

Editorial

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The topic of this issue 15 focuses on the theme of landscape representation and is located in an area common to various disciplines in the relationship between nature and culture; it is a complex area, rich in articulations and implications, but structurally permanent, even if historically variable.

Landscape design concerns a critical relationship between site, environment and anthropic signs: it expresses a significant index, a parameter revealing the deepest ways of thinking, local characteristics and transformative processes. Moreover, landscape is a question of fundamental importance for defining the status of art and aesthetics, and which deals in particular with the disciplinary tradition of architecture, both with regard to the extension of its field and to its theoretical consistency.

Representation Inside and Outside the Landscape is the title proposed by the curators Maria Grazia Cianci, Balmori Associates and Darío Álvarez Álvarez, with the aim of

deepening the complexity of the theme in four focuses: *Landscape Drawing and Cultural Heritage*, *Landscape Drawing between Tools and Methodologies*, *Landscape Drawing between Imagination and Utopia*, *Landscape Drawing in Contemporary Design*.

The three curators are in fact distinguished by their specificities: Maria Grazia Cianci boasts significant experience in the field of landscape drawing and has directed the II Level Master *OPEN – Architecture and Representation of the Landscape* since 2015; Balmori Associates represents one of the most recognized international studios of urban and landscape design; Darío Álvarez Álvarez, professor of Architectural Drawing in Valladolid, is the coordinator of the *GIR Laboratory of Architecture, Heritage and Cultural Landscape*. The critical readings that unfold in the following pages lead us towards a reading of the landscape through the critical tools of representation and lead us to the primary reflection on 'where' we are and 'how' we move within

our physical, mental and cultural enclosures. Between inside and outside, between where and elsewhere, we are always part of a landscape that changes and renews itself according to logics that are often uncontrollable.

We are increasingly talking about a 'palimpsest landscape' where the writing of a place is continuously subject to erasures and rewritings [Marini, Barbiani 2011]; this dimension of experience is the theme of representation that historically and operationally gives shape to the landscape. Therefore, the openings of the four focuses were entrusted to Mercedes Linares Gómez del Pulgar for the relationships with history, to Alberto and Julio Grijalba Bengoetxea for the procedures of representation, to Livio Sacchi for the utopian and metropolitan visions, and to Lucina Caravaggi for the links with design.

The *image* chosen in this issue, commented by Elena Ippoliti, is the project drawing by Rem Koolhaas (OMA) for the 1982 competition for the Parc de La Villette, a representation that has become the expression of an innovative design method for landscape architecture.

In the *Readings/Rereadings* column, Rossella Salerno proposes an in-depth analysis of the text *Kosmos*, in homage to the figure and work of Alexander von Humboldt, discoverer of distant landscapes in an era of scientific revelations and measurements.

The reviews of some of the latest volumes published in the field of representation disciplines, the report of the most relevant events of recent months, and of the 45th International Conference of Teachers of Representation Disciplines titled *Measure/Out of measure* organized in Padua and Venice by the Unione Italiana per il Disegno (UID), follow.

In September, the UID bodies were renewed and in November Ornella Zerlenga was elected President of the association. Our best wishes to the entire new Technical Scientific Committee and its President for a peaceful and fruitful three-year period. I will continue in the role of Director of the journal for issue 16, already in progress on the theme *Drawing as a Language* edited by Enrico Cicalò and Valeria Menchetelli, scheduled to be published in June 2025. As always, I would like to thank the editors of this issue, the authors of the essays and columns, the reviewers and, finally, the Editorial Board and the Editorial Staff for the great work carried out with competence and generosity.

I wish everyone a good read with the hope that the contributions of this issue can once again serve as food for thought for open and shared research also with other disciplinary fields, bearers of innovation and new dynamics of exchange for scientific research.

Reference List

Marini, S., Barbiani, C. (a cura di). (2011). *Il palinsesto paesaggio e la cultura progettuale*. Macerata: Quodlibet.