# Contemporary City. Descriptions and projects

**Urban Planning and Design Section** 

## **Patterns**

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## **Lesson Outline**

- Pattern definition
- Concepts and Contents related to previous lessons
- Why focus on patterns?
- Different category of patterns
  - > Typologies + Slideshow
  - > Recurrent problems + Opportunities for specific pattern projects
- Investigations, survey and representations: example exercises
- Lesson references (useful for your exercise too)

## 1. Pattern: A Dictionary Definition

According to the dictionary Collins Cobuild:

"Pattern is the repeated or *regular way* in which something happens or is done (...)

is an arrangement of lines or shapes, especially a design in which the same shape is repeated at regular intervals over a surface (...)

is a diagram or *shape that you can use as a guide* when you are making something, such as a model or a piece of clothing"





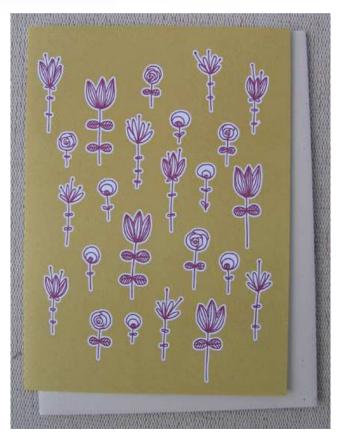












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A specific, regular and recognizable composition of simple urban elements (urban materials) which suggests some kind of rules;

A "model" when the rules are the result of a design."

- A pattern can be considered a complex urban element;
  - >> a composition of repeated, simple, urban element

## **Urban elements / materials**

"The built and open spaces characterizing the physical territory and making a place habitable, that is a place good enough for people to live in.

They can be more or less complex".

(Viganò P., 1999, La città elementare, Skira, Milano)

## 2. Multi-scale views

The form of the city can be considered at:

- a large view (looking at from a distance, from afar)
- a close view (looking at from close up)
- an intermediate view (looking at from an intermediate distance).

## 2. Multi-scale views

The form of the city can be considered at:

- a large view (looking at from a distance, from afar)
- a close view (looking at from close up)
- an intermediate view (looking at from an intermediate distance).

The **large view** is necessary for conceiving a vision and designing figures.

**Intermediate and close views** are necessary to support habitability enhancing the specific physical features.

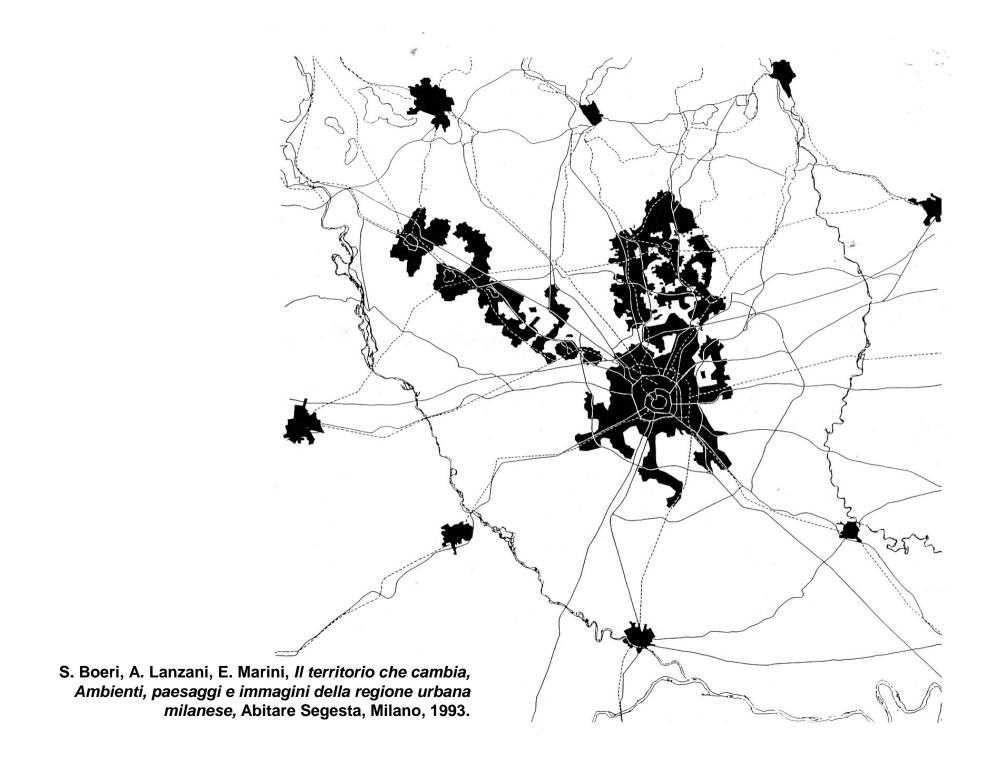
>>> The **patterns** are recognizable at an intermediate view, and **their components** at a close view.

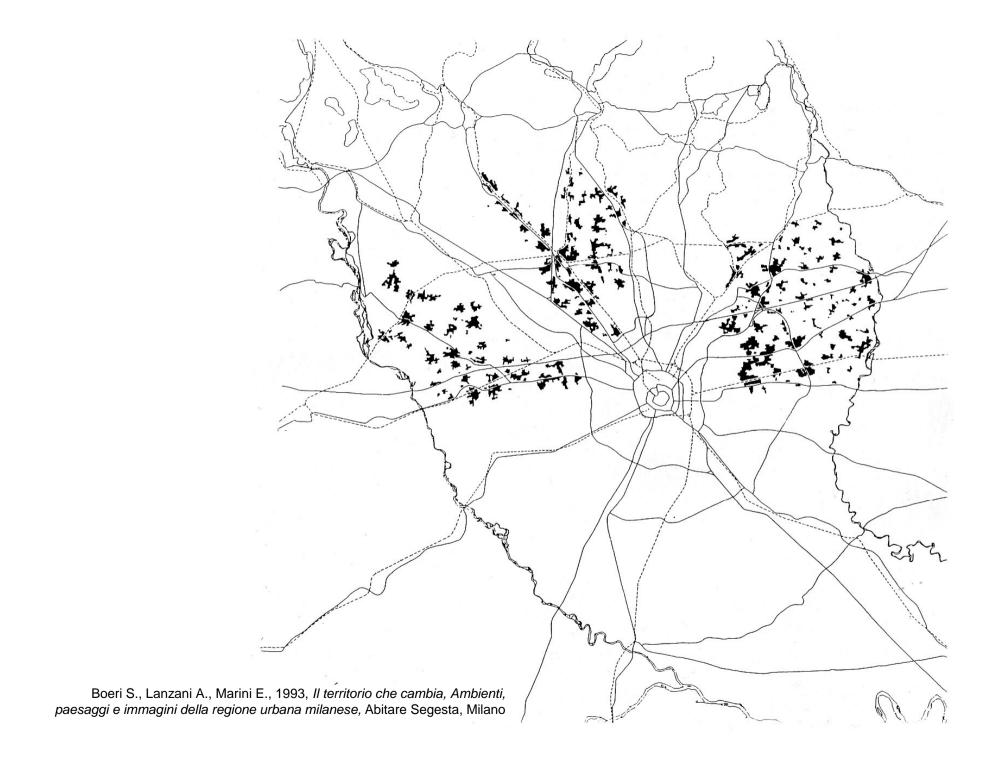
### A large view of territorial materials

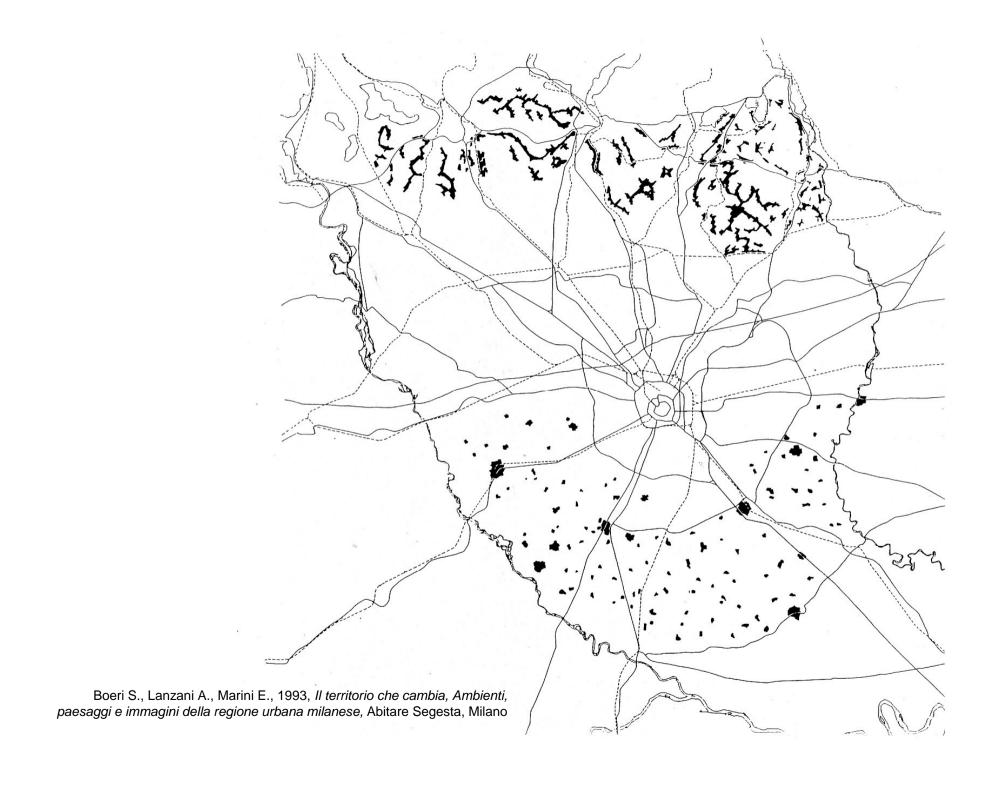
Boeri S., Lanzani A., Marini E., 1993, Il territorio che cambia, Ambienti, paesaggi e immagini della regione urbana milanese [The changing territory. Environments, landscapes and images of the Milan urban region], Abitare Segesta, Milano

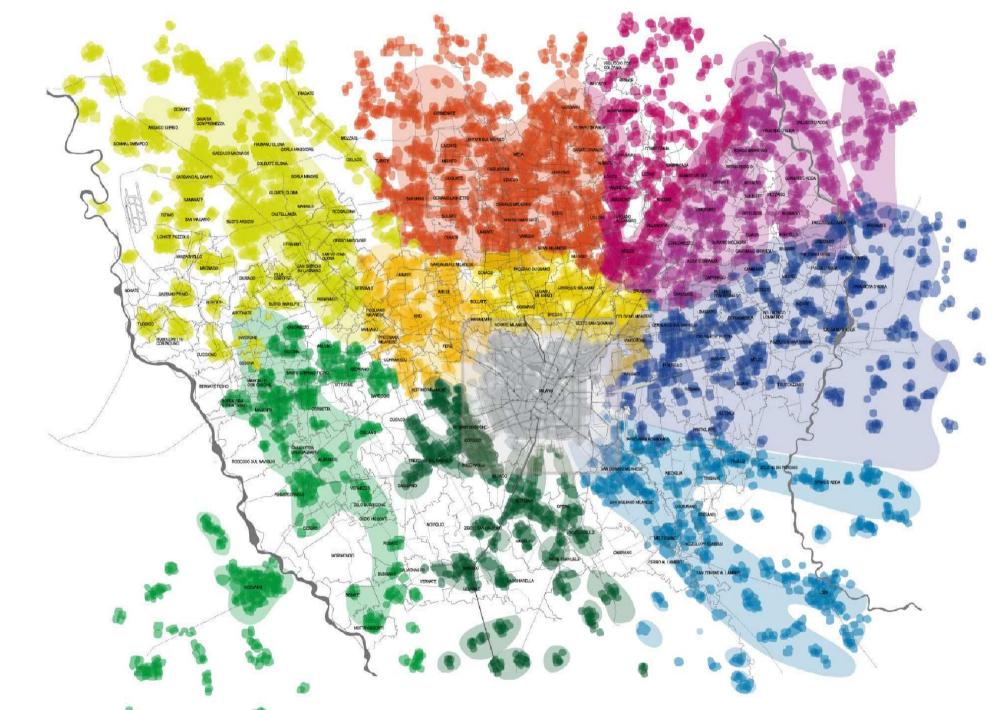
#### Three settled environments:

- an urban environment (conurbation)
- a net-like settled environment
- a low density settled environment (a rarefied settled environment)









#### A close view of territorial materials

From: Città di Seregno, 2003, Regolamento edilizio. Guida agli interventi e alla valutazione del progetto, [Building regulation code], Comune di Seregno

#### **Families of urban materials:**

- Recinti degli edifici bassi unifamiliari (detached houses fences)
- 2. Recinti degli edifici alti plurifamiliari (apartment buildings fences)
- 3. Aggregati in isolati (aggregates of buildings into blocks)
- 4. Recinti e aggregati dei grandi contenitori (fences and aggregates of big-box buildings)
- 5. Recinti dello spazio aperto (fences of the open space)
- 6. Spazio aperto produttivo (productive open space)

- 1. Casa a San Giuseppe.
- 2-4. Case all'Orcelletto.
- 5. Case a San Giuseppe.
- 6. Casa all'Orcelletto.













Lotto di ridotta superficie (in genere inferiore o uguale a 400 mq) occupato da un edificio residenziale di dimensioni molto piccole e forme elementari, in genere con un solo piano fuori terra.

La densità fondiaria è molto elevata; spesso non sono neppure rispettati i distacchi minimi di legge dalla strada e dagli edifici simili nei lotti adiacenti.

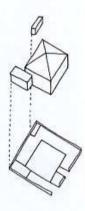
Le dimensioni ridotte del lotto rendono problematico l'utilizzo a giardino dello spazio aperto. Spesso sono presenti addizioni o costruzioni di pertinenza che lo frammentano, ma non sempre è presente l'autorimessa.

A volte nello spazio aperto vengono ricavati piccoli ambiti destinati ad orto.

A Seregno alcune piccole aree sono caratterizzate dalla concentrazione di questo materiale urbano (Orcelletto, S.Salvatore) che però è presente soprattutto puntualmente, all'interno di settori urbani costituiti prevalentemente da altri materiali di questa e altre famiglie. Attualmente la casa minima su lotto minimo è generalmente presente nelle zone BS, B7, BV1 di Piano Regolatore.

Interventi che hanno per oggetto questi materiali sono proponibili nelle zone 85, 87, 8V1.





Città di Seregno, *Regolamento edilizio*[Building regulation code], Comune di Seregno, 2003<sup>53</sup>

- 1,2, Case a schiera a S.Salvatore
- 3. Case a schiera Comparto "M".
- 4. Case a schiera Fuin.
- 5. Case a schiera Ceredo.











Lotto occupato da un edificio residenziale a due piani fuori terra, costituito dall'accostamento di più alloggi disposti in continuità tra loro o sfalsati. Ciascun alloggio, disposto su due livelli, ha accesso pedonale e carrabile indipendente.

Al piano interrato o a quello seminterrato stanno le autorimesse servite da rampe indipendenti per ciascun alloggio, oppure, più raramente, da una rampa unica che conduce ad un garage comune. Lo spazio aperto è suddiviso in modo da far corrispondere a ciascun alloggio un piccolo giardino domestico.

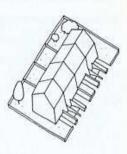
Spesso la ridotta dimensione della casa e del lotto attribuito a ciascun alloggio riduce la presenza di spazi e di costruzioni di pertinenza.

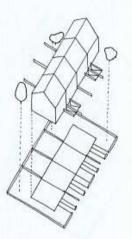
Il lotto è trattato a giardino; più raramente è presente l'orto.

A Seregno i casi presenti sono pochi, abbastanza recenti e tra loro disomogenei per la dimensione dei lotti e per il rapporto tra l'edificazione e lo spazio aperto privato (ad esempio nel comparto "M" e a San Rocco).

Attualmente la casa a schiera è presente nelle zone B5, B6 di Piano Regolatore.

Interventi che hanno per oggetto questi materiali sono proponibili nelle zone 85, 86, C.





- 1. Aggregazioni di palazzine al Lazzaretto
- 2. Aggregazioni di torri al Crocione.
- 3. Aggregazioni di torri a S. Valeria.
- Aggregazioni di edifici in linea al Ceredo.







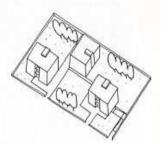


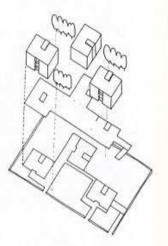
Materiale urbano complesso, costituito dalla ripetizione di palazzine o di edifici in linea con caratteristiche architettoniche e stilistiche analoghe e compresi all'interno del medesimo recinto.

Gli edifici possono essere dotati di un parcheggio interrato comune. La differenza più rilevante rispetto agli altri materiali della Famiglia 2 sta nella presenza di più edifici all'interno del medesimo recinto e nel fatto che essi, nella maggior parte dei casi, non si collocano sul perimetro del lotto. Conseguentemente uno spazio verde di tipo condominiale, in genere più ampio di quello presente nei materiali precedenti, circonda completamente gli edifici. Inoltre è sempre assente il commercio al piede degli edifici.

A Seregno si trovano diversi casi (ad esempio Boschina, Crocione, Ceredo, Comparto "M", 5. Salvatore, ecc.). Le modalità di aggregazione degli edifici (in genere 3 o 4) all'interno dei recinti possono essere tra le più diverse, dipendendo dalla estensione del lotto, dalla sua forma, dal tipo edilizio utilizzato, dall'orientamento, ecc. Attualmente le aggregazioni di palazzine o di edifici in linea sono presenti nelle zone B4 di Piano Regolatore.

Interventi che hanno per oggetto questi materiali sono proponibili nelle zone B4 e in alcune zone C, fatti salvi i limiti di altezza massima degli edifici.





- Contenitore produttivo di medie dimensioni all'interno di un isolato di S. Rocco.
- 2,3. Grandi contenitori produttivi nella zona industriale di S. Giuseppe.
- 4. Edificio produttivo di medie dimensioni a S. Salvatore.
- 5,7. Grandi contenitori produttivi nella zona industriale di S. Giuseppe.















Lotto recintato occupato da un edificio di dimensioni variabili (fino a 5000 mq. e oltre in alcuni rarissimi casi) e altezza pressochè costante (8-10 m.), destinato prevalentemente a usi produttivi, talvolta con parti riservate all'esposizione e alla vendita.

l rapporti di occupazione dello spazio sono di volta in volta diversi, anche se tali da comportare rapporti di copertura abbastanza elevati (70-80%).

L'edificio principale è costituito da un volume scarsamente articolato, nei casi più recenti realizzato con strutture portanti e di tamponamento prefabbricate.

Di solito il lotto è occupato da un solo manufatto; raramente sono presenti altri edifici o costruzioni di pertinenza, se non nelle forme leggere e provvisorie delle tettoie per il deposito o a protezione delle aree a parcheggio.

Lo spazio aperto che circonda il contenitore è in buona parte pavimentato con materiali impermeabili e destinato alla circolazione e alla manovra degli automezzi, al carico e scarico delle merci, al parcheggio, a volte a deposito all'aperto.

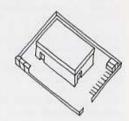
Nella prevalenza dei casi l'edificio principale è occupato da un sola unità produttiva o commerciale, ma a volte ospita più aziende a seguito di frazionamenti.

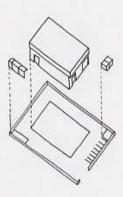
Si tratta di un materiale urbano che raramente si trova isolato, più spesso costituisce aggregati areali o, in pochi casi, sequenze lineari lungo tracciati stradali.

Caratterizza le espansioni produttive più recenti, prevalentemente ai margini dei tessuti residenziali di Seregno. Talvolta si trova anche isolato nelle aree agricole.

Attualmente i contenitori di medie e grandi dimensioni su lotto sono presenti nelle zone BP1, BP3 e D di Piano Regolatore.

Interventi che hanno per oggetto questi materiali sono proponibili nelle zone BP1, BP3 e D.





 Lotti per il verde privato sportivo a Carate.

 Lotti per il verde privato sportivo al Dosso.





Lotti di medio-grandi dimensioni con presenza di attrezzature per il gioco e lo sport (campi da tennis, da calcio, maneggi, ecc.).

Alle aree per il gioco possono essere associati parcheggi, percorsi pedonali, spogliatoi e altri servizi.

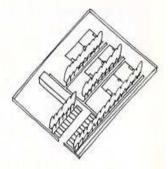
Alla specializzazione funzionale si associa il trattamento diversificato delle superfici che, dovendo rispondere a requisiti prestazionali differenti, possono essere permeabili o semipermeabili.

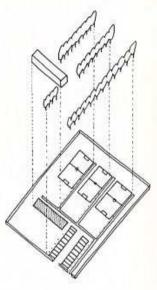
Si trova sempre isolato e immerso all'interno di settori urbani caratterizzati dalla presenza di materiali urbani di altra natura.

È presente a Seregno nelle aree ai margini dei tessuti residenziali di San Salvatore e del Dosso e in alcuni casi in aree più centrali della città.

Attualmente i lotti per il verde privato sportivo sono presenti nella zona BV2 di Piano Regolatore.

Interventi che hanno per oggetto questi materiali sono proponibili nella zona BV2.

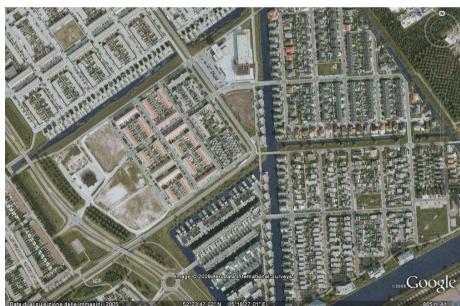












## 3. How can patterns be used?

- (One of three different levels for observing the territory)
- Patterns as an investigative tool / spy
- Pattern as a starting point for a re-composition project
- A tool for scanning and surveying the territory

#### Other

The pattern as a "district" and a "landmark" (cfr. K.Lynch)

## 3.2 Pattern as a spy / an informant

Form, size, location, buildings and open spaces of a pattern suggest not only uses and existent or potential practices, but also:

- > Age, story and development of the territory
- > Nature and culture
- > Economy and market dynamics
- > Regulatory system
- > Vibrancy or decay
- > what else?

## 3.3 An idea of urbanism: a re-composition work

#### The first hypothesis

A drastic change, like an "explosion", produces new urban elements, new urban patterns, new places and ways to live.

Planners have to use **different strategies** and different modes to **qualify each of these "urbanscapes":** 

adapting their instruments and knowledge to the new conditions.

#### • The second hypothesis

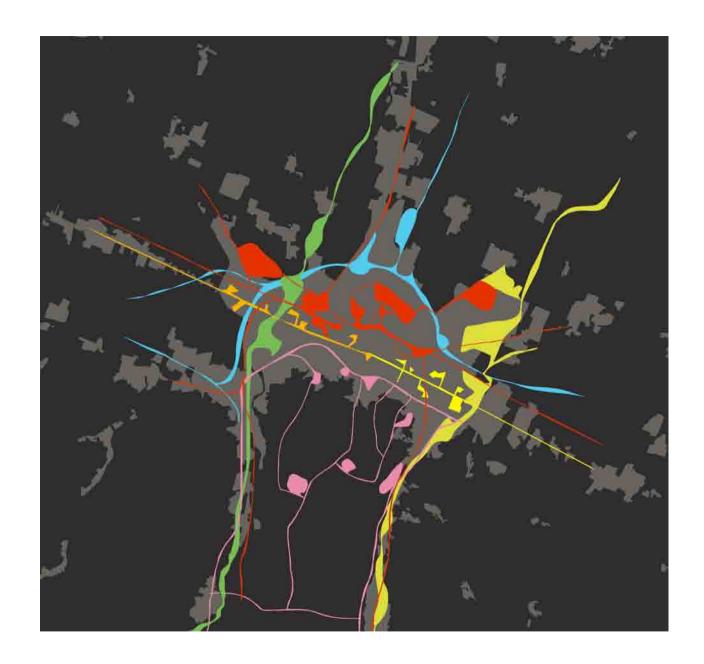
Some new contemporary cities are taking, or can take shape, through original relationships born among this multiplication of physical forms and lifestyles.

Urban areas are **becoming** *cities of cities*, which are a **joint presence** of **different patterns and living conditions** involving different populations.

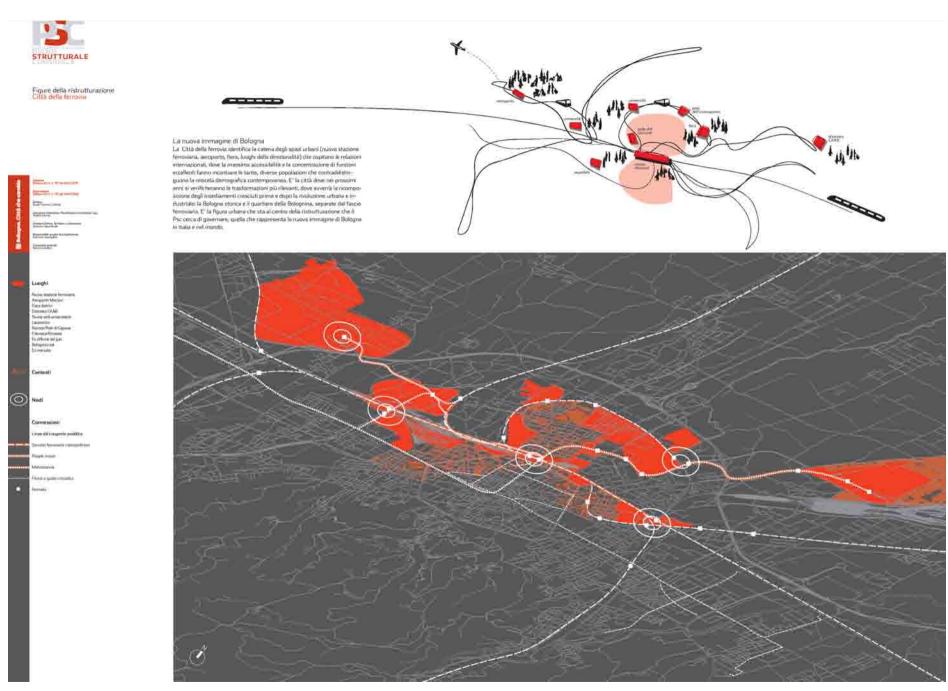
## 3.3 An idea of urbanism: a re-composition work

The present condition and shapes of the territory calls for a re-composition work. That is:

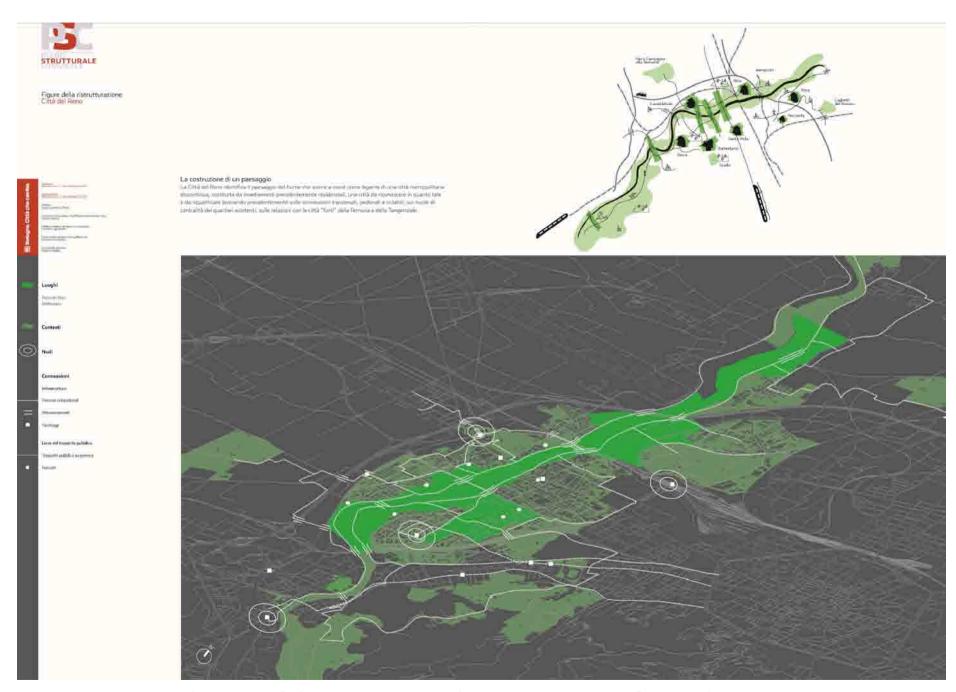
- **proposing a concept**; suggesting some **figures** able to translate a perceivable structure;
- recognizing the urban elements starting from the recurrent patterns - which support the main urban practices of specific populations;
- identifying the infrastructures and open spaces able to support efficient and effective relationships among different elements;
- identifying specific rules and sometimes, models for improving the quality of different urban elements.



