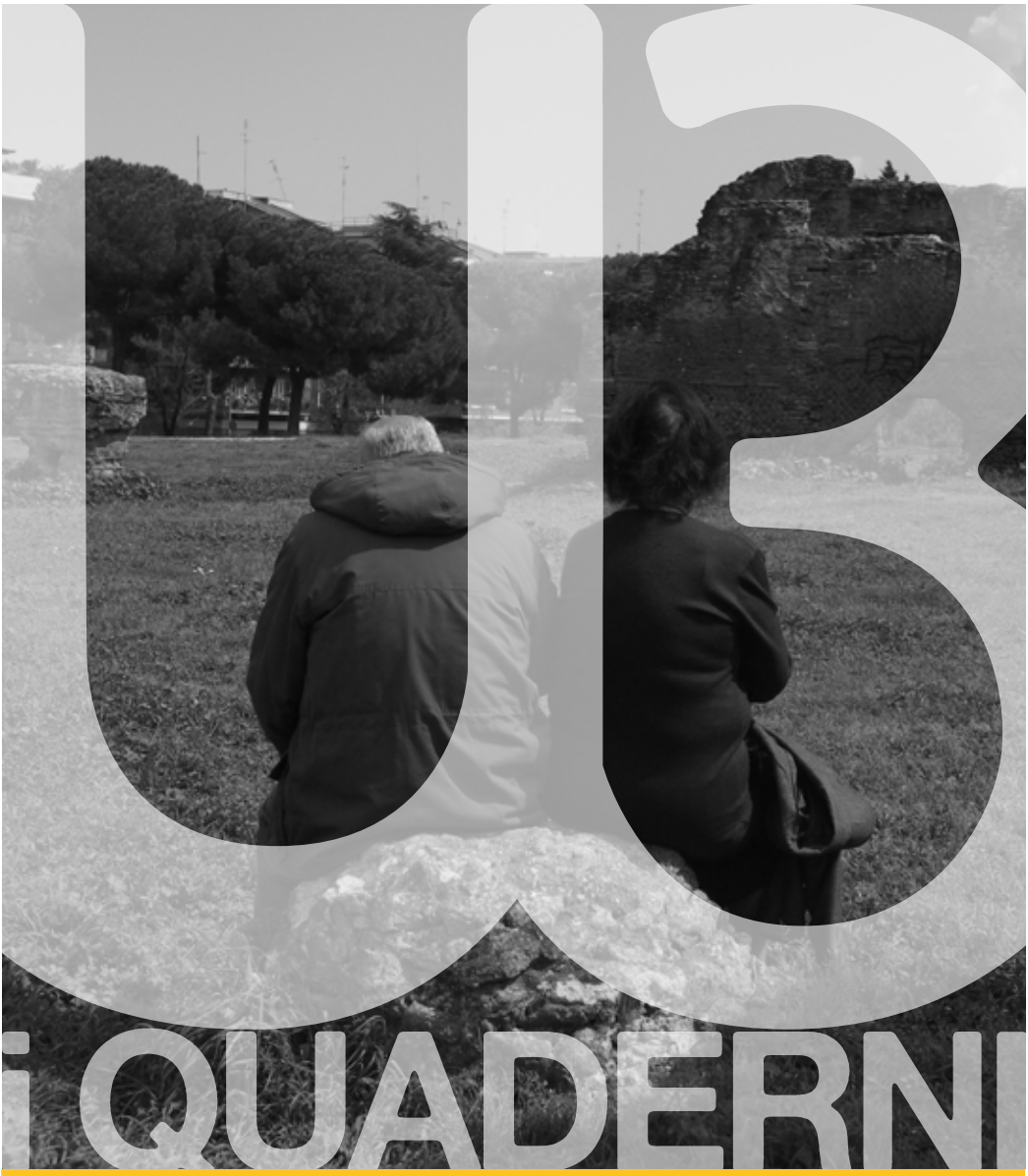


i QUADERNI

#14

Planning for all generations

Per una pianificazione multigenerazionale

Edited by **GU | Generazione Urbana**

settembre_dicembre 2017
numero **quattordici**
anno **cinque**

URBANISTICA tre
giornale on-line di urbanistica
ISSN:
2531-7091

- Mildred E. Warner |
- Gregory Smith |
- Adam Bronfin, Rachel Liu & Kai Walcott |
- Gray Brakke, Amelia Visnauskas, Eduardo C. Dañobeytia, Raquel Blandon & Joshua Glasser |
- Carlo Cellamare |
- Nicola Vazzoler |
- Madeleine Galvin |
- Tishya Rao, Ehab Ebeid, Graham Murphy & Edna Samron |
- Giovanni Attili |

