground on which it was grafted, the theme of searching continuity among the parts of the city and, therefore, the importance of the routes, always following Michelucci's steps<sup>64</sup>.

<sup>62</sup> For an exhaustive bibliography on the competitions and the history of the projects of the bridges in the reconstruction of Florence see the bibliography indicated by Corinna Vasić Vatovec in *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 20-21 (footnote n. 28). The bibliography listed the articles collected in "Logbook" n. 1 (1938-1952), pages 4-18, Casa Studio Ricci. See also: Lorenzo De Stefani and Carlotta Coccoli, eds., *Guerra, monumenti, ricostruzione: architetture e centri storici italiani nel secondo conflitto mondiale* (Venezia: Marsilio, 2011).

<sup>63</sup> Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 20.

<sup>64</sup> Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 20-21.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

With reference to the formative and beginning period and as a synthesis of the initial research based on the master's teaching, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi and Leonardo Ricci designed the plan for the reconstruction of the destroyed area in the neighborhood of Ponte Vecchio, taking part in the national competition for the reconstruction of the center of Florence (1946), and the Flowers' Covered Market in Pescia (1949) which was awarded at the Sao Paulo Architecture Biennale in Brazil in 1953, in Naples with the "Naples" Prize for Architecture in 1956 and published in Kidder Smith's *Italy Builds* (1955)<sup>65</sup>.

For the first project Ricci's group elaborated the project "Firenze sul Fiume" ["Florence on the river"], perfect example of how the projects for bridges had matured in Ricci and in his colleagues the desire to extend the possibilities of reconnecting the urban tissue from the bridge to the surrounding areas.

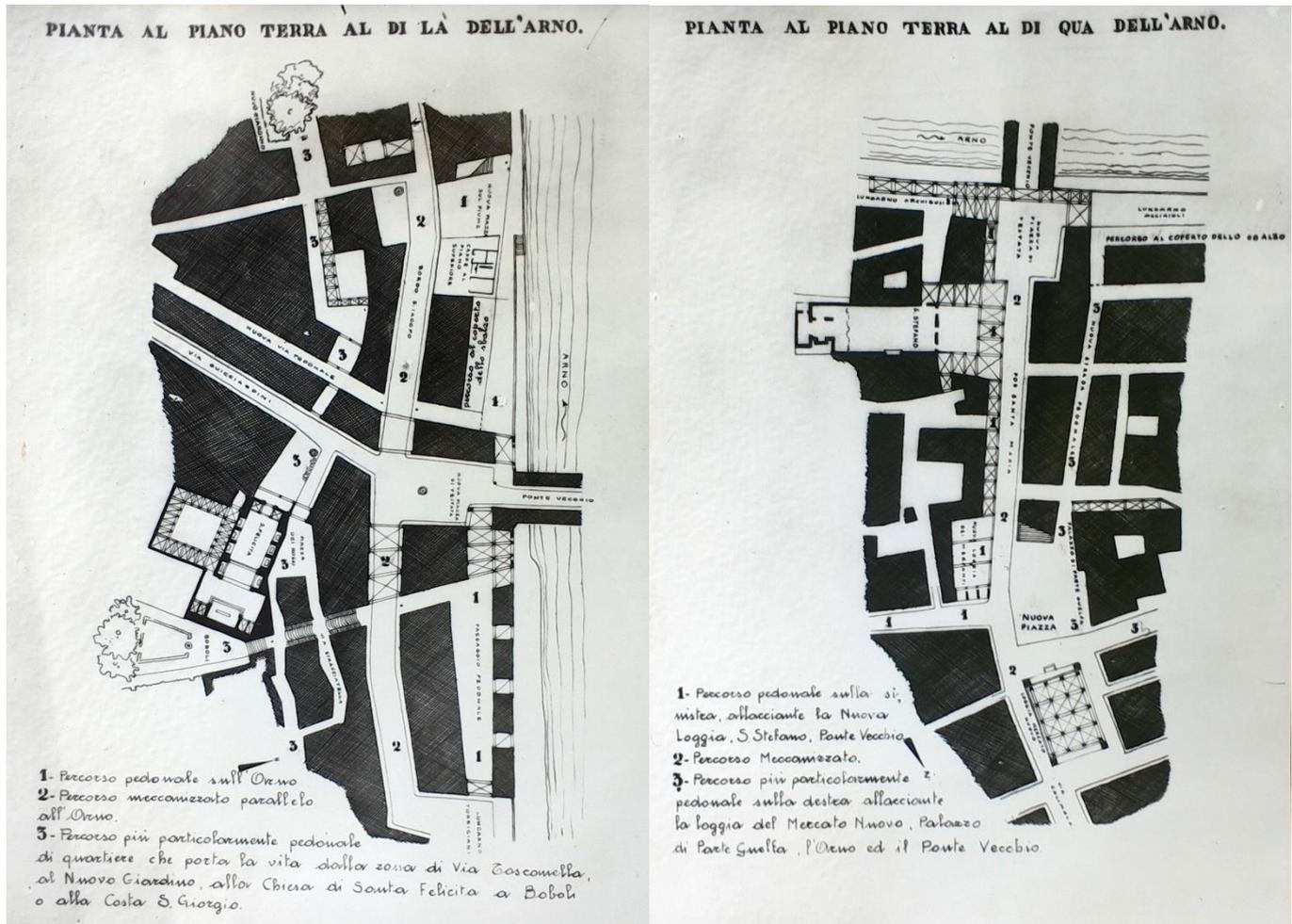
The project linked Por Santa Maria road to Guicciardini road through the connection offered by the preexistence of Ponte Vecchio. Two building blocks grafted the bridge to the two banks, on which two closed and covered squares opened on each side. In Casa Studio Ricci archive there are many drawings of the final project and a short report, which states that «the pedestrian path on the upper level (the first floor of the

---

<sup>65</sup> The complete corpus of bibliographic resources on the covered market in Pescia is:

“Caratteristiche di un progetto architettonico in uno scenario luminoso. Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *Il Nuovo Corriere*, February 13, 1949; “Il Mercato dei fiori. Cinque fiorentini vincono il Concorso di Pescia”, *La Nazione Italiana*, February 13, 1949; “La Piazza dei fiori. L'erigendo mercato e le case che gli faranno corona”, *La Nazione Italiana*, February 13, 1949; Roberto Papini, «La Nazione Italiana». *Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia*, January 21, 1951; “Inaugurato a Pescia il nuovo mercato ortoflorofrutticolo”, *La Nazione Italiana*, June 4, 1951; Paolo Nestler, *Neuesbauen in Italien: Architettura moderna in Italia*. Verlag Georg D. W. Callwey. Munchen, 1954; A. Villalonga, “Mercado de legumbres, flores y frutas en Pescia, Italia, Y.E. Gori, G. Gori, L. Ricci and L. Savioli, archt.; Mercado general y de exportación de frutas y legumbres en Arezzo, Franco Carpanelli, archt.; Mercado cubierto en Riccione, Italy, B. Travaglini, archt 35”, *Revista de Arquitectura (Buenos Aires)*, no. 345 (September, 1951): 291-98; “Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *Architetti*, n. 20 (1954); “Cinque fiorentini premiati all'Esposizione internazionale di architettura a San Paolo in Brasile”, *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936*, no. 4 (1954); “Presentazione del mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *Architectural Forum*, no. 7 (1954); R. Musatti, “Mercato a Pescia”, *Tecnica e organizzazione*, no. 14 (1954): 39-43; “Premio dal Brasile a cinque fiorentini”, *La Nazione Italiana*, January 29, 1954; “Premiati a San Paolo gli architetti del Mercato dei fiori di Pescia”, *Il Giornale del Mattino*, January 29, 1954; “I premi della II esposizione internazionale di architettura, alla II Biennale del Museo d'Arte Moderna di San Paolo”, *Domus*, no. 291 (febbraio 1954): 43; “Deuxième Biennale d'architecture de Sao-Paulo. Les Prix”, *L'architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 52 (juin-février 1954); “I vincitori dei Premi Napoli”, *La Nazione Italiana*, November 4, 1954; Ernesto Nathan Rogers, “Il mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *Casabella-continuità*, no. 209 (February, 1956): 28-33; “Proclamati a Napoli i vincitori dei premi per la letteratura e l'arte”, *Il Mattino*, November 4, 1956; “Nell'aula De Sanctis dell'Università la solenne cerimonia della consegna dei “Premi Napoli”, *Il Mattino*, November 12, 1956; Gillo Dorfles, *L'architettura moderna: serie saper tutto* (Milano: Garzanti, 1956); Emilio Brizzi, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Ricci and Leonardo Savioli, “Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *La Provincia e il Comune*, no. 2 (1957); “Le marché aux fleurs à Pescia. Italie”, *Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 70 (February-March, 1957): 78-79; Giulio Carlo Argan and Ernesto Nathan Rogers, “Dibattito su alcuni argomenti morali dell'architettura: Il mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *Casabella Continuità*, no. 209 (February, 1958): 28-30; Roberto Aloï, “Mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, in *Mercati e Negozi* (Milano: Hoepli, 1959); Juergen Joedicke, *Storia dell'architettura moderna* (Firenze: Sansoni, 1960); Creighton, “The involved man: Leonardo Ricci”, 144-51; Francesco Gurrieri, “Un bilancio culturale per l'architettura del nuovo mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *Necropoli*, no. 11-12 (October-November-December, 1970): 5-28; Francesco Gurrieri, “Reticoli in tensione: nuova mercato dei fiori di Pescia”, *Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 8-9 (August-September, 1981): 454-465; Caterina Cardamone, “Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia”, *La Nuova Città*, no. 5/6 (December, 1999): 85-91; Fabio Fabbrizzi, “Lo spazio gonfiante del Mercato dei Fiori di Pescia una interpretazione”, *Firenze Architettura*, no. 1-2 (2014): 110-17.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

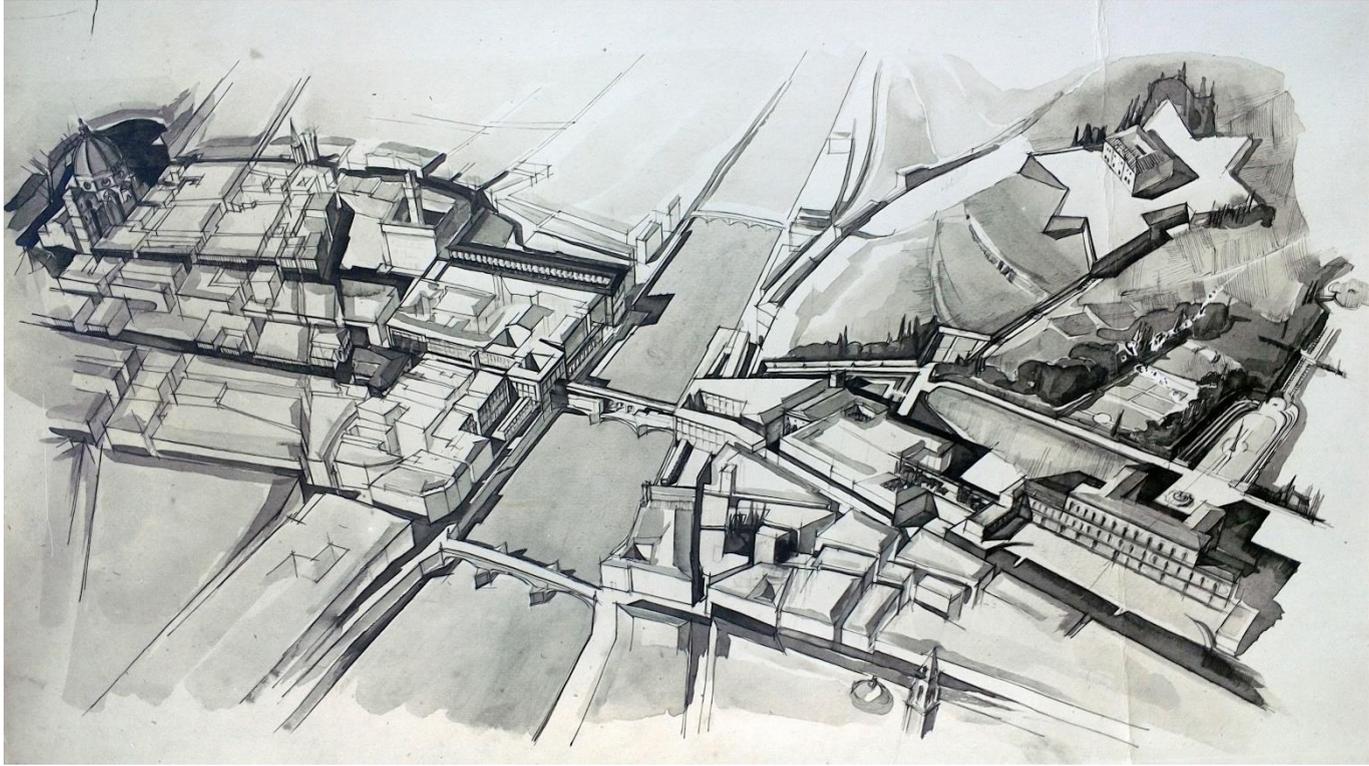


1.11 - 1.12: "Firenze sul Fiume", plan for the reconstruction of the destroyed area in the neighborhood of Ponte Vecchio, national competition for the reconstruction of the center of Florence (1946), tables of the projects, Casa Studio Ricci.

buildings) was planned organically, it was not fragmented or devoid of meaning. It originates from the sorting node of the new square on which it faces the Palazzo di Parte Guelfa, crosses the Arno on the roof of the Vasari Corridor, suitably arranged as a terrace, along the two elevated paths on the Arno at the end of which there is a staircase and ends at the opposite junction at the end of via Guicciardini. Furthermore, as can be clearly seen from the graphs, a direct connection has been provided, from the roof of the Ponte Vecchio, through the Gallery of the new head building, with the Boboli Gardens. So that from the Loggia del Mercato Nuovo it is possible, with organic connections, to go to the Boboli Gardens without going down to the mechanized traffic floor<sup>66</sup>».

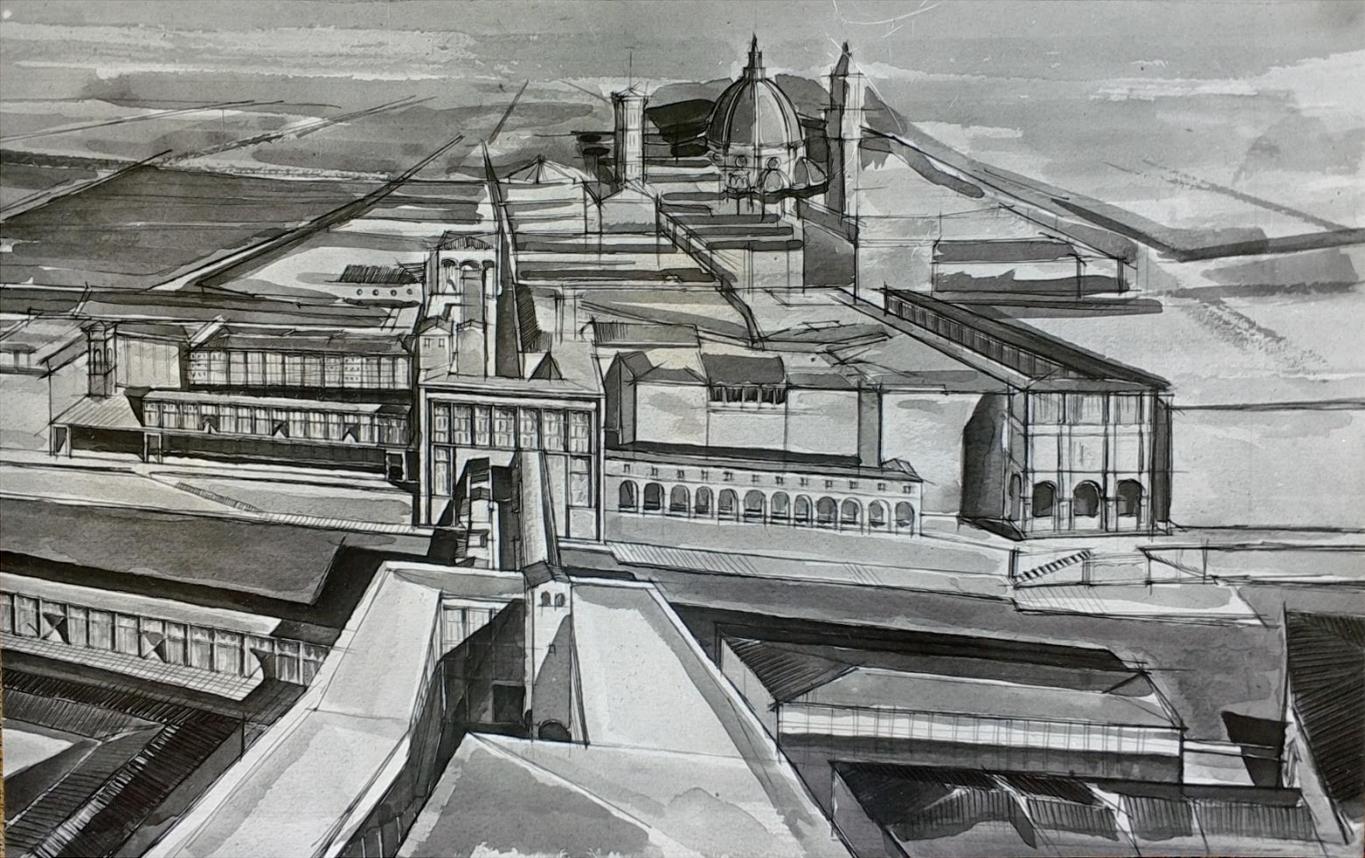
<sup>66</sup> Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Enzo Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi and Leonardo Ricci, report of the project "Firenze sul Fiume" for the reconstruction of the center of Florence (1946), Casa Studio Ricci.

Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.



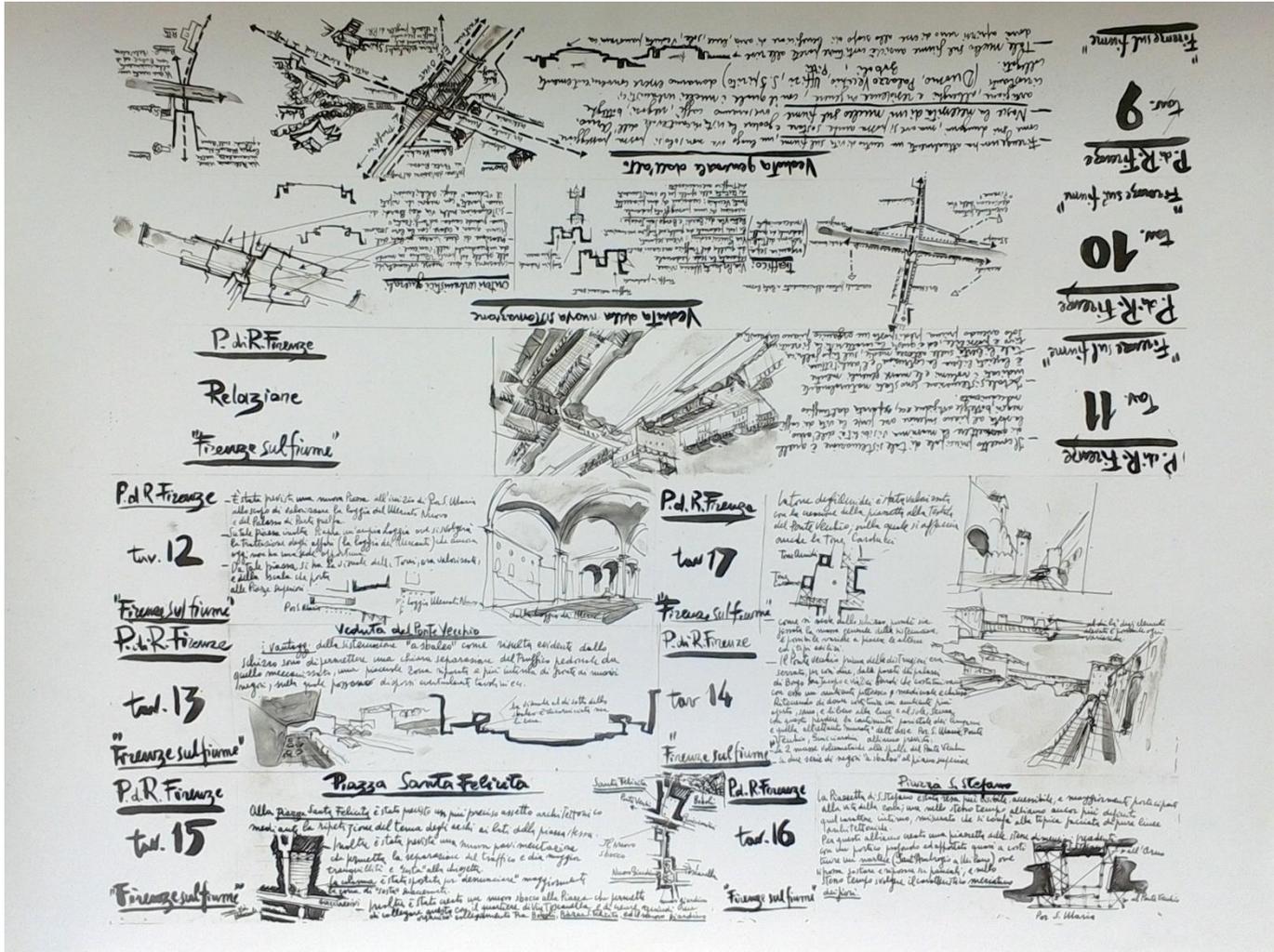
1.13: "Firenze sul Fiume", plan for the reconstruction of the destroyed area in the neighborhood of Ponte Vecchio, national competition for the reconstruction of the center of Florence (1946), sketch, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



1.14: "Firenze sul Fiume", plan for the reconstruction of the destroyed area in the neighborhood of Ponte Vecchio, national competition for the reconstruction of the center of Florence (1946), sketch, Casa Studio Ricci.

Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.



1.15: "Firenze sul Fiume", plan for the reconstruction of the destroyed area in the neighborhood of Ponte Vecchio, national competition for the reconstruction of the center of Florence (1946), tables of the project, Casa Studio Ricci.



## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

started: it connected the Nuova Loggia to the Mercato Nuovo, Palazzo di Parte Guelfa, the Arno river and Ponte Vecchio. On the Lungarno Acciaiuoli, Leonardo Ricci was responsible for redesigning and reworking the medieval facade of the buildings destined to be converted into a hotel in a modern key. Ricci inserted an elevated path that run along the entire first floor of the facade on the Arno, which however was not be included in the executive project.

The modernism of the project was not appreciated by the press and the culture of the time. The only appreciations derived from the recognition of the unity and coherence of the project, and among them also Luigi Piccinato who however criticized the elevations, because they concealed Brunelleschi's dome and were not consistent with the theme<sup>68</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci and his colleagues designed a large-scale intervention, unitarian and monumental, aimed at redesigning new spaces for the social life, either private or public: they were already working in urban design on the first macrostructure, as Reyner Banham would have then defined Ponte Vecchio<sup>69</sup>.

---

<sup>68</sup> Luigi Piccinato, "Ricostruire Firenze", *Metron*, no. 16 (1947): 8-32.

<sup>69</sup> Reyner Banham, *Megastructure: Urban Futures of the Recent Past* (London: Thames and Hudson ltd, 1976), 10.



1.17: "Firenze sul Fiume", plan for the reconstruction of the destroyed area in the neighborhood of Ponte Vecchio, national competition for the reconstruction of the center of Florence (1946), sketch by Leonardo Ricci of the project for the elevation on the Arno River "Lungarno Acciaiuoli", Casa Studio Ricci.

Halfway between Lucca and Pistoia, the town of Pescia held a competition and chose Ricci, Savioli, Brizzi and Gori's project for its flowers market. Kidder Smith described the building as «a soaring scalloped shell of concrete, poised lightly on its lateral supports, hover like a great umbrella weightlessly and effortlessly over its seventy-five feet span. There was a pared-to-the bone statement in its expression (essential expression), a sculptured refinement in its shape.

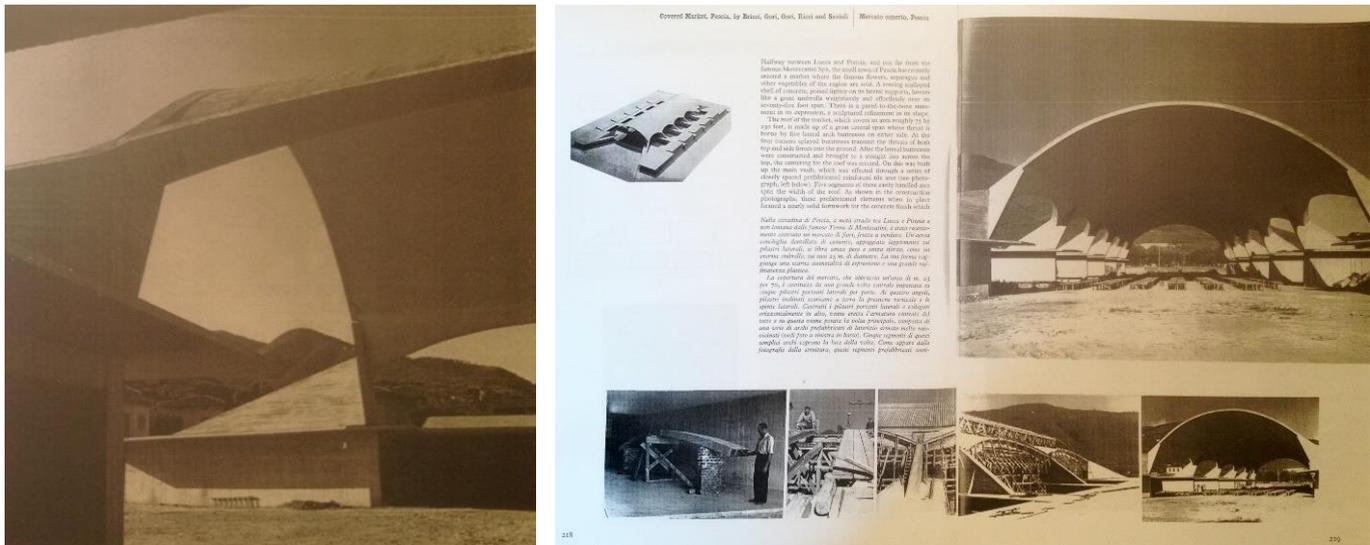
The roof of the market, which covered an area roughly 75 by 230 feet, is made up of a central span whose thrust is borne by five lateral arch buttresses on either side. At the four corners splayed pillars transmit the thrust of both top and side forces into the ground. After the lateral buttresses were constructed and brought to a straight line across the top, the centering for the roof was erected. On this was built up the main vault, which was effected

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

through a series of closely spaced prefabricated reinforced tile arcs. Five segments of these easily handled arcs span the width of the roof. As shown in the construction photographs, these prefabricated elements, when in place, formed a nearly solid formwork for the concrete finish which was applied to top and bottom to make the roof and buttressing homogeneous and weather-tight.

An elaborate test model made of celluloid and weighted to scale was constructed to prove the calculations of the design. The use in Italy of prefabricated reinforced hollow-tile beams was becoming increasingly popular and was widely used even for floor slabs.

The plan was extremely simple and it consisted only of the large covered marketing area, left open for ventilation, with administration, toilet facilities and storage stalls for the merchants on either side<sup>70</sup>».



1.18 - 1.19: Flowers covered Market of Pescia, images published in George Everard Kidder Smith, *Italy Builds* (New York: Reinholds Publishing co., 1955), 218, 219-221; 1.27, 1.28: Flowers covered Market of Pescia, images published in *Casabella*, no. 209 (1956): 28 and table B.

Ten years later Leonardo Ricci realized another project for a covered market with a completely different structure: the Flowers Covered Market in Sanremo (1959). The design program of the flowers markets was particularly consistent with Ricci's intention to design common public spaces, like those of the bridges, that involved the design of entire city pieces useful to host the usual citizens' life flow.

Ricci elaborated two versions of this project, which unfortunately, for political and bureaucratic reasons, despite receiving the approval of the municipal administration, was not realized. The two versions were mainly documented by two models, which were published on the specialized journals but are not present in the archive, that allow to see how, unlike the project for the Pescia Flower Market, the center was an integral part of a complex that was to include an underground garage, a two-storey trading room, a tower (with the offices related to the market activities and with the post, telegraph, telephone, bank, daily hotel, and Phytopatologic Center),

<sup>70</sup> Kidder George Everard Smith, *Italy Builds* (New York: Reinholds Publishing co., 1955), 218-221.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

and a series of boxes for the preparation of shipments, all included within a single block of steps built with frames. This structure developed thanks to the precious collaboration with the engineers Ezio Bienaimè, Gianfranco Petrelli, Adriano Agostini, Ettore Villaggio, Carlo Bettio and Giacomo Frediani, provided for a thin corrugated steel structure with twenty support points, pyramidal in the first version and trestle in the second. «It developed from the main body of the covered market and had to allow uninterrupted flow of the public from the upper street to the roof. The structure of the bargaining hall was made up of trestles ending in twenty points on which the steel-covered roof laid with a free span of 50 meters and a length of 88 meters. The tiered building of the boxes is completely suspended in the frame so that the movement of the public flowed uninterrupted from the upper street to the terraced roof of the trading room<sup>71</sup>».

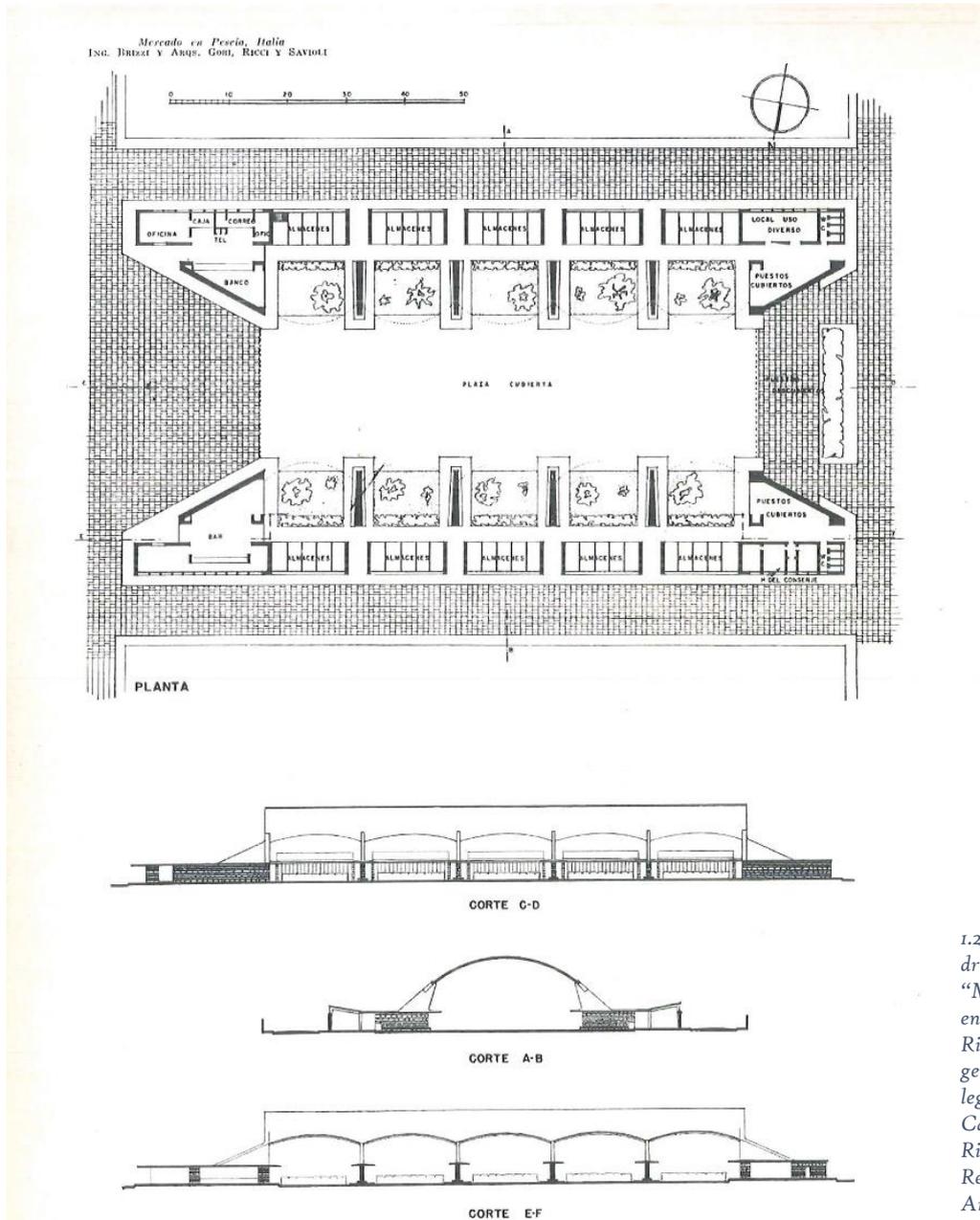
---

<sup>71</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Progetto per il mercato dei fiori a Sanremo”, *Domus*, no. 354 (May, 1959): 21.

The complete corpus of bibliographic resources on the covered market in Sanremo is:

“Presentato ed illustrato dai progettisti il bozzetto del nuovo “Centro dei Fiori””, *Il Nuovo Cittadino*, April 19, 1959; “Il progetto del nuovo mercato dei fiori”, *Il Lavoro Nuovo*, April 19, 1959; “Un “centro dei fiori” sarà costruito a Sanremo”, *Secolo XIX*, April 19, 1959; “Il nuovo “centro dei fiori” pronto fra due anni a Sanremo”, *La Stampa*, April 19, 1959; “Scale per quindicimila. Sette scale tre ascensori”, *L'Eco della Riviera*, April 19, 1959; “Progettato a Sanremo un ‘centro dei fiori’”, *Il Corriere della Sera*, April 19, 1959; Erino Sanvenero, “Un edificio modernissimo ospiterà il mercato dei fiori”, *Gazzetta del Popolo*, April 19, 1959; “Un moderno ‘Centro dei Fiori’ a Sanremo”, *24 Ore*, April 19, 1959; Giannetto Beniscelli, “Il ‘Centro dei fiori’ sarà costruito a Sanremo”, *Il Secolo XIX*, April 21, 1959; Erino Sanvenero, “Il ‘Centro dei fiori’ di Sanremo risolverà uno dei problemi cittadini”, *Gazzetta del Popolo*, April 21, 1959; R. J. Saladini di Rovetino, “Il ‘Centro dei fiori’ illustrato dai progettisti”, *L'Eco della Riviera*, April 23, 1959; Piero Olivieri, “Grandioso progetto per il centro dei fiori a Sanremo”, *L'Unità*, April 24, 1959; Maria Rossi, “Fiori per oltre nove miliardi ogni anno alla Riviera pel mondo”, *Stampa Sera*, April 25, 1959; “Si avvia alla realizzazione il Centro dei Fiori di Sanremo”, *Il Sole*, May 8, 1959; “Progetto per il mercato dei fiori a Sanremo. Casa all'Isola d'Elba”, *Domus*, no. 354 (May 1959): 21-24.

Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.



1.20: Mercato dei Fiori di Pesca, drawings published on A. Villalonga, "Mercado de legumbres, flores y frutas en Pesca, Italia, Y.E. Gori, G. Gori, L. Ricci and L. Savioli, archt.; Mercado general y de exportación de frutas y legumbres en Arezzo, Franco Carpanelli, archt.; Mercado cubierto en Riccione, Italy, B. Travaglini, archt.", Revista de Arquitectura (Buenos Aires). 35, no.345 (September 1951): 292.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

According to Fabio Fabbrizzi, the Florentine architectural culture developed a set of visions, approaches, projects, and achievements that can be recognized in the common trait of variability, understood as a sort of happy attitude to the Florentine planning that is recognized above all in the figure of Giovanni Michelucci or as a constant that has always characterized the identity, the figurative and compositional character of Florence.

Fabbrizzi pointed out that the idea of variability in Florence seemed to be a latent but strong component, which was added to the more common ones of the contingencies of space, to the constructive, technological, economic, political, geometric, symbolic, and proportional aspects, with the function of highlighting the complexity of the relationships between all the categories in play, therefore their connections, links, and dialogues. To Fabbrizzi, on this theme, Michelucci had brought this teaching: the importance of variability in the construction of the city and in the relationships that led to the construction. To him, according to Ricci's master, and Ricci after him, it was life flow and human exchanges that constituted the vital beat on which the growth of a city was set and, with it, its capacity for self-generation. The city was a palimpsest on which different histories and traditions had been stratified, each expression and translation of precise relationships that had created the whole (the body, the substance, and the essence of their different images). For this reason, the architect had to be aware that the past revealed the traces and the conditions to legitimize the future work<sup>72</sup>. The past conveyed forms that became the starting point for future planning<sup>73</sup>.

Michelucci and Ricci were interested in working on an "architecture able to welcome", the only one that considered the relationships and that was based on the dynamics between the different parts, offering severely the indispensable to its own functioning. Michelucci possessed and transmitted to his students the human dimension of architecture that took into account all the disciplines that regulated reality, to him only in this way space could be read and composed. With these assumptions he dedicated himself to his idea of rebuilding the areas surrounding Ponte Vecchio after the mines burst in 1944 and formulated his ideas for "La Nuova Città" ["the New City"], as he also titled the journal he directed. In the same climate, Leonardo Savioli also elaborated the corpus of drawings for "La Città Ideale" ["The Ideal City"]<sup>74</sup>, choosing the part of Florence beyond Ponte Vecchio that joined the hill as a place of design experimentation.

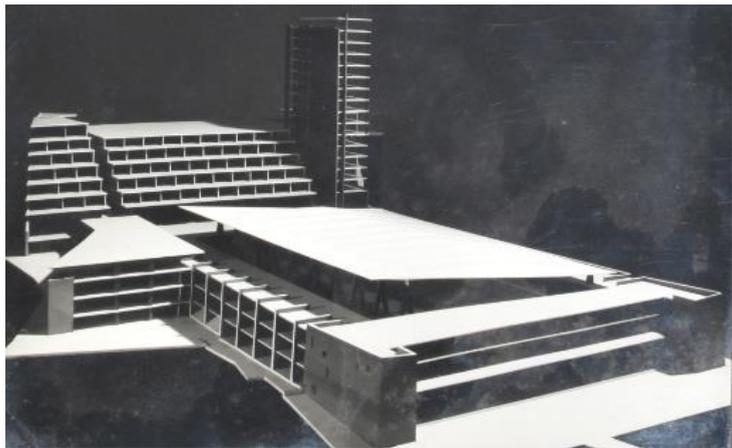
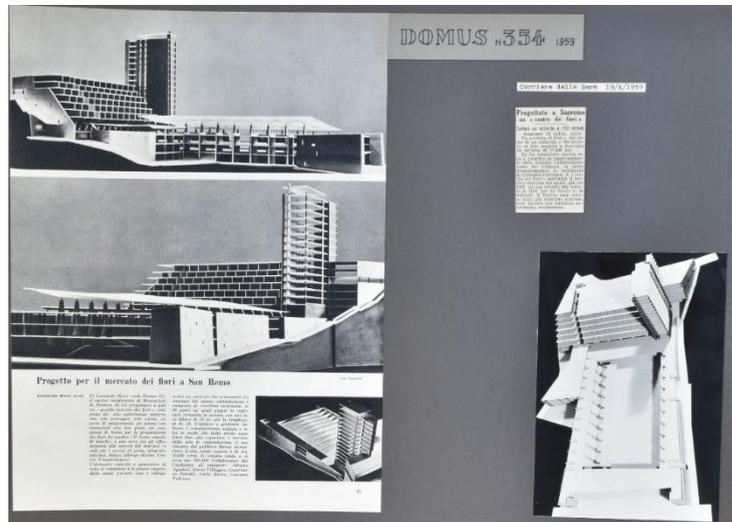
---

<sup>72</sup> Fabio Fabbrizzi, *Giovanni Michelucci. Lo spazio che accoglie* (Firenze: Edifir, 2015).

<sup>73</sup> Michelucci knew that the city was changeable because every day it had to face and be compared to the life of its inhabitants and therefore, only starting from the memory, it had to be able to preserve its figurativeness over time, despite the changes. «In this sense, he [understood] how Florence [represented] an emblematic case and [represented] it for two different reasons. The first, precisely, because of a use that we could define as "historical" of the various relationships as a possible basis for its urban and architectural planning, the second instead, due to its rare ability to set up just through them, not just its own figurative character, but also a real narrative about the world». Fabbrizzi, *Giovanni Michelucci*, 8.

<sup>74</sup> Leonardo Savioli, *Ipotesi di Spazio*, introduction by Leonardo Ricci (Firenze: Giglio & Garisenda, 1972); Piero Albinetti, ed., *La città ideale nei disegni di Leonardo Savioli. Incontro-Intervista con Leonardo Ricci: oltre Firenze, con interventi di Leonardo Ricci, Ludovico Quaroni* (Firenze: Il Ponte, 1986); Alberto Donti, ed., "Leonardo Savioli e Leonardo Ricci", in *Architetture per la nuova città, esperienze a confronto* (Firenze: Alinea, 1992). Zevi, "Tra i due Leonardi fiorentini", 42.

Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.



1.21 - 1.22: Mercato dei Fiori in Sanremo, models, images from Domus, no. 354 (May 1959): 21-24, "Logbook" n. 4 (1959-1963), page 129, Casa Studio Ricci.

### 1.4. Ricci and his master: a detachment that does not exist. From “La Nuova Città” to the *City of the Earth*

I tried to 'teach' my alleged disciples more the art of 'detachment' than the chain of 'awe'.

That is, I tried to identify in each one, and in you in particular, the elements of diversity [...] capable of favoring the development of a new identity. Faced with this personality of yours, this surprising youth of yours, I could not have done otherwise. In this way a love has matured that, over the years, has overcome any detachment ... Perhaps in this sense we have worked together all our life<sup>75</sup>.

During the work under Giovanni Michelucci's guide, Leonardo Ricci learnt some of the cardinal principles of his way of working he would have never abandoned. Despite Giovanni Michelucci wanted to teach the “art of the detachment”, as he called the teaching to give his students the correct tools to design and work on architecture, there are several common points in Leonardo Ricci and his master's theory on architecture, work, and life that help us understand Ricci's American transfer that led him from the existential view on architecture, to the conception of the city as an “open work” and collective work of art by means of the “form-act” design method.

Firstly, the search for the truth, which made it put in the background the first formal research because it was the only way to achieve beauty. Thanks to Michelucci's teachings Ricci got used to observe the human dimension, the man, his movements, his feelings as the only lines to be followed in the design of the space. Following this basic principle Michelucci used the section as the only design tool that, unlike the plan, elevations, and perspective, could manage the complexity of human actions. «Only through the section the different urban cavities resolved by overlapping different life plans, can unfold in all their spatial complexity and show their adherence to the different implications that underlie it<sup>76</sup>».

The “variable city” of Michelucci<sup>77</sup>, matured in the sketches for the reconstruction of the “screaming ruins” of the areas around Ponte Vecchio, sought a spatiality of a medieval matrix devoid of any rule other than spontaneity or function so that the city was the continuation of the interiors of a building and presented the same vital characteristics in a general continuity of relationships and internality. The construction of the city thus became the construction of relationships or their “shaping” according to principles disconnected from formal matrices. Fabio Fabbrizzi wrote that, in Michelucci's conception of variability, «the shape of the city becomes dictated by the ‘solidification’ of flows, connections, visual relationships, the different life plans that relate planimetrically and altimetrically to form a physical and conceptual continuity, between the space of the outside and that of the internal. This putting the relationships and their dialogue at the base of the project, changes also the usual vision of the form, no longer obtained by conditioning of culture, power or style, but built by the physical realization of all the immaterial components that contribute to define it. The city will therefore be variable, as variables will be the infinite and changing relations necessary to form it. In this vision the city is assimilated to the building and the building to the city in a reciprocity that expresses the pulsation of a life that

---

<sup>75</sup> Giovanni Michelucci's words about Leonardo Ricci. Letter by Michelucci published in Antonio Nardi, ed., *Leonardo Ricci, Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci* (Pistoia: Edizioni del Comune di Pistoia, 1984), 7.

<sup>76</sup> Fabbrizzi, *Giovanni Michelucci*, 18.

<sup>77</sup> Giovanni Michelucci, “La città variabile”, *La Nuova Città*, no. 13 (January 1954).

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

seems to be the origin, the measure and the purpose of every question<sup>78</sup>». Therefore, the aim of the project was no longer the result but the way to get to the result<sup>79</sup>.

From the master's teaching and expressionist vision of the city also Ricci's conception of architecture that was itself a city emerged. Indeed, this was the reason why Ricci approached the design of "architecture at urban scale", as he several times named his idea of architecture, especially in his unpublished book *Città della Terra*<sup>80</sup>. As Leonardo Savioli, Leonardo Ricci elaborated his own idea of future city, in line with his master's idea of "new city" hosting the change and the flow of life, intended as the best way to follow the path of truth in design.

Fabio Fabbrizzi wrote that «This [took] place through the urban-scale planning dimension, deepened in some examples of residential units, which gradually [introduced], in their theoretical and relational registers, the delicate but very effective passage from building to structure and organism. An organism whose structure [became] the supporting matrix of every reasoning on variability, becoming also the only fixed point within a paradigm by its nature predisposed to transformation. On an urban and territorial scale, the idea of the matrix sign [became] "macro", settling around the need to regulate, control and in many cases express and translate, the same idea of modification within a set of predetermined limits<sup>81</sup>». Hence, not only the idea of designing architecture starting from the human dimension, but also Ricci's projects for macrostructures came from Michelucci's concept of variability, an idea that embodied the purpose of a new design founded on the past but that looked to the future<sup>82</sup>.

In Michelucci's itinerary the constructiveness-tradition was always present as a compositional term alongside the classicism. In his own thought he resolved the tension generated between these two elements with the "choral" work, which Michelucci identified with the collective and collaborative construction site work that also allowed him to bring architecture back to "happiness", the happiness of participation in the work. In Michelucci's work there was already a tension between opposites that was a constant in Ricci's work as well.

The attention to tradition was not just a paradigm of Michelucci's work, but it was common to the entire Florentine School.

In *Architettura in Toscana 1931-1968* Giovanni Klaus Koenig explained the importance of conceiving the interior space of a building in relation to the outside space, which represented a strong character of Florentine architecture that recognized the prevalence of the full over the void<sup>83</sup>. This principle was translated into the ability to

---

<sup>78</sup> Fabbrizzi, *Giovanni Michelucci*, 20.

<sup>79</sup> This project method could, however, mistake in dealing with infrastructural rather than architectural dynamics: the history of a place therefore became necessary, it had not to be confined to the image conveyed by the memory but to understand the essence that that image managed to tell. The building became an inserted piece of the city that hosted the relationships of this, as an irreplaceable part of it, with the intentions that arose from the translation in constructive and architectural terms, of the suggestions that came to Michelucci from the icon of the arboreal metaphor.

<sup>80</sup> See chapter 5, paragraph 5.7.

<sup>81</sup> Fabbrizzi, *Giovanni Michelucci*, 42.

<sup>82</sup> Behind the popular neighborhood of Sorgane there was the city-building contamination that led to the macrostructure of the Sixties, when Le Corbusier had developed the Unité d'habitation and the Japanese Metabolists proposed new urban configurations managed by macro signs that are the guidelines of new order relations. See chapter 5, paragraph 5.1.

<sup>83</sup> «When, in fact, at the beginning of the 1930s the Florentine culture took over the 'cultural' direction of its own School of Architecture, the same concept of tradition, which already contained the evolution of a historicism of Crociani origin,

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

recognize the importance of an internal space with respect to the formal "silence" of an external space and therefore into the recognition of the wall as a unifying element, the connection and transition element between the city and the countryside, the mediation tool between architecture and the territory. This last aspect anticipated the study of the links and the reciprocity between the natural and built environment constituting the environmental pre-existence as a whole.

Giovanni Michelucci and Leonardo Ricci would have never recognized certain references for their work or their work as given and absolute, both had never assigned absolute values to their work<sup>84</sup> because they had always questioned their results in the name of new research projects. In this way, not even the authorship of the projects was definitively recognized by both, in the hope of reaching the anonymity of the architect who disappeared in front of his work in favor of those who could have used and enjoyed it. This was Michelucci's strongest teaching for Leonardo Ricci.

The propensity to doubt belonged as much to the teacher as to the student but consisted in the desire to always explore different ways, to rethink what had been done in function of an opening towards a reality in constant transformation. In this way both architects had the opportunity to dive in the concrete reality of architecture, capturing the contradictory aspects and being influenced by them to modify, and improve, their way of working. They made it a reason for living and a single granitic certainty by accepting one's condition as a human being, subjected to change and finding a detachment from reality with a view to renewal. For this reason, both Michelucci and Ricci's architectural thinking were open and underwent continual changes to adapt to the different human spaces and reject the classification in currents, trends.

This [was] his great lesson. Not that it [was] an easy road. The road to continuous doubting is a painful road, often made up of renunciations, of ending in isolation, of that apparent failure to conclude that the practical men and modernist rationalists [had] so much horror [...] This profound love not only for architecture but for life, to the things of life, this continuous desire for research and renewal, this feeling of the precise justification of every element that [was] constructed, this investigating the intrinsic structure of the materials. This is what, above all, Michelucci taught me<sup>85</sup>

The inconstant and difficult relationship with the master Giovanni Michelucci was reflected in Ricci's relationship with Florence, which was not his hometown, but the place where he lived longer. A homeland that

---

diverted most of the time in the bombastic rhetoric of fascist styles, turns unexpectedly direction, assuming a more autonomous and at the same time innovative connotation in the architecture debate.

In fact, the concept of tradition tends to decline to the equally broad concept of place, composing itself in the meanings of context, of environment, of landscape, of cities, to which a pivotal role is assigned in the interpretative operations that can be triggered around working on these aspects. Thus, the idea that a tradition is not only identified by the characteristics of the building but by the link between the building and around, or among the many relationships that can be established between the building and the surrounding environment, is consolidated in the Florentine design culture.

The place thus becomes, in this vision, a serene and recognizable "Tuscan", which is identified, described, and engraved through its main architectural features. The character of a place then is a dosage that is measured on the surprising exchange of artistic emergencies, local traditions, and landscape conditions, so the balance between order and freedom; between free nature and the organized nature of the countryside surrounding architecture». Koenig, *Architettura in Toscana 1931-1968*, 6.

<sup>84</sup> Franco Borsi, *Michelucci. Il linguaggio dell'architettura*, (Roma: Officina, 1979), 76-79, 283-285.

<sup>85</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Michelucci attraverso un suo lavoro", *Architetti*, no. 18-19 (1953): 14.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

gave him so much and that let him discover his vocation for architecture, to which he recognized an important cultural debt, but which at the same time left him deeply dissatisfied from the professional point of view in several moments of his career.

The relationship with Michelucci remained marked by removals and rapprochements, but the strongest setback happened when the attempt to collaborate in the project for the Palace of Justice in Florence (1977) failed and already known misunderstandings, recriminations and incompatibilities became more manifest.

Gifted with a strong temperament, a combative character and a creative instinct, Ricci kept himself away from the "official" events of the city due to the incomprehension, mistrust, ostracism of the local authorities, the indifference of the Florentine cultural and academic world convinced him to remain in the home-studio of Monterinaldi. Florence gave to Ricci and Michelucci a similar treatment: the town seemed not to accept Ricci's linguistic "heresies" and was not generous towards his teacher because of the culture subjected to bourgeois power, which relegated it to a role of consumerist city and provincial<sup>86</sup>.

The same relationship that Leonardo Ricci weaved with his own works was also established with his master.

In the design debut of each relevant and innovative work, not an academic fruit or a tribute to tradition or style exercises, a rational, scientific, objective component [coexisted] and [cooperated] so much that it [could] be codified and transmitted as a common language and a mysterious, direct component of which we [ignored] the origin and that very often we [were] not able to control. Of an architecture, I would say almost, that we partly [possessed] and that we [were] partly possessed of<sup>87</sup>.

According to Corinna Vasić Vatovec, with these words Ricci described the architectural project as the result of a complex process consisting of rational and irrational components, in which the architect was inevitably involved without having the opportunity to understand and dominate the psychological or conceptual reasons or implications that ended up absorbing him completely<sup>88</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci, in his relationship with his master, was dominated by the same contrasts both in the personal and in the public sphere on the occasion of their rare collaborations after the first formative period (projects of the bridges; the internal transformation and furnishing design of the center and didactical national center of Palazzo Gerini in Florence with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, 1941; and the interior and furnishing design of the Termini Ventura House in Florence, 1942) such as the urban plan of Sorgane (1957) and the project for the Palazzo di Giustizia of Novoli (1977). It had been a constant for the lives of both as evidenced by the letters kept in Monterinaldi archive and in Michelucci Foundation.

Ricci and Michelucci had two similar and opposite personalities at the same time: similar because talented, creative, and solitary, restless, and always in search of renewal, but inserted in a world full of important cultural relations. On the contrary, they were opposed in the relationship with the others: the most introverted, enigmatic, and reserved teacher of a more extroverted, vital, and nonconformist student.

---

<sup>86</sup> Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 57.

<sup>87</sup> Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 36.

<sup>88</sup> Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 75.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

In some letters kept in Ricci's personal archive in Monterinaldi Ricci praised and emphasized his love for the master, while in others he described him as an «elusive, perhaps ambiguous, character for this modern». On one hand Ricci saw Michelucci as a father, counselor and protector, the master that taught him the mystery of architecture, but on the other hand he was «the ironic and irreconcilable enemy» from which, he confessed, he had developed a sort of psychological dependence<sup>89</sup>.

What is extremely important to understand Leonardo Ricci's work is that the educational method of Giovanni Michelucci aimed to achieve the maximum degree of freedom from the student, who did not have to recognize a single teacher, nor recognize himself as such<sup>90</sup>. He was convinced that the teaching of architectural composition was "a nonsense" and that the teaching did not consist in guiding the students towards precise choices of taste or language, but rather in teaching them the profession of the architect, therefore, to train them from the intellectual, moral, and technical point of view to further develop a process of self-criticism towards their work. To achieve these goals the knowledge of history, the priority of the moral request of the project, the interdisciplinary interests, the dialogue with the students, were all presuppositions for which, despite he did not accept it, Michelucci could be considered a true master.

I was a disciple, assistant, and collaborator of Giovanni Michelucci. I don't know exactly what Michelucci taught me, but he was a master [...] this statement might seem to be in contrast with what I wrote *Anonymous (20th century)*, of which a chapter is entitled "Farewell masters; farewell geniuses". But since the word "master" is still used for many architects, I cannot but use it for Michelucci. Michelucci didn't teach me a 'style'. He taught me love for architecture, because matter, because it is art that turns into space that contains it. I worked with him for a few years. If we had been in the Renaissance, perhaps we would have worked together all our life<sup>91</sup>.

The teacher and the student had certainly shared a life of teaching and work, it would be interesting to compare their teaching methods as well as their architectural works to understand in depth how far the detachment Michelucci wanted to teach their students had really occurred and how much their relationship was inseparable. Both architects brought their culture and their experiences into their work, their positions could also be defined as complementary in the common investigation on the existence and possibilities of new related ways of life, on the human dimension that constituted the starting point of their projects. According to Corinna Vasić Vatovec «the priority of the ethical commitment of the project to reach a verification of the relationships between life and the architectural or urban reality, which Michelucci [recommended] and [wanted] to testify with his work, [was] integrated by Ricci with his existentialist 'côté' and with the theme, of Hegelian origin, of the 'alienation'<sup>92</sup> by orienting research on alternative, non-alienated conditions of being and therefore of living<sup>93</sup>».

---

<sup>89</sup> Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 75.

<sup>90</sup> Giovanni Michelucci, *L'insegnamento dell'architettura. Intervento conclusivo al Convegno dei docenti delle facoltà italiane d'Architettura*, October 1947, quoted in Borsi, *Giovanni Michelucci. Il linguaggio dell'architettura*, 283-285.

<sup>91</sup> Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 36.

<sup>92</sup> To deepen see the typescript volume *Ricerche per un'urbanistica non alienata. Prof. Dott. Arch. Leonardo Ricci e gruppo di ricerca dell'Istituto di Elementi di composizione architettonica della Facoltà di Architettura dell'Università di Firenze*, s.d. [around 1964-1965], Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>93</sup> Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 81.

## Contacts between Italy and the U.S.A. in the postwar period from 1945 to 1960s.

Leonardo Ricci merged his own experiences and feelings, which he poured into an intense dialogue with the students, with the clear intention of involving them to convey the importance of social participation in solving architectural problems. Both in Italy and abroad his students remembered him precisely for his teaching method<sup>94</sup>, undoubtedly affected by Michelucci's teaching, and, more in detail, for his involvement in the season of the protest of 1968. Ricci was close to the students of the left, he exposed himself as their interlocutor, always declaring his independence of judgment and contesting the model of a socialist city that considered the outcome of an authoritarian design and not the expression of the community values in which he believed. On the return journey from the visit to the Chiesa di San Pietro e Gerolamo in Collina Ricci stated:

Which architects had really taught me something, and I must admit that, at least for me, the one I learned the most from is Michelucci. A man historically not considered a master of architecture and privately of few and with a wide margin of criticism. And I also wondered what this man had taught me exactly, because even though I was his student, and his collaborator at the beginning of my work, today my architecture and also my ideas on architecture are, formally and ideologically speaking, somewhat distant, even if in the end less than what the reality of the objects can suggest. If I compare Michelucci to those who are considered publicly masters, such as for example a Le Corbusier or a Wright or a Mies Van der Rohe, a question immediately arises. Can we consider an architect as a master who, compared to them, has left nothing so precise, apparently so coherent and continuous that he could identify a style from which a school could derive? At first glance it should be answered negatively. In fact [...] we certainly cannot speak of a 'Michelucciano' style, so many are the experiences made by Michelucci, so different and contrasting between them, often formally antithetical to the point of reaching his church, which has nothing more than a style, but it could appear to be made by simple people who know how to build anonymously<sup>95</sup>.

In the work of Michelucci even Ricci saw an evolution from the "form", a concept inspiring the master's early works, to the "non-form" of his last work, he recognized its strength in the skill to question his own work, something that others had never done before. For Ricci, this was Michelucci's true teaching, which was stronger than his works<sup>96</sup>.

The search for an anonymous architecture led Leonardo Ricci, and Giovanni Michelucci before him, not to seek stylistic choices *a priori*, but to seek the shape as a result of the construction of a welcoming space for all forms of life and relationship. The lexical choices instead were defined in a preferential way during the design process<sup>97</sup>.

---

<sup>94</sup> Leonardo Ricci's personal archive in Monterinaldi keeps a plenty of letters by foreign or Italian students who wrote him to thank him for his teaching or to meet him again. Ricci's family also confirmed me his attitude to meet his students and to invite them in Monterinaldi to discuss about architectural issues.

<sup>95</sup> Ricci, "Michelucci attraverso un suo lavoro", 14.

<sup>96</sup> Ricci, "Michelucci attraverso un suo lavoro", 15.

<sup>97</sup> Franco Borsi analyzed these aspects by comparing Ricci's and Michelucci's drawings: in Michelucci's drawings Borsi saw "the modesty of form as an initial condition of his possession", in Ricci's drawings for the "Monte degli Ulivi" village instead the impetuosity of the artist's gesture, also approximate, similar to that of Michelucci, which turned into a more decisive sign in the sketches for the new cemetery of Scandicci in ink and felt-tip pen. In these drawings both wanted to abolish the form but showed that they knew it thoroughly in the creation of the works. This did not happen neither in the Church in Collina by Michelucci nor in the village of Agàpe by Ricci. Borsi, *Michelucci. Il linguaggio dell'architettura*, 77-95. A quite complete overview about Ricci and Michelucci's relationship is in Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la "casa teorica", 9-12.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Compared to the teacher, Ricci, who had a more international vision and knew new research in painting such as action painting, abstract art, and Picasso's lesson, managed to escape from the cultural constraints that forced Michelucci into a difficult linguistic pluralism, between the Tuscan tradition, the Gothic, the Baroque, and the influences of organic architecture.

One further important teaching Ricci learnt from Michelucci was the awareness of history, which guided him in every project and in every thought. Leonardo Ricci wrote and drew up an entire manuscript -never published- about the evolution of the dwelling house: a study on all types of dwellings from prehistory to the Twentieth century that analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of various types of dwellings, their ability to help the dynamism of life and human activities<sup>98</sup>. The Palace of Justice of Savona testified to the search for a new "sacred" space, Ricci himself told that he reflected on «the different prototypes and models that in different historical times, different societies had expressed» such as the Greek Acropolis and how it developed in it the administration of justice, the basilica of the Roman forum, the rooms of the ducal or municipal buildings<sup>99</sup>. Compared to Michelucci, Ricci followed a more linear path, reinvented historical models in an extremely subtle way and experimented, elaborated them also in function of the new organic experience, as some of the architecture masters of the Twentieth century did touching different experimental paths as Brutalism, Neorealism, Neoplasticism and Expressionism<sup>100</sup>.

---

<sup>98</sup> Unpublished handwritten volume titled *La Casa d'abitazione*, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>99</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Il Palazzo di Giustizia di Savona", *L'Architettura cronache e storia*, no. 338, (February 1988): 89-115.

<sup>100</sup> Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 86.

## 2. Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

### 2.1. The reasons of a "free and relieved painting"

Painting is not a state of perfection; it is not a state of grace. You paint because there is something inside your chest that wants to get out. It cannot stay in there. It hurts. It hurts like a head-splitting toothache. It must get out<sup>1</sup>.

What does painting really mean to me? Why do I go on painting, still making pictures? I paint them because I am still alone, and not capable of integrated acts every minute of the day. I also know that painting is no longer a symbol of perfection but a demonstration of my imperfection; which means that my acts are not yet accomplished<sup>2</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci's painting was "free and relieved" - as he himself defined it - and it was driven by the feeling of solitude, which was strongly connected to the concept of existence: casting paint on canvas or wooden tables was for him a way to let a piece of himself get out. A piece of his existence was getting in touch with the external world. To Ricci painting was born because of the human incapacity to break solitude, and, to do it, men painted images that became free, liberated forms in space<sup>3</sup>. Painting was not only painting to Ricci, it consisted and had turned into a relationship with all things, it became act, and then, life. This is the reason why a chapter is dedicated to Ricci's painting, which must be understood in its main function of describing the process of revealing the truth of life and as a discipline practiced by Ricci to investigate on life, on existence, and on the need for the synthesis of the arts, the theme that encouraged him to begin his American transfer with a cycle of four conferences and several exhibitions. Painting introduced Ricci to some of the fundamental themes of investigation for his architectural research, some encountered as guiding themes of the exhibitions he took part in. Therefore, a brief overview of his work in painting and of his exhibitions is needed.

Despite of the fact that artists were considered evil fellows, emarginated anarchical men, they were alive and the only ones trying to find the truth out of reality. Therefore, to Ricci painting was useful to reach the truth of life the society had to give back to the artist with the possibility of being useful and integrated. To him, with the help of the artists' sensitivity and attitude to dominate the world of textures and colors, with their imagination - «better prepared than others' to create new and vital spaces» - everyone could «get honest products, genuine, useful, and well-made products. You will see that an end will be put to all those absurd, pseudo-cultural polemics between "realism" and "abstractionism," or among the various schools of abstractionism as to which is the true one. You will see that it will no longer be a problem whether painters are going to return to figurative painting, or whether they will go on with abstract painting<sup>4</sup>».

---

<sup>1</sup> Ricci, *Anonymus* (XX century), 127.

<sup>2</sup> Ricci, *Anonymus* (XX century), 133.

<sup>3</sup> Ricci, *Anonymus* (XX century), 137.

<sup>4</sup> Ricci, *Anonymus* (XX century), 143.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Leonardo Ricci did not understand classifications and the critics' attempts to define artistic movements and works of art. The only things that mattered to him were expression, communication - since he intended painting as language - and truth.

Sight is the most sensitive, or rather, the most evident, of the human senses. Thus, when men tried consciously to express themselves to one another, they must have tried, before any other, that language which today is called painting. [...] This, as far as I am concerned, is the only valid concept of what the philosophers call aesthetics: the possibility of talking to another being through a language of forms and colors. To say "beautiful" or "ugly" does not mean a thing. A thing is beautiful because it says something. A thing is ugly because it says nothing. The rest does not matter. Further abstractions from this basic concept are useless. Useless melodies, derived from an archetypical world of Platonic ideas, so distant from life that they have no meaning for me. Painting, then, is nothing but a means of expression, a means of understanding one another, and its validity depends on this possibility of communication. An attempt to break the solitude<sup>5</sup>.

In the present work it is important to start dealing with Leonardo Ricci's view on painting with the cited words he himself used to explain the meaning of painting in a passage dedicated to painting and titled "Raison d'Être of Painting", the eighth chapter of his book *Anonymus (XX century)*, where he faced all fields of interest for his work - architecture, urban design, urban planning, and painting - feeling them in strong connection one to the other. To Ricci painting was an act as the form in architecture, the form-act deriving from the human acts: «No longer painting-opinion, painting-comment. No longer painting enslaved to an idea. No longer painting propaganda. Nor painting experiment. No. This is painting as an act. Painting as living. Like breathing, eating. Painting as loving. Painting as creation, emancipated and free. Painting that has become object. That functions as object. The object of *Anonymus (20th Century)*<sup>6</sup>».

Leonardo Ricci firstly faced painting in half 1930s, when he had already started his self-taught work as painter and had his first exhibitions in Italy: the "Esposizione intersindacale veneta di pittura" (Padova, 1934 and 1935), and the "Esposizione intersindacale toscana di pittura" (Firenze, 1936 and 1937).

At the beginning of his career, Ricci was sixteen when he started working with a group of Paduan artists, a small group of young self-taught artists who had the desire to renew the Paduan artistic environment. There he knew his friend Lucio Grossato, who remembered Ricci as the youngest, the most quick-tempered and passionate member of the group<sup>7</sup>.

When "Il Bò", fortnightly of the fascist university group, decided to publish an article on Ricci's painting by Grossato<sup>8</sup>, Ricci's artistic ambition was already visible in the sign of his works, which, despite showing their author's acerbity in color and plastic effect, in the deformation of the sign they showed his temperament. At the

---

<sup>5</sup> Ricci, *Anonymus (XX century)*, 130, 131.

<sup>6</sup> Ricci, *Anonymus (XX century)*, 142.

<sup>7</sup> Lucio Grossato was a historian of art who knew Leonardo Ricci in Padova, where Leonardo Ricci spent the first part of his life. A significant corpus of letters by Grossato spanning from February 1936 to September 1942 tells the deep friendship between him and Leonardo Ricci. The letters are kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>8</sup> Lucio Grossato, "Il Pittore Leonardo Ricci", *Il Bò*, no.5 (May 15, 1938).

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

time Ricci was still blocked by ethical, psychological, naturalistic, and rationalistic dictates, but he was passionate and solitary at the same time. This feeling of loneliness will be what will allow him to subsequently define his relationship with painting and the reasons for it. "Solitary, rude, but not naïve", as Grossato remembered him, he was guided by moments of solitude, in which he meditated intensely. He gave precedence to his own spiritual rather than aestheticizing values.

Leonardo Ricci started his reflection from nature and life, using man, not understood as an ethical entity but as the grounding principle and measure of his works, to create, without re-using pre-established forms.

In Ricci's early works, when he was twenty<sup>9</sup>, already animated by primitivist influences, the color acquired particular importance because it was born with the realistic intuition of things, and then changed once it became the object of the author's imagination and elaborations. The design was concise, and the volumes were clear, the plastic of the shapes highlighted the material essence of things, sometimes full-bodied and sometimes aerial.

According to Lucio Grossato, in this period, in Padova, Ricci acquired a modern synthesis of plasticity and color, as well as a concise plasticity in structure derived from the nineteenth century teachings. Primitivism was what approached Ricci to the Italian art of the time, it was at the same time the sign of his search for sincerity and the lack of decadent refinement<sup>10</sup>.

Afterwards, Ricci followed the "Scuola Romana" and its preference for dark tones expressing a clear heretical vision with respect to the demands of vigorous realism by fascism.

After the graduation in Architecture in 1942, the commitment as Giovanni Michelucci's assistant professor allowed Ricci to deepen his research, meet the first job opportunities and the possibility of combining painting, architecture, design, set-up of exhibitions, scenography and staging of opera shows. Ricci was completely involved both in painting and in architecture till the postwar period, when he took part in the work of the maverick classic Abstract art group "Arte oggi" ["Art Today"], under the supervision of the master Michelucci and of the Gallery "La Vigna Nuova". In this period Ricci gave birth to both paintings similar to the paintings of classical abstract artists and figurative subjects that had to do with the ancestral myth and the primitive activities of ritual dance, struggle, embrace, birth, death and motherhood. Figures are often moving and they represent masks or human shapes, in which the sensation of movement is given with the use of sinuous lines and brush movements. For the group of young painters, the aim was to break with naturalist intimacy in favor of a new social interventionism, to overcome the "return to order" and experiment with new languages as the historical avant-gardes did before. The Florentine group took the name of classical abstractionism: they pursued the purity of form, rigorous compositions, flat and bright color backgrounds, crystalline geometrism, as if to return to the example of the Tuscan Renaissance, that created in architecture a perfect space Ricci would have then broken with his projects.

---

<sup>9</sup> Clément Morro, "Leonardo Ricci", *Revue Moderne illustrée des artes et de la vie*, no. 15 (September 13, 1938).

<sup>10</sup> Grossato, "Il pittore Leonardo Ricci".

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



2.1: Leonardo Ricci, "Crocifisso", 1943, oil on canvas, Casa Studio Ricci.

1947 was the Florence Craft Exhibition, defined by Roberto Papini "a laboratory" in which the artists and architects of the new generation worked together. The group of young Florentine architects who were students of Giovanni Michelucci designed the setting up of the rooms where toys, jewels of the Florentine goldsmiths, and ceramics were exhibited. The architects Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Ricci and Leonardo Savioli were joined by the painters Osvaldo Tordi and Renzo Grazzini<sup>11</sup> and worked together also in the preparation of the central room C.A.D.M.A. (Association for the revival of Italian artisan productions which worked with the support of the American Handicraft Development Inc. Foundation in New York)<sup>12</sup>. In those years in Florence realists and abstract painters opposed their views, but they all had the same goal to seek the synthesis of the arts to find a new birth and a new direction for the society.

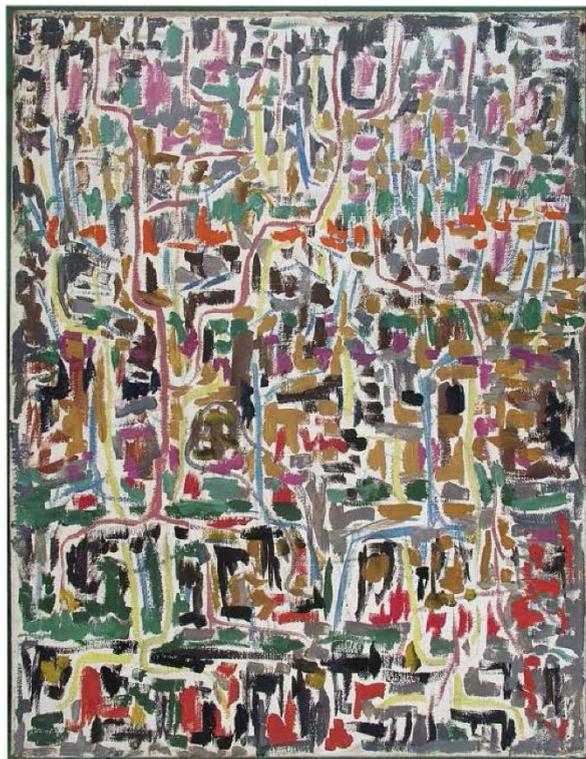
In late 1940s Leonardo Ricci belonged to the abstract art group with articulated volumes, structural solutions, and neoplastic compositions, but, at the same time, primitive influences emerged with the representation of ancestral myths, and, finally the Informal appeared as well. Giovanna Uzzani defined them the three optional

---

<sup>11</sup> Roberto Papini, "Orientamenti di architetti, di artigiani e d'altro", *Stile*, no. 9-10-11-12 (1947): 11-13.

<sup>12</sup> The Foundation C.A.D.M.A. financed the whole Exhibition and arranged the first Italian Craft Exhibition in New York in April 1947. Giovanna Uzzani, "Leonardo Ricci pittore", in *Leonardo Ricci 100. Scrittura, pittura e architettura. 100 note a margine dell'Anonimo del XX secolo*, eds. Maria Clara Ghia, Clementina Ricci and Ugo Dattilo (Firenze: Didapress, 2019), 129-139.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts



2.3: Leonardo Ricci, "Composizione astratta" ["Abstract Composition"], 1948, oil on canvas, Casa Studio Ricci.

2.2: Leonardo Ricci, "Composizione astratta" ["Abstract Composition"], 1948, oil on canvas, Casa Studio Ricci.

visions of the world Ricci would have described in the *Anonymous* (XX century) some years after: the logic world, the world of myth, and the world of the absurd respectively<sup>13</sup>.

1949 was the year of Leonardo Ricci's first personal exhibition at the Gallery "Il Fiore" in Florence<sup>14</sup>, for which he was introduced as a mature painter.

We do not want to pontificate, but we believe that this very first Ricci exhibition constitutes an event that goes beyond the value of a promising presentation: we are so convinced that we are faced with an intelligence capable of reassuring the most restless fermentations of the contemporary pictorial culture. [...] There is no doubt that we are dealing with the painting of an architect, with a painting, I mean, built with an architectural love of positivity (as rare in these times devoted to the innumerable negative idols, everyone esteems for himself). Here is a painter who declares himself "new" to critics but not at all such to the trade: that Ricci, and he feels, has had the exemplary seriousness of chastising for years the innate happiness of his plastic temperament, though I know an effort of silent and jealous purification. It seems to us that he has been able to obey the Rilkean precept of "listening to himself": which is a famous exhortation as betrayed by the presumptuous impatience of most, young and not young. Here is a painter, we said, who from the first apparition denounces a considerable degree of maturity and fits effortlessly into the heart of a suggestive pictorial adventure: that committed, precisely, to a

<sup>13</sup> Uzzani, "Leonardo Ricci pittore", 133.

<sup>14</sup> "Al 'Fiore'", *Il Mattino dell'Italia Centrale*, December 11, 1949, Gianna Basevi, "Ricci", *La Nazione Italiana*, December 23, 1949, "Leonardo Ricci al 'Fiore'", *Nuovo Corriere dell'Italia Centrale*, December 23, 1949, "Stanze Fiorentine. Leonardo Ricci", "Pittura nuova di Leonardo Ricci", *Pomeriggio*, December 15, 1949.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

classically unitary synthesis of all the scattered fragments of the post-romantic diaspora, from Impressionism to today. As immense and risky a commitment as everyone sees, as it is certain that the rational and geometric spirit to which even Ricci may abusively entrust himself will not be sufficient to fulfill it, where the figurative mechanism restrains the possibilities glimpsed by fantastic intuition and precipitates the image on the lost slope of critical processing. However, we welcome this first exhibition by Leonardo Ricci as a conscious, and so far, stylistically identified promise of the very human results that the "split automaton" of absolute abstractionism can achieve<sup>15</sup>.



2.4: Leonardo Ricci, "Contemplazione della morte", 1949, oil on canvas, Casa Studio Ricci.

At the beginning of the Fifties in Florence Fiamma Vigo directed the Gallery "Numero", the gallery "La Vigna Nuova" exposed the "Manifesto of the Classical Abstract Art" and Giorgini began the made in Italy in fashion. In this active climate Leonardo Ricci designed the Mercato dei Fiori di Pescia (1949), the Ecumenical Village of Agàpe (1946-1951) and began the building site of Monterinaldi (1949-1963), while personal exhibitions reached France at the "Galerie Pierre"<sup>16</sup> and the "Salon de Mai" in Paris (May 9 – May 31, 1950)<sup>17</sup>, then Germany for the "Review of Art in Germany" (1950).

The exposition at the "Salon de Mai" dealt with a fundamental theme that affected Leonardo Ricci's next studies on architecture influenced by Michelucci's teaching: the importance of tradition, not intended as a sum of human experiences, but as a *unicum* of contents to be understood. To be inside tradition was the guiding theme and Italian painting was hosted as a symbol of re-elaboration of tradition, the place where tradition was stronger and richer than elsewhere. The new generation of painters had to face the fact that a too strong tradition could also turn into a burden, and the merit of the new generation consisted in realizing it and in having accepted all the romantic and melancholic feelings of the past. What is more, the city of the exhibition, Paris, was the place that gave birth to the most important artistic movements and vanguards that firstly broke tradition and, this was the reason why the new

<sup>15</sup> *L'Ultima*, no. 52 (April 25, 1950).

<sup>16</sup> Galerie Pierre, "Leonardo Ricci", May 5, 1950, "Un Florentin expose à Paris des oeuvres d'une étrange indépendance", *V*, May 28, 1950, Charles Estienne, "Les Expositions", *L'Observateur*, May 11, 1950.

<sup>17</sup> "Au Salon de Mai. Jeunesse perpetuelle de la peinture", *Le Monde*, May 12, 1950. The exhibition of Italian painters at the "Salon de Mai" meant a definite recognition of the importance and international value of the Italian art by France, as well as the importance of the cultural exchange between Italy and France for the European culture. To deepen this theme: Giovanni Grazzini, "Come oggi la Francia "italianizza". L'interesse c'è: bisogna aumentarlo", *La Nazione*, June 13, 1950. Some materials about the Salon de Mai exhibitions Ricci took part in are collected in "Logbook" n. 1 (1938-1952), pages 33, 34, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

exhibition at the Salon had the responsibility and awareness "to break the tradition of breaking the tradition". With their works, the exhibiting artists had been able to convey intuition and divination in the breaking of tradition, and the visitors would have recognized it<sup>18</sup>.

In 1950 (from April 28 to May 12, 1950) Leonardo Ricci inaugurated his personal exhibition at the Galerie Pierre in Paris with a strong speech. The text of the conference was then published in Paris and in Italy with the title "Confessione" ["Confession"], a sort of artistic manifesto dated April 3, 1950<sup>19</sup>. The article tells Ricci's existential intentions to investigate through both painting and architecture the truth of human existence: a "common denominator", as he defined it in several writings, to all beings, something all men could feel to be grounded on. Ricci wrote that «everything that has been manifested in the past through religion, art, science, philosophy, etc. and that it was hidden and untied it became understandable because it passed directly through being. There is neither an inside nor an outside. There is neither space nor time. There is no matter or spirit. No abstractions exist. But there is only one reality with which one is in contact or from which one is detached, that one penetrates or from which one is isolated, that one lives with one's whole being or one does not live. We realize that man has come to an "impasse". If this total and organic sense of life does not reawaken until it absorbs and unifies all man's thoughts and attitudes and positions, man's unleashed forces will destroy man. But it is precisely this total disintegration that allows the beginning of reintegration. It would have been impossible before<sup>20</sup>».

To Ricci it was necessary to use all the values felt as prisons for man up to that moment, to make man reintegrate and reincarnate himself, without having to deny anything of the past. The past had to be left behind, only the painting had to remain because it was the first language of man and, therefore, it could not die, it was necessary to pass from the subjective to the objective, from the mysterious to the revealed through man. Ricci wanted to become that man, a man-means through which the new reality had to pass for "the other", who had to recognize himself in this reality as a living being. This was the mission of art and artists for Ricci.

In 1951, he was invited again at the "Salon de Mai", he took part in the "Rassegna della pittura italiana" at the Gallery "La Boetie" in Paris, then in the "Rassegna d'arte italiana" at the Gallery "Bompiani" in Florence, "Rassegna d'arte italiana contemporanea" at the Gallery "Numero" in Florence (August 23 - August 25, 1951), in the painting exhibitions titled "Premio del fiorino" in Florence where he was prized<sup>21</sup>, "Golfo La Spezia" in Lerici (July 22 - September 23, 1951), and "Premio Sassari" in Sassari<sup>22</sup>.

In 1952 Ricci's paintings appeared again in Florence at Palazzo Strozzi with the exhibition "Mezzo secolo d'arte in Toscana"<sup>23</sup>, and then, in the same year, they travelled overseas to the United States with a personal exhibition

---

<sup>18</sup> Beniamino Jappolo, "Nouvelle peinture italienne", Catalogue of the exhibition at the "Salon de Mai" (May 9 - May 31, 1950).

<sup>19</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Confessione", *Architetti*, no 3 (August, 1950): 29-32. The published text included a date at the end: April 3, 1950. That was probably the date of Ricci's speech or the mentioned conference.

<sup>20</sup> Ricci, "Confessione", 30.

<sup>21</sup> Silvano Giannelli, "Scampato il "pericolo di morte" per la giovane pittura italiana", *Il Mattino dell'Italia Centrale*, August 17, 1951.

<sup>22</sup> Carlo Cuccioli, "4 pittori fiorentini al secondo premio Sassari fanno la vera arte perchè hanno qualcosa da dire", *L'Unione Sarda*, September 1, 1951.

<sup>23</sup> "Destinata alla Germania. Interessante rassegna di pittori contemporanei", *La Nazione Italiana*, October 29, 1950. The exhibition was set up at the first stage of Palazzo Strozzi and it had to be moved in Germany for the Review of Art

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

at Landau Gallery in Los Angeles. In 1953 his personal exhibitions were arranged at the Gallery “Vigna Nuova” and, again, for the “Premio del Fiorino” in Florence (1953 and 1954).



2.5. Leonardo Ricci, “Albero”, 1950, oil on canvas, Casa Studio Ricci.

---

(München, Köln, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Nürnberg, Mannheim, Bernin and Bonn). The president of the committee was Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti, helped by Guglielmo Pacchioni, Giulio Carlo Argan, Carlo Levi, Giuseppe Marchiondi, Giuseppe Marchieri, Giovanni Colacicci, Corrado Del Conte, Giuseppe Raimondi. Among the others, Ricci’s paintings appeared next to the works of Carrà, Simoni, De Pisis, Morandi, Maccari, Paolucci and Savioli.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

The Fifties were a rich period for Leonardo Ricci who took part in several exhibitions in famous American galleries too, such as the North "La Cienega" Gallery in California (19 January-27 February 1953), at the International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting in Pittsburg (13 October-18 December 1955), In 1958 he exposed at the collective exhibition of sacred art at the "Chiostro Nuovo" in Florence, a personal exhibition at the Gallery "La Bussola" in Rome, and was invited at the "Rome-NewYork Art Foundation" in Rome.

In 1959 Ricci's exhibitions in Italy were: "Prima Mostra Regionale d'Arte Toscana", "Mostra di pittura di gruppo" alla "Galleria Michaud", "Pittori astratti fiorentini" alla "Galleria Michaud" (1959-1960), all in Florence, and the "Esposizione di pittura" al "Festival dei due mondi" in Spoleto, while in 1960 Ricci exposed at Trabia Gallery in New York (29 March-30 April 1960).

Ricci would have then published in his book his "Farewell, Masters; Farewell, Geniuses", a chapter<sup>24</sup> in which he declared his love for the masters of painting and architecture of the twentieth century, even recognizing their limits for the new direction art had to follow: masterpieces and heroes belonged to the pre-war period. The new era had suffered the crisis of values and, therefore, their teachings were not enough. This thought was strong in Leonardo Ricci but he experienced their lessons finding new forms and open solutions: ritual masks, female figures playing the moon, simple silhouettes on textured backgrounds as in cave paintings, primitive pregnant Venuses, angels and demons, all immobile and absolute<sup>25</sup>.

In his architectures Ricci declined the grammar adopted for his home: volumes clinging to the curves of the ground, load-bearing partitions in local stone, beams and inclined slabs in exposed reinforced concrete, simple wooden stairs, poor iron fixtures, in contrast with the refined finishes in stone and marble and with the numerous artistic interventions: ceramic panels on the terrace of the living room and on the wall of the library, compositions in recycled pieces of colored glass such as the 'stone garden' in front of the house.

As the chapter dedicated to painting of Ricci's English version of the *Anonymous* was titled in French, we can infer that his view on painting was inevitably influenced by the masters of the Twentieth century he knew in Paris from 1948 to 1950. At the beginning of the Fifties, when Leonardo Ricci had come back home from France and had begun the building of the Village of Monterinaldi, in Florence Fiamma Vigo was directing the Gallery "Numero" and involved Ricci, who was exploring the themes of myths and archetypes, approaching the search for the primitivism of some artistic avant-garde and to Picasso, Schiele, Giacometti, Ernst and the Surrealists he had known in Paris<sup>26</sup>.

---

<sup>24</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 79-99.

<sup>25</sup> Giovanna Uzzani has recognized in these subjects of Ricci influences of the blue period or the contemporary period of Picasso who painted on ceramics, in the dramatic nudes on two-colored and gloomy backgrounds of Egon Schiele contrasted with material and golden surfaces that recall Cimabue. Uzzani, "Leonardo Ricci pittore", 135.

<sup>26</sup> Primitivism as a symbol of an uncorrupted and pure state of nature had led Ricci in those years to make «handprints stretched out, feet walking on cliff or cave bottoms, archetypes of all time, totems and taboos that had survived up to dawn of myths, mostly more pictorially expressed in large or very large formats». Giovanna Uzzani, "Pittura liberata e libera", in *Leonardo Ricci 100. Scrittura, pittura e architettura. 100 note a margine dell'Anonimo del XX secolo*, eds. Maria Clara Ghia, Clementina Ricci and Ugo Dattilo (Firenze: Didapress, 2019), 28.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The collaboration between Leonardo Ricci and Fiamma Vigo gave birth to the Exhibition “La Cava. Mostra internazionale all’aperto di arti plastiche” [“The cave. International outdoor exhibition of plastic arts”] realized in 1955 in Monterinaldi. The exhibition was the first expression of the synthesis of the arts Ricci pursued for all his life: it represented a meaningful moment of reflection for contemporary art about the relationship between art and the habitat, about that close interaction between architecture and figurative art, which were melting and working as complementary fundamental expressive elements of a whole.

André Bloc exhibited his art in the exhibition that was held inside Ricci House and decided to install it in the panoramic point on the terrace of the Casa Studio, right where the dome of Brunelleschi was visible.



2.6: Dusan Vasić and Leonardo Ricci on Ricci's house terrace in Monterinaldi, behind them the sculpture of André Bloc towards the main view on Florence.

The idea of the synthesis of the arts was still alive in Ricci's mind since the very beginning of his career, when he worked with other artists, craftsmen and intellectuals attracted by this existential program.

Lionello Venturi supported Ricci and Vigo's initiative, as he highlighted in a letter he addressed to them: «Dear friends, Fiamma Vigo and Leonardo Ricci, I have full faith in you and in your initiative. The unity of taste in painting, sculpture, architecture is today's most imperative need in the art world<sup>27</sup>». The exhibition was successful as the numerous Italian and foreign published articles demonstrated<sup>28</sup>, it hosted sixty-six Italian and foreign artists in the streets of Monterinaldi, in Ricci's studio, in the external walkways of the house and in the large steep garden along the slope. The importance of the company laid in setting up a dialogue between the

<sup>27</sup> *Giornali di bordo* - “Logbook” n. 2 (1952-1956), page 76. Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>28</sup> Some of them are: Gillo Dorfles, “Una mostra all’aperto di arti plastiche”, *Domus*, no. 313 (December, 1955): 61-64. Giovanni Colacicchi, “Un esperimento di grande valore a Firenze. Arte all’aperto”, *La Nazione Italiana*, November 1, 1955; “Palast im Steinbruch”, *Der Standpunkt*, January 20, 1958.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

work and the space in a place that was not originally thought of as an exhibition hall, but which was the right one to compare painting, sculpture, and architecture. The arts had remained separated in their research so far, while the exhibition was melting them: the works merged with stones, wood, perspectives on the house or landscape, glass and, in this way, they demonstrated their foundational role to human life. Ricci wrote on the catalogue of the exhibition that they wanted to prompt the collaboration among artists, architects, and craftsmen, to give them the possibility to exhibit their works and let the visitors buy the most suitable objects for their life<sup>29</sup>. Ricci avoided the function of art as ornament, but he intended it as an expression of life. Therefore, he moved from primitivism and abstract art to explore the informal, by representing matter in all its colors and textures and indulging in the act and strength of the gestural experience.

In 1958 he approached the Gallery "La Bussola", once introduced by Lionello Venturi: «Form and composition enhance the color to reach the expression, which encompasses all the visual elements, and goes beyond revealing a particular tension. Tension is the reason for the work, the vitality itself, the aspiration to investigate the world through painting<sup>30</sup>». The same tension that represented the soul of Ricci's informal painting was what most characterized Ricci's paintings of this period and it indicated his "cultured" quality and the possibility of communicating with the other painters<sup>31</sup>.

---

<sup>29</sup> Alessia Lenzi, Susanna Ragionieri, Maria Grazia Messina, Rosalia Manno Tolu, and Loredana Maccabruni, "Fiamma Vigo e «numero» una vita per l'arte", catalogue of the exhibition (Firenze, Archivio di Stato, 7 October-20 December 2003) (Firenze: Centro Di, 2003).

<sup>30</sup> *Giornali di bordo* - "Logbook" n. 3 (1956-1959), page 102, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>31</sup> Alberto Busignani, "Cinque pittori fiorentini", *Domus*, no. 360 (November, 1959): 26-28.

The five painters are Berti, Bueno, Loffredo, Native and Ricci. For Ricci's painting, Busignani quoted Lionello Venturi's words on "tension", and read it in function of the work of the other artists: all five, according to the author, were driven by an undisputed vitality but also by a certain rigor, "a true norm of meditation and common expression in a vaulted work which is substantially original and individually different".



Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts



2.9: Exhibition "La Cava", Monterinaldi, Florence, 1955, pictures of some exhibited works by Giuliano Gameliel, Casa Studio Ricci.



2.10: Leonardo Ricci, "Nudo" ["Nude"], 1955, oil on canvas, Casa Studio Ricci.



2.11: Leonardo Ricci, "Ombre" ["Shadows"], 1955, mosaic realized for "La Cava" Exhibition in Monterinaldi, Florence.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

### 2.2. A first approach to the United States: the architect thanks the painter

Ricci's American experience made of lectures, teaching and professional activity, was a turning point for his research in Urban Design and can be considered a revolutionary period that influenced his work for the projects for communities and for new integrated towns, a turning phase in which all the references he followed and the influences he received for his work in Italy during and after his transfer are traceable.

At the beginning of the Fifties Leonardo Ricci was already known on the international scene as a painter after his participation in several exhibitions for important galleries in France, Germany and in the United States. As an architect instead he was published abroad for his Ecumenical Village in Agàpe (1946-1951)<sup>32</sup>, Mercato dei Fiori in Pescia (1949)<sup>33</sup>, and his house in Monterinaldi (1949-1952)<sup>34</sup>. More in detail, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi and Leonardo Ricci's Flowers Covered Market in Pescia was awarded at the Sao Paulo Architecture Biennale in Brazil in 1953, in Naples with the "Naples" Prize for Architecture in 1956 and published in Kidder Smith's *Italy Builds* in 1955<sup>35</sup>.

Therefore, the United States knew Leonardo Ricci firstly as a painter and later as an architect thanks to Lionello Venturi who wrote the introduction of Ricci's exhibition at the "La Bussola" Gallery (1958) and who was arranging, with Mrs. Elizabeth Mann Borgese<sup>36</sup>, the exhibition of Ricci's paintings at Kleeman Gallery in New

---

<sup>32</sup> About Agàpe: "Agapé. Das Dorf des gutes Villens", *Schweizer Illustrierte Zeitung* (February 23, 1949); "Town of Love", *The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine* (September 13, 1947); "Agape rjeser Sieg ", *Kirchens front* (May 1948); "Le Camp d'Agàpe", *L'Illustrée. Revue Hebdomadaire Suisse* (June 9, 1949); "In Italie word teen huis der liefde gebouwd", *Der hervormde Kerke:Martin Krampen* (October 15, 1949); "Agape'- das Dorf ohne Mauern", *Der Weg*, (January 1, 1951); "Agàpé", *Réforme* (August 25, 1951); "Village of Love", (August 27, 1951); "Agape stedet bygget au sten og kjaerlighet", *Kirsten Ungdom* (1952); "Dori Christlicher lugend in Prali bei rurin", *Kunst un d Kirche* (1960). All articles are kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>33</sup> Villalonga, "Mercado de legumbres, flores y frutas en Pescia Italia", 291-298; "Deuxième Bienale d'architecture de Sao Paulo. Les Prix", *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 52 (January-February, 1954); Paolo Nestler, *Neues Bauen in Italien. New ways of building in Italy. Nouvelle architecture en Italie. Architettura moderna in Italia* (Muenchen: G.D.W. Callwey, 1954), 66-67, 164-165; "Le marché aux fleurs à Pescia. Italie", *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 70 (February-March, 1957): 78-79; Creighton, "The involved man: Leonardo Ricci", 144-151.

<sup>34</sup> Nestler, *Neues Bauen in Italien*, 66-67, 164-165; "Habitation près de Florence", *Aujourd'hui, art et architecture*, no. 5 (November, 1955): 30-33; "Vom Museum zum Bauplatz. Ein Prototyp moderner Architektur in Italien", *Der Galler Tagblatt* (December 2, 1955); Race Eden, "Leonardo Ricci, an architect of Florence", *Architecture and building* (August, 1956): 296-302; Friedrich Rasche, "Ein Haus am Monte Rinaldi", *Feuilleton*, no. 1/2 (September 2, 1956): 205; "Palast im Steinbruch", *Der Standpunkt* (January 20, 1958); Kurt Ekholm, "Ny Arckitektur i Florens", *Goteborgs Handels och Sjöfartstidning* (September 18, 1959); Kurt Ekholm, "Ny vy i Florens", *Hufvudstadsbladet* (October 8, 1959); M. A. Febvre-Desportes, "Beauté des maisons campagnardes: Monterinaldi près de Florence", *Meubles et décors* (October, 1959); Alberto Boatto, "Village Monterinaldi près de Florence, Habitation a Forte dei Marmi, Italie", *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 86 (October-November, 1959): 28-32; Creighton, "The involved man: Leonardo Ricci", 144-151;

<sup>35</sup> Kidder Smith, *Italy Builds*, 218-221.

<sup>36</sup> Elizabeth Mann Borgese (1918-2002) was a German writer, naturalized in the United States, daughter of the great German writer Thomas Mann, she left Germany with her family in 1933, after Hitler's ascent, moving first to Switzerland and then, in 1938, to the United States. She became an American citizen in 1941, and in 1983 she was also granted Canadian citizenship. In 1939 she married the Italian anti-fascist and writer Giuseppe Antonio Borgese (1882-1952), 36 years older than she, with whom she had two daughters, Angelica and Dominica.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

York (October 1960)<sup>37</sup>. Lionello Venturi presented Ricci as a painter seeking the synthesis among the arts, more in detail between Constructivism (Cubism and Mondrian) and Organicism (Van Gogh and Pollock) and as an architect feeling the tension between Rationalism and Organicism to find the correct synthesis where shape and composition enhanced the expression<sup>38</sup>.

Lionello Venturi drew a comparison between the artistic and architectural movements which followed different ideas about form conception: rational ways of shaping elements and organic ways of understanding it. The critic wrote this because Ricci had been always fighting against the conception of an *a priori* form, widely spread in functionalist and rationalist works of architecture. From the very beginning to the end of his professional and teaching activity Ricci had always been trying to define the shape of a building as result of the architectural spatial research, analyzing the natural landscape, the residents' needs starting from their human daily acts and activities, from their needs and from the general environmental laws. Ricci addressed his research towards the refusal of a predetermined form, both in his paintings and in his buildings, following his master's teaching, Giovanni Michelucci, whose feeling was that the functional needs of rationalist architecture could affect the potentialities of new spaces and new cities to be designed after the end of the second world war. Therefore, it was necessary to him to investigate new spatial solutions and a new spatial dynamicity, an important concept pursued by organicism.

Leonardo Ricci started from his masters' teaching and from that pursued tension to design new asymmetrical, dynamic, and fluid spaces, since his early projects, aiming at building spaces able to connect people's lives, movements, and human acts, which were inevitably dynamic and fast-moving. This was the reason why Lionello Venturi looked at Ricci's work and translated it into the trial of solving a tension between Rationalism and Organicism. That tension was also a feature of Ricci's character, of his attitude towards architecture, but it effectively represented the expression of his continuous intention to design new spaces to encourage the interaction and new moments of communication among people. It was obviously characterized by the difficulty to merge opposite views of the architect and his constant hard relationship with his research itself. To Ricci, that tension was the instrument to reveal all the visual elements and the symbol of the necessary vitality and dynamism the architectural project needed to grow and be useful, successful.

Ricci's motivation to begin his American transfer was justified by educational issues, but they went beyond his research in architectural teaching: they were political, cultural, sociological, and technological.

In the United States, and in Cambridge in particular, at Harvard and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a plenty of studies on the metropolitan city were conducted in the Fifties and Sixties. Reading some of the most important publications as those collected by Lloyd Rodwin's *The Future Metropolis*<sup>39</sup>, it is possible to

---

He carried out works of considerable importance for biology, especially marine biology, and founded the International Ocean Institute in 1972. Among musicians, she is known for translating Harmony Heinrich Schenker into English. (<http://www.sf-encyclopedia.com/entry/borgese>, last accessed December 14, 2020).

<sup>37</sup> Letter from Elizabeth Mann Borgese to Dean Pietro Belluschi, February 24, 1959, typescript kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. News Office (AC400 0001).

<sup>38</sup> Lionello Venturi, "The new painting and sculpture. The emergence of abstraction", *An Atlantic Monthly Supplement*, (December 1958).

<sup>39</sup> Lloyd Rodwin, ed., *The Future Metropolis* (New York: George Braziller, 1961).

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

have an excellent report that allows us to reconstruct the problems of US urban planning and how they had been solved. The approach, if compared with contemporary Italian urban problems, appeared completely different despite the similar problems associated to metropolitan life.

Italian urban planning regarded the United States with distrust, due to the substantial difference in scale between the Italian and US development phenomena. The United States had to face the problems of territorial organization on a large scale much earlier than Europe, and the American culture, with its capitalist economic system, had to face development problems deriving from the application of policies aimed at favoring such a system. While the United States brought in line the methodologies and instrumental choices to the conditions dictated by capitalism, as Giancarlo De Carlo stated, «Italian culture [had] been lost in value judgments, with the result of eluding the concrete experiences (and avoiding its specific tasks, losing the only possibility of supporting in the most proper way the values it claims)<sup>40</sup>». Regardless of the conditioning of the system, the wealth of the American culture in conceptual and operational acquisitions was directed by a scientific interest of the academic investigation in urban planning and allowed the elaboration of extremely useful indications for every situation. Being a federal country, the great power of local autonomies in the United States encouraged planning on different levels, from the most detailed of the urban territorial dimension to the general national and state level. Bottom-up planning was thus facilitated to devise general planning outlines to achieve integration of local frameworks within the general system. The capitalist system was also governed by the need to control development on the base of binding programs.

From this general structure the relationship between planning and policy at each level had to be verified and the function, the extent and responsibility of each plan clarified. Within the political decisions, therefore, technical contents emerging from academic studies entered to transform the concept of planning, up to that moment understood more as a forecast of expenditure or social prophecy, all the disciplines involved in planning were involved in interdisciplinary research projects in many major American universities, among which one of the most important search engines was certainly Cambridge with the two eminent Harvard and M.I.T. Planning was therefore based on the transformations of the human environment. The research project had to refer to a global context and, initiated at the academic level, was to provide new principles, theories, methods, and tools in various disciplinary fields. In politics this led to a new concept of planning, while in the academic urban planning discipline it avoided overlapping and repetition by favoring new projects and delimited fields of research, clearly separated from the activity of professionals.

Leonardo Ricci was attracted by that kind of new research aimed at determining the criteria for the objective evaluation of the factors generating urban form and at the elaboration of new models of spatial organization in terms of structure and form, in function of morphological aspects of territorial structures, based on the existing relationships between the organizational types and the general objectives of the communities living in them<sup>41</sup>.

---

<sup>40</sup> Giancarlo De Carlo, "Introduction", in *The Future Metropolis*, ed. Lloyd Rodwin (Padova: Marsilio Editori, 1970), XV.

<sup>41</sup> De Carlo, "Introduction", IX-XI.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

### 2.3. A “coast to coast” cycle of conferences on painting and architecture (1952-1960)

Agenda for tomorrow morning's meeting. The topic: Relationship between the painter and the "others." Points on the agenda: Point one: The end of easel painting and studio sculpturing. Even if they were masterpieces of incalculable and ever-rising value in the art market, paintings destined to be embalmed in some museum or in a collector's apartment no longer make any sense at all. Point two: The re-integration of the artist into life. The painter must belong to society. He must give useful objects to all, objects suited to enhancing man's vitality. Point three: The integration of painting and sculpture with architecture and town planning. This integration must take place in a creative sense and must begin with town planning, not in a decorative sense as in the best of hypotheses is happening today. And miscellaneous<sup>42</sup>.

With these words, in his book, *Anonymous (XX century)*, Leonardo Ricci was telling about the three main topics he wanted to explain to the audience of an important American college (he did not specify) for a conference on the following day: the right place for works of art, the re-integration of the artist in society, and the re-integration of the arts by means of town planning. These themes were also the same he wanted to investigate during his stay in the United States and those who helped him to carry on his own life-long research.

In 1952 Leonardo Ricci left Italy to visit his brother Fausto Maria Ricci's house building site after the approval of his project and was invited to a series of four conferences dealing with painting and architecture that confirm his aim to investigate the relationship and the synthesis of the arts. This moment marked the beginning of Ricci's transfer aimed at investigating new approaches to urban design by means of the synthesis of the arts.

At the University of Southern California he gave two lectures dedicated both to architecture and painting, respectively titled “An Architect facing the problems of a city” and “Architecture in relation to the other Arts”, while, at the Brooklyn College he spoke to the scholars and students of the Department of Philosophy with two further interventions titled “Uomo moderno e città moderna” [“Modern man and modern city”] on November 14 and “The function of art in contemporary art” to the audience of the Department of Philosophy, on November 21. This last conference was also sponsored on the university journal, with the title “Art as an expression”<sup>43</sup>.

In 1952, Ricci's ideas about architecture and urban planning were not feasible in Italy because of the existing urban laws based on zoning, which produced alienation, the worst psychological enemy of collective life causing segregation among human beings. The war had finished seven years before, but, since the early postwar period, Ricci was convinced to build the city of the future, where human life was freed from alienation. The conferences' transcriptions explain Ricci's belief in the possibility of transforming his ideas into reality starting from the relation and synthesis of the arts. He was an eclectic figure and his conferences, addressed to composed audiences, dealt with Architecture, Philosophy, and Art History.

He was enthusiastic about the possibilities art and architecture had to develop in the United States and was overwhelmed about the feeling of the students and of the people in general on art:

---

<sup>42</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 137.

<sup>43</sup> On the Brooklyn College – Kingsman Ricci's conference was dated November 27, 1952. All the typescript of the conferences are kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

I believed that American people suffered few emotions, instead I was able to see that they have a particular sensitivity towards everything that is beautiful, in short, towards art<sup>44</sup>.

The reading of the conferences' texts unveils Ricci's analysis of American towns compared to Italian and European towns, what he expected from his research experience that was going to start and, finally, his human attitude towards the audience which corresponded to the one he wanted in his relationship with his customers. Ricci had been always interested in establishing a contact avoiding the possibility to sound as "a dictator of thought" and, therefore, using only his experiences as main subject of his speeches. He wanted to be a man in front of other men and women who knew the duty to feel responsible for what he was saying and for the moment he was living.

Trying to follow Ricci's example, who had been always keeping his activities as painter and architect separated, we are going to begin with the analysis of the conferences about architecture, but before analyzing them it is important to specify that all the conferences were centered on one only possible subject: the modern man, or better, the kind of man Ricci considered the best example of modern man, a man who lived between two world wars, who saw the myths of the past falling, who was born at the end of a civilization and at the beginning of another. «A man who [found] himself in a kind of vacuum, ready to look at the facts straightly without mystifying himself nor trying to deceive others, to find out whether both as individual or as part of a collectivity he [could] justify his life and live, or to the contrary only wake the efforts of surviving, as a being fallen by absurdity into a transition time and pushed around by events larger and stronger than himself. Lastly, a modern man [was] one tired of being alone, trying to break this cycle of solitude, to establish new contacts with others, outside all conventions, dogmas and false morals of the old and newer pasts; one who [did] not feel like being a god, a superhuman, nor a slave, but only one who [tried] simply to live in peace with others<sup>45</sup>».

The main problem the modern man had to face was living in old towns: the twentieth century was facing the destruction of the old town organisms, where an amorphous chaos ruled, disordered buildings were crossing each other in the towns. Historical cities were real organisms hierarchically ordered in their parts, while the twentieth century cities were aggregations of parts. The historical cities saw, in each period they lived, the predominance of some power – religious, political, or social power – which could express itself in the most important buildings and in the smallest details, whereas in the twentieth century the chaos was caused by the uncontrolled growth spreading in all directions because of the increase of the population, the intervention of the machine and sudden changes of functions.

If in history men had clear life models to express and, consequently, a determined power succeeded in expressing itself, in the twentieth century the modern man had not been able to find and express what he desired to be the individual and the collective life model. This state of uncertainty could have suggested new urban models to a new civilization. Since the modern man could only see and live in disfigured old towns, a radical transformation was necessary.

---

<sup>44</sup> F. Russo, "Il Prof. L. Ricci della cattedra di architettura di Firenze conclude il giro d'osservazione negli S.U.", *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, December 14, 1952.

<sup>45</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "An architect facing the problems of a city", conference held at the University of South California in 1952, 1, 2.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

After his first trip to the United States Ricci's feeling was that New York and Los Angeles could have been considered the two opposite examples of the American town. Between those extremes all the other towns as Boston, New Orleans and San Francisco could have been included in their similarities with the European cities. New York was a wonderful town of the future to Ricci, because it had no idols: it was made by men for men and was superior to other European towns for one aspect: modernity of life. It was the perfect expression of the bourgeois model of life even though its main problem was the difficulty to host any transformation, and to overcome or substitute the use of steel and concrete as well.

Los Angeles was a sad town, without idols, churches, monuments, and skyscrapers, but this was not a negative aspect of that town, it was rather its strength, what could have let the radical transformation towards the city of the future be able to express human life happen. Los Angeles could have a face, a body, and a heart, it could have become real because it best represented the contemporary human condition. Los Angeles was one of the ugliest towns to Ricci, but the most suitable for modern life because it had no buildings or structures emphasizing the power of institutions, religion, politics, or trade, or even the power of money. In Los Angeles, the nature of man could be expressed freely, and therefore, once defined human needs, no idols and myths would have opposed the town of the future realization<sup>46</sup>. In Ricci's opinion the cities of the future would have been less beautiful than ancient cities as Los Angeles, even new towns of more recent civilizations became less harmonious although they entailed less rigid and oppressive slavery for men, fewer rules, and dogmas to be respected. Human beings were able to adapt to any condition, therefore everyone would have known how to live well in every city, the problem was that there was no city planned on the base of its needs and suitable for contemporary life and no city where the contemporary man could feel comfortable. The cities of the past were not suitable because they could not fulfill some needs of mechanical civilization and oppress this man with their objective representation of ideas and conceptions of the world now emptied of meaning, of all the attempts made to create new urban concepts, nothing was truly valid and responding to real needs<sup>47</sup>.

That human condition had no common points on which all could meet, but a new civilization could have been possible only with a common human base. The modern man was the son of a problematic time and was living without any of the religious and moral supports of the former ages, waiting for a total cosmic justification of our existence. Humanity was probably that base because it was the only common aspect of the human condition itself, it was what famous artists, philosophers, architects, and thinkers of the time, even profoundly different in their lives and ideas, shared: they had the same fears, anxieties, and feelings. Ricci was sure about this because he had the possibility to design cities and buildings, which implied the formulation of the most complex questions about the building techniques, aesthetic issues, urban laws, materials, and all that concerned the realization of a project, but to him the most important questions to be answered were those regarding human existence: what is a man? How must he live? How must his city be?

---

<sup>46</sup> The town of Los Angeles is described by Ricci as the best town for the modern man in both conferences regarding architecture Ricci did in 1952: "An architect facing the problems of a city" and "Uomo Moderno e città moderna".

<sup>47</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Uomo moderno e città moderna", lecture given to the Department of Philosophy of the Brooklyn College on November 17, 1952, 4. The text of this conference is the only one in Italian. Therefore, all the quotations coming from that text were translated by the author, whereas the others are taken from Leonardo Ricci's English text.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

The main feature of human existence was living in a mystery, whatever we can call this mystery: God, the devil, energy, the last end, evolution, or anything that can make men believe. In this way, in Ricci's opinion, man can be defined religious.

Religiosity is understood by myself as the attitude to keep our faculties open to a secret life outside the apparent real life, open to a reality of which what we see is only temporary demonstration and witness. As a practical consequence of this religiosity man has no right to oppress in fixed terms, bind it in dogmas, limit and codify it. As a practical consequence of this religiosity man has no right to oppress or dominate another being not knowing exactly which consequences he may bring to this other being in his terrestrial life and possibly non terrestrial life. This position must be well visible in the organism of a city. As a practical consequence of his biological requirements, the problems must limit themselves to the means which can best satisfy these requirements<sup>48</sup>.

During the second world war Leonardo Ricci saw men killing other men because they did not believe in the same ideas. They were defending their dogmas and myths with their swords without observing themselves their own principles. That was wrong and it could have been fought with good common sense: «If they were only men of good will and good sense, it would not be so difficult to establish some fixed points on which all could meet<sup>49</sup>». We should be able to apply reciprocal tolerance and understanding to reach peace and to have a new future city to shelter.

In Ricci's view the towns designed by some architectural geniuses were extremely different from each other and they seemed to be the products of different civilizations, because those civilizations had lived before the two world wars: after the second world war, instead, a unique civilization could exist, because the needs of mankind were evident and showed by the destructions of towns and values. These common needs could not be weed out, examined, evaluated, and classified with the aim of order them organically in the town. Poor results in town planning and architecture were not due to a lack of money as economists and bureaucrats stated, but to the lack of consideration of human needs. On one side economists would have opposed a pianification based on human needs because of the impossibility to increase taxes and the useful budget, on the other side bureaucrats would have opposed it because of the impossibility to limit the individual initiatives and freedom of action. Economists and bureaucrats' procedures did not consider that zoning and commuting were producing tiredness and, therefore, less output in production. What is more, the expenses of the construction of streets, sewers, and power lines owing to the great dispersion in the different areas would have weighed heavily on the city's public budget. The United States were a country of overproduction where the use of capitals for public works would have allowed a constant circulation of money, the market absorption, and the creation of a public patrimony.

The freedom of action of the future city would have not meant the total freedom for everyone to build but the freedom for everyone to live in the collectivity and to choose according to one's own needs and commonly shared values and rules, in a respectful relationship<sup>50</sup>.

---

<sup>48</sup> Ricci, "An architect facing the problems of a city", 10.

<sup>49</sup> Ricci, "An architect facing the problems of a city", 11.

<sup>50</sup> Ricci, "An architect facing the problems of a city", 1-16.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The essential points of Leonardo Ricci's reflection on the city of the future were always the search for man's primary needs to understand its existential dimension in detail and start from the awareness of the crisis to redesign a city for everyone. Urban planning and architecture were disciplines that were born inside men, or better the outside projection of what man was inside<sup>51</sup>, the precise objectification of a specific way of living and existing. This was Ricci's will to look for the truth: architects could be sure to design true buildings and cities only by moving from the knowledge to deal with the real and ordered, classified needs of men. If the design process had not moved from that awareness the designed solutions would have been false, confused, and uncertain but suggested by authorized voices, against which everyone was powerless. Therefore, it was important for the architects and urban planners to base their activity on their direct experience which could be of two types: the first one was the direct experience and the knowledge of places they could acquire as if they were citizens of the city or inhabitants of the place they were going to work on. The second one concerned the knowledge of the cultural background and of the culture producers living in the site to see them not as geniuses but as men belonging to a precise time and to a determined place: this was the only way to understand the truth of their thought.

The city plans elaborated by the masters were abstractions produced by the mind of a single man, different from each other but not the expression of a common feeling. In those city plans men would have been forced to live in dictatorial cities and the work of the planners after the war resulted as a mediocre compromise leaving aside the most essential problems.

All men, and among them urban planners, brought with them the fear of an era, then they produced these plans with the fear of living, fear of having precise opinions, fear of entering life, fear of tomorrow and, therefore, fear of designing. According to Ricci this blocked plans' studies during workshops and meetings, and the designers fell into the resignation of a compromise. But from here architect and planners, with the whole mankind, had to start again, free, and available without false myths, false hopes, rhetoric<sup>52</sup>.

For what concerned painting, at the beginning of the conference titled "Architecture in relation to the other Arts", Ricci stated his will firstly to establish some points of theoretical character:

What is art and what the several arts are, find the cause of different manifestations, make a psychological investigation of language and of its physical expressions, make a rapid review of the various arts in history and their relationship, and then come to modern times and the relationship among the various arts in modern times<sup>53</sup>.

The lecture moved from the accepted knowledge of the modern revolution which began in art, of the modern crisis and awareness of the relationship among the different forms of expression as modern painting, its

---

<sup>51</sup> Ricci is clearly referring to Henry Lefèbvre's book *La Production de l'espace* for which Ricci wrote the preface. Henry Lefèbvre, *La Production de l'espace* (Paris: Éditions Anthropos, 1974).

<sup>52</sup> Ricci, "Uomo moderno e città moderna".

<sup>53</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Architecture in relation to the other Arts", lecture given to the University of Southern California, 1952, I.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

influences on architecture and aesthetics, the reason of -Isms movements and their relation to architecture, the new spatial relations in forms and the important reference to the fourth dimension of space-time.

The figure of the rebel artist was the demonstration of the will to escape to another world. Art had to be intended as the clear intention to escape<sup>54</sup>.

How was art born?

In a lecture which I am preparing for the Philosophy department of Brookline College, on Painting, I start this way: "When men first appeared on earth, whether born from the sudden whirl of God's magic wand, or from a slow and mysterious evolutive process (and for me there is no difference), men found themselves living in the lost Paradise or in an animal state very similar to that of the monkeys (and this also is to me indifferent).

Certainly, at that time men obeyed to a rhythm, as now animals obey a rhythm more than men do. Then men were perhaps happier (if one can speak of happiness among animals). It is certain that their relation to all surrounding things were more spontaneous and more simple. It is also certain that at a definite moment men broke this equilibrium to pass to another degree of evolution. The Bible tells that men disobeyed God and for this reason they were expelled from Paradise. I do not believe so. I believe that disobeying was an act of obedience, because men, following a plan to them unknown, were to live this animal paradise to enter another one, to attempt to form another one, the paradise of men, even if the results are so far not too satisfactory<sup>55</sup>.

Art pushed the artists to rebellion because they suffered the "markings of the curse" someone did for them, as Adam and Eve left the world shaped by God.

To Ricci in the prehistoric time life was easier because men felt only their natural needs and feelings, but they suffered solitude because they did not know the others' opinions about the world. From the first observations, the human form led the prehistoric man to more difficult problems as searching the reason for life, looking for answers and communication<sup>56</sup>. Leonardo Ricci, more as philosopher than as painter or architect, supported the idea that his was no longer the time of the union of disciplines. Painting, philosophy, and science, once in close connection, were segregated from the era of technology, in which man did not care about the others' view and developed an extreme sense of loneliness.

Ricci did not see one of the arts superior to the others, but he thought that painting was the one that allowed man to communicate with other human beings, when he began to observe, to marvel at natural phenomena and

---

<sup>54</sup> In Leonardo Ricci's opinion the explanation of prehistoric art and of Adam and Eve's history of the original sin did not lie in disobedience but in the trial to escape from the world God created for them, from the animal paradise to the paradise for men as Ricci called it. Adam ate the apple of conscience, the taboo of mankind, and God punished him not for disobedience but for having felt so important: when Adam and Eve escaped, they found a world where all the most important discoveries could be made and they could have been happy.

Ricci, "Architecture in relation to the other Arts", 2.

<sup>55</sup> Ricci, "Architecture in relation to the other Arts", 2.

<sup>56</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "The function of art in contemporary life", typescript of the lecture given to the Department of philosophy of the Brooklyn College, 1952, 1, 2. The conference took also place the following year in Fiamma Vigo's Gallery "Numero", and then it was published in the namesake journal with the title "Pittura come linguaggio", *Numero*, no. 6 (November-December 1953): 16-20.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

to feel that he cared about the things of the world<sup>57</sup>. The need for communication gave birth to collective existence and to beautiful expressions of the act of thinking as philosophy, religion, music, and wonderful disciplines, all connected to each other, but then became too specialized and separated in contemporary times. Painting fostered communication allowing each man to represent to the others his view of the world<sup>58</sup>. Therefore, Aesthetics meant to be able to see the other, not to investigate on beauty or elaborate useless criticism on art, but to see in a drawing or in a painting of "the other" a representation of his or her own vision of the world. The drawings of the first men expressed bewilderment, not fear or wonder, they were impressed by the movement and with themselves, they expressed the external life of things, without their precise opinion. They then went on to represent the manifestations of existence and its phenomena: generating life, being born, or dying; this was because they began to wonder on the whys. They understood that the world was constantly changing and moving, and that life, material, and metaphysics only arose from man's struggle<sup>59</sup>.

To Ricci the most interesting studies on art history were those which tried to follow the history of man through the history of painting to study the changing of human thought and vision of the world. Therefore, painting as a language meant to Ricci not to dwell only on stylistic values, because this risked distancing from the understanding of the language of painting. Ricci saw a fracture in the field of the arts which created a break with the past, he did not agree with the critics because they accepted the change instead of investigating its causes and leave to the public opinion the understanding of the artists' work and life. He was not interested in dealing with the apparent world, nor making any general interpretation of nature, making literature, philosophy, art, or science, extracting formal games from the abstract world. He estimated the search for formal and expressive values in any discipline but did not recognize himself in any artistic movement<sup>60</sup>.

The fracture in art history was declared by painters as Van Gogh<sup>61</sup>, who «was destroying that dialectic world of body and soul, of good and evil, which was at the basis of our past cultural formation. He was therefore

---

<sup>57</sup> Ricci, "Pittura come linguaggio", 17.

<sup>58</sup> In the text of "The function of art in contemporary life" Ricci stated that since prehistoric times men were surprised by themselves, impressed by their handprints on the walls of the caves, then they were touched by movement. Ricci, "The function of art in contemporary life", 1.

<sup>59</sup> It was always a matter of expression, instead of beauty, form always bore directly from its organic drive: Roman, Gothic and Byzantine currents had born from their desire to break the limits of man, to project him beyond death and put him in contact with God with different methodologies. Form changed in time but who spoke of stylistic values was very far from understanding the language of painting, because it was a matter of confusing the means with the end. Ricci, "The function of art in contemporary life", 4-6; "Pittura come linguaggio", 17, 18.

<sup>60</sup> Ricci, "Pittura come linguaggio", 17, 18.

<sup>61</sup> «Let me give you an example: Van Gogh. There have been so many books written on this artist that the field of investigation seems exhausted. And yet I believe that the crucial secret of Van Gogh is still a secret. In Holland I was able to see approximately two thousand paintings by Van Gogh in the course of a few days, because at the same time there were available to me not only the finest and most important local collections, but also those which afterwards were toured round the world. I was made very curious by the fact that from a distance, when the complementary colours in Van Gogh neutralised each other, because of the excessive focal distance, the landscapes were looking like those coloured postcards that the impressionists detested so much. The miracle if you like to call it so, took place when I got nearer the paintings. Because only then could I feel that alive and vibrating matter which made the painting. So alive that it appeared not so much created by a painter who was expressing his idea of the world, but by a man who unconsciously had the knowledge of the secret of the world and with it was expressing himself. I remember the impression I got from paintings I was allowed

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

destroying all conventional conceptions of time, space, death, resurrection<sup>62</sup>». In the nineteenth century Impressionism started a revolution in painting after a period of culminating rhetoric and artists tried to go out of faith, which meant to look for other values which found different formal expressions. Some artists started looking at life and to all its manifestations in nature. Their expression of life, their art, reflected this intention to be nearer to the natural order of things. Afterwards men became interested in what existed behind the form and with Cézanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin another period began: according to Ricci they lived three victories and three failures. They won when they revolted against society and searched a new religious position in life, which they manifested through new form, but they lost because they lived desperately and died without achieving what they fought for. They did not invent a new world but put a new accent on determined aspects of life and gave them a tangible dimension<sup>63</sup>.

The two world wars were the best demonstration of the total failure of the attempts of painters as Van Gogh, Cézanne, Gauguin, philosophers as Nietzsche, or of the "cursed poets" as Baudelaire and Rilke to write and prepare the ground for a new eschatological position of man on earth, trying to find new reasons and goals of modern life. This was the reason why Ricci suggested that «it would [have been] interesting to examine how the revolution brought by modern architects, which had so far expressed itself with conceptions very far from one another both as far as both form and human conception [were] concerned, had their routes in these first ruptures. It would [have been] very interesting to examine the reason for a Wright or a Le Corbusier, or of a Gropius, and of their manifestations<sup>64</sup>». What matters here is that to Ricci, from the point of view of the content, men should remain in contact with reality through the visible world and could express it through this, while from the point of view of form and language men had to turn to art: "the problem of form in itself did not exist" it was very difficult to find a right form when he wrote because the artists had to struggle continually, to carry out a strenuous search for truth by making mistakes and going through all possible forms before reaching the right one<sup>65</sup>.

Ricci experienced painting, architecture, and sculpture, but, if at the beginning of his activity it was difficult to him to separate the disciplines and find the boundaries among the three, afterwards they seemed to be separate. In architecture for example color was an intrinsic value of the materials used for the construction of volumes forming architecture, while painting – which could either coexist with architecture or be completely separated from it – kept its own function in both kinds of expression.

Indeed, if the painter instead of expressing himself in a definite special world, changes the special relations to create architectural volumes, [...], he alters inexorably the compositive equilibrium belonging to architecture. Architecture is indeed three-dimensional, while painting is two-dimensional. The research in painting of the third dimension, and in

---

to turn upside down. I found out that a field of golden wheat would become a sky at sunset, and a Verona green sky could become a grass field. Thus, one could feel that he, before our physicists of today, discovered the atomic energy, or better the creative energy of all things on earth». Ricci, "Architecture in relation to the other Arts", 14, 15.

<sup>62</sup> Ricci, "Architecture in relation to the other Arts", 15.

<sup>63</sup> Ricci, "The function of art in contemporary life", 8, 9.

<sup>64</sup> Ricci, "Architecture in relation to the other Arts", 15.

<sup>65</sup> Ricci, "Pittura come linguaggio", 17, 19.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

painting and architecture of the fourth and -nth dimensions, must proceed in altogether different manners. Particularly because the relation which takes place between a man and a piece of architecture is completely different from the one which takes place between a man and a painting. In the first instance the man is inside the work, in the second in front of the work<sup>66</sup>.

Avant-gards, Cubism, and particularly Abstract painting, influenced architecture because they introduced new aesthetic elements and suggestions that led to an improvement in the simplification of architectural forms. But these elements also confused the relation between man and the architectural composition: a lot of architectural works became perfect products for the magazines and journals, they worked better as “camera products” than as projects for the lives of men. Using Ricci’s words, they worked better «as beautiful play of abstract form» instead of «being living forms in contact with man<sup>67</sup>».

The human dimension was what mattered to Leonardo Ricci, and, dealing with drawing it was extremely important because if the architects had always considered the human dimension in their drawings, many beautifully drawn projects would have not become awful buildings. The difference between architecture and painting concerned the human dimension as well because architecture had to be experienced by men, who would have been contained by architecture, whereas for painting the human condition stopped in front of painted works, so harmony had to enter the painting, not human beings<sup>68</sup>.

In philosophy and in poetry Ricci pointed out two main standpoints trying to find a new justification of life: one aiming at an existential position in life and the other to a positivistic position, but while philosophy and poetry were just trying to relate these two fields, architecture had already done it: modern architecture escaped from a mystic past and was trying to live by itself in its own poetry and self-justification, and mathematical laws were at the basis of the engineers’ work. A lot of work had still to be done, but this relation among the two currents was the reason why architecture could have been defined “existential”<sup>69</sup>. In the same way Ricci defined himself an “existential architect” (to be therefore distinguished from existentialist) and wanted to face painting and architecture from an existential point of view, not even explaining his view on the world, because it was certainly different from the others’ view. It could be naturalistic, impressionistic, seen through moral, politics, literature, philosophy, art, mathematics, or science but extracting formal values from reality was not what he was interested in. He was interested in looking at and studying human beings, because mankind had tried to look for ways of living, but it had not lived so far.

---

<sup>66</sup> Ricci, “Architecture in relation to the other Arts”, 16, 17.

<sup>67</sup> Ricci, “Architecture in relation to the other Arts”, 17.

<sup>68</sup> All the eschatological issues studied by philosophers, painters and thinkers were useless because the human being was the most perfect form in nature and through his acts, gestures, and eyes he was able to enter the most complete understanding of the eschatological reality beyond the apparent forms, the world could show itself. Ricci, “The function of art in contemporary life”, 2-4.

<sup>69</sup> Ricci tried to draw comparisons between architecture and music and between architecture and cinema as well. Ricci, “Architecture in relation to the other Arts”, 20-23.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

The things which I see and which are not disguised by errors, which [...] present themselves in their elementary form, have value only in a future reality, even if they take place in the present<sup>70</sup>.

Man could get in contact with reality by means of the senses and express the reality using the same means, which concern expressive language.

Research of form. Property or language? Adhesion of the expressive value to the expression itself<sup>71</sup>.

Ricci's idea of painting expressed in the conferences' texts is fundamental to understand his way of conceiving and producing morphological results in architecture as well: the problem of form in itself did not exist and the artist had to find the expressive form through a fighting process which would have brought the final truth by means of a process of mistakes and almost always with a result not reflecting his high beginning intentions. This happened because the artists had to re-integrate what the predecessors had destroyed, they had that difficult quest and the tiring work to achieve a fruitful result<sup>72</sup>.

Ricci's reflections on the condition of the artist, on the function of art in collective life, and on the possible solutions art could provide for the twentieth century social life were also investigated by Lewis Mumford, who published *Art and Technics* in the same year of Ricci's conferences<sup>73</sup>, and by Siegfried Giedion, who also dealt with the problem of the fracture that existed between the artists -the art creators as he defined them- and the public some years later, in his book *Architektur und Gemeinschaft* (1956)<sup>74</sup>.

Lewis Mumford published in his book the results of a series of lectures aimed at reflecting on the relation among arts and technics<sup>75</sup> and, as he specified:

My special purpose in these lectures, then, springs out of our common responsibility to restore order and value and purpose, on the widest scale, to human life. This means two things. We must find out how to make our subjective life more disciplined and resolute, endowed with more of the qualities that we have poured into the machine, so that we shall not equate our subjectivity with the trivial and the idle, the disorderly and the irrational, as if the only road to free creativity lay through a complete withdrawal from the effort to communicate and cooperate with other men<sup>76</sup>.

---

<sup>70</sup> Ricci, "The function of art in contemporary life", 16.

<sup>71</sup> Ricci, "The function of art in contemporary life", 17.

<sup>72</sup> Ricci, "The function of art in contemporary life", 16-17.

<sup>73</sup> Lewis Mumford, *Arts and Technics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1952).

<sup>74</sup> Siegfried Giedion clearly stated his intention to deal with the problem in the preface of the book, where he blamed the critics as the responsible of the fracture that gave space to the worst instincts of the public. Siegfried Giedion, *Architektur und Gemeinschaft* (Reinbek: Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag GmbH, 1956).

<sup>75</sup> «Technics is a word that has only lately come into use in English; people still sometimes try to frenchify it into "techniques" and thereby give it a quite different meaning. We ordinarily use the word technology to describe both the field of the practical arts and the systematic study of their operations and products. For the sake of clarity, I prefer to use technics alone to describe the field itself, that part of human activity wherein, by an energetic organization of the process of work, man controls and directs the forces of nature for his own purposes», Mumford, *Arts and Technics*, 15.

<sup>76</sup> Mumford, *Arts and Technics*, 13, 14.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

There were therefore strong analogies with Ricci's treatise in his conferences held in the same year on the restoration of the artist's role in society, in the comparison between the inner subjective and objective life<sup>77</sup>. The same tension between subjective and objective was felt by Leonardo Ricci, who considered it useful to solve social problems, to find architectural solution for the collectivity, always focusing on the human person as «missing element<sup>78</sup>» or term of comparison to reconcile the external and internal order of human life. As for Ricci, in Mumford's opinion art was not a substitute for or an escape from life, but the manifestation of life impulses and values coming out.

Giedion recognized that the press and public opinion affected the void between artists and the public in the nineteenth century, but the twentieth century was seeing the heal up of the wound, in architecture more than in the other arts, because as it happened for science, in architecture and urban planning, only the creative man provided with imagination was able to solve the problem<sup>79</sup>.

The synthesis of the arts was something lost during the nineteenth century that had to be restored. The excess of specialization had caused the loss of the capacity of synthesis and, this was the reason why the different arts had suffered the separation of their research and aims. Thus, isolation of the arts and, consequently, an isolation of feelings existed: the twentieth century had to restore the capacity of synthesis for a common aim of re-integration of the artists and art, against what Giedion defined the "pseudo-feelings", "pseudo-symbols", and "pseudo-idylls" of the contemporary man. This had to be done because the human balance of feelings and needs was altered, science, production and industry developed quickly and constantly without caring of the common field they shared: human life<sup>80</sup>.

Imagination was the common denominator Ricci was looking for, and, to Giedion it was precisely what man and nature shared, the only force (the "radar") able to perceive the spiritual transformation, because it had to express the natural changing of being through men and for men<sup>81</sup>.

---

<sup>77</sup> Ricci, "Subjective and Objective", in *Anonymous (XX century)*, 44-65.

<sup>78</sup> Mumford, *Arts and Technics*, 12.

<sup>79</sup> Siegfried Giedion, "Desiderio di immaginazione", in *Breviario di Architettura* (Milano, Garzanti, 1961), 168-214. Italian edition of Giedion, *Architektur und Gemeinschaft*. Giedion introduced the topic with its main cause: the influence of aesthetic values on the shaping of reality. These constituted the reasons of the main mistake Ricci was reflecting on some years before during his conferences of 1952: the distinction between what we like or dislike, what the public can judge "ugly" or "nice", that meant basically nothing to art or to anything that implied an artistic intention. Imagination was the right tool to overcome the problem and the gap between the customer with his sensitivity and the artist with his progressive and creative thought. According to Giedion two kinds of imagination existed: the social and the spatial imagination, two concepts we can easily connect with Leonardo Ricci's thought, because of his conviction of the social and spatial origin of architecture. The social imagination consisted in the architect's ability to interpret the form of life and give to it a suitable expression and, therefore, to suggest programs for his buildings that politicians and bureaucrats could not even think of. This conception was mindful of Sullivan's interpretation on the main tasks of the architect: to interpret and to initiate. Spatial imagination instead implied the necessity to overcome the precepts of functionality and found its expression in a particular articulation of volumes able to interpret the collectivity needs and recognition.

<sup>80</sup> Siegfried Giedion, "I valori estetici e l'architettura", in *Breviario di Architettura*, 93-128.

<sup>81</sup> Giedion, "I valori estetici e l'architettura", 122, 123.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

### 2.4. First reflections on morphological generations in painting: the Informal

Ricci pursued the refusal of an *a priori* form in his painting research as well, as the architect described the genesis of form from determined intrinsic characteristics of natural elements.

Ricci had been always maintaining the impossibility to define form, but he had always been asking himself whether an artist could have ever produced a form similar to natural forms or following the same natural processes. In his work as a painter Ricci looked for the right ways to express precise and different contents, therefore he experienced a wide range of forms intended as the results of his trials. Forms were different because contents were different, which were suggested by life experience: form was a matter of existence. It was a reality that found its form.

In painting Ricci tried to convey the existential condition because, in this way, existence could have reached a form<sup>82</sup>; his research concentrated on the trial to understand what passed between the real object and its representation, what exactly could give to the represented object the truth it really had. The artist should have the aim to realize works that leave the existential message go directly to the observer and, therefore, he should look only for the right way to make this happen, tell the truth, and avoid details of perfection. Details did not matter anymore, even though the painter could miss them or think his work was not perfect without them.

In painting the Informal manifested the refusal of predetermined formal schemes and this expression of painting was experienced by Ricci and subject of the volume "Opera Aperta" by Umberto Eco<sup>83</sup>. Bruno Zevi explained Ricci's "informal" attitude towards painting and architecture dealing with the architect's set up of the Expressionism Exhibition at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence (1964), defined an informal work of art itself, and with the way of overcoming the boundaries of the arts by melting architecture and sculpture. Ricci's set-up of the exhibition "Espressionismo: pittura scultura architettura" ["Expressionism: painting, sculpture architecture"], then awarded with the "Fiorino d'Oro" in the same year, took shape in the wake of the experiments conducted by Friedrich Kiesler and André Bloc, spread also in Florence in the Sixties. The Expressionism exhibition in Florence was supervised by Palma Bucarelli for the figurative part, and by Giovanni Klaus Koenig for the architectural one<sup>84</sup>, it was realized in the climate of re-evaluation of the power of exhibitions encouraged by Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti since the immediate post-war period. Ragghianti had studied the importance of the exhibitions as mediators between public and museum, as a response to the aesthetic education of the public thanks to their "discursive power". The exhibition was in fact for Ragghianti a device that allowed the work to express itself at its best thanks also to the combinations with other works that allowed it to be read as a system with the text of the history of art<sup>85</sup>.

---

<sup>82</sup> Ricci explains this concept in depth by describing the process that gave birth to two of his paintings: *The death of my father* and *My wife in childbirth*. About the process of form generation in painting see Leonardo Ricci, "Form, the tangible expression of a reality", in *The Man-Made Object*, ed. György Kepes (New York: Braziller, 1966), 108-112.

<sup>83</sup> Umberto Eco, *Opera Aperta* (Milano: Bompiani, 1962). To deepen the discussion on the Informal painting: chapter 6, paragraph 6.2. of the present work.

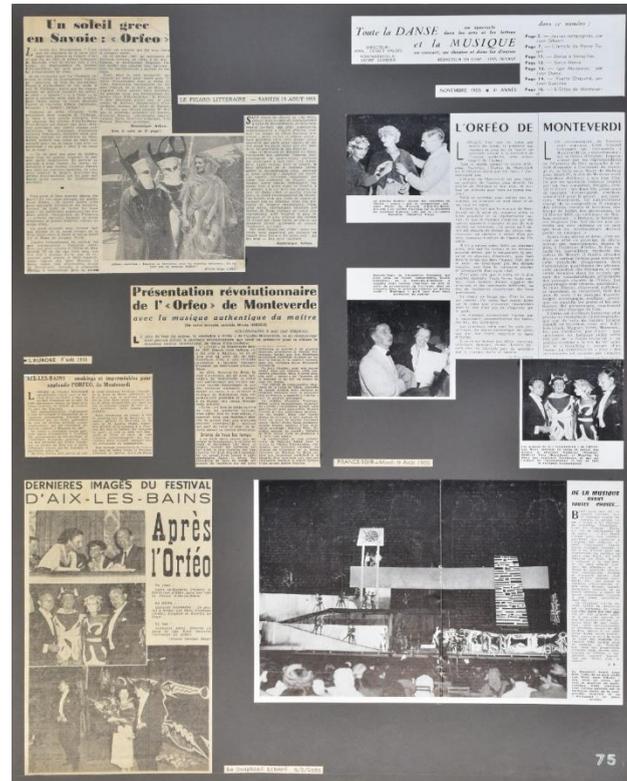
<sup>84</sup> It is worth reminding here Giovanni Klaus Koenig and Franco Borsi's book published a few years later, *Architettura dell'Espressionismo* (Genova: Vitali e Ghianda-Paris: Vincent Fréal, 1967).

<sup>85</sup> Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti, "Le rassegne d'arte in Italia", *Critica d'Arte*, no. 69 (1965): 65-70.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



2.12: Leonardo Ricci, drawing of the set-up for the Orfeo, 1955, drawing published in the poster signed by Ricci in which the volume of the stairs is clear on the left, Casa Studio Ricci, "Logbook" n. 2 (1952-1956), page 72.



2.13: Articles on the set-up for the Orfeo show in which some pictures are visible, Casa Studio Ricci, "Logbook" n. 2 (1952-1956), page 75.

Leonardo Ricci intended the design of a set-up – either for a painting exhibition, or for an opera, ballet, or fashion show – as the design of a space including man: actor and spectator of a space in his time. Ten years before Ricci had designed his first set up project for the *Orfeo* (Aix Les Bains, from July 22 to August 7, 1955)<sup>86</sup>. On that occasion Ricci thought of a very steep wooden staircase with cantilevered steps, which recalled the stairs of the Monterinaldi houses, to represent the descent of Orpheus into hell. The flames were painted at the bottom of the scene on wooden panels, which would have been a constant for Ricci's future installations: the plastered "centinella" was used by the architect both for the installation of the Expressionism exhibition and for the 1:1 scale model of the prototype of "living space for two people" created for the exhibition "La Casa Abitata", one year later.

The property of architecture to host temporality was extremely evident in Ricci's architecture, but in the displays it was accentuated precisely for their temporary nature. The installations were for Ricci the most synthetic spatial devices in architecture, in which content and container were deeply integrated into a single set of contents

<sup>86</sup> The script of the show with Ricci's notes and sketches next to the opera text is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

and matter. In the installations, as in architecture, the path, its theatricality, the continuous movement of man in space as time flew, were fundamental because they allowed to see the relationships between the elements.

In 1964, Expressionism was the theme of the *Maggio Fiorentino* and many events were organized in which various artistic disciplines intervened together including theater, music and art. Ricci chose for the exhibition at Palazzo Strozzi to make the expressionist works "scream" in a silent and balanced Renaissance palace. Therefore, he refused the ideas of designing a new architecture and a new expensive set up in the ancient Florentine palace, or of simply laying out pictures and drawings on the walls, trusting in the overwhelming force of colors and shapes, in their ability to dominate the static cavities of the rooms, because he had to enhance the pictures and their meaning first. Architecture could only sprout from this need and from the due to serve painting<sup>87</sup>.

According to Bruno Zevi, Ricci thought of an "archi-sulpture": a series of winding walls, covered with rough plaster dense with cracks, on which the names of the artists were written in red, freehand and without fear of draining. It constituted a shell for content of the exhibition, in dialectical contrast with the ancient environment<sup>88</sup>. The rooms of Palazzo Strozzi however remained in view of the spectator, the vaults rebalanced and framed the winding path designed by Ricci. «The visitor [was] sucked in and repelled by the temporary spatial polarities that [contested] proportions and cuts, in reality eschewing any desire for form in order to participate in the expressionist denunciation and even more in the consciousness of disintegration» and, referring to the paintings, Zevi continued: «Compared to the earthly landscape, torn by the expressionist shell, their scale [became] metaphysical: they [represented] lost certainties, invalidated institutions, the ancient rational and finite form, the closed and controlled structure of a world and a civilization which, in low, [was] disputed until the ruthless exasperation, determined to strip the horror<sup>89</sup>».

Ricci's project for the Expressionism exhibition was a strong example of architecture free from lexical or compositive rules and freed from the set-up concept of placing the paintings in a wall layout, they were displayed without caring distances, proportions, regular distribution, but they crowded portions of panels, they were isolated sometimes and sometimes they stood out against the visitor, according to the message they conveyed.

In the architectural section the landscape images of Bruno Taut followed the designs for suspended cathedrals of Paul Giesch and Carl Kraysl, the constructions of the Luckhardt brothers, Gropius, Hans Poelzig, a truly excessive series of sketches by Hermann Finsterlin. The famous Einstein tower in Potsdam, by Erich Mendelsohn, was documented by original slides and the exhibition closes with Hans Scharoun's Berlin Philharmonie of which some extraordinary drawings were exhibited. Those expressionist architectures were the symbol of the Twenties' idea of escape from reality as far as form completely dissolved.

---

<sup>87</sup> Giovanni Bartolozzi, "Allestitimenti come concentrazioni di materia", in *Leonardo Ricci 100. Scrittura, pittura e architettura*, 161-165.

<sup>88</sup> Bruno Zevi, "Mostra dell'Espressionismo/temporalità antilessicale e sdegno materico", *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Architettura vol. V*, (Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1971), 318-321.

<sup>89</sup> Zevi, "Mostra dell'Espressionismo", 318-319.



## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

The set up invented by Ricci both for the painting and for the architecture sections was informal itself, an informal wall changing dimensions, directions and height along the path arranged for the audience who could follow the astonishing exhibition while becoming part of the informal walking.

In that project Ricci melted two worlds and created a break between them: the Renaissance world with man as center of the universe and the expressionist man and artist who tried to escape reality and reach a metaphysical, obsessive, and evasive reality. The experiment was difficult because the project had to combine two different kinds of spaces: the measured, self-restrained and refined space of Palazzo Strozzi and the dynamic, action, and daily space of Expressionism, the quiet vaults of the historical palace and the pain, anxiety and screams of those painters. The spatial problem was only the first of a list of four main problems the design should have solved: the second problem was to quadruple the number of square meters needed for such a large number of works to be exhibited, the third problem was to allow the comparison between the different results achieved by the artists, who despite coming from the same historical and cultural background, had developed different expressions and treatments of problems from distant angles and periods. The fourth problem consisted in bringing back into a museum a painting that was not born for museums but as a protest to denounce the drama of a historical moment. In his report Ricci explained his design choices which moved from these problems. He decided to leave the Renaissance palace walls free from every possible duty as if they were «spectators of the painters' drama<sup>90</sup>». In the set-up he decided to build a continuous sculpture crossing the rooms of the palace which would have allowed a journey through both the single stories of each author and the collective artistic experience of Expressionism. That long and jagged path let all the works to be displayed and succeeded in going with the visitor from the very beginnings of Expressionism, across the different single authors' experiences to the last expressions of the movement, when it was nearly becoming an academic protest.

The reference Ricci followed to design that kind of space was the staging of an exhibition arranged by the expressionist painters themselves in which they decided to build simple walls in bricks painted in white to exhibit their works. Therefore, Ricci decided to build white walls for them inside Palazzo Strozzi trying to be one of them and imagine what those artists would have chosen for the set-up of their works<sup>91</sup>. Following the path the spaces fitted both to the quality of the works of the artists and to the different expressions, more or less strong, of the pain and anguish of the artists, until they reached spaces such as the one set up for Klee and Kandinsky, Ricci's favorite piece of the exhibition where a new world was taking shape<sup>92</sup>. In some points of the path there were the rooms of the drawings and graphics to let the visitors relax and admire the most famous works, suitable for a more daily distribution. The architectural section was a minor part of the exhibition that hosted the architects' drawings explaining the birth of some famous works of expressionist architecture. The

---

<sup>90</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Una mostra dell'espressionismo a Palazzo Strozzi", report by the author, 1, then published in the exhibition catalogue, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>91</sup> In his report, Leonardo Ricci remembered that during the exhibition, the painter Rolf's wife told him about the same exhibition he took inspiration from, and that this event gave him the confirmation of having done a good work for the set up. Ricci, "Una mostra dell'espressionismo a Palazzo Strozzi", report by the author, 2.

<sup>92</sup> Leonardo Ricci, letter to the Director of Palazzo Strozzi replying to Nello Ponente, kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 1.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

drawings were preferred to the pictures because more exhaustive of the process of birth of the buildings, the pictures instead were reproduced by means of a projector<sup>93</sup>.



2.17: Pictures of the Expressionism Exhibition in Palazzo Strozzi, images published in Bruno Zevi, "Mostra dell'Espressionismo/temporalità antilessicale e sdegno materico", in *Cronache di Architettura* vol. V (Bari: Laterza, 1971), 319, 321.

---

<sup>93</sup> Ricci, "Una mostra dell'espressionismo a Palazzo Strozzi".

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

Ricci's work as curator and designer of the exhibition was appreciated by Bruno Zevi, who wrote a review for the *Espresso*, Palma Bucarelli and Giulio Carlo Argan, who took part in the organizing committee, but it was criticized by Nello Ponente<sup>94</sup>, whose criticism was sent by the Director of Palazzo Strozzi to Leonardo Ricci. Ricci decided to answer all his disapprovals in a letter to the Director and attaching his report<sup>95</sup>: on Ponente's accuse of "spatial gratuity" Ricci replied that the exhibition was not designed on "perceptual" elements but after having thoroughly studied the works both in their history and in their dimensions. Each section of the exhibition had foreseen the creation of a model to be able to insert it work by work. Ponente did not agree with the staging of Klee and Kandinsky's works: there were twelve lowercase drawings by Klee and three little paintings by Kandinsky Ricci decided to recess in the walls with the determined aim of creating a different reading of those under-dimensioned works for the spectator looking at the two different worlds represented by the artists: an introvert, poetic, and intimist world on one side, and an explosive, extrovert and screaming world on the other side. What is more, in spite Ponente's strong criticism, Kandinsky's watercolors were exhibited in oblique or horizontal position, because they were considered by Ricci as intimate sketches of the artist's work to be observed and admired in a sitting position as if they were an architect's drawings showed to the customer: they had to be understood in an intimate climate while visiting the whole exhibition, and did not require a pretentious presentation.

Ponente accused Ricci of having created a Renaissance space ruled by a central perspective, but Ricci's intention was exactly the opposite: looking at the drawings, the staging was conceived to escape a perfect perspective space in favor of a dynamic, asymmetric, and fluid space designed by jagged walls, with irregular and varying dimensions and original oblique cuts executed in the vertical dimension. The central perspective was therefore destroyed to achieve a multiple and varied perspective, which was always changing along the path to reflect the expressionist intention of managing space. Paul Klee's perspective was open, complex, and varied itself, and so did the exhibition project. Ponente's criticism concerning the exhibition site could be perhaps connected to the lacking dialogue between Ricci's project made of jagged walls and the rooms of Palazzo Strozzi. Leonardo Ricci designed a contrasting structure with the chosen site, establishing a contrast relation between the two "containers" of the exhibition, trying to adapt the Renaissance to the Expressionist space. The problem affected most of the exhibitions of the postwar period, which were arranged in sumptuous and rhetoric historical spaces, not always suitable to the artistic products of the early twentieth century. Ricci was facing the common problem in those years of obtaining flexible organisms that allowed the visitor to live in contact with the work, to observe, understand and frame it historically thanks to the parallel exposure of photographs and of historical documents<sup>96</sup>.

---

<sup>94</sup> Art critic and historian (Velletri 1925 - Rome 1981); student of Lionello Venturi, professor of contemporary art history (1974) at the university of Rome. Author of numerous essays and monographs on problems and exponents of contemporary art: *Tendances contemporaines* (1960); *Paul Klee* (1960); *Modigliani* (1967); *Magnelli* (1973); *Paul Cézanne* (1979). Source: <http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/nello-ponente/> (last accessed May 26, 2020).

<sup>95</sup> Leonardo Ricci, letter to the Director of Palazzo Strozzi replying to Nello Ponente, Casa Studio Ricci, then published Leonardo Ricci, "Risponde Leonardo Ricci", *Marcatre*, no. 8-9-10 (1964).

<sup>96</sup> On the Expressionism exhibition in Palazzo Strozzi: Lara-Vinca Masini, "A Firenze la mostra dell'Espressionismo", *Domus*, no. 416 (1964); Leonardo Ricci, "Risponde Leonardo Ricci"; Marisa Volpi and Giovanni Klaus Koenig, eds., *L'espressionismo: pittura, scultura, architettura: mostra in Palazzo Strozzi: Firenze, maggio-giugno 1964*, catalogue of the exhibition (Firenze: Vallecchi, 1964), Zevi, "Mostra dell'Espressionismo/temporalità antilessicale e sdegno materico", *L'Espresso*.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

In Italy, all art galleries were turning into cultural institutions where the exhibition rooms could work with libraries, laboratories, rest rooms and further cultural organisms to allow everyone to visit museums and temporary exhibitions. Therefore Ricci specified to the Director that the aim was to avoid the common idea of museums as “temples of the arts” separated from men, as they were exposed human life and the human works of art<sup>97</sup>.

The staging of the Expressionism exhibition was a clear example of architectural sculpture, of the influences and melting of the arts. Bruno Zevi introduced Ricci's work dealing with the "sculpture à habiter", that was, a new architecture born from the fusion with sculpture, which produced new non-boxlike living spaces. The continuous sculpture was an autonomous space containing the world of Expressionism<sup>98</sup>. At a time when plastic research was living its crisis and architects seemed unimaginative, perhaps a new impulse could have sprung from spontaneous architecture, as the exhibition *Architecture Without Architects* shown at the Museum of Modern Art (New York, from November 9, 1964 to February 7, 1965) denounced<sup>99</sup>, and from the union of architecture and sculpture. The crisis of Rationalism brought the rediscovery of artists such as Antoni Gaudí, of the visions of Hermann Finsterlin, Frederick J. Kiesler's *Continuous House* and *Universal Theater* becoming examples to be explored, but, above all, the work of André Bloc definitively raised the problem from the magazines *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui* and *Aujourd'hui*<sup>100</sup>.

---

<sup>97</sup> Leonardo Ricci, letter to the Director of Palazzo Strozzi replying to Nello Ponente, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>98</sup> To Bruno Zevi «the real architecture [was] not the product of a few intellectuals, but the fruit of spontaneous activity, of the common heritage of a whole people and [developed] under the influence of collective experiences. [...] As the abstract movement [followed] the informal movement, an industrialized, standardized and increasingly inhuman architecture [reacted] by shaking off the entire baggage of rationalist rigor». Bruno Zevi, “Sculpture à habiter/In Francia si torna alle caverne”, *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Architettura vol. XII*, (Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1970), 276.

In Zevi's opinion, the future of the new ideas of France Charles Letrosne in Vincennes, Frei and Hunziker in Switzerland, Herbert Goldman in California, Mathias Goeritz in Mexico, Giovanni Michelucci in the Church of S. Giovanni Battista, and Leonardo Ricci with the project for the integrated city was unknown and they risked falling into folklore and the vernacular. It was yet a way to revive architecture, which nevertheless took new impulse from this movement, which emerged from sculpture and denounced how modern architecture, bought by neo-capitalism, betrayed its original contents and the space research. What was important was that it suggested new solutions based on light, scale ratios and visual dimensions. Zevi, “Sculpture à habiter”, 274-277.

<sup>99</sup> «[...] The ‘architecture without architects’ was rediscovered with Bernard Rudofsky set up for the large exhibition of exotic buildings titled *Architecture Without Architects* shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York from November 9, 1964 to February 7, 1965. The exhibition was financed by the John Simone Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and by the Ford Foundation, which helped to finance the research on the project by awarding fellowships to the director of the exhibition for a study of non-formal, non-classified architecture. The exhibition was also possible thanks to the help of the architects Walter Gropius, Pietro Belluschi, José Luis Sert, Richard Neutra, Gio Ponti and Kenzo Tange». Bernard Rudofsky, *Architecture without Architects: An Introduction to Non-Pedigreed Architecture* (Museum of Modern Art: New York, 1964), acknowledgements.

<sup>100</sup> Frederick J. Kiesler designed the project for the Endless House dealing with the study of the problem of living which was not a simple physiological function to be fulfilled, but rather an art whose rules had to be continually sought and understood. “Man was in fact a complex entity, biological, psychological and socio-political which had to regain the general and complex sense of living through creativity (...)”. It was according to these principles that the fluid forms and volumes of his project were freely combined in search of a spatial continuity that precisely represented the idea of the Endless Space. The space

## Ricci's first approach to the United States: the synthesis of the arts

Informal architecture did not exist and it would have been impossible, although the architects remained influenced by reviving the surfaces, shaping them, and giving them a material aspect: smooth, pasty, lumpy. However, it was a matter of releasing the buildings from a stereometric rigor. The informal in architecture could not be intended as in painting, where the separation of the project and the execution was denied: in architecture they were separated facts, and no one could have melted them.

As Bruno Zevi wrote in *The Modern Language of Architecture*, if the informal concluded an itinerary, in art history it begun with the Impressionist movement, it could have helped the architects to overcome the Renaissance conception of space with the aim of translating it in a new conception of space, not avoiding it totally as the informal painting did. The overcoming of the informal could have led to a new dialogue among architects, sculptors, and painters towards new direction for the design of the future city and, in general, for architecture as “programmed art” aimed at the territorial scale and settlements development to reach all the possible hypothesis for the “open plan”<sup>101</sup>.

---

was dynamic and flew inside following the unfolding of human action. The distinction between the floor, walls and ceiling was confused creating a flexible and organic environment.

