

BIP CALVINO

Invisible Cities inside Visible Naples

“Ion Mincu” University of Bucharest, Romania
Cracow University of Technology, Poland
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
University “Federico II” of Naples, Italy

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edited by
Federica Visconti, Claudia Angarano, Oreste Lubrano



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BIP CALVINO. Invisible Cities inside Visible Naples

edited by Federica Visconti, Claudia Angarano, Oreste Lubrano

The book is about the in-person component activity of Erasmus BIP_Blended Intensive Programme “SIX MEMOS and INVISIBLE CITIES. Translating text in architecture in the occasion of the centenary of Italo Calvino’s birth” of the University “Federico II” of Naples (Scientific coordinator prof. Federica Visconti) held in Naples in July 2024.

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Editors' Note

Federica Visconti, Claudia Angarano, Oreste Lubrano

The BIP_Blended Intensive Programme “Six Memos and Invisible Cities. Translating text in architecture in the occasion of the centenary of Italo Calvino’s birth”, funded by Federico II University of Naples in 2024, has been articulated in its virtual and in-person components, assuming the two books – really different – by the Italian writer as ‘pre-text’ in its double meaning. From one side, in fact, the books were an occasion to define exercise of architectural analysis and design following some suggestions that are in Calvino’s texts: thus, pretext in the meaning of occasion, opportunity. On the other side, the two books were assumed as a text made of words able to evoke and suggest an architectural or urban condition and, in this way, to produce another kind of text in terms of architecture, remembering that Architecture is a way of writing: thus, pretext as a text that are before another text. In addition, the two books appeared useful and adequate in order to develop the two BIP’s phases. The virtual phase, developed in June, reflected on the *Six Memos*, the six values – Lightness, Quickness, Exactitude, Visibility, Multiplicity and Consistency – that Calvino thought was essential to transfer from the second to the third millennium, in literature but probably not only. The in-person phase, in Naples from 8 to 13 of July, consisted in an intensive workshop, where the students elaborated visions for the city of Naples following the descriptions of Calvino’s *Invisible Cities*. 20 students under the supervision of 10 professors and tutors, all coming from 4 schools of architecture of Italy, Romania, Poland and Slovenia, were the characters of a work that certainly realized the BIP’s goal of experimenting innovative opportunities of international mobility and didactic.

2023 was the centenary of Italo Calvino’s birth. About biographical data, Calvino said «Biographical data: I am still one of those who believe, with Benedetto Croce, that only the works of an author count (when they count, of course). Therefore, I don’t give my biographical data, or I give them false [...]». Thus, the project assumed the centenary as an occasion but ignored Calvino’s biography focusing on his works and, in particular, on those that have always constituted an important reference in the field of Architecture: the *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*, on one hand, and *The Invisible Cities*, on the other basing the didactic programme on the triad Tradition, Translation, Betrayal (all with the same etymological root): the “tradition” is that of the work of one of the greatest narrators of the twentieth century, on which an experiment of “translation” into architecture was made of the principles of his Memos and of “betrayal” of his Cities of Fantasy that were be sought in real places.