URBANISTICA tre
giornale on-line di urbanistica
journal of urban design and planning
ISSN: 2531-7091

Comitato di redazione
Editor: Giorgio Piccinato
Editor in chief: Nicola Vazzoler
Secretary: Francesca Porcari
Editorial staff: Simone Ombuen, Anna Laura Palazzo, Lucia Nucci
iQuaderni: Elisabetta Capelli, Sara Caramaschi, Lorenzo Barbieri
Rubriche: Flavio Graviglia
Social e comunicazione: Viviana Andriola, Domenica Bona
Graphic design: Janet Hetman

Comitato scientifico
Thomas Angotti, *City University of New York*
Oriol Nel·lo i Colom, *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*
Carlo Donolo, *Università La Sapienza*
Valter Fabietti, *Università di Chieti-Pescara*
Max Welch Guerra, *Bauhaus-Universität Weimar*
Michael Hebbert, *University College London*
Daniel Modigliani, *Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica*
Luiz Cesar de Queiroz Ribeiro, *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro*
Vieri Quilici, *Università Roma Tre*
Christian Topalov, *École des hautes études en sciences sociales*
Rui Manuel Trindade Braz Afonso, *Universidade do Porto*

http://www.urbanisticatre.uniroma3.it/dipsu/

ISSN 2531-7091

La qualità scientifica del Quaderno è garantita da una procedura di peer review ad opera di qualificati referees anonimi esterni.

Progetto grafico / Nicola Vazzoler
Impaginazione / Giulio Cuccurullo

Data di pubblicazione: Roma, gennaio 2018

In copertina:
Roma, Parco degli Acquedotti.
Foto di Serena Muccitelli

edito da Roma TrE-Press
con il supporto di ROMA TRE UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
per informazioni iQUADERNI

#14
settembre_dicembre 2017
numero quattordici
anno cinque

september_december 2017
issue fourteen
year five

i QUADERNI

in questo numero
in this issue

Topic/Tema >

Planning for all generations

Per una pianificazione multigenerazionale

a cura di / edited by GU | Generazione Urbana
Viviana Andriola & Serena Muccitelli

Generazione Urbana_p. 5
Framing a multigenerational approach to planning. The Italian context
Per una pianificazione multigenerazionale. Il caso italiano

Mildred E. Warner_p. 17
Multigenerational Planning: Theory and Practice
La pianificazione multigenerazionale: teoria e pratica

Gregory Smith_p. 25
The pedagogy of an urban studies workshop focused on age-friendliness in selected Rome neighborhoods
La pedagogia di un laboratorio di ricerca urbana sulla condizione di vita di giovani ed anziani in alcuni quartieri di Roma

Adam Bronfin, Rachel Liu, Kai Walcott _p. 33
Can Regeneration be Multigenerational? A case study of Piazza Alessandria
La rigenerazione urbana può essere multigenerazionale? Il caso studio di Piazza Alessandria

G. Brakke, A. Visnauskas, E. C. Dañobeytia, R. Blandon, J. Glasser_p. 43
Path Dependence and Social Reciprocity in an Unplanned Neighborhood
Path dependence e rapporti sociali in un quartiere non pianificato

Carlo Cellamare_p. 53
“Epiphanic” peripheries , re-appropriation of the city and dwelling quality
Periferie epifaniche, riappropriazione della città e qualità dell’abitare

Nicola Vazzoler_p. **63**
TOD: un racconto fra sostenibilità e accessibilità
TOD: a tale between sustainability and accessibility

Madeleine Galvin_p. **71**
Living Next to a Transit Node: A Livability Audit of Age-Friendliness
Abitare vicino a un nodo di trasporto: valutare la qualità della vita per bambini e anziani

Tishya Rao, Ehab Ebeid, Graham Murphy, Edna Samron_p. **79**
Exercising the 'Right to Tufello' by Local Institutional Actors
Esercitare il "Diritto al Tufello"

Giovanni Attili_p. **89**
Pratiche informali e istituzioni. Per una politica dell'attenzione
Informal practices and institutions. Towards a politics of attention