André Bloc produced from 1962 to 1966 several Sculpture habitacles. This research marked the evolution of the sculptor from geometric abstraction towards free forms. Architecture and sculpture mixed in organic imbrications, staggered to form different levels and fortunes, opening the visual unity of form to a physical and space-time experience, such as Kiesler's Endless house. Bloc allowed light and air to penetrate through simple and complex paths, conveying in the habit of sculpture a continuity of the visual and internal exterior through a system of interpenetration of space, thus multiplying relationships, contrasts, and changes in volume. Mélanie Fortier, “André Bloc”, *FRAC, Centre-Val de Loire, Architecture Sculpture* (2016).

<sup>101</sup> Bruno Zevi, *Il linguaggio Moderno dell'Architettura. Guida al codice anticlassico* (Torino: Einaudi, 1973), 211-219.

### 3. Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method.

#### 3.1. Architecture and urban planning educational offer in the U.S.A. and at M.I.T

Leonardo Ricci's first task as visiting professor was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1959 to 1960. This chapter's aims are to explain M.I.T. educational offer and, more precisely, which teaching and research methods, as well as new academic courses interested him most, his expectations and direct experiences in the United States as visiting and research professor, that changed and enriched both his teaching and design method he then exported in Italy.

The M.I.T. had a pioneering role in the history of education in architecture and urban planning since 1933<sup>1</sup>, but, before M.I.T., Harvard University established the first degree program in 1929.

Programs of planning education in the United States had developed in response to a demand for professionals with a type of training not previously available in the schools of architecture, engineering, or social science. The first lecture in city planning was given by Professor James Sturgis Pray at Harvard University's School of Landscape Architecture in 1909 and it was titled "Principles of City Planning"<sup>2</sup>. The decades of 1920s and 1930s effectively constituted a formative period for city planning education in the United States: an interplay of personalities, new ideas, events, and institutions shaped the concept of city planning as it was conceived in the

---

<sup>1</sup> Lawrence J. Vale, *Changing Cities: 75 Years of Planning Better Futures at MIT* (SA+P Press, 2008). The MIT department head Professor Lawrence J. Vale supervised and arranged an exhibition and a related catalogue to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the planning program at MIT in 2008. The celebration also included a day-long Symposium on "Changing Cities". Trying to outline a historical digression on planning education in the United States before 1960 we can refer to some useful data available in the archives of M.I.T. Archives and Special Collections such as Professor Adams' report on *Urban Planning Education in the United States*, published in 1954 by the Alfred Bettam Foundation, cited in *A Summary of the program and objectives of the Department of City and Regional Planning at M.I.T.*, 1955, 1, 2. MIT Institute Archives and Distictive Collections Archive, AC400, box 5.

<sup>2</sup> According to a study conducted by Frederick J. Adams and Gerald Hodge, three main influences marked the idea of city planning education in the last part of the nineteenth century: «The impetus lent by the great recreational area planners» as Olmsted, Shurtleff, and Eliot who «showed a broad conception of urban form in the parks they planned». A second influence was «the growing social concern over the excesses of urbanization and a growing awareness of the need for better housing for the masses», in America this view was told by the writer and editor Charles Mulford Robinson, whereas in England the forerunners of this view were Ebenezer Howard, Thomas Adams, the Lever and Cadbury brothers. The third influence came from the interest in landscape gardening as a mode of expression, which spread in America in mid-nineteenth century, expressed in a concern for the form of the countryside in the large scale.

These three groups worked on their research independently before 1909 and there was little exchange of ideas among them, they fostered their ways of expression and their solutions to planning problems in their colleges until 1909. See James P. Sturgis, *City Planning* (Cambridge-MA, Harvard university Press, 1913). Frederick J. Adams and Gerald Hodge, "City Planning Instruction in the United States: the pioneering days, 1900-1930," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 31, no. 1 (February 1965): 43-46.

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

1960s<sup>3</sup>. The formative period, as we can call the mentioned two decades, saw a variety of viewpoints and the fundamental interaction among different colleges and universities, which brought to the initiation of the distinctive degree program at Harvard in 1929 with the aid of a seven-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. It offered the first separate and distinct program of study for the students wishing to practice city planning as a profession. In 1935 it became the department of Regional Planning in the Graduate School of Design, then called Department of City Planning and Landscape Architecture. The definite certainty that city planning had become a separate reality came when M.I.T., Cornell University, and Columbia University instituted similar programs within a few years<sup>4</sup>.

A five-years course leading to the degree of Architecture in City Planning was established in the School of Architecture at M.I.T. in 1933, and two years later a graduate program leading to the degree of Master in City Planning was added. The course in City Planning at M.I.T. was the second oldest in the country and had the longest record of continuous operation of any school.

The directoral plans in planning activity followed the idea to consider the area of activity of the profession and so the kind of jobs that society was calling upon its members to perform. In the Fifties the demand for planning professionals increased and it was evident in the listing of job-openings by the American Society of Planning, the growth and proliferation of public planning agencies clearly explained that planning schools should have provided a high number of competent generalist-planners to meet the needs of U.S. cities, metropolitan areas, and regions. Therefore, they had the responsibility to educate potential planning directors and consultants<sup>5</sup>.

Starting from this data and consciousness, the Department of Architecture and City Planning had seen in the M.I.T. environment a unique opportunity to provide a rich program for advanced studies and research in city and regional planning aimed at facilitating the opening-up of new approaches to interdisciplinary problems related to urban and metropolitan growth. M.I.T. Department of Architecture's focus was neither on design - intended as the process of developing plan layouts or aesthetics - nor on economics or social studies, but rather

---

<sup>3</sup> The decade 1920-1930 stood as one of the most active in city planning history, both professionally and educationally. Many dozens of American cities drafted their first zoning ordinances in this period, and their constitutionality was established, but city planning education was still subordinated to the three main design disciplines architecture, civil engineering, and landscape architecture. It saw the construction of bridges, highways, tunnels, parks, and wide public works, which were thought for more pleasant and efficient cities. Adams and Hodge, "City Planning Instruction in the United States": 43-51.

<sup>4</sup> Many teachers of these early courses in planning played an important role in the organization and development of the American City Planning Institute, then the American Institute of Planners. For many years, the Institute depended on Harvard, and later M.I.T. had its headquarters. Instruction and research programs were carried on thanks to the collaboration of professionals and planning schools. Adams and Hodge, "City Planning Instruction in the United States", 50-51.

<sup>5</sup> This was due to the fact that the foreseen probable growth of the population of the metropolitan regions within the following twenty years (1955-1975) might have risen to as high as 145 million: an increase of 60 million (70 per cent) over 1950. Such a growth could have meant the urbanization of 10,000 squares miles of rural land, resulting in the triple of the total urbanized area. Zonig, subdivision control, urban redevelopment and renewal, capital improvement programming were some of the legislative and administrative devices implied to elaborate master plans and comprehensive general plans.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

on the man-made physical environment on the large scales of cities and regions, how it could have been manipulated, and its causes or consequences: technical, economic, aesthetic, social or psychological<sup>6</sup>.

In 1951, since the very beginning of his mandate, Dean Pietro Belluschi had set up a committee to consider establishing a Center for Urban Studies. In 1952 a committee on the Development of a Center for Urban and Regional Studies was established and, at the beginning of 1953, the City and Regional Planning Department was starting a program of research on industrial location and regional studies.

M.I.T. was the first school in the United States to set up the first academic course in Architecture and the high level of the school was the result of a complex process of rethinking the graduate and undergraduate programs which started in 1954 with Belluschi, who appointed a “Committee on Undergraduate Planning Education”<sup>7</sup> to review the justification for the undergraduate course in planning, primarily because of the small enrollment of students in those years. At M.I.T. a dynamic educational program was maintained as well as an intense research activity: the premise of all the research projects lied in the new basic visual forms, concepts, scientific tools, and techniques. Since 1953 the research on the first contract was begun, six research projects of greatly different size had been undertaken and in the Spring of 1954 a research unit within the Department of City and Regional Planning was formally established: the Urban and Regional Studies Section. This step was a direct outcome of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in support of a three-year research project on the Perceptual Form of the City directed by Kevin Lynch<sup>8</sup>. In 1956 the M.I.T. School for Advanced Study was an integral part of the Institute and constituted an extension of the level of the programs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Schools; the main subjects of the undergraduate school were Architectural drawing, Visual Design, Structures, History of Architecture, Engineering and Graphic Expression.

As the interdisciplinary approach to architecture and urban design education, one of the most important aspects, which influenced Leonardo Ricci’s view was the course of Visual Design evolved under the supervision of György Kepes<sup>9</sup>, who developed a vigorous program in the field of representational drawing: materials and space

---

<sup>6</sup> The school had to avoid the specialization of the school in one of these fields, in order to guarantee the center of the general research and to allow the development of both a general theory of environment form and a comprehensive art of environment design. The demand for increased depth and specialization in some fields was translated by M.I.T. Department of Architecture and Planning into the purpose of providing an appropriate complement to fundamental training in comprehensive planning with parallel programs in research and teaching. On one side high standards and increased depth in research had to be attained in each area, but on the other side each sector should have satisfied the basic requirement that they bear directly on the central theme of the physical environment.

<sup>7</sup> The Committee was composed by Ralph Freeman, Kevin Lynch, Thomas O’Dea, Lloyd Rodwin, and J.B. Wilbur.

<sup>8</sup> The Rockefeller Foundation sponsored, among other research projects, the project titled *A study of the perceptual form of the city aimed at assisting the designer to create better urban environment* (September 1954-September 1957) coordinated by Kevin Lynch with \$ 85,000. Kevin Lynch book’s *The Image of the City*, which concerned perceptual aspects of the city was published in 1960. Data available in *A Summary of the program and objectives of the Department of City and Regional Planning at M.I.T., 1955*, p. 10-11. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 5.

<sup>9</sup> A short time before leaving Italy to teach at M.I.T. for the Spring term 1960, Leonardo Ricci and Giovanni Klaus Koenig wrote a report concerning the teaching of plastic formativity to architects following Kepes’ example and wrote a purpose addressed to the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Florence for the renewal of the teaching program in that field titled “Sull’insegnamento della plastica nelle facoltà di architettura” [“On the teaching of plastic formativity in the courses of architecture”] dated October 16, 1959, typescript, Casa Studio Ricci. See chapter 5, paragraph 5.4.

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

were manipulated in pursuit of aesthetic meanings free of the functional and technological pressures that could pre-empt the designer's thinking. The students worked in a studio equipped with special tools and devices for light control and photography to develop the artistic skills of the students. On the "studio work" taught by Kepes Ricci based his belief on morphological generations in architecture avoiding *a priori* forms, already expressed in the Informal in painting. The influences among all the arts in the design process, combined with the study of the History of Art and Architecture gave birth to a new methodological approach to urban design, while the course in Form of the City introduced aesthetic problems: spatial relations and perceptual elements were analyzed through group discussions, observation in the field and special project work.

A further aspect of M.I.T. educational program that could have interested Leonardo Ricci was the sequence of the workshop workflow based on the exercise in the programming and diagrammatic design of an entire new community – a theme Ricci investigated all his life - which exposed the policy decisions involved in the creation of large pieces of the urban environment and carried the student through the typical analytical steps of the programming process<sup>10</sup>. Then an extensive study of a group of small existing communities in the Boston region followed and each student or each pair of students was responsible for the complete analysis of one community, and for the preparation of a general plan. Ricci was interested in submitting the students real design problems, especially concerning community space, as M.I.T. architectural and urban design courses did to carry out all contacts with local leaders and work through the entire basic planning process considering the accomplished abilities and the available time. As it will be clearer in his following teaching stages at the Pennsylvania State University and at the University of Florida, Leonardo Ricci was particularly concerned on the educational power to let the students face real problems. What is more, at M.I.T. the students were exposed to the problems of mutual adjustment between community plans and to the considerations of regional policy. At the beginning of the second year, during their third term, the students had to face two or three planning problems of a more complex and advanced nature such as the replanning of central areas, regional plans, renewal projects, which could have consisted in the analysis of some special subject as transportation systems, industrial districts, or planning regulations. Therefore, students were introduced to the solution of real planning problems of increasing difficulty level and their path ended with the final individual thesis of the last term<sup>11</sup>. The students' tasks concerned two themes of first interest for Ricci: the community and large-scale interventions<sup>12</sup>.

---

<sup>10</sup> The notions, principles, exercises and theory studied in lectures and seminars were integrated in the workshops or design courses, because they were all applied onto a single complex problem. A deeply important purpose was to underline the creative and synthesizing aspect of the planning process which called for the use of judgement, imagination and the making of value decisions. The workshop taught the student participation and commitment in long run activities, which were important for their educational value.

<sup>11</sup> The workshop workflow based on the exercise on an entire new community is deeply explained in the documents kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 5; a large collection of architectural exercises given in the workshops is in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 7.

<sup>12</sup> Both themes will be analyzed in chapter 4 and 5, respectively.

### 3.2. M.I.T.: the J.C.U.S. and Pietro Belluschi's call (1959-1960)

At M.I.T., from 1957, Dean Pietro Belluschi tried to improve the educational standards to face the expansion of the profession of the architect due to the economic growth and technological change and to create a new group of scholars composed of architects, engineers, critics, and artists to find new architectural solutions for the crisis of modern architecture based on social, economic, physical, and structural studies.

At the end of 1957, M.I.T. had its Center for Urban and Regional Studies, focusing its research activity on the physical environment of city and region. The Center's concern was on the metropolis as a worldwide phenomenon and on its inadequacies and confusions that affected human life in the city. The same chaos Ricci felt in Italy was the same that affected American cities and Pietro Belluschi well expressed the issue in "The physical environment of city and region. The proposed focus of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies" dated September 20, 1957<sup>13</sup>.

Belluschi's "Proposed focus" is a fundamental document to understand the background in which Ricci's experience as visiting professor was inserted, because it was a purpose to develop the operational program of the MIT Center for Urban and Regional Studies and, therefore, it anticipated the investigation fields then studied by the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies (JSUS) Leonardo Ricci was interested in. According to Belluschi, the physical environment of the city and the region had to be systematically investigated and the self-referring theoretical and empirical considerations made by current studies had to be reviewed by adopting an interdisciplinary approach. In relation to the planning process, many studies lacked a focus, architects and planners did not look for information, criteria, and techniques in research, but were directly concerned in the field<sup>14</sup>.

---

<sup>13</sup> «Few questions that most of our cities are ugly, uncomfortable, expensive, and inefficient. These very problems, however, are producing strong pressures to improve the environment. Rising income and rising standards of demand are reinforcing these trends. The pressures are already strong in the western world and are spreading quickly to the rest of the globe. Unfortunately, the impetus for reform is in many ways far in advance of our knowledge of what to do. Within the province of action lies a whole new avenue of public power with serious implications for the relationships between government, the entrepreneur, and the individual. The pressures to act will force us to try many things. But it will take much more basic understanding and research before we really comprehend the consequences of such action and the sensitive interplay between the things we want, the nature and potentials of the metropolitan environment and the social, economic and political problems entailed in any efforts for improvement». Pietro Belluschi, "The physical environment of city and region. The proposed focus of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies", September 20, 1957. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>14</sup> The few sporadic studies by land economists, geographers and urban sociologists dealing with aspects of the physical environment and their generating forces produced several fragmentary concepts of desirable urban forms as density relations, neighborhood organization, superblock design, specialization of traffic ways, standards for public facilities and housing or greenbelts, but they evidenced little sustained activity, comparability, or integration of results, and had become object of controversy. Quoting by the text: «The three-dimensional environment will be studied in two basic ways:  
-How does it work? What, for example, is the effect of the urban physical environment on the individual, the group and the productive mechanism? How do different forms of physical organization affect goals they may seek, and what are or should be these goals?  
-How can we change it? How has this environment been shaped by the needs and decisions of individuals and groups working within the limits of preexisting physical patterns, and by the impact of outside forces, such as social institutions,

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

The M.I.T. Center's interest was to interrelate possible research projects and count on the assistance of other branches on the Institute with the aim of producing a series of publications and graphic presentations, the founding of new courses and the elaboration of new teaching methods and materials contributing to an advanced program of studies in the field of city and regional planning. The key areas of research were the form of the city, city structure and growth, transportation, housing, regional physical development, technology, public policies and controls, the planning process, social values, developing areas, the urban landscape. The intention of the Center was to start with comprehensive studies on public policies and controls, developing areas, transportation and city structure and growth, but the priority depended on the obtaining of funds. Key categories to describe the forms as density, transportation net, "grain" and surface needed to be defined and probed. Physical developments had to be studied in function of historical investigation, new techniques, theoretical possibilities for physical development of the contemporary city, and with the help of mathematical techniques, to know the consistency between the formulation of goals and the adequacy of the form proposals to achieve the ends. In addition to all the mentioned research fields, Pietro Belluschi mentioned a special focus on new studies on the developing areas and on urban landscape.

Belluschi's program wanted to enrich the educational program in physical planning and to produce a consistent intellectual capital in the new frontier of urban design. Leonardo Ricci was precisely interested in the advanced study program and intellectual policies of the M.I.T. The focus described by Dean Belluschi was appropriate for a Center of Urban and Regional Studies at M.I.T. because the institution had a preminent position in the fields of technology and science, and especially in mathematical methods of analysis of communication, operations, and strategies. These were Ricci's scientific and technological interests in M.I.T. program because M.I.T. - with its distinguished Architecture Department - the second oldest in the country with the most skilled staff in planning processes, housing, land economics, control techniques, and urban and regional problems - was the outstanding institution pioneering in the research of urban form and landscape. M.I.T.'s Center was therefore the ideal place for a research staff in city and regional planning skilled in the use of such tools and capable of profiting from the resources of this environment.

What is more, Leonardo Ricci worked at M.I.T. in the foundation year of the JCUS, a revolutionary research center in which Belluschi's intentions expressed in his "Proposed focus of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies" were realized. In his writing Belluschi anticipated the idea of a joint training and research program to be conducted by the Harvard Law School and the Department of City and Regional Planning of M.I.T. with the collaboration of the Center for International Studies (M.I.T.). The collaboration between M.I.T. and Harvard, also strengthened by a two-term sequence in Housing offered jointly by both universities, as it happened for further teachings as Administration, brought to the institution of the Harvard-M.I.T. JCUS.

---

technology and external economies? And how can the insights, and the understanding of the interrelationships gleaned from each of these fields of research, contribute to the solving of the problems of urban and regional planning?». Pietro Belluschi, "The physical environment of city and region. The proposed focus of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies",

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

From the Center for Urban Studies founded by Pietro Belluschi the Harvard-M.I.T. JCUS was born, financed by the Ford Foundation, to find new directions in Urban Design<sup>15</sup>, the new discipline that was founded at M.I.T. by Kevin Lynch, which constituted the core of Ricci's expectations. Therefore, a special focus on the establishment of the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies (JCUS) is needed to understand the importance of the studies carried on by Harvard and M.I.T. as they brought to the definition of the discipline of Urban Design in Cambridge. The JCUS was founded on the same year Ricci arrived at M.I.T. and the study of the documents kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections allows to retrace the reasons for Ricci's American transfer, which went beyond architecture. They effectively were interdisciplinary as the JCUS' ones. In November 1957, the Center for Urban and Regional Studies was founded and based in the Department of City and Regional Planning at M.I.T.<sup>16</sup>. Although the Center was operating within the Department of City and Regional Planning, an independent organization in the School of Architecture and Planning was to be instituted. The Center, composed of the Director Professor Lloyd Rodwin, Professors Lynch and Kepes, had a research program focused on the character of the physical environment of the city and region, its adequacy in meeting human needs, its processes of transformation and the means guiding these processes<sup>17</sup> and planned to attract mature research scholars and provide varied research opportunities for graduate students.

These research fields were exactly what caught Leonardo Ricci's attention, and, more in detail, the central purpose of the Joint Center to try to determine what the physical form of the metropolitan region of the future should be and what university could do to bring it about. The approach to be adopted against urban problems, becoming more and more serious, foreseen to worsen in the following twenty years, had to be bold.

M.I.T. was suggesting a new approach including the use of the network and information theory pioneered at M.I.T. in mathematics, physics, and electrical engineering. These were useful to understand the way various factors affected the growth of cities. «The research [would have also used] M.I.T. IBM-704 computer in exploring theoretical models of possible urban forms. The computer, which [was] the largest and most versatile at any educational institution in the country, [could] be used to study various alternatives for the movements of goods or of people, or to simulate various patterns of growth or of land use. Such a program would [have represented] the first large-scale attempt to use computing techniques to study the dynamics of urban development<sup>18</sup>». The M.I.T. Center for Urban and Regional Studies wanted to give a special emphasis in its

---

<sup>15</sup> For the Joint Center research activities: paragraph 3.3. Joint Release by Harvard and M.I.T. for morning papers of March 4, 1959. MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 2.

<sup>16</sup> When the M.I.T. Center was founded Pietro Belluschi was the Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, John T. Howard, Professor in City Planning, was in charge of the Department, Charles Abrams was visiting professor, Frederick J. Adams was Professor of City Planning, Bernard J. Frieden instructor, Roland B. Greeley Associate Professor of Regional Planning, Burnham Kelly and Kevin Lynch Associate Professors of City Planning, Lewis Mumford visiting Bemis Professor, and Lloyd Rodwin, Associate Professor of Land Economy, was the Director of the Center. Julius A. Stratton's communication to the members of the faculty and staff, November 14, 1957. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1.

<sup>17</sup> City and Regional Planning at M.I.T., program of the educational offer in 1957. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1.

<sup>18</sup> From the M.I.T. Office of Public Relations, "For release in papers of November 17, 1957". MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1.

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

research to the technological factors which more than other factors affected the form of the city and could bring possible innovations in the field of transportation and future changes that could result from the development of automatic processes.

Since the very beginning of 1957, both M.I.T. and Harvard undertook the talks with Paul Ylvisaker of the Ford Foundation<sup>19</sup> to ask for funds and finance their Centers for Urban Studies and, at the end of the year, the official requests were sent by both directors Professor Lloyd Rodwin and Martin Meyerson<sup>20</sup>. The decision of joining Harvard and M.I.T. research interest in urban studies was suggested by the Ford Foundation itself to meet the interest and the funds request of both universities and began in 1958<sup>21</sup>.

The final agreement between Harvard and M.I.T. was reached on April 1, 1958<sup>22</sup>, although the following months saw a series of re-formulations and re-elaborations of the agreement correct formula: the final focus of the Joint Center recalled Pietro Belluschi' report of 1957 and clarified in the methodological notes the position, duties and rights of both institutions. The substantive functions of the Joint Center were to strengthen the interest in urban and regional studies in relevant disciplines of the two institutions and encourage the communication among these disciplines, scholars, and practitioners from all over the world<sup>23</sup>. In the joint release of Harvard and M.I.T. the problems of initial interest to the Joint Center were listed: technological innovation and the city and region, comparative analyses of cities, historical as well as contemporary, applications of research strategies to comprehensive transportation problems, urban growth and structure, including the special problems of interdependence of activities in urban areas, urban and regional problems in developing countries, methods of

---

<sup>19</sup> The Ford Foundation was created in 1936 with gifts from Henry and Edsel Ford. Based in New York City, it was and still is one of the top four philanthropic organizations in the United States, whose main goal is to ward grants and loans to groups and individuals all over the world “to create political, economic, and social systems that promote peace, human welfare, and the sustainability of the environment on which life depends”. <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/the-ford-foundation-history/> (last accessed December 14, 2020).

<sup>20</sup> Letter from Lloyd Rodwin to John Howard and Pietro Belluschi, the object of the letter was “Meeting in New York of Paul Ylvisaker, Ford Foundation, with Martin Meyerson and Lloyd Rodwin, December 20, 1957, January 6, 1957. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1.

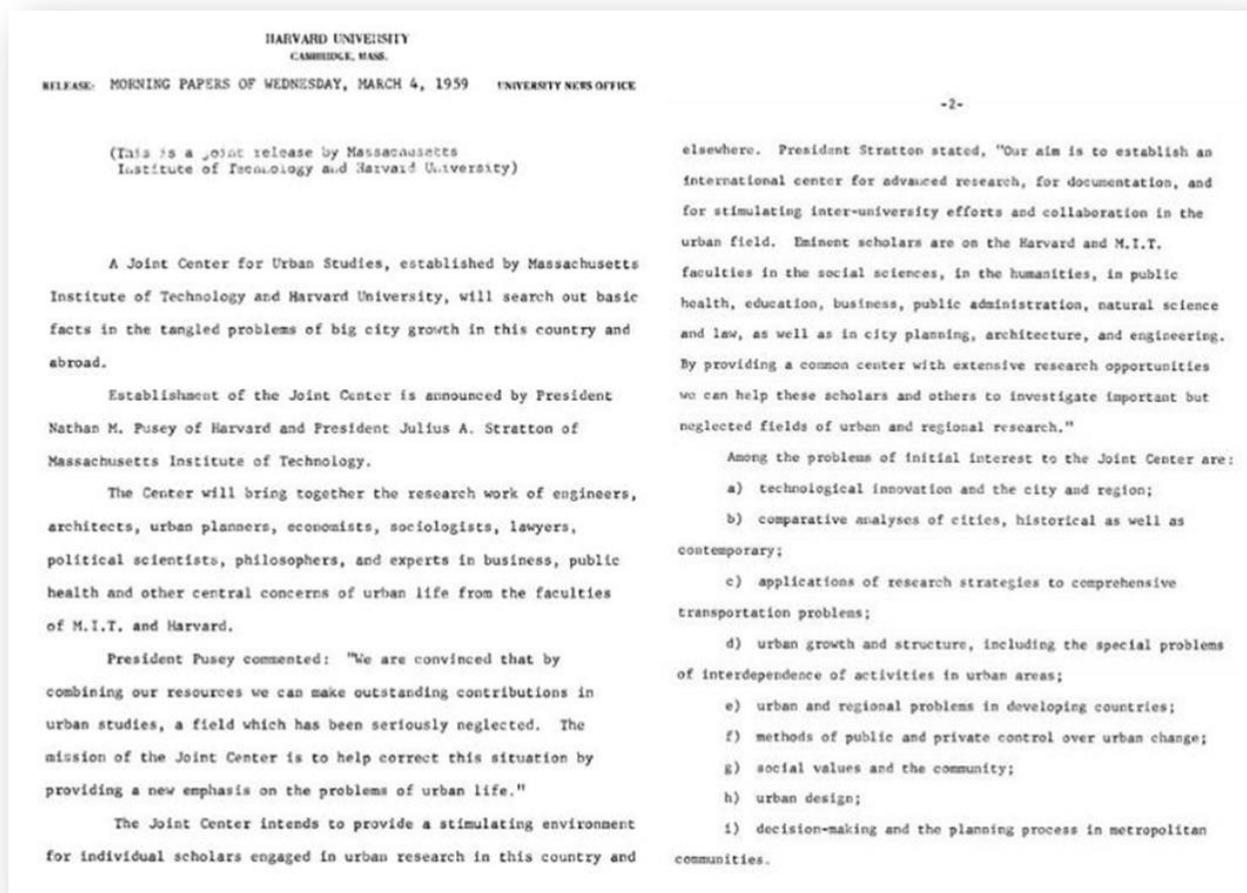
<sup>21</sup> On March 5, 1958 a meeting between Belluschi, Rodwin and Howard (for M.I.T.) and Sert, Bundy and Meyerson (for Harvard) took place to discuss the plans for urban research and they decided to have a common interest in joining their goals and forces in a unified Urban Research Center in the Cambridge area, sponsored by both institutions that had the best specialists in urban studies of the United States. Through the agreement, M.I.T. and Harvard decided to provide research opportunities, facilities and means of interchange among scholars and professionals to attract the interest of present and potential faculty in fields as city planning, architecture, government, public health, history, engineering, economics, education, philosophy, law, social relations, and business. The initial request to the Ford Foundation was \$610,000 for eight years: in the first two years the foreseen annual rate of expenditure was less but it would have increased and further funds would have been useful “to match the interest”. Letter by McGeorge Bundy (Harvard) to Paul Ylvisaker (Ford Foundation), April 10, 1958. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1.

<sup>22</sup> “Memorandum of Agreement on a Joint Center for Urban Studies”, April 1, 1958. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1.

<sup>23</sup> The initial precise intentions for the JCUS' organization were expressed in the “Memorandum of Agreement on a Joint Center for Urban Studies”, April 1, 1958. MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 1.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

public and private control over urban change, social values and the community, urban design, decision-making and the planning process in metropolitan communities<sup>24</sup>.



3.1: Joint Release of the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies, March 4, 1959. MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC0069\_195903\_009\_0001.

<sup>24</sup> Joint Release Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies, March 4, 1959. MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC0069\_195903\_009\_0001, box 1.

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

In October 1958, the Ford Foundation approved a grant of \$ 675,000 to the M.I.T. for general support over a period of five years of the JCUS<sup>25</sup>, the see of the Joint Center was established in 66, Church Street in Cambridge 38 after Presidents Julius A. Stratton and Nathan M. Pusey signed the Memorandum of Agreement on January 12, 1959<sup>26</sup> and the research activities should have begun on April 1, 1959<sup>27</sup>.

In the first formative years of the JCUS, to provide balance to the whole research program, it seemed advisable to concentrate the general funds of the Joint Center in four main fields of interest as they appeared most likely to produce promising results: comparative analysis, structure and growth of cities, urban transportation and technology, urban design, urban and regional problems of developing countries<sup>28</sup>.

In urban design, Kevin Lynch's *Image of the City*<sup>29</sup>, published by the Technology Press and the Harvard University Press, was the first book of the Joint Center series to be published by the two presses. Furthermore, Lynch's studies attempted to analyze the citizens' images of the metropolitan region and tried to determine how environments at the metropolitan scale could be given visual shape and form. The metropolitan image was studied in terms of its nature, its function, and how it could be clarified and strengthened. This work on the visual form of the metropolis and on the aesthetic of the highway was an outgrowth of the research Lynch completed for the book and it was published in the Joint Center Series some years later, in 1965, with the title *The view from the road*<sup>30</sup>.

In the field of Comparative Analysis, structure and growth of cities, Lloyd Rodwin, Chairman of the Faculty Committee, received editing assistance from the Joint Center in completion of his book *Housing and Economic Process*, an historical case study of the housing problems of middle-income families during the last century of Boston's growth. Lloyd's study was published in the M.I.T Series in 1961<sup>31</sup>. In the same field also the work of the Harvard Historian Sam B. Werner on the analysis of the development decisions in early suburbs of the Boston Metropolitan area between 1870 and 1900 was published<sup>32</sup>. In the volume the findings of economic and social history were related to the background of the decisions taken by housebuilders.

---

<sup>25</sup> Letter from Joseph McDaniel Jr. of the Ford Foundation to Julius Adams Stratton, October 7, 1958 and attached statement setting the general terms and conditions applicable to Ford Foundation grants. MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 2.

<sup>26</sup> Harvard-M.I.T. "Memorandum of Agreement on the Joint Center for Urban Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University". MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 4.

<sup>27</sup> Report of preliminary meeting by Martin Meyerson and Lloyd Rodwin, January 20, 1959, 2, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400, box 6, folder 2.

<sup>28</sup> In 1961 about the eighty percent of the general funds had gone into the four main subject fields and all the individual studies initiated within that broad framework were those considered important by the Director and the Faculty Committee and which, at the same time, reflected the interests of the faculty and staff available at the Joint Center. Among all the research activities focusing on the Joint Center's investigation fields, several were the publications consistent with the investigations aims.

<sup>29</sup> Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City* (Cambridge-MA: Technology Press and Harvard University Press, 1960).

<sup>30</sup> Kevin Lynch, Donald Appleyard and John R. Meyer, *The View from the Road* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1965).

<sup>31</sup> Lloyd Rodwin, *Housing and Economic Progress* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1961).

<sup>32</sup> Sam B. Werner, *Streetcar Suburbs* (Cambridge-MA: Harvard and MIT Press, 1962).

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

In 1963 the Joint Center series published Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan's *Beyond the Melting Pot*<sup>33</sup>, which dealt with the existing differences among the black, Puerto Rican, Jews, Italians, and Irish communities of New York, maintaining that the melting pot did not really happen. Religious and cultural values were involved as matters of choice as well as of heritage each group used to reach different results in education, business, and politics. It shows how cultural inhibitions and reinforcements have affected school performance, choice of career, recreation patterns, choice of neighborhood, political and commercial power in the city's history.

*The Historian and the City* by Oscar Handlin and John E. Burchard<sup>34</sup> was instead an analysis of the growth or decline of cities undertaking a cross-disciplinary study. The book resulted from the contributions twenty distinguished specialists in Sociology, History, Economy, Philosophy, City planning, and Political Science who met at a conference sponsored by the Joint Center in Cambridge in August 1961 to set forth and discuss their findings and conjectures on "The City in History". The papers discussed at those meetings offered stimulating promise of a new comprehension and appreciation of the city in concept and in practice.

Ralph Conant's *The Library and the City*<sup>35</sup> was made of different contributions dealing with the educational, cultural, demographic, political, and financial aspects of the urban public library, by re-examining its role in a changing urban scene.

In 1964 Charles Abrams published in the Joint Center series a book titled *Man's Struggle for Shelter in an Urbanizing World*<sup>36</sup> dealing with the field of investigation urban and regional problems in developing countries, in which the Guyana project was inserted. The book was the first on the subject and made an important contribution to the understanding of various national programs and the efforts of international agencies directed toward achieving land reform and adequate housing. Charles Abrams drew heavily on his rich store of intimate practical experience and described the difficult situations in Ghana, Turkey, Pakistan, the Philippines, Nigeria, Japan, Singapore, India, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Jamaica, Ireland, Barbados, and Bolivia. His expert knowledge of the legal and financial aspects of land and housing problems was tempered by common sense observation of technical and social aspects, enriched by imaginative human concern, and made effective by a high degree of political realism.

1964 saw the publication of *Regional Development and Planning* by John Friedmand and William Alonso<sup>37</sup> and Bernard J. Frieden's *The Future of old neighborhoods*<sup>38</sup>. They were particularly concerned with the basic question of national policy for regional economic development. The first one made available for the first time in one place the major contributions to regional growth theory and planning considering a large number of topics like location theory, theory of spatial organization, the role of resources and migration in regional development, problems of peripheral rural areas, the definition of regions, the concept of planning regions, objectives and measures of regional development, regional investment criteria, and institutional aspects of regional development planning.

---

<sup>33</sup> Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan, *Beyond the Melting Pot* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1963).

<sup>34</sup> Oscar Handlin and John E. Burchard, *The Historian and the City* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1963).

<sup>35</sup> Ralph Conant, *The Library and the City* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1963).

<sup>36</sup> Charles Abrams, *Man's Struggle for Shelter in an Urbanizing World* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1964).

<sup>37</sup> John Friedmand and William Alonso, *Regional Development and Planning* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1964).

<sup>38</sup> Bernard J. Frieden, *The Future of old neighborhoods* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 1964).

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

The second book instead worried about the rebuilding of cities involved in problems of housing and the future of declining neighborhoods. The book provided a sharp definition of the social and economic constraints influencing renewal programs and suggested a series of guidelines for achieving housing goals while rebuilding the city. These were some of the most important books published in the first years of the Joint Center's life and the most significant ones in the main fields of investigation in the Sixties, but the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies Series continued till the Eighties publishing books based on the studies of the joint research activity of the Center<sup>39</sup>.

The Joint Center had maintained a balance between academic scholarship and practical policy, between domestic and foreign problems, between the technical and social disciplines. From its foundation to the early Sixties a lot of research were approved in each investigation field and a meeting of large-scale real estate developers was sponsored by the JCUS to bring together twenty of the nation's largest commercial and industrial real estate developers to let them be acquainted with the last thinking on matters directly relating to their activities, since they were powerfully influencing changes in American cities and therefore people living.

In Italy, the quick social changes were observed and managed with old socio-economical models belonging to a previous society, with the aim of solving the problems of a new society already affected by consumeristic and globalizing phenomena. Therefore, Ricci needed to study new methods to solve the situation by means of an interdisciplinary approach Gropius, Riesman, Kepes, Rostow, Goldraith, De Santillana, Rossi<sup>40</sup>, Chermayeff and others were studying as well. All the previous names were quoted by Ricci in his speech "Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione" ["Introduction to the courses Urban Planning II and Elements of Composition"] as reference figures for his "new frontier" research which should have checked and verified his aim<sup>41</sup>.

Ricci was strongly interested in finding new strategies and applications for his projects in the U.S.A., in the educational offer, technological progress, and educational as well as teaching methods, so he asked Mrs. Elizabeth Mann Borgese to introduce his work to the M.I.T. Indeed, she knew Leonardo Ricci since 1957, a pair of years

---

<sup>39</sup> After the first grant of the Ford Foundation, in January 1963 the Ford Foundation approved the second grant of \$1,000,000 for a three-year period, which supplemented the \$675,000 grant of 1958, then the activity of the center continued for several years. After Martin Meyerson, Daniel P. Moynihan, Robert C. Wood, Nicolas Retsinas and Christopher Herbert (current managing director) were the JCUS Directors. In 1989 Harvard splitted from M.I.T. and affiliated with Harvard's Graduate School of Design and Kennedy School of Government, the Center consolidated the focus on housing that had emerged during the 1970s, and changed its name from "Urban Studies" to "Housing Studies". The Center advanced the understanding of housing issues and policy informs, helped leaders in government, business, and the civic sectors make decisions that addressed the needs of cities and communities. Through graduate and executive courses, fellowships and internship opportunities, the Joint Center also trained and inspired the next generation of housing leaders.

<sup>40</sup> Bruno Benedetto Rossi (Venice, 1905 – Cambridge-MA, 1993) was an Italian physicist whose major contributions were in particle Physics and in the study of cosmic rays. He taught at M.I.T. from 1946 to 1970 and Leonardo Ricci knew him there. Ricci would have then designed for him Rossi House for the Montepiano village in 1965. See chapter 4, paragraph 5.

<sup>41</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione", kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 5, 6. The text of the speech is undated, but, since from February 1, 1964 Leonardo Ricci became the holder of the chair of the course of Elements of Composition and director of the Institute of Elements of Composition until 1967, we can infer that the speech text was written in the span of time between 1964 and 1967.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

before Ricci's arrival at M.I.T. when he designed Mann-Borgese House in Forte dei Marmi. Mrs Mann Borgese, whose letterhead on the letter sent to Belluschi indicated "via Vecchia Fiesolana, San Domenico, Firenze", the road that connects Florence and Fiesole, probably knew Leonardo Ricci since the construction of the near Monterinaldi Village (begun in 1949 and completed in 1963), a project that gave Ricci an international resonance, and, after the realization of the first settlement houses, she asked him to design her house in Forte dei Marmi. On Ricci's request, Elizabeth Mann Borgese wrote to Belluschi, once advised herself by Mr. James Johnson Sweeney, who was the second director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum at the time (1952-1960). In her letter, she specified:

When I was in New York last fall, various friends, among whom, J. J. Sweeney, suggested I get in touch with you in the following matter.

Leonardo Ricci, whose art and whose character I learned to appreciate when, two years ago, he designed and constructed my villa at Forte dei Marmi (published in *Architettura* of March 1959), would like to spend a year in the United States<sup>42</sup>.

Mrs. Mann Borgese appreciated Ricci's work as a painter and architect and, when she wrote to Belluschi she was arranging an exhibition of Ricci's paintings with Lionello Venturi at Kleemann's Gallery opening in October 1960. Elizabeth Mann Borgese wrote to Belluschi that Leonardo Ricci could have been staying in the United States with a Fulbright travel grant provided by the American Cultural Attaché of Rome, but Ricci's monthly salary at M.I.T. was then paid thanks to M.I.T. special funds, as specified by Belluschi in his reply to Mann Borgese<sup>43</sup>.

James Johnson Sweeney was also involved in Ricci's call at M.I.T. since Elizabeth Mann Borgese asked him to send Belluschi some slides of Ricci's paintings to let the Dean know his work.

---

<sup>42</sup> Letter from Elizabeth Mann Borgese to Dean Pietro Belluschi, February 24, 1959, typescript kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, News Office (AC400 0001). See APPENDIX III.

<sup>43</sup> Letter from Pietro Belluschi to Elizabeth Mann Borgese, March 4, 1959, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001. See APPENDIX III.

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

Elizabeth Mann Borgese's letter<sup>44</sup> strongly impressed Dean Belluschi. Therefore, he decided to convene Leonardo Ricci as *Boemis visiting professor*<sup>45</sup>. Pietro Belluschi and Leonardo Ricci had a direct correspondence and met in Rome between March 31 and April 3, 1959 during a journey to Italy of Belluschi<sup>46</sup>.

In 1959 Pietro Belluschi invited Ricci to hold a course in Urban Design with Lewis Mumford, Kenzo Tange, and Paul Nelson<sup>47</sup>. Lewis Mumford was Boemis Professor of Architecture at the Department of Architecture for the academic year 1959-1960. He had already given seminars in 1957 and 1958, and during the academic year 1959-1960 he was going to give a seminar titled "Techniques and Civilization", a wide-ranging historical survey of the interrelation of technical achievements and other fields of human sciences as religion, politics, art, and communication<sup>48</sup>. In the same Department Kenzo Tange was visiting professor of architectural design since the beginning of the Fifties.

The archival documents unveil that Belluschi gave to Ricci the possibility to feel free to use any educational method he preferred: seminars, lectures, or design exercises for the fifth-year students, who were also free to participate in Ricci's lessons, and asked Ricci to send a program of the lectures he was going to give to the students. With a letter of September 8, 1959, M.G. Kispert, the administration Vice Chancellor of M.I.T., confirmed the President and Executive Committee of the Corporation's approval of Ricci's appointment as Boemis visiting professor in Architecture for five months beginning on January 1, 1960<sup>49</sup>.

---

<sup>44</sup> Letter from Elizabeth Mann Borgese to Dean Pietro Belluschi, February 24, 1959, typescript kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, News Office (AC400 0001). See APPENDIX III.

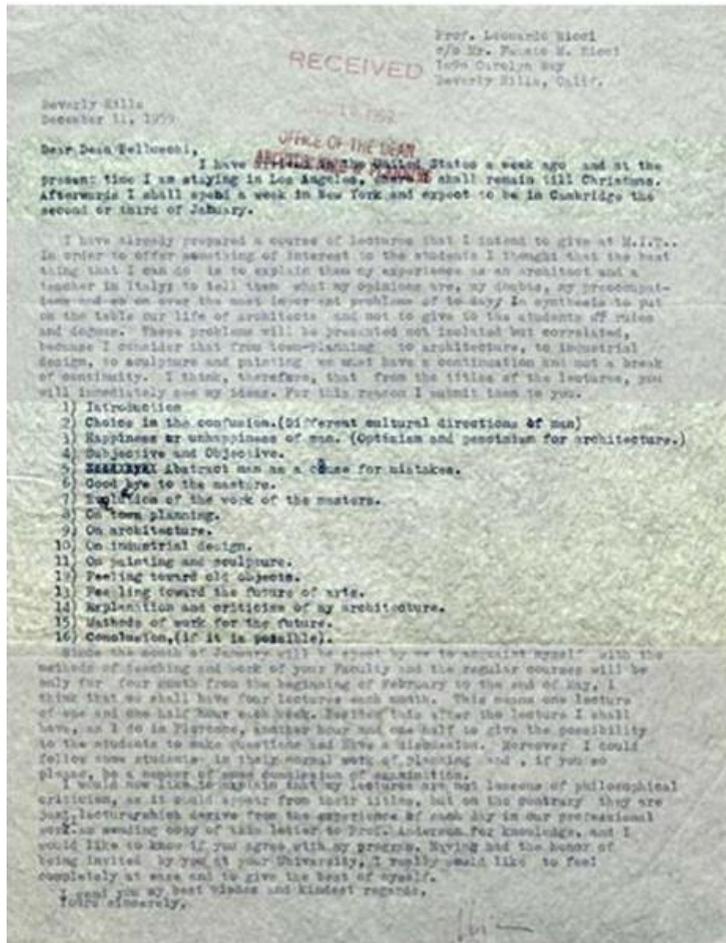
<sup>45</sup> Ricci's summons confirmation letter by Pietro Belluschi to Elizabeth Mann Borgese was sent in copy to J. J. Sweeney (Guggenheim Museum), March 4, 1959. MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001, box 1. See APPENDIX III. Leonardo Ricci's teaching activity in the United States therefore began in 1959 at M.I.T., despite his American transfer to the United States was usual from 1952, when he lectured at the Brooklyn University and at the University of Southern California. Corinna Vasić Vatovec hypothesized «certain stages of a hypothetical itinerary that [ended] in California with the visit of his brother Fausto Maria Ricci's house building site in Beverly Hills» (Los Angeles), which began its construction after Ricci's project approval in the same year. (Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 28). From 1952 to 1960 Ricci took also part in several exhibitions in famous American galleries such as the North La Cienega Gallery in California (19 January-27 February 1953), at the International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting in Pittsburg (13 October-18 December 1955) and Trabia Gallery in New York (29 March-30 April 1960).

<sup>46</sup> Correspondence kept in MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001 and Casa Studio Ricci. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>47</sup> Leonardo Ricci explained the reasons for his new beginning in the United States in "Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione". Ricci's summons at M.I.T. with Lewis Mumford, Kenzo Tange and Paul Nelson is often indicated in Leonardo Ricci's curricula kept in Casa Studio Ricci, either in Italian or in English, and in some Academic Bulletins of 1959 and 1960 kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections (AC0598\_001960, AC0598\_001961).

<sup>48</sup> Lewis Mumford was in direct contact with Pietro Belluschi, their correspondence is kept in MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400 box 1, folder "Mumford, Lewis - 1946-1959". The topic was object of a seminar by Mumford at MIT in the academic years 1957-1958, 1958-1959, and it was going to be repeated in 1959-1960. Lewis Mumford had published his relevant studies in a book with the same title of the seminar in *Technics and Civilization* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul PLC, 1934). For the relation between art and technics: Mumford, *Art and Technics*.

<sup>49</sup> Letter from M.G. Kispert, the administration Vice Chancellor of M.I.T. to Leonardo Ricci, September 8, 1959, Casa Studio Ricci.



3.2: Leonardo Ricci's list of the lectures' titles (final approved program dated December 11, 1959), next to the book *Anonymous (XX century)* index, MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, AC400\_0001.

*Anonymous (20th century)'s birth*

**CONTENTS**

<i>Introduction</i>	7
1. A Choice in the Confusion	11
2. Happiness and Unhappiness of Man	30
3. Subjective and Objective	44
4. Abstract Man: the Source of Human Errors	66
5. Farewell, Masters; Farewell, Geniuses	79
6. Feeling Objects	100
7. Intermezzo	117
8. Raison d'Être of Painting	127
9. Notes after a Couvention on Town-Planning	145
10. Town Planning: A Criticism	168
11. Town Planning: An Analysis	184
12. Town Planning: The Vision	198
13. Town Planning: Practical Action	212
14. On Architecture	221
15. My Architecture: A Self-Criticism	236
16. A Testament	247

Some months before, on May 20, 1959, Leonardo Ricci had expressed to Belluschi his availability to give lectures for the entire academic year both on his experience in architecture and on his «multi-material work in painting» and mosaic. Ricci also proposed to have a laboratory to work on large projects on specific assignments with the students. To Ricci it would have been useful to have an assistant «to translate his book into good English» so that, at the end of the year, «a document of his activity could remain at MIT, which would [have] then be published in Italy and which could possibly be published in English in the United States<sup>50</sup>». The text Leonardo Ricci was referring to was his *Anonymous (XX century)*. Indeed, the lectures' titles Ricci suggested in the program sent to Dean Belluschi in December of the same year were very similar to the titles of the *Anonymous (XX*

<sup>50</sup> All the quotations of this passage are taken from Ricci's letter to Pietro Belluschi dated May 20, 1959. MIT Institute Achives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001. The original letter was in Italian. See APPENDIX III.

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

century) chapters, they changed only in a few words<sup>51</sup>. In his letter to Pietro Belluschi, Ricci specified that, despite the title of the lessons could sound philosophical, he was going to deal with designing problems based on his experience as architect, artist, and educator.

The final program of the lectures Ricci sent to Belluschi, after having been issued by the Student Committee, was revised by unifying the first two “Introduction” and “Choice in the confusion” and the sixth with the seventh “Good bye to the masters” was coupled with “Evaluation of the work of the masters”. Ricci’s program was then discussed by Belluschi with Mirko Basaldella<sup>52</sup>, artist and Ricci’s friend, who was already working in Cambridge in those years as Director of the Design Workshop at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts of Harvard University since 1957<sup>53</sup>.

Ricci wanted to tell the students his experience as architect so far and to investigate with them the interrelation or integration among architecture, painting, and sculpture. In the Spring term Ricci gave four lectures each month, each divided into two parts: Ricci’s speeches last one hour and a half and were followed by a discussion session of the same duration, as Ricci was used to do with his students in Florence. He had begun writing *Anonymous (XX century)* in 1957, but it was not finished in 1959. We can therefore argue that the book was completed at M.I.T. thanks to those discussions on architecture with the students which were intense and often longer than half an hour. Indeed, Ricci’s lectures’ success and the general admiration for the architect’s work derived from his capacity to deal with architectural problems avoiding academic language and roles, which increased his empathy and communication skills.

Ricci’s lectures ad an excellent outcome and his personal archive in Florence collects a plenty of letters from M.I.T. students hoping to meet him again to discuss about architectural issues and expressing all their profound admiration for the architect’s work, for his design and teaching methods. Ricci’s success was also defined by Professor Lawrence B. Anderson, the head of the Architecture Department as follows:

Professor Ricci made a very valuable contribution to our teaching program and produced an indelible impression on the students who were studying under him. His interest in the human equation in architecture and his preoccupation with questions of philosophy brought new influences into the faculty and stimulated much active discussion. The students in particular appreciated his entire commitment, his devotion to the teaching ideal, and his enthusiasm for the art; they responded by unusual efforts and in several cases produced work of a quality that surprised their previous professors. All of

---

<sup>51</sup> Leonardo Ricci wrote to Pietro Belluschi from his brother Fausto Maria Ricci’s House in Beverly Hills on December 11, 1959. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>52</sup> Note by Belluschi kept in M.I.T. Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>53</sup> Mirko Basaldella (1910-1969) was an Italian sculptor and painter, who took part in Vigo and Ricci’s plastic art exhibition “La Cava” in Monterinaldi in 1955. He completed his studies in Venice, at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence and at the School of Applied Arts in Monza, under the guide of Arturo Martini, with whom he collaborated after 1930 in Monza and then in the Milan studio (1932-34). He exhibited for the first time in Udine in 1928, in the first Exhibition of the Friulian avant-garde school. In 1934 he moved to Rome where he knew the artists of the “Scuola Romana” as Leoncillo, Corrado Cagli and the group of artists and writers who gave life to the Cometa Gallery from 1935 onwards. He also exposed in north America at the Knoeder Gallery in New York in 1947 and in 1957 he was asked to direct the Design Workshop at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts of Harvard University. [https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/mirko-basaldella\\_\(Dizionario-Biografico\)/](https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/mirko-basaldella_(Dizionario-Biografico)/) (last accessed December 14, 2020).

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

these students have spoken repeatedly to me of the lively stimulation and the broader perspectives they have experienced as a result of contact with Professor Ricci.

The relations that Professor Ricci established with his colleagues in the faculty were characterized by mutual respect and the warmest personal attachment. Professor Ricci's lectures were unusually well-attended and brought out many serious questions by students under the influence of the searching points made by the lecturer concerning the position and responsibility of the architect in our culture<sup>54</sup>.

Pietro Belluschi wrote his gratitude to Ricci for the enthusiasm and passion brought to the school and sent him the students' drawings with the hope of having Ricci again at M.I.T. in the following years<sup>55</sup>.

Dear Ricci,

I have been meaning to write to you for a long time to express not only my feelings but also those of the faculty students for the truly extraordinary contribution you have made to MIT.

You brought to our school not only first-rate intelligence but a contagious enthusiasm for the profession. All the students, without exception, received an unforgettable experience from your presence, and that is why I wanted to thank you from my heart and also express my hope that the circumstances allow you to return to Cambridge in the future.<sup>56</sup>

At the end of Ricci's experience at M.I.T., his book *Anonymous (XX century)*, already introducing the theory of the "Earth-City", was published in 1962 by George Braziller in English thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Mann Borgese's translation<sup>57</sup>, then it was published in Italian by Il Saggiatore in 1965<sup>58</sup>.

Ricci took part in the academic life at M.I.T. also applying to revise the students' planning works and to be part of judging commissions of the school<sup>59</sup>. The archive also unveils that Ricci actively participated in M.I.T. conferences as well as in round tables about the future evolutions of urban planning such as the meeting titled "Underdeveloped Countries. M.I.T. looks at the world" during the international week 1960 held in Boston at M.I.T. from March 12 to March 19, 1960<sup>60</sup>. In addition to the course of thirteen lectures open to the entire student

---

<sup>54</sup> Reference letter written by Lawrence B. Anderson for Leonardo Ricci, July 11, 1961, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>55</sup> Pietro Belluschi's letter to Ricci is dated July 12, 1961, kept in Casa Studio Ricci and MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>56</sup> Letter from Pietro Belluschi to Leonardo Ricci, July 12, 1961, kept in Casa Studio Ricci and MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001. The letter was in Italian: English translation by the author. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>57</sup> The translation by Elizabeth Mann Borgese was not indicated in the edition of 1962, but in the reviews: "Anonymous (20th century)", *American Institute of Architects Journal*, January 1962 and "Cool Breeze from the Arno", *New York Times*, January 14, 1962, both kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections (AC400\_0001) and Casa Studio Ricci. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>58</sup> The Agreement between Leonardo Ricci and the editor George Braziller was signed on May 6, 1960 in the United States while Ricci's address was still Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 39. It stated that the author should have delivered the text within December 1, 1960.

<sup>59</sup> Letter from Leonardo Ricci to Dean Pietro Belluschi, December 11, 1959, typescript kept in MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, News Office, AC400\_0001. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>60</sup> Ricci's intervention at the conference was on March 15, 1960 within the panel discussion "Underdeveloped Countries: A Threat to World Peace?" with the moderator Dr. Everett E. Hagen, Professor of Economics at M.I.T.. Further interventions were done by Dr. Max F. Millikan (professor of Economics and Director of the Center for International Studies - M.I.T.),

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

body of the Spring term 1960, from February 15 to May 23, 1960<sup>61</sup>, Ricci served as studio master for about 15 advanced undergraduate students, his course for the fifth-year graduate students starting from January 1, 1960 to June 1, 1960. In 1962 Ricci gave another lecture at M.I.T. on March 6. We can suppose that the conference was precisely on his book, published in the same year, because the publisher wrote to Belluschi that a few hundred copies of the book's reviews were going to be sent to M.I.T. and distributed to Ricci's conference audience<sup>62</sup>.

---

Dr. Yves Rodriguez (Chargé de Mission of the Secretariat General of the French African Community), Dr. Paul N. Rosenstein-Rodan (professor of Economics – M.I.T.), Dr. Walt W. Rostow (professor of Economic History – M.I.T.), and Dr. Raymond J. Vernon (Professor of International Trade – Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration). The program of the conference is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>61</sup> Reference letter written by Laurence B. Anderson for Leonardo Ricci, Head of the Department of Architecture, on July 11, 1961, kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>62</sup> Letter from Jeanne Rowe (Braziller Inc.) to Pietro Belluschi, March 2, 1962, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, AC400\_0001. See APPENDIX III.

### 3.3. Leonardo Ricci at Pennsylvania State University (1965-1969)

After his experience as visiting professor at M.I.T., in 1962 Leonardo Ricci undertook a new cycle of conferences at Yale and M.I.T. and in 1965 he was mentioned distinguished visiting professor at the Pennsylvania State University, where he taught Urban Design from 1965 to 1969, a qualification which allowed him to apply the teaching and new research issues acquired at M.I.T. and experimented in the JCUS, and continue his studies on the “integrated town” both in America and in Italy, which resulted in the “Megalopolis” project, a macrostructure at a territorial scale designed with the students and assistants. Afterward, Ricci’s teaching activity in Urban Design continued at the University of Florida (1968-1971) and Kentucky University (1972-1983). During those years, and after (from 1960 to 1972), Leonardo Ricci worked both in America and in Italy, arranging cultural exchange periods for the Italian students of his courses of Elements of Composition and Urban Design and the students of Pennsylvania State University submitting them the design problem of elaborating new architectural models to solve urban problems, discussing, designing, and arranging seminars. As Ricci specified in “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione”<sup>63</sup> some of the produced models had been already published<sup>64</sup> and were to be published in his second book: the unpublished *Città della Terra*.

From 1965 to 1967, Leonardo Ricci coordinated Maria Grazia Dallerba’s research project titled “Aspetti antropologici degli atti umani” [“Anthro-sociological aspects of human acts”], conducted both at the faculty of Florence and at Pennsylvania State University, aimed at studying all the possible spatial configurations based on human acts<sup>65</sup>. Since 1964 Leonardo Ricci was Full Professor of “Elementi di Composizione Architettonica” and “Urban Design” at the Faculty of Architecture in Florence and the Sixties saw Ricci’s definite rise in the international stage. In Italy he was realizing some of his founding projects such as the Community Village “Monte degli Ulivi” in Riesi (Caltanissetta, Sicily, 1962-1968), the district of Sorgane in Florence (1957-1966), the residential settlements of Montepiano (Florence, 1961-1968) and the last houses in Monterinaldi (Florence, 1949-1963), the staging of the “Espressionismo: pittura scultura architettura” (Florence, 1964) and the “Casa Abitata” exhibitions (Florence, 1965). Abroad he designed and realized the costume section of the Italian pavilion for Montréal Exposition (Montréal, 1967).

While Ricci was trying to realize the revolutionary ideal of a community space, fighting against Italian urban legislation and municipal administrations referring to zoning policies, urban standards, and indexes, he decided to find a new way in the United States after the experience at M.I.T. at Pennsylvania State University and then at the University of Florida, where he founded the course of Urban Design.

In the United States of the consumer society a defined distinction between wealth and poor people existed, the suburbs growth was a result of the postwar prosperity and the individual estate industry increased. Suburbs were the symbol of the mass society that caused differences and discrimination between white and Afro-American

---

<sup>63</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione”, 5.

<sup>64</sup> In particular, the model titled “Centro-porto con vie di comunicazione acqua-mare-terra” (1965) was published in *Marcatrè*, no. 19-22 (April, 1966) and in *Lineastruttura*, no. 2 (1968), while the model “Macrostruttura situata in zona pianeggiante” (1966) in György Kepes, Vision+Value series *The Man-Made Object* (1966), *Aujourd’hui* and *Lineastruttura*, no. 2 (1968).

<sup>65</sup> See chapter 6, paragraph 6.2.2.

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

population who was not allowed to live in the suburbs. That was why urban renewals were needed, to build a new society and avoid segregation, based on new interdisciplinary and participated urban planning processes. This was the focus of Ricci's studies firstly at Pennsylvania State University and then at the University of Florida. The political, cultural, and social background on which he grafted his research resulted in the models for urban macrostructures elaborated, both at Penn State University and in Florence between 1964 and 1968. Ricci's studies for urban macrostructures produced a wide range of untitled projects of models, which reflected the idea of form-act, which implied life as act developing in the project and constantly changing it. The models' design was conceived in respect of the principles of clarity, formativity, infinite growth of the city, integrability of acts, activities and functions, and identification between landscape and structure, which, from then on, would have been cornerstones of Ricci's design method concerning the project of what he defined "architecture at urban scale". Those principles characterized the models with their combined or individual force, and on them Ricci grounded his refusal of predetermined forms to reach morphological results.

### **MODEL I: *Harbor-center with water-sea-earth communication routes* (Pennsylvania State University, 1965)**

This model is in wood and is six meters long, it was realized in 1965 by Leonardo Ricci with forty students of the Pennsylvania State University at the end of a three-months course and it was presented to the whole audience of students and teachers by Ricci and three students: James H. Pappas, Anthony S. Pierce and Anthony C. Platt<sup>66</sup>, before being exposed at the Universal Exposition in Montréal in 1967. The model was displayed on the third floor of Sackett building for all those who were wishing to see it after the presentation.

The model represents a flexible settlement for a population varying from 20,000 to 100,000 inhabitants. Each habitat area can host 75,000 persons and is perfectly integrated with all the city functions and connected to the landscape: the transportation system can bring anyone to walk out in an unspoiled landscape in a calculated time of two minutes.

The harbor-center is the core of all the communication routes for the primary, secondary and tertiary activities and for all types of means of transportation: water, sea, or earth. The main structure consists in vertical machine drawn elements in reinforced pre-stressed concrete. Thanks to metallic boxes this primary structure hosts simple and composed beams studied to be shifted at will and hold different weights. These beams host all services and canalizations and they are composed to be able to plug in the different self-sustaining secondary structures as services and facilities for culture, education, health, spare time and all the modular elements suitable to house all the needed functions. For instance, in the model a civic center, government offices an auditorium, museums, a site for general religious observances, a stadium, areas for large public shows, and theatres are recognizable. Vertical units could be added as needed. These equipments are in sprayed concrete on an iron mesh. Tertiary structures for habitats consist in prefabricated self-sustaining cells, which can be realized with light prefabricated materials to foresee a customized architectonic intervention as well.

---

<sup>66</sup> The Pennsylvania State University News. Department of Public Information, document number 813760. See APPENDIX III.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

At the soil level all kinds of industries are inserted: transformation and automatic industries, respectively thought as anti-pollution factories (for instance agricultural industries) to allow the contemporary presence of secondary and tertiary structures are distributed at a precise distance from nodal centers and controlled by study centers and laboratories<sup>67</sup>.

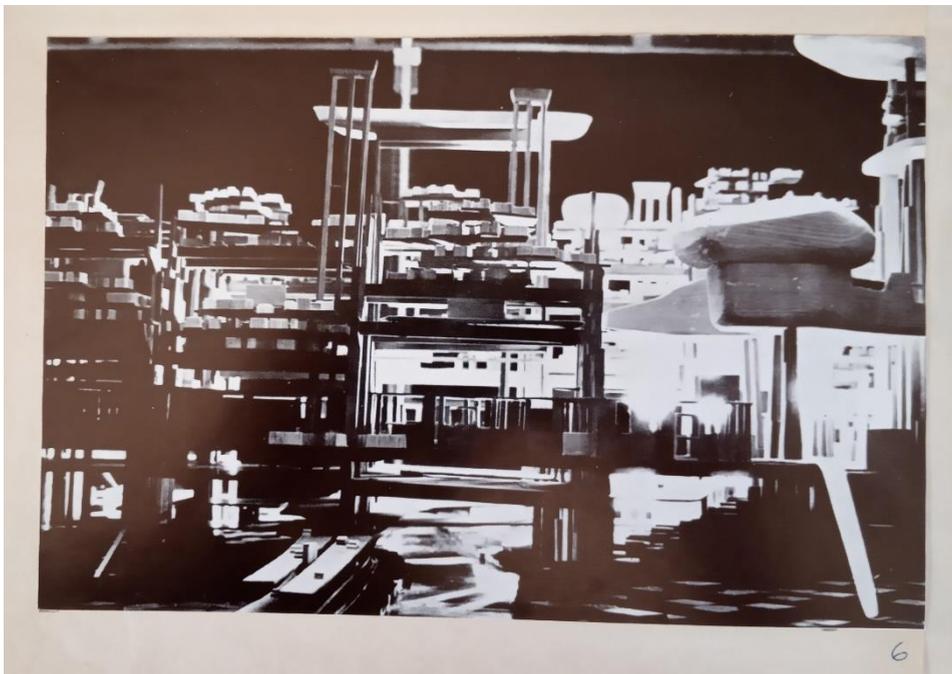
Free communications and a flexible growing are allowed thanks to vertical and horizontal systems. The city has a communications spine running throughout its length while no traffic is allowed inside its boundaries. Transportation is by monorail, elevators and moving sidewalks, in the harbor there are sides for cars, trucks, railroads and shipping, and there is also a heliport.

The model foresees the continuous growth and it is not conceived to represent the final appearance of the harbor-center, because the main concept of the project is formativity, which implies the free growth without reaching a definite form, the absence of an *a priori* form. In this way an organic system and a rational tissue with a functionalist root are combined. On the contrary, the whole space has no specific function, it is open and arranged on different levels, where morphology suggests the possible uses of a space but avoiding either a univocal correspondence between one space and one function or the general multifunction of the whole system. The designers admit different scales in the project: the habitat scale, the town scale, and the territorial scale, which coexist and realize the integrated space.

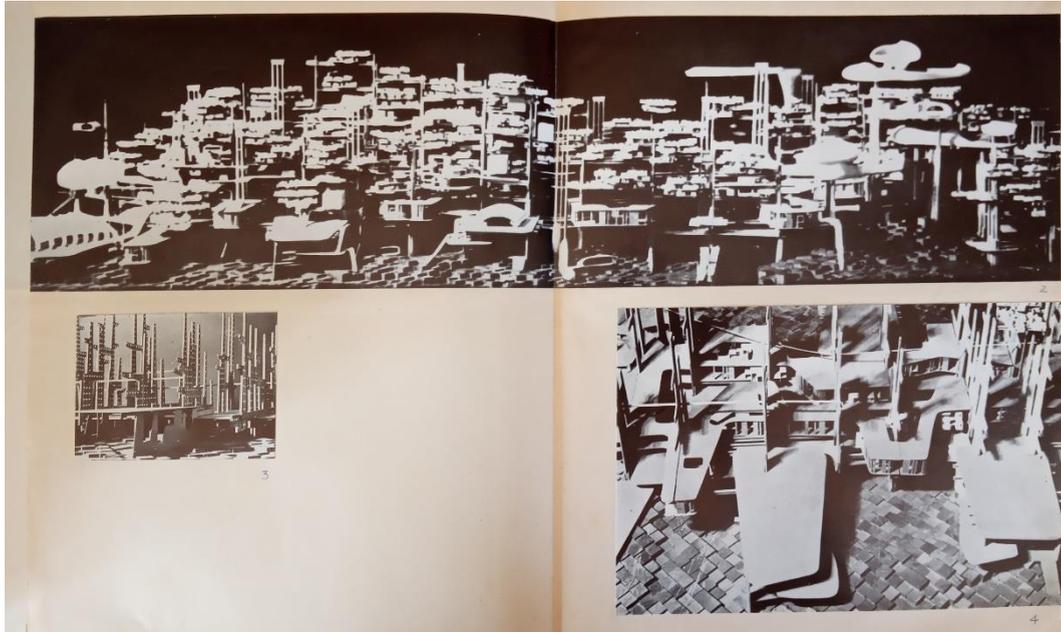
---

<sup>67</sup> Lara Vinca Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro. Un libro perduto e ritrovato 1967-2019* (Pistoia: Gli Ori, 2019), 40-50. The pictures of this model and of all the models described below are kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method



Leonardo Ricci in the United States



3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6: MODEL I: Harbor-center with water-sea-earth communication routes (Pennsylvania State University, 1965), pictures of the model, Casa Studio Ricci, folder titled "USA"

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

This model for an integrated city corresponds with the project titled “Habitation Study” in CSAC fund. The project was quite unknown and only a few drawings remain, but, trying to make a comparison with the published pictures and with some megastructural models, it could be identified with MODEL I - *Harbor-center with water-sea-earth communication routes*, also called in the archival resources kept in Casa Studio Ricci Archive “Macrostructure for an ‘Integrated City’”. The Centre Georges Pompidou indeed asked Ricci a model of that project named “La Città Integrata 1960-1965” to be presented in the exhibition titled “Visions Urbaines 1870-1990” organized in the Grande Galerie from 9 February to 9 May 1994 and at the Centre of Contemporary Art in Barcellona from 21 June to 9 October 1994<sup>68</sup>. The Centre Pompidou asked Ricci to reproduce some pictures of the model, which showed the project at urban scale, whereas the drawings kept in CSAC archive concern the study of the project at the habitat scale.

This could demonstrate again Leonardo Ricci’s concerning about the urban design of an integrated city from the small to the large scale, starting the design process, based on human acts and activities from the habitat and developing it to the group scale, the neighborhood, the city, the macrostructure, and the Earth scale. After having connected all these levels thanks to an appropriate study on transport and communications, then on facilities and services, this design method is the only one to be used to build the integrated city with the right morphology against alienation.

The project suggested a structural maze in concrete with tower supports which reminded the Middle Age walls used also for the residential settlement of Monterinaldi. This structure of great height developed in vertical, giving birth to a continuous growth of plate levels anchored to it. These parallel frames allowed a growth of the city both in vertical and horizontal directions with the aim of suggesting the idea of an endless city<sup>69</sup> where the multiplication of the habitat units conveyed the sense of unlimited expansion.

---

<sup>68</sup> The exhibition “Visions Urbaines 1870-1990” was realized from 9 February to 9 May 1994 in the Grande Galerie at the fifth level of the Centre Georges Pompidou and then at the Centre of Contemporary Culture in Barcellona from 21 June to 9 October 1994. It focused on the invention and representation of the City of the XX century in Europe through architecture, painting, and photography and included further events like films, installations, parallel exhibitions to incite the debate about the urban changes at the beginning of the XX century. Paintings represented the transformation of Europe in urban civilization. Ricci’s work would have been showed next to Sitte, Wagner, Garnier, Berlage, Loos, Sant’Elia, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Doré, Monet, Munch, Boccioni Sironi, Grosz, Dix, Kandinsky, Dubuffet, and Mondrian, but at the end the photographic blow-up of his model was not included in the exhibition because of lack of space. What is important is that the mailing between the Centre Georges Pompidou and Leonardo Ricci certifies that the project at urban scale for an integrated city was done at the University of Florence between 1960-1965 and that it was composed of five panels: one only representing the final model and four panels with 18 photos of the constructive details of the model. A lot of photos and the quoted correspondence are kept in Casa-Studio Ricci.

<sup>69</sup> This idea of the endless city let us infer an immediate reference to the Endless House by Frederick Kiesler. Bruno Zevi wrote about this idea of finding new suggestions for architecture from the art. The Rationalism crisis brought to the rediscovery of Antoni Gaudí work, of Hermann Finsterlin’s vision, the “endless house” and the “universal theatre” by Frederick Kiesler, which became examples to follow. André Bloc’s work arose the problem in the reviews “L’Architecture d’aujourd’hui” and “Aujourd’hui” and the concept of architecture without architects came out. Bernard Rudofsky set up a great exhibition about exotic buildings at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and it was clear that real architecture was not the result of some intellectuals’ work, but a spontaneous activity coming from the shared heritage of a people developed under the influence of collective experiences.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

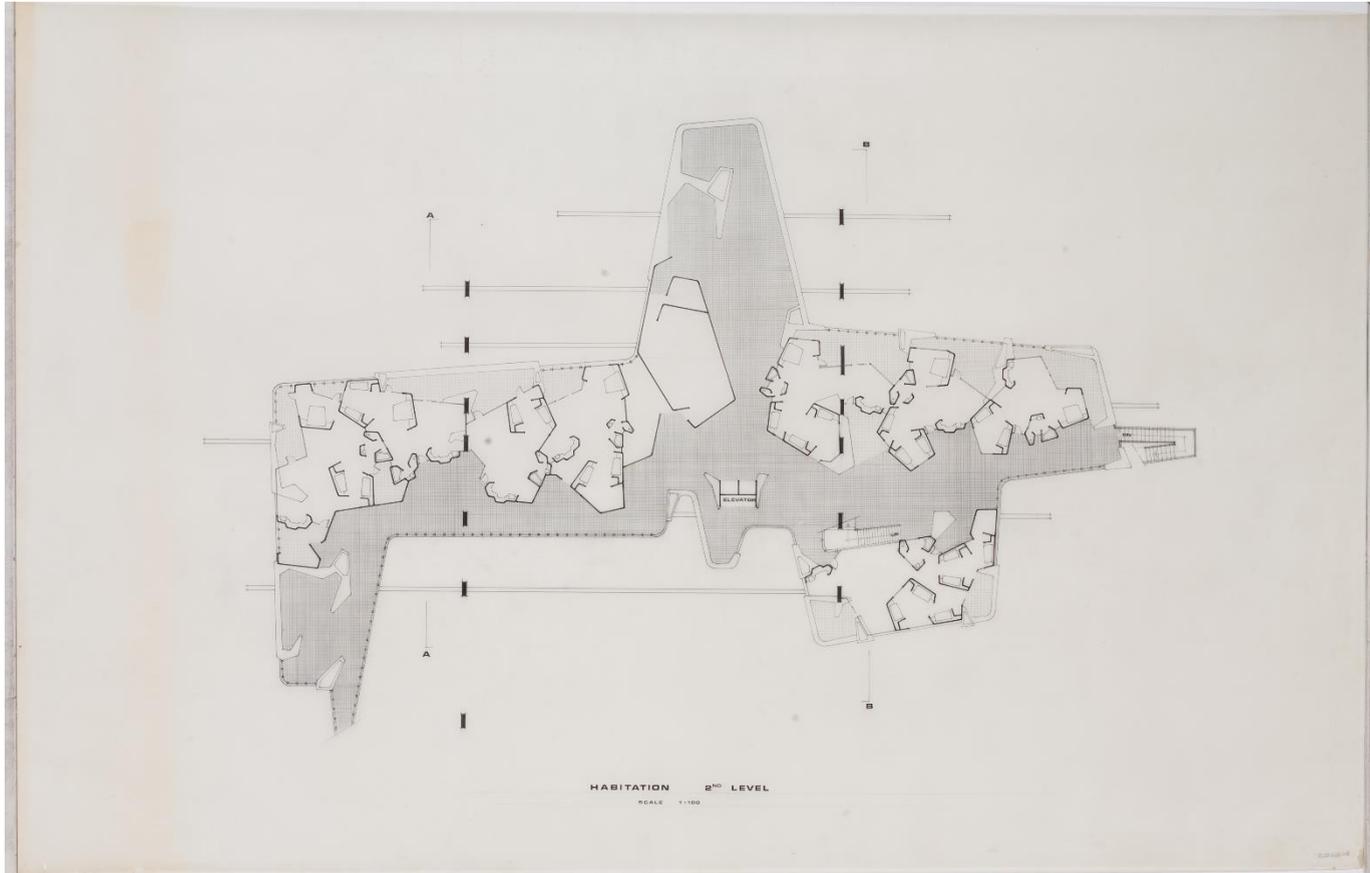
At the habitat scale Leonardo Ricci studied first standard units: double bed, single bed, single bed unit with closet, large kitchen, and small kitchen, two types of storage, single and double tub, a water closet, two lavatory units. They were successively combined to study a “typical habitat” which was used to design three possible plate floors. These units and plates could have been repeated and replicated infinitely till they would have shaped the megastructure of the Earth City.

The project showed that the structure of the integrated city could not be characterized by modular spatial frames because it had to result from the analysis of the relationship between human beings and the environment and, afterwards, be able to host human life. On the contrary, it could not be modular because, in that case, it would have reflected segregation and produced containers for unknown lives, it could not bear all the necessary spaces for human acts and activities neither for the habitat nor for facilities and services. Those spaces could not exist and, therefore, be connected in a continuous and fluid space.

---

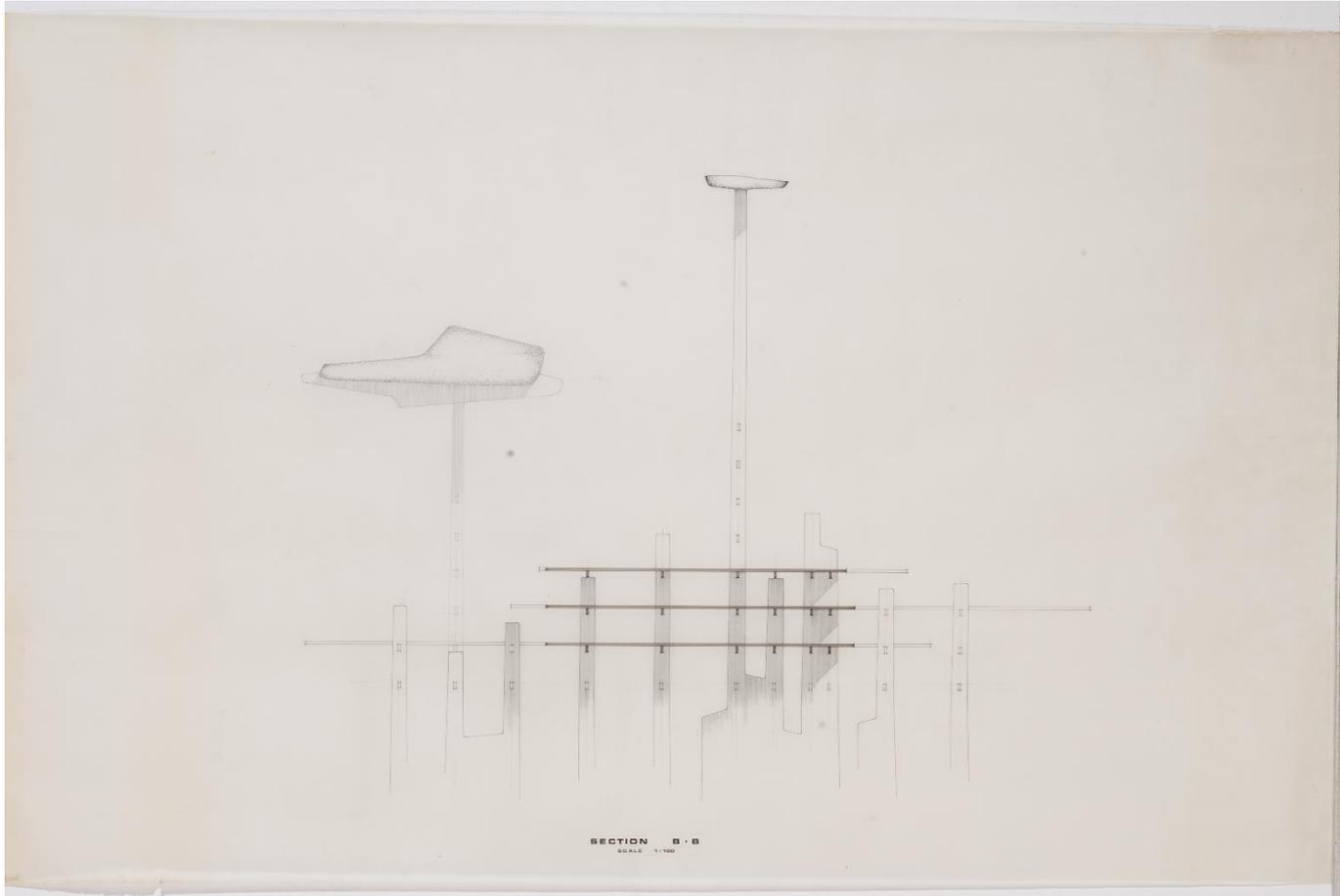
Bruno Zevi, “Dal centro civico di Cumbernauld all' habitat di Moshe Safdie”, *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Architettura XII*, (Bari: Laterza, 1970), 275-277, 299-301, 419-438.

Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

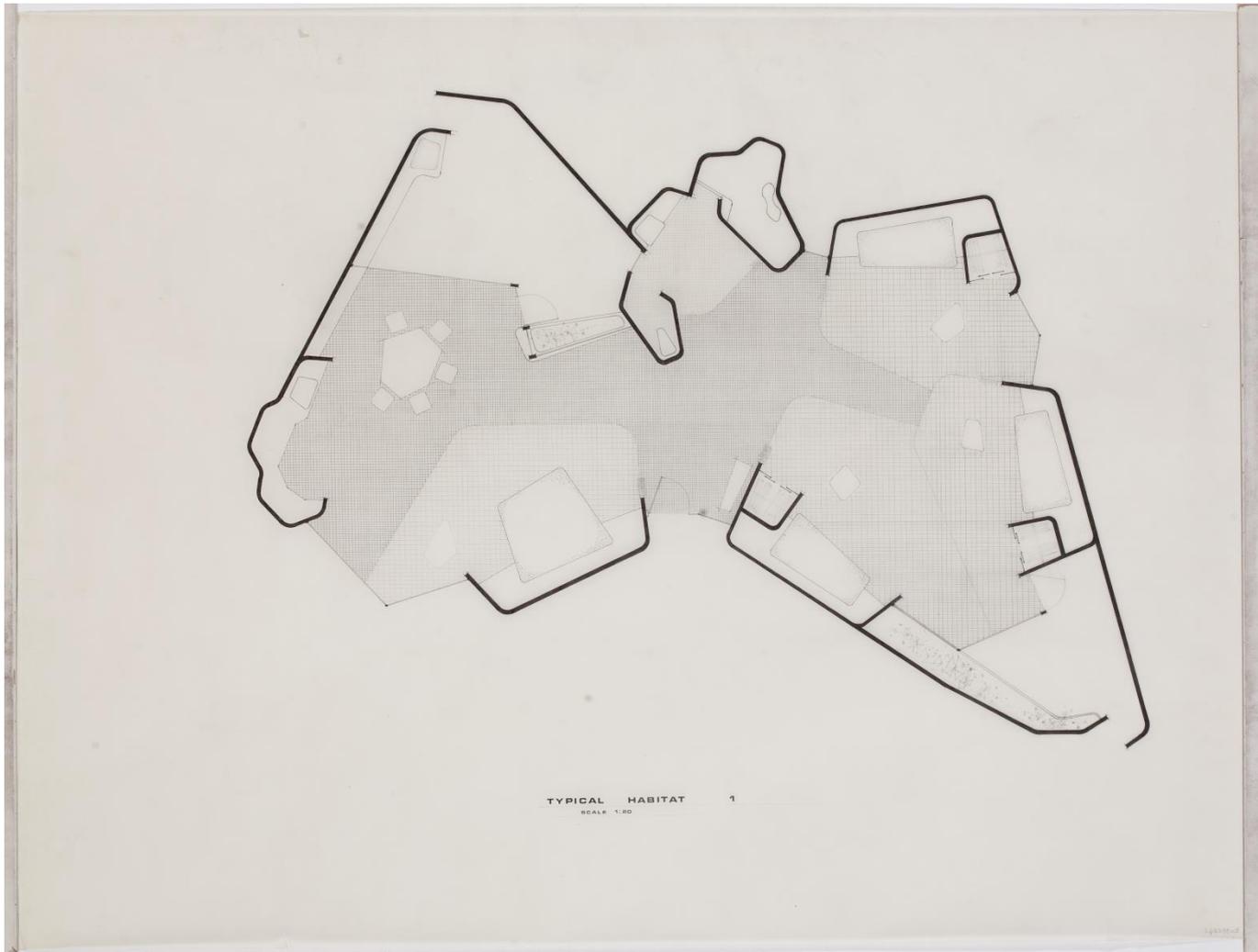


3.7: Drawings of the model for the "Macrostructure of an integrated city", CSAC, folder titled "HABITATION STUDY", "Habitation", plan of a second level typical slab, scale 1:100, CSAC, B038613S.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States

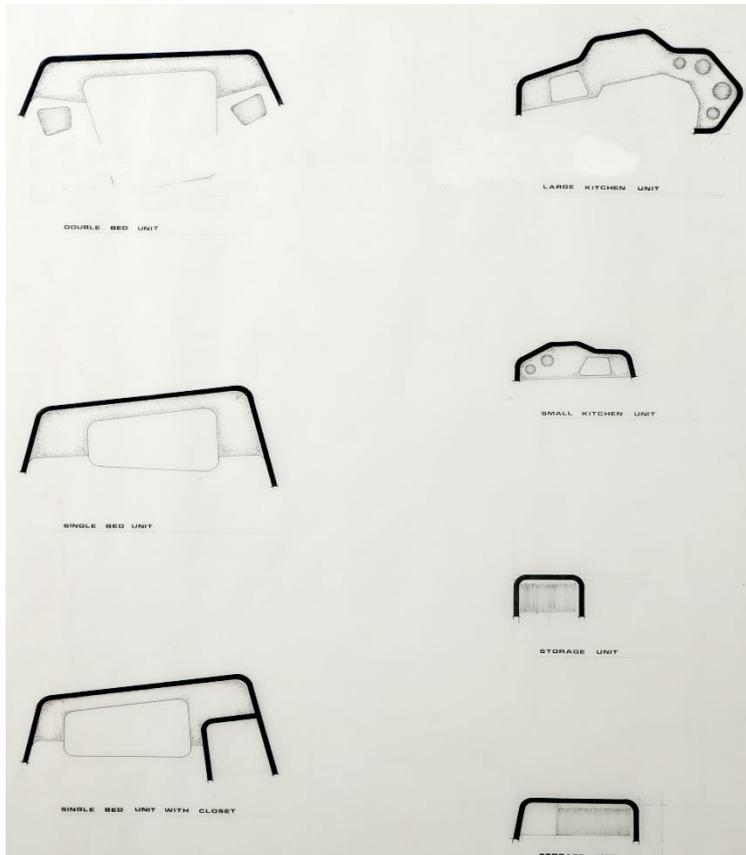
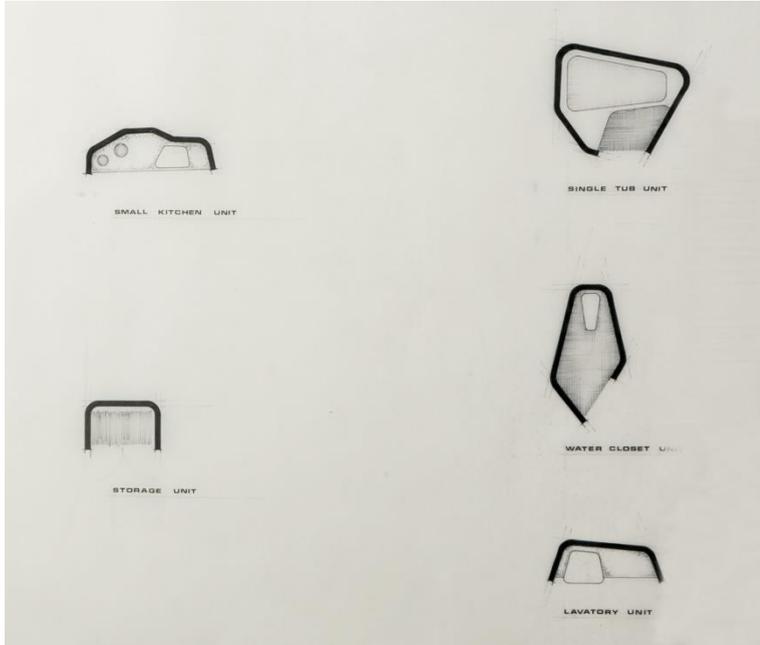


3.8: Model for the "Macrostructure of an integrated city", section BB, scale 1:100, CSAC B038612S.



3.9: Model for the "Macrostructure of an integrated city", "Typical Habitat 1", scale 1:20, CSAC B038614S.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



3.10 - 3.11: Model for the "Macrostructure of an integrated city", "Standard Units", scale 1:20.

**MODEL II: Macrostructure in a flat area (University of Florence, 1966)**

This model was realized in 1966 by Leonardo Ricci with the students of the faculty of architecture of Florence. The students were divided into working groups and guided by the assistant professor Antonello Nuzzo. At the end of the work, some students modified the initial model to study new solutions and make it suitable for new kinds of soil. The previous structure was too rigid and it was necessary to increase its flexibility.

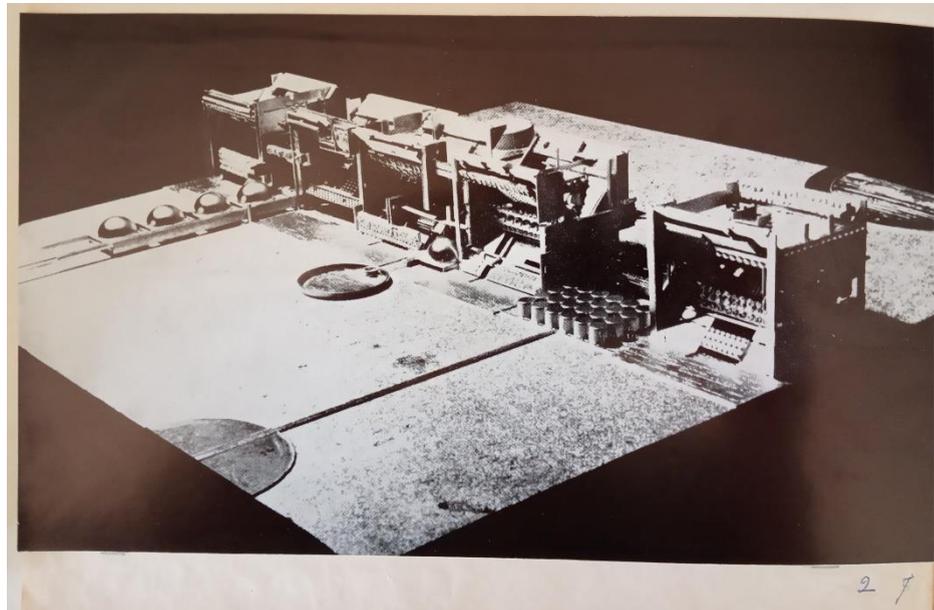
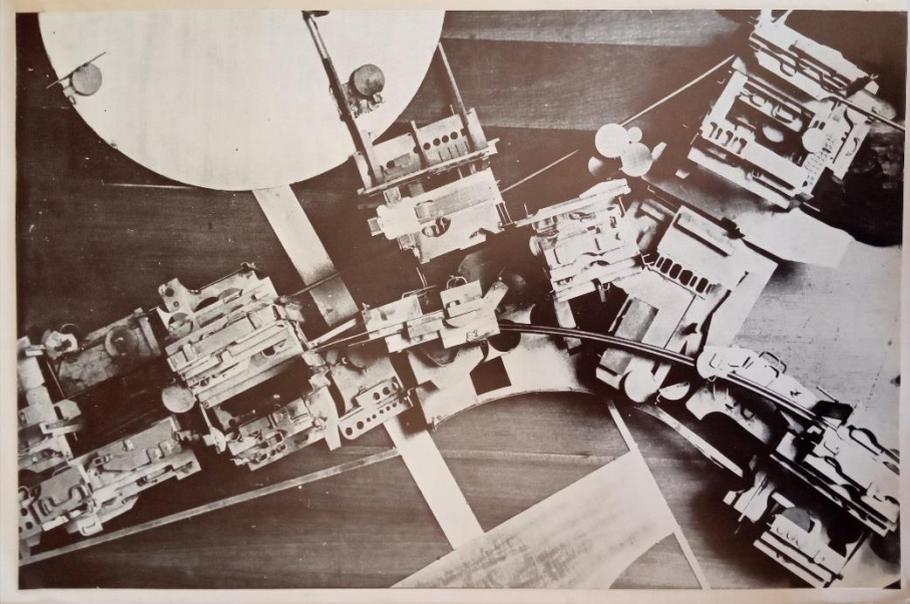
The main structure is made of “X” primary elements, able to sustain secondary free elements. The combined “X” pillars generate a linear sequence of blocks which reminds the linear city capable of endless regular and programmed reproduction. This feature tells us its rational plant and, we can easily infer that the reason of this was the fact that it was firstly conceived as a model for a flat regular area, also intended as a flat land, flat land-seaside or flat land-hills. The result of the following change applied to the model affected not only the original layout but also its balance and completion.

Communications are allowed thanks to vertical and horizontal systems housing elements which move and slide in both directions on tracks. They start from the wide internal infrastructures and reach the different functions and equipments; thus, the dweller or the user do not move toward the function but the function goes to them on tracks. In the images it is extremely interesting to notice the solutions studied for the hospitals and health services sliding on vertical or horizontal tracks inside the habitat units<sup>70</sup>.

---

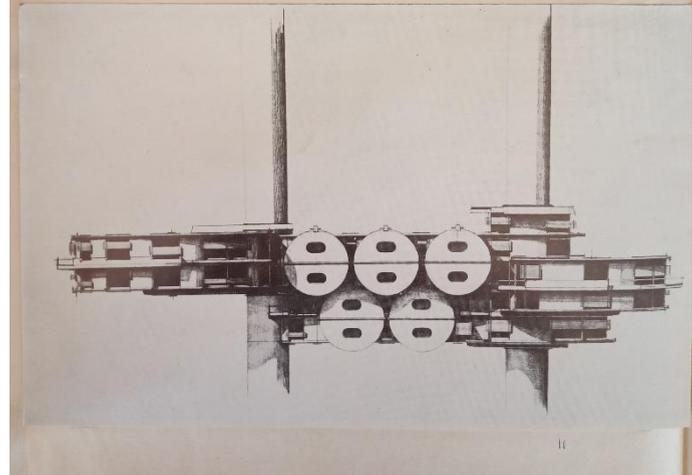
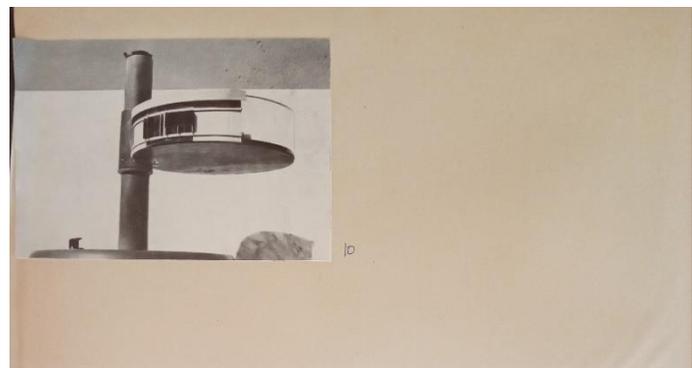
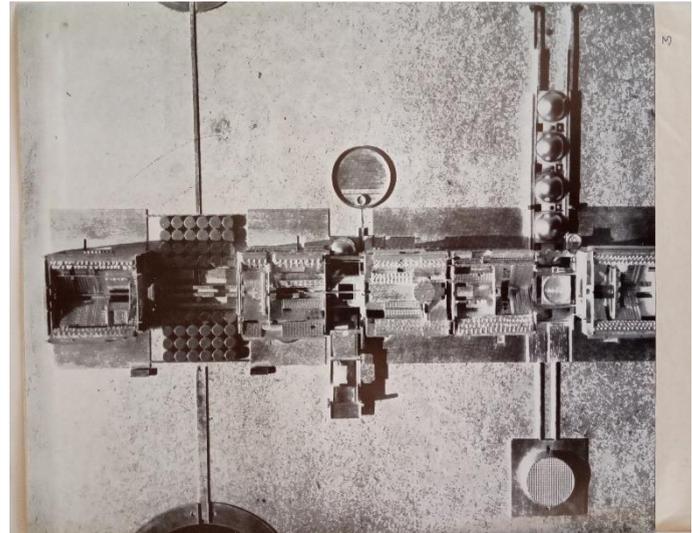
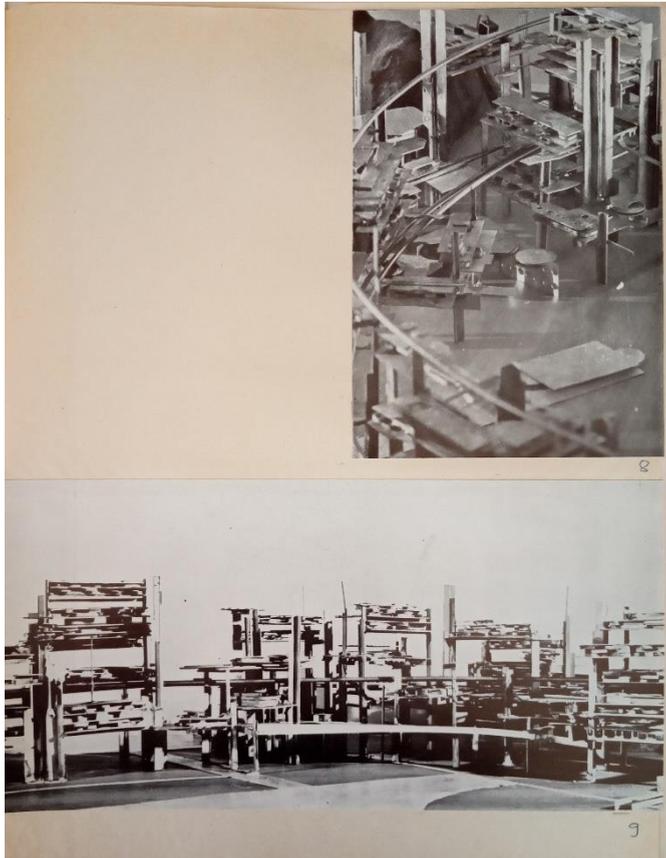
<sup>70</sup> Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 52-60.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



27

Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method



3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16: MODEL II: Macrostructure in a flat area (University of Florence, 1966) pictures of the model, Casa Studio Ricci, folder titled "USA".

### MODEL III: *On the relationship nature-form* (University of Florence, 1966-1967)

The model was realized by a group of students of the University of Florence and with the exchange students from Penn State University during the academic year 1966-1967, guided by Leonardo Ricci and the assistant professor Renato Batacchi.

It maybe represents better than other studies a synthesis of the main concepts of formativity, integrability, the relationship of man with the soil conceived as the human territory, the relationship nature-form, the complete absence and voluntary elimination of the conception of an *a priori* form, in favor of a primary role conferred to the existential dimension. These vital concepts influence the creative process nourished by the observation on natural forms, the needs of nature and of the natural object concerning the plan and the volumes. Only after the observation on nature the architect can infer the necessity of new forms of life, the most important acts and activities of the future inhabitants and, finally, the principles which will allow their life in the new city.

Life is intended as act and, consequently, a general visual idea of the nature and of the acts belonging to a territory are unavoidable instances to design a new model for the life of human beings. The design process is gradual and gradual contacts with the nature are compulsory to arrange a first visual organization. It refers to the life of forms, which are dynamic, alive, unstable, and changing in every moment. Therefore it is necessary to visualize them and embody the concepts of growth and formativity in the project.

For this reason, the model starts again from a primary structure which houses the secondary elements and works at different scales, but not only the habitat, the town, and the territory scales, but also the environment scale. The project in fact fulfills the integrativity instance taking into consideration a second scale that implies the scale of the environment and the scale of the model in relation with the environment.

The existence of two main types of scale will let the students integrate both levels of studying the model and this will bring them to the final unique result, because the environment will be the primary structure where the secondary structure will find housing and new directions of development in nature. In this way the model anticipates the concept of structured form and makes the unity between life forms and nature happen. The perfect integration of the functions and of supports creates the real continuity of acts and environment.

Once the continuity of space is achieved, its transformations will naturally occur and the changing of its forms will be the right and natural consequence of the process. This is why a first observation on natural elements is fundamental and the moves of the human beings will be clear as its concentrations and interests. The structural integration happens when man transforms the environment and triggers a production on the territory that changes the landscape. The territory studied in its plastic, structural and physiological characteristics is the macrostructure and the secondary structure emerges from the soil ready to host infrastructures, equipments, services and all the tertiary activities with their living spaces. The soil is part and realizes the service of dwelling itself, it allows all the human acts. On this purpose, the students elaborated precise soil models which adapted to the real soil of the considered environment using a tissue soaked with water and plaster in order to obtain forms suitable for the perfect insertion in the natural environment and on the natural fluidity of its lines. Natural facts become the support and a new territorial morphology is finally obtained.

The macrostructure is the place of identification between landscape and structure and, from this standpoint, all the further supports will be differentiated according to the users' needs, because man is the main user and the

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

responsible for the spatial organization where he realizes his continuous intervention, and for the balance between environment and structure.

Human beings express their freedom acting geographical and morphological choices, and this leads us to ecological reflections that will follow in the Seventies, but in this case the human intervention consists in putting it into effect on an existential level and in continuity with those territorial features which will identify with its structure. If we consider the possible interventions of human beings on the environment, there are only two choices: the territory could be left unchanged, or an integral change can be done; what matters are the contacts among men and the exchanges that can be positively or negatively influenced. This depends on the reasoning made upstream of the plan and whether it considers the overlapping of more social life plans with independent functions.

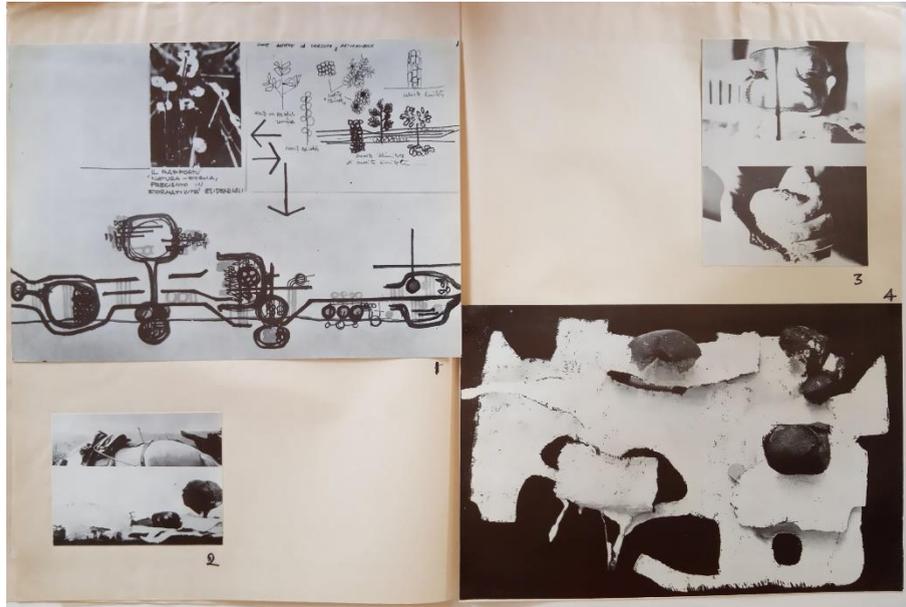
The participation of man contributes to the birth of the future city thanks to a territorial restoration which allows the maximum grade of communicability, integration of the macrostructure with the environment, dynamicity, and order at the same time. The primary, secondary, and tertiary structures are well conceived, differentiated in their functions and opportunely assembled, the structure and the communication system create continuous spaces born from the morphology of the soil that obeys to the origin, the form, and the development of life.

Life plans and forms are open and dynamic because the city is new, and it is ready to be object of constant change. In any moment, the city, its dwellers, workers, and functions are ready for the future needs and productivity, the city is open as an organic form, and the possible interventions can be done by the whole collectivity to face alienation and segregation in favor of a choral work of art<sup>71</sup>.

---

<sup>71</sup> Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 62-74.

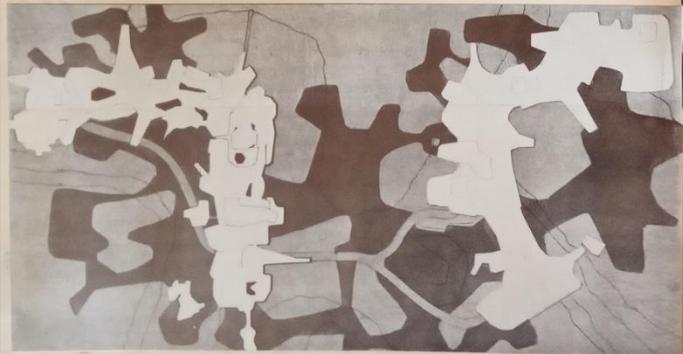
Leonardo Ricci in the United States



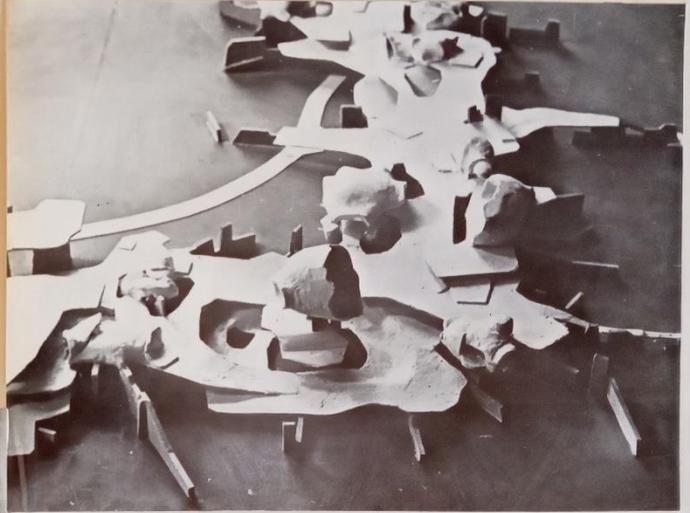
Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method



9

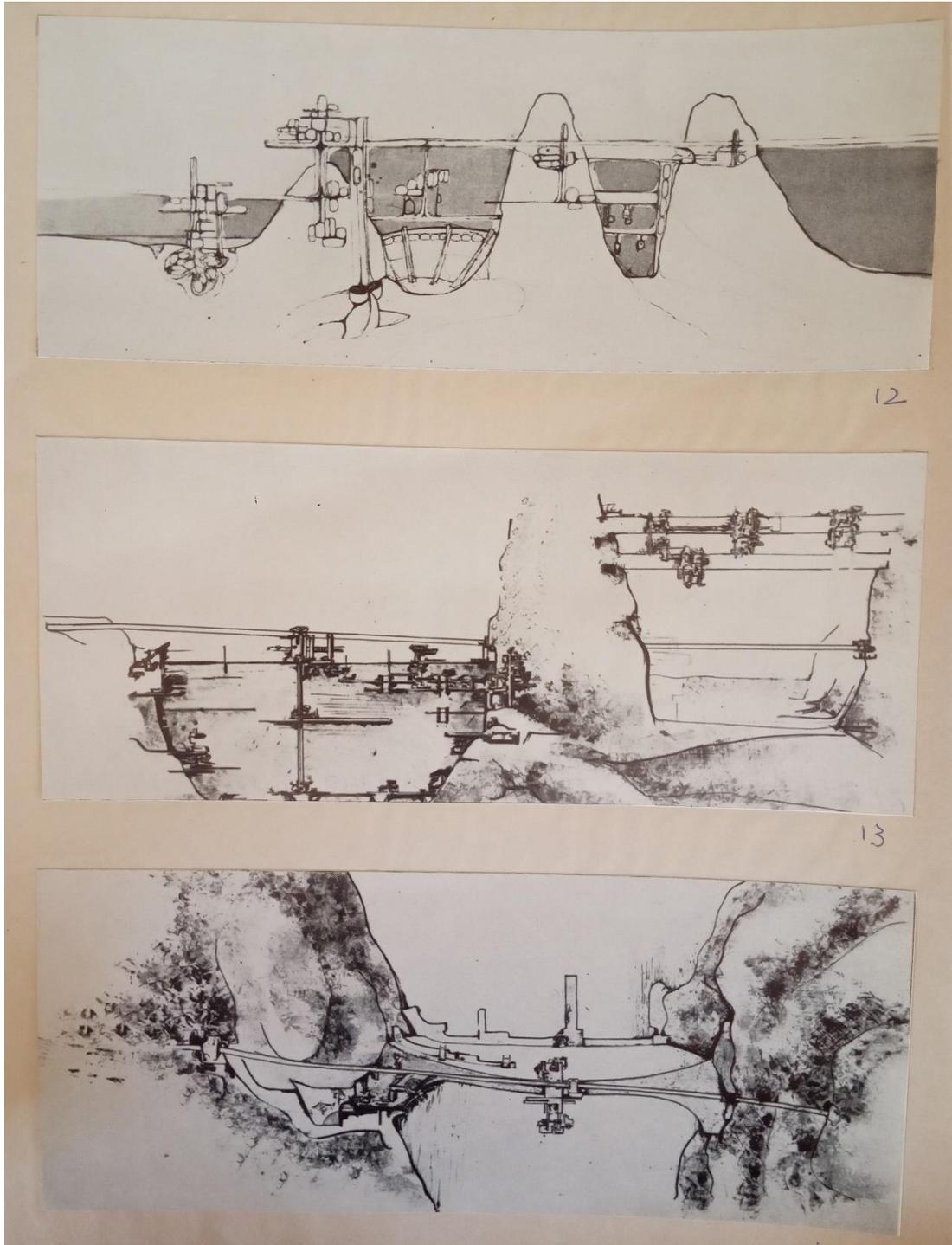


10



11

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 3.20: MODEL III: On the relationship nature-form (University of Florence, 1966-1967), pictures of the model, Casa Studio Ricci, folder titled "USA".

## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

### MODEL IV: *The town as a three-dimensional communication node* (University of Florence, 1966)

This is a model of a city realized in 1966 by a group of students of the University of Florence and exchange students of the Penn State University guided by Leonardo Ricci with the help of the assistant professors Mary Colli, Armando Donnamaria, Fabrizio Milanese and Stefano Naef.

This model represents an urban settlement in a structured territorial area, only a part of a continuous megalopolis with a possible infinite growth. The three-dimensional macrostructure in steel allows the general integration, the secondary structure, in steel as well, connects two or more tertiary structures (or microstructures). Therefore, the main structure integrates different spaces like little organisms that can be realized with varied techniques or materials, so the secondary structure helps the consolidation of the system by means of strong connections with the microstructure, whatever material it is made of.

The habitat scale seems to be not as important as the structure or communication systems: the individual space is reduced in favor of the space for equipments, from which the whole collectivity must take advantage. In this way more and more importance is given to the collective exchange, to the collective choice for the future city and to the social participation. As a consequence, a special attention is given to public spaces, because they are the spaces dedicated to the social exchange.

In this case the primary secondary and tertiary productive activities participate in the global social life.

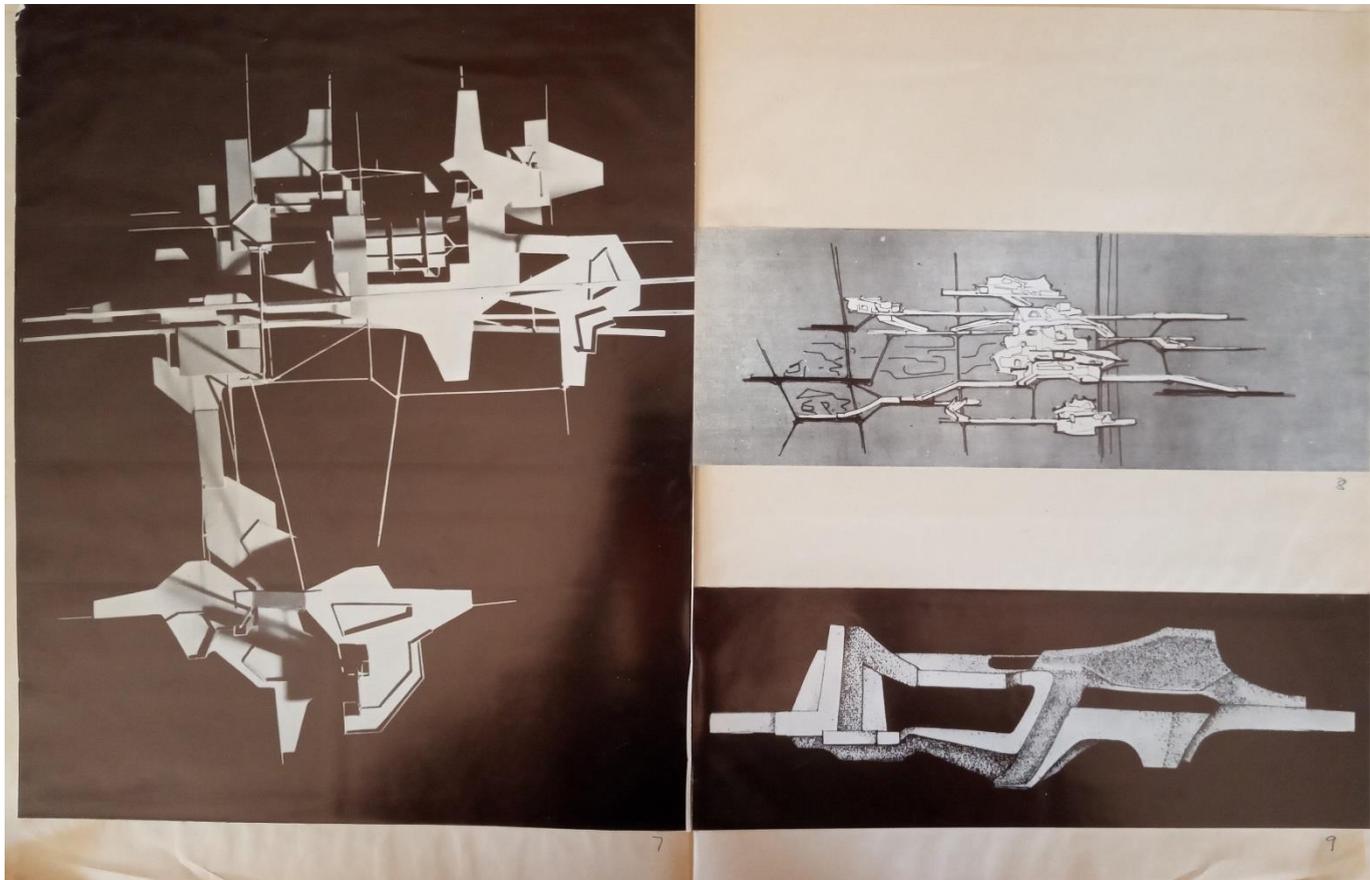
On the base of the descriptions of the habitat and of the structure, it sounds obvious to infer that communications are the most important elements of the city represented by the model: the three-dimensional communication net for earth transportation is connected to the sea and air communication systems by means of “harbor-nodes”. The earth is conceived as the real exchange tool, the preexisting first instrument inside new urban organisms, which effectively is the earth ready to receive the “Earth-City”. The earth is usually literally cut in different parts by bidimensional communication systems, guilty of dividing neighborhoods, towns, and territories. They are used to connect two points not considering all the intermediate zones. The three-dimensional communication introduces an extra-corporal traffic belonging to a system of the organism.

The nodes are essential elements, inside them the dweller can change the typology of communication net, which implies different means and speeds. Infrastructural independent beams cross the territory perpendicularly and around the crosses the settlements grow. The exchange nodes are architectures and can be adapted to the territorial features, so the macrostructure surrounds them, and it is made of reinforced steel according to the principle of open formativity<sup>72</sup>.

---

<sup>72</sup> Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 76-86.

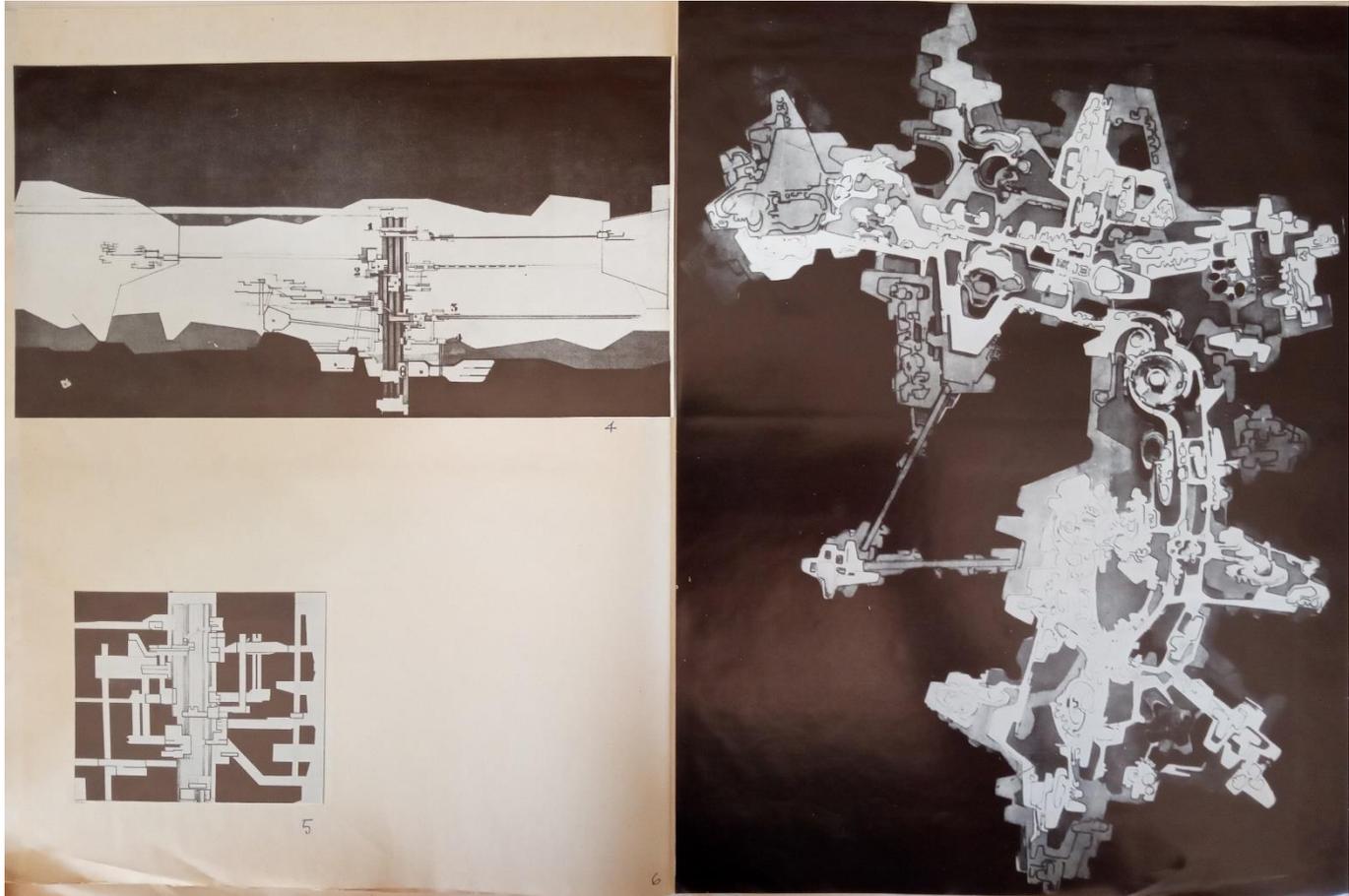
Leonardo Ricci in the United States



Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method



## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25: MODEL IV: The town as a three-dimensional communication node, pictures of the model, Casa Studio Ricci, folder titled "USA".

**MODEL V: *Floating harbor-city* (University of Florence, 1966)**

This model was realized in 1966 by the students of Ricci's course of Elements of Composition with the exchange students of Penn State University guided by the architect Maria Grazia Dallerba.

It is a floating harbor-city connected to the mainland by the mutual influence and expansion of their respective activities as a whole. The connection between the two is set on a horizontal reference plane and is then developed in other paths of various levels for people and things. On one side the connection is born from an orderly confluence of communications towards the sea in the urbanized area of the mainland and, on the other side, from the confluence of urban and marine flows towards the mainland.

The main structure of the harbor-city is a floating system constituted by a structural lattice made of spheres to maintain a constant floating level. On the lattice the metal spatial structures for primary equipment are fixed, on them the structures for secondary and tertiary equipment in light materials are then inserted. Thanks to this structure the harbor-city can take on different configurations, results of the spontaneous interventions, and each of them assumes one of the numerous life opportunities the organism can take. It is possible to see one of these possible spatial forms in the image below.

The harbor-city works with navigation while the mainland is served with the vehicular traffic. In the harbor-city, inland navigation assumes primary importance and takes place along the internal canals defined by the same structures but designed with different dimensions for boats of different sizes. The ships entering the city have routes that will lead them to the freight and passenger sorting areas for the harbor-city or the mainland. The routes have precise references and relationships with the sorting areas that identify with the commercial, industrial, habitat and tourist areas. An important aspect of the project is that the primary activities as fishing can be done directly in the sea and the transformation of the primary products occurs on the withdrawal site.

For this reason, a communication system connects people and materials with the mainland.

The project does not foresee the construction of roads because they would have influenced the growth of the city: the reticular structure offers a wide range of routes and the loading wells serve to integrate navigation and traffic at the level of the city port plates. The loading wells can be opened anywhere and are concentrations of effort that are placed on the various plates from which the common spaces start.

The connections belong to a double vertical and horizontal system: the vertical connections are located in load-bearing columns that are not part of the main structure nor combined with it, but in the most appropriate points without creating malfunctions or too high traffic parameters. The columns are spaced 50-150 meters apart, they are of various types and do not coincide with the loading wells but are sited in the points necessary for the organization of a specific area.

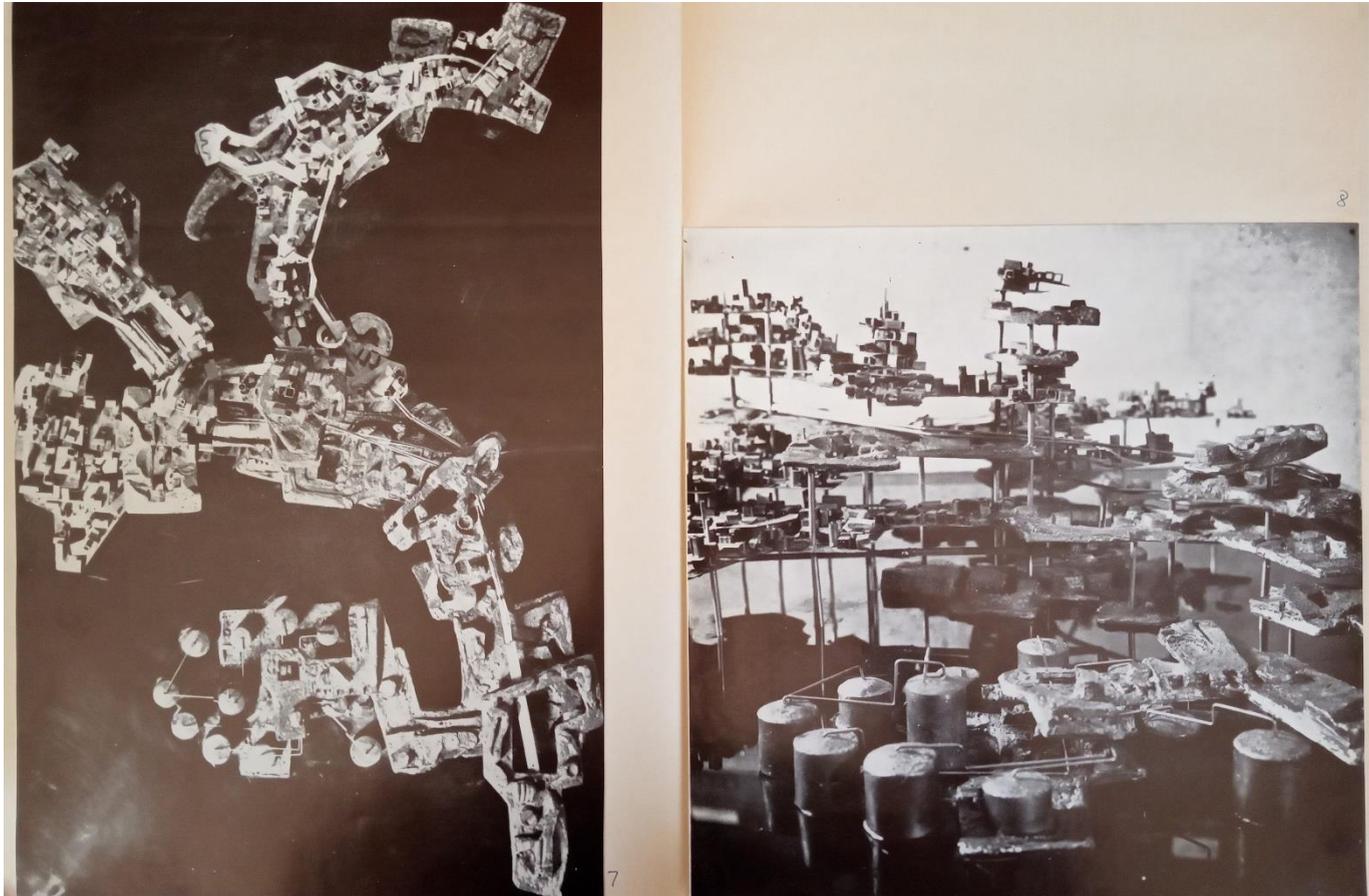
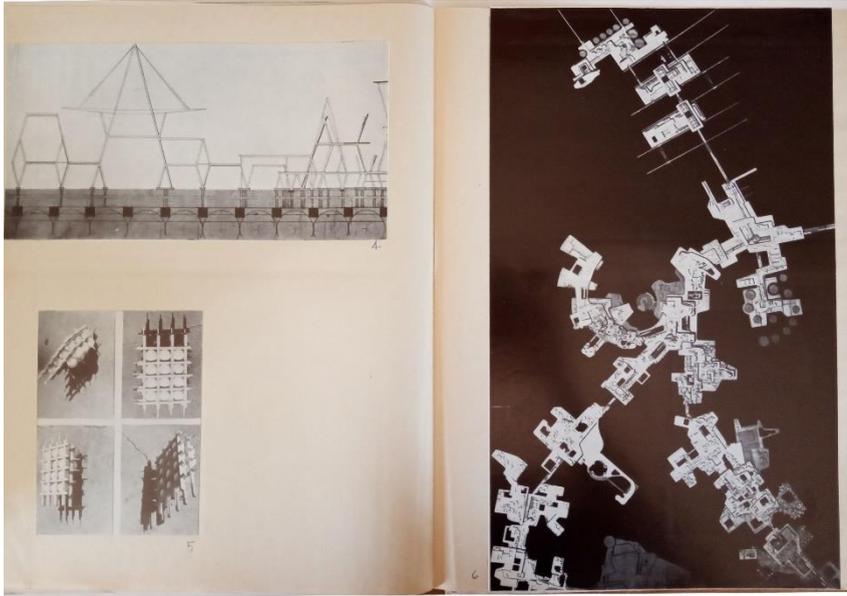
The horizontal connections are possible thanks to tapis-roulants that will run tangentially to the arrival points of the vertical traffic. The communication among the parts of the harbor-city town will follow the reference plan of the sea or of the airspace with the use of marine sky-lift and cable-cars.

The model's aim is to carry on a structural and typological study on the territory and on its morphology in order to suggest a new possible organizational model for innovative ways of life and human behaviours<sup>73</sup>.

---

<sup>73</sup> Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 88-98.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method



3.26, 3.27, 3.28: MODEL V: Floating harbor-city (University of Florence, 1966), pictures of the model, Casa Studio Ricci, folder titled "USA".

### MODEL VI: *Revision of an urban tissue* (University of Florence, 1966-1967)

The model was built in 1966-1967 by the students of Ricci's courses at the university of Florence with the exchange students of the Penn State University and the assistant professor Paolo Iannone.

This model is the demonstration of the influences of Christopher Alexander's studies about the human acts and on the synthesis of form as result of this analysis. It represents the open city and assumes, as a founding principle, the general idea of the open work. The model also follows the ideas of some vanguards of the figurative arts as pop-art or op-art.

«The model starts from an analytical study of human acts according to Alexander's studies and aims to quantify all the elements collected to find their mutual relationships. About thirty-two elements were collected (cinema, theater, factory, habitat, etc.) and the relationship processes were studied so that the morphology arose from the relational need and to facilitate the definition of a rational action the computer use was necessary. Specific spaces were studied for each of the elements so that the logical-quantitative structural cubes could be replaced qualitatively by particular spaces. For the exemplification, a portion of the city of Florence that goes from Piazzale Michelangiolo to the Arno was examined. To show the type of specific composition, already existing elements were taken and were composed with the assembly system. Later the model was studied on a larger scale and applied to it with elements tending to more organic growth than assembly<sup>74</sup>».

The final model is indeed a result of different transformations of the first image-models of the habitat elaborated on the base of the related acts of man phenomenology, and on the human general gestures which effectively dismantled the relations of the commonly known functional codes.

During the course Ricci and his students defined together some investigation fields to study in the elaboration of the model. This is the reason why different image-models followed one another in subsequent conceptions. The study wants to do a review of an urban tissue and research a new type of aggregation model starting from the contemporary reality, not codified and impossible to codify in a mechanistic sense but conceived as a complex phenomenon made of undetermined and unstable elements, parts of a dynamic process.

The succession of the image-models suggests the proceeding of the study in different fields of investigation, it does not want to offer a crystallized image of the city, but as a series of exercises useful to translate the methodological approach to the problem of planning the city of the future.

The research starts from an analysis on the social formativity and it suggests a type of "concretist"<sup>75</sup> aggregation. In this case, the model skips a precise reflection on primary supporting structure or macrostructure, secondary or intermediate structure and tertiary or microstructure, it does not define a hierarchy of the values and on the emergencies of the environment, but this does not affect the model negatively, it rather underlines the main intention of the research: to be open to new hypothesis.

---

<sup>74</sup> Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 101-102.

<sup>75</sup> In this case the term "concretist" means made of concrete. It does not refer to concret art, concretism, abstract-concrete of the figurative arts. Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 102.

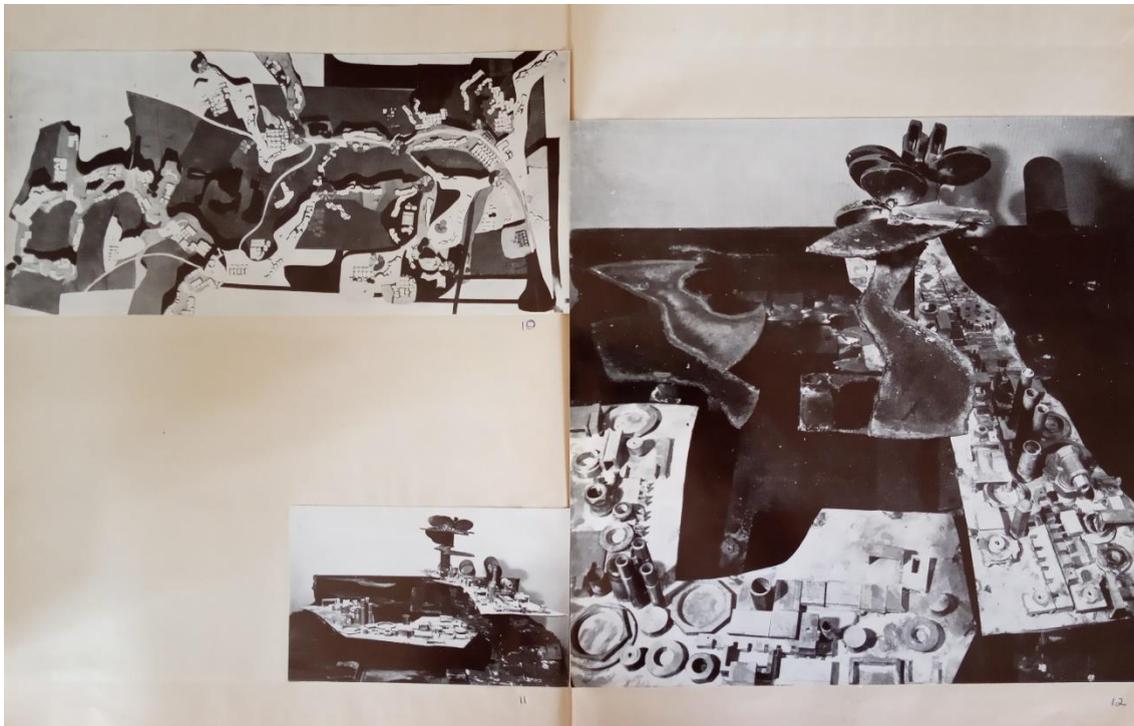
## Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method

Other fields of analysis concern sectorial checks which helped in understanding the possibilities of social expansion from the point of view of different disciplines, research on the psycho-perceptive aspects of the living units and the opposition between “the artificial” and “the natural” in the process of structural formativity.

The psycho-perspective studies on the habitat scale caused a difficulty in representing the habitat units and the elaboration of a determined recognizable layout of the residential spaces for a new three-dimensional urban conception. On one side this can be interpreted as an incompleteness of the study, but on the other side it is symptomatic of the openness of the research.

The artificial is traced in the contemporary urban interventions, that can be considered as mechanical transpositions of artificial sectorial analysis and have nothing in common with existential and complex realities as the human life in a modern era characterized by quick technological changes.

The aim of the exercise is modelling an example of methodological analysis to face the future living condition, it has no pretensions to find the perfect correspondence between theory and practice and, therefore, it does not suggest a spatial operation, but it is an important support to the thesis of formativity and infinite expansion of the integrated city. The city of the earth is open to different fields of research and it is a generative and generating organism<sup>76</sup>.

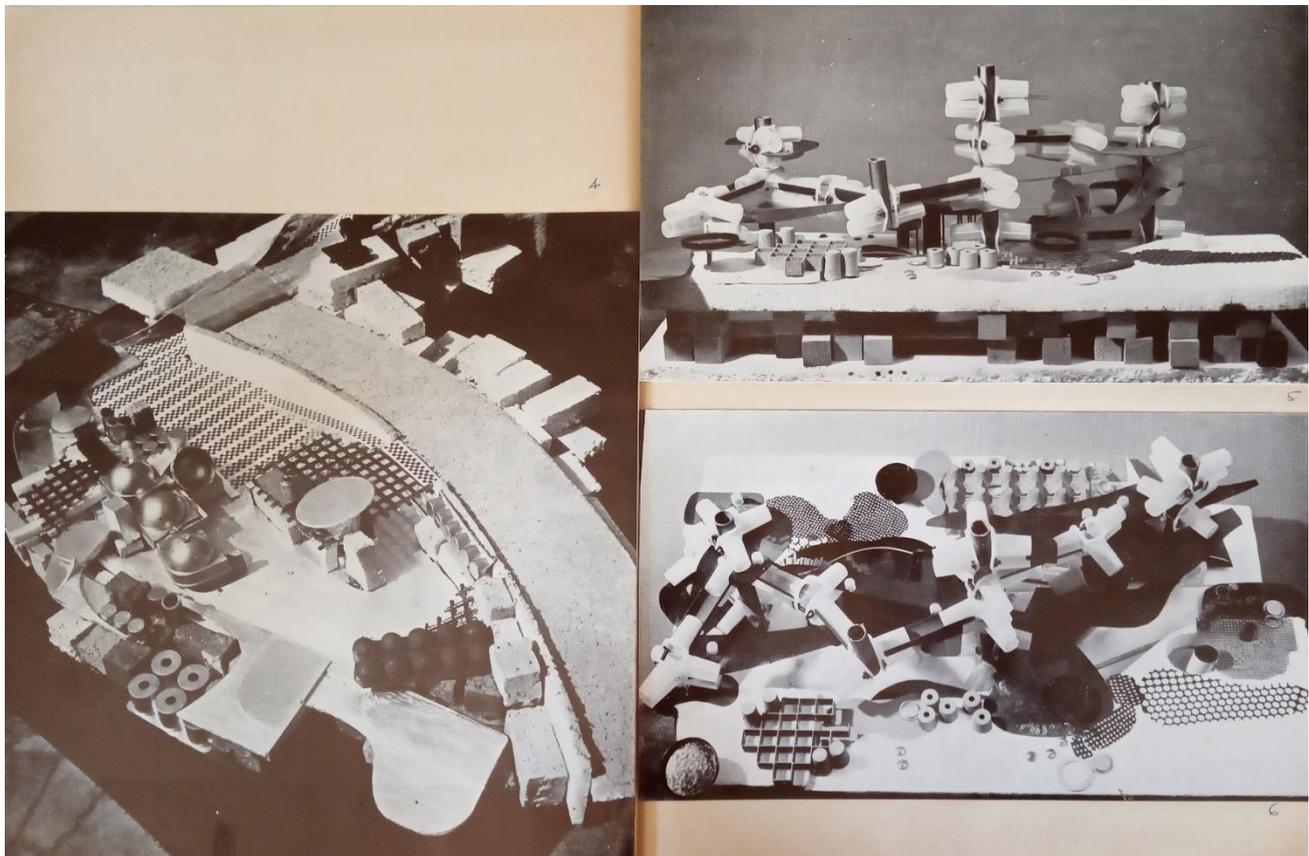
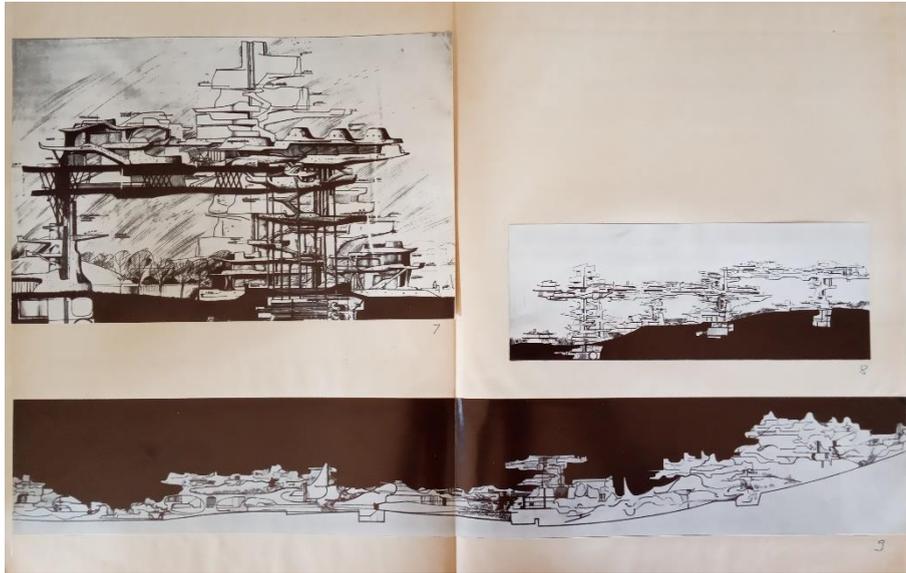


<sup>76</sup> Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 100-112.



13

Leonardo Ricci visiting professor: the architectural theory evolution through his didactical method



Leonardo Ricci in the United States



3-29, 3-30, 3-31, 3-32, 3-33: MODEL VI: Revision of an urban tissue (University of Florence, 1966-1967), pictures of the model, Casa Studio Ricci, folder titled "USA".

**MODEL VII: *Vertical City* (Pennsylvania State University-University of Florence, 1966)**

This model represents a vertical city realized in 1966 in Florence by Italian and American students during a cultural exchange program. The students of architecture of the Penn State University were working in Florence with the Italian students of the faculty of architecture guided by Ricci and the assistant professor Theodore Waddel.

The model recalls the ideas of revision of an existing and defined city (already seen in the previous model) and of a natural macrostructure. More in detail, soil units containing the equipments are consequently overlapped at different heights and put in contact with the other sections to suggest both the organic growth of a tree and the typology of the tower. In this way the urban definition of a big city is completely transformed and the idea of a “supernature” runs over the original urban asset, but it is a new nature controlled by men. The overlapping of the soil sections can reach an indefinite height, allows to empty the soil level and new green spaces can be realized. Staggering the floors ensures the right lighting for all the levels and habitat units.

The sustaining structures contain the canalizations and the vertical communication system where the industrial elements are inserted. This structure can house the secondary and tertiary structures including the habitats, so, as other models do, a double vertical and horizontal system provides the correct functioning of the equipments and satisfies all the vital needs.

The model suggests a strong symbolism of the tree and of its natural growth with branches, leaves and trunk. It was proposed by the study group as the most feasible model in the short run<sup>77</sup>.



---

<sup>77</sup> Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 114-119.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



3-34 - 3-35: MODEL VII: Vertical City (Pennsylvania State University-University of Florence, 1966), pictures of the model, Casa Studio Ricci, folder titled "USA".

## PART II

### Italian identity, American experimentations: themes and projects

#### 4. Community

##### 4.1. Italy and U.S.A.: the project of community religious, political, and socio-cultural models and the design of neighborhood units.

In the postwar period in Italy the idea of community was widespread, declined in several contexts, and involved in the process of rehabilitation of the Italian social disease caused by the war and from its devastating effects on the people. The reconstruction period implied a need to rebuild the country, physically and socially<sup>1</sup>.

After the war and after Fascism a common “need for reality” and sense of knowledge of the country emerged, which was particularly strong in the first ten years after the war, when the work of some intellectuals contributed to the trial of restoration of a common Italian identity<sup>2</sup>. The need for reality and the unifying intent were addressed to a territory characterized by a great variety of different conditions and contradictions, especially between northern and southern Italy, where excellent results in architecture and engineering succeeded in redesigning the Italian territory.

In Italy, the idea of community was functional as religious, political, and social unifying model, more widely experimented in Italy in the Catholic churches design, firstly intended as a welcoming and unifying space, a space for the community<sup>3</sup>. On this theme an article by Leonardo Ricci described the conception of the sacred space by his master Giovanni Michelucci: an analysis of the architect’s most important projects of the churches, the most effective designed spaces for the community and for the social exchange. Leonardo Ricci wrote about Michelucci’s Church of Saints Pietro and Girolamo (Pistoia, 1946-1953) and defined it as the “home of all”, as Michelucci himself defined the church, which interpreted the constructive characteristics of the Tuscan rural tradition in what could be defined a «non-architecture» resulting from «all the more measured, more conscious, more harmonious and not random» forms than the usual ones of the tradition. Ricci's definition of this church perhaps encompassed all the values that architecture had to embody for him: firstly, he saw love as a design premise, the result of an experiment that considered community ideals and became an expression of that

---

<sup>1</sup> For the possible declinations of the idea of community in the Italian society of the postwar period: Marco Biraghi and Alberto Ferlenga, eds., *Comunità Italia* (Milano: Silvana Editoriale, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Paolo Varvaro, “Danilo Dolci”, *Belfagor*, no. 2 (March 31, 1955): 161-182.

<sup>3</sup> Fabbri, *Giovanni Michelucci. Lo spazio che accoglie*.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

«anonymous architecture which seemed to have arisen spontaneously from the place where it stood» like many Romanesque and Gothic works<sup>4</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci was one of the postwar Italian architects who fostered the ideal of community to be designed for reestablishing the social values system, and those who realized projects for community villages that found a clear reference in the most important instances of religious, cultural, political, and social models. The project for the community space let him apply his form-act design method and experiment anonymous architecture as taught by Michelucci, declined in the new relationship between the architect and the customer.

In Italy, the general idea of unique Italian community was certainly enhanced by the richness of the historical sites, landscape, and economic growth. Therefore, on one side the different disciplines of Architecture, Art, Design, Sociology, Photography, and Anthropology could have been softened to realize the common project of an Italian community, but, on the other side, it was not possible to realize that ideal in the contemporary world of the metropolis. The Italian architect in those years was seen as an eclectic figure, who took part in the political, academic, and institutional life of the country, as well as in the professional activity, in different ways and extents<sup>5</sup>.

In that cultural and historical background, the community was a reference model, in which all disciplines, from architecture to the social sciences, could find hints of reflection and the thought of important intellectuals emerged, increased, and developed around the ideal of the community as a religious, social, and cultural model. New models and working methods began to develop in pre-established communities and in new models such as Don Zeno Saltini's *Nomadelfia* or Adriano Olivetti's *Comunità*.

Nomadelfia was a community of great interest as a radical development and revolution in Catholic sociology, and obviously for its humanitarian aspects, moving from three main factors: poverty, leading to immorality, a need for social reform, reflected in the violent communism which was the political opinion of the inhabitants of the area where Nomadelfia was founded and grew, and Catholicism<sup>6</sup>. Nomadelfia was a laboratory of different

---

<sup>4</sup> The quotations of the paragraph are taken from Ricci, "Michelucci attraverso un suo lavoro", 13-18.

<sup>5</sup> According to Marco Biraghi and Alberto Ferlenga despite the strong differences among all Italian architects, their experience belonged to a common field of action, even not sufficient to attribute their efforts to a work for a unique community. What was important was that all Italian architects were able to translate the territorial features in different ways and in different languages according to their idea of architecture and to their ideas of possible developments of the Italian urban landscape. Biraghi and Ferlenga, *Comunità Italia*, 16-21.

<sup>6</sup> Nomadelfia, "the city where justice is law", was born on the New Camp of Fossoli, a prison camp between 1942 and 1943 and where almost six thousand people were imprisoned. Since 1947 the camp was occupied by the "Little Apostles", war orphans, and their "vocational moms" led by Don Zeno Saltini, who transferred there his community that grew up to one thousand inhabitants. Nomadelfia was a Catholic group emulating the charisma of early Christian communes of Jerusalem, it was based on the principle of brotherhood. Its citizens developed a social and economic ideal on the basic principle of the precepts of the Gospels based on love, where men were the builders, workers, and had to keep the family supplied with what they needed (Enea Biondi, "An Almost realized City", in *Trentacinque progetti per Fossoli*, ed. Giovanni Leoni (Milan: Mondadori Editore, 1990), 73-83). Nomadelfia was run by a General Assembly and had a fairly elaborate constitution, the main points of which foresaw that all property, even personal effects, was common property; at least seventy per cent of the population had to be under fifteen years of age; all the citizens had work; there was to be a Patriarch at the head of the community -elected for life (Don Zeno) who was the final judge in any controversy. All the adults were at the service of the children, who were all brothers among themselves, and at each other's service as well. (P.R., "Nomadelfia—An Italian

## Community

ideas of “community” actually. It was analysed and worked out both in the sociological and urban fields by important figures as Danilo Dolci, who arrived in Nomadelfia in 1950, in the idea of community which already existed since the first camp founded by Don Zeno. Danilo Dolci<sup>7</sup> himself became an example of sharing and living the community life when, in 1952, he moved from northern Italy to Sicily, where he tried hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, soil erosion, as well as multi-form varieties of Mafia violence, political corruption, and above all, a culture that across the centuries taught and brought the inevitability of misery<sup>8</sup>. He aimed at democracy and social justice following an open and non violent revolution<sup>9</sup> and was remembered for the birth of the first bottom-up planning project and a European-level participatory project for Sicily after the 1968 earthquake in Belice.

Both for Leonardo Ricci and Danilo Dolci the beginning and end of this revolution required nothing other than «the invention of the future<sup>10</sup>». While Dolci’s hope for nonviolent revolution<sup>11</sup> was utopian, he then promoted the development of a project, refusing utopist views, starting from the community and its too elementary schemes of the social organization. Dolci and Ricci lived, on a sociological and on an architectural level, respectively, the same evolution from the community project to large-scale interventions, thanks to the interdisciplinary approach to pianification: Dolci’s plan, resulting from the collaboration of technicians of different backgrounds (architects, engineers, geologists, economists, sociologists, and anthropologists) since no body or institution had not started any organic plan for the area, was that of a Territory-City.

That model of ideal community, even if it had no solutions in the modern productive machine<sup>12</sup>, and the aim of an open plan based on human needs, aims and aspirations<sup>13</sup> were particularly important to Ricci for the project of

---

Experiment”, *Blackfriars*, No. 381 (December, 1951): 609-611). Unfortunately, the community suffered an economic collapse and a general hostility both from civil and religious authorities; Don Zeno was ordered to leave Nomadelfia, he was suspended from sacred offices from 1952 until 1962, but he moved his community to Grosseto. About Nomadelfia: Gabriella Bogliacini Roberto, *Nomadelfia, una comunità educante* (Florence: Libreria Editrice Fiorentina 1990); Leoni, ed., *Trentacinque progetti per Fossoli*.

<sup>7</sup> To Danilo Dolci Don Zeno Saltini imparted him two main teachings: one single man could fund a new community and prompt a social change alone, and to what extent the cooperative efforts of a community could improve their conditions. The figure of Danilo Dolci was also very known also in the United States, since his experiments won extensive attention there. The sources of Dolci’s welcome in the U.S. were several: his international reputation as “the Gandhi of Sicily”, the appraisal of eminent European writers and scholars from the 1950s, the win of several prestigious prizes for his work in Sicily such as the Lenin Peace Prize and the successive nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize in the 1960s and early 1970s. The excellent work done by The American Friends of Danilo Dolci, under the direction of author Jerre Mangione and sociologist Alfred McClung Lee, helped make Dolci’s lecture tours in the United States a success. Joseph A. Amato, “Danilo Dolci: A Nonviolent Reformer in Sicily”, *Italian Americana*, no. 2 (Spring-Summer 1978): 215-235.

<sup>8</sup> Danilo Dolci, *Inchiesta a Palermo* (Torino: Einaudi, 1962).

<sup>9</sup> Amato, “Danilo Dolci: A Nonviolent Reformer in Sicily”, 221.

<sup>10</sup> Danilo Dolci, “Per una rivoluzione nonviolenta”, *Non sentite l’odore del fumo* (Bari, Laterza, 1971), 61.

<sup>11</sup> Dolci wanted a new culture that would have had at its center «a new moral intuition that [identified] injustice with the violence which [impeded], directly and indirectly, the development of persons, groups, and societies» and «justice with social change, nonviolent revolution, a new organic planning, and the destruction, wherever necessary, of unacceptable contradictions». Dolci, “Per una rivoluzione nonviolenta”, 61-96.

<sup>12</sup> Varvaro, “Danilo Dolci”, 181.

<sup>13</sup> Danilo Dolci, *A New World in the Making* (London: MacGibbon & Kee, 1965).

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

the “Monte degli Ulivi” village in Riesi (Caltanissetta – 1962-1968) for a series of reasons: the antimafia purpose in the same territory where Dolci had worked, the model of interdisciplinary pianification from the bottom, and the purpose of the project to demonstrate that an alternative of life could have existed in the most backward village of Sicily<sup>14</sup>. Talking about the project of the “Monte degli Ulivi” village in Riesi:

Up to now - says Ricci - in this sector we have had three types of experiments. The one from above, with large state funding, characteristic of the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno; the one from the generic bottom, which has its best example in the work of Danilo Dolci; and finally the one from the bottom of the Jewish agricultural colonies in Palestine. It is useless to dwell on the first type of experimentation; especially in relation to the quantity of the means used, the results are very poor as planning from above does not take into account history custom, the mentality of the populations, the vocation of the territories. Danilo's way is splendid from an ethical point of view, but it has the defects of generality; his intentions are widening more and more instead of deepening and concentrating on a specific objective of the Zionist kibbutz is the only truly successful one; the desert, the true desert has been transformed into something productive. The reason? The people who create a kibbutz feel it, physically and spiritually. In Sicily we want to provoke a similar initiative with a breaking intervention<sup>15</sup>.

As Leonardo Ricci thought, the kibbutz was a further religious, social and political community model, maybe the community model that embodied, since the Thirties, the values that the other community models tried to apply as Zionism, self-labour, equality, democracy, and mutual responsibility<sup>16</sup>. That model evolved basically in different fields: the political, legislative, the economic and value systems<sup>17</sup>. The kibbutz was a founding model for organic architecture as well. According to Bruno Zevi's vision on modern architecture, that did not identify with Rationalism, even if one of its fundamental parameters, but with organic architecture as temporalized space invention for human individual and collective life, an idea shared with his friend Leonardo Ricci<sup>18</sup>.

---

<sup>14</sup> See Costanzo, *Leonardo Ricci e l'idea di spazio comunitario* and Emanuele Piccardo, ed., *Leonardo Ricci. Fare Comunità* (Busalla: Plug\_in, 2019).

<sup>15</sup> Ricci's words (translated by the author) are quoted in Bruno Zevi, “Il kibbutz nei feudi della mafia”, *L'Espresso*, July 14, 1963, then collected in “Monte degli Ulivi a Riesi/il kibbutz nei feudi della mafia”, *Cronache di Architettura V* (Laterza:Bari, 1971), 122-125.

<sup>16</sup> The ways and means of applying those principles varied across history and the kibbutz movements developed thirteen different strategies for social change that evolved in different ways according to the historical, cultural, and social conditions, but the main circumstance that influenced its development were men and their natural attitude to live in such a community or not. Henry Near, “Paths to Utopia: The Kibbutz as a Movement for Social Change”, in *Where Community Happens*, ed. Henry Near (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2011), 197-217. For a complete history of the kibbutz: Henry Near, *The Kibbutz Movement. A History, vol. I, Origins and Growth 1909-1939* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992) and Henry Near, *The Kibbutz Movement. A History, vol. II, Crisis and Achievement 1939-1995* (London, Portland Oregon: The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 1997).

<sup>17</sup> Stefania Girod, “Il kibbutz tra realtà e utopia: Un'analisi della sua evoluzione secondo la teoria di Talcott Parsons”, *La Rassegna Mensile di Israel*, no. 1 (January-April 1995): 104-126.

<sup>18</sup> On 9 June 1974 at the Congress of the Union of Italian Israelite Communities Zevi clearly stated that an architecture based on Jewish thought was an organic, living architecture capable of growing and developing<sup>18</sup>, as it did inside a kibbutz, a self-sustaining model based on work and sharing of life (Lima, *Alle soglie del 3° millennio. Sull'architettura*, 89-91). In each of his actions as an architect, theorist, and historian of architecture Zevi suggested the organic, anti-formalistic matrix of architecture, which formed in the struggle between time and space, between freedom and constraint, as Jewish architecture

## Community

Leonardo Ricci considered the community space as «an architecture built around the life of people who made use of it and it was implemented in such a way that all needs regarding both private and public aspects were met<sup>19</sup>». He worked on the kibbutz model for his project of the Ecumenic Village of Agàpe and for the Village “Monte degli Ulivi”, both realized for the Waldesian community in Italy, helped by the experiences and reflections in the sociological and urbanistic field that made head to figures such as Danilo Dolci, Adriano Olivetti, and Carlo Doglio. Carlo Doglio, author of several contributions on Kropotkin and Mumford, employed in Ivrea by Olivetti to direct the *Giornale di Fabbrica* and then in the review *Comunità*, also published *La pianificazione organica come piano della vita?* [“Organic pianification as a plan for life?”]<sup>20</sup>, including a special reflection on Leonardo Ricci and, more in detail, on two chapters of the *Anonymous (XX century)* titled “Farewell, Masters; Farewell, Geniuses” and “Notes after a Convention on Town-Planning”, showing his deep involvement with an organic conception of urban planning and with the need of a new conception of the role of the architect and planner<sup>21</sup>.

