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Module Urban Landscape Design

Urban Landscape Design

what is landscape?

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The meaning of “Landscape” in Italy

“The Beautiful Landscape”

Landschaft
(German)

Landschap
(Dutch)

Landscape
(English)

Paysage
(French)

Paisaje
(Spanish)

Paesaggio
(Italian)



Painting of Benozzo Gozzoli, Firenze, 1460

Landscape is a “popular term”, which varies from country to country **in relation to the different cultural backgrounds**

Landshut - Landschaft - landscape

it is originated in the naturalistic mitteleuropean tradition, tied to the **natural sciences, geography, ecology**

Paysage - paisaje – paesaggio

it comes from the Latin culture (from **PAESE - country = settled territory**), linked to the history of the gardens, it refers to **an approach based on cultural and aesthetic canon and visual perception**, to which contributes the pictorial trends and the influence of late Romanesque between '600 and '800 (Goethe)

In ITALY the etymological root of the term emphasizes the concept of **landscape as a built place**

Paesaggio (*landscape*) as panorama, beautiful scenery, aesthetic value



Francis-Xavier Fabre, Joseph Allen Smith seated above the Arno, contemplating Florence 1797

In **Italy** first laws on landscape are at the beginning of XX century and they deal with the **landscape conservation**. They are linked to an idea of landscape as beautiful scenery

The Italian first law on landscape (**1909**) regards just the historical, archaeological and artistic “goods”

The **law of 1922** extends conservation to natural and panoramic areas

The law of 1939 is on the protection of the landscape

Codice dei beni culturali e del Paesaggio (**2004**, modified 2008)

European Landscape Convention, Florence **2000**

Nowadays in academic world the **meaning of landscape as shown by the European Convention** is widespread and accepted, but in laws this behavior remains: **paying more attention to singular goods than to the ALL landscape.**



A. Lorenzetti, *Effetti del Buon Governo*, 1337-1340 Palazzo Pubblico di Siena

«Paesaggio»

The Italian term for «landscape» (similar to French and Spanish) recalls a **cultural approach** based on an **aesthetic perception**.

That's why **in Italy the studies on landscape are strongly related to the garden history**. This approach surely influences the design.

Garden history could be an heavy tradition for the contemporary design but also it could be a **source of inspiration**.

Think to the **Renaissance gardens**: formal structure based on SIMPLICITY, GEOMETRIC LAYOUT (symmetry, visual perspective...), EVERGREEN PLANTS, BUILT ELEMENTS (terraces, stairs, walls, pergolas...), WATER (fountains, canals, water games...)

some architects have re-invented these devices in their works

Pietro Porcinai (1910-1986)

was able to complement Renaissance buildings with ground patterns based on historical precedent, but wholly *contemporary* in style

His contemporary garden design has his root in Tuscan landscape and Italian art history.



Villa il Roseto, Firenze (1965): a modern parterre on a roof

{ naturalistic and ecologic studies
{ aesthetic perception

Since the Seventies the **two schools of thought (ecological - perceptive)** found more convergences and various definitions have tried to give a holistic understanding of the **landscape as a system** and as a physical entity-geomorphological and visual aesthetic that includes abiotic and biotic factors, the historical, **cultural and natural**, as unitary expression of meaning and significance.

Nature and culture produce balances and conflicts, alliances and oppositions, materials and destruction, signs and cancellations, in space and time.

The nature and culture form the landscape as consolidated and fragile, unplayable **text that reproduce the history of the world.**

the **landscape as a living system in continuous evolution**, that at different scales, has:

- a physical form and spatial organization specific(**structure**)
- an internal dynamic due to the movement and flow of energy through water, wind, plants and animals.....(**functions**)
- It is subject to changes over time due to the dynamics and changes in the structure.....(**change**)

The landscape can be studied through three components:

1 eco-environmental and natural

2 historical settlements and architectural

3 visual-perceptual and appearance sensitive.



The European Landscape Convention (2000) defines the landscape:

"A certain part of the territory, as perceived by people, whose character derives from the natural and/or humans and their interrelations ..."
(Art 1)

With the Convention there is the recognition of the landscape as a **fundamental value of European cultural identity**.

The importance of the document lies in having developed a **shared definition of landscape**, above the national specificities and the different disciplinary interpretations.

