

The Socrates/Erasmus Intensive Programme in Florence

Lecturing and Training on Eco-sustainable Urban Design

Dr Dimitra Babalis

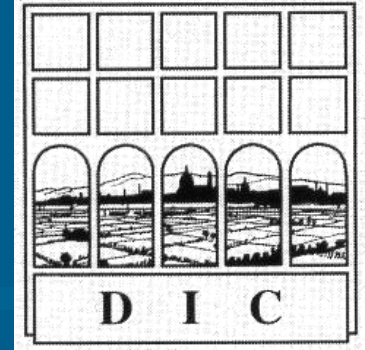
Civil Engineering Department - University of Florence

International Seminar

Innovative practices in environmental and urban design teaching and learning
Milan, November 22nd 2005



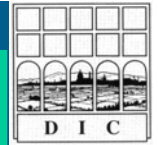
The University Context



Università degli Studi di Firenze

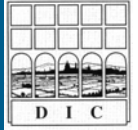
Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile

- The Socrates Intensive Programme in Florence is considered one of the **crucial measures of internationalization** since the very beginning of the institutional approach to ERASMUS activities.
- The involvement of a number of partner universities in Intensive Programmes, took place in Florence and coordinated at the **Faculty of Engineering since 1996**, has foremost contributed to the exchange educational activities, according to the new developments in the **European Higher Education area**.



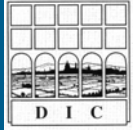
The Intensive Programmes

- The IPs play an important role in developing innovative teaching, training and research activities, offering the needed international dimension as well stressed in the Declaration of European Strategy (EPS).



The IPs on Eco-sustainable Urban Design

- **The beginnings**
- The Intensive Programmes co-ordinated by Dimitra Babalis on ***Bioclimatic Design&Urban Regeneration for Sustainable development***, took place in Florence on:
 - June 2000 at the Department of Engineering;
 - June 2002 at the Department of Engineering and
 - June 2003 at the Department of Engineering
- tried to explore deeper the conceptions on sustainable and responsive design process to urban regeneration and development.



The IPs on Eco-sustainable Urban Design

- **The Current**
- The IP on ***Ecopolis: Sustainable Planning and Design Principles***, held on February 2005,

puts an introductory basis on **ecological ways of planning and design** and points out the attention to be paid on the constantly evolving task of ecological view of towns and cities, providing valid principles and interdisciplinary concepts on this complex subject.

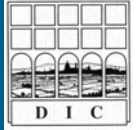
- **.....Next**
- **Will be held on June 2006**
- And will deal with ***enhancing sustainability and urban design***



The IP Project

.....Aims and Objectives

- The main aim of the Intensive Programme on eco-sustainable urban design is:
 - to reach a new **ecological design culture**;
 - to **introduce students to the subject and its complexity**.
- The IP essentially argues that **good sensitive design at the various scales** can help contemporary cities to improve their built and unbuilt environment and can help to **create suitable places** to live, work and enjoy;
- The IP is focused essentially on **revealing new urban patterns** of aesthetical, spatial/ landscape/environmental and social aspects.



The IP Project

.....The Main Topics

- To address aspects on a **wider ecological conception** with particular regard to better exploring the interactions between urban and architectural design and its effect on main environmental issues:
urban form and urban structure as orientation of blocks, use of space, streetscape, landscape and energy efficiency.
- To deal with issues concerning the **urban transformation in European cities** and the regeneration of inner and outer urban areas with particular attention to the sustainable and eco-friendly mixed use development.
- To cover design of urban renewal and refurbishments and restructuring of existing sites and buildings.



