



Written by Teresa Stoppani
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PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

Tue 4 March 2009

Isotta Cortesi
FROM PERIPHERAL VOID TO
PUBLIC SPACE IN MOTION

There is a new common and shared interest in Public Space within the actual transformation of the European and North American city. In cities, Public Space was neglected for decades, as there were "more urgent issues to discuss". Furthermore, the Modernist conception of Public Space relevantly influenced the architects' imagination and practice, and consequently the image of the city. The lecture will start by investigating three key built projects designed and built in Italy after 1970, as residential compounds located in the peripheral void of the growing city: Milan, Rome and Palermo. The aim is to focus, through built examples, on the character of the contemporary Public Space within the urban condition, in order to understand the means of communication and success. This is instrumental to the understanding of the contemporary Public Spaces, where issues of Time, Change and Movement become the new subjects of design process.



Speaker: Isotta Cortesi is Professor in Architectural Composition (Design Studio) at the Faculty of Architecture in Siracusa, Italy, as well as at the Faculty of Landscape Architecture in Genoa, where she teaches Contemporary Park and Garden Design Studio. In recent years her research has mainly focused on Public Space. She holds a Master in Architecture from the University of Virginia, USA and a PhD in Architectural Design and Urban Planning from the University of Florence. She was a Fulbright Fellow at the American Academy in Rome in 1998. She is the author of two books, *Il parco pubblico. Paesaggi 1985-2000* (2000) published in Italy and France, and *Il progetto del vuoto. Public Space in Motion* (2004). She is an editor for the international architecture magazine *Area*. She runs her own practice of urban and landscape design.

University of Greenwich School of Architecture & Construction
Norbert Singer Lecture Theatre (M055)
Mansion Site, Avery Hill Campus
Bexley Road, Eltham, London SE9 2PQ
Tuesdays 17.30

Directions to Avery Hill Campus

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Close Window