The concept of landscape includes both a **subjective component** (human perception) and an **objective component** (the territory), by **giving the people a "landscape awareness"**

The **landscape as a whole** plays a **cultural interest**
It is always a **product of Nature-Culture**

European Landscape Convention

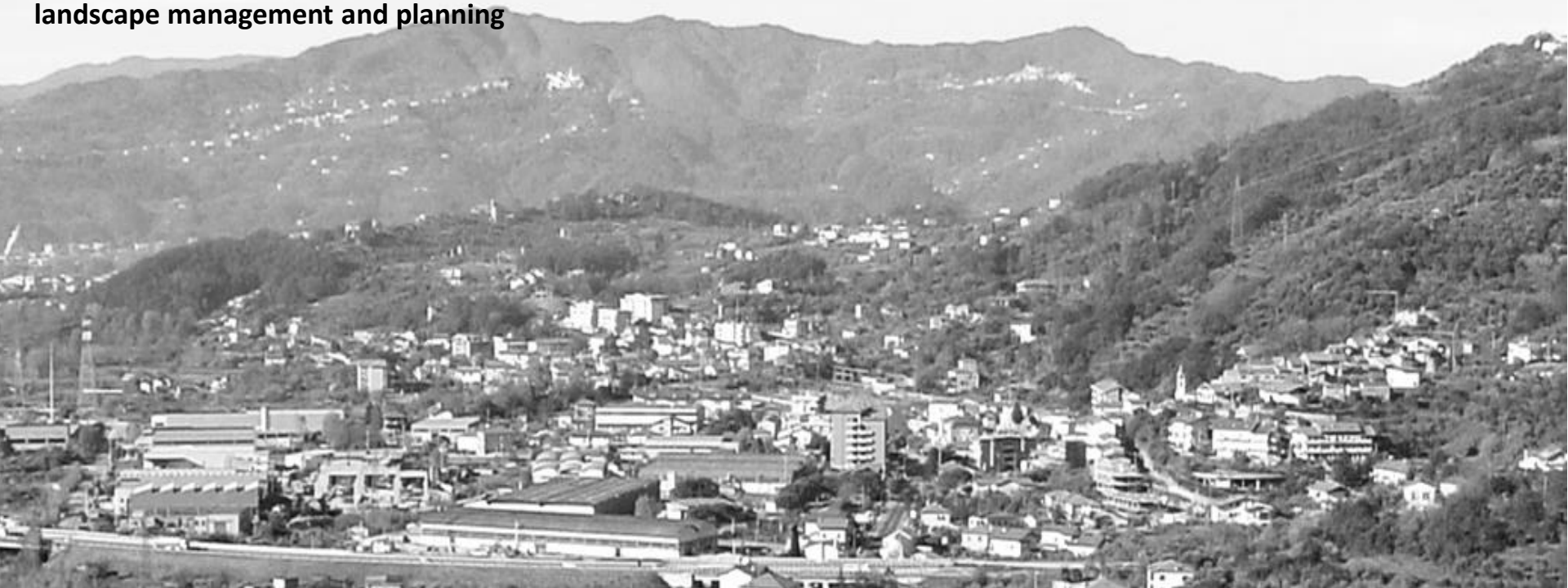
The aims of this Convention are to **promote landscape protection, management and planning**, and to organize European co-operation on landscape issue (ART. 3)

The **landscape should be protected, managed or planned regardless of its intrinsic value** and therefore regardless of the exceptional character of some landscapes

"the Convention applies to the entire territory and it covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban [...] It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding, that the landscapes of everyday life and degraded landscapes "(ART. 2).

The Convention emphasizes the need to extend the focus from areas of greatest interest and environmental importance **to all landscapes, ordinary landscapes or even compromised landscapes** by the pressures of human settlement

It shifts the focus from the straight protection of particular important areas to the identification of **policies for the landscape management and planning**



“Tutto è Paesaggio”
“Everything is landscape”

Lucien Kroll, 1999



“extra-ordinary landscape”



“Ordinary landscape”



European Landscape Convention

*“**Landscape policy**” means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the **protection, management and planning** of landscapes;*

