

Public Art in the underground stations of Naples: report on RSA support

The RSA travel award has supported a 5 day field trip to Naples (23-29 February 2009) to investigate a series of new underground stations that have been linked up with a new public art programme. The case of Naples offers an interesting example of how stations could be reconceptualised as *places* rather than just transport nodes. My specific aim was to investigate how this combination of new stations and public art opens up a new set of considerations on the concept of local social sustainability.

The funds have been covering the travel costs to:

- Undertake site visits to different underground stations, with a specific focus on three of them;
- Approach local users with interviews with the aim of exploring how they perceive the place-making initiatives generated at/in the new stations (in terms of safety, sense of place...);
- Interview relevant and key actors within the local authority (who have been involved in the development process of the stations):
 1. Elena Camerlingo (Chief of the Transport and Planning Integrated Division of the City of Naples) on the 24/02/09
 2. Rocco Papa (Professor in Town Planning at the University, Department of Spatial Planning, Federico II of Naples and Deputy City Major from 2001 till 2006) on the 25/2/09
 3. Dr Enrica Papa (Research Fellow, Department of Spatial Planning, Federico II of Naples) on the 25/02/09

So far, one of the main outcomes has been the presentation of the paper: "Public art in the underground stations of Naples: urban spaces and social sustainability" at the UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference *Unequal Places: Planning and Territorial Cohesion* at the Newcastle University (1-3 April 2009). A journal article will be submitted for review in the coming months.