



## BLUE

Water, vital resource and force of nature, in all its physical and composition states gives since always life and nourishing, draws, modifies and shakes our habitat, allowing the formation and development of civilizations. The positivist approach to the construction of the modern city, in light of the growing, pressing and mass needs, has produced the intensive exploitation of this resource and directly and indirectly affecting it by altering many delicate environmental relations. Humans believed to be able to govern this relation beyond natural laws, to overcome, thanks to the solutions offered by technological innovation, the respect that has conditioned his behaviour for millennia, to subdue the power of water by harnessing it in narrow, often hidden and sometimes underground canals.

The World Water Development Report, published in March 2016 at the World Water Day and within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlights the key role that water will play in the transition to green economy. It is seen as a resource that links economic, environmental and social aspects of many crucial phenomena, in particular: global and local security, linked to the impact of climate change and its effects on the environment and on the territory; the development of coastal, river, mountainous, agricultural and productive areas in general, since 78% of jobs worldwide directly depend on water; the life quality, considering the imbalance due to the fact that some 750 million people still have no direct access to drinking water, while for example its waste at the global level exceeds 30%.

The second issue of UPLAND Volume 2017 intends to focus on the water topic, believing that the development of appropriate policies today is indispensable to address these issues in terms of

proactive solutions rather than emergency approaches to overcome the ideologically underestimated effects of inevitable transformations. On the one hand, there is a need to spread innovations, good design and retrofit practices for new and existing buildings based on well-established experimentations in the European context, and on the other hand a careful reflection on the city, in terms of transformation and evolution of urban landscape and socioeconomic dynamics within regeneration processes, is required, deepening the search for efficient and resilient solutions at urban and metropolitan scale.

The urban planning project, having by now overcome the boundary in which the topic could be treated through a containment approach, by avoiding or mitigating new impacts, it is necessary to look at a perspective which, acting both on new settlements and on consolidated fabrics, leads to the re-establishment of a lost balance by implementing positive functions, processes and transformations in terms of resilience but also of urban quality.

In the landscape design, the relation with water has always led to a continuous remodelling of the border with the land, because of livelihood and progress needs, but also in relation to beauty and well-being. Today it can become a tool for the promotion of sustainable development and environmental protection, such as waterfronts or public spaces, river or agricultural landscapes, and interventions for the rediscovery of water bodies in urban contexts.

The technological and environmental design, both at urban and building level, is increasingly required to incorporate sustainable and resilient water management solutions, both in terms of

efficient resource use - focusing on integrated collection and recycling strategies - and in terms of resilience or adaptation and reduction of risks related more or less to climate change.

In this perspective, the main topics of the call are:

- intervention programs and projects addressing the issue of the relations with water in the new expansions of the major metropolises both from the infrastructure point of view and the settlement model;
- product and process innovations to increase the sustainability and resilience of consolidated fabrics, both historical and ordinary;
- tools, methods and procedures for evaluating ecological, environmental and landscape efficiency of alternative transformation programs;
- best practices for the infrastructure system with a positive impact on the balance of urban settlements in terms of waste management and environmental resources consumption;
- best practices for improving the quality of the buildings/open spaces system, from the point of view of hydraulic and environmental efficiency, social inclusion and resilience in a multi-scale view;
- mode of intervention, process innovations, functions and technologies to overcome the conflicting dimension that accompanies the relation between cities and water courses within regeneration operations.

Authors are invited to send an abstract of 2,000 characters (spaces included), in Italian or English, that must mention the main contents of

the paper, specifying the subject of the article and showing the link to the CALL topics.

Furthermore:

the “Essays and points of view” papers has to outline:

- the relevance of the question to scientific debate;
- the literature on the subject;
- the point of view proposed.

“Best practices reports” focus on:

- the relevance of the project with respect to already measured effects;
- the originality of the report, given the already existing literature on the topic;
- the replicability in other contexts and the surrounding conditions for its realization.

the “Research and experimentation” papers has to outline:

- the obtained results, intermediate and/or final, and their relevance to the topic discussed;
- the program and the context in which the research/experimentation has been conducted, the involved subjects and the financing sources;
- the originality, of the product and/or the process, and the targeted beneficiaries;
- the research and literature references;
- the limits of the research and the potential for future developments;
- the physical, social, economic and/or cultural implications and the replicability potential.

The abstract has to be accompanied by specific keywords (3 to 5), reflecting the essential elements of the paper. **The abstract has to be sent to [editors@upland.it](mailto:editors@upland.it) by May 14<sup>th</sup> 2017.**