The IP Structure: Theory and Practice

- The IP is organized in **two work sessions**:
 - The first session is based on **theoretical education** focusing on lecturing according to the preset topics and inherent to the eco-sustainability.
 - ~~~~ The **seminary activities** are based on the analysis of specific study cases and project experiences in urban and suburban areas.
- The second session is based on practical within a **workshop design exercise** in which the students are able to exchange their personal experiences and to better define specific aspects of design.



The IP Structure: Design Approach and interdisciplinary

- The design exercise has to cover the various fields of interest on **eco-sustainable urban design discipline** as well as to give the opportunity to both students and teachers to deal with new rising topics and principles in a comparative way.
- The Intensive Programme's Workshop is clearly dedicated to a good concept of **urban framework and masterplanning** as well as to the creation of a **development plan** with buildings details based on ecological criteria for urban development or regeneration;
- The aspects regarding **interdisciplinary** are considered in detail;
- Conclusive considerations and the composition of an **agenda based on design guidelines and guidance** of the final results might allow express further opinions on the subject.



The IP Structure: Evaluation

- The students, by the end of the **design workshop**, have to present properly their projects as graphics, sketches and drawings in order to be evaluated by the professors;
- It is essential to evaluate by **presentations and discussions** in order to monitor and adjust working practices during a design project
