

## Comunicato stampa

### **Urban Regeneration: The Challenge launched by the National Council of Architects PLC for sustainable proximity**

### **A Manifesto of Italian Architects Presented in a ten-point charter**

### **The “Italy in Proximity: the future of urban and territorial planning” publication illustrated at the Chamber of Deputies**

Rome, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 – A real challenge aimed at envisioning urban regeneration in our cities, imagining new ways of living, moving and working, grounded in innovative paradigms of territorial governance and centred on the principle of sustainable proximity, that is at the heart of the proposals presented by the National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists (CNAPPC). Internationally, the concepts of polycentric proximity in cities have become central to discussions on how to combine ecological, economic, and social challenges with quality of life—an objective that cannot be separated from the quality of architecture.

These proposals are set out in the *“Italy in Proximity: the future of urban and territorial planning,”* publication by the Scientific Committee of the CNAPPC under the scientific direction of Professor Carlos Moreno, creator of the *“15-Minute City”* model. The publication was presented today at the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

The ten points that form the core of the charter contained in the publication are:

“Building a proximity-based approach”; “Extending to the “30-Minute Territory””; “Enhancing public transport and mobility networks”; “Promoting green and public spaces”; “Supporting local economies and cultural heritage”; “Promoting inclusive architecture and urban planning”; “Leveraging technology for smart and connected territories”; “Building climate-resilient communities”; “Fostering well-being, social cohesion, and equity”; “Innovating governance and policy frameworks”.

“Urban proximity, in its essence, promotes environmental sustainability while reducing the need for long-distance travel and dependence on fossil fuels. It encourages social cohesion and creates vibrant, interconnected neighbourhoods. It responds to outdated urban models defined by sprawl and car dependence, offering a city vision centred on people rather than on cars. Besides the time, the key lies in adopting a polycentric approach to proximity—both urban and territorial—with services that enhance quality of life”, emphasized Carlos Moreno.

Massimo Crusi, President of the CNAPPC, stated: “Our cities and territories must be fundamentally rethought, without delay. We must critically reassess obsolete expansionist concepts born of urban planning laws dating back to the first half of the last century, which, unfortunately, are still in force. It is anachronistic to rely on legislation belonging to a “different Italy” and to a “different world”. The CNAPPC’s proposals are a call to political leaders to implement a comprehensive reform of urban planning and to overcome the approach to regeneration that, until now, has been limited to considering it as simple, albeit important, isolated actions, such as those aimed at facing land consumption, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and reusing brownfield sites.”

Giuseppe Cappochin, Head of the CNAPPC Department for Urban Reform and Future of the City, emphasized that the question about how we will live in the future, and the shape and nature of our territories lies at the heart of any serious reflection on the evolution of our society and collective

life. “The recent health emergency revived the debate on the role of public investment in guiding urban transformation and gave unexpected momentum to the concept of *urban proximity*. The difficult days of the pandemic exposed the fragile social, economic, and spatial structure of our cities and territories and highlighted the urgent need to rethink, in innovative terms, the citizens’ well-being indicators in relation to the urban environment.”

The presentation of “*Italy of Proximity: the future of urban and territorial planning*”, featured institutional greetings from Hon. Sergio Costa, Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies, and Teresa Taboas, Vice President of the International Union of Architects (UIA), along with contributions from academics and experts from the international scientific committee. Italian Senators Maurizio Gasparri, Ettore Sigismondi, and some members of the Parliament Roberto Morassut, Roberto Traversi, and Gianpiero Zinzi engaged in a dialogue with Carlos Moreno.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>th</sup>, the CNAPPC will also host the **UIA Region 1 Assembly**, which brings together countries from Western Europe, to further underline how the Architects PLC’s proposals are strongly aligned with the international agenda in which the UIA is one of the most authoritative voices.