

WHO CAN CULTIVATE A COMMUNAL URBAN GARDEN?

A cross-analysis about methods and criteria for the users-identification in the Metropolitan area of Turin

Abstract

In most cities worldwide there is an increasing demand for land for cultivating urban gardens. Public authorities, when they have the possibilities are trying to meet this need through the allocation of areas to this purpose. Often, however, the spaces created are not sufficient and for their assignment must be established accessibility criteria, which can be considered as the expression of what are the motivations of public entities, related to the establishment of an urban garden.

Starting from a review of the criteria for the assignment of these areas used by two public authorities in the metropolitan area of Turin, the poster aims to identify which are the target users and how they have evolved over time.



Goal & Method

We identify which are the target users of the regulamentated gardens of the district Mirafiori Sud in Turin and of the Communal gardens of Grugliasco (Municipality in the first bel of Turin) by analysing the relative regulations (past and present).

Case study 1: the regulamentated gardens of the district Mirafiori Sud in Turin

The entire zone, near the river Sangone, was transformed in gardens since the early industrial development of the area of Mirafiori becoming part of a historical process / social / economic result of the great migrations from the South of Italy during the '60s. The reclamation of this area, was part of a larger project to upgrade the urban and environmental area between the stream Sangone and the Mirafiori South district, promoted in the year 2004-2005. The area was the birthplace of the first regulated gardens from 2007. In May of 2012 the district has approved a new regulation, improving several anomalies that does not allow a proper use of the area. The process has also proposed changes to the old regulation of the Gardens of the City of Turin of 1986, which were accepted in the new regulation of 2013. These changes have favoured the inclusion in the regulation of measures that favour the functional and social mixité in the garden, in the single plot and in the garden. Urban garden has not only to be used by retired workers, but it has to be more open to citizens of the district with different uses to meet the different needs and express fully the multifunctionality of the garden.

Case study 2: the communal gardens of Grugliasco

In 1984 the Municipality of Grugliasco, decided to tackle the problem of illegal occupation land for agricultural purposes (mainly concentrated in the area of Gerbido), setting up a special area dedicated to the

creation of gardens to be given in temporary concession to its citizens. Citizens, which initially are the same owners of the abusive gardens; in exchange for a parcel "official" they leave that they first occupied. Today, the management of such areas is ruled determined by a resolution of the city council n.20 of 19/03/2012 The area was equipped with a structure - "house of gardeners" - useful for common assemblies, common management and recreational moments among gardeners and families.

Each assignment has a duration of five years, renewable one time. The gardener can cultivate his plot only with the cooperation of the family. Only more recently (in this case from 2012), from a final destination mainly oriented to welfare and socialization for elderly pensioners, the regulation issued by the City Council in 2014, has been opened to younger people of at least of 45 yerd old. The 80% of the lots is for pensioners, 20% for other categories of citizens

Conclusion

The analysis of the two case studies show how the relative public administration are trying to adapt/ adjust the system of management and governance of urban gardens, facing a reality (internal but especially external) that has changed dramatically over time. The two case studies show two attempts to submit different answer, one more oriented towards a process of adaptive governance, though still incomplete as that of Mirafiori, and the other more oriented adjustment as evidenced by the case of Grugliasco. In terms of innovation, this highlights a trade-off between the level of change obtained / granted freedom and the status of order- rigidity maintained which has implications on the level of ecosystem resilience gardenstructure - "house of gardeners" - useful for common assemblies, common management and recreational moments among gardeners and families.