Exploring the multi-faced gap between the ELC statements and lay people visions: a study case in the Venetian plain (North-eastern Italy)

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land-forms → filters - models → mental images of landscape, values and meanings

decisions - behaviours

(Castiglioni e Ferrario, 2007; Turri, 1998)
land-forms QUITE INCOHERENT

filters - models TOO DISTANT TO BE A REFERENCE

mental image of landscape FADED, WEAK

decisions - behaviours
LOW ATTENTION TO THE EFFECTS OF ACTIONS/PERFORMANCES ON LANDSCAPE
Research questions:

“Each Party undertakes […] to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings” (ELC, art. 5)

“[…] the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas” (ELC, art 5)

- Which kind of relationship do people establish with their place of life?
- To what extent do lay people consider landscape pertinent when referring to their place of life?
- How do they perceive their landscape? According to which criteria do they give value to it?
VIGOROVEA in the municipality of Sant’Angelo di Piove di Sacco
Vigorovea 1902 - 2003
Methodology:

- 16 Semi-structured interviews to the inhabitants taken along the main streets of the town (Spring- Summer 2013).
- 103 questionnaires to the parents of the local primary school children (Autumn-Winter 2013-14).
TOPICS OF THE INTERVIEWS/QUESTIONNAIRES:

• The profile of the interviewees (gender, age, profession, etc.)

• The relationship between the interviewees and the place
(asking them how long they live there and if they likes the village Vigorovea or not and why)

• The places perceived as the most relevant by the interviewees
(asking them the most nice, important, useful and symbolic places of Vigorovea)

• How does the interviewees perceive the landscape changes occurred in the last decades
(asking them if they noticed any changes and their opinion about past and possible future changes)

• How does the interviewees interpret the term landscape
(we used the term landscape just at the end of both interview and questionnaire: during the interview we asked how is the landscape in Vigorovea and what do they mean for “landscape”; in the questionnaire we insert 3 questions explicitly concerning landscape)
**Methodology:**

**Question 4.** In the following questions, we ask you to think about several places in Vigorovea. For each question, we ask you to indicate 5 adjectives best describing each of these places. In your opinion, the [...] (square Madre Teresa di Calcutta, the area around the church, the industrial zone, the park in via Anello) is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aesthetically agreeable</th>
<th>Aesthetically disagreeable</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tidy</td>
<td>Untidy</td>
<td>(Coeterier 1996; Rogge et al. 2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homogenous</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>(Daniel 2001; Sevenant/Antrop 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Inaccessible</td>
<td>(Pachaki 2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful</td>
<td>Useless</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Comfortable</td>
<td>Uncomfortable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well frequented</td>
<td>Empty</td>
<td>(Sala 2009 (sociability))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cozy</td>
<td>Inhospitable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well maintained</td>
<td>Neglected</td>
<td>(Coeterier 1996; Sevenant/Antrop 2009)</td>
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<td>Historical</td>
<td>Contemporary</td>
<td>(Tveit 2006; Sevenant/Antrop 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical</td>
<td>Banal</td>
<td>(Swanwick 2002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>(Farjon et al. 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiar</td>
<td>Unfamiliar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beloved</td>
<td>Despised</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorable</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>(Pachaki 2003)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unspoiled</td>
<td>Polluted</td>
<td>(Sevenant/Antrop 2009)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Dangerous</td>
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Methodology: Criteria related with the list of adjectives

Aesthetics
- Homogenous
- Varied
- Tidy
- Untidy
- Natural
- Artificial
- Aesthetically agreeable
- disagreeable

Ecology
- Unspoiled
- Polluted

Utility
- Accessible
- Inaccessible
- Useful
- Useless
- Comfortable
- Uncomfortable

Collective Identity
- Rural
- Urban
- Typical
- Banal
- Historical
- Contemporary
- Secure
- Dangerous
- Well maintained
- Neglected
- Well frequented
- Empty

Social Relations
- Cozy
- Inhospitable
- Beloved
- Despised
- Familiar
- Unfamiliar

Personal Attachment
- Memorable
- Insignificant

(De Nardi, 2011)
Values and meanings given to places are linked to the activities people perform there, more than to their visual quality.

People use social criteria more than aesthetical ones in their relation with the place of life.

Church area (Square, «baraccon», kindergarten, park)

M. T. Calcutta Square
Some results:

One’s own home is considered the nicest place of Vigorovea by 35 % (question 3.a)

Among the respondents who answered affirmatively to the question: “Does it exist in Vigorovea a place that is special for you?”, (question 2.e) 30% indicate that such a place is their own home (question 2.f).
Some results:
Significant places about which we asked to express an opinion

- Via Anello Park
- M. T. Calcutta Square
- Area around the Church
- Industrial Area
Some results

Significant spaces about which we asked to express an opinion
Some results:
Some results:
Some results:
Some results:
Some results:
### Question 7. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

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Question 8. In your opinion, does each of the following photos represent a landscape?
Some results:

*Question 9. When you think about landscape, you think about:*

- A view as it is observed from a panoramic point: 5.68%
- Presence of natural vegetation: 20.08%
- A place that has remained intact over time: 5.30%
- A place where people meet and spend time together: 4.17%
- Natural elements such as mountains, seas, rivers etc.: 19.32%
- Everything that surrounds us: 9.85%
- A place bound with experiences, memories, emotions, etc.: 4.55%
- Historical elements such as monuments, castles, rural dwellings, etc.: 6.82%
- A place of high interest for tourists: 0.76%
- Pictures of beautiful places: 11.74%
- The place of my birth/childhood: 0.76%
- A piece of Art representing a place (such as a painting): 0.38%
- A place that changes continuously due to human activities: 3.79%
- A reference point for the community: 2.27%
- A place where people carry out their everyday lives: 4.55%
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Discussion:

- Landscape
- Everyday Landscape
- Place of Life

- Ecology, Aesthetics, Collective Identity
- ?
- Personal Attachment, Utility, Social Relations
Discussion:

landscape

land-forms

place of life

filters

models

mental image

of landscape, values

and meanings

decisions, behaviours
Discussion:

Ecology, Aesthetics, Collective Identity, Personal Attachment, Utility, Social Relations
Thank you for your attention