Bologna as a "Metropolitan city" and as "City of Cities" are the two images that briefly set out the new approach of the Structural Plan



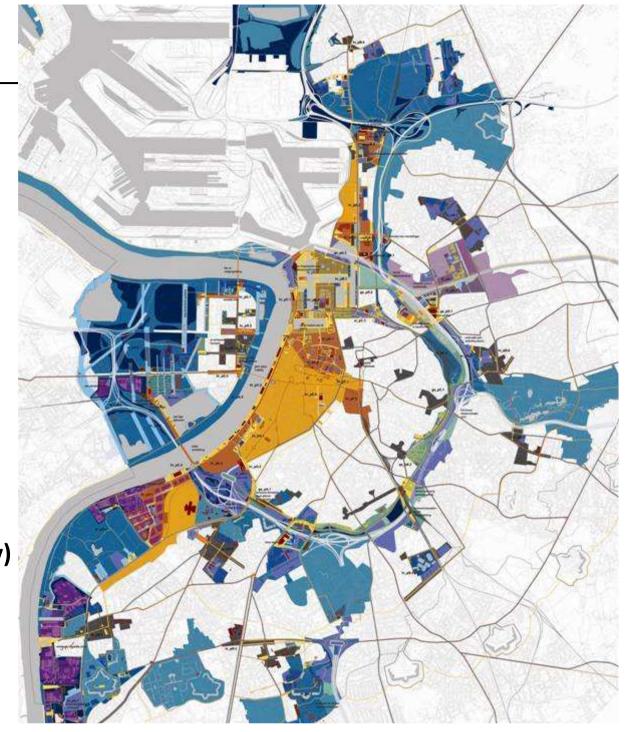
The City of the Railway



The City of the River Reno: the Construction of a Landscape

## **Five Strategic Places**

- Hard spine
- Soft spine
- Lower network (mobility) and civic centers
- Green Singel
- Living Canal





## 3.4 Pattern as a "district"

"Districts are the medium-to-large sections of the city, conceiving of as having a two-dimensional extent, which the observer mentally enters "inside of", and which are recognizable as having some common, identified character.

Always identifiable from the inside, they are also used for exterior reference if visible from the outside. Most people structure their city to some extent in this way, with individual differences as to whether paths or districts are the dominant elements. It seems to depend not only upon the individual but also upon the given city".

K. Lynch, 1960, The image of the city, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., pp.99-100.

## 3.4 Pattern as a "landmark"

"Landmarks are another type of point-reference, but in this case the observer does not enter within them, they are external. They are usually a rather simply defined physical object: building, sign, store or mountain. ... Some landmarks are distant ones, typically seen from many angles and distances, over the tops of smaller elements, and used as radial references. They may be within the city or at such a distance that for all practical purposes they symbolize a constant direction. Such are isolated towers, golden domes, great hills (...)

Other landmarks are primarily local, being visible only in restrict localities and from certain approaches. These are the innumerable signs, store fronts, trees, doorknobs, and other urban detail, which fill in the image of most observers. They are frequently used clues of identity and even of structure, and seem to be increasingly relied upon as a journey becomes more and more familiar".

K. Lynch, 1960, The image of the city, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., p. 100.

## 4. Some recurrent patterns in Europe:

- Historical centres and nuclei (parts of a "historical city")
- Planned districts (residential neighbourhoods, factories districts, office districts)
- Citadels (complex and defined settlements devoted to specialised functions)
- Diffused settlements

(clusters - homogeneous nuclei - of houses, factories, warehouses; >> residential, industrial or productive functions)

- Agricultural islands
- Designed open spaces
- Natural oases

## 4. Some recurrent patterns in Europe:

Historical centres and nuclei

(parts of a "historical city")

Planned districts

(mainly residential neighbourhoods) (office and factories districts)

Citadels

(complex and defined settlements devoted to specialised functions)

Diffused settlements

(clusters - homogeneous nuclei - of houses, factories, warehouses; >> residential, industrial or productive functions)

These patterns trace the territory like milestones,
 which are connected or connectable through "infrastructures"
 to compose new cities among cities.

### A slide show

### Each pattern is "photographed" with two different images:

- > the first one shows the pattern in its context (the photo covers about 5 square/km)
- > the second one is a zoom
  (the photo cover about 1 square/km)

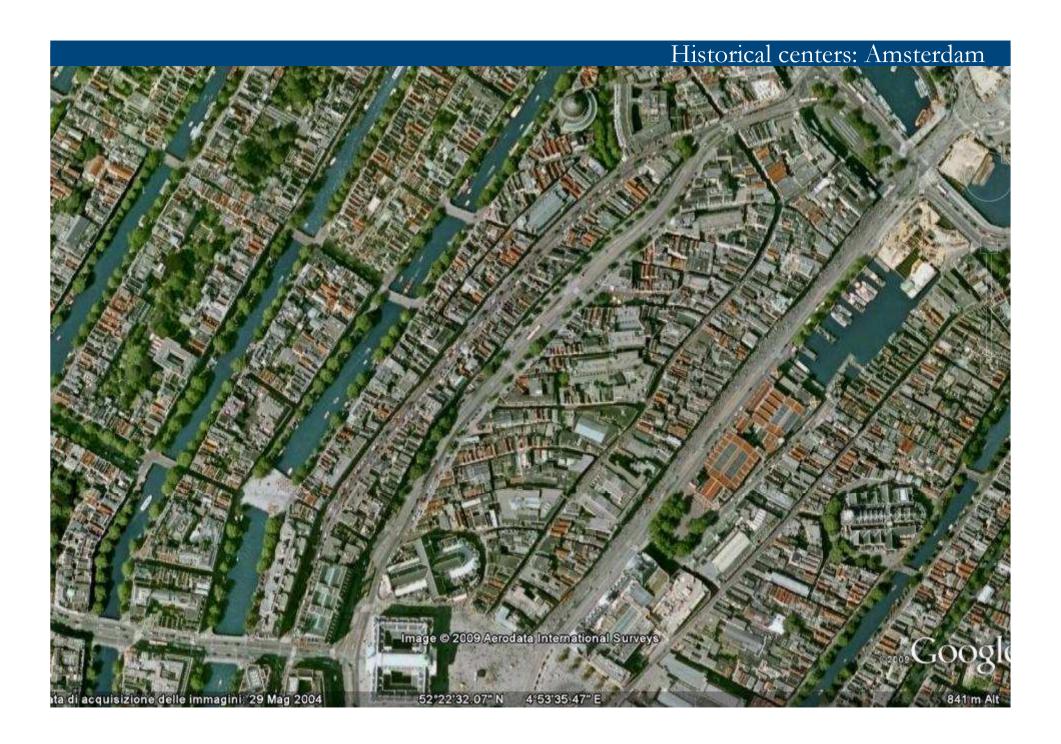
Comparing two different scales stimulates thinking on measure and similarity but also on articulation of patterns and landscapes that characterise European cities.

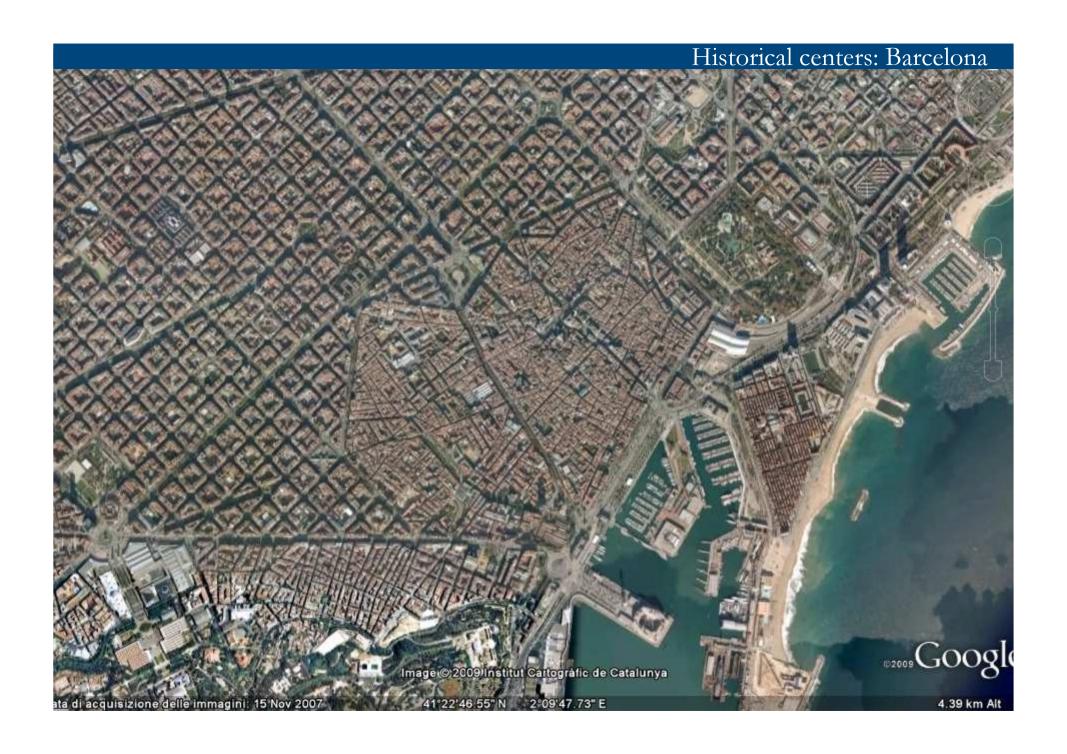
# **Historical centers**

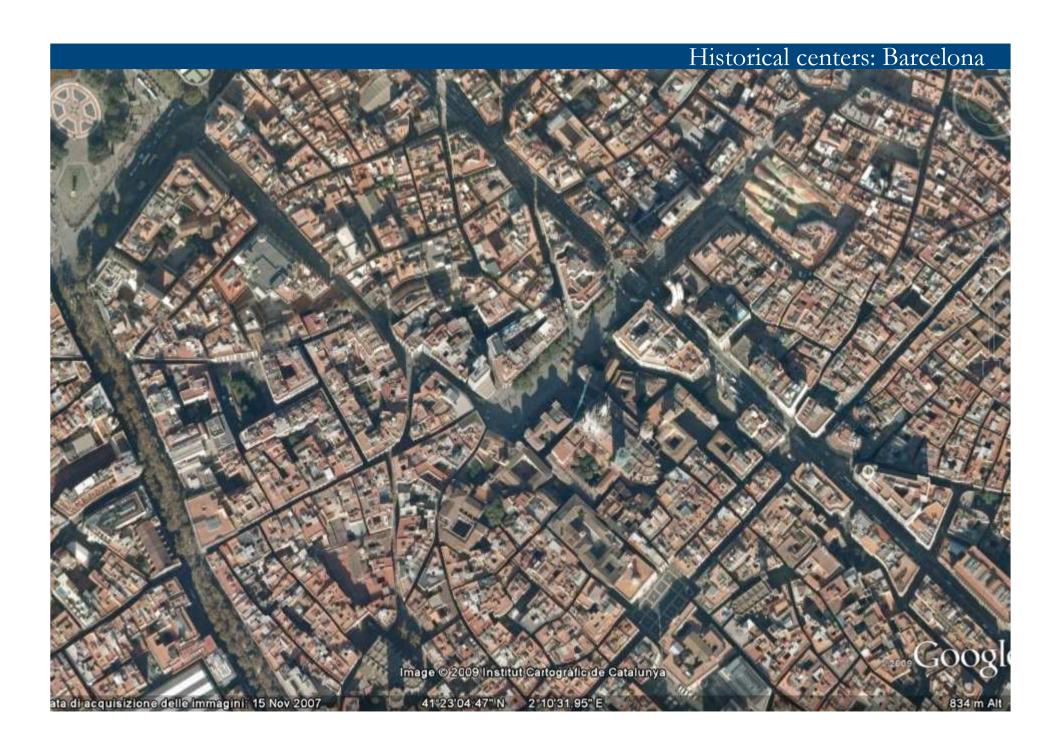
### **HISTORICAL CENTERS**

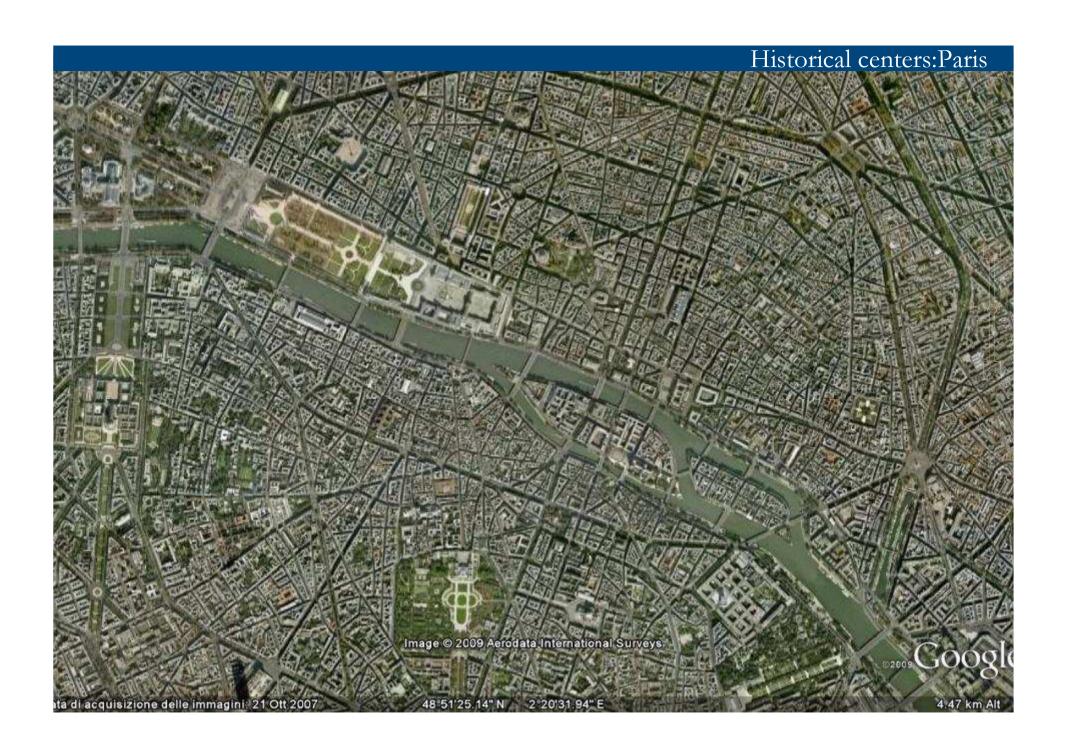
- The images of large, medium, and small historical centers show that every settlement is unique.
   They are usually the result of a long history
- Complex and sometimes complicated compositions of many patterns.
- Like a palimpsest to be decoded
- Strong "legibility" and a symbolic value.
- Monuments/landmarks in between different patterns.

Historical centers: Amsterdam Image © 2009 Aerodata International Surveys Data di acquisizione delle immagini: 29 Mag 2004





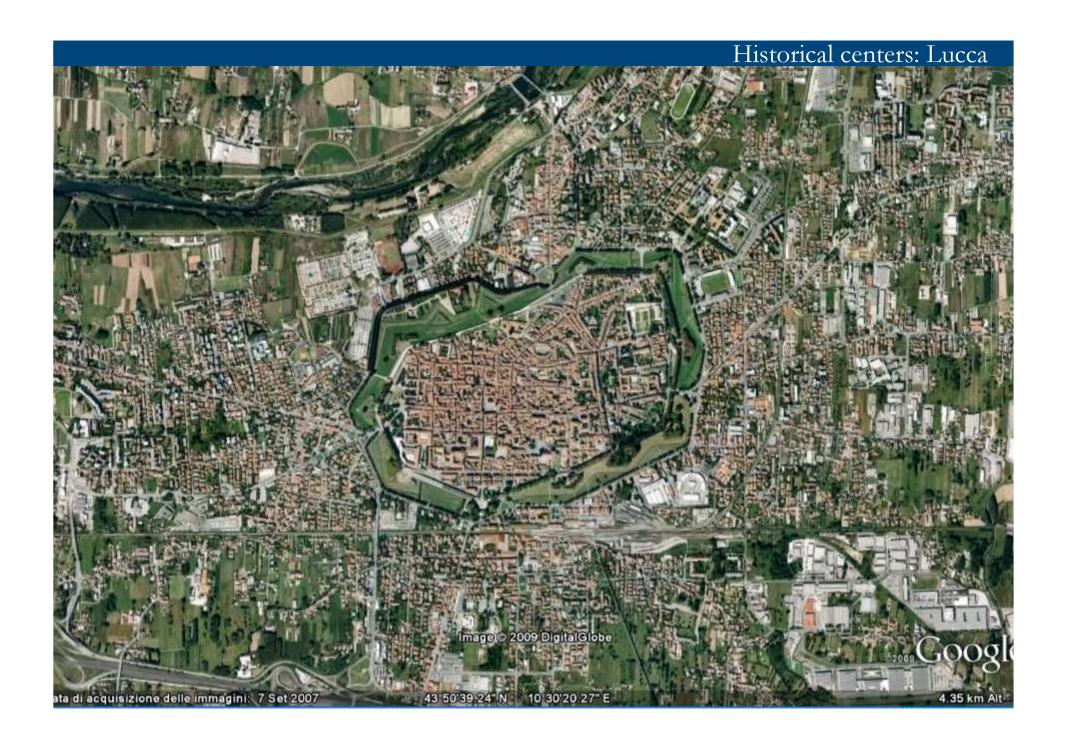






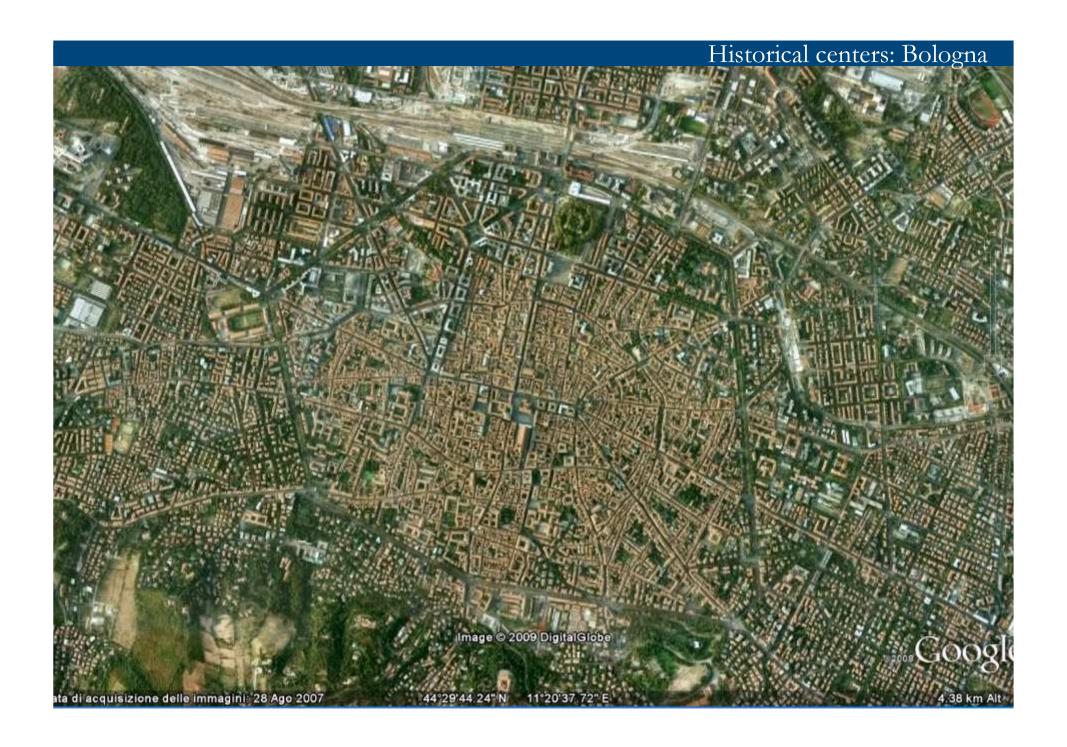
















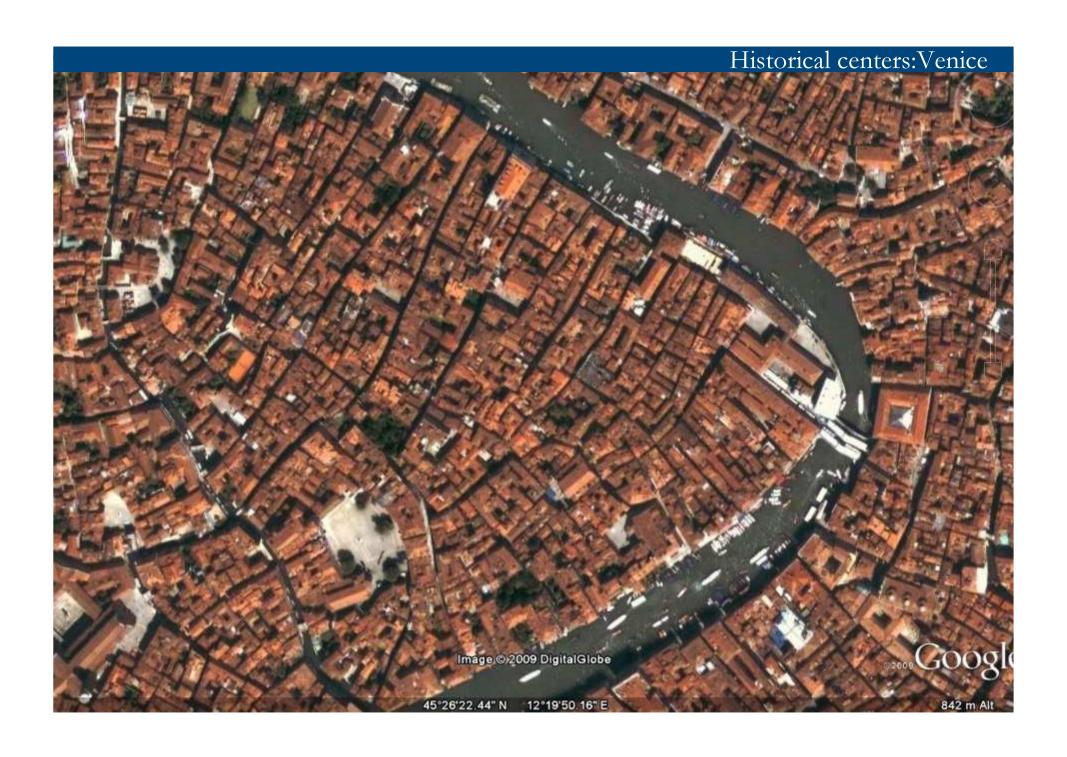
















Effected by phenomena of decay (physical, social, and economic) and gentrification. They sometimes coexist.