The connection between Leonardo Ricci and Adriano Olivetti<sup>22</sup> lies in the communitarian ideal, in its realization as a model for life and work, and in the decentralization of powers Olivetti purposed before the end of the second

---

did. Zevi's vision on organic architecture as a democratic device was very close to his Jewish origin and so to religious reasons as well: Zevi clearly saw the connection between the two and always stressed it because the parallelism made it possible to underline the importance of reading the internal space of architecture instead of the external, plastic, large-sized envelope, neglecting its living spaces. To Zevi spatial consciousness was born late in Jewish history and architecture, and its models, such as the kibbutz, offered a window of reflection on it. Bruno Zevi, foreword to Aryeh Sharon, *Kibbutz + Bauhaus: An Architect's Way in a New Land* (Berlino: Kramer Verlag, 1976); Bruno Zevi, forward to the Hebrew translation of *Saper Vedere l'Architettura*, published in *La Rassegna mensile di Israel*, no. 66, Unione delle Comunità israelitiche italiane (2000), 1-5.

<sup>19</sup> Costanzo, *Leonardo Ricci e l'idea di spazio comunitario*, 13.

<sup>20</sup> Carlo Doglio and Paola Venturi, *La pianificazione organica come piano della vita?* (Padova: Cedam, 1978), 9-18, 349-386.

<sup>21</sup> See Carlo Doglio, “Il piano della vita”, *Comunità*, no. 109 (1963); Carlo Doglio, “Il piano armonico (la pianificazione della libertà)”, *Anarchismo '70. Materiali per un dibattito, Quaderni dell'Antistato 1* (1970); Carlo Doglio and Leonardo Urbani, *La fionda sicula: piano della autonomia sicilianiana* (Bologna: Il Mulino, 1972); Carlo Doglio, “I Mostri”, *Parametro*, no. 12-13 (1972).

<sup>22</sup> Adriano Olivetti, reference Italian figure in seeking a collaboration with the United States at the end of the Fifties by finding connections with UNRRA CASAS and ECA programs to start housing plans in Italy, was a fundamental figure for the revolutionary idea of community as a cultural model to be applied to the workplace -in which architecture succeeded in serving the concrete realization of an enlightened business ideal- and for his idea of decentralization of powers. In *L'Ordine politico delle Comunità* (Adriano Olivetti, *L'Ordine politico delle Comunità. Le garanzie di libertà in uno stato socialista* (Ivrea: Nuove Edizioni Ivrea, 1945) Olivetti proposed the «creation of economically and self-sufficient and culturally homogeneous communities where the conflict between society and industry would be ideally harmonized: democratic representation would be of a twofold nature, with representatives elected by universal suffrage working with members of trade unions and cultural groups. [...] Olivetti's propositions represented a sort of reaction to the centralizing - and nationalist - policies that Fascism had enforced during the 1920s and 1930s and that the regime had inherited from Italy's post-unitarian state» (Scrivano, *Building transatlantic Italy: architectural dialogues with postwar America*, 96).

About the work of Adriano Olivetti see: Mario Labò, *Adriano Olivetti: l'aspetto estetico dell'opera sociale di Adriano Olivetti* (Milano: Görlich, 1955); Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti, “Adriano Olivetti”, *Zodiac*, no. 6 (1960): 3-13; Bruno Caizzi, *Camillo e Adriano Olivetti* (Torino: Unione Tipografica, 1962); Carlo Olmo, *Costruire la Città dell'uomo: Adriano Olivetti e l'urbanistica* (Milano: Edizioni di Comunità, 2001); Davide Caleddu, ed., *Adriano Olivetti Stato federale delle comunità. La riforma politica e sociale negli scritti inediti (1942-1945)* (Milano: Franco Angeli, 2004); Scrivano, *Olivetti Builds* (Milan: Skira, 2011); Alberto Saibene, *L'Italia di Adriano Olivetti* (Milano: Edizioni di Comunità, 2017).

world war in *L'Ordine politico delle Comunità* ["Political Order of the Communities"]<sup>23</sup>. As it will be explained in the following chapter, Ricci rethought the role of architecture schools in function of a political decentralization after the 1968 revolt. During his mandate as dean of the faculty of architecture of Florence, he got in contact with the lawyer and politician Massimo Severo Giannini<sup>24</sup>, who had also written, on behalf of the Institute of Socialist Studies immediately after the war, with Olivetti the report titled *The problem of local autonomies*. After returning to Italy from Switzerland, Olivetti founded the "Movimento di Comunità", that allowed him to realize his theoretical ideas in the area around Ivrea, where he directed the father's well-established typewriters' factory. Thanks to Olivetti the Canavese Area saw the building of that model of economically and culturally self-sustaining community.

Architecture and planning were among the most frequent disciplines published in the journal "Comunità", founded by Adriano Olivetti in 1946 to support his project with the publishing house Edizioni di Comunità. To Adriano Olivetti «planning was indeed the heuristic tool that allowed to achieve the coordination of different social bodies, if you create a political order which was not crystallized harmony, but always dynamic synthesis even unstable<sup>25</sup>». According to this idea of decentralization, the urban plan and design were useful tools to realize the social and political transformation, because they were at an intermediate level between politics and the people's concrete needs in everyday life<sup>26</sup>.

In the United States, the same debate on the organization of collective life in the mass society and on the decentralization of powers was alive. In his evaluation on the growth of the city in history, trying to outline the development of the urban form in history and to define the balance between the urban settlements and nature, Lewis Mumford introduced the paradox of the mass metropolis of the twentieth century: people lived in box-like spaces while living in a society based on mass production and long-distance mass communication; if all the technological improvements had to widen the scope of social life, in the disorganized communities of the contemporary age, they had instead «narrowed the effective range of the person». To Mumford the reason for this was that sprawling isolation had proved an effective method to keep people under control, but in this lied the problem: people lived at the same time in ancient cities' urban structures and in a mass society<sup>27</sup>.

---

<sup>23</sup>Olivetti's idea of community moved from a political intent since 1944, when, once released by the Rome penitentiary Regina Coeli where he was imprisoned for anti-Fascist activity in 1943, he was an expatriate in Switzerland. There Olivetti finished his manuscript initially entitled *Memorandum sullo Stato Federale delle Comunità* ["Memorandum on the Federal State of Communities"], begun in 1942 and subsequently printed in September 1945 with the title *L'Ordine politico delle Comunità. Le garanzie di libertà in uno stato socialista*.

<sup>24</sup> Ricci wrote to Giannini on the occasion of the educational reform of the Sixties. See chapter 5, paragraph 5.2.1.

<sup>25</sup> Davide Cadettu, "Adriano Olivetti, Luigi Einaudi e l'Ordine Politico delle Comunità", *Il Politico*, no. 3 (September-December 2003): 526.

<sup>26</sup> Paolo Scrivano, *Olivetti builds* (Milan: Skira, 2011), 30.

<sup>27</sup> Lewis Mumford, *The City in History* (San Diego, Harcourt Inc., 1961), 512. To describe the phenomenon Lewis Mumford also referred to the book by David Riesman *The Lonely Crowd* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1961).

## Community

Mindful of Pëtr Alekseevič Kropotkin<sup>28</sup> and Ebenezer Howard's<sup>29</sup> studies on the problem of the centralization of powers, Mumford found that the paradox was due to the will of avoiding association and contacts to allow a centralized power of capitalist societies to control the mass. In Suburbia poor facilities for collective life and common action dominated the urban scene and let conformity spread instead of allowing the normal changeability of cities and social debate to flow naturally.

That was a stronger paradox in the United States, the democratic country made of communities of different sort: religious, ethnic, and cultural. Therefore, a new planning of the neighborhoods in the United States had to be effective to improve community life, since what happened in the social system of communities and their lifestyle had to be favored in the old neighborhoods and by the neighborhood urban design, instead of being forced into closed patterns<sup>30</sup>.

Until the end of the Forties in the United States a divorce of city planning from social and scientific studies had happened, but in the second half of the twentieth century that trend had come to an end and community models as well as a review of the sociological definitions of neighborhood were rediscovered. Social sciences became integral parts of planning staff organizations of most large cities and the felt need for information and viewpoints which were not provided in the training of engineer or architect and for knowledge of economics, sociology, and political science were expressed formally by the American Institute of Planners in a report by their "The Content of Professional Curricula in Planning"<sup>31</sup> committee made up of planners instead of academics. The interest of sociologists and planners had to be on the transition or conversion areas between the centre of the city and the peripheral zones that old community models as the Garden City, the Radburn Plan -influenced by the previous

---

<sup>28</sup> Pëtr Alekseevič Kropotkin was a philosopher, geographer, zoologist, militant and theorist of Russian anarchy. Libertarian, proponent of a sociological analysis and of a scientifically based social evolution in human communities, for his generous social passion was one of the first supporters of anarcho-communism. Lewis Mumford quoted him in *The City in History* in the chapter titled "Planning for Urban Growth" as the first intellectual to realize that the new means of rapid transit and communication «made the small community on a par in essential technical facilities with the overcongested city» and noticed all the further possible implications of the penetration of the metropolis into the peripheral dependent communities in rural life, group organization, animated activities, in the separation between urban and rural life, between the industrial and the farm worker, before the invention of the motor car, the radio, the motion picture, the television, and the telephone. Mumford, *The City in History*, 515. See Petr Alekseevic Kropotkin, *The Essential Kropotkin* (New York: Liveright, 1975).

<sup>29</sup> Ebenezer Howard was influenced by Kropotkin and by utopian writers like Thomas Spence and James Silk Buckingham for his model of the Garden City, which was important for the idea of a community serving the civilization since the growth of the big city was failing against the city itself. Howard's focus was on the exchange between the city and the countryside by promoting a new pattern of city growth able to carry on all the needed functions of a urban community. See Ebenezer Howard, *To-morrow: a Peaceful Path to Real Reform* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1898).

<sup>30</sup> Glazer and Moynihan, *Beyond the Melting Pot*.

<sup>31</sup> "Content of Professional Curricula in Planning", *Journal of American Institute of Planners*, XIV (Winter, 1948): 4-19.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

one- and the New Towns tried to reconnect, and on the “neighborhood unit” principle<sup>32</sup>, deeply analysed by Lewis Mumford and Clarence Perry<sup>33</sup>.

In 1929 the neighborhood concept was published separately in two forms: the neighborhood idea of Clarence Stein and Henry Wright, exemplified in their plan for Radburn, and the Neighborhood Unit idea of Clarence Perry<sup>34</sup>. Since then, from the Thirties, the concept had been applied and adapted internationally and the original principles of neighborhood physical design, in both its forms, varied till nowadays because a lot of investigations were conducted on the social concept of neighborhood and its declinations in the practice by planners<sup>35</sup>, on the nature of the relationship between the neighborhood's physical arrangement and the social interaction among its residents.

Perry's monograph referred to the Radburn plan but, if Stein and Wright presented the concept in the form of a specific town (Radburn in New Jersey), Perry illustrated his idea in a generic form. Applications of the neighborhood concept spread in magazine articles and discussions at meetings<sup>36</sup>. In the period between Roosevelt's Housing Act (1934) and the end of the Second World War the federal government of the United States provided the necessary infrastructures for the social assistance services. The quality of the interventions realized for the residential plans and urban planning in the United States as the Tennessee Valley and the Greenbelt New Towns of Clarence Stein, diverged and was not constant for the introduction of a «New

---

<sup>32</sup> This principle was given its clearest formulation and greatest impetus by Clarence Perry in connection with his work for the New York regional plan. The neighborhood-unit, as defined by Clarence Perry, was a residential area which «should provide housing for that population for which one elementary school is ordinarily required, its actual area depending upon its population density [...] should be bounded on all sides by arterial streets, sufficiently to facilitate its bypassing, instead of penetration, by through traffic [...] [should include] a system of small parks and recreational spaces. [...] Sites for the school and other institutions having service spheres coinciding with the limits of the unit should be suitably grouped about a central point. [...] One or more shopping districts [...] should be laid out in the circumference of the unit [...] [and] the unit should be provided with a special street system [...] being designed to facilitate circulation within the unit and to discourage its use by through traffic». Clarence Arthur Perry, *Housing for the Machine Age* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1939).

<sup>33</sup> Lewis Mumford, “The Neighborhood and the Neighborhood Unit”, *The Town Planning Review*, no. 4 (January, 1954): 256-270. Richard Dewey, “The Neighborhood, Urban Ecology, and City Planners”, *American Sociological Review*, no. 4 (Aug., 1950): 502- 507.

<sup>34</sup> For a complete overview on the Radburn plan: Clarence Stein, “The Radburn plan. Notes on the new town planned for the city housing corporation”, in *The writings of Clarence S. Stein: Architect of the planned community*, ed. KC Parsons (Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press, 1998), 150-152. Clarence Arthur Perry's monograph on the neighborhood unit: Clarence Arthur Perry, “The neighborhood unit”, in *Neighborhood and community planning. Regional survey VII*, ed. Committee on Regional Plan of New York and its Environs (New York: Regional Plan of New York and its Environs, 1929), 20-140.

<sup>35</sup> Dewey, “The Neighborhood, Urban Ecology, and City Planners”, 504- 507.

<sup>36</sup> «One of the first major applications of the neighborhood concept in North America was in the planned towns of the Greenbelt Program conducted by the United States Resettlement Administration (USRA) during the era of the New Deal (USRA, 1936). Clarence Stein strongly influenced this New Deal program primarily as consultant on one of four projects, that of Greenbelt, Maryland». See Clarence S. Stein, “Community Housing Procedure”, *Architectural Forum*, no. 56 (March 1932): 221-228.

## Community

Objectivity» in the United States, which was due to the migrations of European intellectuals after the political and economic crisis Europe suffered since the 1930s<sup>37</sup>.

Not far from the Italian studies previously mentioned, the trend of working on the community was extremely sensitive to the popular consent and it tried to answer the people's necessities with the use of local materials and a particular attention on topography and climate<sup>38</sup>. As it happened in Italy, the failing of the application of the neighborhood concept consisted in applying it to the metropolis as to compare rural and urban communities, without considering the relation between neighborhood physical arrangement and social interaction. Residential design should have focused on users at the micro-neighborhood scale, considering the neighborhood as a social fact that existed even if not articulated in a plan. The neighborhood could have become an essential part of the integrated city, from its planning, the whole city could have been planned at all levels, and «the discussion of the problems raised by neighborhood design [would have led] to solutions that [would have carried] further the movement begun theoretically in Perry's studies, carried out concretely at Radburn, and applied on a large scale in the British New Towns<sup>39</sup>».

Anticipating some of the most eminent universities' studies, as those of the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies in Cambridge, Lewis Mumford maintained that a more comprehensive study of the social functions of the neighborhood «for a more subtle and sympathetic interpretation of the needs of urban families at every stage in the cycle of human growth, and a more adventurous exploration of alternative solutions<sup>40</sup>» were needed. Leonardo Ricci's work and research conducted in the United States was precisely seeking answers to that problem and tried to find in urban design a wise and applicable solution of the community or neighborhood principles to the metropolis, the city of the future.

---

<sup>37</sup> They were attracted by the social measures of the New Deal, which produced the wide planning programs for the welfare and social reforms. High results were reached in the interventions financed by governance agencies as the Farm Security Administration: the first workers' villages as the collective farm in Chandler (Arizona) built in 1937 on Vernon de Mars' project, the New Kensington Village in Pennsylvania by Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer built in 1940 or the Channel Heights in San Pedro (Los Angeles) designed by Richard Neutra in 1943 were examples of high-level residential interventions. Noteworthy results were also achieved in the realization of dams, slipways, and platforms in the Tennessee Valley.

<sup>38</sup> The exhibition "Look at your Neighborhood" displayed at Museum of Modern Art in New York from March 29 to June 25, 1944, defined in a number of panels what comprised a good neighborhood and emphasized that good neighborhoods could result from newborn buildings or from the requalification of existing areas.

<sup>39</sup> Mumford, "The Neighborhood and the Neighborhood Unit", 269.

<sup>40</sup> Mumford, "The Neighborhood and the Neighborhood Unit", 269.

### 4.2. Leonardo Ricci and the community as a spatial model for human existence: “Agàpe” and “Monte degli Ulivi”

The model of the community adopted by Leonardo Ricci was strictly connected to the kibbutz model and to the idea of community as intended by the Waldesian religion, since his most famous projects for community spaces were realized for the Waldesian Community he himself belonged to<sup>41</sup>. These projects for the Waldesian community tell us how the architect applied his research in urban design before (Agàpe) and during his American transfer (“Monte degli Ulivi”). The “Monte degli Ulivi” village was conceived immediately after his experience at M.I.T. and during his teaching experience at Penn State University. They represented two realized utopias that followed an original existential formula, that community ideal that Ricci constantly pursued. In Ricci's mind Agàpe had to be a community for the local population. After its realization it was then requested by the Waldensians. As noted by Corinna Vasič Vatovec, the link with the local dimension was evident in the use of local materials, in the reference to the vernacular, in the participatory project because it was carried out with the collaboration of more than a thousand volunteers and in the search for a relationship with nature<sup>42</sup>.

For Pastor Tullio Vinay, the guide of the community and the commissioner of Leonardo Ricci's projects for the Ecumenical Village of Agàpe in Prali (1946/1951 and expansions till 1956) and of the “Monte degli Ulivi” Village in Riesi (1962-1968), «the Ecumenical Village of Agàpe had to represent an Ecumenical centre and had to be the place of religious and cultural (and holiday) meeting point of the following Evangelical communities<sup>43</sup>», it had to be an architectural monument dedicated to the brotherly and Christian love, built by the young Waldesians. The Waldesian principles listed and described by Tullio Vinay in the report that followed the conference in Torre Pellice were fundamental for the architectural project, which derived from them and agreed with the architect's intentions to build a unique complex, not an aggregation of parts similar to an ancient convent, with a large multipurpose hall with refectory, common place for meeting, study and worship, a common kitchen and a shop. Open parts were connected to this hall such as the uncovered church, the "gallery with portico", the terraces, the small squares, the amphitheater for meetings and the terracing for sports games. The blocks for the cells were arranged on the slope, connected by a covered passage, and arranged at different heights so as not to block the views of each on the panorama. Since 1946 Vinay was pastor of the Waldesian community of Florence and firstly commissioned the project to the engineer Costantino Messina, but then both agreed on entrusting the project to an architect. The choice fell on Leonardo Ricci, who already knew Pastor Vinay since he taught catechism to his brothers Alberto and Arnaldo and had an intense correspondence with the Pastor since 1946, when Vinay was impressed by Ricci's project “Firenze sul Fiume” exhibited in Palazzo Vecchio (1946). Ricci

---

<sup>41</sup> Leonardo Ricci's mother Giuditta De Giorgi was Waldesian. Costanzo, “Biografia”, in *Leonardo Ricci e l'idea di spazio comunitario*, 75-79.

<sup>42</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto “esistenzialista”*, 23, 24. As Pastor Vinay reminded, Agàpe was built by young people of all religious confessions «Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Calvinists, Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists, etc. and it was no longer the work of a particular church, but of the universal church», Tullio Vinay, *L'Amore è più grande. La storia di Agàpe e la nostra* (Torino: Claudiana, 1955), 88.

<sup>43</sup> Tullio Vinay's words were pronounced at the Conference of the Waldesian Youth held in Torre Pellice on March 11, 1947. Corrado Gavinelli, Mariella Loik, Gianni Rostan, eds., *L'architettura di Leonardo Ricci. Agàpe e Riesi* (Torino: Claudiana, 2001), 39.

## Community

had been writing and talking for a long time with Vinay about the Pastor's dream to build an ecumenical village where the reconciliation ideal (*agàpe*) had to be realized. Therefore, Ricci got involved in the project some years before effectively designing it<sup>44</sup>.

Claudio Messina, who worked with Giovanni Klaus Koenig on the realization of the executive project, reported the story in an interview with Corinna Vasič Vatovec and stated that the particular fan-shaped plan of the complex had to allow a convergence of the spaces. On one side a fireplace as a meeting place and on the other the large window that looked at the external community space and captured the light<sup>45</sup>.

In his report Pastor Vinay also listed some precise data and instructions to follow to build the center based on the religious precepts of the Waldesian community resumed by Daniele Bouchard in his contribution on *Agàpe* and Riesi and embodied by the community of *Agàpe*:

From Barthian orthodoxy, to interreligious dialogue, to "post-religious" research, to personalized theological research<sup>46</sup>. The first trait of *Agàpe*'s identity is its being a Christian, Protestant, and ecumenical center. In the first decades, *Agàpe*'s work was characterized by the decisive influence of Karl Barth's theology and by the comparison of Barthism with other strong thoughts (in particular, Marxism first and psychoanalysis later). Since the 1980s, the approach has become more pluralistic and various ways have been tried. The Jewish / Christian camps represented the most systematic attempt at interreligious dialogue but had to be interrupted due to the substantial lack of interest on the part of the Jewish partner. The attempts at dialogue with Islam have had the same fate. A wave of all-out spiritual research has crossed the theological fields, and beyond, in recent decades. [...] More recently we have tried to accommodate the needs of freedom and eclecticism of the search for faith by offering a Protestant framework in which to carry it out. The theological fields have therefore come to resemble spaces in which if one feels the need for a personal research in matters of faith finds not only a free sphere and people to deal with but also themes and methods that propose a new confrontation with evangelical theology and faith<sup>47</sup>

From a political point of view, the Waldesian community's approach referred to the desire to free the world from imperialism, a dialogue was sought with Marxism and, in the years following the foundation of *Agàpe*, camps were organized with militants and leaders of the movements of national liberation of Africa (Sixties) and Latin America (Seventies). The many moments of confrontation with a political or religious background made it possible to establish another great value within the community: the enhancement of differences and reconciliation between different nationalities and political ideas established during the war. To Barthism and Marxism, in favor of ideological, religious, or political differences, feminism was added as an accentuation of

---

<sup>44</sup> Vinay, *L'Amore è più grande*, 130-131, Costanzo, *Leonardo Ricci e l'idea di spazio comunitario*, 21-25.

<sup>45</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 24.

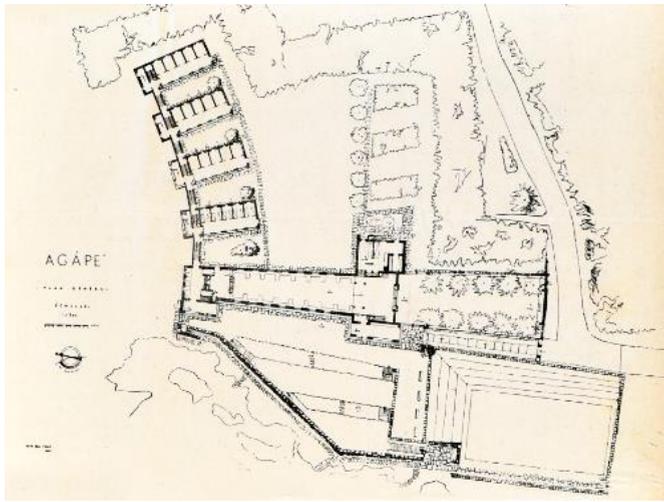
<sup>46</sup> The origin of Barthism lies in dialectical theology derived from the astonishment of theologians for the massacres that took place during the First World War. Both warring sides had blessed their weapons and claimed that God was on their side. In neutral Switzerland Karl Barth developed his theory as a result of his study of Paul's Letter to the Romans and on the opinion that it was not possible for people to claim God for their own opinions and culture. God was a different entity and people could not control Him. Barth thus turned against the traditional orthodoxy and the optimistic liberal theology of his time. According to him, both schools identified their cultural and ethical views with God's will and this was an absolutism of their views that was not allowed. Karl Barth, *La Teologia protestante nel XIX secolo* (Milano: Jake Book, 1972).

<sup>47</sup> Daniele Bouchard, "La vocazione di *Agàpe* tra forma e contenuto", in Gavinelli, Loik and Rostan, *L'architettura di Leonardo Ricci. *Agàpe* e Riesi*, 68, 69.

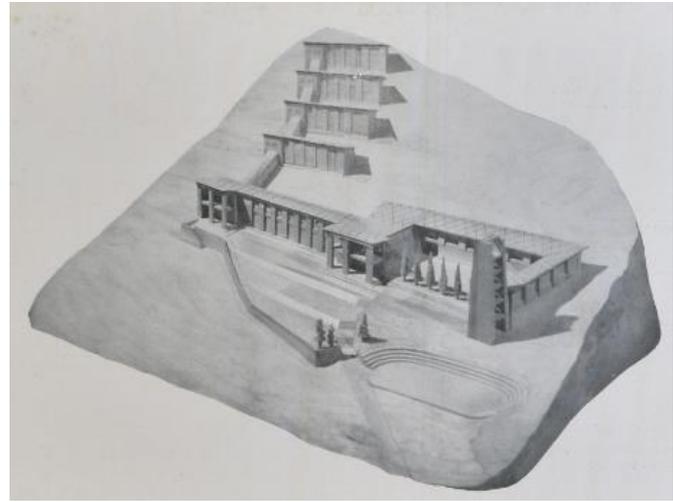
## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

gender difference. In the life of the Waldensian community the female figure was increasingly important for the development of camps for adolescents and those for children<sup>48</sup>.

After a visit to most of the Unions of the Valleys and in Turin, Vinay declared that the village had already arose before its construction, from the love of its builders, because it was born from the participatory union of the workers who would have built it and from the work of the volunteers, almost all young and belonging to the generation that wanted a new life. In this laid the existential matrix of Agàpe's project for a new reality to be



4.1: Leonardo Ricci, *Ecumenical Center of Agàpe*, general plan, 1947, image collected in "Logbook" n.1 (1938-1952), Casa Studio Ricci



4.2: Leonardo Ricci, *Ecumenical Center of Agàpe*, photo of the model, image collected in "Logbook" n.1 (1938-1952), Casa Studio Ricci

reformed and rebuilt. At the same time, it presented both the characteristics of the mountain village and those of the community reality, without falling back into the imitation of the models of the past<sup>49</sup>.

The Village was composed of solid structures, which hosted open spaces among the pillars in stone both inside the buildings and outside, since the open general plan of the building included both internal and external common spaces. On one side Leonardo Ricci succeeded in giving to the Waldesian community the spaces to be used for the ruled and ordered life of the community, while on the other side both the different functions of the building and the open spaces between them were connected in a unique system. The connection was also enhanced by the wide glass surfaces of the windows and by the perspectives created among the spaces, since they let every component of the community to be in visual contact with the activities of the others.

<sup>48</sup> Bouchard, "La vocazione di Agàpe tra forma e contenuto", 66- 69.

<sup>49</sup> Mirella Loik, "L'Architettura di Agàpe. Atto di amore evangelico ed esempio di lavoro autocostruttivo", in Gavinelli, Loik, Rostan, *L'architettura di Leonardo Ricci. Agàpe e Riesi*, 37-40.

## Community

Despite the model of the kibbutz was clearer in the Village “Monte degli Ulivi” because of its «not finished form like a Zionist kibbutz that has demonstrated how to transform a sandy desert into fertile land<sup>50</sup>», the ecumenical center of Agàpe was also built in a mountain place, far from everyday life, as it happened for pilgrimages to the sanctuaries of ancient Israel, which were built in the mountains to be closer to God. Agàpe was sited in the transition area between Lyon and Lombardy, the two main centers of development of the Waldensian movement in the Middle Age, a border area between the Duchy of Savoy and the Kingdom of France in modern times and a place of persecution and resistance both in the sixteenth and seventeenth century and mid-twentieth century. It therefore arose in a place with a precise identity. The architecture of the center aimed at an integration with nature in the same materials used in the construction, larch wood and local stone. The roofs pointed to the sky, the windows opened to the surrounding nature, the plant as a whole represented a rudder, the plan of the central block recalled a wooden cross and above all the absence of a chapel replaced by the open-air church signaled the abolition of the distinction between sacred and profane.

The architecture of Agàpe was conceived for a community: the closed hall was the only place where group activities could take place, in it all the main activities of the community happened throughout the day. The rooms were small and reachable only thanks to long uphill stairs, the common bathrooms were located on the floor above the living room and the smaller rooms of the houses where small work groups met, had no doors that allowed an intimacy separate from that of the community. The project was conceived to host three types of working activities: intellectual work as it hosted lectures, readings, speeches and religious functions, physical work intended as a meal service but also as a general community work field, and the related emotional work done during discussion, prayer, and interior work moments. These three working dimensions were then integrated in time and turned into a common experiential dimension. That experiential dimension entered in



4.3: Leonardo Ricci, Agàpe entrance, sketch titled “Ingresso ad Agàpe” [“Agàpe entrance”], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.

---

<sup>50</sup> Antonietta Jolanda Lima, “Leonardo Ricci: Riesi, un villaggio come un kibbutz = Riesi like a kibbutz”, *L’Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 41 (1995): 409, translation by Antonietta Jolanda Lima.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

the program of the center and the experiential work of the community overcame the confrontation of ideas. The project hosted life, a fragment of life that reflected outside in the collective life of the community and in the individual life.

Working, liturgy and living were the main activities that took part in the fragment of the life of Agàpe, they melted because the working model directed by a group of people that convened experts and decided the guiding lines of the physical, intellectual, and emotional work inevitably involved the liturgic and living fields. The liturgical life took place at different times of the day: a worship at the beginning and at the end of the day, the prayer was recited before each meal, then over time it changed with the celebration of worship only once a week. An essential role in the life of the center had always been played by the resident community, which had never revolved around a single person, an idea, or a symbol, but around the experiential and relational data of the life that the center had welcomed since its foundation. The presence of a resident community that lived in a part of the center, gave to Agàpe the character of a home, to which the identifying role of the community was entrusted<sup>51</sup>. The project was carried out by the voluntary work of more than one thousand people: the pastor, the architect, students, workers, and women, all guided by the same intent.

Leonardo Ricci drew up a few sketches about the general plan, kept at his home studio in Monterinaldi, other sketches presented with captions in French «Agàpé. Plan Général. Echelle 1/200» to be showed to the Ecumenical Council of the Churches and a series of four illustrative sketches commented in Italian by the same author with his own calligraphy.

Leonardo Ricci's sketches and his master plan of 1947 already represented the project as it was executed. The sketch titled "Central hall and the terraces" represented the facade of the main body that housed the common hall in perspective and highlighted the monumental character of this building, which, with the two emptied lateral cubic bodies, constituted the front on the Belvedere and the side elevation of the central pavilion, closed by a sequence of seven tall windows marked by a giant order of imposing stone pillars. The sketch titled "Interior of the hall" instead frames the internal space to put it in communication with the open-air auditorium and with the upper space reachable thanks to two monumental staircases located laterally and which, according to Bouchard, referred to the traditional type of stairs with balcony of the Waldensian and Protestant houses.

The contrast between monumental spaces and open spaces, between closed and recollection spaces and bright common or open or connecting spaces was desired and made evident in the drawings, in which also the use of wood for the light wooden trusses contrasted with the use of the stone for the supporting structures already reflected the characteristics of the realized project. The sketch that best represents the idea of filtering the internal and the external space is the one titled "View of the open-air church from the internal hall": the glass was a diaphragm framed by two large fireplaces that rose like large pillars at both sides of the opening on the external view that extended to the altar in the background. The same contraposition of openness and closing was suggested in the sketch of the individual cells that were characterized by dark and narrow spaces opposed to wide glasses that line the corridor.

The realization of the project was possible thanks to the work of Giovanni Klaus Koenig, architecture student at the end of the Forties, and his brother, Gianni Koenig, an engineering student, who elaborated all the executive

---

<sup>51</sup> Bouchard, "La vocazione di Agàpe tra forma e contenuto", 59-72.

## Community

drawings from the 1: 200 scale plan provided by Leonardo Ricci. In the archives only a few letters by Ricci to Vinay tell the concern of the architect about the correct ongoing of the building process<sup>52</sup>.

The crisis of Agàpe for its author is to be seen in the extreme utopianism of the ideological conception, and in the substantial detachment from a productive reality: "Everyone worked, nobody received money. A realized utopia. [...] I would have stayed there forever if I had not realized that a community today, when it is detached from a permanent job ", becomes only" memory "of a" concrete "idea, which will never be able to verify its actual completeness if it is not" inserted into daily reality"<sup>53</sup>

One of the most important traces left by Agàpe's project lies in the way in which Ricci managed to annihilate the usual relationship between architect and client, eliminating any difference in power or intervention on the project of each figure, or of any other professionalism that intervened in the design and executive processes. In this way Ricci managed to build a project for the community from the community and from a community group of workers.

The same intent was pursued by Leonardo Ricci for the building of "Monte degli Ulivi Village" in Riesi twenty years later, thanks to the new commission of Pastor Tullio Vinay. Even commissioned by the same person, the two projects were different, since the two communities were different: again, Leonardo Ricci's work was determined by human needs<sup>54</sup>.

---

<sup>52</sup> Ricci wrote to Vinay on July 18, 1947 that he would have visited the building site from August 6 or 7, 1947 for the following week. To have a complete overview on the works: Mirella Loik, "L'Architettura di Agàpe. Atto di amoreevangelico ed esempio di lavoro autocostruttivo", in Gavinelli, Loik, Rostan, *L'architettura di Leonardo Ricci. Agàpe e Riesi*, 43-46.

<sup>53</sup> Gavinelli, Loik, Rostan, *L'architettura di Leonardo Ricci. Agàpe e Riesi*, 50.

<sup>54</sup> The complete bibliography about the project is the following:

Enrico Castelnuovo, "Ragguaglio Delle Arti. Agape", *Tutt'Italia*, no. 23 (n.d.); "The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine", *Town of Love*, September 13, 1947; "Agape Rjeser Sieg", *Kirkens Front*, May 1948; "Agapé. Das Dorf Des Gutes Villens", *Schweizer Illustrierte Zeitung*, no. 8 (February 23, 1949), "Le Camp d'Agapé", *L'Illustrée. Revue Hebdomadaire Suisse*, no. 23 (June 9, 1949); "In Italie Word Teen Huis Der Liefde Gebouwd, *Der Hervormde Kerke*, October 15, 1949; "Le Camp d'Agapé", *L'Illustrée. Revue Hebdomadaire Suisse*, no. 23 (June 9, 1949); Ricci, "Confessione", 29-32; Giuseppe Faraci, "Un'oasi Di Pace a Prali per Giovani Di Tutto Il Mondo", *La Nuova Stampa*, August 8, 1951; Ernesto Caballo, "Al Sommo Di Val Germanasca in Una Conca Luminosa è Nato Agàpe Il Villaggio Destinato al Servizio Di Dio", *Gazzetta Sera*, August 13, 1951; Cesco Tomaselli, "Attuata Dai 'Comunitari' Di Agàpe Una Nuova Concezione Del Lavoro", *Il Corriere Della Sera*, August 14, 1951; Giuseppe Tabellini, "Per Costruire Un Villaggio Della Pace Si Muovono Perfino Le Attrici Del Cinema Da Hollywood Ai Monti Piemontesi", *Il Corriere Della Sera*, August 18, 1951; "Agapé", *Réforme*, August 25, 1951, "Village of Love", *Time. The Weekly New Magazine*, August 27, 1951; P.M. Ciprandi, "Un Villaggio Sulle Alpi per i Giovani Di Tutte Le Confessioni", *Paese Sera*, September 7, 1951; Martin Krampen, "Agape' - Das Dorf Ohne Mauern", *Der Weg*, December 1, 1951; "Agape Stedet Bygget Au Sten Og Kjaerlighet", *Kristen Ungdom*, no. 20 (1952); Vinay, *L'Amore è più grande*; "Dori Christlicher Lugend in Prali Bei Rurin", *Kunst Und Kirche*, no. 1 (1960); Loik, Rostan and Gavinelli, *L'Architettura Di Leonardo Ricci: Agape e Riesi*, 11-48; Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 23, 24; Fabio Fabbrizzi, Loris Macchi, and Ulisse Tramonti, *Opere e progetti di scuola fiorentina, 1968-2008* (Firenze: Alinea, 2008) 130-143; Silvia Berselli, "Fino al 26 Maggio a Firenze Una Mostra Presenta, Con Materiali in Gran Parte Inediti, Le Opere Dell'architetto Che Amava Definirsi Un 'Anonimo Del XX Secolo'", *Il Giornale Dell'Architettura*, April 24, 2019.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

If Agàpe was an important innovative intervention in terms of time and concept, the Centro Cristiano in Rieti constituted a different propositional expression, I would say of planning maturity and of more comprehensive and concrete social use, because it is based on the direct relationship with the local community, and its people, a phenomenon that lacked the institutional and conceptual relegation of the Agàpe village<sup>55</sup>.

---

<sup>55</sup> Mirella Loik, “L’Architettura di Agàpe. Atto di amore evangelico ed esempio di lavoro autocostruttivo”, in Gavinelli, Loik, Rostan, *L’architettura di Leonardo Ricci. Agàpe e Rieti*, 49.

## Community



4.4: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled “Visione generale di Agàpe” [“General view of Agàpe”], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.5: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled “Il padiglione centrale e le terrazze” [“The central pavilion and the terraces”], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.6: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled “Uno dei padiglioni-Esterno” [“One of the pavilions-outdoor”], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.7: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled "Particolare del salone" ["Detail of the main hall"], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.8: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled "Ingresso al padiglione centrale" ["Entrance to the central pavilion"], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.



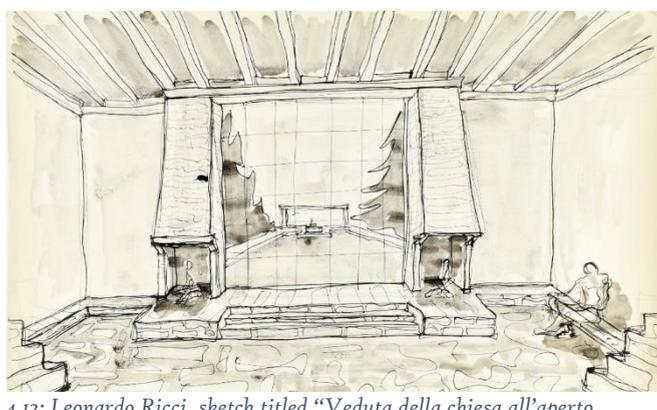
4.9: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled "Interno del salone centrale" ["Interior of the main hall"], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.10: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled "Veduta delle 'celle'" ["View of the 'cells'"], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.11: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled "Il padiglione centrale" ["The central pavilion"], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.12: Leonardo Ricci, sketch titled "Veduta della chiesa all'aperto dall'interno del salone" ["View of the church outdoors from inside the hall"], 1948, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Community

Ricci himself criticized Agàpe declaring that its difference with Riesi was that «between a community aware of itself, which autonomously wants to be founded as such, and one that is transferred and transplanted into an environment that is not only foreign, but opposed to community principles<sup>56</sup>»

Even the “Monte degli Ulivi Village” could be considered a realized utopia but it also consisted of an important sociological outcome, because the community identity had given hope to a portion of the population of Riesi, near Caltanissetta in Sicily, who lived in a state of poverty and backwardness, oppressed by the mafia.

The community village had provided them not only with new differentiated residences for families or singles, but also with new services, and working spaces such as the mechanical workshop school, the nursery school, an elementary school, the library, and common spaces such as the Christian Service hall and the community house. The new job opportunities created inside the new settlement were extremely important because they gave those people a new life possibility as well as the hope of surviving the injustice of the mafia. In Riesi architecture served the construction of a new community living a new condition.

Thinking of the project Leonardo Ricci had to face a difficult economic, social, and environmental reality: a very poor area, one of the poorest and most backward in Sicily. The project area was a hill planted with olive trees, entirely preserved by the architect, who found in Riesi the perfect occasion to experiment his research of environmental integration between residence and work. Ricci remembered that design chance as an important moment of sentimental and cultural enrichment on the human level<sup>57</sup>.

The task entrusted to Ricci by Pastor Vinay was to create a community in which it was possible to re-propose a collective way of living thanks to an open, experimental plan, to be implemented thanks to a process of a participatory planning from below.

The Waldensian community had moved to Riesi and had started a legal battle to save the local population from the insults of the mafia. To begin the project, Leonardo Ricci had met Tullio Vinay in Rome on April 1, 1962 and in September began the general plan of the community<sup>58</sup>, without having seen the site, but relying on the photos, drawings, and surveys provided by the Pastor. At the end of September Ricci delivered the general plan, in October the executive project of the nursery school, in November the executive project of the dwellings. Pastor Vinay was oppressed by the bureaucratic procedures to ask the Concilio Ecumenico dell’Unione Protestanti for funds and by the necessities of the population: the poor people were waiting for the building of the new village, but the middle class was opposing the Waldensian community.

---

<sup>56</sup> Leonardo Ricci’s words were published in Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci: testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 31.

<sup>57</sup> Michele Costanzo, “Leonardo Ricci e Il Villaggio Monte Deli Ulivi a Riesi”, *Metamorfosi*, no. 64 (2007): 46.

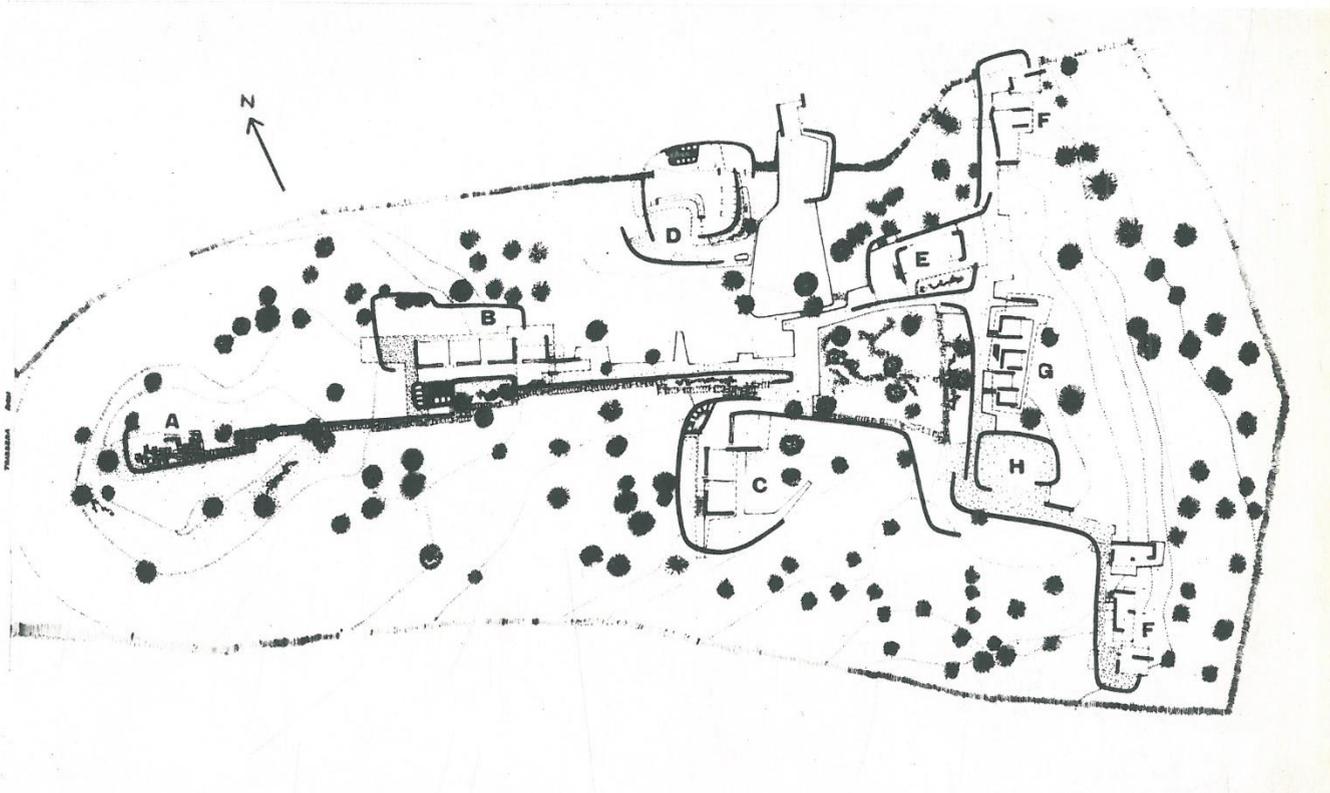
<sup>58</sup> The reported dates related to the project of Riesi appear on the letters between Leonardo Ricci and Tullio Vinay kept in the Christian Archive in Riesi, where most of the letters between the architect and the pastor are kept. A complete reconstruction of the exchange between the two is readable in Emanuele Tuccio, “Caro Tullio, Caro Leo. Le vicende della costruzione del Centro Cristiano di Monte degli Ulivi nel carteggio tra Vinay e Ricci dell’archivio della Comunità valdese di Riesi”, in Gavinelli, Loik, Rostan, eds., *L’architettura di Leonardo Ricci. Agàpe e Riesi*, 105-117.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



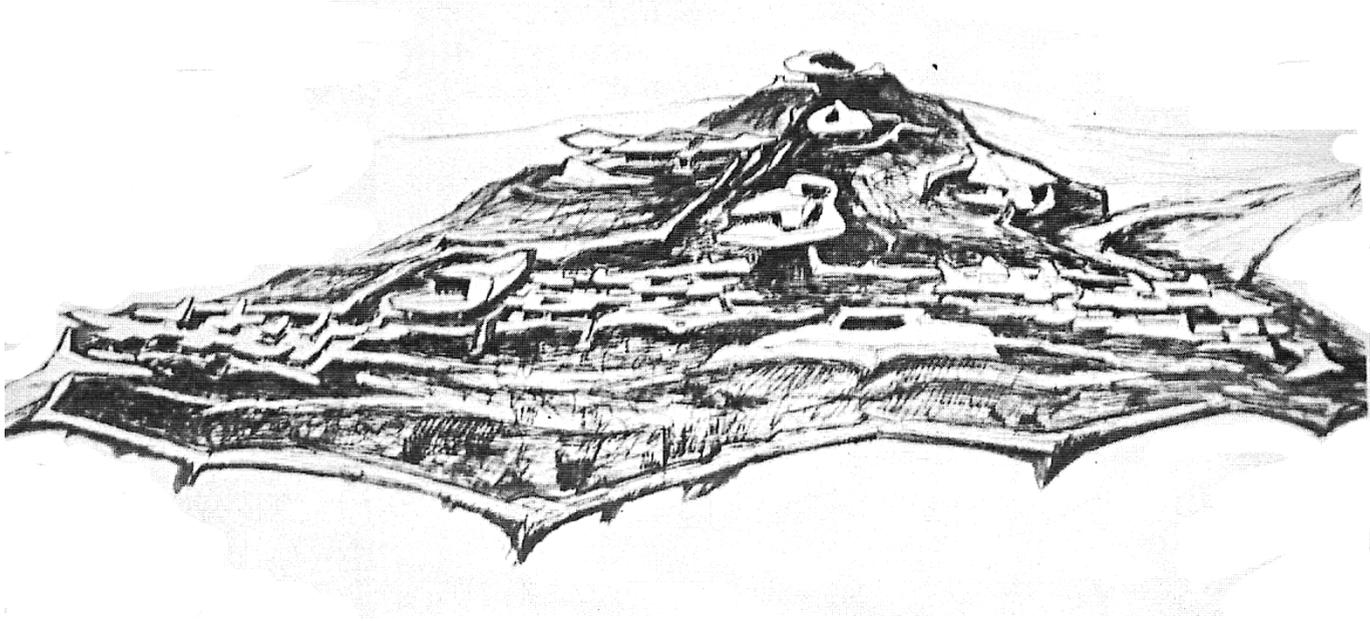
il progetto del villaggio

*a, chiesa; b, scuola elementare; c, asilo; d, officina; e, uffici; f, alloggi per famiglie; g, camere per scapoli; h, locali di riunione*



4.13: Leonardo Ricci, "Monte degli Ulivi" Village, general plan and elevation, first study, 1962, image published in Leonardo Ricci, "Nascita di un Villaggio per una nuova comunità in Sicilia", *Domus*, no. 409 (December, 1963): 7.

## Community



4.14: Leonardo Ricci, sketch of the general view, image published in Leonardo Ricci, “Nascita di un Villaggio per una nuova comunità in Sicilia”, *Domus*, no. 409 (December, 1963): 9-10.

The construction site began on November 16, 1962, when Ricci moved for a while to Riesi, with the architect Del Fungo, with whom he proceeded to trace the foundations and to stake out the area. Ricci moved to Riesi to live among the future inhabitants, to understand better, as he had already done for Agàpe, the needs of the future inhabitants and to revise his project according to his observations<sup>59</sup>.

Ricci did not receive any compensation for the project, but the subsequent changes occupied him almost full time in the following months. He returned to Riesi from January 2 to January 12, 1963 to follow the works, and, in a letter kept at Casa Studio Ricci<sup>60</sup> he asked Vinay to start building the “Ecclesia”, the building for the spiritual life of the community: despite the other buildings were not finished yet, it had to be built as a unifying place for the community.

---

<sup>59</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Nascita di un Villaggio per una nuova comunità in Sicilia”, *Domus*, no. 409 (December, 1963): 5-12.

<sup>60</sup> Leonardo Ricci’s letter to Tullio Vinay dated January 1, 1963, Casa Studio Ricci. The correspondence between Ricci and Vinay concerning Riesi’s village kept in Casa Studio Ricci consists only in this letter and in one further handwritten letter to Tullio and Giò Vinay in which Leonardo Ricci expressed his suffering for their misunderstandings regarding the building of the community house and the delay in the delivery of the projects for the dwellings.

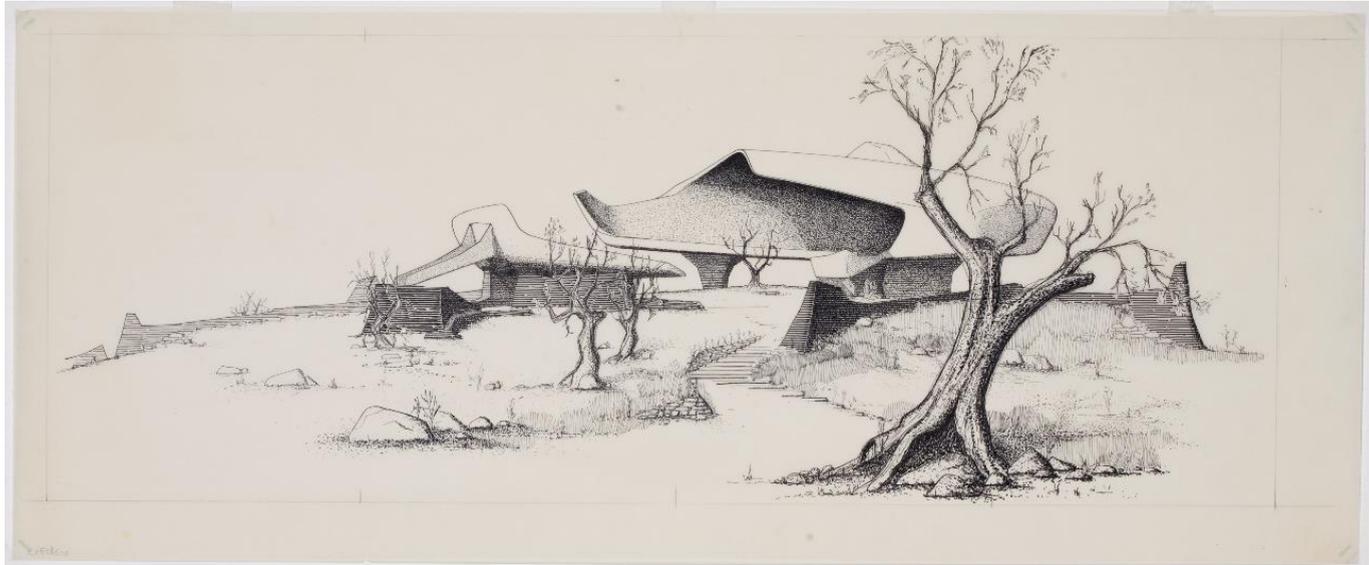
## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.15: Leonardo Ricci, Guido Del Fungo, study of the "Ecclesia", CSAC, B001099S.



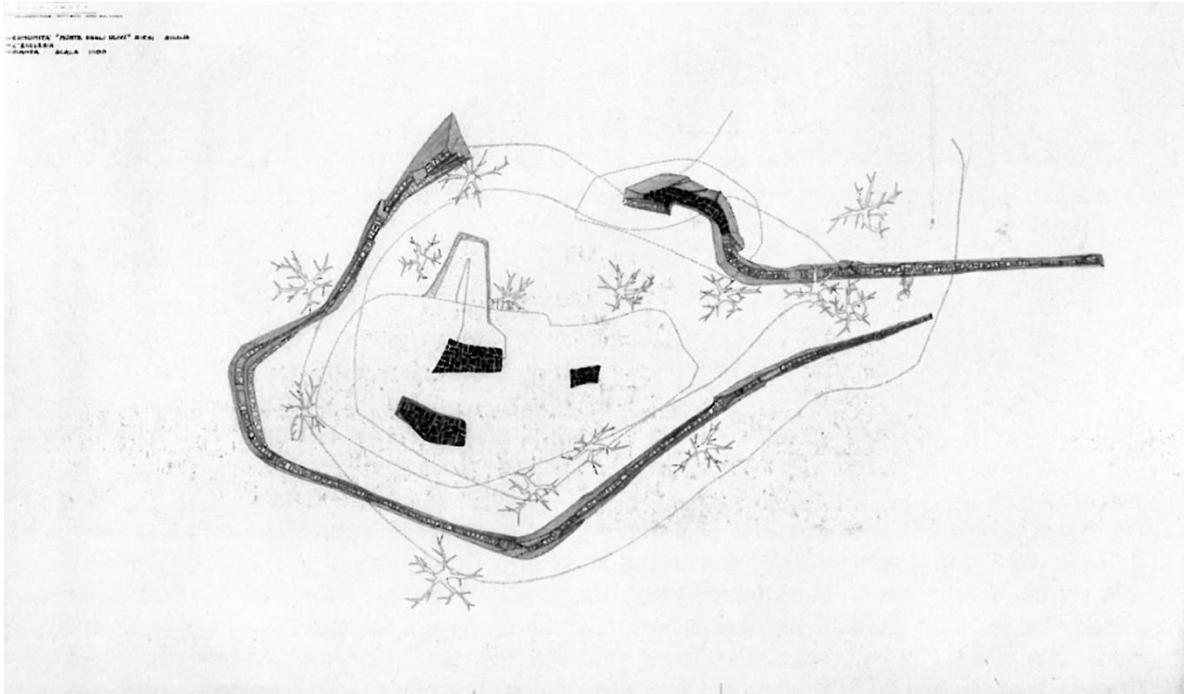
4.16: Leonardo Ricci, Guido Del Fungo, study of the "Ecclesia", CSAC, B001100S.



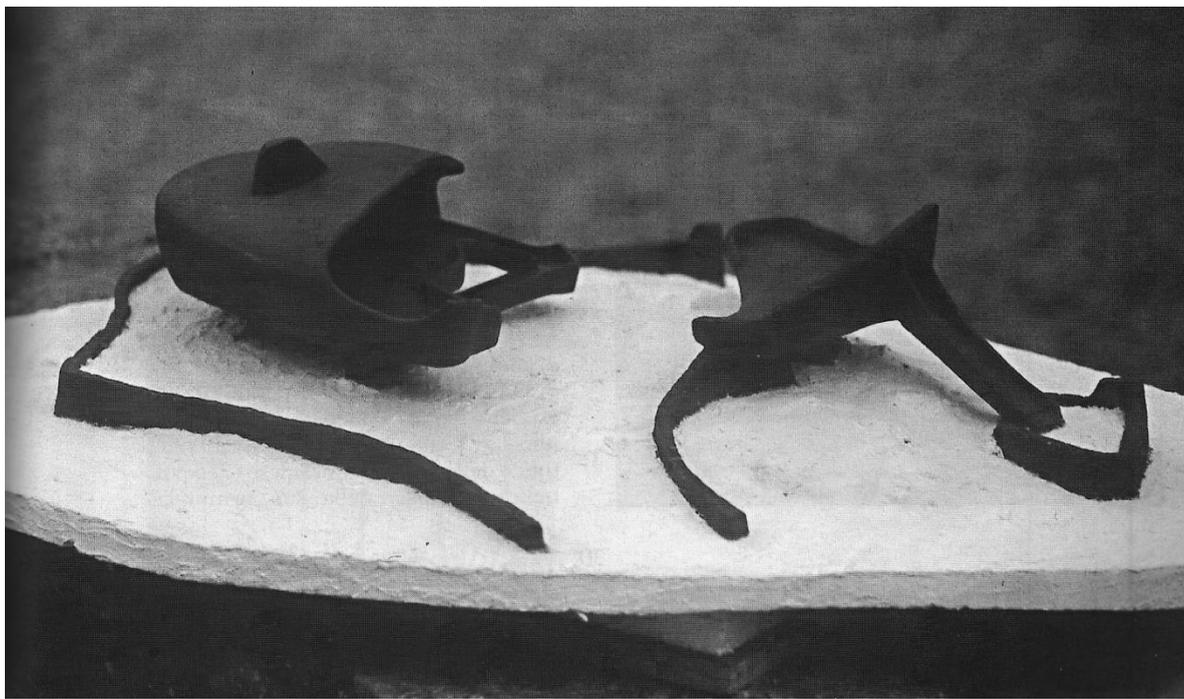
4.17: Leonardo Ricci, Guido Del Fungo, study of the "Ecclesia", CSAC, B038574S.

The Ecclesia was the place for the assembly, the most important building of the plan because in it everyone recognized their belonging to the community and, therefore, their common social and religious values. It was studied by Leonardo Ricci in several sketches, it was not built, but it should have been built on the top of the hill. The reason why Ricci felt that the Ecclesia had to be started laid precisely in its function: once built the whole community could have recognized and reunited in the space used for the spiritual meeting of the inhabitants. Looking at the sketches for the Ecclesia made by the architect Guido del Fungo, it can be noticed that for Ricci the Ecclesia community space had to be enclosed by a stone fence and consisted of a low base on which an envelope-covering made of several sculptural melted shells dominated.

## Community



4.18: Leonardo Ricci, Guido Del Fungo, study of the "Ecclesia", the original drawing is kept in CSAC, the picture was published in Leonardo Ricci, "Nascita di un Villaggio per una nuova comunità in Sicilia", *Domus*, no. 409 (December, 1963): 11.

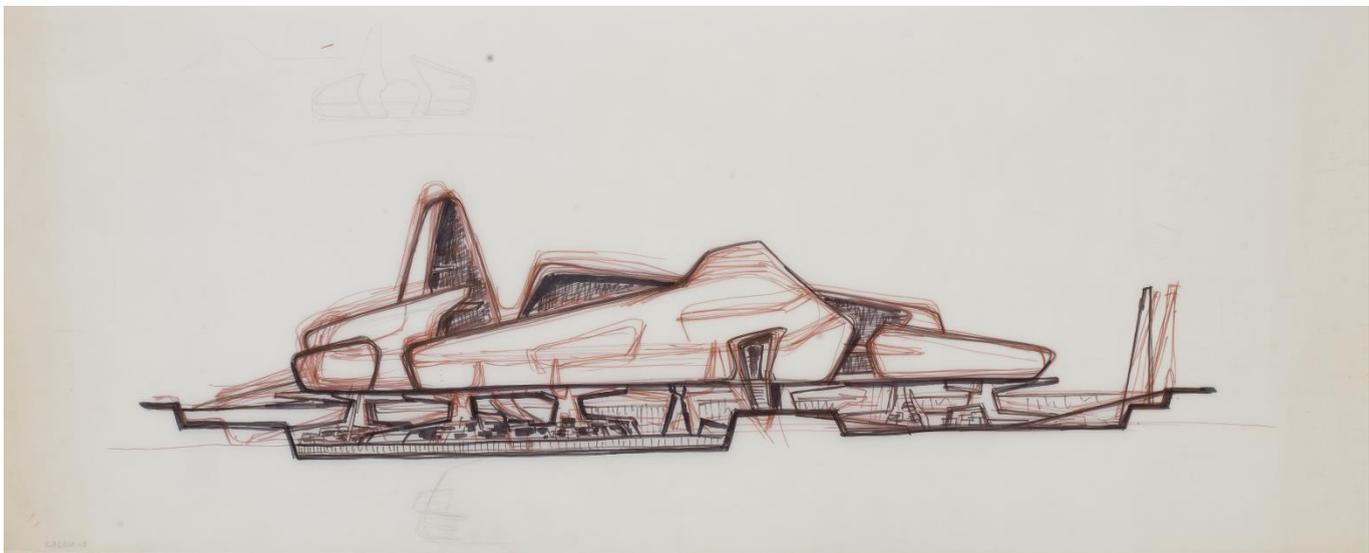


4.19: Leonardo Ricci, picture of the "Ecclesia" bronze model, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

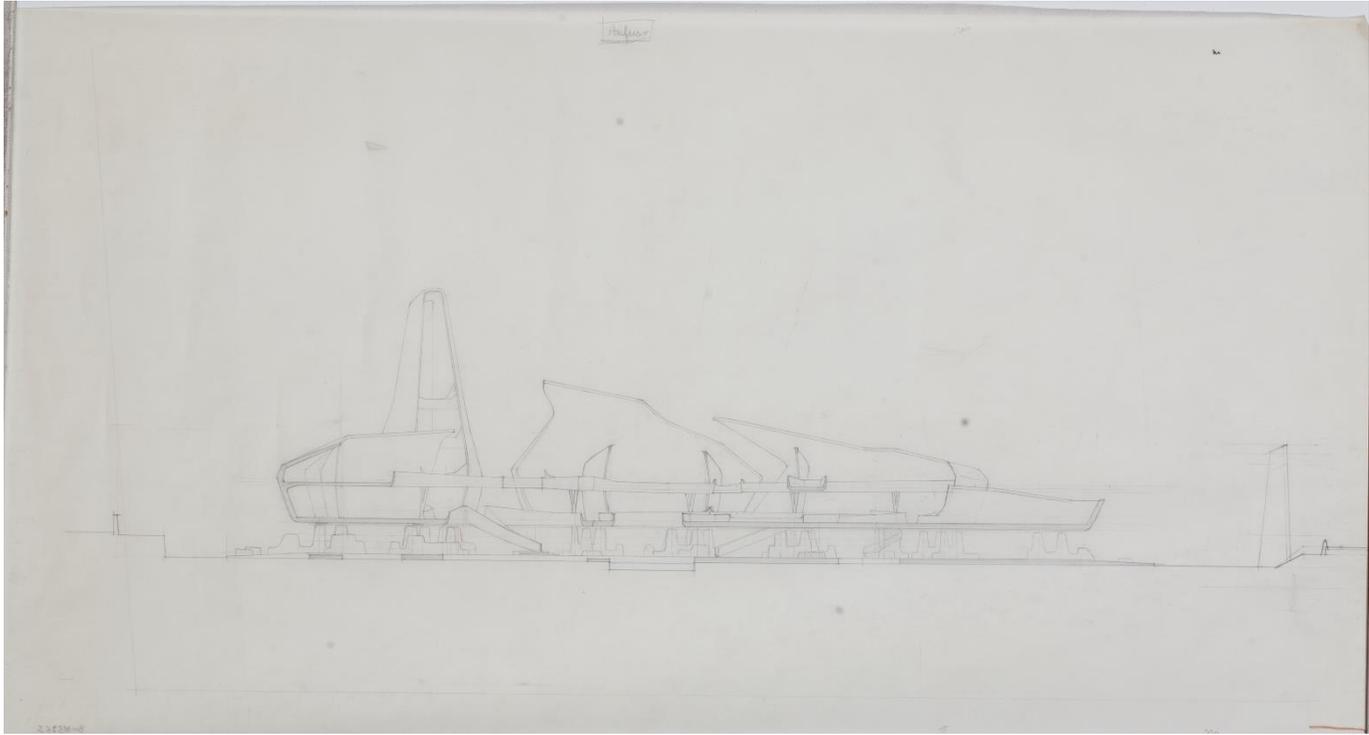
The importance of the Ecclesia and its main function to host the spiritual life of the community, its common soul, was underlined by Ricci's project that reflected all the features of an archi-sculpture. As in further coeval projects as the set-up of the Expressionism exhibition in Palazzo Strozzi (1964), the "Casa Abitata" Exhibition model (1965), in the model for an integrated city of 1965 or the Italian Pavilion of Montréal Expo of 1967, Ricci's works were grounded on the principle of the archi-sculpture, that had among its most eminent exponents André Bloc, Ricci's friend, also affected by expressionist influences. The same themes would have been suggested again in one of Leonardo Ricci's late projects: the unbuilt Di Sopra House in Pagnacco, Udine (1972).

A clear example of Ricci's research on the synthesis of architecture and sculpture was the project for the new cemetery of Montecatini Bassa's expansion. A sculptural organism suspended by accumulations of soil that, starting from the ground, in which the burials were placed, supported the architectural composition to the point of bringing the relationship between nature and craftsmanship to the extreme. With the expressionist influx, the vertical connections took on more and more autonomy and dimension in space. This was highlighted in the connection of the archi-sculptural body to the ground, given by sinuous "promenades" which were themselves sculptural works displayed by the openings of the shells membranes that shaped the project. As model of a different kind of community to be accompanied in a different life after death, the Montecatini Cemetery project enhanced the tension between the static and dynamic to translate the spirit of a community as in the "house of all" of the Ecclesia for the "Monte degli Ulivi" Village.



4.20: Leonardo Ricci, Montecatini Cemetery, general view, sketch, CSAC, B038595S.

## Community



4.21: Leonardo Ricci, Montecatini Cemetery, general view, section, CSAC, B038595S.

The first building to be built was the kindergarten, which, like the others, was modified in the project, listening to the needs of the community, often contained in the letters that the pastor sent to Ricci, who immediately made the changes. In the project for the kindergarten and workshop school, Leonardo Ricci declared his intent to achieve unity in the dynamic and fluid curvilinear matrix in the language that would have allowed the continuity of the human actions carried out inside each building and among the buildings.

To follow the subsequent works on the kindergarten and the mechanical workshop school, the second building begun on the site, Ricci proposed to Vinay the architect Milanese in 1963 and the architect Donnataria in 1964, who were welcomed by the Waldensian community during the complex progress of the construction site. In 1964 the nursery school and the mechanical school were finished.

The circularity of the space had already been experimented by Ricci in the project for a house in Montepiano (undated and unbuilt), in the Balmain House (1958-1960) and in the project for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorial (1959-1960). Thus, in Riesi he created «upset ovoids, broken up in the plan<sup>61</sup>» which admitted a multidirectional paths.

The nursery school and the mechanical school buildings were rooted to the ground thanks to curved stone walls and the continuous space inside them was helped by the positioning of oblique walls. The structure supported the inclined coverings and, therefore, the space was cut into different directions both in the horizontal and in

---

<sup>61</sup> Lima, “Leonardo Ricci: Riesi, Un Villaggio Come Un Kibbutz”, 409, translation by Antonietta Jolanda Lima.

the vertical directions. The buildings presented a double spatiality in a «concatenation and interdependence of all the elements in a genuine organic earthquake, constructed on contradictions: barbarity and elegance, gentleness and brutalism and always a dialectic relationship with nature<sup>62</sup>».

Leonardo Ricci continued with the design for the community house from September 1964 to April 1965 with the architect Donnataria, but on this project he clashed with Vinay, who thought that Ricci had designed unusable areas of excessive width at the expense of usable ones. Ricci initially refused to modify the project, but then proceeded to seek solutions compatible with the demands of the community and with the costs. In the Summer of 1965, the community house and housing for individuals and families had not been built yet. The community houses and the library were built in 1966, while the elementary school in 1968<sup>63</sup>.

The community house's drawings are kept in the Christian Archive of Riesi. The building could be defined as a macrostructure that related to the landscape on the hill. On the access road, a balcony led to paths in multiple directions and at different heights. In this way the paths projected onto the landscape and detached themselves from the main volume. The detachment was also marked by the different use of materials: plaster and stone. The dwelling houses were built with high white plaster partitions set on a stone wall with foundations in the sloping ground. All were separated, but all part of a single organism because they were welded together by a path made of protrusions and recesses. The roofs once again had different inclinations. The primary school was composed of parallelepipeds, interchanging volumes that melted in the meeting of the paths. Upstairs the terrace housed the classrooms and was then closed, while on the ground floor a stone wall protected the school from the Scirocco wind<sup>64</sup>.

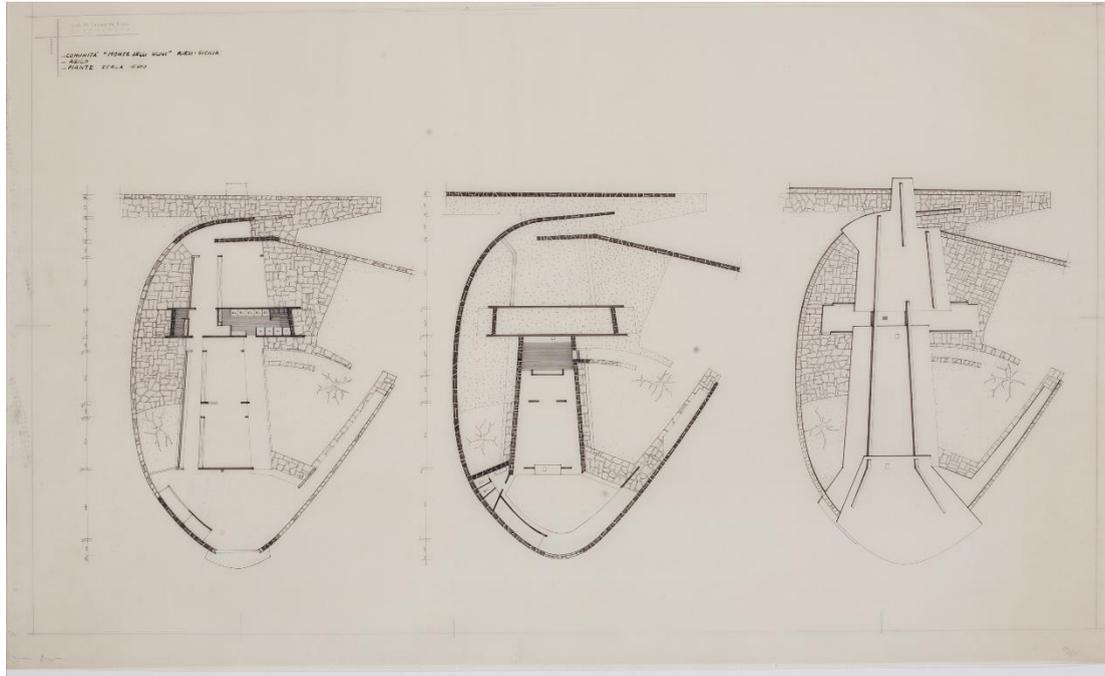
---

<sup>62</sup> Lima, "Leonardo Ricci: Riesi, Un Villaggio Come Un Kibbutz", 411, translation by Antonietta Jolanda Lima.

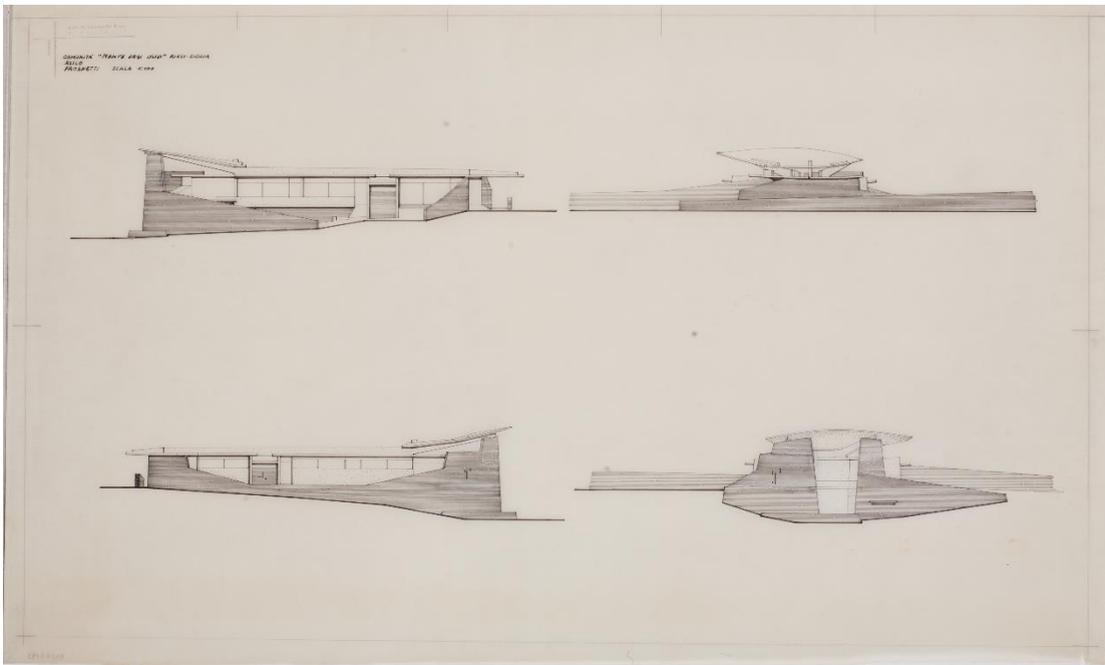
<sup>63</sup> Tuccio, "Caro Tullio, Caro Leo", 110-114.

<sup>64</sup> The complete bibliography on the project is the following: Leonardo Ricci, "Progetto per Il Villaggio Monte Degli Ulivi a Riesi Sicilia", *Edilizia Moderna*, no. no. 82-83 (June 1963): 116-18; "Village Pour Une Communauté Nouvelle. Riesi", *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 34 (115) (June-July, 1964): 85-89; Leonardo Ricci, "Ricci Leonardo: Studio Di "Ecclesia" per Un Villaggio Presso Riesi. Schizzi", *Chiesa e Quartiere: Quaderni Trimestrali*, no. 37 (March 1966): 40; "A Riesi, in Sicilia: Il Primo Edificio Del Villaggio Di Monte Degli Ulivi progettato Da Leonardo Ricci", *Domus*, no. 441 (August 1966): 6-8; Tullio Vinay, and Giò Vinay. *Giorni a Riesi* (Torino: Claudiana, 1966); Zevi, "Monte Degli Ulivi a Riesi/Il Kibbutz Nei Feudi Della Mafia", *L'Espresso*, July 14, 1963; Raffaele Raja, "Un Sogno in Città (Intervista a Leonardo Ricci)", *Costruire per Abitare*, no. 85 (June 5, 1990): 7, 176-82; Lima, "Leonardo Ricci: Riesi, Un Villaggio Come Un Kibbutz", 406-21; Lima, *Architettura Organica. Leonardo Ricci a Riesi. Alle Soglie Del 3° Millennio. Sull'architettura*; Giovanni Leoni, "Villaggio Monte Degli Ulivi. Riesi", *Area*, no. 53 (December 2000): 76-89; Loik, Rostan and Gavinelli, *L'Architettura Di Leonardo Ricci: Agape e Riesi*, 105-117; Emanuele Tuccio, *Il Villaggio Monte Degli Ulivi a Riesi Di Leonardo Ricci* (Palermo: Estmodus, 2001); Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 155-162; Costanzo, "Leonardo Ricci e Il Villaggio Monte Degli Ulivi a Riesi", 46-51; Pietro Artale, "Conservazione Dell'Architettura Contemporanea. Monte Degli Ulivi Di Leonardo Ricci a Riesi: Metodologia e Prassi per Un Intervento Conservativo" (PhD diss, University of Palermo, 2011); Maurizio Oddo and Maria Lisa Paterna, *Il valore dell'assenza: Leonardo Ricci e il villaggio Monte degli Ulivi di Riesi* (Leonforte, Euno Edizioni, 2013); Matteo Zambelli, "Buon Compleanno Leonardo (Ricci)", *Abitare*, August 21, 2018; Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi, "Architetti d'Italia. Leonardo Ricci, Lo Straripante", *ATribune*, September 18, 2018; Berselli, "Fino al 26 Maggio a Firenze Una Mostra Presenta, Con Materiali in Gran Parte Inediti, Le Opere Dell'architetto Che Amava Definirsi Un 'Anonimo Del XX Secolo'".

## Community



4.22: Leonardo Ricci, "Monte degli Ulivi" village, nursery school, plans, scale 1:100, CSAC, B00115S.



4.23: Leonardo Ricci, "Monte degli Ulivi" village, nursery school, elevations, scale 1:100, CSAC, B022319S.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.23: "Monte degli Ulivi" village, Picture of the nursery school, Foto Archivio Servizio Cristiano.



4.24: "Monte degli Ulivi" village, Picture of the mechanical school, Foto Archivio Servizio Cristiano.



4.25: "Monte degli Ulivi" village, Picture of the family house, Foto Archivio Servizio Cristiano.

### GUIDE PROJECTS

#### 1. Project for a "Theoretical House" (1956-1958)

The theoretical house can be considered to all intents and purposes one of the first experimental dwellings of Leonardo Ricci, conceived to be built next to his studio house in the Monterinaldi Village, in front of the quarry from which the stones to build were taken and anchored on a steep terrain.

This "Experimental House" was a case of considerable interest as it provided the architect with the possibility of being able to design without limits imposed by a probable client since he himself was the client. From reading the technical drawings of plans, elevations and sections, a space emerges that contracted and expanded on different staggered levels, where no main or predetermined path prevented the eyes from looking upwards or from right to left.

This project is a good example of Ricci's work on the community space of the family, in which the design for the common space can be read in plan and section in Ricci's sketches titled "the space in the vertical" and "the space in the horizontal". The spatial interpenetration dominated: each space was not concluded in itself, but was integrated into the entire composition, inisolable and irreplaceable.

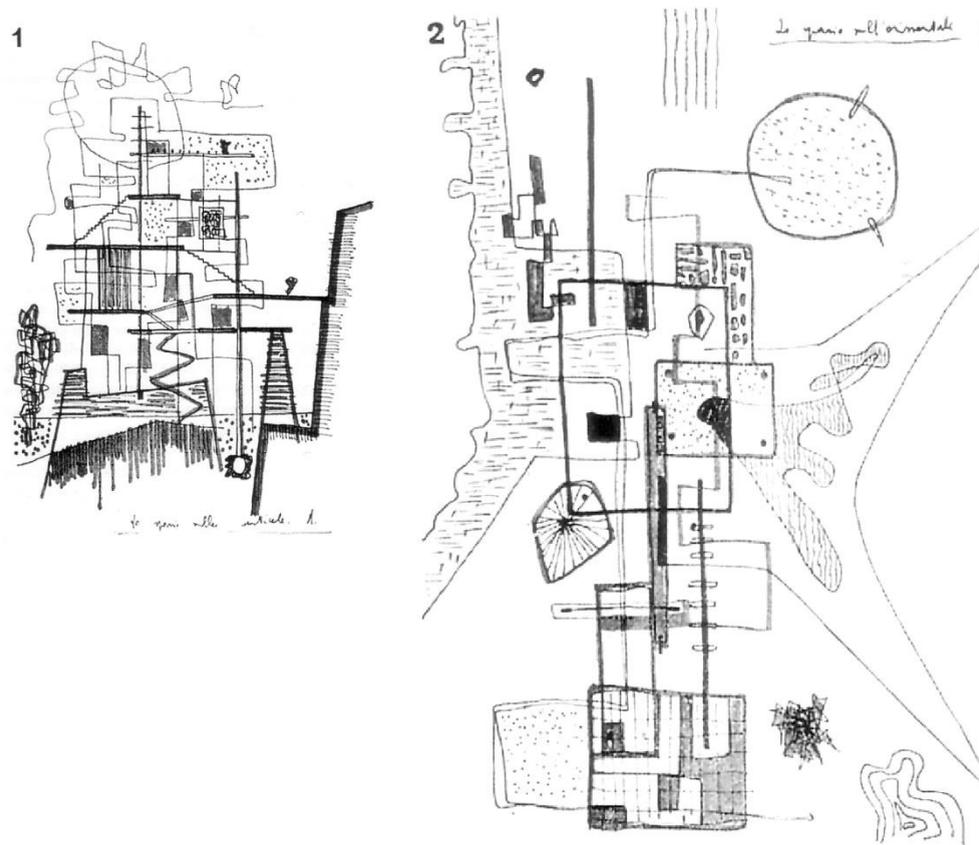
The project for the "Theoretical House" also marked the search for a different spatial quality, which respected the concept of existence as experience, thus resulting from a careful study of the acts of human existence and of the relationships between these acts. In this sense, the building was responsible for respecting the Mumfordian equation "city - sign of integrated social relations", which, according to Giovanni Klaus Koenig could «be transcribed, removing the summation sign, in "home - sign of family relationships"<sup>65</sup>». The name "Theoretical House" derived from the fact that the architect had not found the human capital on which to carry out the experiment of designing existence as an experience and, for this reason, he had become the client of himself. Indeed the design had to proceed with the experience of the family who would have lived in the house, but this would have caused too much slowness in the realization.

The community experience of the members of the family was reflected in the drawings, which changed and evolved with the evolution of the family members' life: the school rejection of Ricci's son or the enrollment of his daughter in the faculty of architecture caused the drawings to change. Each element of the architectural composition was moving and changing according to the phenomenological principle of giving to the building's users infinite possibilities of choice as the infinite were the ways of living.

---

<sup>65</sup> Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la 'casa teorica'", 21.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

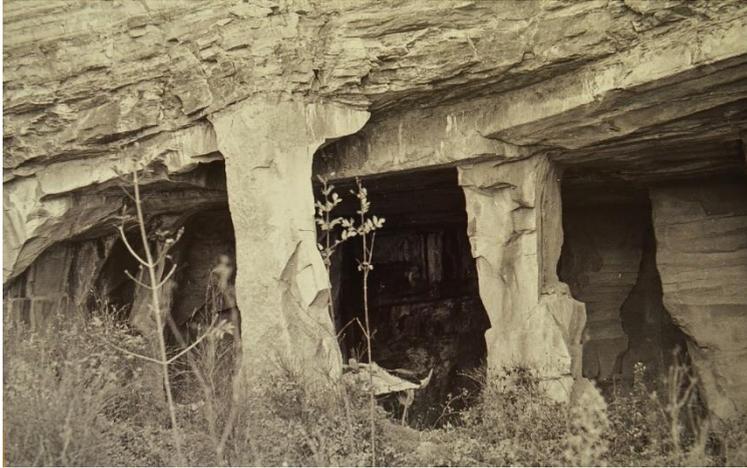


4.26: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House": sketches 1 and 2: the vertical and horizontal dimension, published in Giovanni Klaus Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la "casa teorica" (alla ricerca di un nuovo spazio architettonico)", Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936, no. 7-8 (July-August, 1958): 24, 27.

The sketches in the vertical and horizontal dimensions were diagrams, a conceptual scheme of existence, or better, of the activities and movements of the users.

The house was sited in Monterinaldi, where also Casa Studio Ricci stood emerging from the rocks, while the "Theoretical House" was positioned in the cave dug in the quarry from which all the stones to build the houses of Monterinaldi had been extracted, but it did not lean against the rock, it had a view of Florence and was enclosed on three sides by the rocky walls.

## Community



4.27: Picture of the stone quarry in Monterinaldi, Florence, Casa Studio Ricci.

In section, while one of the floors leaned on the rock, the others leaned on pillars in order to create closed spaces between the building and the rock. In one case the connecting elements were clearly stairs, but in other points the same floors were transformed into connecting ramps.

The relationship that the house assumed with the earth was evident in the drawings: as for its ascending house-studio, the theoretical house faced the rock and was held firmly by it through a stone fence in opposition to the centrifugal forces acting inside it. From these forces sliding planes that floated in the air in a precarious but stable balance emerged. Set in motion, the “Theoretical House” launched towards the panorama of the Arno valley through a forked concrete structural element, a fixed point between the ground and the projecting floors.

In plan Ricci drew different black squares and rectangular forms because his conception foresaw the overlapping of the activities on the different levels of the house. The different shapes were alternated, such as the circle that symbolized the study and the hatched shape of the swimming pool, which was inserted under another quadrangular shape. Ricci's sketch highlighted two further aspects of the project: the interpenetration of spaces given by the intersection of shapes and the importance of the coexistence of internal and external spaces, avoiding the Renaissance perspective.

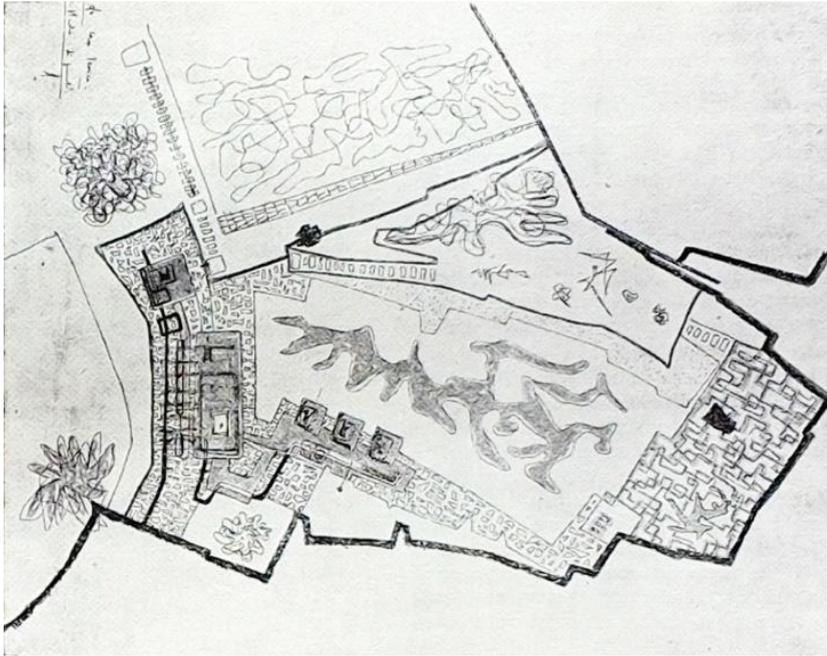
There is a third drawing of the “Theoretical House” in which Ricci developed a more precise hypothesis in plan, which was therefore no longer a preformal conceptual scheme, but a possible configuration of the “evolved family life”. In the planimetric plant there were three bodies that corresponded to different family needs and that were expandable. In them, the detached space of the raised parents' bed, the main body of the house with a center that welcomed the community life of the family, and a last nucleus dedicated to the life of the children, which was partially detached from that of the parents, but not totally. The three parts were interconnected and form an organic complex<sup>66</sup>.

---

<sup>66</sup> The bibliography on the project is:

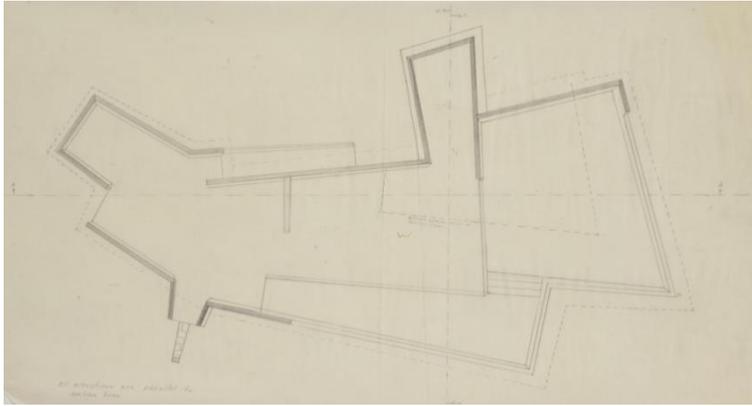
Koenig, “Leonardo Ricci e la ‘casa teorica’”, 3-34; Marco Dezzi Bardeschi, “Aspetti Dell’architettura Toscana d’oggi”, *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna Bimestrale Fondata Nell’anno 1936*, no. 10-12 (December, 1958): 9-13; Prestinenza Puglisi, “Architetti

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

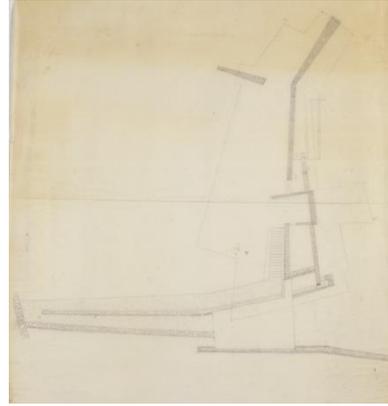


4.28: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House": sketch 3, study of the plan, published in Giovanni Klaus Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la "casa teorica" (alla ricerca di un nuovo spazio architettonico)", *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936*, no. 7-8 (July-August, 1958): 31.

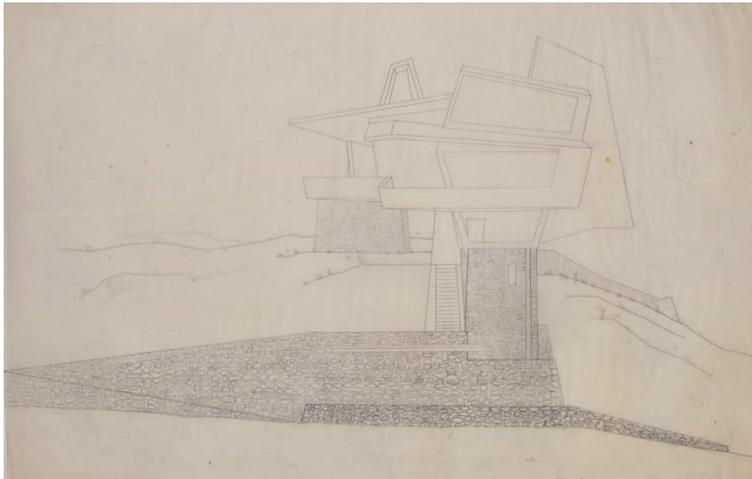
## Community



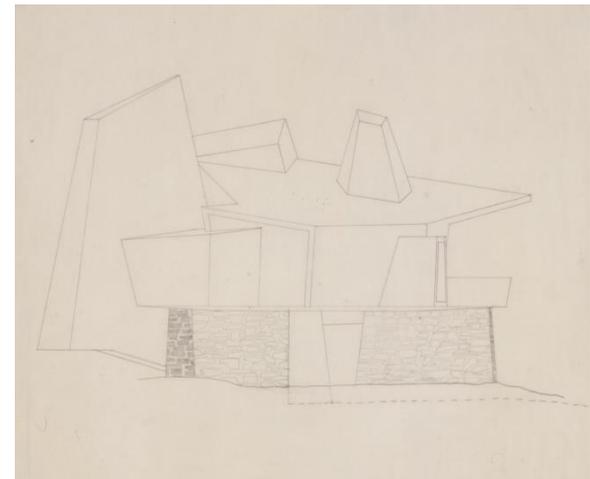
4.29: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House", plan, CSAC, Bo22300S.



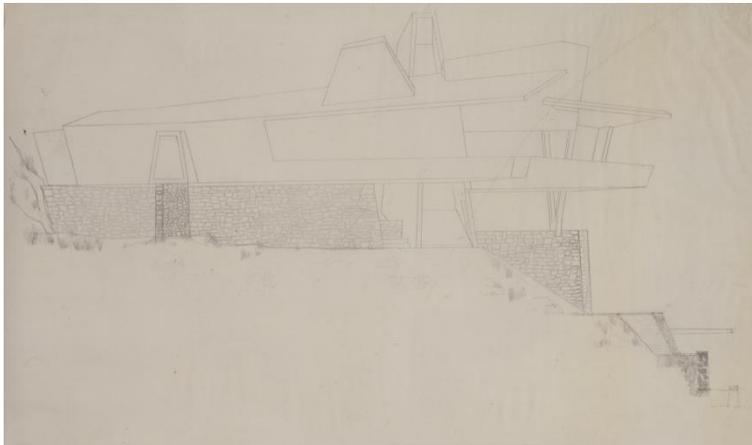
4.30: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House", plan, CSAC, Bo38551S.



4.31: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House", elevation, CSAC, Bo22303S.

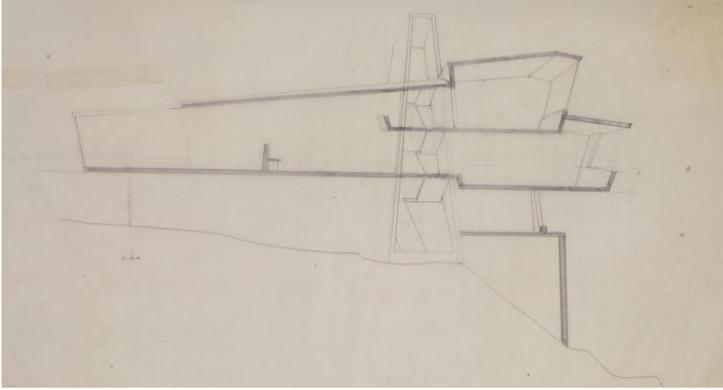


4.32: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House", elevation, CSAC, Bo22306S.

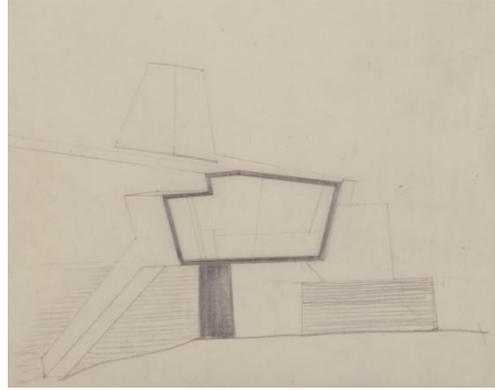


4.33: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House", elevation, CSAC, Bo38556S.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.34: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House", section, CSAC, B038552S.



4.35: Leonardo Ricci, project for a "Theoretical House", section, CSAC, B038553S.

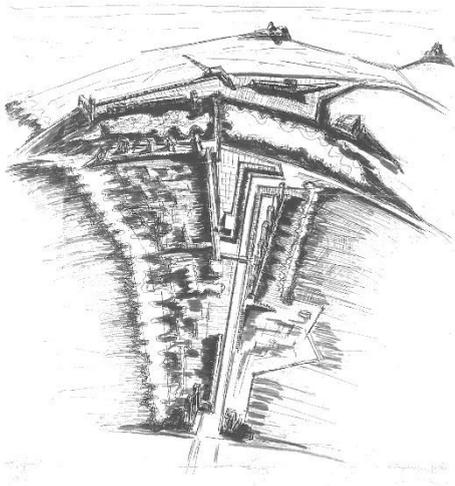
## Community

### 2. The popular neighborhood of Sorgane (1957-1974)

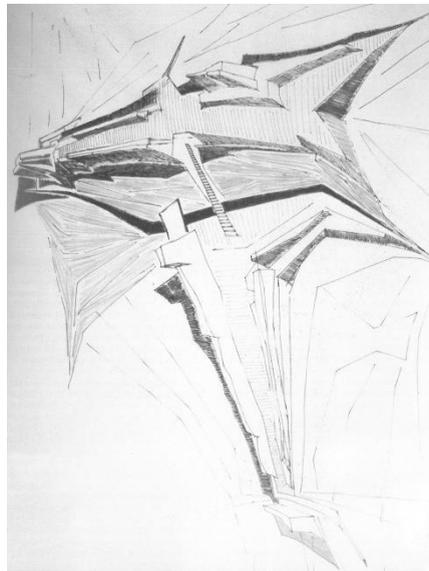
The popular neighborhood of Sorgane in Florence was designed by a group of 37 designers, including Leonardo Ricci and Leonardo Savioli, guided by Giovanni Michelucci.

In Casa Studio Ricci Archive two drawings of the general plan of the CEP district of Sorgane are kept, one by Leonardo Ricci and one by Giovanni Michelucci. Ricci's drawing showed the architect's desire to organically blend city and landscape in an architectural and urban continuum consisting in the connection between a lower part of the city on the plain and the upper part where he drew a bastion square with a small building in the center. The two drawings are particularly similar and the authors represented an extremely similar general layout, but only in a second drawing Leonardo Ricci defined the "L" -shaped square of the lower part, surrounding it with long buildings and connecting it with the upper square thanks to a staircase which crosses the wooded belt that separates the two parts. Ricci's general layout is monumental and his organic-expressionist design underlines his intent between reality and utopia.

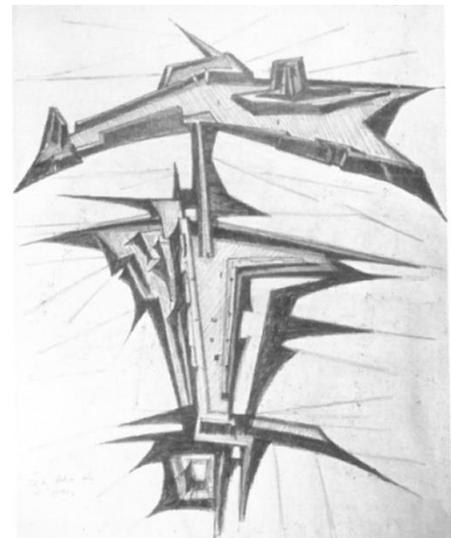
In the detailed plan of 1957, the "upper town" was configured as an area for the service structures and an irregular open square that housed the church of the neighborhood. Ricci repeated the fan-shaped structure numerous times both in the design of neighborhoods and private residences, exploiting, in most cases, the natural slope of the land on which his interventions were grafted.



4.36: Giovanni Michelucci, sketch of Sorgane, general plan, 1956, published in Carlo Cresti, *Firenze capitale mancata: architettura e città dal piano Poggi a oggi* (Milano: Electa, 1995), 342.



4.37: Leonardo Ricci, sketch of Sorgane, general plan, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.38: Leonardo Ricci, sketch of Sorgane, general plan titled "Visione plastica delle due piazze" ["Plastic view of the two squares"], Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

According to Corinna Vasič Vatovec, the similarity of the drawings by Ricci and Michelucci was symptomatic of a close collaboration between the two for the Sorgane project, for which the master «aimed to re-evaluate spontaneity, to enhance everyday behavior, to reassign the meaning of a path to the street human and to the square the function of attraction for community assemblies, imagining the equivalent of a "village" nestled in nature<sup>67</sup>». According to Corinna Vasič Vatovec, despite the evident collaboration with the master, the fan-shaped system of the project, underlined in the design of the square on the hill and on the settlement of the lower part, was certainly to be attributed to Leonardo Ricci, because he used it in a number of projects. That shape basically allowed him to resolve the organic integration between nature and architecture thanks to a gradual expansion of space and a gradual arrangement of the rooms following the natural slope on which Ricci's projects were often grafted, as in the large hall of the community village of Agàpe (1946/1948-expansions 1951), in some houses in the Monterinaldi village, in the villa Fausto Maria Ricci in Beverly Hills (1952), Casa Fattirolli in Poggio Gherardo (Florence, 1954-1956), Casa Perrone (Lecce, 1955), Casa Mann-Borgese (Forte dei Marmi, 1958-1960), and Casa Pleydell-Bouverie (Marciana – Isola d'Elba, 1958-1960)<sup>68</sup>.

The collaboration between Ricci and Michelucci on Sorgane project is told by a number of letters kept in Casa Studio Ricci. In those letters Leonardo Ricci explained to his master the designers' group opinions and summed up his view, always centred on the existential value to be preserved between the environment and the buildings, to be found in the relation between architecture and urban design. Moreover, since the project was conceived by a group of architects and engineers, it was important to Ricci to solve the urban-architectural relation in a unified way. The passage from the master plan to the design of habitat units by the different groups was the most important one and, in Ricci's opinion, each single designer had to consider that homogeneous character as the first design principle<sup>69</sup>.

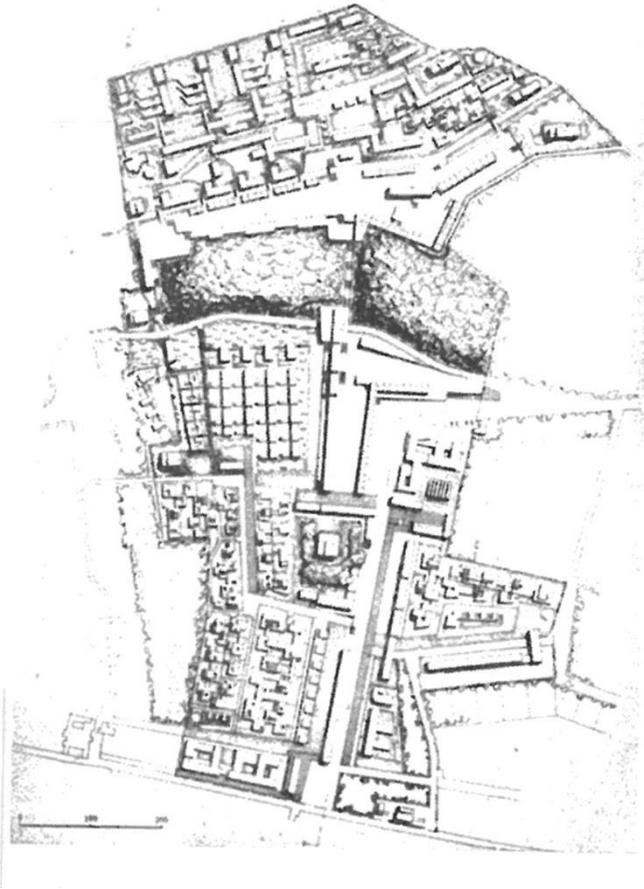
---

<sup>67</sup> Carlo Cresti, *Firenze capitale mancata: architettura e città dal piano Poggi a oggi* (Milano: Electa, 1995), 339-344.

<sup>68</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 60-65.

<sup>69</sup> Leonardo Ricci's letter to Giovanni Michelucci (undated). Casa Studio Ricci.

## Community



4.39: Giovanni Michelucci (and collaborators), Sorgane, general plan, published in, among the others, Leonardo Lugli, Giovanni Michelucci. *Il pensiero e le opere* (Bologna: Patron, 1966), 131, picture n. XXXIX. The original drawing is preserved in CSAC.

The first general plan conceived by the group was downsized and distorted, but two buildings by Ricci and Savioli became estranged and distinguished themselves from the rest of the neighborhood. Leonardo Ricci worked with the architects Fabrizio Milanese, Antonio Canali, Luigi Cencetti, and with the engineers Gianfranco Petrelli and Ernesto Trapani. Ricci's group took care of the building types B, D, E, and F: respectively mixed typology, house in line, house with patio and tower house, but the building that caught the most critical interest was the 200-meter-long city-building called "La Nave" (1962-1966), which was grafted onto a framework of enormous structural blades in exposed reinforced concrete in a brutalist language, used to constitute a flexible urban organism with strong recesses and projections that emphasized its strong chiaroscuro. The enormous Brutalist structure was equipped with hanging paths, terraces, elevated squares, internal streets, and large stairwells as nodal points of the project and distributing spaces.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Flexibility was a key concept of the project, conceived by Ricci to allow the future inhabitants to adapt their habitat to their own needs and to the changes of their lives. In this way, users would show their active participation in the project, which was no longer just the designer or planner's in this case: the user intervention was just as active as that of the designers or builders. This was the reason why Leonardo Ricci wanted the apartments to be prefabricated. This aspect of the project was somehow linked to rationalist themes but it was explained by the economy and speed of execution that the project needed.

It is clear Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation in Marseille's influence, but in some respects it differed from it, as Ricci himself declared: «By doing Sorgane I avoided bringing the equipment, the nursery school for example, into the houses. In fact, I put paths, roads at various levels, which allow the passage from home to home and from homes to equipment. It is this interchange that interests me. The Unité d'Habitation and Sorgane are two different things: one is in the former as in a hotel, in a place where living does not necessarily bring with it exchange and mutual knowledge. In Sorgane, however, the inhabitants, for better or for worse, must necessarily know each other. Children have to meet. People know if someone was born or died next door<sup>70</sup>».

Sorgane's project was the focus of a conference held in Florence on June 9, 1957 and titled "Florence, Sorgane and the PRG" after the many comments received from the critics. The conference hosted the opinions in favor and against the project, accused of not respecting the guidelines of the Florence General Town Plan of 1951. Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti was the president of the conference, attended by Roberto Papini, Roberto Salvini and the representatives of the political parties Tristano Codignola, Mario Fabiani and Raffaele Ramat. Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti and Roberto Papini's contrary opinions stressed that the project was located to the east, therefore in the opposite direction of the development line of the plan, and in a peripheral area of Florence where it could have caused urban sprawling<sup>71</sup>.

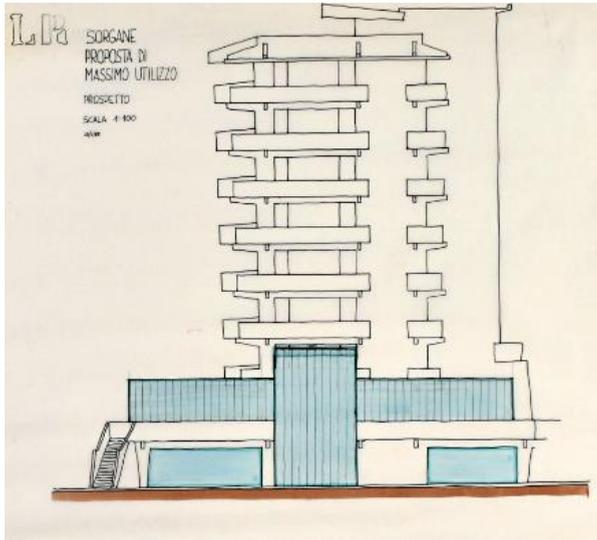
---

<sup>70</sup> Leonardo Ricci's words were quoted in Bruno Zevi, "Il quartiere di Sorgane a Firenze/l'edificio-città di Leonardo Ricci", *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di architettura vol. 6* (Bari: Laterza, 1970), 298-330.

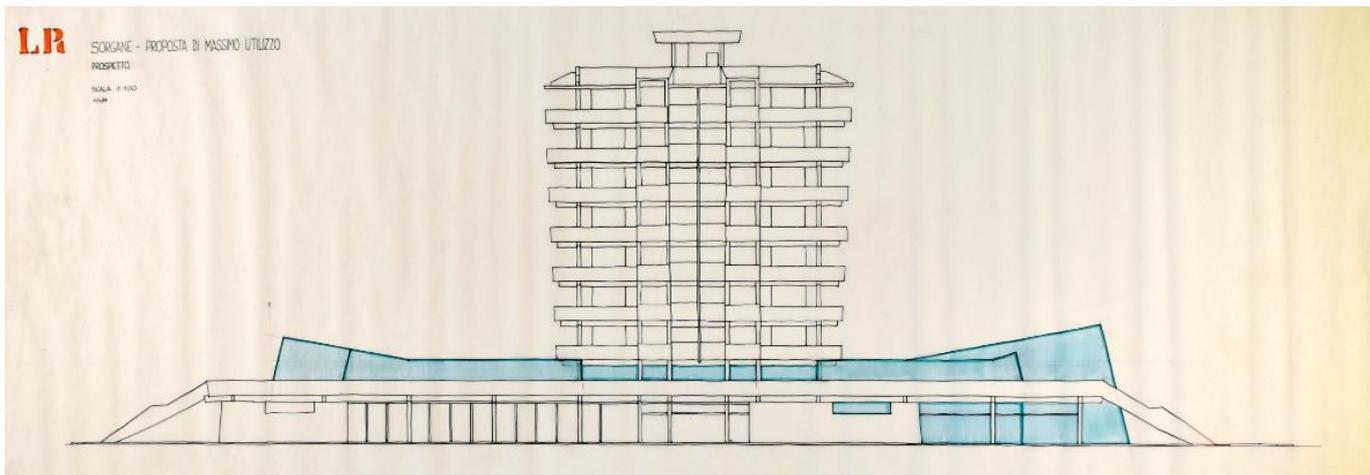
<sup>71</sup> The bibliographic references including the chronicles of the time about Sorgane are the following:

"Firenze Ha Bisogno Di Sorgane per Essere Più Bella", *Il Giornale Del Mattino*, February 20, 1957; Giovanni Michelucci, "Una Lettera Del Prof. Giovanni Michelucci. Non Sono Argomenti Validi Quelli Dei Critici Di Sorgane", *Il Giornale Del Mattino*, February 24, 1957; "All'invito Dei Progettisti Di Sorgane Replicano Le Personalità Della Cultura", *La Nazione Italiana*, March 20, 1957; Ottavio Cecchi, "Firenze Indecisa: Verso Est o Verso Ovest?", *Il Contemporaneo*, May 25, 1957; Bruno Zevi, "Sette Accusati a Firenze", *L'Espresso*, June 23, 1957; Giovanni Michelucci, "Sorgane. Quartiere Autosufficiente", *Edilizia Popolare*, no. 16 (June 1957): 8-12; Giovanni Astengo, "Firenze: La Polemica per Sorgane", *Urbanistica*, no. 22 (July 1957): 2-8; "Modifiche al Progetto Di Sorgane in Una Riunione Romana Ad Alto Livello", *La Nazione Italiana*, November 28, 1958; "Non Sono Basate Su Motivi Consistenti Le Opposizioni al Quartiere Di Sorgane", *Il Giornale Del Mattino*, January 29, 1960; "La Polemica Degli Oppositori Di Sorgane è Degenerata Nell'equivoco", *Il Giornale Del Mattino*, January 31, 1960; "La Costruzione Del Quartiere Di Sorgane Avrà Inizio a Marzo", *Il Giornale Del Mattino*, February 10, 1960; "Una Serie Di Falsi Ha Affiancato La Campagna per Impedire La Realizzazione Di Sorgane", *Il Giornale Del Mattino*, February 13, 1960; Bruno Zevi, "Unità d'abitazione a Sorgane, Firenze", *L'Architettura*, no. 14 (157) (November 1968): 546-549; C. Benbow, "Überbauung Sorgane Bei Florenz", *Werk* 56, no. 5 (May 1969): 323-325; Zevi, "Il Quartiere Di Sorgane a Firenze/L'edificio-Città Di Leonardo Ricci", 298-301; Bruno Zevi, "Processo al Quartiere Di Sorgane/A Firenze Un Boomerang Di Ritorno", *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Achitettura vol. II*, 396-401; Raja, "Un Sogno in Città (Intervista a Leonardo Ricci)", 176-182; Emanuele Masiello, "Architetture Di Leonardo Ricci in Toscana", *La Nuova Città*, no. 5/6 (1999): 66-84; Fabbrizzi, Macci, and Tramonti, *Opere e progetti di scuola fiorentina, 1968-2008*, 130-143; Giovanni Bartolozzi, "Leonardo Ricci. Un Nuovo Inizio", *Archphoto*, 2014; Sandro Gioli, "Lettera per Leonardo. Ricci 100. In Memoria Di Leonardo Ricci", *Cultura*

## Community



4.40: Leonardo Ricci, "Sorgane, purpose for a maximum use", elevation, scale 1:100, Casa Studio Ricci.

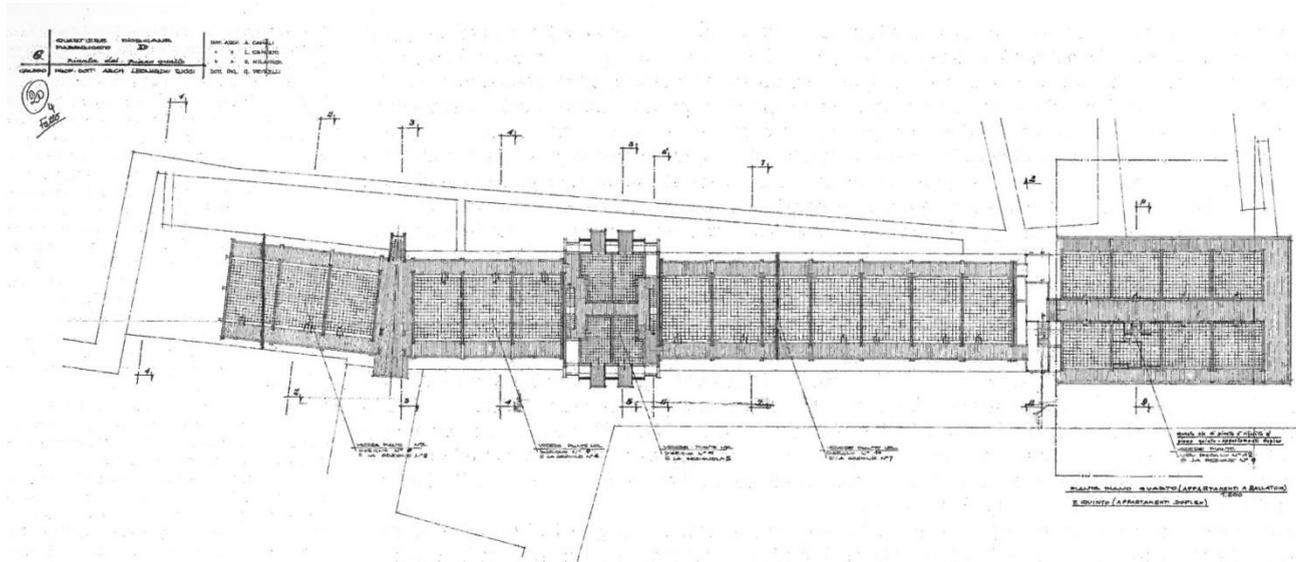


4.41: Leonardo Ricci, "Sorgane, purpose for a maximum use", elevation, scale 1:100, Casa Studio Ricci.

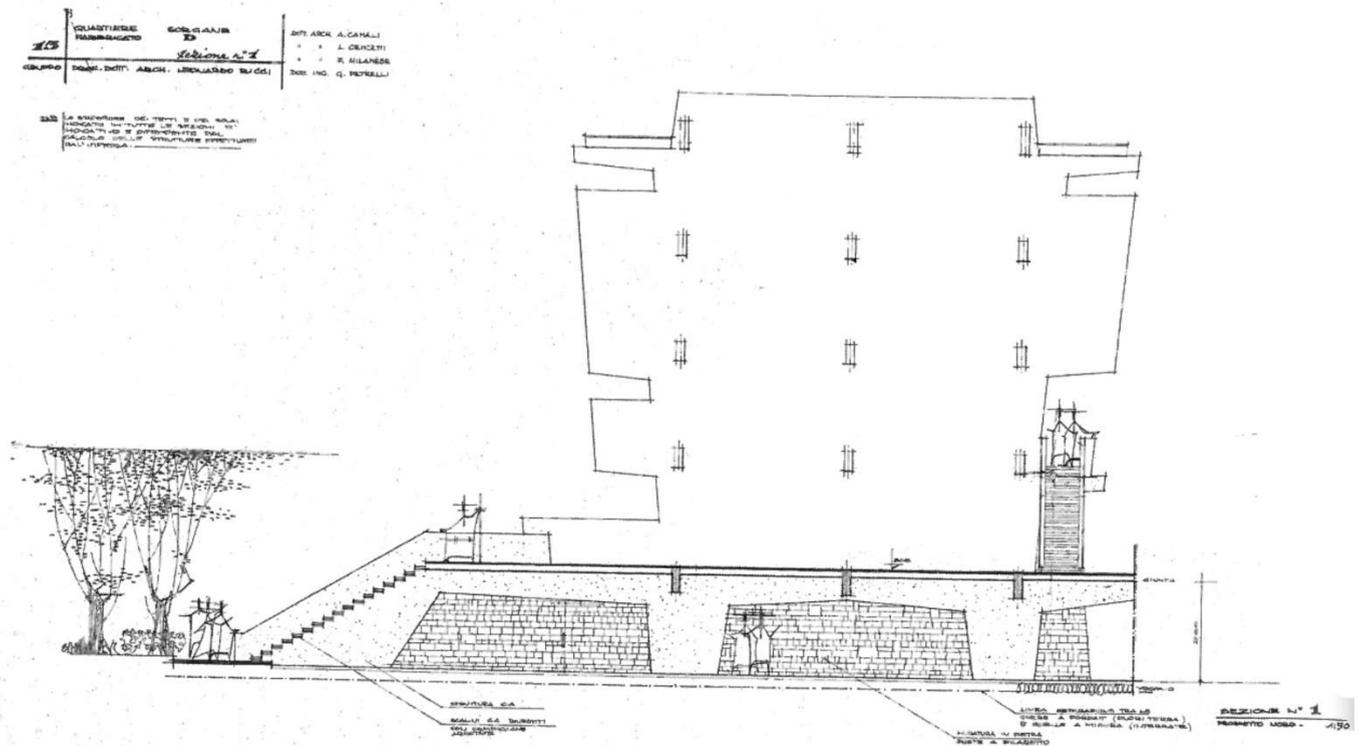
---

*Commestibile*, no. 267 (June 16, 2018): 6; Zambelli, "Buon Compleanno Leonardo (Ricci)"; Berselli, "Fino al 26 Maggio a Firenze Una Mostra Presenta, Con Materiali in Gran Parte Inediti, Le Opere Dell'architetto Che Amava Definirsi Un 'Anonimo Del XX Secolo'".

# Leonardo Ricci in the United States

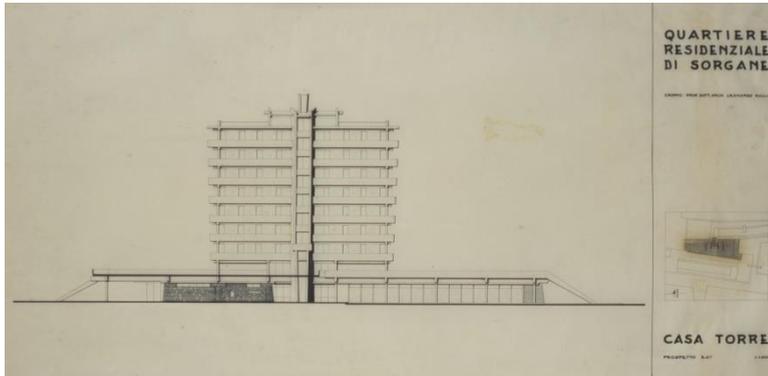


4.42: Leonardo Ricci, Fabrizio Milanese, Antonio Canali, Luigi Cencetti, Gianfranco Petrelli, Enzo Trapani, Building type D, macrostructure for Sorgane called "La Nave", plan of the fourth plan, Casa Studio Ricci.

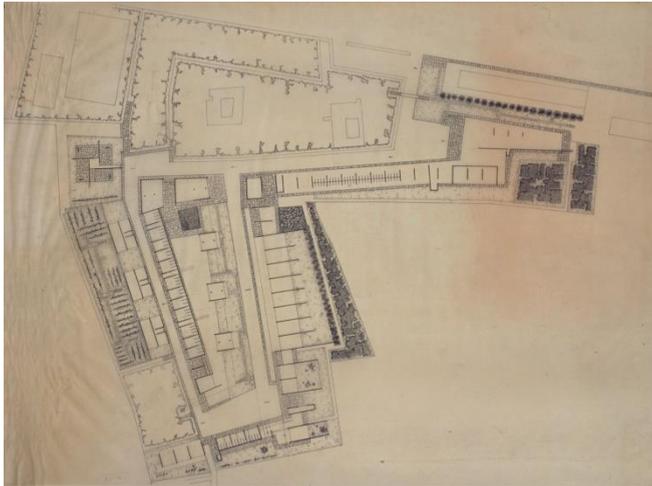


4.43: Leonardo Ricci, Fabrizio Milanese, Antonio Canali, Luigi Cencetti, Gianfranco Petrelli, Enzo Trapani, Building type D, macrostructure for Sorgane called "La Nave", western elevation, Casa Studio Ricci.

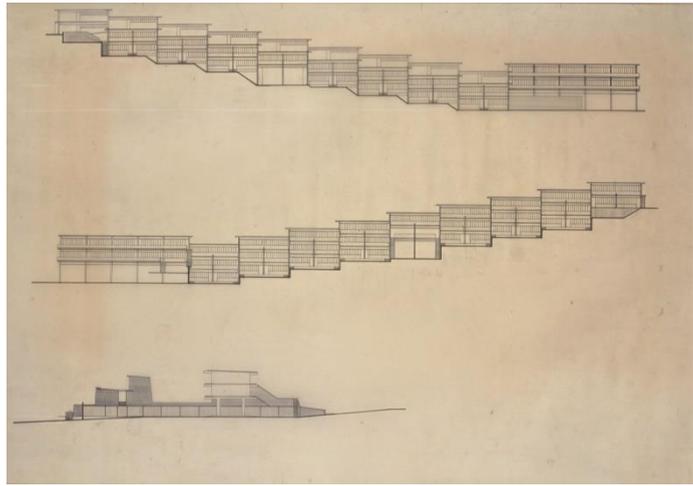
## Community



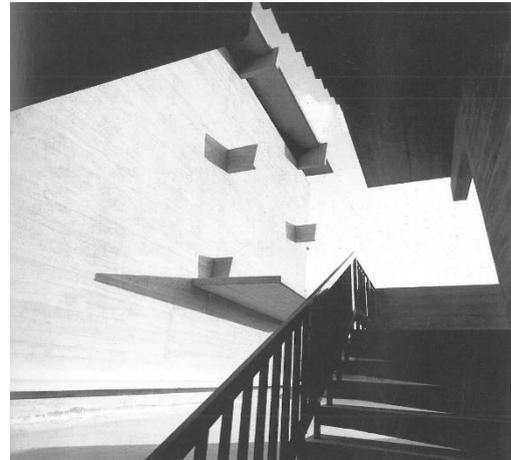
4.44: Leonardo Ricci (and collaborators), Building type A - "Casa Torre", elevation, CSAC.



4.45: Leonardo Ricci (and collaborators), Sorgane, general plan, CSAC, B038589S.



4.46: Leonardo Ricci (and collaborators), Building type A, elevations, CSAC, B038590S.



4.47 - 4.48: Pictures of the building type D "La Nave", pictures by Giuliano Gameliel, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Leonardo Ricci, Giovanni Astengo, Roberto Pane Giuseppe Samonà and Bruno Zevi defended, even in different ways, the intervention. Bruno Zevi judged the neighborhood as wrong from an urban point of view, but with a coherent architectural structure. According to him, the intervention was destructive for the landscape, but created a valuable urbanized landscape. He will judge Ricci's macrostructure, which won the In-Arch award for Tuscany in 1966, as one of the most valuable in contemporary architecture<sup>72</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci strongly defended the project both during the conference and in front of the faculty committee. In Casa Studio Ricci the faculty report dated June 9, 1957 is kept: it collects Ricci's complete argument in defense of Sorgane:

I agree that the detailed plans must follow the master plan, but if we have studied Sorgane, we have done so because it happened before the plan. We would have been dishonest if we had accepted the fact as such, but we would not have accepted if that had been the case<sup>73</sup>.

During his intervention Ricci argued that it would have been possible to understand what effect the new district would have had on the center only once the east-west road layout was defined, which had not yet been clarified. Along that traffic axis the right connections to allow the unloading of the traffic from the center did not exist and, furthermore, the road settlement in Florence also depended on the orientation of the Autostrada del Sole (built only in 1964). Sorgane was also attacked for the centralization that it could have caused to the detriment of the center and the movement of working inhabitants who had to move to the work centers in the western part of the city. Ricci argued that the failure to implement the 1951 plan had caused previously non-existent urban balances and that Sorgane's designers had seen the neighborhood as a filter zone with the function of controlling the expansion.

Ricci also opposed to the critic about the failed integration with the existing ancient structures and with the environment by arguing that the whole city of Florence resulted from the integration between the old and the modern.

It does not seem right to go to build in the midst of other factories, that is to go to build in a ghetto as it was in the natural expansion between Florence and Prato. We think that the men of today should not be relegated to the factories where they work, we think we are not creating a working-class neighborhood where the same miasma of the workplace exists; even if it spends more, it is about creating a center where everyone can live, even us, even you. We humanly want to ensure that people live well, we want to allow ourselves to spatially realize the problem. When it comes to modern urban planning, it is not only a matter of changing a shirt, but also the whole structure. [...] Both from an aesthetic and a human point of view, we are not wrong; our position defect is not to want to reclaim Sorgane, but to justify what has been done<sup>74</sup>.

---

<sup>72</sup> Zevi, "Il Quartiere Di Sorgane a Firenze/L'edificio-Città Di Leonardo Ricci", 299, 300; Zevi, "Unità d'abitazione a Sorgane, Firenze", 546-549.

<sup>73</sup> Leonardo Ricci's intervention of the conference held in Florence on June 9, 1957, 1, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>74</sup> Leonardo Ricci's intervention of the conference held in Florence on June 9, 1957, 3-4, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Community

When the plan, after three years of work, in 1960, was resized, Ricci wrote to Michelucci, who wanted to withdraw from the role of general coordinator. After his trials to defend the plan, Ricci tried to convince his master to support the human intent set out in the last lines of his 1957 intervention and in the last three years of work: if the resizing of the plan asked by Michelucci had meant a re-evaluation of the conceptual schemes conceived by the group of designers and a recalibration of the intervention according to the human proportions and the movements of the inhabitants, he would have accepted the proposals of the master<sup>75</sup>. But Michelucci's requests consisted in connecting the different projects in function of a general simplification of the plan, they were due to economic issues and affected both the use of materials (avoiding for example the use of rough stone) and any imaginative ambition of the designers, that had to be abandoned.

### 3. Fabbrica Goti – Goti Factory (1959)

The Goti factory was an industrial plant of textile products that lies between Prato and Campi Bisenzio in Tuscany. In this project, the monumental ambitions of the imposing exposed structures of the brutalist district of Sorgane were announced, which heralded the macrostructural projects then studied and built by Leonardo Ricci in the United States. In the Goti factory the power of the structures left exposed was manifested above all in the interiors<sup>76</sup>.

The project started in October 1959, when Leonardo Ricci was entrusted by the industrialist Nazareno Goti, who wanted to build a large yarn factory on the state road to Prato, leaving to the architect a complete freedom in the design, but only setting him the economic limit of the usual costs of an industrial warehouse and the goal of realizing a beautiful working space. Leonardo Ricci carried out the brilliant project with the collaboration of the engineer Enzo Trapani and the architect Fabrizio Milanese, who took care of the interior design. The factory was ready in 1960.

The project program integrated various functions such as residences for workers, production and commercial spaces. The system designed by Leonardo Ricci, characterized by a broken line roof and tricuspid reinforced concrete support pillars, was aimed at favoring, even in this case, the continuity of space and the movement of the workers in their different job activities at all levels. The intent of the architect was to oppose the man-machine binomial, widespread in industrialized society, to re-propose a new space in which machines and men coexisted in balance, trying to overcome the model of the shed covered with a brick vault. Ricci used local stone, reinforced concrete and glass to create a large central hall intended for industrial work to which a stairwell with a glass tower with brise soleil was added and two lateral bodies were inserted into the main rectangular compartment with warehouses and service spaces. The project was completed without the residential tower envisaged by Ricci's project. According to the chronicles of the time, the factory built on Ricci's design was an industrial building «very different from the hundred and one hundred spinning mills and weaving mills already

---

<sup>75</sup> Ricci's undated letter to Giovanni Michelucci (presumably written in 1960), Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>76</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 38.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

scattered throughout the territory of the Municipality of Prato<sup>77</sup>». The importance of Leonardo Ricci's project and the beauty of the factory, in its subdued tones in the gray of the concrete and in the black of the large luminous windows' frames, laid in the spatial quality achieved, in which the emerging productive capacity of the Prato textile industry was enhanced and constituted an important factor in the implementation of the work. For Ricci, the commission of the factory marked a turning point in his design since he had only dealt with villas and residential houses, as well as the Mercato dei Fiori di Pescia (1953). The building occupied 2600 square meters and a volume of 28,600 cubic meters. It included a single main hall, a very large room that housed all the activities of the factory equipped with a bridge placed at half of the total height, used to house machinery and men.

The cost of the "Y" pillars, inspired by the "tree" reinforced concrete pillars firstly conceived by Giovanni Michelucci, was higher than that of normal pillars, so the architect decided to use them for a room that was twice as high as a usual shed and built the bridge to increase the available working surface (11 meters wide and 67 meters long). The pillars were all inclined according to the static requirement: they separated into three branches, one supporting the cantilever-terrace shelf, two supporting the bridge beams and extending to support the gables of the roof. The pillars were the most characteristic elements in the single and uniform main room. «I wanted to transform the classic pillar so as to make it a free thing, [...] it was the first time I had a factory problem and I wanted to interpret the man-machine relationship, which so far I have seen expressed in a symbolic way. the terms of the natural man-machine relationship, a relationship that was as natural as that of the individual in front of his furniture, his home, and I tried to restore a balance. Man no longer lost in front of the machine, but contained like her in a single living space<sup>78</sup>».

Leonardo Ricci's project, in addition to solving economic and social issues, managed to make space issues facilitate the production process. Therefore, the main activity of the company, the industrial process, was simplified by a correct combination of vertical and horizontal paths in order to minimize the time for workers to move from one work area to another and the industrial cycle. The placement of the managers' or employees' offices, two apartments for workers, rest rooms and changing rooms were designed on one side of the main body. The loading points and the warehouses were inserted perpendicularly to the main body in correspondence of the spaces used at the end of the industrial cycle, while the spinning department mirrored the volume of the warehouses on the opposite side<sup>79</sup>.

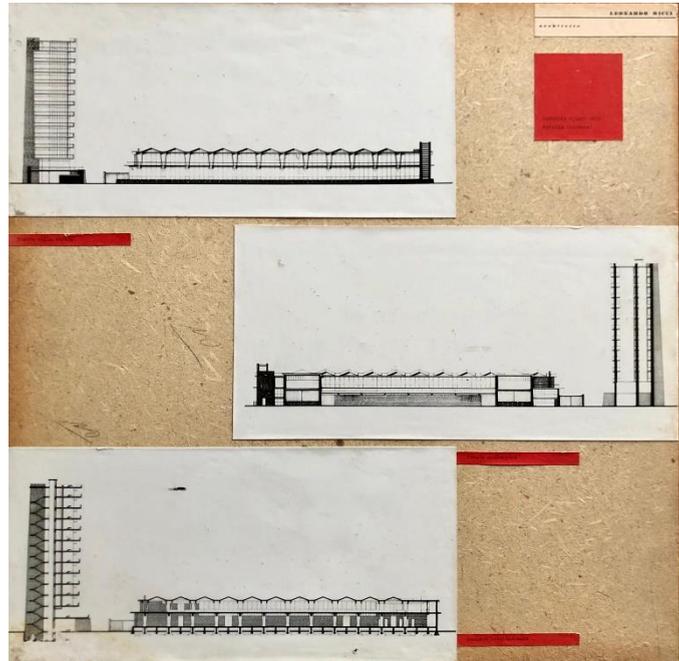
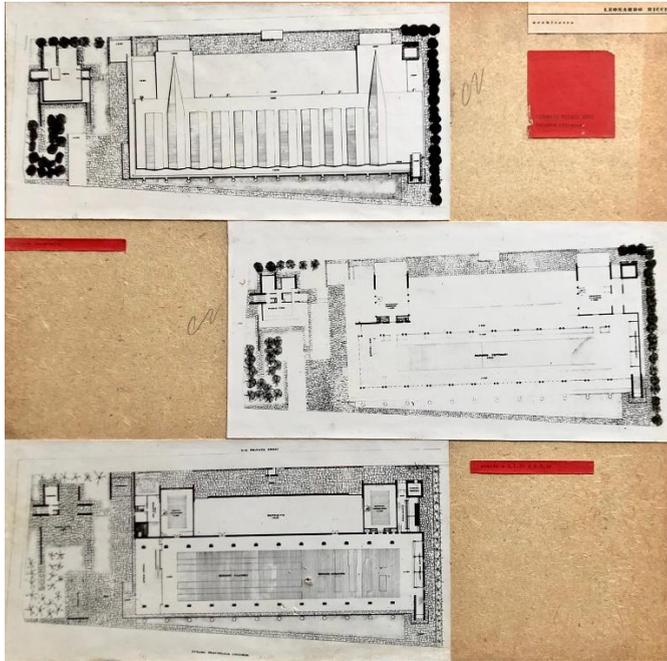
---

<sup>77</sup> Wanda Lattes, "Perchè è nata la fabbrica "bella", *Il Giornale del Mattino*, July 31, 1960.

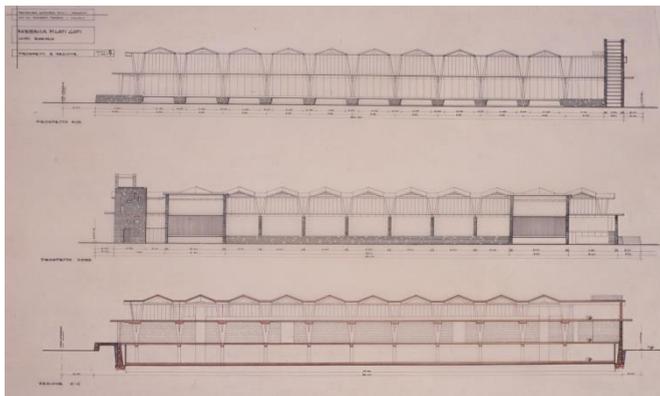
<sup>78</sup> Ricci's words were reported in Lattes, "Perchè è nata la fabbrica "bella".

<sup>79</sup> For a complete bibliography on the project see: Lattes, "Perchè è nata la fabbrica "bella"; Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 35, 38; Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci: testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 42, 43.

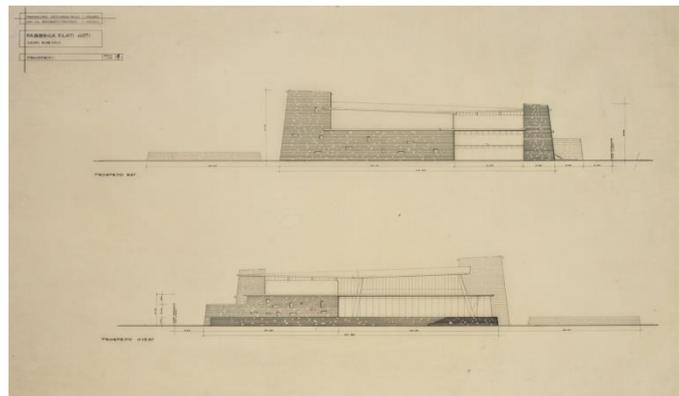
## Community



4.49 - 4.50: Leonardo Ricci, Enzo Trapani, Goti Factory, plans, elevations and sections, panels displayed for the international exhibition "Aspetti dell'arte contemporanea. Omaggio a Cagli, omaggio a Fontana, omaggio a Quaroni, architettura, pittura, scultura, grafica" (L'Aquila, Castello cinquecentesco, July-September, 1963, CSAC, Bo47998S, Bo47998S).



4.51: Leonardo Ricci, Enzo Trapani, Goti Factory, north and south elevations, section, CSAC, Bo38571S.



4.52: Leonardo Ricci, Enzo Trapani, Goti Factory, east and west elevations, CSAC, Bo38570S.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.53, 4.54, 4.55, 4.56, 4.57, 4.58, 4.59: pictures of Fabbrica Goti, collected in "Logbook" n. 1 (1938-1952), Casa Studio Ricci.

## Community

### 4. Project for the competition for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington, District of Columbia U.S.A. (1959-1960)

The competition for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial was launched by a commission chosen in August 1955, ten years after the death of the American President, by the Congress of the United States which established the Commission for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to formulate plans for the design, construction, and location of a permanent memorial to Roosevelt near the Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington memorials. The addressed site lied within a portion of the West Potomac Park between Independence Avenue and the Inlet Bridge.

The officers of the Commission came from all over the United States and occupied political positions, they were assisted by an Advisory Committee composed of seven distinguished architects, landscape architects, and city planners as Samuel Glaser, Robert Sturgis Ingersoll, Lewis Mumford, George Holmes Perkins, Hideo Sasaki, Jay S. Unger, and Pietro Belluschi as Chairman. In January, 1959 the Commission and the Advisory Committee recommended to the Congress a competition as the best way of securing a suitable design for the memorial and the procedure was approved by the Congress on September 1, 1959.

Leonardo Ricci worked on the project during his experience as visiting professor at M.I.T. with Paul Nelson, who was visiting professor at Harvard and M.I.T. with Ricci, and, and Mirko Basaldella, sculptor and Director of the Design Center at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard. In the documents presented to enter the competition Ricci appeared as a consultant of the project, since he was only a temporary resident in the United States<sup>80</sup>.

The competition was held in two phases: the first one of four months which would have allowed the choice of six competitors or associations, and a second three-months phase, during which the winners of the first stage could have added associates for the second phase. The competition leaflet kept in Casa Studio Ricci Archive<sup>81</sup> included the indication that “the Commission [intended] to make the first stage of the competition as simple as possible to relieve the competitor of unnecessary work» and that «the program and accompanying material [were] being prepared with this in mind and models [would have been] submitted in the second stage<sup>82</sup>». Therefore, since the graphic elaborations of the project kept in Ricci’s personal archive, include photos of the model, we can infer that Ricci, Nelson and Basaldella’s project was among the winners of the first stage. The project was carried out between April and September, 1960, during the first phase of the competition, but

---

<sup>80</sup> These documents, the drawings, the photos, and the competition documents for the Roosevelt Memorial are kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>81</sup> “Announcement. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Competition 1960”, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>82</sup> “Announcement. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Competition 1960”, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

remained only on paper<sup>83</sup>. The model for the competition was realized by the architect Fabrizio Milanese, whose interview by Corinna Vasič Vatovec was extremely important for the reconstruction of the memorial story<sup>84</sup>. The objectives of the competitions were extremely important because they reflected, in a way, an open planning for the defined program: the Commission did not give precise indications not to limit the designers and artists' creative action. The delivered project had «to conceive a memorial to a man of destiny expressing his serene faith in American ideals in the march of civilization and in the unity of mankind and symbolizing his redoubtable leadership through the unprecedented “tempo” of historical events [...]. Compose this ensemble not only to respond to the above but by the same forms to provide the pedestrian with a sculptural garden, for restful leisure. Dispose these forms as a complex of interrelated parts in such a manner to permit free choice of the experiences sought for and to excite differing degrees of satisfaction from that of abstract beauty to that of concrete meaningful interpretation. Compose this complex in today's language but in such a way to avoid conflicting with the three existing major monuments and yet to unite them all symbolically and plastically at one point of supreme synthesis. Finally integrate the forms appropriate to these objectives into an overall composition of syncopated rhythms thus expressing a harmony of occult delicate balance so characteristic of Roosevelt's democratic method of solving problems of the conflicting interests of all rather than by adherence to an imposed theory ignoring certain interests<sup>85</sup>».

Ricci, Nelson and Basaldella's presented project preserved with minor changes the parks, roads, paths and nature to allow the pedestrian access from all sides. The main entrance was a raised concourse opening on the North-West side connected to parkings, rest-rooms, and recreational areas. The memorial was composed of four plastic elements: the plaza, the ramps, the hall of synthesis, and the sculptured tower by Mirko Basaldella<sup>86</sup>.

---

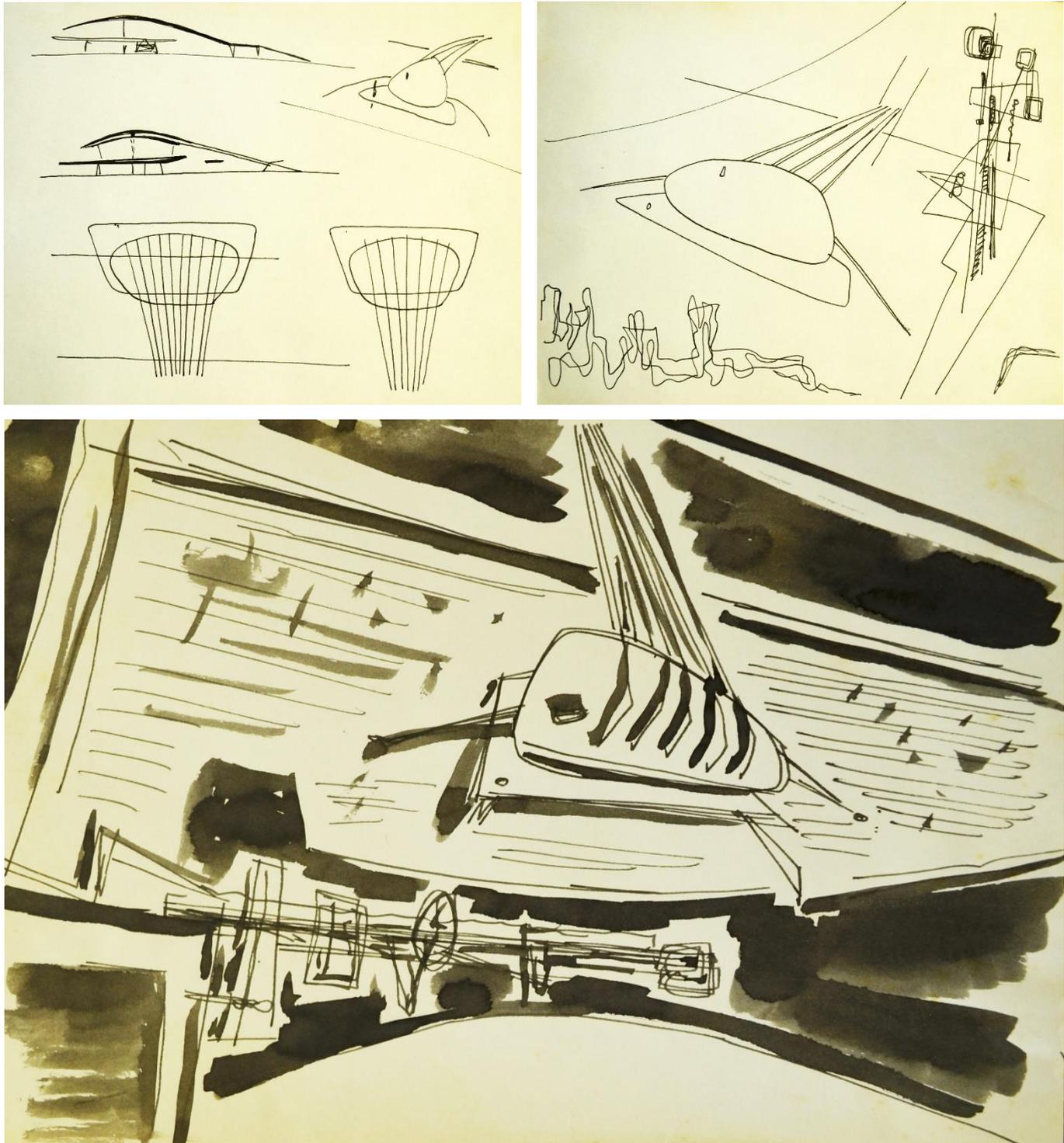
<sup>83</sup> «Mr. Edmund N. Bacon, Executive Director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission has been retained as the Professional Adviser. The Jury of the Award consists of: Pietro Belluschi, F.A.I.A., Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chairman; Thomas D. Church, Landscape Architect, San Francisco; Bartlett Hayes, Jr., Director of the Edison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy; Joseph Hudnut, Professor of Architecture Emeritus, Harvard University; Paul Marvin Rudolph, A.I.A., Chairman of the Department of Architecture, Yale University. [...] On the completion of the first stage each of the sixth contestants selected by the jury to compete in the second stage will be awarded a prize of \$10,000. The winner of the second stage will be awarded a prize of \$50,000.» “Announcement. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Competition 1960”, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>84</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto “esistenzialista”*, 35.

<sup>85</sup> “Objectives’ of the competition for the Roosevelt Memorial, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>86</sup> Ricci corrected the final report, adding, as fourth plastic element, Mirko Basaldella's sculpture. Therefore, the description of the project around the four elements derives from Ricci's personal notes on the archival resources.

## Community



4.60, 4.61, 4.62: Leonardo Ricci, sketches for the project for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

A banked wall hosted the indirect paths to access the plaza from all sides, and hid both the view of the plaza and the green areas. Mindful of the shapes already experimented a few years earlier in Casa Balmain, the memorial is spread over a large square raised from the ground and was made accessible thanks to a large fan-shaped ramp and smaller ramps, on which a large sculpture by Mirko had to be placed. The square was a plate, an ovoidal slab that housed an open-air theater protected by a canopy.

In order to convey Ricci, Nelson and Basaldella's intents better it is worth quoting the description of the project contained in the presented project report, because it succeeds in expressing both the compositional features and the relevant metaphoric meanings, as expressed in the competition objectives:

On top of this banked wall runs around the entire plaza a promenade gallery from which one may view the drama of the vast expanse of plaza with its monumental mosaic of flowers and marble flagstones. Rising from this plane on conical shaped supports are the architectural and sculptural forms of the other two elements, thus creating a plastic composition. [...] The ramp element is constituted by a continuous pedestrian ramp divided into ramps, shifting direction, rising or descending, but generally mounting from the entrance concourse to the level of the hall of synthesis. This ramp ensemble symbolises Roosevelt's political calvary, with each run an essential chapter<sup>87</sup>

The visitor could experience the path along each ramp by passing through the sculptural screens put at the end of each ramp, on which symbols and words could be sculpted or heard in order to remind Roosevelt's contact with the people and his different political challenges.

After having experienced the path on the ramps, the visitor reached the hall of synthesis, that wanted to host all the people with the help of «resting benches molded in the concrete of the shell's inclined floor but asymmetrically arranged around two focal points, one, the empty chair of F.D.R., and the other the fireside focus<sup>88</sup>». The hall was connected to the ramps and the stairs of the plaza by penetrating from below, it had four openings: three of them were more narrow and integrated the action of the three main axes that framed the three major monuments, the fourth path, opposite to the Washington monument faced the water and opened towards it with a fanned-out terrace. From the terrace the terminating sculpted tower by Mirko Basaldella arose to epitomize Roosevelt's historical contribution in line with those of Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson and with their guiding roles for the United States. The tower had to dominate the scene and «symbolized the Not-Forgotten-Man, regardless of race, creed or nation as America's message to the world<sup>89</sup>».

For what concerned the materials, on the report Leonardo Ricci's handwritten notes tell that, for the sculptures, steel, bronze, copper, and concrete had to be used, the hall of synthesis' structural elements, the covering and the arches had to be realized in reinforced concrete with marble aggregate of different colours and hammered finish. The whole building had to be acoustically treated and equipped with radiant heating and a copper covering protection, while the plaza surface was to be realized with grass, plan mosaics and marble flagstones.

---

<sup>87</sup> Leonardo Ricci, Paul Nelson, Mirko Basaldella, "Proposed solutions", report about the project presented for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial competition, Casa Studio Ricci.

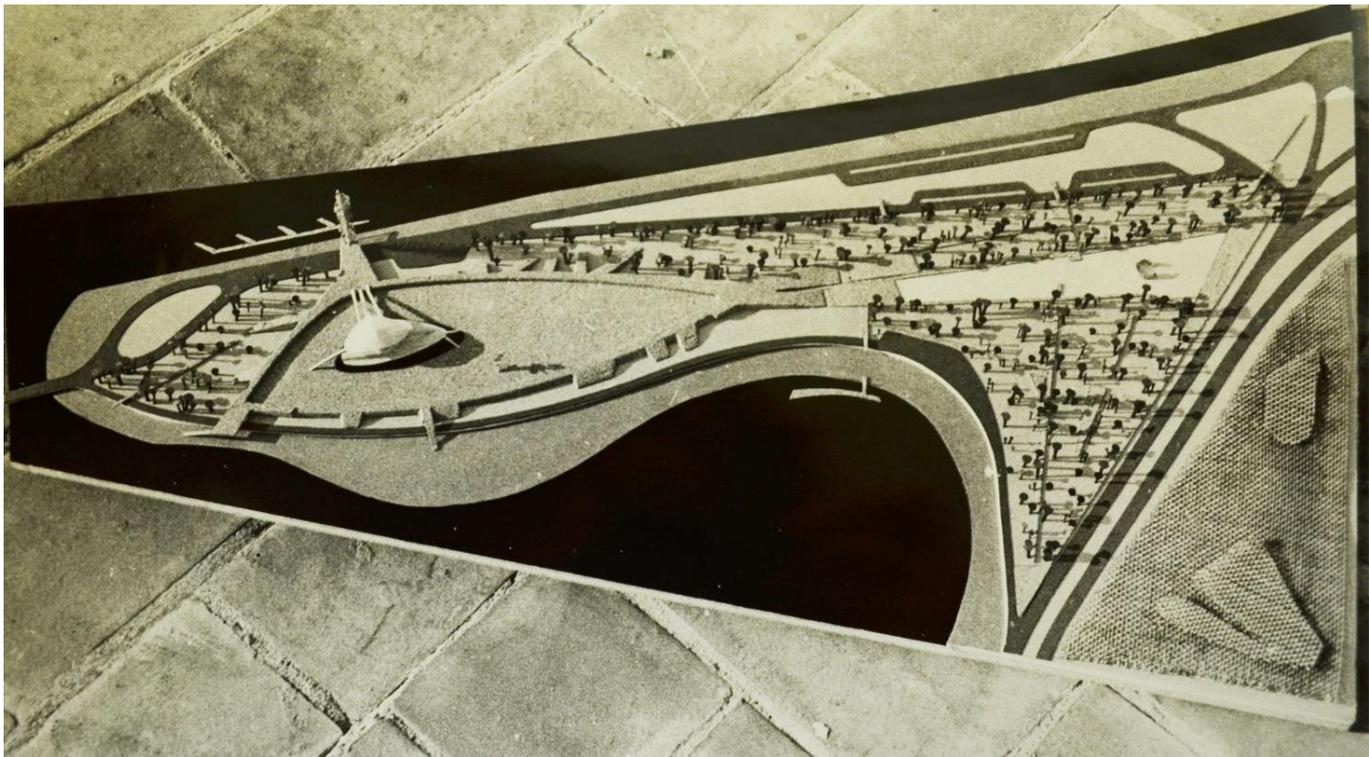
<sup>88</sup> Ricci, Nelson, Basaldella, "Proposed solutions", 3.

<sup>89</sup> Ricci, Nelson, Basaldella, "Proposed solutions", 4.

## Community

The project was very interesting not only from an architectural point of view, but also from the urban design point of view: it consisted in the design of a piece of town, apt to collect and host different living and visiting experiences of the users, it was a work of art thought for the community and, above all, to be experienced by the community. Moreover, it was conceived to connect the existing tissues and buildings to allow a higher level of communication among humans, natural and artificial elements; the project concerned urban design because it involved different disciplines: architecture, sculpture, land art and landscape architecture and reflected urban design dimensions and features<sup>90</sup>. On this purpose, it is worth considering the fact that the appointed Professional Adviser of the Competition was Mr. Edmund N. Bacon, Executive Director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and one of the pioneers of urban design as Kevin Lynch.

The first prize was awarded to William Pederson and Bradford Tilnay, but the project was firstly entrusted to Laurence Halprin in 1978, then realized by him in 1981<sup>91</sup>.



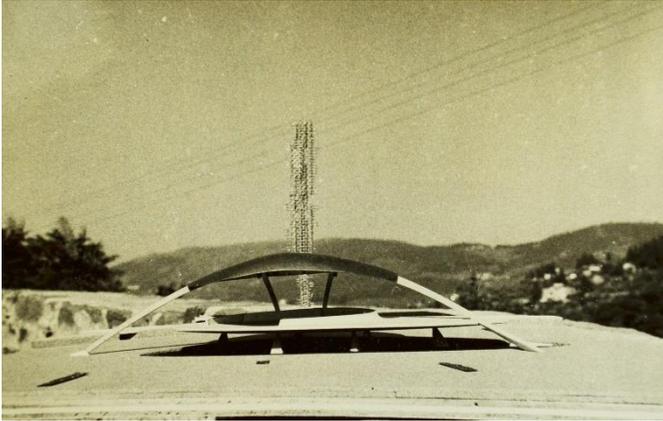
4.63: Picture of the model realized by Fabrizio Milanese for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Casa Studio Ricci.

---

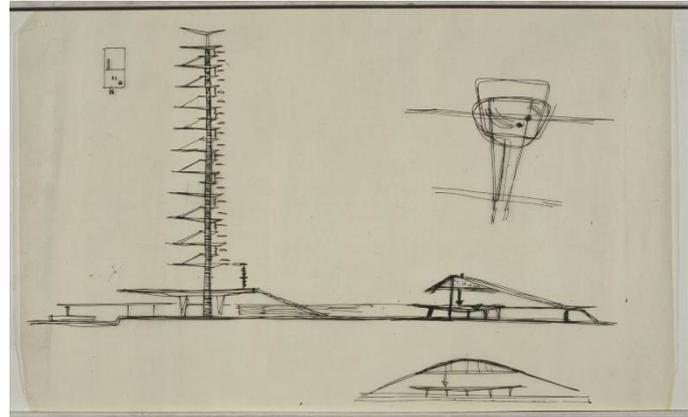
<sup>90</sup> Brent D. Ryan, *The Largest Art. A Measured Manifesto for a Plural Urbanism* (Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 2017).

