



Thesis title

Eco-Cities. From A Transnational Planning Idea To Local Realities

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2015 was the warmest year in record so far. It is not a statistical exception: there has been a sequel of unprecedented changes in the global climate in the last decade. Climate change is no longer a concern out of the spotlight: it is an issue that affects all aspects of modern life – which means reversing (or at least restricting) it would require very wide range of strategies, applied in business, production, consumption, as well as everyday life.

Cities, hosting more than half of the world's urban population, are the biggest source of environmental pollution. It only comes natural to question their current models and characteristics and to improve or even re-design them. This has resulted in several different practices, all aiming at one thing: improving the living environment in cities and preserving the surroundings.

The tendency to build eco-cities reflects this intention and sets out to create new settlements, designed in accordance with contemporary knowledge and technology. Application of advanced methods to create a city with zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and regulated system of supply and consumption, powered by renewable sources, without compromising the comfort of its inhabitants, seems flawless and achievable on paper, but when it comes to practice, more variables appear.

This thesis narrates the challenges eco-cities face and the changes in their programme that occur as a result – thus revealing more about the projects than their audacious promises and lush – green renders. As a debated and multilayered

issue, all eco-cities provoke various reactions:

from the amount of finance they require, to the efficiency of the applied technology, to the resource input for their construction and operation. Nonetheless, they fastly spread around Asia and the rest of the world.

Learning more about this urban design phenomenon and why it is so widespread stays on the way to sustainable development.

