Tasting the Landscape

*Tasting the Landscape*, the title chosen for the 53rd International IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects) Congress, calls for the interpretation of the landscape project as an expression of a greater consciousness of the transformation processes and as an opportunity to improve the places where populations carry out their life.

The expression *Tasting*, according to its meaning of *savoring, experiencing, trying* applied to the landscape, implies an attention given to the sensorial dimension of a place, a consideration of slowness as a value: it urges us to not forget the emotional and perceptive aspects as creative agents for the project. Furthermore, it refers to the experience of discovery, to an inventive attitude that leads to in depth investigating, seeking to understand, to evaluating and re-elaborating images, practices, and signs that can orient the inevitable change of regions and landscapes according to a shared and communal feeling.

Thus, *Tasting the Landscape* intends to emphasize the landscape project as an instrument that produces quality, wellness, recourses, the common good, as well as the central role of the landscape professional in the processes of regeneration and reconfiguration of places and regions.

For participants, the Congress will constitute a privileged field for confrontation and discussion of the dimension of the peri-urban landscape, areas where different practices, lifestyles and forms of change meet and collide. Here, the tensions of transformation of human settlements express themselves with greater intensity and agricultural space tends to lose its productive traditional role: the relationship between city and countryside is destined to recombine itself in renewed multi-functional and heterogeneous layouts.

These instable, hybrid, ambiguous areas, exactly so because they tend to be unresolved, constitute a fertile terrain for research and the application of landscape planning and design: indeed, it would seem that a good part of the sustainability challenge is playing out for the city of the new millennium in these peri-urban spaces. A challenge that calls together administrators, engineers, the citizenry, and farmers to collaborate and that makes the contribution of the landscape professional indispensable.

Starting from this platform of general direction, the 53rd International IFLA Congress will be structured according to four specific lines of thematic investigation, identified with the objective of investigating some emerging questions in the practice of Landscape architecture.

1. Sharing Landscapes
2. Connected Landscapes
3. Layered Landscapes
4. Inspiring Landscapes
Sharing Landscapes

Considering the city not so much as a place of consumption, but most of all as a sphere where food, society, and region relate, this session seeks to investigate every aspect of the production of food resources in an urban and peri-urban environment. The foundational concept is that agricultural is multi-functional in its potentiality. Post-agricultural landscape forms and projects can help construct a new dimension of open space as a shared landscape.

Key words
abundance
regeneration
care

In what way can a multidisciplinary design favor the recovery of the post-agricultural landscape?
The concept of sustainability implies the capacity to assure, in the course of a determined process of transformation, the conservation and the reproduction of goods and resources from an economic, environmental, natural and social point of view. This session intends to demonstrate how by favoring connections between the different variables in play and by overcoming the rigid contraposition between conservation and development, the landscape project can constitute a valid instrument for generating new economies through changes in places and regions.

**Key words**
- resilience
- green infrastructure
- ecosystem services

*In what way can landscape architecture respond to the various needs of transformation and simultaneously sustain the imaginative capacity of the project?*
Layered Landscapes

This session explores the action of the landscape professional on layered places, characterized by a historic depth and by the overlaying of memories and uses, which assume a contemporary dimension through cultural contamination, the recognition of biological and temporal diversity, and the reactivation of spatial and semantic relationships. In these contexts, the landscape plan and project become instruments for experimenting innovative strategies and practices of care, inventive conservation and valorizing resources.

Key words
layering
inventive conservation
resignification

In what way can the landscape project renew the vocations and meanings of layered places, re-integrating them into contemporaneity?
Inspiring Landscapes

This session intends to emphasize a particular social function of landscape architecture, that connected to the construction of the collective imagination and to the active conservation of a shared poetic patrimony. Thus, as the different languages of art have contributed in time to form an idea of the landscape and of beauty in nature, the work of the landscape professional can favor the reinvention of a common feeling of places, even through unprecedented “contaminations” with artistic works.