<sup>91</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 35, 36.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.64: Picture of the model realized by Fabrizio Milanese for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Casa Studio Ricci.

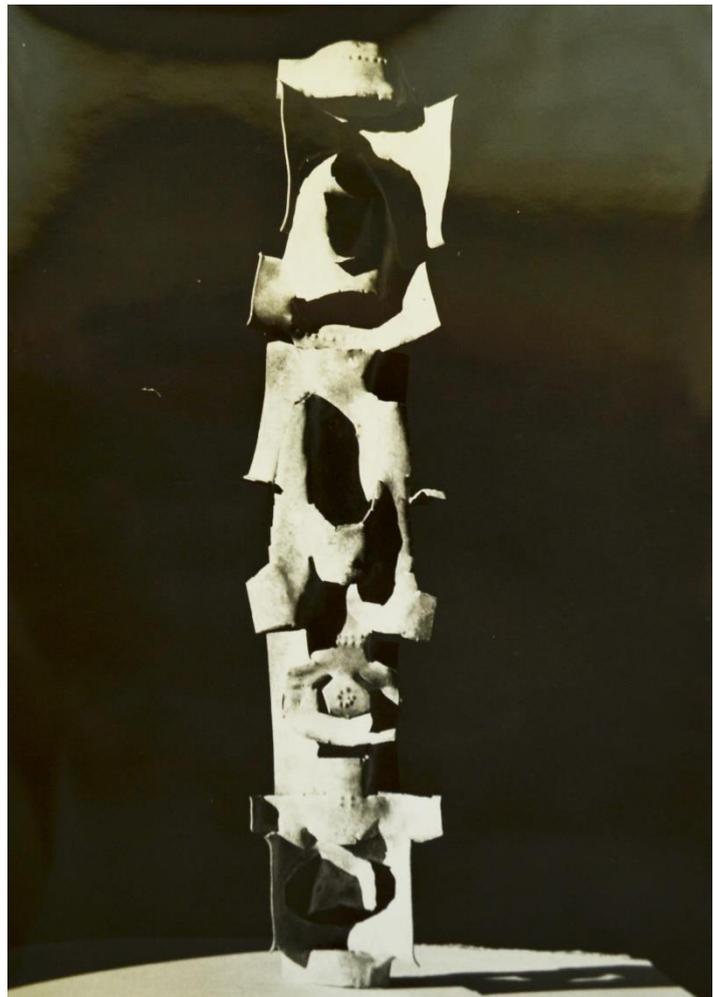
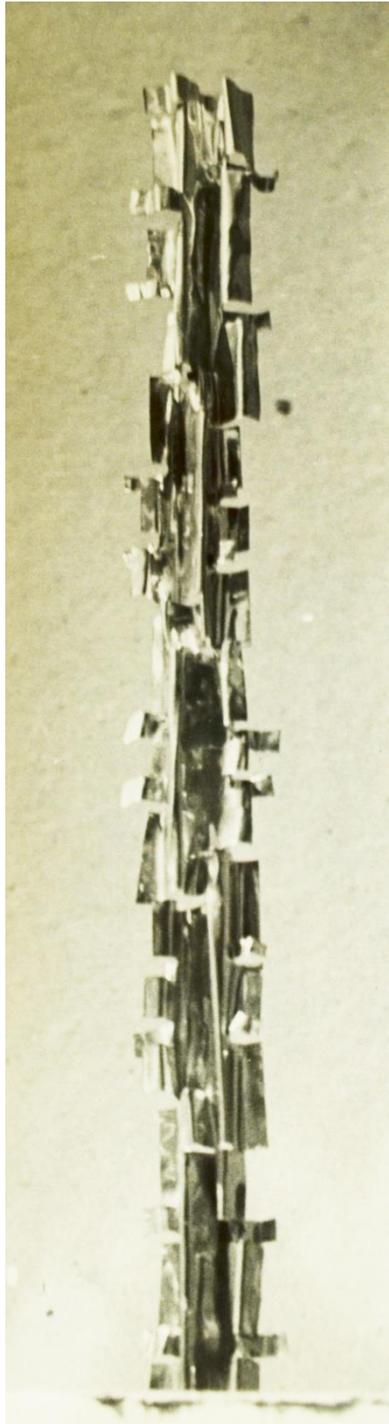
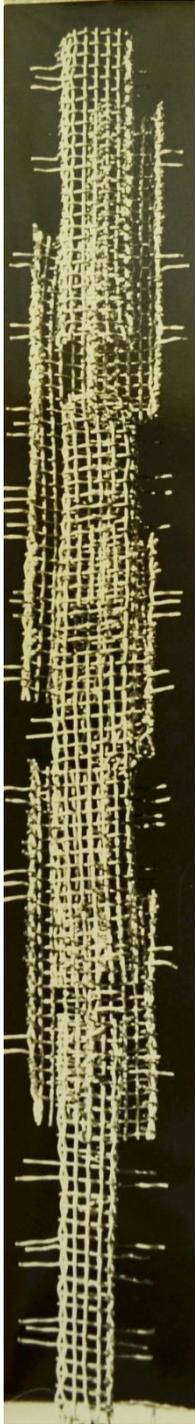


4.65: Leonardo Ricci, sketch of the project for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, CSAC, B038538S.



4.66: Picture of the model realized by Fabrizio Milanese for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Casa Studio Ricci.

Community



4.67, 4.68, 4.69: Mirko Basaldella, studies of the sculptures of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Casa Studio Ricci.

### AUXILIARY PROJECTS:

The community space found more deeply grounded results in the projects described above, but it is possible and important to trace the premises of Ricci's design for the community space deriving from the "form-act" design in additional projects for different programs that can help understand the theme. The observation of those projects, conceived either for working, exchange, and collective or familiar living spaces is useful to understand the connection between Ricci's design for habitat solutions and the spatial solutions for the community, intended as religious, social, working or cultural communities. On this purpose, the following part deals with the introduction of some projects (in chronological order) Ricci elaborated during the Fifties and Sixties, that concern Ricci's design for different architectural programs, even all connected by the "form-act" design method: they concern residential programs (Fausto Maria Ricci's House, Mann Borgese House, Balmain House, the project for Pleydell House, the project for Bruno Rossi House, Giannini House, Di Sopra House), residential-commercial-administrative buildings (the projects for a skyscraper in Genova Brignole and for the Carrara Camera di Commercio), and exhibitions set-ups ("La Casa Abitata" Exhibition in 1965 and the Italian Pavillion of the Montréal Exhibition of 1967).

More precisely, as the correct design for the habitat unit could be considered the necessary premise for the community design, intended as a wider organic complex of habitat units, the community could be considered the necessary premise for the megastructure projects, because all were driven, in Ricci's work, from the "form-act" design method.

This way of working with the "form-act" design method fostered the classification of our architect's work as organic, but it is not completely correct. Bruno Zevi was not the only critic who identified Ricci as organic architect, Giovanni Klaus Koenig also described him as «the most "organic" of the Italian architects: organic understood not in a formal sense, but as the development of the creative process, as the origin of the spatial configuration, regardless of the formal language with which the space is expressed<sup>92</sup>». Despite the intentions to attribute Ricci's work to different architectural movements as organicism, brutalism, expressionism, and neorealism, and despite Corrado Gavinelli, Mirella Loik and Giovanni Rostan<sup>93</sup> divided Ricci's architectural path into distinct periods, Ricci's work was not classifiable actually, but his architecture should be essentially understood through the "form-act". This is why the following paragraphs analyze Ricci's project for the community space, not only realized in projects for the Waldesian community, and aim at filtering and translating the architect's production through the "form-act" design method, used to find the correct expression of existence. More in detail, the design of private residential houses explains the different results that such a method could reach by avoiding pre-constituted forms.

As a demonstration of this, Mann Borgese House and Balmain House were chosen by different authors as episodes that marked their limits: Mann Borgese, built for Thomas Mann's daughter and wife of the antifascist writer Antonio Borgese, was the last work of the first period, "from neorealism to brutalism" while Casa Balmain

---

<sup>92</sup> Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la 'casa teorica'", 3-34.

<sup>93</sup> Loik, Rostan and Gavinelli, *L'Architettura di Leonardo Ricci: Agape e Riesi*.

## Community

the first of the second "organicistic expressionism". Antonella Greco and Maria Clara Ghia<sup>94</sup> also underlined the brutalism of Mann House and highlighted how Balmain House constituted the cornerstone of the second period, when Ricci inaugurated a new dynamism given by the spatial fluidity of the curved lines. Despite all possible classifications, what really matters is that these two houses, even built in the same two-year period (1958-1960), were the demonstration that radically different formal results could be reached by Ricci for similar programs. They were coeval solutions offered by the "form-act", two of the possible solutions for precise habitat needs studied on the human acts the building had to host<sup>95</sup>. Besides, at the end of an article published on *L'Espresso* concerning the project of Mann Borgese House, Zevi wrote that «Leonardo Ricci's creative work [was] portrayed by two features: an abstract figurative culture, both in his graphic and in his architectural work, and an intellectual, psychological rashness, which [brought] him always to breaking and vanguard positions. We [could] not state that these two forces [were] always balanced. [...] Ricci [was] only forty and he [decided] not to choose one of the previous tendencies of formalism and brutalism, he [found] the honesty and the bravery not to be ready and mature enough<sup>96</sup>».

Leonardo Ricci widely explained his conception of architecture in his volume *Anonymous of the XX century*<sup>97</sup>, which resulted from his lectures and from the direct discussion with the M.I.T. students during his first American teaching experience. In his book Ricci focused on the idea of "democratic" architecture and on the new "mission" of the architect to plan around human private and public needs following contemporary social changes rather than on predetermined forms.

It all is logical. Even if we don't know why. Mystery is the only possibility of being. Yes, the world is mysterious; but not absurd. And there is no need of justifications, a priori. God has made all this, so it will be there tomorrow: Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. Or else all this is born out of chaos, and tomorrow there will be nothing. But what need is there of all this? Why detach ourselves from experience? Basically it is all so simple. It is enough to exist. It is enough to find the relationships among the things that exist. It is enough to create new relationships among things. It is enough to create living things with living things. You trace a furrow on the ground. You take some stones. With the stones and cement you build a wall. The wall rises and divides space, creating a new space that wasn't there before<sup>98</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci also elaborated an accurate study on the habitat throughout history titled *La Casa d'Abitazione* ["The Dwelling House"], from prehistoric to modern times, from the western to the eastern regions of the world, concentrated on the different morphological results obtained by ancient, modern and contemporary civilizations, as expressions of ways of living and results of social structures instead of stylistic or aesthetical

---

<sup>94</sup> Antonella Greco and Maria Clara Ghia, *Leonardo Ricci Monterinaldi/ Balmain/ Borgese* (Roma: Palombi: 2012).

<sup>95</sup> The presentation Elizabeth Mann Borgese made of her home is very interesting, as it explains in depth the housing, sharing and life possibilities that the project offered to those who lived there, highlighting some fundamental issues of Ricci's spatial research and the connections between space and form, fundamental for the author. Elizabeth Mann Borgese, "La Casa di Elisabeth Mann Borgese a Forte dei Marmi", *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 11 (March, 1959): 738-745.

<sup>96</sup> Bruno Zevi, "La Casa Trsatlantico di Elisabeth Mann", *L'Espresso*, November 9, 1958.

<sup>97</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*.

<sup>98</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 19.

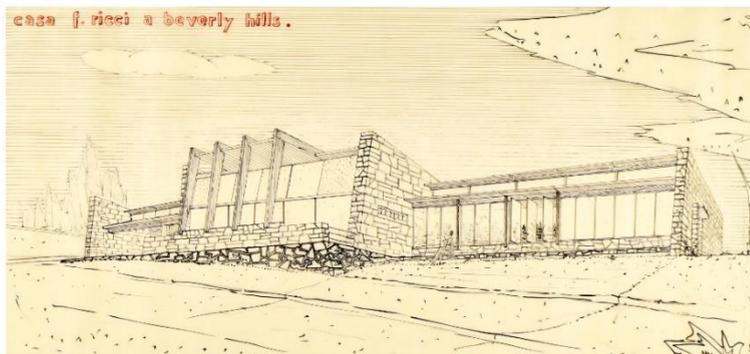


## Community

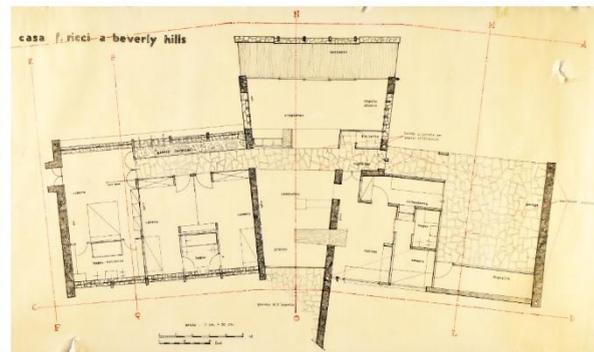
### 5. The project of the private residence:

#### Fausto Maria Ricci's House: Beverly Hills, California (1952)

Leonardo Ricci carried out this project in 1952, during his first journey to the United States. It was designed for his brother Fausto Maria and is located at number 1090 of Carolyn Way in Beverly Hills, California. It took up some of the characters of Miesian and Wrightian works - at the time not yet completed - but certainly visited by Ricci in 1952: Taliesin West in Arizona (1937-1959) and the Crown Hall of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago (1950-1956). In fact, in the main façade the wooden truss structure bent at an elbow and the covering of the living room were evident, showing a clear influence of the two works. The original drawings of the project are present in Casa Studio Ricci, while the archive sources at CSAC in Parma reveal that Ricci also carried out a substantial subsequent extension on the east side of the building<sup>103</sup>. The drawings of the house showed a fan-shaped plan, open to the landscape, that reflected a frequently used composition by Ricci to enhance the internal life of a family house towards the outside.



4.71: Leonardo Ricci, Fausto Maria Ricci's House, perspective, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.72: Leonardo Ricci, Fausto Maria Ricci's House, plan, scale 1.50, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>103</sup> Enzo Trapani, "Alcuni Progetti Di Leonardo Ricci. Villa a Beverly Hills in California. Casa Fattirolli a Poggio Gherardo. Casa Betti a Lipari", *Il Tecnico de: La Provincia e Il Comune*, no. 1 (February 1957): 13-17; Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 70.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

### Mann Borgese House: Forte dei Marmi (1958-1960)

For Casa Mann Borgese Ricci was helped by Eng. Ernesto Trapani for the technical direction and structural calculations, by Fucci Fabbrocotti and Dusan Vasič for the furniture, partly also designed by Ricci himself and by Eng. Petrelli.

The building can be considered a "symbol" of Leonardo Ricci's research, which embodied some of the themes underlying the architectural debate that emerged after World War II and finds its importance for the historical period in which it was built thanks to the same client.

The client Elizabeth Mann Borgese, German writer, daughter of Thomas Mann then wife of the anti-fascist writer Antonio Borgese, had been forced to flee Nazi Germany before to Switzerland and then to the United States. She was an important figure for Leonardo Ricci's career in the United States and a friend of Leonardo Ricci and his family.

The brutalism of Casa Mann highlighted the architect's intention to realize a building strongly rooted on the land on which it stood, in harmony with the natural environment, but above all in line with the needs of the family that would have lived there. An outdoor patio, on which the house is "suspended" acts as a filter between inside and outside and underlines the importance that the perfect insertion of the building in its surroundings had for Ricci. The main volume is given by the internal living room overlooked by the bedrooms thanks to a balcony built on the mezzanine floor.

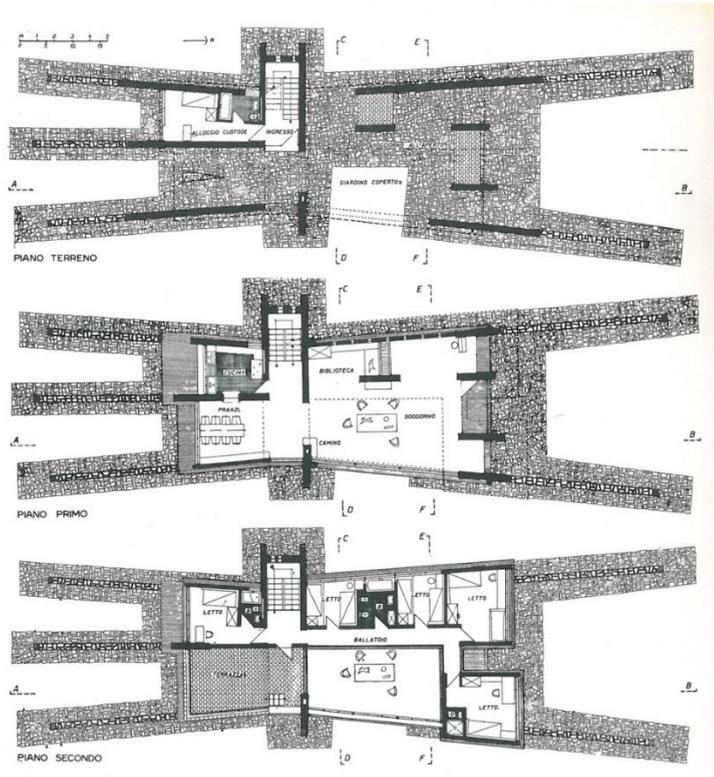
The building is also of considerable importance for the wise use of materials and for the compositional choices, such as the choice of the staircase-pivot between the volumes arranged in an asymmetrical but balanced way. Each welcomes a specific internal environment and the general balance of the composition is maintained thanks to the vertical stone slabs.

The structure is in reinforced concrete resting "like a bridge" on a stone plinth made with the waste from the Carrara marble quarry, the tower of the staircase is in stone, the partitions are in perforated. Mann Borgese House was object of a restoration, but, in the original project the materials told the brutalism of the exterior of the house, whereas the interior revealed a greater delicacy with the split marble walls, from white to yellow to pink<sup>104</sup>.

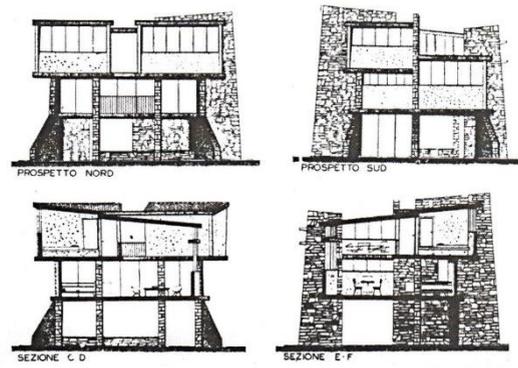
---

<sup>104</sup> The bibliography about this project is: Giorgio Neumann, "Die Entwicklung Des Stahlbetonbaues in Italien", *Bau-Zeitung*, Vienna 1951; Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la 'Casa Teorica'", 3-34; Bruno Zevi, "La Casa Transatlantico Di Elisabeth Mann", *L'Espresso*, November 9, 1958; Leonardo Ricci, "La Casa Di Elisabeth Mann Borghese a Forte Dei Marmi", *Architettura: Cronache e Storia*, no. 41 (1959): 739-45; Vittorio Vettori, "Legata al Nome Di Thomas Mann La Villa Più Moderna Del Forte", *Il Tirreno*, February 25, 1959; Mann Borgese, "La Casa Di Elisabeth Mann Borghese a Forte Dei Marmi", 738-45; Boatto, "Village Monterinaldi Près de Florence, Habitation a Forte Dei Marmi", 28-32; Roberto Aloï, *Ville in Italia*. Hoepli. Milano, 1960; Creighton, "The Involved Man: Leonardo Ricci", 144-51; Udo Kultermann, *New Architecture in the World* (New York: Universe Books Inc., 1965); Bruno Zevi, "La Casa Di Elisabeth Mann Borgese/The House, Non She House o It House", *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache Di Architettura*, Vol. III. (Bari: Laterza, 1971); Manno Tolu, *Leonardo Savioli: Il Segno Generatore Di Forma-Spazio, Catalogo Della Mostra (Firenze, Archivio Di Stato, 23 Settembre-25 Novembre 1995)*; Messina, Manno Tolu, Lenzi, Ragionieri, and Maccabruni. *Fiamma Vigo e "Numero" Una Vita per l'arte*; Bartolozzi, "Leonardo Ricci. Un Nuovo Inizio"; Berselli, "Fino al 26 Maggio a Firenze Una Mostra Presenta, Con Materiali in Gran Parte Inediti, Le Opere Dell'architetto Che Amava Definirsi Un 'Anonimo Del XX Secolo'".

## Community



4.73: Leonardo Ricci, Mann Borgese House, plans, published in Elizabeth Mann Borgese, "La Casa di Elisabeth Mann Borghese a Forte dei Marmi", *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 11 (March, 1959): 738.

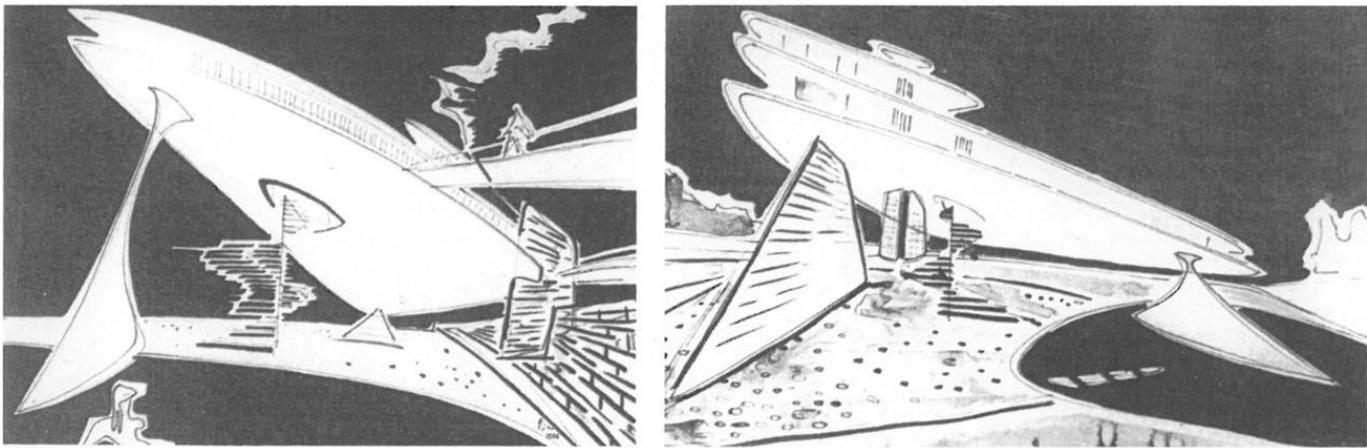


4.74: Leonardo Ricci, Mann Borgese House, north and south elevations, sections CD and EF, published in Elizabeth Mann Borgese, "La Casa di Elisabeth Mann Borghese a Forte dei Marmi", *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 11 (March, 1959): 741.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

### Balmain House: Marciana, Isola d'Elba (1958-1960)

Ricci's project was designed for the Parisian designer Pierre Balmain. This residence anticipated the formal revolution of Riccian projects of the Sixties characterized by sinuous lines that dictate the modeling of walls, roofs and plates with soft shapes as happens for example in the "Monte degli Ulivi" Village in Riesi.



4.75: Leonardo Ricci, sketches of a not defined house, 1956, published in Luigi Vagnetti, *Il linguaggio grafico dell'architetto* (Genova: Vitali e Ghianda, 1965), 196, 197.

As we can notice looking at some perspective sketches dated 1956 which inspired Casa Balmain, the project was centred on the overlapping of four elliptical floor slabs, the space had a strong dynamism and the project acquired a great plastic strength, thanks above all to the ovoid shape of the roof and the presence of the elliptical staircase around which the rooms on the two were organized. The stairs started from the open-air living room, then grew across the first slab and across the closed living room at the second floor, till reaching the terrace at the third floor.

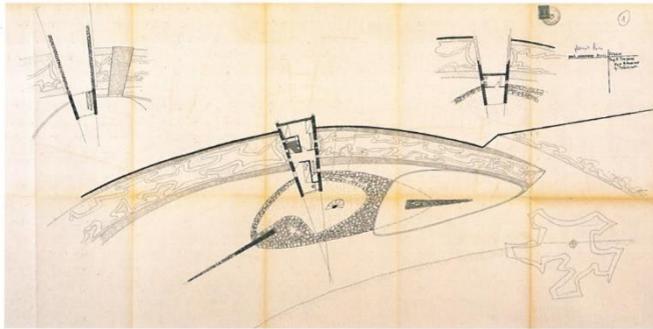
The space was centrifugal and it was generated by the arrangement of spaces around a central fulcrum. The Villa overlooking the sea extended towards it thanks to a pseudo-elliptical volume to which a trapezoidal volume positioned upstream was added. Ricci treated the two intersecting volumes with different finishes: the first was covered with white plaster while the second with granite masonry. The views differed in turn with large windows facing east and with small openings and ribbon windows on the opposite front.

The entire volume rested and arose on the structural element of the staircase studied and realized in grey stone, the typical Tuscan pietra serena, hanged with steel cables, and was held in traction by a reinforced concrete tie rod that acted as a support and emphasized the suspension effect of the work. That tie-beam was studied several times by Ricci: the architect firstly studied the support of the elliptic slabs with a double conic structure metallic grid, then decided for a tie-beam. It had a core in prestressed concrete and was finished in granite as the lateral wall, the third structural element of the house.

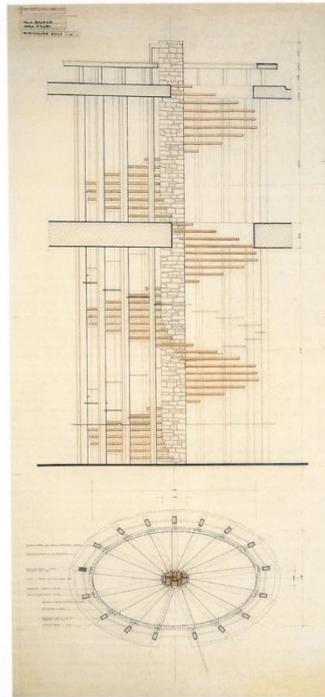
Structurally, the house did not only use the granite sloping wall, the spiral staircase and the strut, but it was conceived as a self-supporting box. Indeed, the internal walls were reinforced by double-meshed cross bars, the

## Community

iron frames of the panoramic window were welded to a more robust structure of boxed iron uprights, with a steel plate above that connected them<sup>105</sup>.



4.76: Leonardo Ricci, Balmain House, plans: ground floor and a portion of the first floor (center), service rooms at the ground floor (right), detail of the third floor (left), and second floor, Municipality of Marciana Archive.

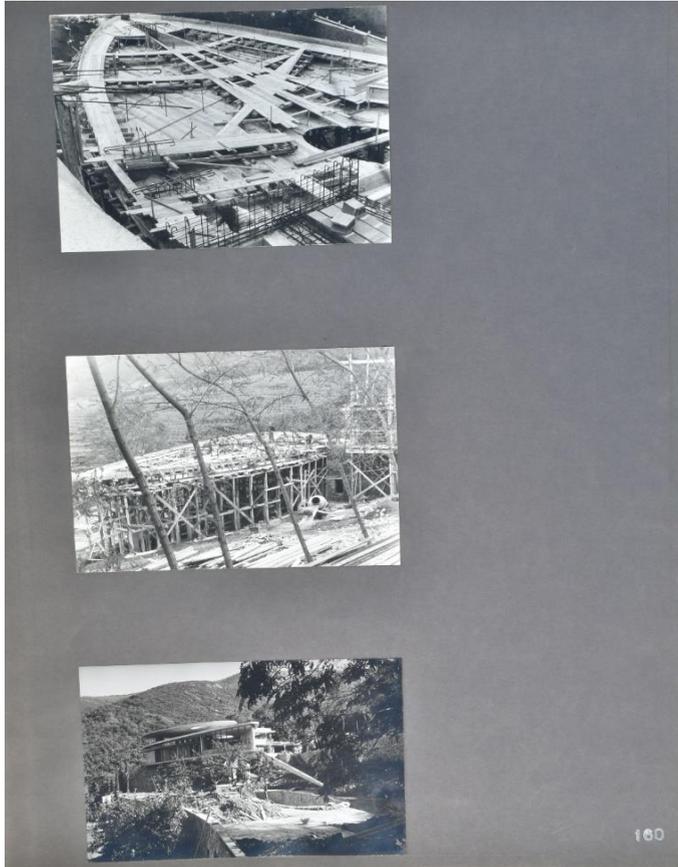


4.77: Leonardo Ricci, Balmain House, staircase (drawing realized by Fabrizio Milanese), section, Casa Studio Ricci, and picture, Casa Studio Ricci (picture of the staircase by Corinna Vasič Vatovec, published in Leonardo Ricci. *Architetto "esistenzialista"* (Firenze: Edifir, 2005), 126.

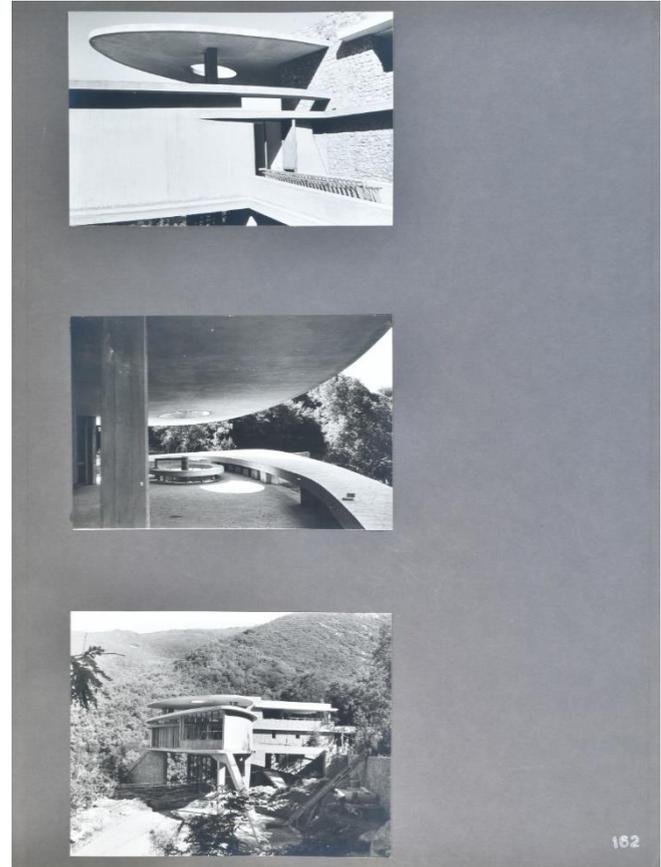
<sup>105</sup> The bibliography on the project of Balmain House is:

Wanda Lattes, "È Nata a Poggio d'Elba Senza Trucchi La Casa Che Vola", *Il Giornale Del Mattino*, (November 10, 1957); Koenig, "Leonardo Ricci e la 'Casa Teorica'", 3-34; Lord Kilbracken, "The House That Fashion Builds", *Daily Express* (April 1959); Robert Caron, "Le Couturier Pierre Balmain Se Fait Construire Une Chaurmière En Marbre", *Paris-Presse-intransigeant*, 1959; "Progetto per Il Mercato Dei Fiori a Sanremo. Casa All'Isola d'Elba", *Domus*, no. 354 (May 1959): 21-24; Creighton, "The Involved Man: Leonardo Ricci", 144, 151; Franco Nasi, *L'architetto* (Firenze: Vallecchi, 1960), 21-25; E. Sheppard, "The Villa Balmain Built", *Herald Tribune*, no. 2 (March 1962); Bruno Zevi, "Leonardo Ricci Allo Specchio/Anonimo Tormentato Del XX Secolo", *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache Di Architettura vol. IV* (Bari: Laterza, 1971), 404-407; Bruno Zevi, "Leonardo Ricci in USA/Miccia Fiorentina per Lo Zio Tom", *L'Espresso*, January 17, 1971, then collected in *Cronache Di Architettura vol. VIII* (Bari: Laterza, 1973), 133-137; Alan Jolis, "Fashion Legends: Pierre Balmain, a Futuristic House on Elba", *Architectural Digest* 51, no. 10 (October 1994): 214-21, 286; Corinna Vasič Vatovec, "Villa Balmain. Isola d'Elba: Leonardo Ricci/Villa Pleydell-Bouverie", *Area*, no. 52 (October 2000): 4-19; Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 34, 119-133; Nicolangelo Gelomini, *Leonardo Ricci, Monterinaldi, Balmain, Borghese*. Documentario, 2011; Greco and Ghia, *Leonardo Ricci Monterinaldi/ Balmain/ Borghese*; Zambelli, "Buon Compleanno Leonardo (Ricci)", Berselli, "Fino al 26 Maggio a Firenze Una Mostra Presenta, Con Materiali in Gran Parte Inediti, Le Opere Dell'architetto Che Amava Definirsi Un 'Anonimo Del XX Secolo'".

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



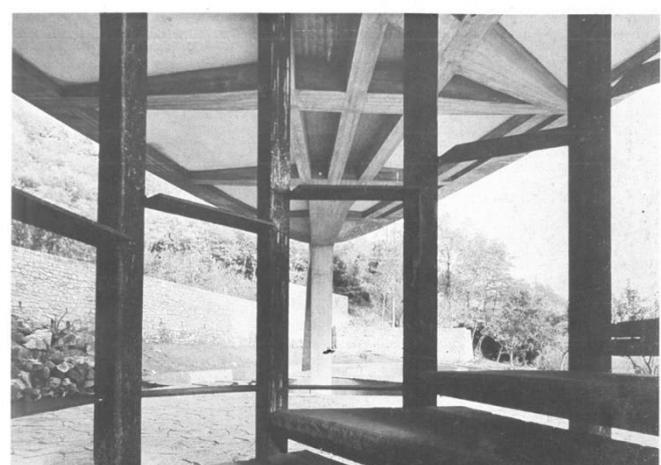
4.78: Leonardo Ricci, Balmain House, historical pictures of the building site, "Logbook" n.4 (1959-1963), page 160, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.79: Leonardo Ricci, Balmain House, historical pictures of external views and a view of the terrace, "Logbook" n.4 (1959-1963), page 162, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.80: Leonardo Ricci, Balmain House, side view, picture by Giuliano Gameliel, Casa Studio Ricci, published in Corinna Vasič Vatovec, published in Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista" (Firenze: Edifir, 2005), 122.

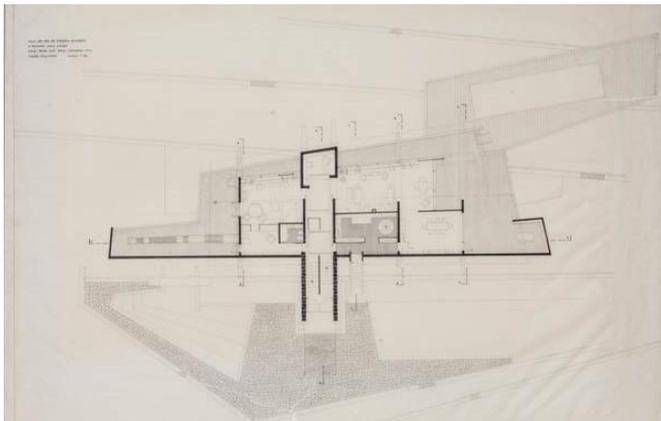


4.81: Leonardo Ricci, Balmain House, detail of the first slab with the reticular structure of the open living-room, picture by Giuliano Gameliel, published in Corinna Vasič Vatovec, Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista" (Firenze: Edifir, 2005), 123.

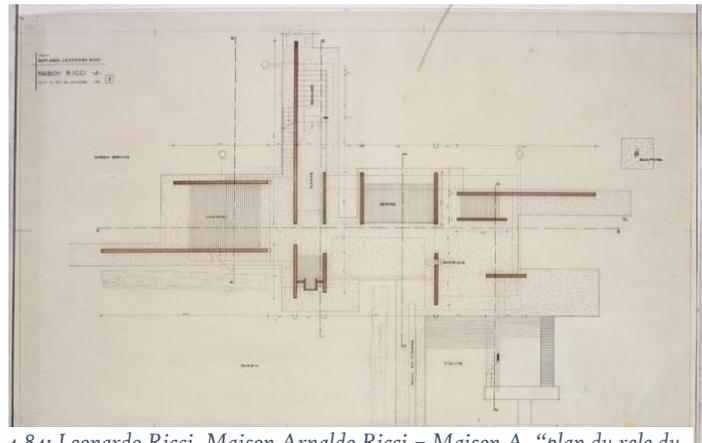
## Community

### Project for Pleydell Bouverie House: Marciana, Isola d'Elba (1958-1960)

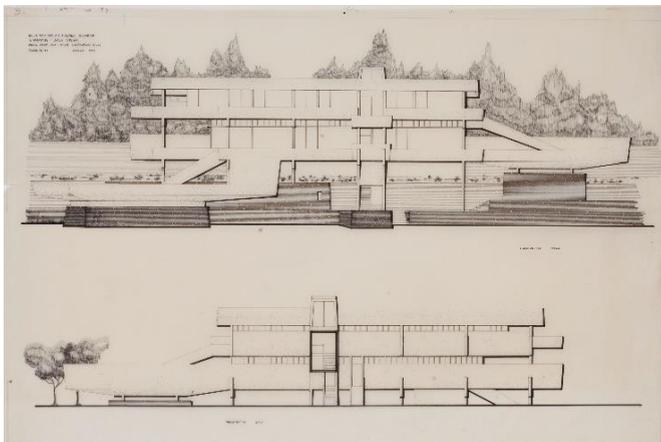
With the more famous houses of Mann Borgese and Balmain, Leonardo Ricci designed the house for Mrs. A.E. Pleydell-Bouverie, a friend of Mr. Balmain, who asked Ricci to design her house to be built near Balmain's one on the Island of Elba. Immediately after having received the commission, Ricci focused on the surrounding landscape: the north coast of the island of Elba. He then articulated the plan according to the landscape and Pleydell House's project resulted as a cascade of terraces that followed one another in a continuous movement in the act of freeing themselves in the landscape that surrounded the building. All the volumes were held together by stone walls, and, this structural action, typical in Ricci, allowed the house to be anchored to the mainland, without which the building's volumes gave the impression to take off towards the northern coast of the island. As in the house for his brother Arnaldo Ricci in Veyrier (Geneva, 1953), the body of the stairwell was imposing and placed perpendicular to the rest of the building. Leonardo Ricci built the caretaker's house of this project because the client chose to entrust the project to Luigi Vietti, considering Ricci's work too expensive<sup>106</sup>.



4.82: Leonardo Ricci, Project for Pleydell Bouverie House, plan of the living-room, scale 1:50, CSAC, B001085S.



4.84: Leonardo Ricci, Maison Arnaldo Ricci - Maison A, "plan du rele du chausser", CSAC, B001089S.



4.83: Leonardo Ricci, Project for Pleydell Bouverie House, elevations, scale 1:50, CSAC, B002002S.

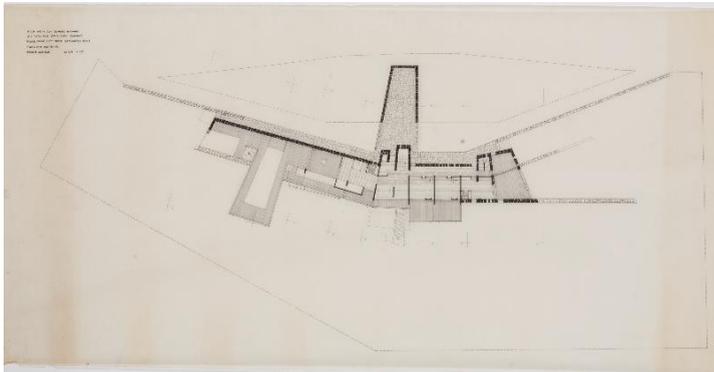
<sup>106</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 133-135.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

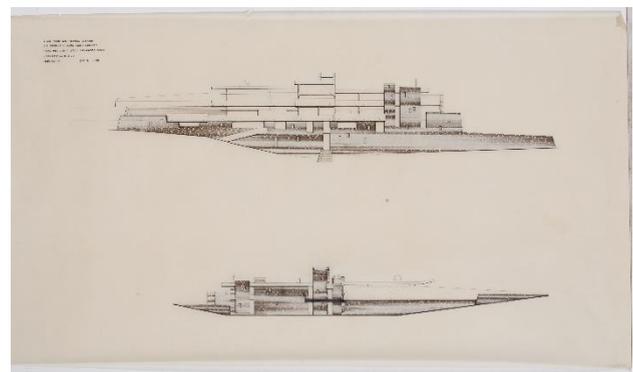
### Giannini House: Agro Romano, Rome (1963-1965)

Villa Giannini, built on the Via Aurelia in the Roman countryside for the lawyer and politician Massimo Severo Giannini, could be considered one of the projects in which Ricci's architectural theory and practice were most synthesized in the wake of other residential-themed interventions such as Monterinaldi, where the houses were strongly anchored to the ground on which they rested, becoming landscape architectures. Giannini House stood on a slope where the rough stone became the reference for the reinforced concrete structures that were grafted onto it and which constituted the overhanging terraces, including a large terrace-bridge on the back that dominated the composition. The architect preferred hewn stone also for the elevations, on which the light inevitably created very interesting "post-expressionist" effects.

The alternating use of the two main materials, reinforced concrete and rough stone, facilitated the construction of a landscape architecture, of a building that declared its belonging to the natural element with stone, used to constitute an irregular ashlar, consequently, a strong chiaroscuro effect, and the artificial element with reinforced concrete<sup>107</sup>.



4.85: Leonardo Ricci, Giannini House, plan, scale 1:100, CSAC, B038599S.



4.86: Leonardo Ricci, Giannini House, perspective, scale, 1:100, CSAC, B038598S.

### Project for Rossi House: Montepiano, Florence (1965)

In CSAC archive in Parma a large graphic corpus concerning the Montepiano settlement describes Ricci's project for Montepiano, a residential village Ricci designed from 1959 until the mid-Sixties after the success achieved by the village of Monterinaldi, in which he built his house (1949-1952)<sup>108</sup>. The house, designed for the nuclear physicist Bruno Rossi Ricci knew at M.I.T., was inserted in the general plan of the Montepiano settlement, but,

<sup>107</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 38.

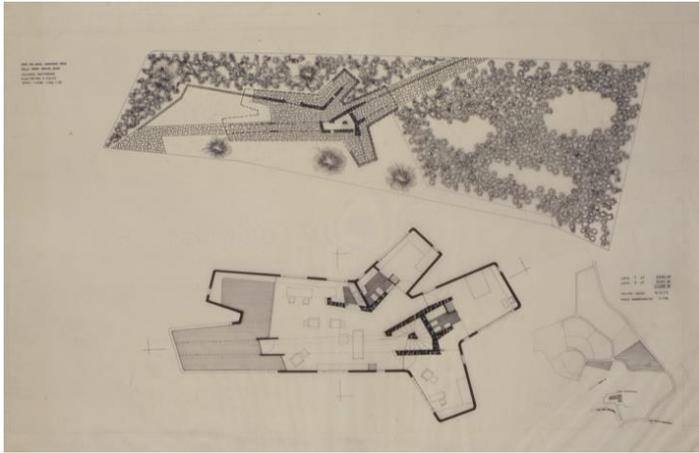
<sup>108</sup> Corinna Vasič Vatovec dedicated the sixth chapter of her monograph to Montepiano: Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 136-154.

## Community

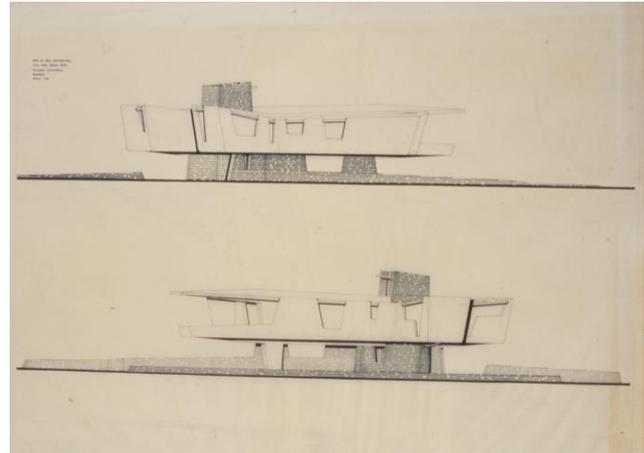
while the other houses in Montepiano rested on the ground, Casa Rossi was raised thanks to stone partitions that extended beyond the perimeter limits.

The House looked like a building that arose from the ground thanks to a tower-shaped body which pierced the attic beyond the perimeter of the house. The "stone tower" hosted the staircase, the epicenter of the entire space: a spiral staircase with a polygonal base from which all the rooms were generated, pushed by a centrifugal force that distributed them outwards in different directions. Such a plant allowed a spatial dynamism, reaching one of its highest expressions in this house.

The expressionist value of the project was achieved thanks to the distribution of the rooms in five different directions, immediately visible in the plan<sup>109</sup>.



4.87: Leonardo Ricci, Project for Rossi House, plans, scale 1:2000, 1:100, 1:50, CSAC, B001103S.



4.88: Leonardo Ricci, Project for Rossi House, elevations, scale 1:50, CSAC, B001102S.

### 6. Project for the Camera di Commercio of Carrara (1956)

In the Fifties Ricci worked also in Carrara and in the region of Liguria<sup>110</sup>. In 1956 Leonardo Ricci participated in the national competition for the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce of the municipality of Carrara and

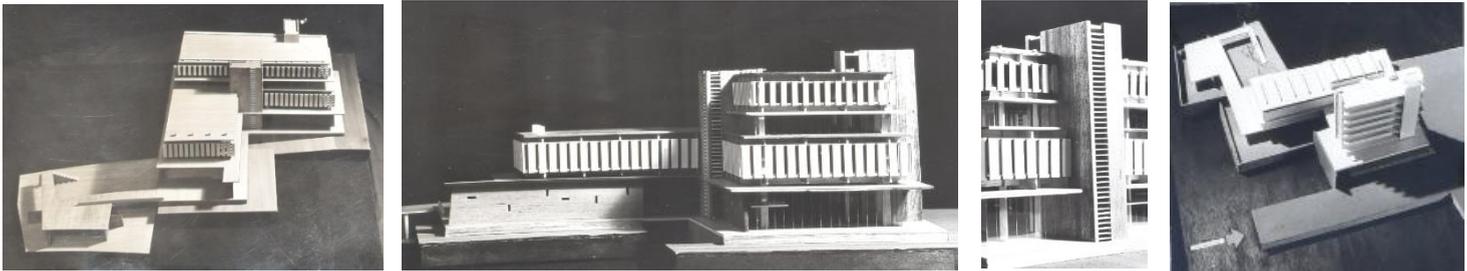
<sup>109</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 142-143.

<sup>110</sup> In Carrara Ricci realized a residential complex in Marina di Carrara (designed in 1955 and built in 1959), in 1955 he was also entrusted of the project for the never realized residential settlement in Montia (Carrara) and built a residential complex in Marina di Carrara, then he elaborated the executive project of Villa Nelli House in Massa Carrara. He designed and realized the interior design of three shops in Galleria in Carrara. In 1956 very interesting were the commercial and residential complex in Piazza Aranci in Massa Carrara and the tower house in Piazza Farini in Carrara (1956-1957), where he also realized the executive projects and built a series of private houses until 1957.

In Liguria in 1955 he received the appointment of the Skyscraper in Genova Brignole, for the urban plan of Albisola Marina and Superiore in Savona, for the executive project of Chigliotto House, for the urban plan and for the municipality see in Varazze. In 1956 Leonardo Ricci built the dwelling duplex house in Albisola Marina and Albisola Superiore (Savona, also

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

in the competition-contract for the Palazzo Comunale di Carrara. The project for the Chamber of Commerce consisted of a horizontal body representing the raised plate-square and two vertical turriform bodies hosting the stairs which together gave life to a volumetric composition typical of other projects by the architect, especially those related to the megastructural theme.



4.89, 4.90, 4.91, 4.92: Pictures of the model for the Commerce Chamber in Carrara, collected in the “Logbook” n. 3 (1956-1959), Casa Studio Ricci.

The different volumes were held together by those characteristic vertical elements Ricci also realized in the houses of Monterinaldi, in the bell tower of Agàpe or in the strong walls of the Goti factory, which anchored the building on the ground and balanced the volumes composition, merging their monumental and solid character, punctuated with a band of narrow windows, into a vibrant play with the wide horizontal windows of the volumes next to them, creating an alternance of full and empty volumes, and the panels of white Carrara marble under the chromatic point of view. Ricci honored the nature of the place, bringing the marble back into the building through the use of white marble panels as fixed elements of a flexible wall for an office and by sculpting an imposing spiral staircase with marble steps in the entrance hall access. The external elevations were finished with ordinary Carrara white blank marble, more used for the building’s edges and basement, and with perforated walls with the insertion of colored glass, in turn lightened by abstract graffiti, already present in some wall elements for the houses of the Monterinaldi Village.

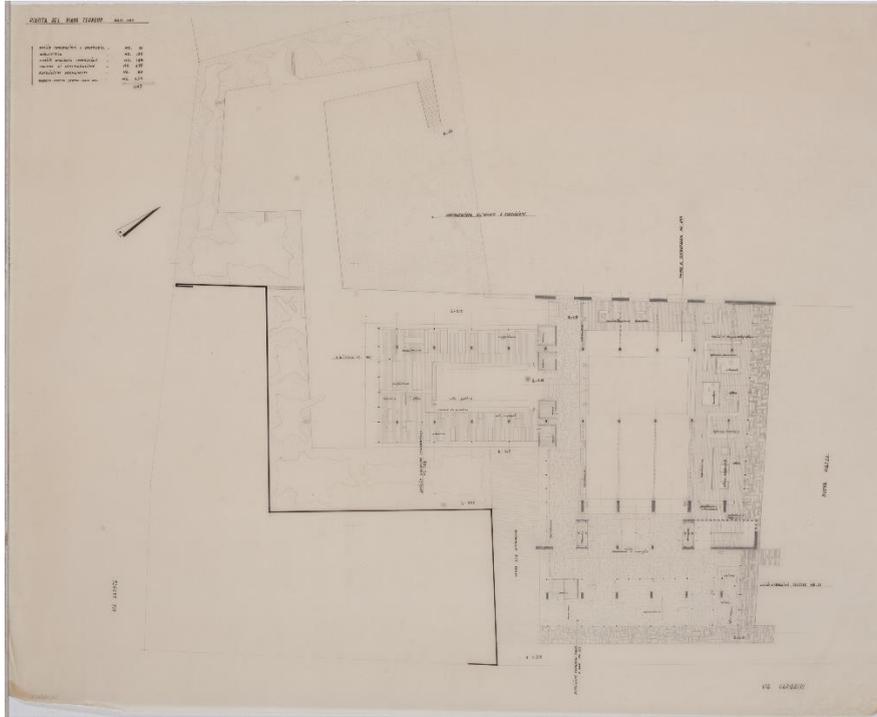
The general asymmetric plan hosting all the bodies of the building was conceived as a collective exchange space for the communication among its users. The drawings of the project show that Leonardo Ricci designed the interior spaces, where this idea of common working life was again predominant. For instance, in the hall of the building that recalled the huge clear spatial quality of his master Giovanni Michelucci’s projects, he inserted the open helical staircase that dominated the space and conveyed a sense of movement. The drawings also show a deep care in the finishing of surfaces as the internal walls of the main reunion room where an abstract composition was realized on panels<sup>iii</sup>.

---

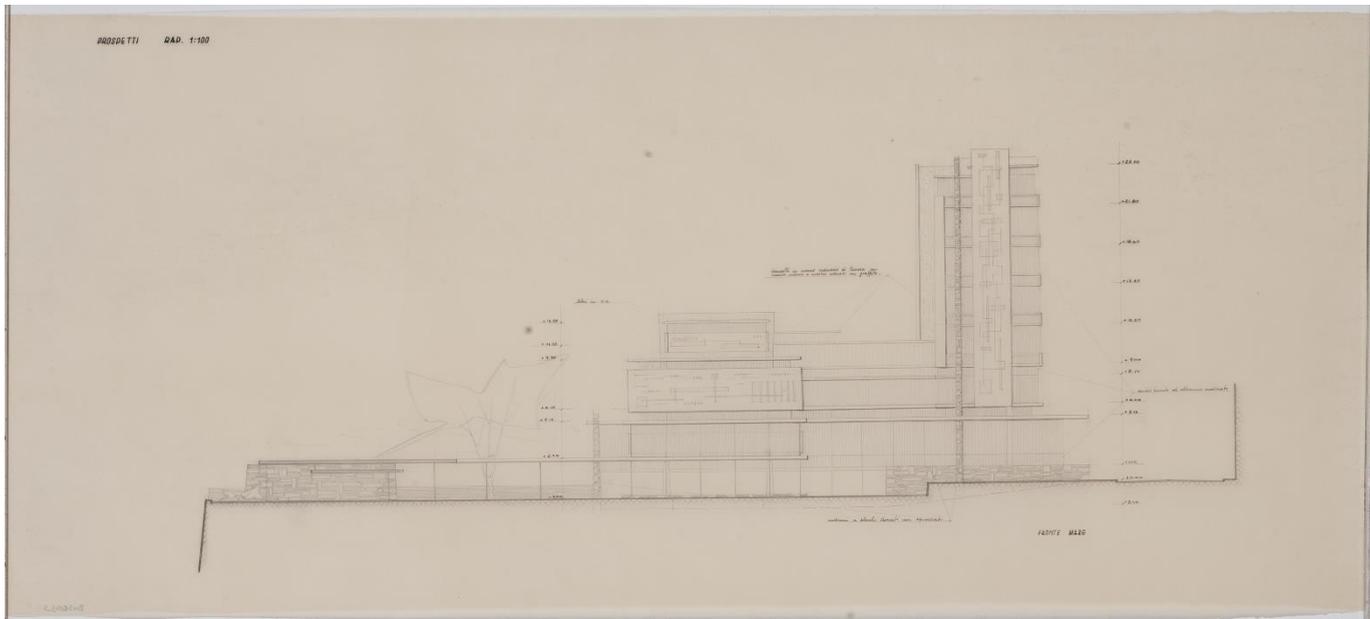
called “Pozzo Garitta” building), two minimal and duplex apartment buildings in Albisola Marina (Savona), then he was appointed to design the executive project for apartments and shops in Genova. See APPENDIX II “List of the Works”.

<sup>iii</sup> The only bibliographical reference for the Commerce Chamber in Carrara is Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto “esistenzialista”*, 31.

## Community



4.93: Leonardo Ricci, Ezio Bienaimè, Project for the Commerce Chamber in Carrara, ground floor plan, scale 1:100, CSAC, B038604S.

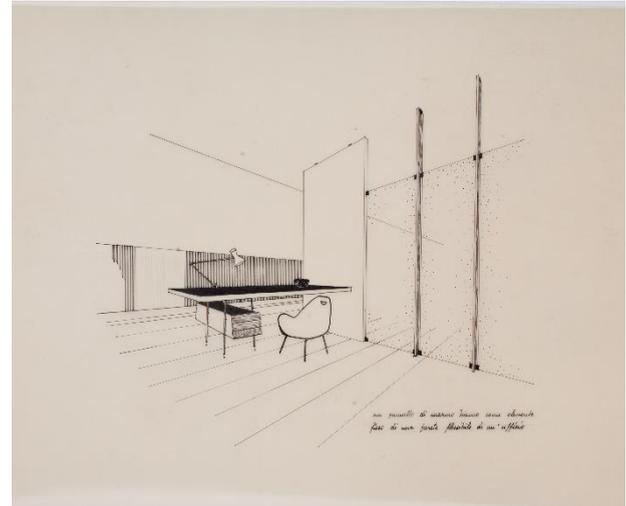


4.94: Leonardo Ricci, Ezio Bienaimè, Project for the Commerce Chamber in Carrara, elevation, scale 1:100, CSAC, B038605S.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.95: Leonardo Ricci, Project for the Commerce Chamber in Carrara, perspective sketch of the entrance hall, CSAC, Bo38607S.



4.96: Leonardo Ricci, Ezio Bienaimè, Project for the Commerce Chamber in Carrara, perspective sketch of the interior, a marble panel used as fix element of the glass wall, CSAC, Bo38606S.

In order to compare the project for the Commercial Chamber in Carrara with another unrealized project for an urban complex, it is worth describing briefly the multifunctional project for the skyscraper in Genova.

The project for the Brignole skyscraper was located between Piazza Verdi and Via San Vincenzo, it included commercial, hotel residential functions and offices. It was drawn up by Ricci with the architect Enzo Bienaimè and the engineer Gianfranco Petrelli in two versions, in both of which the compositional pivot was an office skyscraper in concrete, glass and steel 130 meters high. The tower body was inserted in a huge basement volume that hosted the tertiary activities.

While in the project of the Carrara Chamber of Commerce the difference in elevation between the main bodies and the lateral tower-shaped bodies was less evident and the latter vertical bodies allowed the balance of the composition, in the skyscraper project it was the base part that unified the composition. Therefore, in a way, the compositional balance was reached in a reversed way. While in the first version, represented by the model, the base part was divided into three distinct and connected volumes, in the second design version, visible in the drawings kept in Casa Studio Ricci, the basement is made up of a single body. The skyscraper in the first version looked like a superposition of floors, almost suspended thanks to the use of the curtain wall and internal pillars. In the second version, the high volume was defined by consistent corner solutions in reinforced concrete that defined its solid, more compact volume<sup>112</sup>.

<sup>112</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 32; Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci: testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 41.

## Community



4.97: Pictures of the model and of a drawing by Leonardo Ricci for the project for a building complex with skyscraper in Piazza Verdi in Genova Brignole, first version of the project (left), second version (right), pictures by Gianfranco Petrelli, published in Corinna Vasič Vatovec, Leonardo Ricci. *Achitetto "esistenzialista"* (Firenze: Edifir, 2005), 33.

4.98: Leonardo Ricci, *Perspective drawing of the project for a building complex with skyscraper in Piazza Verdi in Genova Brignole, second version of the project, Casa Studio Ricci.*

### 7. "La Casa Abitata" Exhibition set-up, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, 1965.

In the Spring of 1965, from March 6 to May 2, the first edition of the exhibition entitled "La Casa Abitata: biennale degli interni di oggi" ["The Inhabited House: biennial of today's interiors"] was inaugurated. The organizing committee formed by Giovanni Michelucci, in the role of president, Domenico Benini, Tommaso Ferraris and Pierluigi Spadolini, proposed as main exhibition theme the interior living of a house, since the subject was increasingly moving away from the interests of architecture and urban planning, more concentrated on the metropolitan dimension rather than on the private life of man and on the human «right to sociality, to ethics, to the need for community factors<sup>113</sup>». The theme of living the inside of a house and its possible configurations had to be reexamined in function of the mass culture, of the industrial and technological society. «It was a question of seeing how, in the current average living situation, from the assumption of pre-established data (the supply of the market, pre-existing rooms, etc.) it [was] possible to achieve a solution that [allowed] those who [lived] in a house to really live it. They [the architects] were asked for directions, suggestions, interpretations of today's way of life<sup>114</sup>».

Some of the most qualified Italian architects were called to answer, including Leonardo Ricci, Leonardo Savioli, Giovanni Bassi, Carlo De Carli<sup>115</sup>, Achille e Pier Giacomo Castiglioni, Marco Zanuso, Angelo Mangiarotti, Luigi

<sup>113</sup> Mario Miccinesi, "Una mostra a Firenze: La Casa Abitata", *Rivista dell'arredamento*, no. 130 (1965): 9-29.

<sup>114</sup> Miccinesi, "Una mostra a Firenze: La Casa Abitata", 10.

<sup>115</sup> Carlo De Carli designed the introductory hall of the exhibition dedicated to the "Liberty" and to the living solutions it suggested for the contemporary living.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Moretti, Vico Magistretti, Edoardo Gellner, Eduardo Vittoria, Giovanni Bassi, Gregotti Meneghetti Stoppino. They were not asked to provide definite solutions but to think and propose solutions that would have welcomed the spontaneous flow of family life and its continuous change. The interior architecture proposals had to host the spontaneous and autonomous variability and modification that reflected the trend of psychological, social and economic changes of the inhabitants of an average house. Besides, the house could be defined as “inhabited” when it allowed the “sentimental stratification” of life. The proposals could concern possible interventions on pre-established spaces or new integrated spaces, that was «constituting an 'open formativity', capable of reciprocal, lively and usable relationship between the various elements that [made] up the house<sup>16</sup>». If the first edition of the exhibition aimed at formulating those proposals, the second one had to focus on the relations.

Giovanni Michelucci exposed the problem of the “inhabited house” in his introductory speech, giving to the problem a high cultural value. To Michelucci the theme reconnected the social, human, architectural and urban dimensions because every solution proposed, if inserted in a city, could lead the city towards the definition of a precise form. The theme, according to Michelucci, was stigmatized in the relationship between architect-population and among the habitat-city-metropolis, starting from the small to the large scale<sup>17</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci's contribution intended to promote the idea of a «continuous architecture, which [took] place outside the usual concept of closed form, but in that of open format, according to the dynamic needs, of choice, which [allowed] new relationships between living and other human acts such as working, educating, moving around, the integration of a single organism open to all functions that [were] sectorially separated, in an architecture on an urban scale<sup>18</sup>». The project presented by Leonardo Ricci looked as a detached cell of the already described macrostructure for an integrated city, the model elaborated with the students of Pennsylvania State University in the same year, and presented at the Montréal Expo two years later.

Almost perfectly following the words of the master Michelucci on the exhibition, Ricci described his proposal as a possible model to be inserted in a macrostructure, in which all the housing units and services had to be distributed in such a way as to be easily accessible both in the vertical and horizontal direction.

Within Ricci's “livable space for two people” any user could have been the interior designer of his own house in order to allow life to develop according to elementary needs, once freed from all the unnecessary. Indeed, the exhibition regulations assigned an area from twenty-five to thirty-five square meters to the exhibiting architects, as the minimal existence rational cells, and it wanted to offer an alternative model of “Existenz Minimum”. The habitat model proposed by Ricci was a sculptural envelope in which there were no internal partitions, but the shape followed the hypothetical flow of human actions inside, thinking of a limited internal space connected to an open space outside the cell, without rooms. Ricci called his model “form-space”, it was in “cantinella” wood, suspended from the floor by means of small and low stone walls as those on which Ricci's houses were also suspended. The prototype was in real scale and accompanied by the architect's sketches. It effectively suggested a unique “form-space” derived from the inhabitants' possible movements and could change thanks to moving

---

<sup>16</sup> Miccinesi, “Una mostra a Firenze: La Casa Abitata”, 11.

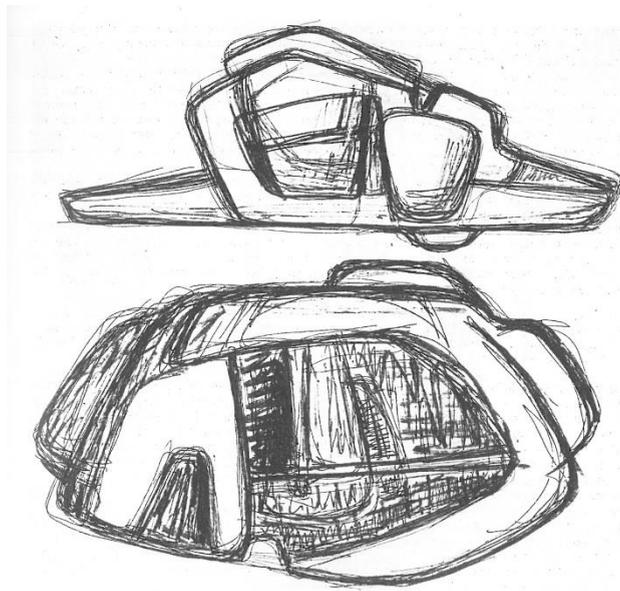
<sup>17</sup> Miccinesi, “Una mostra a Firenze: La Casa Abitata”, 12.

<sup>18</sup> Ricci's report about his project was published in Miccinesi, “Una mostra a Firenze: La Casa Abitata”, 13.

## Community

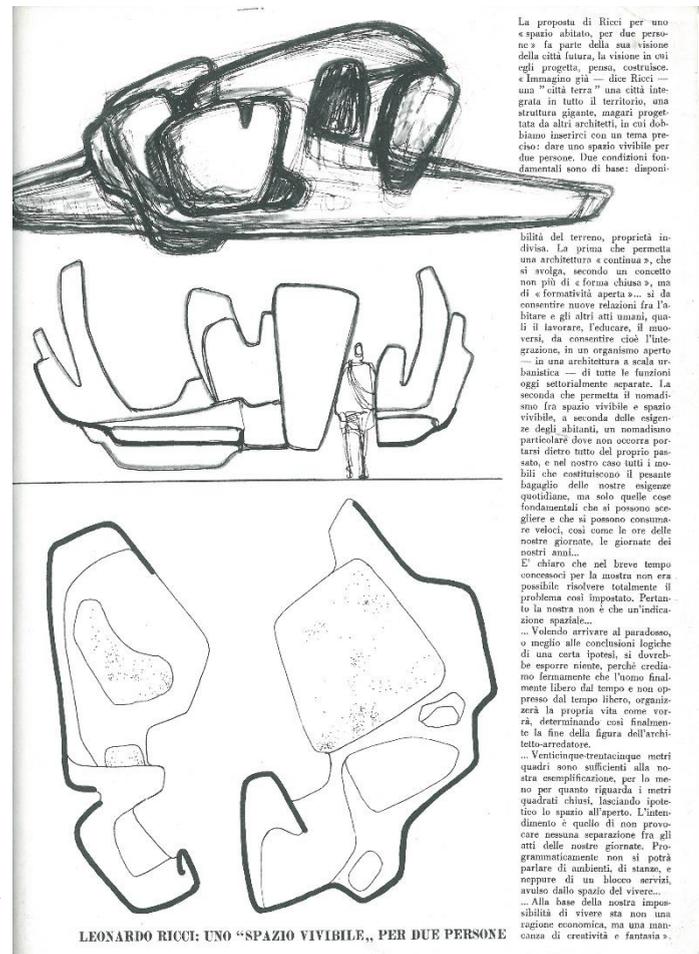
elements. The model embraced the fundamental principle of variability both in the way of life and in the use of different materials and colors.

It could be made industrially or by hand, designed for a certain form of industrialization or used independently of structures. The fixed furniture was integrated into the space itself and shaped with the organic external shell, while the moving elements could be varied and could differentiate the interior<sup>119</sup>.



4.99: Leonardo Ricci, sketch for the “form-space” model, “Spazio vivibile per due persone”, realized for the “La Casa Abitata” exhibition, Casa Studio Ricci.

4.100 - 4.101: Leonardo Ricci, sketches and picture of the model for the “form-space” model, “Spazio vivibile per due persone”, realized for the “La Casa Abitata” exhibition, published in Lara Vinca Masini and Agnoldomenico Pica, “Intenti e Aspetti Della Mostra “La Casa Abitata”. Leonardo Ricci Uno “Spazio Vivibile” per Due Persone. La Casa Abitata: Arredamenti Di Quindici Architetti Italiani, La Mostra a Firenze, Palazzo Strozzi, Dal 6 Marzo al 2 Maggio”, *Domus*, no. 426 (May 1965): 55, 56.



<sup>119</sup> The complete bibliography on the Exhibition “La Casa Abitata” is:

Lara Vinca Masini, “Mostra Della Casa Abitata a Firenze”, *Marcatrè*, no. 16-17-18 (1965): 215-17; Lara Vinca Masini and Agnoldomenico Pica, “Intenti e Aspetti Della Mostra “La Casa Abitata”. Leonardo Ricci Uno “Spazio Vivibile” per Due Persone. La Casa Abitata: Arredamenti Di Quindici Architetti Italiani, La Mostra a Firenze, Palazzo Strozzi, Dal 6 Marzo al 2 Maggio”, *Domus*, no. 426 (May 1965): 29-56; Miccinesi, “Una Mostra a Firenze: La Casa Abitata”, 9-29; Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto “esistenzialista”*, 39.



4.102 - 4.103: Leonardo Ricci, pictures of the bronze model for the "form-space" model, "Spazio vivibile per due persone", realized for the "La Casa Abitata" exhibition, Casa Studio Ricci.

### 8. Italian Pavillion of the International Exposition in Montréal of 1967: Montréal, Canada, 1967.

In the Sixties Montréal was a metropolis more advanced than those in the United States, with underground paths and with an underground network that heralded the urban macro-structure. Montréal had continuous spaces and was a sort of the integrated town wished by Leonardo Ricci, with streets that connected the different services and functions at various heights. Therefore, the Montréal Exposition became part of a modern urban fabric after a period of demographic and cultural increase. As Bruno Zevi observed, the Modern Movement began ten years earlier, but only at the end of the Sixties it began to be present on the Canadian territory with the Toronto City Hall, the Vancouver campus, and the Scarborough College in Toronto, in which university bodies unified and homogeneous systems for interdisciplinary teaching were built<sup>120</sup>.

The setting of the Exposition opened on 400 hectares obtained by expanding the islands of St. Helen and Notre Dame, cramming the Saint Lawrence River 20 million tons. It was thus possible to put this space in communication with the inhabited area, but not to guarantee rapid and efficient communications.

The theme of the exposition was "la terre des hommes", on which each nation worked freely on its own pavilions.

---

<sup>120</sup> According to Zevi the Italian pavillion was a success, whereas nine out of ten pavilions of the Exposition ignored the exhibition material and the gap between inside and outside, they were containers, anonymous boxes that did not communicate a message and that could contain anything. According to him, among the presented projects, the U.S.A. with Buckminster Fuller's "bubble", 57 m high and 76 m in diameter were worthy of attention, then «the German one and the Gyroton of the recreation area, the Dutch aluminum cage, the Israeli jewelry box, the wooden interlacing transplanted into concrete of the Japan, the multi-pyramidal camp of Ontario, because they [were] recoverable piece by piece». Bruno Zevi, "Il duemila a Montréal/L'Expo '67 vale per l'habitat di Safdie", *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Architettura* (Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1970), 419-438.

## Community

One year before the exposition, planned for April, 1967, it seemed that Italy had to give up and no Italian pavillion could be realized because there were nor funds nor a project. In 1963 the Canadian government had sent the official invitation to Italy reserving an area of about one hectare for the Italian pavilion, but the Italian government did not arrange any organizing commission until February, 1967. The commission was composed of some eminent Italian intellectuals: Giulio Carlo Argan, Bruno Zevi, Michele Guido Franci, Vincenzo, Fausto and Lucio Passarelli<sup>121</sup>.

Canada was going to entrust the land to another state, when a directive of the Foreign Ministry indicated to provide a modest, inexpensive pavilion covering a total expense of two billion lire. The pavillion had to respect the purposed general theme and had to develop into three main themes: three different settings at human scale. The horizontal dimension had to be preferred and the three themes could be represented in their connections, dialogues and eventual clash.

The exposition had to underline the countries' values of the past, their ways of life or customs, the following process of industrialization and its impact on human life.

For the Italian pavillion the problem was to find the architects and artists that could best express these differentiated and partly contradictory components of Italian development and to design the setting up in a short time. According to Bruno Zevi it was immediatly excluded to use symbols or *a priori* linguistic choices by choosing one single architect or artist, since one person could not represent the whole complexity of Italian culture<sup>122</sup>. Therefore, many authors were chosen: the Italian pavilion for the Montréal Expo was designed by Leonardo Ricci, Carlo Scarpa and Bruno Munari. It consisted of the customs section, designed by Leonardo Ricci, the poetry section by Carlo Scarpa, and the progress section by Bruno Munari.

In order to signal the triparted system of the pavillion from the outside, three works of art overcame the problem of fragmenting the building and marked the three sections respectively: a ceramic casting by Leoncillo announced the material virulence of Ricci's pole, a sphere by Arnaldo Pomodoro answered the pole of poetry by Scarpa with an original by Donatello hovering on the Pierfrancescano floor of Urbino and a composition with metallic bands by Cosimo Carlucci dominated the outside. The three sections that used different expressive languages were unified and interconnected by the projections of light and color studied by Emilio Vedova who designed the central path, where the meeting of the three sections and themes happened in a "clash of situations". To design a unifying element it was necessary create an architecture-light and color capable of transmitting anguish and joy. In a long contracted spatial gut, pressed by the three sectors, Emilio Vedova projected dramatic visions of "plurimi" allowing the pavilion to speak before the displays were assembled<sup>123</sup>.

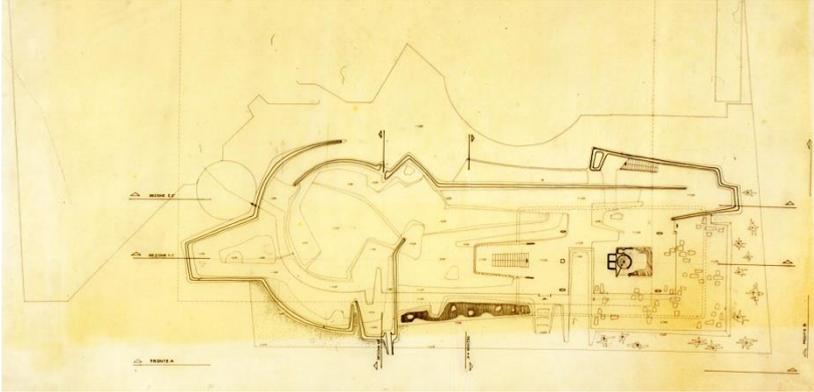
---

<sup>121</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 40.

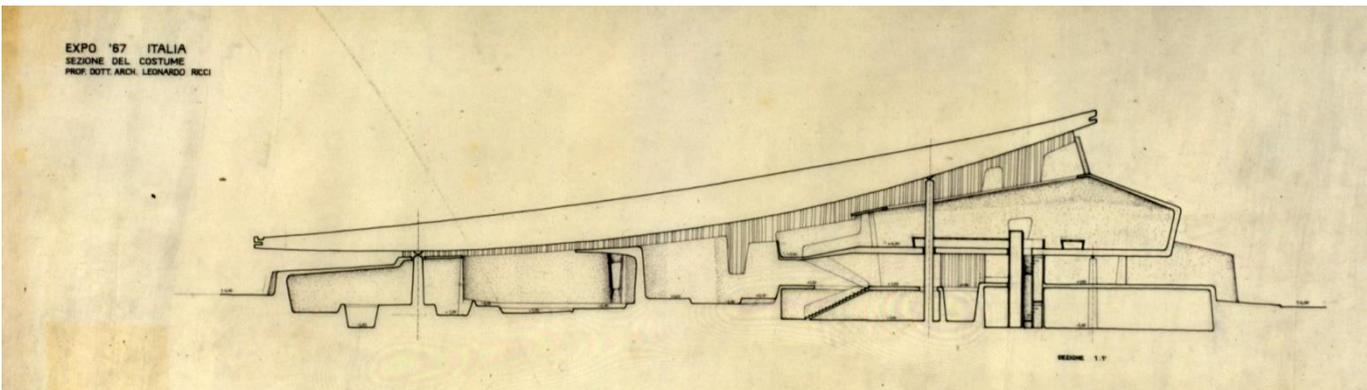
<sup>122</sup> Zevi, "Il duemila a Montréal/L'Expo '67 vale per l'habitat di Safdie".

<sup>123</sup> In addition to the quoted sources, on the project: Umberto Eco, ed., *Autoritratto dell'Italia* (Milano: Bompiani, 1967); Giulio Carlo Argan, "Expo universale '67 a Montréal: il padiglione italiano", *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 141 (luglio 1967): 147-165; Zevi, "Il Padiglione italiano all'Expo '67 di Montréal", 147-175; Bruno Zevi, "L'Italia all'Expo Universale 1967 di Montréal", *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 141 (luglio 1967): 142-44; Bruno Zevi, "The Architect's Expo", in *Progressive Architecture*, no. 47 (6) (1967); Bruno Zevi, "Architecture 1967: progress or regression?", in *Man and his world* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1968); Reyner Banham, *Le tentazioni dell'architettura. Megastrutture* (Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1980), 115-142; Giovanni Bartolozzi, "Allestimenti come concentrazioni di materia", in *Leonardo Ricci 100. Scrittura, pittura e architettura*, 164-165.

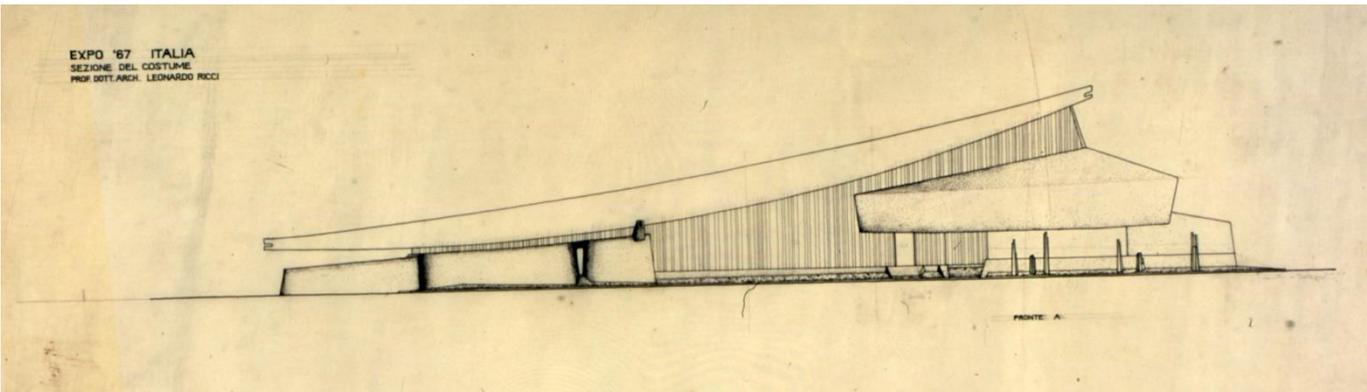
## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.104: Leonardo Ricci, Italian Pavilion at the Exposition in Montréal of 1967, "Customs section", plan, CSAC, B038520S.



4.105: Leonardo Ricci, Italian Pavilion at the Exposition in Montréal of 1967, "Customs section", section 1-1', CSAC, B038522S.



4.106: Leonardo Ricci, Italian Pavilion at the Exposition in Montréal of 1967, "Customs section", elevation A, CSAC, B038521S.

## Community

The first pole had to represent the poetry, art, and the historic values as references for the contemporary man, the second section concerned the conditions of life through the centuries, the social struggles, and the conflicts between the people and the power of the ruling classes, while the third section focused on attempts to transform the country into a modern community<sup>124</sup>.

The costume section followed a program designed by Umberto Eco and re-proposed the stages of Italian history from the Etruscan civilization to the Resistance building an itinerary of historical "stations", completely and precisely explained in the volume *Autoritratto dell'Italia*<sup>125</sup>.

The many existing photos and archive drawings show how Ricci, with the collaboration of Enzo Beinaimè, had translated the neo-expressionist forms already experimented in the Expressionism and in "La Casa Abitata" exhibitions, thus placing himself in contrast with the sections by Scarpa and Munari. Ricci entrusted the narration to different "stations", sculpted as rough plastered cavities, which featured large material descending from above, also defined "stalactites". Ricci's project proposed an informal path studded with metal installations, projecting and concave, strongly volumetric, and material parts. The path was also dotted with totemic installations that were born and merged with the ground, becoming an integral part of it.

The project reached a great success both with critics and with the public and the approval of The mayor of Montréal, who, after having visited it, asked the minister Giovanni Luciolli, general secretary of the police station, to work to make it permanent.

Leonardo Ricci supervised the whole project of the pavilion, he also designed the raised restaurant on the first floor and the sculptural staircase.

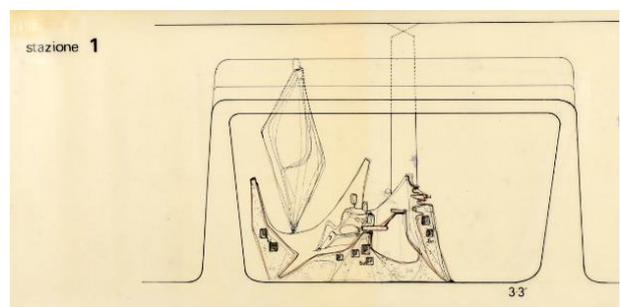
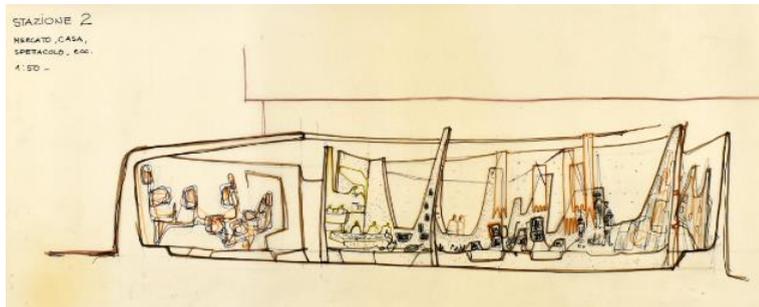
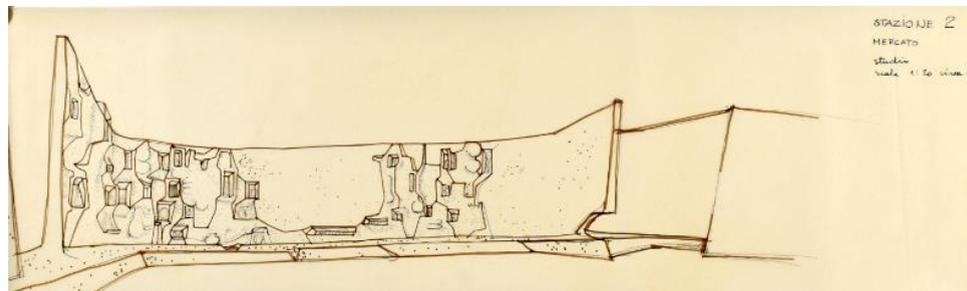
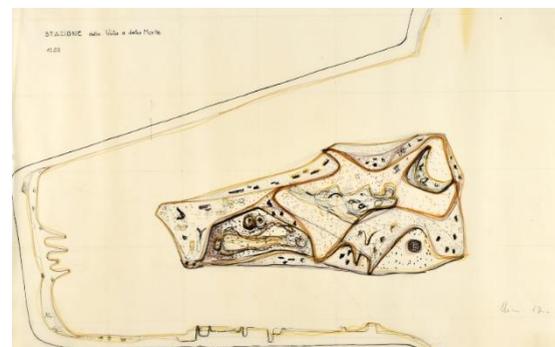
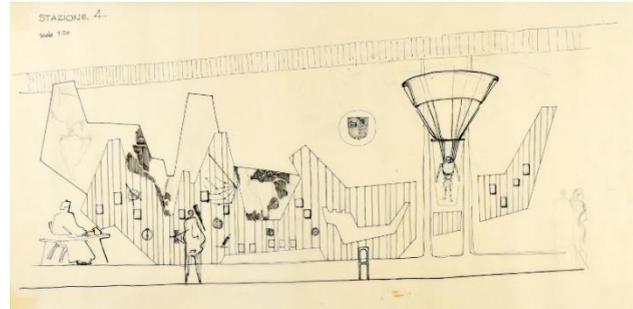
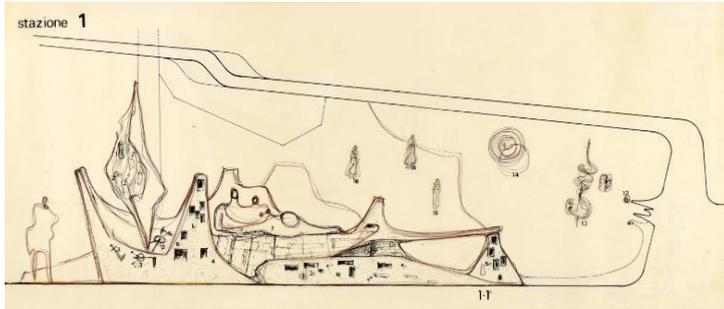


4.107 – 4.108: Pictures of the model of the Italian Pavilion at the Exposition in Montréal of 1967, Casa Studio Ricci.

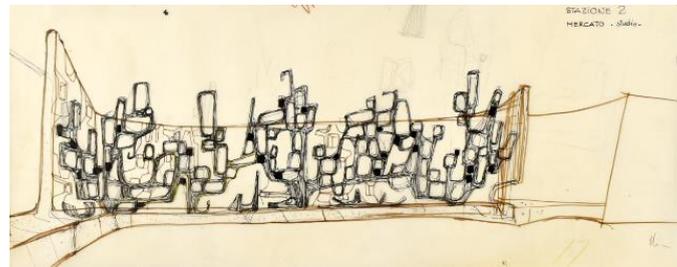
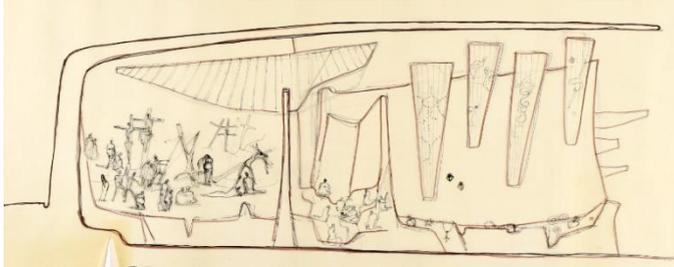
<sup>124</sup> Zevi, "Il Padiglione Italiano all'Expo di Montréal/Scontro di situazioni in tre volti", *L'Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Architettura* vol. VI, 263-265.

<sup>125</sup> Eco, *Autoritratto dell'Italia*.

# Leonardo Ricci in the United States



## Community



4.109, 4.110, 4.111, 4.112, 4.113, 4.114, 4.115, 4.116, 4.117, 4.118: Leonardo Ricci, drawings of the “stations” for the “Customs section”, Casa Studio Ricci

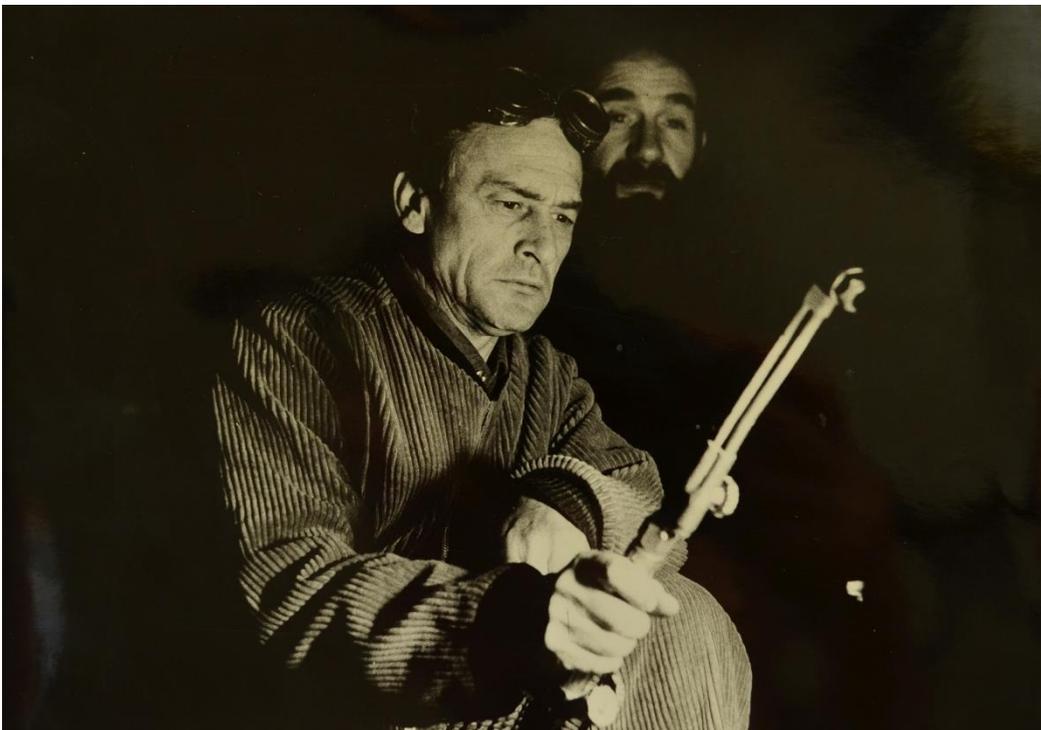


4.119: Italian Pavilion at the Exposition in Montréal of 1967, picture of the building site, Casa Studio Ricci.



4.120: Leonardo Ricci in the building site during the construction of the Italian Pavilion, Exposition of Montréal of 1967, Casa Studio Ricci.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



4.121 - 4.122: Leonardo Ricci working on the building site of the Italian Pavilion of the Exhibition of Montréal of 1967, Casa Studio Ricci.

## 5. Megastructure

### 5.1. The architectural debate in the U.S.A. in the Sixties, the birth of Megastructures and the international planning theories.

We must invent and build *ex novo* our modern cities like an immense and tumultuous shipyard, active, mobile, and everywhere dynamic, and the modern building like a gigantic machine<sup>1</sup>.

The Italian Futurist Antonio Sant'Elia wrote this in his *Messaggio* in 1914, but the real reasoning on megastructures became possible in the 1960s. The word megastructure was a colloquial word used by Fumihiko Maki in his lectures when he taught at the School of Architecture at Washington University from 1956 to 1963 and it had already been used in 1962 by Charles W. Moore during one of his lectures at Yale University.

1964 was defined the mega-year<sup>2</sup>, when, after the first experiments on the mega-dimension, the Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki wrote the first definition of megastructure: «A large frame in which all the functions of a city or part of a city are housed. It has been made possible by present day technology. [...] Inherent in the megastructure concept, along with a certain static nature, is the suggestion that many and diverse functions may beneficially be concentrated in one place. A large frame implies some utility in combination and concentration of function<sup>3</sup>».

After the exhibition “Visionary Architecture” at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, from September 29 to December 4, 1960<sup>4</sup>, the corpus of ideas related to the concept of Macrostructure was fixed by articles published in *Bauen+Wohnen* and in *Architectural Forum*, where, since 1962, terms as mega town appeared and new forces, active in that direction, as Archigram, were published and emerged. Some megastructures were going to be built, two were already realized. Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design wrote in the exhibition press release that he “Visionary Architecture” Exhibition was an «exhibition of 20th century projects considered too revolutionary to build [...] More than 30 ideas for cities on and over water and under the ground, for buildings that incorporate roads and roads that incorporate buildings, for factories and for houses designed for this country and abroad are shown in enlarged photographs and models<sup>5</sup>». Drexler selected the pieces to show with the aim of suggesting what those projects had to teach to have more useful critical standards on visionary solutions and to understand the reflection on a «concern for urgent social and economical

---

<sup>1</sup> Antonio Sant'Elia's *Messaggio* from the catalogue of his *Città Nuova* exhibition, 1914, quoted in Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Sources of Modern Architecture and Design* (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, Inc., 1968), 198.

<sup>2</sup> Banham, *Megastructure: Urban Futures of the Recent Past*.

<sup>3</sup> For a complete definition of megastructure by Fumihiko Maki: Fumihiko Maki, *Investigations in Collectives Form* (Washington University: St. Louis, 1964), 8-13.

<sup>4</sup> To read the press release of the exhibition and to see the photos: <https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/2554> (last accessed October 28, 2020).

<sup>5</sup> Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum Department of Architecture and Design, press release of the exhibition, 1.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

problems that offered radical new solutions for transportation and land use. In that way vision and reality could have found a connection<sup>6</sup>».

In 1963 Frances E. Coughlin, the Director of the United States Information Service in Florence, wrote to Leonardo Ricci to invite him to take part in the Italian session of the itinerant exhibition “Visionary Architecture” arranged for December of the same year, after its session in Belgrad. The exhibition was to be held in La Strozzi Gallery and then continued in Rome, Genoa, and Israel<sup>7</sup>. The United States Information Service asked Ricci to prepare an introductory lecture at the inauguration of the exhibition on December 19 relating to the theme of visionary architecture to be part of the event promoted by an American Institute. The contact between the United States Information Service in Florence and Ricci happened again thanks to Elizabeth Mann Borgese<sup>8</sup>. Leonardo Ricci accepted Mrs Coughlin invitation, because the invitation card of the inauguration is kept in Casa Studio Ricci, but there is no trace of Ricci’s speech typescript.

Taking a step behind to 1959, when Dean Pietro Belluschi convened Leonardo Ricci with Lewis Mumford and Paul Nelson, Kenzo Tange published the project for Boston Harbor, designed with his students at M.I.T., which is considered the first authentic megastructure, one year before the megastructural masterpiece project for the Tokyo Bay (1960)<sup>9</sup>. Those projects arose from the theoretical field and became the megastructural founding project for Metabolism and for French and Italian schools, disconnected teams at a first glance, but melted in a single school of Megastructure after 1964. Therefore, Ricci got in contact with megastructural issues on the occasion of his first transfer to the United States, and his projects, worked in the Sixties with his American and

---

<sup>6</sup> «Le Corbusier's plan for a road which is itself a building; Kiyonori Kikutake's city built over water which could be cultivated for food; Buckminster Fuller's dome to shelter Manhattan Island; and Paolo Soleri's tubular concrete bridge which eliminates ascending and descending roads. Other projects such as William Katavolos' proposal for chemical architecture suggests new forms for new material, while Louis Kahn's Philadelphia line center suggests a new solution for street and parking problems. Frederick Kiesler's Endless House, shown in an 8 feet model and in life-size photo murals of the interior develops the surface of the building as a twisting, continuously curved ribbon wrapped around itself. Paul Nelson's "suspended house," designed in 1938, is also shown in a scale model as is Reginald Malcolmson's Metro-Linear city I project, which organizes a community along the axes of a heed. Among the forms created by these architects are great cone-shaped structures, glass pyramids, concrete bowls, mushroom-shaped houses, spirals and a building shaped like a flight of steps. They range in date from the 20s to the present. In addition, an historical Introduction includes work by Leonardo de Vinci, Piranesi and other architects of the past some of whose visions have proved prophetic». The exhibition was adapted for a travelling show and a major book by Arthur Drexler was published by the Museum of Modern Art. Press release of the Museum of Modern Art, September 29, 1960, 1, source: [https://assets.moma.org/documents/moma\\_press-release\\_326200.pdf?ga=2.221829400.1093098411.1603957859-1289831711.1603834957](https://assets.moma.org/documents/moma_press-release_326200.pdf?ga=2.221829400.1093098411.1603957859-1289831711.1603834957) (last accessed October 28, 2020).

<sup>7</sup> See Silvia Massa and Elena Pontelli, eds., “*Mostre permanenti*”: *Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti in un secolo di esposizioni* (Lucca: Lucca Edizioni Fondazione Ragghianti Studi sull'arte Lucca, 2018), 243, 244.

<sup>8</sup> Letters by Frances E. Coughlin, the Director of the United States Information Service in Florence to Ricci, November 8, and December 24, 1963, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>9</sup> Even before the megastructuralist current was set in motion, Tange had produced what was to become the movement's masterpiece in the Tokyo Bay: an urban structure that extended the center of Tokyo by eighteen kilometers across the bay, distributing housing structures on the water, connected to the main connecting axis thanks to highway systems. In this way, Japan became the main reference for visionary architects and urban planners of the 1960s. Banham, *Megastructure: Urban Futures of the Recent Past*, 51.

## Megastructure

Italian students mirror the definitions of “megastructure” given in the following years<sup>10</sup>, which permeated Ricci’s projects of the Seventies and Eighties.

Megastructures were born when the historical awareness spread out among modern architects’ knowledge: all the innovations were justified by architects with a historical preceding example, and, therefore, as Reyner Banham noticed, they were historically positioned either in a changing period (post-Mies van der Rohe) or in a non-changing period (since Ponte Vecchio)<sup>11</sup>. According to Banham’s vision, the most important reference for megastructures could be traced in Florence, Leonardo Ricci’s town, where Ponte Vecchio was the symbol of a not intentionally built megastructure before 1966, and in his master Giovanni Michelucci’s theories about “La Nuova Città” (“The New Town”).

In 1964 Leonardo Ricci was thinking of a new way of teaching architecture and was going to begin his teaching experience as research professor in urban design at Pennsylvania State University, because urban design seemed to be the architectural exercise able to overcome the gap between the single building and its decomposing urban contest, to stand opposite to the un-ruled spreading of the statistic town without focal centres. Ricci confirmed Banham’s idea in a way, stating that his visionary thinking of megastructures began in Florence several years after his American teaching experience, in an interview by Paola Venturi published in the book *La Pianificazione organica come piano della vita?* [“Organic Planning as a plan for life?”]<sup>12</sup>, when he was asked about his idea of organic planning. He shaped his view on planning in the immediate postwar period and in his mind the megastructural projects began with the projects of the bridges when he was thinking of a total planning, of the town and, most of all, of the way of life:

Now when we saw those open spaces on the river, it was truly a joy to see how the river could acquire new meaning with people; therefore, this Florence that defended itself from the river could instead create an osmosis with this river, so much so that my project seems to me that it was called “Florence on the river”. In short, it was the model of existence that was different, totally different from the previous one. Since then, we conceived the whole spine of via Guicciardini, Ponte Vecchio, the two pieces of Lungarno and the piece of Porta Santa Maria a single megastructure, which instead of being a sum of a series of elements it consisted in a single reality in which the production space, the social space, the living space, could be organic, integrated. It was worked so that everything could become a system, and thinking also of the single example of the Lord, at the time of the Medici, there was a whole system that from Palazzo della Signoria across the bridge, through the Uffizi, through the Vasari Corridor that passed over Ponte Vecchio and arrived at Palazzo Pitti: that was a

---

<sup>10</sup> Fumihiko Maki defined the “Mega-structure” as «a man-made feature of the landscape. It [was] like the great hill on which Italian towns were built», an artificial element realized thanks to contemporary technology, but he also quoted his master Kenzo Tange when he stated that it was a shape at mass humanity scale which could have included a “Mega-shape” and discrete functional units. These could have changed rapidly and in them a wider structure could have been inserted. Maki, *Investigations in Collective Forms*, 8-10.

Four years later Ralph Wilcoxon introduced his Megastructure Bibliography with a useful definition of megastructures: it was described not only as a big structure but also as a structure frequently realized with modular units, able of an unlimited increase, a structural framework in which minor prefabricated units could be built, provided with a longer life than the minor units it supports. Ralph Wilcoxon, *Council of Planning Librarians Exchange Bibliography* (Monticello, 1968).

<sup>11</sup> Banham, *Megastructure: Urban Futures of the Recent Past*, 10, 11.

<sup>12</sup> Paola Venturi, “Parlando nel 1978”, in *La Pianificazione organica come piano della vita?* [“Organic Pianification as a plan for life?”], 349-386.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

unitary urban system, which also connected heterogeneous urban elements, therefore also from a conceptual and aesthetic point of view it was modern. We wanted to do this no longer on the private level of the Lord of the Medici, but on the city level; that is, from Porta Santa Maria, from the Porcellino fountain, up to Palazzo Pitti, this urban, megastructural system could be created that integrated the whole city with all the activities, which allowed, therefore, an absolutely new Florence<sup>13</sup>.

The megastructure, as a three-dimensional matrix-system for the containment of man's activities like working, playing, governing, worshipping, and living with the others, seemed to be the best new physical form for urban life, the most appropriate route to deal with the future environment. The concept of creating these new structures to be used as energizing transformers of older urban areas implied the problem of conceiving neutral containers allowing the hosting of mutual feedbacks of individuals and of the entire community living in them. Megastructures were supports to life both intended as structural supports and services equipments for utilities, transit, and communications for the city. Therefore, they had to allow additive inputs and total flexibility for human life evolution, in line with Ricci's ideals.

Architects and planners from every country elaborated their proposals for housing community: Kenzo Tange, Fumihiko Maki, Manfredo Nicoletti, Archigram, Moshde Safdie, Paolo Soleri<sup>14</sup> and the Japanese Metabolists designed some of the endless supply of purposes for these vast matrix-systems dealing with the several features of megastructures. These projects were refused and feared on one side, because of the possibility of being flung into a mass of control and anonymity, but this was exactly the dimension Leonardo Ricci was interested in. Indeed, the opposite vision to add a new dimension to old cities, handled as new increased communities, was the evolution of Ricci's conception of the project for the community realized in Agàpe, Monterinaldi, Montepiano, Sorgane and Riesi settlements.

Megastructures had the potential of making greater change and variety possible in human life, they could make the liberation and ecological recreation of more open land happen, and the more immediate response of community to citizen and vice-versa in a newly revealed interface of the individual with his cultural, social,

---

<sup>13</sup> Venturi, "Parlando nel 1978", 378.

<sup>14</sup> Straits of Messina was Manfredo Nicoletti's project dealing with problems of transportation and movement, while Let Zetlin suggested integrated systems which could become communities housed in perimetral or interstitial spaces of structures forming part of a floating airport in offshore waters, serving different purposes, as Soleri also suggested the use of dams, bridges, and airports for multi-use community purposes.

With regard to the habitat, Moshde Safdie's design for Montreal's Habitat (1967) showed a hilltop habitat project for Puerto Rico, a seaside complex for S. Thomas in Virgin Islands and a New Community in Israel, all dealing with habitat units studies through a comparatively diminutive size.

Paolo Soleri, after having moved to Arizona in 1956, where he founded the first Cosanti Foundation, exhibited to the United States his ideas about the megastructural future in what he called "arcologies", expressing the need for seeking utopian concepts in theoretical investigations «where the ifs are accepted as the best potential, the hows must produce as much as they can, and the whys embody the real motivations» (Paolo Soleri, *Arcology: The City in The Image of Man* (Cambridge, Mass., and London, England: The MIT Press, 1969). Soleri's "Arcologies" emerged as closed systems, aesthetically designed physical objects appropriate for museum display, but they were born as a new manifestation of intents and "Arcosanti" (1970), one of his "arcologies" destined to be the headquarters of his Cosanti Foundation, seemed to be more likely to be constructed than his more visionary projects. James T. Burns Jr., "Social and psychological implications of megastructures", in *Arts of the Environment*, ed. György Kepes (New York: George Braziller, 1972), 136-137.

## Megastructure

political, and physical environment. These structures had effects on their inhabitants concerning the social and psychological fields which had to be considered in the design process with the needs, activities, feelings, and resources of the future dwellers. On the base of these starting issues the design had to manage and find solutions, a different and creative design process was to be experimented and, in this sense, the project of megastructures could be intended as an evolution of Leonardo Ricci's view on the project for the community space: the involvement of people, different professionals belonging to different disciplines and the future residents, helped in establishing a dialogue that led to a more fruitful interchange between user and planner, and, therefore, to Ricci's idea of new equal relationship between architect and customer as well. Leonardo Ricci's feeling was that the project could result from a fruitful equal interchange of ideas between the architect, the engineer, the customer and all the artisans involved, if the final result was melted and balanced with the customer, the engineer, the artisan's work and everyone had the same importance in the design process.

Giorgio Piccinato, Vincenzo Quilici and Mafredo Tafuri maintained that in Italy it was at the beginning of the Sixties when the plurality of languages resulting from the various works of "revision of rationalism" was affirming that Italian architecture underwent an involution partly due to the economic crisis and partly to the re-discussion of international issues in a local key. Italian architects shifted their attention from the scale of the individual building to the scale of the neighborhood or territorial scale. In Italy and in the United States, therefore, a new dimension was being studied, that of the "city territory", which favored the emergence of a "new utopianism" intended as a possible improvement of reality rather than as a tentative escape from it. In some cases, the study of the city territory meant the complete abandonment of the specific languages developed in the previous years and of any constraint in them<sup>15</sup>.

Italy adhered to international megastructuralism and this adhesion manifested itself in the design for competitions such as the one for the Turin business center (1962) or in the use of massive dimensions and technology, even though, as noticed by Marco Biraghi, the indiscriminate use of these tools and the extreme difficulty of the economic management of such vast operations were themselves a prediction of the following crisis<sup>16</sup>.

### 5.2. Henri Lefèbvre and Leonardo Ricci: an architect: for what society?

Leonardo Ricci's idea of megastructure was linked to a precise concept, studied by the sociologist and philosopher Henri Lefèbvre. Ricci knew him in Paris, during his two-year stay in Paris from 1948-1950<sup>17</sup>.

---

<sup>15</sup> Giorgio Piccinato, Vincenzo Quilici and Mafredo Tafuri, "La città territorio. Verso una nuova dimensione", *Casabella-continuità*, no. 270 (1962): 16-25.

<sup>16</sup> Marco Biraghi, *Storia dell'Architettura Contemporanea II. 1945-2008* (Torino: Einaudi, 2008), 88-96.

<sup>17</sup> In 1948 Leonardo Ricci was called by the Loeb Gallery and decided to stay in Paris to devote himself only to painting until 1950, albeit with several returns to Italy. Here he came into contact with some exponents of the artistic avant-garde such as Picasso, Le Corbusier, Giacometti, and of Existentialism such as Sartre, Camus and Lefèbvre, who had published two articles titled "Le Même et l'Autre" and "Esquisse d'une philosophie de la conscience", with which he introduced the concept

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

For different paths, mine as an architect and urban planner, those of Lefèbvre as a philosopher and sociologist (or metaphilosopher, as he might prefer to be called), the conclusion is the same<sup>18</sup>.

Henri Lefèbvre dealt with the concept of a new architecture in his book *Le Droit à la ville, II - Espace et politique* (1972)<sup>19</sup> and, more in detail, he expressed the idea that a new level of architectural reasoning was acting: he defined it the “macro-architectural and micro-urban planning level”. At that level, the architectural reflection had already left the village scale, but it was not the megalopolis one yet<sup>20</sup>. The architect and the urban planner were producers of spaces as common users, bankers, political and administrative forces, or workers, but they had a fundamental role, because they acted in the existing ways of producing. The principle that established and underlined that space had an exchange value besides a use value that depended on architects and planners. Therefore, according to Lefèbvre, the architect had a precise and defined field of intervention, between the macro- and the micro-levels, it is to say, to design appropriate spaces for ten thousand to twenty thousand people, where the right of the city could intervene and prompt the research.

To exclude groups, classes, individuals from the urban, is to exclude them from the process of civilization, if not from society. The *droit à la ville* legitimizes the refusal to be excluded from urban reality by a discriminatory and segregative organization. The law of the *citoyen* (if we want: of man) announces the inevitable crisis of the centers established on the basis of segregation and which continually renews it: centers of decision, wealth, power, information, knowledge, which

---

of existentialism for the first time in philosophical literature, and *L'Existentialisme* (Paris: Éditions du Sagittaire, 1946). Vasić Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto “esistenzialista”*, 25.

Ricci called the parisian sociologist, urbanist, geographer, philosopher and partisan Henri Lefèbvre (1901-1991) “friend” in his preface of the Italian translation of Lefèbvre’s book *La Produzione dello Spazio* (Milano: PGreco Edizioni, 1976), 12. First edition of the book: Lefèbvre, *La production de l’espace*.

<sup>18</sup> Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 12.

<sup>19</sup> Lefèbvre, *Diritto alla Città, vol. II - Spazio e Politica* (Milano: Moizzi Editore, 1972), 30. First Edition: Henri Lefèbvre, *Le Droit à la ville, II - Espace et politique* (Paris: Anthropos, 1968). At a time of great discussions on pollution, environment, ecology, ecosystems, and, consequently, on economic growth, the related risks and purposes, the reflection on space and its fragmentation intensified. Henri Lefèbvre’s book proposed a reading of space that went beyond catastrophes to focus on an objective analysis of social space. The theory of social space included a critical analysis of urban reality and daily life, because urban and everyday life were inextricably linked. Lefèbvre focused on practical-social activities and their intertwining in a complex, urban and daily space that led to the production of social relationships, which he called production relationships, interested in the “reproduction of the production relations”, so in the productive systems regarding all aspects of social life (free time, daily life, the habitat, the use of space) that was not object of a global study, architecture intended as a social art dealing with the problems of living as a social act and with the practice of construction, instead of “an art to design facades and shapes, assembly materials and sculpt wonderful volumes”.

<sup>20</sup> The quality of life and another way of life could not be designed according to Lefèbvre except taking into account the space of the entire planet. However, the creation of new appropriate spaces had to be freed from ownership because the possession and collective management of space had as necessary condition the suppression of land ownership. The formula had not yet been found since nationalization had produced disastrous results by transferring the owner’s rights to the state; the municipalization of the soil had shown drawbacks and limitations, and therefore only socialization would remain: the whole people would have occupied the social space, owning it and violating property relations. Lefèbvre, *Diritto alla Città, vol. II - Spazio e Politica*, 133, 134.

## Megastructure

reject towards peripheral spaces all those which do not participate in political privileges. It confirms the right to meet and concentrate; places and objects must respond to certain generally misunderstood "needs", to certain disdained "functions" - transfunctional: the "need" for social life and its center, the playful need and function, the symbolic function of the space - needs and functions close to what is found here and beyond the classified functions, to what cannot be objectified as such because it is a figure of time, to what lends itself to rhetoric and that only poets can call with their name: Desire<sup>21</sup>.

The right of the city meant to Lefèbvre and to Ricci the constitution of a spatial-temporal unity to replace the fragmented reality, a new unity where fights were the force allowing human beings to be individual or collective subjects in the accomplishment of life. The right of the city could have applied the science of space as a knowledge of a production, the production of space Lefèbvre dealt with in his book *La production de l'espace* (1974)<sup>22</sup> of which Leonardo Ricci wrote the preface for the first Italian edition (1976)<sup>23</sup>.

The contact points between Leonardo Ricci and Henri Lefèbvre were numerous actually, and it is useful to define them to single out Ricci's philosophical and sociological vision of space as well as the hows and whys it was necessary firstly to understand, and then to solve the problems of the future city.

In *La production de l'espace* space is analysed as a product of nature and men, who were an active part of nature and whose different ideologies and views of the world had effectively produced the world, and this conception was the same Ricci started with. Moreover, following Lefèbvre's criticisms about the capitalist and neocapitalist societies, Ricci found that the alienated space where modern men lived was produced by the capital which owned the earth, the resources, and the production. Therefore, the capital forced the inhabitants to produce the alienated space, because if the territories were divided into city-countryside-periphery, it meant, according to Ricci, that nature offered certain resources, then exploited by some men at their leisure and in disadvantage of the others<sup>24</sup>. Henri Lefèbvre managed to communicate his idea of social space while maintaining the distinction between "representation space" and "representation of space". In these two forms, one poetic and the other more rigorous and analytical-critical-philosophical, he communicated his idea of space derived from a more existential attitude and a more methodical and didactic view, respectively. In this second vision Lefèbvre became didactic and, despite wanting to demonstrate and establish the cultural limits of the present and the past through the shortcomings of the other disciplines, he realized that an analysis of the social space could not be separated from a multi- and inter-disciplinary approach<sup>25</sup>.

The questions introduced by Henri Lefèbvre in the book *La production de l'espace*, which carried within itself the same reflection Leonardo Ricci did, concerned what space and social space were and what kind of relationship

---

<sup>21</sup> Lefèbvre, *Diritto alla Città*, 133, 134.

<sup>22</sup> Lefèbvre, *La production de l'espace*.

<sup>23</sup> Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*.

<sup>24</sup> Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 12.

<sup>25</sup> According to Ricci for too many years Marxist criticism, after the first moments of rupture during and immediately after the revolution, had been trapped in determinist patterns in the structure-superstructure relationship, while Lefèbvre was aware of the need for an interdisciplinary approach for the study of social space. This was mainly because he was aware of the importance of newly founded disciplines such as Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Ecology and Linguistics, as well as disciplines already widely developed such as Mathematics and Physics, because the study of social space implied the study of the instinctive, associative realities and human instincts. Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 13.

could exist between them. To Ricci and Lefèbvre Philosophy was not enough to solve the questions, modern Mathematics and Physics had outlined new connections between space and time, Hegel and Marx placed space with the notion of time and tried to bridge the physical, mental, and social space, «but then we realize that space was produced<sup>26</sup>». Social space could not be considered a common product. Lefèbvre reviewed all possible concepts of space invented or discovered by human thought and, in re-reading space in all disciplines, he realized that there would be a need for a new science and theory of space. Leonardo Ricci and Henri Lefèbvre's shared idea consisted in the "universal" reading in which the concept of mental space, physical space and social space were not separated, the latter understood as "work" produced by today's society, a space capable of synthesizing the "space of representation" and "representation of space".

Another common point between Ricci's spatial research and Lefèbvre's spatial analysis was the encounter with art: the philosopher took into consideration the work of four of the six artists and architects modeled by Ricci in the chapter of *Anonymous (20th century)* titled "Farewell, Masters; Farewell, Geniuses": Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Le Corbusier. Lefèbvre showed his sympathies for Paul Klee, an artist, painter, sculptor, architect who did not show the space but created it. As in a sort of contact with Eastern philosophy, he did not care about the boundary between present and past, nor the opposition between nature and culture because space and its forms, the genesis of space and its relevance, the abstract or the concrete, nature, and society, were not separate concepts. On the contrary, Lefèbvre did not show affinity with Picasso's work, because, despite recognizing his genius, «by activating and consuming art, he sees and prepares [...] the emergence of another (differential) space. [...] Picasso's space announced the space of modernity but did not produce it. And on a human, political, social level: "the thesis that he is a revolutionary artist (precisely in that he achieves universal glory) is the result of gross naivety, if only because the 'communist world' has never recognized it". [...] As for Wright and Le Corbusier, given them the merit of having destroyed the facade, disjointed the external space, integrated the external space with the internal one, thus preparing an opening towards a new type of space, there remains a mistrust towards them<sup>27</sup>».

According to Lefèbvre, it was wrong to attribute all responsibilities for spatial practices to artists and architects, because space could only be the most complex product of social practice. The advent of the Bauhaus school was interpreted as an anti-bourgeois architectural revolution but proved to be in the service of the state. To be able to reach the differential space and the true quality of space, even according to the philosopher, as for the architect, the relationship between architect and client should be revolutionized so that the client was not able to influence the work of the architect. The latter, as it happened to Ricci, was destined to live a constant tension between opposites and a conflict between the repetition of models and the search for truth. It was fundamental to move from the "true space" of Philosophy to the "truth of space" connected to the social practice, because who created space was not who ruled it.

Writing about Lefèbvre, we cannot avoid mentioning Karl Marx and what, according to Leonardo Ricci, was Marx's strength: to remove masks from things to reveal social relationships. Changing a society meant producing an appropriate space and a real transformation would have provided for an ability to intervene creatively on

---

<sup>26</sup> Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 14.

<sup>27</sup> Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 16.

## Megastructure

daily life, on language, on space. These were the reasons why to Lefèbvre not even socialism had managed to change the world in which capitalism and neocapitalism had only produced an abstract space that contained the world of goods, its logic, and strategies at the service of money and State.

A new space and a new society could only be built through total decentralization and direct management of the inhabitants, a goal even communism had not yet reached to Ricci, who thought impossible for a socialist society to live in a space with such territorial imbalances, caused by a determinist rather than a dialectic vision of Aesthetics. The problem of the shape of the city had been relegated to the sphere of aesthetics and superstructures instead of structure, and that caused horrible mistakes. There were only two ways to find a new city: to destroy the existing and petrified morphologies, or to propose new theories, approaches and objectives to reach new forms, just as Ricci did, without avoiding the possibility to destroy old cities and urban centers. Leonardo Ricci refused the idea of facing the so called “problem of the historical centers”, because he thought that each town center, either born two thousand or fifty years before, was historical since determined by an economic and political situation. In the same way, if the term “historical” wanted to mask the term “aesthetic”, each center would be a producer of aesthetic values.

Until then, man had been dominated by the state by taking possession of his individual body and thus reserving confined, alienated, and un-lived spaces for him. However, each body was different from the others according to Ricci, just as the space of a factory was profoundly different from the space of a bank or hospital. The bourgeois body was different from the worker body and their creativity had been destroyed by dividing the Ego from the body, preventing the relationship with other bodies and with nature<sup>28</sup>. Even the body, both for Ricci and Lefèbvre, was to be considered a single body belonging to the mass. Perhaps the task of reinventing the global space had to be entrusted to women, since the phallic and masculine space (Picasso’s space), as Ricci defined it, founded on violence, sadness and on the segregation of spaces, had caused nothing but alienation. Being a social product and a producer of social space at the same time, part of the single body of the mass, every man found himself at the beginning and at the end of a process of becoming, where the earth, understood as a global planetary space that contained a new society, also existed. To Ricci this could happen through active denial, counter-projects, counterplans<sup>29</sup>. It could not be produced by the state or by politics, but only through the careful

---

<sup>28</sup> In this regard, Lefèbvre proposed a study of the rhythms of man prevented by the separation of the Ego from the body, and saw the conditions for founding a new science, what he called “Ritmanalisi”. This could have replaced Psychoanalysis because it was more concrete and effective in understanding human needs, more total, not focusing only on a part of man. Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 19.

<sup>29</sup> From 1977 to 1983 Leonardo Ricci was visiting Professor at the Kentucky University, where he worked with his second wife, the architect Maria Grazia Dallerba. Ricci opened there a long season of public competitions in which he took part with his students. The “counter-project” for Les Halles in Paris was one of the first competitions that Leonardo Ricci extended to American students as a theme of the course. The competition was launched on April 2, 1979 and the jury was composed by Philip Johnson, Diana Agrest, Carlo Aymonino, Kazuo Shinohara, Francois Barre, Roland Barthes, Henri Lefèbvre, Bruno Zevi, Henry Ciriani, Patrick Colombier, Jean Nouvel, Pierre Soia. In the catalog that published the six hundred projects received there are also two proposals by Leonardo Ricci and his group. Both projects derive from a common matrix or a large urban fabric that served as a modular and undifferentiated unifying element, a matrix from which solids and voids originated.

In the first version, on the basic matrix raised a triangular plate from the ground. It housed an auditorium with an informal volume and other cultural functions. The triangular plate was positioned in such a way as to reconnect with the existing

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

and active work of the body of men, those interested in the project who could have also contradictory interests. These interests could give life to the collective work, just as art had always been.

In his preface to Lefèbvre's book Leonardo Ricci declared that he did not want to express any judgment, because it would have meant not having understood the text and concluded:

The profound truth of Lefèbvre is not, in my opinion, to create a rigorous system to replace those already determined and to be considered worn or lacking, but to provide one or more grids through which fragments of existence, fragments of "social space". Fragments, but such, for those who are capable of it, to allow us to glimpse if not the entire mosaic, at least the overall structure as a whole.

This vision is an optimistic vision of a new nature, a new social space, a new humanity. From the paradise to the origin, a paradise given by god or by nature. But in Lefèbvre's case it is not a utopia, as in the case of Renaissance or of nineteenth-century utopians. For him this paradise is topical. The planetary earth is its topos. Man, all men, inhabitants.

His is not an aspiration. It is a verified prediction on everything that has been perceived, thought and lived.

Judge a prediction?

It would not make sense. The only possibility, for all those who work in the same direction, for all those "interested" in a new paradise, is to "produce" it, despite all the risks, with the least possible pain<sup>30</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci's optimism and continuous trial to enhance a collective work of "the workers of space" - architects, planners, dwellers, engineers, artisans, and artists - were clear from the projects of the bridges, through the community to megastructural projects, and even during his "voluntary exile" in Venice, when he declared only "to earn his bread" not feeling as an architect at the service of society. Instead, the idea of mass body living the City of the Earth was born in these years and was philosophically structured through Lefèbvre's thinking. In 1976 Ricci felt useless on one side, tired and powerless with the other men working for culture, but, on the other side, he was still hopeful for a change. He was forced to write instead of building and operating, and, through his writings, he tried to propose his idea of change. Leonardo Ricci wrote indeed an article published on the journal "Spazio e Società"<sup>31</sup> in the form of a letter addressed to all intellectuals. He told how he tried to

---

road network marked by the Haumannian diagonals and the triangular blocks. Ricci thus positioned the cultural pole in a strategic urban node at the Center Pompidou with which it was connected. Solids were opposed by voids excavated in the basic infrastructural grid.

The second version of the project was presented with dreamlike drawings that referred to the drawings of John Tanniel for the book *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Their entire sequence was published on the cover of the magazine "L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui", directed by André Bloc. To deepen the projects: Giovanni Bartolozzi, *Leonardo Ricci: Nuovi Modelli Urbani* (Macerata: Quodlibet, 2013), 53-61; on the concept of counter-plan: Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 23.

<sup>30</sup> The same idea of avoiding renaissance or nineteenth century's utopian ideas was also stressed by Leonardo Ricci in Leonardo Ricci, "New Towns a scala territoriale" ["New Towns at territorial scale"], *Spazio e Società*, no. 3 (January-March, 1976): 74, where he quoted the renaissance utopias about the city or "the city of the sun" by Campanella, the utopian towns of Fourier and Owen as models which could not be used because of the disjointed and confused urban laws produced by the Italian political situation. The quotation reported in the text is taken from Ricci, preface of the volume *La Produzione dello Spazio*, 23, 24.

<sup>31</sup> The article was Ricci, "New Towns a scala territoriale", 73-81.

## Megastructure

involve some colleagues – part of the Italian architectural “intelligentia” he met in the jury of a public competition – in the possible radical revolution for a new society and a new architecture.

Since they all felt useless for the society, Leonardo Ricci suggested the model of the English “New Towns” to overcome the crisis: the title of the article marked the starting point of the reflection because the English New Towns were the first experiment of integration between habitats and productive services. They had to be considered as a model, both as examples of decentralization from the urban center and attempts to rebalance the less developed areas. But they had to be reviewed "on a territorial scale" not having solved the problem of the separation between city and countryside.

Following the American example, the whole collectivity of architects and inhabitants could solve the problem, bringing together all the laws that allowed the district plans, service plans, green areas, and commercial plans, united in a single coherent, political, and cultural homogeneous vision. Ricci's article suggested the fields of analysis, the same he would have deeply developed in his unpublished typescript titled *Città della Terra*, to open a discussion and to see if an organizational phase could be started first and then an operational phase applied on the study of the oppositions countryside/city, primary, secondary and tertiary activities, the study of the city on all scales or matrices it contained - metro, city, neighborhood, group - depending on the quantities and qualities of the equipment.

These interesting aspects concerning the social meaning of space and the importance of designing space for the society emerged in Ricci's projects of the early Seventies and mainly in two projects, one elaborated in the United

---

The journal “Spazio e Società” was born as Italian version of the French namesake “Espace et Sociétés”, an international critical magazine of planning, architecture and urban planning directed by Henri Lefèbvre and Anatole Kopp. The first two issues appeared in 1975, under the direction of Riccardo Mariani, as selective collections of essays extracted from the various issues of the French edition, with the addition of some new contributions collected by the Italian editorial staff. From the third issue the magazine assumed autonomy but only a few original issues were published and stopped in 1976.

Subsequently, from 1978 to 2001, the direction passed to Giancarlo De Carlo, who maintained the managerial role for most of the numbers with the exception of a period in which the director was Julian Beinart. The editorial office was always based in Milan in De Carlo's studio, who allowed the publication of 92 issues, coming out every four months for 23 years. The magazine always had an alternative cut to the sector journals and the topics covered ranged from disciplinary current affairs, therefore from the publication of projects, to general themes about architecture, to historical themes about architecture and urban design. Great collaborators such as, among many others, Alison and Peter Smithson, Balkrisna V. Doshi, Fumihiko Maki, Frei Otto etc. worked in the magazine.

From the third issue, where Leonardo Ricci's article was also published, therefore, the editorial staff changed and the orientation of the magazine, which became independent from the French one. The fundamental difference was that while “Espace et Sociétés” continued to carry out an analysis of society to show the results it produced in space, “Space and Society” directed the research into space and its meaning, to see what implications occurred in society. Since the two journals followed two different directions, the choice was justified by the possibility of carrying out investigations on different levels, and therefore of calibrating the relative ideological perspectives, thus obtaining a possible complementarity between the two magazines that would give way to other reflections on the multiple events of the organization of physical space. «In the current crisis of identity and legitimacy of architecture it seems important to open a scientific confrontation, bypassing the nonsense of the new academic formalism and the perverse cunning of architecture subjected to the needs of consumption and power». Luigi Colajanni, Giancarlo De Carlo, Riccardo Mariani, Gaddo Morpurgo, Daniele Pini, “Introduzione”, *Spazio e Società*, no. 3 (January-March, 1976): 3.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

States and one in Italy: the Miami Model Cities Plan (1968-1970) and the rebuilding plan of the COVENOR area (1974) after the earthquake of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Leonardo Ricci's project for the Miami Model Cities Program, realized with the fifth-year and graduate students of Architecture of the University of Florida, was quoted by James T. Burns in 1972<sup>32</sup> as instance of a megastructure «designed to interweave megastructural systems with conserved elements of a ghetto area, using redeveloped infrastructures of communications, transportation, public facilities, water, sewage and power as base lines». Burns also reported Ricci's words: «We must arrive at a position from which we can invent new models for a new life – models which belong to the people as much as to the designer. [...] Mobility as a vital aspect of megastructural planning has two faces: social and physical. Socially, as a dense and intensive variety of the urban experience, the megastructure can have the possibility of increasing chances for individual change. As community processes become more visible and are shared by more and more people, it will be possible to envision a positively fluid system of social mobility coming into being. Thus, it is important for the architect and planner to be sure that he is making this physically possible, that options are open and he is not designing the people of the community into hierarchical arrangement that discourages social flux and interchange<sup>33</sup>».

In the project for the COVENOR area Ricci saw the possibility to rebuild on the rubble and the destruction: he defined that “a wonderful territory”, a communication node between Northern Italy and Central Europe. He also saw the possibility of restoring the agricultural system, the industrial production sites, a territory supported by the “Tagliamento river territorial megastructure. A megastructure that Nievo recognised a long time before”, in which the population was serious and hard-working. The history of the place was the earthquake and there was the need to work without public competitions or complex plans because the real need was the reconstruction. Ricci turned to the entire community of architects to implement a useful, imaginative intervention, with a serious and concrete political contribution, with organization and commitment<sup>34</sup>.

### 5.2.1. A new university for a new society: the idealistic against the relational view

Ricci thought that the decentralization of powers in megastructures or in public life was the right tool to regulate collectivity in all its parts: modern men as citizens of the future city, administration, university and the existing institutions, environment, all the different activities and systems of the modern society. He saw in the university and especially in the educational offer the concrete possibility to solve the problems of the society, because, in the university rooms the social debate could have been switched on and the generation of those who lived the uncertainties and the crisis of values caused by the second world war, belonging to the bourgeois class, could have faced the problems of the mass society as well as the architectural and urban problems concerning that matter.

---

<sup>32</sup> Burns, “Social and psychological implications of megastructures”, 135-151.

<sup>33</sup> Burns, “Social and psychological implications of megastructures”, 148.

<sup>34</sup> Ricci, “New Towns a scala territoriale”, 80, 81.

## Megastructure

In 1967, immediately after Florence flood of 1966 and one year before the revolt of 1968, Leonardo Ricci strengthened his theories about the City of the Earth and saw the concrete possibility to realize it on new damages caused by the flood, as, in the postwar period, his master Giovanni Michelucci saw the opportunity to build a *New Town* by looking at people walking on the ruins of the same city. Ricci wrote about the disaster of the flood in 1967<sup>35</sup>, the same year of the Montréal Expo and the exhibition *Ten Italian Architects* by Esther McCoy, which was advertised next to Ricci's article columns on the pages of *Arts and Architecture*<sup>36</sup>. The damages left by the flood could have been the right chance for building the desired *Earth City*. Leonardo Ricci indicated three main aspects that should have been considered to solve the disaster: rebuilding the artisan workshops and workplaces of the Florentines, focusing on the restoration of ancient artifacts, reconsidering in the reconstruction all the territory of the Arno Valley which included other important cities such as Pisa and Arezzo. The whole area should have been reconsidered to design a new city, a new megalopolis, in which the contradiction between man and nature no longer existed, where man and nature could have become a single entity, a city open to all men and all possible experiences.

Ricci suggested this project theme to the students of the courses of Urban Planning II and Architectural Composition in 1969 with the aim of designing the Arno Valley as a megalopolis for two million inhabitants<sup>37</sup>. In 1968, when Ricci was writing his speech for the students the new town planning law<sup>38</sup> was about to be presented to the Chamber of the Italian Parliament and, although the architect thought that this law would have not allowed a new town planning, he decided to write – as he stated in the “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione” [“Introduction to the courses Urban Planning II and Elements of Composition”]<sup>39</sup> - to Massimo Severo Giannini<sup>40</sup>, lawyer, politician and full professor of Administrative law for whom Ricci had realized Giannini House in Agro Romano (Rome, 1963-1965), who was part of the ministerial commission for the elaboration of a reform of the urban planning law, to find out if it was possible to achieve a special law that could allow a pilot experiment of a district nature for the lower Arno Valley.

Since 1965, Massimo Severo Giannini was concerned on the notion of “territory” and about its complexity as an organic whole composed of related property funds. According to him, the definition of territory could be achieved through the study of all its main factors and through the man-soil relationship understood in its

---

<sup>35</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Exploratory research in urban form and the future of Florence”, *Arts and Architecture*, no. 2 (February 1967): 25, 32-34. The article reports Ricci's lecture, given on January 17, 1967 in Los Angeles California as a benefit for the Committee to Rescue Italian Art. It was co-sponsored by the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at UCLA and the Architectural Panel of Los Angeles. The typescript of the conference is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>36</sup> Ricci, “Exploratory research in urban form and the future of Florence”, 34.

<sup>37</sup> Ricci, “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione”, Casa Studio Ricci, 8.

<sup>38</sup> “Decreto interministeriale 2 aprile 1968, n. 1444”: this law established the urban standards for schools, infrastructures, green public areas and parkings, which constituted the main reasons for the Italian alienated urban planning in Ricci's opinion.

<sup>39</sup> Ricci, “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione”, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>40</sup> Massimo Severo Giannini was part of numerous ministerial commissions, in particular the commission created by the Minister of Industry and Commerce Emilio Colombo and chaired by Francesco Santoro Passarelli for the reform of company law (1959), and the commissions established between 1962 and 1966 by successive ministers of public works Fiorentino Sullo, Giovanni Pieraccini and Giacomo Mancini for the elaboration of a reform of the urban planning law.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

broadest meaning, through which also the notion of “property” could be analyzed<sup>41</sup>. The knowledge of the territory in its multilayered structure was fundamental to revise urban rules and laws. This review was not possible until the real awareness of the territorial disease was achieved and, to Giannini, in the mid 1960s the society was still intending urban planning as a field of research and action, and this was the main reason why he had the certainty of the existence of the disease. Being still far from the right solution, the society was prompting quick solutions and suggesting «simplified and forced models using clumsy and drastic instruments, means which, due to ignorance of the vital processes of the territory, systematically [failed] the set objective, arriving at completely different effects and causing an aggravation of the disease they wanted to cure<sup>42</sup>».

This subject was an issue discussed during the INU conference in May of the same year. Ricci was hoping to find new possible applications and solutions to the urban problem, even though it was not possible to realize his project<sup>43</sup>.

In fact, if we compare the number, the capacity, and the potential of the towns in the world which so intensively represent our background in this way, they certainly are – in comparison with the billions of men, and the billions of acres, and the billions of dollars which the totality of human settlements represent today and will represent in the future – not too many nor too large to save.

The new means of communication on the other hand will allow more and more the full fruition of these existential qualities of the ancient towns. Fruition which could be completed in their urbanistic and architectural aspects, but also through the relocation of certain functions at present completely alien to their true functions. We could, for example, hear again the music of Bach in its original context, the cathedral, or of Mozart in the chambers of the palaces where it was supposed to be played and not, for instance, completely out of scale and measure in the Bowl of Los Angeles. Or we could hear the plays of Molière, Shakespeare, or Goldoni, in the theaters which saw the birth of their art.

We could walk in a Renaissance piazza living the marvelous sensation of being the subject of the objects around us, the focal point of the perspective created for us, or we could have the exalted sensation of an eschatological experience in an old Gothic church<sup>44</sup>.

Ricci planned to build the new *Earth City* in the whole Arno Valley and to see the center of Florence as one of the greatest infrastructures of all humanity, not only as the home of the most famous works of art, since Florence represented the past of all mankind, its roots, and the tangible proof of the evolution of man. A great help was being sent by the United States to Florence for the restoration and conservation of the town rather than help for the economic damage. Therefore, Ricci suggested to use part of the American support to realize a new plan for the town or at least to elaborate it. Indeed, the United States were donating millions of dollars to Italy and to Florence, which could have been used to study for a couple of years a new model of urban planning and then to build it. Anyone who wanted to accomplish this goal could have felt happy to contribute to the improvement of society.

---

<sup>41</sup> Massimo Severo Giannini, “Il territorio come struttura di proprietà”, *Dibattito Urbanistico*, no. 2 (1965): 94-96.

<sup>42</sup> Giannini, “Il territorio come struttura di proprietà”, 95.

<sup>43</sup> Ricci, “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione”, Casa Studio Ricci, 9.

<sup>44</sup> Ricci, “Exploratory research in urban form and the future of Florence”, 32.

## Megastructure

To Ricci the realization of his new plan for Florence was possible, following the American model of interdisciplinary group work, and, it constituted Ricci's first tangible opportunity to realize physically one of his ideal models for the city of the future, before the plan for Miami and before the final drafting of his unpublished book *Città della Terra*.

The demonstration of the obsolescence of the current models lied in the concrete fact that a flood had completely destroyed a whole town. To save Florence, architects and planners had firstly to accept that basic mistake of not having being able to foresee the event and, secondly, to consider Florence as a city belonging to everyone and not only to the Florentines. Consequently, a sudden change in local politics would have been necessary to allow the transformation of Florence into a living experience and a public facility for mankind, so that this new model of interdisciplinary city conceived in an aesthetic, scientific and social key could have been accepted. Ricci wanted to design the model of the *Earth City* firstly in the Arno Valley, elaborate a precise method to design it at the Urban Planning Institute of the University of Florence, then export it to the United States.

The new town had to respect the old center, Florence, but also consider the new needs, new aspirations, new technological possibilities, customs, and quick transformations of life patterns. This would have not meant to design a beautiful form over the valley or creating it through urbanistic standards, which usually analyzed the life of the population by means of statistical data concerning obsolete societies. Ricci avoided the possibility to adopt either a utopian view about a new way of living out of reality or a rationalistic structure, because that procedure would have solved only some mechanical aspects of life. On the contrary, a new methodology could have implied the creation of new models since contemporary architects and city planners already knew and could easily discern the disadvantages of human settlements. On the other hand, they had the proper knowledge to invent new solutions and see new paths. The complexity of the organization needed programs offering the population the maximum possibility of choice, beauty, and flexibility it had not.

Ricci knew very well the Arno Valley and he thought it could be treated as a homogeneous territory, as a unique territory to turn into one single town of two million inhabitants: it was 100 miles long and 20 miles wide, it had the mountains and the sea, beautiful towns as Florence, Lucca, and Pisa where people lived in a chaotic and alienated situation, little villages on the hills or on the edges of rivers, and horrible peripheries. The roads were built only to serve all the towns and villages, factories and tract houses were built upon land which should have been allotted to flood water control basins, on the hills a lot of buildings eliminated wide green areas. Different people with different lives and cultural historical backgrounds were part of a more and more complex society generating new dynamics in life and new needs. This process was destroying one of the most wonderful landscapes in the world and no one could have felt at ease living in that condition and in relation to the contemporary times. Ricci's feeling was basically that in the area communication, transportation, habitats, public facilities, and services were mixed without any logic.

Ricci's idea anticipated what he would have described in detail in the *City of the Earth* typescript, his main idea was to build only one town representing the real life of men and women of the twentieth century, one town where the ancient center of Florence was a public facility, with no distinction between country, without alienating residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural zones, but rather an integrated city considering human acts and activities and giving everyone the same opportunities of choice and beauty. In that town a unique

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

society would have eliminated the discrimination among human beings but considered instead all the combining objects of a town: historical centers, rivers, hills, to be put in relationship to each other.

Important studies had to be done on the territory typologies to identify those where human life could have developed better, where the soil was suitable to build foundations, where three-dimensional communication and transport systems would have been more useful, where infrastructures and public facilities had better be positioned. Only this natural process of listening to human needs and to nature could have led to a natural form of town where the living of men and nature could have coincided in a product of a new civilization.

The normal tools and channels of urban planning in Italy were not enough to face that challenge, but Italy needed a new objective and interdisciplinary plan, as those Ricci had been learning in the United States a decade before. Intellectuals had to look for new solutions because men of culture should have been seriously concerned with that kind of problems and searched a plan to test and apply. Ricci was particularly worried about the function of intellectuals and, most of all, of academic teachers: the intellectuals' duty was to leave the dictators, prophets or of utopians' positions to serve the society with their work, research, studies, and wonderful skills.

The model could have been compared to the existing urban structure and tested under the economic, social, physical, anthropological, and aesthetic standpoints, then put in practice with the help of the large amount of the American funds. Ricci suggested that only a little part of the raised money was enough to realize his project but it was extremely meaningful for the culture of the time.

Unluckily, the model was not realized, but it effectively represented Ricci's first attempt to apply a model to a real urgent situation in his town and underline the importance of education and university to solve social problems<sup>45</sup>.

---

<sup>45</sup> Ricci, "Exploratory research in urban form and the future of Florence", 25, 32-34.

## Megastructure



5.1: Leonardo Ricci, Sigfrido Pascucci (coordinators), Giovanni Censini, Andrea Ricci, Paolo Giovannini, “Plan for the Arno Valley”, plan of urban development of Fucecchio, S. Croce, Castelfranco, S. Miniato a Monte, S. Ministo, Montopoli, Casa Studio Ricci.

Ricci was deeply involved in educational problems and, since the very beginning of his mandatory as head of the Faculty of Architecture of Florence, he strongly believed in the power of education.

In an article published on *Casabella* in 1973<sup>46</sup>, before reporting Ricci’s resignation letter, Carlo Guenzi introduced the few possibilities to learn and practice the job of the architect offered by the university to students, when private universities were proliferating, the educational offer of the faculties of architecture was delineating the general difficulty even better. Furthermore, unemployment was one of the most evident defects of the society due to the crisis in the training-employment relationship and trying to consider the quality of employment itself, it seemed almost useless to fight for a more democratic university.

The technician seems increasingly subordinated to the company and to party power, every illusion of autonomy of research and culture clashes with a reality that increasingly reduces critical margins, subordinating consent to the management of power; architect shows himself, like any other professional, superstructural towards economic development<sup>47</sup>.

<sup>46</sup> Carlo Guenzi and Leonardo Ricci, “Architetto: per quale società?” [“Architect: for what society?”], *Casabella*, no. 384 (December 1973): 2, 3.

<sup>47</sup> Ricci’s original words in Italian are the following: «Il tecnico sembra sempre più subordinato all’impresa e al potere partitico, ogni illusione di autonomia della ricerca e della cultura si scontra di fronte ad una realtà che riduce sempre di più i margini critici, subordinando il consenso alla gestione del potere; l’architetto si mostra, come ogni altro professionista, sovrastrutturale nei confronti dello sviluppo economico». Guenzi and Ricci, “Architetto: per quale società?”, 2.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The tertiarization was not favoring the design but the distribution and consumption of the goods, so the only outburst for professionals seemed to be design. Even the bills of the time, which had extended the compulsory education up to 14 years and intended to extend it further up to 16 years, were excellent solutions for Ricci, but they had then to be reflected in an adequate employment system, in a different general policy. Otherwise, innovation and change would have crystallized in activism and participation.

Guenzi reported Ricci's resignation letter from the presidency of the Faculty of Architecture of Florence as evidence of the phenomena listed above, as an example of disappointment of someone who had been fighting and believing in training with enthusiasm but who came out of the situation highly frustrated. The university seemed to have become a cage held by political powers in a constant situation of violence and, this was the reason why social problems could have found their solution there. In Milan, the Order of the Architects had launched the research on the employment of graduates, the CNA architects were stuck on issues of power that deprived them of any possibility of moving on this problem at a national level. Ricci's resignation letter stated that after two years of presidency, he was leaving his position to let the faculty think better about the future and about another candidate: he asked for one year's leave to continue his research. He felt in a state of despair in the etymological sense of the term: "hopeless", for all the problems faced at a moral and political level<sup>48</sup>.

Ricci's resignations from the faculty of Architecture followed the architect's awareness of the end of an ideological educational intent and were connected to the students' revolt of 1968. According to Ricci the students in revolt were right, architecture students were seven thousand and there was no selection at their entrance, this did not allow for serious work. Upon graduation, only 10 percent of them were able to do the job of the architect, the rest unemployed or underemployed. The architect was a job not suitable for modern, democratic, and civil society for Ricci and a reversal in the company's market demand was needed.

Universities risked becoming large high schools where general information was given, while the selection would have been made later by the big economic trusts and industries, because construction production was intended as a further possibility of the economic exploitation.

In order to be able to make and prepare the architect in a serious way, some fundamental elements are needed: do free and independent interdisciplinary research; have a political force that allows to formulate and verify hypotheses of unmanipulated models; be in direct contact with society, especially with the working class, to understand the "social demand" and to correct all the deformations that the institution has impressed on the social demand itself through the direct and indirect imposition of induced rather than real needs and experiment with new models for user verification<sup>49</sup>.

The organisms that in the contemporary society could have the organizational and financial strength to achieve this goal were those that depended on economic, political, and cultural power. Powers separated from each other or linked for purposes that were certainly against the "mass" and not for the "mass". It was clear that any model imposed by economic or political forces, as industrial trusts, could only be manipulated. The University would have theoretically remained able to hypothesize and experiment with models that could diminish the imbalances,

---

<sup>48</sup> See the original handwritten letter of resignation in APPENDIX III.

<sup>49</sup> Guenzi and Ricci, "Architetto: per quale società?", 3.

## Megastructure

exploitation and discrimination that were at the basis of every territorial organization, whatever scale it occurred, and any architectural object.

During his deanship, Leonardo Ricci suspended his professional activity to dedicate his whole days to education. So deep was his faith in education and in its possibility to solve the problems of the society that he decided to do it even though he had never done it before: teaching and designing were the subjective and the objective part of his work, two opposed but complementary fundamental parts. In the same years Leonardo Ricci lost his private life and decided to resign because he had not succeeded in transforming the university into the important instrument he had wished and there was no political will to do it.

You can't go to the university for the mass, to work in contact with the mass and for the mass, the headmaster has no power. After the movements of the sixty-eight the policemen were inside the faculties and the university was dismissed<sup>50</sup>.

Ricci felt not satisfied because he realized that he could not change the university or the objectives that it had set itself, decided by others. He could have continued to do so if he had shared at least 51% of it, but it was not so, so he did not feel like being the principal because he would have felt complicit in an operation harmful to society. Being a professor was different because within one's course there was more freedom to offer an adequate service to the user, to the student, which would only have arrived indirectly to society.

Before coming to concrete conclusions for a possible university reform he got involved in the student revolution of 1968 in Italy and, by living it directly, he wrote his definite purpose in 1972: the faculty of architecture had to gain a new role for a transformation of teaching from an academic, passive and based on superficial factual knowledge, to an active role in society; all the faculty courses had to be arranged on two fundamental issues: land use and housing problems, as main themes asked by the society; the connection to the forces outside university as ministries, regions, trade unions, local authorities to ground a dialogue on the real problems to solve; connection with the working class to get to know the real and uninduced needs of the manipulation of a consumer society; democratization of the management of all university components including assistants and tutors, public meetings with the presence of students; request of funds for research both through the usual channels (CNR) and for scientific works to be delivered to public bodies in order to keep assistants, supervisors, and recent graduates in the university with the guarantee of a minimum salary; a non-discrimination of students on social or scientific criteria, but new criteria for assessing students on the basis of a possible role within the faculty and in order to attribute a pre-salary to students who give a true right to study<sup>51</sup>. Ricci wanted to connect

---

<sup>50</sup> Guenzi and Ricci, "Architetto: per quale società?", 3.

<sup>51</sup> Report of a university reunion on March 17, 1972. Ricci wrote the report after the fall of the government and the dissolution of the chambers in 1972, which affected the university situation after the 1968 uprisings. Despite a general malfunction ascertained in June 1971, the faculty of architecture of Florence had arrived, after considerable efforts, at fixing the points listed by Leonardo Ricci, but the government crisis threatened to sink these reforms. The government crisis was influencing the university crisis and, according to Ricci, the use of early elections meant the inability of the center-left political forces to implement the reform policy on which its programs were based. The university reform should have been launched before the elections and would have allowed the university to democratize. Leonardo Ricci's report, March 17, 1972, Florence, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

all the chairs, establish a full-time timetable to ground the profession of professor and architect, open the faculty to a departmental vision and connect all the Italian faculties of architecture<sup>52</sup>.

All these purposes could have become a reality in three years and would have established a new order to solve the difficult situation of the faculty and to smooth the tension among the different political views of the students after the 1968 revolt. Leonardo Ricci trusted in the democratization of the Faculty of Architecture and in its transformation from a passive into an active institution working for the society and solving real problems, in 1972 he was still believing in the possibility to build a new force made of students, professors, and all the alive forces of the Italian country to fight the re-establishment of the pre-war situation, but it did not happen and pushed the architect to his resignation in 1973.

---

<sup>52</sup> Leonardo Ricci also listed his impressions about the problems of the Florentine faculty of Architecture in a handwritten letter addressed to all the students, assistants and professors kept in Casa Studio Ricci. The letter was written before the reunion report of March 17, 1972, because Ricci had just accepted the deanship of the faculty, in the month of July, and he was writing to introduce his doubts and fears about the faculty of Architecture situation to the Faculty Council. In the mentioned letter the problems are listed more precisely because Ricci was still hopeful to solve them and his aim, after accepting the position of principal, was to re-present himself to the enlarged faculty council to verify his trust. Ricci had been unanimously elected by the restricted faculty council and by a large majority by the enlarged faculty council and had accepted, despite the faculty's critical conditions, which could have risked the closure by the ministry. Ricci then lists all the problems to be solved and all possible solutions to the whole faculty after consulting with rector and the minister of public education.

## Megastructure

### 5.2.2. Social involvement of the revolt in 1968 – comparison Italy and U.S.A.

1968 was the year that completely changed the world when revolutions tried to subvert the established order and threatened it to find new perspectives both in Italy and in the United States. The movement marked every aspect of the social, cultural, and artistic life in the western world<sup>53</sup>. In architecture, the irruption of new views and approaches generated movements of reaction, opposition, and conservative trends. On one side there were the updates to the critique of Modernism and attempts to refund the discipline, new fields of theoretical exploration, visionary scenarios of technological utopias, new processes in the architectural practice, while, on the other side, conservative trends that wanted to produce a “return to order” in some fundamental experiences of ‘70s to ‘80s were taking shape as well.

After having taught at M.I.T. and at Pennsylvania State University, Leonardo Ricci had experienced new teaching methods as György Kepes’ “studio work” in the course of Visual Design at M.I.T. and applied them in his courses of Architectural Composition and Urban Planning in Florence in the Sixties: visual design exercises improved with discussion sessions between the professor and the students generated the final architectural project instead of predetermined ideas. Leonardo Ricci, strongly convinced of the community idea of architecture reflected in the integrated city, taught his students to design without preconceptions, theoretical patterns, or absolute certainties, without dogmas, but rather with the only certainty to have the important duty to think of structures for people. What is more, to highlight this message, Leonardo Ricci invited Professor Umberto Eco to give some introductory lectures to his students on Semiology and on the theory of the sign to enrich his lectures centered on social issues at the large and little scale, aimed at studying design from the habitat cell to the integrated city. From the notes on those lectures Eco had the idea for his volume *La Struttura Assente*<sup>54</sup>.

The students’ revolt and the new collective social model, the lifestyle it led for weeks inside the faculty of Architecture in Florence were consistent with Ricci’s idea of collective work experience characterized by the sharing of thoughts and resources he had realized in Agàpe Ecumenical Center. The revolt suggested the desire for a new lifestyle and Ricci understood the students’ claims which could have been easily translated into the need for a new design research as well, which could have substituted the obsolete design. For these reasons Ricci

---

<sup>53</sup> A year of student protests, social upheavals, armed struggles and political ideologies, 1968 was the year in which the mass movements made their value and their voice heard more. The political and social protest made their way through the folds of a changing world. The word Sessantotto, therefore, which identifies a specific year has started to identify an entire period, which has made history in itself starting from the break with the past. After the Cold War between the US and the URSS in the mid-1960s, the Western world showed economic prosperity and social stability. During the economic recovery more families could afford things that, until a few years earlier, were seen as unattainable luxuries. But under the blanket of stability there was a germ of rebellion. In the long run, the society of that time proved to be provincial and a little bigoted, and revealed its first problems. For a general overview on the revolt: *Documenti della rivolta universitaria* (Bari: Laterza, 1968), Diego Giachetti, *Oltre il Sessantotto. Prima, durante e dopo il Movimento* (Pisa: BFS Edizioni, 1998).

<sup>54</sup> At the beginning it was only part of the study storage for the course and then it became a fundamental text for the debate on Semiology. Umberto Eco dedicated to Ricci the first version of the book, when it appeared in a limited edition out of commerce, only for university use, titled “Appunti per una semiologia delle comunicazioni visive” [“Notes for a Semiology of visual communications”]. In Florence Giovanni Klaus Koenig was one of the first scholars to study Eco’s *La Struttura assente* (Umberto Eco, *La Struttura Assente* (Milano: Bompiani, 1968)). See chapter 6, paragraph 6.3.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

reflected on what was happening in the international scene as man, architect, artist and, most of all, as educator. Ricci's reflections on the 1968 revolt are expressed in several typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci titled "The Bourgeois in revolt against themselves. Cultural revolution in the United States", "The Possible Significance of the Student Revolt", "Cultural Revolution in the United States", "Appunti per un programma" ["Notes for a program"], in the answers for an interview Ricci sent to Alfred Friendly for an interview published on the *New York Times*<sup>55</sup>, and in an untitled typescript completely concerned on the student revolt. So it is interesting to follow Ricci's reflections reported on these writings, because they tell how the great social change of 1968 allowed Ricci to pass his ideas from the project of the community space to megastructures, from the community ideals to the "community at worldly scale". In addition to this, Ricci's writings about the student revolt were extremely important for three main reasons: they tell us firstly his strong conviction about the importance of the university as the institution which would have been the headquarter for the discussion and the place where students and teachers would have found the solution. Secondly, the revolt gave voice to the young people complain about the contemporary social crisis and demonstrated the need for the social change architecture should have expressed in the following years to build the right environment for the new man. The third reason, which partly emerged from the previous one, is that the support to the 1968 revolt and the intention to melt architecture and urban planning affected the view of the Radicals in Italy.

Revolutions are happening in the world. Many revolutions. With war weapons or without. [...] Carried on at theoretical level by some vanguard intellectuals or at the level of praxis by men who show a different behavior. Political revolutions, social revolutions, cultural revolutions, ethical revolutions. Revolutions of rural masses or of negroes and student revolutions. In this boiling pot it is difficult to recognize the ingredients. What is known is that the pot is boiling, and the lid is about to blow. The progressive claim revolution – of whatever kind – it is enough if the explosion happens. The party of the fearful retreats more and more over the old frontiers attempting to save the so-called values and their own privileges. I am within this pot which is boiling since quite a while – since thirty years ago during the second world war, while diving in meaninglessly spilled blood, dewed in the postwar by the ingenious hope that once defeated the fascism, a new society ought to be born. Economical miracles and booms next, while a new generation was growing along with a forgotten war, forgotten gas chambers, forgotten children slaughters, forgotten genocides in favor of any easy life, where the black war bread kneaded with God knows what scraps, was replaced by American cigarettes and chocolate, car at the door, refrigerator full of unsavory food. The choice was a muffled life, narcotized, sold out, integrated, a life without possibility of choice. It was a moment of despair, of the impotence, of the dismissal of you because of your being intellectual by the corrupt, demagogic liar by political class which keeps selling us social progress, unreal and anyway alienating income improvements to glut the infection of induced needs, to keep the system from changing, oiling the industrial machine to preserve its grip of power<sup>56</sup>.

---

<sup>55</sup> Alfred Friendly Jr., "Cultural revolt urged by Italian professor. Professor coming to U.S. Thinks it Will Be First", *New York Times*, December 17, 1968.

<sup>56</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "The Bourgeois in revolt against themselves. Cultural revolution in the United States", typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 1, 2.

## Megastructure

Before analyzing Ricci's view on the student revolt in depth, therefore inside the university, in the city of Florence and finally in the faculty of Architecture in Florence, it is worth dealing with his more general opinion about the revolts mainly focusing on the social and political fields.

From a social point of view, every attempt of revolt in those years could have been drawn by those classes or groups living in poor conditions and aiming at having what necessary to improve their life or those who had everything but were aware of having a meaningless way of life. They all wanted a new existential justification for life, turning the philosophy of essence into a philosophy of existence to find new social relationships and connections, those associations dreamt at the end of the second world war, but perhaps only at a perceptual instead of a cognitive level felt in 1968.

