

SEASIDE – Creative Narratives for Coast Territories

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Coast peripheries

Half of the people in Europe are living in up to 50 km near to the sea, in different forms of urban and territorial configurations. These settlement patterns are in most cases not only quite recent, but can be seen as stage for ongoing processes of met-ropolitan and also touristic extension—therefore a main field for sustainable urban transformation and resilience. At the same time, the impact of climate change (De Baan, Koekbakker 2005), in sea level rise, inland water and landslide risks are affecting coast settlements. From this background, former research in architecture and urbanism needs to be re-read and interpreted towards sustainability: for example, the understanding of touristic occupation in architectural terms (Camp 1997, Farina 2001, Gray 2009) and in a perspective of hyper-urbanisation (for the Costa del Sol by Maas, Van Rijs, de Vries 2005; for the Adriatic coast by Orioli, Balducci 2013; for the Ligurian coast by Zardini 2006). Metropolitan extension and metropolitan networks are already addressed as a main line of current trends and innovation in research (Canessa 2011; Gausa, Ricci 2012; Gausa, Ricci, Scaglione 2014). In particular the work of Manuel Gausa grasps and projects coast territories with new analytical and projective methodologies, as in the seminal book *Hypercatalunya* (Gausa, Guallart, Muller 2004). The approach of the research SEASIDE takes up on these territorial approaches, i. e. to take into account how areas directly at the coast interrelate with hinterlands, focusing on networks of living places from small settlements to cities—aiming at a multi-dimensional and multi-scalar territorial understanding and visioning (Schröder, Ferretti 2018; Viganò 2014). At the same time, the specific interest is directed to coast peripheries:

peripheries as different types of suburban, rural, and remote places that in recent years undergo processes of marginalisation and deep structural change (Schröder et al. 2018). Recently, in the Covid-19 situation, many people became aware of small towns, villages and countryside, for leisure, but also for new living and working models, supported by digital dimensions. The aim is to develop creative approaches in urbanism to creating new vibrant and dynamic places and communities in peripheral and marginalised areas, to explore and invent spaces at the sea/land interface with high architectural and urban qualities—as a crucial contribution to research for the European Green Deal (Schröder 2020a) and the New European Bauhaus (Schröder, Cappeller 2021).

Creative narratives

The primarily spatial focus of SEASIDE is intended access to understand not only spatial patterns in themselves, but also cultural, social, and economic situations; at the same time the spatial focus in a material perspective responds to a new awareness of materiality in forming sustainable culture (Solà-Morales 2008). The focus of SEASIDE is characterised by its implicit projective nature: to identify potentials (and limits) for development. Hence, space is seen as active agent when it comes to discuss visions and scenarios (Schröder, Ferretti 2018). Creative narratives, in this sense, link new forms of analytical mapping with projective diagramming (Gausa, Bianchini, Falcón 2009), to gather, handle, and channel information towards projections. Conceptual narratives can open up new sources of knowledge and possible components and pathways for co-creation processes (Schröder 2020b). This approach not only combines perspectives from territorial development,

urban design and planning, and architecture to develop and discuss new tools for analysis and projects, but is aimed to contribute to set up innovation processes for sustainable transformation as "circular dynamics" (Schröder 2021).

Projective explorations

In this sense, the seven case studies—as territorial "drills"—are developed as projective explorations that merge analytical and synthetic aspects in a stream of creative inventiveness. This methodology builds on concepts and tools of "strategic portraits" (Schröder, Sommariva 2017) and "habitat exploration" (Schröder, Diesch 2021). The seven case studies form an overall taxonomy of deeply transformed coast territories, organised and driven by projection towards resilience:

- 8 • touristic coast and fallow hinterland valleys and towns, in the case of the Riviera dei Fiori on the Ligurian Sea (Liguria, Italy);
- productive coast with deep change in fishery and rediscovering of rural hinterland (plains and hillside), in the case of coast of Barletta, Andria and Trani on the Adriatic Sea (Puglia, Italy);
- fractal coast with contrasts between industrial areas and touristic territories between Dunkirk (France) and Nieuwpoort (Belgium) on the English Channel (Hauts de France, France / West Flanders, Belgium), deeply influenced by Brexit;
- shadow coast with contrasting influences of military infrastructures, touristic places and agriculture/fishery, near to Brest but highly distanced, in the case of the Crozon Peninsula on the Celtic Sea (Brittany, France);
- infrastructural coast between harbour areas in transformation, new large scale harbour infrastructures, and energy infrastructure, in and around Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea (Lower Saxony, Germany); this will be the site for the first German liquid gas terminal;
- modernist coast with the recycle of touristic

infrastructures as sustainable approach in a fast growing touristic area, in the case of Dranske in the north of Rügen on the Baltic Sea (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany);

- industrial coast with the influence of industrial farming, pollution, large touristic building stock, for a new visions for circular systems in the temporary city around Mar Menor on the Alborean Sea (Murcia, Spain).

Overall, two innovations can be discussed as results: concepts and tools for new forms of urban and territorial projects, more strategic, more adaptive, more interactive, more linked to the architectural scale—and new forms of analysis to grasp spatial potentials for a creative use towards the future, in the interaction of people with space.

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