- Every student can gain **3 ECTS Credits** that can be used suitable in the proper university.



The IP Structure: Results

- This Innovative urban design teaching and workshop supports new skills and curricular priorities as following:
- **Achievement** at both levels theoretical and practice through lecturing, debate, instructions and descriptions, questioning, and designing;
- **Framework for learning** by developing innovative skills;
- **Research and investigation** in determining innovative issues;
- **Inclusion and variety of teaching methods** by encouraged and facing complexity and special educational culture at the various disciplines;



The IP Structure: Results

- **Interdisciplinary efforts** by working in mixed disciplines;
- **Cross-cultural atmosphere** addressing design and theoretical approach by working in mixed groups from different European Universities;
- **Equity among male and female students** giving them the same opportunities to perform beyond their ability.



IP: Lecturing

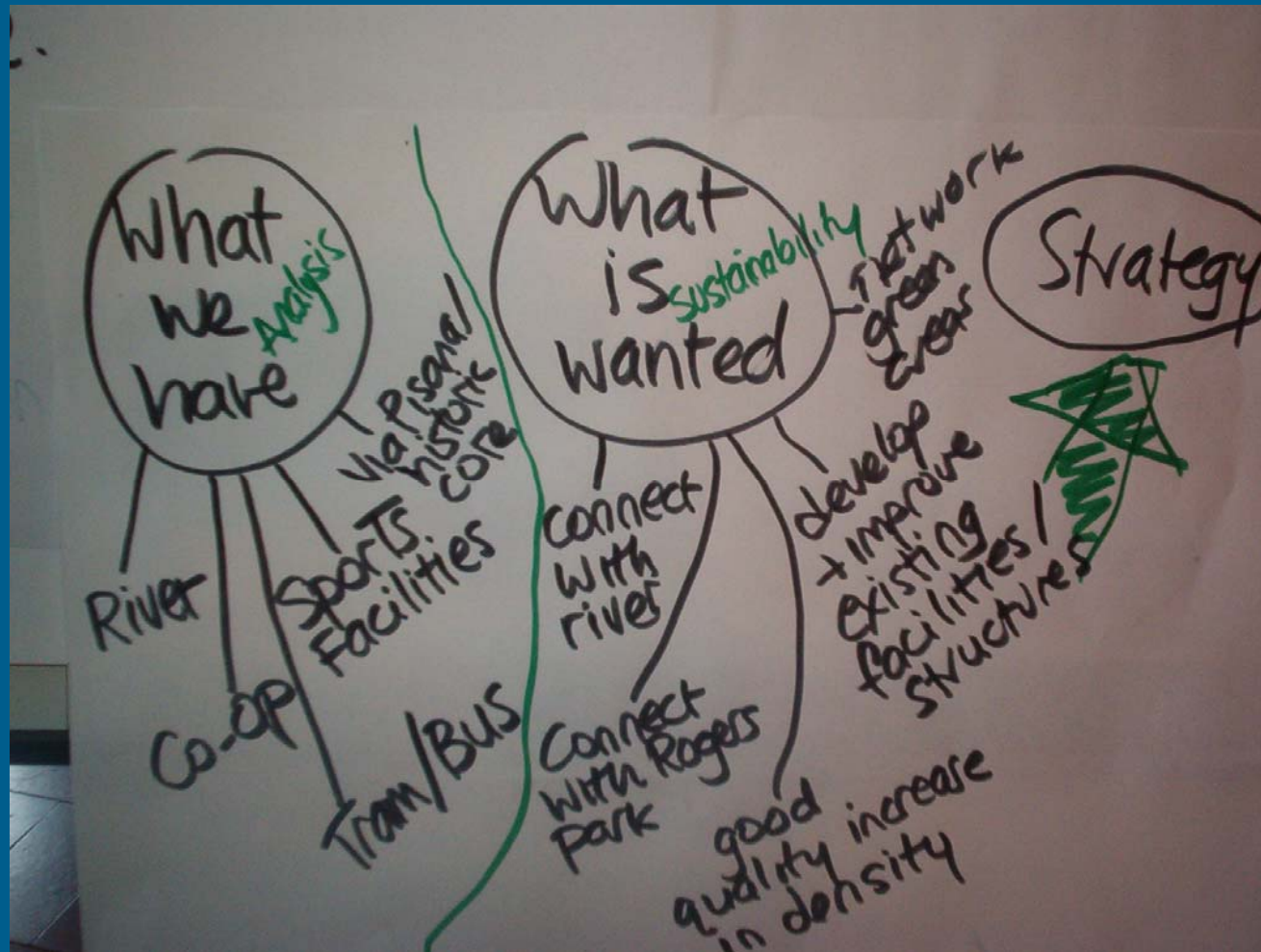


IP: Training