From a historical standpoint, looking at the students' slogans, Ricci inferred that their cultural background extended from the Marxist - Leninist to the anarchist substratum.

The students wanted the contact with the mass constituted by the workers, the exploited and the discriminated ones. Their revolution was being fought against all those ideologies, symbols and myths of the elders: the students were the representatives of the collective subconscious which wanted to feel free from ideologies, the same freedom which also weakened the contact with the masses still ruled by ideologies<sup>57</sup>.

The revolt of 1968 had begun some years before and, in Ricci's opinion, it did not begin suddenly; the students were not asking only the university reform, but a general reform, the power. They were also asking for it with illegal measures as the faculties' headquarters, offices, and rooms' occupation. On the base of this general situation Ricci decided to stay on the students' side because all those who had the power and, among them, university Professors, could not fail to listen because they embodied the highest culture of a society. For this reason, they could neither stay out of the revolt and be evasive nor leave the power to the students for fear or demagoguery, avoiding any precise "existential" justification. The professors had to face the situation, they could have, completely or in part, even left, lent, maintained the power, but they could have not left their responsibility to the students: that was wrong.

Leonardo Ricci dealt with the problem in a very simple way, he wanted to find the existential reason of the revolt and, therefore, simplify as much as possible the difficult moment to understand the real reasons and the right solution. The solution lied in culture, because «culture lied where the experience and the knowledge of the past become existence<sup>58</sup>» and because culture was the place where choices were made, so where culture itself was produced, neither used nor consumed. The revolt was an international phenomenon, it took place in societies with different structural organizations, socialist or capitalist, developed and underdeveloped societies characterized by opposed political and cultural conditions. All that the social revolts in Italy and abroad had in common was that they were criticizing the social structures, they refused the old ones and felt a tension towards a new society.

According to Ricci the general tension was guided by reactionary, conservative, involutary, evolutionary, innovative, and open tensions. Among the open forces Ricci recognized the reformist-revisionist and the revolutionary ones. The revolutionary tension was divided into the violent and non-violent wings, but he was

---

<sup>57</sup> Ricci, "The Bourgeois in revolt against themselves. Cultural revolution in the United States", 6, 7.

<sup>58</sup> Untitled typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 2.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

interested in the existential dimension of the society which did not show any form of suitable existential condition to let life spread. He aimed at a global society and a unique body of humanity kept together by a common instance of existence, without ideologies<sup>59</sup>.

One possible way could have been the revolution and a subsequent anarchy, but a more reasonable solution was the decentralization of power. It could have been a possible and right system since it would have allowed everyone to choose and decide as beings able to do single and related acts in the society of the future where the words power and government would have not existed. The communication systems would have also allowed everyone to decide, vote, and express his own will or opinion on each aspect of life and policy.

Leonardo Ricci declared to be on the side of the revolution and of those students who supported the power decentralization in different percentages which could have varied in the different Universities, faculties, and Institutes.

At this point I should analyze which of the two reformist - revisionist or revolutionary tendencies I recognize. But it becomes almost irrelevant. I say this because my thoughts are totally clear.

I am for the revolution because I believe that the revisionist tendency contains two fundamental errors. The first is that it cannot manage to keep pace with the speed of transformation of the technological world in time. Secondly, because fatally it cannot but fall into the structural schemes of obsolete societies.

From the two revolutionary wings I find myself in the non-violent one because the first, in my view, makes two other fundamental mistakes: violence can only bring divisions so we cannot speak of working for a global society. At best it works for a future global society by repeating the error of many revolutionary movements, not for today's global society. It consists therefore still in idealism. Secondly, it operates in the ancient sense because it justifies a priori the value of human life<sup>60</sup>.

The non-violent revolution could work for the contemporary society, not for the future society, and it was existentially aware, so it was only able to do existential acts.

In this cultural context, I willingly surrender my power to the General Assembly. I accept the Assembly voluntarily not in a state of necessity. Just because this is my choice. I assume it in obedience to the needs for man of decentralization of powers<sup>61</sup>.

During the students' revolt and the eighty-five days long occupation of the faculty of Architecture the courses were suspended. Professor Giorgio Gori's was the head of the faculty and, during his deanship, to stop the revolt, a General Assembly was instituted. Leonardo Ricci and Umberto Eco purposed to the General Assembly the

---

<sup>59</sup> That social model could have let everyone live his own space where men could exist together. The new society would have seen the end of Humanism, where new men and women were refusing the old democracy which delivered the power to politicians who decided every aspect of life and brought the war, pushed everyone towards production and unruled consumption. The same result would have occurred in the passage from the mechanic to the automatic society because the power in the hands of a few people would have only given back alienation and the loss of the awareness of existence.

<sup>60</sup> Untitled Italian typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 7-8.

<sup>61</sup> Untitled Italian typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 8.

## Megastructure

*Ricci-Eco Motion*<sup>62</sup>: an important document embracing the students' requests and stating the importance of the Assembly as the institutional place where students and teachers would have discussed together the rising problems. Ricci did his aware choice in favor of the General Assembly and he signed the Assembly decisions, because there was no law preventing to exercise honestly his power by accepting the Assembly choices. He wanted to work with the students and begin as soon as possible. The motion recognized the faculty as an "open place" where all the education categories –researchers, scholars, professors, assistants, and students- could have developed the exchange of ideas, the vote was the equal instrument to decide the future of the faculty to establish a democratic and balanced system.

---

<sup>62</sup> The *Ricci-Eco Motion* was signed on March 20, 1968, some weeks before the end of the protest, in Florence.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

### MOZIONE RICCI ECO

L'Assemblea dei professori ordinari, straordinari ed incaricati della Facoltà di Architettura, riunitasi il giorno 20/3/68 nell'aula Magna del Rettorato prese atto delle mozioni A e B presentate dagli studenti nonchè dei recenti avvenimenti nel corso dei quali il movimento studentesco ha formulato esigenze o proposte circa la struttura futura dell'Università Italiana:

— dichiara preliminarmente di riconoscere, nel movimento di protesta giovanile, dei valori di cui è indispensabile tener conto, stabilendo pertanto uno "spazio aperto" in cui possa svolgersi un confronto leale e paritetico delle varie categorie interessate alla didattica e alla ricerca, professori, assistenti e studenti.

— riconosce nell'Assemblea generale il luogo in cui tale confronto può svolgersi e in cui debbono essere discusse e votate le varie proposte concernenti il futuro della facoltà. In tale sede ed ai fini della discussione chiara e leale delle varie possibilità, ciascun professore dichiarerà all'Assemblea i motivi del proprio consenso o del proprio dissenso con le finalità generali del movimento e con i singoli aspetti particolari delle proposte degli studenti. In tale sede il Consiglio di Facoltà proporrà nel contempo delle complete possibilità di modificazione delle strutture della Facoltà, realizzabili nell'ambito delle attuali possibilità decisionali del Consiglio stesso. In ogni caso, poichè si riconosce l'Assemblea come luogo di decisione democratica e paritetica, nonchè la sua funzione sperimentale di "costituente", l'Assemblea dei professori dichiara che :

-- nel caso che l'Assemblea Generale voti un piano di gestione della Facoltà realizzabile nell'ambito formale delle leggi vigenti, il Consiglio di Facoltà si impegna a garantirne l'applicazione o la validità giuridica nei modi che appariranno più adatti.

— nel caso invece che l'Assemblea Generale voti un piano di gestione della Facoltà che risulti inapplicabile senza una palese violazione delle leggi vigenti ma garante della serietà scientifica i professori si impegnano ad assumere la corresponsabilità delle deliberazioni dell'Assemblea ed a presentare le stesse all'autorità competente come documento ufficiale della Facoltà e "carta" delle richieste giudicate indispensabili ai fini della ripresa della vita universitaria.

I professori invitano pertanto l'Assemblea a nominare un Comitato Tecnico incaricato di studiare con il Consiglio di Facoltà le modalità di convocazione e di funzionamento dell'Assemblea Generale.

FIRENZE 20/3/68

5.2: "Ricci-Eco Motion", March 20, 1968, Florence, published in Giovanni Bartolozzi, *Nuovi Modelli Urbani* (Macerata: Quodlibet, 2013), 16.

## Megastructure

Professors could have declared their consent or dissent with the general movement or with the single students' purposes. The Faculty Committee would have suggested the possible changes of the Faculty structures and their consistency with the existing laws and, finally, a Technical Committee was appointed to study with the Faculty Committee the convocation mode and operational aspects of the General Assembly<sup>63</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci and Leonardo Savioli's courses, reflected the renewal need and their non-conventional teaching methods, revolutionary and new, anticipated the students' revolt and its aims. The atmosphere generated by the exiting and quite aggressive impulse of their lessons encouraged the protest and the new wave of the *Radicals* in Italy.

When Leonardo Ricci heard about the revolt, he was listening to the American radio so he began following the events on U.S.A. news:

It was an emotional experience when I had been able to listen to the news on American radio and television and to see images of what was happening in my own country.

It was also emotional because in the United States it is difficult to read or hear anything of Italy.

[...]

The College was occupied for many days. With obstinacy, with determination, that refused any compromise to didactic orders.

The word of the day was "General Assembly". Not thinking about that which could have happened, of the many dangers innate in that species of unleashed fury, for me as a man, for me as an ordinary professor, these two words give me internal joy.

Perhaps not up until it was mentioned what "General Assembly" signified, a counterposition to other forms of government. Someone spoke with great precision of "Direct Democracy". For me the new fact consists in this itself: in these words the explanation of the students' movement. In these words, the possibility of the liberation of men from exploitation at the economic level and at the psychological level.

General Assembly in technical terms can mean total decentralization of powers. Expressed in this way, it appears as one of many possible forms of government.

But translated into a lot of money, it signifies liberty, more directly. Finally, liberty for man. Because up until today even in the most open democracies man has been only able to entrust his own decisional powers to others. [...] Through the vote, we entrust to others the decisional power of our existence, even of our biological life. From that moment we are obliged to stir even against our own conscience<sup>64</sup>.

Fascism and Nazism had showed that with that idea of freedom a world war, murders and destruction had happened and, therefore, men had to do and hope something more for the future.

The students were suggesting that kind of new freedom and new society. To Ricci each man working in culture should have been happy of that and strived to help them, worked with them even though this would have implied the loss of guarantees, power, or privileges. The request was coming from the university, the headquarter of

---

<sup>63</sup> The *Ricci-Eco Motion* was published in Bartolozzi, *Nuovi Modelli Urbani*, 16.

<sup>64</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "The Possible Significance of the Student Revolt", typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 7. The same typescript has its Italian version Leonardo Ricci, "Possibili significati della rivolta degli studenti", typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 10, 11.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

conscience and culture, and this was the reason why all the cautious attitudes towards the student revolt by educators would have meant either the desire to preserve privileges or a low cultural level, an obsolete political view and capacity.

Leonardo Ricci attempted to outline the situation and analyze the student revolt from three standpoints: the student revolt and the Italian political scene, the student movement and the university, the student movement and the faculty of Architecture in Florence.

For what concerned the political scene, Ricci avoided the possibility of a right government due to the refusal of the previous dictatorship's policy and to the fact that the student revolt had collected the left trends and forces. Therefore, he foresaw a center-left sided government not able to conceive efficient reforms and too slow to follow the technological transformation, a social democracy pretending to offer a new welfare, but without a strong political idea able to delete or reduce the social differences, unable to rearrange the primary, secondary, and tertiary activities<sup>65</sup>.

The revolting students belonged to the bourgeois class and they were demonstrating against their own exploiting class, to change it and to become a new managerial class with new ideas, aims, hopes, conscience and political will, because their parents lived the benefits of the so called "economic boom", but they wanted something different, something more than the consumer society. That generation's beautiful tension caught Ricci's attention since it could help the students finding their social position.

Till a new generation is born, the one which accedes to the universities, dissatisfied in their father's lifestyle, which has unmasked the whole of false values, since it is a generation which roots in another war. The war of the boiling pot which is about to blow. And the student revolt is born – in every spot of the world, within historic, cultural, political, social, economic conditions which are not alike.

So that they are differentiated revolts, but all have a minimum common denominator: the bourgeois sons revolt against themselves – and the bourgeois now fear their sons. They arm the policemen against their own sons.

So when they speak about the sons of the other bourgeois, they can say that "they" don't know what they want, haven't got clear minds, since you shouldn't "go to revolt" driving father's car. They must be false revolutionaries, sterile, romantic anarchists.

As if throughout history the revolutions had been alike, out of the same cliché. And what if their force would be just that of a collective subconscious which revolts against a life recognized as stupid, alienated neurotic, lacking reality, untrue, from which a future cannot be drawn anymore?<sup>66</sup>

Ricci's most important reflection concerned the relationship between young people and the revolution, and, therefore, between university and the student movement, because also university was living a deep crisis in Europe and abroad.

---

<sup>65</sup> Ricci hoped that the student movement would have found the interest of the working class in order to unify the left forces and constitute a solid opposition wing with the progressive forces of the intellectuals who had no political space and were forced to stay out of the political parties. Ricci, "The Possible Significance of the Student Revolt", 8, 9.

<sup>66</sup> Ricci, "The Bourgeois in revolt against themselves. Cultural revolution in the United States", 3.

## Megastructure

To Ricci one possible reading of the student revolt could have been that young people were carrying on a sophisticated revolution paid by those they were directly fighting: their parents and the system they had built, that will of anarchy could also be the demonstration of a crueller revolution and of the need to kill the germs of a corrupt society.

For what concerned the crisis of the university, it could be summed up in four main points: the incapacity of the university structure to rise the process of transformation from the university of the élite to the mass university, to pass from a «teaching national-academic-worldly-passive to humanistic-idealistic characteristics of teaching», living, dynamic, active, adapted to a civilization in rapid technological transformation, the incapacity to synthesize cultural problems with political ones, and to divert the productive forces from the country in order not to be forced by productive or bureaucratic forces.

To Ricci universities should have opened to everyone and planned interdisciplinary activities, because the concept of faculty was over: a new minimal central functional unit should have served all the departments, where specialization could have become a reality. University needed to be autonomous to allow the experimentation of new methods and new techniques, it needed laboratories for specialized scientific research and, finally, it had to be only a technocratic instrument, which would have permitted the open cultural debate. Students were operators of the university and, they should have been payed, the educators and the educated were both researchers at different levels of knowledge and experience<sup>67</sup>. The faculty of Architecture was young enough to embody both the positive and the negative aspects of the university crisis: on one side it was positively affected by having the responsibility to deal with architectural and urban planning problems, and therefore it was politically and culturally more engaged than the other schools, faculties, and colleges. Yet, on the other side, from a structural point of view, it was evident that the legacy of the Academia was still strong. Ricci's feeling was that in the faculty of Architecture the revolt was stronger and more violent because other schools were more consolidated and because it expressed the students' wish not to become technocrats manipulated by the technocratic consumer society. Moreover, the relationship between the university and the government was absent because the government did not care about the urban model which could satisfy the social needs, it was only concerned about money and, in Italy as in other capitalistic countries, architecture was manipulated by speculation. The architects and the urban planners were immoral jobs, «either servants or dictators<sup>68</sup>».

Therefore, to Ricci, through the revolt, it was possible to see the figure of the architect changing: from a professional obeying or manipulating the clients the architect could become anonymous with an equal relationship with the customer. The architect had to serve the society in view of its possible changes, the theoretical and applied research were constant activities of the job which should have needed laboratories with the suitable equipments to create new alternative models at the urban and architectural scales. To transform the obsolete morphology of the cities' new models were necessary for the new way of life on Earth, and, to achieve this goal, the faculty of Architecture should have called for an increase in the concrete activities, from the habitat to the territorial scale to help the society at all levels, free from internal pressures.

---

<sup>67</sup> These two last points were then deepened in Leonardo Ricci, "Cultural Revolution in the United States", typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci, 11.

<sup>68</sup> Ricci, "Cultural Revolution in the United States", 13.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

This was the reason why, in Ricci's opinion, the faculty of Architecture had to constitute the "General Assembly" and, therefore, he wished the following government not only to reform the educational legislation, but to favor the research and its concrete experimentations in the society. Then it would have been possible for the university to wake up and become strong, alive, and working.

Ricci also wrote about the revolt in Italy and in the United States trying to outline the possible reasons of the movement: he was aware of the fact that the student revolt in the United States had a different meaning than in Italy, as it had in Czechoslovakia, in France or in Algeri. Yet they all shared a deep existential unease with the establishment structures and with the obsolete ideologies of the past which could not solve the problems of the time. Capitalist and neo-capitalist societies were demonstrating their limits, their structures and the different forms of democracy were living a crisis, socialist structures were living an involution because their revisionist versions had become similar to neo-capitalist societies. The novelty lied in the fact that young people were looking at young technological societies.

The revolts were stronger where the differences were undeniable and, in Ricci's opinion, the passage from the mechanical to the automatic society was not only bringing a new scientific and ordered society but it was also intensifying the distancing among the classes. The clearest difference existed among the primary, secondary, and tertiary activities. Among the three two were producing "plusvalue" used by the third one. In an automatic society all the classes would have been assimilated by automation and computers except for intellectual, creative, and managerial activities. On one side this process of transformation into the automatic society could have meant the elimination of the classes, but, on the other side it could have increased the differences and the damages caused by the economic imperialism, and the world would have been ruled by a few powerful nations and the dominated populations would have suffered an existential void that caused the need to be filled up and the revolt. Western countries should have been solving that void to build the future society, but one of the powerful nations exploiting the poorer ones were the United States, where the students were in revolt, black people were in revolt, «even the whites, who stood for them, the liberal intellectuals were not wanted to help. They were doubting about the worth of non-violence. The cut of the throat, the bloody insurrection might have offered the hope to erase humiliations and despair and uncertainty of direction<sup>69</sup>». American people who supported the current establishment were perceiving the system failures.

A new theoretical and cultural support had to sustain and to go side by side with the general change, otherwise even to destroy the most powerful country as U.S.A. would have not solved the problem. Philosophy and art had already shown their obsolescence as theories, in their investigation methods and forming reality, applied sciences could not build and new relational knowledge and, therefore, it was clear that a new opening had to be found to unify these different forms of knowledge and begin a new interdisciplinary relational discipline by abandoning the structures of thinking inherited by the Greeks, the old set of rules, the myths. That was why the intellectuals were called to find new solutions and take part in what the revolts were asking. A participating intellectual should have examined the historical process and the mankind evolution trying to understand whether the process contained the drives to an enslaved world or forces striving for a better world.

---

<sup>69</sup> Ricci, "Cultural Revolution in the United States", 2, 3.

## Megastructure

Men were alienated because of the division in working classes and of the capacity of men to create alienating models unfitting with life activities and acts, because they were not tested before being realized. Alienation could only cause revolts against the central power, so Ricci suggested that a fourth class of intellectuals could have unified the three classes and studied a model to eliminate their differences<sup>70</sup>. Yet the fourth class would have accomplished a power position by solving and “ruling” the other three, and a quaternary class emerging from the automation society could have caused horrible alienation as well<sup>71</sup>.

On the other hand, automation and computers could have been the instrument to realize a new interdisciplinary culture, technology and computers could have built a «memory bank containing all the knowledge of man, a new Alexandria Library, that we could consult very quickly and in a new active way<sup>72</sup>».

The quaternary activities will then make possible to unify the previously divided men in *homo faber*, *homo ludens* and *homo sapiens*, into a man no longer instrumentalized [exploited] and led. If seen in context, we can say the United States [are] at a fork. If its political, business and industrial men, their bourgeois class altogether, who behold the power and have the capacity to understand the phenomenon and the courage to choose for this new unified man, accepting the loss of certain privileges to be considered today as belonging to the prehistory of man, it is theoretically possible for this country to exploit the chance of starting at last the history of man, really a New Age<sup>73</sup>.

If the United States as the most powerful country in the world would have not thought such a model, the differences among the classes could have only increased and the enslavement process would have become a reality. The United States were the most technologically advanced country with the best universities of the time and, since Ricci saw the university, as the medium point between theory and practice, analysis and synthesis, hypothesis and verification, the best place to fill the existential void with new structures and new models for humanity, new research methods, were the United States. Ricci wanted to find a place for the cultural revolution for equal freedom, to choose with the help of computers while not being ruled by them, to live with nature and not against nature, a cultural revolution able to precede the times and not suffering them, for men within reality and not investigating it to happen to stress the fact that his view could be seen an arbitrary and subjective standpoint if it were not placed and based on historical and economical facts.

The reasons why the U.S.A. were the right place were two: the U.S. were the country where the contradictions were more stressed, and the most powerful country in technology, which had just freed from slavery, where human beings had not acquired the rights to their own complete existence as men, and, finally, where differently mixed traditions, cultures, and personal histories were bringing the country to the fork<sup>74</sup>.

Taking the United States as an example, after having experienced new educational models and interdisciplinary research, Leonardo Ricci also introduced his proposal for the schools of architecture and planning to embody the

---

<sup>70</sup> Leonardo Ricci explained the same contents in the interview by Alfred Friendly Jr. for the New York Times titled “Cultural revolt urged by Italian professor. Professor coming to U.S. Thinks it Will Be First”. Ricci’s replies to the question sent by the New York Times are also kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>71</sup> Ricci, “The Bourgeois in revolt against themselves. Cultural revolution in the United States”, 7, 8.

<sup>72</sup> Friendly, “Cultural revolt urged by Italian professor. Professor coming to the United States Thinks It Will Be First”.

<sup>73</sup> Ricci, “Cultural Revolution in the United States”, 6, 7.

<sup>74</sup> Ricci, “The Bourgeois in revolt against themselves. Cultural revolution in the United States”, 10, 11.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

social change as a new community model. The had to be renamed “schools of architectural design at different scales”, new structures with a new role and symbols of new ways of thinking. The first necessary choice to do was to decide which part of the discipline was theoretical and which part was applied research, and then, maybe mindful of the institution of the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies, turn the schools into centers of studies, where the models of the spatial social organization were interdisciplinary tested at the territorial and group scales, and into laboratories where the models could be theorized, realized, tested, and applied.

The base of the studies and the most important laboratory was society itself, no distinctions between life and university could exist, because the schools of architecture and planning would have become the organizing institutions, qualified to respond to the many social problems. No competition between university and society would exist because the General Assembly was the tool to express power at all levels. Experimentation was the only possibility of research free from dogmas and ideologies in constant connection with the mass, the result would have been the disappearance of categories of *élite* and mass culture, thus realizing the aims of the student revolt and eliminating the figure of the intellectual as the product of a bourgeois culture. In the new “community-society” able to understand its own contradictions, the needs of minorities, and to avoid any kind of repression, everyone could have participated in the decisional process and realization of each object working for human life and satisfying real, not induced, needs.

A community at worldly scale cannot help but be the goal of men, not only of the honest ones but of the lucid ones, too. A community where the “other” would not have physically known as in some ancient civilizations by his relation to class, tribe, family, lineage, culture; that is to say within the circles of the possible information. The circle is the whole earth now. The other is by now, here with us. Present here, even if from antipodes. We hear his voice, we see him with our own eyes, the other has become inseparable from us, he cannot be anymore the stranger, the enemy from which to defend ourselves fighting. The other is not any longer beyond the walls, beyond the door. He has penetrated into everybody’s room. He stands up in front of us, starving or beautiful, sick, mad with pain or fear or hope. Nobody can send him away because this other has become our conscience<sup>75</sup>.

In 1968, Leonardo Ricci was described in an interview for the *New York Times* as «a 50-year-old teacher of architecture at the University of Florence, [...] one of few academic leaders to put into practice the revolutionary theories that have spread sporadic violence and general confusion through Italy’s universities this year<sup>76</sup>».

Ricci was interviewed by Alfred Friendly for the *New York Times* on December 16, 1968, the day before his departure to the University of Florida for a five-months experiment at the Architecture Department in Gainesville, where, since in the United States discrimination against black people was high and the need for integration was more and more spreading out, Ricci’s idea of «a community at worldly scale» was up to date for the time, perfectly fitting with the American situation, consistent with his idea of scaling the community project to large-scale interventions to face the town crisis, and aimed at finding new applications of the “form-act” design method.

---

<sup>75</sup> Ricci, “Cultural Revolution in the United States”, 17.

<sup>76</sup> Friendly, “Cultural revolt urged by Italian professor. Professor coming to the United States Thinks It Will Be First”.

## Megastructure

What was important for his work in those years, when he conceived the Model City Plan for Miami, a neighborhood for 95,000 black people, was his intention to change university and society, described in a document entitled “Appunti per un programma” [“Notes for a program”], in which he systematized possible interventions and requests from students, professors, workers and government forces. He thought of a total reorganization of the Italian society<sup>77</sup>, of a systematization of the existing forces for the mass society instead of the bourgeois one. The system was conceived in function of the political ideas: it was composed of the students and assistants that, as professors, belonged to different factions but their ideas had to concur to the final asset of the faculty. Therefore, Ricci’s purpose was to identify three reference figures inside the faculty to assist the dean (Ricci): one professor for the external political issue, one for the internal, and one for the programs<sup>78</sup>.

Ricci wanted to elect mixed commissions of students, assistants, and professors to face each single problem by using all the existing forces, helped by an efficient secretary office for the administrative and legal procedures. All the universities should cooperate for the correct functioning of the society, so a further system made of the faculty of architecture with the other courses would have helped to solve the situation, if common goals were identified.

Moreover, the didactical roles, often confused among teachers, assistants, and Professors, were sometimes combined, and coupled, but this affected the clear structure of the faculty and caused misunderstandings about the salaries and roles. Often the intermediate level teachers lacked because only the roles of assistants and enrolled Professors were clear: the right way to follow was to include them in the faculty decisions.

The government should have allowed the dialogue with the university and fostered the contact between university and society, the main laboratory of university in general but, most of all, of architectural or urban studies, where all architecture students and professor should have worked. The bureaucratic (political power), industry (economic power), and university (cultural power) could have worked together on the verifiable models expressing the real society. Starting from this hypothesis, architecture students, assistants and Professors could have been considered workers of the society and nothing would have differentiated them from factory workers: university and factory workers were all workers, university would have found a dialogue with the workers class, and everyone could have been considered equally, men with the same needs, feelings and with a role in the society, by using Ricci’s words: «to eliminate the difference between theory and practice<sup>79</sup>». All would have become workers for a unique factory: Ricci wrote a program for the Tuscany Region, which could have been used as a model to be expanded to the entire society<sup>80</sup>.

The importance of Leonardo Ricci’s thought about the 1968 revolt and its political implications was strongly connected to teaching again. By the end of the 1960s Leonardo Ricci and Leonardo Savioli taught to the generation of Radical Architects, succeeding, in that particular period, to find the acceptance of their experimental ideas in a mutual and fruitful exchange. Leonardo Savioli had Alberto Breschi and Adolfo Natalini among his assistants,

---

<sup>77</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Appunti per un programma”, undated typescript (approximately July 1971, since the academic year was going to begin on next November 5<sup>th</sup>, when Ricci had already been elected to the Faculty of Florence deanship). The typescript is introduced by a short letter addressed to the audience and it is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>78</sup> Ricci, “Appunti per un programma”, 2.

<sup>79</sup> Ricci, “Appunti per un programma”, 2.

<sup>80</sup> Ricci, “Appunti per un programma”, 2-4.

while Remo Buti appeared among the names of Ricci's assistants guiding the students in the elaboration of the models for an integrated town<sup>81</sup>. In the preface to the book *Leonardo Savioli. Ipotesi di Spazio*, Leonardo Ricci, who was then Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, highlighted, four years after the student revolts, the validity of that research aimed at stimulating a new attitude to design, wishing to «all those who, between utopia and reality, [felt] the need that between theory and practice the distance [decreased] until it [coincided]» to happen soon<sup>82</sup>.

### 5.3. Fighting against urban segregation. The tension of architectural reasoning at urban scale.

The 1968 revolt enhanced Ricci's aim to think of architectural reasoning at urban scale through the idea of "community at worldly scale", that led him to conceive the synopia of the City of the Earth, but his concern about how to overcome urban segregation was clear a decade before.

The town-creating act was supposedly replaced by regulation. From the ideal city-plan they moved down to the regulatory plan. Not that such an instrument did not exist. But it was, first of all, academic. It was an arbitrary act of command, without basis or justification. In Italy, at least, it was a fascist act. For that matter, we were still living in that sort of climate. Then the regulatory plan changed aspect. Rational and integral planning was attempted: interregional plans, regional plans, municipal plans, detailed plans. Planning had become the password: planning from above.

In planning, it seemed, a cure-all had been discovered; a method, at last, had been found. In a certain sense this was good. A new urbanistic conscience was being born. It was felt that urbanism belonged to the collectivity, no longer to individual thaumaturges. But what remained to us was a handful of flies. [...] What came into being, accordingly, were paper regulatory plans: abstract, and more arbitrary even than those of the masters. For the latter, however mistaken, at least contributed some positive elements of inventiveness: invention of form, invention of new factors, invention of organisms. Here, instead, there was nothing of the sort<sup>83</sup>.

In his book *Anonymous (XX century)*, Leonardo Ricci stated that Italian urbanism was reduced to its zoning. The soil distribution system promoted social discrimination, the cities, the countryside were unbearable, man was forced to be alone, he could not communicate with others, nor integrate into the environment. This was why he looked for new solutions to the spread alienation in the United States, where new studies were revising urban planning and finally found Urban Design, which solved, in a progressive and modern way, the tension between the urban and the architectural dimensions.

---

<sup>81</sup> Leonardo Savioli and Adolfo Natalini, "Spazio di coinvolgimento", *Casabella*, no. 326 (1968): 32-45; Adolfo Natalini, "Arti visive e spazio di coinvolgimento", *Casabella*, no. 328 (1968): 34-36; Alberto Breschi, "Leonardo Savioli, un maestro", in Manno Tolu, Masini and Poli eds., *Tra i due Leonardi Fiorentini*, 76; Giovanni Bacciardi, "Leonardo Ricci urbanista, architetto, pittore, scrittore, ma soprattutto un rivoluzionario esistenzialista", in Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di un'architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 15-21.

<sup>82</sup> Ricci, preface, in *Ipotesi di Spazio*, 2, translation by Carolina De Falco. Carolina De Falco, "Leonardo Savioli: Didactics and Projects for "Space Involvement", *Histories of Postwar Architecture*, no. 2 (June 2018): 155-162.

<sup>83</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 175-176.

## Megastructure

In Leonardo Ricci's opinion, during the planning phase, the main legal initiatives had the same weaknesses: the disappearance of the scientific and technical culture of the modern world, therefore many opportunities to resort to industrial production and political initiatives undertaken outside any pre-existing scientific grammar, the inability to make fundamental decisions in the field of urban planning, the almost total absence of experimental attempts in all fields and the partitioning between the various disciplines. An important problem had been left out: the search for a method that offered the experience of running a program that was constantly adaptable to the evolution of our culture<sup>84</sup>.

All the Italian legislation and urban planning policies' problems were the reasons why Ricci was in favor of what he defined an "organic" planning in the already mentioned interview with Paola Venturi<sup>85</sup>, to which economic, technical, and intellectual forces contributed to interpret the individual and collective needs for the city project. In 1978 Leonardo Ricci yearned for the human solidarity he had seen after the war that could lead to organic planning of grounded cities. For him, the town had to be "grounded" instead of "derived", because, in the second case, the town was the result of the absence of a model: the contemporary chaos was precisely the consequence of the derived town.

After the war there was no planning from above or below, while afterwards both models were imposed. Ricci did not consider other planning but the organic: political, economic, social, and intellectual premises had to work together. Planning was to be understood in a total sense, of the city and the way of life, as it happened for the competition for the reconstruction of the destroyed center of Florence: the plan was not however limited to the center, despite the competition provided for it. According to Leonardo Ricci, in fact, the historic center should no longer be considered linked to a single municipality, but as the social space - the sum of equipment and services on a territorial scale that had to be analyzed, to then be able to insert these equipment and services in a territorial space. The aim of a plan was to create new lifestyles and exchanges fitting contemporary life, offering flexible structures into which the living spaces were extended by all the equipment and connected to all the activities and services that characterized the only "urban center". It was important to propose solutions to the problems of urban planning which, due to their essence and their movement space, could really express the time<sup>86</sup>.

---

<sup>84</sup> The problem had mainly two aspects, the operating process: programming interventions over time to obtain a perfect relationship between man and territory and the methodological process: structuring of the interventions in all the phases presented by the operational research. The first aspect concerned the scale of these operations and the establishment of the nucleus to prevent managers from rigidifying the relationship between society and territory, which would lead to a landscape of too formal rationalism. The second point, at the internal level of the "typological core", referred to a habitable structure in which the designed solution had to consider present and future functions (habitat / education, habitat / recreation, habitat / equipment, etc.) and proposed environments that were not theoretical or impregnated with sociological aspirations, which, on examination, could be negative. Maria Grazia Dallerba, "City planning research at the University of Florence, under the direction of Leonardo Ricci", *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 128 (October-November 1966): 54-56.

<sup>85</sup> Venturi, "Parlando nel 1978", 349-386.

<sup>86</sup> On that occasion, Ricci also explained that, for instance, the project for Sorgane reflected the society of the time and the idea of planning just expressed. Sorgane was a system of pedestrian streets at different heights which allowed the movement of all the inhabitants. In ancient Florence destroyed by war they wanted to do exactly that. The idea of organic Ricci had was linked to life, that is, to everything that was alive, which man can exchange with other men by forming a single organic body. It was an existential organic idea. Men changed the world in history by alternatively using open and closed models

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

As a result of a year of study, the research titled “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani” [“Anthro-sociological aspects of human acts”] undertaken by Maria Grazia Dallerba under the direction of Leonardo Ricci was only a first attempt on which partial checks could be carried out. They aimed to create new lifestyles and exchanges, offering flexible structures in which living spaces were extended by all equipment and connected to all the activities and services that characterized that time<sup>87</sup>. Besides, new organic interventions of this kind to fight urban segregation caused by zoning could be done at different scales, from two thousand to twenty thousand inhabitants. But, at a territorial scale, the problem was different and new matrices were needed. Participation could be easily used at the habitat and neighborhood scales (20.000 inhabitants), but at the highest scale a method to use the tool of participation did not exist, because in the first case the counterpart was clearly and easily identifiable in the Region, while, in the second case, the counterpart – or counterpower – did not exist. This was the reason why architects, planners, and intellectuals should have risked the production of new models for the vast scale, trusting the fact that human needs were equal for each individual belonging to a society.

Ricci also declared that according to him there were three phases of architecture: «One is that of the model, that is, the way of life; a second that is the moment of structure, that is, the physical support that allows the incarnation of the model itself, and the third moment, visible and tactile, is that of form. Form is therefore the result, the goal; it is physical and visible, tangible concretization of the model. On the contrary, I am very opposed to those who presuppose a form, let me say, a priori; because it can only become a container of a life that has not expressed itself<sup>88</sup>».

The models had to be verified with the economic, political, and social forces depending on the kind of plan, and then the definite plan could be done. This could be a sort of participation for vast-scale interventions since the power of the government to plan and place streets, highways, railways, all transports, and communication systems was huge, but the people could not take part in the decision process. Ricci’s models were an intent to solve the participated planning process at vast scale because he verified them with the population at all scales with the only organic, existential, and choral intent he knew<sup>89</sup>.

---

according to their human condition’s needs, accepting or refusing the existing forms, or inventing new ones, to face life. Indeed, Ricci declared his view was not deterministic and that he did not consider the historical models as a product of evolution, but rather a result of human invention. It was a matter of human choices and not history. Anthropology demonstrated that human evolution was not natural, but it happened thanks to human choices, because men were influenced by nature. Historicist readings and factual findings were not enough according to anthropology and according to Ricci, who reported these theses in a writing entitled “Squilibri Territoriali” [“Territorial Imbalances”], 3, Casa Studio Ricci. The intervention was done on April 19, 1968: the typescript is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>87</sup> The research is deeply explained in paragraph 6.2.2. of the present work titled “The anonymous translation in megastructures. Sociological and Psychological assumptions and effects”. The research aims, methods and results were also published by Maria Grazia Dallerba, “City planning research at the University of Florence”, 54-56.

<sup>88</sup> Venturi, “Parlando nel 1978”, 380.

<sup>89</sup> Ricci realized what he intended as organic planning in the plan for Comprensorio dei comuni della Toscana (Valle del Cuoio – “the Leather District”), in the Ecumenic Village of Agàpe and in the “Monte degli Ulivi” Village in Riesi. He himself stated that because in those projects he was able to eliminate the distinction between architect/planner and customer/future dweller of the projects. In Riesi no distinction between architecture and planning existed, and the project was successful because it reflected the bidimensional – the plan – and tridimensional – the architectural project – planning. The model was thought and changed with the population, step by step.

## Megastructure

Leonardo Ricci explained that, during his work in the United States, he tried to evaluate the cost of a city, and, in Los Angeles in particular - the town he considered the most suitable to host the city of the future, as he explained in a plenty of writings as in the unpublished *Città della Terra* - he studied the costs to ground a town for twenty thousand people. In detail, this study derived from his strong belief that the architect and the planner had to study and face the problem of urban alienation and urban segregation by combining economical and morphological aspects. In this the architect differed from the economist or politician: knowing how to analyze morphological characteristics and how they derived from economic aspects to see if it was possible to change the organization of human life.

Furthermore, to Ricci planning was done in two and three dimensions: in two dimensions meant to consider only the architectural structure on the ground, while the third dimension would have implied the construction of services, infrastructures and residences raised above the ground. As it is easy to understand, the first cost hypothesis would have been of a lower amount than the second, but Ricci studied a new methodology to face the problem: he wanted to study the cost for each inhabitant relating to the streets, the school, the land, each service, the habitat, the car. As a result of his studies, in Los Angeles eighty percent of the land was for cars and the cost of maintaining this road system could have been equivalent to the amount needed to offer a free service to each inhabitant. These assessments in Italy could only have been made with the change of the political class, with which the architects could have dealt with these aspects. This is why Ricci strongly supported the student revolt, to change urban planning: the planning was not to give regulatory plans, but only "territorial predispositions" or the territory predisposed to certain operations instead of a plan that obliged the territory to receive certain operations. Ricci therefore denied two-dimensional urban planning and the consequent planning at all levels, from the urban to the regional scale. The other fundamental condition for changing urban planning was the creation of alternative models according to certain priorities. For example, the creation of an alternative infrastructural bundle model as he managed to achieve in the Miami Model Cities Plan (1968-1970) and, several years later his speech in which he exposed this idea, on April 19, 1968, for the Plan for the Leather Area District (1975-1978)<sup>90</sup>.

The alternative models had to be created on the base of the priorities to be studied, which could also constitute a range of priorities, because they constituted the alternative to society. Ricci also declared that he had worked with left administrations that had been unable to do anything but propose bourgeois life models, but the revolt was underway, so both theoretically and practically the change could happen<sup>91</sup>.

The reason for urban designers' refusal of segregation and zoning, both used in Italy and in the United States, was that the city as a changing and continuously growing entity was not accepted: change was uncomfortable to many citizens; it destabilized real estate values, and the wish to preserve the status and appearance of wealthy areas in the cities, as Kevin Lynch observed in a book titled *Managing the Sense of a Region* (1976)<sup>92</sup>. In Manhattan, zoning was created to resist just such destabilizing change. Kevin Lynch was the first one to postulate that static

---

<sup>90</sup> The project is described among the auxiliary projects in the following pages.

<sup>91</sup> All the ideas concerning the connection between the economical and morphological levels, and the bidimensional against the tridimensional planning were all written by Leonardo Ricci's speech titled "Squilibri Territoriali", 4-6, 11-13.

<sup>92</sup> Kevin Lynch, *Managing the Sense of a Region* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1976).

models of the city, such as that of Le Corbusier, were inaccurate because of change: to him yet cities did grow and decay, their change happened despite the best efforts of those who wished to halt it<sup>93</sup>.

In the U.S. plural urbanism was born as an answer to the dominant tendency of urban design in the twentieth century to favor unitary urbanism, either modernist or neo-traditionalist and some of the designers that transcended this biased vision acted and thought in a third manner: plural urbanism. David Crane, Edmund Bacon and Kevin Lynch were three of them, whose work was exemplary to understand what plural urban design meant to different extent<sup>94</sup>.

In plural urbanism Leonardo Ricci recognized his idea of urban design, which, starting from M.I.T. theoretical research, then with his experiments on models at Penn State University, and then at the University of Florida, strengthened and developed as example of “urbatettura”. The term “Urbatettura” was coined by Jan Lubicz-Nycz<sup>95</sup>, a concept that, to Leonardo Ricci, allowed the tension of an architectural reasoning at urban scale to happen, a neologism melting the Italian words “urbanistica” (urban planning) and “architettura” (architecture) when the diffusion of the mass media coincided with the direction of an architectonic, urban, and territorial reintegration. The advent of the automobile and the spread of the mass media totally changed the vision of the city. Frank Lloyd Wright with his project for Broadacre City was the first one to foresee that the car marked the end of the division between city and countryside, the dispersion of inhabitants and the demographic concentration in macrostructures. The concept of reintegration of the city implied the total re-thinking of its

---

<sup>93</sup> Kevin Lynch himself rearranged his idea of “city design” and elaborated the model of the “polycentered net”, which represented a characteristic possessed by all cities. The polycentered net would have also presented a barrier to conventional urban design, whether modernist or traditional, that depended on a static model of city form to sustain its formal quality. Lynch transcended the spread distinction between the traditional and modernist views opposing in the twentieth century and posited several shapes of formal option before conceiving the last polycentered model for the “twentieth century-unfinished city”. “City design” represented for Lynch the alternative to the common practices of unitary urban design that composed late modernism. He widely published his studies on this concept and he remained interested in it till the end of his life. He had been always interested in the metropolitan form, finally published in his last book *A Theory of Good City Form* in 1981, then re-published with the shortened title *Good City Form* in 1984. Kevin Lynch, *A Theory of Good City Form* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1981).

<sup>94</sup> «The era of late modernism, from about 1960 onward, was a particularly fertile time for such thought, as orthodox principles of design diversified and expanded in many different directions before dissolving in the 1970s, in concert with modernism itself». To deepen David Crane, Edmund Bacon and Kevin Lynch’s different contributions to the foundation of urban design: Brent D. Ryan, *The Largest Art. A Measured Manifesto for a Plural Urbanism* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2017), 139-184.

<sup>95</sup> The urbanization process had triggered questions to which modern urban planning had tried to answer and for which it had produced answers, which were basically two according to Jan Lubicz-Nycz: the garden city that failed in the peripheral expansion, and the Ville Radieuse that provided for the rational use of tall buildings, multi-level traffic, landscape arrangements, but resulted in huge residential blocks. In 1965 Bruno Zevi dedicated one editorial to the concept of Urbatettura by Jan Lubicz-Nycz; Zevi made this thesis his own, and accompanied the Critic for the rest of his life until the Modena conference on Landscaping and Grade Zero Language of Architecture. Urbatettura will become the seventh invariant of its modern language of architecture; the one capable of summarizing the architectural elements listed and broken down into the first six. Jan Lubicz-Nycz, *USA, urbatektura: Muzeum Architektury* (Wrocław: Muzeum Architektury, 1976), quoted in Zevi, *Il linguaggio Moderno dell’Architettura. Guida al codice anticlassico* (Torino: Einaudi, 1973), 214.

## Megastructure

spaces – both private and public - of the urban functions and of the relation between streets and buildings, under the point of view of a new synthesis rather than by means of mechanical aggregation.

In architecture, the common feeling was the necessity to free from the segregationist mentality of zoning to think of organic forms that would welcome life. Shells-containers of humanity and provided with all functions, which were the expression of the synthesis of life according to the concept of reintegration of human activities and acts, as Ricci explained in his unpublished *Città della Terra*.

In Ricci's work "urbatettura" referred to design at urban scale, involving the concept of thinking architecture for the whole town, starting from the projects at the habitat scale and proceeding with the planning at the town and megalopolis scale. The concept "Urbatettura" synthesized two issues as the word conveyed a tension between apparently different disciplines which could help solve the urban crisis by melting, influencing, and taking skills from each other.

On a practical layer, it is extremely useful the reading of Leonardo Ricci and Riccardo Morandi's reports on the projects for the University of Florida and the plan for Miami "Model City" Program<sup>96</sup>. Both reports explain and describe in detail the intention of planning at urban scale; they are structured dividing the descriptions into paragraphs, each concerning one specific scale of the projects. Planning at different scales let the project be realized gradually, in case of economic needs and to respect planning rules and indexes.

To Ricci, tension was the necessary instrument to link spaces and volumes at all levels to plan from the habitat to the megalopolis scale, it was what really evocated the human acts and activities a building or a city should be able to welcome and that tension between opposites was what could really feed a "choral" work and let it to bring architecture back to the "happiness" of the participation in the work.

That tension was also a feature of Ricci's character, it reflected his way of thinking architecture, and his constant quest, as he stated:

Perhaps all men have a double nature. I had that of Castor and Pollux. My internal nature is that of Pollux: secret, tragic, introverted; the nature of the *poiesis*. Outside, on the other hand, I have always shown myself as Castor: active, extroverted, man of action. To regain unity after separation, Pollux had to kill Castor. Perhaps after 1973 it was for me the time of this killing, the period of the "underworld" before going back to the light<sup>97</sup>.

Ricci's projects' nourishment was that tension, the same that fed their architect, the power that allowed him to trace the forces that generated the form or that would have represented those forces. It was the instrument, both in painting and architecture, to reveal all the visual elements and the necessary vitality to design a useful project.

---

<sup>96</sup> See APPENDIX III.

<sup>97</sup> 1973 was the year of Ricci's resignation from the University of Florence and "Venetian exile". In the same interview Ricci told that *Castore e Polluce* had to be the title of another unpublished book. Leonardo Ricci, "Il buonsenso della fantasia", interview published in Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 34.

### 5.4. From Urban to Visual Design: György Kepes and the foundation of CAVS, a radical visual academia

Thanks to the Harvard-MIT JCUS' interdisciplinary research on the design process of the city, Kevin Lynch's studies about the perceptual form of the city and the new representational tools of Visual Design used in the "studio work" by György Kepes, Leonardo Ricci definitely based his belief on morphological generations avoiding *a priori* forms he had already expressed in his reflections on the Informal in painting and in the conferences of 1952, strengthening his conviction that the design idea emerged from the artistic sign and not vice-versa. The influences among the arts in the design process, combined with the study of the History of Art and Architecture, gave birth to Urban Design, taught by Ricci at Penn State University and University of Florida in the following years, and investigated by revolutionary architects in Italy as well. Ricci's experience at M.I.T. was a turning experience in teaching and design, not only because there he found new research fields and the roots of Urban Design, but also because he exported to Italy György Kepes' course of Visual Design.

Pietro Belluschi's deanship ended in 1965 and, a couple of years later, in 1967, György Kepes founded at M.I.T. the Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) by collecting a lot of work done by the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies. Kepes arrived in the Visual Department of the Graduate Program at M.I.T. in 1946 and between 1947 and 1956 he concentrated on the production of his publication *The New Landscape in Art and Science*<sup>98</sup>. It was largely written in 1952 and took the form of an encyclopedic constellation of images describing the aesthetic qualities of scientific findings, as well as displaying the scientific origins of other aesthetic manifestations.

György Kepes restored the artistic and architectural production of Italian architects and artists achieving prominence right after the World War II. Some examples were Pierluigi Nervi, Ernesto Nathan Rogers and Harry Bertoina. The book constituted a "radical visual academia" referred to a same way of thinking for all visual disciplines: design, architecture, town planning, art. These reflections gave birth to some fundamental studies such as Kevin Lynch's "The Image of the City" (1960) or Aldo Rossi's "The Architecture of the City" (1966), a defence of the historical, cultural, and anthropological construction of the urban form.

In the Sixties several Italian scholars contributed to Kepes' "Vision+Value" series published by George Braziller: Gillo Dorfles with the essay "The Nature and Art of Motion" (1965), Mirko Basaldella with "Education of Vision" (1965), Pier Luigi Nervi with "Structure in Art and Science" (1965), Leonardo Ricci with "Form, the tangible expression of a reality" (1966), and Ernesto Nathan Rogers with "Sign, Image, Symbol" (1966)<sup>99</sup>.

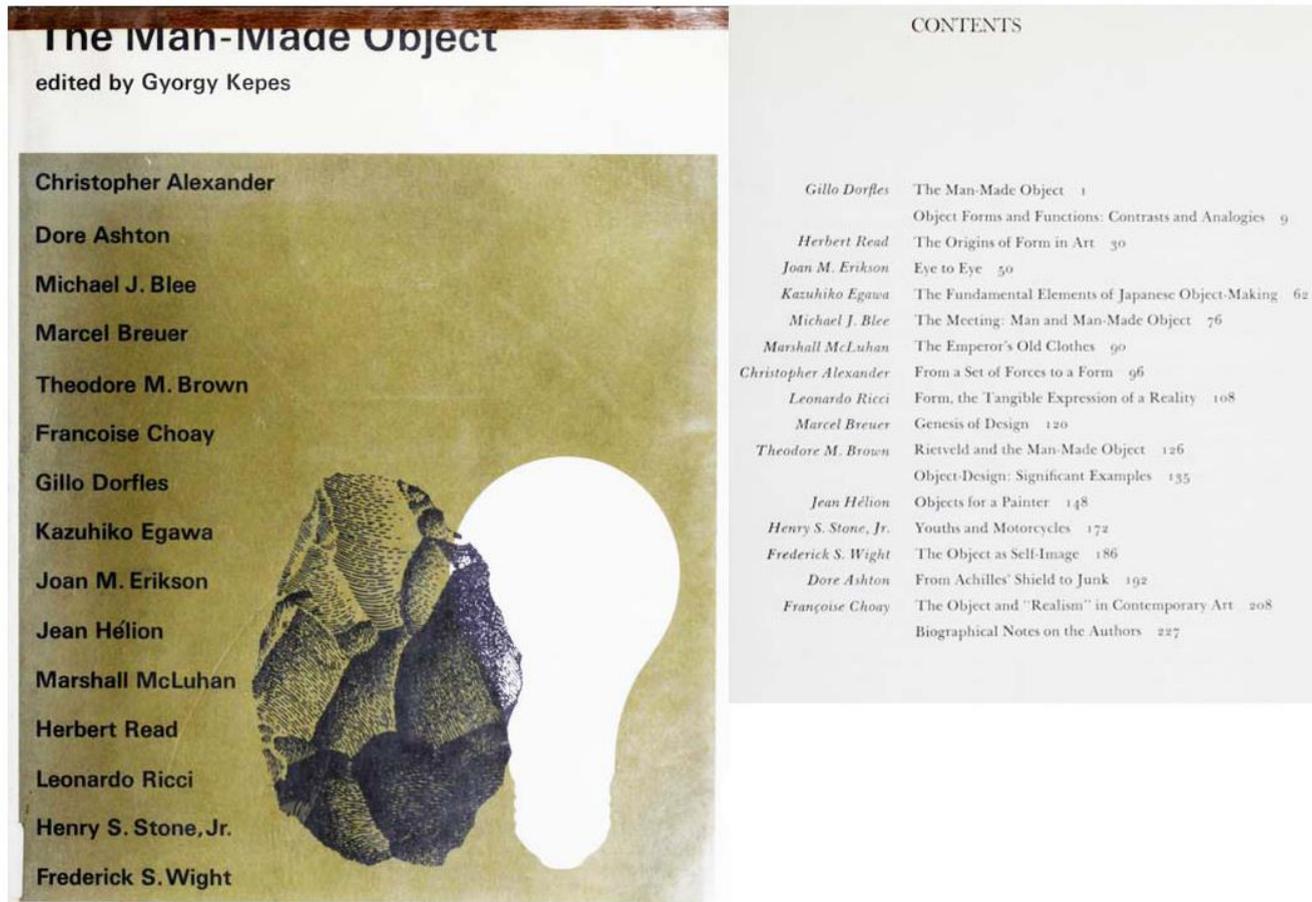
With the aim of helping his students acquire the mastery of drawing in two- and three-dimensions, Ricci studied in depth György Kepes' fundamental teaching methods at M.I.T.: Professor Kepes taught the "studio work" which foresaw to experience all visual techniques useful for the architects to communicate their design ideas, from photography to collage techniques, combined with History of Art and Architecture. That kind of work fostered the skill of studying the rhythm of forms, reproducing it, drawing the expansion of a form by studying

---

<sup>98</sup> György Kepes, "The New Landscape in Art and Science", *Art in America*, no. 43 (1955): 34-39. György Kepes, *The New Landscape in Art and Science* (Chicago: Theobald, 1967).

<sup>99</sup> Pep Aviles, "Pietro Belluschi and György Kepes. Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Cambridge MA USA 1951-1965", *Radical Pedagogies* Ao8, (2018).

## Megastructure



5.3: György Kepes, ed., *Man-Made Object* (New York: Braziller, 1966), cover of the book and index.

its inherent structure, natural structures and their variations, possible variations in architectural forms, forms, and counter-forms. Those exercises constituted the first important moment in the activities of Leonardo Ricci's courses and became a fundamental learning moment for the students. Ricci's methods could sound unusual for other design courses that were concentrating on the representation of an idea. By correcting and discussing with the students the Visual Design exercises both the professor and the students could trace the features of individual languages, grammars, and ideas, because, as in painting, the sign in the drawing could be translated as an expression of personal philosophical architectural thoughts. The idea was emerging from the drawing and not vice-versa<sup>100</sup>.

<sup>100</sup> These exercises were collected in Leonardo Ricci's essay titled "Ricerche per una urbanistica non alienata" ["Researche for a non-alienated urban planning"] and the final results represent territorial plates like huge infrastructures and sculptures conceived at the territorial scale, models of urban macrostructures. The typescript of the essay is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

A typescript kept in Casa Studio Ricci unveils that Ricci had already written a purpose to turn the course of “ornamental plastic” into “Visual Design”. On October 16, 1959, a short time before leaving Italy to teach at M.I.T. for the Spring term 1960, Leonardo Ricci and Giovanni Klaus Koenig presented indeed a report to the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Florence concerning the teaching of plastic formativity to architects following Kepes’ example and wrote a purpose for a new teaching program in that field<sup>101</sup>.

In Italy, the subject “ornamental plastic” was a complementary exam in the first two years of the five-year course in architecture, which was considered a preparatory and introductory period to the discipline and had to prepare the students to understand those plastic values typical of sculpture that could be traced in architecture as well.

The name “ornamental plastic” came from the conception that plastic decoration coincided with ornament in architectural phenomenology. In this way, the academy already attributed in its name a specific didactic address to the discipline, which did not actually correspond to the right teaching. The rigid rationalist conception of architecture that refused any decorative element had prevented the material from intervening in any compositional and pre-compositional phase of the architectural project. At the end of the Fifties, a specific function in the formative process of architecture was attributed to plastic: no longer in the sense of “ornament” to a structure but in the sense of a structure that became plastic itself. The spatial configuration through the structure became form and «was enriched with three-dimensional and volumetric values born from the expressive possibilities offered by the structure and materials<sup>102</sup>».

According to Ricci and Koenig, this kind of study on the plastic possibilities of materials was fundamental in architectural teaching and Kepes’ Visual Design course, consisting in teaching the students all the possible meanings of lines, space, volumes, colors, dimensions of the elements and the way these combined, the properties of some materials, the ways to treat them, internationally recognized, should have been inserted in the program of the graduate studies reform urging in those years. Ricci and Koenig’s purpose about a visual design course in the first two years aimed at offering education in plastic education to «creative plastic faculties through historical study and experimental analysis of the properties of forms<sup>103</sup>» and it was divided into four parts: theoretical introduction to the world of forms, history of form teaching in the modern world, exercises on theoretical topics, exercises on materials. Each part retraced the theme of the refusal of predetermined forms and was a translation of what he learnt at M.I.T.

The first part implied the demonstration of two main thesis: the first general thesis that «each formed form (“Gestaltete Form”) [was] not an a priori fact, but a direct consequence of the vision of the world of the creative personality, conditioned by society and in turn conditioning<sup>104</sup>» and that «every particular conformative principle (Byzantine painting, Renaissance architecture, abstract art, advertising art, etc.) [was] the mirror of a particular way of life (custom, society) that [chose] that language of forms as the most suitable for

---

<sup>101</sup> Leonardo Ricci and Giovanni Klaus Koenig, “Sull’insegnamento della plastica nelle facoltà di architettura” [“On the teaching of plastic formativity in the courses of architecture”], October 16, 1959, typescript, Casa Studio Ricci. All the quotations from the original Italian typescript included in the present paragraph were done by the author.

<sup>102</sup> Ricci and Koenig, “Sull’insegnamento della plastica nelle facoltà di architettura” 1.

<sup>103</sup> Ricci and Koenig, “Sull’insegnamento della plastica nelle facoltà di architettura”, 3.

<sup>104</sup> Ricci and Koenig, “Sull’insegnamento della plastica nelle facoltà di architettura”, 3.

## Megastructure

communication than with it wants to carry out<sup>105</sup>», would have been demonstrated through the historical study of the variations of figurative and architectural languages from the Middle Ages to the contemporary era.

The second thesis dealt with the general tendency of art towards abstraction (with all the difficulties of the communicative process that this tendency brought within itself was a consequence of the conditions of the society) as direct consequence of the social conditions. It had to be demonstrated through the analysis of the relationships between contemporary architecture and non-figurative art, especially between Mies van der Rohe's work and Geometric Abstractionism (Mondrian, Van Doesburg), Wright and Phenomenology, Le Corbusier and Cubism, Gropius, Breuer, and Organic Abstractionism (Kandinsky, Klee, Pollock), Aalto and Naturalistic Abstractionism (Wirkkala), the last tendencies and the Informal.

Once these theses were demonstrated and assuming that the creation of a form was the logical interpretation of the world, and not of the artist's will, education in the world of forms became a problem of education of the pupil's figurative and sociological world<sup>106</sup>.

The second part focused on the teaching of the last theorists of classical teaching as André Lurçart and Le Corbusier, on the first Psychology of form by the founders of the Gestaltheorie (Wohler, Wertheimer and Koffka), its five fundamental and its two general laws, on the attempts to work on psychological implications of forms (Gropius and the Bauhaus), and finally on Max Bill and György Kepes' teachings on plastic visual organization on the basis of the creative image, external forces, the visual and retinal fields, the dimensional field, the painting field, spatial forces, spatial forces fields, internal forces of the image, internal forces fields, the psychological field, the color balance, spatial tensions: dynamic balance, similarities and differences, continuity, interruptions, organization of the optical sequences, rhythms, organization of the spatial progression<sup>107</sup>.

Ricci transferred M.I.T. teachings directly to his students in Florence: for the explanation of the third part of the program Leonardo Ricci and Giovanni Klaus Koenig's purpose directly quoted the American teaching methods as reference on which the exercises of the students had to be elaborated: the students had to compose lines, surfaces, colors, and masses to be guided by them and find the right consequent formal solutions.

---

<sup>105</sup> Ricci and Koenig, "Sull'insegnamento della plastica nelle facoltà di architettura", 3.

<sup>106</sup> For the first part of the course the bibliographical references were: Pierre Francastel, *Peinture et Société, Lo spazio figurativo dal Rinascimento al Cubismo* (Torino: Einaudi, 1957); Gillo Dorfles, *Le oscillazioni del gusto* (Milano: Lerici 1959); Charles Morris, *Empirismo scientifico* (Milano: Bompiani, 1958); Giulio Carlo Argan, "Architettura ed arte non figurativa", *La Casa*, no. 6 (1959): 366; Gillo Dorfles, *Il divenire delle arti* (Torino: Einaudi, 1959); Theodor Wiesengrund Adorno, *Filosofia della musica moderna* (Torino: Einaudi, 1958); Theodor Wiesengrund Adorno, *Dissonanze* (Bologna: Feltrinelli, 1959). For the second thesis it was suggested a text to confute: Hans Sedlmayer, *La rivoluzione dell'arte moderna* (Milano: Garzanti, 1957).

<sup>107</sup> The basic bibliographical reference for this part was György Kepes, *The Language of Vision* (Chicago: Paul Theobald, 1951). The other texts were Le Corbusier, *Le Modulor: essai sur una mesure harmonique et l'échelle humaine applicable universellement à la architecture et à la mécanique* (Boulogne: Ascoral, 1951); André Lurçart, *Formes, composition et lois d'harmonie. Elements d'une science de l'esthétique architectural* (Paris: Éditions Vincent, Fréal & C., 1953). For the psychology of form: David Katz, *La psicologia della forma* (Torino: Einaudi, 1950); Giovanni Klaus Koenig, *Elementi di architettura* (Firenze: LEF, 1958), (chapter IV). The teaching of Gropius' teaching at the Bauhaus were fundamental for his studies on reality and illusion, unconscious reactions, the mechanism of human vision, optical illusions, psychological influences of forms and colors, relativity, human scale, relations of distance, space and time, the existence of changing, the common denominator of composition. All these issues were included in Walter Gropius, *Per una architettura integrata* (Milano: Mondadori, 1959).

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

In the fourth part of the course the students had to exercise on the practical study of the expressive value of some chosen materials: iron, wood, concrete, glass, bricks, and stones. For some materials as wood the study was linked to the type of machine with which it was worked, and finally a study from life had to be carried out on the relationship between different materials such as wood and iron, or stone and brick in an experimental laboratory<sup>108</sup>.

After his experience as visiting professor at M.I.T., carried out during the same academic year in which he wrote the proposal with Koenig, Ricci managed to revolutionize the course of Architectural Composition, renaming it Visual Design. The course, set on the integration between art and architecture with an experimental approach, provided as a final result the elaboration of multi-material models, some of which, as already seen, especially in the mid-Sixties, were developed during the cultural exchanges organized by Ricci among the students of Penn State University and the faculty of Architecture of Florence.

According to Corinna Vasič Vatovec, from the academic year 1964/1965, the subject officially took the name of Ornamental Plastic<sup>109</sup> and Leonardo Ricci remained the appointed professor of the course until October 1, 1967 without receiving any payment for his teaching. After him, his friend architect and artist Dusan Vasič, who was his extraordinary assistant, took over him.

From February 1, 1964 Leonardo Ricci became the holder of the chair of the course of Elements of Composition and director of the Institute of Elements of Composition until 1967. Later he will move to the Institute of Urban Planning as a professor in charge from 1 November 1966 and then full professor from 1 February 1967. He will assume the direction of the Institute from 1966 until 1973, the year of his resignation.

### **5.4.1. Matrices for Megastructures. Social, economic, and physical tools to design a normal and continuous growth of life.**

During a conference in Milan in 1983<sup>110</sup> Leonardo Ricci remembered his teaching in the United States and the American great force of the architectural production due to a high technological aspiration, which excluded an artistic aim of the American people. This and the huge size of some territories in the United States inspired his megastructural theory: he thought that each territory should have been considered as a single unit to be studied in its vocations and possible uses. This was very important to evaluate its density, the most important criterion to be used to analyze any activity, agriculture, industry, and commerce for instance. Applying this method to each category and activity it was possible to obtain a “matrix” for each vocation. Overlapping the different matrices, it was possible to achieve an objective analysis of the reality of a territory and a general idea about its

---

<sup>108</sup> Ricci and Koenig, “Sull’insegnamento della plastica nelle facoltà di architettura”, 1-6.

<sup>109</sup> Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto “esistenzialista”*, 35, 36.

<sup>110</sup> During the conference titled *Modern Movement, International Style, Postmodern*, which took place in the Architecture Faculty in Milan (academic year 1983/1984), Leonardo Ricci and Anthony Eardley drew a debate on Postmodern architecture in the United States. Giampietro Giuseppe, “Thony Eardley e Leo Ricci: tra Stile Internazionale e Post Modern”, *Parametro*, no. 123-124 (1984).

## Megastructure

total potential to understand the lacks and, consequently, to be able to give to each inhabitant the same possibilities to act.

That methodological design process was what Ricci intended as the refusal of an *a priori* form in architecture, in which the purposes and results of the studies of the Joint Center for Urban Studies consisted. The shape of the city should not be decided by planners and architects but only after having compared interdisciplinary studies concerning human activities and acts as Anthropology, Sociology, Economy, Physics. That method was deeply investigated and applied at M.I.T. by Belluschi's scholars' group and, afterwards, picked up in the research of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies and applied by Ricci in the megastructure projects with the Penn State University and University of Florida students.

Relying on the fact that human beings were alienated and blocked by the methods used by pianification systems, which caused disintegrative approaches in space, time, and human activities, as Ricci stated, the solution lied in designing a new environment by using the scientific contribution permeating American planning processes from the national to the local level. This could have been exploited to plan a unified environmental experience to avoid immobilizing processes. Ricci shared with the American urban design researchers the belief that instead of conceiving human beings as land users or consumers of facilities, it would have been worth reconsidering human feelings and thoughts that were hidden behind artificial values springing from socioeconomic pressures. If not, all phenomena could only cause segregation and social alienation. Therefore, Leonardo Ricci's aim was to change radically the way of thinking of planning, focusing on human beings and their connection with the environment. This was the reason why he fostered the concept of designing a macrostructure as a «total permanent transformation of the human environment in a natural continuous pattern of growth<sup>111</sup>».

Ricci's idea of planning accepting the continuity of human existence could be done using matrices, each representing social, anthropological, economical, or physical needs of man. Each matrix represented one of the human acts and activities in the natural and urban environment. On this idea Leonardo Ricci started the already mentioned research project at the University of Florence he exported at the Pennsylvania State University, where he developed "integral city" models shaped on matrices, that could house 20,000 people and include all needed services and facilities.

The same ideas of refusal of an *a priori* form, of interaction among physical, social, economic, and anthropological forces to build matrices for the urban renewal was the main theme of the book *Man-Made Object*, a collection of essays edited by György Kepes and published in 1966 by George Braziller. Ricci's essay titled "Form, the tangible expression of a reality" was published with Christopher Alexander's "From a set of forces to a form" that explained the matrices' methods very clearly<sup>112</sup>.

Christopher Alexander was maybe the first architect to study at M.I.T. those technological approaches to urban design that pushed him to enhance his studies on the generation of urban form in the United States, under the technological perspective. In the Sixties Alexander was outlining a new ambitious proposal that revolutionized

---

<sup>111</sup> All these concepts are widely explained in an article of the AIA Journal of September 1967, kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>112</sup> Leonardo Ricci, "Form, the tangible expression of a reality", in *Man-Made Object*, ed. György Kepes (New York: Braziller, 1966), 108-119. Christopher Alexander, "From a set of forces to a form", in *Man-Made Object*, ed. György Kepes, (New York: Braziller, 1966), 96-107.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

architectural and urban design, because he demonstrated how mathematical analysis, and in particular matrix calculation, could have solved complex problems. His method used computer science, defined and specialized at M.I.T. by the end of the Fifties (with the IBM-704 computer), and proved to be a powerful tool for addressing the growing complexity of the cities of the future by studying “diagrams” and “patters” that could scientifically solve the problems of the metropolis. “Diagrams”, as they were defined in Alexander’s book *Notes on the Synthesis of Form*<sup>113</sup>, and “patterns”, how they were defined in the following *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction*<sup>114</sup> were the key to the process of creating a form and, if in the first book the author emphasized the process of creating diagrams, in the second one he put the accent on the diagrams since they effectively held the generative force of urban design.

The idea of a diagram, or pattern, is very simple. It is an abstract pattern of physical relationships which resolves a small system of interacting and conflicting forces, and of all other possible diagrams. The idea that it is possible to create such abstract relationships one at a time, and to create designs which are whole by fusing these relationships – this amazingly simple idea is, for me, the most important discovery of the book.

I have discovered, since, that these abstract diagrams not only allow you to create a single whole from them, by fusion, but also have other even more important powers. Because the diagrams are independent of one another, you can study them and improve them one at a time, so that their evolution can be gradual and cumulative. More important still, because they are abstract and independent, you can use them to create not just one design, but an infinite variety of designs, all of them free combinations of the same set of patterns<sup>115</sup>.

Christopher Alexander dedicated his studies on matrices, also applied to highways location, with Martin Manheim in the early Sixties. They demonstrated how Alexander’s “diagrams” and “patters” for the architectural and urban form could be obtained from the mathematical and computer science analysis and could be applied to all urban case studies<sup>116</sup>.

While, on the one hand, Alexander’s essay in Kepes’ “Vision+Value” Series explained his recent discoveries applied to a highway route location, on the other hand, Ricci’s one maintained the generation of form in painting and in architecture emerging from natural forces. It was divided into two parts, one concerning painting and one architecture, where the architect described the genesis of two paintings and of his family house project in Monterinaldi, respectively. In Ricci’s vision, form sprouted from determined intrinsic characteristics of natural elements as the form of a flower was generated from the genetic makeup of the plant and from the environment, the same happened in architecture: Ricci told how he and his wife chose the site for their house outside the city of Florence, a place where nature grew up and the presence of mankind was not perceivable. This was the first

---

<sup>113</sup> Christopher Alexander, *Notes on the Synthesis of Form* (Cambridge-MA: Harvard University Press, 1964).

<sup>114</sup> Christopher Alexander, *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977).

<sup>115</sup> Alexander, *Notes on the Synthesis of Form*, Preface; for a comparison between Christopher Alexander and the structuralist principles: Maria Bottero, “Lo strutturalismo funzionale di C. Alexander”, *Comunità* (1967): 148, 149.

<sup>116</sup> Christopher Alexander and Martin Manheim, “HIDECS 2: A Computer Program for the Hierarchical Decomposition of a Set with an Associated Graph”, M.I.T. Civil Engineering Systems Laboratory Publication no. 160 (Cambridge-Ma, 1962); and Christopher Alexander, “HIDECS 3: Four Computer Programs for the Hierarchical Decomposition of Systems Which Have an Associated Linear Graph”, M.I.T. Civil Engineering Systems Laboratory Research Report R63-27 (Cambridge-MA, 1963).

## Megastructure

important step of the project, which later went on when the architect and his wife imagined their family life. They thought of the way they wanted to wake up in the morning, fall asleep in the evening, cook, play, and grow their children; therefore, form was generated from the natural acts and activities of the family. In Ricci's opinion that was the perfect example of birth of a new architecture starting from human activities and environment, avoiding the possibility to shape a building with an *a priori* form or following social motions.

A similar method of conceiving a project was applied by Christopher Alexander who explained in his essay the results of a more articulated research project titled "The Use of Diagrams in Highway Route Location: an experiment" published in 1962 as result of a joint research project in Civil Engineering published in the Harvard-MIT Joint Center series. The project was carried out by him, who belonged to the Society of Fellows at Harvard University and Martin Manheim of the Department of Civil Engineering at M.I.T.<sup>117</sup>. Alexander and Manheim focused on the method used to plan a highway to suggest it to town planning. Form in architecture could be the result forces – the same forces which rule in nature – and there were three main methods these forces use to generate form: a numerical method, the analog method and relational method. The first one was useful only if the system depended on a unique variable, the second concerned stone loads, bearing structures and lightweight furniture, but they both had limits. The analog method worked only for forces which could be represented by an "active" counterpart, while the discrete human forces were not this kind. Therefore, the numerical and analog method were useful to solve engineering and economic problems but not to design architectural living spaces for people, because they could not represent practical, psychological, and social forces which strongly affected human life. In spite this, the numerical and analog method had an extremely important feature: they could obtain form from the interaction of forces because they shared a common soil where forces acted: numerical variables and the "physical analog". Those methods suggested that we need to find a common soil to all forces, and, from this, we could derive the third method: the relational method that foresaw all forces to look for a same final stadium, which anticipates here the phenomenological relational approach Ricci shared with Enzo Paci<sup>118</sup>.

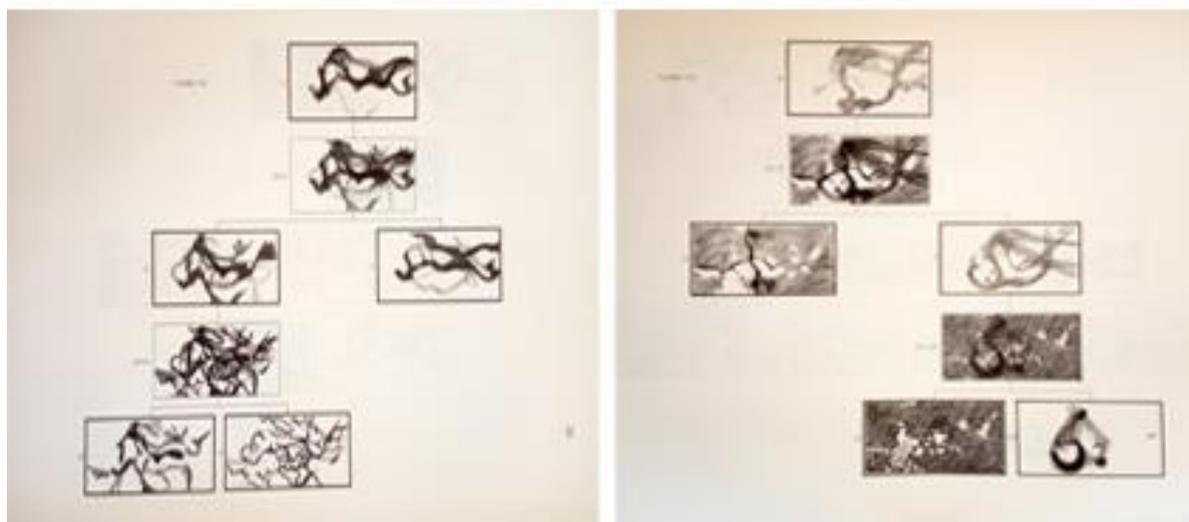
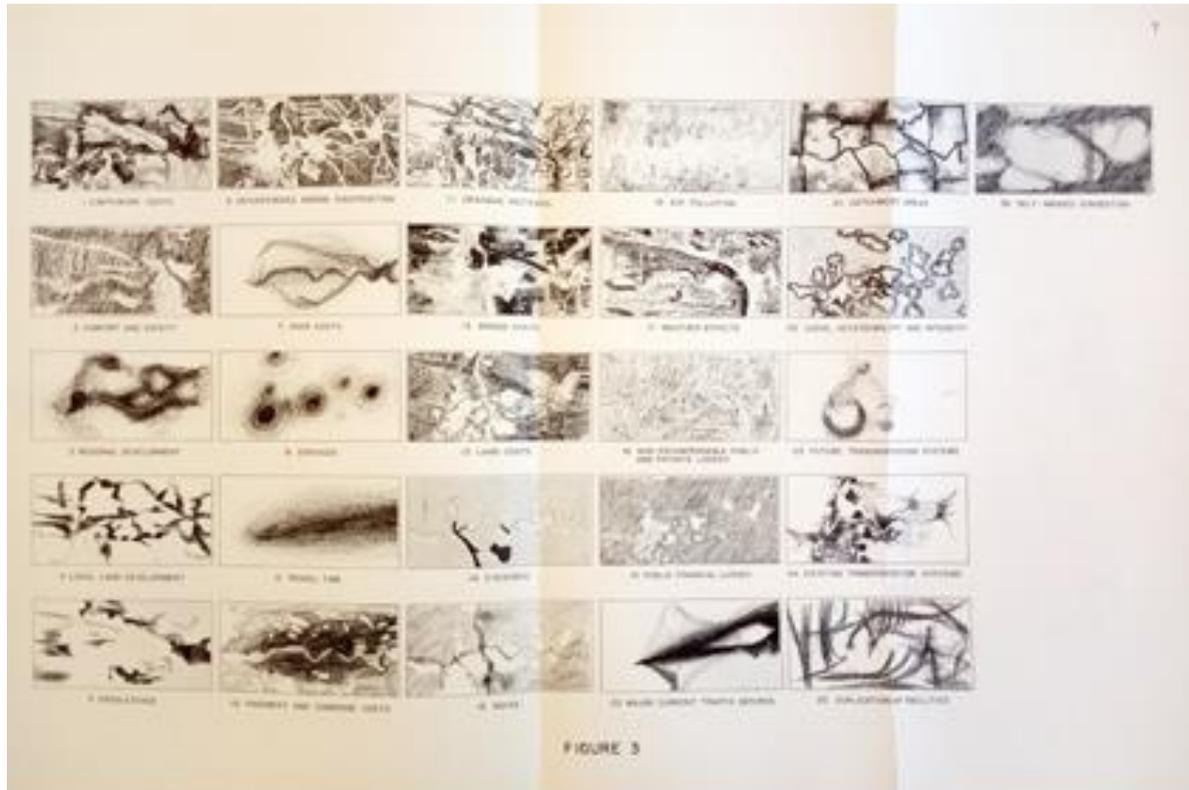
Alexander and Manheim studied twenty-six forces systems to place highways between Springfield and Northhampton, they drew patterns and overlapped them. To do this they used pictures to find out free spaces

---

<sup>117</sup> The project was sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads. Publication no. 161, Department of Civil Engineering – Civil Engineering Systems Laboratory, M.I.T. School of Engineering, March 1962. Christopher Alexander and Martin Manheim, "The use of Diagrams in Highway Route Location", Research Report R62-3, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, TAI.M41.C58, R62-03. Christopher Alexander, "Form a set of forces to a form", 96-107.

<sup>118</sup> See chapter 6, paragraph 6.1.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5.4: Images of the matrices resulting from Alexander and Manheim's study on the positioning of a highway route, graphical results the found matrices, and graphical results derived from the overlapping of some groups of matrices. Pictures of Publication no. 161, Department of Civil Engineering – Civil Engineering Systems Laboratory, M.I.T. School of Engineering, March 1962. Christopher Alexander and Martin Manheim, "The use of Diagrams in Highway Route Location", Research Report R62-3, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, TAI.M41.C58, R62-03.

## Megastructure

where the highways could be placed. The first task was to find the physical relation each force wanted to find, the second one was to combine those relational implications by melting them through the overlapping photographic materials.

The authors demonstrated that the relational method could be correctly applied to architecture design trying to draw a living room plan starting from the forces which could give birth to its shape. People living in the same house did different movements and had different habits, different needs as hobbies, need to tidy up the room quickly and stay together. They first drew four hypothetical rooms, one for each member of the family, and they combined the necessary spaces for each of them focusing on their movements and needs. In this way they elaborated one of the possible shapes of the living room which satisfied all necessities, with four spaces turned towards a common space, one looking at the others, with the possibilities to have curtains to transform each into a private space. The common space was a curved and convex space where everyone could either stay with the others or in a private space for a while.

The relational method had no limits: it could widen indefinitely and deal with the complexity of any kind of environment or building. The authors concluded their study by asking themselves whether the method would have been strong enough to face all possible architectural program.

### 5.5. Leonardo Ricci at the University of Florida and the “Model Cities” program

Leonardo Ricci was convened to the Department of Architecture and Fine Arts of the University of Florida as undergraduate research professor of Urban Design by the Architecture Chairman Arnold F. Butt and by the Graduate School Dean Professor Linton E. Grinter, who was particularly impressed by Ricci for the project of Sorgane, by his successful *Anonymous (XX century)*, but, most of all, by Ricci as educator because of the enthusiasm he produced in the students both at M.I.T and at Penn State University. In 1970 Grinter told that, as Director of the Graduate School of Architecture of the University of Florida he was proud of having convened Leonardo Ricci as much as having involved Mies van der Rohe when he was vice-president of the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1938<sup>119</sup>. According to professor Grinter «Leonardo Ricci’s task was harder than Mies’ one, his ideas were charming, and his words caught everyone’s attention and galvanized the students<sup>120</sup>».

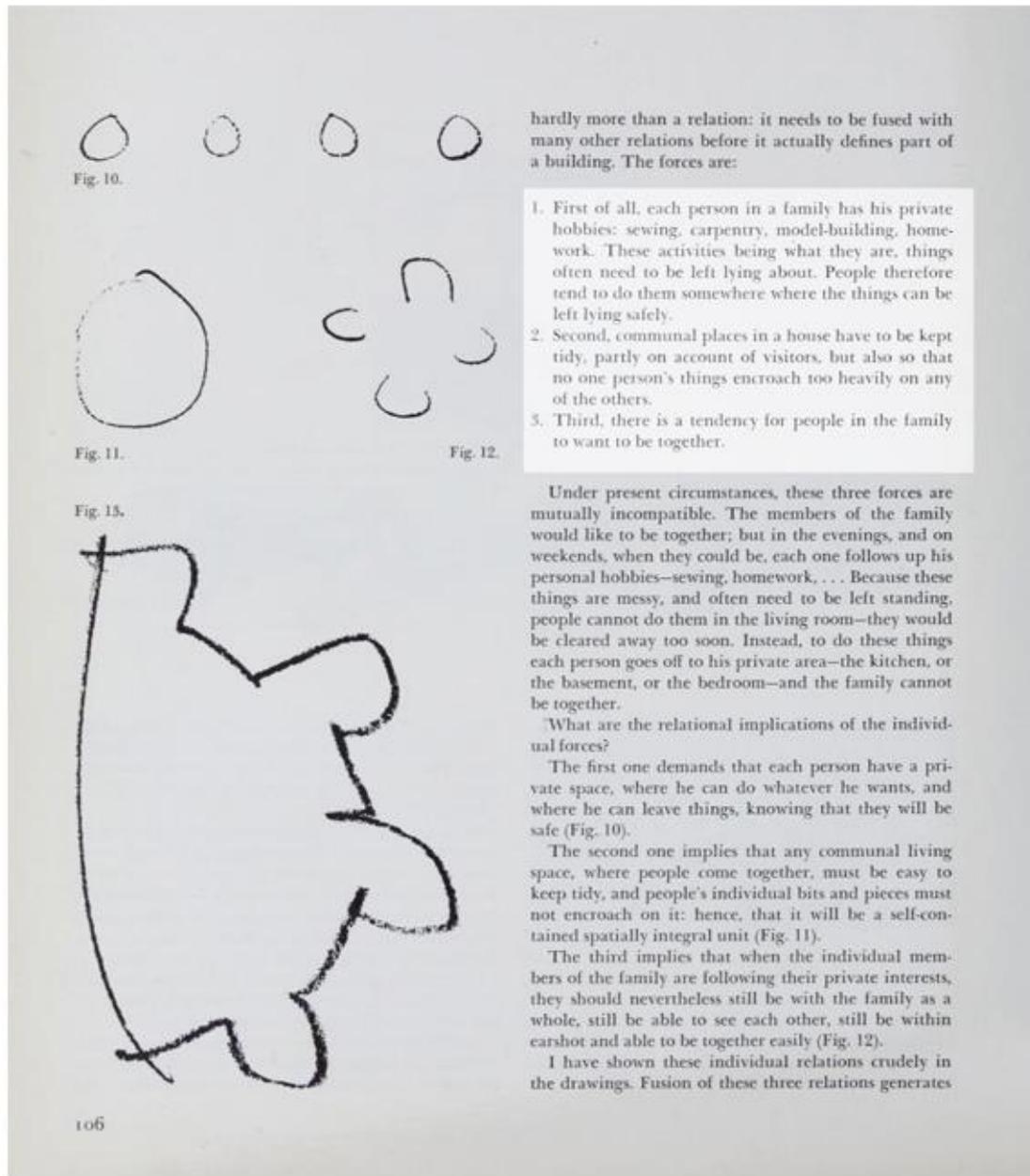
Leonardo Ricci accepted on the condition to do «experimental team-work with students for a real problem in a real society<sup>121</sup>». In the report titled “Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of

---

<sup>119</sup> Bartolozzi, *Leonardo Ricci: nuovi modelli urbani*, 17.

<sup>120</sup> Bartolozzi, *Leonardo Ricci: nuovi modelli urbani*, 17.

<sup>121</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida”, 1. The report is kept in Casa Studio Ricci. See APPENDIX III.



5.5: Christopher Alexander, drawings concerning the application of the matrices method to architectural design, published in Christopher Alexander, "From a set of forces to a form", in *The Man-Made Object*, ed. György Kepes, (New York: Braziller, 1966), 106.

## Megastructure

Florida”, Leonardo Ricci stated that «If we are to improve the form and structure of the University we must first change the relationship between university and society. The disciplines of architecture and urban design can be considered divided into two parts: one, theoretical research, and the other, applied research. Thus, if we really want to change the academic notion of teaching, we must do so in a way which allows the possibility for both kinds of research.

Concerning the theoretical aspect, in my opinion it is necessary to create an interdisciplinary study center which can permit the creation of many hypotheses and encourage testing them from many points of view.

For the second type of research, which is the greater percentage, we need laboratories in which models derived from these hypotheses can be tested. It is clear that our laboratories are the real society<sup>122</sup>».

Ricci specified, as introduced in the last quoted sentence, that only the users could either confirm or refuse the application of the models.

During his appointment as research professor at the University of Florida Leonardo Ricci dedicated all his efforts to the creation of an Urban Design Studio at the University for interdisciplinary investigation on urban problems and in the Miami Model Cities Plan, a wide urban project at territorial scale.

This work fitted into a more complicated and broader framework of international architecture which had produced, in those years, a great deal of research and hypotheses on the new dimension of the city. It counted a large group of visionary projects that can be considered in many cases the result of the harsh social contestation towards urban policies. A strong gap had been created between architecture and urban planning, so many experiments fielded by architects as Paolo Soleri, Kenzo Tange, Buckminster Fuller, Aldo Rossi, Arata Isozaki or Manfredi Nicoletti and Sergio Musmeci, Archigram, and Yona Friedman -to cite only some of them- enabled by the technological discoveries and the new frontiers outlined by space missions, filled the void. While these architects' projects often consisted in huge buildings pervading the whole town and originated from precise forms, Ricci's ones completely avoided this second instance to design for the people and, for this reason, they moved from concrete needs and developed as urban matrices. In Ricci's work at the University of Florida, this connection with real problems was evident, especially with the Model Cities Plan.

Leonardo Ricci was already familiar with the Model Cities Program at his arrival in Gainesville and to him «If seriously applied, Model Cities could be a very valuable experience in urbanism or architecture at urban scale<sup>123</sup>», as he preferred to call urban design not to confuse it with economic planning.

The Model Cities Program aimed at designing neighborhood units to improve the lives of people in areas with a significant lower level of infrastructures, health, housing, recreation, and education standards. This program could have last five or ten years and in a first phase, its attempt was to ensure that all the residents of the Model Cities Area had access to housing well suited to their needs, desires, and income, to create a community environment that was orderly pleasant and attractive with adequate neighborhood services and facilities. In the second phase, it was important to improve Model Cities residents' accessibility to major facilities within the neighborhood and in the larger metropolitan area.

---

<sup>122</sup> Ricci, “Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida”, 1, 2.

<sup>123</sup> Ricci, “Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida”, 2.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Ricci's project for a plan of Miami (a study for a neighborhood of 95,000 inhabitants) was designed at the University of Florida and it was included in the "Model Cities" political program supported by Robert Kennedy, then stopped by Nixon's political aims and policies. It was applied to several cities in the United States and was an important political program which could give the opportunity to entire neighborhoods to grow, improve and increase their efficiency and productivity for the whole city they belonged to. It also delivered to the population of the neighborhood a precise amount of money to rebuild the blocks which were part of the neighborhood with dwellings and services according to their needs. The inhabitants could have even convened planners and architects on their own to realize a project and, from that moment, they could think together of a participated project where the main parts -dwellers, architects, and state- had the same power. The projects for the Model Cities foresaw the realization of infrastructures and facilities owned by the dwellers, whose incomes could have helped to decrease the loans prices and, consequently, improve the neighborhood general conditions.

The projects realized for the Model Cities Program could have been applied to the neighborhood sale and they included both the habitat and group scale; they could then spread all over the cities and widen to the megalopolis scale, as it happened in the plan for Miami designed by Leonardo Ricci.

That was an important opportunity for Leonardo Ricci because it represented a narrowing of the distance between supposed models and concrete examples, between the teaching and the real work of the architect, between the subjective and the objective sides of the architect's quest. It meant to Ricci that what he firstly only theorized for the City of the Earth would have become a model and then, once applied, a reality.

Therefore, Leonardo Ricci's wish to design and build the integrated city became real in the project for Miami Model City Plan. The architect expressed his satisfaction and happiness of having received the important task to guide the academic group which had to design the plan for Miami in the draft copy of the letter Ricci wrote to Mr. Gordon Johnson, the director of the Model City Program. Ricci wrote the letter to Johnson as a chapter of his "Floridian journal" as we can title the series of notes and reflections Ricci began on April 11, 1969 on the plane from Gainesville to Miami<sup>124</sup>.

They had some meetings in Miami to discuss the problem, but, while at the beginning Ricci was enthusiastic, after some time he understood that Johnson was suspicious and lost his hope to realize the plan for Miami even though he did not want to give up, because he felt his students' support and the real chance to apply his model studies for the city of the future to a real case study. Ricci found the Model City Program organization a real mess, made of diagrams, circles, numbers, lines of junction among squares and rectangles: the representation of a hierarchical bureaucratic system made of agencies, regional and federal boards managing waves of federal and private money, but paying no attention to the real needs of the black inhabitants of the community area. Ricci's feeling was that the program was born to create new problems instead of solving the existing ones. While the director was explaining the program's general scheme, Ricci was thinking of the «ninety-five hearts, stomachs and faces expecting an answer to their problems, who were going to receive figures, squares, rectangles, diagrams and a chairman of the Department of Architecture<sup>125</sup>». Ricci felt as one of the black faces waiting for their new

---

<sup>124</sup> The handwritten letters of the "Floridian journal" are kept in Casa Studio Ricci. See APPENDIX III.

<sup>125</sup> Handwritten letter to Gordon Johnson (director of the Model City Program), in Leonardo Ricci's "Floridian journal", Casa Studio Ricci.

## Megastructure

neighborhood. At the end of April new meetings with the Model Cities Staff and Task Force (April 28) and with the Governor Board (April 30) were scheduled to go on with the project, because everyone liked the architect's intentions.

In some moments Ricci felt abandoned by the authorities, by the population and by the agencies but he still believed in his project and on April 25 he wrote some observations on Miami, wondering of realizing a new city on the water like Venice:

Some observations.

The nature in Miami is marvelous. The ocean. The bay. Wonderful trees. All Miami could be a fantastic town over the water. Like Venice.

But thus it has not happened. Useless to find the why. There are certainly reasons. But for what are my purposes I don't care.

In this moment for instance I am over the Marine of Coconut Grove, one of the nicest places of this town. Hundreds perhaps thousands of boats are in front of me. It is eleven o'clock in the morning.

The Marine is desert. Only a few hippies are going lazy up and down.

No boats are going. They are like skeletons over the sand.

A feeling of tragedy.

And yet all could be so alive! Men are sad.

Also the most beautiful houses, just two or three hundred feet far from the bay have forgotten the water.

And yet!

Crazy world! It has happened just the opposite!

Over the island (take Miami beach) there were the contact with the water, the ocean, the bay would have been easy, continuous natural gigantic horrible skeleton create a wall which destroys everything, nature+men. In the land where was needed really a big skeleton to participate with the sea, an enormous aggregation of little houses without any organization, like a cancer, take place. We could be or not like that place in the world, far thousand miles from the ocean.

I say this just because the Model City area is not in Miami. Where is it? Not in Miami, nobody knows. Where are we? Nobody knows.

What I know is that in a certain way I will bring the sea to Model City. The Model City Area has to belong to the Miami nature.

-

I told them. I tell to myself.

They are colored. They are black. They are negroes.

I am a nigger<sup>126</sup>.

Despite Leonardo Ricci and Alfred Butt contacted the Model Cities organization immediately after Ricci's arrival in Gainesville, unfortunately, Ricci could not begin immediately the project for Miami with the students of the University of Florida, as he had wished to do in January 1970. On one side the meetings with Mr. Gordon Johnson, responsible of the Housing Urban Development Agency (HUD) government agency, and the general

---

<sup>126</sup> Quotation from the last part of the handwritten letter to Gordon Johnson (director of the Model City Program), in Leonardo Ricci's "Floridian journal", Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

bureaucratic asset of the Model City Program were too complicated and slow, and, on the other side, Ricci wrote that «the social studies and the data necessary to our work could not be prepared in time for us to begin in January. We were obliged to restrain the original scope of our problem, and instead apply out theories to a smaller Model Cities area in Tampa. The problem was smaller (from 90,000 to 2,000 people). I had to consider this experience as a preparation for next year's work in Miami<sup>127</sup>»

Therefore, Ricci, before working on the Miami Model Cities masterplan, downsized its purpose and designed a plan for Tampa with the fifth year and graduate students, which was linked to the Miami Model Cities program and resolved around the same concepts of scale and infrastructure, as the headings of their reports kept in Casa Studio Ricci quoted<sup>128</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci, Riccardo Morandi and the fifth-year students of the Urban Design course worked at the urban renewal project in Tampa, where C. Randolph Wedding, AIA, project architect for the Tampa Presbyterian Village, asked the Department of Architecture to study an alternative scheme based on the latest concepts in Urban and Architectural Design. That project allowed the University of Florida to create an Urban Design Center in the Department of Architecture of the University of Florida, where architects and students could work with worldwide known experts in the field of Urban Design, supported by the Urban Studies Bureau which provided a computing center, sociological study data, economic research facilities and a lot of experts in the related fields, who could help the interdisciplinary approach to solve the national urban crisis<sup>129</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci and Riccardo Morandi's design and structural projects for the Model Cities Plan were adapted to the realization of a general requalification of the existing structures in Tampa.

The project function was to acquaint the students to a practical problem and Ricci adapted it to a project for their university to give them the opportunity to design a project for a reality they lived in. That project represented more than this: it was an important result reached by Leonardo Ricci as a teacher: he succeeded in making the UF students' experience an important step during a five-years bachelor in architecture, which consisted in designing a plan to solve real problems, an opportunity denied to his Italian students, that represented a weakness in Italian architectural education<sup>130</sup>.

From the didactic point of view the goals of the projects were to present a new theory to the students in which urban design was approached not only from the aesthetical or the economical point of view, but as the synthesis of different possible structuring of human acts and activities<sup>131</sup>. Ricci's aim was to teach the teamwork where

---

<sup>127</sup> Ricci, "Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida", 2.

<sup>128</sup> Report of the project for the University of Florida by the Urban Design Studio, University of Florida, Gainesville, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>129</sup> University of Florida Alumni Association, Gainesville - Florida, "Ricci", *Impressions Newsletter, University of Florida - Dep. of Architecture*, no. 3 (1969).

<sup>130</sup> To deepen Ricci's opinion about the weaknesses and lacks of the architecture schools' educational offer: Ricci, "Architetto: per quale società?", 2-3.

<sup>131</sup> Ricci dedicated the first month of work with the fifth-year students to the explanation of the results of his theoretical investigation on urban problems carried out at the Institute of Urbanism in Florence where he was Director, and in collaboration with Pennsylvania State University, as Ricci specified in his typescript "Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida", 2.

## Megastructure

teacher and students were all researchers, even at different levels of knowledge and experience, show that design was a complex process made of varied components, and that any component could not be hidden, separated, or forgotten.

As an example, it is impossible to separate the components of structure and technology from those of space and aesthetics. For this reason Engineer and Professor Riccardo Morandi was engaged as a member of our team for part of the second term. He controlled our hypotheses and our design from both the constructive and the economical points of view<sup>132</sup>.

Ricci denounced some problems in the work with the students at the beginning since they had no urban design education and came from different schools and different cultural and technical backgrounds.

The project for Tampa tried to solve the problems of growth and change due to an increased need for educational facilities which arose from new trends towards tertiary activities and to solve the related problems of alienation that occurred in the university absence of rules, caused by bureaucracy. Those problems could have been overcome with the use of group scales.

This project can, better than others, explain the design process conceived by Ricci thanks to the concept of scale, which included geographic and demographic features and encompassed five levels: territory, megalopolis, town, neighborhood, and group. From the largest to the smallest, each succeeding unit of scale was a subunit of the previous larger unit, down to the group scale, the smallest unit.

Furthermore, the concept of infrastructure was closely related to the concept of scale and included the systems of communication and transport that tied the different levels together. At certain junctures of different scale levels, there were the exchange towers, nodal points that served as interconnective links; an airport which could be a transportation link between megapolitan and territorial scales, a sports arena as point of communication between towns, megapolitan, or even territorial areas.

For what concerns spatial limits, the project attempted to use the existing structures of the university for the purposes of the economy but took into consideration the possibility of further expansions to acquire the surrounding lands.

Ricci specified in detail the goals of the project as follows:

The goals of our project were the following:

we tried to develop a structural system competitive with existing ones from the economic standpoint which will also permit construction to proceed above the ground in an existing urban renewal area as well as in a newly developed project.

The structural system needed the characteristics which allow a three-dimensional urbanism instead of the present bi-dimensional system to develop. Thus, our system can be applied in different and logical ways with the integration of human activities according to the specific needs of many at the different scales of group, neighborhood, town, and megalopolis.

The structural system was studied in such a way that the consequences of each element could be articulated: a) The foundation had to be independent of the vertical elements so that it would be possible to industrialize the work and adapt it to many different ground conditions. b) Vertical elements were to be extruded and had to be capable of supporting varying loads at different heights. c) A space frame structure was needed which could be independent of the systems around it so

---

<sup>132</sup> Ricci, "Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida", 4.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

that all loads are transmitted directly through the columns and not through the lower floor systems. Within this space frame we needed totally free space for different needs of man such as public facilities and services. d) Precast panels were desired so that we could place them over a modulated grid (the space frame) in such a way that angles of 90, 64, 45, and 26 degrees could be created. This system could give us the advantages of the neoplastic, organic, and cubist spaces combined in any manner necessary. e) Prefabricated concrete slabs which could be industrialized and used with the wall panels were also needed. f) We had to consider the possibility of building over existing elements without the need for scaffolding. g) We wanted to separate the mechanical systems and equipment from the structure and develop a system which would permit each element of a dwelling or a public facility to be plugged in wherever and whenever necessary.

We wanted to escape from the classical concept of style with the consequences of a statically enclosed form to a new conception of formativity which allows aesthetical equilibrium to exist at any moment in the development of the project. The integration of all human activities in the first dimension (public facilities, commerce, industry, service) was a major goal of our work. We wanted to create a real composition of life and not another aggregation of elements alienated and separated as they now are.

We wished to, as an exercise, prepare this demonstration for the area of Tampa. Although this project was only an exercise, we did want to present a real application of my theories which could be applied to the real Model Cities program.

We wanted to develop a system in which, from the theoretical point of view, people could buy the panels and the services and then create within the space frame whatever type of dwelling they desired<sup>133</sup>.

Riccardo Morandi's structural project, attached to Leonardo Ricci's general report on the project for Tampa, singled out the structural details and building process:

The present study refers to the realization of a particular structural system to be used for the construction of a building complex whose design was carried out by the class of Special Studies in Architecture of the University of Gainesville under the direction of Prof. Arch. Leonardo Ricci, who formulated the main indications for the design of the said structural system. In the following work, accompanied by two models (one of the whole in scale 1: 200 and one of detail in scale 1:10) it is intended to set out the criteria for the design of both the system itself and its method of execution.

The calculations, for the moment, that led to the sizing of the various members, were carried out in compliance with the "Building Code Requirements for Reinforced Concrete (Aci 318/63)"<sup>134</sup>.

In the general introduction of the report, it was specified that a structural system was examined to be applied to buildings of various uses for which the adoption of the module for the sizing of the various units and the prefabrication of all structural elements was envisaged. This was designed to create spaces of various kinds and sizes, with maximum freedom of articulation of the volumes. The building consisted of a superimposed and

---

<sup>133</sup> Ricci, "Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida", 5, 6, 7.

<sup>134</sup> Quotation translated by the author. The complete description of the project with the relevant calculations is included in the report titled "Architecture at urban scale" written by the designers divided in workgroups (Territory, Infrastructure, Existing Skeleton, Habitat, Laboratories, Exchange Towers, Structures, New Unities) kept in Casa-Studio Ricci. Riccardo Morandi, George Sheffer, John Preisler and John Toppe, "Study for the realization of a particular structural system for buildings of different uses", Department of Architecture and Fine Arts, Gainesville, University of Florida, May 15, 1969. Casa Studio Ricci. See APPENDIX III.

## Megastructure

suspended series of two-storey buildings whose plan was born from the combination of different modules with a square base of 4.00x4.00 ml. In this way the plant could assume any geometric figure.

A single body of the building was formed suspended and bound to vertical load-bearing elements which unloaded the weight on the ground, and which consisted of four vertical pillars, also arranged in a square on each side. The upper floor consisted of a system of prefabricated cross beams of prestressed concrete. The beams could have a maximum length of ten meters, or three times the length of the module side and at the end of each beam an oblique tie-rod was placed that would report the reactions of the beams to the nearest load-bearing element. The prefabricated primary and secondary beams formed a square mesh grid on which square plates of the size of the module were placed, which, once anchored to the underlying beams, formed the roof or floor surfaces of the overlapping and suspended units.

For the entire structure, the principle of homogenization of all the main load-bearing structural elements was adopted. Therefore pillars, beams and tie rods would have behaved like concrete structures, all in the compression field. Deformations would have been reduced to a minimum due to accidental loads and those produced by own weights completely eliminated. All the flexed and tense structures would have undergone a preventive coercion treatment so that any tensile stress in the interior of the various members would have determined a variation in the field of compressions induced by the coercion. This would have resulted in an increase in the "fatigue safety coefficient" of the steel and the conceptual certainty that there was no fear of damage to the steel due to concrete damage when the steel stresses due to accidental loads varied. Once finished the construction, a continue spatial structure had to be obtained thanks to the series of prefabricated elements assembled and protected by small concrete jets thanks to steel bars and post-tensioned cables<sup>135</sup>.

Ricci declared his satisfaction about the project results and the work with the students and Riccardo Morandi, who had produced useful models adaptable to different scales of intervention<sup>136</sup>. Indeed, Ricci was particularly happy with the system of industrialization, that was developed to manufacture forms for on-site casting instead of bringing prefabricated pieces on the building-site: the system was studied to have a very limited number of structural members in advantage of both the economic and the social standpoints, since the ghetto residents could work on their own new community and the building construction speed would have increased<sup>137</sup>.

The reduction of the transport and communication systems for a population of 2,000 people implied the waiver of studying specialized systems, but the project foresaw the interconnection of vertical and horizontal means of transport allowing the residents to eliminate cars: the system studied a general distribution of functions near the habitat units. It also allowed to realize spaces of any qualitative and quantitative characteristics, taking part of a unique living environment provided with all the useful facilities and infrastructures at low distance. The mechanical equipments and services were only theoretically studied, but Ricci thought of technological systems to distribute services, materials, and goods at any distance quickly<sup>138</sup>.

---

<sup>135</sup> Morandi, Sheffer, Preisler and Toppe, "Study for the realization of a particular structural system for buildings of different uses", 1-6, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>136</sup> Ricci, "Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida", 7.

<sup>137</sup> Ricci, "Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida", 8.

<sup>138</sup> Ricci, "Architecture at an urban scale: Ricci and Morandi at the University of Florida", 9.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The project for Tampa had to be seen as a useful exercise: it was not realized since «reviewing Ricci and his students' project, the Special Assistant for Urban Design Ralph Warburton of HUD said the UF was one of the “few schools” looking at the problem of urban design from such an overall view, from the state scale down to such specifics as air conditioning. It was a complex and very comprehensive program. Warburton added also that unless its budget was enlarged for research, such model cities and new ideas would have remained at the academic level. However, it could have been possible for UF to get research funds from HUD if it had kept growing in the direction it had taken. The total budget allocated to HUD was \$ 2 billion.

Warburton recognized in Ricci's project its flexibility and potentiality to be adapted for rural areas, small towns and big cities<sup>139</sup>».

Before accepting his assignment at the Department of Architecture and Fine Arts of the University of Florida, Leonardo Ricci had become the Director of the Italian Urban Institute in Florence and decided to carry on his experience in Gainesville in the hope of establishing a viable urban design program there. Yet, Leonardo Ricci's experience at the University of Florida ended at the beginning of the Seventies when he saw his goal to solve real problems of the population and to translate his research in a concrete architectural experiment vanishing. Leonardo Ricci's plan to resign was not definite at the beginning, but during a meeting in April 1971 a path for further discussion on Ricci's demands was opened with O'Connell, Leonardo Ricci, the Urban Design Studio members, and the students.

Ricci was determined in asking to the University to recognize the Urban Design Studio “as the official instrument acting on behalf of the university to undertake urban design projects”, to give to the studio the right authority to develop a plan of the university “guaranteed to become the official campus plan”.

Ricci had made the same requests to O'Connell in March, but O'Connell's reply was that he had no power to make the studio “the official instrument of the university” and that «the selection of architects for individual buildings on university grounds was controlled by the State Department of General Services». The students wanted O'Connell to refuse Ricci's resignation and would have joined the Studio with other students' groups to turn the Urban Design Studio into an Urban Design Center. Ricci and the students wanted no money, but they were asking for the authority to plan the campus and apply their research studies to concrete problems. O'Connell confirmed there were no funds to do that from the legislature for what should have become a graduate program to be discussed by the Department Chairman, Dr. Butt, the Dean Robert S. Bolles, and Graduate Dean Harold P. Hanson<sup>140</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci left Gainesville in protest when UF President Stephen C. O'Connell refused to grant the power to the students and the faculty to design the campus. Ricci resigned as graduate research professor and Director of the Urban Design Studio in 1972. That event marked the end of Ricci's intention to solve real problems of the

---

<sup>139</sup> Chris Schauseil, “Dr. Leonardo Ricci may not resign”, *The Florida Alligator*, February 2, 1970.

<sup>140</sup> Schauseil, “Dr. Leonardo Ricci may not resign”; Connie Daniel, *Dr. Leonardo Ricci may not resign*, *The Florida Alligator*, April 19, 1971.

population and to translate his research in a concrete architectural experiment. In addition, Ricci was also misunderstood and accused of revolutionary extremism and then forced to repatriate because of his work for the black community and with the people who were going to live in his spaces.

### 5.6. Ricci's professional work in the U.S.A.: a useful laboratory for teaching



5.6: "Architect Ricci quits UF in protest", picture of the article by Eunice Martins, 1972, Casa Studio Ricci.

Dr. Leonardo Ricci has been fighting what he calls "the alienation of man" throughout his architectural career. When he has already resigned from the Florida University in the U.S.A. he is grey-haired and he has associated in a Winterpark architectural firm: the Ray Bennett Associates, where he spends his time when he is not in Italy. He has not decided whether the U.S.A. will be his definite home yet, but he has definitely decided to remain an associate of the firm. Despite the fact that he works himself to an emotional peak when he talks about architecture, he does not want to sound radical<sup>141</sup>.

In the quoted article by Andy Williams, published on the *Orlando Sentinel*, the author reports Ricci's words telling that he «met Ray (Bennett) while he was still a graduate professor at the University of Florida and he asked him to be a consultant. I saw the firm. I saw the firm was very young and I saw Orlando in an area of development, it was alive, so I said: 'why not', and here I am<sup>142</sup>».

<sup>141</sup> Andy Williams, "Architect would end alienation", *Orlando Sentinel*, July 2, 1972.

<sup>142</sup> Ray Bennett graduated at the University of Florida, where he attended the graduate school for architectural city planning, then he became associate planner of the city of Gainesville (Florida) for a year, associate planner of the city of Savannah (Georgia) for a year, assistant county planner for Orange County (Florida) for two years. Then he entered the private practice in 1969 during which he submitted building systems proposal to "HUD" operation, completed a study for the redevelopment of downtown Orlando and of Maitland (Florida) for the Maitland Goals Committee and completed studies for concrete module systems. Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design portfolio kept in Casa Studio Ricci. The quotation is taken from: Williams, "Architect would end alienation".

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Therefore, his future associate Ray Bennett also witnessed Ricci's anger against the American academic system during his last teaching years, which was turning universities into high schools, where architecture teachers had not been building anything and were teaching styles instead of finding solutions to real problems.

Urban design applied to architecture and to downtown dying in the city was Ricci's investigation field at UF. The quoted article, with further newspaper articles published on the Florida Alligator or in the Orlando Sentinel, was one of the existing sources reporting Leonardo Ricci's activity as professor and architect in Florida and drew a comparison between the already built Sorgane by Ricci and the Omni 44 for DeLand by Ricci and Bennett Associates. By referring to the existing chronicles, in Florida Sorgane was described as one of the most modern structures in Italy, a "megastructure" which conveyed communication among people lives, using also shops and services helping interaction. Omni 44, which took its name from the Latin "omni", "for many", and 44 from the name of the road, was an apartment complex going to be built for the structure owned by the DeLand developer Russel T. Morris. It was expected to cost between five and seven million dollars, it had to include a 100-units hotel with shops such as drugstores and barber shops, with a 45000 square feet of office space and to look like a kind of stadium. The project of May 1972 was changed in October 1972, because some structural problems had led to modifications to the interior of the building to bring the price in at a better cost per square foot: the three-bedroom units had turned into two-bedroom units. The general contractor Tuttle/White gave the final price at the end of October and the project had to begin at the beginning of December<sup>143</sup>.

Omni 44 followed the same line of Sorgane and it was not a one-function building, but it had several functions, or better, it adapted to the exchange of functions. Tom Lewis, one of Ray Bennett's associates, describing Omni 44 said: «people have been displaced by automobiles, but in Omni 44, you don't have to ride from C-2 commercial to R-1AA-residential». Ricci said that because of the interactions possible at living there was much Sorgane, the capacity for greater, according to a learning among children recent sociological studies<sup>144</sup>.

Ricci decided to carry on his urban design work both in his teaching and designing activities during his stay at the University of Florida and at Kentucky University, and with his new associates, architects Ray Bennett and Daniel Paulk Branch, in their professional office "Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design" (South Orlando Avenue, Winter Park, Florida)<sup>145</sup> and later with the architects Daniel Paulk Branch and Maria Grazia Dallerba in the "Ricci, Branch and Dallerba Architects and Planning" office in Lexington (Kentucky)<sup>146</sup>.

---

<sup>143</sup> All the useful information about the project are described in Ray Bennett's letter to Leonardo Ricci of October 25, 1972, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>144</sup> Williams, "Architect would end alienation".

<sup>145</sup> Daniel Paulk Branch was an architect and urban designer who graduated at the University of Florida (1954). He obtained a master of science degree in architecture from Columbia University and worked at the Columbia University in the School of Architecture as graduate assistant-construction and research instructor in architecture-construction and design (1954-1956, 1957-1959), he was lecturer at the Architectural Association in London (1956), lecturer and researcher at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm (1957), then associate professor, advanced architecture design lecturer in urban design, planning and ancient history (1961). During his professional experience he carried his private practice in architecture and planning in Tallahassee (Florida) and became consultant for the Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design, with the architect Tomas Edwin Lewis. Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design portfolio kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>146</sup> Leonardo Ricci arrived in Kentucky in 1973, while Maria Grazia Dallerba had already joined the University of Kentucky Architecture Faculty in 1971, arriving from Florida. For the approximately 13 years that Ricci was associated with Kentucky

## Megastructure

Ray Bennett was an architect and urban designer with whom Ricci associated in 1968, but their work together was not always easy. Their collaboration began in March 1972, after Leonardo Ricci's resignation from the University of Florida, and in Ray Bennett's first letter to Ricci it is possible to read the offer extended to Ricci: an association with their architecture-urban design firm with responsibilities for urban design, modular and conventional construction, schematic design development, and supervision of construction documents. The studio would have assisted Ricci in his work, in providing him a private studio for his publications and research, and in offering quality architectural and urban design personnel assistance<sup>147</sup>. In all archival documents Leonardo Ricci and Daniel Paulk Branch were always indicated as consultants in Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design office with Tom Lewis.

Besides, Ricci stated in a letter to Bennett that he did not feel at ease in their office, because clients only referred to Bennett (maybe because of Ricci's frequent journeys back to Italy) and in many projects his name appeared as consultant instead of designer while the project management was often of both<sup>148</sup>. Ricci and Bennett worked for private and public customers as Mr. Langford, for the Tuttle/White construction company of Florida for "Langford East" or "Omni 44" projects, Mr. Russ Morris for Omni 44 apartments, Mr. Beach is the mentioned name in archive sources<sup>149</sup> for "Terrasecittà II" project, Zeland Properties for Beresford Village in Deland,

---

he taught Design Studio as a Distinguished Visiting Professor until 1986, when he moved definitely to Venice. His lectures were dedicated, for one semester, to both his Painting and Architectural Work, producing paintings and many important architectural works with Maria Dallerba, his assistant and second wife. In 1986 Ricci was appointed Director of the University of Kentucky's "Atelier Veneziano", a Studio Program for Kentucky students. Maria Grazia Dallerba and Paul Amatuzzo, who kindly provided all these information about Ricci's work in Kentucky, organized and taught this program until Dallerba's her retirement. In the years 1975 - 1986 Amatuzzo was Director of the Kentucky's 8-week Summer Study Abroad Program. Ricci and Dallerba joined these Summer Programs on many occasions for two week periods, usually in Italy, where they were responsible for both the Itinerary and Instruction.

(After teaching for a year at Cooper Union, Paul Amatuzzo joined the University of Kentucky Faculty of Architecture as an assistant Professor in 1971. In 1986 he departed Kentucky to join the Architecture Faculty at the New York Institute of Technology as a Full Professor where he became Chairman of Architecture at the Lincoln Center and Westbury Long Island Campuses).

<sup>147</sup> Letter from Ray Bennett to Leonardo Ricci, March 15, 1972, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>148</sup> Handwritten draft copy of an undated letter sent to Ray Bennett. The letter is kept in Casa-Studio Ricci.

<sup>149</sup> Ray Bennett used to write Leonardo Ricci detailed accounts of their projects advancements and they describe the economic, political, and technical aspects. The report mentioning all the cited projects was written by Bennett on October 25, 1972 and it is kept in Casa-Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Florida, and the State of Florida for “Terrazzamare - Port Orange” project, the City of Orlando, Mr. Sherman Dantzler<sup>150</sup> and Mr. Floyd Cooper for the Tumble Inn project<sup>151</sup>.

Ricci firstly met Daniel Paulk Branch at the University of Florida as well, where they were respectively teaching Urban Design and Architecture and their fellowship last many years. They were both teachers in the new graduate program in Urban Design, started in 1969 at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where Prof. Riccardo Morandi followed them the following year at the Urban Design Studio to carry on their teaching project of Tampa and structure it with his contribution, with the contribution of one of the world’s finest and most creative structural designers. Riccardo Morandi studied and supported Ricci and Branch’s program with new structural systems which could make large-scale urban projects economically feasible.

With Ray Bennett, Daniel Paulk Branch and Maria Grazia Dallerba Ricci conceived some of the projects kept in his archives such as the project for a macrostructure in Dog Island (1968-1970 with Ricci, Branch and Dallerba Architects and Planning), two projects for Langford East - Lyman and New England Avenues: an “84 Unit Inverted Pyramid” and “Langford Pyramid Apartments” (both in Winter Park-Florida-1972 with Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design), the “Invaso Square” project (New York-1972 with Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design), the office-apartment-motel complex titled “Omni 44” (Deland, Florida-1972-1973 with Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design), “Terrasecittà - ‘City of Terraces’” (Orange County-1972-1973 with Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design)<sup>152</sup>, “Port Orange Terrace” (Florida-1973 with Ricci, Branch and Dallerba Architects and Planning and Ray Bennett as Associated Architect), and the project for the Beresford Village (North Miami, Florida-1973 with Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design). Those megastructural projects were concrete examples of residential units integrated with facilities and leisure centres<sup>153</sup>.

---

<sup>150</sup> After military service, Sherman Dantzler and his wife Beverly settled in Orlando, Florida. He received his licenses as a General Contractor and Real Estate Broker. He formed his own building, developing and real estate firm in Orlando, Florida in 1954. Sherman was one of Orlando's leading businessmen. He joined The First, F.A., formally known as the First Federal Association in 1958 as Vice President and Loan Officer. He held various executive positions and became a Director in 1975 and President and Chief Executive Officer in 1976. Sherman was a Director and Chairman of the Board of several affiliated companies of The First, F.A. engaged in land development for homes, commercial construction and golf course development. After 17 years as Chief Executive officer, Sherman retired in 1992.

Mr. Sherman Dantzler and Mr. Floyd Cooper had an investment group to buy land parcels in Orlando to develop the Tumble Inn project by Ricci and Bennett and they were part of the city of Orlando group.

<sup>151</sup> Although there is no complete documentation for each of the mentioned projects in the archival resources, a portfolio of the Ricci-Bennett studio including the description of some projects, a series of letters concerning the advancing of the works and economic aspects as well as the drawings of the projects Terrasecittà, “Langford East”, “Terrazza Mare” and “Invaso Square” are present both in Casa Studio Ricci (documents and drawings) and in CSAC (drawings). Those documents helped the reconstruction of Leonardo Ricci’s professional activity with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Ray Bennett and Daniel Paulk Branch in the offices of Florida and Kentucky during the last part of his activity in the United States.

<sup>152</sup> The project for “Terrasecittà” appeared also with the name “Terrasecittà II” in the letters Bennett sent to Ricci in October 1972, since it was renamed after the project second turn down. Thus it was renamed in “Terrasecittà II” but it was rejected for the third consecutive time, despite Mr. Beach, the client, was determined to continue it and had asked the studio to find further design possibilities and types of projects allowed on the property, because he was in the process of obtaining other properties adjoining the site. Ray Bennett’s letter to Leonardo Ricci dated October 25, 1972, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>153</sup> All the quoted projects are the ones kept in Casa-Studio Ricci and CSAC Archives. The complete list of the projects Ricci elaborated in the United States is the following:

## Megastructure

Langford East was described in the chronicles of the time as an ultra-modern apartment complex realized for Robert Langford, owner of the Langford hotel, the new complex would have been added on its east side. The building had a pyramid section and on its top level ten penthouses and a “Key Club” would have provided a wonderful view towards Lake Osceola and Lake Virginia. Langford’s aim was to go higher than the 100 feet high hanging gardens and the permissions of the building code (75 feet), otherwise he could not do the project. He did not want to build “a plain building with an ugly parking lot”<sup>154</sup>. An article of the Orlando Sentinel (March 21, 1971) by Dick Marlowe quoted:

The unique design, provided by the research and studies of a team of U.S. and Italian architects, would have each layer of apartments receding 20 feet – giving each apartment a large patio with a planted garden on the balcony edge. Inside the open mall center of the apartment complex will be a gallery of small, sophisticated, specialty shops, dealing in gourmet foods, flowers, gifts, and trinkets. Similar in construction to Walt Disney World’s Contemporary Hotel, the 150 to 160-apartment complex will completely cover its parking area<sup>155</sup>.

This aspect surprised and caught Langford’s interest, because he wanted to build an apartment complex for rentals only: it was near to Langford Hotel and the apartment dwellers would have had utilities and a lot of services<sup>156</sup>, it was three blocks from Park Avenue, near Rollins College and it could be useful for senior rentals who wanted a smaller house and could not invest in a condominium. Ricci and Bennett’s project stroke him and exceeded his hopes. The quoted article told that Bennett searched the project for several years<sup>157</sup> but found the

---

- 1952: Fausto Maria Ricci’s House in Beverly Hills – California;

- 1959: project for the Roosevelt Memorial - Washington, District of Columbia;

- 1968-1970: Project for a macrostructure in Dog Island (Florida);

- 1969: Macrostructure for Miami - Florida (study for a neighborhood 95.000 inhabitants for the “Model City” program;

- 1969-1973: Project for a real estate building in Orlando Daytona – Florida;

- 1972: Langford East apartments - Lyman e New England Avenues, Winter Park, Florida;

- 1972. Project for “Invaso Square” – Florida;

- 1973: Project for the Beresford Village, North Miami, Florida, Omni 44 office-apartments-motel complex in Deland, Florida, Terrazzamare in Port Orange, Florida;

- 1981: project for the Chicago Herald Tribune. “Late entries for the Chicago Herald Tribune Tower”.

<sup>154</sup> Dick Marlowe, “Unique Apartments Due”, *Orlando Sentinel*, March 21, 1971, 1C-3C.

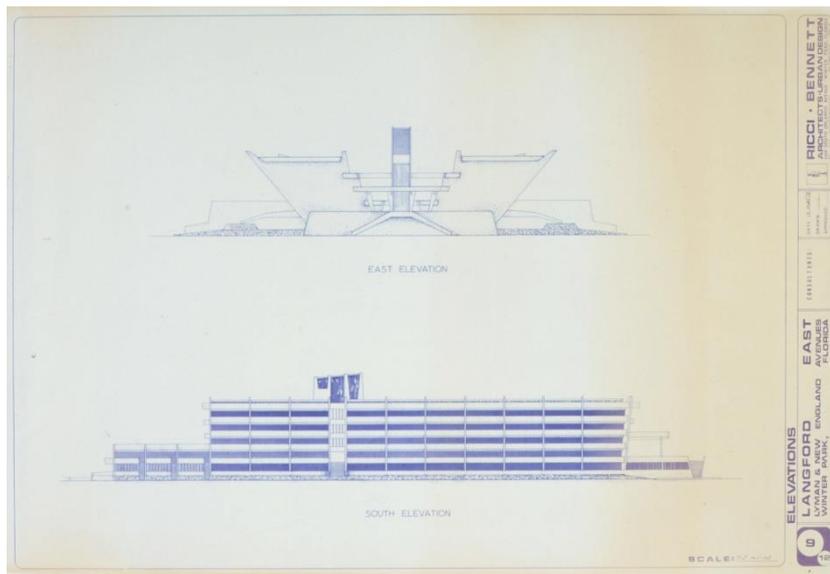
<sup>155</sup> Marlowe, “Unique Apartments Due”, 1C.

<sup>156</sup> They could have bellboy service, food service, valets, immediate response to emergency calls, 24 hours security guards and maid service by contract.

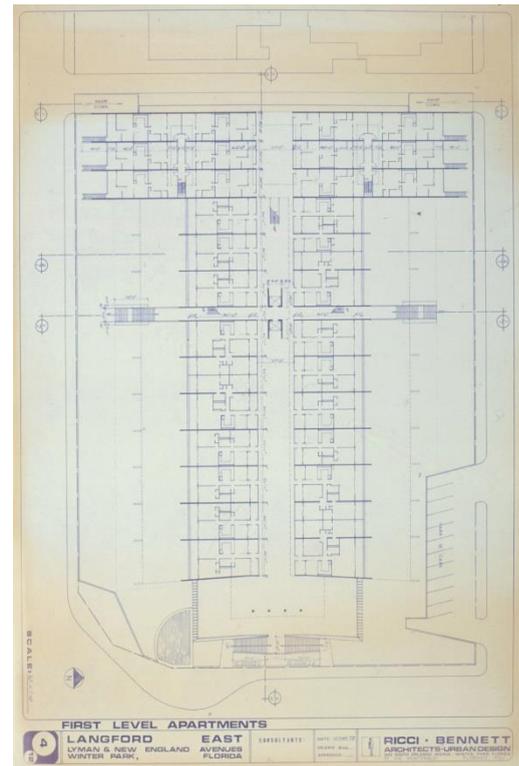
<sup>157</sup> Bennett’s letters kept in Casa Studio Ricci explain the difficult life of this project that Bennett also studied as an inverted pyramid, when the problems with the commissioner started: Mr. Langford wanted a parking to be incorporated underneath the building, but its cost arose the cost of the building to such an extent that was uneconomical for the apartments to be built. Therefore, Bennett thought of two solutions: the first solution was for Mr. Langford to purchase additional properties across the street to realize there 100 parking spaces for the hotel and avoid the one underneath the building, mantaining only the deck of parking for the apartments. If this had been accomplished Mr. Langford would have applied for building permit. The second solution was a new design for the project Bennett wanted to ask Ricci and travel to Italy to discuss with him about it. To Bennett «the solution would [have been] to leave on grade parking just east of the existing modular addition to the hotel and using the Eastern 282 feet of the property for a seven story building built in a curve form similar to “Omni 44” preferably in a radial design that [they had] for “Terrasecittà II”. This would [have allowed] us to get the surface grade

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

solution with Ricci's help, with a final project fitting Langford Park land use and lending aesthetic beauty to the area as well. There were 1, 2 or 3-bedroom apartments built in concrete modules.



5.7: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design, Langford East, east and south elevations, Casa Studio Ricci.



5.8: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design, Langford East, first level apartments plan, Casa Studio Ricci.

parking with proper landscaping required for the hotel and also construct 84 units on this easterly portion of the property and obtain its sufficient parking facilities». Bennett ended the letter asking Ricci to work on the project in Italy, because Mr Langford was asking for a solution in a short time. Indeed, Ricci's help was useful to find the right solution. Ray Bennett's letter to Leonardo Ricci dated October 25, 1972, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Megastructure

### 5.7. The City of the Earth

*City of the Earth* is the English translation of Ricci's unpublished book's title *Città della Terra. Disegno per una urbanistica non alienata* which represents the second fundamental manifesto of the architect's theoretical and applied research to the architectural and town planning design.

Leonardo Ricci already quoted the theory of the *Earth-City* in some chapters of his first book *Anonymous (XX century)* but, in his words, it was still a sort of ambition he had on the cities of the future, a new city he wanted the architect (the *Anonymous*) to design but had no hopes it would have really happened.

The city of the future, the city of *Anonymous (XX Century)*, *Earth-City*, will belong only to that man who has teetered on the brink of suicide for want of values, and, finally, one morning, has aroused himself from this state and is ready for anything, and that's that<sup>158</sup>.

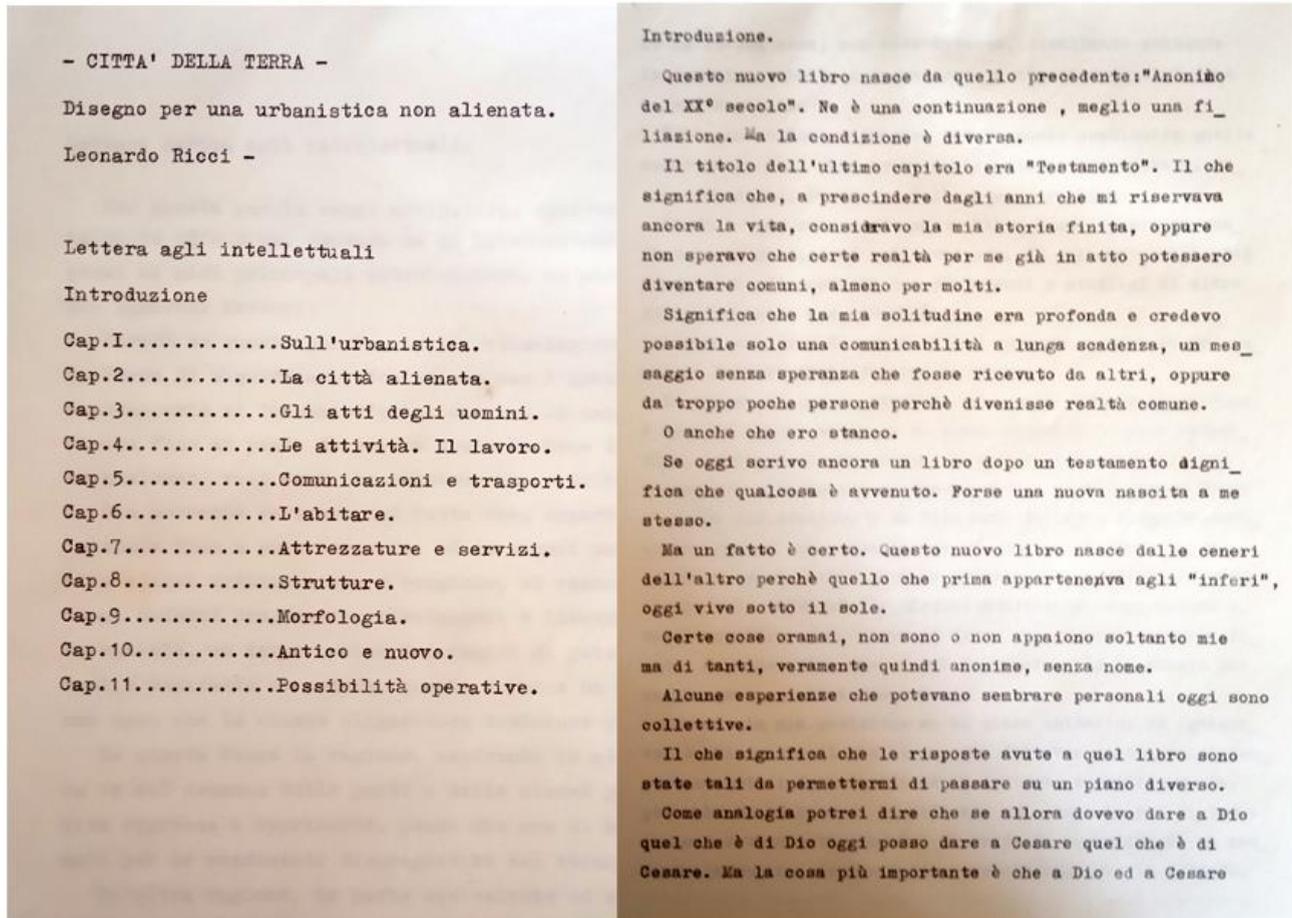
The quotation above proves that Leonardo Ricci was already thinking of the City of the Earth, also named *Earth-City* in some writings, when he was writing his book *Anonymous (XX century)*. In the synopsis of the *Earth-City* Ricci exemplified a theory that would have influenced his following years of research, mostly developed in the United States. Leonardo Ricci also declared that «This new book [was] born from the previous one *Anonymous (XX century)*, it [was] a continuation of it, better a filiation. But the condition [was] different<sup>159</sup>».

---

<sup>158</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 186.

<sup>159</sup> Leonardo Ricci, *Città della Terra*, unpublished manuscript, introduction, Casa Studio Ricci. The content of the book and the description of the synopsis for the city of the future was explained by Ricci in the quoted texts of the conferences "Ricerche per una urbanistica non alienata" and "The Future of Cities" the present paragraph also deals with. The precise description of the synopsis is contained in the unpublished book Ricci's family wishes to keep partially unveiled and described in line with the already published contributions' contents.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5.9: Leonardo Ricci, "Città della Terra. Disegno per una urbanistica non alienata", index and introduction of Ricci's unpublished manuscript, Casa Studio Ricci.

Leonardo Ricci worked on megastructural models for the Earth-City in the United States and there he tried to apply his theoretical approach to the problem of the urban crisis by realizing models with his students, and elaborating, thanks to those studies, his theoretical framework explained in the unpublished typescript *Città della Terra*.

On a theoretical layer, Leonardo Ricci focused on three main keywords: reality, existence, and history. His feeling was that to improve human life it was necessary to start from real conditions and from the concrete problems of architecture focusing on the real concept of existence, which consisted of living with other people. Yet the investigation field was the boundary between theory and the surrounding reality, between the private and the collective living.

## Megastructure

These contents were also widely explained by Ricci in his book *Anonymous (XXth century)* which represented the real opportunity for Ricci to express barely his opinion on the matter not using the classical expressive methods and instruments of the architect.

You may travel the earth: go where skyscrapers become mountains and cities new landscapes; go to the little African village made of huts; or there where civilization has created masterpieces of art and shining examples of high culture; or to the desert of houses lined up square miles on end. Wherever you go, you'll never find your city, the place where you would live happily, where you would feel at ease, where your body would occupy its specific and specified place. I ascribed it to inexperience, immaturity, perhaps to egocentricity.

I even hoped that this explanation was right. Everywhere lonely men; men who work without definite aim, for the sole purpose of surviving; tired men, dragged from birth to death by other men dragging their lives from birth to death. Traveling this way, you find yourself alone, far away from wife, children, and dear ones, in a studio apartment in one of the cities of this earth; you don't even remember exactly where, to such an extent have you lost contact with reality. You don't know whether you have eaten or not, whether it is day or night, whether the weather is good or bad. All this, so as to know the world. And yet man could create his city today better than at any other time. He could possess his earth as never before. All you have to do is to take a plane, to fly and to see the sun continuously or the night: such is the speed of planes by now. And this should be enough to understand what new dimensions man has discovered, and what new dimensions his city could have no longer a city, for the earth, if you wish, is one single city: Earth-City<sup>160</sup>.

The book's success told by many letters of followers, admirers, architects, and young students kept in Casa Studio Ricci, was interpreted by the author as a confirmation of his hypothesis validity<sup>161</sup>. As Ricci wrote in *Anonymous (XXth century)* and in "Ricerche per una urbanistica non alienata" ["Research for a non-alienated city planning"]<sup>162</sup>, an introduction to his work done during one-year-work in 1964 for the Architecture School in Florence, he held the conviction of the need of a new existence due to the human crisis of the postwar period. The crisis invaded humans, architecture, and all human manifestations.

In the urban-architectural field new words appeared: directional centres, town-region, territorial town, connection routes. These were what Ricci called new utopias, urban designs, new entities, systems and organisms, new shapes that had to be designed by the architects who necessarily needed to think of new design methods by their early university studies.

Ricci spent the whole summer of 1964 to study how the teaching method could be radically changed with the aim of inventing a new way of designing. It should have been based on the analyses of human activities.

On this purpose Ricci wrote:

By now, I cannot start from the bases of a supposed functional objectivity of rationalists, which had demonstrated its limits and ineffectiveness. I will not do it not even starting from reality as it appears, because the current society shows models belonging to an exhausted civilization of the machine where the human being is reduced to the equation producer-consumer.

---

<sup>160</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 168-169.

<sup>161</sup> Leonardo Ricci remembers the book's unexpected success in "Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione", 5, 6.

<sup>162</sup> Ricci, "Ricerche per una urbanistica non alienata".

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

[...]

The answer came from an alienated society.

It was utopia, a way of thinking where imagination and invention could trace citizenship but, at the same time, it was a dangerous path to follow<sup>163</sup>

Some years later, in his lecture titled “The Future of Cities”<sup>164</sup> to the Accent Symposium at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Leonardo Ricci spoke to an audience of politicians and students aiming at triggering a new dialogue among politicians and intellectuals about the possibility to develop innovative models for the cities of the future. Ricci wanted them and all the university members to go out of their academic positions, out of their offices to become active forces for the society<sup>165</sup>.

On that occasion Leonardo Ricci reported the results of his research in Urban Design and, more in detail, he wanted to suggest a new architectural model for the new democratic society analyzing its own structure and avoiding the aesthetical perspective. He focused only on morphological and psychological viewpoints. Furthermore, Ricci stated that human beings were influenced by the environment and that no one could ignore the existing interaction between space, so between cities, towns, villages, and mankind. This conditioning could be “vitalizing, neutral or repressive”<sup>166</sup>, because city models, also in history, were the reflection of a precise culture, and justified a precise way of living, an economic situation, or a social organization.

All the historical models were the expression of repressive way of thinking because they clearly showed the duty to follow certain ways of thinking: in the Middle Age, for instance, the towns completely changed because Christianity gave a new justification of living and they became wide houses where the external walls and gates represented the boundaries of a community. On the contrary, during the Renaissance period towns were the expression of a man measure of the world. Thus, if Architecture and Urban Design were useful, they had to express democratic values and, therefore, let all the people have the same rights and possibilities in the city.

In his speech, Ricci made a deep and explanatory reflection on the fact that since the very beginning human beings were already living in groups, in tribes, and then, when the scale enlarged, they were used to live in communities, afterward in neighborhoods. Those settlements became towns, later organized in megalopolis until they reached the territorial scale and, finally, the dimension of the Earth thanks to the new means of communication.

The conference typescript recalls Ricci’s evolution from the community to megastructural design. Mindful of his constant theoretical work on the project for the community space, carried out during his entire professional

---

<sup>163</sup> Ricci, “Ricerche per una urbanistica non alienata”, 4.

<sup>164</sup> When Ricci typed this simple by fundamental reflection he is in the United States, on February 10, 1970. It was just before deciding to leave that country, where he had been teaching as visiting professor since the early Sixties, the following year, because of his disappointment against the immobility and stagnation of American University. Despite the students’ support, he could not handle the situation and decided to leave the University of Florida. Leonardo Ricci, “The Future of Cities”; typescript, Casa Studio Ricci, lecture presented to the Accent Symposium on February 11, 1970 at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

<sup>165</sup> Leonardo Ricci’s purpose came from his involvement in the 19868 revolt with his colleague and friend Leonardo Savioli. Their ideas gave the progress key to the *radicals* in Florence.

<sup>166</sup> Ricci, “The Future of Cities”, 3.

## Megastructure

activity from the Forties, in the conference Ricci stressed the idea of the earth as an “only one large community in which each phenomenon produced in one part of the earth causes an interaction with the others<sup>167</sup>”.

Leonardo Ricci's purpose for a new town model was based on the assumption that, despite the human instinct of living in communities, contemporary society had a bad living structure. He felt misunderstood in Italy when he tried to suggest alternative methods to overcome the problems caused by an old way of thinking. Ricci thought that Italian and foreign city planning had the credit to let the national consciousness reflect on urban planning as a way of reorganizing the city, but it insisted on an obsolete rationalist culture, which was already outdated<sup>168</sup>. On the one hand city planning solved the problem of ruling human life, but, on the other hand, it was forgetting further key factors applying statistics, indexes and categories, because human beings were alienated and segregated in three main zones –city, periphery and country- connected by systems of infrastructure, each holding advantages and disadvantages, and symbol of the activities run in them (tertiary activities in the city, secondary activity of the industries in the periphery and agriculture in the country).

If we further analyze each one of these zones [...] we can observe the existence of still other zones within them. They represent division among men, an alienation, a discrimination<sup>169</sup>.

In this way segregation of both people and living functions occurred, so urbanization was the tool used to solve this difficult problem, but it was not enough: it was necessary to change our view and open the problem to a larger view.

Therefore, to formulate the Earth City it was important to study what the three zones signified, who lived in each of them and what kind of life each zone allowed. This kind of study was never done before, it had to be economically sustained by private or public drive, but it could help in finding new morphologies of a territorial area intended as the whole city. Thus, from that premise it became clear why the new community space to be designed was the Earth and, trying to avoid utopia, Ricci stated that urbanism should be considered as a global problem based on real phenomena such as the population growth, the environmental equilibrium and the relevant important request of human beings that needed to be satisfied by the Earth itself. To Ricci thinking of a new structure, according to his definition, was a matter of thinking of the future, which had to be done following the aim of the whole society to be reflected in the architectural and urban environment.

On one side it was impossible to determine the future of cities because they were not a product of nature, they were a human artificial product. Therefore, the only way to predict the future of cities was to understand and forecast what type of political, economic, and social life humans were going to have in the future. On the other side, it seemed absurd to Ricci to make a prediction of the future, so he suggested a more useful and pragmatic solution: to prepare and study new types of analyses and methodologies to carry out the main task of intellectuals, which was to find innovative solutions for the lives of people.

---

<sup>167</sup> Ricci, “The Future of Cities”, 12.

<sup>168</sup> Ricci, “Ricerche per una urbanistica non alienata”.

<sup>169</sup> Ricci, “The Future of Cities”, 7.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The synopsis of the City of the Earth was comprehensive of an exhaustive analysis of the environment including both metropolitan areas and smaller cities, which suggested that it should have been made by scholars, students, mayors, and inhabitants who could learn together, through a fertile exchange, the reason why the environment was not suitable for the future and design future cities. The only way to realize better cities was reasoning in a simple way, using simple words to explain concrete results of an interdisciplinary research to architects and students who were going to work in the real current society.

Ricci's theoretical framework about the community space design evolved in his theory on megastructures. Firstly, the inhabitants' movements, their interactions and, in general, human activities were the starting point for any project, the only possible path follow to design the right town for people and build an environment reflecting the society, because all the existing settlements were obsolete solutions, obsolete models for obsolete societies and cultures. Therefore, the right way to go on with designing the common space was looking at the future being aware of the new technologies, new potentialities and, most of all, of new needs, reconsidering the project in all scales.

Potentially, a territory would be like a continuous town, sometimes denser, sometimes less dense, but continually interacting and allowing each person to enjoy and utilize all of the possible choices of a whole territory<sup>170</sup>.

In his speech *The Future of Cities* Leonardo Ricci explained his intention to teach in the USA to continue his studies on macrostructures where new technologies were applied to architecture and urban design, where the most economically powerful and technologically advanced methods could have helped find the way. A choice was needed to lead the revolution.

During the conference titled *Modern Movement, International Style, Postmodern*, which took place in the Architecture Faculty in Milan (academic year 1983/1984), Leonardo Ricci and Antony Eardley drew a debate on Postmodern architecture in the United States<sup>171</sup>. Leonardo Ricci remembered his teaching experience in the United States and recognized that the great force of the architectural production there was due to that high technological aspiration which drove the "matrix" elaboration for each vocation.

Potential, lacks, and goals were the main standards to investigate to be able to plan the development of territory and cross out the chaos determined by predetermined functionalist forms and the alienating zoning process that resulted from old rationalist and functionalist ideas, which did not allow Jacksonville or Miami citizens to perceive that they were living near the sea or near a beautiful river in Ricci's opinion.

In the territory, a new system of infrastructure is necessary to tie together all the public facilities and services at the territorial scale – the harbors, airports, specialized agriculture and industries. From the territorial scale we should pass to the scale of the megalopolis and then to the town, neighborhood, and group scales, always using the same methodology<sup>172</sup>.

---

<sup>170</sup> Ricci, "The Future of Cities", 14.

<sup>171</sup> Giuseppe, "Thony Eardley e Leo Ricci: tra Stile Internazionale e Post Modern".

<sup>172</sup> Ricci, "The Future of Cities", 14.

## Megastructure

As opposed to the existing chaotic aggregation, Leonardo Ricci imagined the new structure for the Earth City as a single organism made of different parts connected and belonging to the whole, where each component, either cities or county, planned its own development in the same way providing infrastructures and facilities at different scales. The architect felt ashamed of the urban results he saw in the United States and in Italy as well because they descended from a passive acceptance of the casual growth of the towns caused by the lack of common goals. According to his opinion, in fact, it should have been important to fix some common methods of analysis of the towns, which had to be necessarily followed by the choice of intervention; if neither the local administrations nor the architects had precise and shared goals it was impossible to make that choice and to have new suitable towns for people.

Furthermore, this phenomenon could have caused another spreading problem: «towns as a result of destiny, not a conquest of man<sup>173</sup>». As it happened for the invention of new airplanes, intellectuals, politicians, and inhabitants had to work together to elaborate new models. Intellectuals should have thought of architectural models at different scales, from the territory scale to the home scale, and politicians should have preferred environment, city, habitat problems rather than other alienating matters. Thus, this was the only simple path to follow to have new models, otherwise, the choice should have been done doubtless among obsolete models.

The *City of the Earth* was defined “synopia” by Ricci because it referred to a prefiguration of a city, to Ricci it was not a utopia but a real model that could be applied to reality. The model derived from two basic careful studies: the survey of the existing city structure and an interdisciplinary investigation on human acts and activities. The aim of deriving the City of the Earth from such analysis was to respect human beings and to plan for the environment they live in; instead of executing a pianification made by human beings it was a plan for mankind.

Ricci’s integrated city considered communications, transport, infrastructures and facilities systems. Communications and transport should rebuild the relationships among alienated people, but, in order to do it, they had to remind the old streets and squares which were able to link houses and shops. On the contrary, in the contemporary world, Ricci could only see them as dividing devices, they separated houses, neighborhoods and whole areas. To him, by drawing a line connecting two points the architect marked a separation line for all the other points on a paper-sheet, and the same happened on a city map. Therefore, architects and planners should modify their planning method and move from drawing a street on paper to design it on the urban landscape. According to Ricci the solution should be to examine all the means of communication in an interrelated way and not one by one.

Infrastructures and services should be planned by focusing on their existentialist function to connect work and home, they should be huge spaces allocated to human association intended as existential condition. In the contemporary world Ricci noticed a chaos between domestic and workspaces, a sort of “non-città” including architectural buildings and organisms that imitated a time that did not exist. Infrastructures and services were buildings, but they did not need specific architectural organisms typologically determined, because some existing functions were born in an alienated society to allow the unification of what was broken and fragmented.

---

<sup>173</sup> Ricci, “The Future of Cities”, 15.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Therefore, in Ricci's opinion, the Earth of the City did not need specific buildings because human acts and activities were already integrated and developed in the same integrated way. The only need for the new society living in the integrated city were qualified spaces able to welcome human acts and activities.

No isolated forms were needed, but existing forms as nature, so the Earth of the City would be the unified expression of a society without isolated and single pieces addressed to specific functions.

Ricci focused on one last important point: materials and structure. The first ones were integrated materials in such a way that no one could distinguish the natural and the artificial materials, while the structure could use existing structures and build new ones in stressed concrete, as those studied by Riccardo Morandi at the University of Florida.

What was important about the City of the Earth structure was the possibility it gave to life to insert in a flexible way: each inhabitant would have been able to change its habitat unit according to the single or family needs.

All the work done for the city till that moment was not unuseful, but it let the architect and the man understand that a new "maitrise" of the Earth was needed.

## Megastructure

### GUIDE PROJECT

#### 1. Ricci's general plan for Miami Model Cities Area - Project for a macrostructure in Miami at Florida University (a study for the 95.000 people neighborhood within the «Model Cities» program 1968-1970)

In Miami, the Metropolitan Dade County lacked in design features, landmarks or important historical sites and was designated as the largest Model City of the country. Its 95,000 black inhabitants' living conditions were hard<sup>174</sup> and, with few planning guidelines added to a lack of legal restrictions, the Model City Area had been growing in successive waves: discrimination kept Miami's blacks in its 7.3 square mile ghetto of 95,000 people and between 1960 and 1965 the area dramatically changed from 50% white and 50% black to 100% black.

The program had to be realized thanks to a mutual action of the municipality and the University of Florida, which had a long tradition of social involvement in the community, primarily in education and agriculture, then in Urban Design purposes: the University of Florida proposed a course of action which could have revolutionized the Model Cities program in the United States. The Department of Architecture proposed a field station in the Model City and architects and planners would have constituted the physical help for the social planners on the Model Cities Staff. This composed staff collected all the needed data to develop the components of the physical facilities under an architectural and urban design point of view and then started the work in an interdisciplinary and participated process. Physical and social planners, assisted by consultants from various fields at the University as Urban Geography, Social Psychology, Cultural Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Health Planning, Welfare Planning, Economics, Soil, Structural, Mechanical, Civil and Transportation Engineering and Landscape Architecture, worked together to determine the location of the first housing units and study the constructive solutions for facilities and dwellings.

The design process focused on the participation of the Urban Design team, led by Leonardo Ricci and Riccardo Morandi, who worked with twenty graduate students from physical and social planning disciplines, with the Model Cities Staff, the Citizens' Task Forces and directly with the residents of the area, continually involved in the development and the evaluation of the project.

The project's goal was to find the relationship between the planning of infrastructures and a viable social structure in the community then to develop a new method to find that relationship by matching the urban and architectural planning with Housing, Education, Social Science, Economic Development, Health, Recreation, Crime, while traditional methods avoided that. The aim of the project was to change the usual habit to treat the physical planning for these forces separately.

The advantages of the plan were basically two: graduate students faced the solution of real problems in a new imaginative way and the program benefited the Model Cities Program with new designs and services.

The realized plan derived from a masterplan at a regional scale which grafted the macrostructure into a territorial road system. The infrastructure and the macrostructure were perfectly inserted in the existing tissue: the first

---

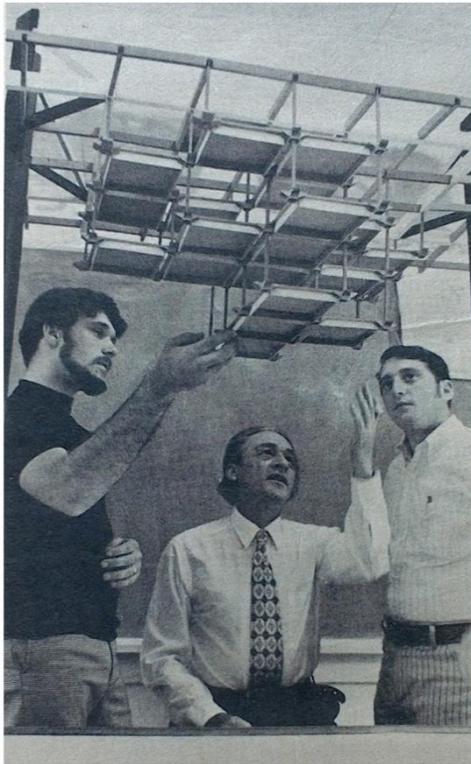
<sup>174</sup> At least 8% of the citizens were unemployed and job opportunities were scarce as housing possibilities, since 24% of houses were deteriorated. John Toppe, University of Florida Alumni Association, Gainesville - Florida, "Model City", *Impressions Newsletter, University of Florida - Dep. of Architecture*, no. 4 (1969).

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

one was articulated on various levels from the large to the small scale, from the territory to the neighborhood, the second one was building a unique system of public spaces such as squares, parking lots and green spaces to connect the new part designed with the existing urban mesh<sup>175</sup>.

In the masterplan for Miami, it was evident how the involvement of the project on an urban scale and the sign of its belonging to the territory had always had a great importance for Ricci.

The macrostructure was visible on the large-scale of the masterplan and was easily recognizable: it appeared as a linear system in which the infrastructures were systems organized on several levels, therefore there were connections conceived at height. It was possible to realize this complex program thanks to the structural system



5.10: Leonardo Ricci with fifth year students (Philipp Crannel and Lawrence Alan Mackson) studying the plan for urban growth, project of a Model City for 95,000 black residents in Miami with graduate students; from *The Florida Alligator*, April 24th 1970, Casa Studio Ricci.

used by the architect also in many other projects: the structural blade, a linear sequence of shaped septa which guaranteed the development of the macrostructure in three dimensions to allow the development of the city block as well. The macrostructure also needed a structural frame to allow the city vertical expansion and realize the dwellings: then Ricci asked the University of Florida to call Riccardo Morandi for one three-month term.

In order to be able to realize multiple and suitable facing of the dwellings and to design all the walls of the housing cells accordingly, it was necessary to avoid the use of diagonal reinforcements, which could have caused the increase of the general cost and impossibility to realize livable spaces. Ricci opted for a solution with vertical joints, but Morandi maintained that it was not possible to create sufficiently resistant vertical joints. Following several tests and studies on the structure, Morandi was able to conceive a system that eliminated all the stress efforts to eliminate the diagonal braces. Four diagonals were hooked to the pylons that supported the beams. To these beams the lattice was hung with tie rods eliminating any other beam<sup>176</sup>.

In this way the model became an applicable reality and all the efforts of the teachers and students were satisfied with this important result. In Ricci's course of Urban Design at the University of Florida the designing process was integral: it started from the analysis of the existing environment, infrastructures, and urban tissue to design concrete and economical strategies. It started from the regional scale of Florida and continued with the town scale of Miami, then with the neighborhood and the habitat scales.

<sup>175</sup> For what concerns Leonardo Ricci's work with the students and with megastructure models see Bartolozzi, *Leonardo Ricci: nuovi modelli urbani*, 12-20 and Toppe, "Model City".

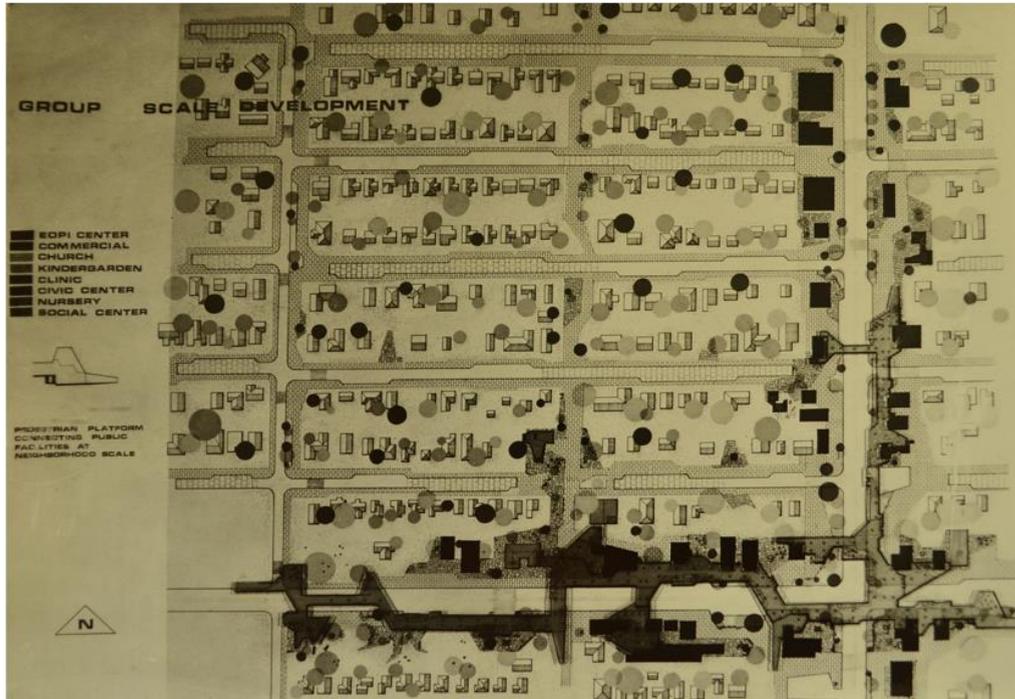
<sup>176</sup> Riccardo Morandi's detailed structural report is kept in Casa Studio Ricci. See APPENDIX III.

