

Multimedia and Architectural Disciplines

The 13th European Conference on Education in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe



Anna Maria
Marinelli and
Laura Graziano

Department of
Progettazione e
Scienze
dell'Architettura
III University of
Rome - Rome,
Italy

Abstract

The structure of major European cities was formed in recent years more by stratification of different patterns, as it seems, than by urban planning. Moreover traditional analytical tools - such as cartography, which defines and symbolizes static data and their spatial connections - are not able to decode any more the image of cities. Modern city means not only static form, as public space is not a simple function: city includes movement, temporary objects, changing perceptions, fluxes. Therefore hypertexts could be a chance of building up and propagate a real knowledge about modern city: an effective action to reach qualification and management of urban spaces through citizens direct involvement in the city construction.

A hypertext on the Rome quarter "Esquilino" has been carried out as an open structure, to probe the new representation method through the construction of the real "image" of the quarter, gathering different information as historical, geographic and socio-economical data; urban projects, citizens proposals.

The significance of the city

The structure of major European cities was formed in recent years more by stratification of different patterns, as it seems, than by urban planning. Main events - Olympic games, World Championships, International Exhibitions - determined the urban form, as need of new buildings and infrastructures probably curtailed the plan approval stages. The result of this "occasional" urban design is generally a fragmentary city form, which more looks like a metropolis non-form. Symbolic descriptions and recollections of city form are fundamental to subjective comprehensions of the different meaning of the city, which is not only the uninterrupted addition of different layers. Opinions on cities planned by traditional tools are controversial; a lot of people think about it driven emotionally by the last architectural results.

A new relationship between citizens and urban actuality

Access to urban information by citizens is, on the other hand, a turning point for developing a democratic society. Many local administrations are reaching their citizens through informatic highways: the main task is to inform people about municipal services (where and how to get certificates, offices opening hours etc.). Such network includes sometime turistic informations on the city, which are not "cultural" data. Hypertexts could be a chance of building up and propagate a real knowledge about modern city: an effective action to reach qualification and management of urban space through citizens direct involvement in the city construction.

"Participation", as a new tool to improve the contents of city control regulations, can't be realized without the knowledge. The citizen learn and produce a new representation of the urban form through the recollection of different elements of the city in a subjective way. Elements generate a unique and dynamic representation of urban form.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

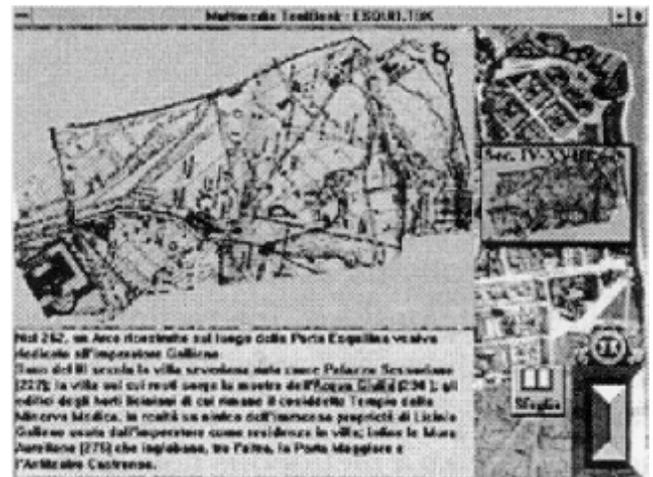


Fig. 4

The urban analysis tools

Traditional analytical tools - such as cartography, which defines and symbolizes static data and their spatial connections - are not able to decode any more the image of cities. Modern city means not only static form, as public space is not a simple function includes movement, temporary objects, changing perceptions, fluxes. The hypermedia affords the creation of different look of the city form. The city is not anymore an abstracted notion but a substantial an subjective path covered by the user. he choices of recollections, images, architectural.