Apparati/Others >

Profilo autori/**Authors bio** p. **98**

Parole chiave/**Keywords** p. **101**

Planning for all generations

Per una pianificazione multigenerazionale

>

The pedagogy of an urban studies workshop focused on age-friendliness in selected Rome neighborhoods

@ Gregory Smith |

La pedagogia di un laboratorio di ricerca urbana sulla condizione di vita di giovani ed anziani in alcuni quartieri di Roma

Urban research |
Neighborhood studies |
Pedagogy |
Rome |

Ricerca urbana |
Studi di quartiere |
Pedagogia |
Roma |

This contribution sets out the methodological foundations of the research conducted in the 2017 undergraduate Rome Workshop. The approach started with a focus on age friendliness, articulated within a research framework taking into consideration the material and nonmaterial features of the urban environment. Systematic street surveys were combined with statistical research and ethnographic explorations in a multimethod approach capable of revealing the interplay between planning activities and spontaneous features of community organization. Theoretical insights were provided by such authors as Aldo Rossi and Colin Rowe. The first author outlines the importance of establishing a research area which reflects the organic growth of the city, and calls attention to primary urban elements capable of propelling the process of urban transformation. Colin Rowe insists that the city is a didactic instrument poised between utopian aspiration and locally grounded tradition. These and other theoretical frameworks allow student researchers to see their activities in broader perspective. In this particular edition of the workshop age friendliness was the predetermined focus, the exploration of which built on a specific literature review and drew attention to the special needs of children and elders as research subjects.

…. One must think of the city as inherently a didactic instrument …

Colin Rowe and Fred Koetter

Urban research is a critical skill for the urban studies professional.This discipline traces descent from the Chicago School in the 1920s, and over the decades has evolved in multiple ways built on diverse theoretical models concerning the city (Low 1999).

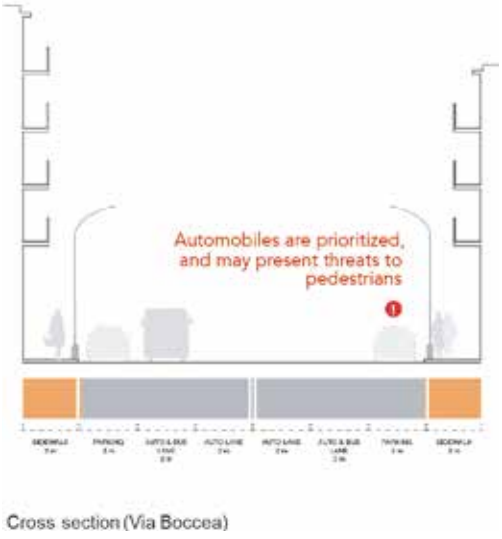


Fig.1_ *From Blandon et al. (2017, p. 20) Pineta Sacchetti street analysis.*

Colin Rowe's research seems particularly apt in our case. His writing derives largely from first-hand explorations of Rome, and is particularly revealing when he notes that the city is a didactic instrument aiming to communicate meaning to those experiencing it (1978, p. 121). Part of Rowe's concern is to explore the interface between the city as a utopia and the city as the expression of traditional practice.

Rome the Eternal City provides a unique opportunity to explore the shifting meanings of utopia and tradition, and explore how these forces have shaped the urban environment. Rome is the product of formal planning with presumed utopian aspirations, as well as informal citizen practice in a weakly regulated physical environment (Cellammare 2014). The encounter between ideal aspiration and actual citizen experience in Rome's vast physical territory gives rise to a range of urban settings affording unique pedagogical opportunities.

Aldo Rossi also provides significant support for our research. His idea of the study area (1982, p. 63) is fundamental to researchers operating in Rome. Our workshop always starts with provisional boundaries for what can be considered a neighborhood, and leaves room for later adjustments as the group gains familiarity with the social and physical processes which define the city.

A previous publication (Smith et al. 2014) described the pedagogical underpinnings of the Rome Workshop, an undergraduate urban studies course offered at Cornell in Rome over more than twenty years. The workshop takes advantage of Rome's diversity to create an environment in which student urbanists can develop skills in exploring the city using various methods, including a modified ethnographic approach (Duneier 2014). The 2014 publication described a research strategy starting with a methodologically grounded survey of the neighborhood as a physical site, and progressing to an analytical and prescriptive assessment of city planning. This open-ended approach accommodates any range of student interests.

