

L'AQUILA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Fifteen months after the earthquake in L'Aquila (4/6/09) 25.479 people live on an independent housing aid, 18.758 people are living either in the Progetto C.A.S.E., M.A.P. or rent, 3.305 people in hotels and 595 people live in the army barracks. The historic centre of L'Aquila, as the one of many surrounding hamlets, has been declared red zone: inaccessible even to the homeowners and former residents. Many commercial activities have moved either in suburban malls or in temporary huts built along the main roads after the seism.

Countering the house, as only and absolute value, to the city leads to the loss of identity of the territory and of the citizens. In order to have a social revival it is crucial to assure to the citizens the chance to experience the reconstruction of their own city. Moving back some of the main functions that were in the city centre would open up to prospects for a city revival and would ease the integration of the new suburbs brought by the Progetto C.A.S.E.

With this in mind a project of progressive reactivation of the historic centre was developed, working on public space and services to support the transitoriness of the long reconstruction phase that will take place in the next decades.

The project provides the immediate reopening of some public spaces and a new configuration of them able to condition the reopening, the restoring and the construction of the surrounding buildings, together with the installation of new temporary modules located in strategic spots of the centre and where now collapsed buildings used to be.

This way social services and meeting chances are activated.

The projects developed in this phase are meant to stimulate the final reconstruction that will be realized eventually. The new distribution of open spaces suggests a new city, that is based on the existing urban morphology, keeping its most significant and best kept pieces, and replacing the unrecoverable ones with new constructions able to deal with the historic value of this place.

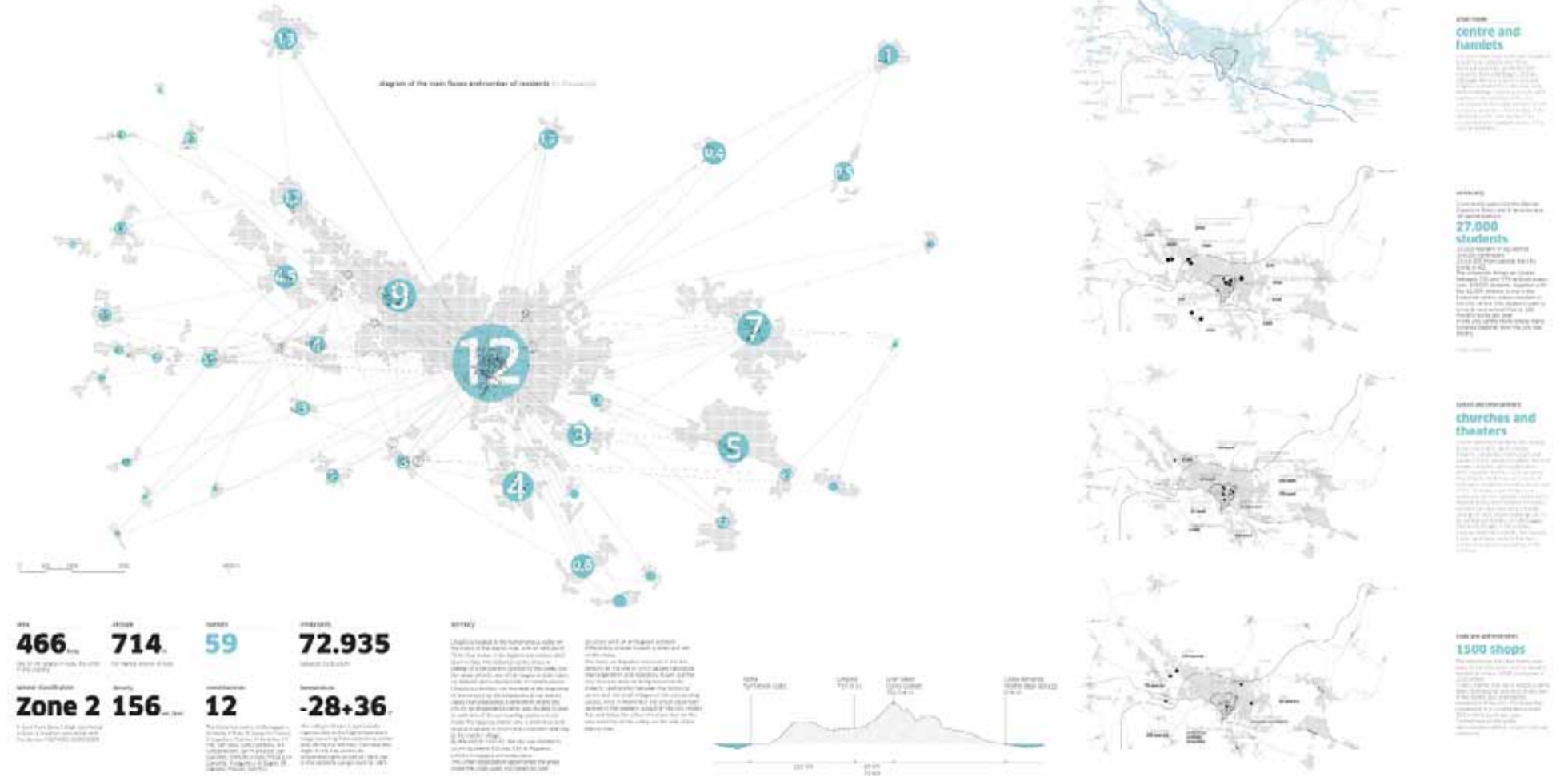
This new urban structure mainly follows the density and spacial distribution of the city before the seism, boosting its points of strength and avoiding constructional wastes.

A real estate rights transfer system gives to former house owners the chance to exchange their property with shares of new services, like student halls, supermarkets, ect. Considering that before the seism in the city centre 6600 inhabitants out of 11000 were students paying a rent, this operation should support social and economical systems that were already happening.

This project, non deterministic, is based on the assumption that a complex system like a city can take only a certain quantity of change at a time, and that it can not be entirely planned in a single moment, but must be controlled and organized in phases. Although, if a sudden and large change, like an earthquake, destroys everything, the city will need a structure to start on for a new blooming. Public spaces tracing old squares and new parks with public services located in temporary modules are the basis of this structure, which will be a rigorous but open support for the progressive blooming of those activities that make a group of buildings a city.

TERRITORY CITY

The L'Aquila municipal district before the earthquake



THE HISTORIC CENTRE

Constrains damages and the red zone



CONCEPT

