

I. PERCEPTION ON CITY PLANNING

I.1 Perception of Things and Happenings

Perception is the first stage for intelligent action. It can be represented by a triangle, where experience and intuition offer a base for intellectual treatment of data and reasoning could be added to get a sound understanding of happenings.

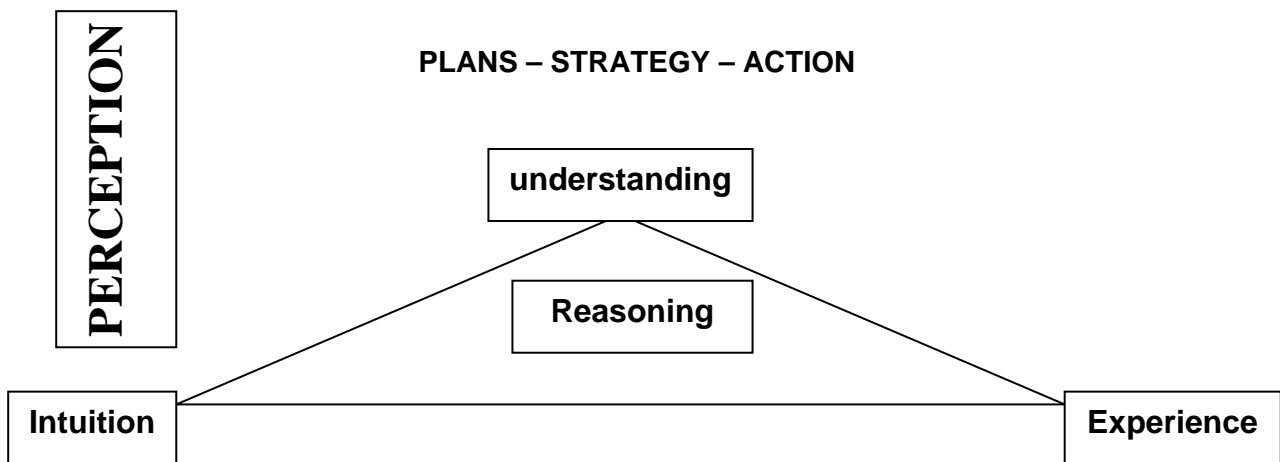


Figure: 1 Perception Triangle

The triangle correspond to an elaboration of knowledge that aluminates our understanding. Intuition can combine instinct with memory, imagination with quick reasoning. If is risky but can not be underestimated, sometimes is crucial.¹

From this understanding comes the awareness of problems and issues. Human beings discovered that they can develop strategies to deal with the issues, aiming at reducing inconvenient and enlarging positive impacts.

To base a strategy one can follow scientific reasoning and confirm the results with experience but not always deep treatments can be made as planning needs results in due time. More studies can mean too late decisions. Experience and intuition can then be used to overcome unsuitable results.

Main actors on the planning process could be:

Citizens
Planners
Institutions: public and private
Governance leaders

¹ Kasparov told about strategic plan: It is an error to mix the meanings of tactic and strategy. It is exactly when the opportunity is not clear that a strategy becomes a priority to get a strategic thinking. If there is no strategy, people are only getting tactics. We know the importance of research and calculation but they can not substitute the strategy.

The end of the process of elaboration is the decision and decision-aid has to be offered by competent planners to the politicians.

Decisions have to be made in the planning process, either to guide plan formulation or to implement it.

Decision –aid can ask for multi-criteria evaluation and 3rd solutions (active mediation)

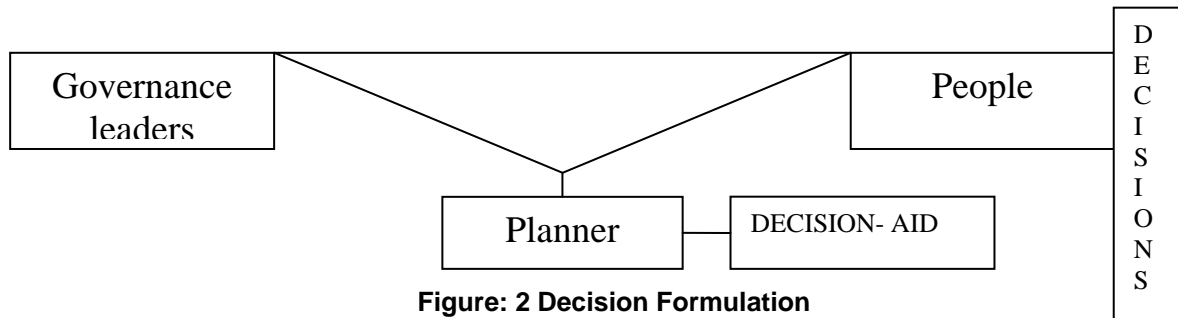


Figure: 2 Decision Formulation

I.2. Planning Acting

After perception elaboration of knowledge comes, where the actors intervene:

- 1st By intuition
- 2nd Through a disciplinary approach
- 3rd Through a multi- disciplinary approach
- 4th Through an inter-disciplinary scientific approach (interaction –bridges)
- 5th Through a trans-disciplinary approach, where science is confronted by intuition, beliefs, sentiments of people and political leader's. It is the most creative approach.