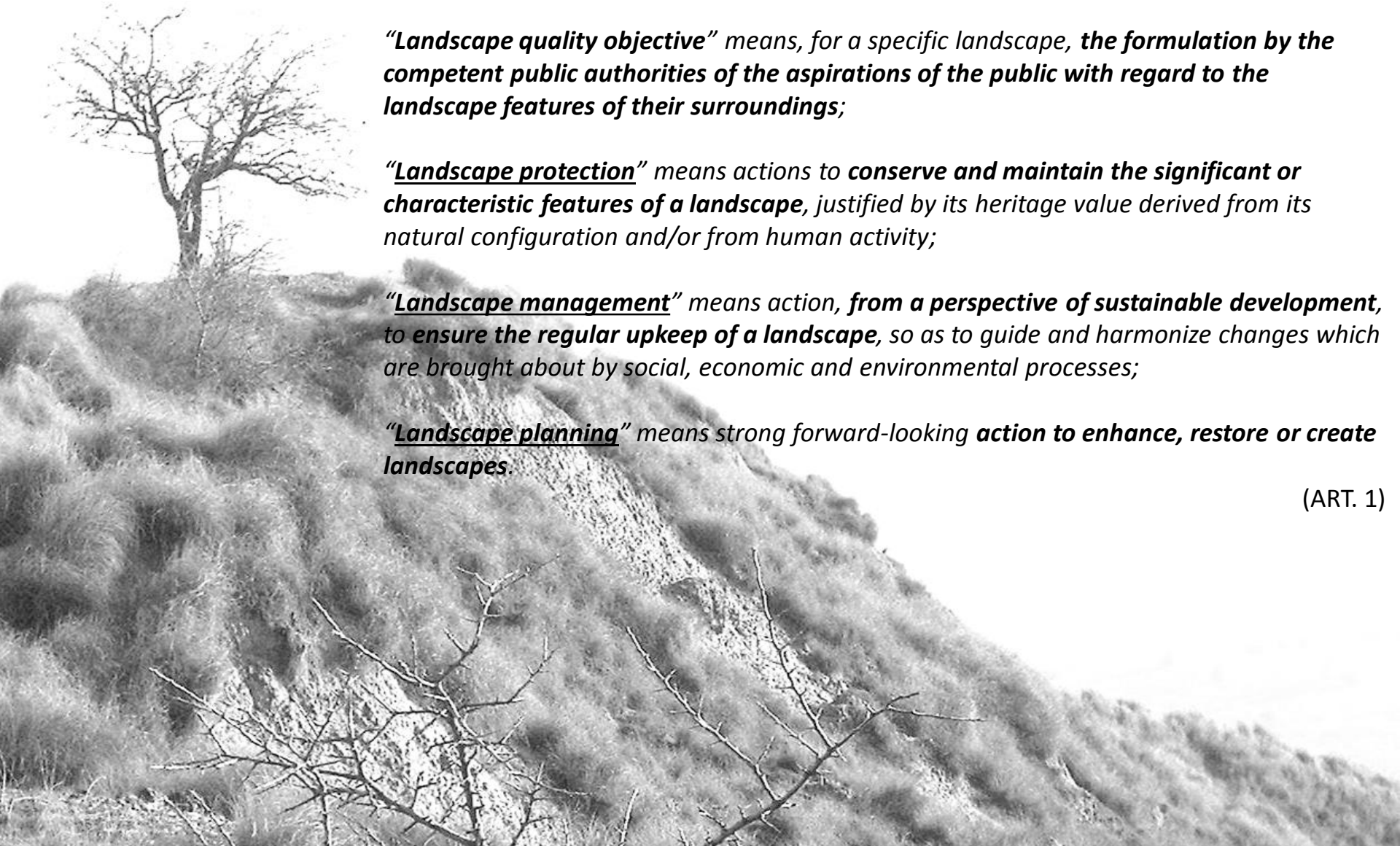
*“**Landscape quality objective**” means, for a specific landscape, **the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings;***

*“**Landscape protection**” means actions to **conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape**, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;*

*“**Landscape management**” means action, **from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape**, so as to guide and harmonize changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes;*

*“**Landscape planning**” means strong forward-looking **action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.***

(ART. 1)



European Landscape Convention

Each Party undertakes:

- ***to recognize landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;***
- ***to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6;***
- ***to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies mentioned in paragraph b above;***
- ***to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape***
(ART. 5)