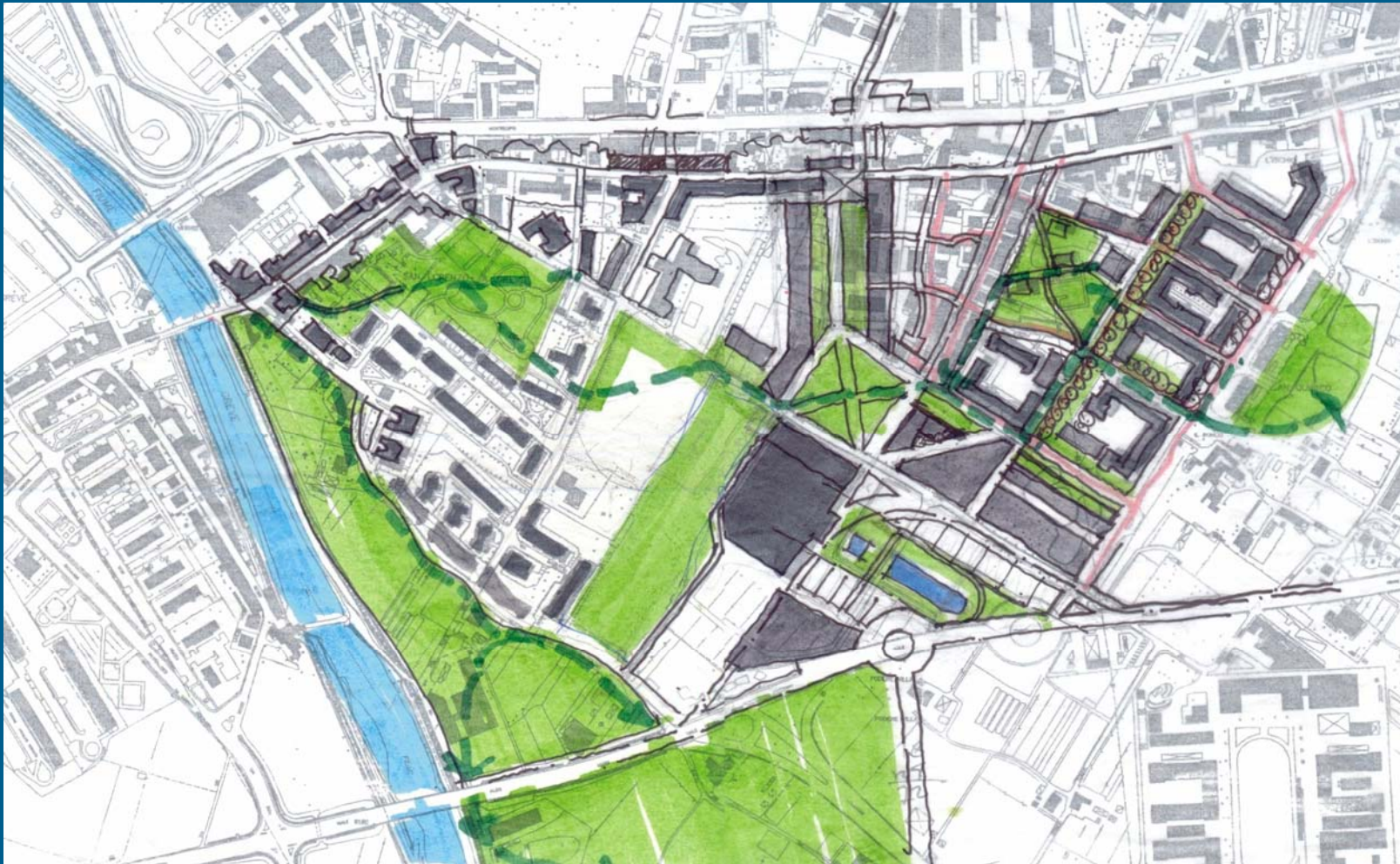
IS-Innovative practices in environmental and urban c

IP: Inquiring and Sketching...





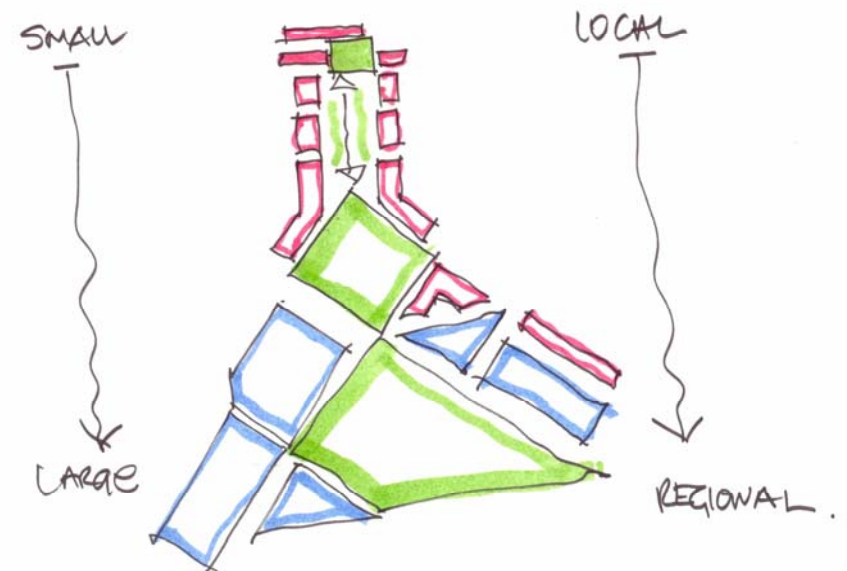
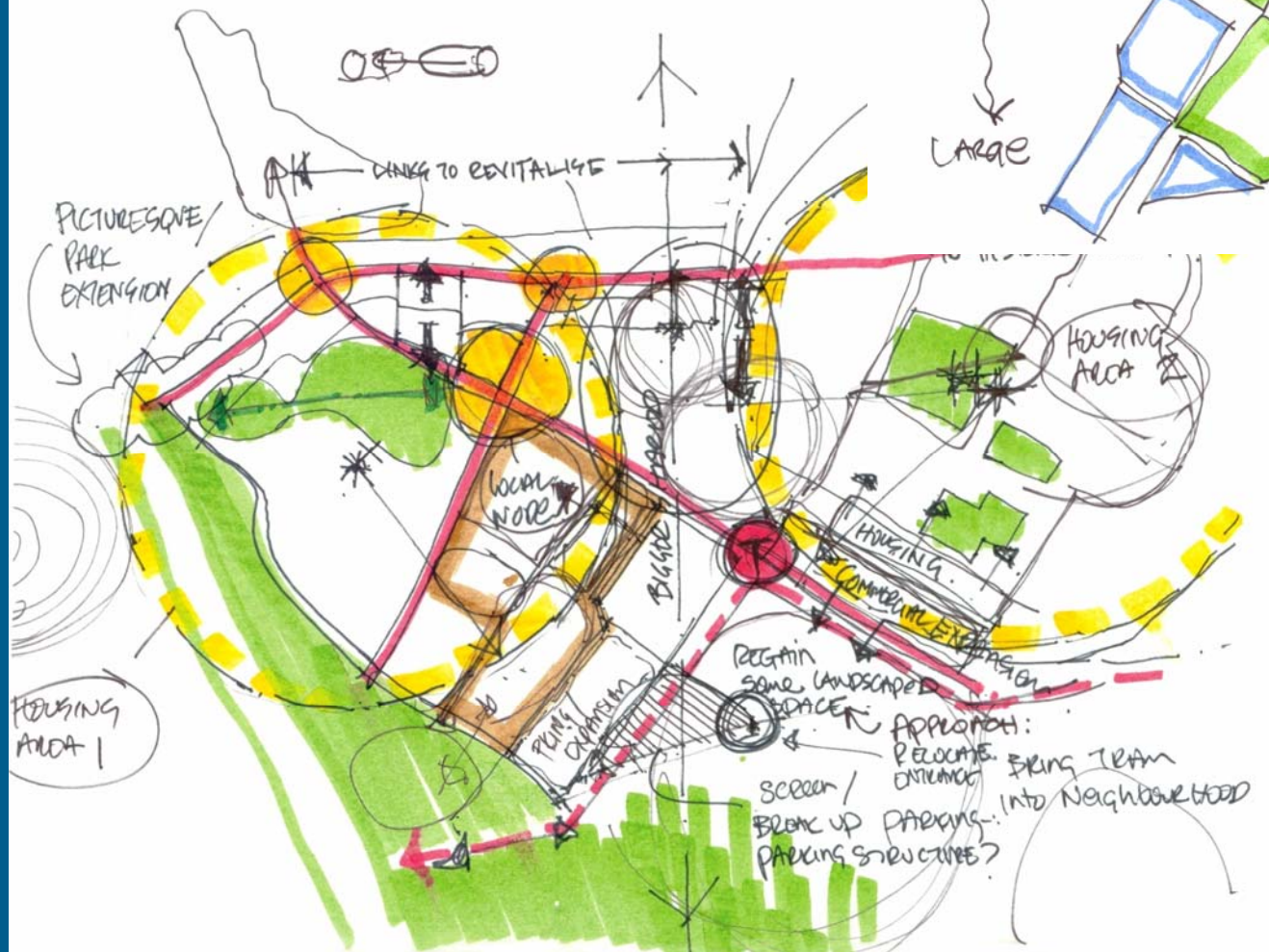
IP: Designing and thinking....

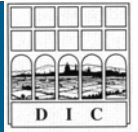


IS-Innovative practices in environmental and urban design teaching and learning Milan, November 22nd 2005



IP: Inquiring and



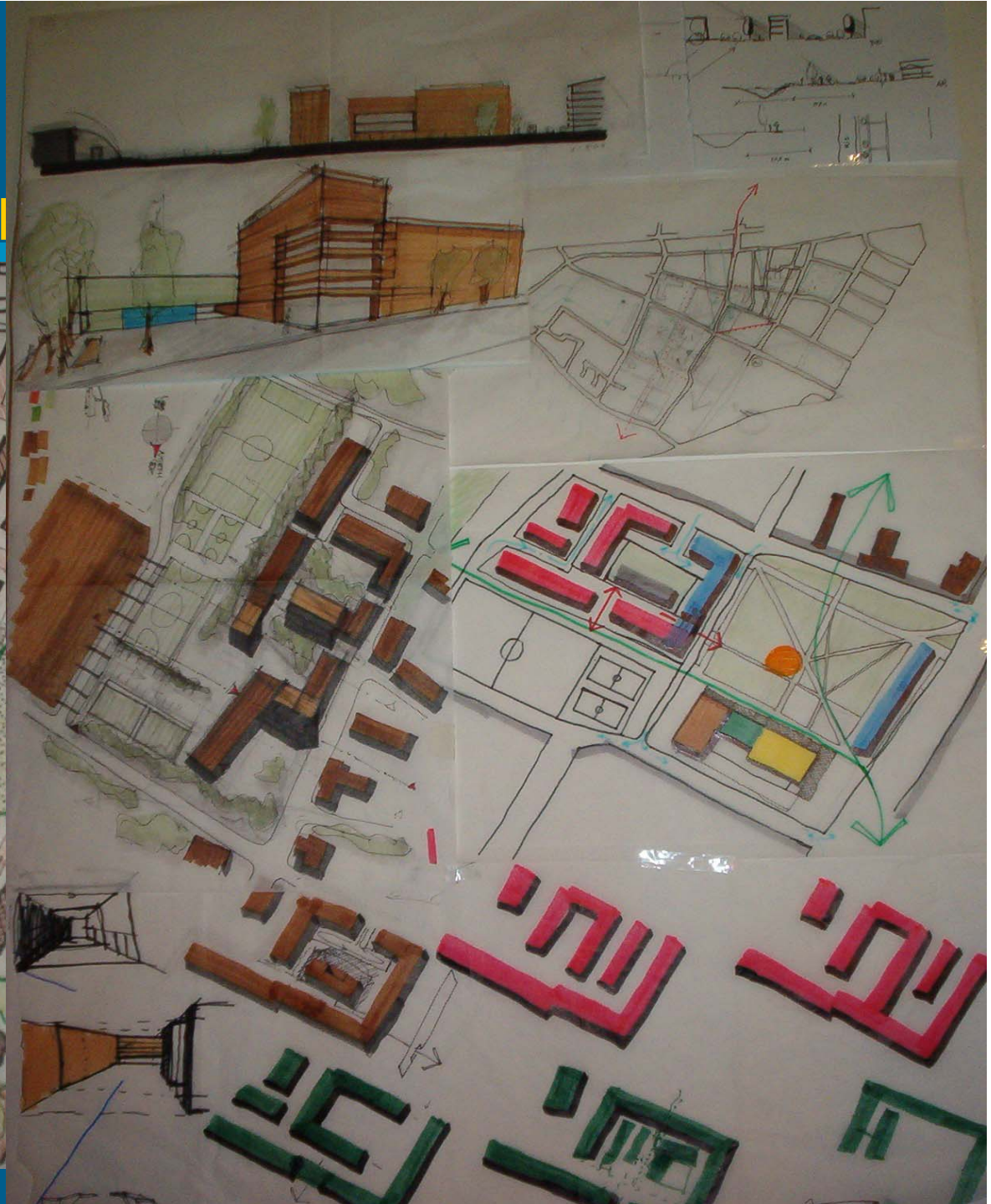


IP: Designing and thinking....



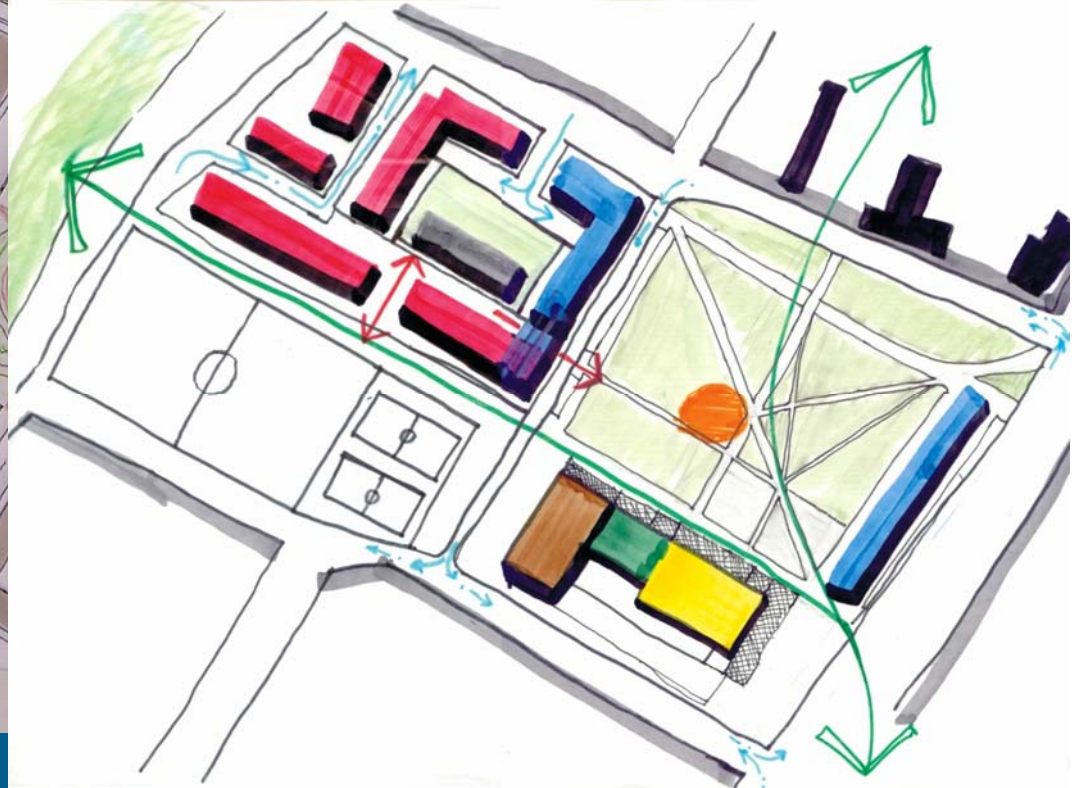
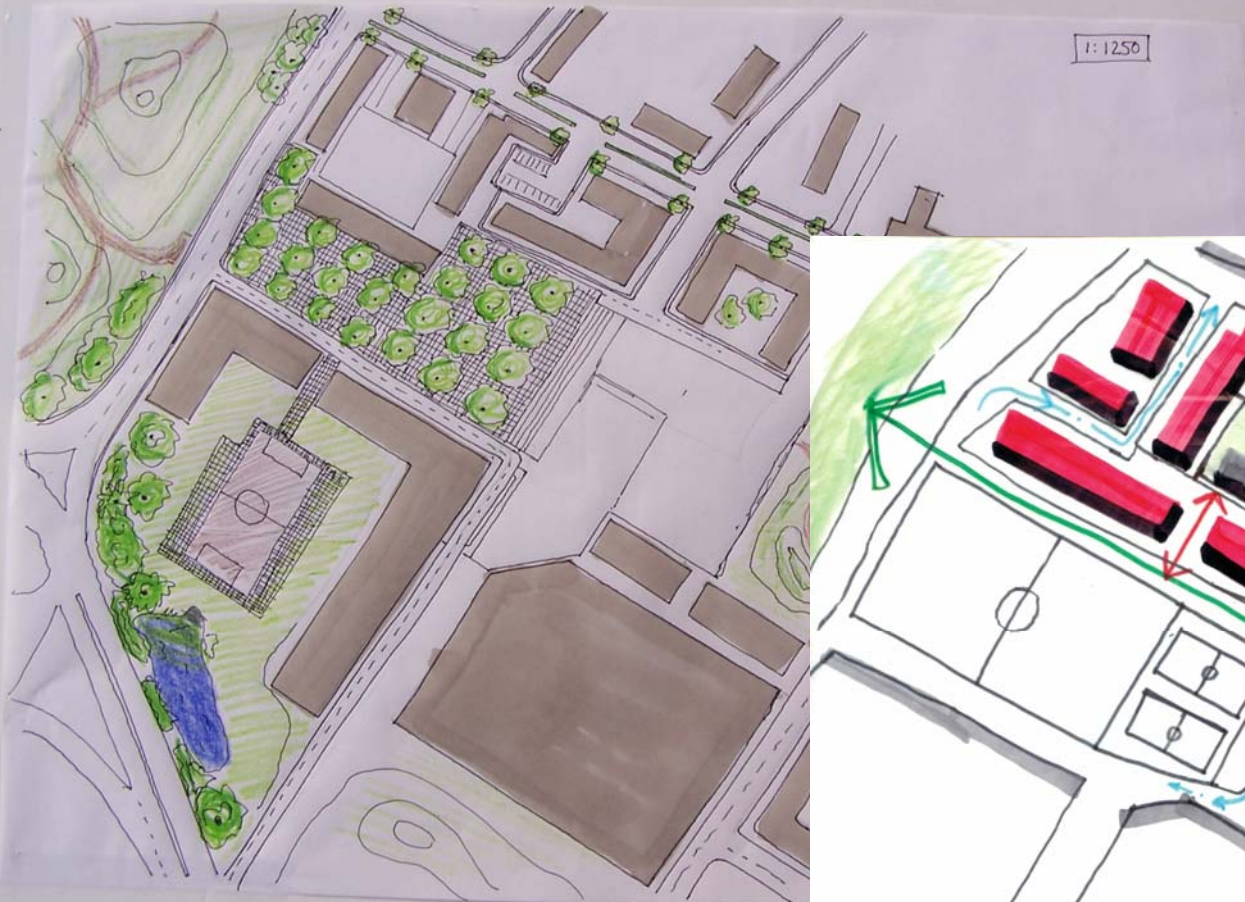


