La Citta Nuova
Antonio Sant’Elia
1914

Vision
As a model for the ideal human environment, Antonio Sant’Elia envisions a city that prioritizes function; Aesthetics and spiritual experiences come as a result. A striking aspect of Sant’Elia’s design is his de-emphasis on the autonomy of buildings. That is, his design choices for the Citta Nuova implicitly reflect on the futurist philosophy of beauty in motion, and correspondingly seek to promote the unfettered circulation of objects – people, automobiles, trains, etc. – through what Banham calls a “knot”-like design in city planning. Each structure is connected to its neighbors by a “network of multi-level circulation at their feet.”
**A Greate Space**

Sant’Elia envisioned each apartment as well-ventilated and well-lit. In the apartment wings, he brings the vertical circulation outside of the building to create more space for the apartments. Each level is set back to create opportunities for balconies and outside spaces. Even though the city appears closed off, Sant’Elia has created moments for residents to experience nature: the outside walkways from elevators to floors, as well as the large open spaces, looking inward, on the bottom levels.

**In the Language of eVolo**

Sant’Elia envisioned this community in 1914, and his futuristic ideas were far ahead of his time. He thought about air transportation in La Citta Nuova before airplanes were commercially used. He thought about a new world in which to adapt the architecture of the early 1900s to modern or future lifestyles: adapting to high population, increasing land values, and new ways of communication and transportation. La Citta Nuova is an example of a self-contained living machine where humans, despite living in condensed communities, still stay connected with nature.
The Millennium Tower, conceived by Norman Foster in 1989, was a response to Tokyo’s robust population boom. At the time, the city had a projected population of over 15 million by 2020. Today, the population of its greater metropolitan area is approaching 38 million. With severe land shortages across Tokyo, The Millennium Tower proposed upward expansion two miles offshore, in Tokyo Bay, with over one million square meters of commercial development and housing for 60,000 people. The tower would generate its own energy and process its own waste, and, at 170 floors, would be the tallest building in the world.
A “metro” system, moving both vertically and horizontally, would carry cars of 160 people throughout the tower, from offices on the bottom floors to apartments higher up. The topmost section of the tower would consist of communications systems and wind or solar generators. Every thirty floors, “sky centers” would provide amenities such as hotels, department stores, etc. in five-floor sections articulated by mezzanines, landscaping and terraces. Because the region is prone to earthquakes and hurricane-strength winds, the tower’s structure is conical and aerodynamic; wind resistances decreases towards the top, where the tower becomes completely open, while width and strength are maximized at the tower’s base. For structural support, helical bands are wrapped around the tower.
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