### **Suggestions:**

- > Conservation and renewal of buildings to improve comfort;
- > **New and various uses** to attract different populations (younger people in particular);
- > Revitalization of open spaces:
  - to increase the value of buildings and activities
  - to requalify public places and public realm;
- > Social policies to support weaker people and activities
- > Special and different programs to catch funds
- > Events for polarizing attention and showing attractiveness.
- > Accessibility to share dynamic networks

# **Planned Districts**

### PLANNED DISTRICTS

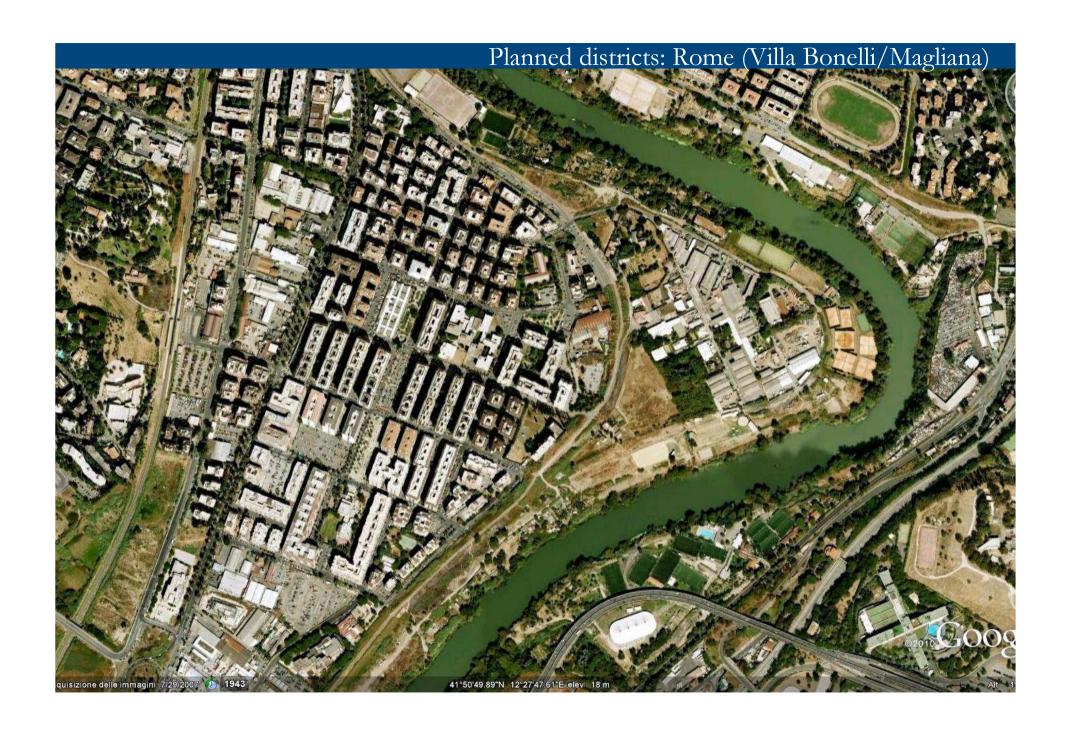
- Planned districts are generally public housing quarters,
   but industrial, financial and administrative districts were built in the last decades as well.
- To distinguish these districts not only according to the uses, but also according to the design ideas

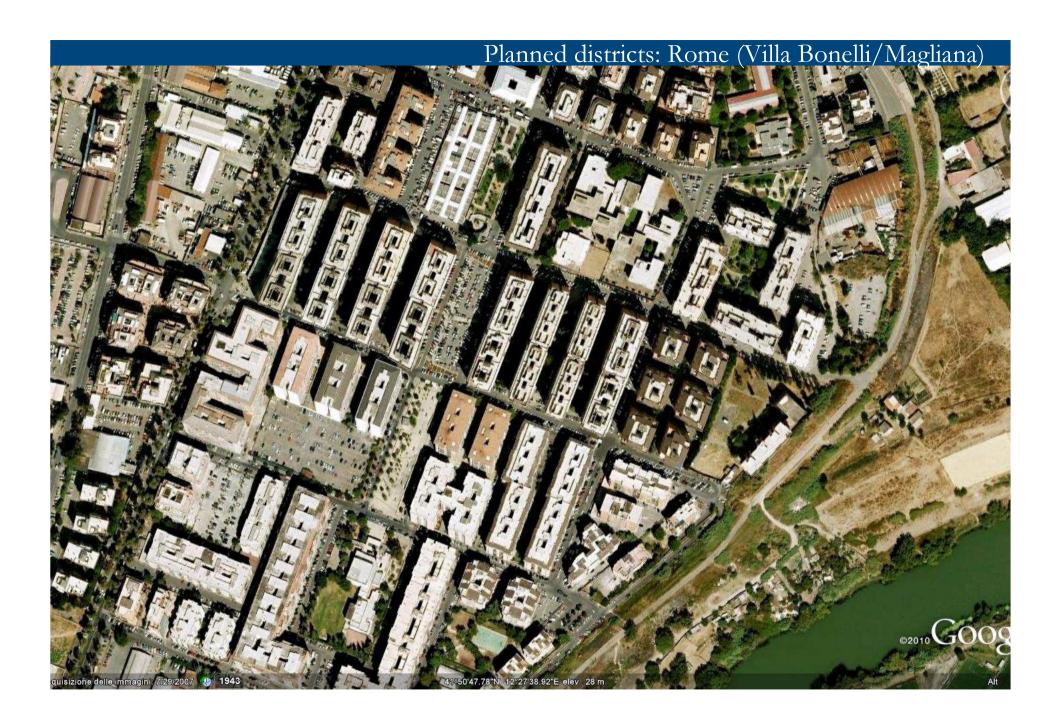
The sizes and shapes may be very different according to the period of their design and realization.

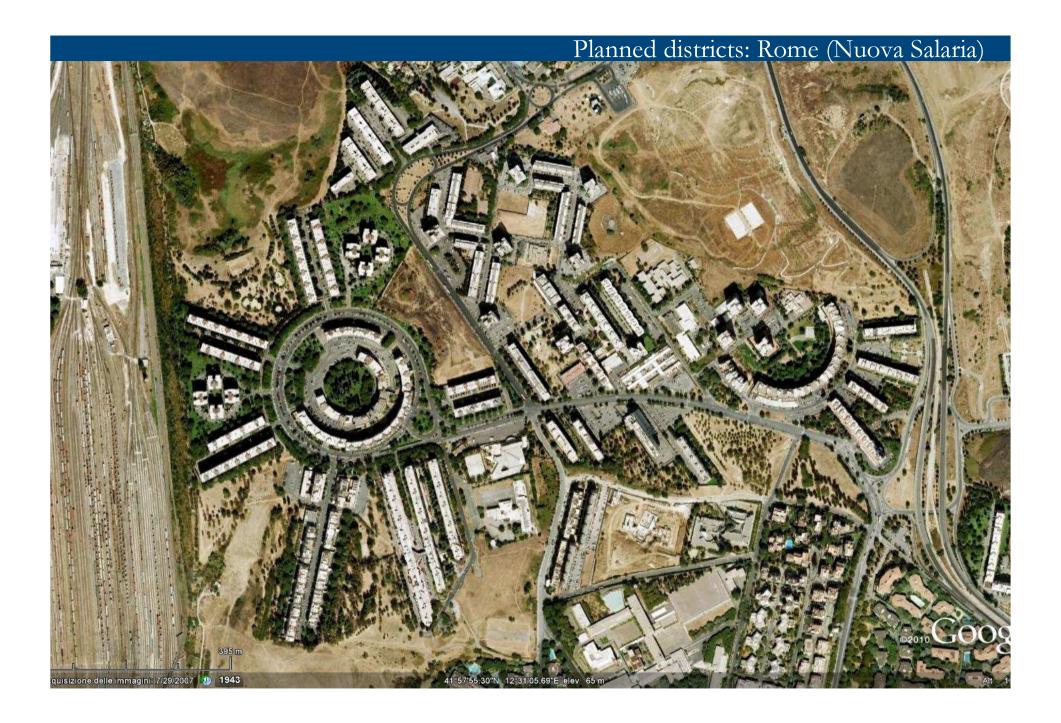
Sometimes they are patterns of patterns.

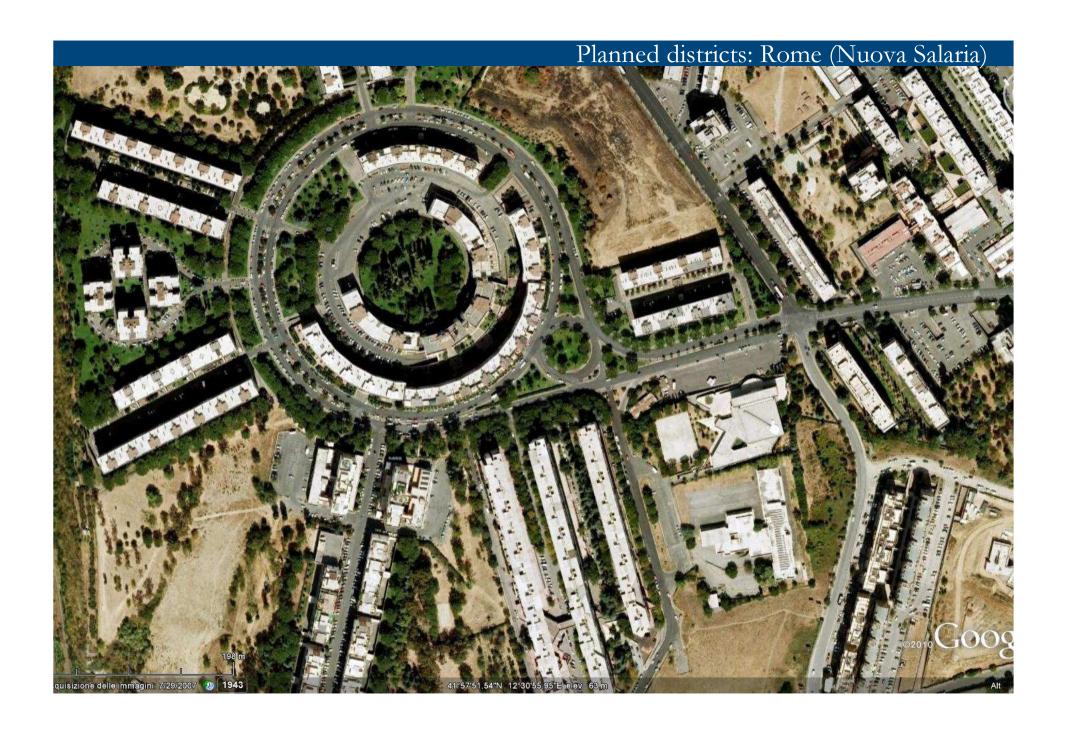
Rome and Amsterdam present a rich catalogue.