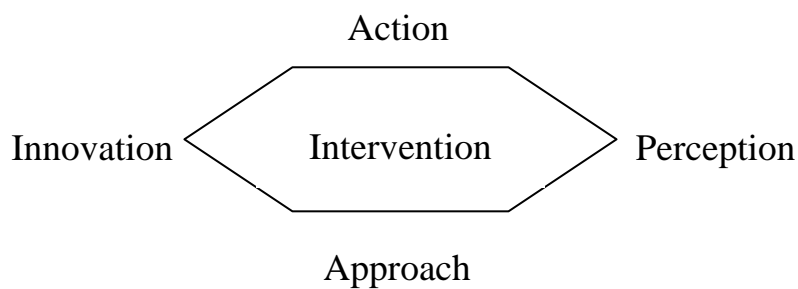


Figure: 3 Elaboration of Knowledge

Planning must face the complexity of city systemic nature

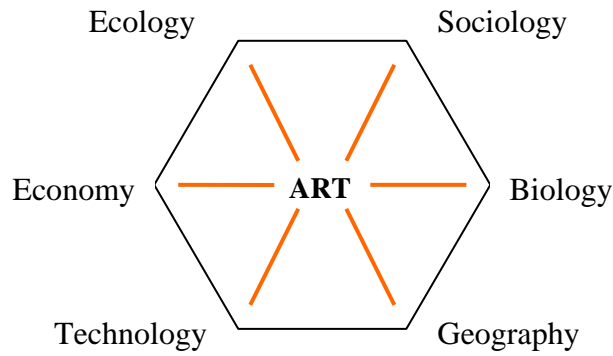


Figure: 4 Systemic Nature of City

Decisions must always be the result of a synthesis where all human dimensions have to be considered not only considering the cool economic reasoning but also the ecologic, technologic, biologic, geographic and sociologic dimensions.

Planning must face the complexity of human dimensions:

