

**Unfolding the plan:
between public policies and private initiative in post-war Italian residential landscape**

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Abstract

The paper explores diffuse forms of interpreting and transgressing city planning in the post-war Italian urban environment, questioning the multiple interactions between private initiative and public sector in the making of new residential neighborhoods during the years of the massive urban growth that characterized the economic miracle (1950s -1970s).

The metropolitan areas represented the core of these transformations through the massive construction of housing complexes devoted to emerging urban middle classes, together with new public areas and facilities. This contribution addresses this patchwork of new neighborhoods, investigating the forms of their growth due to negotiation between municipal and national institutions, public and private developers, and multiple stakeholders.

The lens of transgression offers an interesting perspective to understand the relations between regulative planning and the process of construction and transformation of the Italian city: it allows a more nuanced narrative and a deeper understanding of its construction processes and transformation. The paper looks at the divorce between the canonic narrative (where cities are often portrayed as the outcome of a homogeneous process) and the way they were effectively shaped, through a fragmented process based on punctual interventions as the outcome of interactions among a plurality of actors, both public and private, through a collection of adaptive negotiations that are continuously changed and revised, seeing the involvement of a plurality of stakeholders.

The paper proposes two main points of observation. On the one hand, it addresses the consistency and plurality of less-investigated actors in their capability to interweave diverse sectors of the market, focusing on their contribution in the interpretation, implementation, and re-definition of planning instruments. On the other, dealing with the production of new city sectors, the paper analyzes the shifting of urban localization strategies and place-making processes, focusing on the interrelation between residential complexes and collective services and urban facilities.