During the spring 2017 edition of the Workshop we chose to reverse our modus operandi, and started with a strong thematic focus which was then fleshed out following techniques of investigation similar to those described in 2014. This choice presented unusual challenges, since available research material did not always facilitate empirical exploration of the chosen topic. Yet the experiment yielded a body of thematic material warranting the current publication. The theme was the age-friendly city, a concept which can be defined in abundant ways. For recent academic discussion of the topic consult Warner et al. 2017.

The usual Workshop setup involves the concomitant exploration of three

or four different neighborhoods by separate research groups. Situated in a single municipal authority, this approach allows insights into how the city admits different responses which often have little to do with physical design itself. The concept of loose space (Frank & Stevens 2007) is particularly relevant here. During this semester two groups of five students each were formed, along with two groups of four each. The groups were selected in such a way as to balance skills, especially language, writing, graphic representation, and statistical analysis.

Fig.2_ *From Bronfin et al. (2017, p. 33) Piazza Alessandria figure ground study.*

It is essential in all social science research that the process of investigation not put the subjects at risk (Ocejo 2012, p. 11). Investigations involving elders and children raise special ethical dilemmas. Research conducted in the Rome Workshop has indicative value alone, since it lacks the systematic character of professional research. Nonetheless every effort is made to reach out to the research subjects, especially children and their adult gatekeepers (Morrow 1996, p. 101), to ensure that the aims of our activities be fully disclosed. Disclosure involves not only data collection, but also the assessment and dissemination of findings. Community consent is sought during each stage of the research process.

Academic research necessarily flows from a literature review. In this particular edition of the Workshop students were exposed to a range of international studies concerning the age-friendly city, with a strong American component and a significant focus on Italy. The Italian context was explored not only through the literature, but through seminars with local experts from Rome and beyond.

The research areas were selected as a contrasting suite of experiences. The usual research progression is to start with a theoretical and historical consideration of the city, and a review of research techniques available for empirical exploration. From this start students take possession of their neighborhoods with the assistance of Rome-based professional urban researchers. The first step in the empirical process is to walk through all the publicly accessible portions of the research area. Using appropriate survey instruments, students document the physical features of the neighborhood, and begin to engage local citizens concerning insights that go beyond urban design.

Given the importance played by the research theme, from the outset students were invited to consider what physical features of the city can contribute to age-friendliness. This reflection was formalized as a checklist explored at the street level. The checklist was enriched as the research progressed, including informal practices promoting age friendliness.

The publicly available final reports contain the research findings organized as a cohesive assessment of age friendliness in four neighborhoods.

Fig.3_ *From Shin et al. (2017, p. 55) San Giovanni guide to the livability audit.*

The Piazza Alessandria report (Bronfin et al. 2017), for instance, starts out with a literature review which gives special importance to UN and UNICEF frameworks for assessing age friendliness. These frameworks reference both physical and non-physical features of the urban environment. Historical background to the neighborhood follows thematic and methodological considerations. Historical research is partly text based, but also relies on citizen accounts tracing more recent developments and those undocumented in written sources. In some neighborhoods, like self-built Pineta Sacchetti, the historical research is more complex owing to limited formal planning; the very name of the neighborhood as locally known finds no reference in the published literature (Blandon et al. 2017).

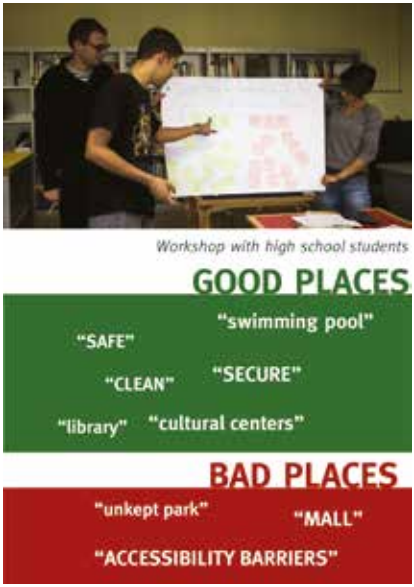
The neighborhood survey yields various products, including a street analysis (e.g., Figure 1) and a study of the urban layout (e.g., Figure 2) using figure ground maps (Trancik 1986). In a neighborhood like Piazza Alessandria, the figure ground maps illustrate the intentions of the planners in realizing an organized environment bringing together public and private spaces. In self-designed neighborhoods these intentions are not clearly stated, and fleshing out the distinction between public and private requires detailed ethnographic exploration. Building typology studies tell the story of the neighborhood's historical evolution and reveal key parameters such as density (Reale 2011). Land use maps complete the survey of the physical environment.