## Rome

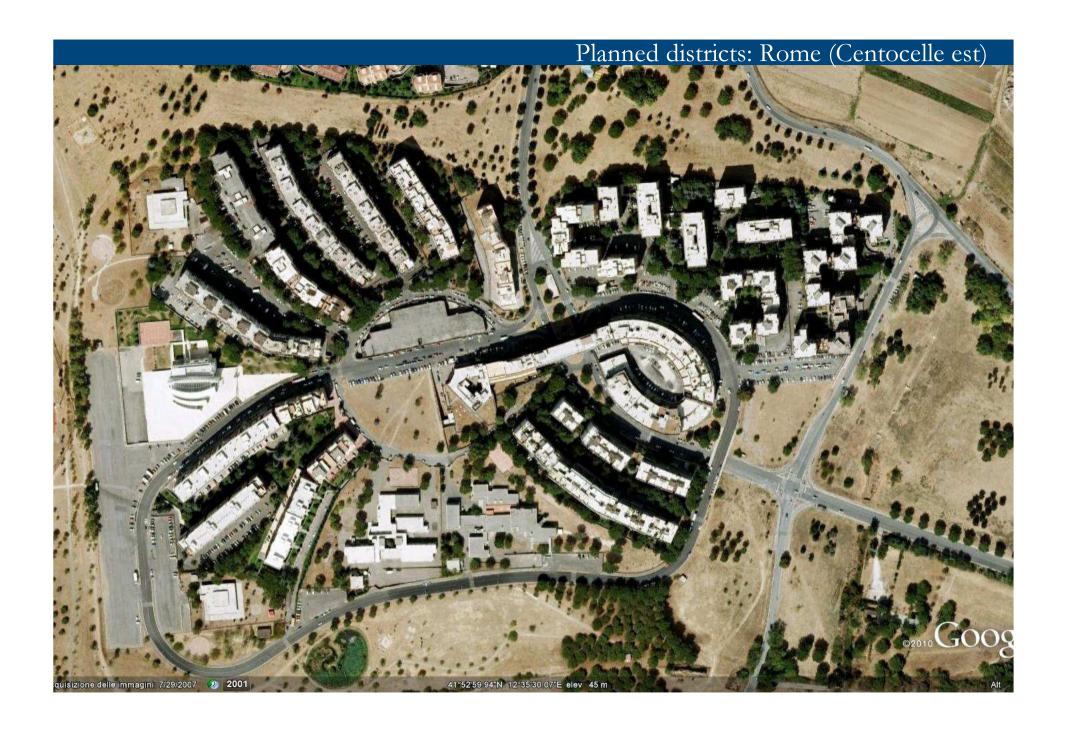


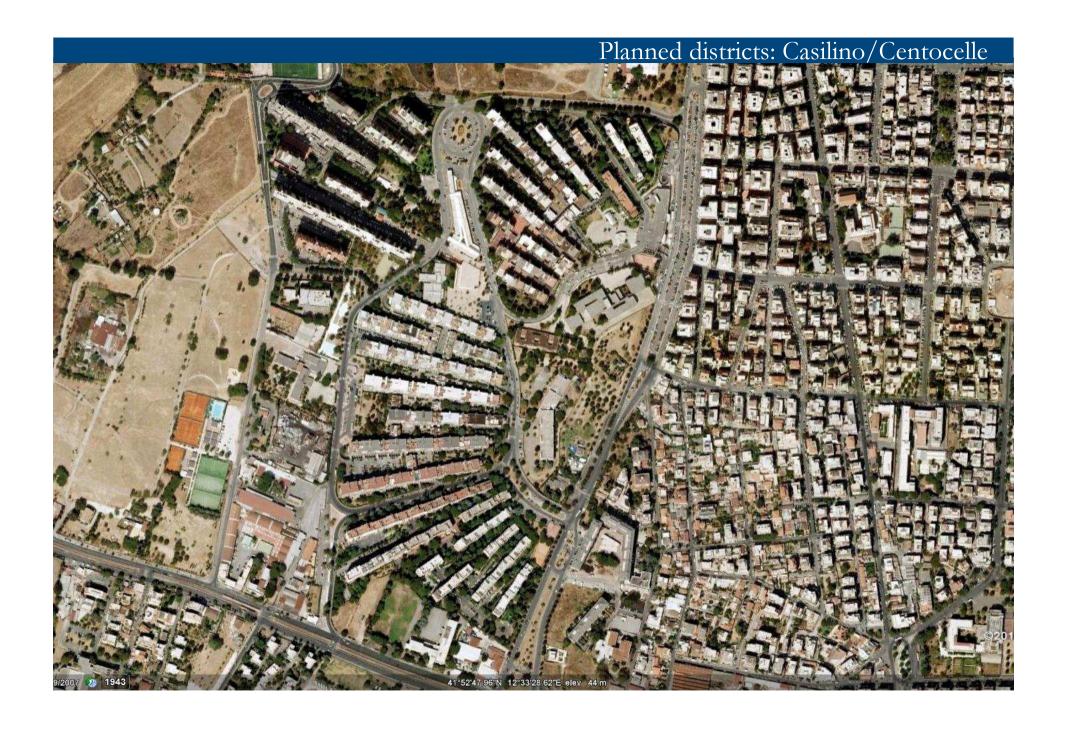








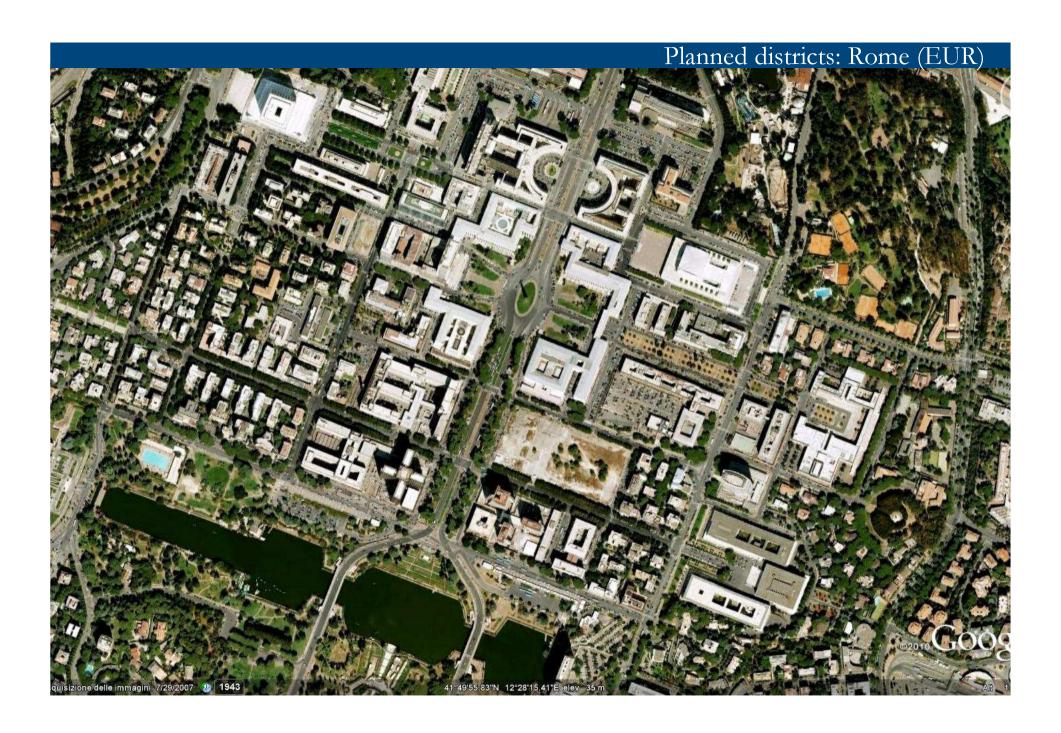






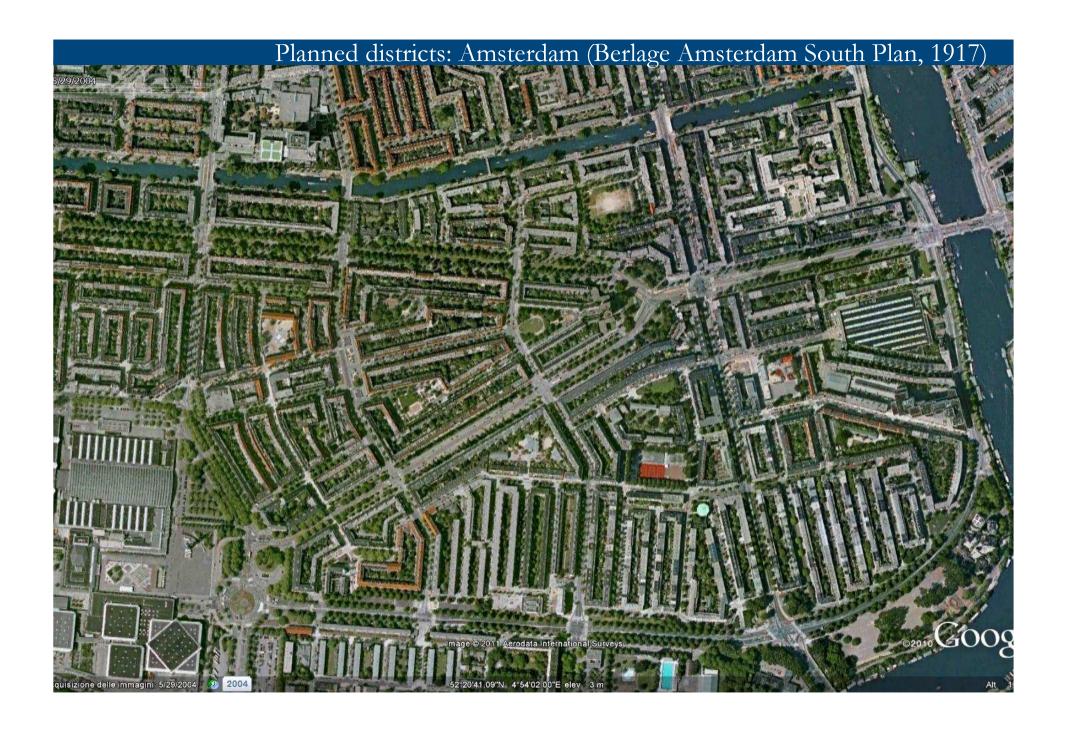


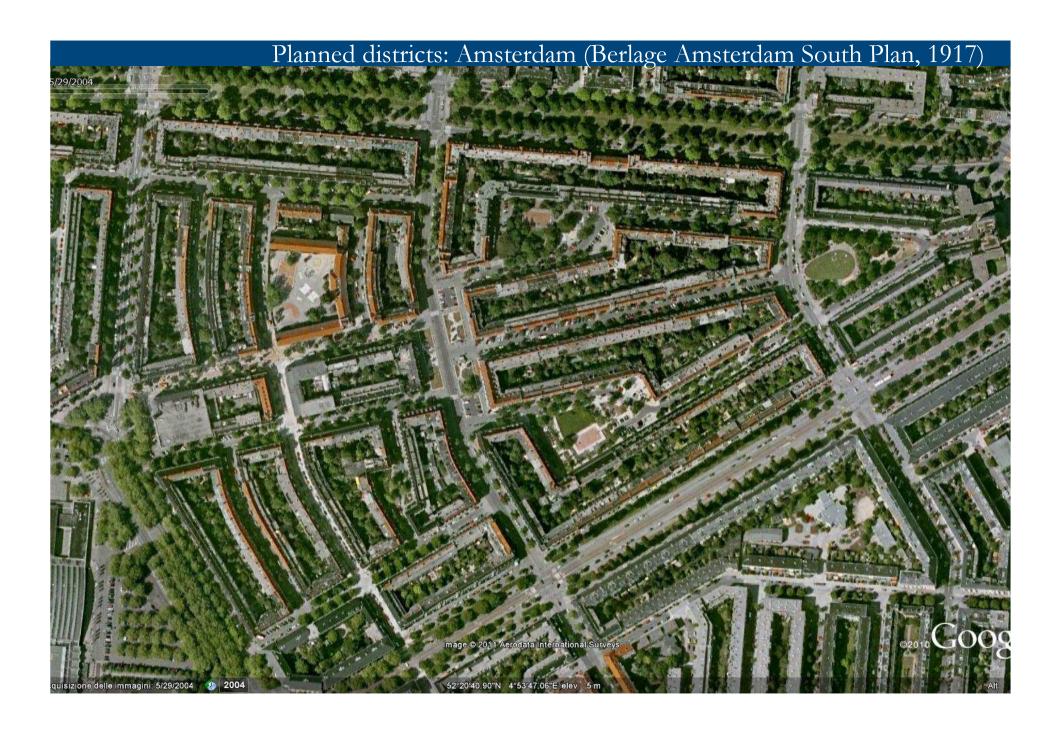


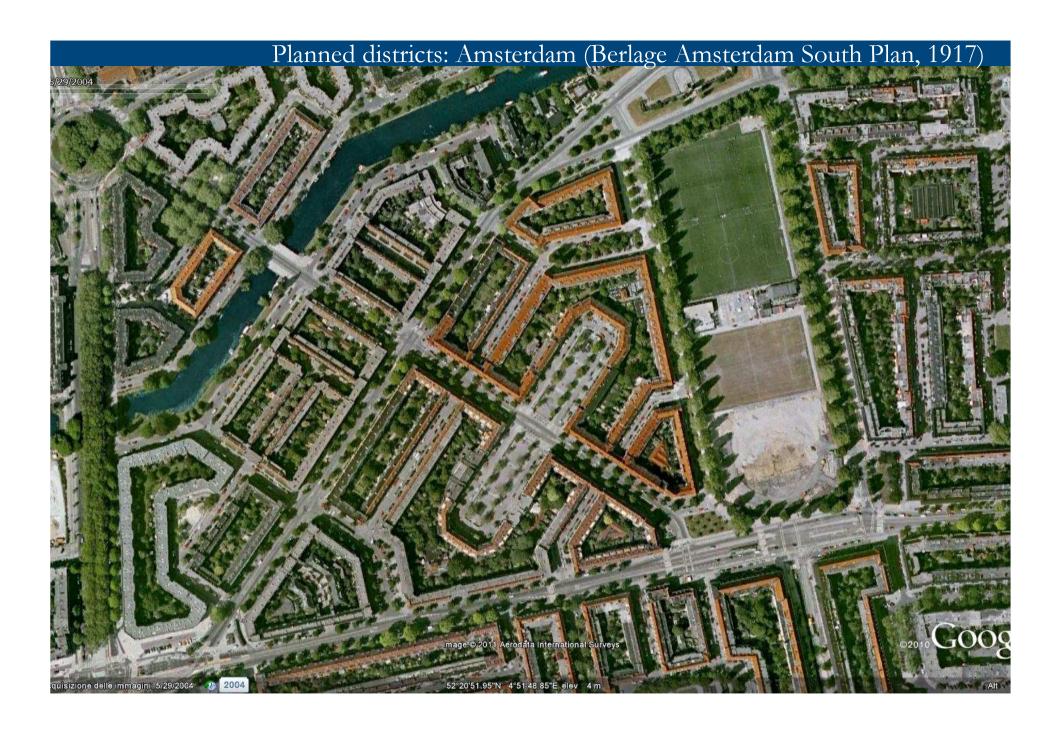


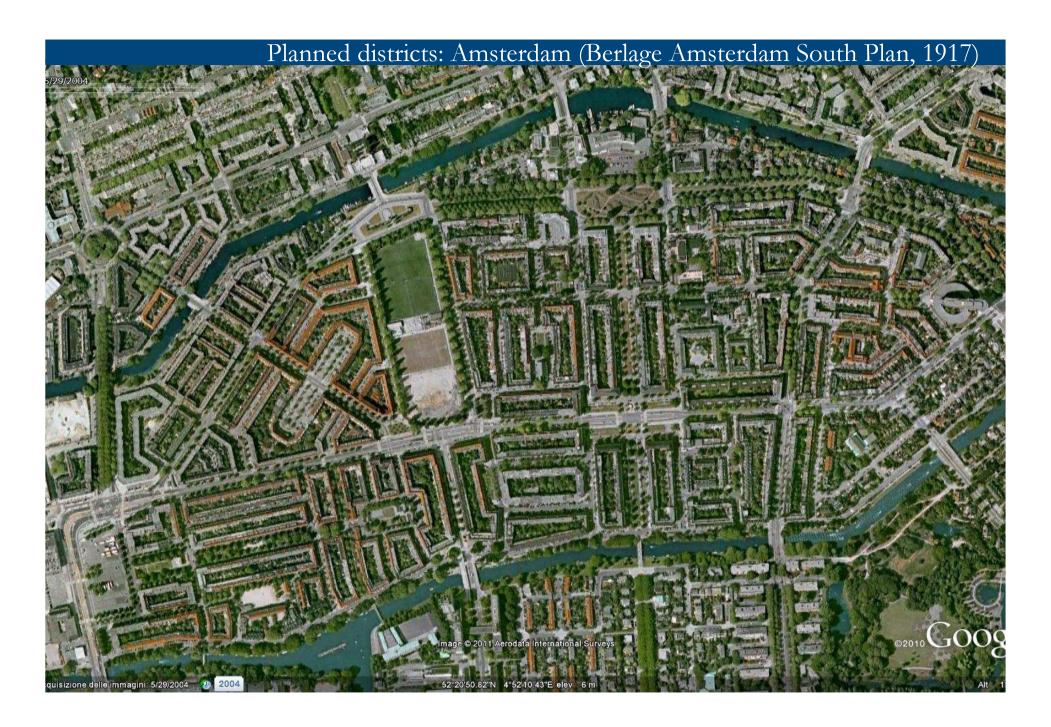


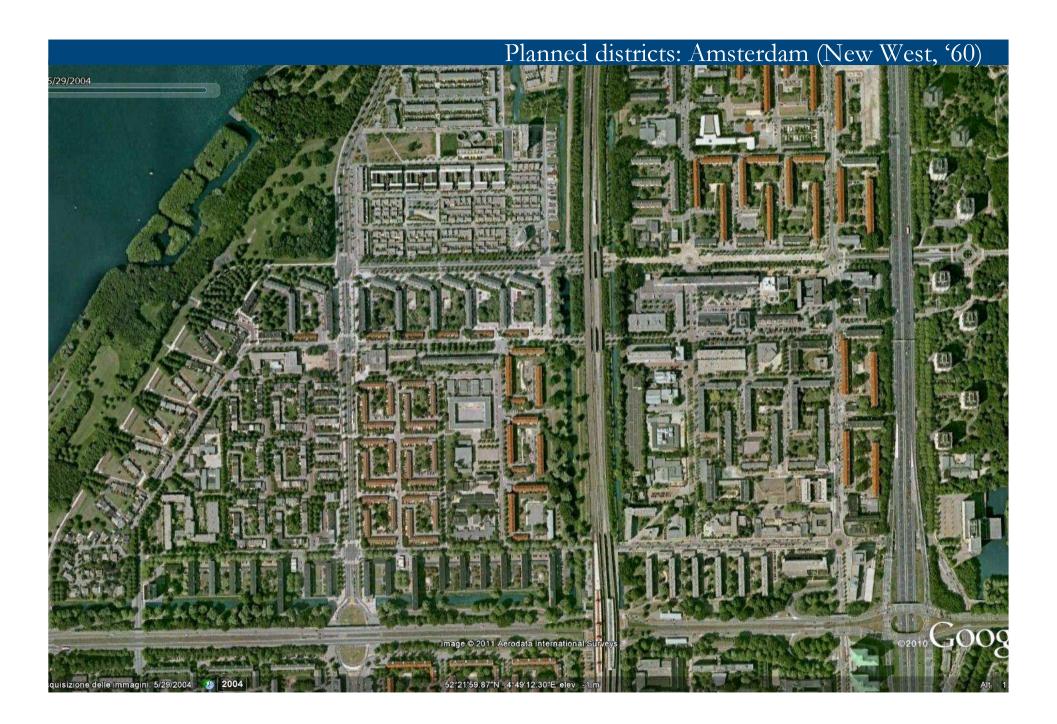
# **Amsterdam**



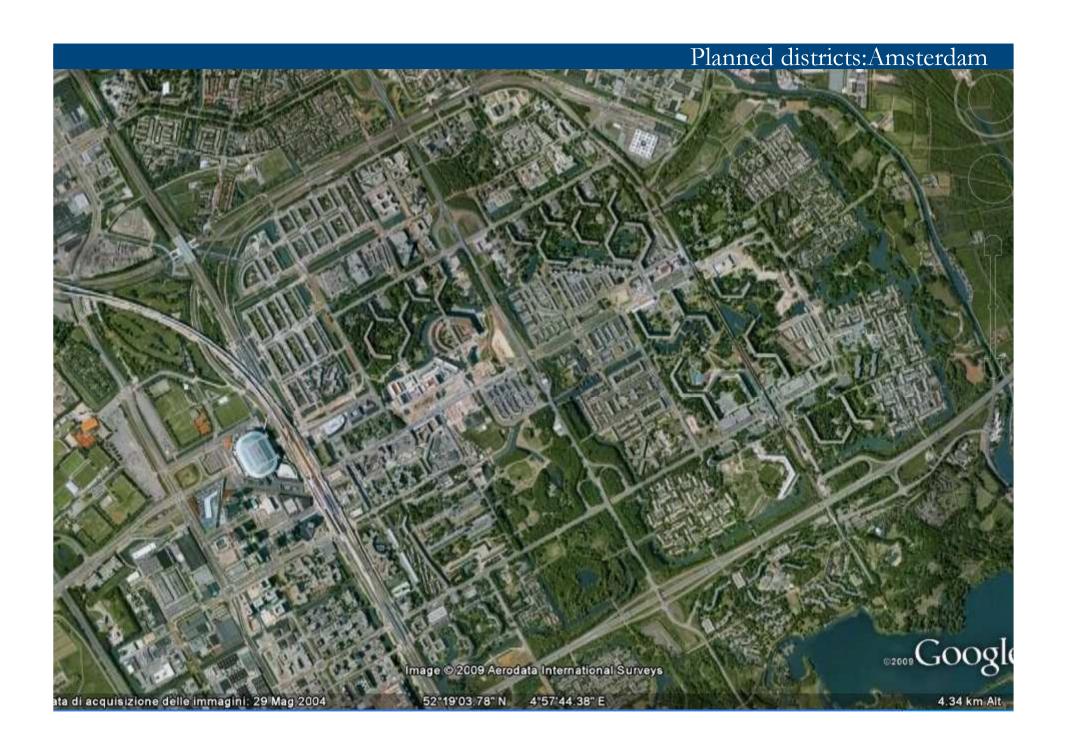


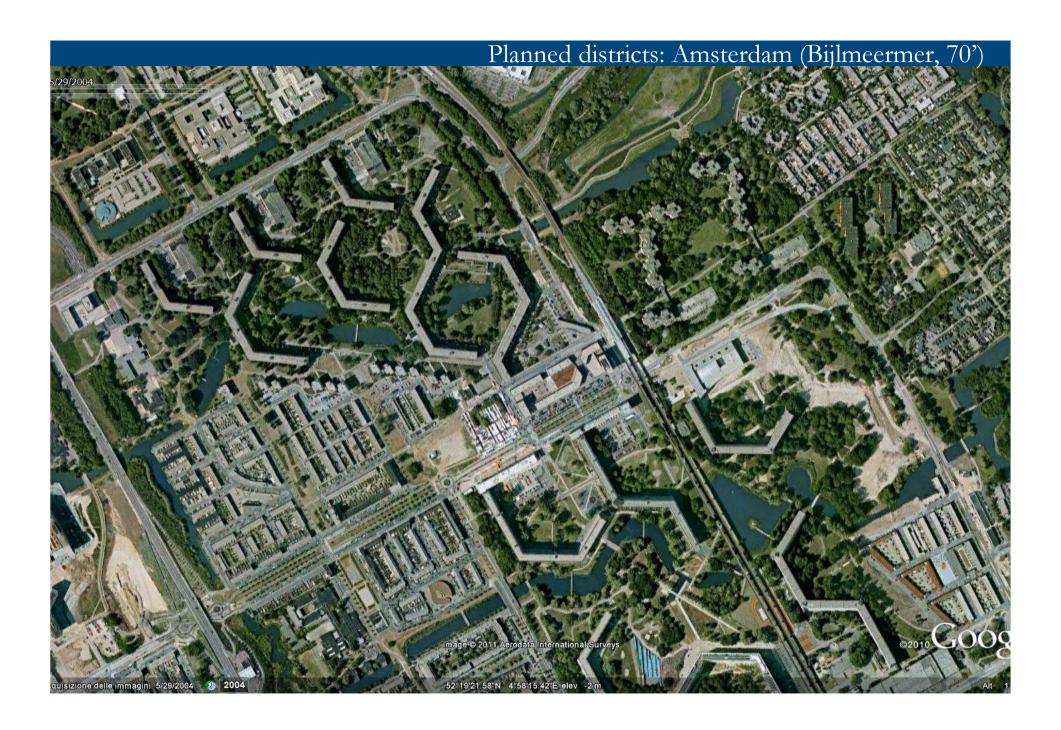




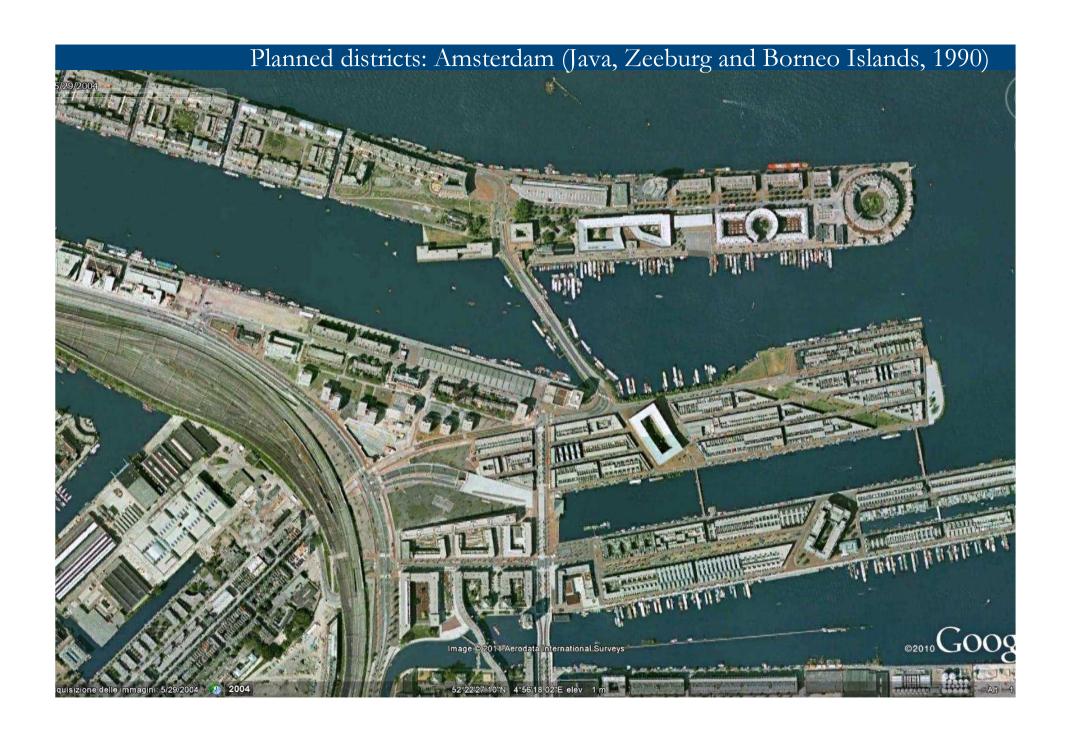








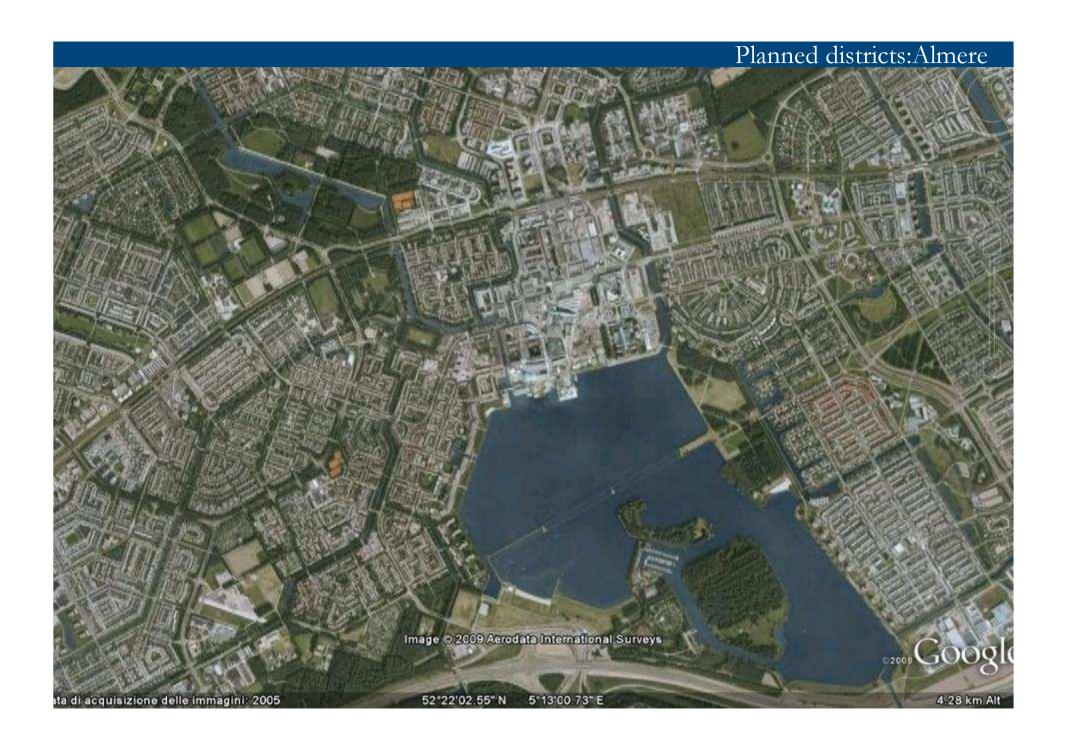




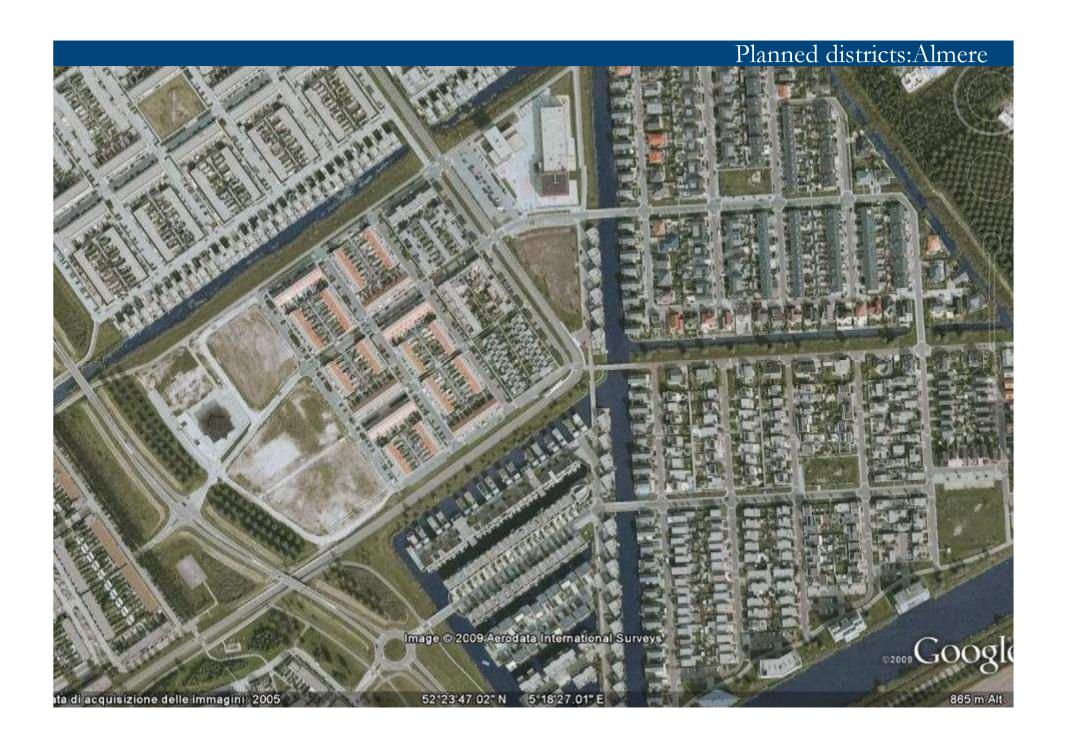




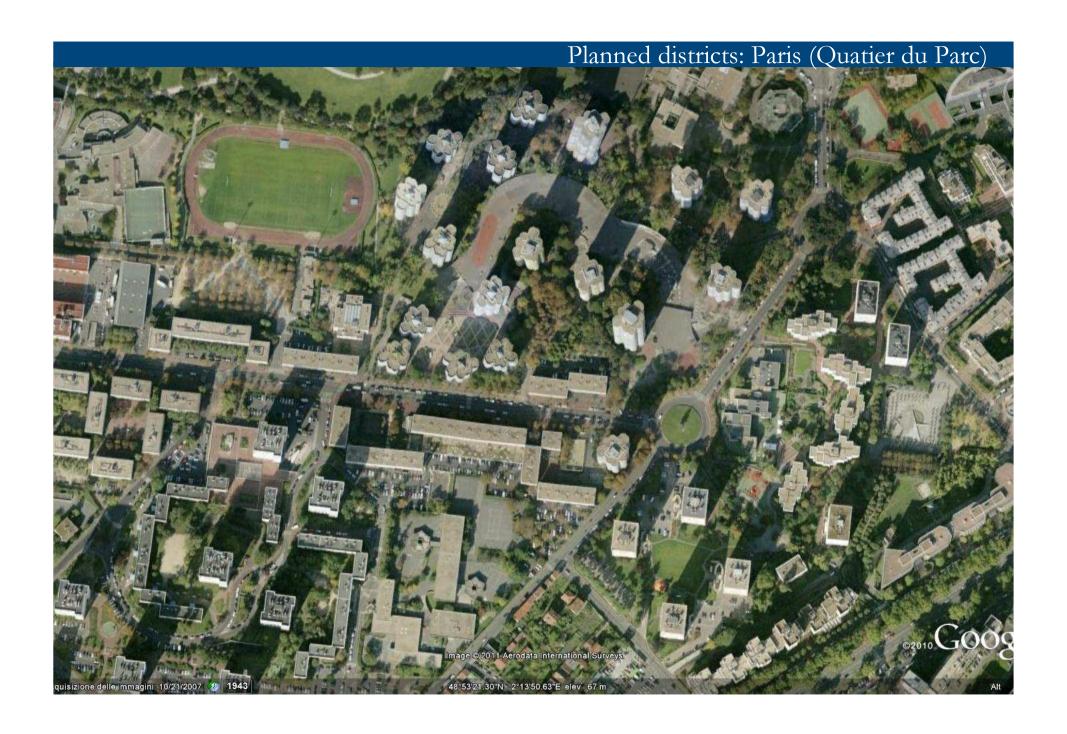








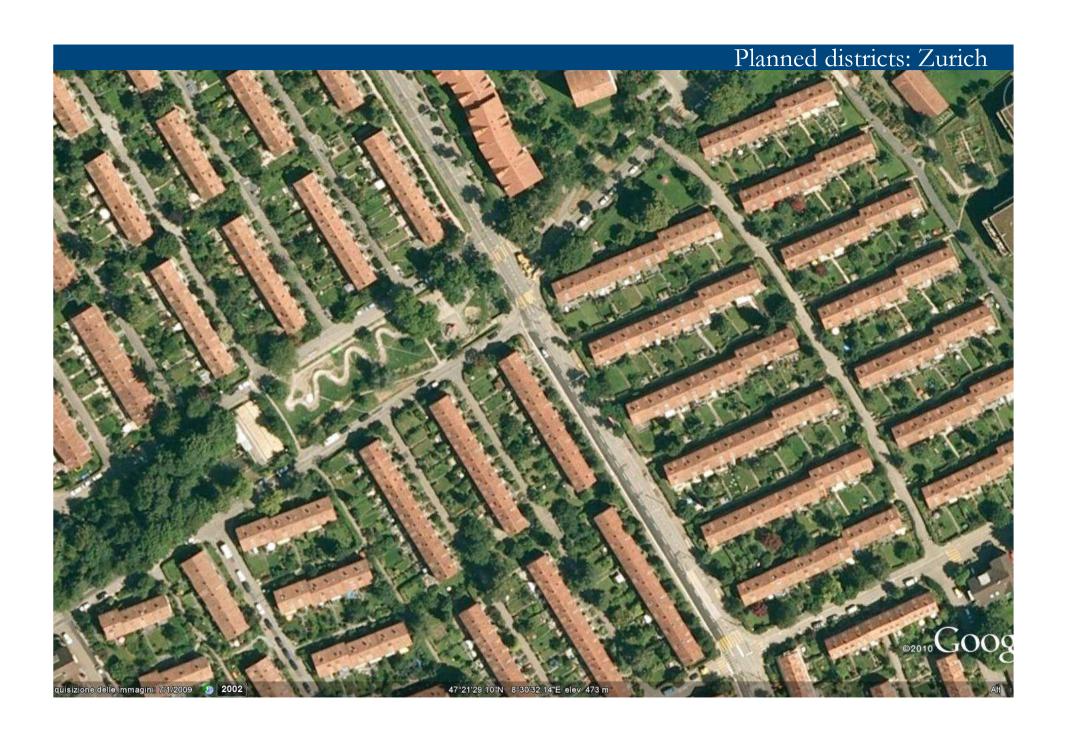












- Effected by phenomena of decay due to the exclusion and the concentration of problematic populations.
- High accessibility and a good standard of services.

#### **Suggestions:**

- > Renewal of buildings: to articulate the houses flats and the composition of inhabitants
- > Densification, rationalization and demolition to redesign the patterns
- > **New uses** (craft and commerce ) to favour virtuous practices
- > Articulation of open spaces and new centralities for meeting places
- > Integrated policies to promote social development.
- > **Opening** to share dynamic networks

# **Citadels**

### **C**ITADELS

 A name used to define complex settlements devoted to original specialized functions;

Are often the result of an "urban project";

- A family rich of **very different components**:
  - functions
  - sizes
  - can be ancient, recent, and contemporary
- 1992: some years ago the French anthropologist Marc Augé called them "Non-lieux" (Non-places).
  2007: recently the Province of Bologna promoted a researchevent called "Super-places".
- It is easy to see the difference between these two expressions: the first one is negative the second one has a positive accent.

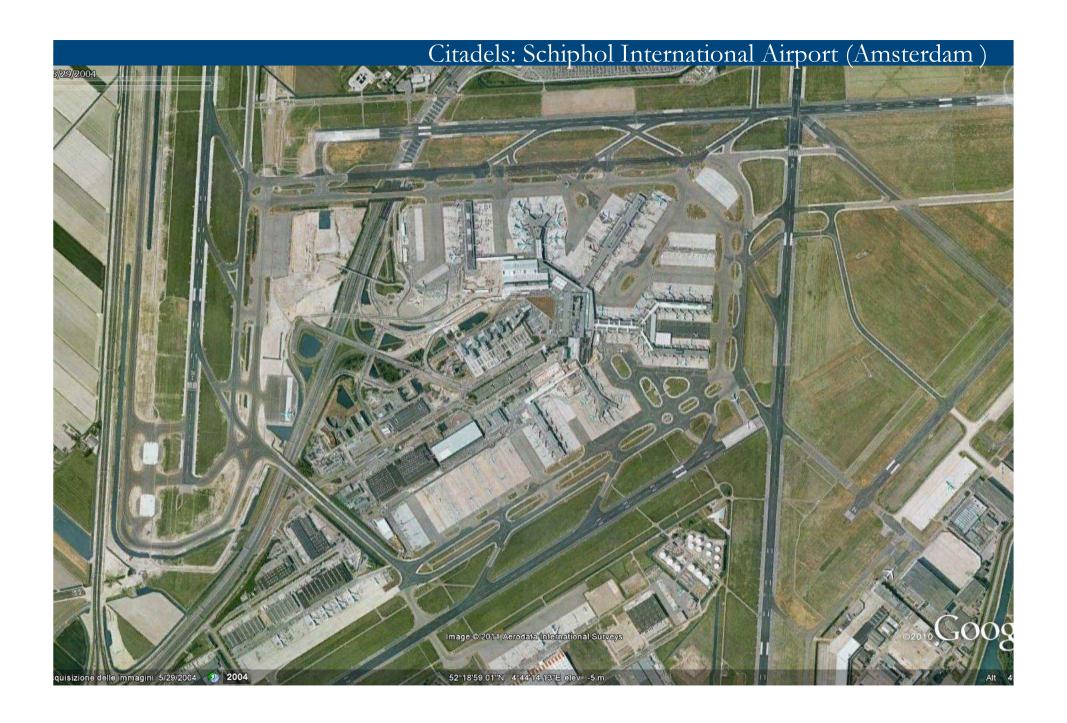
- Typical spaces for new social practices of the contemporary cities;
- Movements and practices of temporary populations finds their main expression
- New forms of complexity (and new forms of urbanities) are growing

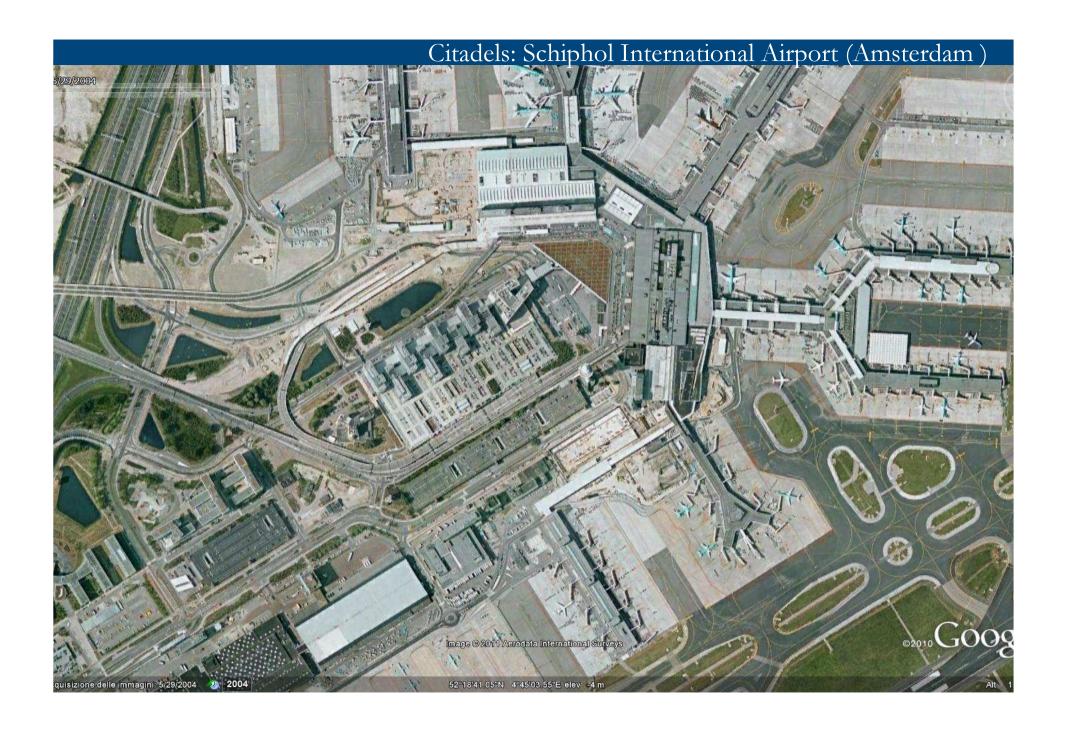
### **Suggestions:**

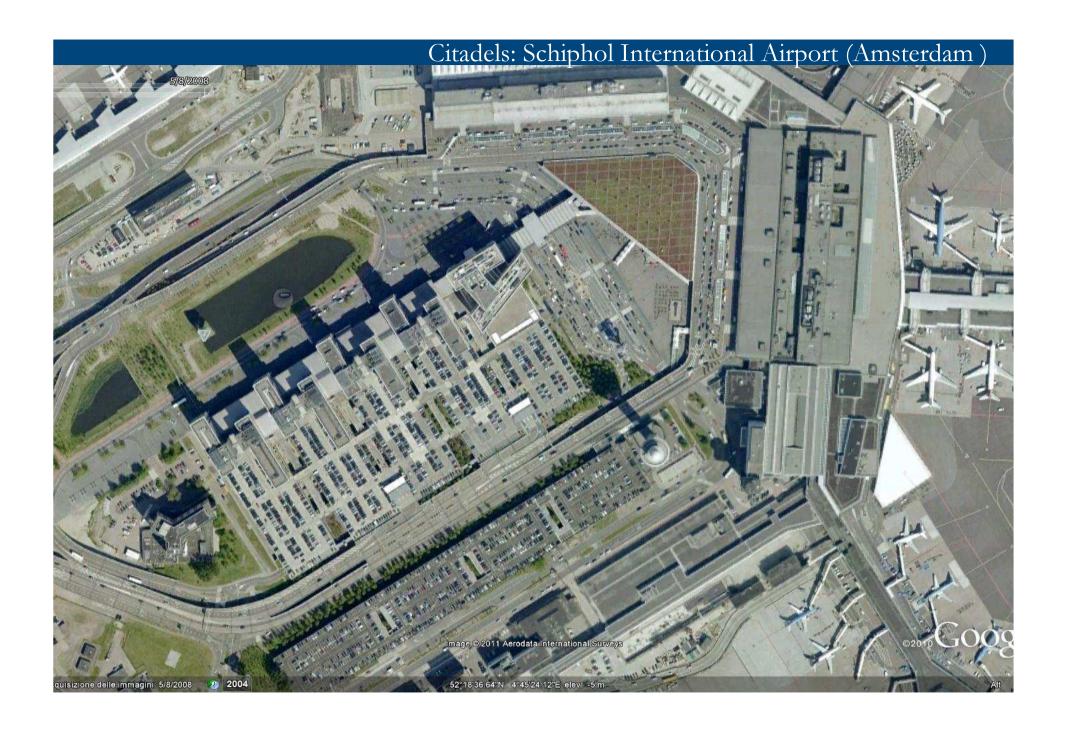
- > Adding "banal" activities:
  - to favour the relationships with the context,
  - to attract different populations
  - to diversify activities
- > Opening and integrating these citadels as parts of specific territories:
  - public transport / connnection / services / public spaces
- > ...are potentials new urban places and opportunities