## Megastructure

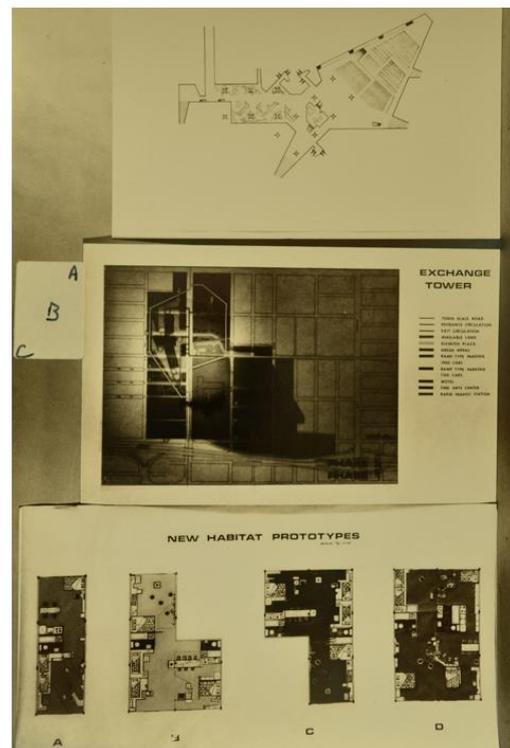


5.11: Project for the Miami Model Cities Plan, picture of the model, Casa Studio Ricci.

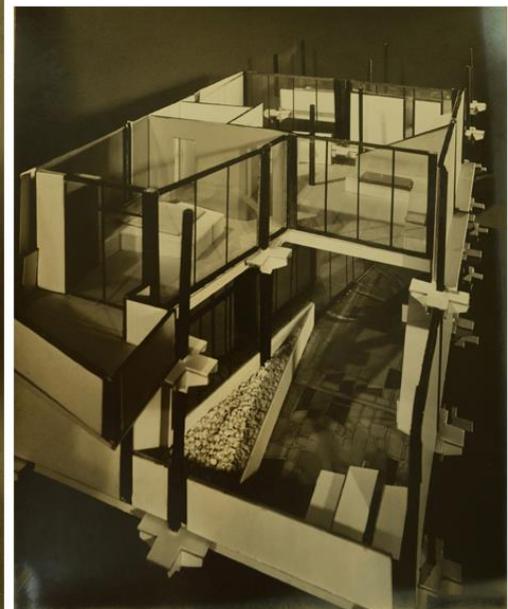
Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5.12: Project for the Miami Model Cities Plan, plan, group scale development, Casa Studio Ricci.



5.13: Project for the Miami Model Cities Plan, exchange tower, new habitat prototypes, Casa Studio Ricci.



# Megastructure

## AUXILIARY PROJECTS

### 2. Project for a macrostructure for Dog Island, Orlando, Florida (1968-1970)

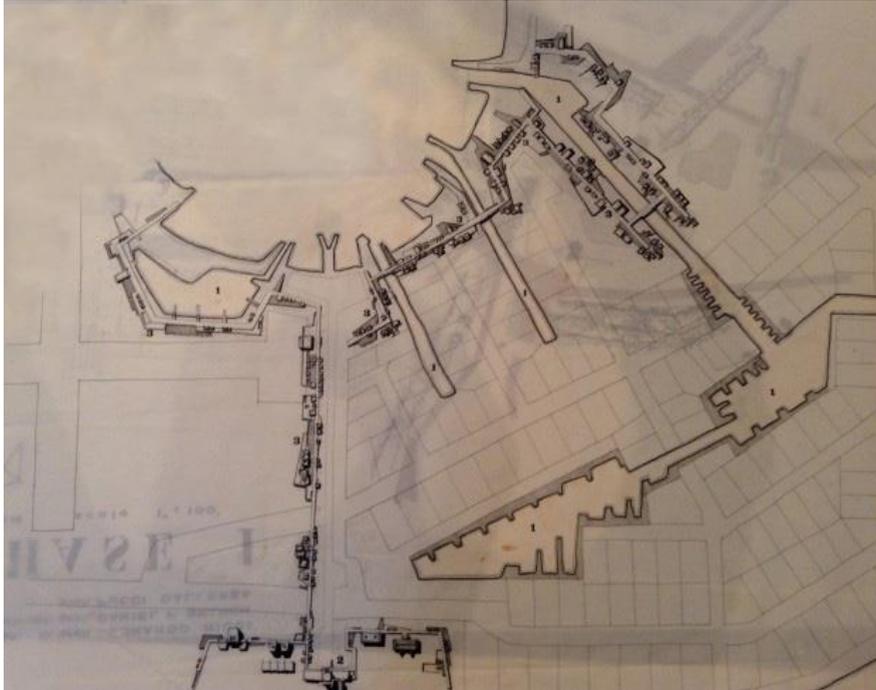
The project for a macrostructure for Dog Island in Florida was signed by Ricci Bennett Architects – Urban Design office, with Daniel Paulk Branch as consultant, and Maria Grazia Dallerba. In CSAC Archive the project is titled “Dog Island”. In Casa Studio Ricci a general masterplan of the macrostructure of Dog Island is kept, while in CSAC archive more detailed sketches, plans, elevations, and studies in section are available to study the project in detail. By looking at those drawings and at the sketches Ricci donated to CSAC it is clear that all the listed functions were studied separately and that the general plan was to be realized in different phases: they were 6 and were identifiable with different colours.



5.14 – 5.15: Leonardo Ricci, Masterplan of the Megastructure for Dog island, CSAC, B038534S\_1, B038534S\_2.

In the masterplan of the project regarding a total area of 11.8 acres, if considered both the wet and dry areas, or of 6.8 acres of dry surface, it is possible to locate different functions distributed all over the territory of the island. “Lake houses” and “bridge houses” occupied the western part of the island, the central part hosted a huge golf camp, while in the two wide coves of the eastern part there were “pyramids” and “airplane houses” residential complexes. The transversal belt between these different parts was occupied by a “village on pilotis”, extremely developed in length. On the curved line of the gulf that connected the two inlets “houses on channels” were distributed: housing units on canals which, following the course of the land and the jagged line of the coast, from the sea were grafted inland. The second cove hosted an enormous megastructure for habitat, a circular recreational area, and a village club.

The different complexes and functions were homogeneously distributed all over the island. They were connected by “promenades” and the urban settlement was interconnected, it functioned as a whole, providing for services grouped to satisfy 13,000 people -shopping centers, a church, cultural and sports centers, a nursery school, a school, a college, a hospital, a theater, a playground, a club,-and followed the territorial morphological features.



5.16: Leonardo Ricci, *Megastructure for Dog Island, "Houses on Channels"*, CSAC.

In a sketch of the “houses on channels” straight “channels”, wide long roads, conducted from the coast to the hinterland cutting the territory in four sections. The longest one drove to the building of the central tower. This typology was characterized by larger channels and smaller channels that connected all the living units.

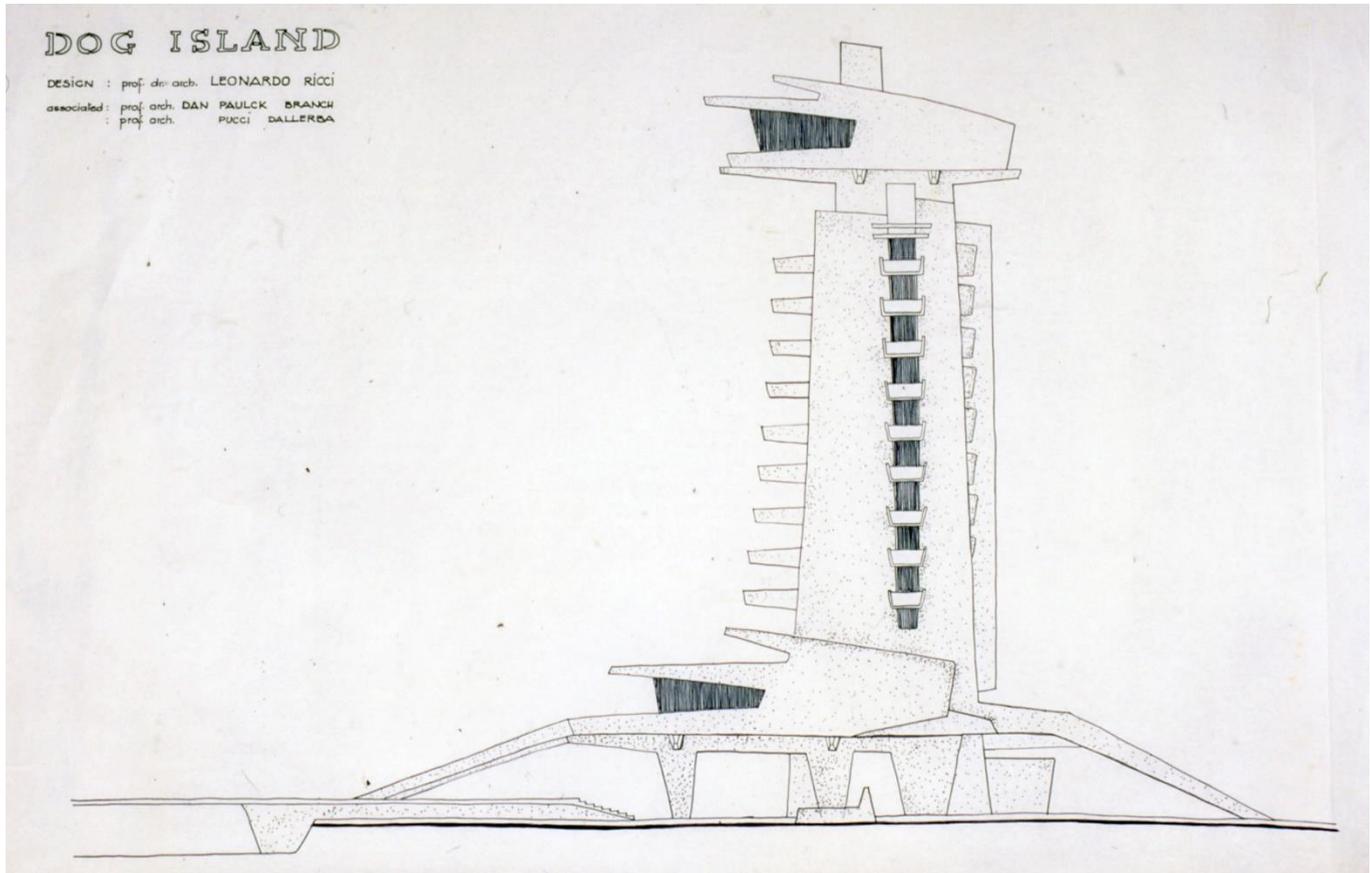
The “megastructures for habitat” were also connected by aerial paths that linked the long irregular plates characterized by different curvilinear and biomorphic profiles in some points. These huge bodies were positioned in rods of two or three, side by side.

The tower and the pyramidal volume are the buildings more deeply studied according to the numerous available drawings. The pyramidal volumes were thought for the huge triangular volumes positioned in the central part of the island (named “pyramids” in the legend of the plan), while the tower typology concerned the building at the end of the main promenade and the “towers” (as indicated in the legend) in the extreme western part of the island, where the land narrowed and finished in the sea.

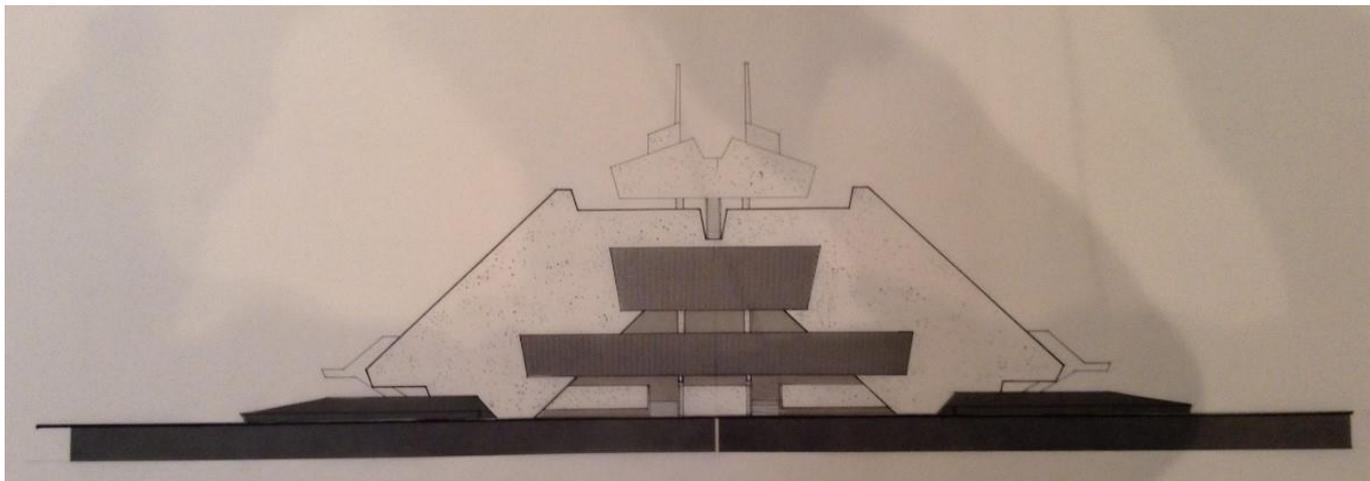
In the project for Dog Island Ricci and his colleagues proposed the same pyramidal typology of the project “Terrasecittà” (1972), even they differed for the number of floors and for the functional distribution: while “Terrasecittà” hosted penthouses on the upper floor, in Dog Island the “pyramids” were conceived to provide for public facilities there. It is important to specify that both projects had a pyramidal section, in which the underground and soil levels were occupied by parking areas, the central floors by living units and the upper floor for penthouse luxury apartments (“Terrasecittà”) or for public facilities (Dog Island).

The core of the triangular section hosted a gallery for commercial and public facilities.

# Megastructure



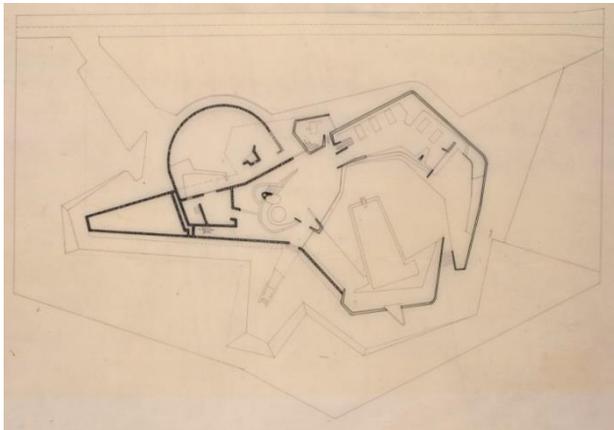
5.17: Leonardo Ricci, Daniel Paulck Branch, Maria Grazia Dallerba, Megastructure for Dog Island, Tower, elevation, CSAC, B038536S).



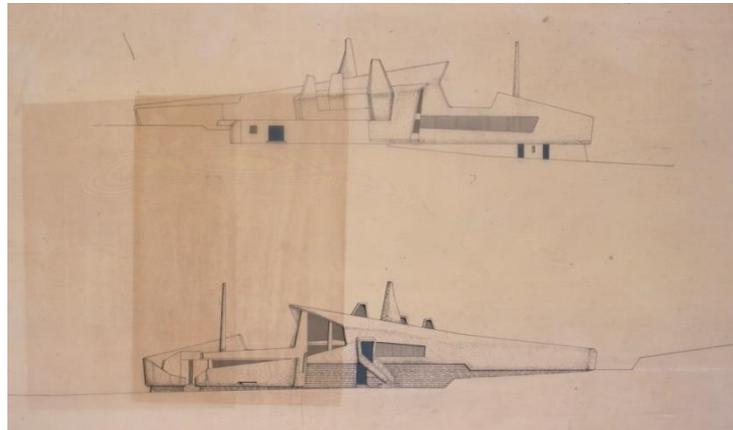
5.18: Leonardo Ricci, Daniel Paulck Branch, Maria Grazia Dallerba, Megastructure for Dog Island, elevation of the "pyramids", CSAC.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The tower building was composed of a basement connected to the soil thanks to ramps and elevated paths, as it was usual in Ricci's projects as the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (1959-1960), the project for Montecatini Cemetery (1967) or Casa Di Sopra (1972). Those plastic physical connections to the soil could be considered re-elaborations of the high external stairs of some earlier or coeval projects as the Monterinaldi or Montepiano Houses, realized from the Fifties to the late Sixties, or of the oblique stone walls often used to finish the structural blades on which several buildings by Ricci were anchored (Mann Borgese House).



5.19: Leonardo Ricci, project for Di Sopra House, plan, CSAC, B038523S.



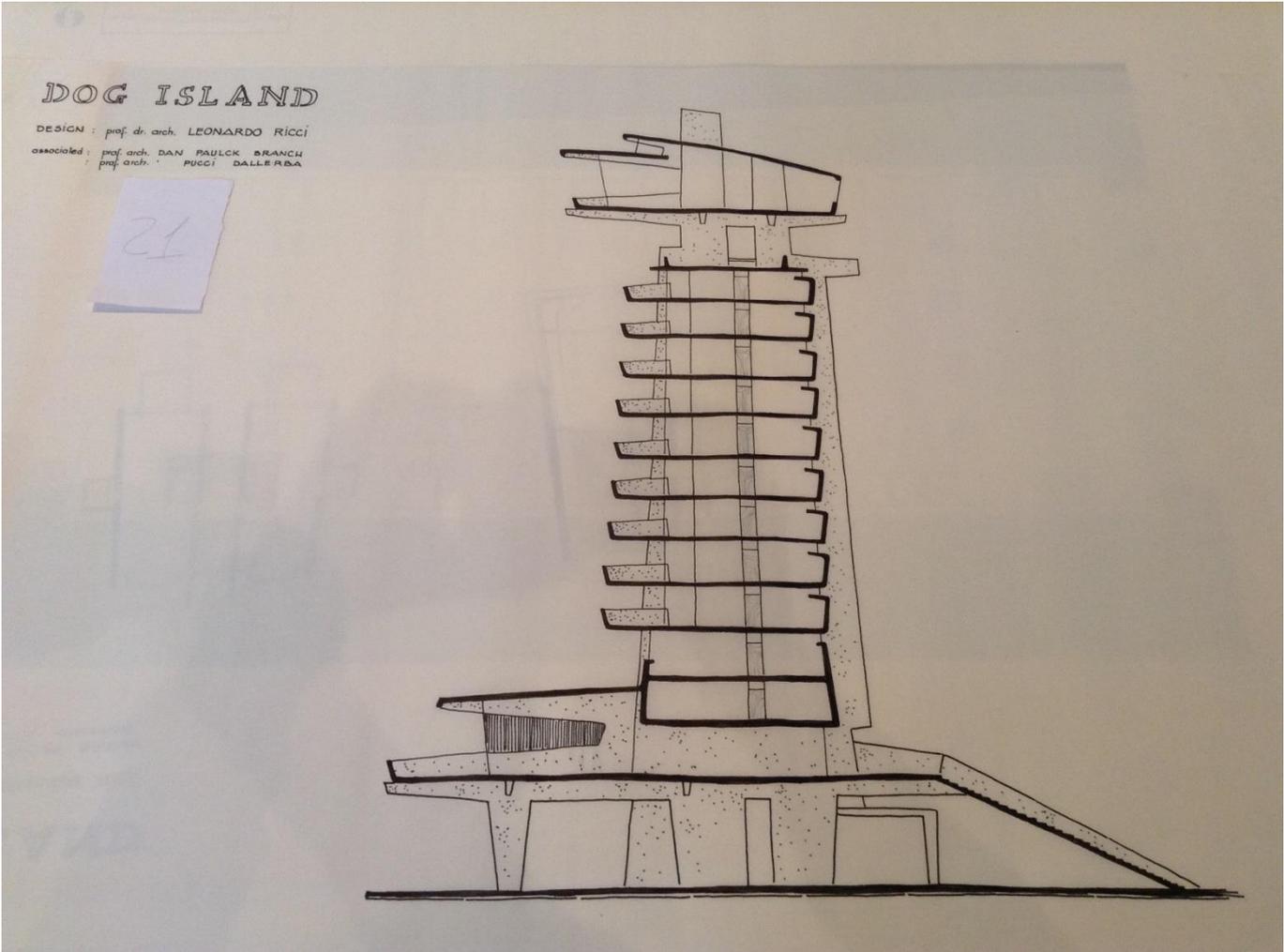
5.20: Leonardo Ricci, project for Di Sopra House, elevations, CSAC, B038524S.

The tower body was grafted on the basement and elevated with nine floors of living units and a tenth level to connect this part of the tower to the upper separated level. The typical floor was divided in two symmetrical parts by the staircase volume, each appointed for one single habitat unit with two views towards the sea on terraces, one to the north and one to the south. The lateral sides were closed by continuous walls, except for a narrow opening with balcony on the eastern or western side of the flat.

The upper floor of the tower hosted offices and multifunctional spaces for public facilities. The staircase cut on the north side the floor area, which unified on the southern side, more opened towards the sea.

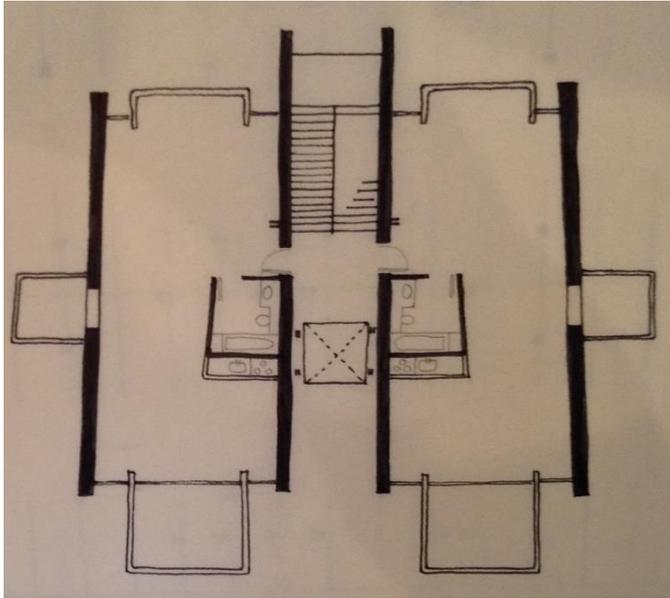
The project for Dog Island pervaded the whole island with its differentiated functions assigned to different building types. Therefore, in addition to the Expressionist recall, the project could be easily traced back to the metabolist experiments by Kenzo Tange for the Bay of Tokyo both for being such a multifunctional large-scale intervention managing the earth and the soil elements and because it worked on leisure spaces, sports and recreational areas as well as different habitat solutions.

Megastructure

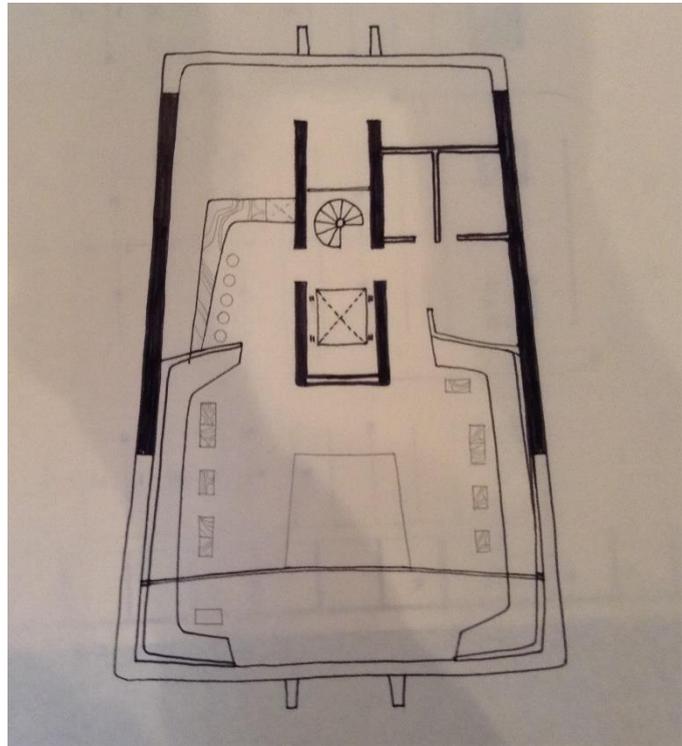


5.21: Leonardo Ricci, Daniel Paulck Branch, Maria Grazia Dallerba, Megastructure for Dog Island, Tower, section, CSAC.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5.22: Leonardo Ricci, Daniel Paulck Branch, Maria Grazia Dallerba, Megastructure for Dog Island, Tower, typical floor with habitat units, CSAC.



5.23: Leonardo Ricci, Daniel Paulck Branch, Maria Grazia Dallerba, Megastructure for Dog Island, Tower, plan of the upper floor, CSAC.

## Megastructure

### 3. “Terrasecittà”-“City of Terraces”, Orlando, Florida (1972)

The project for “Terrasecittà” or “City of Terraces” was a macrostructure building presenting an “A” triangular section, or “Terrassenhäuser” section recalling Paul Rudolph’s Lower Manhattan Expressway (1967-1972), a megastructure with two sets of back-to-back flats on either side of a gigantic carriageway of a communications artery. The project foresaw a basement for parking areas and nine levels: the soil level was dedicated to a series of services, offices and commercial functions including Branch real estate company offices, seven levels for one, two- or three-bedrooms apartments with terraces, and a penthouse upper level. The Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design studio designed in detail the plans and the furniture of all kinds of dwellings and studied the areas of the apartments’ terraces according to the physical principle of the “sky exposure plane”: the ratio between the vertical distance (height of the sky exposure plane above the street or of the lower plan) and the horizontal distance (the initial setback distance). Therefore, the height of the buildings was limited by means of the Angle of Light Obstruction (ALO) to let open air and light reach the streets and the rear yards. Each area was allotted a certain ALO, measured from the center line of the street and from the rear lot line<sup>177</sup>.

The technical report of the project synthesized some of the designers’ intention to bring a psycho-somatic balance to the dwellers: Ricci and Bennett quoted in the report Norman Newton’s words saying that «the success of a work of design may be soundly evaluated only by its over-all long-term effect on the healthy, happy survival of humans. Any other evaluation of architecture, or city planning makes little if any sense<sup>178</sup>»: in this project, we can notice the clear intention to stress the horizontal and vertical connections, the clear structure of a building anchored to the soil by massive walls that gives birth to horizontal suspended routes and paths. On this main base unit, a tower form ending with a jutting out slab was inserted.

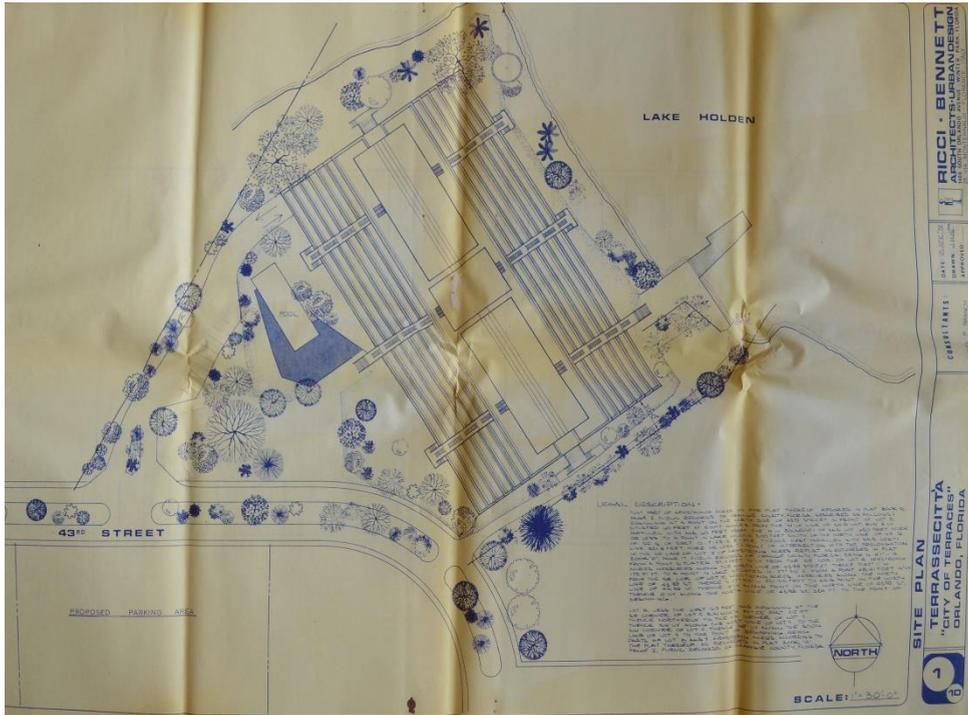
This project represented a new spatial challenge to rebuild the connection between architecture and urban studies moving from existing models so that these big buildings’ clear and identified shape became their main characterizing feature.

---

<sup>177</sup> Portfolio of the “Terrasecittà – City of Terraces, Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>178</sup> The portfolio of the “Terrasecittà – City of Terraces” project included an introductory paragraph reporting Norman Newton’s words, followed by four paragraphs concerning the “planning”, the “architecture”, the “environment”, and the “traffic” projects. The portfolio is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

# Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5.24: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design with Daniel Paulck Branch, "Terrassecittà"-City of Terraces, site plan, Casa Studio Ricci.

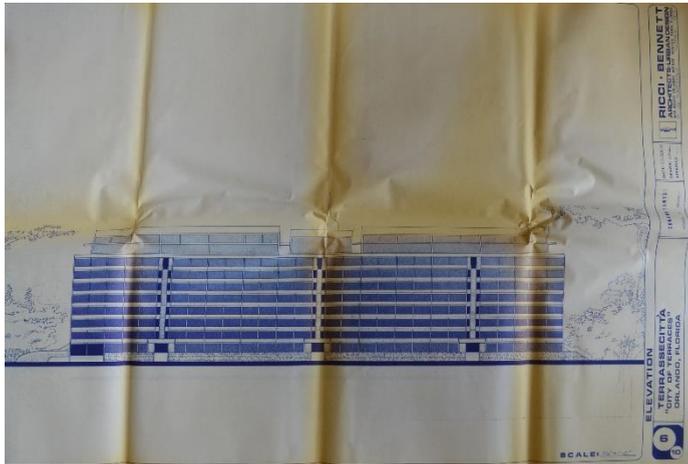


5.25: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design with Daniel Paulck Branch, "Terrassecittà"-City of Terraces, section through stairs, Casa Studio Ricci.

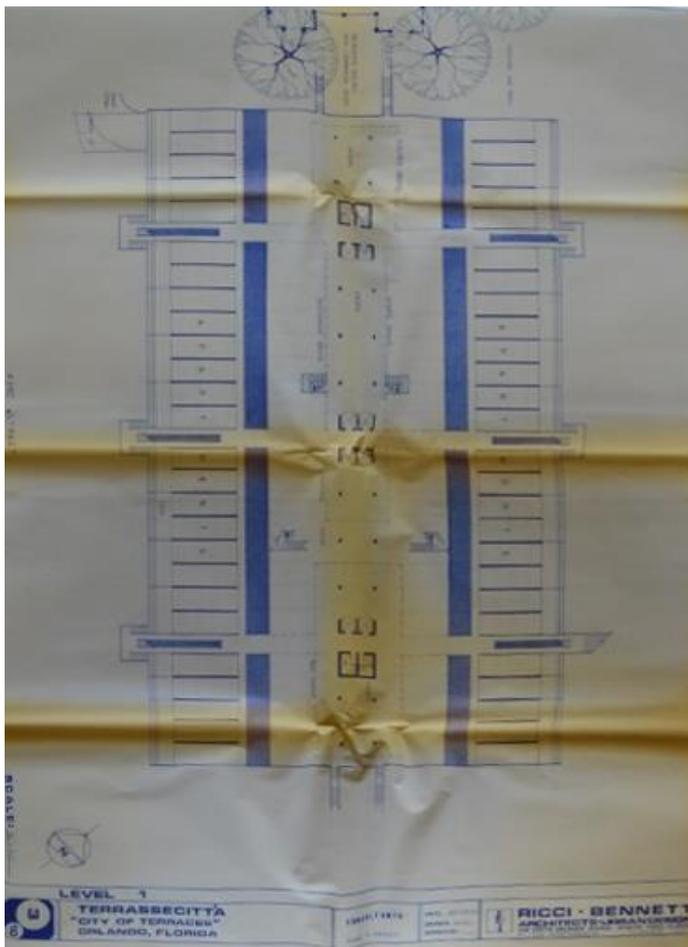


5.26: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design with Daniel Paulck Branch, "Terrassecittà"-City of Terraces, section through modules, Casa Studio Ricci.

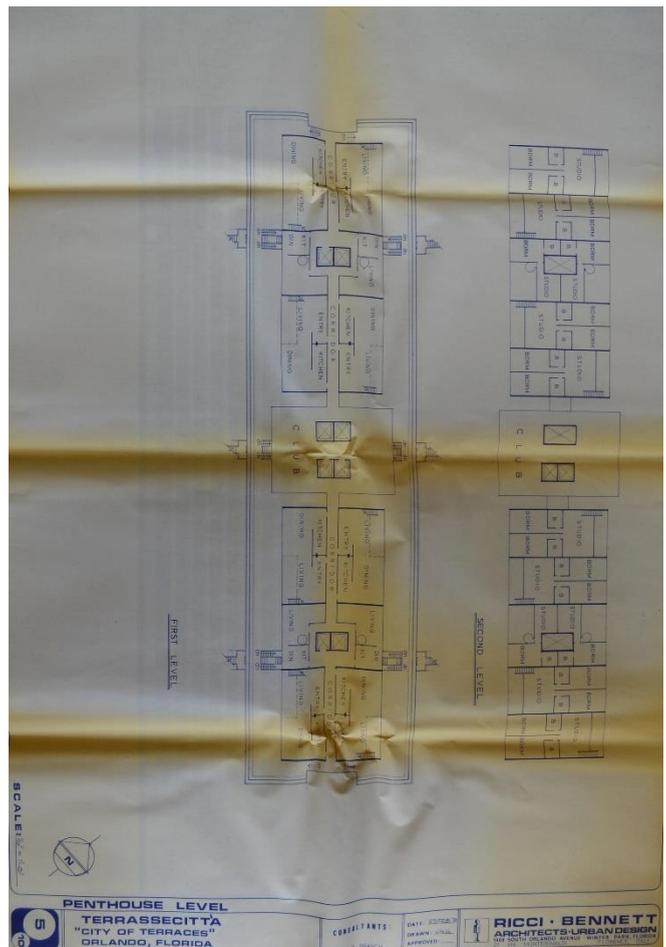
# Megastructure



5.27: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design with Daniel Paulck Branch, "Terrasecittà"-City of Terraces, elevation, Casa Studio Ricci.

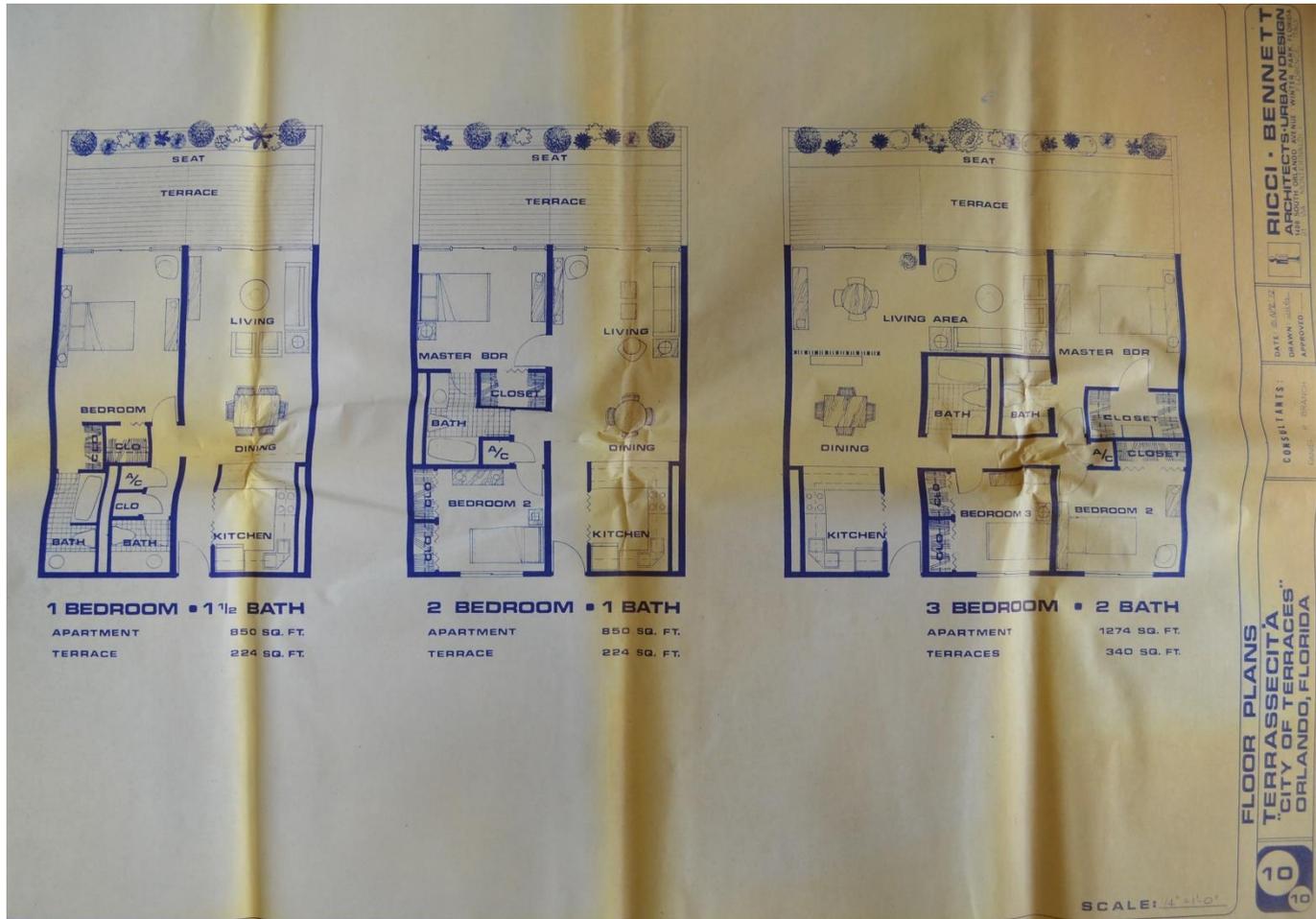


5.28: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design with Daniel Paulck Branch, "Terrasecittà"-City of Terraces, plan of level one, Casa Studio Ricci.



5.29: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design with Daniel Paulck Branch, "Terrasecittà"-City of Terraces, plan of the penthouse, Casa Studio Ricci.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5.30: Ricci-Bennett Architecture Urban Design with Daniel Paulck Branch, "Terrassecità"-City of Terraces, two and three-bedrooms habitats, plans, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Megastructure

### 4. Plan of the Leather District for Regione Toscana (1975-1978)

Leonardo Ricci remembered this project as the perfect result of what he intended organic planning. The Tuscany Region had not yet established the District and Leonardo Ricci had to manage a Consortium of six municipalities with the same population of twenty thousand inhabitants: Fucecchio, Castelfranco, S. Miniato, S. Croce, S. Maria al Monte, and Montopoli. Leonardo Ricci carried on an interdisciplinary study with the help of the sociologist Paolo Giovannini and of the relations expert Cioni who cared the contacts between planners' group and the people, with the architect Sigfrido Pascucci (coordinator with Leonardo Ricci), and the architects Giovanni Censini, Andrea Ricci (collaborators). Therefore, the plan importance lied in its interdisciplinary, participated, and existential organic planning approach.

The so-called "leather district" was characterized by an intense industrial activity, kept alive by small and medium industries, where the territory was practically destroyed by the chaos caused by the last expansion of the Seventies. The local rivalry in those areas was very strong and the plan had the highest goal of planning a city consisting of the six municipalities.

Ricci was proud of the work<sup>179</sup> and the first step was done once the group elaborated the pre-model to be discussed with the people, to whom the group explained that they were going to pass from the scale of twenty thousand to one hundred twenty thousand inhabitants. The goal was not to assign a driving role to one of the municipalities, but rather to set up a model of city to be reconfigured in a new way on a production scale on a district scale. According to Leonardo Ricci, the success of the project laid in having been able to block the Florence-Livorno highway project that destroyed completely the territory by connecting only the two production centers. Indeed, the project had already been completed and under construction but they managed not to advance the work to change the joints of the freeway and to start from it the load-bearing structures of the district area.

Once the model was accepted by all six municipalities, they revised the town plans or manufacturing plans in each town (some of them did not have a town plan) to compose a district plan. The acceptance of the final plan was complicated both politically and socially because some politicians came from different municipalities and local rivalries were even stronger. The composite group of designers had thus secretly redesigned the territory by laying the foundations of the new city, of six municipalities, which was finally a founded and non-derivative city.

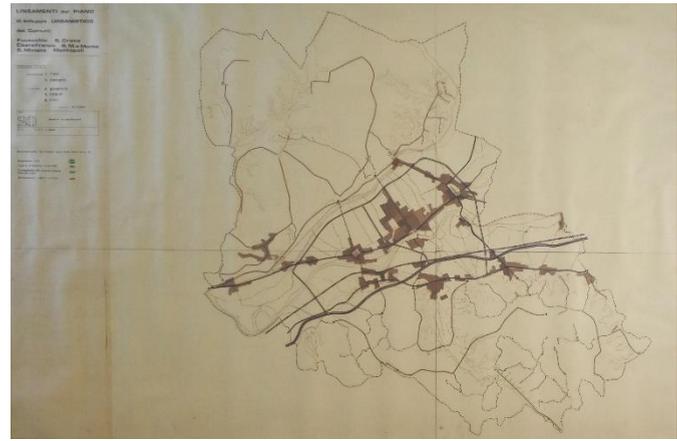
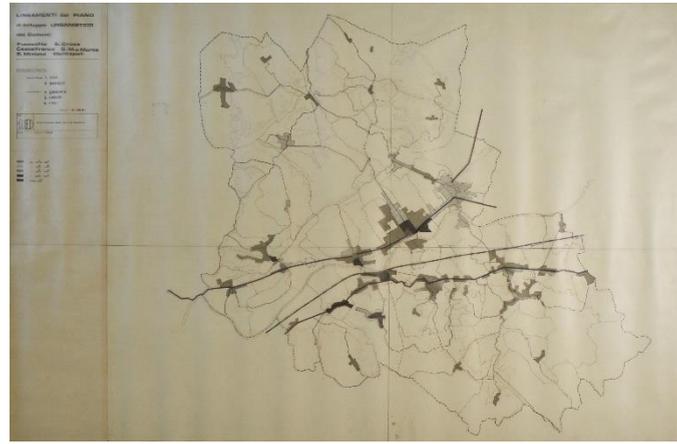
The foundations for developing the area on the base of human activities, especially productive but not only, had been laid and Leonardo Ricci's organic plan had been created, without even designing buildings<sup>180</sup>.

---

<sup>179</sup> Venturi, "Parlando nel 1978", 383.

<sup>180</sup> Venturi, "Parlando nel 1978", 383, 384.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5-31, 5-32, 5-33, 5-34, 5-35, 5-36: Leonardo Ricci, Sigfrido Pascucci (coordinators), Giovanni Censini, Andrea Ricci, Paolo Giovannini, "Plan for the Arno Valley", plan of urban development of Fucecchio, S. Croce, Castelfranco, S. Miniato a Monte, S. Ministo, Montopoli, tables of the plan kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

## Megastructure

### 5. “Terza Porta” – Integrated Center, Parterre, Florence (1982)

This project, never realized and designed at the beginning of the Eighties, represented for its architect the possibility to build the *Nuova Città* which could have represented a fragment of the City of the Earth. The site, the Parterre, on the edge of Piazza della Libertà in Florence, once was a garden donated by the Lorenas to the city of Florence, and constituted, according to Ricci, a stretch of the city that united city and countryside and had been destroyed by the construction of out-of-scale and symmetrical architecture in the 1920s. However, that area represented the opening of the city of Florence towards the north, towards Bologna, and towards the Mugnone river, which had been largely canceled by the new constructions.

Leonardo Ricci was entrusted with the design of this area in 1982 and the project he elaborated tried to take into account, on the one hand, the historical evolutions of the project area, the expansions of the city of Florence, and, on the other, both the needs of the district council, more specific concerning traffic congestion with daylight and abandon in the night, and the needs expressed at an urban and territorial level, which required the inclusion of cultural facilities and administrative decentralization.

After the destruction of the ancient walls at the behest of the Superintendent Giovanni Poggi, a ring boulevard and a square welcomed the symmetry of the surrounding buildings for Florence which was to become the capital. The destruction of the walls had occurred because they were considered anachronistic for that moment in which the city no longer had to defend itself from external enemies. On the contrary, Ricci was convinced that the walls conferred «the shape of the city with respect to the countryside and, according to him, they proposed the city as a single composition, as a single house. The two doors, now only remained as “monuments”, in an unqualified garden island, made unlivable by the chaos of traffic<sup>181</sup>».

Leonardo Ricci was worried about economic problems that could have affected the realization of the project, but he thought that if the project could offer the Municipality and the citizens something useful and vital, the project would find the necessary funding. He then thought of giving the city a new entrance, a new door for those who, like him, had always enjoyed the view of Florence from above, but then, just arriving in the city, lost any kind of perceptive reference they had from the hills to the plain.

Ricci's not academic words best explain the project: «Thus was born the idea of the “Terza Porta”. With two different faces. Towards the center like an altarpiece. Materials: stone, white and black marble; an Albertian facade. Towards the hills, steel, aluminum, and glass. In the doorway, for an intuition, I projected the two shapes of the existing doors. Not for a scenographic desire. To add to the space the celebration of the time dimension. For an upward measure. Perhaps to indicate that today we must not be more shy than those who preceded us<sup>182</sup>». He began an uninterrupted series of sketches, until I was satisfied with the form, with the scale in relation to the square. As regards contents, it could offer spaces for decentralized municipal or regional functions, connected to the neighborhood services that already perform some of these services. I thought that these spaces had to be

---

<sup>181</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Centro integrato «La terza Porta» al Parterre, Firenze”, Catalogue of the exhibition of the project, Parterre, Piazza della Libertà, Florence, July 2-10, 1983. The text was entirely quoted in Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci* 87-93. Quotation at page 87.

<sup>182</sup> Ricci, “Centro integrato «La terza Porta» al Parterre, Firenze”, 88.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

enriched with different tourist and even commercial routes. As a model, just think of Palazzo Vecchio. Not to a Kafkaesque castle, a symbol of power, which hides the mayor and administrators, but a space where different moments intersect. City management. The great exhibition. The testimony of a different public power<sup>183</sup>».

Ultimately what was missing was a heart, a knot of exchange matching the quartier and the administration needs. Ricci stated that Alberti gave him inspiration for the façade, while Brunelleschi, for the creation of an exchange node for the inhabitants, for which he also found inspiration in the church of Firminy by Le Corbusier. However, while Le Corbusier's structure was an empty shell for a closed space, Ricci's building had a load-bearing structure with different functions: at the base and in the mezzanine floor places of exchange for the neighborhood such as a theater, a suspended library and a space for music, in the upper part a trade center, a coordination center that offered work spaces to Tuscan artisans, exhibition spaces for products, social spaces for operators and the public.

To reach the main goal of connecting the different parts and the building with the surroundings it was necessary to think how to treat the existing buildings and the connections. Ricci decided to preserve the existing and built parts that in plan represented the ellipse of the square and to define connections with the Piazza della Libertà, with the Mugnone river, with the horticultural garden, with the hills and with the Via Bolognese. He decided, after various attempts including that of raising the riverbed, to decrease its section to be able to build a flow artery in the remaining area without excessive costs. In this way, floods - such as that of 1966 - could have been avoided since the river would have overflowed into the street rather than into the city.

To characterize the path that led from the Parterre to Fortezza da Basso Ricci proposed an elevated path that could connect the ancient houses on the river with the castle and its garden, the other houses, and the Parterre. The path could then be animated by further production and commercial spaces for the artisans, thus decentralizing administrative, cultural, and commercial functions.

Other minor paths could have been connected to this up to the horticultural garden and all, in the green spaces and the Via Faentina, inside the Via Bolognese, could lead through other inhabited and uninhabited landscapes of the hills. The car parks were positioned at the junction of the connections with the main infrastructures, therefore they constituted a separate system that went from Piazza della Libertà to the Parterre, to the sliding axis. In this way it was also possible to put the underground parking in Piazza della Libertà in contact with a parking system above.

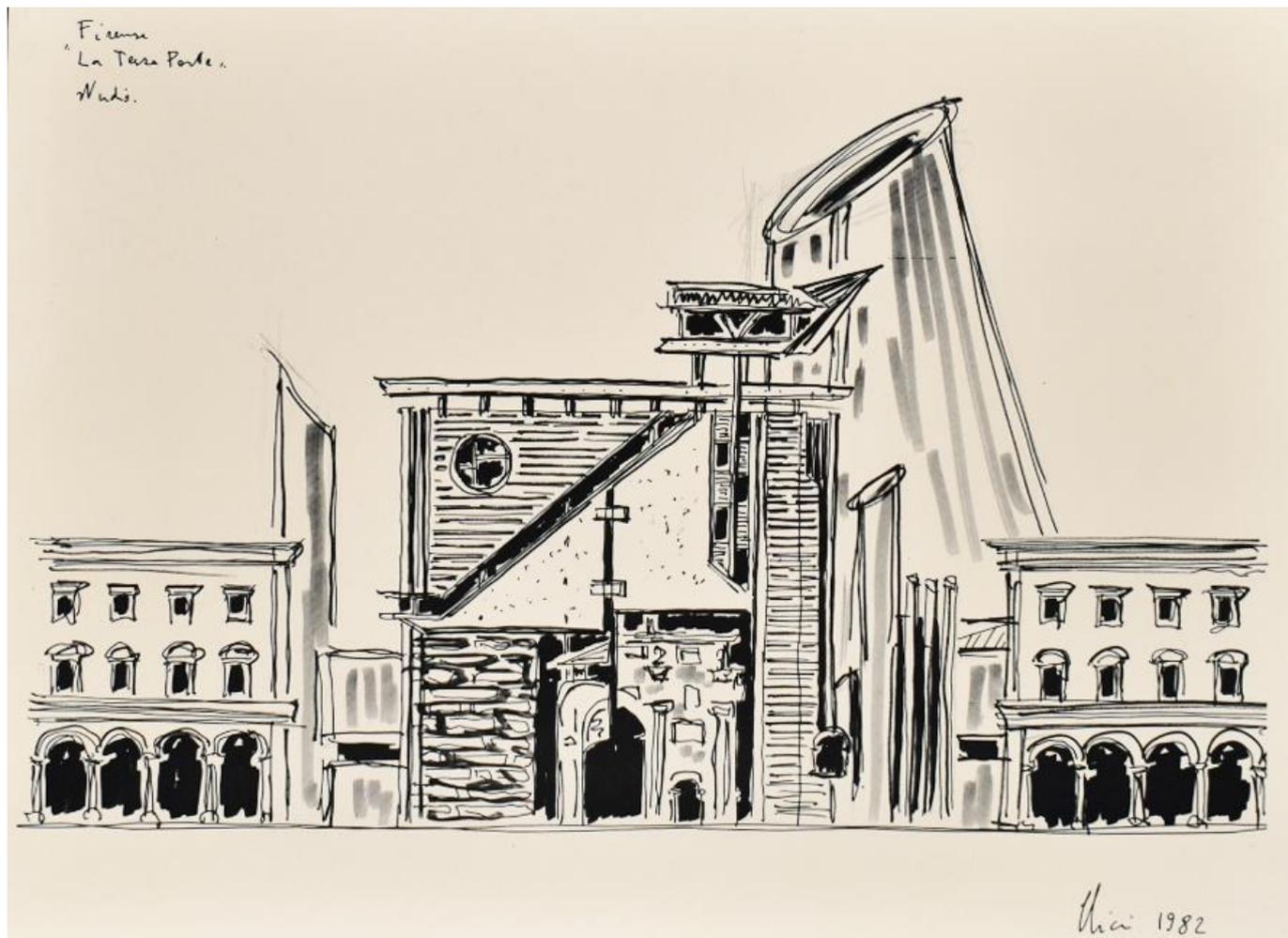
Ricci had designed an integrated system of functions, connections, services, and infrastructures for the Terza Porta project that connected the old city with the new one, re-establishing the harmony of the asymmetry of the ancient avenues, using the part between the sidewalk and the busy streets. His hypotheses, however, remained on paper due to economic and administrative problems<sup>184</sup>.

---

<sup>183</sup> Ricci, "Centro integrato «La terza Porta» al Parterre, Firenze", quoted in Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 88.

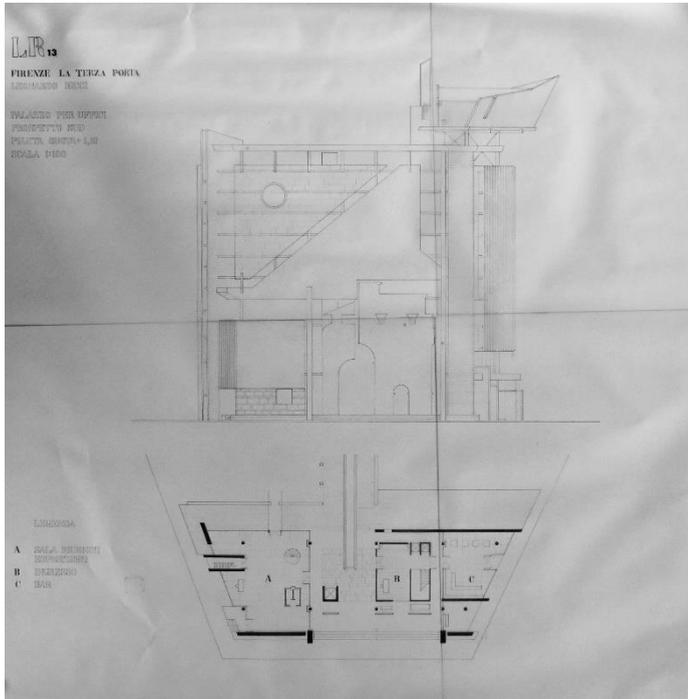
<sup>184</sup> For a complete overview on the project: Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, 87-93; Vasič Vatovec, *Leonardo Ricci. Architetto "esistenzialista"*, 65, 66; Fabbrizzi, "Leonardo Ricci", in *Opere e progetti di scuola fiorentina, 1968-2008*, 130-143. All the drawings relevant to the project are kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

## Megastructure

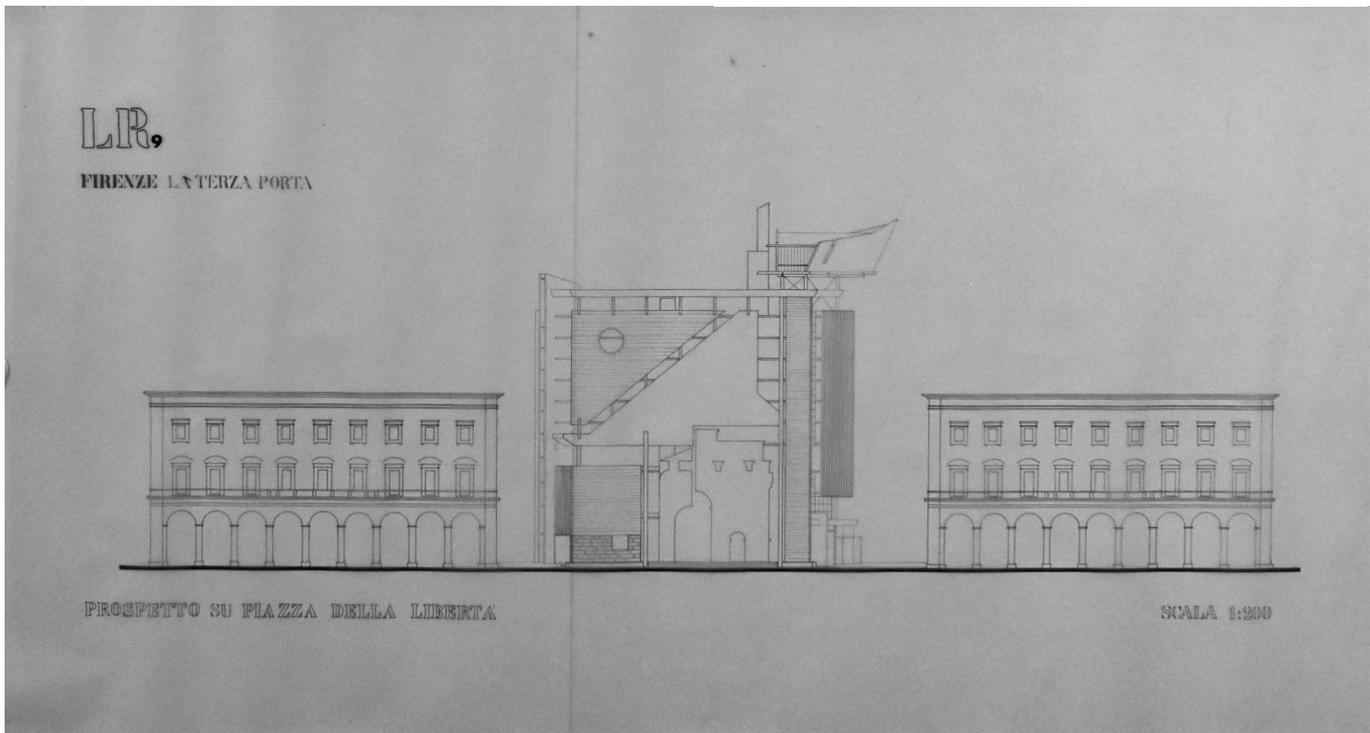


5.37: Leonardo Ricci, study of the project for "La Terza Porta", elevation, 1982, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

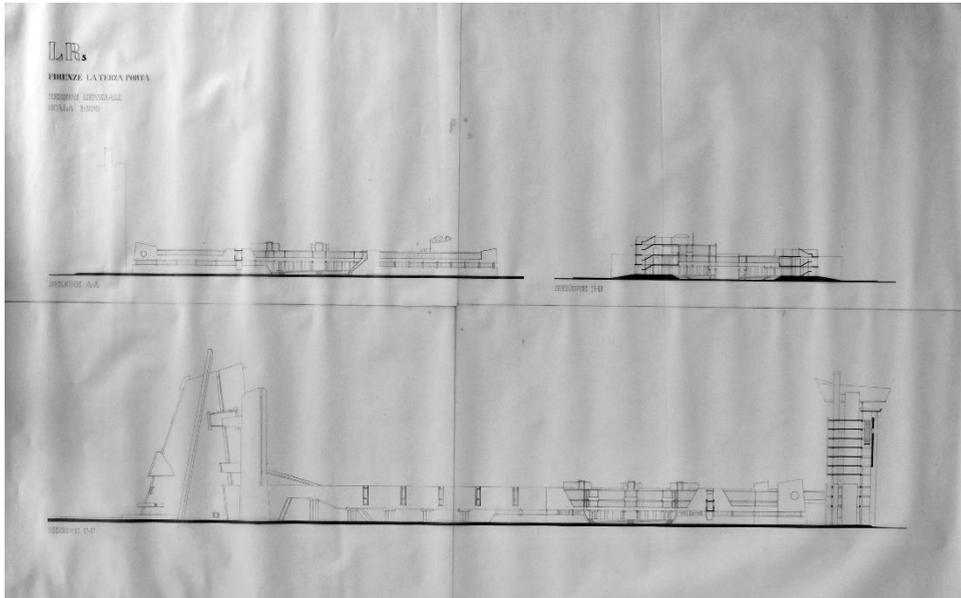


5.38: Leonardo Ricci, "La Terza Porta", offices building, south elevation and plan, scale 1:100, Casa Studio Ricci.

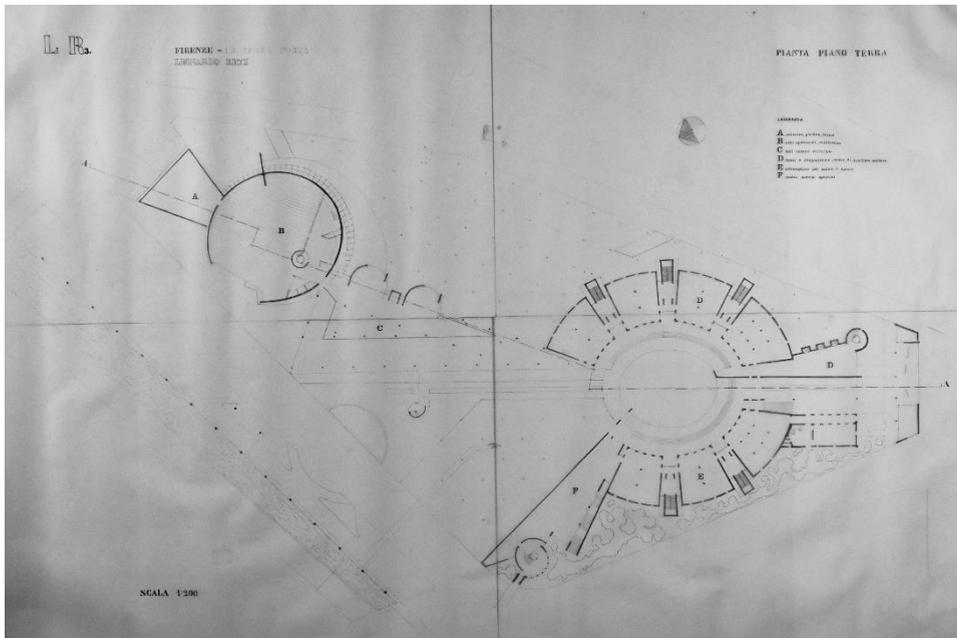


5.39: Leonardo Ricci, "La Terza Porta", elevation on Piazza della Libertà, scale 1:200, Casa Studio Ricci.

# Megastructure

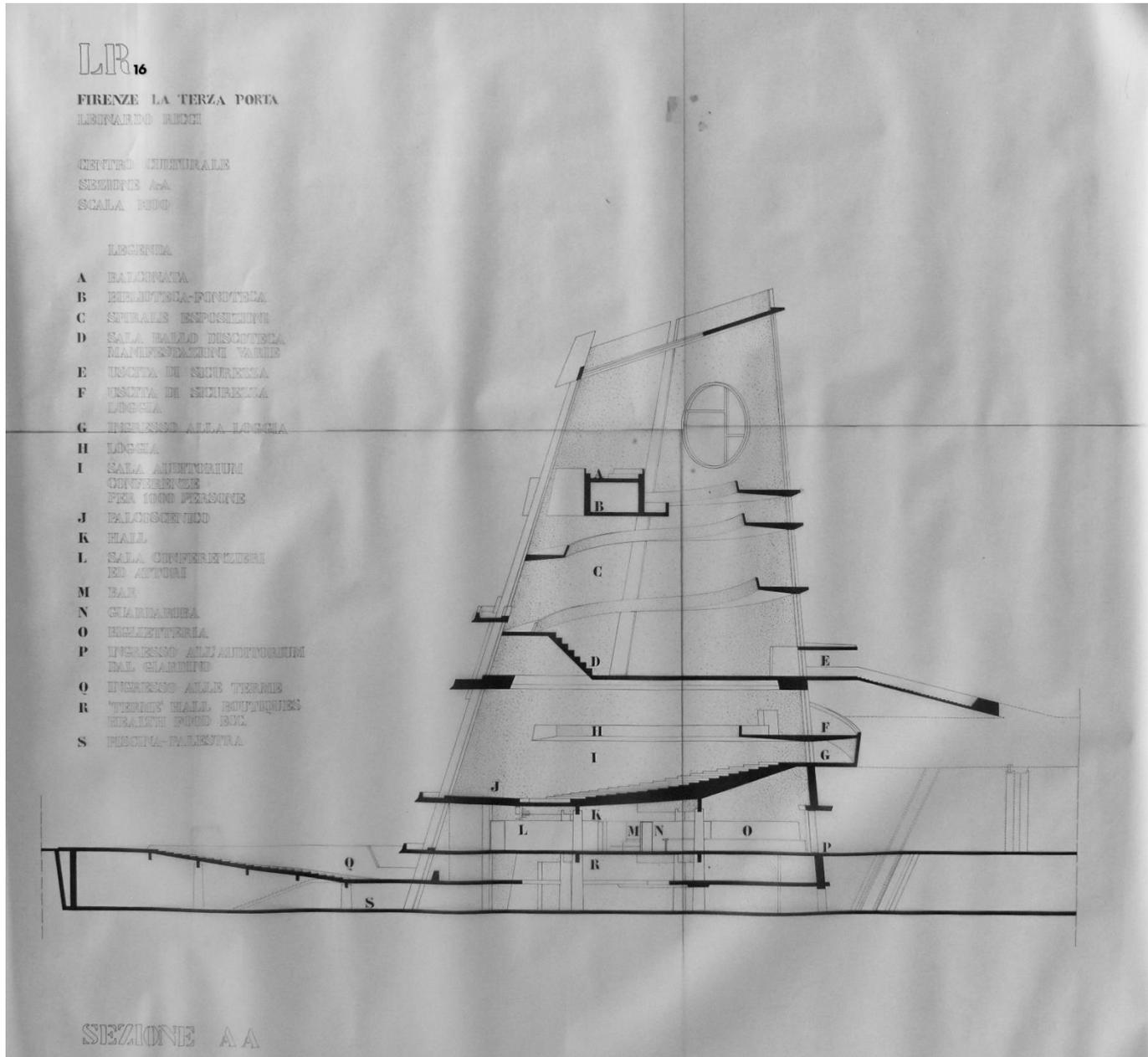


5.40: Leonardo Ricci, "La Terza Porta", north-west and south-east elevations, scale 1:200, Casa Studio Ricci.



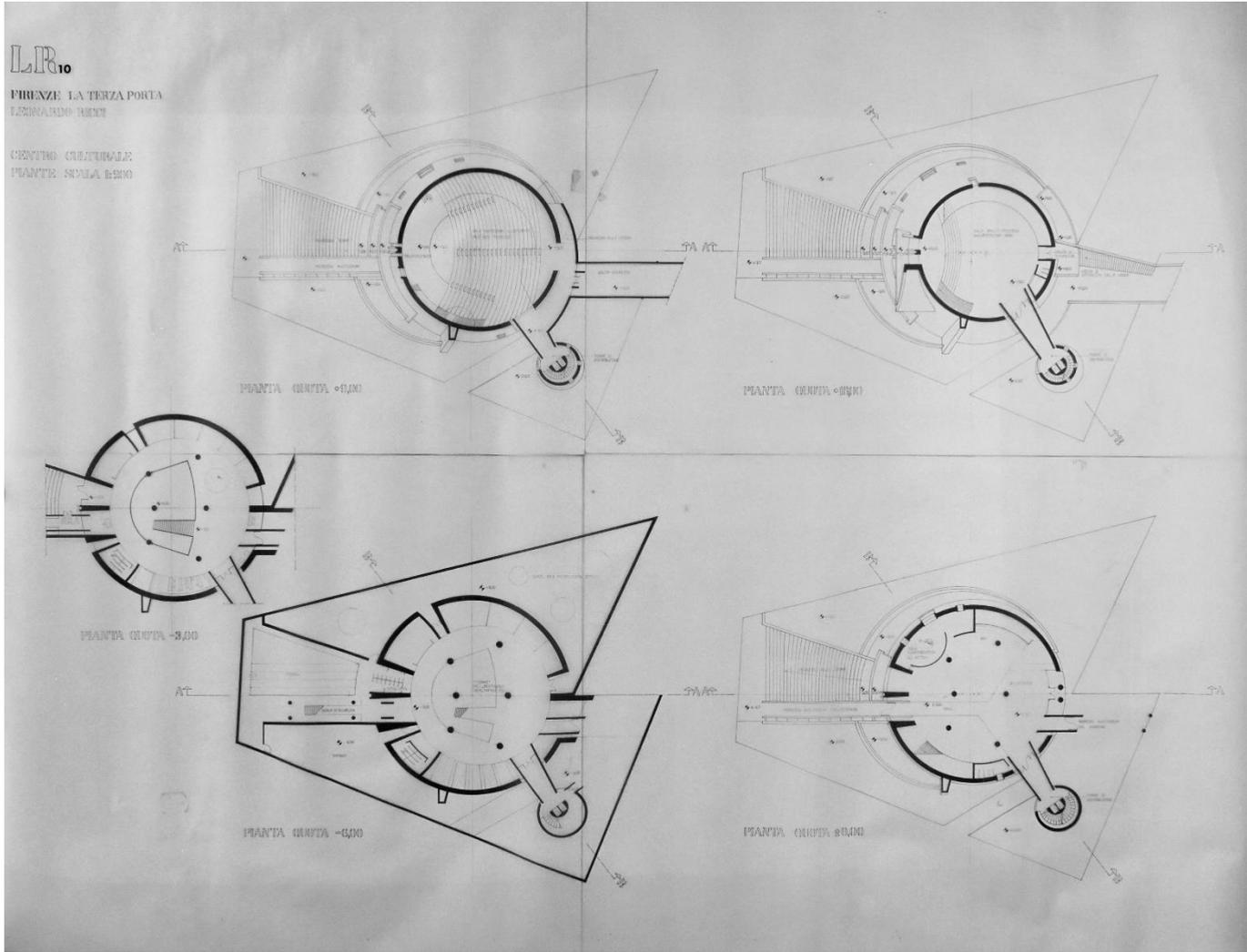
5.41: Leonardo Ricci, "La Terza Porta", ground level plan, scale 1:200, Casa Studio Ricci.

Leonardo Ricci in the United States



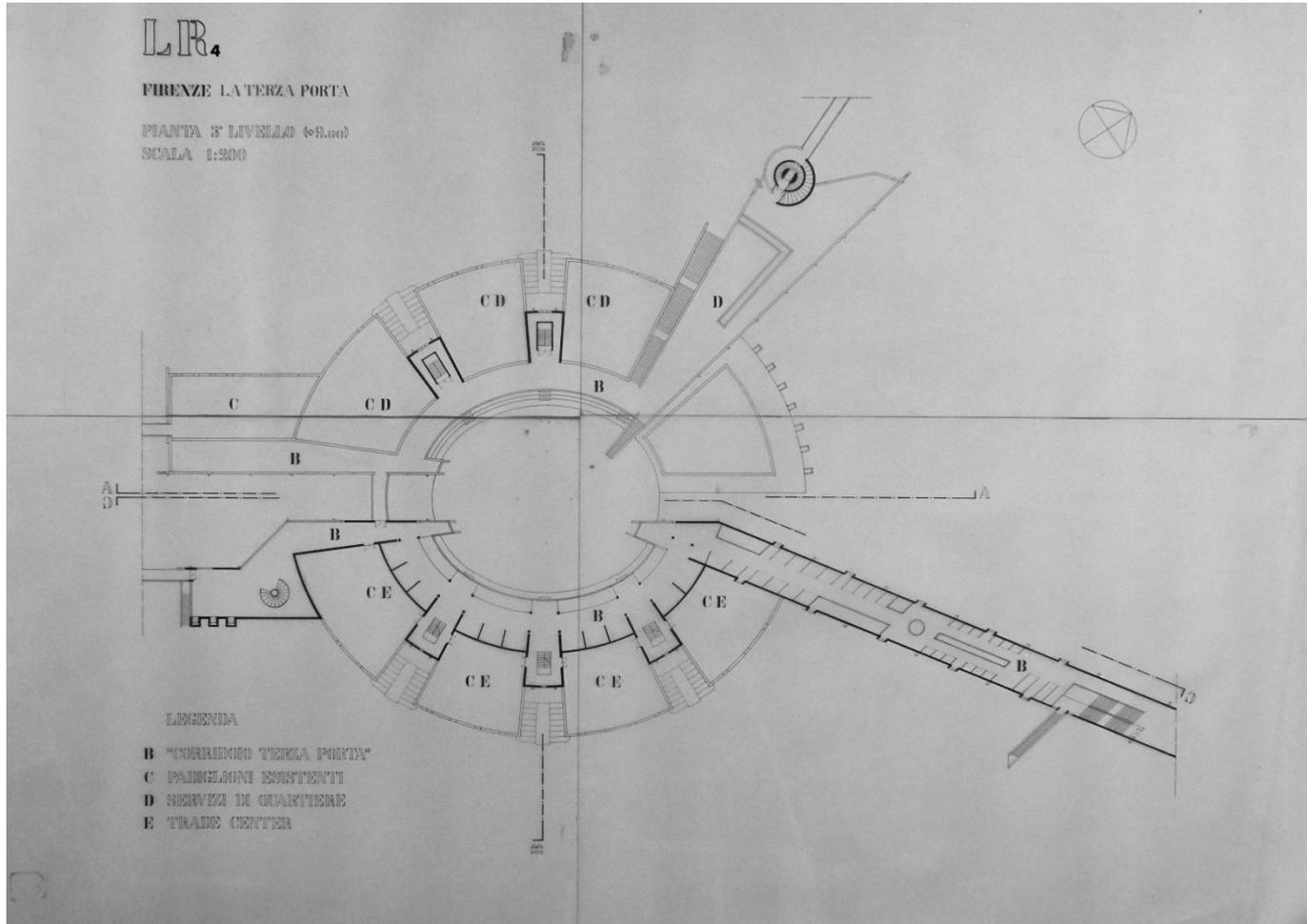
5.42: Leonardo Ricci, "La Terza Porta", cultural center, AA section, scale 1:100, Casa Studio Ricci.

# Megastructure



5.43: Leonardo Ricci, "La Terza Porta", cultural center, plans, scale 1:200, Casa Studio Ricci.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States



5.44: Leonardo Ricci, "La Terza Porta", third floor plan with the "Terza Porta corridor", existing pavilions, neighborhood services and trade center, scale 1:200, Casa Studio Ricci.

## 6. The anonymous project as an “Open Work”

### 6.1. An existentialist view as a moral instance to design the anonymous space

The facts of the history of the twentieth century fueled a distrust in science, technology, capital and the rational organization of society, and philosophical reflections were also triggered which sought to give answers by going beyond history. Phenomenology, on the other hand, recalled patterns and models subjecting every knowledge that was no longer the cause and effect of a method but a kind of "phenomenon" practice.

Phenomenology and existentialism overcame the positivist vision, the human condition was no longer considered the subject of scientific reason, the former tended to accentuate objective values while the latter considered the more subjective aspects of existence in the attempt to free what stroke the human consciousness as essences and values. These positions tried to give a new meaning to history, giving rise to the universal union of spirit and nature, as symbols of other opposites, and constituted the philosophical substratum of the society of the second half of the twentieth century, in which Leonardo Ricci's life and work were perfectly inserted. Ricci experienced Existentialism in Paris from 1948 to 1950 and his existential reflections guided him towards the search of his own vision of the world described in his *Anonymous (XX century)*, that brought him to the “open work” in architecture. The aim of this chapter is to explain how this happened by analyzing Ricci's philosophical, anthropological, sociological, and visual design research, by means of the conception of “anonymous” architecture.

Despite the economic recovery, the memory of the two world wars left many doubts in the consciences and the search for a new vision of the world for all things was spreading, including architecture, apparently far from the research of the human soul, but deeply involved in the fervor tied to the city. In this climate Florence was seen by its mayor Giorgio La Pira as a common home in which all the elements had a responsibility and a common duty. According to La Pira the concept of "church-tent" developed by Giovanni Michelucci for the Chiesa dell'Autostrada (“Church of the Highway”) could have marked a new era of sacred architecture and urban form. The concept of the tent, symbol of transience, extended to the idea of the city, of civilization and of the era that welcomed the man on the road, open to a new vision of the world. These reflections introduced the existentialist thought of Leonardo Ricci, which therefore did not come only from his stay in Paris from 1948 to 1950, but also from the reflections on the architectural and urban form made in Florence<sup>1</sup> and from the existential roots of

---

<sup>1</sup> The magazine "Testimonials" dedicated the number 76-77 to the themes of the city, entitling it "The city of dialogue", that dialogue between institution and man that precisely should find in the city the point of its maximum expression. It was important to find the elements of the new city where everyone could have their own identification space and inhabit the spaces of the city. In this regard, Ernesto Balducci maintained correspondence with Giovanni Michelucci and dealt with this question on the journal: he indicated the spaces and structures of dialogue precisely as community spaces that helped the circulation of values that allowed human confrontation. According to Balducci, the Church was wrong when it placed itself as the center of human life, just as for Ricci the new architecture was no longer that of geniuses or heroes, of great

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

Michelucci's thought intended as the ability to go beyond the borders. For Leonardo Ricci's master the existential vision went hand in hand with architecture and became its engine, an essential element to free itself from the conception of space constituted *a priori* and built for life, a variable and livable space. This goal could be achieved only by overcoming the codes and boundaries to make the space vibrate and to continue history: the essence and physical structure of space, a long process of becoming man was part of. By privileging relationships, the natural and biological root of the design process inevitably became the main theme of composition.

With the sentence «it is enough to exist. It is enough to find the relationships among the things that exist. It is enough to create new relationships among things<sup>2</sup>», already quoted in chapter four, Ricci explained the core of his thought, the relational value of architecture moving from the existential instance, referring to Enzo Paci's studies on the matter that the architect quoted in the introduction to the Urban Planning II and Elements of Composition courses<sup>3</sup>:

[...] To make you understand the historical situation of a current so-called middle generation that, torn from the war by an idealistic culture has forced a new research position, which we can call roughly existential. That is, generation that passed as Paci says from a philosophy of error to a philosophy of existence although in this case the word philosophy begins to become equivocal because a philosophical position cannot be existential<sup>3</sup>.

Paci's interest in contemporary architecture has given rise, since the mid-1950s, to original reflections contained in numerous essays<sup>4</sup>. Those writings date back to the years in which Paci defined his relational thinking which, at the end of the 1950s, took on the connotation of what was defined his "relational phenomenology"<sup>5</sup>.

---

architects of the past, but only of people who will work together to build it. Ernesto Balducci, "La città integrata", *Testimonianze*, no. 76-77 (1965): 417-418, also in Fabbrizzi, *Giovanni Michelucci. Lo spazio che accoglie*, 110.

These positions were in line with Michelucci's vision of architecture and the city as a place for the manifestation of form, according to a «phenomenological theory of space, a space whose composition, due to its own human component, can only to be changeable and variable according to the infinite conditions that the phenomenon admits». Fabbrizzi, *Giovanni Michelucci. Lo spazio che accoglie*, 112.

<sup>2</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous*, 19.

<sup>3</sup> Ricci, "Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione".

<sup>4</sup> In chronological order: "Il cuore della città", *Casabella-continuità*, no. 202 (August-September 1954), vii-x, "Problematica dell'architettura contemporanea", *Casabella-continuità*, no. 209 (January-February 1956), 4146 (republished with the title "Sull'architettura contemporanea, L'architettura e il mondo della vita", *Casabella-continuità*, no. 217 (1957), "Continuità e coerenza della BBPR", *Zodiac*, no. 4 (April 1959), 82-115, "Wright e lo 'spazio vissuto', *Casabella-continuità*, no. 227 (May 1959), 9-10, "La crisi della cultura e la fenomenologia dell'architettura contemporanea", *La Casa*, no. 6 (1960) (then republished with the title "Fenomenologia e architettura contemporanea"). Moreover, there are some essays collected in Enzo Paci, *Relazioni e significati*, Vol. III (Milano: Lampugnani Nigri, 1966), contains the following chapters: Chapter nine: "Sull'architettura contemporanea", Chapter ten: "L'architettura e il mondo della vita", Chapter eleven: "Il metodo industriale, l'edilizia e il problema estetico", Chapter twelve: "Fenomenologia e architettura contemporanea", Chapter thirteen: "Wright e lo 'spazio vissuto'. Ernesto Nathan Rogers directed *Domus* from number 205 (1946) to number 225 (1947), and *Casabella-continuità* – from number 199 (1953) to number 295 (1965). Paci was in the editorial team of *Casabella-continuità* starting from number 215 (1957) to the last number published under Rogers' direction. The name *Casabella* was turning into *Casabella-continuità* with the addition of the title of the first editorial.

<sup>5</sup> Most of these essays are the result of the relationship of intense collaboration that Paci established with Ernesto Nathan Rogers, for whom, in 1957, he agreed to join the editorial board of the magazine *Casabella-continuità*. This is the reason why

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

In those years, the architectural debate concerned one main question: in what the architectural project consisted, and which was its function. These themes found in those years a very precise declination that closely concerned Ernesto Nathan Rogers' activity and initiated a very close exchange between the two: Rogers allowed Paci to better delineate an experience of the space of phenomenological nature and Paci allowed Rogers to elaborate an original mode of design-action. From their dialogue emerged an answer to the question on the meaning of the project which could be formulated as a synthesis exercise between experience and truth<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, the project would have resulted as the empirical-transcendental relationship that the individual subject had with the world<sup>7</sup>. Some notions of phenomenological language had become a shared ground of exchange between the two intellectuals, to the point of being able to develop a common language starting from their different experiences as philosopher and architect<sup>8</sup>. To investigate the relationship between architecture and philosophy Enzo Paci used and shared with Rogers two main keywords to carry on their interdisciplinary reflection: the concept of *transcendental* and its close relationship with the empirical dimension, *relation*.

What was important to Leonardo Ricci was the final meaning of transcendental Paci pointed out:

The transcendental is therefore the process of stratification, in the community to which we belong, of each perceptive act of the experienced world so interpreted. The way we live, our ways of behavior and language, the objects that surround us

---

Paci's dialogue with contemporary architecture coincides with the dialogue between Paci and Rogers, then reflected in Rogers' writings as the *Confessioni di un Anonimo del XX secolo* and influenced by the relational phenomenology Enzo Paci developed in the Fifties and Sixties. Ernesto Nathan Rogers' *Confessioni di un Anonimo del XX secolo* [“Confessions of an Anonymous of the XX century”] is a series of nine articles the author wrote in 1941 and 1942 when in Italy racial laws were in force and did not allow publications by Jewish citizens. Giuseppe Pagano proposed Rogers to write under anonymity, and so began the articles signed by “The Anonymous of the twentieth century”. Ernesto Nathan Rogers was familiar with the same themes faced by Ricci, as the involvement of the architects in the reconstruction and the role of the artist. His *Confessioni di un Anonimo* were published in *Esperienza dell'Architettura* (Torino: Einaudi, 1958). On the theme of the “anonymous” and its different interpretations: Giovanni Leoni, “Anonymous as a Theme of Discontinuity in the Culture of Italian Architecture between the First and Second Halves of the 20th Century”, *Histories of Postwar Architecture*, no. 1 (March, 2017): 104-121.

<sup>6</sup> Francesco Rispoli, “La ragione di Ulisse. Il colloquio tra Paci e Rogers”, *aut aut*, no. 333 (2007).

<sup>7</sup> Rogers progressively defined an original theoretical approach on architecture through the direction, between 1946 and 1947, of the magazine *Domus* and, between 1953 and 1965, of the magazine *Casabella*, and through its famous editorials, in which the definitions of this theoretical approach was influenced by Paci's contemporary studies on the American pragmatism of Dewey and Whitehead, and on Husserl's phenomenology. Two contributions by Rogers also appeared in the *aut-aut* magazine, founded by Paci in 1951: “Situation of Italian architecture”, no. 5 (1951), and “Structure of architecture”, no. 16 (1953).

<sup>8</sup> Bruno Zevi had already suggested a phenomenological reading of architecture in his book *Saper vedere l'architettura* by describing an individual walking in the architectural space and observing it by crossing it, going around its elements, exploring the most shaded areas, measuring with his eyes the relationships and the depths of the empty space delimited by the volumes, which at the same time leave him field and limit his movements. The space he is crossing welcomes and rejects the individual, but, at the same time, offer wide scenarios and narrower edges. Zevi's reflection concerns the perceptual dimension of the internal space that, more than the external space, cannot be represented by a form and, can be understood better by direct experience. This is why experiencing and perceiving space is the right way to be able to see architecture and own it. Bruno Zevi, *Saper vedere l'architettura* (Torino: Einaudi, 1948), 22. The experience of the internal space of architecture can also be attributed and compared to Husserl's formulation of the problems connected to dynamic of intention and filling of the perceptive process.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

and the way we fabricate them, are not given in the immediacy of the experience but we build them, therefore they are experienced as empirical facts and at the same time, once settled in a tradition, they act as a condition for the possibility of future experience<sup>9</sup>.

To Enzo Paci, the concept of relation came from this meaning of transcendental that implied a precise way of acting, relation was action, or better, the starting point of action was relation<sup>10</sup>.

Paci investigated the relation between man and nature as the base of the architectural technique, which was what unified man and nature, because through the technique men changed the world so that nature continued in men by means of a continuous dialogue between past and present, renewal and continuity, repetition, and innovation, so by means of culture. Starting from Dewey, from the philosophical assumption that everything was not stable but relational and from the knowledge that he wanted to draw a new approach to life, Paci maintained the importance of Frank Lloyd Wright's work as an architect, because his architecture and his spatial research were concentrated precisely on the relational data of life. Paci defined Wright as the "architect of life" who, better than anyone, was able to answer to the phenomenological instance<sup>11</sup>.

Architecture could be seen as an art answering to economic and social needs and, according to Enzo Paci, the importance of studying the crisis of contemporary architecture lied in the fact that architecture was a form unifying the past and present lives of people, it had a symbolic value and was therefore a "sign" of possible harmony, of beauty, without thereby renouncing its function of utility. Continuity was connected to the relation between utility and beauty, which were antinomic terms to Paci and the fundamental elements for the synthesis

---

<sup>9</sup> Alberto Giustiniano, "Tempo, forma, azione. Il senso del progetto nel dialogo tra Enzo Paci e Ernesto Nathan Rogers", *Philosophy Kitchen Extra* #2, no. 5 (January 2018): 86.

<sup>10</sup> Dealing with the concept of *transcendental*, Enzo Paci firstly draws a distinction between the Kantian idea of space, based on Newtonian physics and therefore referring to an absolute space and time, and the Husserlian idea of space which proposes a transformed vision. Husserl's subject is the foundation of experience and is transcendental precisely because it has direct experiences. The transcendental subject of Kant, who experiences nothing, for Husserl is a myth because the subject is a determined and concrete, finite entity. Kant's subject can be seen as the opposite to Husserl's: Husserl's subject is real and goes beyond himself, he experiences the world, performs operations of all kinds. Enzo Paci's idea of relation emerges from this meaning of transcendental and consists in a precise way of acting. He explained the concept of relation through Leibnitz's concept of *monade* intended as point of view of the transcendental subject and as spatial-temporal center giving birth to relations and space. See Giustiniano, "Tempo, forma, azione", 85-87.

<sup>11</sup> Wright's organicism, explains Paci, "is not only an architecture that does not kill living nature with abstract theory but it is also a positive testimony of the sense of otherness, of the relationship between the egos, between the ego and the other, between men and the world: it is the fundamental problem of phenomenology from Husserl's *Cartesian Meditations* to Sartre's *Being and Nothing* and to Merleau-Ponty's *The Phenomenology of Perception*. Enzo Paci, "Fenomenologia e architettura contemporanea", in *Relazioni e significati*, Vol. III (Critica e dialettica), (Milano: Lampugnani Nigri, 1966), 201.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

of architecture to Rogers<sup>12</sup>. Modernity was a phenomenological process<sup>13</sup> and the concept of relation was not to be intended as univocal, not even in the work of one single architect: to Gropius, for example, the relational value was the rationality of function, since rationality should have overcome the naturalistic data and function should have unified harmonic forms. The rationality of forms could have guaranteed the overcoming of national specificities because technique and building methods could have reached an international uniform building action, as well as function, which «could have allowed the passing of the difference between the ‘I’ and ‘the world’». This view could have been criticized but it was strongly connected to the relational feature of architecture, which was not only depending on materials and building technique, but also, as Gropius stated, on philosophical aspects<sup>14</sup>.

In Paci's opinion, Gropius' lesson was important because it was open to the conception of new forms and the building process was left open to new solutions beyond the master's own first opinions about technique and philosophy. Form became the artistic value of the answer to a determined problem and, indeed, the tendency of identifying a new artistic form with a new intellectual or technical research was connected to the theorization of Gropius' functionalism<sup>15</sup>. On this purpose, Leonardo Ricci remembered when he participated in a seminar on the figure of Walter Gropius during his teaching experience in Cambridge: Gropius had left Harvard School of Architect deanship a few years before and held a conference at Harvard, in which he expressed his strong faith in function the young architects did not understand. Leonardo Ricci wrote that, on that occasion, he answered to Gropius:

Intervening in the debate, I replied to Gropius saying that it was not a question of denying his work and that of a whole school. It was the concept of function, its believed absoluteness, that were questioned. The hostility of the so-called young people was aimed at principles. I said, taking up an example made by Gropius, that a chair could not be designed in homage to an absolute model of function when most of humanity sat on the ground. In place of function, which I do not believe without reservations, I would speak of possibilities. Nature, for example, does not impose choices but suggests possibilities<sup>16</sup>.

---

<sup>12</sup> According to Rogers, it was by means of the “crisis” that men can restore their relationship with nature intended as a process including both the historical consciousness and the consideration of technique which constituted the relation between man and nature. If history was a dynamic process alternating crisis and continuity moments, continuity implied tradition and crisis implied discontinuity because breaks were due to new inputs which let culture proceed. See Ernesto Nathan Rogers, “Continuità o crisi?”, *Casabella Continuità*, no. 215 (March-April 1957); Ernesto Nathan Rogers, “Struttura dell'architettura”, *aut-aut*, no. 16 (1953).

<sup>13</sup> Among all the possible connections between contemporary architecture and philosophy, Enzo Paci quoted Farrater Mora who based his thought on Siegfried Giedion's *Space, Time and Architecture* and observed that in the twentieth century architecture and philosophy were “relational”: the first one fighting against the concept of substance as a closed reality avoiding relations, and architecture fighting against the closed building in its shell, against the construction separated from the soil, from nature and from the natural process, as Frank Lloyd Wright did, against the distinction between work and education, individual and society, job and art (Gropius), detail as expression of the whole instead of being open to new relations. Urban planning was resulting as the synthesis between project and execution. José Farrater Mora, “Filosofía y Arquitectura”, *La Torre*, no. 9 (1955): 88.

<sup>14</sup> Herbert Beyer, Walter Gropius and Ise Gropius, *Bauhaus 1919-1928* (London: Allen and Unwin, 1939), 22.

<sup>15</sup> Paci, *Problematica dell'architettura contemporanea*, 42.

<sup>16</sup> Ricci's words were published in Nardi, *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti*, 28.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

As Siegfried Giedion wrote in the concluding chapter of his *Breviario di Architettura*<sup>17</sup>, the four fundamental functions of urban planning fixed with the *Charte d'Athènes* of 1933 – work, habitat, traffic, and rest – had lost their balance as the balanced relationships among themselves: they had to be restored with the reactivation of the human relationships. Spare time represented the moment to do that, but the renewal of the relationship between the “I” and the “You” would have implied a substantial renovation of the town structure in function of the human measure and a loss of the urban agglomerations. Furthermore, for what concerns the relational view, in 1959 Martin Buber's *Il Principio Dialogico*<sup>18</sup> was translated into Italian. According to Buber, the fundamental meaning of human existence was to be found in the dialogic principle, that referred to the ability to be in total relationship with nature, with other men and with spiritual entities, placing oneself in an I-You relationship.

In the United States Gropius discovered history and nature, or better nature as a foundation for history beyond the mathematical function: the process became organic as for Frank Lloyd Wright's house growing by means of organic additions<sup>19</sup>. New open forms were built to participate in that system, this was why they could not be a repetition of the same form and they were flexible. Flexibility was the most important feature of modern architecture because flexible, variable, and open forms aimed at permanence and stability in the changing unstable world. In architecture and in philosophy an element always identical to itself does not exist: every data is relational. Objects containing all the history, technique, and the push of history to the future new relations do not exist. Existence itself, or better, temporal existence, was what produced new relations, nature was composed of temporary existences generating relations and of relationships among elements that constituted its form. To Paci time had to be added to the reflection because in the twentieth century, after Einstein's theory, everything had changed, and the attention was driven on time and on the process<sup>20</sup>. A further consequence of Einstein's theory was the conception of the internal and the external space, which were in a spatial-temporal organic relation<sup>21</sup>. Time, form, and action seemed the three main components of the design process: time instead of space, because after Einstein's theory a new dimension of space-time was discovered, and in Paci's writings, mindful of Husserl's reflections on the nature of the transcendental subject and on the structure of his perceptive acts, their distinction had disappeared. The influences of time on space and of space on time were clear in the

---

<sup>17</sup> Giedion, *Breviario di Architettura*, 216-217. This was the Italian edition of *Architecture, You and Me. A Diary of a Development* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958).

<sup>18</sup> Martin Buber, *Il Principio Dialogico* (Milano: Comunità, 1959).

<sup>19</sup> Giulio Carlo Argan, *Walter Gropius e la Bauhaus* (Torino: Einaudi, 1951), 141.

<sup>20</sup> «[...] the concreteness of the process is temporal irreversibility, consumption, need and requirement, request for satisfaction and work, openness to ever new relationships, conditioning of the material, research and discovery of new possibilities, permanence and emergency, function finally, but function not only in a mechanistic sense but in all the multiple meanings that belong to the term that must be understood as *procedural and relational function*, meanings that refer to the various interpretations of architecture». Paci, *Problemativa dell'architettura contemporanea*, 45.

<sup>21</sup> As Zevi pointed out, the whole internal space of architecture did not constitute the entire architectural experience and the outside of a building was in an internal part of the city. Everything depended on the point of view from which the observer looked and from the reference system where he was, the point of view was relative and not absolute. Wright understood this by considering the natural and historical process, whereas Gropius though the evaluation of history and regionalism. Architecture should have been able to synthesize different and partial standpoints in a temporary and open view of the world. Paci, *Problemativa dell'architettura contemporanea*, 41-46.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

design process because the problems of the project emerged when, opposed to the architect’s view and intentions, there was the progressive adaptation of the architect’s ideas on the environment and on the future inhabitants’ minds. Time was what allowed the transformation and the welcoming of the project to happen.

Paci, as Ricci, suggested that the construction of a form was the limitation of the infinite, but in relation to a system of pre-existing forms (which was connected to the theme of the environmental pre-existing elements in Rogers). Therefore, the notion of form was intermediate between the options of relation and time, because with respect to relation its form generated from the pre-existing elements that preceded it, whereas in function of time to limit a form meant transforming the already happened.

According to those conceptions of form and time, it could sound impossible to deal with a free action of the architect. On the contrary, as Leonardo Ricci thought referring to Paci, and in this lies the actuality of his reflections, action became the expression of a common sense, of a community view in which the architect was the subject able to translate the needs of a determined group, in a precise place and present time. The project became the expression of a concrete experience expressing the relation among a series of events the author – not only an architect – learned phenomenologically from his standpoint in a precise moment. Therefore, the architect had to be anonymous, architecture as the other disciplines had not to fix the rules and forms for the future but had to allow the possible transformations among the factors of existence. To Paci and Ricci to be ready for the Modern Movement meant aiming at truth in architecture. Philosophy was not the starting condition but the task ahead of everyone<sup>22</sup>.

Leonardo Ricci’s view on the project for the anonymous space retraced the interdisciplinary research in architecture and philosophy done by Ernesto Nathan Rogers and Enzo Paci. The analogy between Ricci’s idea on the project for a new, dynamic, anonymous, and relational space was clearly explained in an essay published on the *Journal of University of Manchester architectural and planning society* published in the same years as Paci’s essays: 1956-1957<sup>23</sup>, and the sentence that best synthesizes this is the following:

Architecture is nothing else than an *incarnation* taking place in time and by the work of men, of a reality first lived by man<sup>24</sup>.

In this sentence Ricci summed up the concept of experiencing space as the individual walking through the internal space described by Zevi in *Saper Vedere l’Architettura*, according to Husserl’s transcendental conception of the subject experiencing the phenomenological process.

Ricci thought that space was the element on which architecture depended and that it was useless to hope to formulate a universally valid definition of space and of its meaning for human beings, because any possible definition changed as humanity developed.

---

<sup>22</sup> Giustiniano, “Tempo, forma, azione”, 88-90.

<sup>23</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment”, 244 - *Journal of University of Manchester architectural and planning society*, no. 7 (Winter 1956-1957): 7-11.

<sup>24</sup> Ricci, “Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment”, 10.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

That space is the pre-supposed basis of architecture is shown by the fact that in nearly all the works of the past, when all the ornamentation applied to them has fallen or been worn away by time, there remain only the structures in space which allow us to characterize their significance<sup>25</sup>.

Therefore, in Ricci's opinion it was useless to define space because of the intervention of time on it and it would have been more meaningful to consider architecture in function of the fourth dimension: space-time. That reflection, made on contemporary architecture could have brought to a new study of spatial values, as Bruno Zevi had wished as well, to be able to understand architecture as the art history by overcoming the classification in categories studied by Benedetto Croce:

Architectural criticism, despite efforts to get away from a purely formal method which judged buildings as façades as if they were paintings or sculptures, has not yet made a deep enough study of spatial values. Without this study, architecture as I see it, cannot be either judged or understood, much less experienced<sup>26</sup>.

Architectural criticism could not continue to treat only the buildings seen on the facade, as if they were paintings, because architecture had to be experienced to judge it. The dimensional and spatial elements could be understood only in this way. After Einstein's discoveries, as Siegfried Giedion explained in his *Space, Time and Architecture*, space was no longer just geometric, but organic and vital.

From this first a-dimensional world, we have passed only as a result of continual evolution to the present Einsteinian pluridimensional space, which is for us artists no longer geometrical space but organic and vital space, as if one had to do no longer with a thing one could measure with a ruler, but with something which can be measured only with all the dimensions of our being from those once called physical to those once called metaphysical. [...] Once the conception of man was of a soul and of a body, of an external and an internal, of a fullness and an emptiness, man had found his space, he had possessed it and created architecture in which this dual being would live.

But now man has become a united whole. This dual relation has been broken. All the series of values deriving from this concept has become unreal, mythical, non-vital.

Perhaps in this breaking man too is as if broken. In the attempt to break this dualism aren't (there) disintegrated men, like Picasso for example, themselves a sign of a conquest of freedom, but also of impotence to dominate this new freedom?

So we need a new balance and the new space. Modern man, or better, man who participates in awareness of the modern world [...] lives new spatial dimensions<sup>27</sup>.

To study the architectural space it was not worth speaking of differentiation of space, but rather of changing state and this was the reason why it was meaningless for the architects to plan "boxes", as Ricci calls all the closed spaces.

---

<sup>25</sup> Ricci, "Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment", 7.

<sup>26</sup> Ricci, "Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment", 7.

<sup>27</sup> Ricci, "Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment", 7, 8.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

A modern architect cannot take from the earth a fragment of space and make it architecture. Even if the theft went well, this stolen space is a dead space<sup>28</sup>.

To Ricci in drawing up the first sketches, the planning had to be done in a way completely different from the past. The architects tended to take possession of a place to substitute a building for it, but it was an illogical act that presupposed a formal act and a domination of the activities conducted by future inhabitants. Really modern architects had to imagine all the human activities before the founding act and foresee where to put a parasol panel or where to think of a floor to rest on. The word space could still be used, but also considering natural elements such as the earth in which the building saw its foundations or the sun that penetrated inside and drew these elements in the projects.

Consequently, to Ricci there was a difference between the naturalistic space of the first architects and the space that modern architects had to conquer: it could not be represented in plans, elevations, and simple two-dimensional sections, as if they were photographed. Architectural drawings had to be enriched with natural elements, because the connection between men and nature was the earth itself, where the architect could observe the changing of states in the new space-time dimension. To that man belonged modern architecture, real architecture, which identified itself with the earth in motion. The man and the earth had become a unique organic element and, therefore, both were subject of the motion of things<sup>29</sup>.

### 6.2. The translation of anonymous architecture in megastructures.

In order to understand what Ricci intended for anonymous architecture, it is not enough to analyze the architect's theoretical framework expressed in his text *Anonymous (XX century)*, in which all the philosophical principles he elaborated on architecture can be traced. Many aspects of his “anonymous thinking” can be understood from the non-conventional and non-academic language used by Ricci, through which he tried to avoid all formal, hierarchical, and academic distance between himself and the audience.

In Ricci's typewritten texts, conference texts, books, articles, and notes academic roles and the distance between professor and students were eliminated. That narrowing to his audience was important to Ricci, who avoided “form” also in his writing, not to feel as a “dictator of thought”<sup>30</sup>, but anonymous, a man talking to other men.

These days I hardly ever get through a book. This is partly my fault (if that is the right word) and it is partly because the contents of these books do not give me any satisfaction. It is also partly because the “form” does not interest me; it affords me neither pleasure nor satisfaction. In general, books today belong to one of two types.

They are either conceived as style; or, in their endeavor to break with style, they are enslaved by it.

---

<sup>28</sup> Ricci, “Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment”, 8.

<sup>29</sup> Ricci, “Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment”, 7-11.

<sup>30</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “Farewell, Masters; Farewell, geniuses”, in *Anonymous (XX century)*, 82.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

This same phenomenon exists in the field of architecture. In architecture I try to conceive a work neither in, terms of style nor as a slave to style. What I try to do is to make its form correspond to an act of existence, or, to put it more precisely, to acts of existence a series of acts.

The beauty or ugliness of life basically depends on the gracefulness or the lack of grace with which such acts are performed. What is true for a piece of architecture must be no less true for a book. Thus I am very much concerned about the form of this book, even though I am not a professional writer. Because I am concerned about the problem of how this act or this series of acts of my existence translates into form.

Therefore I shall try to make sure that my book reflects this attitude. And since my acts are at times performed with gracefulness, but at other times lack grace, I want the form of my book to reflect both types of action. In other words, in some parts the book will have a form; in other parts this form will be lacking.

I want it to be an "open" book. In the final chapter I shall explain what I mean by that. Open to everything and to all. And even able to be continued indefinitely by other people, in other walks of life. Just as life itself is continuous<sup>31</sup>.

Ricci's writings allow the reader to perceive his tormented relationship with his own research, precisely thanks to his recourse to a literary and philosophical instrument which, however, is not explicitly written in an academic register and uses a series of dichotomies expressed through opposing terms: personality/anonymous; community yearning/individualistic isolation; political realism/social utopia; plastic/tectonics.

The theme of the *Anonymous* was highlighted by Ricci in the criticism against the masters (Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe) built by referring to the projects of the Guggenheim Museum, the Chapel of Ronchamps and the Seagram Building. More in detail, Ricci underlined the masters' absence during the war and the unusefulness of their teaching, even significant for architecture of the pre-war period, after the destructions the war caused in human soul and life.

It is not easy to write against those who have brought you up, who have taught you. To write against those you have loved, esteemed, admired. Against those who, after all, have made this earth what it is, especially during these last hundred years. It is difficult to find the right tone, the right angle, the right measure. To "write against" is the wrong expression, anyway; because he who tries to be anonymous cannot write against anybody, least of all against those who are the most vital, the most authentic, the most important men of our time. [...] But the only thing that matters, quite apart from the way you say it, is to explain why those masters and geniuses are no longer useful, no longer necessary, but are, on the contrary, harmful to our future, to any new possibility of life among men. To say farewell to genius means, to some extent at least, to say farewell to ourselves, to our own youth. For if we say we no longer believe in genius, this does not mean only the genius of the past. It means also that we no longer believe in the possibility of our being geniuses ourselves. And if we say we no longer believe in our masters, it is tantamount to saying that we no longer believe in our fathers which means that we remain lonely and orphaned<sup>32</sup>.

Ricci criticized the lack of connection with the environment, the lack of attention both for the users of the space and for the function (Guggenheim, Seagram Building), the "falsity" of some buildings that did not think about the needs of the community but were only symbols of the architect's hand (Ronchamps), the non-existence of

---

<sup>31</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 9-10.

<sup>32</sup> Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 79, 80.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

the interior space and the only decorative function of the external one (Seagram Building). It was necessary to study how Ricci sought anonymous architecture, trying - without necessarily succeeding - to reveal the human condition through form, without losing sight of the balance of the general composition, which must maintain a sense of belonging to the reality in which it is built<sup>33</sup>.

The reason why megastructures could be considered to Ricci one of the translations of anonymous architecture was that they were designed refusing an a *priori form* but rather in function of human activities in the city: they had to be the expression of social needs and values, of a new structural articulation of spatial entities based on this, where the connecting devices among the parts defined and expressed the thoughts, wishes, and habits of men. All the morphological studies on megastructures and the social and psychological investigations that preceded their realization in models and projects demonstrated their anonymous character.

### 6.2.1. Urban Design: possible spatial configurations

In Ricci's work the translation of anonymous architecture must be understood in the results of the applied research he did inside the course of Visual Design established at the University of Florence under his proposal with his friend and collaborator Dušan Vasić. They were not the only scholars to investigate in that field in Italy, because, as in the United States, the interest of planners and architects moved from the habitat to the urban-territorial scale maturing a new will to analyze the geographical situation.

In Italy, the confusion and the complexity of the events that were shaping the cities after the Second World War allow us to read the birth of a movement that will lead to the formation of the discipline of Urban Design. It was a long and difficult process that saw the heated debate on the construction of new neighborhoods, which were going to form parts of the city<sup>34</sup>.

In the United States plural urban design -or plural urbanism- opposed to unitary urban design, and did not consist neither in urban planning nor in architecture. A book by Brent D. Ryan titled *The Largest Art. A Measured Manifesto for a Plural Urbanism*<sup>35</sup> deals with urban design as the largest among the building arts since it involves

---

<sup>33</sup> Leonardo Ricci, *Anonymous (XX century)*, 85-95.

<sup>34</sup> The Italian debate began in the moment of transition from the concept of city intended as a set of buildings or neighborhoods and that of city as a system. This last topic particularly interested a group of "architects-urban planners", as those who began, in parallel with their research in the architectural or urban field, to study in the field of urban design were defined. In Italy, this term was coined, on the one hand, to find a term for the field of research common to architects of the 1950s and 1960s, and, on the other, to differentiate the field of urban design from that of architecture and urban planning, two different disciplines, separate from the first one. Therefore, also in Italy a "third way" of urban design was sought and the group of "architects-urban planners", urban designers, is the reference one to understand the development of urban design in Italy. Mario Ferrari, *Il progetto urbano in Italia 1940-1990* (Firenze: Alinea, 2005).

<sup>35</sup> Ryan, *The Largest Art*. Brent D. Ryan was strongly influenced by Kevin Lynch's thought and, in particular, by his books *The Image of the City* and *Good City Form*. Therefore, it seemed to him that all manifestoes had been written except for the disruptive one referring to Lynch's work. On the contrary, the importance of writing a "measured manifesto", as his book's subtitle anticipated, lied in the need to write one without formulating a formal declaration of urban design, but rather in writing a call for recognition of independence that has always existed, with its own five dimensions and three qualities of change, incompleteness, and flexible fidelity.

the largest plural entity: the city. In plural urbanism or plural design<sup>36</sup> the concept of plurality is contained, which affected all dimensions of the discipline and that enabled it to become the largest and independent of the other building arts as architecture, landscape, sculpture, and land art. Ryan's analysis is very consistent with Leonardo Ricci's vision of urban design, because it provides a new theoretical and practical understanding of urban design by investigating its relationship to urban space and urban agents, conceiving it as a practice that accepts all those elements and forces of cities that are beyond the designers' direct control and which become part of the urban design project as well.

In Italy 1963 is the date of the birth of Urban Design when a group of scholars was formed around the figure of Ludovico Quaroni who did not teach urban planning, but "urban design"<sup>37</sup> until the early Seventies. After what is considered, even by Quaroni himself, the first text of urban planning by Giuseppe Samonà: *L'Urbanistica e l'avvenire delle città* (1959)<sup>38</sup>, the first Italian texts that dealt with the urban design project were published: *Origini e sviluppo della città moderna* by Carlo Aymonino (1965)<sup>39</sup>, *L'Architettura della città* by Aldo Rossi (1966)<sup>40</sup>, *La Torre di Babele* by Ludovico Quaroni (1967)<sup>41</sup>. Unlike the already cited American texts, the urban project was still understood - and still is - as a design of the city through architecture<sup>42</sup>.

There will be no urban design courses in Italian universities until 1985<sup>43</sup>, although the discipline had already recognition by the academy although *Casabella*, *Lotus* and *Controspazio* began to play a fundamental role in the treatment of urban design as well by publishing the US theories<sup>44</sup>.

Kevin Lynch's *The Image of the City* was published in America in 1960, when Leonardo Ricci and Ludovico Quaroni were *visiting professors* at the same university. It is therefore easy to infer that Quaroni and Ricci's work

---

<sup>36</sup> Because of its "plurality", in the book the term "urban design" is interchangeable with "urbanism".

<sup>37</sup> The courses in architectural composition II held by Saul Greco and subsequently by Quaroni and Aymonino form that generation of architects active in the seventies who reacted to the new teachers by challenging the academy in the figure of Saverio Muratori. "Sei domande", *Casabella*, no. 251 (1961): 26, 27.

<sup>38</sup> Giuseppe Samonà, *L'urbanistica e l'avvenire delle città* (Bari: Laterza, 1959).

<sup>39</sup> Carlo Aymonino, *Origini e sviluppo della città moderna* (Padova: Marsilio, 1965).

<sup>40</sup> Aldo Rossi, *L'Architettura della Città* (Padova: Marsilio, 1966).

<sup>41</sup> Ludovico Quaroni, *La Torre di Babele* (Padova: Marsilio, 1967).

<sup>42</sup> In Italy, for a long time, the business centers opened the discussion about the definition of an urban form that could hold the development of the city-region. The related analysis were centered on the growth of the city and its control through design: it could imply a growth by parts, where each part could have worked as a development and growth node. Ferrari, *Il progetto urbano in Italia 1940-1990*, 64.

<sup>43</sup> The editorial change of *Casabella* and the new American (and French) theories blocked the development of an Italian urban theory and the activities of the Centro Studi Casabella, causing the individual development of the urban theories by Rossi, Quaroni, Tentori, Aymonino and others. Rossi, Quaroni, and Aymonino were the authors of the already cited fundamental texts of urban theory, all published from 1965 to 1968 giving birth to all the subsequent studies on the city.

<sup>44</sup> *Lotus* and *Controspazio* would have filled the void left by Casabella after the publication of Kevin Lynch's article, when in Italy there was a period of absence of significant comments on the new American theories. *Architettura*, Bruno Zevi's magazine, also published an article by Filiberto Menna on "The urban poetics of Lynch and the psychology of vision" Filiberto Menna, "La poetica urbanistica di Lynch e la psicologia della visione", *Architettura*, no. 119 (1965). In 1965 and, a year later, *Edilizia Moderna*, directed by Vittorio Gregotti, published the theses of Lynch and Appleyard on the psychology of applied urban perception in Boston, for a research program at M.I.T. and on the text entitled *The view from the road*, in which Lynch described new tools of urban design starting from the driver's point of view. (Kevin Lynch, *The View from the Road*).

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

on the city referred to Lynch's theories and methods. So much so that we certainly know how much these influenced the teaching methods of the two Italian architects, precisely in the early stages of their work in their respective laboratories of Architectural Composition and Urban Planning at the universities of Florence, where they both were teaching in 1960. Indeed, students were frequently asked by both Professors to draw known spaces in their minds and comment on the drawing by detecting the forgotten parts or those represented differently from reality, to analyze what were the weak points and strengths of a project area.

The official recognition of the urban design discipline precisely came thanks to teaching and experimentation in academic classrooms. “Unity of architecture and urban planning”, “type-morphology” and “urban analysis” were neologisms that became part of the lexicon of Italian architects-urban planners and from the mid-1960s, thanks to the research carried out on the city-region, the former students of the masters of the Fifties who questioned the field of action of architecture and urban planning prompted the recognition of urban design.

In Florence, after the 1966 huge flood that damaged a large part of the city, *Casabella*, under the direction of Bernasconi, published all the research conducted at the University of Florence in the field of urban design by Ricci and Savioli in the years preceding and following the flood. Ricci and Savioli's research on the theme of the “urban structure”, partly emerged from the damages of the flood as a way of reconstruction, were very similar, more in the theoretical significance than in the formal results, to Quaroni's studies conducted in Rome from 1963 onward. Savioli had promoted the study of the San Frediano requalification in his urban planning course in 1965, while Ricci was starting the exchange programs between American and Italian students between the University of Florence and Penn State University to advance his research on macrostructural models according to the new research horizons based on the criteria of integrability-integrativity, infinite growth, transformation, “open work”, formativity, concretist aggregation, assembly of existing elements on the basis of computer science studies, and continuity.

While Milan and Rome were thruster centers for the urban and architectural Italian culture, Florence owned a marginal role and suffered a lack in the inputs for the development. Florence in a way decided to stay apart, but Ricci and Savioli research were also a demonstration of the need to open to the American studies. In those years, their master Giovanni Michelucci was also involved on behalf of the university in the interventions on the flood damages and tried to foster the idea of reinventing the existing structures. Thanks to the openness to American studies, the Florentine experiments were proposed as new strong structural interventions, then re-proposed following the flood that implemented the subsequent studies of the radical movement. In the following years, at the beginning of the Seventies, the “Radicals” and the studies on the “integrated city” were promoted thanks to the presence of Giovanni Klaus Koenig in the editorial staff of *Casabella*, who published the projects of the Florentine groups “Archizoom”, “Superstudio”, and “Zzigurat”. At the same time some degree theses coordinated by Ricci and Savioli were published by *Controspazio*, while Kenneth Frampton's research on the urban dimension of architecture appeared on *Casabella* with the title “Appunti sulle teorie della città”<sup>45</sup>, as well as Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown's theories on the “Percezione trasversale”<sup>46</sup>, Rob Krier's “Permanenza

---

<sup>45</sup> Kenneth Frampton, “Appunti sulle teorie della città”, *Casabella*, no. 359 (1972).

<sup>46</sup> Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, “Percezione trasversale”, *Casabella*, no. 378 (1973). Rob Krier, “Permanenza della forma”, *Casabella*, no. 378 (1973).

della forma”<sup>1</sup>, and Peter Eisenman’s “Notes on Conceptual Architecture”. Peter Eisenman, “Notes on conceptual architecture: towards a definition”<sup>47</sup>.

Ricci’s synopia of the *City of the Earth* as all the plural urbanism projects were the demonstration of the placing of an event in time and in space, deriving from Einstein’s revolutionary theory, that had changed the world of the arts. Ricci’s synopia effectively was embodying an open and unfinished, temporalized and constantly changing design, and could be maybe considered an Italian project of plural urban design, the largest of the arts as Brent Ryan would have defined it<sup>48</sup>.

Thus, with new investigations on the relationship between the morphological characteristics of the environment and the possible plastic configurations of the new structures Urban Design began.

Before dealing with the possible spatial configurations Ricci and Vasić reached in their applied research, we must start with the definition of space they started with, which, according to his conception of anonymous architecture, was “space-environment-landscape”, the intermediate element resulting from the relationship between it and the spatial-plastic possible configurations which will show the way of life, cultural attitude, and general behavior of culture in relation to space. Only the objectification of this relationship should have impressed the architectural-urbanistic configurations of the related structures and not predetermined spatial conceptions. All possible objectifications and configurations would have taken shape coherently with the constitutive reasons and, at the same time, in the actualization of the relationships between space-environment-landscape and between it and the plastic-spatial configurations.

According to Ricci and Vasić’s studies, in megastructural projects one could therefore think that space could assume attitudes based on the culture of the future inhabitants. Therefore, space could be active or passive and determine particular configurations with different expressiveness derived from the use of plastic narratives.

Dušan Vasić<sup>49</sup>, who had taken over Leonardo Ricci as extraordinary assistant in the new founded course of Visual Design at the faculty of Architecture in Florence since 1967, worked on the possible spatial configurations of different kinds of urban environment with Leonardo Ricci, who was teaching at the Pennsylvania State University. Vasić and Ricci’s studies were carried on in that period and the results came from the applied research on the models carried out both in Florence and in the U.S.A. The possible spatial configurations we are going to analyze derived from the interdisciplinary joint research on Visual Design by Ricci and Vasić and on Architecture-Sociology-Anthropology by Ricci and Dallerba’s project on the anthro-sociological aspects of human acts.

Those configurations were based on the mentioned general assumptions and tried to outline a series of possible configurations according to the possibility to set one type of objectification or to find one in the transition

---

<sup>47</sup> Peter Eisenman, “Notes on conceptual architecture: towards a definition”, *Casabella*, no. 359-360 (1971), 48-58.

<sup>48</sup> In this concept the sixth invariant of architecture theorized by Bruno Zevi consisted. He called it “temporality of space” and it is explained in the sixth chapter of. Zevi, *Il Linguaggio Moderno dell’Architettura. Guida al codice anticlassico*, 51-56.

<sup>49</sup> Dušan Vasić was an architect, artist, friend and collaborator of Leonardo Ricci, who took part in the exhibition “La Cava” To have a complete overview about his work and career: <http://www.archiviodistato.firenze.it/inventari/f/fiammavigo/dati/num/i.html> (last accessed: October 20, 2020).

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

between two extremes of different objectifications: relationship by contrast, concentrated and "passive space" artificial plastic configuration and relationship by integration, "active space" isolated plastic entities<sup>50</sup>. Space could be defined as passive if its psycho-visual perception occurred from the outside - by volumetric composition or by tangibility of the object - or because it was characterized by activity from the inside (in the case of a delimited containing cavity). In its meaning of passive space within a delimited cavity it had to be understood as a conscious act of a possibility of existence, without feelings of isolation or of a sociofugue space. This had a lot to do with all the sociological and psychological implications of megastructures and with all the possible implications of vast-scale interventions, which could be, on one side, the expression of human needs, but, on the other side, the cause of new sociological or psychological diseases, due precisely to its anonymous dimension.

The interrelation could also be the result of various coexisting types of solutions which could specify the configurations themselves or the overall morphological configuration. In this way the resulting and coherent individual plastic configurations would be fundamental to offer a significant total image, with the natural environment whether it consisted in the insertion in it by contrast, integration, or dialectic of attitudes.

New configurations could be the result of a relationship by contrast in what Dušan Vasić defined either “concentrated and ‘passive space’ artificial plastic configuration” or “concentrated and ‘active space’ artificial plastic configuration”: both implied the clear separation between the final configuration of the structure and the space-environment-landscape, where the configuration was delimited and well defined in the “total image”. At the boundaries both models saw a visual perception from the inside of the configuration towards the outside, but the first one implies the penetration of space “against the form” between the ‘passive space’ plastic entities, while in the second one the penetration of space happened through the ‘passive space’ plastic entities and there was spatial continuity at the boundaries<sup>51</sup>.

For what concerns the relationship by integration instead it was characterized by the insertion of isolated plastic entities grouped together and forming the final configuration: these configurations could be “‘passive space’ isolated plastic entities” or “‘active space’ isolated plastic entities”. They were both featured by the penetration of the space-environment-landscape within the isolated plastic entities, but for the first one space penetrated “against the form” among the ‘passive space’ isolated plastic entities, and in the second one, spatial penetration was in and among the ‘active space’ isolated plastic entities. For both configurations Dušan Vasić thought some further implications and possible characteristic of that configuration types<sup>52</sup>.

---

<sup>50</sup> Dušan Vasić, “Sul rapporto delle configurazioni plastiche artificiali con lo spazio-ambiente-paesaggio”, in Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di una Architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 139-148.

<sup>51</sup> “Concentrated and ‘passive space’ artificial plastic configurations” had the advantage of helping to enhance relationship perception and plastic narratives thanks to the ordered and organized sequence of plastic-spatial episodes. These could anticipate the conclusion of the structure at the borders and the possibility of awakening the "memory" in the process of re-experimenting with the same spaces (psychic perception of interrelation). “Concentrated and ‘passive space’ artificial plastic configurations” and “concentrated and ‘active space’ artificial plastic configurations” could see the evolution of semi-architectural elements as expansions of the plastic-spatial elements. Interventions by interpenetration could be carried out at the borders and the configuration could be considered a clearly identifiable presence. Vasić, “Sul rapporto delle configurazioni plastiche artificiali con lo spazio-ambiente-paesaggio”, 140-141.

<sup>52</sup> They could see a «dissolution of plastic fiction, spatial atrophy of the wall consistency, consequent predominance, in the interrelation, of the space-environment-landscape element. There was also an appendix of the note: the possible presence

On a perceptive level, the main feature of megastructures as anonymous and vast-scale interventions, was the spatial continuity with the earth or with the landscape in function of the different configurations: the continuity of the “earth<sup>53</sup> support” could regard two main cases: ‘passive space’ plastic entities lying on the earth, where the interruption of the contact surface and of the support continuity with a significant perception of gravity happened, or ‘passive space’ plastic entities raised from the earth support with the continuity of the support<sup>54</sup>. One additional kind of perception could occur: the psycho-visual perception of the continuity of the “earth support” in relation to the insertion of entities with accentuated characteristics of “temporariness” as temporary architectures. In this case, “displacement” and what Dušan Vasić called “possible essence” as well as their psychological perception could lead to the continuity of “earth support”. From these possible perceptions, a formal and material camouflage of the artificial plastic entity could occur.

In the second option concerning the continuity with the landscape, the new spatial-temporal dimension intervened because landscape had to be intended as the perception of space from a moving point of view: space in movement and not as a portion of surrounding land.

That kind of perception could exist in relation to the variability of landscape in the sequence of different visions, or in relation to the organization of landscape. To explain the first case Dušan Vasić recalled the Italian landscape as an example of gradual variability of the configuration, without avoiding a second possible kind of variability: the non-gradual variability of the configuration, where the landscape worked as unifying support and nature was a constant fundamental element.

On the contrary, landscape perceived in its organization implied the prevalence of human interventions on natural elements, from which continuity derived as the quality of these interventions and the humanization process. Within this reflection it must be specified that the “cultural space” became more important than the place of residence for example. Social and cultural activities operated in the “cultural space” in a more immediate and effective way for man, who thus perceived this space as a continuum in which to create maximum efficiency<sup>55</sup>.

Moreover, megastructures could be composed of permanent and temporary elements, among which the permanences were not intended as outdated architectural experiences, but as actual episodes active according to the culture of a moment, adaptable throughout human history. The permanences had to establish a relationship with the temporary elements and act as a support for them to satisfy both qualitative and quantitative aspects:

---

of a river as natural element crossing the artificial plastic configuration, and the consequent geometrization of the seat, preservation, in the seat, of some characteristics of naturalness, psycho-visual perception of the two stages: natural (external of the configuration) and humanized (internal of the configuration)». Vasić, “Sul rapporto delle configurazioni plastiche artificiali con lo spazio-ambiente-paesaggio”, 141.

<sup>53</sup> The term “earth” must be intended as ground here.

<sup>54</sup> For both cases where the barrier on the surface of the support occurred and, therefore, with the net change of surface, or in the case of the air suspension between the two supports, an intervention could be carried out on the “fluidity” of the contour to attenuate the psychic perception -visual of the barrier.

<sup>55</sup> Erwin Anton Gutkind, “Comunità in un mondo senza stati”, *Urbanistica*, no. 6 (1950).

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

in the general configuration there should be a concordance between functional aspects and the subsequent formal aspects and between these and the materials used.

Thus, human action, made of stops, moves, and performing actions that changed over time of its evolution, in history and in contact with other subjects, owners of other needs, managed to be reflected in the megastructure as an alternation of permanences and temporarynesses, in a Husserlian conception of phenomenal reality<sup>56</sup>. The movement and the stasis of man are reflected in the architectural episodes and in the support structure, but the "architectural place" was made up of both, together, to constitute the architecture that hosted the action of the collectivity. Action acquired a dimension and a progressive growth, a place for its development.

Permanences and temporarynesses could be organized in a hierarchical order and, according to Vasić, a distinction could be drawn in function of the concept of “permanence”, into artificial plastic instruments as primary elements (macrostructures), a fixed general organization for a discipline of subsequent interventions and in single episodes or architectural complexes.

To Ricci and Vasić one further hierarchical distinction instead could be grounded on the concept of temporaryness into “entity ‘objects’ with strong characteristics of temporaryness”, as pre-fabricated elements, “entity ‘objects’ strongly provisional”, and “entity ‘objects’ with strong characteristics of mobility”. These entities could be investigated, on the visual perceptive level, «on the relationship of the artificial plastic configurations with the space-environment-landscape, on the spatial continuity, on “permanence” and “temporaryness”, on minor preexistences<sup>57</sup>».

The shape of human space had to be transformed into an organic form or a human anonymous form: the city had to become a human form with respect of the industrial revolution that had allowed man's possible possession of the whole earth. The philosophical revolution that preceded and accompanied the industrial revolution also anticipated the change in size of human settlements that could no longer refer to the previous urban models or to the symbolic forms that had dominated in previous years.

---

<sup>56</sup> See paragraph 6.2.3. on Enzo Paci's existential phenomenological view of architecture and his relation to Ricci's work on megastructures.

<sup>57</sup> «We define 'minor' those urban bodies that, not having participated in certain processes of development of civilization, have been stopped in a reduced consequential dimension, and in whose plastic narrative the reference to historical periods is clearly localizable, with a high percentage of episodes, the reference to well-defined urban planning periods. [...]. These organisms so clearly delineated and concentrated in their morphological-urban situation, are visually perceivable in a well-defined way: some of them also, decisively localized also by the geographical situation (i.e. three-dimensional natural container), will exalt, perhaps even more intensely, the figurative character of the site that contains them and will become singular figures of the new morphological organization. So for this very precise individuality, almost become an 'object', they will have the opportunity to collaborate intimately with the 'new image' and to insert themselves effectively». Dušan Vasić theorized a classification of the minor preexisting elements based on their importance even as peripheral entities to be charged of the possible transformations which could have implied their elimination as well. Those peripheral elements could have been the objects of further interventions aimed at isolating them to enrich the visual perception of 'localization' and they could be classified as organisms on a surface into emerging organisms and not-emerging, not- isolated in a peripheral area organisms». Vasić, “Sul rapporto delle configurazioni plastiche artificiali con lo spazio-ambiente-paesaggio”, 146-147.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The same thought accompanied Leonardo Ricci's view on the philosophical approach to follow to build in the second post-war period: avoiding myths and symbols, as well as a methodological approach to the project standing in the world of the absurd, but rather facing the design problem and life from a logic standpoint<sup>58</sup>.

In Leonardo Ricci's opinion, in the Sixties the ground on which basing the anonymous project was the mega-human structure on which additional human structures acted: economical structures acted on the private property ground; the political-administrative structures dealt with legal matters as boundaries, limits, intensive structures; cultural-religious structures affected compositive intentions on aesthetic levels. Therefore, these structures were guided by human factors and forces that could translate the ground, the environmental morphology, the territory. Consequently, they were the expression of human action on the ground, on earth, that became the main natural vast scale structure. The problem caused by the action of these structures was the immobilization of the main structure by laws and rules and the subsequent territorial and environmental alienation and an impossible use of physical preexistences.

This was the reason why Ricci thought that history had to help the research for anonymous architecture and urban design: the western culture was living the crisis of the philosophical-religious traditional positions, so the phenomenological-existential view could have helped in the analysis of the relationship between man and environment to realize new experiments on a wider scale as result of spatial and temporal interactions. Considering the earth as a human megastructure, historically it could have meant an incomplete, mystic, symbolic and abstract relation, and the interpretation of the relationship man-environment under a cultural standpoint. For our culture it was used to translate previous cultures on the base of their impact on the environment and according to cultural not objective schemes, so it could be difficult to accept ancient spatial and formal solutions as alternative models to the contemporary alienated life. To Ricci the contemporary academic studies on urban planning were trying to recover some obsolete expressions of man in the environment avoiding technological processes in favor of new mythic and symbolic spaces for men, while he suggested a new model of intervention considering the insertion of human settlements at different morphological and typological scales on the base of the functional-formal attitude of the ground.

Ricci's contemporary society suffered the discrepancy between the demands of the masses and élites and the environment caused by the cultural change. Zoning was unable to connect the different areas and the contemporary city with the scientific-technological process. From a sociological point of view, alienation at all scales derived from the proposition of the environment as an abstract image rather than as a field of action of life. This caused a social conflict and the general structure made up of surroundings, settlement stairs, spatial relations and architectural-urban structures, could transmit alienating factors to men. Only with a profound knowledge of men on it the weight of the environmental structure could be a benefit for society.

---

<sup>58</sup> «If I may classify matters for a moment, my dear young people (I say "for a moment" because to classify means to make a mistake in any case), I think that in this world there are three possible ways of living. There are people who can think of the world only in terms of myth. Others believe the world is absurd. Very few believe it is logical (not in the sense of "rational" but in the sense of "logos"). None of you can get away from this choice. But I cannot take you by your coat tails and force you to choose one or the other of these ways. It's up to you. All I can honestly do is to tell you that I have chosen the third way». Leonardo Ricci, "A Choice in the Confusion", *Anonymous (XX century)*, 13.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

The morphological models we have listed above were conceived on urban-architectural experiments translating the environment through morphological and typological scales for private and collective life, measured on the increased speed of communication due to the media, continuous territorial facilities, and functional or morphological vocation of the environment. They tried to study human activities developing in that speed and the passage from one activity to the other in the assumed temporal change among them, among different times occurring inside the unique lifetime.

### 6.2.2. “Anthro-sociological aspects of human acts” and psychological implications of macrostructures.

Leonardo Ricci’s American transfer did not only give impulse to his research on Urban and Visual Design by enhancing his applied research on the possible spatial configurations of urban macrostructures, but it encouraged an interdisciplinary research on the anthro-sociological and psychological implications of such projects. That kind of studies had to support, explain, and give energy to his applied research, by investigating on one main psychological, sociological, and anthropological enemy against which his entire research had been always fighting: alienation. It is possible to argue that the tension between alienation and the “form-act” design drove Ricci’s work from the beginning of his career to the end, from the bridges projects to the urban macrostructures. Leonardo Ricci was the director of The Institute of Elements of Composition in Florence and Boemis visiting professor of Urban Design at Pennsylvania State University, when he, from 1965 to 1967, coordinated Maria Grazia Dallerba research titled “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani” [“Anthro-sociological aspects of human acts”] with the support of the Professor Tullio Seppilli, anthropologist and director of the Institute of Cultural Anthropology in Perugia, Professor Fausto Antonini of the Philosophy Department in Rome, and Professor Donald Kent, Dean of the School of Sociology at Pennsylvania State University<sup>59</sup>.

The research was conducted on new models, it aimed at studying all the possible spatial configurations based on human acts and at avoiding the settlements models where the minor economic, administrative-political, cultural, and religious models produced alienation due to zonig. It presented a phenomenological-existential approach and wanted to single out the methods of investigation and verification that could have helped in isolating those factors causing social – collective and individual - alienation. It was conducted thanks to a parallel study of the drawing instruments applicable on the environment which could manage alienation<sup>60</sup>.

---

<sup>59</sup> The research and the Institute of Elements of Composition directed by Leonardo Ricci were supported by the CNR in the years 1965-1967. Maria Grazia Dallerba, “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani”. The typescript of the research introductory essay is kept in Casa Studio Ricci.

<sup>60</sup> The importance of the environment was also underlined by Maria Grazia Dallerba on an anthropological level by quoting the anthropologist Paolo Caruso’s studies: «The anthropologist Paolo Caruso writes that the transformation of the landscape can influence the behavior of the human being, as primitive or civilized as he is, modify his balance, his habits, his myths and his ideologies; Likewise, at the small scale level, living in the bush or living in a skyscraper in Manhattan has a profound effect on his mentality. Psycho-sociologists stress the importance of structuring the environment in the formation of individuals’ personalities and social behavior. The problem therefore lies in harmoniously integrating man into his environment, both in terms of global structuring and housing; man must be able to integrate continuously on these two scales. If it is true that his conception of the territory is an act of conscience (and it is undoubtedly the historical and

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

The study was mainly based on the “alienation time” identified with the free time – intended as «one of the most conspicuous phenomena of the contemporary city, "spare time" - time alienated by definition, both as a result of our socio-economic system, and due to the inadequacy of urban and territorial structures<sup>61</sup>». The analysis of spare time could have highlighted the paradoxes of the contemporary urban structures for contemporary times in function of consumption, physical and social mass mobility, and education.

Free time was also the theme of the XIII Triennale di Milano (Palazzo dell'Arte, 1964)<sup>62</sup>. It was the first time that an exhibition faced the «quantitative and qualitative aspects of free time, the role of consumption and the relationship with working time<sup>63</sup>», dealing with sports, entertainment, dance, hobbies, travel, and cinema. On that occasion architecture was working on the world of the mass society, in which time was sectorialized, the “working time” was the opposite of “spare time”. What really interested Ricci and Dallerba’s investigation was “lifetime” in its anthropological, technological, social, and psychological aspects. That time was usually misunderstood as the alienating time human beings lived among the times for other activities (exchange, habitat, daily life). Free time was chosen because it best expressed man's needs and mass expressions, it was the time of cohesion in which individual freedom in relation to the mass was expressed. It represented a set of factors, all together expressing its real meaning; it was the antithesis to work time as economical function: time in the sense of leisure and as a moment of useful production of ideas, objects and exchange; the container of expectations and meditation; in spare time the minimum adhesion to predetermined social roles happened, it gave the possibility to perceive freedom psychologically, a narrow relationship with the cultural values, mental and physical recreation, and to practice playful activity. Each of these aspects implied one specific conception of time and described one general psychological human need to be considered in designing the city for the contemporary man: the will of not being submitted to the systems that regulate life and its normal rhythms<sup>64</sup>.

The reflection on the social and psychological implications for the design of the anonymous structure for the city of the future had to be inevitably grounded on both the possible social and psychological assumptions and effects on the inhabitants. They were all fundamental to design megastructures<sup>65</sup>.

---

aesthetic conscience, as a relationship between his acts and his environment, as interpretation, elaboration and transmission of historical, geographic, economic data and aesthetics), it is also a temporal process and, as such, has required constant evolution. The surrounding environment is therefore one of the guiding data of this research». Dallerba, “Aspetti antropologici degli atti umani”, 1; On the same theme see also Dallerba, “City planning research at the University of Florence, under the direction of Leonardo Ricci”, 54-56.

<sup>61</sup> On the choice of “spare time” as investigation field: Dallerba, “Aspetti antropologici degli atti umani”, 36-39 and quotation at page 14.

<sup>62</sup> *Tredicesima Triennale di Milano* (Milano: Arti grafiche Crespi, 1964); Milano. Centro Culturale San Fedele, *I problemi umani del tempo libero: tavola rotonda organizzata dal Centro Culturale S. Fedele e dal Centro Studi Sociali in occasione della XIII Triennale di Milano* (Milano: Centro Culturale S. Fedele, 1964).

<sup>63</sup> <https://triennale.org/archivi-triennale/13> (last accessed December 22, 2020).

<sup>64</sup> Dallerba, “Aspetti antropologici degli atti umani”, 10-18.

<sup>65</sup> See James T. Burns Jr., “Social and Psychological implications of megastructures”, in *Arts of the Environment*, ed. György Kepes (New York: George Braziller, 1972), 139.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

The general psychological need of not being submitted to stressing and oppressing systems could be also distinguished in minor fundamental instincts necessary to the human psychological balance that Dallerba summed up as follows:

- the individual needs to recognize belonging to an environment - physical and human - and to be accepted precisely because of the human consciousness of belonging to a single humanity;
- he also needs to recognize himself in others through his specific interests and activities - the possibility of recognizing "his" existence in and with his world;
- he needs to experience new personal dimensions, to alternate experiences;
- he feels the need to participate socially - to "be socially useful";
- he needs to "create", to "transform" the matter of the world, to understand it by experimenting<sup>66</sup>.

According to Leonardo Ricci and Maria Grazia Dallerba the main obstacle to the satisfaction of all these existential needs was the sectorialization of time and the consequent lack of time in human life due to the automated work processes. Reflecting on free time and on the time dedicated to work, free time could therefore be classified as the voluntary and permanent time of those who were sufficiently wealthy, the involuntary and temporary time of the unemployed, the vacation time of the employed, the temporary incapacity of working women, and the permanent incapacity of the disabled or retired people. To these groups the free time of the early retirees and of those to whom automation would bring new cycles of alternating work and non-work should be added<sup>67</sup>.

The psychological existential needs of human beings and this classification of free time could help in understanding human activities in spare time as a place of reflection of their needs. Therefore Ricci and Dallerba referred to David Riesman studies on a sociological level<sup>68</sup> and Eric Fromm studies in psychology<sup>69</sup> to analyze the features of individual or group human activities in spare time to different kinds of society<sup>70</sup>.

The social characteristics that influenced human activities in free time derived from the group to which the individual belonged, to the rules and controls he was subjected to, to the type of the individual culture, their complex group relationships, institutions, and ideologies that also affected the use of leisure time. To determine

---

<sup>66</sup> Dallerba, “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani”, 20-21.

<sup>67</sup> Dallerba, “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani”, 19-21.

<sup>68</sup> David Riesman, *La folla solitaria* [“The lonely crowd”] (Bologna: Il Mulino, 1950) and David Riesman, *Visi nella folla* [“Faces in the crowd”] (Bologna: Il Mulino, 1957).

<sup>69</sup> Erich Fromm, *Psicanalisi della società contemporanea* [“Psychoanalysis of contemporary society”] (Milano: Edizioni di Comunità, 1964).

<sup>70</sup> To Riesman in societies with a high birth rate and birth rate the “social character” of societies was the result of tradition and of the attitude towards work time and free time, while in society at a constant demographic level – as the European society - the “social character” developed independently of work: it was related to organizations more than to people and therefore free time was dedicated to consumption, escape, or change of social roles. Individuals of hetero-directed societies (such as the north American population) were sensitive to the preferences and expectations of others and in these societies consumption was the norm, leisure activities were dedicated to the adaptation to a group. Eric Fromm instead studied the phenomenon of consumption firstly of time and then of products, done by individuals who conformed to social persuasions and to behavior patterns imposed by groups holding the power.

## Leonardo Ricci in the United States

the architectural-urban model to experience a "livable environment" it became necessary to find the model for an integrated lifetime.

The question was what could have been the suitable space to place all those activities that facilitated the exchange and contact or that allowed the exit from the conventional social roles dictated by any society, because in them real relationships and the release from predetermined constraints were realized. This meant the liberation from hetero-direction and therefore from the processes of conformism and alienation. This model offered the possibility of finding everyone's belonging to the human race in contact with the others, experimenting with new contexts, communication methods, activities aimed at a common good as an artistic product, a form of communication, the possibility to feel anonymous, and to experience the world.

The existing towns offered architectural organisms (institutions) to spend free time, both at the habitat and territorial scales, as museums, art galleries, cinemas, theaters, clubs, sports, touristic infrastructures (habitat individual or group scale), or national parks.

The research dedicated a special focus on the contemporary urban situation<sup>71</sup>, which basically consisted in a residential agglomeration, mainly everywhere in the world, but the new model introduced by Ricci had to be the result of the design of a new entity made of town and environment together. The urban masses occupied the suburbs and the confusion of functions distributed in the urban and suburban tissue could only stop the social evolution and the creation of the integrated space for the lifetime. The design of the environment and of the towns were grounded in tradition but it did not renew the town infrastructures and facilities, it did not change anything.

The project for the city of the future therefore had to be anonymous, in the sense of an architecture that arose from an urban environment intended as a union between settlement and environment, in which the environment exerted its effect on man and on its relations with the world - and vice-versa, human activities acted on the environment - from the psychological interactions among men and between men and space. The project had to be conceived therefore at different scales because the social and psychological manifestations were graded in the physical environment from individual activities to associated activities. The new anonymous urban environment model had to be proposed as an alternative to studies on the specialization of the residential structure as an urban design module that had led to a rationalistic approach to a city born as a sum of interests. This model had to be proposed as an alternative to the contemporary ones since they had only proved their inability to form socio-cultural models of behavior in which human social and psychological needs caused by the production-consumption system and related dynamics could be fully expressed.

As Lawrence Halprin stated<sup>72</sup>, since the act of design and planning always began with an act of rape and violation on the environment, «the duty of the architect and planner in this process was to make the violation a positive force for environmental generation and a responsible infusion into the community structure rather than the physically separate and socially isolated effusion of the designer's ego. This could be done by attentively conserving the place and by inserting the new design statement as sensitively and respectfully as possible into the existing fabric of the community. But these are physical considerations still. Consideration of the lives of

---

<sup>71</sup> Dallerba, "Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani", 28-39.

<sup>72</sup> Lawrence Halprin, lecture at Summer Environmental Workshop, San Francisco, California, July 1968.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

the real users of the buildings and the city must always be at the seminal beginning of any concept<sup>73</sup>». In this sentence Ricci’s idea of anonymous architecture can be resumed, it introduced the psychological effects that had to be considered by the architect while designing residential units, communities, megastructures, and all kinds of elements composing the town, from the minor to the larger scale.

To Ricci the common mistake was to design for the “average” dweller, that meant avoiding the psychological implications of vast-scale interventions on the individual to which several studies had been dedicated, mainly in the United States at the end of the Fifties and in the early Sixties<sup>74</sup>. Yet the architect had not to plan for someone physically and psychologically strong enough to live in any environmental contest or to adapt to every possible condition a designer wanted to impose on him.

Any possible change on the environment could affect the people’s lives and behaviors, which continuously changed themselves: people changed their goals, values, and habits, but, in addition to this, computers would have changed life rhythms, and communications. This was why not only the assumptions but also the effects of megastructures had to be considered<sup>75</sup>, megastructures had to fulfill the wish to live peacefully and creatively, and people’s social and psychological needs should have acted as the primary “given” of the new design and planning situation. The possible effects were to be studied in depth, because among them alienation could have also emerged, and, if so, the general purpose of megastructure would have been distorted.

Maria Grazia Dallerba and Leonardo Ricci elaborated a scheme for the project of the new anonymous model by suggesting a multiple reading on the dwelling, communications, transport system and technological features that had to contribute to build the load-bearing macrostructure to fulfil flexible human needs. They defined the

---

<sup>73</sup> Burns, “Social and Psychological implications of megastructures”, 139.

<sup>74</sup> Those studies were considered for a research dedicated to the collection and analysis of the results of some research mainly done in England on social problems emerged during the realization of large-scale residential settlements realization. The study considered a wide range of further studies as those of the Center for Community Studies in the United States, published in *The Urban Condition* (London: L.J. Duhl, 1963). Laura Balbo, “Il problema sociale dei nuovi insediamenti residenziali di grandi dimensioni”, *Quaderni di Sociologia*, no. 13 (1964): 51-79.

<sup>75</sup> Dr. Humphry Osmond studied the effects that the designed physical environment could have on the residents and he stated that the design process had not to consider the “average” fellow, but rather the different typologies of people. Firstly, all oppressed and weak people, children, the poor, the aged, the sick and minority groups had to receive the attention of the architect who was not alone, but planners, psychologists, sociologists, and bureaucrats accompanied him in dealing with the communities’ needs and their possible changes. Ambiguous or characterless spaces as drab, impersonal common rooms, the use of harsh materials, rooms that could not permit privacy had all been found to exercise a strongly negative effect on residents. Dr. Osmond used a large mental hospital as a paradigm of a megastructure containing a resident community that shared stable shelters, services, and support mechanisms. Dr. Frances Cheek and the psychologist Robert Sommer studied the same issues, the writer and teacher George Dannison was also interested in the theme and wrote his successful book *The Lives of Children*, in which he promoted the idea that relationships, not instruction, promoted real learning. As such schools needed to be places where freedom of choice created the trust that allowed for a full relationship between teachers and students. Furthermore, with regard to the forces acting between man and environment and vice-versa, the architect Danforth W. Toan developed the concept of “habitability” to indicate what affected men positively or negatively in alien environments as space or underwater. The architects Toan&Lundle elaborated with the architects Warner and Burns life-support systems for men in long-term space flights and interstellar living to create facilities to allow individual life-styles as well as personal territoriality and provide the basic physical requirements for life in long-term periods in space. Burns, “Social and Psychological implications of megastructures”, 140-142.

dwelling “a natural right”: «referring to the need to set an environmental design that no longer [depended] only on masses of residential agglomeration, the habitat [had to] become a quantity in the more general system of territorial equipment. And as an expression, given the lower resulting mass visual impact, it [was] able to locate itself, not "making" the city, but placing itself in the environment as one of the many equipment that [was] needed and which in turn [had] particular needs. It [was] an equipment not prefixed in the environmental design, but it [had] a plastic modularity margin to allow its formativity beyond pre-given schematizations<sup>76</sup>».

Dallerba's proposal was to conduct research on different groups, based on age and status, to obtain data relating to the relationship between man, environment and individual-community, to then disarticulate the existing housing fabric and extrapolate the "basic units" in order to redesign the whole equipment<sup>77</sup>.

The urban settlement had to be intended as equipment and, better, as an organism of complex functionality, equipped with a container system of multiple minor systems that welcomed human housing, education, religious, administrative, political, commercial, welfare, recreational and sports activities.

In addition to the dwelling system Ricci and Dallerba theorized a communication system as the one Ricci would have then thought and inserted in his synopia of the *City of the Earth*<sup>78</sup>. It consisted in «a communications network [that] [made] it possible in the city and between cities and territories, to issue and receive news, orders, information (telephone exchanges, power plants, television, road signs, advertising, etc.)<sup>79</sup>». The transport system was what Dallerba called “a circulatory system” made of «vertical and horizontal routes and the vehicles that [passed] through them (underground railways and trains - highways and cars - footpaths, lifts, stairs and people)», while the technological and supplying aspects were managed by a “metabolic system” consisting in a «technological network that provides elements for the functional "maintenance" of the organism: water, electricity, consumer and use items, gas, petrol, etc. - and consequently the network for the disposal of waste products: residues, sewage, rivers, etc.<sup>80</sup>».

The purposed load-bearing macrostructure was the environmental morphological structure. This was to constitute a structure at the service of the permanent territorial transformation according to its formal and functional vocations, an extension of the existing topography. It was the right expression of high human concentrations without the functional congestion of megalopolis, which housed functions in predetermined spaces, typical of human behavior. These operations were dangerous for human life itself and contemporary planning strategies only allowed to find fragmented solutions to human needs. The point was therefore to face the design of the systems generated by the city and to solve them at the appropriate scale.

---

<sup>76</sup> Dallerba, “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani”, 32.

<sup>77</sup> This parallel research was carried on by the architect Maria Grazia Dallerba with Professor Irwin Rosow (School of Applied Social Sciences at the Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio), Professor Maurice Hommovitch (School of Social Work at the University of Southern California), Professor S. R. Sherman (Research Program for Retirement Housing, School of Public Health, Los Angeles, California), and Professor Donald Kent (Dean of the School of Social Sciences at Pennsylvania State University). Masini, *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti di una Architettura per l'uomo del futuro*, 135.

<sup>78</sup> Ricci, *Città della Terra*, 87-105.

<sup>79</sup> Dallerba, “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani”, 35.

<sup>80</sup> Dallerba, “Aspetti antro-sociologici degli atti umani”, 35.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

Starting from the habitat, it had to be designed as a flexible unit at all levels: urban, architectural, and technological, avoiding its possible distribution based on zoning, but rather considering a free distribution, interlocking and combinable modules, mobility to follow the dwellers movements depending on age and state. Those units had to be grounded on specific studies on the necessary space for each human activity that could change in time and in the increase of social mobility.

Age and state had to be considered as basic parameters on which each system could have changed as status, social mobility, age, and sex<sup>81</sup>. Because of the increase of scale of the town, the house lost socializing activities as well, which were confined in free time and in dedicated places. The real need was to have places for the social exchange at the individual, group, and mass scale instead of confined places for the mass exchange that did not fit with human deep nature and could only fulfil the need of resting, recognition inside a group and residential integration. Dis-alienation could be achieved with the physical contiguity and continuity at the morphological level, because they could convey, with the help of the continuous use of materials, the right perception of space<sup>82</sup>, the possibility of the perceptive access to all parts of the city and the total comprehension of the world, awareness of reality and the liberation from the centers of power.

Dallerba's studies on free time demonstrated that when free time would have become the integrated lifetime, human beings could have been correctly aware of themselves, because they could fulfill the basic mentioned fundamental instincts and psychological needs. In macrostructural models grounded on those principles, men would have found their suitable, non-conditioning shelter, born from human needs and technical functionalities of the human “settlement-organism” instead of symbolic references.

Leonardo Ricci and Maria Grazia Dallerba's anthro-sociological reflections and Ricci's model for the Miami Model Cities Plan was used by James T. Burns Jr. to single out the sociological and psychological implications of macrostructures the architect had to consider while designing a macrostructure<sup>83</sup>. What matters is that Burns dealt with macrostructures assuming them as the living system of a community, as Ricci would have

---

<sup>81</sup> Women were working and entering their active civil life in those years and, therefore, new cities needed the suitable services to guarantee a full distribution of fundamental services as cleaning and feeding. As consequence, the family (the mother) did not manage the upbringing of children and education in general, which were up to new social life-models. Balbo, “Il problema dei nuovi insediamenti residenziali di grandi dimensioni”, 52, 53.

<sup>82</sup> For what concerns the perception of space, the reference was Kevin Lynch's studies carried on at M.I.T. and published in *The Image of the City* in 1960. That conception of space studied at the JCUS was based on the principles of coexistence and mutual dependence of the elements. Therefore, it was not possible to infer or conceive a spatial form without the knowledge that space was a unique entity in which that form was included. The perception of space resulted from one single sensation systematized into a collection of perceptions, which gave the total perception made of different contributions. From this the need to build in gradual scales of interventions for associated life raised. Lynch, *The Image of the City*.

<sup>83</sup> James T. Burns Jr. wrote to Leonardo Ricci on June 14, 1970 to ask him the Miami Model Cities Plan's model pictures to publish them in his essay as a support to his thesis that tried to define the correct design of macrostructures (letter kept in Casa Studio Ricci). Burns also used Paolo Soleri's “Arcosanti”, Moshdie Safdie's Montréal Habitat on a hilltop Habitat project for Puerto Rico and a seaside complex for S. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Manfredi Nicoletti's proposal for a bridge across the Straits of Messina, and Lev zetlin's idea for a floating airport, Lawrence Halprin's & Associates three-dimensional grid system of horizontal and vertical structures and integrated circulation patterns proposed for the Bunker Hill redevelopment area in Los Angeles, Gunnar Birkerts' structural matrix for Tougaloo College, and the Town Center of Cumbernauld macrostructure. Burns, “Social and psychological implications of megastructures”, 148.

maybe defined them. Burns singled out a series of parameters which entailed determined psychological implications of megastructures such as general physical mobility, articulation of the dwelling spaces, systems flexibility, connection to the geographical and temporary contest, based on the needs for privacy, sense of community participation, sense of self, connectiveness, community learning, variety, mobility, change, security, or visibility of power structure. Burns confirmed Ricci's idea that the planner of megastructures had to realize the decentralization of powers in the whole system to eliminate the people's fears and to make them participate in his work, responsive to their lives<sup>84</sup>.

### 6.3. "Open Work" in architecture: the city as a collective work of art

The idea of "Open Work" is central to explain Leonardo Ricci's work, to which it is connected since the architect asked Umberto Eco, author of the book *Opera Aperta* ["Open Work"]<sup>85</sup> to give some lectures to his students of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Florence in 1965-1966. In those years Ricci was Professor of Elements of Architectural Composition and Urban Design (1964-1965), Director of the Town Planning Institute (since 1965) and Professor of Town Planning (1966-1970). In Ricci's courses important social themes were discussed with the students and, after the flood that destroyed Florence in 1966, his course was dedicated to the planning of a continuous city in the Arno Valley by means of an interdisciplinary study, as already described in the previous chapter. Therefore, in those years Ricci's transfer to the U.S.A. was in its central years and the disciplines of Urban and Visual Design with the relevant teaching methods were permeating Ricci's teaching as well. Ricci thought that Eco's course on Visual Communication could offer further reflections on the generation of form in architecture. The collaboration between Ricci and Eco suggests the importance of the investigation into the relationship between architecture and semiology, the latter understood as a science that studies all phenomena of culture as systems of signs or culture as communication. Architecture - in its various expressions such as design, architectural planning, urban design, scenographic and exhibition construction - can therefore be considered, unlike other cultural phenomena, as the concrete realization of culture and as a constructed three-dimensional reality of associated life, endowed with particular functions.

The lectures' theme of analysis was the connection between object, sign and function, which revolved the questions about how architectural objects communicate or do not communicate, what they communicate and whether or not they were conceived to communicate<sup>86</sup>.