The hypermedia schemes

Bibliographical documentation, main elements collected trough historical cartographies and urban city plan, images, photos, literary mentions, movies sequences were gathered together in order to articulate the four section of the Hypermedia:



Fig. 5

- the *"historical landmark"* evidences of the formal stratification of the area and thus symbols of the urban image. The monuments has split up according to the historical meaningful periods and they are illustrated either by general or by specific information.(fig. 1)
- the *"ambient system"* which illustrate the real and virtual ambient system and not only the schematic plan of the quarter green areas . Therefore public parks, verdant roads, inaccessible green areas, everything we need to look at according to the sustainable city principles.(fig,3)
- the *"History"* illustrated by all the tools and media which since time have been showing the cities. (historical cartography, urban city plan, images, photos, literary mentions, movies sequences). (fig.4)
- the *"Plans and Ideas"* a sequence of urban plans and proposals: the city government works in progress, the technicians and non official proposal, the citizens request. (fig.2)

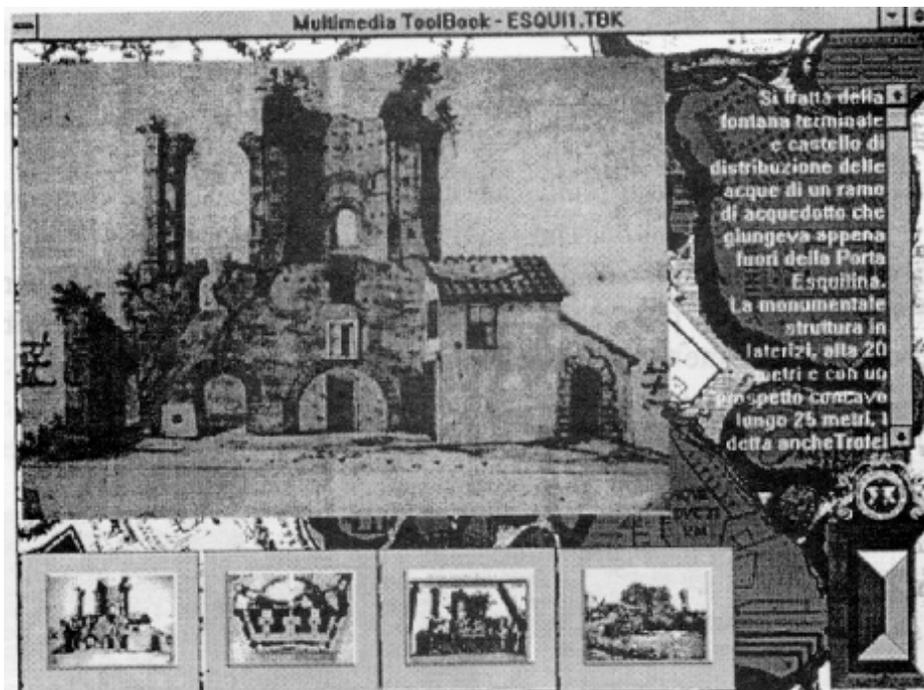


Fig. 6

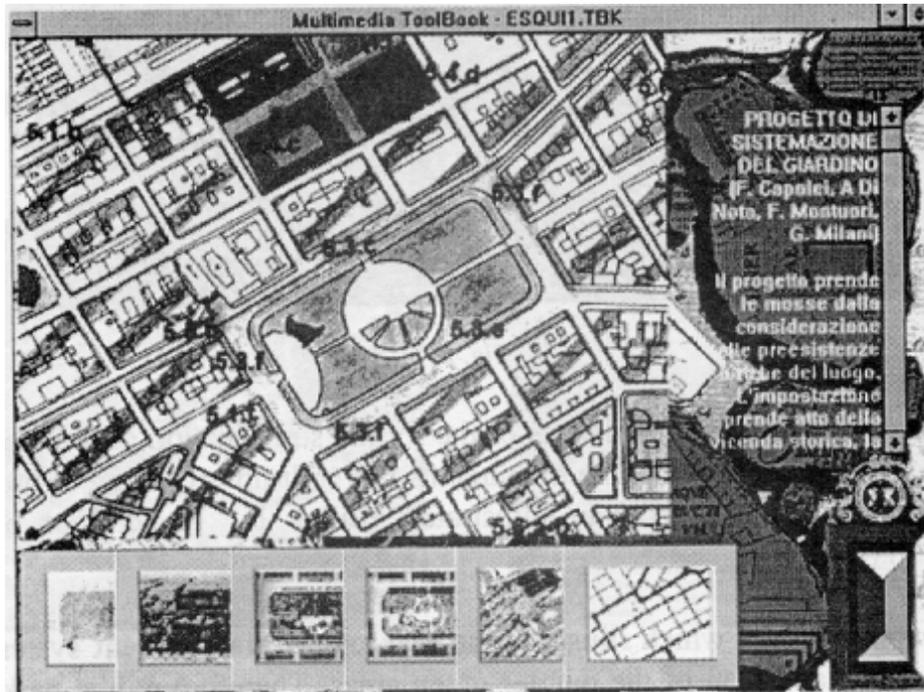


Fig. 7

It's possible to navigate across these four sections regarding the different aspects of any physical element of the quarter or navigate up and down looking for further specific information of each argument. (fig.5-6-7-10)
 The navigation instruments are all included in a drawing representing "porta Magica" a symbolic monument of the quarter. (fig.8)

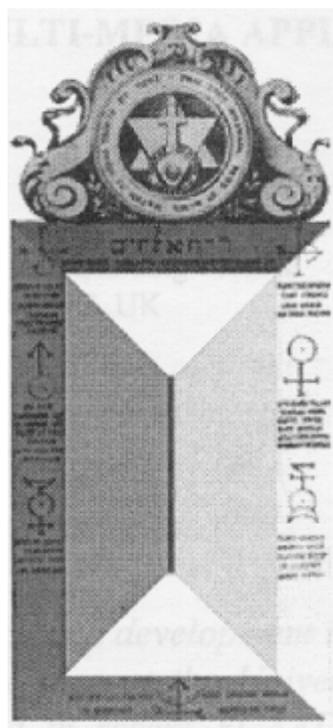


Fig. 8

Every element of this hypermedia has been drawn as metaphor of its function, thus the fragmented sequences of images drive emotionally the user across his quarter knowledge.

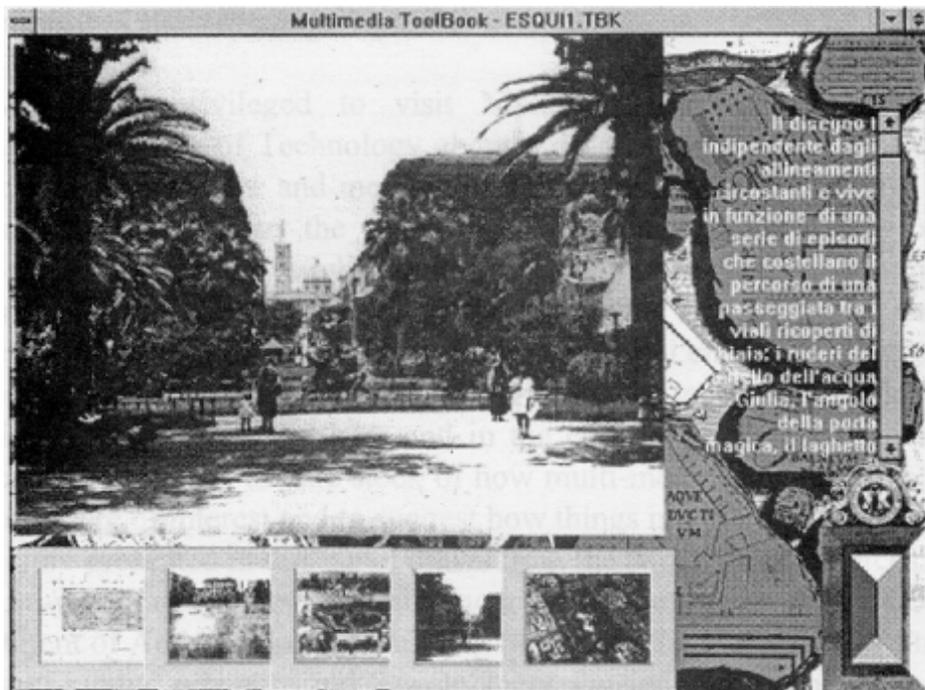


Fig. 10