## **Citadels:**

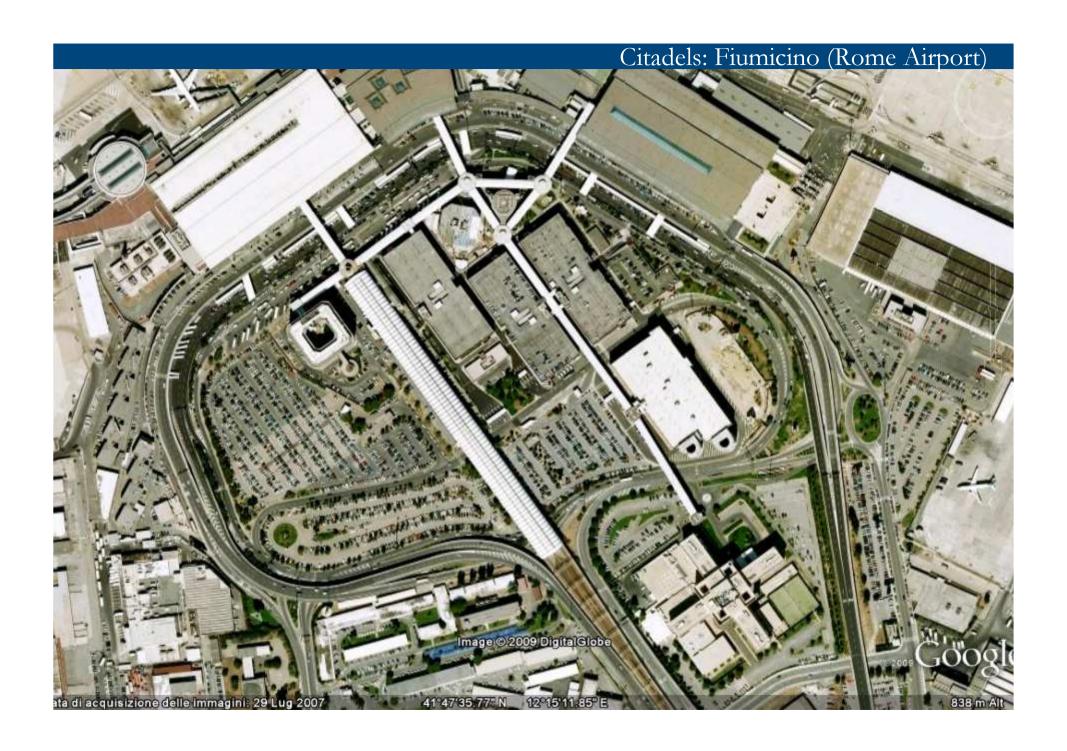
- > Mobility citadels
- > Trade and Leisure citadels
- > Logistic citadels
- > Administration and Institutional Citadels
- > University Campuses
- > Science Parks, Research and Health Centers