---

<sup>84</sup> James T. Burns Jr. concluded his essay defining his reflections on the future needs megastructures should have satisfied as "springboards to the future": « [...] present points of departure in the redesign of human environments. They seek an involvement with the people of our urban centers as the first step in the planning of both new and renewed urban places». Burns, "Social and psychological implications of megastructures", 149, 150; Jerry Rubin, *Do it! Scenarios of the Revolution* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970), 231.

<sup>85</sup> Umberto Eco, *Opera Aperta* (Milano, Bompiani, 1962).

<sup>86</sup> See Cesare Brandi, *Eliante o Dell'Architettura* (Torino Einaudi, 1956); Cesare Brandi, *Segno e Immagine* (Milano: Il Saggiatore, 1960); Gillo Dorfles, *Simbolo, comunicazione, consumo* (Torino: Einaudi, 1962); Giovanni Klaus Koenig, *Analisi del linguaggio architettonico* (Firenze: Libreria Ed. Fiorentina, 1964); Cesare Brandi, *Struttura e Architettura* (Torino: Einaudi, 1968); Eco, *La Struttura Assente*.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

Eco's notes for the lectures given to Ricci's students in Florence gave birth to his crucial text *La struttura assente*. *La ricerca semiotica e il metodo strutturale* [“The absent structure. The semiotic research and the structural method”] (1968), firstly titled *Appunti per una semiologia delle comunicazioni visive* [“Notes for a Semiology of the visual communications”] and dedicated to Leonardo Ricci. The book was released in 1968 and entered immediately the heart of the debate on structuralism - the theory that most dominated the cultural climate of those years and that seemed (to some) to deliver the sense, knowledge, culture to new metaphysical, abstract, and indifferent destinies to the specificities of history.

As Eco himself declared in the introduction to his book, most of the research contained in the volume had been elaborated during three courses carried out in the Faculties of Architecture, in Milan, São Paulo, and Florence. The book was inspired and much owed to the students of architecture, because in them the author found the constant concern of «anchoring the universe of things to be communicated to the universe of things to be modified<sup>87</sup>».

One of the sectors in which semiology is most challenged by the reality on which it tries to take hold is that of architecture<sup>88</sup>.

With these words Eco expressed the difficulty of specifying what "code" meant in architecture since a code was usually made up of a set of signs, among which an infinite set of relationships could be established, which in turn could generate infinite messages as those principles ruling megastructures did according to the notion of continuous and infinite growth. Leonardo Ricci pursued the idea to avoid codifications that put already elaborate solutions into shape and did not consider the principles of formativity and integrativity of the city<sup>89</sup> he had studied in those years at Penn State University, and by directing Maria Grazia Dallerba's research project<sup>90</sup>. That was a grounding reflection for Leonardo Ricci and for the “the form-act” theory opposing to an *a priori* shaping of architecture.

According to Umberto Eco, typologies qualified architecture intended as service, but this idea of architecture was not useful to change history and society, but only a system of rules to give society what it needed. This architecture was not art, activated by men of culture anticipating new structures and social instances, but an architecture serving society, even not able to change it<sup>91</sup>.

Eco's thought was conceived in the contestation period of 1968, when architecture could not be seen as a mirroring device for society, but rather as a contestation tool bearer of change. Any scheme or form previously arranged could not be considered by Eco and Ricci, who were taking part in the revolt on the students' side: they wanted to study open forms to satisfy past, present, and future needs<sup>92</sup>. To Eco architecture as an art would have not

---

<sup>87</sup> Eco, *La Struttura Assente*, 43.

<sup>88</sup> Eco, *La Struttura Assente*, 283.

<sup>89</sup> Ricci stated that idea in several writings as “Ricerche per una urbanistica non alienata”, “The Future of Cities” and “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione”.

<sup>90</sup> Ricci, “Prolusione al corso di Urbanistica II ed Elementi di Composizione”, 5, 6.

<sup>91</sup> Eco, *La Struttura Assente*, 329.

<sup>92</sup> On the 1968 revolt see chapter 5, paragraph 5.2.2. On the human instinct to revolt against superimposed models and schemes from an anthropological perspective: Desmond Morris, *La scimmia nuda* (Milano: Bompiani, 1968).

only suggested a way of living, but also its possible innovations and radical changes, assuming the risks of all the possible implications<sup>93</sup>. The architect could have accepted the social rules and worked at their service, elaborated and imposed new models of habitat for the same society, or re-designed the existing systems on a new technologically advanced and performing structure. The first attitude was passive against society, the third one was fearful and prudent, while the second one implied the conception of architecture as an art, for which the architect was a producer of history and change. The code to be used to fulfill this second attitude had to be renewed: designers had the words, but they had to formulate a new grammar, a new syntax. They could not do this alone, but with the help of sociology, anthropology, psychology, politics, economics and all the sciences dealing with human life. Only those disciplines could give architecture the right rules, because other (human) codes had to be considered, architecture could have not changed society with the help of its only rules, they were not enough<sup>94</sup>. Architecture's difficulty to be translated into a code was related to the continuous changing reality of the cities and of the society that lived them, in a constant recall of history and with a narrow connection between signifier and meaning.

This idea of openness of the city, or better of an open-ended entity was described in *Opera Aperta*, published in 1962 as the first edition of *Anonymous (XX century)*, developing the theme of the XII International Conference of Philosophy titled "The problem of the open work" (1958). Eco introduced the problem in poetry, psychology, theory of information, music, art, and architecture and their common issue concerning the reaction to the new contemporary sensitivity born from new mathematical, physical, psychological, and scientific discoveries.

The focus on the artistic reaction and the investigation on the moments when contemporary art tried to face disorder demonstrated the existence of a new positive attitude towards the breaking of the rules to conceive form. The notion of openness was based on the interactive relationship between the inputs and the work of art-receiver's world, both at the level of intelligence and perception, in a transaction moment between the act of perceiving knowing intellectually that brought to education<sup>95</sup>. That moment inevitably affected the fruition of the work of art as well.

Leonardo Ricci lived that new attitude both in painting and in architecture, but most of all the difficult condition of the architect in the contemporary world of the Sixties Umberto Eco dealt with in *Opera Aperta*. Ricci lived and suffered this condition and tried to explain it widely in his book *Anonymous (XX century)* from an existential point of view. In the book he declared a general pessimistic view about the architect's possibility to solve the

---

<sup>93</sup> Architecture for the mass could have referred to ancient models (persuasive power of architecture), imposed models (psychagogic power of architecture), it could be experienced without any attention, it could have contained horrible meanings not even thought by the designer, it could have forced the inhabitants into unloved spaces or allowed them to a total flexibility. Finally, it could have been forgotten in its obsolescence or inserted in the circuit of goods. Eco, *La Struttura Assente*, 331-335.

<sup>94</sup> Language, painting, music could count on their rules, but architecture should have regulated a system of forms based on needs it did not have any power on. Therefore, the architect could have been considered the last humanistic figure of the contemporary time he had to think of the collectivity in a total dimension. He had to think as a sociologist, anthropologist, politic, economist, etc.

<sup>95</sup> Eco, *Opera Aperta*, 132.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

urban crisis of the time but did not avoid applying the solution he had in his mind, leaving the theory of the “City of the Earth” as a testament in the last chapter<sup>96</sup>.

The discussion on new methods to shape a form related to the common *Kunstwollen* must be considered to understand Leonardo Ricci’s work and, according to those studies, the concept of “Open Work” involves Ricci’s design method if we think of the immediate relationship between his work and the human surrounding world. According to Eco a new hope and the solution for architecture could be found in the new perspective of the open work, which was affecting art in general<sup>97</sup>. Dealing with architecture, Eco wrote about Frank Lloyd Wright’s approach and introduced it as an open work since it was perfectly inserted in a mutual and changing relation with the environment, able to create a lot of new perspectives and an integration between the human and the natural spaces. That architecture was trying to answer to the new problems of coexistence, to offer a new democratic opportunity to act and leave the old social structure for a new possible society. This happened because the matter was the way human beings lived their relationship with the world. Therefore, the way of shaping things was the real reflection of this process. We all could see the solution to the problem of finding the relationship with the environment in a practical result at the structural level<sup>98</sup>.

Ricci’s “anonymous architecture” was consistent with the concept of “open work in architecture” Bruno Zevi also analyzed in 1962 in an article titled “La poetica dell’ ‘opera aperta’ in architettura”<sup>99</sup>.

Indeed, Ricci and Zevi shared the idea of a spatial architectural research derived from the conception of architecture as democratic device and the reasons for the theoretical affinity between them lied in the notion of “open work”.

Ricci’s “anonymous” spatial research was consistent with Bruno Zevi’s idea of organic architecture as democratic device, because of their translation in the poetics of the “open work” in architecture. The notions of “open work” and “anonymous architecture” were in line with the refusal of *a priori* form, particularly evident in Ricci’s project of the set-up of the Expressionism Exhibition at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence in 1964 that Bruno Zevi described as an archi-sculpture or “sculpture à habiter”<sup>100</sup>. To Zevi, who saw in Expressionist architecture one of the results of the “open work” in architecture<sup>101</sup>, Ricci’s intervention’s strength lied in overcoming the boundaries of the arts and in its being an informal work of art itself<sup>102</sup>.

The “open work” could be read and lived out of any prescription on the “right way” to see, against any kind of structuralist vision, recalling Umberto Eco’s opinion in *La Struttura Assente*.

---

<sup>96</sup> Leonardo Ricci, “A Testament”, in *Anonymous (XX century)*, 247-254; Bruno Zevi, “Il testamento di un architetto”, *L’Espresso*, April 22, 1962.

<sup>97</sup> Eco, *Opera Aperta*, 153.

<sup>98</sup> Eco, “Introduzione alla prima edizione”, *Opera Aperta*, 12-14.

<sup>99</sup> Bruno Zevi, “La poetica dell’opera aperta’ in architettura” [“Open Work’ in architecture], *Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 84 (October, 1962): 362-363.

<sup>100</sup> See chapter 2, paragraph 2.4, Zevi, “Sculpture à habiter/In Francia si torna alle caverne”, *L’Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Architettura VI*, 274-277.

<sup>101</sup> Bruno Zevi, *Erich Mendelson. Opera Completa* (Milano, Etas Kompas, 1970).

<sup>102</sup> Zevi, “Mostra dell’Espressionismo/temporalità antilessicale e sdegno materico”, *L’Espresso*, then collected in *Cronache di Architettura V*, 318-321.

As Ricci's projects were open because they welcomed flexibility and were open to the users' intervention, Bruno Zevi's reflection focused on the same character as he «expanded the definition of function to include in it the ability of the users to enlarge their habitats according to their needs, so that the function became an important aspect of the “organic” process of the project<sup>103</sup>». Zevi investigated the artistic reaction of contemporary art to face disorder and demonstrate the existence of a new positive attitude towards the breaking of the existing rules to conceive form.

Therefore, the theoretical affinity between Leonardo Ricci's “anonymous” and Bruno Zevi's “organic” architecture, firstly thought as expressions of democratic architecture, lied in their translation into the notion of “open work” in architecture: open to the continuous changing of life-flow and constantly changed by human experience at the same time.

The importance of the concept of “open work” lied in the possibility to give different interpretations of the same concept or of a single experimentation in the architectural research, avoiding, firstly the imposition of a form, but accepting, on the contrary, that the starting point was the research around a problem to solve. As Giovanni Michelucci had suggested several years before, the form was in the research, the results in the different solutions, interpretations<sup>104</sup>. Ricci's projects for a “Theoretical House”, for the exhibitions “La Casa Abitata” and “Espressionismo: pittura scultura architettura”, for the Arno Valley, and for the Miami Model Cities Plan, designed for different scales of intervention, were perfect examples of this guiding principle<sup>105</sup>.

The question is indeed where the research ends and the final form is achieved. Semiology gives the answer, because it never admits the achievement of a final meaning and «in any cultural, or even psychological complex, we are faced with infinite metaphorical chains whose meaning is always deferred or becomes signifier itself<sup>106</sup>». Therefore, as Leonardo Ricci also maintained in the tenth chapter of the unpublished *Città della Terra* titled “Antico e nuovo” [“Old and New”]<sup>107</sup> or in his speech to the INU conference in Lucca ten years before<sup>108</sup>, the process is one and continuous in history; in it, different results according to the historical needs, are reached, and none of them is definitive.

The guiding principle of Ricci's project for the Arno Valley was not to search a definite form of an architecture, a city or a territorial district, whatever scale they regarded. Therefore “filling the structure” was not the first goal of urban design, but rather to go along with the structure, because the structure had a longer life than the

---

<sup>103</sup> Alicia Imperiale, “Architettura organica come opera aperta”, in *Gli Architetti di Zevi. Storia e controscoria dell'architettura italiana 1944-2000*, 150.

<sup>104</sup> As Giulio Carlo Argan had stated in *Progetto e Destino* (Giulio Carlo Argan, *Progetto e Destino* (Milano, Il Saggiatore, 1965)), history, as a cyclical deceit, was the first responsible for the open form since it had always been leaving space for the design of the developing urban and architectural models. Furthermore, a particular reading of this was given by Roland Barthes in Semiology, and here lies the importance of the connection between Semiology and Architecture to understand the meaning of “open work” in Leonardo Ricci's work. (Roland Barthes, “Semiologia e Urbanistica”, *Op. Cit.*, no. 10 (1967)),

<sup>105</sup> The connections between Architecture and Semiology were also studied by Giovanni Klaus Koenig, *Analisi del Linguaggio Architettonico*.

<sup>106</sup> Barthes, “Semiologia e Urbanistica”, quoted in Eco, *La Struttura Assente*, 318.

<sup>107</sup> Ricci, *Città della Terra*, unpublished, 195-212.

<sup>108</sup> Leonardo Ricci's intervention at the INU conference is kept in Casa Studio Ricci and was published in “Il Convegno dell'INU a Lucca”, *Bollettino Tecnico degli Architetti e Ingegneri della Toscana* (December 1957): 3-5.

## The Anonymous project as an “Open Work”

living units of facilities it had to host<sup>109</sup>, the designed form had to fit the movement of the human fluxes across history.

In art the aim of informal painting was precisely to suggest more than one single interpretation of a painting, as novels that did not tell only one event or one plot. That was informal painting’s purpose Ricci also explored to ground and give significance to his research: the informal in painting dealt with a communicative project to be embodied in one single form to be efficient and which had to be characterized by the most important feature: opening. This was the main feature of a proper work of art. There could be a plenty of forms realizing a value, but they could not be aesthetically understood, explained and judged without referring to the initial value. This was the second grade of opening the contemporary art aimed at, it meant a multiplication of the possible meanings of a message and, by means of this, the implicit increasing of information<sup>110</sup>.

Ricci’s exemplification of “Open Work” was, more than any realized project, the synopia of the *City of the Earth*, in which the architect and painter synthesized the results of his research and the solutions he had studied for the future city combining the will of representing experience through the painting and the architectural tools. That synopia derived from the idea of the synthesis of the arts which drove him to the United States, where his initial idea of the design of a community space turned into the study of a total work of art made of collective contributions: the city.

---

<sup>109</sup> That was perfectly in line with the first definitions of macrostructure given by Fumihiko Maki and Ralph Wilcoxon. See chapter 5, paragraph 5.1.

<sup>110</sup> Eco, *Opera Aperta*, 157-159, 178-182.

### Conclusion

Despite the research served to solve some archival gaps such as the attribution of untitled drawings and undated materials, it is still open to further investigations, such as Ricci's last activity in Kentucky and Venice in the Seventies and Eighties, which could explain more about the architect's figure.

The research contributed to the historiographical reconstruction of Leonardo Ricci's American transfer from 1952 to 1972, by describing the reasons that encouraged his choice to teach at M.I.T. and continue the exchange with the United States for more than twenty years, the experiences and results.

The transfer helped Leonardo Ricci to ground his belief in morphological generations, change the educational program at the faculty of architecture in Florence and enrich his teaching method with new revolutionary approaches. Ricci therefore transferred what he learned not only to his architectural and painting research, but also in his teaching, to his Italian and American students, by giving them the possibility to experience the transfer with the cultural exchanges he arranged. It was important to understand how meaningful Ricci's work as a painter was before and during his transfer, because the reasons of the transfer were as deeply grounded in his research in painting as in architecture.

Ricci's American transfer, often superficially described as a constant exchange with the United States, was reconstructed in its temporal scan and genealogy: the research analysed Ricci's work both as a teacher and architect, always in relation to his contemporary work in Italy and to the actors and characters that animated his transfer. The "characters of the story" played a significant role that enriched Ricci's experience to different extents, but they were all important to understand the transfer. The philological reconstruction met the names of Lionello Venturi, Pietro Belluschi, Bruno Zevi, Giovanni Klaus Koenig, Elizabeth Mann Borgese, Tullio Vinay, Riccardo Morandi, Lewis Mumford, Kenzo Tange, Massimo Severo Giannini, who took part in Ricci's transfer to the United States and embodied it actually, helping in defining Ricci's transfer role inside Ricci's general historiographical episode.

The research inserted Ricci's American transfer in the wider debate of the Sixties, animated by the themes of the community, by the 1968 revolt derived from the general dissatisfaction of the mass society and mass university, therefore on the educational reform, and on the new architectural purposes for the mass society, all alive both in Italy and in the United States.

In the spreading idea of unique Italian community, Leonardo Ricci embodied the eclectic figure of the Italian architect who took part in the political, academic, and institutional life of the country, as well as in the professional activity, in different ways and extents. Ricci inserted his experience in the more common field of action, living the influence of the United States on Italian culture and looking for an American transfer, as several colleagues. The theme of the travel to the United States of professionals, and architects among them, was central for reshaping the reception of the American culture in Italy and many scholars lived an American transfer, embodying the connection between the two cultures. For instance, the Fulbright program Ricci also wanted to apply derived from the agreement of the U.S.A. and Belgium, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom,

## Conclusion

and Italy, which enabled the international exchange of scholars and experts granted among universities and technical institutes that helped Italian and European architects to advance their work and research.

During his American transfer, Leonardo Ricci was one of the postwar Italian architects who fostered the ideal of community to be designed for reestablishing the social values system, and those who realized projects for community villages that found a clear reference in the most important instances of religious, cultural, political, and social models. He worked on the project for the community space starting from the conception of organic architecture as temporalized space invention for human individual and collective life and worked especially on the kibbutz model. The community ideal let him apply his form-act design method and experiment anonymous architecture, as taught by Michelucci, declined in the new relationship between the architect and the customer.

Moreover, in line with his studies on the theme of the community, the research in the United States and the 1968 student revolt supported Leonardo Ricci's political, cultural, educational, and social belief in the necessity to actuate a decentralization of powers, against the capitalist view spreading both in Italy and in the United States, which did not let anyone to live in suitable conditions, and architects to develop appropriate projects to improve human life in the metropolis. The "Ricci-Eco Motion" was an important document that welcomed the students' requests and affirmed the importance of the General Assembly as an institutional place where students and teachers could discuss the problems and possible solutions of the revolt. The motion recognized the faculty as an "open place" where all the educational categories - researchers, scholars, professors, assistants and students - could develop the exchange of ideas. The fair vote and the decentralization of powers were the essential tools to change the future not only of the faculty but of the whole society, to establish a democratic and balanced system.

Indeed, to Ricci, despite being the appointed figures, architects and architecture students could not work together and apply their research to find new flexible living conditions for everyone, but they were rather forced to work separately with obsolete rules he wanted to change with the new educational program he wrote during his deanship. In that program ("Appunti per un programma") Leonardo Ricci systematized society and education, possible interventions and requests from students, professors, workers and government forces. He thought of a total reorganization of the Italian society starting from education, of a systematization of the existing forces for the mass society instead of the bourgeois one. The system actors were professors, students and assistants whose ideas had to concur to the final asset of the faculty. Ricci's purpose identified new institutional roles as three reference figures inside the faculty to assist the dean (one professor for the external political issue, one for the internal, and one for the programs), mixed commissions of students, assistants, and professors to face each single problem by using all the existing forces. The system, if common goals were identified, was to be applied to all universities that should cooperate for the correct functioning of the society, into a further general system able to solve the political, cultural, and educational situation. In this way also the interdisciplinary research was fostered with new figures and applied research methods, for which Ricci asked for new laboratories and tools as he saw at M.I.T. and asked at UF.

That kind of structured program enhanced Ricci's wider ideal of a new decentralized society which could allow architecture students and teachers to work together and realize the "City of the Earth". Ricci's support for the 1968 revolt, his strong conviction on the importance of decentralization and of university as an institution, possible herald of the social change that architecture should have brought about in the following years, and his

## Conclusion

intention to merge architecture and urban planning then influenced the vision of the Radicals in Italy, who were students of the faculty of architecture of Florence attending Ricci's Urban Design courses and whose names appear among the designers of some analysed polymateric models for the urban macrostructures. Ricci's lesson especially influenced the radical criticisms of the design of modern architecture by Archizoom and Superstudio, founded by students of Ricci and Savioli's courses in contact with Claudio Greppi, a student of the faculty of Architecture of Florence and militant of the Florentine group of the "working class", who would have elaborated their own visions of architecture within the debate on the relationship between capitalism and architecture and on the phenomenon of massification.

One further important issue that emerged from the philological analysis of the archival sources and from the projects' observation was that Leonardo Ricci's most important result lied firstly in the application of his design method to different programs across time, which allowed him to reach different and high design results. Secondly, a strong experimentation to find a correct synthesis of the arts arose in Ricci's work between 1952 and 1972, which found its exalted and clearest expression in the synthesis of architecture and sculpture in a series of projects: the project for the Commerce Chamber of Carrara (1956), the project for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (1959-1960), in the buildings of the Village "Monte degli Ulivi" (1962-1968), the set up of the Expressionism Exhibition (1964), the model for the "Casa Abitata" Exhibition (1965), the model for an "Integrated Macrostructure" (1965), the project for the Cemetery of Montecatini (1967), the "Customs" section of the Italian Pavillion if the Montréal Exposition (1967), the project for Dog Island (1968-1970).

The research also demonstrated to what extent Leonardo Ricci's investigation directly derived from his early experiments in painting, from his master Giovanni Michelucci's teaching and how it succeeded in applying it to different programs from the first projects of the destroyed bridges of Florence to the megastructures by crossing the projects for the community space, welcoming variations of spatial solutions across the decades. The Miami Model Cities Plan and the Leather District were the results of the same open macrostructural plan at urban scale, one in Italy and one in the U.S.A.

Leonardo Ricci sought and reached his expression of architecture for life in urban design, "architecture at urban scale" as he defined it. The "form-act" design, based on the investigation on social and anthropological issues of human acts, was the instrument Ricci used to achieve anonymous architecture across time.

With the notions of "anonymous architecture" and "form-act", Urban Design and "open work" are the key words to understand Ricci's work in the United States and in Italy.

In my opinion, the concept of "open work", introduced by Umberto Eco in his book *Opera Aperta* ["Open Work"] and by Bruno Zevi in his essay "'Open work' in Architecture" is the one which best fits Leonardo Ricci's work, since it explains the not concluded, not definite character of the work of art and architectural work, which do not respect any law, canon or causal relation. Therefore, the "open work" succeeds in describing Ricci's production from its existential roots to its megastructural aims, since it avoids classifications and the boundaries typical of definitions: it is open to different interpretations both in architecture and in painting. The best way to look at Ricci's projects is through the parameter of "openness", as he would have wanted.

In history of architecture the "open" character manifested in several ways, but in Leonardo Ricci's work it was connected with the "space-time" dimension and with the relational phenomenology philosophical assumptions, as expression of the twentieth century discoveries, which eliminated the perfect Renaissance conception of

## Conclusion

perspective. The work is “open” and can be read and lived out of any prescription on the “right way” to see, against any kind of structuralist vision, also recalling Umberto Eco’s *La Struttura Assente* [“The Absent Structure”], the book he dedicated to Leonardo Ricci, whose projects are open as they welcome flexibility, the concept of changing as the life-flow continuously changes and as architecture is constantly changed by human experience.

## APPENDIX I

### GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Stein, Clarence S. "Community Housing Procedure." *Architectural Forum*, no. 56 (March 1932): 221-228.
- Wright, Frank Lloyd. "Broadacre City: a new community plan." *Architectural Record*, no. 77 (1935): 243-254.
- Giedion, Siegfried. *Space, Time and Architecture*. Cambridge-MA: Harvard University Press, 1941.
- Zevi, Bruno *Verso un'Architettura Organica: saggio sullo sviluppo del pensiero architettonico negli ultimi cinquant'anni*. Torino: Einaudi, 1945.
- Fasola, Giusta Nicco. "Architettura "Organica." *La Nuova Città*, no. 1-2 (1945): 35-38.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Dichiarazione Di Principi Dell'Associazione per l'Architettura Organica." *Metron*, no. 2 (1945).
- Zevi, Bruno. "La costituzione dell'Associazione per l'Architettura Organica a Roma." *Metron*, no. 2 (September, 1945): 75-76.
- Bargellini, Piero. *Libello contro l'architettura organica*. Firenze: Vallecchi Editore, 1946.
- Bonelli, Renato. "Principi e Teoria Dell'architettura Organica." *La Nuova Città*, no. 4-5 (1946).
- De Carlo, Giancarlo. "L'insegnamento Di Frank Lloyd Wright." *Domus*, no. 207 (March 1946): 21-24.
- Piccinato, Luigi. "Ricostruire Firenze." *Metron*, no. 16 (1947): 8-32.
- Argan, Giulio Carlo. "Introduzione a Wright," *Metron*, no. 18 (1947): 9-24.
- Zevi, Bruno. *Storia Dell'Architettura Moderna*. Torino: Einaudi, 1950.
- Gutkind, Erwin Anton. "Comunità in un mondo senza stati." *Urbanistica*, no. 6 (October-December, 1950): 18-33.
- Kepes, György. *The Language of Vision*. Chicago: Paul Theobald, 1951.
- Balbo, Laura. "Il problema dei nuovi insediamenti residenziali di grandi dimensioni." *Quaderni di Sociologia*, no. 1 (1951): 53.

## Bibliography

- Michelucci, Giovanni. "Wright: Un Colloquio Mancato." *Letteratura e Arte Contemporanea*, no. 11 (1951).
- Mumford, Lewis. *Arts and Technics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1952.
- Michelucci, Giovanni. "La città variabile." *La Nuova Città*, no. 13 (January 1954).
- Kepes, György. "The New Landscape in Art and Science." *Art in America*, no. 43 (1955): 34-39.
- Chastel, André. *L'Art Italien. TOME II*. Paris: Larousse - Paris VIa, 1956.
- Paci, Enzo. "Problematica Dell'architettura Contemporanea." *Casabella Continuità*, no. 209 (February 1956): 41-46.
- Quaroni, Ludovico. "Tipizzazione, unificazione e industrializzazione nell'urbanistica." *La Casa*, no. 4 (1957): 88-119.
- Rogers, Ernesto Nathan. "Continuità o Crisi?" *Casabella Continuità*, no. 215 (March-April 1957): 3-4.
- Rogers, Ernesto Nathan, and Luca Molinari. *Esperienza dell'architettura*, Milano: Skira, 1958.
- Samonà, Giuseppe. *L'urbanistica e l'avvenire delle città*. Bari: Laterza, 1959.
- Rogers, Ernesto Nathan. "I CIAM al Museo." *Casabella Continuità*, no. 232 (October 1959).
- Zevi, Bruno. *Architettura in nuce*. Venezia-Roma: Istituto per la collaborazione culturale, 1960.
- Lynch, Kevin. *The Image of the City*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1960.
- Giedion Siegfried. *Breviario di Architettura* (Milano: Bompiani, 1961).
- Mumford, Lewis. *The City in History. Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects*. San Diego-New York-London: Harcourt Inc., 1961.
- Dean, Dwight G. "Alienation: its meaning and measurement." *American Sociological Review*, no. 5 (1961): 753-758.
- Rodwin, Lloyd. *Housing and Economic Progress*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1961.
- Eco, Umberto. *Opera Aperta*. Milano: Bompiani, 1962.

## APPENDIX I

- Zevi, Bruno. "La Poetica Dell'Opera Aperta", *L'Architettura: Cronache e Storia*, no. 84 (October 1962): 362-63.
- Glazer, Nathan, and Daniel P. Moynihan. *Beyond The Melting Pot The Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Jews, Italians, and Irish of New York City*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1963.
- Koenig, Giovanni Klaus. *Analisi del Linguaggio Architettonico*. Firenze: Libreria Ed. Fiorentina, 1964.
- Insolera, Italo. "Wright in Italia: 1921-1963." *Comunità*, no.118 (April 1964): 48-63.
- Abrams, Charles. *Man's Struggle for Shelter in an Urbanizing World*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1964.
- Frieden, Bernard J. *The Future of Old Neighborhoods Rebuilding for a Changing Population*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1964.
- Friedmann, John, and William Alonso. *Regional Development and Planning A Reader*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1964.
- Rudofsky, Bernard. *Architecture without Architects, an Architecture without Architects, an Introduction to Nonpedigreed Introduction to Nonpedigreed Architecture*. The Museum of Modern Art: Distributed by Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 1964.
- Aymonino, Carlo. *Origini e sviluppo della città moderna*. Padova: Marsilio, 1965.
- Kepes, György, ed., *Education of Vision*. New York: Braziller, 1965.
- Kepes, György, ed., *Structure in Art and Science*. New York: Braziller, 1965.
- Kepes, György, ed., *The Nature and Art of Motion*. New York: Braziller, 1965.
- Giannini, Massimo Severo. "Il territorio come struttura di proprietà." *Dibattito Urbanistico*, no. 2 (1965): 94-96.
- Ponti, Gio. "Un Panorama Di Alba, Di Risveglio, Di Inediti." *Domus*, no. 427 (June 1965): 22, 23.
- Appleyard, Donald, Kevin Lynch, and John R. Myer. *The View From the Road*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1965.
- Conant, Ralph W. *The Public Library and the City*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1965.

## Bibliography

- Argan, Giulio Carlo. *Progetto e destino*. Milano: Il Saggiatore, 1965.
- Rossi, Aldo. *L'Architettura della Città*. Padova: Marsilio, 1966.
- Kepes, György, ed., *Module, Proportion, Symmetry and Rhythm*. New York: Braziller, 1966.
- Kepes, György, ed., *Sign, Image, Symbol*. New York: Braziller, 1966.
- Kepes, György, ed., *The Man-Made Object*. New York: Braziller, 1966.
- Handlin, Oscar, and John E. Burchard. *The Historian and the City*. Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies Series. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1966.
- Quaroni, Ludovico. *La Torre di Babele*. Padova: Marsilio, 1967.
- Kepes, György. *The New Landscape in Art and Science*. Chicago: Theobald, 1967.
- Pedio, Renato. "Una Leggenda Moderna: Frederick Kiesler, Dal Neoplasticismo Alla Continuità." *Architettura: Cronache e Storia* 13, no. 5 (September 1967): 298-318.
- Gregotti Vittorio. *New Directions in Italian Architecture*. New York: Braziller, 1968.
- Eco, Umberto. *La struttura assente*. Milano: Bompiani, 1968.
- Koenig, Giovanni Klaus. *Architettura in Toscana 1931-1968*. Torino: ERI, 1968.
- Savioli, Leonardo, and Adolfo Natalini. "Spazio Di Coinvolgimento." *Casabella*, no. 326 (July 1968): 32-45.
- "Kiesler 1923-1964", *Zodiac*, no. 19 (1969): 6-49.
- Barnett, Jonathan. "Urban Design as Part of the Governmental Process." *Architectural Record* (January 1970): 131-50.
- Dorfles, Gillo. *L'architettura moderna*. 5. Milano: Garzanti, 1972.
- Kepes, György, ed., *Arts of the Environment*. New York: Braziller, 1972.
- Blake, Peter, Giancarlo De Carlo, and Jim M. Richards, eds. *L'architettura degli anni Settanta*. Milano: Il Saggiatore, 1973.
- Zevi, Bruno. *Il linguaggio moderno dell'architettura: guida al codice anticlassico*. Torino: Einaudi, 1973.

## APPENDIX I

- De Momi, Paolo. "Frederick Kiesler." *Casabella* 39, no. 407 (November 1975): 26–31.
- Tafuri, Manfredo and Francesco Dal Co. *Architettura contemporanea*. Milano: Electa, 1976.
- Banham, Reyner. *Megastructure: Urban Futures of the Recent Past. Le Tentazioni Dell'architettura. Megastrutture*. Londra: Thames and Hudson, 1978.
- Tafuri, Manfredo. *Storia dell'architettura italiana, 1944-1985*. Torino: Einaudi, 1982.
- Brunetti, Fabrizio, Paola Signori, and Maria Coli Brunetti. *L'architettura in Italia negli anni della ricostruzione*. Firenze: Alinea, 1986.
- Ciucci, Giorgio, and Francesco Dal Co. *Architettura italiana del Novecento*. Milano: Banco Ambrosiano Veneto: Electa, 1990.
- Brunetti, Fabrizio, and Paola Signori. *Momenti di architettura italiana contemporanea*. Firenze: Alinea, 1990.
- Belluzzi, Amedeo, and Claudia Conforti. *Architettura Italiana 1944-1994*. Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1994.
- Dezzi Bardeschi, Marco. "Kiesler, La Scuola Fiorentina e La Curvatura Del Mondo." *Ananke*, no. 14 (June 1996): 63–81.
- Casciato, Maristella "Wright and Italy. The Promise of Organic Architecture", in *Frank Lloyd Wright. Europe and Beyond*, edited by Anthony Alfonsin, 76-99, 231-241. Berkeley-Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1999.
- Lehmann, Federica and Augusto Rossari, *Wright e l'Italia 1910-1960*. Milano: UNICOPLI, 1999.
- Scrivano, Paolo. *Olivetti Builds*. Milano: Skira Editore, 2001.
- Kentgens-Craig, Margaret. *The Bauhaus and America. First Contacts 1919-1936*. Cambridge-MA, MIT Press, 2001.
- Conforti, Claudia, Roberto Dulio, and Marzia Marandola. *Giovanni Michelucci (1891-1990)*. Milano: Electa, 2006.
- Dulio, Roberto. *Introduzione a Bruno Zevi*. Roma [etc.]: GLF editori Laterza, 2008.
- Koenig, Giovanni Klaus, and Barbara Puggioni. *L'invecchiamento dell'architettura moderna ed altre dodici note*. 3. Firenze: Libreria Editrice Fiorentina, 2008.
- Vale, Lawrence J.. *Changing Cities: 75 Years of Planning Better Futures at MIT*. SA+P Press, 2008.
- Bradbury, Dominic. *Le cento case del secolo*. Milano: Electa, 2009.

## Bibliography

De Falco, Carolina, and Leonardo Savioli. *Leonardo Savioli: ipotesi di spazio: dalla "casa abitata" al "frammento di città."* Firenze: Edifir, 2012.

Scrivano, Paolo. *Building Transatlantic Italy: Architectural Dialogues with Postwar America.* Londra: Routledge, 2013.

Fabbrizzi, Fabio. *Giovanni Michelucci. Lo spazio che accoglie.* Firenze: Edifir, 2015.

Ferri, Michela Beatrice. "Enzo Paci in Dialogo Con l'architettura. La Collaborazione e l'amicizia Tra Enzo Paci e Ernesto Nathan Rogers." *Eikasia* (April 2016): 131-139.

Ryan, Brent D, *The Largest Art: a measured manifesto for a plural urbanism.* Cambridge-MA: MIT Press, 2017.

Aviles, Pep. "Pietro Belluschi and György Kepes. Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Cambridge MA USA 1951-1965," *Radical Pedagogies* A08, (2018).

Massa, Silvia, and Elena Pontelli. eds. "*Mostre permanenti*": *Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti in un secolo di esposizioni.* Lucca: Lucca Edizioni Fondazione Ragghianti Studi sull'arte Lucca, 2018.

## APPENDIX I

### BIBLIOGRAPHY BY LEONARDO RICCI

- Ricci, Leonardo. "Leonardo Ricci du 28 avril au 12 mai 1950. Conference par l'artiste le 28 avril à 20 h 30." Galérie Pierre 2, rue des Beaux-Arts, Paris 6°.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Confessione." *Architetti*, no. 3 (August, 1950): 29-32.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Leonardo Ricci." *La voce del Lavoratore* (February, 1951).
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Michelucci attraverso un suo lavoro." *Architetti*, no. 18-19 (April, 1953): 13-18.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "La pittura come linguaggio." *Numero*, no. 6 (December, 1953): 16/20.
- Ricci, Leonardo, and Fiamma Vigo. "Numero. La Cava. Mostra internazionale all'aperto di arti plastiche organizzata da 'Numero' con la partecipazione dell'architetto Leonardo Ricci, catalogo della mostra (Firenze Monterinaldi, 24 settembre-30 novembre 1955). Catalogo della mostra." Firenze, 1955.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Presentazione dello spettacolo nel Catalogo del 2 F estival de la Danse organis  par la Municipalit  le Comit  des F tes et le Casino de la Ville d'Aix-des-Bains, Premi re representation de plein aire en France "L'Orfeo" de Monteverdi." 6 ottobre 1955.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Habitation pr s de Florence." *Aujourd'hui, art et architecture*, no. 5 (November, 1955): 32-33.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Educazione al disegno industriale in Italia." *Stile industria: disegno industriale, grafica, imballaggio*, no. 8 (October, 1956): 23-24, 49.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Il quartiere   l'uomo moderno." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, June, 1957.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Space in Architecture: the visual image of environment." 244 - *Journal of University of Manchester architectural and planning society*, no. 7 (Winter -1957 1956): 7-11.
- Ricci, Leonardo. (intervento) in Il Convegno dell'I.N.O.U. a Lucca, *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936*, no. 12 (December, 1957): 5-7.
- Ricci, Leonardo, and Gillo Dorfles. "A Monterinaldi, presso Firenze: un centro di quindici case." *Domus*, no. 337 (December, 1957): 1-12.

## Bibliography

- Ricci, Leonardo. "Il vecchio e il nuovo." in *La Nuova Città in Discussione sulla difesa dei centri storici di Giovanni Michelucci, Leonardo Savioli, Leonardo Ricci, Emilio Isotta*, 1958.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "La casa di Elisabeth Mann Borgese a Forte dei Marmi." *Architettura*, no. 41 (1959): 739-45.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Una lettera di Leonardo Ricci." *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936*, no. 1-2 (February, 1959): 6.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Points of view. New look on the hills near Florence." *Zodiac* 4 (April, 1959): 10,11, 68-117.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Casa all'isola d'Elba." *Domus*, no. 354 (May, 1959): 21, 22.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Progetto per il mercato dei fiori a Sanremo." *Domus*, no. 354 (May, 1959): 21, 22, 51.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Scritto-manifesto per la mostra 'La Cava'." *Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 57 (July, 1960): 188.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Ricordo di Saarinen." *Architetti d'oggi*, no. 4 (September, 1961): 8.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Anonymous (XXth century)*. New York: George Braziller, 1962.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "L'uomo Michelucci, dalla casa Valiani alla Chiesa dell'Autostrada del Sole." *Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 76 (February, 1962): 664-67.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Morandi*. Roma: De Luca, 1963.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Progetto per il villaggio Monte degli Ulivi a Riesi, Sicilia." *Edilizia Moderna*, no. 82-83 (June, 1963): 116-18.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Nascita di un villaggio per una nuova comunità, in Sicilia." *Domus*, no. 409 (December, 1963): 5-13.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Problemi per una nuova maggioranza." *Casabella Continuità*. 287 (May, 1964): 60.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Ville a Monterinaldi, presso Firenze, di Leonardo Ricci, Villa all'Isola d'Elba, di Leonardo Ricci." *Casabella Continuità*, no. 291 (September, 1964): 36-38.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Anonimo del 20. secolo*. Milano: Il Saggiatore, 1965.
- Ricci, Leonardo. Masini Lara Vinca, Dezzi Bardeschi Marco, eds., *Prima Triennale Itinerante d'Architettura Italiana Contemporanea*. Firenze: Centro Proposte, 1965.

## APPENDIX I

- Ricci, Leonardo. "Uno spazio vivibile per due persone." *Domus*, no. 426 (1965): 31-55.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Leonardo Ricci." *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 119 (March, 1965): 59.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Pour une prise de conscience des nouveaux problèmes de l'habitat." *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no. 35 (120) (May, 1965): XI.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Form, the tangible expression of a reality." In *The man-made object*, edited by György Kepes. New York: George Braziller, 1966.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Idee di architettura." *Documenti di numero*, no. 5 (February, 1966).
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Ricci Leonardo: studio di 'Ecclesia' per un villaggio presso Riesi. Schizzi." *Chiesa e Quartiere: quaderni trimestrali*, no. 37 (March 1966): 40.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Birth of a Village in an Underdeveloped Area by Leonardo Ricci, Architect." *Arts and Architecture*, no. 9, no. 83 (October 1966): 8-11.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Exploratory research in urban form and the future of Florence." *Arts and Architecture*, no. 2 (84) (February, 1967): 25, 32-34.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Ricerche per una città non alienata." *Linea-struttura, rassegna trimestrale di Architettura Arti Visive Design*, no. 1-2 (March, 1967): 39-51.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Messaggio di fraternità e di speranza." *Chiesa e quartiere: quaderni trimestrali*, no. 44 (December, 1967): 18-21.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Aree non urbane e sistema di parchi nella regione toscana*. Firenze: CLUSF, 1972.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Architetto: per quale società?." *Casabella*, no. 384 (December, 1973): 2-3.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Aspetti degli squilibri del territorio toscano in relazione alle tendenze di sviluppo del paese: problema della casa, dei poli terziari e dei fasce infrastrutturali*. Firenze: Rotografica Fiorentina, 1974.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "'New Towns' a scala territoriale." *Spazio e società*, no. 3 (March, 1976): 73-81.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Perchè continuiamo a fare arte?* Bologna: Cappelli, 1977.
- Ricci, Leonardo, (et alii). *Area del cuoio. Ipotesi di piano comprensoriale*. Firenze: Tipografia Giuntina, 1977.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Parlando nel 1978*, in Carlo Doglio, Paola Venturi, *La pianificazione organica come piano della vita?*

## Bibliography

Padova: Cedam, 1979.

- Ricci, Leonardo, and Achille Castiglioni. "La Mostra "dal design all'habitat alla fiera del levante à Bari. / L'exposition 'du design à l'habitat', à la foire du levant à Bari." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 316 (February, 1982): 115-22.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "La Terza Porta. Mostra del progetto per l'area del Parterre Prof. Arch. Leonardo Ricci (Catalogo della mostra)." Comune di Firenze. Assessorato all'urbanistica, 1983.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Leonardo Ricci: un architetto." *Archi & Colonne*. 1, no. 2 (April, 1985): 31-36.
- Ricci, Leonardo. *Il Palazzo di Giustizia di Savona*. Firenze: Centro Di, 1987.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Strutture-forma per un'idea sacrale della giustizia. Il Palazzo di Giustizia di Savona: architetto Leonardo Ricci con Maria Grazia Dallerba Ricci." *Architettura: cronache e storia* 34, no. 2 (388) (February, 1988): 86-119.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Il Palazzo di Giustizia di Savona. Note." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.2 (February, 1988): 116-19.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Il palazzo di giustizia di Savona = The Savona law courts." *L'Arca*, no. 16 (May, 1988): 78-85.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Lo spazio cuce e differenzia gli involucri e la vita: quattro esempi di edilizia residenziale." *Architettura. cronache e storia*. 36, no. 3 (413) (March, 1990): 175-93.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Uno spazio per segnali nuovi." In *Leonardo Ricci. Testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*, edited by Antonio Nardi, Pistoia: Edizioni del Comune di Pistoia, 1990.
- Ricci, Leonardo. "Palazzo di Giustizia a Novoli." *Zodiac*, no. 5 (March, 1995): 203.

## APPENDIX I

### BIBLIOGRAPHY ABOUT LEONARDO RICCI

- Grossato, Lucio. "Il Pittore Leonardo Ricci." *Il Bo'*, no.5 (May 15, 1938).
- Morro, Clément. "Leonardo Ricci." *Revue Moderne illustrée des artes et de la vie*, no.15 (September 13, 1938).
- "A Palazzo Gerini." *Il Nuovo Giornale*, October 28, 1941.
- "L'inaugurazione del Centro Didattico Internazionale." *La Nazione*, October 29, 1941.
- Pescetti, Luigi. "Compiti e aspetti del Centro Didattico Internazionale." *Il Corriere del Tirreno*, October 30, 1941.
- Bargellini, Piero. "I Collegi." *La Scuola*, March 1942.
- Cancogni, Manlio. "Il Cimitero dei Partigiani a Settignano." *Il Nuovo Giornale*, August 11, 1944.
- Michelucci, Giovanni. "Dei ponti." *Il Mondo*, February 7, 1945.
- "Il Ponte della Vittoria. Un concorso di secondo grado fra i primi tre progetti scelti." *Il Corriere*, February 28, 1945.
- "Il Ponte della Vittoria. Tre progetti prescelti per un concorso di secondo grado." *La Nazione del Popolo*, February 28, 1945.
- "Il Ponte della Vittoria. Considerazioni su di un concorso." *La Nazione*, March 10, 1945.
- "Il Ponte della Vittoria." *L'Arno*, March 11, 1945.
- "Per il Ponte della Vittoria. Altre considerazioni." *La Nazione*, March 12, 1945.
- "Concorso per il Ponte della Vittoria. Postilla ad alcune considerazioni." *La Nazione*, March 16, 1945.
- "Il Concorso del Ponte." *La Nazione del Popolo*, March 29, 1945.
- "Il cittadino che protesta." *Radio Firenze*, April 3, 1945.
- Salvini, Roberto. "Il Concorso del Ponte. Un problema urbanistico." *La Nazione del Popolo*, April 5, 1945.

## Bibliography

- Chiarielli, Renzo. "Il Concorso del ponte. Considerazioni sui progetti." *La Nazione*, April 10, 1945.
- Annigoni, Pietro. "Discussioni sul ponte. Un curioso fenomeno." *La Nazione del Popolo*, April 11, 1945.
- "Le decisioni della Commissione Giudicatrice nel Concorso per il Ponte alla Carraia. Il progetto prescelto." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, July 9, 1945.
- Dorfles, Gillo. "Rifare i Ponti di Firenze." *L'Illustrazione Italiana*, November 1945.
- Chiarielli, Renzo. "Problemi della ricostruzione. Urbanismo di due piccoli centri: Vicchio e Dicomano." *Emporium*, no.617 (1946): 242-44.
- De Lorro, Berto. "La Mostra dei progetti per il Ponte alla Carraia." *La Nazione*, February 20, 1946.
- Scudieri, Paolo. "Il Concorso per il Ponte alla Carraia. L'esposizione dei progetti in Palazzo Vecchio." *La Patria*, February 21, 1946.
- "Il Ponte alla Carraia." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, February 26, 1946.
- "La Ricostruzione edilizia ampiamente discussa al C.O.S." *La Nazione del Popolo*, May 7, 1946.
- Letterio, Donato. "La Mostra dei plastici per il Ponte alla Carraia." *La Nazione del Popolo*, July 6, 1946.
- "Il progetto vincitore nel concorso per il Ponte alla Carraia." *La Nazione*, July 9, 1946.
- "Il Progetto vincitore per il Ponte alla Carraia." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, July 10, 1946.
- "La Mostra dei progetti per il Ponte alle Grazie." *La Nazione del Popolo*, August 4, 1946.
- "Venti Ponti." *La Patria*, August 25, 1946.
- "RICOSTRUIRE le nostre città che la guerra ha disfatto - Lasciare testimonianza dei tempi nostri." *La Montagna*, November 15, 1946.
- "I plastici per il Ponte alle Grazie." *La Nazione del Popolo*, November 16, 1946.
- "The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine." *Town of Love*, September 13, 1947.
- Papini, Roberto. "Orientamenti di architetti, di artigiani e d'altro." *Stile*, no.9-10-11-12 (1947): 11-13.
- Piccinato, Luigi. "Ricostruire Firenze." *Metron*, no.16 (1947): 8, 13-16, 21-24, 29-32.

## APPENDIX I

- Paschoud, G. "VAINCRE J.A. Lausanne." *L'homme Qui a Su Idée*, no. 10 (November 1947).
- Giannelli, Silvano. "Prime impressioni sui progetti di Firenze nuova." *La Patria*, January 10, 1947.
- Rossi, Enzo. "Il campo sportivo pur rimanendo tale diverrebbe la zona scoperta del parco cittadino." *Il Messaggero di Roma*, January 12, 1947.
- "I progetti per la sistemazione dell'ex-Piazza d'Armi." *Il Messaggero di Roma*, L. C. 18 C. - M. - P. 777 - B. S. 48 "Colle della Luna" e "San Francesco", January 11, 1947.
- "L'esito Del Concorso per La Sistemazione Di Piazza d'armi." *La Nazione Del Popolo*, January 23, 1947.
- "L'esito del concorso per la Ricostruzione di Firenze." *La Nazione del Popolo*, January 23, 1947.
- Bigongiari, Piero. "La Ricostruzione del Centro di Firenze. I Progetti esposti a Santo Stefano." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, January 26, 1947.
- Settala, Giorgio. "Ricostruzione della Zona di Ponte Vecchio. La Mostra dei progetti a Santo Stefano." *La Difesa*, January 31, 1947.
- Crescenzi, Filippo. "Tradizione e contrasti nei progetti premiati." *Il Mattino dell'Italia Centrale*, 3 April 1947.
- "La Ricostruzione del Centro." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, April 22, 1947.
- I., G. "Vicchio, Piano di Ricostruzione di Leonardo Ricci." *Associazione Toscana Architetti*, no.3-4-5 (May 1947).
- Lardera, Berto. "La Nuova Firenze attorno al Ponte Vecchio." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, May 8, 1947.
- "Come verrà ricostruito il Centro di Firenze." *Il Mondo Europeo*, May 25, 1947.
- "La Mostra dell'Artigianato." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, September 11, 1947.
- "Il Ponte alla Carraia verrà ricostruito prestissimo." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, September 26, 1947.
- "Il Nuovo Ponte alla Carraia." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, September 28, 1947.
- Venturini, Renato. "Mostra film A II." *Il Pomeriggio*, October 1, 1947.
- "Linee e caratteristiche del nuovo Ponte alla Carraia." *Il Pomeriggio*, October 23, 1947.
- "Agape rjeser Sieg." *Kirkens front*, May 1948.

## Bibliography

- “Imminente inizio dei lavori per la ricostruzione del Ponte alla Carraia.” *Il Mattino*, June 15, 1948.
- Ponti, Gio. “Visto per la vostra casa fra le produzioni artigianali esposte alla XII Mostra-Mercato di Firenze 3.” *Domus*, no.228 (September 1948): 27–33.
- “Caratteristiche di un progetto architettonico in uno scenario luminoso. Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia.” *Il Nuovo Corriere*, February 13, 1949.
- “La Piazza dei fiori. L’erigendo mercato e le case che gli faranno corona.” *La Nazione Italiana*, February 13, 1949.
- “Il Mercato dei fiori. Cinque fiorentini vincono il Concorso di Pescia.” *La Nazione Italiana*, February 13, 1949.
- “Schweizer Illustrierte Zeitung.” *Agapé. Das Dorf Des Gutes Villens*, no. 8 (February 23, 1949).
- “Le Camp d’Agapé.” *L’Illustrée. Revue Hebdomadaire Suisse*, no.23 (June 9, 1949).
- “In Italie word teen huis der liefde gebouwd.” *Der hervormde Kerke*, October 15, 1949.
- “Al ‘Fiore’.” *Il Mattino dell’Italia Centrale*, December 11, 1949.
- “Pittura nuova di Leonardo Ricci.” *Pomeriggio*, December 15, 1949.
- “Notizie poco confortanti per il Progetto del Ponte alla Carraia.” *La Nazione Italiana*, December 22, 1949.
- Basevi, Gianna. “Ricci.” *La Nazione Italiana*, December 23, 1949.
- “Leonardo Ricci al ‘Fiore’.” *Nuovo Corriere dell’Italia Centrale*, December 23, 1949.
- Savioli, Leonardo. “Concorso per la sistemazione dell’ex piazza d’armi a Perugia.” *Architetti*, no.2 (1950): 22–28.
- “Leonardo Ricci.” *L’Ultime*, no.52 (1950).
- “Un demi-siècle d’art italien.” *Cahiers d’art*, no.1 (1950).
- “Esposizione di Leonardo Ricci.” *La Voce d’Italia*, April 25, 1950.
- “Stanze Fiorentine. Leonardo Ricci.” *L’Ultima*, no. 52 (April 25, 1950).
- “Leonardo Ricci.” *La voce d’Italia*, May 2, 1950.
- Galerie Pierre. “Leonardo Ricci.” *Arts*, May 5, 1950.

## APPENDIX I

Estienne, Charles. "Les Expositions." *L'Observateur*, May 11, 1950.

"Au Salon de Mai. Jeunesse Perpetuelle de La Peinture." *Le Monde*, May 12, 1950.

"Un Florentin expose à Paris des oeuvres d'une étrange indépendance." *V*, May 28, 1950.

Grazzini, Giovanni. "Come Oggi La Francia 'Italianizza'. L'interesse c'è: Bisogna Aumentarlo." *La Nazione*, June 13, 1950.

"Piano di ricostruzione d'Oltrarno." *Il Nuovo Corriere*, June 21, 1950.

"Le ricostruzioni attorno al Ponte Vecchio. Quali sarebbero le modifiche al definitivo progetto per l'Oltrarno." *La Nazione Italiana*, June 27, 1950.

"Destinata alla Germania. Interessante rassegna di pittori contemporanei." *La Nazione Italiana*, October 29, 1950.

Neumann, Giorgio. "Die Entwicklung Des Stahlbetonbaues in Italien." *Bau-Zeitung*, Vienna 1951.

Musco, G. "La Ricostruzione nella zona di Ponte Vecchio." *Firenze. Rassegne del Comune 1944-1951*, 1951.

Leschiutta, E. "I ponti sull'Arno." *Firenze. Rassegne del Comune 1944-1951*, 1951.

Papini, Roberto. "Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia." *La Nazione Italiana*, January 21, 1951.

"L'exposition national 'Prix du Florin'." *Arts*, June 1, 1951.

"Inaugurato a Pescia il nuovo mercato ortoflorofrutticolo." *La Nazione Italiana*, June 4, 1951.

Faraci, Giuseppe. "Un'oasi di pace a Prali per giovani di tutto il mondo." *La Nuova Stampa*, August 8, 1951.

Caballo, Ernesto. "Al sommo di Val Germanasca in una conca luminosa è nato Agàpe il villaggio destinato al servizio di Dio." *Gazzetta Sera*, August 13, 1951.

Tomaselli, Cesco. "Attuata dai "comunitari" di Agàpe una nuova concezione del lavoro." *Il Corriere della Sera*, August 14, 1951.

Giannelli, Silvano. "Scampato il "pericolo di morte" per la giovane pittura italiana." *Il Mattino dell'Italia Centrale*, August 17, 1951.

Tabellini, Giuseppe. "Per costruire un Villaggio della Pace si muovono perfino le attrici del cinema da Hollywood ai monti piemontesi." *Il Corriere della Sera*, August 18, 1951.

## Bibliography

- C., T. "Nascita Di Agape. Un'opera Di Alta Fraternità Attuata Col Lavoro Volontario." *Il Corriere Della Sera*, August 18, 1951.
- "Agapé." *Réforme*, August 25, 1951.
- "I Rassegna di pittura fiorentina contemporanea." *Numero. Arte e Letteratura*, August 23, 1951.
- "Village of love." *Time. The weekly new magazine*, no.27 (August 1951).
- Cuccioli, Carlo. "4 Pittori Fiorentini al Secondo Premio Sassari Fanno La Vera Arte Perché Hanno Qualcosa Da Dire." *L'Unione Sarda*, September 1, 1951
- Villalonga, A. "Mercado de legumbres, flores y frutas en Pescia, Italia, Y.E. Gori, G. Gori, L. Ricci and L. Savioli, archt.; Mercado general y de exportación de frutas y legumbres en Arezzo, Franco Carpanelli, archt.; Mercado cubierto en Riccione, Italy, B. Travaglini, archt." *Revista de Arquitectura (Buenos Aires)*. 35, no.345 (September 1951): 291-98.
- Ciprandi, P.M. "Un Villaggio Sulle Alpi per i Giovani Di Tutte Le Confessioni." *Paese Sera*, September 7, 1951.
- Krampen, Martin. "'Agape' - Das Dorf Ohne Mauern." *Der Weg*, December 1, 1951.
- "Return of the prodigal son." *Art Digest*, XXVI, no.26 (1952).
- "Agape stedet bygget au sten og kjaerlighet." *Kristen Ungdom*, no.20 (1952).
- "Conclusa in Boboli la 'IV Alta Moda'." *La Nazione Italiana*, July 26, 1952.
- Savioli, Leonardo. "Una casa sulla collina a nord di Firenze." *Architetti*, no.15 (August 1952): 11-22.
- Russo, F. "Il Prof. L. Ricci Della Cattedra Di Architettura Di Firenze Conclude Il Giro d'osservazione Negli S.U." *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, December 14, 1952.
- Deti, Edoardo. "Le distruzioni e la ricostruzione." *Urbanistica*, no.12 (1953): 43-70.
- "Mostre d'Arte. Leonardo Ricci." *La Nazione Italiana*, April 21, 1953.
- Colacicchi, Giovanni. "Tutte le tendenze pittoriche riunite quest'anno al 'Fiorino'." *La Nazione Italiana*, April 22, 1953.
- "Mostre d'Arte. Ricci." *Il Mattino dell'Italia Centrale*, April 25, 1953.
- G.G.S. "Danze." *Settimo Giorno - Settimanale Di Attualità Politica e Varietà*, August 8, 1953.

## APPENDIX I

- “Premio del Fiorino.” *Nazione Sera*, September 29, 1953.
- “Vive con le stelle nello spazio l’umanissima casa di un architetto-pittore.” *Il Mattino dell’Italia Centrale*, September 29, 1953.
- “L’esito del Concorso per il risanamento di San Frediano.” *Il Nuovo Corriere. La Gazzetta*, November 4, 1953.
- Zevi, Bruno. *Bilancio Italiano 1944-1954. Alla ricerca di un realismo per l’occidente. Architettura italiana del dopoguerra/Gusto della mediocrità lussuosa, Italicum post bellum/In attivo malgrado la bancarotta statale*, in *Cronache di Architettura*, Vol. I. Bari: Laterza, 1954.
- Nestler, Paolo. *Neuesbauen in Italien: Architettura moderna in Italia*. Munchen: Callwey, 1954.
- Smith, Kidder George Everard. *Italy builds*, Milano: Edizioni Comunità, 1954.
- Savioli, Leonardo. “Case minime a Firenze.” *Urbanistica*, no.14 (1954): 106-9.
- Piccinato, Luigi, and M. Visentini. “Significato urbanistico del concorso.” *Urbanistica*, no.14 (1954): 65-84.
- “Presentazione del mercato dei fiori a Pescia.” *Architectural Forum*, no.7 (1954).
- “Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia.” *Architetti*, no.20 (1954).
- “Cinque fiorentini premiati all’Esposizione internazionale di architettura a San Paolo in Brasile.” *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell’anno 1936*, no.4 (1954).
- Musatti, R. “Mercato a Pescia.” *Tecnica e organizzazione*, no.14 (1954): 39-43.
- “Deuxième Biennale d’architecture de Sao-Paulo. Les Prix.” *L’architecture d’aujourd’hui*, no.52 (June-February 1954).
- “Premio dal Brasile a cinque fiorentini.” *La Nazione Italiana*, January 29, 1954.
- “Premiati a San Paolo gli architetti del Mercato dei fiori di Pescia.” *Il Giornale del Mattino*, January 29, 1954.
- “I premi della II esposizione internazionale di architettura, alla II Biennale del Museo d’Arte Moderna di San Paolo.” *Domus*, no.291 (February 1954): 43.
- “Un nuovo quartiere residenziale sulla collina fra Castello e Quinto.” *Il Nuovo Corriere - La Gazzetta*, June 10, 1954.
- “V Congresso Nazionale di Urbanistica. Sguardo a tre Mostre Edilizie.” *Il Cantiere Mercantile*, October 15, 1954.

## Bibliography

“I vincitori dei Premi Napoli.” *La Nazione Italiana*, November 4, 1954.

“Il ‘Fiorino per l’Architettura’. Cinque nuovi edifici concorreranno al premio.” *La Nazione Italiana*, November 12, 1954.

Giannelli, Silvano. “Cinque edifici fiorentini in gara per il «Fiorino» dell’Architettura.” *Il Giornale del Mattino*, November 21, 1954.

De Sanctis, D. “Villa sulla collina a Firenze.” *Rassegna critica di architettura*, 6, no.31-32 (December 1954): 49-51.

Colacicchi, Giovanni. “Hanno paura dell’ornato gli architetti del Novecento.” *La Nazione Italiana*, December 4, 1954.

Smith, Kidder George Everard. *L’Italia costruisce: sua architettura moderna e sua eredità indigena*. Milano: Edizioni Comunità, 1955.

Vigo, Fiamma. “Numero. La Cava. Mostra internazionale all’aperto di arti plastiche organizzata da “Numero” con la partecipazione dell’architetto Leonardo Ricci, catalogo della mostra (Firenze Monterinaldi, 24 September-30 November 1955)”. Firenze, 1955.

Cetica, Angelo. “Concorso per la sistemazione urbanistica del quartiere di San Frediano.” *La Regione*, no.4-5 (1955): 30-40.

“Les responsables du Festival international de la danse d’Aix-le-Bains ont tenu une journée d’études.” *Le Dauphiné Libéré*, May 10, 1955.

Planche, Henry. “Léonardo Ricci prepare le festival d’Aix-les-Bains.” *Le Progres*, June 4, 1955.

“Decors pour ‘l’Orpheo’.” *Echo Liberté*, July 30, 1955.

“Point culminant du Festival d’Aix-les-Bains, la résurrection après trois siècles d’oubli de ‘l’Orpheo’ de Monteverdi est l’événement musical de ces 25 dernières années Lachat, R. L.” *Le Dauphiné Libéré*, August 4, 1955.

Dreyfus, Paul. “Le Festival d’Aix-les-Bains doit triompher ce soir en créant, après tres siècles et demi d’oubli ‘l’Orpheo’ de Monteverdi.” *Le Dauphiné Libéré*, August 6, 1955.

Boutron, Michel. “Le Festival International de la Danse d’Aix-des-Bains.” *Echo Liberté*, August 8, 1955.

Boutron, Michel. “Autres Impressions sur l’”Orfeo” de Monteverdi.” *Echo Liberté*, August 8, 1955.

## APPENDIX I

“AIX-LES-BAINS: smokings et imperméables pour applaudir l’Orfeo, de Monteverdi.” *L’Aurore*, August 8, 1955.

“L’Ancêtre des Opéras triomphe à Aix-les-Bains.” *Combat*, August 8, 1955.

Planche, Henry. “Le Festival d’Aix-des-Bains par l’image.” *Le Dauphiné Libéré*, August 8, 1955.

“Un grand événement musical a Aix-les-Bains. Création de ‘l’Orfeo’ de Monteverdi.” *Le Progres*, August 8, 1955.

“A Aix-les-Bains accueil très favorable avec mouvements divers de l’Orfeo de Monteverdi.” *L’Information*, August 9, 1955.

“Dernière images du Festival d’Aix-les-Bains. Après l’Orfeo.” *Le Dauphiné Libéré*, August 9, 1955.

“En marge du Festival de danse a Aix-les-Bains quelques minutes avec Gisèle Casadessus.” *Le Progres*, August 9, 1955.

Hirsch, Nicole. “Présentation révolutionnaire de l’Orfeo de Monteverdi.” *France soir*, August 9, 1955.

“L’Orfeo de Monteverdi ancêtre de tous les opéras point final du festival d’Aix-les-Bains.” *Le Monde*, August 9, 1955.

Arhan, Dominique. “Un Soleil Grec En Savoie: ‘Orfeo’.” *Le Figaro Littéraire*, August 13, 1955.

Venturi, Lionello. “Una Vetrata per San Domenico.” *L’Espresso*, October 30, 1955.

“Habitation près de Florence.” *Aujourd’hui, art et architecture* 1, no.5 (November 1955): 30–33.

Colacicchi, Giovanni. “Un esperimento di grande valore a Firenze. Arte all’aperto.” *La Nazione Italiana*, November 1, 1955.

“Progetti premiati per il risanamento d’Oltrarno.” *Il Giornale del Mattino*, November 4, 1955.

“Il risanamento di San Frediano.” *Nazione Sera*, November 7, 1955.

“Vom Museum zum Bauplatz. Ein Prototyp moderner Architektur in Italien.” *Der Galler Tagblatt*, December 2, 1955.

Dorfles, Gillo. “Una mostra all’aperto di arti plastiche.” *Domus*, no.313 (December 1955): 61, 64.

Dorfles, Gillo. *L’architettura moderna: serve saper tutto*. Milano: Garzanti, 1956.

## Bibliography

- Rogers, Ernesto Nathan. "Il mercato dei fiori a Pescia." *Casabella-continuità*, no.209 (February 1956): 28-33.
- Rashe, Friedrich. "Ein Haus am Monte Rinaldi." *Feuilleton*, no.205 (Sonnabend/Sonntag), no.1/2 (1956).
- Race, Eden. "Leonardo Ricci, an architect of Florence." *Architecture and Building*, August 1956, 296-302.
- "Con l'attuazione del Piano Regolatore, discusso martedì al consiglio comunale Albissola diventerà il più moderno centro turistico della nostra riviera." *L'Unità*, August 9, 1956.
- "Grandioso e moderno progetto urbanistico. Il Piano Regolatore di Albisola farà sorgere un centro incantevole." *Il Lavoro Nuovo*, August 9, 1956.
- "Proclamati a Napoli i vincitori dei premi per la letteratura e l'arte." *Il Mattino*, November 4, 1956.
- "Nell'aula De Sanctis dell'Università La solenne cerimonia della consegna dei 'Premi Napoli'." *Il Mattino*, November 12, 1956.
- "Note su Piano di Ricostruzione di Firenze." *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936*, no.12 (December 1956).
- XI Triennale di Milano. Esposizione Internazionale delle arti decorative e industriali moderne e dell'architettura moderna. Catalogo della mostra.* Milano: Palazzo dell'arte al Parco, 1957.
- "Villa a Beverly Hills in California. Casa Fattirolli a Poggio Gherardo. Case Betti a Lipari." *La Provincia e il Comune*, no.1 (1957).
- Trapani, Enzo. "Alcuni progetti di Leonardo Ricci. Villa a Beverly Hills in California. Casa Fattirolli a Poggio Gherardo. Casa Betti a Lipari." *Il Tecnico de: la Provincia e il Comune*, no.1 (February 1957): 13-17.
- "Firenze ha bisogno di Sorgane per essere più bella." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, February 20, 1957.
- Michelucci, Giovanni. "Una lettera del Prof. Giovanni Michelucci. Non sono argomenti validi quelli dei 'critici' di Sorgane." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, February 24, 1957.
- "Le marché aux fleurs à Pescia. Italie." *Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no.70 (March 1957): 78-79.
- "All'invito dei progettisti di Sorgane replicano le personalità della cultura." *La Nazione Italiana*, March 20, 1957.
- Cecchi, Ottavio. "Firenze indecisa: verso est o verso ovest?" *Il Contemporaneo*, May 25, 1957.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Sette accusati a Firenze." *L'Espresso*, June 23, 1957.

## APPENDIX I

- Michelucci, Giovanni. "Sorgane. Quartiere autosufficiente." *Edilizia popolare*, no.16 (June 1957): 8-12.
- Astengo, Giovanni. "Firenze: la polemica per Sorgane." *Urbanistica*, no.22 (July 1957): 2-8.
- Lattes, Wanda. "É nata a Poggio d'Elba senza trucchi la casa che vola." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, November 10, 1957.
- Dorfles, Gillo. "A Monterinaldi, presso Firenze: un centro di quindici case." *Domus*, no.337 (December 1957): 1-12.
- Rosadoni, Luigi. "Architettura Moderna per Una Vita Integrale." *Il Popolo*, January 3, 1958.
- Venturi, Lionello. *Leonardo Ricci. Catalogo della mostra*. Galleria La Bussola. Roma, 1958.
- "Palast im Steinbruch." *Der Standpunkt*, January 20, 1958.
- Giannelli, Silvano. "Il vecchio e il nuovo mirabilmente fusi nell'architettura fiorentina. La città dal cuore di pietra serena." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, January 23, 1958.
- Argan, Giulio Carlo and Ernesto Nathan Rogers. "Dibattito su alcuni argomenti morali dell'architettura." *Casabella Continuità*, no.209 (February 1958): 28-30.
- Koenig, Giovanni Klaus. "Leonardo Ricci e la 'casa teorica' (alla ricerca di un nuovo spazio architettonico)." *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936*, no.7-8 (August 1958): 3-12.
- Zevi, Bruno. "La casa transatlantico di Elisabeth Mann." *L'Espresso*, November 9, 1958.
- "Modifiche al progetto di Sorgane in una riunione romana ad alto livello." *La Nazione Italiana*, November 28, 1958.
- Venturi, Lionello. "The new painting and sculpture. The emergence of abstraction." *An Atlantic Monthly Supplement*, December 1958.
- Dezzi Bardeschi, Marco. "Aspetti dell'architettura toscana d'oggi." *Bollettino Tecnico - Rassegna bimestrale fondata nell'anno 1936*, no.11-12 (December 1958): 9-13.
- Caron, Robert. "Le Couturier Pierre Balmain Se Fait Construire Une Chaurmière En Marbre." *Paris-Presse-'intransigeant*, 1959.
- Aloi, Roberto. "Mercato dei fiori a Pescia." In *Mercati e Negozi*, edited by Roberto Aloi. Milano: Hoepli, 1959.

## Bibliography

- Vettori, Vittorio. "Legata al Nome Di Thomas Mann La Villa Più Moderna Del Forte." *Il Tirreno*, February 25, 1959.
- Mann Borgese, Elizabeth. "La Casa di Elisabeth Mann Borgese a Forte dei Marmi." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia* 41, no.11 (March 1959): 738-45.
- Kilbracken, Lord. "The House That Fashion Builds." *Daily Express*, April 1959.
- "Il progetto del nuovo mercato dei fiori." *Il Lavoro Nuovo*, April 19, 1959.
- "Il nuovo "centro dei fiori" pronto fra due anni a Sanremo." *La Stampa*, April 19, 1959.
- "Presentato ed illustato dai progettisti il bozzetto del nuovo 'Centro dei Fiori'." *Il Nuovo Cittadino*, April 19, 1959.
- "Progettato a Sanremo un «centro dei fiori." *Il Corriere della Sera*, April 19, 1959.
- "Scale per quindicimila. Sette scale tre ascensori." *L'Eco della Riviera*, April 19, 1959.
- "Un moderno 'Centro dei Fiori' a Sanremo." *24 Ore*, April 19, 1959.
- "Un 'Centro dei fiori' sarà costruito a Sanremo." *Secolo XIX*, April 19, 1959.
- Sanvenero, Erino. "Un Edificio Modernissimo Ospiterà Il Mercato Dei Fiori." *Gazzetta Del Popolo*, April 19, 1959.
- Sanvenero, Erino. "Il 'Centro Dei Fiori' Di Sanremo Risolverà Uno Dei Problemi Cittadini." *Gazzetta Del Popolo*, April 21, 1959.
- Beniscelli, Giannetto. "Il «Centro dei fiori» che sorgerà a Sanremo." *Il Secolo XIX*, April 21, 1959.
- Saladini di Rovetino, R. J. "Il 'Centro dei fiori' illustrato dai progettisti." *L'Eco della Riviera*, April 23, 1959.
- Olivieri, Piero. "Grandioso progetto per il centro dei fiori a Sanremo." *L'Unità*, April 24, 1959.
- Rossi, Maria. "Fiori per oltre nove miliardi ogni anno alla Riviera pel mondo." *Stampa Sera*, April 25, 1959.
- "Progetto per il mercato dei fiori a Sanremo. Casa all'Isola d'Elba." *Domus*, no.354 (May 1959): 21-24.
- "Si avvia alla realizzazione il Centro dei Fiori di Sanremo." *Il Sole*, May 8, 1959.
- Viviani, Romano. "Architetti e Architettura." *La Nazione. Numero Speciale del Centenario*, July 19, 1959.

## APPENDIX I

- Badini, Umberto. "Astrattisti in armonia con la tradizione." *La Nazione. Numero Speciale del Centenario*, July 19, 1959.
- Ekholm, Kurt. "Ny Arckitektur i Florens." *Goteborgs Handels och Sjöfartstidning*, September 18, 1959.
- Febvre-Desportes, M. A. "Beauté des maisons campagnardes: Monterinaldi près de Florence." *Meubles et décors*, October 1959.
- Ekholm, Kurt. "Ny vy i Florens." *Hufvudstadsbladet*, October 8, 1959.
- Busignani, Alberto. "Cinque Pittori Fiorentini." *Domus*, no. 360 (November 1959): 26-28.
- Boatto, Alberto. "Village Monterinaldi près de Florence, Habitation a Forte dei Marmi, Italie." *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*. 30, no.86 (November 1959): 28-32.
- Veronesi, Giulia. "Du nouveau a Florence / New look on the hills near Florence." *Zodiac*. 4 (December 1959): 10-12.
- Venturi, Lionello. *Leonardo Ricci. Catalogo della mostra alla Trabia Gallery, 29 March - 30 April 1960*. New York: Trabia Gallery, 1960.
- Joedicke, Juergen. *Storia Dell'architettura Moderna*. Firenze: Sansoni, 1960.
- Aloi, Roberto. *Ville in Italia*. Milano: Hoepli, 1960.
- Nasi, Franco. *L'architetto*. Firenze: Vallecchi, 1960.
- Benevolo, Leonardo. *Storia dell'architettura moderna*. Bari: Laterza, 1960.
- "Die Architekten unseres Heltes." *Du*, no.237 (1960).
- "Dori Christlicher lugend in Prali bei rurin." *Kunst und Kirche*, no.1 (1960).
- "Le marché aux fleurs." *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no.31 (1960).
- "Non sono basate su motivi consistenti le opposizioni al quartiere di Sòrgane." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, January 29, 1960.
- "La polemica degli oppositori di Sòrgane è degenerata nell'equivoco." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, January 31, 1960.
- "La costruzione del quartiere di Sorgane avrà inizio a March." *Il Giornale del Mattino*, February 10, 1960.

## Bibliography

- “Michelucci e i suoi collaboratori si sono rimessi all’opera.” *Il Giornale del Mattino*, February 13, 1960.
- “Una serie di falsi ha affiancato la campagna per impedire la realizzazione di Sorgane.” *Il Giornale del Mattino*, February 13, 1960.
- “Leonardo Ricci. Conjunto residencial Monterinaldi.” *Revista informes de la construccion*, no.120 (April 1960).
- Creighton, Thomas Hawk. “The Involved Man: Leonardo Ricci.” *Progressive Architecture*, no. 41 (August 1960): 144-151.
- “Leonardo Ricci a New York, Trabia Gallery march 29 through april 30, 1960.” *Domus*, no.372 (November 1960): 41.
- Smith, Kidder George Everard, *The new architecture of Europe*. Cleveland New York: World Publishing Company, 1962.
- Aloi, Roberto. *Ville nel mondo*. Milano: Hoepli, 1961.
- Lattes, Wanda. “Perchè è nata la fabbrica ‘bella’.” *Il Giornale del Mattino*, July 30, 1961.
- G.C.R. “Studio di ceramista sulla collina fiorentina.” *Architetti d’oggi*, no.4 (September 1961): 25-31.
- “Modern Man.” *Architectural Record*, no.131 (1962).
- Sheppard, E. “The villa Balmain built.” *Herald Tribune*, no.2 (March 1962).
- Valeix, D. “Anonymous (20th Century).” *L’Architecture d’aujourd’hui*, April-May 1962, 55.
- Zevi, Bruno. “Il testamento di un architetto.” *L’Espresso*, April 14, 1962.
- Zevi, Bruno. “Il vaticinio di Riegl e la Casa sulla cascata.” *L’Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.82 (August 1962): 218-19.
- Zevi, Bruno. “La poetica dell’opera aperta’.” *L’Architettura: cronache e storia*, no. 84 (October 1962): 362-63.
- Smith, Kidder George Everard. *Guida alla Nuova Architettura in Europa*. Milano: Edizioni Comunità, 1963.
- Deti, Edoardo. “Il Piano Regolatore di Firenze.” *Urbanistica*, no.39 (1963).
- Zevi, Bruno. “Il kibbutz nei feudi della mafia.” *L’Espresso*, July 14, 1963.
- Insolera, Italo. “Wright in Italia: 1921-1963.” *Comunità*. no.118 (April 1964): 48-63.

## APPENDIX I

- “Village pour une communauté nouvelle. Rieti.” *L’Architecture d’aujourd’hui*, no.34 (115) (June-July 1964): 85-89.
- Masini, Lara Vinca. “A Firenze la mostra dell’Espressionismo.” *Domus*, no.416 (July 1964): 49.
- Pedio. “In/Arch Domosic 1963.” *L’Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.106 (August 1964): 230-247.
- Masini, Lara Vinca. “Le Mostre Del ’65.” *Op. Cit.*, no. 4 (1965).
- Vagnetti, Luigi. *Il linguaggio grafico dell’architetto*. Genova: Vitali e Ghianda, 1965.
- Aloi, Roberto. *Architetture industriali contemporanee*. 2. Milano: Hoepli, 1965.
- “Architecture Italienne.” *L’Architecture d’aujourd’hui*, no.9 (1965).
- “Brief coverage of contemporary Italian architects.” *Aujourd’hui, art et architecture*, no.48 (1965).
- Dezzi Bardeschi, Marco, e Lara Vinca Masini. *Prima Triennale Itinerante di Architettura Italiana Contemporanea*. Firenze: Centro Proposte, 1965.
- Miccinesi, Mario. “Una mostra a Firenze: La casa abitata.” *Rivista dell’Arredamento*, no.130 (1965).
- Mills, W. E. “Anonymous XX Century. Review of Anonymous.” *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 1965.
- Kultermann, Udo. *New architecture in the world*. New York: Universe Books Inc., 1965.
- Masini, Lara Vinca. “Mostra della casa abitata a Firenze.” *Marcatrè*, no.16-17-18 (1965): 215-17.
- “1965. Evolution or Revolution? Italie.” *L’Architecture d’aujourd’hui*, no.11 (119) (March 1965): 59.
- Giedion, Siegfried. “A new chapter of «Space Time and Architecture: Jorn Utzon and the Third Generation.” *Zodiac*, no.14 (April 1965): 36-47, 187-92.
- Masini, Lara Vinca, and Agnoldomenico Pica. “Intenti e aspetti della mostra ‘La Casa Abitata’. Leonardo Ricci uno ‘spazio vivibile’ per due persone. La casa abitata: arredamenti di quindici architetti italiani, la mostra a Firenze, Palazzo Strozzi, dal 6 March al 2 May.” *Domus*, no.426 (May 1965): 29-56.
- Vinay, Tullio, and Giò Vinay. *Giorni a Rieti*. Torino: Claudiana, 1966.
- Arnheim, R. *Myth of the bleating lamb. Towards a psychology of art*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1966.

## Bibliography

- Tatum, G. B. "Anonymous the XX Century." *Arts and Architecture*, no.83, no.9 (1966): 9-11.
- Boaga, Giorgio and Benito Boni. *The concrete Architecture of Riccardo Morandi*. New-York-Washington: Praeger, 1966.
- Bottero, Mirco. *Italy. World Architecture 3*. New York: Viking Press, 1966.
- Lugli, Leonardo. *Giovanni Michelucci. Il pensiero e le opere*. Bologna: Patron, 1966.
- "Faculté d'architecture de Florence. Leonardo Ricci professeur." *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, no.53 (May-June, 1966): 76-77.
- "A Riesi, in Sicilia: il primo edificio del villaggio di Monte degli Ulivi, progettato da Leonardo Ricci." *Domus*, no.441 (August 1966): 6-8.
- Rossi, Sara. "Anonimo del XX secolo." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.130 (August 1966): 279.
- Santini, P.C. "Architettura a Firenze." *Ottagono oggi*, no.3 (October 1966): 30-33.
- Dallerba, Maria Grazia. "Città della terra: recherches d'urbanisme, Faculté de Florence." *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*. 36, no.128 (November 1966): 54-56.
- Morganti, P. "Anonimo del XX secolo." *Casabella*, no.311 (December 1966): 72.
- Zevi, Bruno. *Autoritratto Dell'Italia. L'Architettura Italiana e l'Esposizione Di Montréal*, edited by Umberto Eco. Milano: Bompiani, 1967.
- McCoy, Esther. *Ten Italian Architects*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1967.
- "The Architect's Expo." *Progressive Architecture*, no.47 (6) (1967).
- "Il Padiglione italiano all'Expo '67 di Montréal." *L'Architecture*, no.13 (1967).
- Alberti, Franco, and Carlo Guenzi. "Firenze: occasioni per un piano pilota." *Casabella* 31, no.312 (February 1967): 15-39.
- Argan, Giulio Carlo. "Expo universale '67 a Montréal: il padiglione italiano." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.141 (July 1967): 147-65.
- Zevi, Bruno. "L'Italia all'Expo Universale 1967 di Montréal." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.141 (July 1967): 142-44.

## APPENDIX I

Michelucci, Giovanni, and Leonardo Ricci. "Messaggio di fraternità e di speranza." *Chiesa e Quartiere*, A. II, no.44 (December 1967): 18–21.

Zevi, Bruno. *Man and His World. Architecture 1967: Progress or Regression?* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1968.

Gregotti, Vittorio. *New directions in Italian Architecture*. New York: Brasiller, 1968.

"Omnibuilding." *Progressive Architecture*, no.49 (1968).

Cunningham, M. "A continuous city in the Valley of the Arno River." *Architectural Student A.I.A.*, no.1 (1968).

Zevi, Bruno. "Unità d'abitazione a Sorgane, Firenze." *L'Architettura*, no.14 (157) (November 1968): 546–47.

Koenig, Giovanni Klaus, and Piero Bargellini. *Architettura in Toscana, 1931-1968*. Torino: ERI, 1968, 142-152.

Matteini, C. "L'esito del Concorso d'idee per la Fortezza da Basso di Firenze, 12 progetti per la Fortezza da Basso (Relazione dei progettisti)." *Bollettino degli Ingegneri*, no.12 (December 1968).

Friendly, Alfred. "Cultural revolt urged by Italian professor." *New York Times*, December 17, 1968.

Soleri, Paolo. *Arcology. The city in the image of man*. Boston: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Toppe, John. "Model City. Impressions." *Newsletter*, University of Florida, Dep. of Architecture, 1969.

Giordani, Pierluigi. *Il futuro dell'utopia*. Bologna: Calderini, 1969.

Gregotti, Vittorio. *Ornamenti nuovi dell'architettura italiana*. Milano: Electa, 1969.

Benbow, C. "Leonardo Ricci: Humanist architect and Prophet with an ideal." *The Floridian*, no.49 (1969).

"Abitazione a Firenze." *Architecture, formes et fonctions* 15 (1969): 216–19.

Perogalli, Carlo. "Metamorfosi nella Fortezza/Metamorphosis in the Fortress." *Casabella*, no.336 (April 1969): 26–39.

Benbow, C. "Überbauung Sorgane bei Florenz." *Werk*. 56, no.5 (May 1969): 323–25.

Koenig, Giovanni Klaus. "L'esperienza organica in Italia e la 'scuola' fiorentina." *Casabella*, no.337 (June 1969): 8–19.

Cook, Peter. *Experimental Architecture*. New York: Universe Books Inc., 1970.

## Bibliography

- Cless, R. J. "Architectural systems. Impressions." *Newsletter*, University of Florida, Dep. of Architecture, 1970.
- Poole, S. "E. III. Ecological Critique. Impressions." *Newsletter*, University of Florida, Dep. Of Architecture, 1970.
- Toppe, John. "Evaluation." *Newsletter*, University of Florida, Dep. of Architecture, 1970.
- Toppe, John. "Theoretical model." *Newsletter*, University of Florida, Dep. of Architecture, 1970.
- Wittemore, G. K. "Financing Urban Development. Impressions." *Newsletter*, University of Florida, Dep. of Architecture, 1970.
- Wittemore, G. K. "Legal Implications. Impressions." *Newsletter*, 1970, University of Florida, Dep. of Architecture, 1970.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Dal Centro Civico Di Cumbernauld All'habitat Di Moshe Safdie [Articoli] Nn. 638-692, Sculpture à Habiter/In Francia Si Torna Alle Caverne, Il Quartiere Di Sorgane a Firenze/L'edificio-Città Di Leonardo Ricci, Il Duemila a Montréal/L'Expo '67 Vale per l'habitat Di Safdie." In *Cronache di Architettura* Vol. XII. Roma: Laterza, 1970.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Il Padiglione Italiano all'Expo di Montréal/Scontro di situazioni in tre volti, Sculpture à habiter/In Francia si torna alle caverne, Il quartiere di Sorgane a Firenze/L'edificio città di Leonardo Ricci, Il Duemila a Montréal/L'Expo '67 vale per l'habitat di Safdie." In *Cronache di Architettura*, Vol. VI. Bari: Laterza, 1970.
- Marlowe, Dick. "Orlando Sentinel." *Unique Apartments Due*, March 1971.
- "Architettura a scala urbana. Leonardo Ricci in America (Florida University)." *L'Architettura: Cronache e Storia* 17, no. 187 (May 1971): 24-33.
- Zevi, Bruno. "L'Arte fra le due guerre." *L'Espresso*, June 21, 1970.
- Zevi Bruni. "Un grattacielo per lo Zio Tom." *L'Espresso*, January 17, 1971.
- Zevi, Bruno. "La Casa di Elizabeth Mann Borgese/The House, non she house o it house." In *Cronache di Architettura*, Vol. III. Bari: Laterza, 1971.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Leonardo Ricci allo specchio/Anonimo tormentato del XX secolo." In *Cronache di Architettura*, Vol. IV. Bari: Laterza, 1971.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Lewis Mumford aggiornato/Urgenza dei castelli in aria." In *Cronache di Architettura*, Vol. VII.

## APPENDIX I

Bari: Laterza, 1971.

Zevi, Bruno. "Monte degli Ulivi a Riesi/il kibbutz nei feudi della mafia, Mostra dell'Espressionismo/temporalità antilessicale e sdegno materico." In *Cronache di Architettura*, Vol. V. Bari: Laterza, 1971.

Zevi, Bruno. "Processo al quartiere di Sorgane/A Firenze un boomerang di ritorno." In *Cronache di Architettura* Vol. II. Bari: Laterza, 1971.

Aloi, Roberto. *Case di abitazione*. Milano: Hoepli, 1971.

Magnani, Franco and Sergio Coradeschi. *Ville in Emilia Romagna e Toscana*. Milano: Gorlich Editore, 1971.

Schmertz, M.F. "The new architecture of Florence 155." *Architectural Record*, (February 1971): 85, 95-108.

"Architettura a scala urbana." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia* 17, no.1 (187) (May 1971): 24-33.

Savioli, Leonardo. *Ipotesi di Spazio*, preface by Leonardo Ricci. Firenze: Giglio & Garisenda, 1972.

Dezzi Bardeschi, Marco, ed. *Italian Architecture 1965-70. Second Itinerant Triennial Exhibition of Contemporary Italian Architecture*. Firenze: Arti Grafiche Giorgi e Gambi, 1972.

Zevi Bruno. "Leonardo Ricci in USA/Miccia Fiorentina per Lo Zio Tom, Leonardo Ricci Allo Specchio/Animo Tormentato Del XX Secolo." In *Cronache di Architettura*, Vol. VIII. Bari: Laterza, 1973.

Gobbi Sica, Grazia. *Itinerario di Firenze moderna: architettura 1860-1975. A guide to Modern Architecture in Florence*. Firenze: Centro Di, 1976.

Conforto, Cina, Gabriele De Giorgi, Alessandra Muntoni, and Marcello Pazzaglini. *Il dibattito architettonico in Italia 1945-1975*. Roma: Bulzoni Editore, 1977.

Zevi, Bruno. "Cinque Disastri a Firenze/I Migliori Rifiutano Il Bando, Ingegneria Del Digiuno/La Città-Territorio Di Danilo Dolci." In *Cronache Di Architettura*, Vol. XXI. Bari: Laterza, 1978.

Battisti Eugenio, ed. *Materiali per il concorso nazionale per la progettazione di un'area direzionale a Firenze*. Padova: Cedam, 1978.

Bacciardi, Giovanni, Alberto Breschi, Roberto Buti, G. Censini, C. Clemente, V. Giarrizzo, Paolo Giovannini, et al. "Dalla relazione, in Firenze che sogna: un catalogo di architettura." *Parametro*, no.63 (January 1978).

## Bibliography

- Bacciardi, Giovanni. "Dalla Relazione, in Firenze Che Sogna: Un Catalogo Di Architettura." *Parametro*, no. 63 (January 1978).
- Doglio, Carlo and Paola Venturi, eds. *La Pianificazione organica come piano della vita?* Padova: Cedam, 1979.
- Borsi, Franco. *Michelucci. Il linguaggio dell'architettura*. Roma: Officina, 1979.
- Maria Casati, Cesare, and Ugo La Pietra. "28/78 Architettura, Cinquanta anni di architettura italiana dal 1928 al 1978." *Domus*, 1979.
- Banham, Reyner. *Le Tentazioni Dell'architettura. Megastrutture*. Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1980.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Concorso internazionale per Les Halles/Seicento petardi sotto la sedia di Chirac." In *Cronache di architettura*, Vol. XXIII. Bari: Laterza, 1980.
- Masini, Lara Vinca. "Ricci, Leonardo (biographical card)." In *Contemporary Architects*, edited by Muriel Emanuel, London and Basingstoke: Macmillan Press, 1980.
- Zevi, Bruno. "L'Artigiano di lusso." *L'Espresso*, 26 June 1980.
- Benincasa, Carmine. *Anabasi. Architettura e arte, 1960-1980*, catalogo della mostra (Termoli, Galleria civica d'arte moderna, 4 July-30 September 1980). Bari: Dedalo, 1980.
- Association pour la Consultation International pour l'Aménagement du quartier des Halles. *600 contre projects pour Les Halles*. Parigi: Le Moniteur, 1981.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Convegno-mostra a Termoli/Quattro tesi contro la restaurazione, Dal design all'habitat/A Bari, tra élite e terremoto." In *Cronache di architettura*, Vol. XXIV. Bari: Laterza, 1981.
- Argan, Giulio Carlo. *Leonardo Savioli grafico e architetto, catalogo della mostra (Faenza, Palazzo del Podestà, 9 May-6 June 1982)*. Firenze: Centro Di, 1982.
- "Mostra: dal design all'habitat." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.316 (Februray 1982): 315.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Esposizione di Bari." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.2 (316) (Februray 1982): 315.
- Nardi, Antonio, ed., *Leonardo Ricci: testi, opere, sette progetti recenti di Leonardo Ricci*. Pistoia: Edizioni del Comune di Pistoia, Italia Grafiche, 1984.
- Di Giampietro, Giuseppe. "Thony Eardley e Leo Ricci: tra Stile Internazionale e Post Modern." *Parametro*, no.123-124 (March 1984): 2, 3.

## APPENDIX I

- Koenig, Giovanni Klaus. "A proposito del concorso per la nuova stazione di Bologna." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.9 (September 1984): 602-19.
- Dezzi Bardeschi, Marco. "Genius loci, dove sei? (L. Savioli e L. Ricci)." In *L'Architettura costruita. Il cantiere di Pistoia*, catalogo della mostra a cura di G.B. Bassi (Pistoia, Palazzo Comunale, September 1985). Pistoia, 1985.
- Della Valle Anna, ed., *Terza mostra Internazionale di Architettura, "Progetto Venezia", vol. I e II*. Biennale di Venezia. Milano: Electa, 1985.
- Albisinni, Piero, ed., *La città ideale nei disegni di Leonardo Savioli. Incontro-Intervista con Leonardo Ricci: oltre Firenze, con interventi di Leonardo Ricci, Ludovico Quaroni*. Firenze: Il Ponte, 1986.
- Gurrieri, Francesco, ed., *Una piazza per Cagliari. Architetture per la nuova sede del Credito Industriale sardo*. Venezia: Marsilio, 1986.
- Testi, C. "Un tempio spaziale per la Giustizia. Il nuovo Tribunale di Savona." *Costruire*, no.60 (1988).
- De Masi, G., C. Mercetti, and N. Solimano. "Alcune domande a Leonardo Ricci." *La Nuova Città*, no.4-5 (1988): 20-27.
- Lupano, Mario. "Firenze: un avvenire urbanistico dietro le spalle." *Domus*, no.695 (June 1988): 4, 5.
- "Premio nazionale IN/ARCH 1989 per un'opera architettonica." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia* 6. 35, no.11 (409) (November 1989): 806-11.
- Rossi, Sara. "Premio nazionale IN/Arch 1989 per un'opera architettonica." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.11 (November 1989): 806-7.
- Gristina, Benedetta, Chiara Passigli, and Gianni Pettina. *Firenze design guide, guida di Abitare*. Milano: Passigli Progetti, 1990.
- Raja, Raffaele. "Un sogno in città (intervista a Leonardo Ricci)." *Costruire per abitare*, no.85 (June 5, 1990): 7, 176-82.
- Acciaioli, Francesca. "Firenze: giustizia per la periferia: Scenari progetti." *Il Nuovo Cantiere*, no.5 (1991): 60-62.
- Aymonino, Carlo. "Who design the city?" *Zodiac*, no.5 (March 1991): 4.
- Koenig, Giovanni Klaus. "Per una storia del progetto Fiat a Novoli, Commercial and residential complex in the Fiat area, Novoli, Florence 1987-88." *Zodiac*, no. 5 (March 1991): 186-211.

## Bibliography

- Baldeschi, Paolo. "Leonardo Ricci e il progetto del Palazzo di Giustizia di Firenze (intervista a Leonardo Ricci)." *Dossier di urbanistica e cultura del territorio: rivista trimestrale*, no.16 (December 1991): 4-13.
- Giorgieri, Piero. "Area Novoli." *Domus*, no.733 (December 1991): 93-94.
- Donti, Alberto. *Leonardo Savioli e Leonardo Ricci, in Architetture per la nuova città, esperienze a confronto*. Firenze: Alinea, 1992.
- Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. "Leonardo Ricci: oltre Firenze." *Architettura del 900 in Toscana*, 1992.
- Cassigoli, Renzo. "Su un piano creativo: Convegni / Barcellona olimpica." *Il Nuovo Cantiere*, no.6 (1992): 36-39.
- Dall'Argine, G. "Il Palazzo di Giustizia di Savona = The Law Court of Savona." *Frames. Architettura dei serramenti*, no.39 (September 1992): 62-69.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Palazzo di Giustizia di Savona." In *Linguaggi dell'architettura contemporanea*. Milano: Etas Libri, 1993.
- Maestro, Roberto. "La scuola 'fiorentina' di architettura." *Controspazio*, no.4 (December 1993): 27-38.
- Belluzzi, Amedeo, and Claudia Conforti. *Architettura italiana, 1944-1994*. Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1994.
- Jolis, Alano. "Fashion legends: Pierre Balmain, a futuristic house on Elba." *Architectural Digest*, 51, no.10 (October 1994): 214-21, 286.
- Celant, Germano, ed., *The Italian metamorphosis 1943-1968*, catalogo della mostra (New York, Guggenheim Museum, 7 October 1994-22 January 1995). New York: Guggenheim Museum, 1994.
- Saggio, Antonino. "Il movimento immaginato. Leonardo Ricci." *Costruire*, no.138 (November 1994).
- Zevi, Bruno. "Leonardo Ricci (1918-94), il migliore architetto italiano = Leonardo Ricci (1918-1994), the best Italian architect." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, no.12 (470) (December 1994): 834-38.
- Manno Tolu, Rosalia., Lara-Vinca Masini and Alessandro Poli, eds., *Leonardo Savioli: il segno generatore di forma-spazio, catalogo della mostra (Firenze, Archivio di Stato, 23 September-25 November 1995)*. Città di Castello: Edimond, 1995.
- Vinay, Tullio. *L'amore è più grande. La storia di Agape e la nostra*. Torino: Claudiana, 1995.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Tra i due Leonardi fiorentini." In *Leonardo Savioli: il segno generatore di forma-spazio, catalogo della mostra (Firenze, Archivio di Stato, 23 September-25 November 1995)*, edited by Rosalia Manno Tolu, Lara-

## APPENDIX I

- Vinca Masini and Alessandro Poli *Città di Castello*: Edimond, 1995.
- Licitra Ponti, Lisa. "Leonardo Ricci, ora." *Domus*, no.769 (March 1995): 79-81.
- Lima, Antonietta Jolanda. "Leonardo Ricci: Riesi, un villaggio come un kibbutz = Riesi, a village like a kibbutz." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia* 41, no.6 (476) (June 1995): 406-21.
- Lima, Antonietta Jolanda. *Architettura organica. Leonardo Ricci a Riesi, in Id., Alle soglie del 3° millennio. Sull'architettura*. Palermo: Flaccovio Dario, 1996.
- Zevi, Luca. "Complesso residenziale e commerciale, Figline Valdarno = Housing and commercial complex, Figline Valdarno." *L'Architettura: cronache e storia*, 485 (1996): 134-40.
- Dezzi Bardeschi, Marco. "Kiesler, la scuola fiorentina e la curvatura del mondo." *Ananke*, no.14 (June 1996): 63-81.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Leonardo Ricci. Palazzo di Giustizia di Savona Italia." *Zodiac, 1972-1981*, no.16 (September 1996): 33, 156-59.
- Giovannini, Paolo. *Un progetto strategico coerente per Novoli*. Roma: Dedalo, 1997.
- Bellini, F. "Toscana, Emilia, Romagna, Marche." In *Storia dell'architettura italiana: il secondo Novecento*, edited by Francesco Dal Co. Milano: Electa, 1997.
- Conforti, Claudia. "Roma, Napoli, la Sicilia." In *Storia dell'architettura italiana: il secondo Novecento*, edited by Francesco Dal Co, Milano: Electa, 1997.
- Zevi, Bruno. "Leonardo Ricci." *Abstract/Summary*, no.16 (febbraio 1997): 156-59.
- ARQ, *Architettura Italiana 1949-1959*. Napoli: Electa, 1998.
- Peres, A., and F. De Barros. "Casa concreta." *A e D. Arte e Decoração* (April 1998): 90-95.
- Rocca, Alessandro. *Atlante della Triennale: Triennale di Milano*. Milano: Edizioni della Triennale, 1999.
- Masiello, Emanuele. "Architetture di Leonardo Ricci in Toscana." *La Nuova Città*, no.5/6 (1999): 66-84.
- Baglione, Chiara, and Leonardo Ricci. "Leonardo Ricci: le case di Monterinaldi. La maniera toscana." *Casabella*, 63, no.669 (August 1999): 46-61.
- Cardamone, C. "Il Mercato dei fiori a Pescia." *La Nuova Città*, no.5/6 (December 1999): 85-91.

## Bibliography

- Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. "Il Progetto Dell'incompiuta 'Ecclesia'." *Area*, no. 53 (December 2000): 90-91.
- IACP, e ATER. *Novant'anni di case popolari a Firenze 1909/1999*. Firenze: Alinea, 2000.
- Fantozzi Micali, Osanna, and Maria Di Benedetto. *I piani di ricostruzione post-bellici nella provincia di Firenze*. Milano: Franco Angeli, 2000.
- Olmo, Carlo. "Ricci, Leonardo." In *Dizionario Dell'Architettura Del XX Secolo*. Torino - Londra: Umberto Allemandi & C., 2000, 224, 225.
- Zevi, Bruno. *Capolavori del XX secolo esaminati con le sette invarianti del linguaggio moderno*. Roma: Newton & Compton, 2000.
- Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. "Villa Balmain.Isola d'Elba: Leonardo Ricci/Villa Pleydell-Bouverie." *Area*, no.52 (October 2000): 4-19.
- Leoni, Giovanni. "Villaggio Monte degli Ulivi. Riesi." *Area*, no.53 (December 2000): 76-89.
- Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. "Il progetto dell'incompiuta 'Ecclesia'." *Area*, no.53 (December 2000): 90-91.
- Loik Mirella, Rostan Giovanni and Gavinelli Corrado, eds., *L'Architettura di Leonardo Ricci: Agape e Riesi*. Torino: Claudiana, 2001.
- Tuccio, Emanuele. *Il Villaggio Monte degli Ulivi a Riesi di Leonardo Ricci (pubblicazione promossa dall'Ordine degli architetti di Caltanissetta)*. Palermo: EstModus, 2001.
- Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. "Leonardo Ricci e Giovanni Michelucci: confronti preliminari." *La Nuova Città*, no.2-3 (December 2001): 100-127.
- Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. "Un'opera dimenticata di Leonardo Ricci: 'villaggio Montepiano'." *Quasar*, no. 24-25 (December 2001): 187-99.
- Godoli, Ezio and Corinna Vasić Vatovec, eds., *Architettura Del Novecento. La Toscana. Leonardo Ricci: "Oltre" Firenze*. Firenze: Polistampa, 2001.
- Branzi, Andrea. *Continuità, Arte in Toscana 1945-2000*. Pistoia: Maschietto, 2002.
- D'Amato, G. "Ricci Leonardo." *L'Arte*, 2002, 31-32.
- Lenzi, Alessia, Susanna Ragionieri, Maria Grazia Messina, Rosalia Manno Tolu, and Loredana Maccabruni. *Fiamma Vigo e «numero» una vita per l'arte, catalogue of the exhibition (Firenze, Archivio di Stato, 7 October-20*

## APPENDIX I

December 2003). Firenze: Centro Di, 2003.

Bartolozzi, Giovanni. *Leonardo Ricci: lo spazio inseguito*. Torino: Testo & immagine, 2004.

Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. *Leonardo Ricci: architetto 'esistenzialista'*. Firenze: Edifir, 2005.

Costanzo, Michele. "Leonardo Ricci e il Villaggio Monte deli Ulivi a Riesi." *Metamorfosi*, no.64 (2007): 46-51.

Bartolozzi, Giovanni. "Anonimo del XX secolo: la forte spinta etica di Leonardo Ricci 37." *Parametro*, no. 267 (February 2007): 84.

Dulio, Roberto. *Ville in Italia dal 1945*. Milano: Electa Architettura, 2008.

Fabbrizzi, Fabio, Loris Macci, and Ulisse Tramonti. *Opere e progetti di scuola fiorentina, 1968-2008*. Firenze: Alinea, 2008.

Costanzo, Michele. *Leonardo Ricci e l'idea di spazio comunitario*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2009.

Giorgieri, Piero and Paolo Baldeschi. *Firenze e il progetto urbanistico. Scritti e contributi*. Firenze: Alinea, 2010.

Artale, Pietro. "Conservazione dell'Architettura Contemporanea. Monte degli Ulivi di Leonardo Ricci a Riesi: metodologia e prassi per un intervento conservativo." Thesis Dissertation XXIII cycle, University of Palermo, 2010.

Hedges, Mark (Goodall, John, 1970). "Renewing a Renaissance city: Florence is witnessing an intense period of regeneration and development." *Country life*, 204, no.9 (3 March 2010): 74-78.

Spinelli, Luigi. "Leonardo Ricci, spazi fluidi che inseguono la vita. Nello studio di architettura e pittura a Monterinaldi si rinnova quella che Giovanni Klaus Koenig definiva 'la conformazione spaziale dell'esistenza'." *Domus*, no.938 (August 2010): 70-78.

Gelomini, Nicolangelo. *Leonardo Ricci, Monterinaldi, Balmain, Borgese*. Documentario, 2011.

Pedalino, Antonio. "Il restauro del Tempio Valdese di Pachino di Leonardo Ricci." In *Il restauro del moderno in Italia e in Europa*, edited by Emanuele Palazzotto. Milano: Franco Angeli, 2011.

Ghia, Maria Clara. *Basta esistere: Leonardo Ricci: il pensiero e i progetti per le comunità*. Pavona (Roma): Iacobelli, 2012.

Greco, Antonella and Maria Clara Ghia. *Leonardo Ricci Monterinaldi/ Balmain/ Borgese*. Roma: Palombi, 2012.

## Bibliography

- Lambardi, Stefano. *Il Palazzo di Giustizia di Firenze. Materiali e Cronache tra le visioni di Michelucci e il progetto di Ricci*. Fiesole: Fondazione Michelucci, 2012.
- Bartolozzi, Giovanni. "A scuola con i due Leonardi." *Archphoto*. 2.0, no.1.0 (2012).
- Oddo, Maurizio, and Maria Luisa Paterna. *Il Valore Dell'assenza: Leonardo Ricci e Il Villaggio Monte Degli Ulivi Di Riesi*. Leonforte: EunoEdizioni, 2013.
- Bartolozzi, Giovanni. *Leonardo Ricci: nuovi modelli urbani*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2013.
- Redazione. "Abitare." *Leonardo Ricci: Un Libro, Una Conferenza*, February 24, 2014.
- Bartolozzi, Giovanni. "Leonardo Ricci. Un nuovo inizio." *Archphoto*, 2014.
- Carotti, Lisa. *I maestri dell'architettura moderna in mostra a Palazzo Strozzi: Wright, Le Corbusier e Aalto: riflessi nella Scuola fiorentina*. Firenze: Università degli studi di Firenze, 2014.
- Fabbrizzi, Fabio. "Lo spazio gonfiante del Mercato dei Fiori di Pescia, una interpretazione." *Firenze Architettura*, no.1-2 (2014): 110-17.
- Vasić Vatovec, Corinna. "Leonardo Ricci e Le Corbusier: «...amo Ronchamp ma...non la posso accettare»." *Firenze Architettura*, no.2 (2015): 58-69.
- Leoni, Giovanni. "Anonymous as a Theme of Discontinuity in the Culture of Italian Architecture between the First and Second Halves of the 20th Century." *Histories of Postwar Architecture*, no. 1 (March, 2017): 104-121.
- "Eutropia nello studio di Leonardo Ricci · Eutropia.", October 30, 2017.  
<http://ec2.it/antonellatundo783/projects/144363-eutropia-valentina-muscedra-ugo-dattilo-luca-barontini-eutropia-nello-studio-di-leonardo-ricci>.
- Bacci, Andrea. "Grande Madre. Ricci 100. In memoria di Leonardo Ricci." *Cultura Commestibile*, no. 267 (16 June 2018): 5.
- Gioli, Sandro. "Lettera per Leonardo. Ricci 100. In memoria di Leonardo Ricci." *Cultura Commestibile*, no.267 (16 June 2018): 6.
- Frangioni, Aldo. "Piccoli ricordi di tre incontri con Leonardo Ricci." *Cultura Commestibile*, no.267 (16 June 2018): 7.
- Zambelli, Matteo. "Buon compleanno Leonardo (Ricci)." *Abitare*, August 21, 2018.

## APPENDIX I

Prestinzenza Puglisi, Luigi. "Architetti d'Italia. Leonardo Ricci, lo straripante." *ATribune*, 18 September 2018.

Berselli, Silvia. "Fino al 26 Maggio a Firenze Una Mostra Presenta, Con Materiali in Gran Parte Inediti, Le Opere Dell'architetto Che Amava Definirsi Un 'Anonimo Del XX Secolo.'" *Il Giornale Dell'Architettura*, April 24, 2019.

"Leonardo Ricci 100'. L'exposition à Visiter." *Détails d'Architecture. L'Architecture Dans Ses Moindres Détails*, April 29, 2019.

Masini, Lara Vinca, ed., *Leonardo Ricci. Progetti Di Un'architettura per l'uomo Del Futuro. Un Libro Perduto e Ritrovato 1967-2019*. Pistoia: Gli Ori, 2019.

Ghia, Maria Clara, Clementina Ricci, and Ugo Dattilo, eds., *Leonardo Ricci 100. Scrittura, Pittura e Architettura. 100 Note a Margine Dell'Anonimo Del XX Secolo*. Firenze: Didapress. Dipartimento di Architettura, Università degli Studi di Firenze, 2019.

Piccardo, Emanuele, ed., *Leonardo Ricci. Fare Comunità*, Busalla: Plug\_in, 2019.

Cozzi, Mauro and Ulisse Tramonti, eds., *Gli architetti del Mercato dei fiori di Pescia negli anni della Ricostruzione postbellica Giuseppe G. Gori, Enzo Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Leonardo Ricci, Emilio Brizzi*. Pisa: Edizioni ETS, 2020.

Ghia, Maria Clara. *La nostra città è tutta la Terra. Leonardo Ricci architetto (1918-1994)*. Wuppertal: Steinhauser Verlag, 2021.

Castelnuovo, Enrico. "Ragguaglio delle arti. Agape", *Tutt'Italia*, no.23.

## List of the works

### LEONARDO RICCI, LIST OF THE WORKS

The present appendix was elaborated with the help of Beatrice Conforti on the base of Leonardo Ricci's curriculum vitae, two of them kept in Casa Studio Ricci, one in MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections.

**1934**

-*Mostra intersindacale veneta di pittura, Padova*<sup>1</sup>

**1935**

-*Mostra intersindacale veneta di pittura, Padova*

**1936**

-*Mostra intersindacale toscana di pittura, Firenze*

**1937**

-*Mostra intersindacale toscana di pittura, Firenze*

**1941**

-Interior and furnishing transformation of the center and didactic national museum of Palazzo Gerini, Firenze  
(with Giovanni Michelucci, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli)

**1942**

-Project for the interior and furnishing transformation of Termini Ventura House, Guicciardini road, Firenze  
(with Giovanni Michelucci)

**1944**

-Project for the Settignano cemetery  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Edoardo Detti, Riccardo Gizdulich)  
-National competition for the Ponte alla Vittoria, Firenze; II prize  
(with Riccardo Gizdulich, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Giorgio Neumann)

**1945**

-National competition for the Ponte alla Carraia, Firenze; I prize, and following appointment by the local Administration for the executive project  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Giorgio Neumann)

---

<sup>1</sup> In Italics: art exhibitions.

## APPENDIX II

- Regional competition for the reconstruction and general plan of Empoli; II prize  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli)
- Reconstruction and general plan of Vicchio del Mugello
- Consultation for the reconstruction and the general plan of Dicomano  
(with Leonardo Savioli)

### 1945-1947

- Competition for four houses for the directors of the Vetroflex factory, Firenze  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli)

### 1946

- Competition-contract for the bridge on Sieve river, San Piero a Sieve  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, executive firm Ferrobeton)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte alla Carraia, Firenze; I prize  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori)
- National competition for the Ponte alle Grazie, Firenze; IV prize *ex-aequo*  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli; the group proposes two solutions: “Le Piazze” e “Le Casette”)
- National competition for the reconstruction of the center of Florence destroyed by the war; II prize  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte alla Rufina on the Sieve river; I prize (realized)  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi, Giorgio Neumann)
- Competition-contract for the realization of the garden town of workers Saint-Gobain, Pisa; I prize (works concluded in 1947)  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli)
- National competition for the project of tourist and urban qualification of Lido di Venezia  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Isotta)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte di Mezzo on the Arno river, Pisa  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)

### 1946-1947

- Village of Agàpe for the Waldesian community in Prali, Torino; expansions until 1951  
(with Giovanni Klaus Koenig, Claudio Messina)
- Project of reconstruction and expansion of Palazzo Albion, Lungarno Acciaiuoli, Firenze  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte on the Serchio river, Calavorno  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)
- Competition for the urban requalification of the San Romano neighborhood, Ferrara; I prize *ex aequo*  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Enzo Gori)

## List of the works

### 1947

- Project for the reconstruction of the center of Florence  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli and Emilio Brizzi)
- Project for the requalification of Porta Est and Porta Ovest in Vicchio di Mugello
- Competition for the Ponte of Salitone on the Sterza river  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)
- Competition for the Ponte of Bottacina on the Sterza river  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte in Ponteginori sulla Cecina  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte on the Arno river in Signa  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte on the Sigerna in Anghiari  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori e Leonardo Savioli)
- Competition-contract for the Ponte San Niccolò in Firenze; II prize  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi e Giulio Krall)
- Competition-contract for the complex of offices and dwellings of the glass factory Balzaretti e Modigliani in Livorno  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Leonardo Savioli)
- National competition and appointment for the executive project for the urban qualification of the “ex-piazza d’armi” in Perugia; I prize *ex aequo*  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Leonardo Savioli; the group presented two design purposes)
- Competition for the realization of dwellings for the employees of Balzaretti and Modigliani factories in Besana, Brianza; I prize  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Leonardo Savioli)
- Competition-contract for the bridge in Figline Valdarno; I prize  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi)
- Competition-contract for the bridge in Terranova Bracciolini on the Arno river; I prize  
(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi; the group presented three design purposes)
- Set up of the XI “Mostra Mercato dell’Artigianato” [“Market Exhibition of the Craftsmanship”] in Florence  
(with Enzo Gori, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli and the painters Osvaldo Tordi and Renzo Grazzini)

### 1947-1948

- Reconstruction plan of Dicomano  
(with Leonardo Savioli)
- Reconstruction plan of Empoli; II prize

## APPENDIX II

(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Leonardo Savioli)

-National Competition for the reconstruction of the church of San Bartolomeo in Prato

(with Enzo Gori, Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli)

-Project for the complex for offices for the Ministry of Public Works in Perugia

### 1948

-Competition-contract for the Ponte alla Carraia in Florence

(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Leonardo Savioli)

-Set up of the XII and XIII “Mostra Mercato dell’Artigianato” [“Market Exhibition of the Craftsmanship”] in Florence

(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori and Leonardo Savioli)

-National Competition for the general plan of Lido di Camaiore, Viareggio

(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Isotta)

### 1949

-Covered Flowers Market in Pescia, I prize

(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Enzo Gori, Emilio Brizzi; executive project of Giuseppe -  
Giorgio Gori, Enzo Gori, Emilio Brizzi)

-Competition-contract for the reconstruction of the complex for offices for the Ministry of Public Works in Perugia

(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli, Emilio Brizzi, Enzo Gori)

-Ponte on the Bisenzio river in Novanelle, Signa

(with Giuseppe Giorgio Gori, Leonardo Savioli)

-*Personal Exhibition of painting at the gallery “Il Fiore”, Florence*

### 1950

-*Personal Exhibition of painting at the Galerie Pierre, Paris*

-*Exhibition at the Salon de Mai, Paris*

-*Exhibition of contemporary painting in Germany*

### 1949-1963

-Settlement on the hill of Monterinaldi, Florence:

1949-1953: general plan

1949-1952: Ricci Study-home; project and execution in 1951, furniture project in 1952  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli)

1951: Petrelli House; furniture project in 1952

(with Gianfranco Petrelli and Giovanni Klaus Koenig)

1952-1953: Selleri House

## List of the works

- (with Gianfranco Petrelli and Giovanni Klaus Koenig)
- 1952: Sante House, David House
- (with Gianfranco Petrelli and Giovanni Klaus Koenig)
- 1953: Masi House, then Santori House; following changes in 1955-1957  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli and Giovanni Klaus Koenig)
- 1954: De Giorgi Ricci House, then Ricci House
- 1954-1955: Petroni Bonifazi House
- 1956: Tinu-Sebregondi home-study, then Meucci home-study  
Innocenti home study, then Duranti home study  
Rodriguez home study  
Baldacci restaurant  
Van Damme Capacci House, then Guidi House  
Bellandi home study
- 1956-1957: Fantoni House; appointment of the executive project of the factory-study in 1958  
(with Dusan Vasić and Ernesto Trapani)
- 1956-1958: project for "Theoretical House"
- 1957: Nardoni House, then Ricci House
- 1958-1962: Coisson House, then Benocci House
- ante 1960: Rodriguez House
- 1962: Nahum House, then Corsi House
- 1963: project for Micheletti House
- 1963: project for Focardi House

### 1951

- Wall Decoration for the XV Decorazioni murali per la XV "Mostra Mercato dell'Artigianato" ["Market -Exhibition of the Craftsmanship"] in Florence
- Exhibition at Salon de Mai, Paris
- "Rassegna della pittura italiana" at the gallery La Boetie, Paris
- "Rassegna d'arte italiana" at the gallery Bompiani, Florence
- "Rassegna d'arte italiana contemporanea" at the gallery Numero, Florence
- Painting Exhibition "Premio del fiorino", Florence, prized
- Painting Exhibition "Golfo La Spezia", Lerici
- Painting Exhibition "Premio Sassari", Sassari

### 1952

- House for Fausto Maria Ricci in Beverly Hills, California; study, furniture and decoration in 1953  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli, Giovanni Klaus Koenig)
- Transformation cabin for the SELT Valdarno in Monterinaldi, Florence

## APPENDIX II

*-Personal Exhibition at the Landau Gallery, Los Angeles, California*  
*Exhibition titled "Mezzo secolo d'arte in Toscana", Palazzo Strozzi, Florence*

### 1953

- Subdivision of the hill in Poggio Gherardo in Settignano, Florence  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli, Giovanni Klaus Koenig)
- Fattirolli House in Poggio Gherardo, Settignano, Firenze  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli, Giovanni Klaus Koenig)
- Scenography and dressing for the dance show "Il filo errante" in the Garden of Boboli for the conclusion of the VI exhibition of Italian fashion
- Arnaldo Ricci House in Veyrier, Ginevra
- Project for Tendi House, Fiesole
- National competition of the "Fondo per l'incremento edilizio", residential center on the hill of Sesto Fiorentino; prized project  
(with Leonardo Savioli, Danilo Santi, Gianfranco Petrelli)
- Consultant for the National Competition called by the "Fondo per l'incremento edilizio" for a residential center on the hill of Sesto Fiorentino; prized project  
(with Leonardo Savioli, Danilo Santi, Gianfranco Petrelli)
- National competition of the "Fondo per l'incremento edilizio", residential center for the "Isolotto", Florence; reported project  
(with Leonardo Savioli, Danilo Santi, Gianfranco Petrelli)
- Painting exhibition "Premio del fiorino", Florence*
- Personal painting exhibition at the gallery Vigna Nuova, Florence*

### 1954

- Urban and architectural study for a tourist village in Quercianella, Livorno  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli)
- Raising of Rosei House in Della Robbia road, Florence
- Renovation and furniture project of Betti House in Lipari, Messina  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli, Giovanni Klaus Koenig)
- Project for a residential building in Poggio Gherardo, Settignano, Firenze
- Painting Exhibition titled "Premio del fiorino", Firenze*

### 1954-1956

- Gervasoni House, then Pavani House in Poggio Gherardo, Settignano

### 1955

- Project for a building complex with skyscraper in Piazza Verdi, Genova Brignole  
(with Ezio Bienaimé, Gianfranco Petrelli)

## List of the works

- Competition for the urban redevelopment and requalification of the San Frediano neighborhood, Florence, II prize  
(with Leonardo Savioli, Danilo Santi, Gianfranco Petrelli)
- General Plan for Albissola Marina and Albissola Superiore, Savona  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli, Ezio Bienaimé)
- Urban study of the center of Varazze and project for a building with skyscraper for the municipality of Varazze, Savona
- Scenography and dressing for the show Orfeo di Monteverdi at the Aix-Les-Bains Festival
- Residential Building in Marina di Carrara  
(with Ezio Bienaimé e Aldo Pisani)
- Furniture of three shops in Carrara
- Organization and set up of the sculpture and painting open exhibition “La Cava”, Monterinaldi, Florence  
(with Fiamma Vigo)
- International painting exhibition in Pittsburgh, USA*

### 1956

- Building for duplex and minimal apartments in Albissola Marina, Savona
- Building for apartments ad Albissola Marina, Savona
- Project for a tower house in Albissola Marina, Savona
- Competition for the Minicipality Palace of Carrara; prized project  
(with Ezio Bienaimé)
- Competition for the Commerce Chamber in Carrara  
(with Ezio Bienaimé)
- Commercial center and building for apartments in Piazza Aranci, Massa Carrara
- Tower house for apartments in Piazza Farini then Piazza Matteotti, Carrara

### 1957

- Urban Plan for the popular CEP neighborhood in Sorgane, Florence  
(coordinator Giovanni Michelucci)
- Leva House in Montia, Carrara
- Competition for the new Waldesian church in San Secondo, Pinerolo

### 1957-1958

- Elisabeth Mann Borgese House, Forte dei Marmi  
(with Ernesto Trapani for the structural project and direction of the building site, Dusan Vasić for the furniture)

### 1958

## APPENDIX II

- Executive project for the Flowes Market in San Remo  
(with Gianfranco Petrelli, Adriano Agostini, Ettore Villaggio, Carlo Bettio, Giacomo Fedriani)
- Sacred Art Exhibition at the Chiostro Nuovo, Florence*
- Personal Painting Exhibition at the gallery La Bussola, Rome*
- Exhibition at the Rome-NewYork Art Foundation, Rome*

### 1958-1960

- Pierre Balmain House in Marciana, Isola d'Elba; appointment for the executive project in 1957  
(with Ernesto Trapani, Ezio Bienaimé, Giovanni Fabbricotti)
- Project for Hon. Mrs. A. E. Pleydell Boiverie House in Marciana, Isola d'Elba; only the caretaker house was realized

### 1959

- Goti spinning factory in Campi Bisenzio, Florence  
(with Enzo Trapani, Fabrizio Milanese)
- Project for a tower house in Campi Bisenzio, Florence
- Project for Perrone House, Lecce
- Competition for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington, District of Columbia  
(with Paul Nelson and Mirko Basaldella)
- First "Mostra Regionale d'Arte Toscana", Florence*
- Exhibition at the gallery Michaud, Florence*
- Painting exhibition during the "Festival dei due mondi", Spoleto*

### 1959-1961

- Leva House, Carrara
- Baruzzo Franzoni House, Carrara  
(with Ezio Bienaimé, Giovanni Fabbricotti)

### 1959-70

- Settlement of Montepiano; five houses realized  
(with Fabrizio Milanese, Armando Donnataria)
- 1959-1960: Macleod House
- 1963: project for Rossi House
- 1963-1964: Caporale Germelli House
- 1965-1966: Micheletti I House, then Giannelli House
- 1966-1967: Focardi House, then Calafranceschi House
- 1967-1968: Micheletti II House, then Castellani House, then Giannelli House
- 1960-1970: project of House n. 1
- project of House n. 2

## List of the works

project of House n. 3  
project of House n. 4  
project of House n. 6  
project of House n. 7  
project of House n. 8  
project of House n. 9  
project of House n. 10  
project of House n. 14  
project of House n. 17

### 1960 c.a.

- Project for a building for offices in Milano
- Project for a hotel in Fiascherino, La Spezia
- Project for the house of the poet Robert Fitzgerald in Fiesole, Florence

### 1960

- Project for three houses in Pinchat road, Ginevra
- Exhibition of abstract Florentine painters at the gallery Michaud, Firenze*
- Personal exhibition at the Trabia Gallery, New York*

### 1961-1963

- Cardon House, then Costagli House in Castiglioncello, Livorno

### 1962

- Detail plan for the Novoli area of the General Urban Plan of Florence  
(group leader Leonardo Ricci, with Dusan Vasić, Fabrizio Milanese, Ernesto Trapani)
- Project for a textile auxiliary products factory Chemia, Prato

### 1962-1965

- Restoration project for the Leggieri theater in San Gimignano, Siena  
(with Andrea Ricci, Renzo Barbieri, Rindo Frilli, Angiolo Logi)

### 1963

- Urban plan "Sorgane Ridotto", Florence  
(with Ferdinando Poggi, Leonardo Savioli)
- 1962-72: building "Ricci A" (via Enrico De Nicola n. 11)
- 1963-72: building "Ricci B" (via Enrico De Nicola n. 2)
- 1964-78: building "Ricci D" o "La Nave" (via Tagliamento n. 3-17)

## APPENDIX II

- 1964-82: building “Ricci C” (via Enrico De Nicola n. 1-3)  
1964-81: building “Ricci E” (via Tagliamento n. 27)  
1961-87: building “Ricci F” o “Casa Torre” (via Livenza n. 3-5)  
(with Antonio Canali, Luigi Cencetti, Fabrizio Milanese, Gianfranco Petrelli, Ernesto Trapani)

### 1962-1968

Village “Monte degli Ulivi” for the Waldesian community in Riesi, Caltanissetta  
(with Guido Del Fungo for the first phase, then with Fabrizio Milanese and Armando Donnataria)

- 1962-1967: project for the Ecclesia  
1964: nursery school  
1964: mechanical school  
1966: family houses  
1966: community house  
1966: library  
1968: elementary school

### 1963

- Rosselli House then Janovitz House in Le Focette, Lucca
- Project for the shopping center I.N.A., Milan

### 1963-1965

- Massimo Severo Giannini House, Rome

### 1963-1967

- Project for a residential settlement in Piano di Granarolo, Genova; partially realized by Gianfranco Petrelli (1960s-1970s)

### 1964:

- Set up for the exhibition titled “L’espressionismo: pittura, scultura, architettura” in Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (with Fabrizio Milanese as coordinator of the works)
- Waldesian church in Pachino, Sicily (with Fabrizio Milanese)

### 1965

- Set up of the model titled “spazio vivibile per due persone” for the exhibition “La Casa Abitata. Biennale degli Interni di oggi” in Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (with Fabrizio Milanese as coordinator of the works)
- General Plan of Pachino, Siracusa (with Silvestro Vardazzi, Ezio Bienaimé)

## List of the works

-Project of a macrostructure of an integrated city: "Habitation Study"  
(with the students of Pennsylvania State University)

### 1967

-Competition for the renewal of Fortezza da Basso  
(with Ezio Bienaimé, consultants: Leonardo Savioli, Danilo Santi)  
-Set up of the "customs" section for the Italian Pavilion at the international Expo of Montréal, Canada  
- Project for a cemetery in Montecatini Bassa; expansion of the existing cemetery  
(with Andrea Ricci)

### 1968

-General Plan of Porto Palo, Sicily  
(with Silvestro Vardazzi, Ezio Bienaimé)

### 1968-1970

-Competition for the Centre George Pompidou, Paris  
(in collaboration)  
-Project for "Dog Island"  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba and Dan Paulk Branch)

### 1969

-Project for a Monument of the Resistance, Cuneo  
-Project for the "Miami Model Cities" Plan  
(with the students of the University of Florida, structural project by Riccardo Morandi)

### 1969-1973

-Project for a real estate company in Daytona Beach, Florida

### 1970

-Subdivision plan of the direction center in Mediana, Sauris, Dolomiti Carniche  
(group leader Leonardo Ricci, with Ferdinando Anchini, Luciano Di Sopra, Gianfranco Torossi, Bruno Zevi)

### 1970-1980

-Project for Manacore

### 1971

-Project for a seaside resort with tourist structures in Malcesine, Lago di Garda (in collaboration)

### 1971-1978

## APPENDIX II

-Competition of the cemetery of Modena

### 1972

- Project for a ludic center, complex for leisure time in San Gimignano, Siena
- Project for Di Sopra House in Pagnacco, Udine  
(with Luciano Di Sopra)
- Residential project “Langford East - Lyman e New England Avenues”, Winter Park, Florida  
(with Ray Bennett)
- Residential project “L’Invaso Square”, New York  
(with Ray Bennett)
- Residential project “Terrasecittà”, Orlando, Florida  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Ray Bennett, Dan Paulk Branch)

### 1972-1975

- Project for the thermal building “Grotta Giusti” in Monsummano Terme, Pistoia  
(with Andrea Ricci, Renzo Barbieri, Rindo Frilli, Angiolo Logi)

### 1973

- Project for the Hospital of Palmanova, Udine  
(with Giuliano Parmeggiani, Luciano Di Sopra)
- Project for “Beresford Village”, Miami, Florida  
(with Ray Bennett, Dan Paulk Branch)
- Project for “Omni 44 office apartments motel complex”, Deland, Florida  
(with Ray Bennett, Dan Paulk Branch)
- Project for “Terrazzamare”, Port Orange, Florida  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Ray Bennett, Dan Paulk Branch)

### 1973-1980:

- Project for the General Plan of Arzachena, Sassari  
(with Andrea Ricci)

### 1974

- Competition for the theater of Udine
- Project for the regional prefabrication plan of Vaglia
- Metaproject for the historical center of Portogruaro, Venezia  
(in collaboration)
- Metaproject, detail project for the historical center and detail plans for the city of Concordia Sagittaria, Venezia  
(in collaboration)

## List of the works

-Hypothesis for a district plan for the municipalities of the CO.VE.NOR  
(in collaboration)

### 1974-1975

-Project for the professional building school in Calenzano, Florence  
(with Alidamo Preti)

### 1974-1976

-Elementary school in Concordia Sagittaria  
(with D. Bonetto)

### 1975-1978

-Project for the General Plan of Maddalena, Sassari  
(with Andrea Ricci, Gianni Maria Campus, Enrico Corti)  
-Project for the Plan of the District of the Leather Area: Municipalities involved: Santa Croce, Castel Franco, Fucecchio, San Miniato e Santa Maria a Monte  
(with Sigfrido Pascucci, research group: Andrea Ricci, Gianfranco Censini, Paolo Giovannini)  
-Project for the General Plan of Sorano, Grosseto  
(with Sigfrido Pascucci, research group: Andrea Ricci, Gianfranco Censini and Paolo Giovannini)

### 1976-1978

-Baruffol House in Portogruaro  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba)

### 1977

-Competition for the Directive Center in Florence  
(in collaboration with Leonardo Savioli and Zziggurat Study)

### 1977-1981

-Project for the Municipality Palace of Concordia Sagittaria  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba)

### 1978

-Competition "Contreproject pour Les Halles", Paris  
-Set up of the exhibition of some projects by Leonardo Ricci for the Venice Biennale 1978

### 1980-1994

-Project for the services center for the industrial area of Sant'Agostino, Pistoia  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba and Andrea Ricci)

## APPENDIX II

### 1982-1994

-Canteen of the services center for the industrial area of Sant'Agostino, Pistoia  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba and Andrea Ricci)

### 1981

-Project for the "Chicago Herald Tribune"  
-Set up of the exhibition titled "Dal design all'habitat", Fiera del Levante, Bari  
(with Achille Castiglioni and Maria Grazia Dallerba)

### 1981-1987

-Court of Law of Savona  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Andrea Ricci)

### 1982-1983

-Competition for Porto Catena in the historical center of Mantova  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Alessandro Valenti, Gino Zavanella)  
Progetto per Piano dei servizi e suo comprensorio, Savona  
-Competition for the station of Bologna, prized project  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Leone Pancaldi, Alberto Rogano)

### 1981-1987, 1987-1988 (project phases)

-Court of Law of Florence (Novoli road), Florence  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba)

### 1982

-Project for the integrated center "La Terza Porta", Florence  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Andrea Ricci)

### 1984

-Project for a new square in Cagliari with the headquarters of the Credito Industriale Sardo  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Andrea Ricci, Giovanni Maria Campus, Michelangelo Arturo Caponetto, Bruno Frau, Marina Perrot, Andrea Chiarugi, Domenico Vittorio Mezzini)  
-Project for the new cemetery of Scandicci  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Andrea Ricci)

### 1984-1985

-Cemetery of Jesi  
(with Franco Luminari and Silvano Rossini)

## List of the works

**1986**

-Competition-contract for the cemetery of Senigallia; II prize  
(with Franco Luminari and Silvano Rossini)

**1988**

-Competition-contract for the headquarters of CARIS, Jesi  
(with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Franco Luminari, Silvano Rossini)

**1988-1989**

-Project for the requalification of the north periphery of Falconara  
(with Franco Luminari, Silvano Rossini)

**[1984]**

-Project for the headquarters and offices of the P.C.I., Palermo

**1985-1990**

-Project for a complex in di Novoli road, Florence

**1988**

-Integrated residential and commercial center in Figline Valdarno  
(group leader Leonardo Ricci, with Maria Grazia Dallerba, Sergio Mazzoni, Andrea Ricci, Enrico Manzini)

-Project for "Casa Protetta" (definitive project 1988-1992)  
(with Andrea Ricci, Enrico Manzini)

-Feasibility plan for an equipped park, Scandicci

-Detail plan for the Novoli area, Florence

(with Maria Grazia Dallerba)

**1989**

-Detail plan of Novoli and Castello, Florence

**1994**

-Competition for the "Risalita Schindler", San Marino; winner project  
(with Franco Luminari, Silvano Rossini; Leonardo Ricci disclaimed the authorship of the work because it was modified by the collaborators)

**Undated projects**

-Project for "Case Cusinato", Florence

## APPENDIX II

(with Dusan Vasić)

- Subdivision plan for the “Società Immobiliare Colle degli Ulivi” a Colle dei Moccoli, Florence (with Lionello De Luigi)
- Project for the subdivision plan in the marina area and port infrastructures in Porto Cervo
- Project “Amerio”
- Site plan for Mr. and Mrs. GeoLewis, Florida

APPENDIX III

THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF CITY AND REGION

THE PROPOSED FOCUS

of

THE CENTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES, M.I.T.

September 20, 1957

THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF CITY AND REGION

The metropolis is a world wide phenomenon. Yet its tremendous importance for human society is often obscured by its inadequacies and confusions. Few question that most of our cities are ugly, uncomfortable, expensive, and inefficient. These very problems however, are producing strong pressures to improve the environment. Rising income and rising standards of demand are reinforcing these trends. The pressures are already strong in the western world and are spreading quickly to the rest of the globe.

Unfortunately the impetus for reform is in many ways far in advance of our knowledge of what to do. Within the province of action lies a whole new avenue of public power with serious implications for the relationships between government, the entrepreneur and the individual. The pressures to act will force us to try many things. But it will take much more basic understanding and research before we really comprehend the consequences of such action and the sensitive interplay between the things we want, the nature and potentials of the metropolitan environment and the social, economic and political problems entailed in any efforts for improvement.

Although the metropolitan problem is attracting increasing attention from researchers in all fields, it is surprising how little systematic research has been done which has the physical environment of the city and region as its core. Many explorations by social scientists brush the

subject, but their central interest is in the theoretical or empirical considerations of their own subject matter. A few sporadic studies by land economists, geographers and urban sociologists, have dealt with aspects of the physical environment and the forces creating them. But they evidence little sustained activity or comparability, or integration of results. Particularly in relation to the planning process, many of the studies lack a focus.

Architects and planners are directly concerned with the field, but they are only now beginning to turn to research to provide the clues and tests for needed information, criteria and techniques. And they are finding that this vast field lies today unexplored in some of its most vital areas. Several fragmentary concepts of desirable urban forms do exist: density relations, neighborhood organization, superblock design, specialization of traffic ways, standards for public facilities and housing, greenbelts and so on. Currently useful in city planning practice, they are too much based on intuition. As such, they have become the centers of controversy.

#### The Focus of the Center

The Center for Urban and Regional Studies at M.I.T. has decided, therefore, to focus its attention on the character of the physical environment of the city and the region, its adequacy in meeting human needs, its processes of transformation, and the means by which these processes may most effectively be guided. The three-dimensional environment will be studied in

-3-

two basic ways:

- (1) How does it work? What, for example, is the effect of the urban physical environment on the individual, the group and the productive mechanism? How do different forms of physical organization affect goals they may seek, and what are or should be these goals?
- (2) How can we change it? How has this environment been shaped by the needs and decisions of individuals and groups working within the limits of preexisting physical patterns, and by the impact of outside forces, such as social institutions, technology and external economies? And how can the insights, and the understanding of the interrelationships gleaned from each of these fields of research, contribute to the solving of the problems of urban and regional planning?

The Center proposes to explore systematically some of the key areas in this chosen field. It will weigh the possible lines of inquiry, the methods of analysis and the probable end-products. Study techniques will range from theoretical models to relevant historical investigations, case studies, descriptive and comparative analyses, and design research. When necessary, new methods will be developed.

With information from prior research in the principal study areas we expect to see the interrelation of possible research projects and select those which promise

most valuable results. In tackling some of these problems, the Center is planning to cooperate with and obtain, when possible, the assistance of other branches of the Institute. One of the by-products of these investigations will be a series of publications and graphic presentations. Another will be new courses and new teaching methods and materials which will contribute to an advanced program of studies in the field of city and regional planning.

Among the key areas of interest to the Center and for which the resources of the Center are or may easily be adapted, are: 1) The Form of the City; 2) City Structure and Growth; 3) Transportation; 4) Housing; 5) Regional Physical Development; 6) Technology; 7) Public Policies and Controls; 8) The Planning Process; 9) Social Values; 10) Developing Areas; 11) The Urban Landscape. The Center does not intend to commence research in all of these areas at once. If possible, it would prefer to start with fairly comprehensive studies in the fields of: Public Policies and Controls, Developing Areas, Transportation and City Structure and Growth. Whether this priority schedule can be realized depends on the success in obtaining funds. Over the long run, however, the Center is interested in problems dealing with the physical environment in any of the fields which are briefly described below.

1) The Form of the City

Only sporadic exploration of the variety of physical forms which urban development might conceivably take has occurred. Little thought has been

-5-

given to the genesis and components of these forms, or their relative adequacy for specific purposes. High or low densities, mixed or pure patterns, satellite, linear, or random arrangement are some examples of such forms. Examining their effects in relation to carefully stated goals of social, economic and political development ought vastly to broaden our vistas of the possibilities

In these investigations it will probably be desirable to distinguish for research purposes, the activities within the city and the physical forms related to them. The following section deals with the activities in the city; and in this section the emphasis is on the physical forms. Key categories for describing the forms, such as density, the transportation net, "grain" and surface need to be defined and probed. Studies can be made of specific physical development plans to see how effectively the goals are formulated and the adequacy of the form proposals to achieve these ends. Historical investigations might shed new light on the goals and physical development plans of cities in the past. Techniques might be developed for appropriately describing the goals, the form categories and the theoretical possibilities for physical development of the contemporary city, here and abroad. Analysis of physical form by mathematical techniques might prove helpful.

The chief significance of these studies would be to deepen our understanding of the variety of urban form and its essential components in the past and present, and to help us improve our understanding of the consequences of the feasible possibilities. A start has already been made in the explora-

tion of these problems with the initiation of an experimental seminar in the Department. As soon as these exploratory investigations warrant it, more specific proposals for handling this central question of planning will be formulated.

## 2) City Structure and Growth

One of the chief problems of the urban planner is to understand why land uses are where they are and why changes in land uses are occurring. Through zoning, urban renewal and general planning programs and policy, the city planner is responsible for the efficiency of the urban ground plan and for the accommodation of growth. Unfortunately, rule of thumb and intuitive insight are the two main factors shaping his decisions. What he needs is more reliable knowledge of the accessibility requirements of different types of firms and families in areas of major land uses and of the accessibility characteristics of the stock of existing land and improvements, by types within major land uses. Equally necessary are more effective techniques for prediction of changes in accessibility requirements, taking into account operational characteristics, technological trends and social controls; and also more reliable techniques for predicting aggregate changes of population and land use requirements.

These needs open vast areas for research. One of the principal tasks, for example, would be to devise an operationally significant definition and measure of accessibility. Though neither the idea nor the term is new and can be found in many types of location studies, accessibility

-7-

has never been a tool for the systematic evaluation of the operational requirements of varying activities. Another problem will probably emerge in typing families and firms on the basis of accessibility requirements, and land and improvements on the basis of accessibility characteristics.

Once these questions are answered, a variety of exploratory investigations could be attempted. Examples are case studies of different types of firms and households; studies of movement or flows between households, work places, shopping centers, and cultural and entertainment areas; of the process of decision making for different types of firms and families in terms of needs and the available supply of land and improvements; and of various measures of efficiency. Other studies relating to accessibility might be made of the impact of technological changes, such as shifts in the means of transportation, in new processes of manufacturing, and in new forms of energy; the effect of government policies such as zoning, mortgage insurance, urban renewal, and changes in political boundaries; and the effect of social forces such as interpersonal and intergroup relations and the changes associated with higher levels of income, education, demand and leisure.

### 3) Transportation

One of the most important influences on the form, structure and growth of the city is the transportation system. The automobile and suburban

accessibility, the problems of downtown congestion and decentralization, the possibilities and prospects of mass transportation, the effect of changing transportation technology and the impact of the \$60 billion federal highway program are only a few of the current problems about which we know very little. Decisions are being made daily on these matters which may well affect our physical environment for generations to come.

Of special interest is a study of the characteristics and relative importance of the different methods of circulation which will be appropriate to the central city in the metropolitan region of the future and the extent to which such circulation may be appropriately replaced by other means of communication. It would be necessary first of all to analyze the part the central city will play in the metropolitan region. This would involve a determination of: the primary and secondary uses that are likely to find their most appropriate place there, assuming a highly dispersed metropolitan area; the intensity of such uses in terms of floor space, daytime and nighttime population load, vehicular and pedestrian capacity; the relationship of uses to other uses in the surrounding urbanized area; and the demand for different types of circulation or alternative means of communication that would be derived from the functional requirements. The latter would call for an analysis of the volumes and directions of vehicular and pedestrian movement; alternative methods of handling individual and mass movement of people and goods, based on studies of possible innovations in the field of transportation

-9-

and communication technology.

Still other transportation research interests of the Center are the possible application of network and communication theory, (both pioneered at M.I.T.) to the problems in this field; and the relationships of urban form to transportation, as for example, which patterns of density would prove most economical.

#### 4) Housing

Housing dominates the actual physical environment of the city. It is also one of the most dynamic elements of the physical environment today. This is so because of rising income, changing consumer preferences, the active competition of minorities for space and shelter, the impact of new mass construction techniques, and the powerful roles of government policy in private construction, public housing and urban renewal. A thorough examination of the effect of these changes on the physical environment is long overdue.

Federal housing activities, particularly publicly aided housing and the insurance of loans made on residential properties, are restructuring large parts of the urban scene. Though the original objectives were largely to provide better housing for low-income families, facilitate home purchase, help counteract cyclical fluctuations, and improve housing standards, the particular legislative formulas and regulations employed have resulted in a characteristic type and quality of development. Such standardization may invite substandardization. A compre-

hensive evaluation would help to determine how and to what extent the financial formulas and the supervisory criteria in administering them victimize the product. Type of structure and materials, density, size of the developments, location, site plans, neighborhood characteristics, family requirements, visual quality, and costs are some of the factors which merit consideration. Such a review has good prospects for obtaining the cooperation of federal officials in securing the necessary data for an overall examination and the selection of appropriate samples of projects for detailed consideration. The results would be of value for architects, planners, housers, and federal officials in recognizing the effects of these policy decisions on the residential environment of a large segment of our population.

Another problem requiring review is the criteria guiding density decisions. When builders, financial institutions and federal officials influence or establish density patterns, they decisively shape the future physical environment. There is considerable concern about the adequacy of the indices guiding these decisions! Case studies of different types of firms and agencies will help to determine the factors actually taken into account, i.e., the attention given to costs of land, buildings, and community services, to visual effects, parking, neighborhood facilities, housing requirements and family preferences. To determine whether any important variables are neglected or slighted, theoretical models might be devised to explore cost and other relationships between

-11-

the key variables, particularly their behavior with varying densities, building types, standards and public services. Density, one of the principal determinants of urban form\*, certainly ought to be one of the strategic areas of environmental research; yet few issues are today more debated but less subject to rigorous analysis of relevant experience.

Consumer preference in choice of residence is still another problem. There are many controversial hypotheses about these preferences. Emphasis ranges from minimizing the journey to work in some studies to adequate space, cultural associations and class polarity in others. It is not clear how these preferences vary for different types of families. Fortunately, many situations permit the study of preferences such as shifts prompted by rising income or induced by changing family requirements; movements from public housing projects to private dwellings; shifts from rental housing to ownership; changes in plant location; forced relocations occasioned by public demolition programs. Cross classification with relevant variables including family background, status, occupation, and housing experience should provide clues about the values and requirements of the families and the relative importance of factors influencing decisions.

##### 5) Regional Physical Development

Development programs often focus on vast regions. Most schemes such as TVA, the Columbia Basin and the Damodar Valley, have been devised on an

---

\* Cf. Section I

ad hoc basis geared to specific development problems and historical contexts. A point has been reached where it would be rewarding to examine systematically the characteristic physical aspects and implications of different types of regional development programs. One object would be to understand better the interaction between the physical and other aspects of these programs and to see whether any useful generalizations may be formulated. Future undertakings might well benefit from such an assessment.

Other significant and relatively uncharted areas of regional physical development are the criteria for regional development, the definition of development regions, and the problems of integrating regional development within a national development policy. There is increasing interest in the formulating and implementing of an overall or national physical development policy. Of necessity this presupposes fitting into a context regional development policies and programs. The technique of formulating these policies, the factors that must be taken into account, the problems of implementation, the possible usefulness of regional capital budgeting programs, physical development plans and the like require careful exploration to improve theory and practice in physical planning processes. A further extension of these investigations would be to examine the place of urban development within a broad regional pattern.

-13-

From these studies there should also emerge a more adequate conception or theory of the role of regional planning in relation to national, and to urban and metropolitan planning. Existing notions on this score are still crude and fragmentary; and these inadequacies are in turn reflected in the failure to handle these problems satisfactorily in the field. However, the increasing need and the growing awareness of the problems, especially in areas triggered for development, is likely to spur more attention in the future.

It would also be desirable to review and evaluate various regional projection and analytical techniques: the role and relative adequacy of economic base, cost benefit, industrial location, industrial complex, linear programming and other studies. Some of these tools are indispensable for developing basic estimates and bench mark data for any physical development programs. But they are still crude, and much remains to be done to make them more useful.

#### 6) Technology

In most studies existing technology is assumed. But some changes in technology may have decisive effects on the existing environment, on the supply of land and improvements, on the functions, accessibility requirements and decisions of firms and households, on the means of transportation, and on the scale and rate of obsolescence. Which innovations have these significant effects and which do not? A comprehensive evaluation of major technical innovations which have occurred and

which are now under way or on the immediate horizon, and their past and future implications for physical development, would have considerable value for those responsible for organizing and shaping the physical environment.

Important changes are expected in utilities, automatic processes, information and servicing requirements. If, as some persons suspect, chemical treatment of sewage and waste will eventually replace water borne disposal systems, many industries now water-oriented may be able to shift their locations. If sea water can be transformed into potable water for the home and factory, significant changes will occur in the growth potential of many cities. Advances in the fields of information and communications have already modified patterns of industrial location. Even more significant changes may occur with increasing automation. Nor do these items exhaust the list of possibilities which might be explored. There are in addition the effects of new materials, new means of transportation and new means of power. There are, also, new pressures for family planning and new birth control techniques which are of special significance for developing areas. The aim must be to screen out those items which are sensitive to changes in technology, and which may also have significant effects on locational patterns.

An inescapable consequence of innovations in technology is the aftermath of obsolescence. Inability to cope with problems created by obsolescence of structures and uses is still a major problem in physical planning.

-15-

Whether it be slums, outmoded neighborhoods, or outmoded transportation systems and circulation patterns, we have not devised acceptable or economic means to scrap the old in favor of the new, or to minimize future obsolescence of the new. Whether this is as significant a problem as it appears, and if so, what could be done about it, deserves more attention than it has yet received.

7) Public Policies and Controls

Many aspects of the physical environment reflect the detailed impact of public policies, administrative procedures, and regulations; conversely, policies and controls are often formulated with the specific aim of producing certain results in the final physical development. Yet little precise information exists and even less research has been done on the interrelationships between policy aim and development form. The Center intends to explore this area and seek more precise knowledge of the interrelationships between public policies and controls and the emerging three-dimensional environment.

The passage of a broad highway program, the encouragement of home ownership or small business, the subsidization of air transport, the apportionment of state and local taxation, and the granting of accelerated amortization schedules to certain classes of industry -- all of these have an effect on the nature and location of economic activity and physical development. Decisions regarding the regulation of rural resources may become critically important to the future growth of the nearby metropolis. Yet the physical consequences are frequently not

### APPENDIX III

-16-

considered in specific terms, and where they are considered, an adequate basis of knowledge does not exist.

On the other hand, a number of policies and controls are intended to deal directly with the three-dimensional urban environment, and even here the benefits of research are largely lacking. Physical planning inescapably involves public regulation of land use. Some of the powers are reflected in subdivision regulations for processing of agricultural land into urban land, zoning of different land uses and preparation of master plans for development. Other codes regulate existing housing and occupancy standards, neighborhood improvement measures, and slum clearance, public housing, and urban renewal operations. These measures presuppose use of the power plant of the state: the tax and spending powers, and the eminent domain and police powers. The problems also affect federal-local, state-local and metropolitan relationships. Unfortunately there is much dissatisfaction with these tools and relationships, and with their limitations in producing intended effects. A comprehensive review and evaluation of the relative effectiveness of the policies and controls employed to mediate the rights and interests concerned and to implement the different government goals and programs would be revealing. New techniques, where weaknesses were disclosed, might also be devised. An important objective would be to assure elasticity to permit an optimum rate of innovation.

Possibly most difficult of the control questions is the issue of metro-

-17-

politan jurisdiction. How to reconcile aspirations and interests favoring local government with the compelling needs for metropolitan cooperation and organization on common problems is as yet an unsolved dilemma for most countries of the world including the United States. Solution of this baffling problem is probably a necessary condition for effective planning of many aspects of the physical environment.

In developing controls, the aim is to provide maximum choice for the citizen. Controls may be effective for planning the environment, but may curb rights that are equally or even more basic. How to reformulate regulations so that they promote successfully the interests of the individual, the group and the community requires careful study.

#### 8) The Planning Process

The planning process requires the determination of goals, the formulation of alternatives, the preparation of comprehensive plans and their implementation. It involves complex problems of standards, the nature and role of master plans, their flexibility and adaptability to certain and sudden change, the relationship of control systems to these plans, the procedure for making and revising plans, the information required and its limitations, the period for planning, the persons and groups consulted and affected, the techniques of coordination of the plans and programs of other agencies, the relationship of the planning agency to the legislative and planning process. These and related matters have yet

to receive the kind of comprehensive statement which is the responsibility of each new generation of planners.

Similarly, the process of making city plans within the metropolitan regions, the development region, and the state and national framework has yet to be comprehensively examined. In the United States, the federal government and many of the state governments have taken measures to grapple with metropolitan and regional problems, but their respective roles and complex relationships are still evolving without the benefit of a clear policy or sense of direction. In underdeveloped areas, these problems are particularly significant since development programs are generally devised and financed taking national policy into account, while they must be implemented within a regional and local framework. Planning experts are being called upon to make recommendations on these matters without any authoritative experience or policy to guide their judgments.

#### 9) Social Values

The essence of physical planning is the determination of the environmental goals we wish to achieve and the means by which we wish to achieve them. But often our goals, even the most important, are difficult to define; and sometimes they are inconsistent with other goals. The choice of means, too, are often determined by influential value judgments. Research specialists from the fields of social psychology, sociology or cultural anthropology can make significant contributions

-19-

to the planners' programs by clarifying the value assumptions of the goals and plans, and those of the group and individuals with which the planner is dealing.

Reasonably accurate appraisal of different personal and group values within a community is necessary if the planner is to anticipate and cope with choices of environment and accessibility made by different types of families and firms. Similarly, the feasibility of plans and the possibilities of their being carried out depend on the sensitivity of the planners' appreciation of the social topography of his community. Beacon Hill is not Washington Square; nor is Westchester the same as Nassau County. Development plans must reflect adequate sympathy for these different worlds and critical understanding of their differences. Far less obvious considerations can produce explosions, if inadvertently ignored. Too many development programs have bogged down in communities because of fear or misunderstanding, or because of lack of forethought about personal and group preferences, animosities or social identifications.

Interpersonal and intergroup relationships also have important environmental effects. Neighborhood patterns, population shifts, and changes in property use and values have been associated with racial attitudes and shifts in minority locations. But evidence is accumulating that many traditional beliefs need study and qualification. Recent experiments involving mixtures of age and ethnic groups in public and middle-class housing projects as well as recent legal decisions suggest that

### APPENDIX III

-20-

substantial modifications in existing patterns may often occur. Integration of schools, and the problems entailed, is probably only a prelude to the integration of neighborhoods.

Planners must also understand the dynamic influence exerted on the physical environment today by changing attitudes. Many plant locations and layouts are being dramatically influenced by the new interest in employee morale and labor relations. Our child and education oriented society, and the quest for roots, social status, and a more adequate environment, have shaped the modern suburb. Increasing interest in the problems of the elderly population may influence the replanning of our central cities. A critical examination is needed of these attitudes and their probable force and significance for plans being made for the future. Directly and indirectly, they are introducing significant changes in the location and patterning of activities.

Environmental changes will also result from rising income and standards of living, more education and rising standards of demand. Increased leisure, the changing age structure of the population, the increase in the number of women in the labor force, the growing interest in mental health, are still other examples of social forces which will affect values, preference patterns and accessibility requirements of households and firms (managers as well as workers). Indeed, we may be entering an age in which such factors as amenity have become a major force. The systematic assessment of these questions is long overdue.

-21-

10) Developing Areas

The problems of growth in the so-called underdeveloped areas are of profound interest to the entire world. They teach us much about the functioning of our own social, economic and political system and of the difficulties of organizing the physical environment in the face of the explosive urban growth that can be expected to accompany successful economic development. Not only are these problems of professional interest; a sizeable proportion of our students come from these countries. We are also sought by agencies like the United Nations, by Foundations and by the countries themselves to devote some of our resources to these critical questions.