A critical issue in Rome is car mobility and car storage. Piazza Alessandria was designed in the 1880s, taking into account the then-prevailing needs of foot and vehicle traffic. Traffic patterns have changed, and issues of maintenance and use today create hazards for local pedestrians who note that the neighborhood is dangerous to walk. Poor maintenance and improper use, especially owing to vehicle storage, was mapped in an exploration of the neighborhood bringing together design, maintenance and use in a detailed assessment of local urban quality of life. The quality of life concept is discussed in Ruggeri's study of livability (2013) from which some groups drew, while a now classic source is contained in the Manifesto formulated by Jacobs and Appleyard (1987).

A separate feature of the investigation concerns available statistical material. Neighborhood data are compared to Rome scale, to reveal population age, density, housing and family size, with inferences about the social and economic character of the neighborhood. These data are often incomplete, and must be supplemented with observations and citizen interviews. A fundamental feature of research is engaging community actors, a complex process owing to linguistic and cultural barriers, the problem of reaching out to key actors, and the logistics of organizing interviews in the short time afforded by a semester in Rome. A good example of interview methodology

is contained in the Piazza Alessandria report, adapted from a study comparing two European cities. The report describes methodology in relevant detail (page 79), including the interview strategy, the questions asked, and a discussion of the locations where the interviews were carried out. The contents of the interviews are tabulated in a detailed appendix. These intercept interviews focused on three groups: children with their parents, working age citizens, and elders. A total of twenty interviews were collected.

Having established the general framework in which age-friendliness can be assessed, all groups created forms of community engagement. The most ambitious form deployed this semester was in Pineta Sacchetti, where thanks to the support of a local public school, student researchers engaged local children in an exercise of participatory photography. The methodological foundation for this investigation borrowed from work published by Sancar and Severcan (2010). This exercise, along with a series of interviews concerning the memories of elders, revealed an unexpected level of age friendliness in this relatively unregulated environment. A well-designed and affluent neighborhood like Piazza Alessandria exhibited lower quality of life than underprivileged Pineta Sacchetti, questioning the value of design in predicting citizen experience.



Workshop with high school students

Fig.4_ *From Ebeid et al. (2017, p. 30) Tufello mapping exercise.*
on the following page:
Fig.5_ *Rome Workshop methodology poster, Kay Walcott.*

Other neighborhood explorations also indicated the relativity of design in predicting quality of life. The San Giovanni group (Shin et al. 2017) borrowed from Deni Ruggeri's methodology (2013) in a livability audit generating findings that revealed a strong livability contrast within a homogeneous built environment (Figure 3). The Tufello group (Ebeid et al. 2017) was explicit in describing how built form was not enough to understand local quality of life. This finding was achieved through an extensive series of exercises (e.g., Figure 4) engaging local citizens, associations and institutions.

As a whole these investigations demonstrated that a study of the physical forms of the city is a fundamental starting point for the investigation of an urban environment, but by itself is not enough. The city plan, when it exists, is a key force propelling the transformation of the city (Rossi 1982, p. 99). But so are nonmaterial elements (ibid., p.87). This indicates that planning by itself does not predict the full range of responses to the city, a claim supported by our research.

This general finding resonates with the writings of Colin Rowe: utopian design is only one element in the urban experience (1978, p.121). Even in the absence of a utopian design, traditions, themselves a dynamic urban force, may encourage local practices which endow place with a positive aura. The empirical research described here confirms the importance of showing how theoretical abstractions play out on the ground. As Jacobs (1985, p.7) noted long ago, grappling with the effort to understand the city can only be mastered through first-hand experience.

ROME NEIGHBORHOOD STUDIES

METHODOLOGY

CRP 4160: ROME WORKSHOP

"The specific methodology has changed over the years, but the focus has remained that of a practically oriented experiential learning seminar. The experience is intended to provide a practical application to the text-based learning students have pursued in their undergraduate curriculum as planning students."

Observation

The first steps of the project required students to observe the physical characteristics of their communities, considering building and street typologies in an effort to assess their child-and age-friendliness. This involved 4-6 hour site visits at least once a week.

