

EDITORIAL

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This issue of *Viceversa*, edited by Pietro Valle, is a collection of texts on the building site, on the physical construction of architecture and how this process intervenes in the fine tuning of the project itself, often modifying it in a substantial way. This subject is considered under a number of viewpoints: historical, critical, by practising and non practising architects, Italian and international.

Now more than before, the relationship with the building site is key to understanding the current state of architecture. In the last few years we have witnessed some radical changes in technologies and materials, to which, over time, there have been added countless operative prescriptions that put the project, as a creation, under increasing jeopardy. The literature on the subject is incredibly sparse. The national as well as the international critical scene appear to have little interest on praxis, as if it were an accident from which one should protect him or herself. On the contrary, praxis intervenes more and more in the conception of works, especially when they come with a significant size. There is no denying that the relationship between the project and the building site is of a conflicting nature. This is demonstrated by the fact that for some time now a number of architects have tried to stage this conflict, while others have opposed this staging, claiming for the project a *ius* which is basically autonomous from praxis. Over the last few decades, imported from the

American operative culture, there has been a constant increase in the importance of project engineering, a very delicate intermediate process which has become the negotiating table for almost all those who have the power to modify the project itself. Today, the project, project engineering and the building site ratify the architectural product: being unaware of this means being blind to reality, that is, being subjected to it.

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