The Center is especially interested in exploring the linkage between physical and economic development. At present there is almost a complete divorce between the two. The experts in these fields have different professional training and are, except in rare instances, uninterested in each other's problems despite the fact that they are inter-related. Economic planning in these countries appears excessively centralized; and physical planning activities excessively localized. Possibly regional development programs, regional capital budgets and regional physical planning may provide the means for correcting this imbalance and for creating effective linkages between national and local planning. Evidence is accumulating which indicates that experts in developing areas, such as India, Southern Italy, and Puerto Rico, are beginning to think along these lines. As a first approximation in exploring

this problem it may be helpful to consider what common basic questions arise in regional development programs in developing areas, and what principal tools or methods of analysis exist for grappling with such questions as squatting standards, organization and control of land use, local financing of development, building and materials research, and self help techniques.

The Center is exploring the possibilities of developing a joint training and research program to be conducted by the Harvard Law School and the Department of City and Regional Planning, M.I.T., with collaboration of the Center for International Studies, M.I.T. Such an interdisciplinary attack would make possible a unique opportunity for developing teaching and research materials which may have value for many countries. At the initial stage, the aim is to identify the most critical problems, and to define the major hypotheses and approaches, and the types of collaboration between the Universities, the International Cooperation Administration, the United Nations, and other agencies. The Center will conduct at a later stage a special seminar for members of the faculty and distinguished outside specialists for the purpose of reviewing the conclusions and proposed program.

#### 11) The Urban Landscape

With the aid of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Center is already developing a new basic approach to the analysis of the urban landscape. The emphasis is on the psychological and sensuous

-23-

effects of the physical city on the individual inhabitant. The object is to determine what lies at the root of the widespread dissatisfaction with the "look" of our cities, the absence of delight in urban living. Equally important is the search for new forms for building a new urban world.

For example, satisfaction may arise from experiencing a wide range of intensities of activity and communication in the various parts of a city, so linked and mutually set off that each individual can choose the intensity he desires, yet can always sense the total range. Other satisfactions may come from sensing a high level of meaning in the physical forms of parts and whole, expressive of their particular natures and functions. Additional satisfactions may result from experiencing a certain unity, connectedness, or organization in the urban environment allowing the inhabitant to sense the whole, orient himself within it, and grasp the relation of part to whole.

At present, investigations are underway regarding the perception of, and attitudes toward, the city by various persons. The results may give us the first solid information on the psychological orientation of the individual toward his city; they will provide many clues for more detailed lines of investigation. Other studies are being made of the visual elements of the urban environment: spaces, silhouettes, masses, color, detail; and of the dynamic interrelation between these elements and the beholder. The way in which the city communicates messages to the observer has been a special object of research, as has the visual

experience of driving on the arterial highway. In the future, there are tentative plans for design research, i.e., the creation of new forms and patterns for certain set objectives, and their subsequent testing in the light of these objectives. Such studies could be made for the attainment of general psychological goals in the city setting, such as warmth, or good orientation, or they could center on the design of particular urban areas or facilities. They could analyze the design and location of particular kinds of urban detail: pavements, color, water, or street furniture. The results would provide a much needed set of ideas and criteria for the practising designer.

#### The Center's Relation to M.I.T.

There are some compelling reasons why the focus described above is especially appropriate for a Center of Urban and Regional Studies located at M.I.T. The preeminent position of M.I.T. in the fields of technology and science, and especially in mathematical methods of analysis of communication, operations and strategies, make the Center an ideal place for a research staff in city and regional planning skilled in the use of such tools and capable of profiting from the unique resources of this environment.

M.I.T.'s distinguished Department of Architecture and the pioneering research on urban form and landscape have made M.I.T. the outstanding research center in this field. The Department of City and Regional Planning at M.I.T. is the second oldest in the country and has an emi-

-25-

ment staff particularly experienced in the fields of the planning process, housing, land economics, control techniques, and urban and regional problems.

Dr. Millikan, Director of the Center for International Studies, who has organized a brilliant staff of International experts on the problems of developing areas, has cordially welcomed plans for cooperation between the two Centers, particularly on the economic, social and physical problems in developing areas. There are also experts at M.I.T. in the engineering aspects of transportation whose activities can supplement the Center's proposed program in transportation. The Center hopes, however, to create a new field of specialization in transportation theory and planning, and plans to approach these problems with the techniques of network theory, and operations and communications research. Also, the Center feels it imperative to interest an able social scientist in some of the baffling value problems and social implications in almost every important aspect of city and regional planning. Exploring such relationships between science, technology and society has long been an established interest of the Institute.

Another significant feature of this new Center is the place it has acquired in the educational and research plans of M.I.T. For several years the top administration of M.I.T. has carefully studied the role of city and regional planning at the Institute, and the plans and justification for an advanced program of education and research. A

decision has now been made to expand the research activities of the Department of City and Regional Planning into a Center which will be backed by all the resources at the command of the Institute.

#### Summary Observations

For a successful research program, first rate minds are required. Men of outstanding ability must and should be given ample scope to introduce whatever changes seem desirable within the general focus of the Center. The eleven study areas reviewed above reflect the present interests and judgments of the Center concerning the most fruitful areas for research. As the discussion itself indicates all the study areas are interrelated; and it is taken for granted that as the program proceeds, the research will prove mutually helpful and additive. The Center does not expect to do research on all the items noted above. The pace with which the program advances will depend upon the success of the Center in obtaining financial support for the different parts of the program, including the necessary "freedom money" to explore problems of interest to the Center as well as projects undertaken under direct contract research.

Assuming the Center is successful in obtaining funds and in carrying out its proposed research, it hopes to play several important roles in the future. First and most important, it expects to increase the intellectual capital in the field of urbanism, especially in relation to the interaction of the physical environment with economic, social and political as well as technological factors. It also would enrich the educational program in

-27-

the field of physical planning and provide the foundations for a program of advanced study. Not least, it should provide a stimulating environment for mature scholars and students interested in basic research in these fields.

## TWO IMPORTANT REVIEWS OF ANONYMOUS (20TH CENTURY)

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS JOURNAL - JANUARY 1962

**Anonymous (20th Century).** Leonardo Ricci. Translated by Elisabeth Mann Borgese. New York, George Braziller, Inc., 1962. \$5.00

Leonardo Ricci is a professor of architecture at the University of Florence and served as visiting professor to MIT in 1959-60. He is President of the National Institute of Town Planning for Tuscany and Umbria, and his articles on design are published widely in European magazines. So much for the man.

The book Ricci has written is a beautiful, poignant thing. His style is reminiscent of Thomas Wolfe, with big, long paragraphs that—almost like poetry—explore the world in relation to Leonardo Ricci, and Leonardo Ricci in relation to the world. And yet he seems to speak for everyman. His words and his phrases make the reader say to himself, "This is what I have been trying to express for so long." Ricci is an idealist or a realist, depending on your own point of view.

The unusual title of the book comes because, as Ricci says, "At this particular moment of history, man is in a fix. In a bad fix. And

if he goes on this way, he is going to get clobbered. The only way out of this blind alley is to become 'Anonymous (20th Century)' . . . and so this book is about the crisis through which we are going today and it tries to indicate a possible way out." The way out, he believes, is to live in the skin of other men. To become anonymous.

Basically, this is a book about architecture. Not architecture as a building, a plan, a rendering. But architecture as an "experience," as an effort "to make the actions of man come alive."

The architect, the artist, is responsible to society, Ricci says, and ultimately his work will be judged by the degree to which it satisfies the needs of that society — the inner needs of people struggling to build a freer and more meaningful life for themselves.

Speaking as an architect the author writes, "I may build an ugly house in which people live miserably like rats, but the police cannot get after me and lock me up. This means that I may steal the possibility of existing without being condemned. A child born in this house is going to be deprived of vital experiences; he will not see grass or butterflies, not

even the sun and the moon. But I (the architect) will get away with it."

Ricci looks forward optimistically to the wave of the future, the age of one world and of world cities, in which men will live not as alienated anxiety-ridden individuals existing in a make-do environment, but in an environment consciously created for the maximum common good of all.

This most unusual architect, writer, artist, planner speaks intimately of his relations with his wife, his children, his students, but he does it with such a tenderness of feeling that—again—the words become poetry.

The book is a testament of one man's life and beliefs and faith. A visionary, perhaps, but one who has demonstrated through his accomplishments as an architect, artist and planner that the hard core of his life is really common sense.

"Anonymous (20th Century)" should be an inspiration to all. By all means, go out and buy it. N.C.B.

NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW - JANUARY 14, 1962

## Cool Breeze From the Arno

**ANONYMOUS (20TH CENTURY).** By Leonardo Ricci. Translated from the Italian by Elisabeth Mann Borgese. 254 pp. New York: George Braziller. \$5.

By CHRISTOPHER TUNNARD

**A** SENSITIVE architect's life in the world today can be painful enough to turn him away from society altogether. A paradox! Architecture, of all the arts, should be the most beholden to social values.

Educated to believe that he is entering a noble profession demanding complete integrity of thought and action, today's architect quickly finds that the art of building is indirectly controlled by vastly practical individuals and institutions: those who lend money, direct public relations and organize business enterprise. He no longer deals with a recognizable client—a Medici or a Morgan—but a faceless board of directors who have chosen him from a list of other architects because of the publicity value of his designs.

Not wishing to be identified with the "success boys" of architecture, our hero tries to design buildings which bear the stamp of his own individuality, desperately searching for the

*A teacher at Yale, a member of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Tunnard has written extensively about architecture and city planning.*

different and the new; in a society which places a high premium on originality, he thus often finds himself more successful than he ever dreamed, while cursing the doubtful methods by which his ends have been achieved. Instead of the poetry of a tragic end—there are few Louis Sullivans in the architectural world—his reward is an extra roll of fat around the jaws, and, if he is lucky, a book about his work.

The modern architect with an inner trauma is not confined to the United States. In Italy, where life itself is harder and the war left deeper scars, we may expect to find him also, caught up in a building boom which seems to him both crazy and at the same time challenging. Leonardo Ricci, a successful practitioner and prizewinner, is one of those artists (he is both an architect and a painter) who have found it necessary to express themselves in words, because his own means of expression "are insufficient at this moment in history."

Let me say at once that his polemics are not as fierce as those of his admired model, Frank Lloyd Wright, who, when he took up his pen, was apt to fulminate against bankers, "the big city" and "mobocracy." Signor Ricci is eager to search for the mote in his own eye and, while this process is not always as rewarding as he hopes, his memoirs are as disarming as a

## Gates of the Future—

**T**HE thing that matters today is to be aware of the fact that the world is not moving toward self-destruction, but that men, in spite of all revolutions, wars, cataclysms, and natural catastrophes, are headed toward a new reality, that the gates of the future, as one says rhetorically, are open. — "Anonymous (20th Century)."

cool breeze from the Arno on a hot summer night. And so, perhaps, his experiences insinuate themselves more gracefully into the mind.

Signor Ricci leads a tumultuous inner life. He is often angry, but in a delightful Italian manner, at his wife, when she is quarrelsome; at his students, when they don't listen; at society, when it is not rational. He teaches at the University of Florence and tells his class that they have three choices in life: to believe in myth (which is tradition), to believe that life is absurd (which is as painful as dope addiction), or to believe that the world is logical. The more sophisticated, he supposes, will probe the possibility of identifying reality and myth. "An onion is not God, nor a cat either \* \* \* even if in the onion and cat there is a coincidence with reality \* \* \*. Even the most difficult things, like the mystery of the Trinity, or Christ become man, are, after

all, not so obscure. The basic concept is clear, even though stretched to the limit."

Architecture, in these pages, is also stretched to the limit. We glimpse it only fitfully as we follow the author on his rounds, analyzing his dreams and sharing his projections for a new society. He and we have the advantage of an excellent colloquial translation by a friend who lives in a house in Florence which the author designed. Although he signs his book with his own name, he puts before us a vision of the anonymous man, one who has hurled all illusions into the abyss and uprooted all false hopes from the earth. Farewell to masters, goodbye to geniuses! Anonymous man, self-sufficient and free, will live in Earth-City, where houses will have undergone a radical transformation, built over the tops of factories, out into the water, or "rising from steep rocks on giant skeletons." In these skeletons the inhabitants will build their nests, as the birds do, without any need for an architect-decorator.

Professor Ricci finds it hard, he says, to transform himself into Anonymous (20th Century). His efforts, he tells us, have been "along the existentialist line." As we read the final pages, we rub our eyes and wonder: how strange that this book should have been written in Florence, "the Flowering One," and the birthplace of Renaissance humanism. For the course it suggests is not likely to prove an escape-route from anyone's private nightmare.

JUST OFF PRESS

GEORGE BRAZILLER PUBLISHERS  
215 Park Avenue South, New York 3, New York

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code). THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY. No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

dr. prof. LEONARDO RICCI  
architetto

firenze

urbanistica  
architettura  
arredamento

21, via Montepulciano (La Gestra) - Firenze - tel. 400282

Carissimo Belluschi,  
le tue lettere mi ha fatto gran piacere -  
Ed i motivi sono tanti. Me soprattutto  
perché quando le persone si "aprono" fra  
loro si è un po' meno soli -  
Tanto che mi viene nostalgia dell'America,  
delle sue forze e brutalità, delle sue  
enormi possibilità e mi ricordo un  
giorno in cui ti chiedevo se credevi forse  
possibile negli Stati Uniti di costruire  
qualcosa di veramente nuovo, parlando di  
vari diverse - Allora non si comprendemmo  
e tu mi rispondisti che tante cose nuove si  
fanno negli Stati Uniti: città, quartieri  
fatti con pieni patenti - Ed io me  
ne tornai in Italia nel mio studio a Boston,  
pensando che in un certo senso avrei ragione -

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

APPENDIX III

LEONARDO RICCI  
 28/6/1961  
 JUN 30 1961  
 July 12, 1961

*Letter of appreciation*

Caro Belluschi

Dr. Prof. Leonardo Ricci, Architetto  
 21, via Monterinaldi  
 Firenze, Roma *Italia*

Caro Ricci:

per la mia Università avrei bisogno nel più breve tempo possibile, di una documentazione sul lavoro. Da parecchio tempo avevo intenzione di scriverle per esprimere non solo i miei sentimenti ma anche quelli degli studenti e della facoltà per la contribuzione davvero straordinaria che Lei ha fatto alla M.I.T.

Lei ha portato alla nostra scuola non solo intelligenza di prim'ordine ma un entusiasmo contagioso per la professione. Tutti gli studenti, senza eccezione, hanno ricevuto dalla sua presenza una esperienza indimenticabile, ed è per questo che volevo ringraziarla di cuore e anche esprimerle la speranza che le circostanze permettano un suo futuro ritorno a Cambridge. Il professor Anderson sta raccogliendo certi disegni fatti dai suoi studenti e manderà le fotografie.

Nella speranza di rivederla in Italia invio a Lei e alla sua famiglia cordiali saluti.

migliori che gli studenti hanno svolto nella mia classe

Mi scusi questa seccatura ma purtroppo in Italia esiste ancora Pietro Belluschi e queste cose sono necessarie.

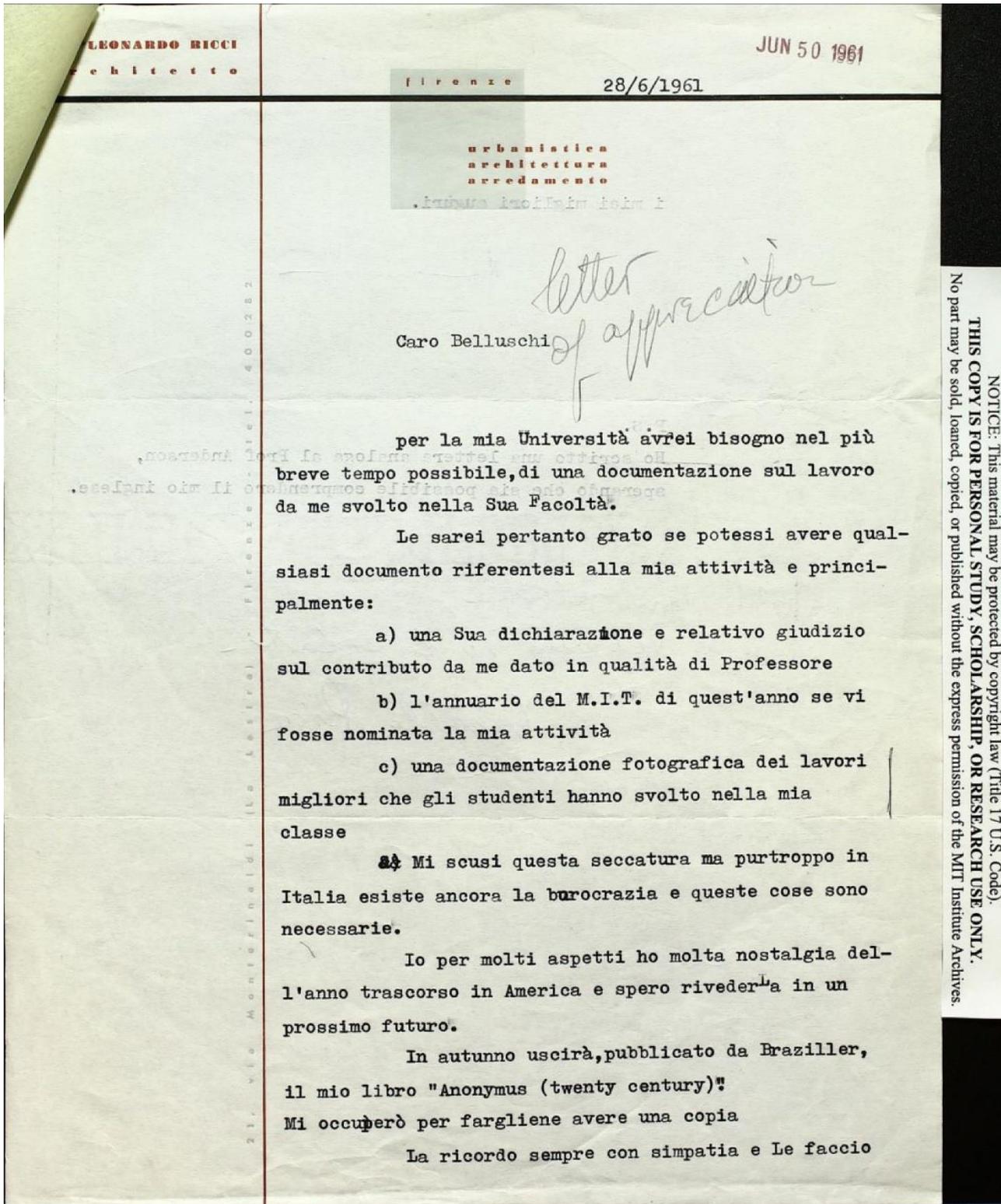
Io per molti aspetti ho molta nostalgia dell'anno trascorso in America e spero rivederla in un prossimo futuro.

In autunno uscirà, pubblicata da Braziller, il mio libro "Anonymous (twenty century)". Mi occuperò per fargliene avere una copia.

La ricordo sempre con simpatia e la faccio

PB:mab

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code). THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY. No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.



APPENDIX III

i miei migliori auguri.

*[Handwritten signature]*

P.S.

Ho scritto una lettera analoga al Prof Anderson, sperando che sia possibile comprendere il mio inglese.

*feld van salut -*

*Spero vi vedremo presto erate -*

*Angelo Ricca*

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code). THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY. No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

ARCHIVE: M.I.T. Institute Archives and Special Collections  
Folder "Ricci, Leonardo 1959-1962", AC400\_0001

Marge -  
 destroy the top  
 copy of "Appointment"  
 + letter to Kispert.  
 We have decided to  
 let Ricci's appointment  
 stand as Bemis Visiting  
 Professor.

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
 THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.  
 No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

12:00 PM Sunday

PIETRO BELLUSCHI

Mr. E. Ricci in Cal. -  
 he sent program for  
 MIT.

---

Talk about it with  
 ↓ MILKO  
 Mrs. M. Baldelle

---

Balsadella

EL-4-3225

---

Call Mrs. Baldelle  
 tonight or tomorrow.

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
 THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.  
 No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

APPENDIX III

Prof. Leonardo Ricci  
c/o Mr. Fausto M. Ricci  
1090 Carolyn Way  
Beverly Hills, Calif.

RECEIVED

DEC 15 1959

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

Beverly Hills  
December 11, 1959

Dear Dean Belluschi,

I have arrived in the United States a week ago and at the present time I am staying in Los Angeles, where I shall remain till Christmas. Afterwards I shall spend a week in New York and expect to be in Cambridge the second or third of January.

I have already prepared a course of lectures that I intend to give at M.I.T.. In order to offer something of interest to the students I thought that the best thing that I can do is to explain them my experience as an architect and a teacher in Italy; to tell them what my opinions are, my doubts, my preoccupations and so on over the most important problems of today; in synthesis to put on the table our life of architects and not to give to the students of rules and dogmas. These problems will be presented not isolated but correlated, because I consider that from town-planning to architecture, to industrial design, to sculpture and painting we must have a continuation and not a break of continuity. I think, therefore, that from the titles of the lectures, you will immediately see my ideas. For this reason I submit them to you.

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Choice in the confusion. (Different cultural directions of man)
- 3) Happiness or unhappiness of man. (Optimism and pessimism for architecture.)
- 4) Subjective and Objective.
- 5) ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Abstract man as a cause for mistakes.
- 6) Good bye to the masters.
- 7) Evolution of the work of the masters.
- 8) On town planning.
- 9) On architecture.
- 10) On industrial design.
- 11) On painting and sculpture.
- 12) Feeling toward old objects.
- 13) Feeling toward the future of arts.
- 14) Explanation and criticism of my architecture.
- 15) Methods of work for the future.
- 16) Conclusion, (if it is possible).

Since the month of January will be spent by me to acquaint myself with the methods of teaching and work of your Faculty and the regular courses will be only for four month from the beginning of February to the end of May, I think that we shall have four lectures each month. This means one lecture of one and one half hour each week. Besides this after the lecture I shall have, as I do in Florence, another hour and one half to give the possibility to the students to make questions and have a discussion. Moreover I could follow some students in their normal work of planning and, if you so please, be a member of some commission of examination.

I would now like to explain that my lectures are not lessons of philosophical criticism, as it could appear from their titles, but on the contrary they are just lectures which derive from the experience of each day in our professional work. I am sending copy of this letter to Prof. Anderson for knowledge, and I would like to know if you agree with my program. Having had the honor of being invited by you at your University, I really would like to feel completely at ease and to give the best of myself.

I send you my best wishes and kindest regards,  
Yours sincerely,

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

dr. prof. ~~LEONARDO RICCI~~  
architetto

collaborato

21, via Montecciolini (La Loggia) - Firenze - Tel. 40182

firenze

urbanistica  
architettura  
arredamento

Preg.mo Signor Preside,

La Signora Elisabeth Mann Borgese mi ha dato comunicazione della Sua lettera, che mi ha profondamente commosso.

Io sono veramente lieto ed onorato per l'invito da Lei rivoltomi come "Visiting Professor" nella Sua così importante Università.

Sarò lieto se Lei verrà a Roma o a Firenze dal 21 Marzo al 4 Aprile. Così avrò il piacere di conoscerLa e di parlarLe.

Nel frattempo preparerò una breve "schema" del lavoro che intenderei svolgere nel Suo Istituto.

Le sarei grato di farmi sapere quando arriva e possibilmente il Suo numero telefonico, per fissare dove e quando possiamo incontrarci.

Molti cordiali saluti

Leonardo Ricci

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
**THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.**  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

PIETRO BELLUSCHI 77 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

Copy sent to Horace  
21 Via Montemurlo  
(ha lastra)

Pregueo Dr. Prof. Ricci

ha ringraziato della sua  
gentile lettera -  
Io sarò a Roma domenica  
prossima

Il mio telefono a Roma  
credo che sia ancora  
848178 - in ~~the~~ Piazza Lecce 4  
Spero che riusciremo a  
vederci

cordiali saluti

Pietro Belluschi

ARCHIVE: M.I.T. Institute Archives and Special Collections  
Folder "Ricci, Leonardo 1959-1962", AC400\_0001

ELISABETH MANN BORGESSE

VIA VECCHIA FIESOLANA  
SAN DOMENICO (FIRENZE)

February 24, 1959  
March 4, 1959

RECEIVED

MAR 5 1959

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

Professor Pietro Belluschi  
Mrs. Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
Via Vecchia Fiesolano  
San Domenico  
Institute of Technology  
Firenze, Italy  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Borgese:

My dear Professor Belluschi,

This is in answer to your letter of February 24. I know and admire Ricci's unique talents. We would be honored and delighted to have him as a "Visiting Professor" for the coming academic year. M.I.T. prides itself in its deep concern for the humanistic and aesthetic consequences of its technology. Our own School in particular has tried to create a climate where artists, philosophers, architects, and urbanists may gather and work free from the usual pressures of our society.

We have special funds which we have used to invite prominent creative men from all parts of the world. This fall we shall have T. Tange from Japan and Lewis Mumford from the United States. Ricci will be a most welcome person. We shall make no routine demands on his time. He will be able to undertake any special project on which he is particularly interested; he will be free to give or not to give seminars or lectures; and he may have or not have the help of some of our graduate students, if this seems to be their choice and will fit in with their educational purposes. We shall be glad to pay Mr. Ricci a monthly salary sufficient to defray all his living expenses.

Ventury wrote the presentation. Under separate cover, I am I have plans to be in Rome in two weeks, from March 21 to April 4. If convenient, I would like to meet Mr. Ricci, either in Rome or in Florence. My address in Rome is Piazza Lecce 4. Of course, there is a chance I may not be able to come to Italy, so a copy of any correspondence should be sent here to Cambridge as well as to Rome.

I am asked to the American Embassy in Rome, Mr. John Brown, and he said it would be quite easy to obtain for Ricci a Fulbright with regards, provided he had some connection with an American institution of higher learning.

And this is where I should like to ask for your advice and

Pietro Belluschi

cc: Mr. J. J. Sweeney  
I am Guggenheim Museum, N.Y., N.Y. and probably are also familiar with some of his work. To give you an exact idea of the volume and the importance of his work, I am sending, under separate cover, a curriculum vitae. The copy I am sending you

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

APPENDIX III

ELISABETH MANN BORGESE

*Thomas Mann*  
VIA VECCHIA FIESOLANA  
SAN DOMENICO (FIRENZE)

February 24, 1959.

Professor Pietro Belluschi  
Head of the Department of  
Architecture  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass.

RECEIVED

MAR 3 - 1959

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

My dear Professor Belluschi,

When I was in New York last fall, various friends, among whom, J.J. Sweeney, suggested I get in touch with you in the following matter.

Leonardo Ricci, whose art and whose character I learned to appreciate when, two years ago, he designed and constructed my villa at Forte dei Marmi (published in Architettura of March, 1959), would like to spend a year in the United States.

With the help of Lionello Venturi, we have arranged for an exhibition of his paintings at Kleemann's next October. Kleeman will be here in Florence in May to select the paintings for this show.

Ricci had a show at the Bussola last year for which Ventury wrote the presentation. Under separate cover, I am sending you a catalog of that show. Another, of Ricci's painting you will find reproduced in Perspective of Italy, an Atlantic supplement published last December.

I have already talked to the American Cultural Attaché in Rome, Mr. John Brown, and he said it would be quite easy to obtain for Ricci a Fulbright travel grant, provided he had some connection with an American institution of higher learning.

And this is where I should like to ask for your advice and help.

I am sure you know Ricci by name, and probably are also familiar with some of his work. To give you an exact idea of the volume and the importance of his work, I am sending, under separate cover, a curriculum vitae. The copy I am sending you

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

ARCHIVE: M.I.T. Institute Archives and Special Collections  
Folder "Ricci, Leonardo 1959-1962", AC400\_0001

ELISABETH MANN BORGESE

VIA VECCHIA FIESOLANA  
SAN DOMENICO (FIRENZE)

- 2 -

Professor Pietro Belluschi

February 24, 1959.

is in Italian. I have sent an English copy, together with slides of some of his recent paintings, to Sweeney, asking him to forward it to you.

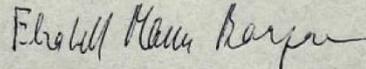
Ricci would like to come to the States next September and spend there the academic year 1959/60. He speaks English. The ideal for him would be to be put on a research project. He wants to dedicate a number of years to a study on the interrelation or integration of painting, sculpture, and architecture, and the United States would offer him a vast field of research. While dedicating most of his time to this work, he could nevertheless deliver a number of lectures on various aspects of this topic; if necessary, he could also give a regular course, at least during one quarter, on contemporary Italian architecture, painting, and sculpture, and their interrelations. But this would take much of the time he would hope to dedicate to his research.

Do you think it would be possible to get him appointed, in some way, at the M.I.T., for this year? If, for any reason, this should not be possible, could you give me any other advice?

Your help will be deeply appreciated.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

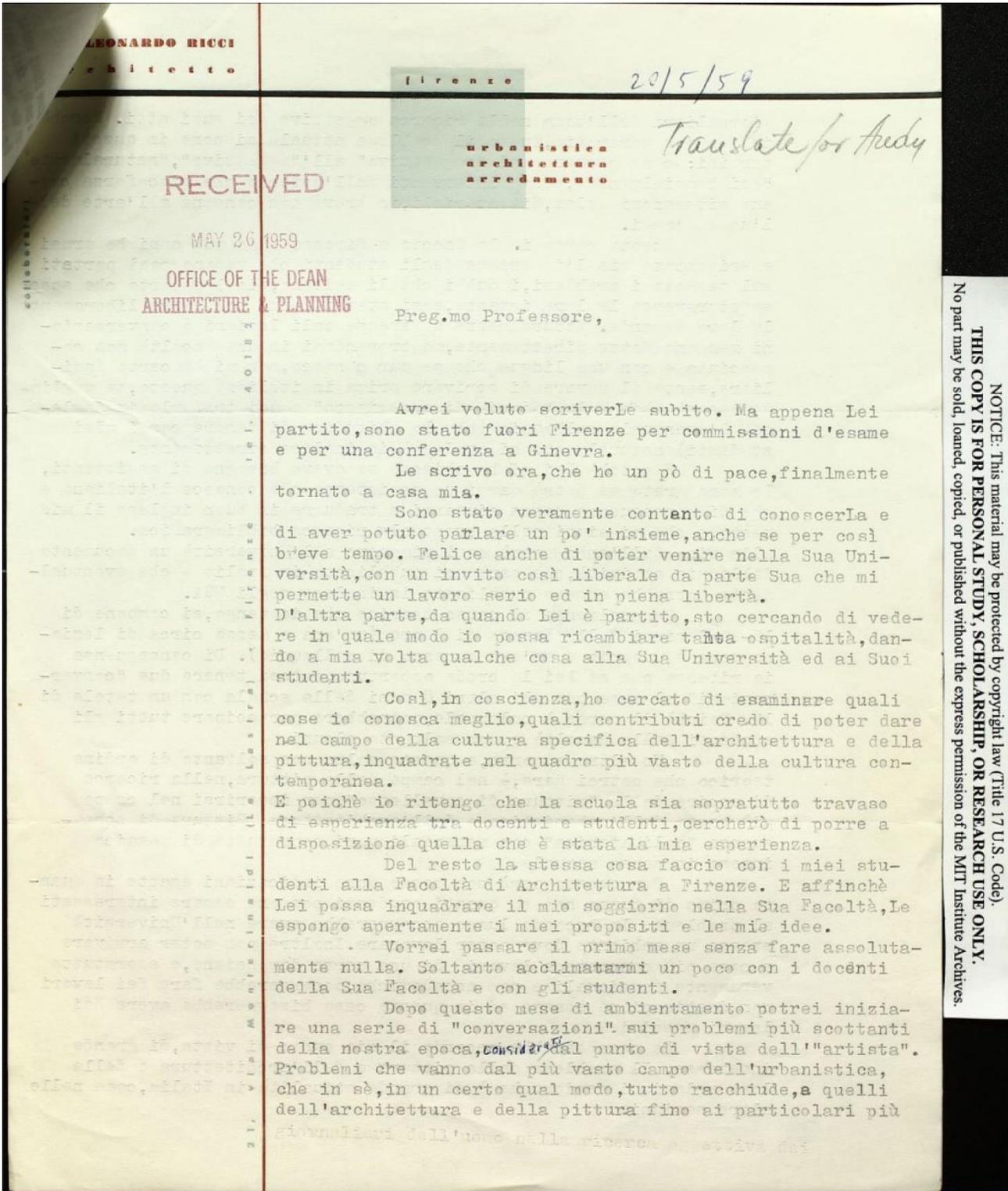
Very sincerely yours,



Elisabeth Mann Borgese.

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

APPENDIX III



LEONARDO RICCI  
architetto

Firenze

20/5/59

urbanistica  
architettura  
arredamento

*Translate for Aedy*

RECEIVED

MAY 26 1959

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

Preg.mo Professore,

Avrei voluto scriverLe subito. Ma appena Lei partito, sono state fuori Firenze per commissioni d'esame e per una conferenza a Ginevra.

Le scrivo ora, che ho un pò di pace, finalmente tornato a casa mia.

Sono stato veramente contento di conoscerLa e di aver potuto parlare un po' insieme, anche se per così breve tempo. Felice anche di poter venire nella Sua Università, con un invito così liberale da parte Sua che mi permette un lavoro serio ed in piena libertà. D'altra parte, da quando Lei è partito, sto cercando di vedere in quale modo io possa ricambiare tanta ospitalità, dando a mia volta qualche cosa alla Sua Università ed ai Suoi studenti.

Così, in coscienza, ho cercato di esaminare quali cose io conosca meglio, quali contributi credo di poter dare nel campo della cultura specifica dell'architettura e della pittura, inquadrata nel quadro più vasto della cultura contemporanea. E poichè io ritengo che la scuola sia soprattutto travaso di esperienza tra docenti e studenti, cercherò di porre a disposizione quella che è stata la mia esperienza.

Del resto la stessa cosa faccio con i miei studenti alla Facoltà di Architettura a Firenze. E affinché Lei possa inquadrare il mio soggiorno nella Sua Facoltà, Le espongo apertamente i miei propositi e le mie idee.

Vorrei passare il primo mese senza fare assolutamente nulla. Soltanto acclimatarmi un poco con i docenti della Sua Facoltà e con gli studenti.

Dopo questo mese di ambientamento potrei iniziare una serie di "conversazioni" sui problemi più scottanti della nostra epoca, considerati dal punto di vista dell'"artista". Problemi che vanno dal più vasto campo dell'urbanistica, che in sè, in un certo qual modo, tutto racchiude, a quelli dell'architettura e della pittura fino ai particolari più giovanili della ricerca creativa dei

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code). THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY. No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

ARCHIVE: M.I.T. Institute Archives and Special Collections  
Folder "Ricci, Leonardo 1959-1962", AC400\_0001

giornalieri dell'uomo nella ricerca oggettiva dei suoi atti. Perché in fondo, a parer mio, tutto il problema attuale si pone in questi termini: come passare dal "soggettivo" all'"oggettivo", "naturalmente", "esistenzialmente", senza interventi dall'esterno che giocoforza creano situazioni false, dittatoriali, in breve non consone all'arte dell'uomo d'oggi.

Questo corso io lo faccio a Firenze e da più anni ho ormai sperimentato sia l'interesse degli studenti che vedono così portati sul tappeto i problemi, i dubbi che li agitano, sia l'apporto che spesso attraverso le loro istanze, essi stessi danno col porre liberamente le loro domande. Naturalmente a Firenze tali lezioni o conversazioni vengono fatte direttamente, ma trovandomi in una Facoltà non conosciuta e con una lingua che se pur conosco, non mi è certo familiare, sento il dovere di scrivere prima in italiano questo, se vogliamo così chiamarlo, "diario di esperienza" e poi tradurlo in inglese. L'eventuale colloquio (che ho abitudine di tenere con i miei studenti) naturalmente si svolgerà in inglese direttamente.

E poiché Lei mi ha chiesto se avevo bisogno di assistenti, Le sono grato se potrà darmi un assistente che conosca l'italiano e che di conseguenza possa aiutarmi a tradurre in buon inglese il mio testo, e che mi aiuti nella eventuale ricerca bibliografica. Alla fine dell'anno potrà così rimanere all'Università un documento della mia attività, che sarà poi pubblicato in Italia e che eventualmente potrebbe essere pubblicato in inglese negli USA.

Generalmente il corso teorico che io tengo, si compone di 15-20 lezioni della durata di 3 ore (un'ora e mezzo circa di lezione vera e propria e un'ora e mezzo di colloquio). Di conseguenza io ritengo che se Lei lo crede opportuno, potrei tenere due "conversazioni" al mese per gli altri 8 mesi della scuola con un totale di 16. Poiché il corso è culturale, potrebbero partecipare tutti gli studenti della Facoltà e non soltanto alcuni.

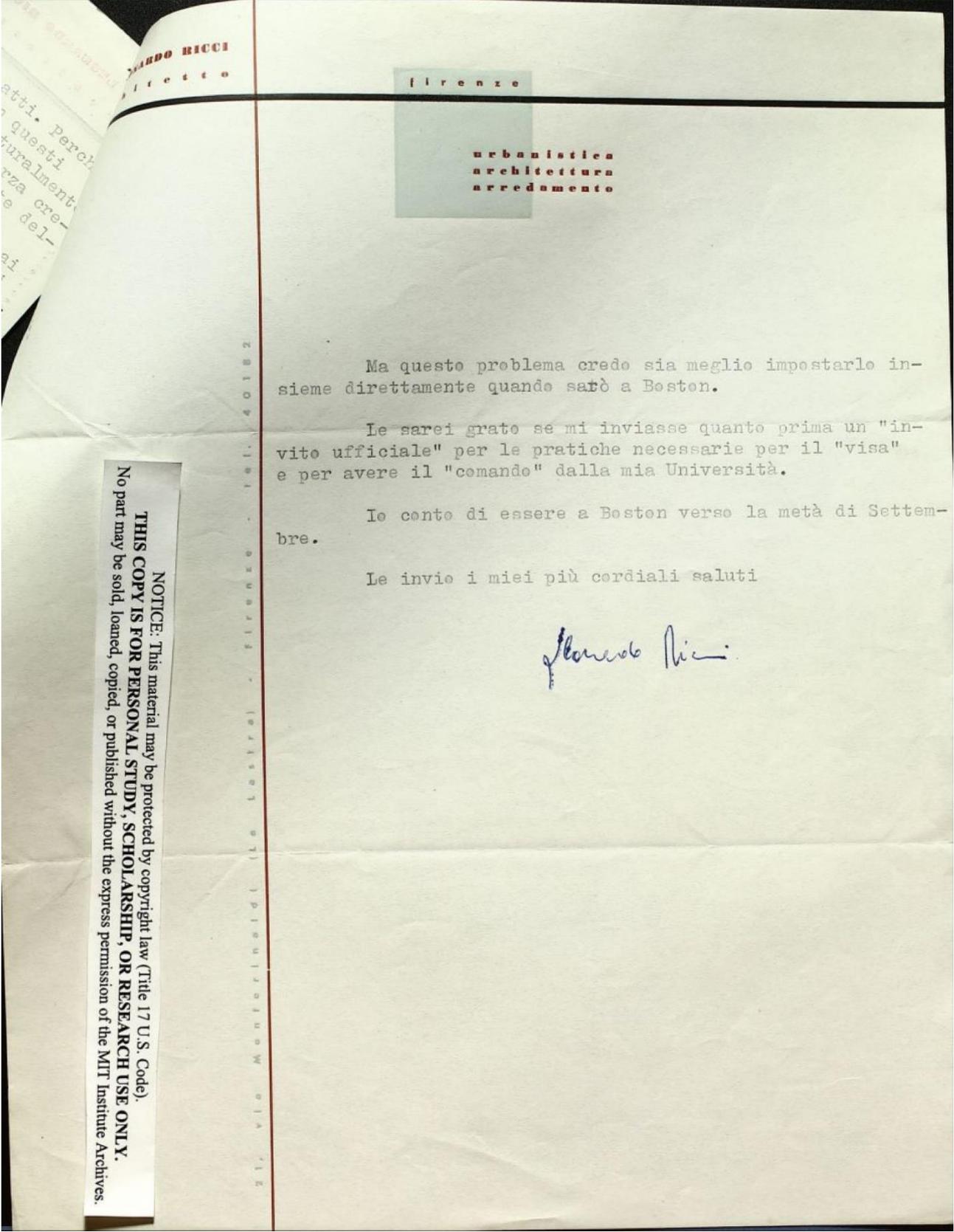
Un altro apporto, e questa volta non soltanto di ordine teorico che potrei dare, è nel campo della pittura, nella ricerca di uscire dalla "pittura di cavalletto", per inserirsi nel campo più vasto dell'urbanistica e dell'architettura. Pittura di conseguenza "polimaterica" con materiali vari, soprattutto di mosaico inteso in senso attuale.

Per questo però non posso dare indicazioni esatte in quanto prima di tutto non so quanti studenti possono essere interessati al problema. In secondo luogo occorrerebbe avere nell'Università stessa un ambiente dove poter lavorare. Inoltre per poter arrivare a cose più concrete, a lavori di una certa dimensione, e soprattutto veramente funzionali e non accademiche, occorrerebbe fare dei lavori con destinazione esatta ed in questo caso bisognerebbe avere dei lavori precisi.

La cosa sarebbe, secondo il mio punto di vista, di grande interesse. Il problema della pittura e dell'architettura e delle loro relazioni reciproche è di grande attualità in Italia, come nelle altre nazioni.

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
**THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.**  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

APPENDIX III



NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
**THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.**  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

f i r e n z e

urbanistica  
architettura  
arredamento

Ma questo problema credo sia meglio impostarlo insieme direttamente quando sarò a Boston.

Le sarei grato se mi inviaste quanto prima un "invito ufficiale" per le pratiche necessarie per il "visa" e per avere il "comando" dalla mia Università.

Io conto di essere a Boston verso la metà di Settembre.

Le invio i miei più cordiali saluti

*Giovanni Ricci*

atti. Perch  
questi  
turalment  
za cre  
e del  
ai

MARIO RICCI  
f i r e n z e

40182  
f i r e n z e  
v i a M e n t e r i n o l d i ( L e C a s t r o )

ARCHIVE: M.I.T. Institute Archives and Special Collections  
Folder "Ricci, Leonardo 1959-1962", AC400\_0001

dr. prof. LEONARDO RICCI  
a r c h i t e t t o

f i r e n z e

27/7/59

urbanistica  
architettura  
arredamento

RECEIVED

AUG 5 1959

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

Prof. Arch. Pietro Belluschi  
Dean of M.I.T.  
Massachusetts

Care Professore,

ho tardato a rispondere alla lettera ufficiale di invite del Prof. Anderson, perchè ho dovuto parlare prima con il Consiglio di Facoltà della mia Università.

Infatti mentre precedentemente avevo detto, dopo la Sua venuta a Firenze, che avrei lasciato l'Italia i primi di settembre, ho dovuto in seguito fare spostare la data.

In verità mi è spiaciuto un poco il cambiamento di programma della Sua Facoltà, perchè avevo già preso alcuni impegni per la fine di settembre a N.Y. ed avevo combinato alcuni programmi fra i quali lo spostamento negli U.S.A. della mia famiglia.

Ad ogni modo era tutto rimediato. Così, come chiestomi nella lettera del Prof. Anderson, io sarò a Boston per i primi di gennaio.

La ringrazio di nuovo per la Sua cortesia e fiducia e Le invio i miei più cordiali saluti.

Molte caramente

*Leonardo Ricci*

collaboratori

40182

tel.

Firenze

Le

NOTICE: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).  
**THIS COPY IS FOR PERSONAL STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH USE ONLY.**  
No part may be sold, loaned, copied, or published without the express permission of the MIT Institute Archives.

APPENDIX

NEWS

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

312 OLD MAIN BLDG., UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802 / TELEPHONE 814-865-7517

813760

11-26-65

for immediate release

University Park, Pa., Nov. --- Communities may be stimulated by a totally new concept in planning when the class of fifth-year architectural students at The Pennsylvania State University is graduated and the graduates enter professional practice next year!

The students are learning to question current planning modes which separate cities into zones. Their interest is being spurred by <sup>ABVF</sup> Leonardo Ricci, the noted Italian architect, who is distinguished visiting professor of architecture at Penn State this term.

Professor Ricci, author of "Anonymous 20th Century," is professor of architecture at the University of Florence. His designs are prominent throughout Italy. Although he lives in the city where the Renaissance began, Professor Ricci is concerned with city life today and tomorrow.

"Town planning," he believes, "does not deal with the real facts of man's life. It begins with existing forms and fits man's activities around them. Instead, planning should commence with these activities and result in appropriate forms.

- m o r e -

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ROOM

ARCHIVE: Pennsylvania State University

Ricci---add 1

"Twentieth century life takes place within the framework of an alienated society," he continued. "We pass, through growing traffic jams, from one zone to another. There is a zone for industry, a zone for agriculture, a zone for houses -- zones for everything."

Using hospital zones as an illustration, Professor Ricci points out that many of the sick do not benefit from total isolation amid strange surroundings. Perhaps it is necessary only to separate surgery and other highly technical phases of medical care and integrate the ill wherever possible into the community. Besides the psychological benefits it promises, this procedure would be more economical.

"Again," Professor Ricci says, "workers are hidden away from society, even from one another, within industrial zones. Technically, it lies within our grasp to design places of work which need not be separated from residential areas, to expose the processes of industry and dignify them."

Changing the manner of our lives is not a job for the architect alone, he emphasizes. It requires an inter-disciplinary approach to study man's real needs, not as they are now organized, but as they should be.

To demonstrate his theories, Professor Ricci is directing his students in the construction of models for an integrated community. The models must be submitted to appropriate specialists--- a model for health care to physicians, for example---their criticisms incorporated, and the models corrected.

"No one architect can invent a form forever valid," Professor Ricci tells his students. "We must not blindly accept present structures as eternal varieties."

####

## APPENDIX

from Public Information  
(L. Wartik)

Nov. 30, 1965

A three-dimensional city, accomodating 10,000 people and all their needs within less than a linear mile, was unveiled last night at a lecture by Leonardo Ricci. Prof. Ricci has been distinguished visiting professor of architecture at the University this term.

The model, designed and executed by fifth year architectural students, was explained by three of them after Prof. Ricci outlined the philosophy behind it. The students were D. James H. Pappas, Anthony S. Pierce and Anthony C. Platt.

Because of his belief that no city existing today satisfied man's real needs, Prof. Ricci set himself the problem of designing a new one. He outlined the basic research involved in his concept of an integrated town, eliminating zoning which he <sup>considers</sup> believes responsible for our alienated society.

"The first step in the research for a new town is a study of the territory where it will be located," he explained. "Using an inter-disciplinary approach, the architect next studies human <sup>acts</sup>, man's real as opposed to his artificial needs. Communication and transportation are then examined to evolve a system which will connect the landscape instead of dividing it as <sup>do</sup> our present superhighways <sup>do</sup>."

Next comes research into what Prof. Ricci terms equipment---what is necessary to promote recreation, health, education. Habitat research is essential to create flexible living space. The over-

---More---

Ricci--2--

all structure of the city must be considered, and the morphology or language of architecture analyzed. Finally, the architect must place the city within the economic and legal framework of its country.

Pierce, Platt and Pappas were the spokesmen for the 40 students who collaborated on the model. The framework of this city, Platt began, was built with a series of vertical walls and horizontal beams, which would be of pre-stressed concrete. The beams could be shifted at will and vertical units added as needed. Accordingly, the city could grow <sup>continuously</sup> in any direction necessary, and ~~continuously~~.

The city has a communications spine running throughout its length, according to Pappas. No cars are allowed within its boundaries, where transportation is by monorail, elevators and moving sidewalks. Harbors are provided along the <sup>model's</sup> sides for cars, trucks, railroads and shipping. There is also a heliport.

Students built habitat areas, Pappas continued, capable of containing up to 75 persons, and completely integrated into the city's functions and excitement. Farms, industries and commercial areas are incorporated into the structure. Within the space of a few minutes however, it is possible to walk out into an unspoiled landscape.

Groups of people living together require a government and cultural outlets, Pierce explained in his turn. A civic center, government offices, auditorium, museum and theater are therefore provided, as well as a site for general religious observances. Two large areas are allotted for "large public spectacles," a stadium and theater.

The model will be displayed on the third floor of Sackett Building for all those wishing to view it.

APPENDIX III

April 11 - 1969 -

(1)

A new story starts - It starts over a taxi-plane. I am flying from  
Granville to Miami, ~~The day is splendid~~ The sun is bright - ~~I am not~~  
If I should take surprises from the sunrise I should say that this story  
will be a good story -

I have decided to write a journal - I have decided to write in English -  
I don't care of mistakes - after all I speak in English with the passages  
of this story - Why should I hide myself in a good Italian ~~or~~ or in  
a good English, translated by others?

I write for myself - Perhaps in the future will be a useful ~~paper~~ <sup>paper</sup>  
~~for many others~~ -

I like at once to remove the curiosity to the eventual readers - I don't  
want put them in suspense - This is not a metaphysical, intellectual  
story - Certainly not a story of love - and yet! and yet it could and  
should be -

But I have to proceed with a certain order -  
The story is personal - But in reality not - Because It is a story of men -  
Ninety <sup>five</sup> thousands men - Ninety two thousands negroes -  
Ninety two thousand persons discriminated, discriminated, damned of earth -  
Also if, here, in ~~the States~~ America, these damned of earth, are less poor,  
less certainly happy, of many whiter of the old, civilized with to  
be decadent, Europe. Think to Italian farmers, ~~or~~ or Indian  
shepherds - But these are negroes - They have a black skin -  
That it means, ~~for many people~~ <sup>for many people</sup>, a black soul -

ARCHIVE: CASA STUDIO RICCI  
"The Floridian Diary" of Leonardo Ricci

Each story don't start from a zero point - Each story is a continuation (2  
of many others - So intertwined, tangled, connected to result one story only -  
Story of men, alive, dead or to be born -  
But at a certain time a child gets out from mother's belly - We say: he is born.  
This story is born some minutes ago -  
But what am I doing flying to Miami?  
Below me lakes, orange groves, vines oaks of Florida -

Precedents -

Personal precedents in telegraphic style -

I am an architect - Fifty years old - So called nationally and internationally  
Known - I have enough - Till now I was or a dictator or a pro-dictator -  
If you like to know the why please read my book "Anonymous XX<sup>th</sup> century"  
You will not find it - Edition is finished -

If I go to Miami is because I hope, finally to be an architect as  
I always wanted to be - You will understand -

April 12 - Miami airport -

I don't know dirty words in English - I know only one: shit -  
Shit! Shit! Shit!

April 13 -

The harbor where I live alone in front a very  
nice lake or pond - Not for a long time -  
One year more and it will be impossible to stay -  
The lake will be spoiled by small little boats  
and trailers -

APPENDIX III

Each story don't start from a zero point - Each story is a continuation of (2 many others - So intertwined, tangled, connected to result one story only. Story of man, alive dead ~~or~~ or to be born - But at a certain time a child gets out from mother's belly - We say: he is born - [This story is born some minutes ago - But what am I doing flying to Miami? Below we lakes, swamps, praves, vines, oaks of Florida -

Precedents -

Personal precedents in telegraphic wire -

I am an author - Fifty years old - So called nationally and internationally known

I have enough - Till now I was on a dictation or a work table -

If you like to know the why please read my book Anonymous XX<sup>th</sup> century

You will not find it - ~~My present~~ Edition is finished -

If I go to Miami is because I hope, finally, to be an author as I always ~~desired~~ wanted to be - You will understand -

April 12 - Miami - Airport -

I don't know dirty words in English - I know only one - Shut -

Shut - Shut - Shut -

April 13 - In a trailer. Where I live alone in front a very nice lake or pond - Not for a long time - One year more and it will impossible to stay - The lake will be spoiled by mille little little houses, bars and

From this letter you will get travellers the key of the story -

~~A letter that perhaps it will become a document -~~

The letter is addressed to Windsor Gordon Johnson, the director of Model city program.

ARCHIVE: CASA STUDIO RICCI  
"The Floridian Diary" of Leonardo Ricci

Key of the story -

The Model Cities Program  
Every body knows <sup>what it is</sup> that exist the Model Cities Program -

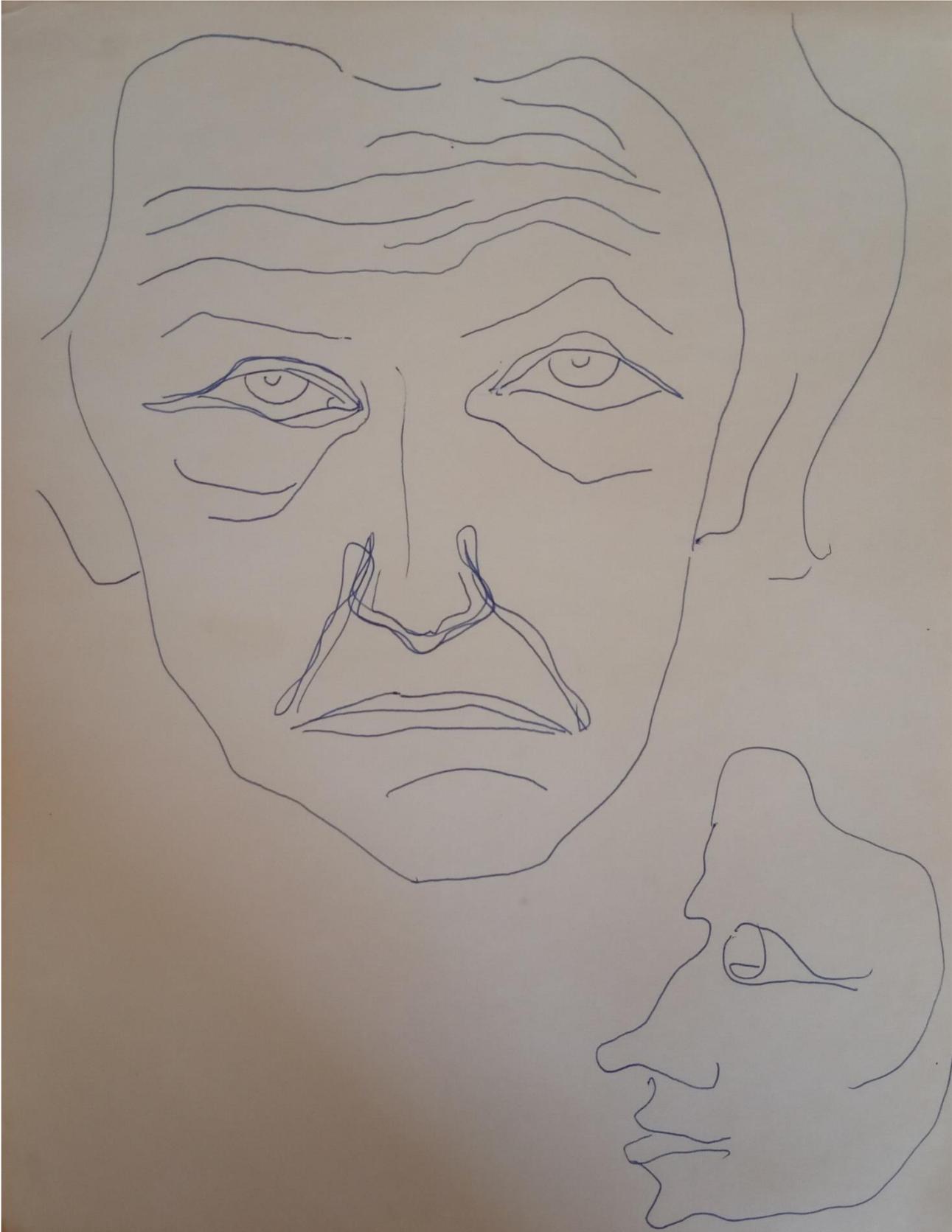
All the channels of communication were used to disseminate the concept.

I have asked to many people of different culture, social condition, profession -

The answers are very different - So different that any reportage ~~book~~ could  
~~be~~ be only subject of curiosity - Inadequate for my scope -

(3)

APPENDIX III





APPENDIX III

To consider absolute - The intellectuals, from the positions of leaders, have to assume the role of manure to permit to the plants to grow. (4)  
Frankly, for a new society, for a better organization, for a new structure, I hope only in the contact of poor, rich, oppressed people, with the few really intellectual men, who having to work with the <sup>human</sup> knowledge, cannot misify themselves. <sup>Indeed</sup> Because they know that out of the organic process of men on earth there is only place for wars, revolutions, genocide, deportation, pre-dancers.

When I arrived in Gainesville, knowing the governmental Program of Model Cities, which in itself could be really a pleasurable occasion for experimentation, I said to myself: "Are these programs really wonderful opportunities or ~~are~~ tricks? Let me try to discover."

I made with <sup>✓</sup> Minter ~~Chairman~~ <sup>Chairman</sup> of the department of Architecture. He was enthusiastic of the idea. We came to Miami to contact you -

I returned back frustrated - Like a def - you were ripe to be - You were suspicious - Now I know why - <sup>✓</sup> The organization of Model City Program appeared to me a real mess - I saw only diagrams -

Squares, circles, line of junction <sup>rectangles</sup> and squares, rectangles, circles - In the geometric figures names - Names - Had - Little Had - Talk free - Federal money - Refusal board - Waste Money - Agencies - Many expenses - Black, rose, pink, green - Private money. And so on -

It appeared to me that this gigantic bureaucratic organization was just created not for solving problems, but to create new ones. In my mind I was just thinking - "Gosh!

~~There~~ <sup>There</sup> are the ninety five thousands feet, ninety five hearts, ninety five stomachs of inhabitants? What will give them after hours hours promises. Square, rectangles, circles of paper, with

~~Chairman~~ <sup>Chairman</sup> of the department of Architecture.

ARCHIVE: CASA STUDIO RICCI  
"The Floridian Diary" of Leonardo Ricci

once full lines of junctions? And if they, this summer, when  
it will be hot, humid, and burns next to soil, will burn  
everything? Who or what species will be responsible? 5

The first approach was really better.

With the students I had to start with an other paper, ~~was considered~~  
~~was also if not with Miami Model City program~~ of loved -

In my mind I said was saying to myself: "Don't give up. Don't  
give up. Leo!! ~~Lee is my~~ ~~first~~ - I did not give up

I am Hubson. For me your people was too important -

With the help of Mister Flannery, a subject who is also a politician,

~~who we had to see the work I was doing with the students~~

After three months we contacted again ~~the~~ Miami Model City program. (2)

Tallahassee April 14 -

~~In a beautiful garden~~  
I a beautiful garden. Sit over some steps  
looked see splendid trees - Oaks high at least  
70 feet - A majestic creature - at least 50 feet.  
The garden is "for sale" next year perhaps -  
These trees old 3 hundred years will become paper  
or matches. (Paper, needles or what?).  
Why don't put here a nice a good smelling  
fragrance station?

Continuation of the letter to Mister Johnson -

The numbers of our contacts can be resumed with the words that  
Henry, the driver who came to pick up ~~at~~ me at the airport last

time: "Something is deep, mister Ricci. Every body likes you -

Many people come for Model City Program - They are so military - You are

different ~~to~~ I ~~cannot~~ cannot say "I believe in God" as I cannot

say "I do not believe in God" But in that moment in my mind:

~~I say~~ "God bless you" ~~and~~

(2) This time the opportunity was offered as from mister



ARCHIVE: CASA STUDIO RICCI  
"The Floridian Diary" of Leonardo Ricci

April 25. 9

~~Good afternoon i state~~ This week was for me very <sup>the same</sup> disheartening. The hope for when  
experiment is continually frustrated. It is true - ~~perhaps~~ <sup>the same</sup> for Model City could  
permit new experiment. But in reality who like to do these experiments?  
The authorities? Population? The agencies? Perhaps only 1-2 of these  
are of will not succeed. But I cannot give up.

### APPENDIX III

Some observations -

The nature in Miami is marvelous. The ocean - The bay - Wonderful trees -  
All Miami could be a fantastic Venice over the water - Like Venice -  
But this it is not happened - Useless to find the why - There are  
certainly reasons - But for what ~~I like to express I don't~~ are my purposes  
I don't care -

In this moment for instance I am over the Marina of Coconut Grove,  
one of the nicest place of this town - Hundreds perhaps thousands of  
boat are in front of me - It is eleven o'clock in the morning -

The Marina is desert - Only a few hippies are going leazy up and down -  
No one boat is going - They are like skeletons over the sand -

A ~~feeling~~ feeling of safety -

And yet all could be so ~~dead~~ alive! Men are sad -

Also the most beautiful houses, just two or three hundred feet far  
from the ~~to~~ bay have forgotten the water -

And yet -

Creasy world! It is happened just the opposite!

~~I like~~ Over the island (take this beach) were the contact with  
the water, the ocean, the bay would have been easy, continuous  
natural fantastic with skeleton create a wall which destroy  
every - thing, culture man - If the land were was needed  
really a big skeleton to participate with the sea, an enormous  
effection of little little houses without any agitation, like a  
cancer, take place - We could be in not what flat place  
in the world, for thousands mile from the ocean -

I say this just because the Model City area is not in Miami -  
Where is? Nobody knows - Where we are? Nobody knows -  
What I know Red in a certain way ~~and~~ Red will know

ARCHIVE: CASA STUDIO RICCI  
"The Floridian Diary" of Leonardo Ricci

I don't know I will bring the see to Model City -  
Model City see by to belong to the nature -

I told them - I tell to myself -  
They are colored - They are black - They are negroes -  
I am a nigger -

APPENDIX III

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 1

UNIVERSITY OF GAINESVILLE

DEPARTEMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS

SPECIAL STUDIES IN ARCHITECTURE

STUDIO PER LA REALIZZAZIONE DI UN PARTICOLARE SISTEMA  
STRUTTURALE PER EDIFICI DI VARIA DESTINAZIONE

RICCARDO MORANDI with :

GEORGE SCHEFFER

JOHN PREISLER

JOHN TOPPE

GAINESVILLE, 15 MAGGIO 1969

PROF. ING. RICCARDO MORANDI  
STUDIO TECNICO



ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 2

PREMESSA

Il presente studio si riferisce alla realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale da utilizzarsi per la costruzione di un complesso di edifici la cui progettazione è stata eseguita dalla classe di Special Studies in Architecture dell'Università di Gainesville, sotto la direzione del Prof. Arch. Leonardo Ricci, il quale ha formulato le indicazioni principali per la progettazione del detto sistema strutturale.-

Nell'elaborato che segue, corredato da due modelli (uno di insieme in scala  $1/200$  ed uno di dettaglio in scala  $1/10$ ) si intende esporre i criteri per la progettazione sia del sistema stesso che del relativo metodo di esecuzione.-

Le calcolazioni, per ora di massima, che hanno condotto al dimensionamento delle varie membrature, sono state eseguite in ottemperanza di quanto prescrive il "Building Code Requirements for Reinforced Concrete" (Aci 318/63).-

a) Descrizione generale.

Si esamini un sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione in cui l'adozione dei criteri di rigorosa modulazione delle varie parti e quindi di standardizzazione delle varie membrature, tutte prefabbricate, permette altresì la realizzazione di spazi di varia dimensione, il tutto per una massima libertà di articolazione dei volumi da costruirsi.-

I criteri generali adottati sono i seguenti :

1) L'edificio è costituito da una serie sovrapposta e sovrappesa (di qualsiasi altezza totale) di corpi di fabbrica di due piani la cui pianta nasce dalla superficie pari alla somma di tanti moduli delle dimensioni di ml. 4,00 per ml. 4,00 (si adottò per l'innanzi il simbolo  $\lambda$  per il segmento di ml. 4,00), connessi in modo da determinare una qualsiasi figura geometrica.-

Il corpo di fabbrica unitario così risultante è librato in aria, in qualsiasi posizione, vincolato ad un certo numero di elementi verticali portanti che scaricano il loro peso sul terreno e che, a loro volta, sono costituiti da quattro pilastri verticali, anch'essi disposti secondo un quadrato di lato .-

Il solaio superiore, delle dimensioni totali di  $n_1 \lambda \times n_2 \lambda$ , risulta costituito da un sistema di travi incrociate prefabbricate di calcestruzzo precompresso.-

Le travi avranno una lunghezza massima di  $3\lambda$  e, per ogni estremità di esse, sarà necessaria la costituzione di un tirante obliquo che riporti le reazioni delle dette

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 4

travi al più prossimo elemento verticale portante.-

Il complesso delle travi di cui sopra, tutte prefabbricate, determina quindi un graticcio a maglia quadrata su cui (e con l'ausilio di altre travi che si definiscono secondarie) saranno posate tante piastre quadrate delle dimensioni  $\lambda \times \lambda$  che, opportunamente legate alle travi sottostanti, costituiranno una superficie continua che potrà assolvere sia la funzione di copertura del corpo di fabbrica che quella di pavimento di un eventuale ulteriore piano, questo interposto tra la detta copertura ed il solaio inferiore di un altro corpo di fabbrica sovrapposto.-

Al solaio di copertura di cui sopra verranno appesi gli altri due solai (costituiti da tante piastre  $\lambda \times \lambda$  identi che a quelle superiori), sopportati da tiranti verticali disposti in corrispondenza dei nodi della rete  $\lambda \times \lambda$ , cioè la distanza reciproca dei vari tiranti sarà  $\lambda$ .-

In tal maniera, nel caso di più corpi di fabbrica sovrapposti, sarà possibile ottenere, per due piani, spazi liberi dell'area  $\lambda \times \lambda$  e per un piano spazi liberi dell'area  $n_1 \lambda \times n_2 \lambda$ , per i quali, però, occorre tener conto degli ingombri determinati dagli elementi principali verticali portanti e dei vari tiranti obliqui.-

Per il caso particolare del piano terreno, in cui non compariranno i tiranti obliqui, gli spazi liberi saranno totalmente delle dimensioni di  $n_1 \lambda \times n_2 \lambda$  in cui bisognerà tener conto soltanto dell'ingombro degli elementi verticali.-

2) Il dettaglio progettuale è stato studiato soprattutto per poter usare la prefabbricazione per le membrature orizzontali mediante l'uso di una particolare attrezzatura come più avanti descritto.-

3) Verrà adottato il concetto dell'omogeneizzazione integrale delle strutture principali portanti, nel senso che i pilastri, le travi ed i tiranti si comporteranno come strutture di calcestruzzo, tutte in campo di compressione, per cui saranno ridotte al minimo le deformazioni per effetto dei carichi accidentali e completamente annullate quelle prodotte dai pesi propri.- Questo significa che tutte le strutture inflesse e tese subiranno un preventivo trattamento di coazione per cui ogni tensione di trazione nell'interno delle varie membrature determinerà gli effetti di una variazione del campo delle compressioni indotte dalla detta coazione preventiva.-

Ciò determina, tra l'altro, un aumento notevole del coefficiente di sicurezza "a fatica" dell'acciaio e la certezza concettuale che, specialmente per le strutture sottoposte a semplice trazione (secondo quanto indicano le equazioni generali della statica del sistema) non siano da temersi danneggiamenti dell'acciaio per lesioni del calcestruzzo al variare delle tensioni dell'acciaio stesso per i carichi accidentali.-

4) A costruzione ultimata, la molteplice serie di elementi prefabbricati si comporterà come una struttura spaziale con

tinua per opera di opportune suture, sia con barre di acciaio normale sia con cavi post-tesi, protetti da piccoli getti "in loco".-

b) Sistema vincolare adottato ed ipotesi di carico.

Come è già stato accennato più sopra e come verrà meglio specificato in seguito, le varie parti prefabbricate subiranno variazioni nel sistema dei vincoli per cui occorre a questo punto specificare le ipotesi ed i dispositivi adottati.-

Si premette che le calcolazioni sono state effettuate con le seguenti ipotesi di carico :

- Solaio superiore :

peso proprio	=	0,500	T/mq.
sovraccarichi	=	0,300	"
		<u>        </u>	
Totale	=	0,800	T/mq.

- Solai inferiori :

peso proprio	=	0,250	T/mq.
sovraccarichi	=	0,250	"
		<u>        </u>	
Totale	=	0,500	T/mq.

Le varie membrature prefabbricate sono state calcolate per la seguente serie di variazioni delle loro tensioni interne :

1) Travi principali :

I° stato di tensione :

Trave a sezione incompleta supposta semplicemente appoggiata sottoposta a : peso proprio, peso delle piastre, peso del getto di completamento, sforzo di precompressione opportuno .

II° stato di tensione :

Quello precedente ma con la sovrapposizione delle tensioni dovute al sovraccarico accidentale del solaio ed ai pesi dei solai sottostanti, per l'ipotesi però che la trave sia stata resa continua a quelle adiacenti e per una sezione resistente completa.-

2) Piastre :

Semplice appoggio per il proprio peso ; incastro elastico per i sovraccarichi accidentali.-

3) Tiranti :

L'acciaio dei tiranti sarà post-teso in due tempi e cioè :

I° tempo : tensione all'acciaio relativa al peso proprio di tutta la struttura (circa il 40 % della tensione totale).

II° tempo : a struttura ultimata : tensione totale corrispondente a tutti i sovraccarichi (accidentali e permanenti) nonché a tutte le perdite per viscosità del calcestruzzo, attrito, con un margine di sicurezza di almeno il 20 % della compressione massima a struttura senza sovraccarico.

c) Descrizione del metodo di esecuzione.

I° fase :

Le fondazioni.

Ciascun elemento verticale principale portante trasmetterà i suoi carichi verticali al sistema fondante.- Ovviamente, data la notevole distanza reciproca tra i detti elementi e la possibilità che il sistema possa raggiungere altezze altrettanto notevoli, si determineranno forti concentrazioni di carico su modeste superfici per cui, a meno che non si possa costruire su terreni di ottima resistenza meccanica (quali ad esempio roccia, alluvioni compatte e rigide, ecc.), sarà necessario usare palificate profonde.- Per queste è consigliabile ricorrere a pali di notevole portata unitaria (pali di grande diametro) in maniera che possa ridursi al minimo la consistenza delle strutture interposte (zattere di fondazioni) tra pali e pilastri.-

La progettazione del dispositivo fondante può definirsi convenzionale e non ha bisogno di altre delucidazioni.-

II° fase :

Gli elementi verticali principali portanti.

Gli elementi portanti sono, come già detto, costituiti da quattro pilastri di sezione quadrata, posti con le loro superfici esterne alla distanza di  $\lambda$  e che costituiscono una stilata a pianta quadrata.-

La stilata sarà eseguita con il metodo delle "cassaforme rampanti".- Cioè ciascun pilastro verrà gettato in situ, entro una cassaforma che dopo poche ore potrà, a mezzo di un

### APPENDIX III

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 9

dispositivo meccanico, sollevarsi e, appoggiandosi al calcestruzzo già indurito (almeno parzialmente), conterà un nuovo getto, e così via, con una velocità di elevazione possibile di circa 3 metri per ogni 24 ore.-

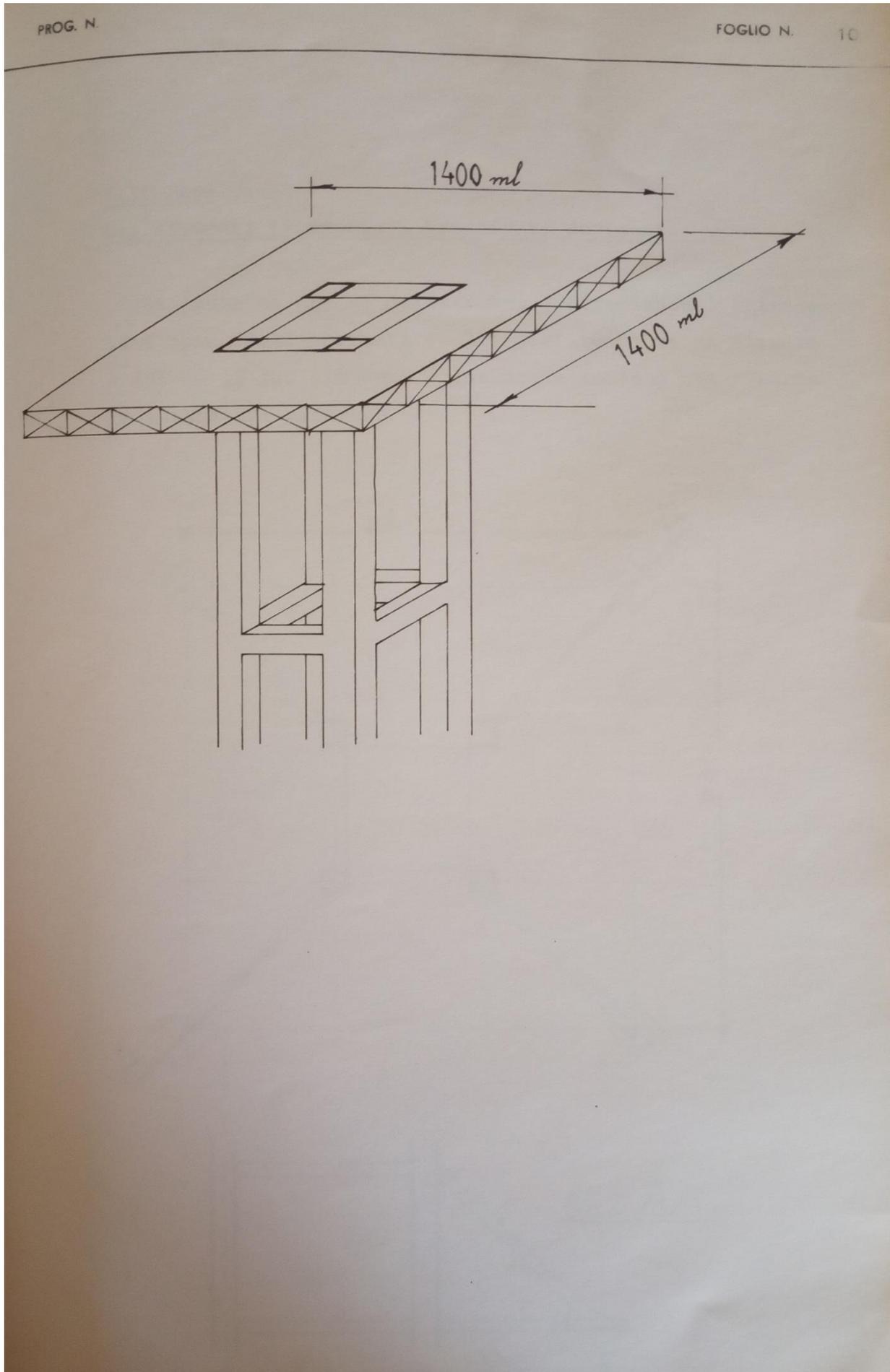
Insieme alle cassaforme salirà lungo i pilastri una piattaforma metallica che servirà, oltre che per il servizio dei getti, anche per la costruzione degli elementi orizzontali di legamento tra i vari pilastri.-

Le dimensioni della piattaforma saranno come allo schizzo della pagina seguente.-

La piattaforma stessa potrà essere costituita da una leggera struttura reticolare di acciaio, tenendo conto che essa non sopporterà mai forti carichi.-

Quando i pilastri avranno raggiunto una certa altezza (si ritiene che essa non potrà essere superiore a circa ml. 50,00 date le dimensioni della stilata, a meno che non si ricorra a costosi legamenti provvisori tra più stilate), si potrà passare alla fase successiva.-

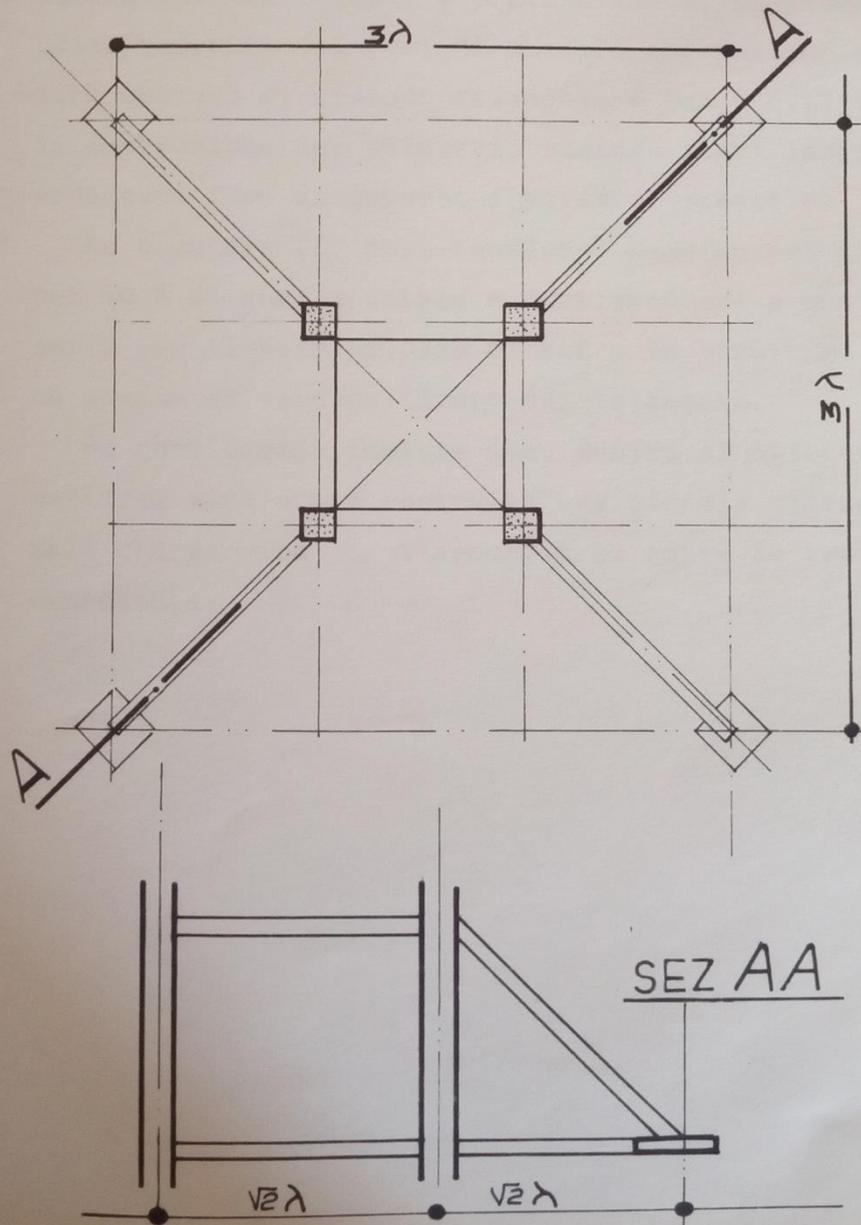
ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
“Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione”, and  
“Architecture at Urban Scale”, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969



III° fase :

Gli elementi triangolari principali portanti.

Si premette che si definiscono quali elementi triangolari principali portanti quelli costituiti da un tirante a  $45^\circ$  ed il suo elemento orizzontale sotteso che riporta la spinta sul pilastro.-



ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 12

Per eseguire questi elementi si riabbassa la piattaforma di cui sopra fino al livello inferiore del lato orizzontale del triangolo.- Tale livello coincide con l'intradosso delle future travi portanti del solaio superiore.- Con l'ausilio della piattaforma si costruisce sia il lato inclinato che quello orizzontale del triangolo.-

Dopo il montaggio delle due membrature (che possono essere gettate in situ o prefabbricate) si procede ad una prima tesatura dei cavi di acciaio che passano entro il lato obliquo di ciascun triangolo e per i quali, durante la costruzione dei pilastri, saranno stati lasciati gli opportuni fori attraverso i pilastri stessi.-

La tesatura (I° post-tensione) raggiungerà il valore del 40 % di quella totale e corrisponderà a quanto necessario per il peso proprio di tutta la struttura che saranno appese al vertice libero del triangolo.-

Da considerare inoltre che, subito al disotto di detto vertice, sarà stata costruita una piccola piazzola ottagonale che servirà per l'appoggio di tutte le travi di cui appresso.-

# APPENDIX III

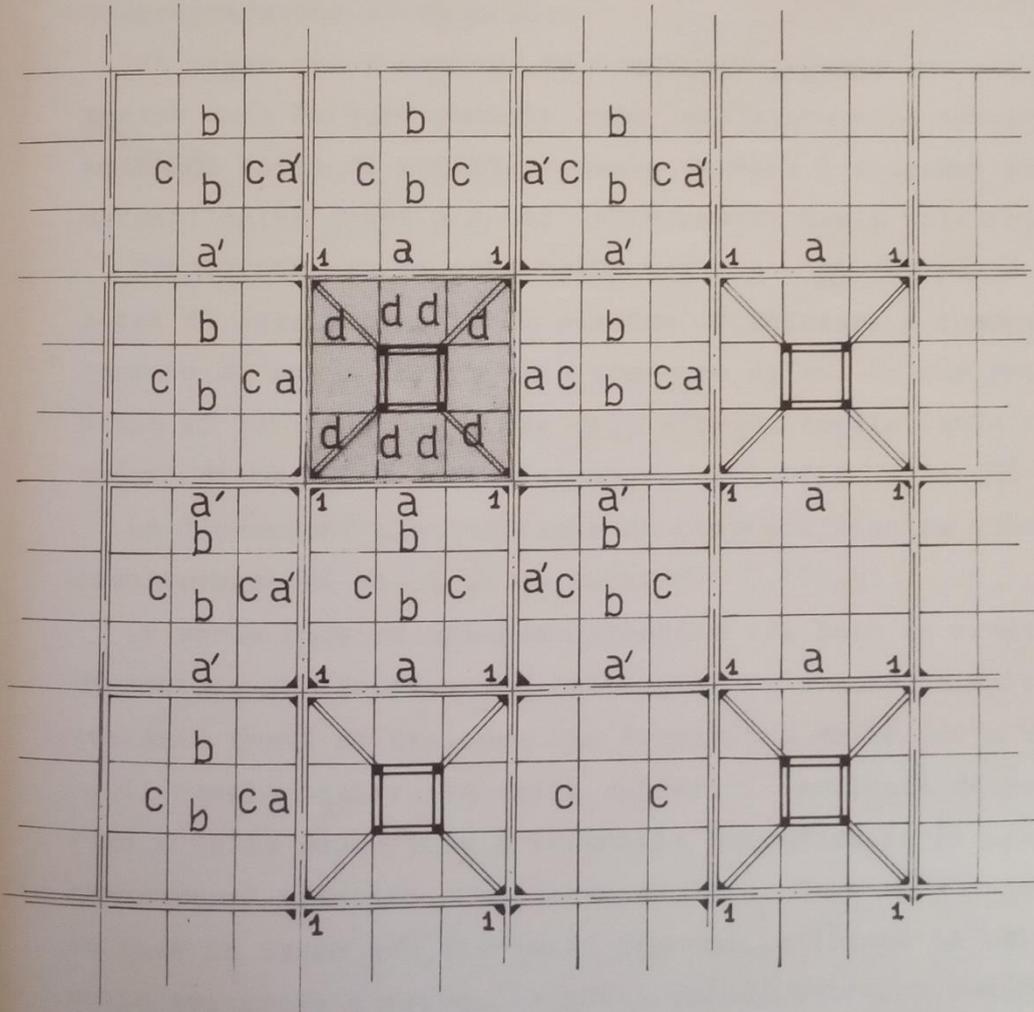
PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 13

IV° fase :

Montaggio delle varie parti del solaio superiore tra i vertici 1:

Ultimata la tensione dei cavi obliqui, nei limiti più sopra specificati, si monteranno le travi a :



ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 14

Dette travi saranno di calcestruzzo armato precompres-  
so di sezione a doppio T ed i cavi per la propria coazione  
saranno stati progettati sia, come già più sopra detto,  
per sostenere, a sezione incompleta, il peso proprio del  
solaio superiore, che, a sezione completata ed in regime  
di continuità, anche i pesi propri dei solai appesi nonchè  
i sovraccarichi accidentali di tutti e tre i solai.- Pertan-  
to, prima del montaggio, le travi a saranno poste in coazio-  
ne in un sol tempo, dando cioè a loro tutto lo sforzo di  
precompressione necessario.-

Si passa ora a montare le travi <sup>d</sup> che saranno non precom-  
presse data la loro modesta luce, collegate alle travi a a  
mezzo di barre di acciaio normale saldate a spezzoni fuori-  
uscenti dalle travi a e dai collegamenti tra i pilastri.-

Completata ora la rete delle travi a e d, si porrà al di  
sopra di esse una serie di piastre triangolari e quadrate  
formate da una soletta dello spessore di cm. 8, che presente-  
ranno ai lati una nervatura dell'altezza totale (soletta com-  
presa) di cm. 25 e della larghezza variabile da cm. 18 a cm. 12

Le dimensioni planimetriche di ciascuna piastra quadrata  
risulteranno di ml. ( $\lambda - 0,12$ )x( $\lambda - 0,12$ ).-

Le varie piastre saranno collegate tra loro da armature  
di acciaio che fuoriescono dalle piastre stesse ed alle sot-  
tostanti travi da armature che fuoriescono dalle dette travi.-

Il canale costituito dalle superfici verticali delle nerva-  
ture e dalla superficie orizzontale estradossale di ciascuna  
trave verrà riempito, con getto in loco, dopo aver inserito  
in esse le barre longitudinali che costituiranno il collega-  
mento tra trave e trave, le quali quindi potranno considerar-  
si continue per quanto si riferisce al sovraccarico accidenta-

le del solaio che si sta descrivendo ed al peso proprio e sovraccarico accidentale dei due solai inferiori appesi a quello superiore.-

Analogamente sarà gettato in loco il calcestruzzo che determinerà il completamento dei vertici inferiori di attacco dei tiranti obliqui, avendo avuto ovviamente l'avvertenza di lasciare i fori per il passaggio dei cavi per i tiranti di sospensione dei solai inferiori.-

V° fase :

Montaggio del solaio intermedio tra i vertici 1 :

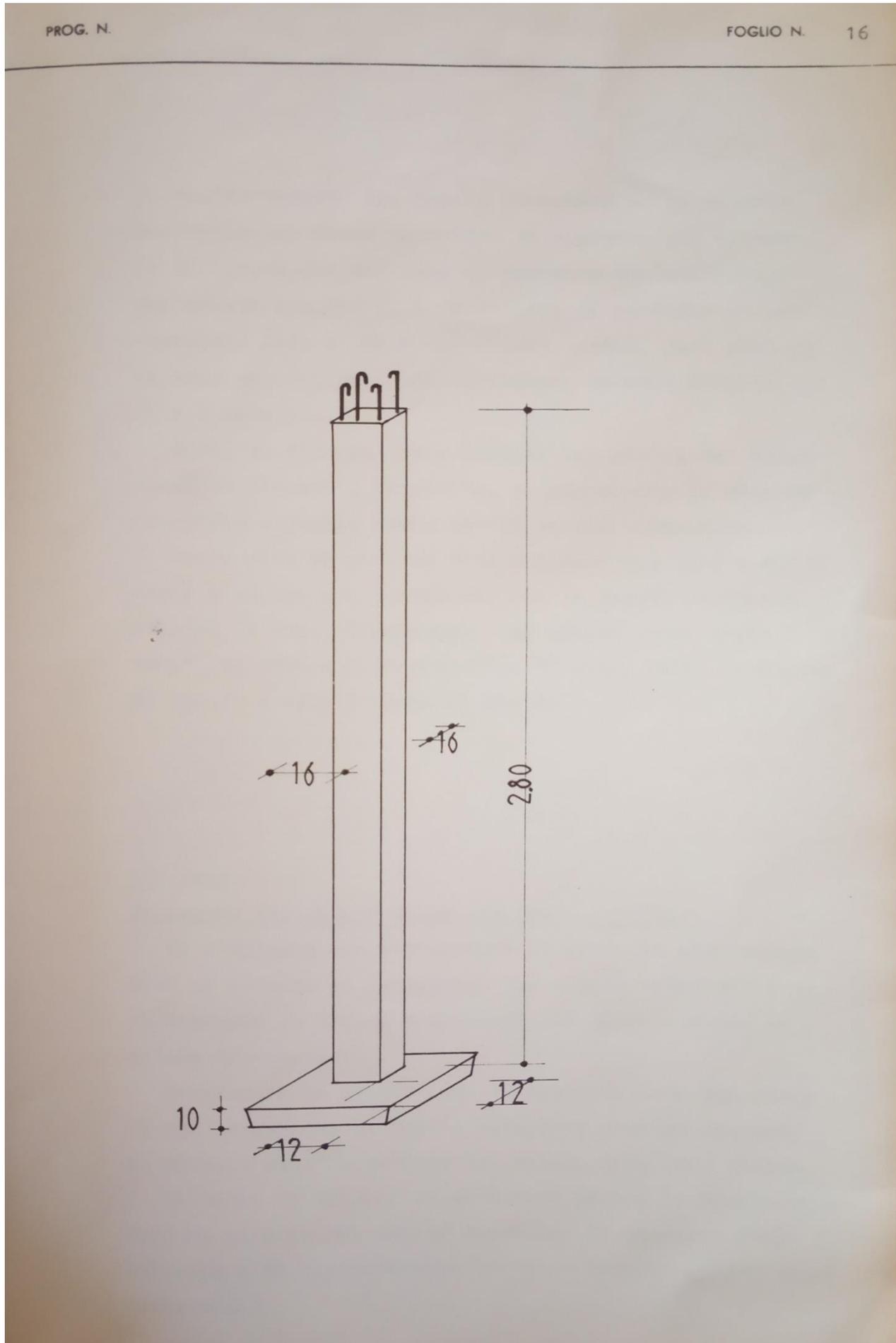
Ultimato il montaggio del solaio superiore, si abbasserà la piattaforma al livello del solaio immediatamente inferiore perchè essa sia usata come piano di servizio per le operazioni di montaggio del solaio intermedio.-

Si nota a questo proposito che, se si desidererà avere collegamento (per ragioni di servizio) tra le varie piattaforme, questo potrà essere realizzato a mezzo di leggere passerelle appese al solaio superiore, ormai continuo.-

Attraverso i fori verticali predisposti nelle membrature del solaio superiore, si caleranno i cavi di acciaio che costituiranno i tiranti a cui saranno appesi i due solai inferiori.- La lunghezza dei cavi sarà quindi quella corrispondente ai tiranti per tutti e due i piani.-

Al disotto di ciascun vertice 1 si aggancierà un pezzo speciale prefabbricato, entro cui saranno fatti passare i cavi di cui sopra.- Il pezzo speciale è descritto dalla figura che segue.

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969



All'estradosso del solaio superiore ed al disotto del pezzo più sopra descritto si porranno gli elementi di bloccaggio dei cavi e, operando all'estradosso del solaio superiore, i detti cavi si porranno in post-tensione fino al 40 % del valore finale, pari cioè al la tensione dei cavi corrispondenti al peso proprio del II e I solaio.-

Indi, al disopra della flangia inferiore, del pezzo speciale più sopra descritto, si poggeranno le piastre identiche a quelle usate per il solaio superiore.-

Dette piastre saranno rese continue tra loro a mezzo delle armature che fuorescono tra le pareti verticali esterne di esse, riempiendo, con calcestruzzo gettato "in loco", il canale interposto tra di esse, della larghezza di cm. 16 e dell'altezza di cm. 25.-

VI° fase :

Montaggio del solaio inferiore tra i vertici 1 :

Si comincerà con l'abbassare di nuovo la piattaforma fino al livello di intradosso del solaio inferiore e si ripeteranno le stesse operazioni già descritte per il solaio intermedio.-

Ovviamente in questo caso la post-tensione dei tiranti che sorreggono il solaio inferiore avverrà operando al disotto dell'intradosso del solaio inferiore stesso.-

Ultimato il solaio, si abbasserà ancora la piattaforma fino al livello del solaio superiore di un nuovo coppo di fabbrica e si riprenderanno tutte le operazioni più sopra descritte.-

Alla fine della fase VI° si sarà quindi completata la costruzione di tanti elementi della superficie di  $3 \lambda \times 3 \lambda$ , separati tra loro ed appesi a ciascuna stilata composta di quattro pilastri verticali.-

Fase VII° :

Completamento della costruzione del corpo di fabbrica.

Si tratta ora di costruire il completamento del corpo di fabbrica collegando gli elementi già eseguiti.-

Per questa operazione, a mezzo di grue e con l'ausilio di passerelle provvisorie, si provvederà :

a) a porre in opera le travi a' del solaio superiore ed a renderle solidali alle travi a.

b) A montare le travi b.-

Queste travi, anch'esse a sezione ad I, poggeranno su piccole seggiole predisposte sulle travi a e saranno precompresse, in un solo tempo, con l'identica ipotesi adottata per le dette travi a.

c) Si procederà quindi al montaggio delle travi C secondo la seguente descrizione :

Ciascuna trave C sarà prefabbricata in tre pezzi che poggeranno su piccole seggiole predisposte nelle travi a e b.- I tre pezzi saranno saldati alle travi b a mezzo di getti "in loco" e saranno resi solidali tra loro, a formare un'unica trave, mediante cavi (post-tesi)

che si infileranno entro i detti tre pezzi ed attraverseranno, a mezzo di fori predisposti, le travi b.- Questi ultimi cavi, dello stesso numero e positura di quelli delle travi b, saranno atti a che i tre pezzi delle travi C (resi continui a mezzo dei getti di sutura) si comporteranno, dal punto di vista statico, come una trave b.-

In altri termini le travi b e le travi C saranno staticamente identiche.-

- d) Ora, completata la rete delle travi a'-b-c, si porranno, al disopra di esse, una serie di piastre formate da una soletta dello spessore di cm. 8, che presenteranno anche esse, ai lati, nervature delle stesse dimensioni di quelle precedentemente descritte.-
- e) Si procederà infine al montaggio dei due piani inferiori con le stesse modalità più sopra descritte.

VIII° fase :

Omogeneizzazione del sistema.

L'omogeneizzazione del sistema consiste nel completamento degli sforzi di post-tensione nei cavi di tutti i tiranti, sia quelli obliqui che quelli verticali.- Le post-tensioni saranno portate al valore del 100 % e quindi verranno operate le iniezioni di malta di cemento atte a rendere solidali i cavi alle strutture di calcestruzzo che li coinvolgono.-

Precisamente, per il completamento della post-tensione, si opererà come appresso :

- Tiranti obliqui :

Si opererà al terminale superiore di ciascun tirante obliquo.-

- Tiranti verticali :

Si opererà in due tempi : in un primo tempo con il martinetto idraulico al disopra del solaio superiore ed in un secondo tempo con il martinetto al disotto della flangia di appoggio del solaio inferiore.-

APPENDIX III

d) Specificazione dei pezzi necessari per la fabbricazione di un edificio delle dimensioni di  $9 \lambda \times 9 \lambda$  e relativi pesi.

1) Solaio superiore :

pezzo	dimensioni max	peso Kg.	N°
travi a-a'	$1 = 3 \lambda - 0,60$	5.800	21
travi b	$1 = 3 \lambda - 0,20$	4.800	10
travi c	$1 = \lambda - 20$	1.850	30
travi d	$1 = \lambda - 0,30$	1.800	32
dalle quadrate	$(\lambda - 0,16) \times (\lambda - 0,16)$	3.350	61
dalle triangolari	$(\lambda - 0,16) \times \frac{(\lambda - 0,16)}{2}$	1.600	32

=====  
 Peso totale del solaio : circa Kg. 572.000 pari a Kg/mq. 470

2) I due solai inferiori :

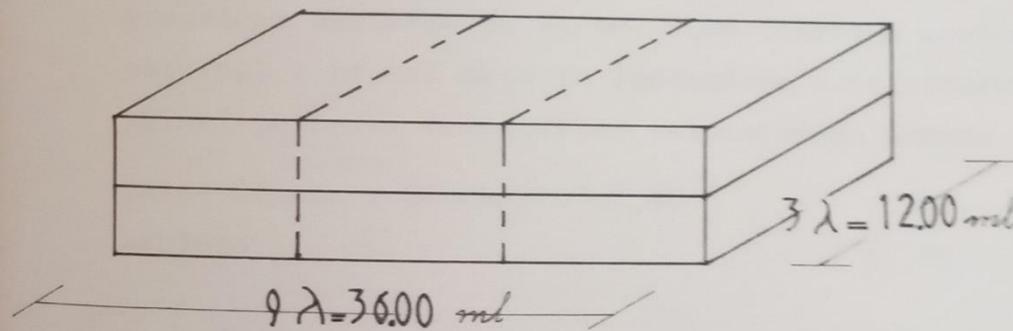
pezzo	peso Kg.	N°
Tiranti	200	178
Dalle	3.350	152

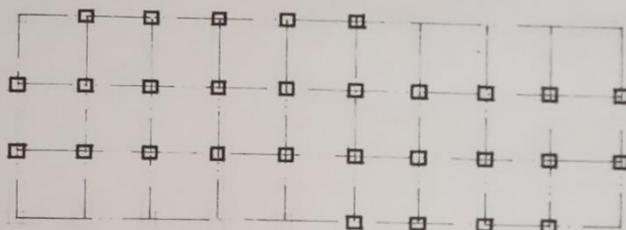
=====  
 Peso totale di un solaio Kg. 308.000 pari a Kg/mq. 250

e) Confronto di costo tra la struttura proposta ed una analoga convenzionale.

Si vogliono ora porre le basi di confronto tra il costo delle strutture di cui al presente studio e quello per strutture convenzionali.-

Si fa seguire quindi un raffronto tra due corpi di fabbrica, identici nelle dimensioni e da costruirsi uno con metodi tradizionali ed uno secondo il sistema proposto.



a) Edificio convenzionale.

- 1) Fondazioni : si suppone che il terreno permetta una pressione unitaria di Kg/mq. 1,00 (terreno piuttosto cattivo) : in tal caso la fondazione è costituita da plinti (o travi rovescie) di calcestruzzo armato :

calcestruzzo :  $28,0 \times 1,80^2 \times 0,40$  = mc. 36,28

acciaio : = Kg. 2.000

- 2) Pilastri :

calcestruzzo :  $10,00 \times 0,25^2 \times 28$  = mc. 16,80

acciaio : = Kg. 1.200

- 3) Solai :

calcestruzzo :  $3 \times \text{mq. } 430 \times 0,15$  = mc. 193,50

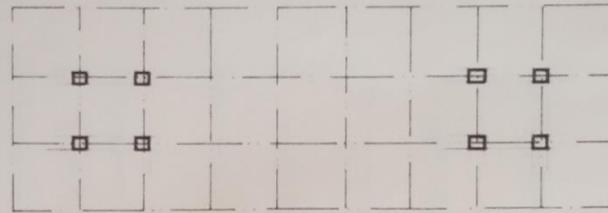
acciaio : = Kg. 20.000

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 24

b) Edificio proposto :



1) Fondazioni :

Pali  $\varnothing$  1000 - portata Tonn. 150

Pali : n° 8 x ml. 20,00 = ml. 160.-

2) Pilastri e tiranti :

$8 \times 0,50^2 \times 10,00$  = mc. 20,00

$8 \times 0,15 \times 5,00$  = " 6,00

$32 \times 0,17^2 \times 10,00$  = " 9,60

= mc. 35,60

acciaio : = Kg. 2.000

3) Solai :

mq.  $430 \times (0,25 + 2 \times 0,14)$  = mc. 228

acciaio normale : = Kg. 24.000

acciaio speciale : = Kg. 1.400

APPENDIX III

	fondaz. speciali	calcestruzzo	acciaio normale	acciaio speciale	Totale
costi unitari	pali \$/ml. 60	\$/mc. 45	\$/Kg.0,30	\$/Kg.0,90	
progetto convenzionale	=	mc. 246,58x x \$ 45 = = \$ 11.096	Kg. 23.200x x \$ 0,30 = = \$ 7.000	=	18.096
progetto Ricci	ml. 160x x \$ 60 = = \$ 9600	mc. 263,60x x \$ 45 = = \$ 11.862	Kg. 26.000x x \$ 0,30 = = \$ 7.800	Kg. 1400x x \$ 0,90 = = \$ 1.260	30.522

=====

Valutando ora le varie opere, ambedue da considerarsi con il massimo possibile uso della prefabbricazione ed a prezzi convenzionali medi, avremo :

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

La struttura proposta, per quanto si riferisce alla unità presa in considerazione, costa il 60 % circa in più di una analoga unità di tipo convenzionale, ma non con le stesse caratteristiche di utilizzabilità.- Infatti per la struttura convenzionale non è possibile avere luci grandi al disotto del solaio inferiore, come invece è possibile con il progetto Ricci.-

Da considerare inoltre che la differenza di costo di cui alla tabella precedente dimostra che la sua aliquota maggiore è determinata dall'incidenza del costo delle fondazioni.-

Poichè il raffronto di cui sopra è stato infatti operato per l'ipotesi di un terreno di scadente resistenza meccanica, basta rifare i conteggi per il caso invece di terreno di notevole resistenza per determinare immediatamente una differenza del 35 % invece che del 60 % di cui sopra.-

Supponendo ora che il costo dell'edificio completo di ogni sua rifinitura ed impianti rappresenti tre volte quello della sola struttura, si conclude che il maggior costo dell'edificio con strutture speciali oscilla tra un massimo del 23 % ad un minimo dell'11,5 %.-

Tali differenze possono essere largamente compensate dalla maggiore utilizzabilità dei fabbricati, come è già stato specificato.-

Tutto ciò ovviamente vale entro i limiti di dimensioni e di luci libere specificati nella descrizione e nei conteggi di cui sopra.-

f) Cenno su casi speciali in cui siano richieste luci libere maggiori di quelle previste.-

Il progetto del complesso di edifici a cui il presente studio si riferisce presenta una sua grande flessibilità volumetrica, per cui sarà opportuno prevedere anche il caso della necessità di una differente disposizione degli elementi verticali portanti, per ottenere luci libere maggiori di quelle previste e soprattutto sbalzi di notevole aggetto.-

Per tali casi, poichè non si vuole rinunciare nè alla modulazione adottata nè alla standardizzazione dei vari elementi prefabbricati, sarà necessario e sufficiente aumentare il numero e l'importanza dei tiranti obliqui, che si dipartono dagli elementi verticali portanti, in maniera da costituire altri vertici di supporto oltre a quelli determinati dai tiranti più sopra esaminati e descritti, in maniera però che i detti altri vertici distino tra loro, e dai vertici già descritti, di segmenti della lunghezza non superiore a  $3 \lambda$ .

In tal maniera i pezzi prefabbricati potranno essere sempre gli stessi in cui però dovranno variare gli sforzi di precompressione, nel senso che per essi dovrà porsi in conto l'autoprecompressione prodotta dalle componenti orizzontali degli sforzi prodotti dai tiranti necessari per i vertici di supporto aggiunti.-

Ovviamente in questi casi il metodo di esecuzione dovrà modificarsi nel senso che saranno necessarie altre attrezzature provvisoriale che obbligheranno, ad esempio, ad eseguire le superfici sostenute dai vertici di supporto aggiunti, iniziando dal basso, invece che dall'alto.-

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

PROG. N.

FOGLIO N. 28

In tal caso il tirante obliquo aggiunto di un edificio dovrà sostenere (a mezzo di una puntellatura provvisoria) oltre che la superficie che gli compete, anche quella dell'edificio superiore che verrà costruito su di esso, ed in tal caso i tiranti verticali tra piano e piano funzioneranno temporaneamente da pilastri compressi.-

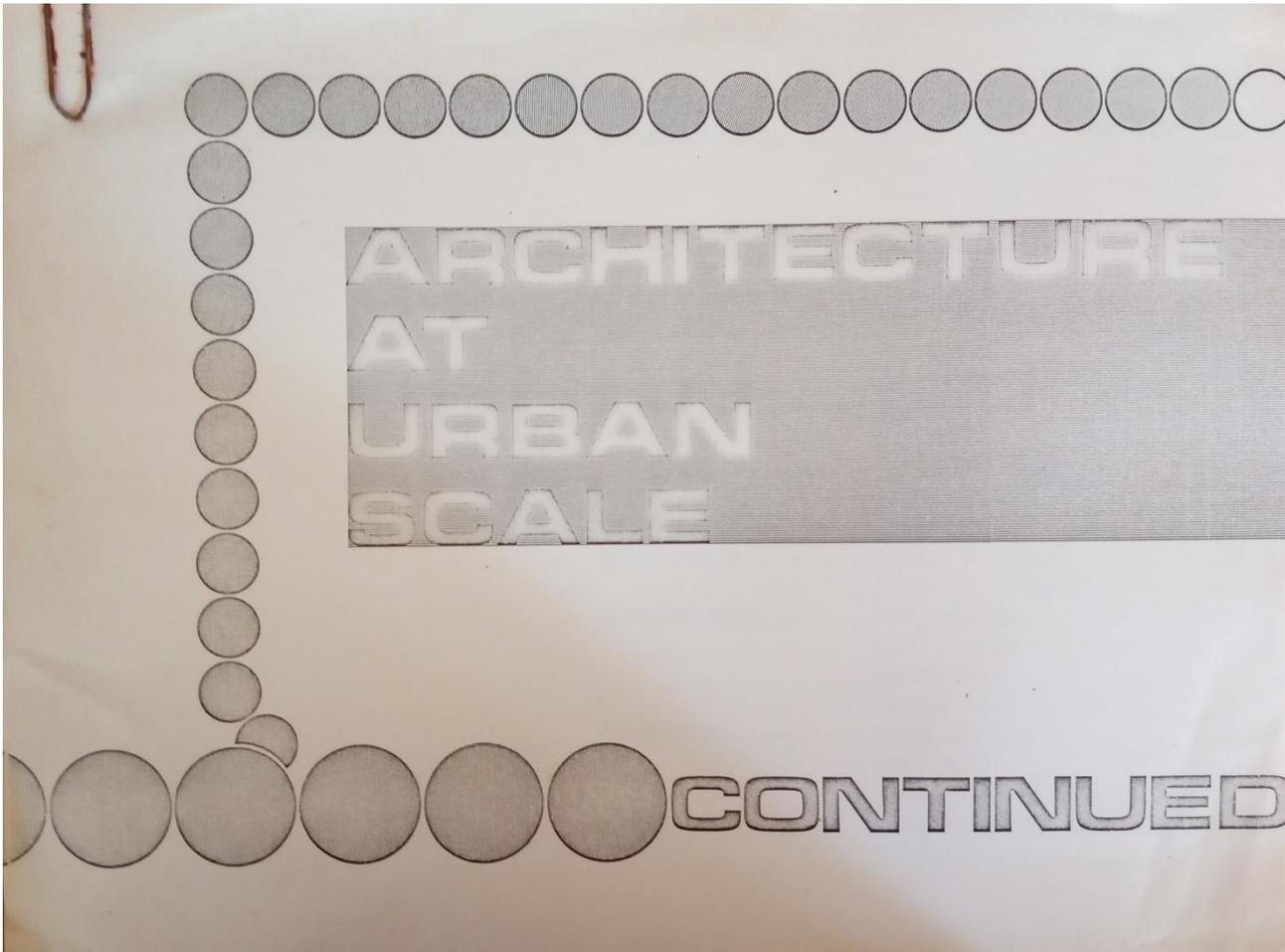
Ciò è possibile tenendo conto che il peso proprio dei tre solai superiori (che gravitano su quelli inferiori) risulta minore (o tutt'al più uguale) alla somma dei sovraccarichi accidentali previsti per i tre solai inferiori.

Sarà sempre possibile quindi escogitare altri dispositivi di montaggio senza però mai rinunciare alla standardizzazione delle parti prefabbricate.-

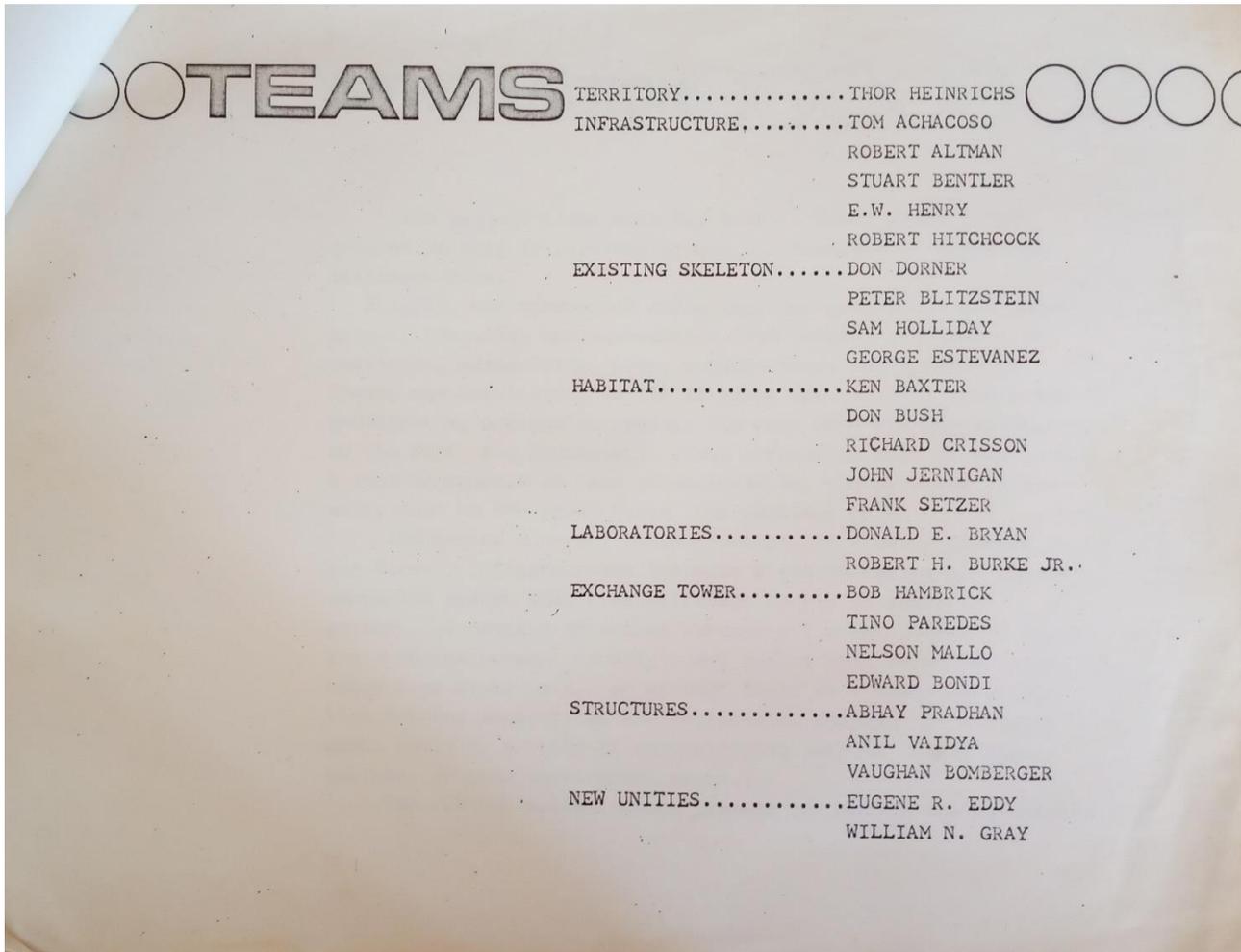
Ovviamente per tali casi speciali il confronto dei costi più sopra istituito non sarà più valido nel senso che il sistema proposto sarà applicato per edifici di particolare importanza e quindi maggiormente onerosi.-

///

APPENDIX III



ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969



TEAMS	
TERRITORY.....	THOR HEINRICHS
INFRASTRUCTURE.....	TOM ACHACOSO
	ROBERT ALTMAN
	STUART BENTLER
	E.W. HENRY
	ROBERT HITCHCOCK
EXISTING SKELETON.....	DON DORNER
	PETER BLITZSTEIN
	SAM HOLLIDAY
	GEORGE ESTEVANEZ
HABITAT.....	KEN BAXTER
	DON BUSH
	RICHARD CRISSON
	JOHN JERNIGAN
	FRANK SETZER
LABORATORIES.....	DONALD E. BRYAN
	ROBERT H. BURKE JR..
EXCHANGE TOWER.....	BOB HAMBRICK
	TINO PAREDES
	NELSON MALLO
	EDWARD BONDI
STRUCTURES.....	ABHAY PRADHAN
	ANIL VAIDYA
	VAUGHAN BOMBERGER
NEW UNITIES.....	EUGENE R. EDDY
	WILLIAM N. GRAY

## APPENDIX III

# INTRODUCTION

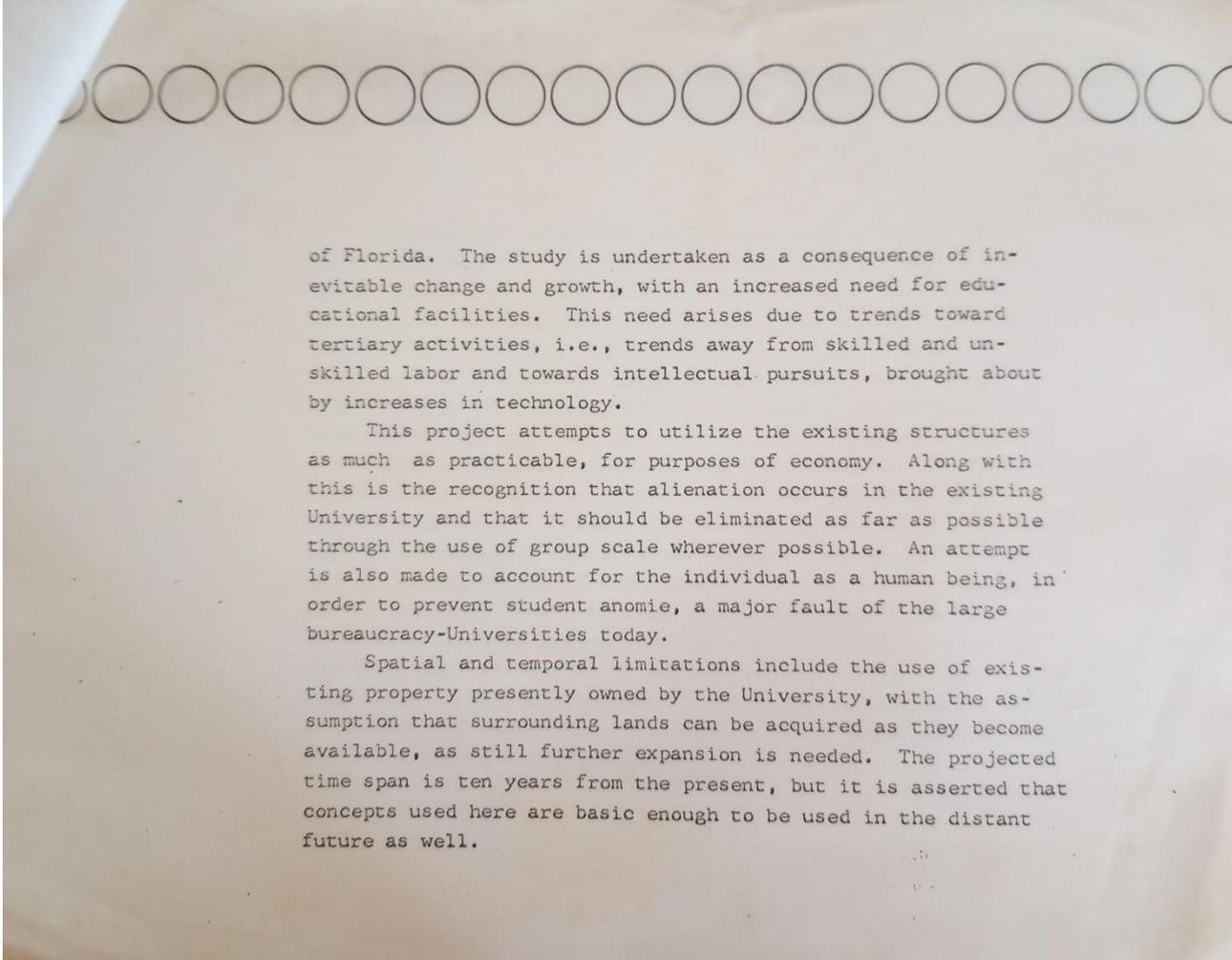
This project links with Dr. Ricci's Miami Model Cities program in that it revolves around his concepts of scale and infrastructure.

Briefly, the concept of scale includes geographic and demographic features, and encompasses five levels, the levels of territory, megalopolis, town, neighborhood, and group. Of these, the territorial is the largest, and includes land areas encompassing nations or regions (in this case the United States, or the South and Southeast). Each succeeding unit of scale is a smaller subunit of, and is included in, the previous larger unit, down to the group scale, the smallest unit.

The second concept, infrastructure, is closely related to the first. Infrastructure includes a communication and transportation system that ties different levels of scale together. At certain junctures between different levels of scale are exchange towers, usually nodal points that serve as interconnecting links (e.g., an airport could be a transportation link between megapolitan and territorial scales. Or a sports arena could be a point of communication between towns, megapolitan, or even territorial areas.)

The subject matter of the present project is the University

**ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci**  
**Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,**  
**“Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione”, and**  
**“Architecture at Urban Scale”, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969**



## APPENDIX III

# ○○○○TERRITORY○○○○○○○○

Studying the University on the territorial scale, this group concludes that the campus must not isolate itself within fixed borders, as is the case with many present universities, but must relate its functions to those occurring on the territorial, megapolitan, township, and neighborhood scales. The territorial scale (at the state level here) is conceived of as a spinal pattern with the main part passing through the center of the state with branches tying the inland and coastal areas together. The point at which the branches connect to the main trunk are exchange towers. The University, by its centralized location, is a logical nodal point of exchange, and is proposed as the central part of a University system whose "campus" encompasses the entire state. As the center of the University system, the University of Florida would be a communications link using the infrastructure as a communications network through computer banks to link all the individual facilities of the individual schools. This would tend to eliminate duplication of facilities, offer greater access of educational facilities to the public, and research facilities to industries and the government.

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

# OOOOINFRASTRUCTURE

At the scale of the University, i.e., at the scales of neighborhood and group, the University of Florida presents problems of land use and outdated buildings and transportation systems. A transportation system is designed here that links the habitat, laboratory, and support facilities within the University, as well as linking the University itself to the main trunk of the territorial infrastructure. The system will also link the University with the contiguous area.

At present, the routing of roads on campus has depended largely on the location of physical structures. In unused areas where future expansion is proposed, the University infrastructure will be used as the main organizational theme for expansion, rather than having the transportation system evolve on an ad hoc basis, as it presently is doing.

Public facilities will be located in accordance with the scale of the environment and the facility itself, (e.g., a theatre would be placed along the University infrastructure, while a sports arena would be accessible to the territorial infrastructure.)

Green spaces are planned running parallel to the University infrastructure. These will provide visual and psychological relief from the artificial structures.

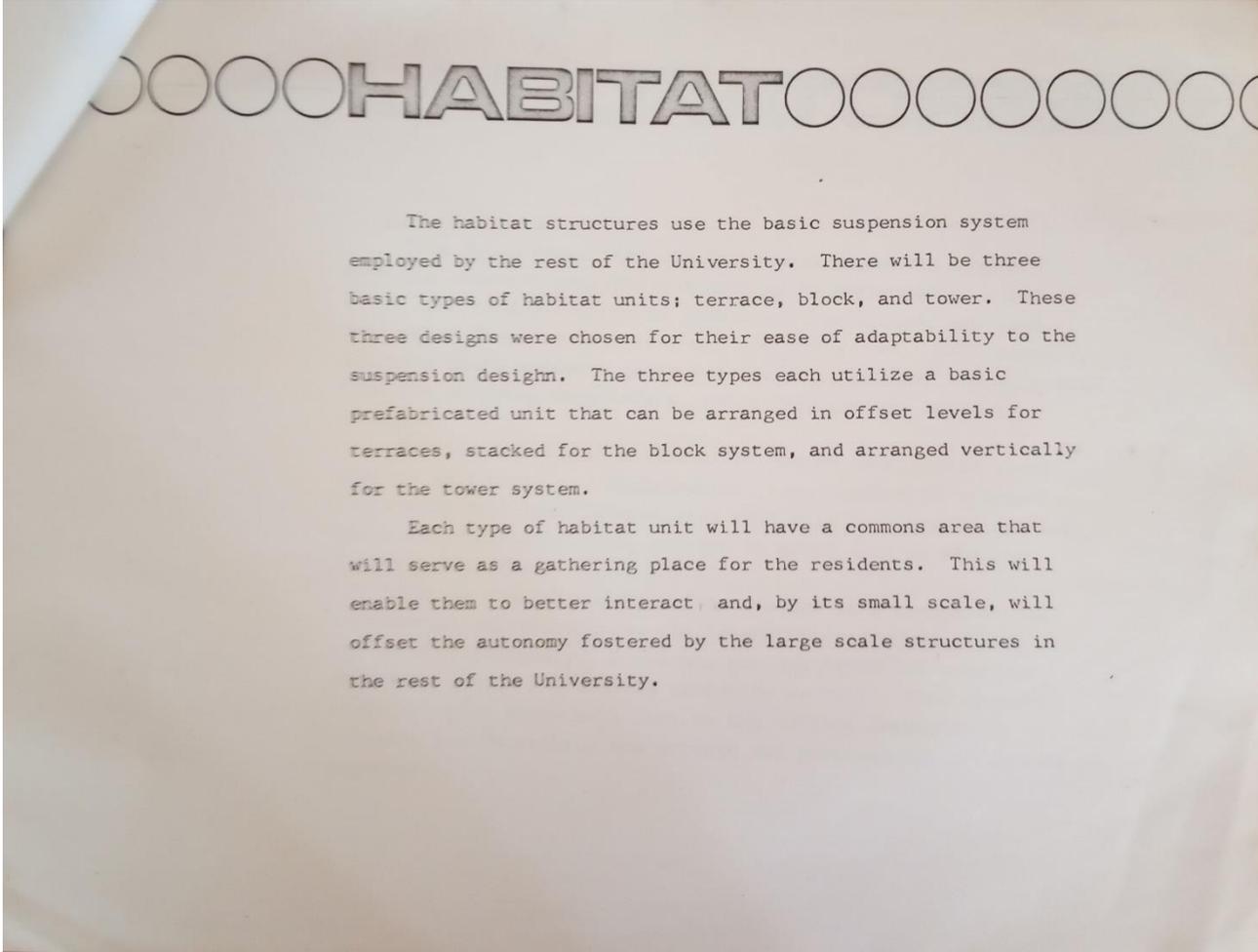
## APPENDIX III

# EXISTING SKELETON

In studying the existing skeleton, it was decided to tie the existing together with the proposed University infrastructure. In the process certain structures which were slated for eventual destruction or renewal were eliminated. Adjacent to the remaining buildings a multi-level megastructure will be constructed. A series of inter-connecting plazas and bridges connect the new megastructure to the older structures.

All of the University areas will be tied together by a mass rapid transit system that will enable an individual to reach any point on campus in a matter of minutes. This megastructure will contain all elements of a university system - classrooms, public facilities, laboratories, habitat, etc. As the present buildings become obsolete, they can be demolished and replaced without disturbing the megastructure.

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969



## APPENDIX III

# LABORATORIES

This group found that the University presently breaks down its research activities according to departments. This gives rise to duplication of laboratory facilities, and lets facilities lie idle when they are not being used. Additionally, students whose academic goals are interdisciplinary are alienated from the existing departments, whose programs are narrowly oriented.

To alleviate this, a laboratory system constructed according to equipment, not departmental, requirements is proposed. The system will have laboratories that will be plugged into the University infrastructure, and can be added onto as new research needs arise.

Just as the University infrastructure is a branch of the territorial infrastructure, the laboratories are related to the outside community. Research, besides being for academic purposes, serves the outside community as well. This research structure will serve as a link to the outside community by bringing the University and private and governmental industries together.

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

## EXCHANGE TOWER

In the present as well as the proposed University, one of the main problems is and will be transportation and vehicular storage. In the proposed University, private vehicles will not be allowed on campus, but will be stored at collection points along the perimeter. These points are exchange towers and serve to act as "doors" to the University as well as provide transition points between vehicular and pedestrian movement.

In addition to these functions, they also serve as logical sites for such public facilities as theatres, restaurants, shopping areas, display areas, or hotels.

Arriving at the campus, the visitor or student parks his vehicle at the exchange tower and then uses the high-speed transit system that outlines the University infrastructure. University personnel will continue to use the existing roads for maintenance, deliveries, and other services for the University.

## APPENDIX III

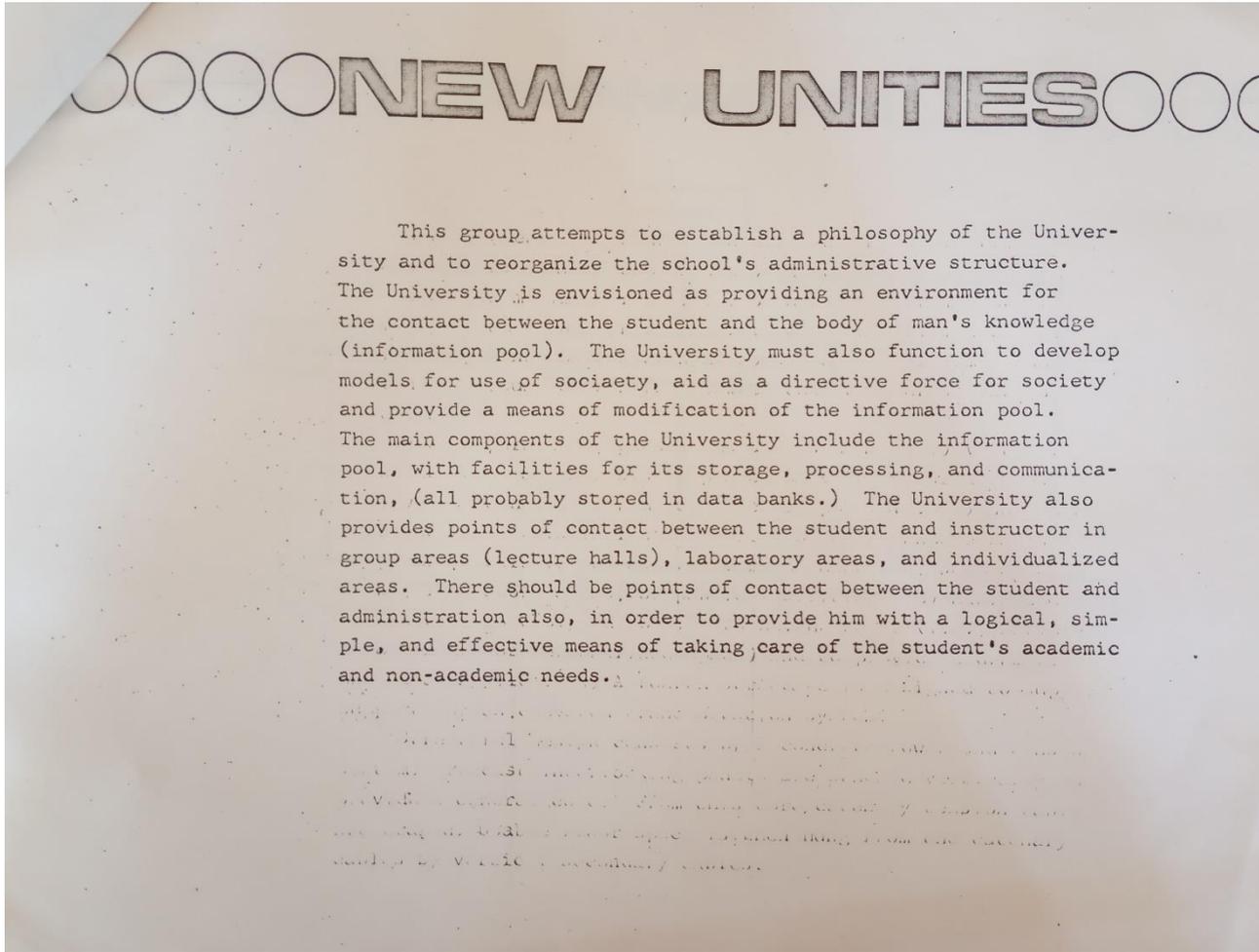
# STRUCTURES

Here present and future structural needs of the University were examined. This group uses designs that coordinate needs, and achieve a maximum flexibility of use that encompasses the whole spectrum of University activities. Repetition of several basic design and construction methods achieves economy and provides a visual continuity between the structures' varied functions.

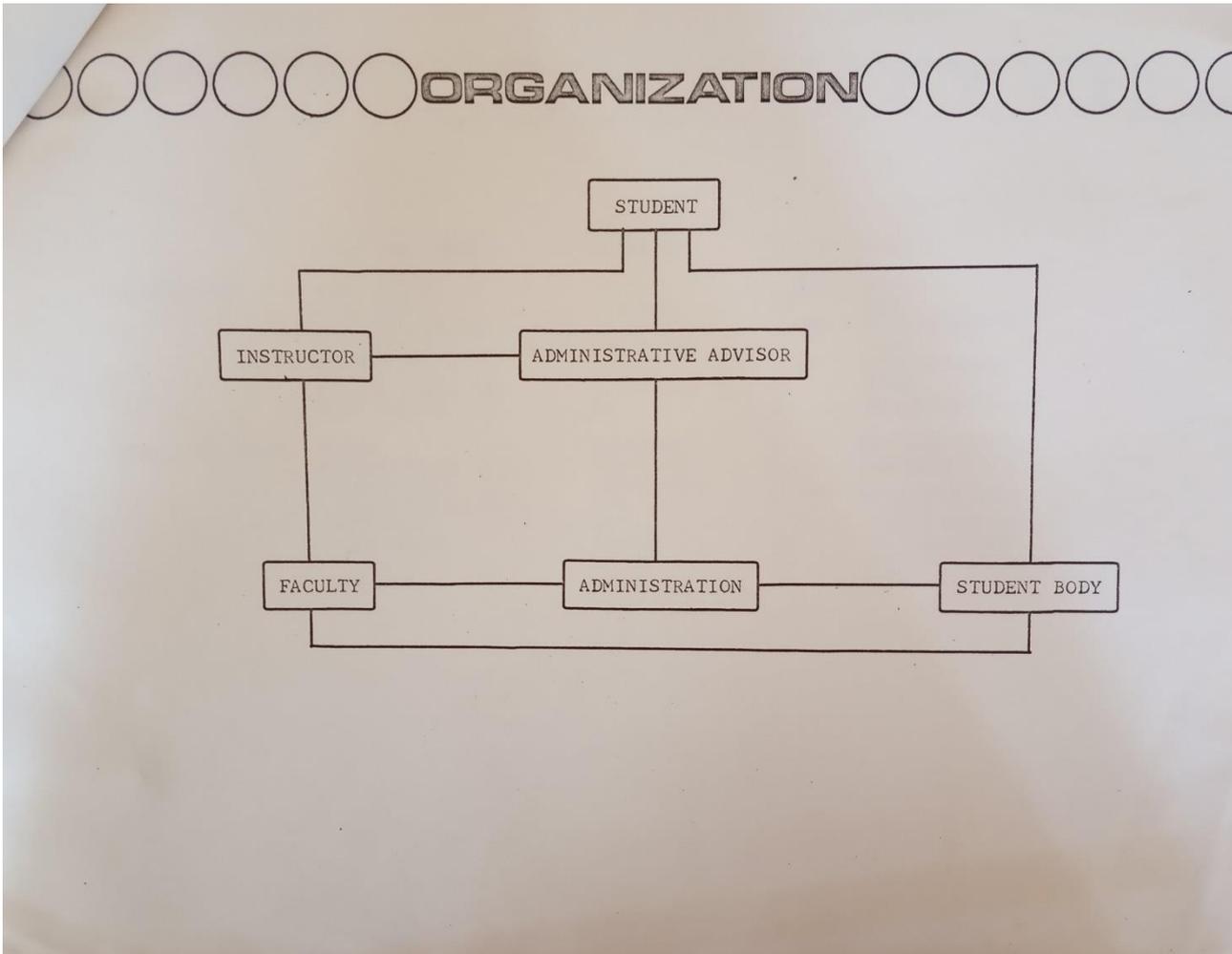
Four separate design systems are used here: 1) Vertical Construction - an emphasis is placed on vertical structures to achieve as much free perimeter space as possible. 2) Horizontal Construction - this includes a series of decks and terraces to permit flexibility of use for varied functions, such as classrooms, laboratory areas, or public facilities. 3) Habitat Construction - is designed to fit its unique scale (i.e., satisfy requirements of personalized space) and to provide a dramatic and pleasing view. 4) A fourth structure is designed to supply support for an elevated transportation system.

Structural design consists of a concrete tower and tension system. Precast interlocking panels are stacked vertically to provide a central core. From this core, catenary tension cables are draped. Usable floor space is then hung from the catenary cables by vertical secondary cables.

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969



APPENDIX III



**ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci**  
**Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,**  
**“Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione”, and**  
**“Architecture at Urban Scale”, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969**

	TYPE OF UNIT	CAPACITY	UNITS	SCALE
RECREATION	POOL (1)	50	1,000	GROUP
	POOL (2)	200-500	20	TOWN
	INTERIOR RECREATION (1)	30-200	1,000	NEIGHBORHOOD
	INTERIOR RECREATION (2)	300-2,000	5	TOWN
	SPORTS FIELD (1)	30-500	100	NEIGHBORHOOD
	SPORTS FIELD (2)	500-2,000	10	TOWN
	GOLF COURSE	80	3	MEGASTRUCTURE
PHYSICAL PLANT	POWER	PERSONNEL	1	MEGASTRUCTURE
	MAINTAINENCE (1)	PERSONNEL	1	MEGASTRUCTURE
	MAINTAINENCE (2)	PERSONNEL		
	*TRANSPORTATION	500	1	MEGASTRUCTURE
	*GROUNDS	500	1	MEGASTRUCTURE
	*CUSTODIAL	50-100	75	NEIGHBORHOOD
	*FIRE	25-30	25	TOWN
*POLICE	30-40	30	TOWN	

## APPENDIX III

### ARCHITECTURE AT AN URBAN SCALE: RICCI AND MORANDI AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

I came to the University of Florida at the invitation of Graduate School Dean Linton E. Grinter, and Architecture Chairman Arnold F. Butt. I accepted on the condition that I could do experimental team work with students for a real problem in a real society.

Indeed, if we are to improve the form and structure of the University we must first change the relationship between the university and society.

The disciplines of architecture and urban design can be considered divided into two parts: one, theoretical research, and the other, applied research. Thus, if we really want to change the academic notion of teaching, we must do so in a way which allows the possibility for both kinds of research.

Concerning the theoretical aspect, in my opinion it is necessary to create an interdisciplinary study center which can permit the creation of many hypotheses and encourage testing them from many points of view.

For the second type of research, which is the greater

**ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci**  
**Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,**  
**“Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione”, and**  
**“Architecture at Urban Scale”, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969**

2.

percentage, we need laboratories in which models derived from these hypotheses can be tested. It is clear that our laboratories are the real society.

Indeed, only the users can tell if we are right or wrong in our models, or how much is right and how much is wrong. In synthesis, we can say that today, in order to prepare a new environment which is neither dictated from above nor is culturally obsolete, we need the opportunity to experiment with our hypotheses and models.

When I arrived in Gainesville I was familiar with the Model Cities Program in the United States. If seriously applied, Model Cities can be a very valuable experience in urbanism or architecture at an urban scale (as I prefer to call urban design so as not to cause confusion with economic planning).

Mr. Butt and I immediately made contact with the Miami Model Cities organization. As the most extensive program in the United States, Miami may be studied at the large scale which permits the solution of many problems from a scientific point of view. A population which is more than 90% black demanded that our studies proceed with an overall social orientation.

## APPENDIX III

3.

Unfortunately, the social studies and the data necessary to our work could not be prepared in time for us to begin in January. We were obliged to restrain the original scope of our problem, and instead apply our theories to a smaller Model Cities area in Tampa. The problem was smaller (from 90,000 to 2,000 people) and our goals became more limited and socially less significant. I had to consider this experience as a preparation for next year's work in Miami.

From the didactic point of view, our goals were the following:

1. To present a new theory to the students in which urban design is approached not only from the aesthetical or, on the contrary, the economical point of view, but as the synthesis of different possible structuring and organization of human acts and activities. For this reason, the first month of our work was devoted to the explanation and discussion of this theory which is the result of many years of theoretical research carried out at the Institute of Urbanism in Florence, of which I am the Director, and in conjunction with other Universities in the United States.
2. Another goal was to teach students to work together as a team in which professor and student are both researchers, but of course, at different levels of knowledge and experience. My students at the University of Florida were

**ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci**  
**Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,**  
**“Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione”, and**  
**“Architecture at Urban Scale”, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969**

4.

all fifth year or graduates.

3. I also wanted to show that design is a process with many components and that any aspect which belongs to this process can not be hidden or separated or forgotten. As an example, it is impossible to separate the components of structure and technology from those of space and aesthetics. For this reason, Engineer and Professor Riccardo Morandi were engaged as a member of our team for part of the second term. He controlled our hypotheses and our design from both the constructive and economical points of view.

In the beginning, we had many difficulties. The students came from different schools, different cultural and technical backgrounds, and all lacked experience in Urban Design (this is a fault of all schools of architecture). Overall, many students have not yet developed an awareness of the architect of the future: a figure who can no longer be a demiurge who attempts to solve the objective needs of many in a subjective manner. The new architect must be able to make a contribution to society in connection with other contributors from various fields of knowledge.

Thus the beginning was a very frustrating time for me as well, I am sure, for some students, because we could not move at the speed that I wished. But, as soon as the right climate was created, the work went with more enthusiasm and awareness

## APPENDIX III

5.

day-by-day to a point in the final weeks where I felt more like a conductor of an orchestra in which each person plays his instrument in harmony.

And certainly, I can now honestly say that we are ready to immediately face the problems of the future without the necessity of losing time as we did the at first.

The goals of our project were the following:

1. We tried to develop a structural system competitive with existing ones from the economical standpoint which will also permit construction to proceed above the ground in an existing urban renewal area as well as in a newly developed project.
2. The structural system needed the characteristics which allow a three-dimensional urbanism instead of the present bi-dimensional system to develop. Thus, our system can be applied in different and logical ways with the integration of human activities according to the specific needs of many at the different scales of group, neighborhood, town, and megalopolis.
3. The structural system was studied in such a way that the consequences of each element could be articulated: a)  
The foundation had to be independent of the vertical elements so that it would be possible to industrialize the

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,  
"Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione", and  
"Architecture at Urban Scale", University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969

6.

work and adapt it to many different ground conditions.

b) Vertical elements were to be extruded and had to be capable of supporting varying loads at different heights.

c) A space frame structure was needed which could be independent of the systems around it so that all loads are transmitted directly through the columns and not through the lower floor systems. Within this space frame we

needed totally free space for different needs of man such as public facilities and services. d) Precast panels

were desired so that we could place them over a modulated grid (the space frame) in such a way that angles of 90,

64, 45, and 26 degrees could be created. This system

would give us the advantages of the neoplastic, organic, and cubist spaces combined in any manner necessary. e)

Prefabricated concrete slabs which could be industrialized

and used with the wall panels were also needed. f) We

had to consider the possibility of building over existing elements without the need for scaffolding. g) We wanted

to separate the mechanical systems and equipment from the

structure and develop a system which would permit each

element of a dwelling or a public facility to be plugged

in wherever and whenever necessary.

4. We wanted to escape from the classical concept of style with the consequences of a statically enclosed form to a new conception of formativity which allows aesthetical

## APPENDIX III

7.

equilibrium to exist at any moment in the development of the project.

5. The integration of all human activities in the first dimension (public facilities, commerce, industry, service) was a major goal of our work. We wanted to create a real composition of life and not another aggregation of elements alienated and separated as they now are.

6. We wished to, as an exercise, prepare this demonstration for the area of Tampa. Although this project was only an exercise, we did want to present a real application of my theories which could be applied to the real Model Cities program.

7. We wanted to develop a system in which, from the theoretical point of view, people could buy the panels and the services and then create within the space frame whatever type of dwelling they desired.

At the end of our first project, let us see if our goals were achieved.

Overall, I can say that we are satisfied, if it is remembered that research of this magnitude can not be concluded from any point of view in so short a time. But, we do have enough confidence in our design to say that it is not only an academic exercise, but it is also one which could really be applied.

Of course, more study would be necessary to make it more

**ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci**  
**Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,**  
**“Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione”, and**  
**“Architecture at Urban Scale”, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969**

8.

suitable for the real environment of Tampa and we would have to continue our technical testing and design.

Beginning with the more practical elements, we can say that our system is not at all utopian. Indeed, the structural system was refined and tested by Professor Morandi (see Morandi report) with the result that we are, from an economical point of view, at least competitive with conventional building methods. We have tested one sector of our system thoroughly and are certain that, with more development under Morandi's guidance, we can arrive at a system which can permit total flexibility to meet the needs of our specific environment. In addition, our system has the capacity to be erected in existing settlements without the necessity of destroying the existing community. This allows an organic and continuous act of planning with a potential for growth in any direction and the interchange of elements as certain functions become obsolete.

The system of industrialization has been developed in such a way that, rather than bringing pieces from a factory, we need only to manufacture forms for on-site casting. (We have a very limited number of types of structural members.) This will provide enormous advantages from both the economic and social points of view, (since ghetto residents could work on their new community and erection speed may be greatly increased.

Transportation and communication systems were limited by our

## APPENDIX III

9.

population of 2000 people and a very restricted site. Although we did not study special systems, it is clear that our system permits the interconnection of vertical and horizontal means of transport allowing the residents to almost totally eliminate their dependence on automobiles and the need to travel great distances in their daily lives.

Total integration of activities is possible with our system. We can create spaces of any quantity or quality. Thus we can create a total living environment which does not alienate and separate men as society does now. This system is analogous to the integrated life which existed in Medieval and Renaissance times when the morphology of the towns permitted social interaction to occur. The functions of housing, work, shopping, education, and medicine are no longer separate acts, but on the contrary, become a form of communication and exchange among men.

Mechanical equipment and services were studied only from the theoretical point of view. Existing technology permits us to create fantastic systems for the distribution of materials and services. We know that the advantages of centralization and mechanization can be easily integrated into our system, as can new information and data transmitting devices.

Perhaps the drawings and models can explain the results of our work better than words.

**ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci**  
**Riccardo Morandi, George Schefer, John Preisler, John Toppe,**  
**“Studio per la realizzazione di un particolare sistema strutturale per edifici di varia destinazione”, and**  
**“Architecture at Urban Scale”, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1969**

10.

In conclusion, as I have already stated, we can affirm that we are ready to do a real project for a real society. If our program continues as organized and planned, we will go with our present team plus new graduate students from other disciplines to Miami to work in contact with the existing Model Cities organization and the real population to study the total environmental problem.

In the beginning we will have to create an infrastructure which gives texture to the settlement and design the first phase of integrated housing. This will give the students a new experience which will better enable them to make the transition from the University to life. Usually the jump from an academic situation to rude reality is a big shock which can destroy their creative talents.

Our experiment will help to make them more aware of the social needs of the population and give them a better understanding of the process of transformation of ideas into space, structure, and material. We will establish continuity between education and real life.

Next September, when we hope this program will be a reality, we will be able to begin a very important experiment which begins neither from the imposition of utopian or arbitrary models on the people (as most urban plans are), nor from the

## APPENDIX III

11.

speculation which imposes obsolete models in which man, with the dimensions of today, can no longer accept.

Finally, we can arrive at a position from which we can invent new models for a new life - - models which belong to the people as much as to the designer.

APPENDIX III

Caro Rettore,

due anni di presidenza un lavoro, laborioso, faticoso e psicologicamente pesante con un ~~ho~~<sup>ho</sup> di riposo di cancellare la mia "stache" per poter riprendere, terminate le vacanze, il mio lavoro. Il risultato è stato ben diverso da quello che mi ha dato una splendida "timbratura" ma una lunga esperienza ha avuto la mia crisi ad un punto tale che non posso fare altro che dare le mie dimissioni da prendere e decidere un anno di aspettativa per ragioni di studio per poter ambire la mia laurea e mettere a fondo il problema disciplinare e prendere in seguito decisioni conseguenti.

Dato che prossimamente verranno indette le elezioni per la presidenza per il triennio '73-76 mi sono domandato se non fosse stato meglio attendere e non accettare la mia candidatura. Riflettendo ho pensato che più corretto ed utile alle facoltà dare la dimissione ~~subito~~. Questa mia decisione permette al Consiglio di Facoltà un periodo di tempo durante il quale valutare con serenità le intenzioni future e proporre un nuovo candidato.

Se non fossi in uno stato di così forte depressione, che in realtà darei chiamare "disperazione" nel mio rapporto cronologico di "viva esperienza", potrei fare una lunga analisi dei due anni di mia presidenza per documentare tutte le ragioni politiche, culturali e morali che mi ispirano a questo passo.

Nel momento non sono nelle "condizioni" di poterlo fare.

Sento però il dovere e le necessità di elencare in sintesi i motivi principali.

Gli studenti hanno ragione. A qualunque prezzo politico mi sono

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Leonardo Ricci's resignation letter from the faculty of architecture of Florence (1973)

no, premetto, d'opinione, esuberantemente a non recando me  
alcuni elementi direttivi tali, non solo da giustificare le loro intol-  
rante, ma da provare la loro ribellione.

Un libro ad esprimere uno solo che si riferisce alle nostre discipline  
venne edito in problemi più piccoli che appartengono a tutte  
l'Università quali "modi dell'Università nelle società" "Question  
democratica" "Diritto allo studio", "Precedenti" -

Gli studenti nelle nostre facoltà hanno sofferto il numero  
di settimane. E' questa fatta rappresenta un problema oggettivo  
e insolubile e che da noi permette un pronunciamento serio.

Ma non voglio dimenticare che pochi professori hanno una  
un colpo di bacchetta magica potere risolvere problemi di questo tipo  
per soffrire le cosiddette "efficienze" di alcuni compositori americani  
i problemi di fondo rimarrebbero insoluti.

Per ottenere studenti, io so in particolare che nel migliore dei casi  
solo il dieci per cento fare il mestiere di architetto. Gli altri  
vengono disoccupati, sottoccupati, in ogni caso occupati in qualche  
per cui non si erano preparati e che non avevano scelto.

Del restante dieci per cento una gran parte viene costretto a fare  
il disegnatore, un'altra brava fatta la fine del biennio. La  
percentuale minima che rimane è "sfoderare" fare il cosiddetto  
"libero professionista", - Un mestiere che io considero finito,  
che non può risolvere il ruolo dell'architetto in una società  
vicende moderne, democratiche e civili, e che per molti aspetti  
considero immorale.

Solo per risolvere questo problema occorrerebbe cambiare tutte le strutture

APPENDIX III

all'università. Esisterebbe un solo, il tipo di università  
 al tipo di qualificazione - Per poter cambiare questa struttura bisognerebbe  
 modificare il "mercato", cioè le richieste che le varie società  
 fa dell'architetto. Mercato che, allo stato attuale, non solo non è  
 controllabile dall'università, ma che sempre più spesso alle sue spalle.  
 Se continuiamo con le "università acquedotti di mano", in sostituzione  
 di quelle di "élite", diventeranno poco a poco nei quali si dovrà  
 lavorare in maniera generale e generale. Le selezione, la  
 determinazione verrà fatta più tardi dei programmi economici  
 e delle industrie che più cominciano a considerare le profezie  
 come eteree non più come "scuola di ricerca" nei periodi  
 di crisi economica e mancanza di produzione industriale  
 ma come un'altra possibilità di sfruttamento, altrettanto valida.  
 Per poter fare e preparare l'architetto in maniera senza acciano alcuni  
 elementi fondamentali:

- fare una ricerca interdisciplinare libera ed indipendente -
- avere una forza politica tale da permettere di formulare e verificare  
 ipotesi di modelli non manipolati -
- essere in contatto diretto con le società, soprattutto con le classi giovani  
 per comprendere le "domande sociali" e per correggere tutte le deformazioni  
 in che l'istituzione ha impresso nelle domande sociali stesse  
 attraverso l'imposizione diretta ed indiretta di lavori indotti, sociali  
 rischi -
- sperimentare nuovi modelli per avere la verifica dell'uscita.

Gli organismi che nell'attuale società potrebbero avere le forze sufficienti  
 ve e finanziarie per raggiungere tale scopo sono quelli che dipendono  
 dal potere economico, potere politico, potere culturale - Poteri superiori  
 offri fare loro o legati per scopi che non sono contro la "manuale non parlano".

È chiaro che qualsiasi modello imposto dalle forze sindacali, nel  
 mondo industriale, non può che essere manipolato.

È chiaro che qualsiasi modello imposto dalle forze politiche attive  
 non può che essere manipolato.

Resterebbe, in un'occasione, l'Università a poter sperimentare e generare  
 modelli che possano diminuire gli squilibri, lo sfruttamento, le  
 disomogeneità che sono oggi alla base di ogni organizzazione  
 territoriale, a qualunque scala si manifesti, e di ogni attività  
 sul territorio - Case ospedaliere, folla ecc...

Ma una due anni di presidenza mi sono accorto che non esiste  
 alcuna volontà politica per rendere le università autonome e quindi  
 libere, cioè in opposizione al potere, e che non si fa nulla per me  
 soltanto permettere l'accesso all'università alle masse, una  
 semplice facciata per la massa e convitto con le masse -  
 Il potere non ha alcun potere.

Io non posso fidarmi se sono stato o no un "buon preside" - Spetta  
 ad altri il giudizio.

Posso però con certezza e coscienza dire quello che ho tentato di  
 fare.

Ho ~~per~~ la presidenza in un momento drammatico. Continuo, anche  
 di volentieri, erano fuori e dentro la facoltà - Il professorato come  
 tutto indicato da parte del Ministero - Si profila la direzione  
 delle facoltà ~~ad~~ <sup>una</sup> frazione simile a quella di Milano.  
 Le facoltà era roba che si vedeva.

Credo che obiettivamente non sia più in questa condizione.  
 Inutile il elenco di quanto fatto che ho pensato alle nostre  
 facoltà una nuova via la vita.

APPENDIX III

...rappresenta questi risultati, per la prima volta in una vita,  
dedicando tutto me stesso all'università. Ma le molte lezioni professionali e  
ricerche e lavoro privato. Sono professore di ruolo il mio compito è  
quello di tenere tre ore di lezioni settimanali. Per questo sono felice.  
Posso dire che ho detto all'università più di otto ore al giorno. In fatto  
anche se finalmente non me stesso in pratica tutto questo tempo il mio  
"cervello" è sempre stato impegnato per tentare di risolvere problemi  
delle facoltà. Fino all'insonnia ed a soffrire di squilibrio  
quando mi capitava di addormentarmi.

Ho perso le mie vite private. Ho perso il senso del cielo, del sole, della luna.  
Cose che non mi era mai capitato neppure durante la guerra.  
Non mi ne lamento. Quando avevo accettato le precedenti responsabilità e cose simili  
mi detti incanto.

Per certi aspetti potrei considerarmi soddisfatto. Non lo sono affatto.  
Agnosco la mia visione diversa da quella che si dovrebbe avere l'università.  
Per quello che io pensavo dovrebbe essere un suo accordo che è impossibile,  
de prendere, mettere qualcosa che possa rappresentare un cambiamento  
strutturale minimo ma tale da cambiare volto alle facoltà. Da  
considerare per esempio quel punto prima esposto: il futuro di laurea.  
E' come se il prende fosse il candidato di un bene. Il candidato  
non può cambiare natura, non può cambiare i vestiti, non può cambiare  
marchi e distetti. Non può soprattutto cambiare i bracci.  
Il bene se deve altri bene stabilire.

Se il prende pensa che tutti i rapporti od almeno il 51% dei rapporti  
che permette l'attuale struttura siano giusti, può fare il prende con  
buona coscienza. Per quanto mi riguarda i rapporti prefissati li  
considero sbagliati, certo più del 51%.

A queste condizioni non mi vedo più di fare il prende.

ARCHIVE: Casa Studio Ricci  
Leonardo Ricci's resignation letter from the faculty of architecture of Florence (1973)

Ma sarebbe meglio di una operazione che considero dannosa per (6  
la società.

Ma si potrebbe obiettare che lo stesso fatto risulterebbe per il professor  
Il problema è sostanzialmente diverso. Nell'ambito di un'occupazione  
di una determinata disciplina che non coinvolge problemi di finalità  
di fertilità, c'è più spazio, più libertà per un'azione di tipo  
ancora ritenuto utile all'interno di un sistema quale quello universitario  
Vano ed utile direttamente ed indirettamente alle società.  
In verità lo è, ma dubbi. Il discorso si aprirebbe troppo.  
Questa è una lettera di dimissioni da rendere. È più lunga  
lunga. Ma non potrei dare le dimissioni  
senza un minimo di spiegazione. Era un dovere.  
Ti ringrazio. Molti un saluto.

Lo -  
L.R.