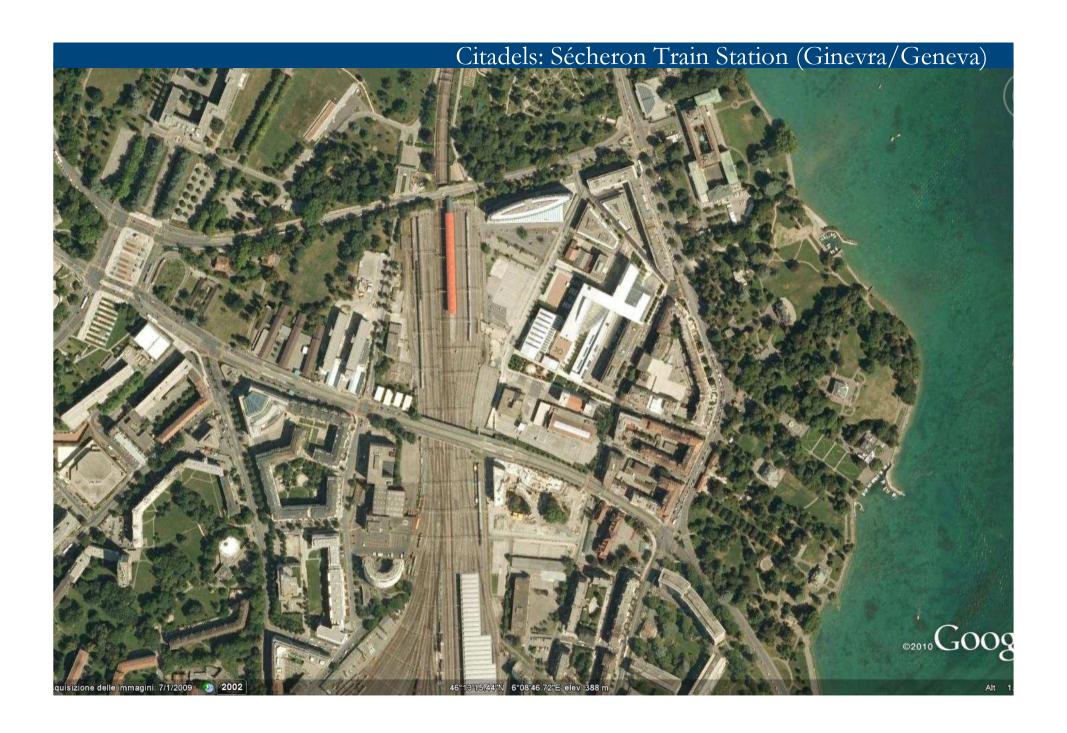






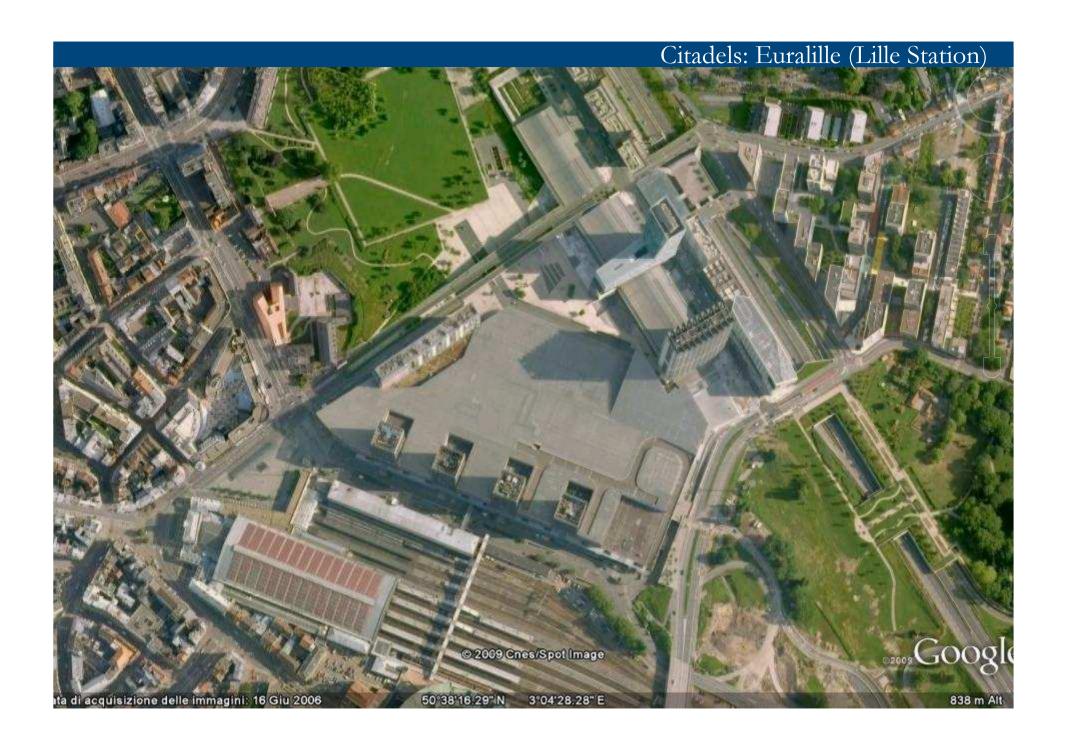




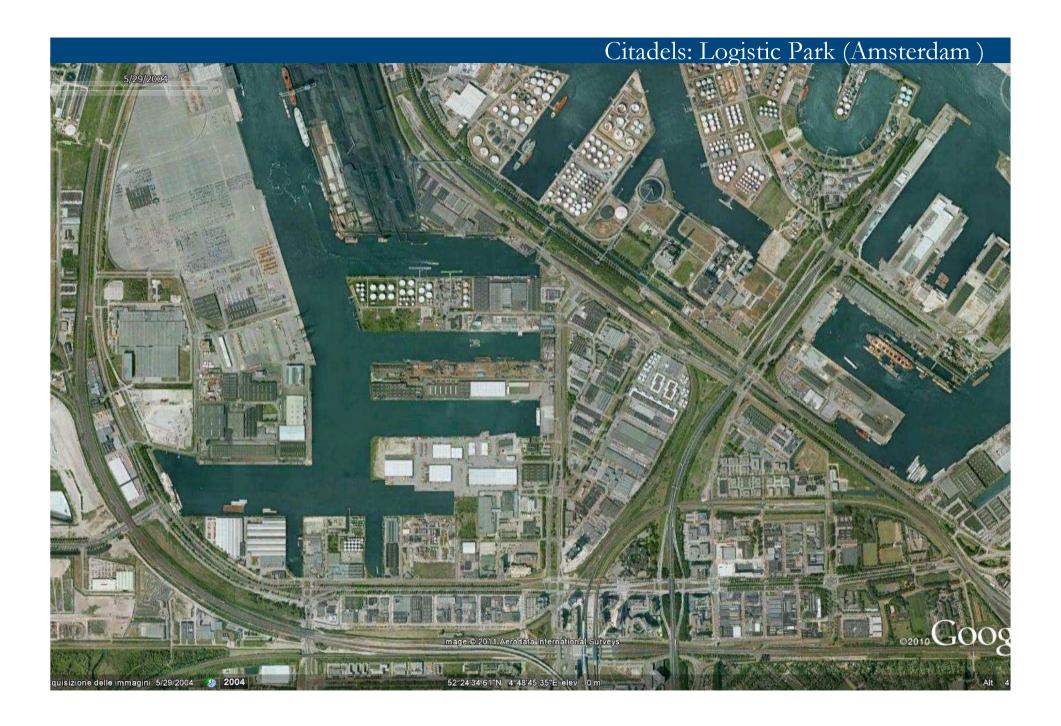






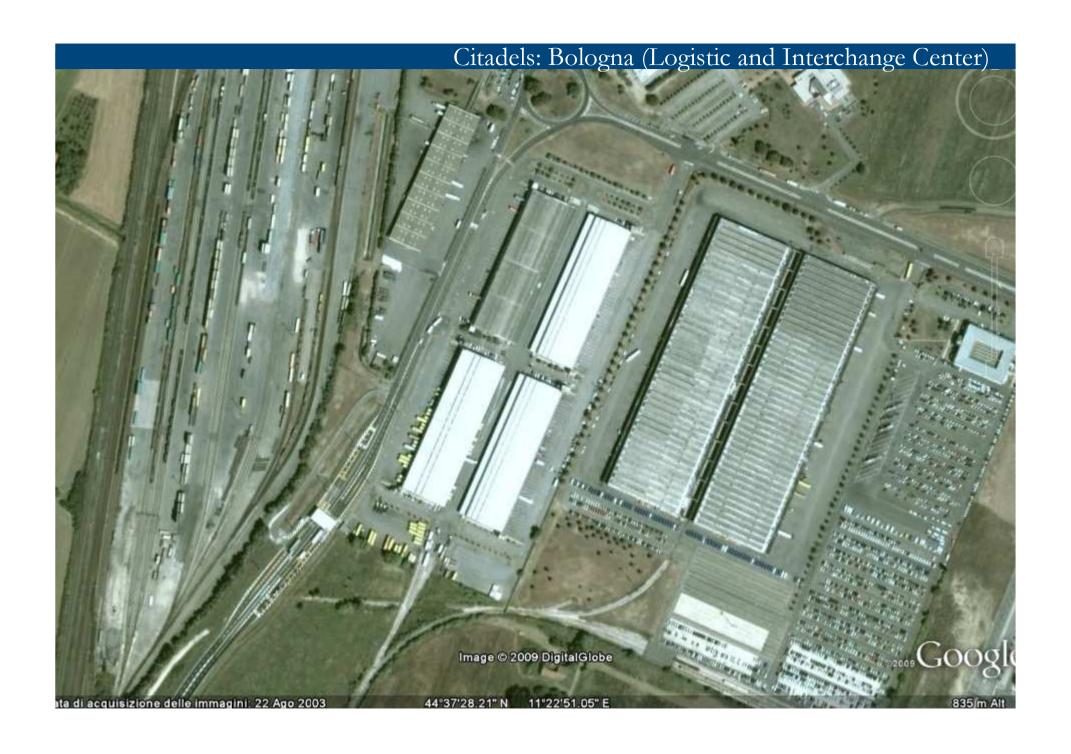


## **Logistics Citadels**



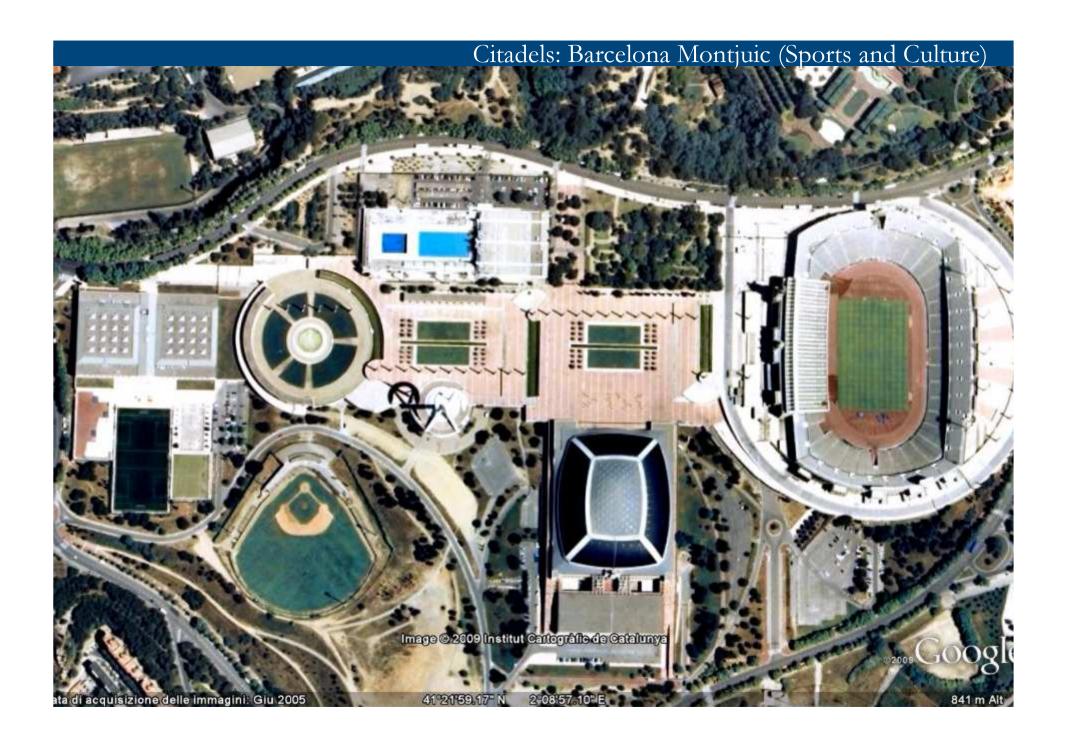


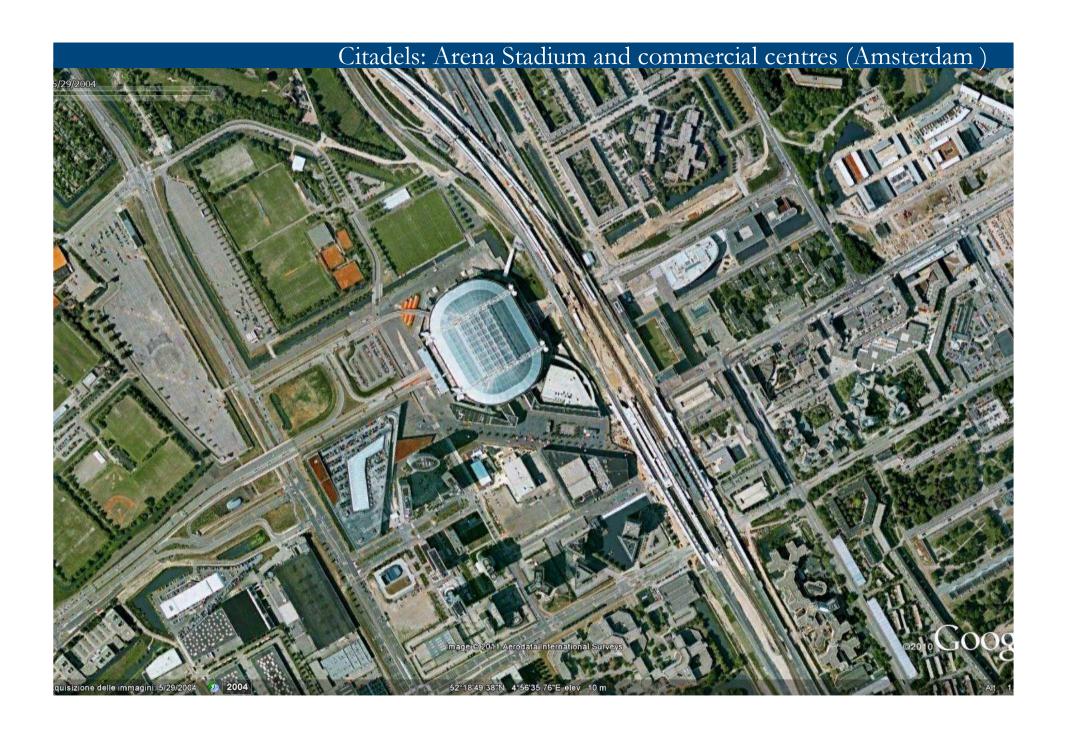


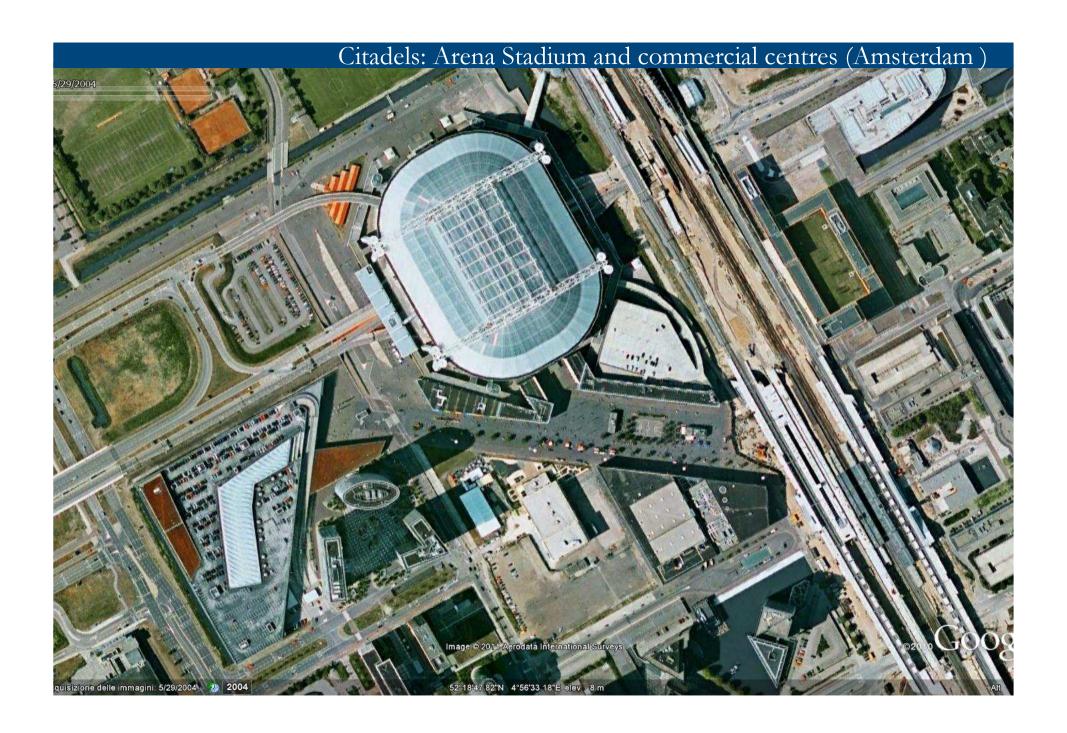


## Trade, Leisure and Sports activities Citadels (public or private)









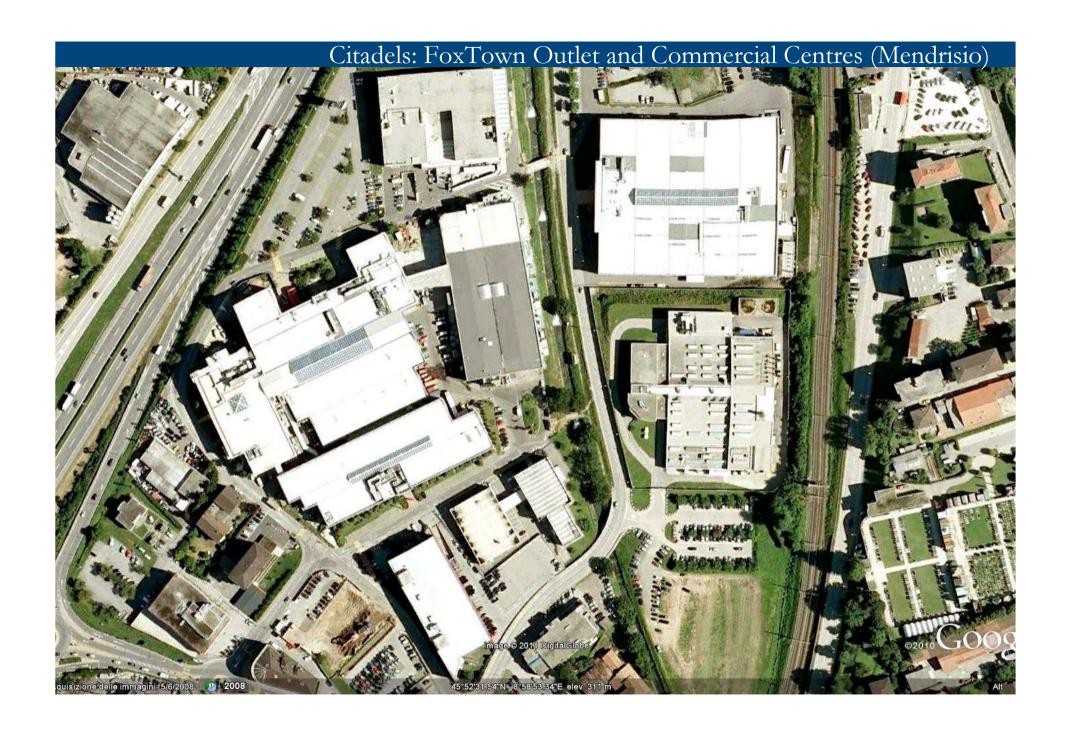




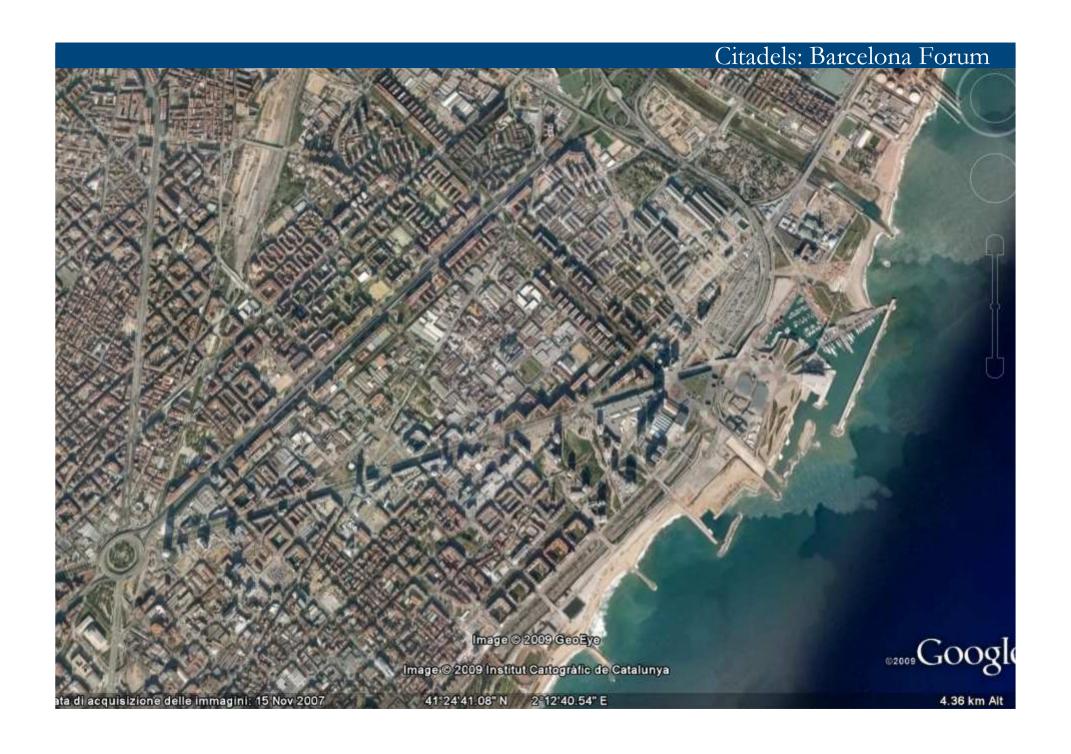


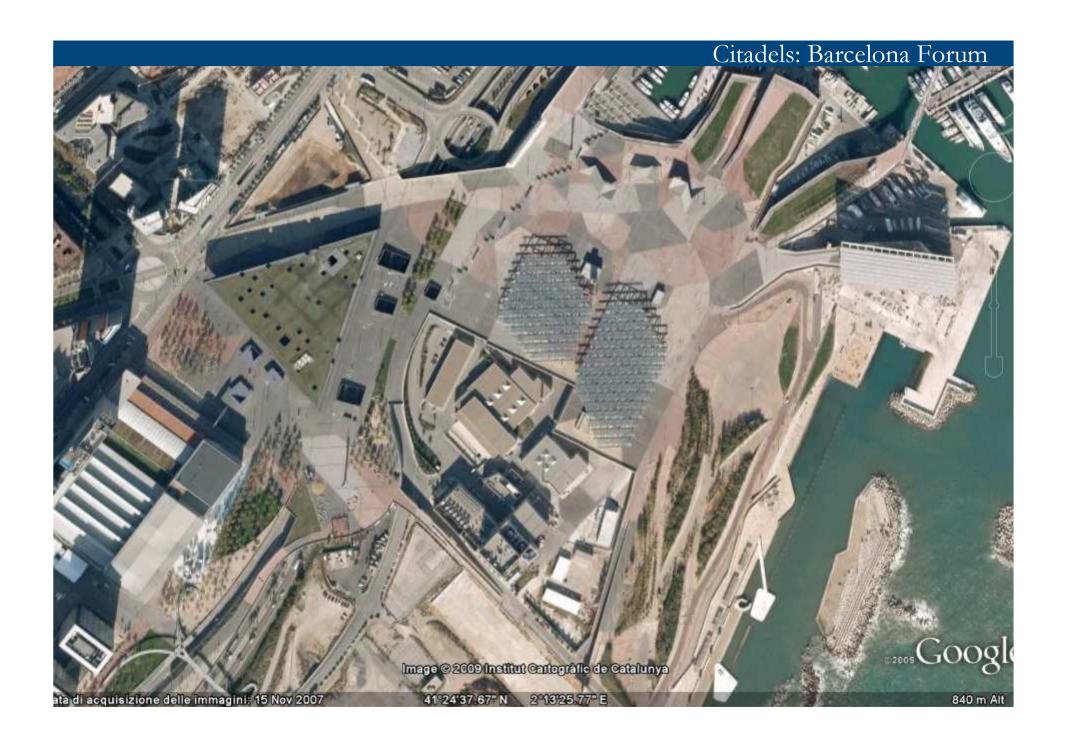


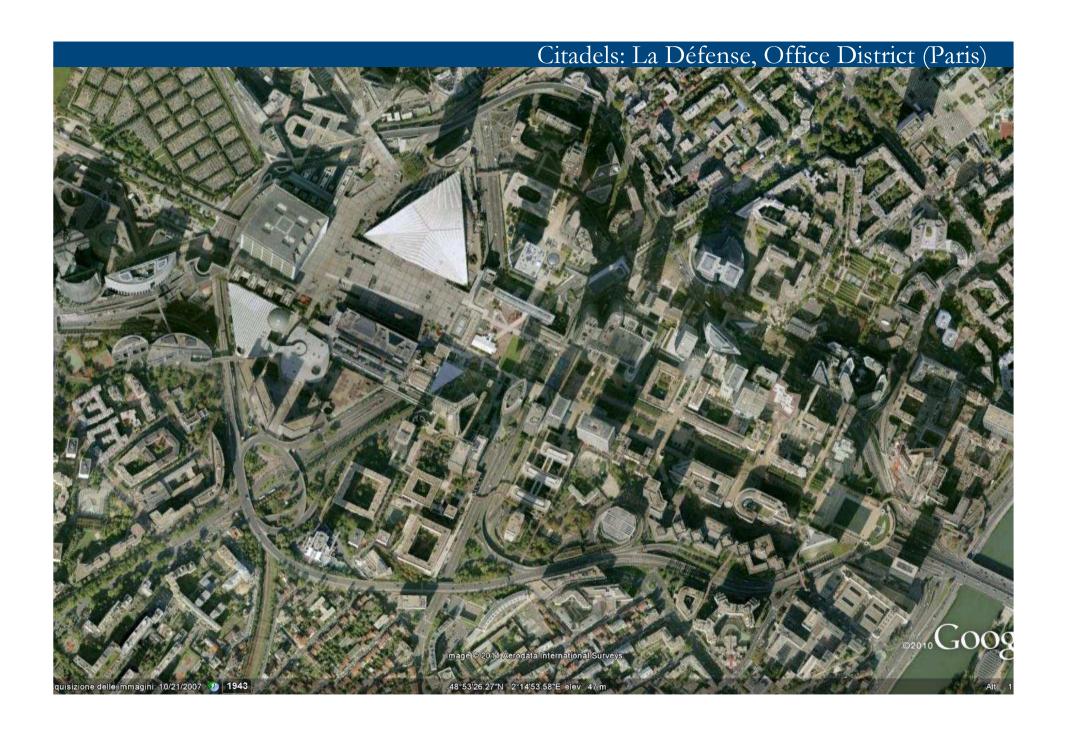


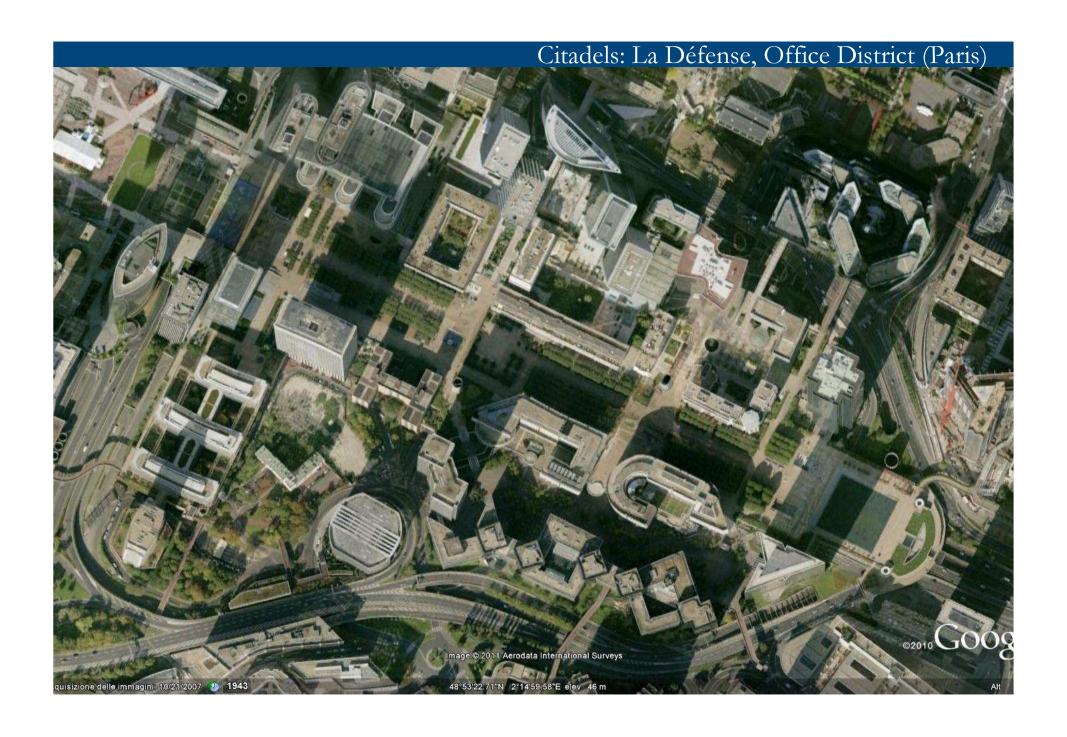


## Administration, Exposition and Institutional Citadels

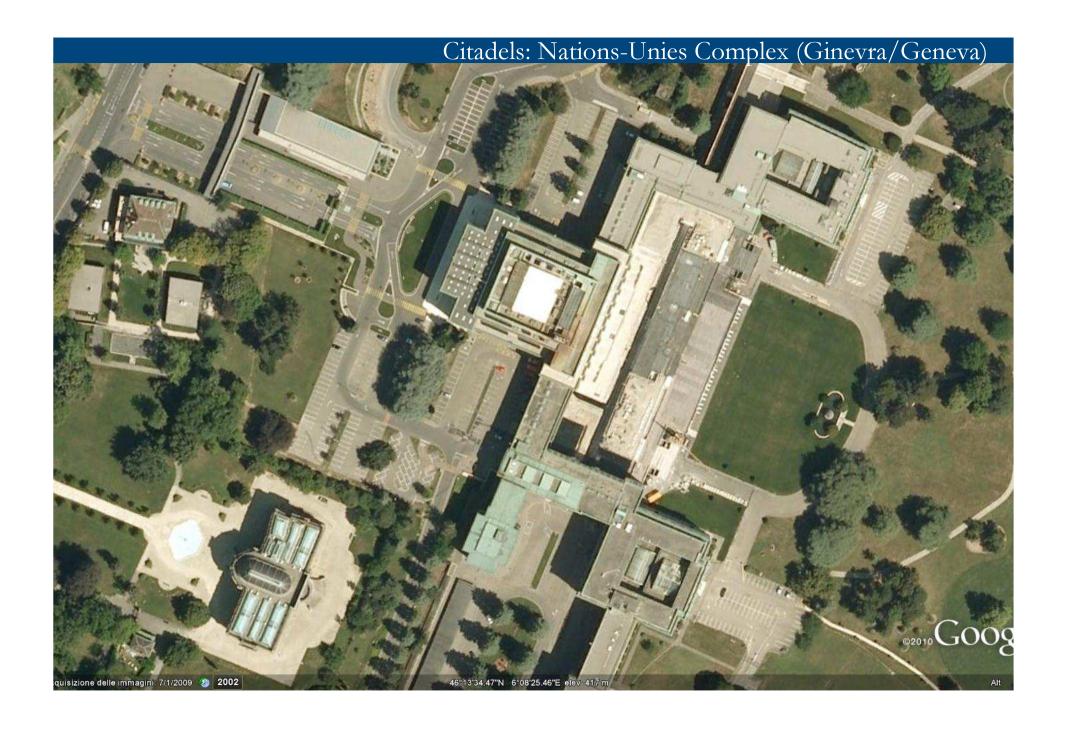


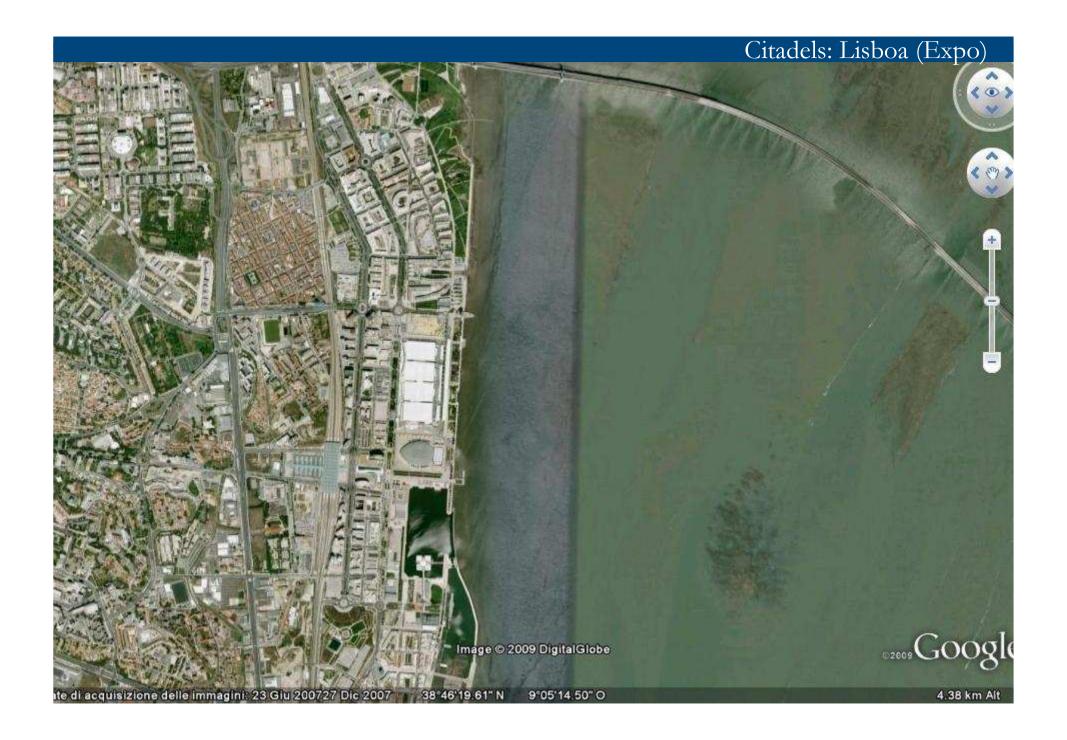


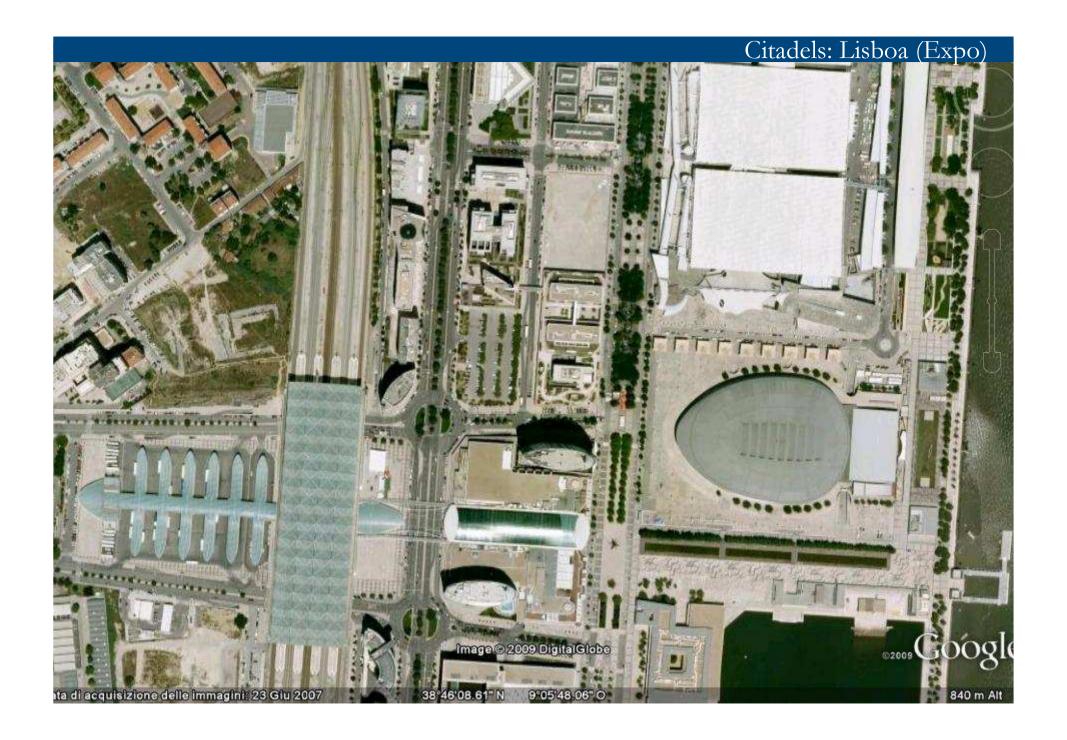












## Science Parks, Research and University Campuses, Health Centers... Cemeteries too

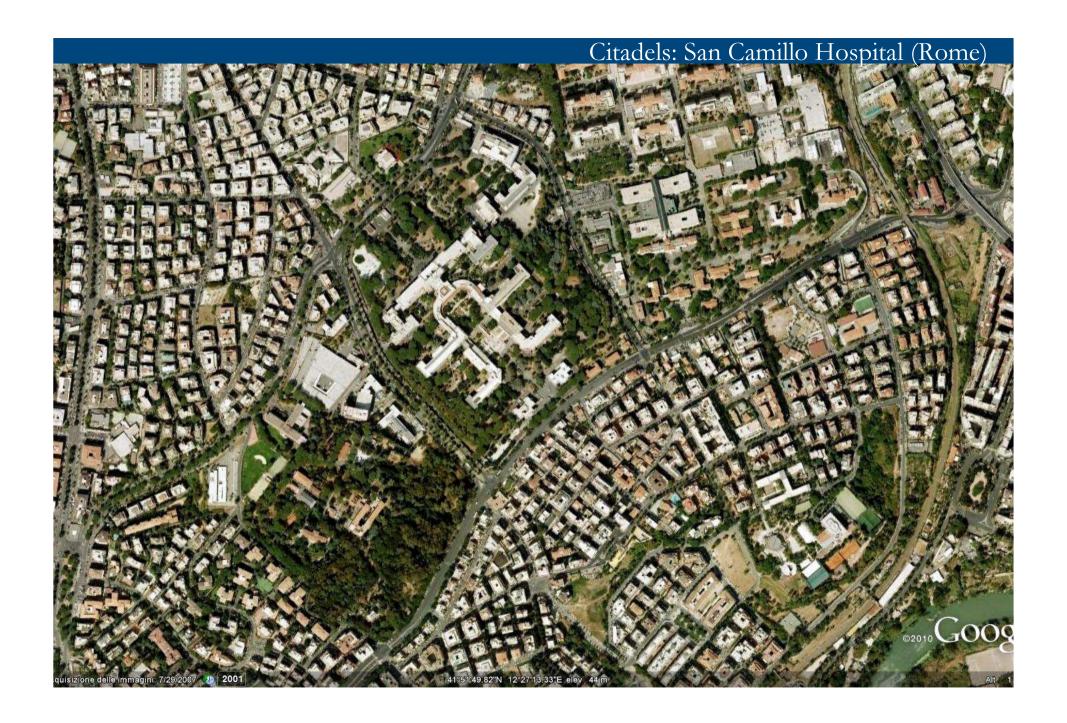


















- Typical spaces for new social practices of the contemporary cities;
- Movements and practices of temporary populations finds their main expression
- New forms of complexity (and new forms of urbanities) are growing

#### **Suggestions:**

- > Adding "banal" activities:
  - to favour the relationships with the context,
  - to attract different populations
  - to diversify activities
- > Opening and integrating these citadels as parts of specific territories:
  - public transport / connnection / services / public spaces
- > ...are potentials new urban places and opportunities

# **Diffused settlements:**

- > Residential settlements (legal or illegal)
- > Industrial and productive clusters

## Diffused settlements (I)

- Together with the citadels, the diffused settlements are considered typical expressions marking the explosion of the city.
- Monotonous repetition of similar objects (family homes, factories, warehouses, offices, hotels) forms the patterns of the diffused settlements.
- Along coasts, roads, valleys and on the hills.
- Processes of densification can produce clusters.

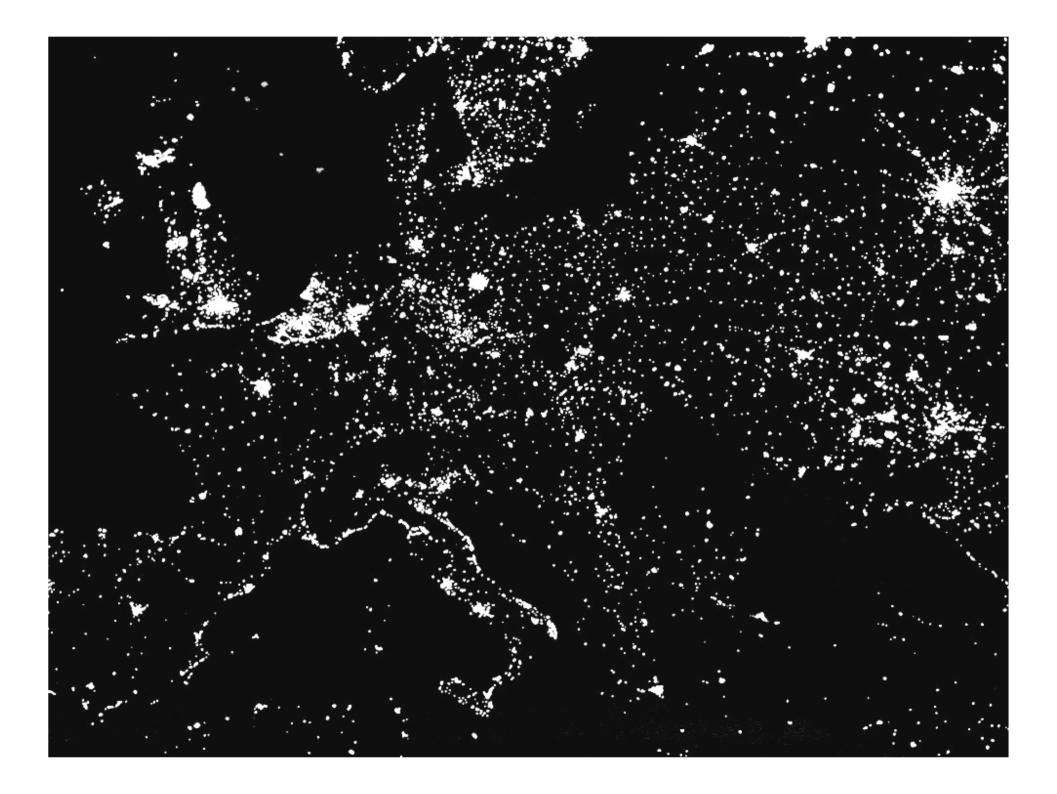
## Diffused settlements (II)

- On one side (high quality patterns):
  - The **invasion** of the beautiful natural surroundings of the city (foothills, enclosed rural areas, agricultural lands)
  - Repetition of **high quality** private homes /
  - absence of factories and warehouses
- On the other side (low quality patterns)
  - Legal or illegal settlements
  - Made by a progressive addition of unfinished houses
  - often without infrastructures
- Poor in services and open and indoor common / public spaces

• Residential and industrial clusters in the diffuse city are expressions of contemporary lifestyle and economical transformation.