Key words
- cultural biodiversity
- collective imagination
- aesthetic explorations

With what instruments and with what results can the landscape project dialogue with the various forms of artistic expression?
The IFLA2016 Congress

The International Federation of Landscape Architects' 53rd Congress will be held in Turin from April 20th to April 22nd, 2016. The congress is organized by AIAPP - the Italian Association of Landscape Architects, IFLA's representative in Italy, which brings together Italian professionals active in the field of Landscape Architecture.

The Congress is organized in collaboration with the city of Turin.

IFLA2016 will bring together more than 2,000 landscape architects, engineers, professionals and scholars from the discipline from all over the world.

The works will be structured in 4 main parallel sessions dedicated to investigating the 'Tasting the Landscape' Congress's themes: Sharing Landscapes, Connected Landscapes, Layered Landscapes, Inspiring Landscapes.

The Congress will be held at the Lingotto Congressional Center, an extraordinary example of an industrial space that has been reclaimed for a new use, which today is lively and easily reached via public transportation.

Registration for the Congress is already open on the website www.ifla2016.com

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What is AIAPP?
AIAPP - the Italian Association of Landscape Architecture, was founded in 1950. AIAPP is a founding member of IFLA. It is made up of about 800 professionals active in the field of Landscape Architecture.
AIAPP is committed to promoting the education, scientific-cultural activity, information, and professional growth of its members and of research in the field of Landscape architecture; it contributes to improving the knowledge, active conservation, protection and promotion of landscape values; it works to qualify and promote the profession of the Landscape Architect.
The Association promotes and organizes national conventions, educational events and initiatives regarding the Landscape, both as a national entity and through its 9 regional sections (Piedmont and Valle d’Aosta; Lombardy; Triveneto and Emilia Romagna; Liguria; Tuscany, Umbria and the Marche; Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise and Sardinia; Campania, Basilicata and Calabria; Puglia; Sicily) that carry out the activity of training, education, and investigation of landscape themes, with particular attention paid to the peculiarities and needs of the individual geographic areas.
AIAPP has its own journal, “Architettura del Paesaggio,” the official voice of the Association. It began in 1998 and is published twice a year. The association’s official website is: www.aiapp.net

What is IFLA?
IFLA – the International Federation of Landscape Architects, was founded in Cambridge in 1948, and is the international entity that groups together and coordinates all of the National Associations of Landscape Architecture. It is recognized by the United Nations as well as by all of the entities involved in the field and unites 74 national associations of Landscape Architects.
IFLA is structured in 4 world regions (IFLA Europe, IFLA Americas, IFLA Africa, IFLA Asia-Pacific); the IFLA Europe region brings together the greatest number of national associations (34 out of IFLA’s total 74).
Throughout the world, IFLA promotes the Landscape Architect profession, solicits and encourages the highest standards of education, training, research and professional practice. IFLA also promotes the creation of a globally sustainable and balanced living environment through analysis and design of the landscape.
IFLA is based in Brussels, Belgium; their international website is www.iflaonline.org and their European region website is www.iflaeurope.eu.
Why Turin?

Turin has always been a city open to the international community, it was Italy’s first capital and over the last two decades it has grown from being an industrial and manufacturing city to being much more: it continues to be an important industrial center, but is also the home to a renowned University, as well as cultural and tourism sights. In particular, the 2006 Winter Olympic games gave the citizens of Turin a surprising and fascinating city, with a strong new identity.

Today, it is the third largest Italian province for export volume; the University and the Polytechnic University collaborate with over 400 other universities all over the world; the city has gradually signed cooperation and partnership agreements with over 50 cities, located in all of the continents; it hosts the consulate of 45 nations.

Furthermore, Turin is one of the European cities with the most green areas, with over twenty million square meters allocated for parks, gardens and playgrounds, and over one hundred thousand trees.

Turin is an hour from the mountains and an hour from the sea; it is - in the words of the great architect Le Corbusier - the city with the most beautiful natural location.