IP: Designing



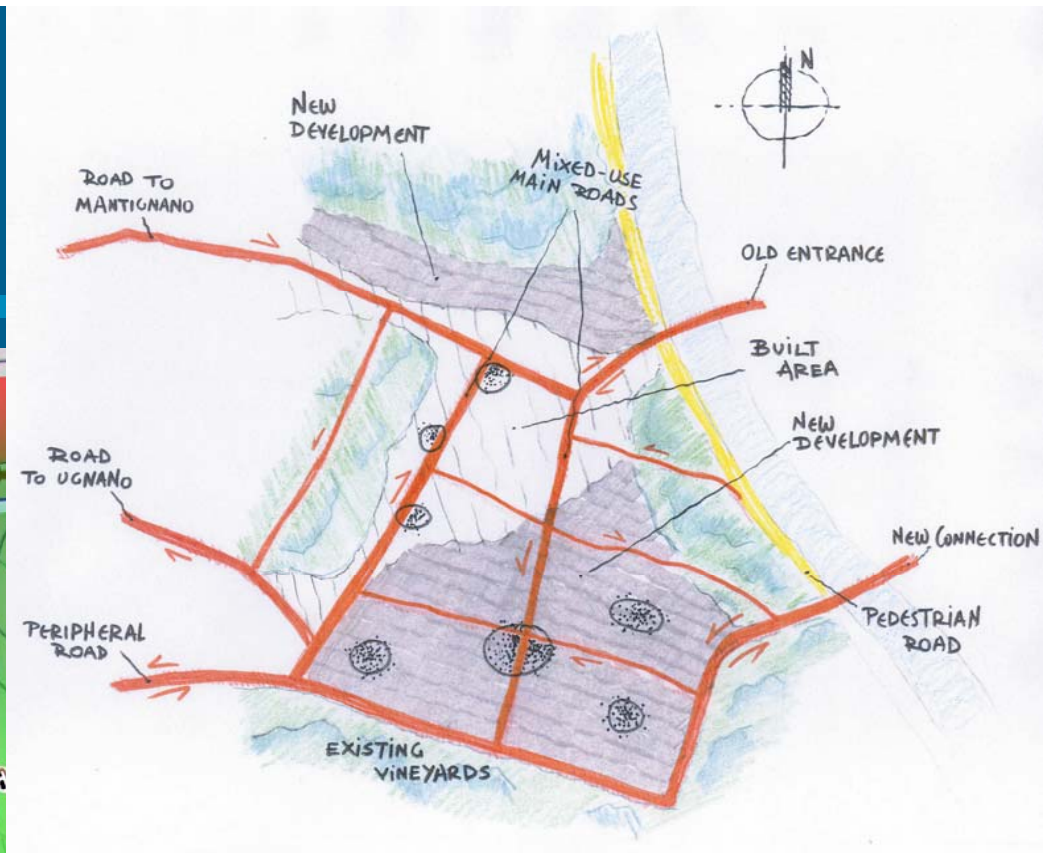
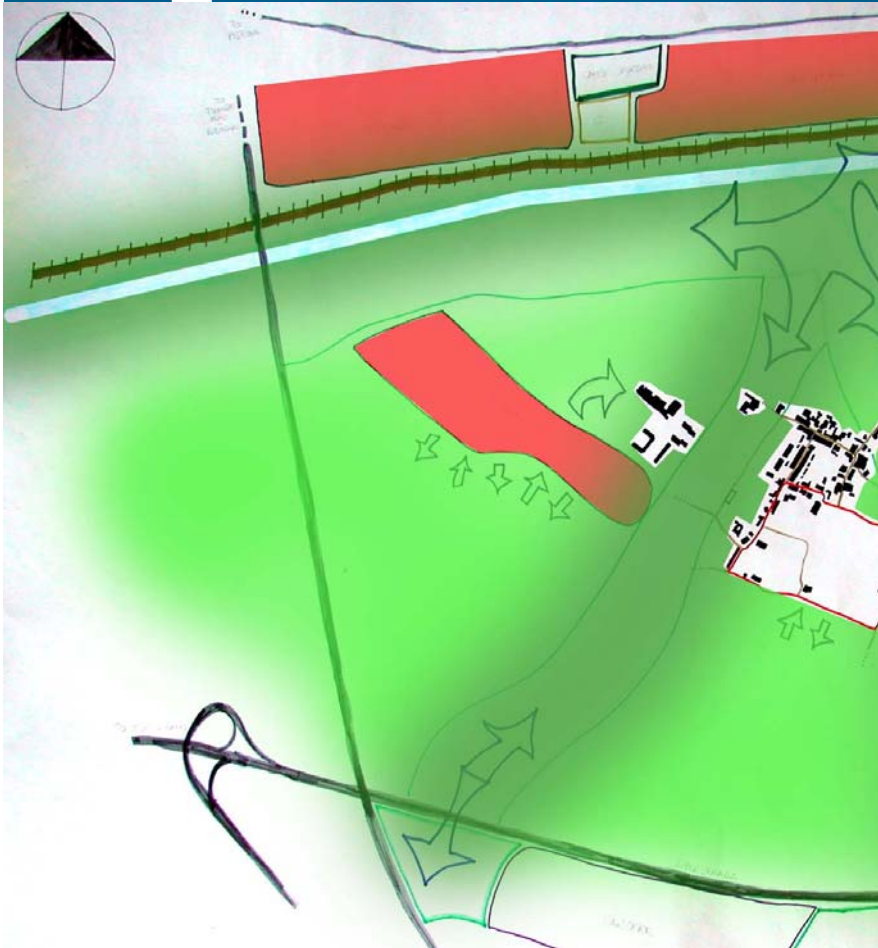


IP: Designing and thinking....

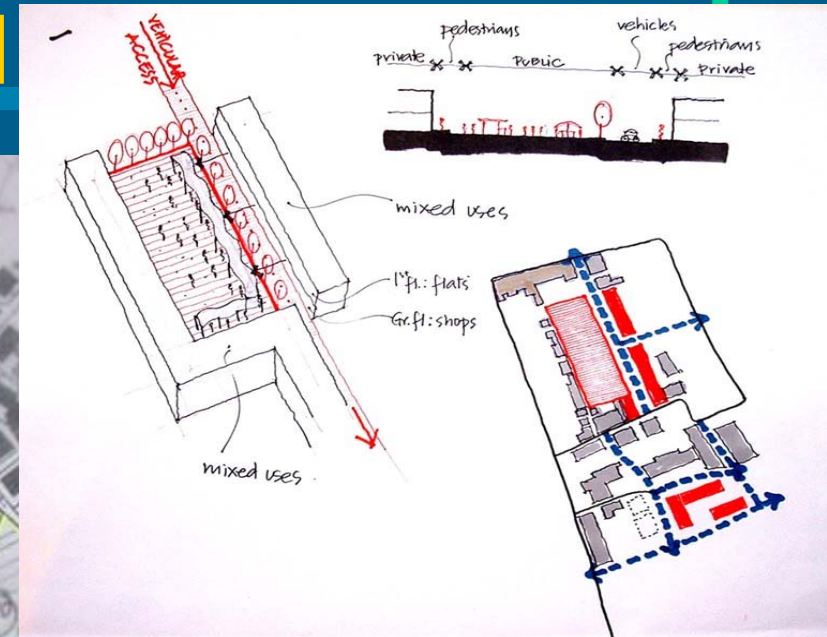




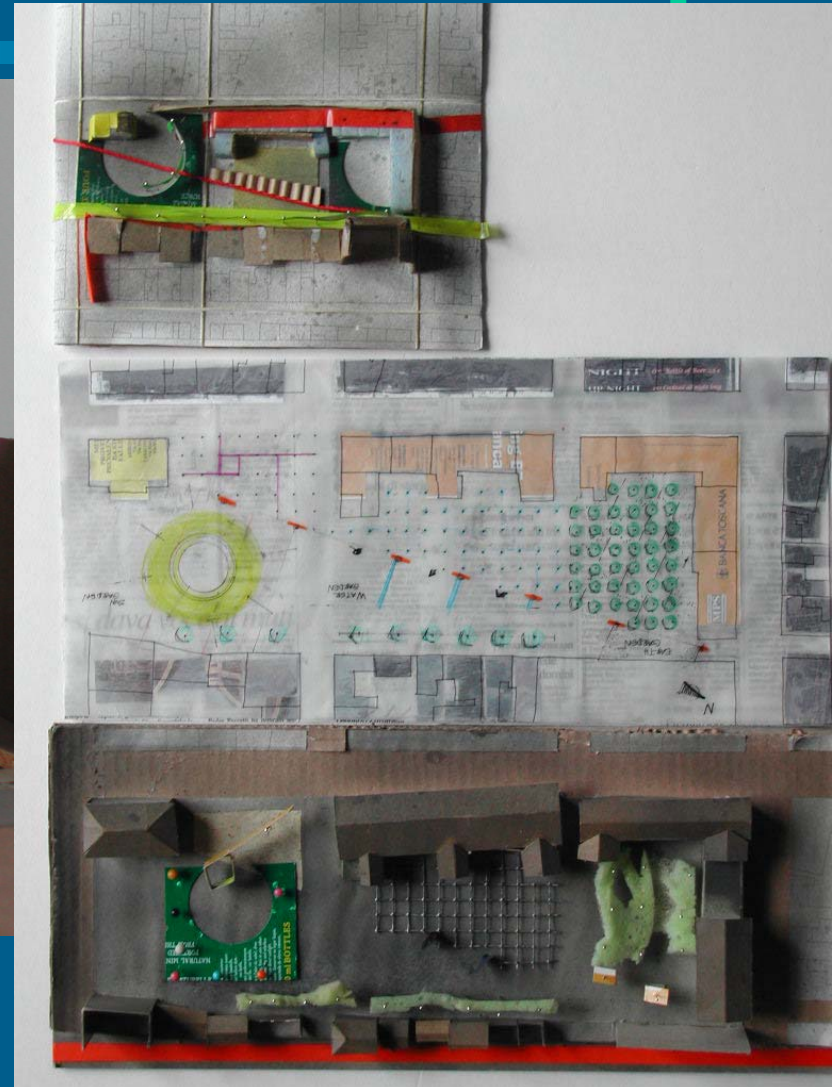
IP: Designing



IP: Designing and



....and Modelling





....and Modelling with technology



IS-Innovative practices in environmental and urban de



....and how to create relevant teaching and learning experiences!



IS-Innovative practices in environmental and urban design teaching and learning Milan, November 22nd 2005