#### Main problems:

- a) waste of land
- b) privatization of the space
- c) repetition
- d) dependence on car





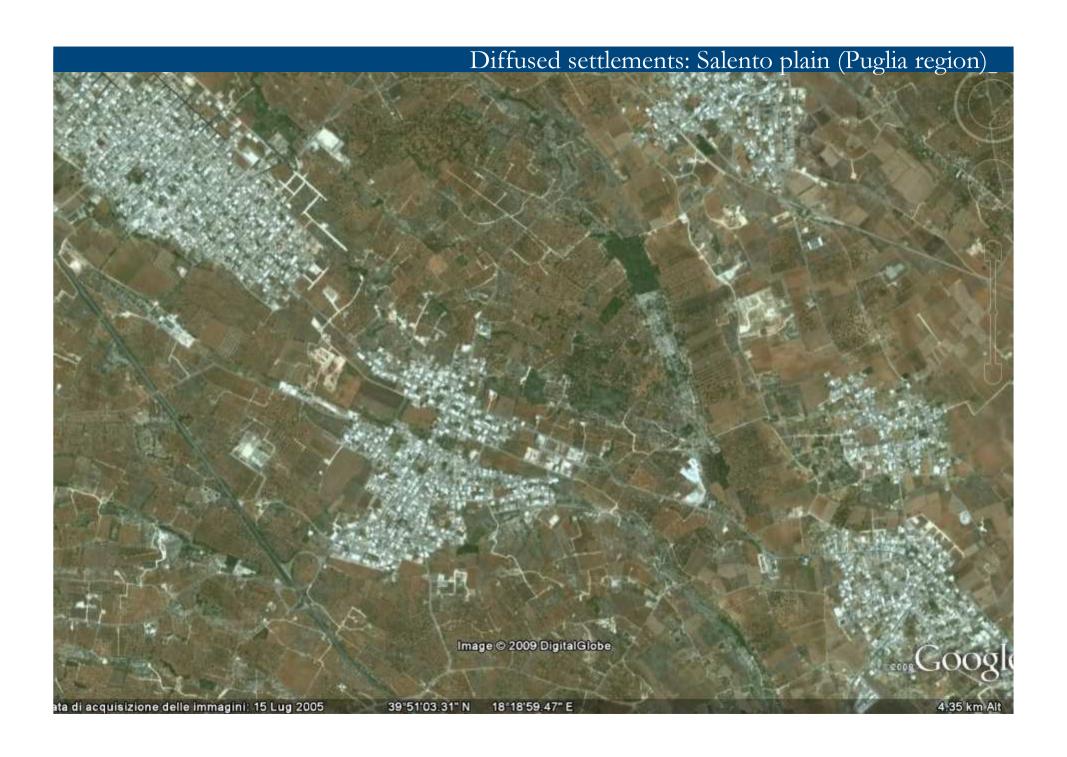








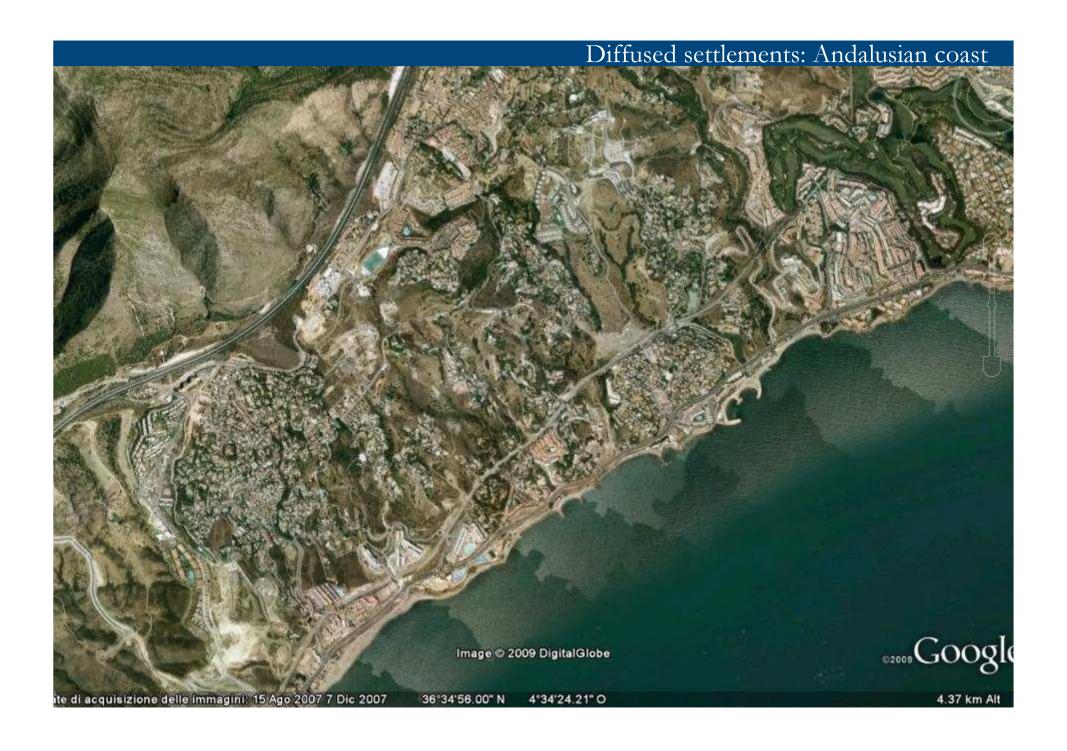




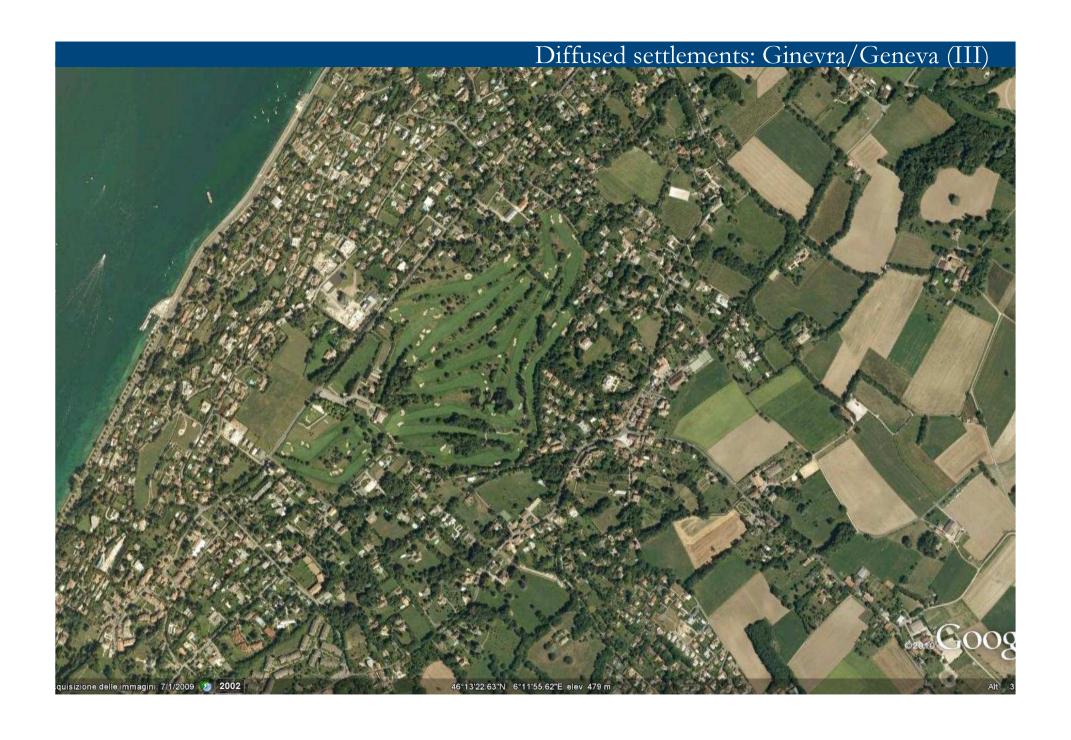










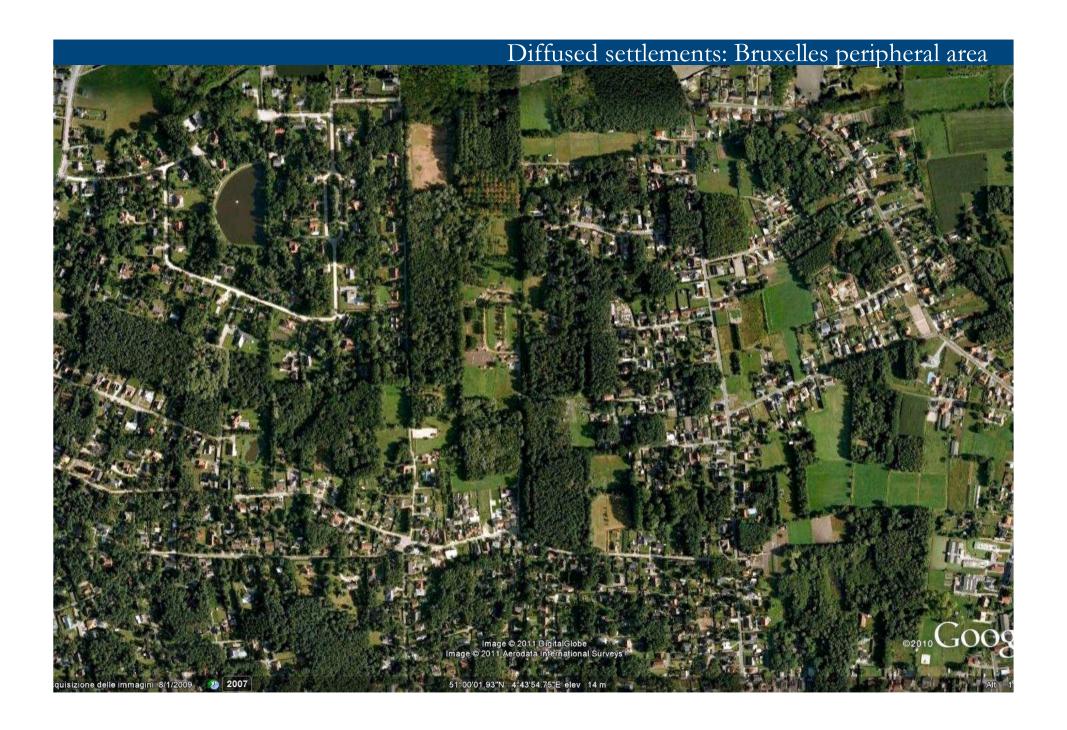


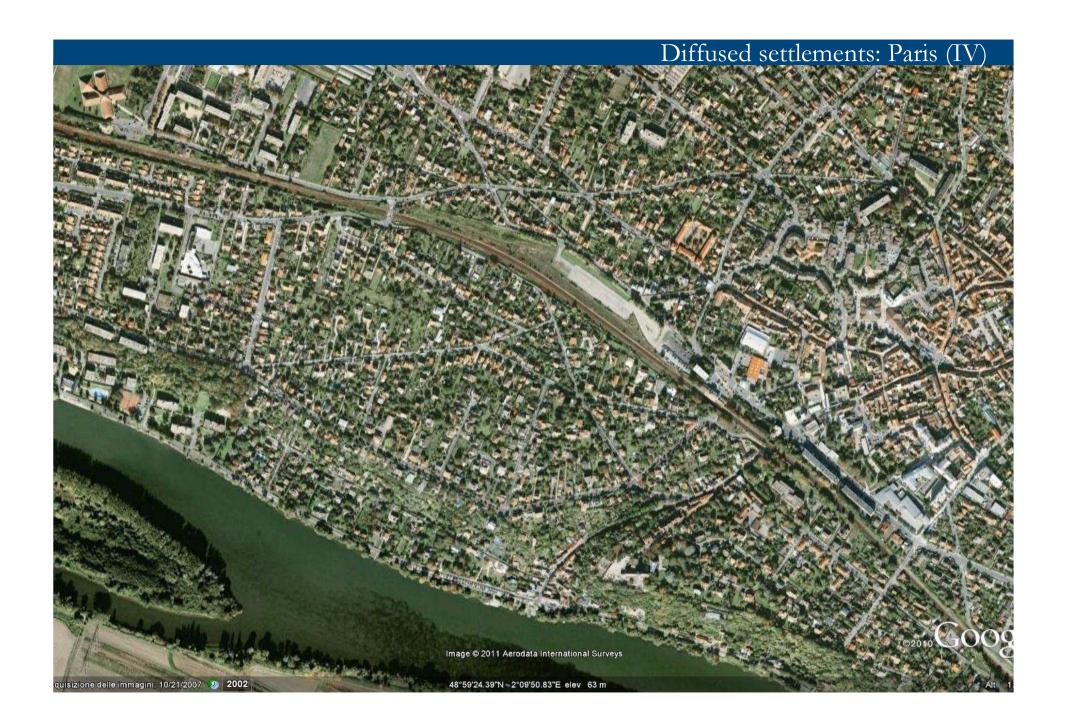


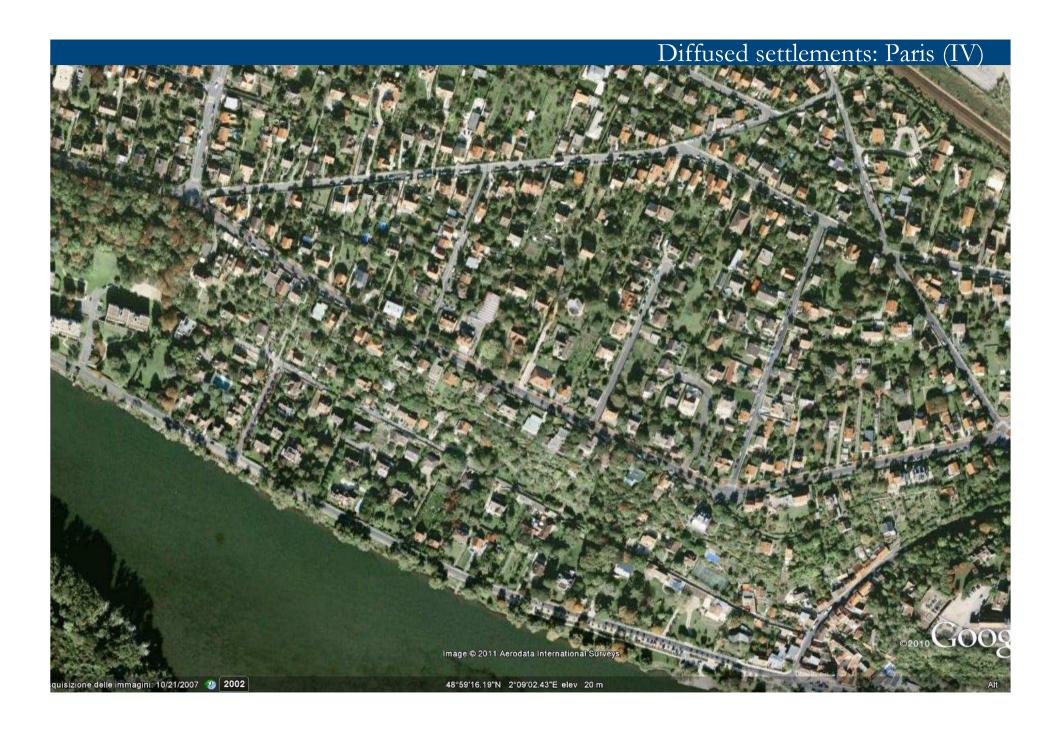


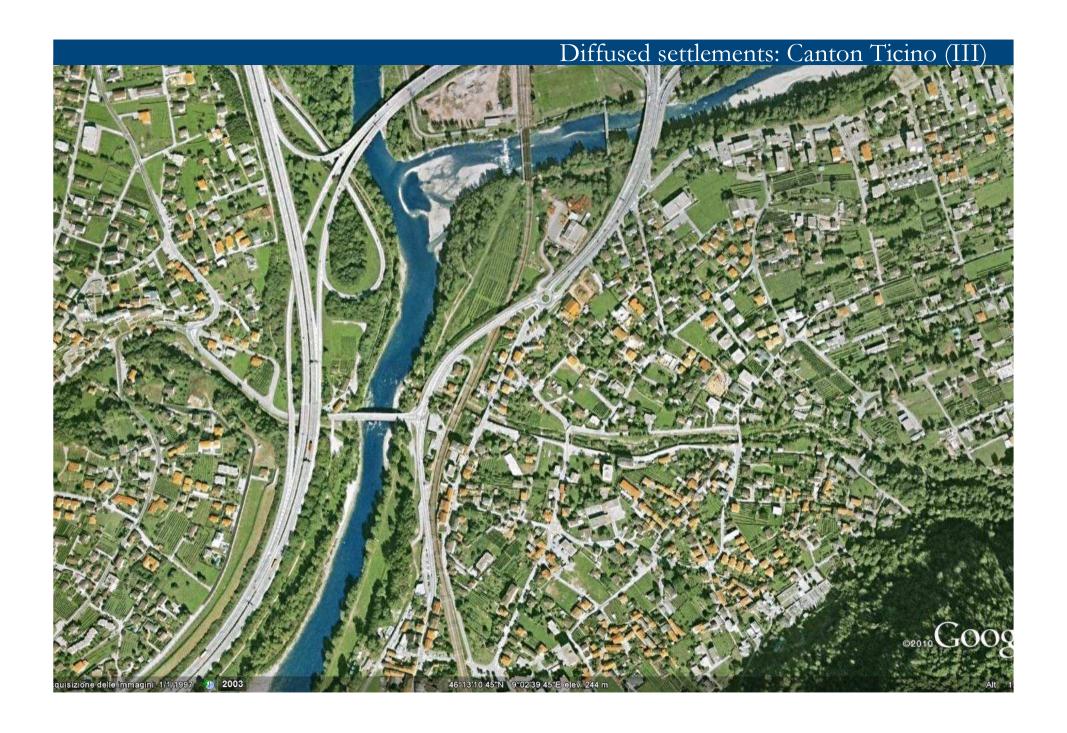






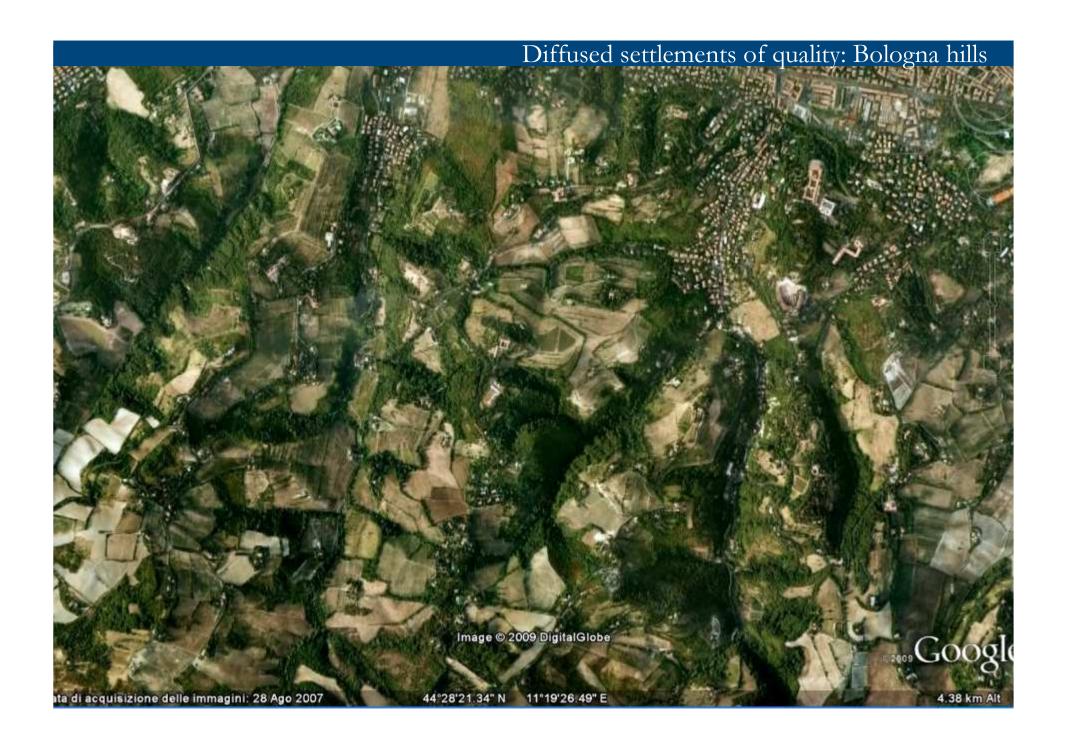


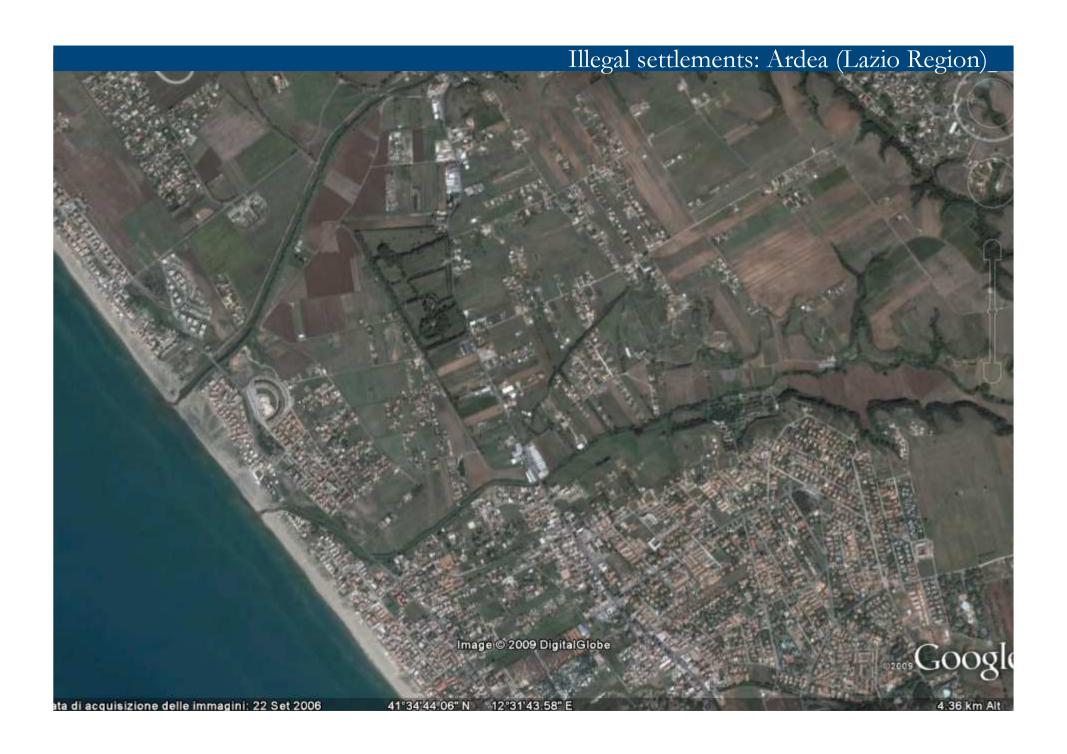










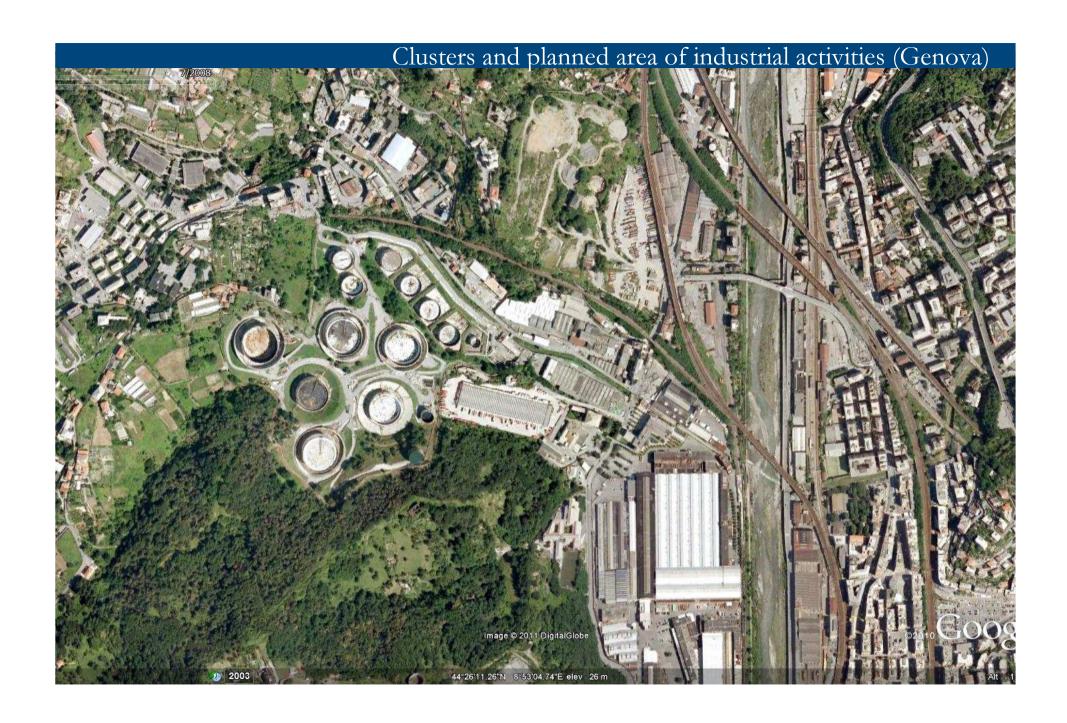








# Industrial Clusters (sometimes Planned)

















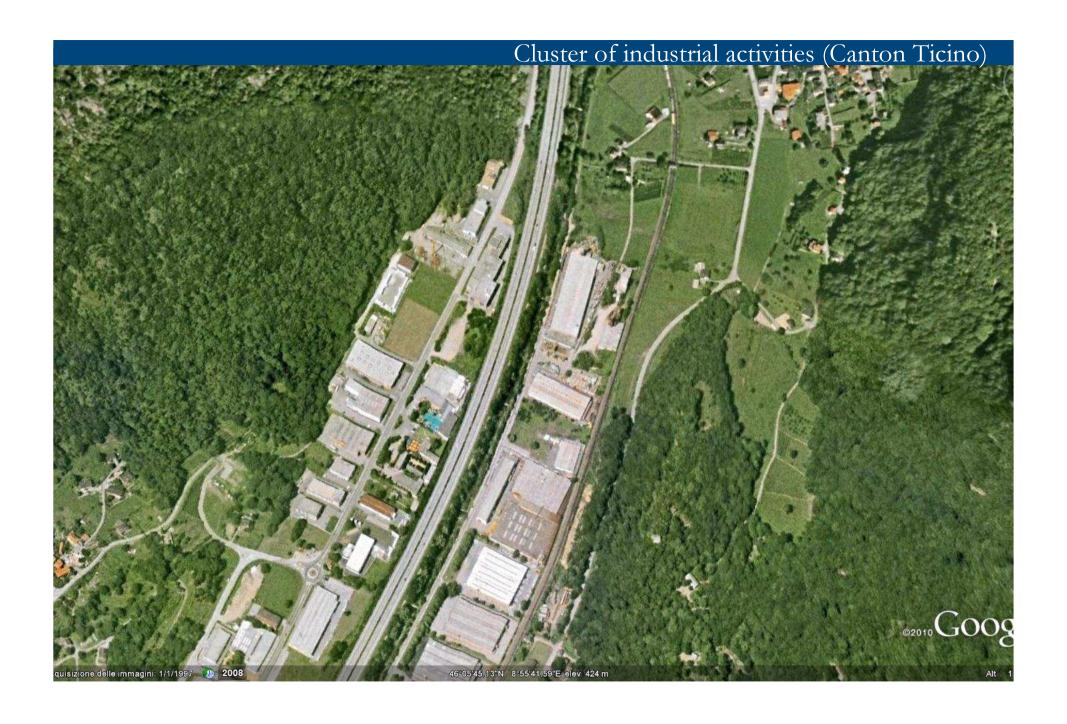












#### General suggestion: no-zoning and articulation

#### (for Residential areas)

- > Redesigning roads and open spaces (playgrounds) to create networks
- > Favouring the slow mobility
- > New uses and activities to gain urbanity
- > TDR Transfer of Development Rights to change buildings and patterns
- > TOD Transit Oriented development

#### (for Industrial / working areas)

- > Adding residence and **other uses**(outdoor and sports activities, new types of production etc.)
- > Flexible buildings
- > Vertical development, densification and re-use of the soil
- > **Defining green areas**, services, and transports
- > Eco-industrial evolution and ecological renewal.