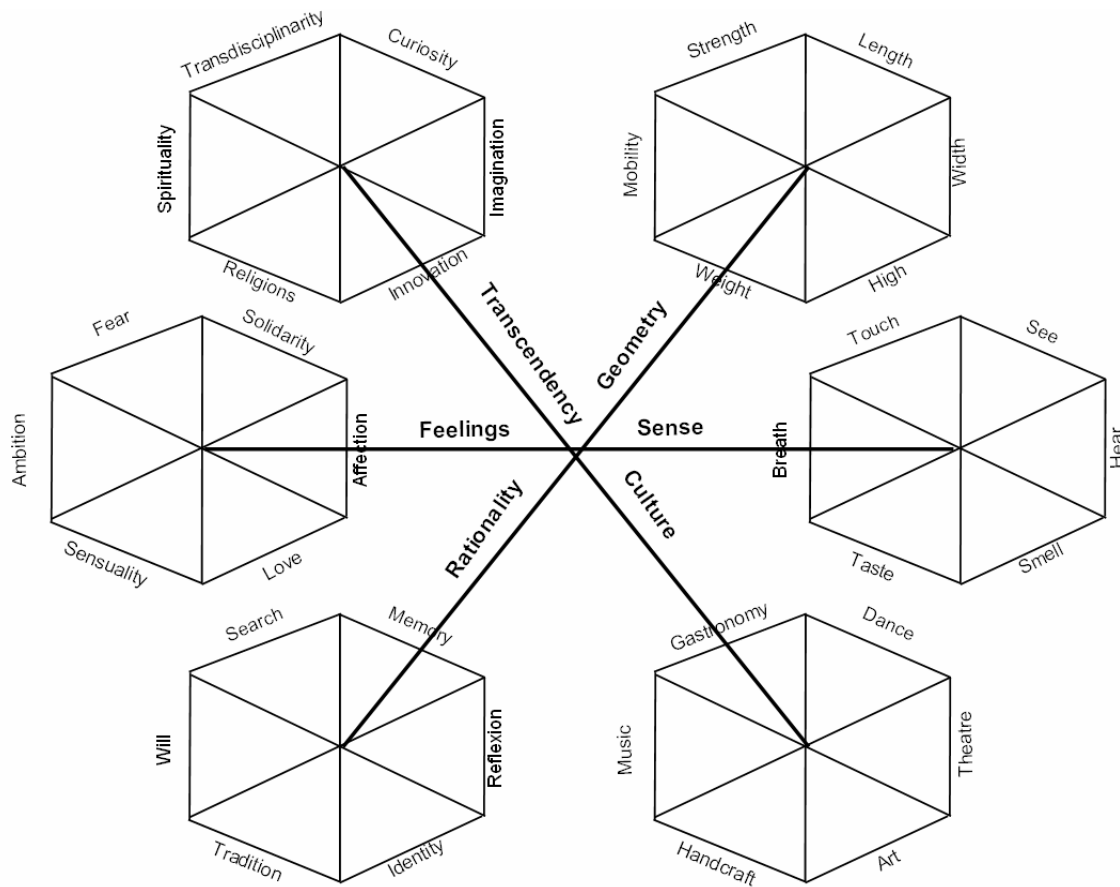


Figure: 5 Human Dimensions

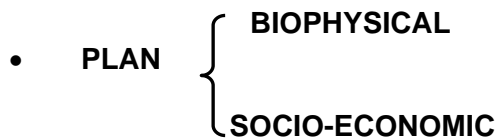
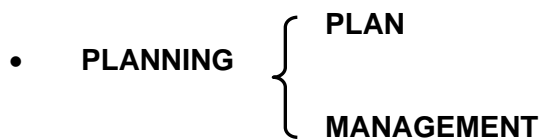
I.3 Planning Systems:

Planning Extremes:

- Zero planning- only information / forecast
- Centralized power- no citizens participation

In between, one can have 'ad hoc' local planning or the democratic system of planning-managing-monitoring with citizen participation.

To overcome the complexity of reality, planning elaboration creates models and schemes.



Planning is an activity that includes the elaboration and presentation of plans and also it's specific management with means and strategy. The separation of biophysical studies and socio economic is the result of their different nature and diversity of study techniques. The best way for tackling the issue is to develop the studies separately and to combine the results progressively.



From these two axioms it is possible to originate all the main general objectives for territorial development

Planning needs a structure of powers and agents where politicians and planners must share a strong **visibility** towards citizens.

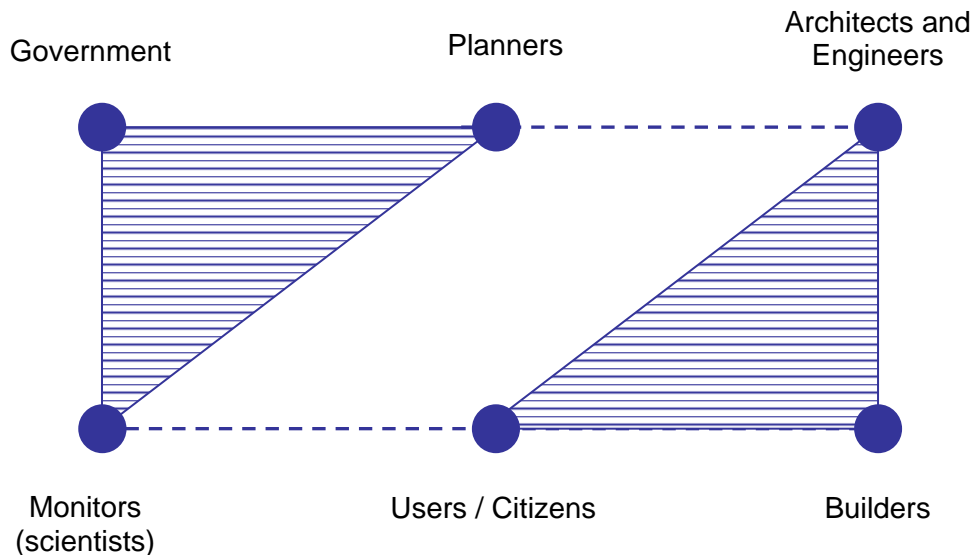


Figure: 6 The Structure of Powers and Agents

The visibility of the political leaders will allow them to explain for all the citizens the political reasons of the main options of the plan

The urbanist coordinator must also explain to the citizens the technical reasons of the process. The technical team coordinator as much as the politicians must always face the problems and can not hide himself behind the politicians.