Engagement

Through engagement with local residents, community groups and institutions, students collected information to tell a story about the social dynamics and governance structures and agents that shape their neighborhoods. Engagement activities varied between groups, from intercept interviews to photography workshops.

Studio Work

A series of pin-ups, presentations and drafts throughout the course helped to refine the text, maps and figures that comprise their final report. Students were also given the opportunity to contribute a journal article to Urbanistica Tre in collaboration with Generazione Urbana, a local group with aims of making discourse about urban planning more accessible and widespread.

Cornell in Rome
Spring 2017
Funded by Engaged Cornell

PIAZZA ALESSANDRIA PINETA SACCHETTI SAN GIOVANNI TUFELLO

references

Jacobs A. & Appleyard D. 1987, 'Toward an urban design manifesto', *Journal of the American Planning Association*, vol. 53*,* no.1, pp.112-120.
Blandon R., Brakke G., Danobeytia EC., Glasser J. & Visnauskas A. 2017, *Pineta Sacchetti. A village without a name,* Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, viewed 8 June 2017, https://aap.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/Pineta%20Sacchetti%20report-reduced-opt_060517.pdf.
Bronfin A., Liu R., Switzer S. & Walcott K. 2017, *Can regeneration be multigenerational? A case of child- and age-friendliness in Piazza Alessandria*, Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, viewed 8 June 2017, https://aap.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/Piazza%20Alessandria%20Report_reduced-opt-3_060517.pdf.
Cellamare C. 2014, 'The self-made city', *Global Rome: changing faces of the Eternal City*, pp. 205-2018, Indiana University Press, Bloomington.
Duneier M., Kasinitz P. & Murphy A. (eds) 2014, *The urban ethnography reader*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
Ebeid E., Luo L., Murphy G., Rao T. & Samron E. 2017, *Il Tufello. Building a strong community despite the odds,* Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, viewed 8 June 2017, https://aap.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/Tufello%20Report-reduced-opt_060517.pdf.
Frank K. & Stevens Q. 2007, *Loose space*. *Possibility and diversity in urban life,* Routledge, London and New York.
Jacobs AB. 1985, *Looking at cities*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge.
Low SM. (ed) 1999, *Theorizing the city: the new urban anthropology reader*, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick.
Morrow V. & Richards M 1996, 'The ethics of social research with children: an overview', *Children & Society*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp.90-105.
Ocejo RE. (ed) 2012, *Ethnography and the city: readings on doing urban fieldwork*, Routledge, London and New York.
Reale L. 2011, *Densità città residenza: tecniche di densificazione e strategie anti-sprawl*, Gangemi Editore, Rome.
Rossi A. & Eisenman P. 1982, *The architecture of the city*, MIT Press, Cambridge.
Rowe C. & Koetter F. 1978, *Collage city*, MIT Press, Cambridge.
Ruggeri D. 2013, 'From transit stop to urbanity node: field audit for measuring livability at the transit stop', OTREC-SS-726, Portland, OR: Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC), viewed 8 June 2013, https://dx.doi.org/10.15760/trec.54.
Sancar FH. & Severcan YC. 2010, 'Children's places: rural–urban comparisons using participatory photography in the Bodrum peninsula, Turkey', *Journal of Urban Design*, vol. 15, no. 3, pp.293-324.
Shin G., Galvin M., Laude R. & Hussam S. 2017, *San Giovanni. Living next to a transit corridor,* Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, viewed 8 June 2017, https://aap.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/FINAL%20SAN%20GIOVANNI%20REPORT%20with%20title%20page-2.pdf.
Smith G., Warner ME., Fioretti C. & Meschiari C. 2014, 'Rome undergraduate planning workshop: a reflexive approach to neighborhood studies', *Planning Theory & Practice*, vol.15, no. 1, pp.9-25.
Trancik R. 1986, *Finding lost space: theories of urban design*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken.
Warner ME., Homsy GC. & Morken LJ. 2017, 'Planning for aging in place: stimulating a market and government response', *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, vol. 37, no.1, pp.29-42.

i QUADERNI

#14

settembre_dicembre 2017
numero **quattordici**
anno **cinque**

URBANISTICA tre
giornale on-line di urbanistica
ISSN:
2531-7091

È stato bello fare la tua conoscenza!
cercaci, trovaci, leggici, seguici, taggaci, contattaci, ..
It was nice to meet you!
search *us*, find *us*, read *us*, follow *us*, tag *us*, contact *us*, ..

ROMA TRE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI

i QUADERNI