### **Open Spaces**

- > Designed Open Spaces (Parks and Gardens)
- > Specialized Open Spaces
- > Natural Open Spaces
- > Agricultural Fields
- > Kitchen Gardens

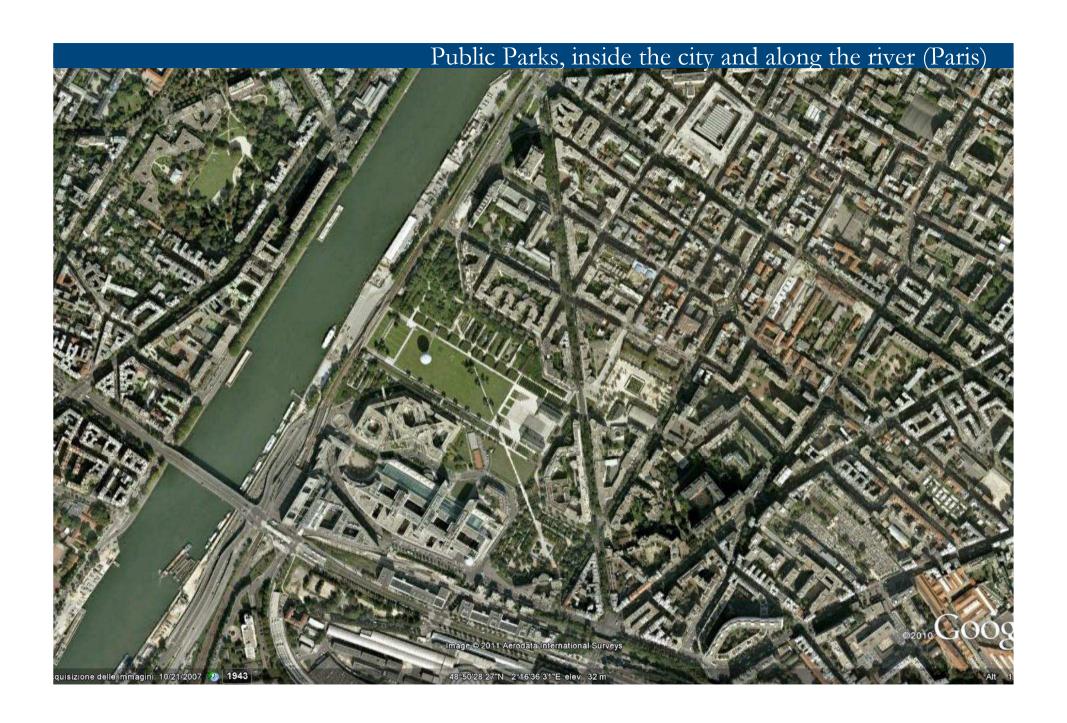
## Designed Open Spaces: Parks and Gardens

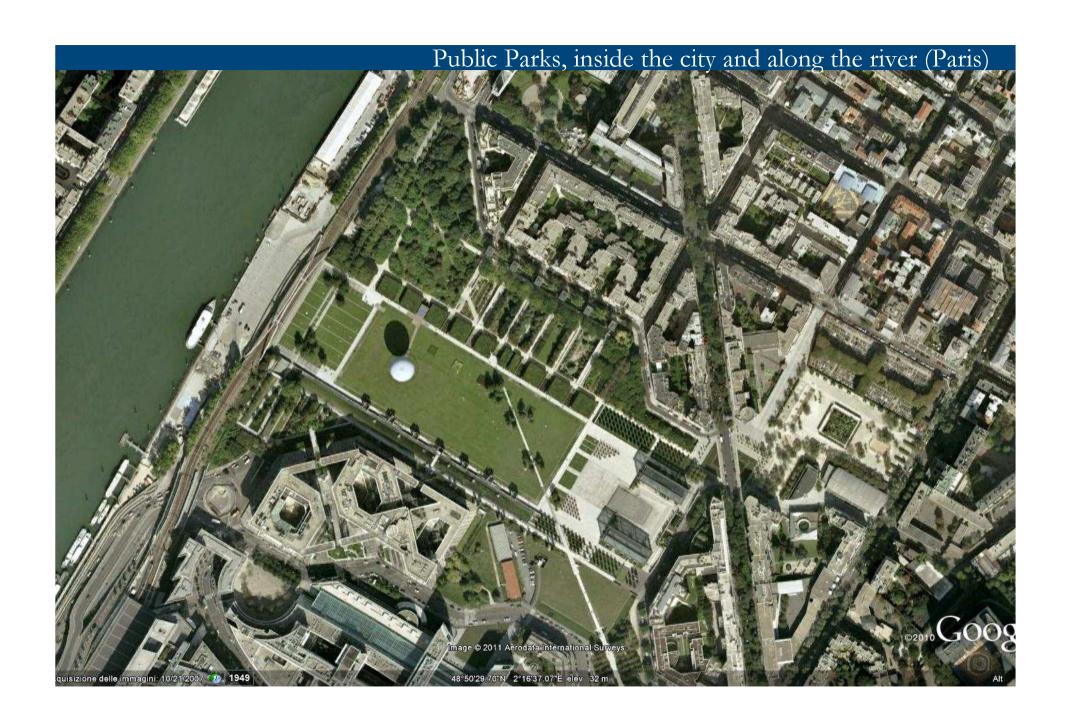


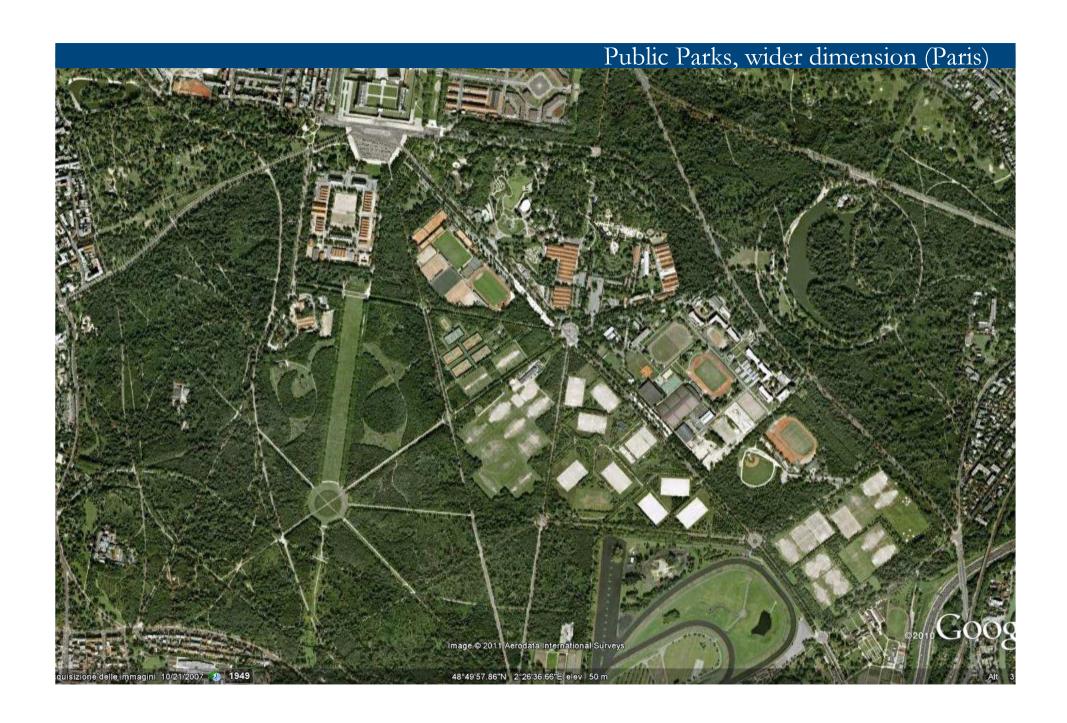




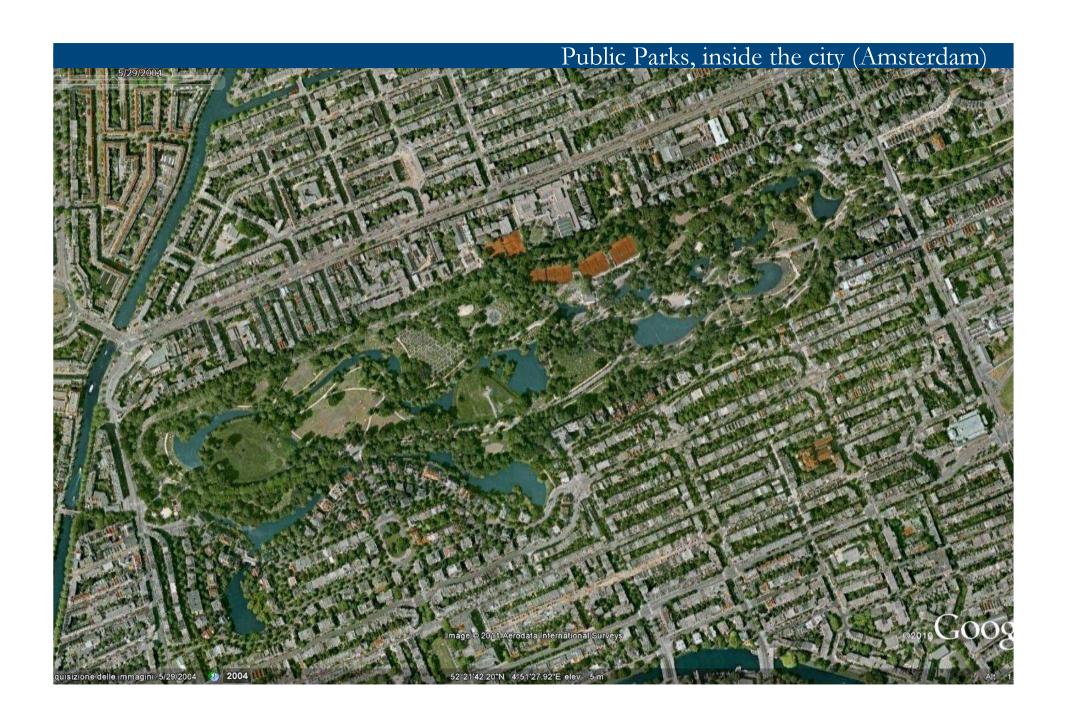


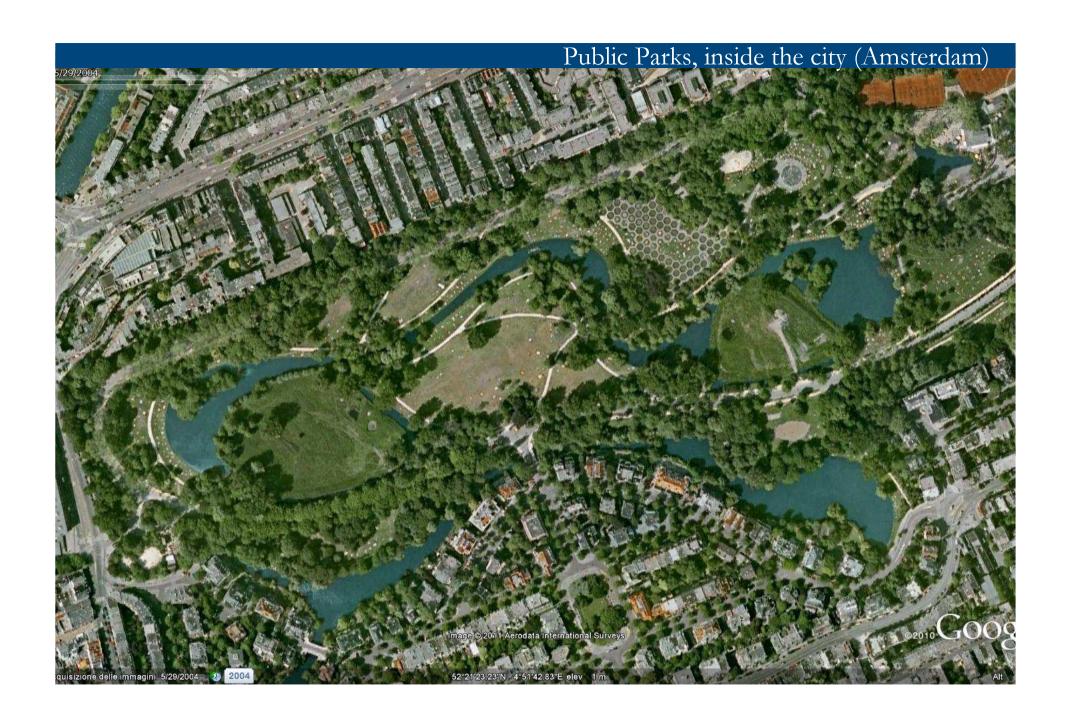








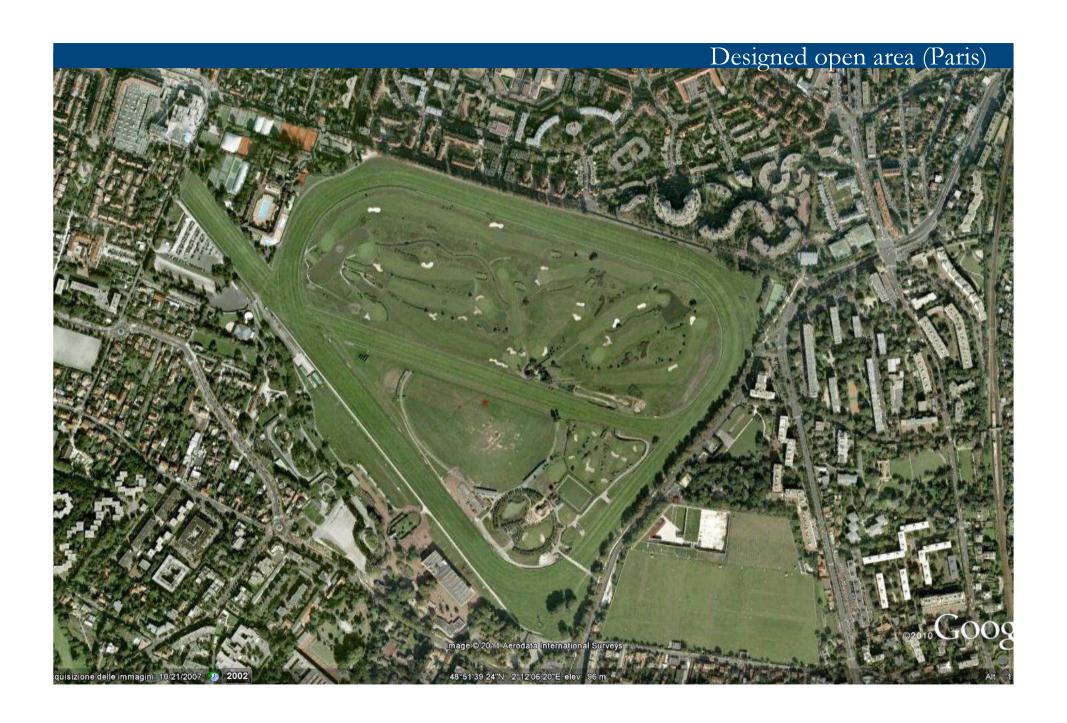








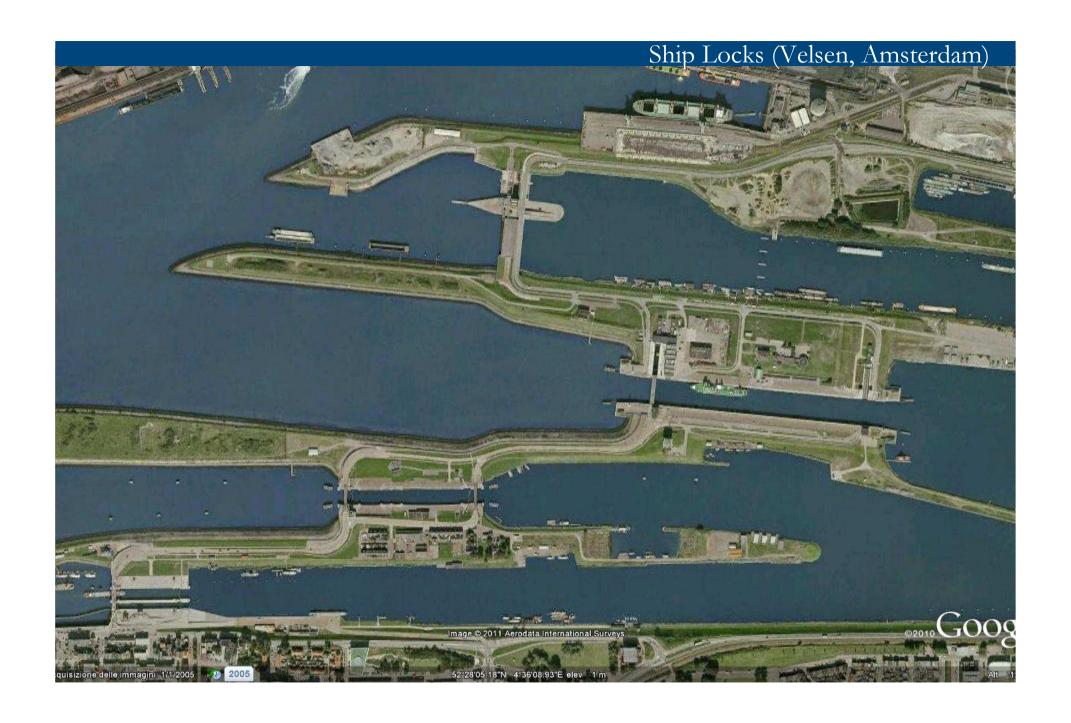
## **Specialized Open Spaces**

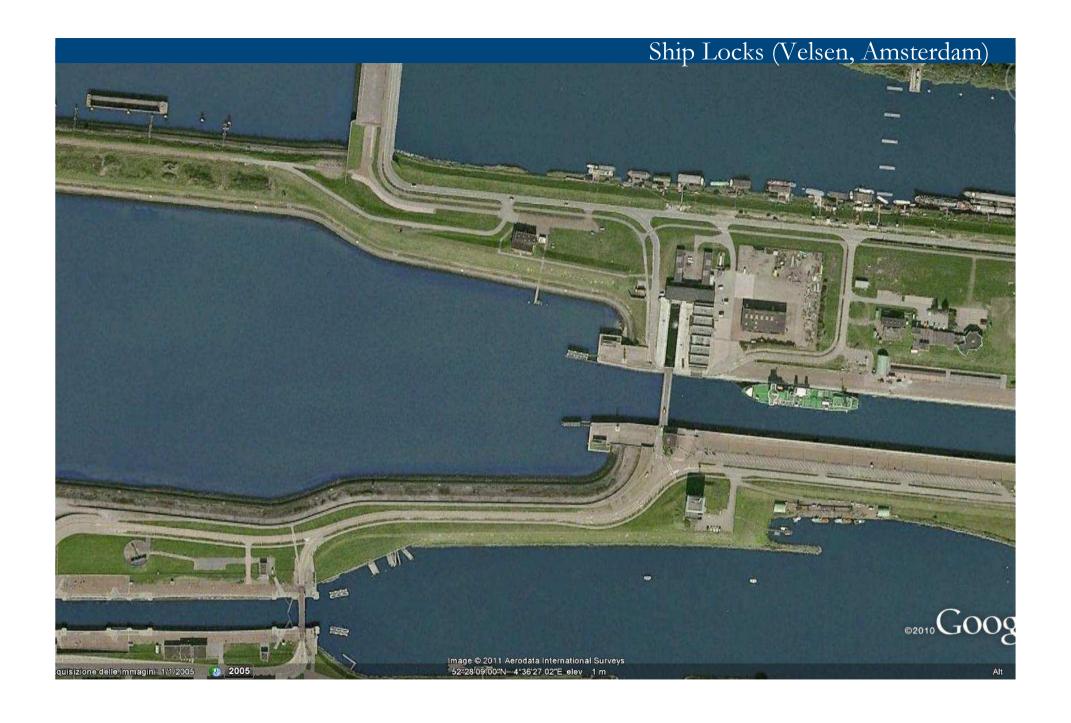




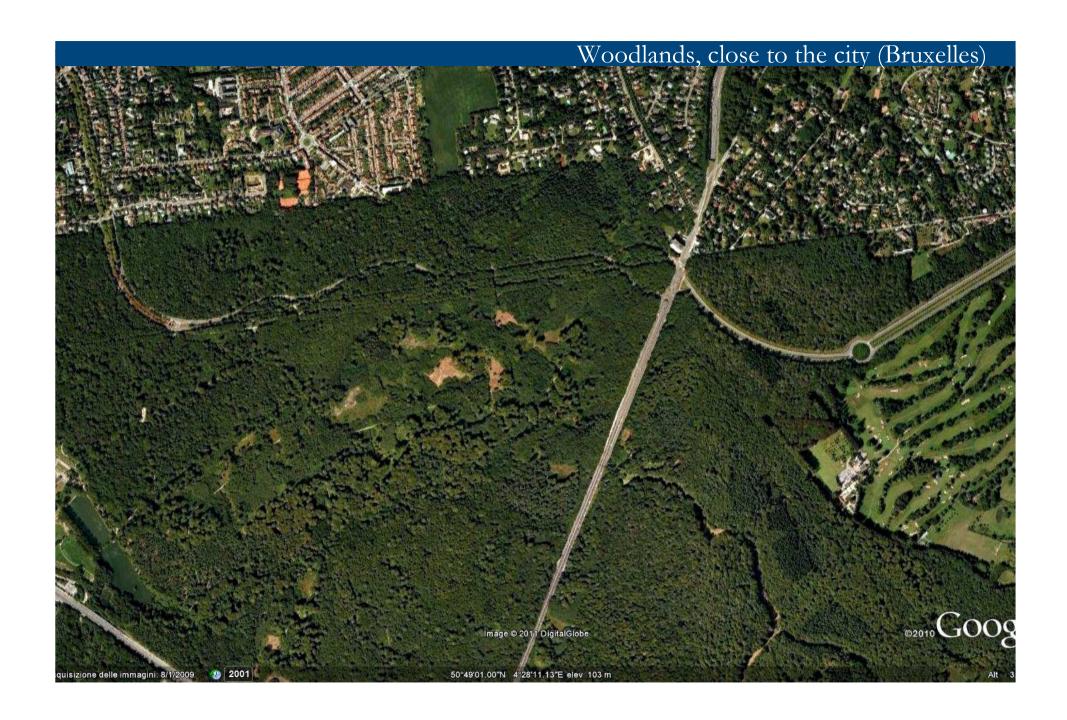




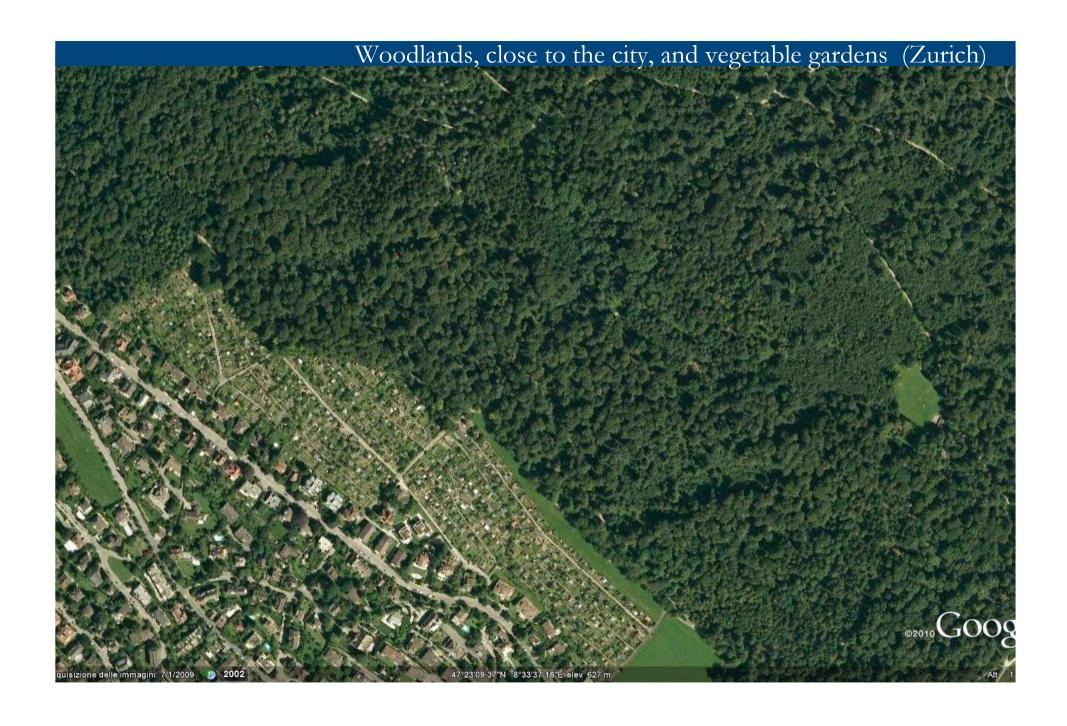




## Natural Open Spaces: Oases

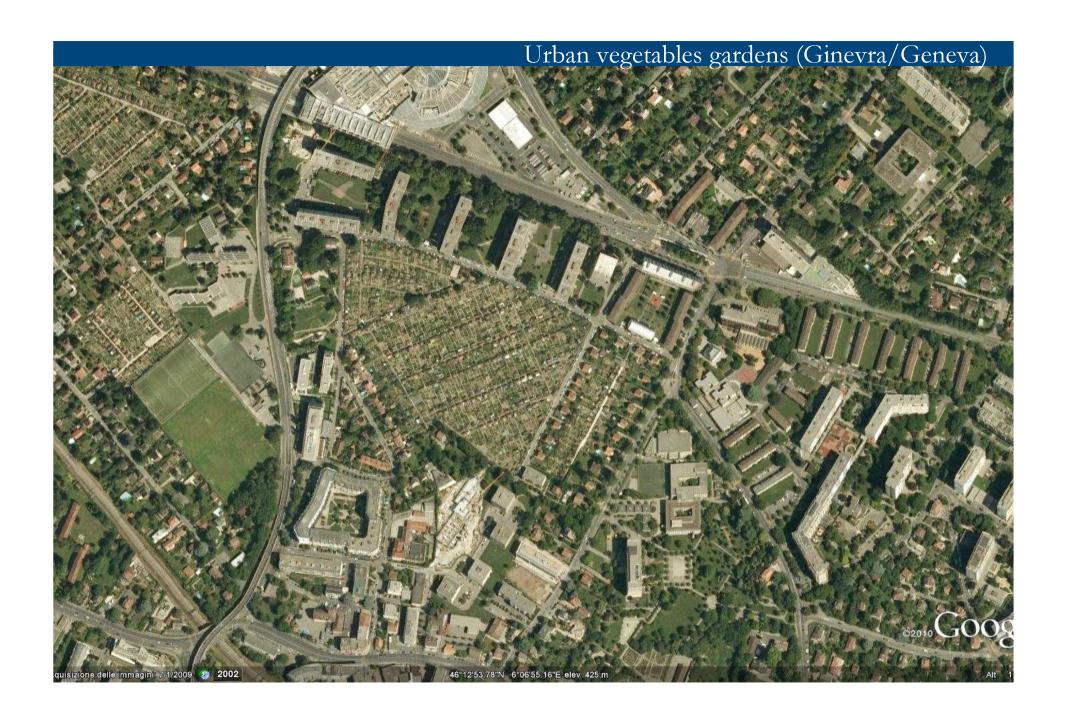








## **Open Spaces: Kitchen Gardens**





# **Open Spaces: Agricultural Fields**

















### Some conclusions (1):

- Together eyes and knowledge give us the possibility of identifying landscapes and patterns
- These sign the contemporary territory like milestones
- Little by little, through good practices and careful surveys, a repertory of project modes has been collected for these different patterns.

## Some conclusions (2):

Their general objectives are:

- > to preserve the landscapes of value conservation, renewal of building, design of open space
- > to regenerate the problematic landscapes improving the quality of infrastructures and open spaces; renewal of buildings news system and structure design)
- > to add functions to the specialized landscape in the modes of programming process

### **Lesson References**

#### **Italian References**

- > Gabellini P. (2011), *Echoes of the 'Berkeley School': an Italian experience of urban planning*, "Journal of Urban Design", 16.2
- > Gabellini P. (2011), "Devising a new program for habitability. Some ideas on the new urban question with regard to the Bauhaus legacy", in Colin L., Eckardt F., (eds), Bauhaus and the city, Könisgshausen and Neumann, Würzburg
- > Gabellini P. (2006), "Interpreting the breakdown of the urban model: three italian case studies", in P. La Greca, E. Zeynep Merey (eds.) Cities between integration and disintegration. Opportunities and challenges, ISOCARP, Sitges

#### **English References**

- > Gabellini P. (2010), *Fare urbanistica. Esperienze, comunicazione, memoria*, Carocci, Roma, chs. 1-2
- > Pasqui G. (2008), *Città, popolazioni, politiche*, Jaca Book, Milano



Thank you for your attention!