 Quando si parla di spazio pubblico si pensa unicamente allo spazio aperto, ai luoghi della città. Quando Cedric Price pensava le sue architetture, la componente spontanea, le azioni dei fruitori erano la parte importante del diagramma generativo del progetto, l’architettura per Price era qualcosa che doveva formarsi spontaneamente.

L’uso di questo termine da parte dell’autore del libro, membro dello studio Orizzontale, è forse la parte più interessante di questa breve storia d’architettura pubblica. Il paradigma della partecipazione è a mio avviso da sempre un rischio che solo pochi progettisti hanno saputo affrontare al meglio. Il termine Spontaneità racchiude per un’architettura che oltre ad essere sfruttata per le sue caratteristiche funzionali, deve lasciare spazio agli utenti alla loro libertà di movimento, alla flessibilità d’uso e alla reversione e al riutilizzo dell’architettura stessa.

I progetti raccontati in questo libro infatti hanno lo scopo di essere oggetti ma allo stesso tempoSprites of a community. They are children of a concrete radicality, the same concreteness hidden in every proposal of the architect Price.

È un libro scritto da un progettista che cerca di capire la realtà che lo circonda leggendo la storia del contemporaneo. È un libro di parte perché ogni progetto presentato nasconde qualcosa che l’autore ritiene interessante per i propri progetti. Il libro diventa così un manuale di azioni progettuali che attraverso un percorso retroattivo diventano strumenti per immaginare il futuro.

A cura di Joaquim Moreno  
THE UNIVERSITY IS NOW ON AIR, BROADCASTING MODERN ARCHITECTURE  
CCA-Jap Sam Books - 2018

When we talk about public space we think only of open space, the places in the city. When Cedric Price thought about his architecture, the spontaneous component, the actions of the users were the important part of the generative diagram of the project, architecture for Price was something that gave shape to spontaneity.

The use of this term by the author of the book, a member of the Orizzontale studio, is perhaps the most interesting part of this brief history of public architecture. The paradigm of participation has, in my opinion, always been a risk that only a few designers have been able to face in the best way. The term Spontaneity, on the other hand, encapsulates new potentials for an architecture that, besides being exploited for its functional characteristics, must leave space for users to their freedom of movement, flexibility of use and the reversibility and reuse of the architecture itself. The projects narrated in this book in fact have the purpose of being objects but at the same time a mirror of a community. They are children of a concrete radicality, the same concreteness hidden in every proposal of the architect Price.

It is a book written by a designer who tries to understand the reality that surrounds him by reading the history of contemporary architecture. It is a biased book because each project presented hides something that the author considers interesting for his projects. The book thus becomes a manual of design actions that through a retroactive path become tools to imagine the future.

Un libro a più voci curato e narrato attraverso 8 episodi da Joaquim Moreno, che analizza l'esperienza e la nascita della Open University in particolare del pionieristico corso di Storia dell'architettura e del design. L'Open University attraverso trasmissioni radiotelevisive e televisive tra il 1975 e il 1982, delineò il ritratto di un'epoca, un metodo di insegnamento che oggi sembra essere molto moderno.

An important story, something more than a simple distance education initiative. A school that does not want to replace traditional systems but wants to integrate them with the media.

The Open University is linked to the concept of teaching on a large scale, and is based on three post-war educational trends, the desire to teach an adult audience, the need to create a media-related industry, the spread of education as a system capable of levelling out class differences. Education moves beyond the physical spaces of traditional universities and reaches a wide audience. The lessons were the result of teamwork and were constructed in a completely different way from traditional didactics.

A book of great actuality capable from a certain distance of talking about the present, about the many questions that the University is asking itself. What does it mean to teach in a world dominated by the media and where distance will continue to transform the space of the community? And what is the space of knowledge. Moreno tells us through his careful research, that tools in every age must be understood and exploited to amplify the meaning of physical space.

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