

## Editorial 1

Enrico Prandi  
**The school and the contribution of architecture**

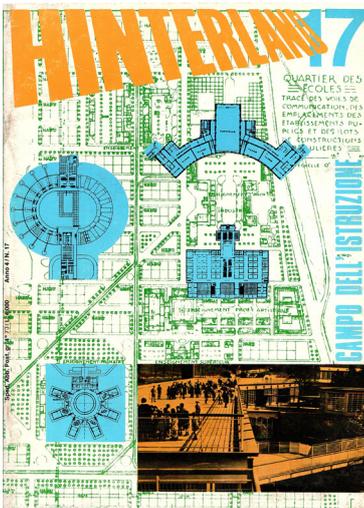
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With this issue, FAM experiments with the vast layout of a research magazine published at the turn of the 1980s in Milan and directed by Guido Canella: *Hinterland*.

The school theme recalls the multidisciplinary approach typical of *Hinterland* which must necessarily converge in the project as a moment of synthesis. As well as the number 17 of *Hinterland* dedicated to the field of education, our FAM 56 is also full of historical-critical analyzes and planning reflections.

Keywords

School — Architecture — *Hinterland*




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This issue dedicated to the theme of the School and edited by Francesca Belloni and Elvio Manganaro, is the one that most denotes the imprint of a magazine very dear to me despite having lived it as a result of the cycle of publications concluded.

A little-known magazine which in its concise title offset by an otherwise very broad subtitle *Hinterland. Architecture design and context for the management of interventions in the territory* denoted his militancy in the field of architecture and the city.

It was the first magazine founded and directed by Guido Canella who subsequently, after a pause of just over five years, gave life to another editorial project which was the second series of *Zodiac*, the ideal continuation of the historical publication founded by Adriano Olivetti .

During the 34 issues that followed one another from 1977 to 1985 the most disparate issues were addressed always in a critical, never predictable and above all operational way. A research magazine open to the field of ideas in which there were often interviews with figures outside the project but within the vast world of architecture (administrators, intellectuals, figures from the political landscape and so on) to seek that dialogue with the institutions that too often it is missing in the construction of the contemporary city.

The same structure of the magazine, with a layout that reflected its character, mixed essay texts with anthological passages with themed iconographic cards, favoring, indeed, suggesting very stimulating parallel reading paths: it happens therefore to find, next to a theoretical definition, the extract of a reflection by Pasolini or Max Weber.

This issue of FAM, I said, collects the vast approach made up of testimonies and experiences that are differently militant and not necessarily in

the architectural world to reiterate the need for a broad look at one of the themes (that of education and the construction of its spaces ) fundamental for the future: to use Canella's words (1981, p.2), school is «investment with deferred profit». I am also pleased that the gaze on current events passes through the critical filter of the analysis that starts retrospectively from historical experience.

The seventeenth issue of *Hinterland* was dedicated to the world of school and was entitled *Field of education: an editorial in interrogative form* by Canella himself *School and landscape: a missed opportunity?* reflected on the relationship between school and city starting from the Modern Movement, coming to propose some «almost provocative ideas» (Ibidem) of the project for the rearticulation of the Milanese education system and ending, the editorial by Canella, with an apologue<sup>1</sup> that was none other than the poem *Il Tesoro* by Giovanni Pascoli. An ode to knowing how to see, to knowing how to collect.

Giorgio Ciucci (2014, p. 42) writes about *Hinterland*:

«I like to see in the programmatic and formal requests of the Canella project for Turin [The project for the Directional Center of 1962, ed] the premises on which his civil and disciplinary commitment over the years has been built to come: the “formal distortions”, as Manfredo Tafuri will call them in 1981 describing his architecture of the Sixties, are real “civil invectives” that invoke, through the figures, a *design* for a renewed *context* of architecture - to take up the full title of the magazine - which is intertwined with a new *management of interventions in the territory*».

We too, in a moment of great design confusion, offer food for thought hoping that the heirs will find the treasure before ruining the field.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> «According to an old fable, there was once an old peasant who, feeling the approach of death, called his children to his bedside and said: “I am going with my conscience at rest, because in the field I'm leaving you a fortune”. When the fader died, the sons dug up the field everywhere before they realized that the fortune was the by now ruined field itself» (Canella 1981, p. 3).

## References

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Enrico Prandi (Mantova, 1969), architect, graduated with honours from the Faculty of Architecture in Milan under Guido Canella, with whom he carried out teaching and research activities. He obtained his PhD in Architectural and Urban Composition from the IUAV in Venice in 2003. He is currently Associate Professor in Architectural and Urban Composition at the Department of Engineering and Architecture of the University of Parma. He is the director of the Festival of Architecture in Parma and founder-director of the class A international scientific journal «FAMagazine. Research and projects on architecture and the city» (ISSN 2039-0491). He is scientific responsible for the Parma unit of the project ArcheA. Architectural European Medium-Sized City Arrangement (published in Routledge, Aión and LetteraVentidue volumes. Among his publications: *The project of the Childhood Centre. Sperimentazioni architettoniche tra didattica e ricerca* (Aión, Florence 2018); *L'architettura della città lineare* (FrancoAngeli, Milan 2016); *Il progetto di architettura nelle scuole europee* (in European City Architecture, FAEdizioni, Parma 2012); *Mantova. Essay on architecture* (FAEdizioni, Parma 2005).