

Session 2D - The circular city: heritage, environment, businesses and governance

16:30 - 18:00 Friday, 17th June, 2022

Scientific Day - Theme 2. Innovating Public Space for Inclusive Cities

Presentation type Oral

Chair Marco Acri, Ingrid Andersson, Thomas Andersson, Saša Dobričić, Guido Ferilli

Not only are cities making an ever-increasing contribution to the massive amount of global waste generated by human society, but they are also becoming places of pure consumption, having almost fully lost their characteristics as places of production; to quote Latour "...the life we live in is not the life we live from..". In history, living in the city also meant living in proximity to the places of production, in cities that were almost self-sufficient. Nowadays, urban users are producers of demand and waste, conscious of 'the life they live in' but unaware of 'the life they live from'. This phenomenon has been acting as a driving force in cities, with an emphasis on historic areas which become purely tourist attractions that are increasingly characterized by the presence of leisure and entertainment services (mainly bars and restaurants), thereby reducing the conditions needed to enable these areas to be fully residential. In contrast to this, a change is offered by the circular economy which asks for more resilient forms of living with an emphasis on urban environments. The ideas of the circular economy are also impacting the built environment, addressing the retrofitting of buildings and the building construction process itself, as well as reimagining how assets can best integrate and serve within the city, with suggestions for new models of spatial and social use. The objective of this session is to investigate new forms of urban use aligned with the circular economy, especially in terms of social and economic innovation. New ideas are needed to reintroduce production to the city in line with modern health and safety standards and based on territorial valorisation and resilience. New residential forms may also be introduced, potentially breaking the traditional home-work dichotomy, and relying on history, nature and NBS to provide inspiration for resilience.

This session is expected to receive inputs from past, recent and ongoing research and experience - from both academia and the field. Contributions from private initiatives and suggestions from both companies and non-profits will be welcomed.