

Is the Po Valley a Type?

Hypothesis on Amos Edallo's *Ruralistica*

Abstract

This essay focuses on the relationship between the concept of 'type' and the techniques of rural planning by examining the text, *Ruralistica: urbanistica rurale by the architect Amos Edallo (1908-1965)*.¹ With particular reference to the Postwar Italian scenario, this publication highlights the possibility to translate managerial needs of agrarian capital into a territorial project involving the Po Valley. *Ruralistica* faces this huge plain, situated in the north-east area of Italy, conceptually as a flat ontological ground made of territorial networks, factories, dwellings, barns, stables, pigsties, silos, and other kind of non-urban phenomena. All these objects are mutually related into an overall architectural pattern, namely into a ruralist type. *Ruralistica* attempts an unconventional convergence between different design scales, from the territory to the rural village, together with its constitutive dwelling. Shortly, it depicts the Po Valley in the form of recursive structure that can metaphorically acknowledged as a fractal. Moreover, the peasant is assumed as a communitarian subject, with needs of collective spaces for meetings and spiritual needs. Along with its explicitly practically-oriented outcome, *Ruralistica* portrays a new disciplinary branch of architecture committed to territorial planning, overcoming the modern disciplinary subdivision between architectural design and urbanism.

¹ *Ruralistica: urbanistica rurale*. Amos Edallo. Milano: Hoepli, 1946.

Keywords

Ruralistica, Farming, Postwar Italy, Po Valley, Amos Endallo