

## **Instruments of form in form-deprived urban territories: a «road-net» for an increasing legibility in Ave's valley**

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«City» is a term that has lost the accuracy of former times, having, today, an ambiguous significance. A consensual fact, though, is its relation with a *certain* urbanisation (i.e. built land occupation, not necessarily served by infrastructures) that within the proper context will have to find references of density/compactness/«central» functions/meaning(s) that allow it to oppose/distinguish itself from something that is a «non-city».

Cities, as they were perceived in the mid-twentieth century, have exponentially grown within the last decades - a worldwide phenomenon particularly referred to by the extension/continuity of urbanisation. However, at the present time, a city is no longer an entity that might be set against the countryside; instead, it may also contain the rural area as an essential component, maybe even a distinctive one.

It is in these territories, which challenge classic connotations of city, that we focus on; those in which intelligible form is more absent and where we want to find instruments of form - that potentiate form understanding -, form which is no longer apprehended through a structure of recognizable geometric figures, and even less by codes that are validated and emerge from «traditional» cities.

The morphological instruments we search, might possibly be found in these «old» cities, but are to be renewed under recent paradigms. The road network is, as it is well known, one of the most evidently persistent territorial facts. Centering on it we will try a conceptual proposal of a «road-net» for the space in-between cities in the urban (Sub)System of Ave's Valley.

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