

The Double 'Plan' of Manfredo Tafuri

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This paper examines Manfredo Tafuri's double understanding and use of the term 'plan' within his late 1960s and early 1970s writings. While by 'plan', typed in lower case, Tafuri generically refers to architecture proper, the upper case version, 'the Plan', is endowed with a specific politico-economical significance. In the paper, I will illustrate how this latter has to be read in the light of the critique of the 'Plan of capital' advanced in the 1960s by *operaismo* [workerism], an Italian heterodox Marxist strand that emerged in conjunction with the advent of neo-capitalism and the concomitant cycle of factory struggles. In the paper, I will trace a genealogy of the critique of planning in workerist discourse, which will lead me to the early writings of its founder Raniero Panzieri, and will show how his Frankfurt school's inflected critique of planning and rationalization impacted upon Tafuri's analysis. I will also draw a parallel between Panzieri's refusal of self-management as viable counteraction (alternative) to the Plan of capital, and Tafuri's critique of the limitations of the Austro-Marxist housing projects for Red Vienna.

Biography:

Luisa L. Corna studied at the Polytechnic of Milan and Central Saint Martins School Art and Design London. She also obtained a Master in Visual Culture from Goldsmiths University. From 2011 to 2012 she was a researcher in the design department of the Jan Van Eyck Academie. Currently she is a PhD candidate in the Department of Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies at the University of Leeds under the supervision of Gail Day.