



## **1<sup>st</sup> International Self Made City Workshop**

Rome, february 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>

Istituto Svizzero di Roma Villa Maraini via Ludovisi 48, Roma

### **SELF MADE CITY**

#### **Research project**

SELF MADE CITY observes the territories of contemporary cities with a methodology that takes in account the complexity theory of on going transformations processes. The project looks at the inhabited fabric as a social infrastructure, a fabric of relations that produces the prior conditions for the habitability of urban spaces.

In this framework SELF MADE CITY aims to investigate those processes of self-organization of the territory that produce urban spaces also in circumstances of particular difficulty and poverty in order to examine and spotlight its dynamics.

SELF MADE CITY considers the virtuous processes of self-organization of the territory as the main subject for the planning of the future city towards to environmental and economic social sustainability as challenges of contemporaneity.

The aim of SELF MADE CITY is to give an overview of on going informal processes in Europe to provide the understanding and investigate the quest for democratization in urban planning, culture and social spaces.

#### **Project Themes**

The SELF MADE CITY research project focuses on analyzing, interpreting and visualizing the vast range of urban transformations, both temporary and permanent that, in recent times, have affected large urban agglomerations, mostly ungoverned by any form of legislative or urban planning.

SELF MADE CITY pursues the thesis that informal settlements are no longer understandable within traditional definitions produced by urbanists, but through transdisciplinary approaches and methodology. After the fall of the “iron curtain”, this phenomenon has adopted a different, more complex and mutated character. The phenomenon investigated by the research project is highly articulated and involves a range of subjects: from individuals and families, to spontaneously organized groups, informal networks and also different branches of informal economy.

The research is rooted in the belief that the static image of European cities makes little room for an investigation about informal settlements, more commonly attributed to cities of the “Third World” and best defined by the term “informal city”. Examples of this type of development include temporary and permanent informal settlements, informal markets and subsistence economies. In European cities, until recently a model of elevated social status, many inhabitants historically as well in the present, have taken it upon themselves to organize the spaces in which they live and survive. These phenomena – due to several reasons – are even increasing: large urban transformations, internal and external migratory flows into different countries, social and economical marginalization and the exclusion of many subjects from political choices and cultural debate.

In order to outline such an articulated and elusive phenomenon, SELF MADE CITY intends to adopt an experimental method of investigation that overlaps different instruments in order to define the general framework of the European territory, together with the first hand accounts of those who have built or transformed their own living and social space, as individuals, family units or communities acting based on common interests or needs. By focusing on the protagonists of self-construction and their systems of self-organization it is possible to gather direct information and to analyse, investigate and understand this phenomenon.

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> International SELF MADE CITY Workshop**

The first international meeting and workshop of the SELF MADE CITY project takes place in Rome in collaboration with Spacexperience which follows a perceptive-experiential methodology. The aim of the workshop is to establish an European network in transdisciplinary research.



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## Workshop programme



### **Rome: informal city and territories as social infrastructure**

SELF MADE CITY looks at the phenomena of self-organization of the territory as the main subject for the production of urban space. The workshop aims to look at those specific areas of the city of Rome which have developed outside the official planning processes. The development of these areas can be seen as the result of self-organization processes. The workshop aims to investigate how in circumstances of particular difficulty the social infrastructure has developed in the Roman territory, so we are going to explore this urban fabric through the fabric of relations that produces the prior conditions for the habitability of urban spaces.

### **workshop with Spacexperience factory on field**

The perceptive-experiential methodology used in the workshop will provide a total immersion without mediations and introductions as direct experience of the territory. Moments of individual conceptualization of the collective experience of the "exploring group" will follow to the "drift". Experiences will be reflected and exchanged at the round table.



### **sunday**

**February 1<sup>st</sup> 2009**

**p.m.**



16:30 reception

17:00 work-team meeting  
self made city  
spacexperience

19:30 end of 1<sup>st</sup> day



### **monday**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

**a.m.**



09:00 reception

09:30 urban exploration

13:30 break



### **monday**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

**p.m.**



14:30 urban exploration

18:30 conclusions

19:30 end of 2<sup>nd</sup> day



**tuesday**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009**

**a.m.**



**Rome: informal city and territories as social infrastructure**

**workshop with Spacexperience factory round table open to public**

The round table gathers results of experiences and methodologies starting by the field experience on the Roman territory by exchanging points of views with the aim to formulate common issues within different contexts.



