

VIEWPOINT

Urban Visions. Beyond the Ideal City Report from the Habitat III Village, Pop-up Public Space

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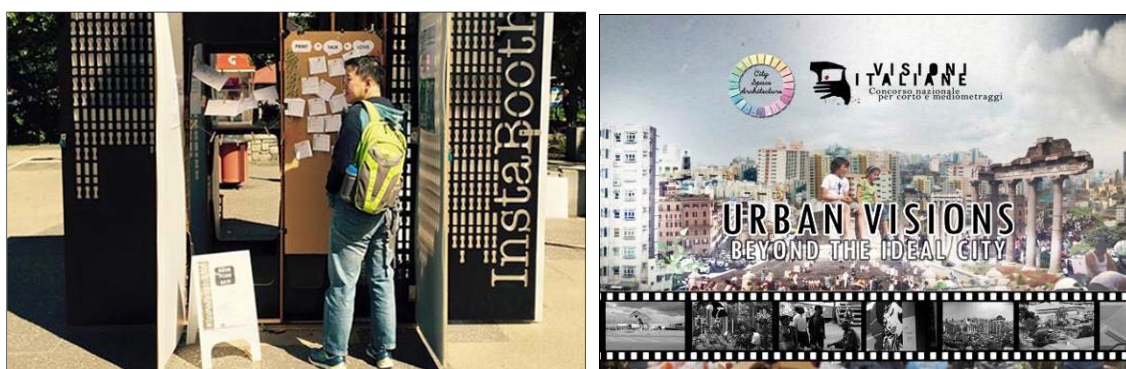


Fig. 1 (on the left). The InstaBooth for situated community engagement, installed in Brisbane, Australia.

Fig. 2 (on the right). The postcard distributed at the Habitat III conference related to the Italian cinematography competition 'Urban Visions. Beyond the Ideal City' promoted by City Space Architecture.

'Urban Visions. Beyond the Ideal City' was an event held at Habitat III, the United Nations conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, in Ecuador, included in a series of meetings and events at the Pop-up Public Space, Habitat III Village, in Parque El Ejido in Quito. On 26th October 2016, we presented two research projects aiming at community engagement on issues related to the future of the urban environment:

- the "InstaBooth", a telephone booth-inspired portable structure developed at the Urban Informatics Lab of the Queensland University of Technology - <http://www.urbaninformatics.net/projects/instabooth/> - which uses tangible and hybrid interaction such as multi-touch screens and media façades to facilitate face-to-face and digitally mediated discussions;
- the cinematography competition "Urban Visions. Beyond the Ideal City", promoted by City Space Architecture - <http://www.cityspacearchitecture.org/?p=urban-visions-beyond-the-ideal-city> - which is the first film competition in the Italian context involving film-makers at a professional level on topics related to cities and urbanity. The competition started in 2014 (Bravo, 2016) and currently performs as a unique platform able to foster interaction and exchange between different disciplines, such as architecture, sociological studies, urban design and film studies, while delivering spectators insights and meanings on daily urban life in cities. At the event we screened several short films from the competition and then involved the audience into a discussion on urgent issues related to urbanization, such as social inclusion,

multicultural coexistence and human diversity. The screening of the short films was able to stimulate questions and comments and to make comparisons between different contexts in terms of urban life and social practices.

The audience was mainly made of young film makers from “Escenas del buen vivir en Espacios Públicos”, an initiative directed by Andres Dunayevich and Nora Gómez from El Agora, a South American non-profit civil association. Because most of them could not understand English, we asked Andres to translate our presentations and comments into Spanish. Our projects were very well received and opened a fruitful discussion. It also paved the way for a collaboration with El Agora, currently underway.



Fig. 3/6. Some moments from the event in Parque El Ejido in Quito, at the Habitat III Village, Pop-up Public Space, on 20th October 2016.

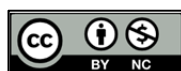
References

Bravo, L. (2016) 'Public life and urban humanities, beyond the ideal city', in Guaralda M., Clift E. and Mattes A. (eds.) *Filming the City. Urban documents, design practices and social criticism through the lens*, Intellect - The University of Chicago Press, pp. 205-221.

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