II.OBJECTIVES OF PLANNING

- preserving values, resources, heritage-conservation and sustainability
- developing citizens' participation
- wise use of natural resources through very long term planning
- keeping economic capacities
- getting a social balance and cohesion
- increase functionality
- keeping identity and aesthetics within global trends
- building understandable cities, renewal, expansions
- maintaining recognizable cities, symbols land marks
- Zoning rules to a system of discretionary decisions based on a permanent land stock a light specific set of accepted rules plus a collegial decision - making committee.
- Innovation and creativity- active mediation (3rd solutions)

II.1 Some Planning Models For Humanizing Cities

II.1.2 The Permanent Organic Planning Models

Organic units can also help planning creativity, much more than the homogenous areas coordination of ancient plans. It is also possible the consider Aggregated Organic Units until reaching the space of a region or sub-region.

Planning – spaces definition are crucial for the success of planning

II.1.3 MM-Lace System Model- Coordinating Urban Corridors with Ecologic Corridors Using the Bridge Device

The objective of this model is to solve the conflict between ecosystem and urban continuity: The key idea is the concept of bridges located on main functions and crossings. It was inspired on lace making, where the strings are forming a grid without cutting their connectivity.

Continuity of both urban fabric and green corridors can be maintained all over a region, solving the problem of metropolitan areas through a balance system. The proportion of green and built-up areas can be decided taking in account the condition of the place and the objectives the plan.

II.1.4 MQ- Philoform Model of Functions-Continuity and Proximity Concepts

Philoform Models represent the town as a network of functional lines starting by water drainage and the followed by: sewage, street pattern, ecological corridor, etc.

Some functions ask for continuity like water or traffic flow but some others only ask for certain proximity of its elements. Even traffic can have some evenly cuts through traffic lights, trees, benches, sport grounds, public transport stops, commercial centres, telephone facilities etc.

Studying this network of lines one can see that some sectorial areas can be defined and some links can be observed but also the lack of links can show some low level of urban coordination.

The aim of the method is to see how links can be reinforced and connections can help upgrading the city quality and to define the city limits and the condition of the inter-city links.

This system can be combined with MM Model –the lace system, where main links can be solved by the bridge devices.

II.1.5 Kaleidoscopic Method

This kaleidoscopic Model combines solutions to get the best synthesis in a very innovative way.

The key is to make many exercises and combinations followed by their multi-criteria evaluation, open to participation of citizens and their representants, at least the elected leaders, and followed by the assistance of professional planners and scientists together.

With experience, professionals and people in general become able to make quick diagnostic and to create visions and concepts for future development. Sometimes one cannot know how and from where these ideas came from. Our cybernetic system is very complex and not completely understood. But we know how to use them. Sometimes one can remind that human beings have 'intuition, a kind of inside knowledge, may be inherited from person's generations or the result of 'messages' received from nature and build-up environments in a way or another. This is why concentration, contemplation and meditation could help creating ideas.

Then one has to choose, to use those ideas. We have to ask for 'wisdom'. Wise humans are not those ones having many ideas but the ones able to choose those that better suits to the conditions and objectives. This brings us to the 'Kaleidoscopic Method' again, where intuition

is combined with a random generation of alternatives and with multi-criteria evaluation offered to the 'wise man' to consider. It is here, where wisdom is going back to the 'diamond decision making system', in order to get culture at its higher level for human beings improvement and satisfaction (considering all their dimensions).

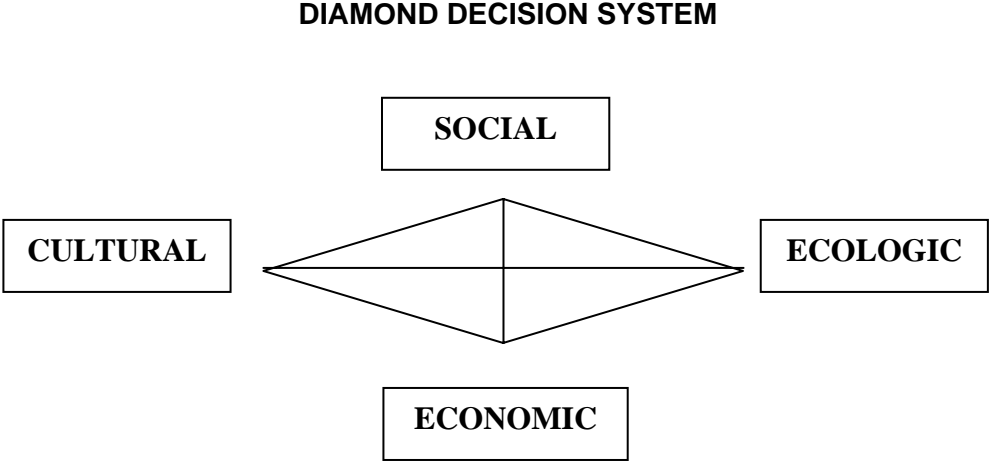


Figure: 7 Diamond Decision System

References

ARNHEIM, Rudolf (1997), Art and Visual Perception, University of California Press