09:00 reception

09:30 Introduction "Rome Informal City"  
Romolo Ottaviani (I), architect, artist, Rome,  
Antonella Sonia Perin (CH), architect, Rome

10:00 round table about "urban exploration"  
Jochen Becker (D), curator, author , Berlin  
Sabine Bitter, Helmut Weber (A), artists  
Carlo Brizioli (I), architect, eco-technologist, Rome  
Michele Citoni (I), independent filmmaker, Rome  
Roberto De Angelis (I), anthropologist, Rome  
Alessandro Lanzetta (I), architect, photographer, Rome  
Annalisa Lombardi (I), architect, Rome  
Romolo Ottaviani (I), architect, artist, Rome  
Antonella Sonia Perin (CH), architect, Rome  
Susanna Perin (CH), artist, curator, Aarau  
Alexander Valentino (Lanhub) (I), architect, artist, Napoli

13:00 break



**tuesday**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009**

**p.m.**



**Europe: informal city, different experiences and observation methods**

SELF MADE CITY observes the territories of contemporary cities with an international, transdisciplinary approach. This methodology takes in account the complexity of on going transformations processes due to urban speculation, new labor conditions in the neoliberal city, the new status of migrants as manpower in the European Union.

On going and former projects of the participants will be presented. The aim of the lectures is to work out points of intersection and possible collaborations or coproductions in the framework of the SELF MADE CITY project and network.



13:30 Introduction of curators: personal views and aims of SELF MADE CITY project  
Romolo Ottaviani (I), architect, artist, Rome  
Antonella Sonia Perin (CH), architect, Rome  
Susanna Perin (CH), artist, curator, Aarau

## SELF MADE CITY



- 14:00 Letcures (short project presentations max 15 min)  
Jochen Becker (D), curator, author , Berlin  
Roberto De Angelis (I), anthropologist, Rome  
Michele Citoni (I), independent filmmaker, Rome  
Romolo Ottaviani (I), architect, artist, Rome  
Katalin Timar (Hu), curator, Budapest  
Alexander Valentino (Lanhub) (I), architect, artist, Napoli  
Sabine Bitter, Helmut Weber (A), artists  
Susanna Perin (CH), artist, curator, Aarau  
Alessandro Lanzetta (I), architect, photographer, Rome  
Andrea Marcuccetti (I), architect, Rome  
Carlo Brizioli (I), architect, Rome
- Contributions  
Emil Jurcan (HR), architect, Pula  
Katalin Timár, (HU),curator, Budapest

### 16:00 round table

- Jochen Becker (D), curator, author, Berlin  
Sabine Bitter, Helmut Weber (A), artists  
Michele Citoni (I), independent filmmaker, Rome  
Roberto De Angelis (I), anthropologist, Rome  
Alessandro Lanzetta (I), architect, photographer, Rome  
Annalisa Lombardi (I), architect, Rome  
Romolo Ottaviani (I), architect, artist, Rome  
Antonella Sonia Perin (CH), architect, Rome  
Susanna Perin (CH), artist, curator, Aarau  
Miriam Ruggiero (I), anthropologist, Rome  
Alexander Valentino (Lanhub) (I), architect, artist, Napoli  
Andrea Marcuccetti (I), architect, Rome  
Carlo Brizioli (I), architect, Rome

### 17:00 end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day



## wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 a.m.



09:30 work-team meeting

12:30 conclusions

13:30 end of 4<sup>th</sup> day



## Programme subject to modifications



## SELF MADE CITY network

### The Network: A Comparison of Phenomena Across the European Territory

SELF MADE CITY begins with a survey of the city of Rome. The main objective of this research is to identify the parameters of study and comparison present in various European realities as well as in the Global South.

[www.selfmadecity.net](http://www.selfmadecity.net)

## SELF MADE CITY



The project will look at countries in the European Union, such as Greece or Spain, together with those working towards European Membership, such as Turkey, with a widespread phenomenon of informal settlements known as “gececondu”, countries like Albania or Yugoslavia, where the transition of goods and lands from a Socialist to a Capitalist model has not yet been applied and countries in Eastern Europe such as Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary, which are in a full economic and social transformation, a result of their integration within the European Community. Each of these episodes of informal settlements and self-transformation begins with different presumptions and tell different stories: SELF MADE CITY wishes to identify common approaches to understand these phenomena. The project will build a network of shared experiences, research, visual, documentation and artistic materials, illustrating the common traits of self-construction and defining the correlation between different European realities.

### SELF MADE CITY - Roma

Multidisciplinary research group working on the urban project and self-organization issues. It develops investigations on the territory and on its perception among art, architecture and environment.  
Michele Citoni, Annalisa Lombardi, Romolo Ottaviani, Antonella Sonia Perin

#### Concept and Organization:

#### SELF MADE CITY

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#### Special Thanks

**Istituto Svizzero di Roma**

**FORUM AUSTRIACO DI CULTURA ROMA**

