

SPACES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY. CONTEMPORARY CONCEPTS AND INTERPRETATIONS*

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Abstract. Archaeological sites are an origin of successive changes among city's areas and values that led to the evolution of urban composition. The city, as a place of condensation, is the only medium in which the architect, the archaeologist and the urban planner meet. By explaining the term "urban archaeology" there will present the connection between the archaeological excavations and the expense of the aesthetic "envelope" of the contemporary city, following the normative provisions of the charts.

Rezumat. Siturile arheologice sunt originea schimbărilor succesive din cadrul urban și valori care au condus la evoluția compoziției acestuia. Orașul, ca loc de condensare, este singurul mediu în care arhitectul, arheologul și urbanistul se pot întâlni. Explicând termenul de „arheologie urbană” se vor prezenta relațiile dintre săpătura arheologică și „anvelopanta” estetică a metropolei contemporane, urmărindu-se prevederile normative ale cartelor.

*“The first journey along the Via Tiburtina [...] is a chaotic experience. The car inches along at junctions and traffic lights, the dust swirls in the wind and the distant views are blurred. There are numbers of connections [...] nodes that clearly serve a purpose both as generators of movement on the Via Tiburtina, and as diverters of traffic from parts of the road”.*¹ Thus begins Kristina Hellerström her work on the Via Tiburtina. The text presents the difficulties of understanding urban archaeology, due to flows that constrain and condition the individual perception of urban landscape, through loss of his orientation sense. Problems are often encountered in historical zones, where the city communicates with its visitors.

If monuments, generally, are put in danger of abandonment, archaeological sites are more vulnerable, due to their condition as invoking “traces” and lack of understanding of their function in the urban ambiance. A sum of generalized issues should be applied to solve the problem, based on the specific example of Rome, the “archaeological city”, with two levels of reading: one on “archaeology in the city” and another as “archaeology of the city”.² In the first case it identifies a report based on the meaning of ruins in the city, in the second, archaeology is considered as a hidden layer, illegible, the initial support found under the contemporary architecture. Archaeological sites are an origin of successive changes among city's areas and values that led to the evolution of urban composition. Various processes are defined as: new functions that guarantee the protection, active musealization and visiting the preexistences, with the contiguous environment, conservation and protection programs, not because of monumental or age values, but the representation of local identity.

Urban archaeology versus archaeology in the city

Urban archaeology³ refers to the overall archaeological research, through which the city is seen as a conglomerate and every archaeological excavation is a starting point in its recomposed history. The phrase “archaeology in the city” refers to operations and interventions circumscribed to thematic issues and specific places. In the context of new developments, when urban extends to the whole contiguous territory area by grasping tentacles such as infrastructures, research on the archaeology acquires new dimensions.

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¹ Hellerström 2009, p. 95-96.

² Zanker 1993, p. 25. The discovery of the 18th century of Pompeii represented the moment when “urban archaeology” was defined.

³ Council of Europe 1999, p. 13-14. The report presents the situation of the urban archaeological research in European countries, from limes interest to current forms of preservation.