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Abstract:

The "Wildgarten" quartier was realized eight years ago, in 2009, as a winning entry in the European-10 competition in Vienna. The competition brief required the development of an entirely new urban fabric on a quite isolated green island in the city's southwest, between the municipal cemetery and an amorphous sea of single-family houses and small allotment gardens. The proposal's primary intention was to carefully re read and re-write the essence of peripheral urbanity, its notable tendency to privatisation and dispersal configuration. From a theoretical point of view, the project's approach was very much influenced by the authors' contextual circumstances: in fact, it was a frontal reaction to the failed over-planning of Spanish peripheries, which have left a degraded landscape around cities like Madrid.

The text presents a series of ten intentional positions - what we like to call "vectors" - which have been crucial in the conceptualisation, definition and development of the project (among them: Liquid city, Urban support, Multiplayer city, Open syntax, Porosity, Diversity, etc.). They aim is to explain the project genesis and its underlying ideas, but also to build a quite accurate outline of the studio's approach in relation to the city and its production's debate.

The article is part of the "Planum Scientific Committee" Special Issue (no.30, vol.II/2017) which presents the magazine's Scientific Committee via a selection of texts representing the cultural profile and research activities of its members. The texts, chosen for their meaningfulness and representativeness, present independent paths of critical reflection regarding important themes of contemporary urban and planning research practices.