

The Changing Role of the Land Surveyor in Modern Society: The Tasks for the Young Professionals

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SUMMARY

Having been a protagonist in the hard process of re-building the Italian architectural heritage after the II World War, and having strongly contributed to the modernisation of the official cadastral cartography, nowadays the Land Surveyors' Category (100.000 registered members) is fast changing. It is gradually becoming a recognised Body of Technicians devoted to the preservation of the landscape and the environment.

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Why the Italian Land Surveyor can play such a role? Thanks to his vast knowledge of the territory and his special relationship with the people who inhabit it. Land and Environment Technical Surveyors will be the real denomination of the category.

The great number of those professionals registered in the Official Roll reflects the consent of the market of professional services that recognises all traditional skills of the Land Surveyor:

- to design and realise rural, industrial, and public buildings of limited relevance (which are , to tell the truth, the most frequent interventions on the building here in Italy);
- to measure and graphically represent the landscape and the real estates on it;
- to value these real estates both for commercial demands, and for fiscal and legal purposes.

In the last decade, new and more urgent competences have been added to those traditional activities. Tasks that are determined by the scientific evolution and the requests of the modern society:

- security on the working-places;
- limited energy consumption;
- prevention of the air and water pollution;
- protection from the acoustic pollution;
- prevention against the risk of fires;
- disposal of domestic and polluting waste.

The recent and disastrous earthquake, which has devastated the whole Abruzzi region, has stressed the need of having a detailed knowledge of the territorial characteristics before proceeding with the town planning scheme and before using the territory for building aims.

All technicians are now convinced that it's necessary to be able to live with natural events using such behaviours which guarantee the safety of the population. All that means:

- to monitor the territory;
- to construct buildings in a new way, eco-sustainable;
- to use alternative and renewable energetic sources;
- to strengthen the machinery of the civil defence.

The new generations of technicians are particularly sensitive about these new actions and knowledge which are not strictly linked with the way a surveyor used to work in the past. New technicians express a need for a specific technical education that the Public School System can give them only with a huge delay in meeting with the demands of the market.

Recently, in order to upgrade the standard basic education, the Italian legislation, following the European directives, stated that after the five years of Technical Institute, a three-years course of qualified studies must be completed.

The Category is trying to organise training courses and events, even in cooperation with various Universities.

Moreover, a great project is under construction with the aim to unify specialized technicians assembled today in 3 different categories: LAND SURVEYORS, AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS and INDUSTRIAL EXPERTS (more than 180.000 registered members qualified for practising the 3 professions).

The idea, which is approved by the Government, consists both in building one body of specialised technicians in the various fields within their province and which are able, as a whole, to assure to the population the fulfilment of all technical and elementary demands from the use of the territory to the effectiveness of technological installations.

A new category which is polyvalent as a whole but consisting of members highly specialised within the different fields.

The unification of the social security system, currently still divided into 3 different private bodies, could give more certainty to the registered members with the guarantee of a modern pension future.

Bottom line of all this: we are carrying on a great project for a self-training aimed to the improvement and the updating of the professionalism of all the members of our Category.

A project that has a specific target: the youth

They have to become able to operate in the society according to a high standard of quality and with an officially-certified professionalism.

The goal to be achieved is to meet the needs of the market already conquered in the past, defeating the competition of other technicians, and, moreover, of other companies that offer different services and are invading every operative sector (including our professional one, which, mind this, is based on a deep know-how).

Finally, we have to acknowledge how the role of the Land Surveyor in the modern society is vital when we come to the contact with the territory and the conveyance of a sensitiveness toward the problems of environmental sustainability to all the citizens.

What our Professional Category is trying to do is to introduce itself as a “transfer” between the academic knowledge and the people.

Relevant topics (i.e. environment, energy-saving, safe work conditions, etc.) should become part of a widespread culture.

This is the only way to create a strong and long-lasting perception that the landscape and the territory are the great value that we are leaving to the future generations.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Fausto Savoldi

Born on 16 February 1945 in Brescia, where he lives and works as a free-lance surveyor.

July 1965: graduates and obtains a diploma as Surveyor at the Istituto Nicolò Tartaglia in Brescia.

1966: Lieutenant in the Infantry Corps of the Italian Army.

November 1966: participates in the emergency campaign during the flood of the city of Florence, coordinating the operations of his unit for saving the artistic heritage of the historic city centre.

1967: enrolls in the Registers of Surveyors of the Province of Brescia and begins to work as a free-lance professional.

From 1969 to 1978: is elected member of the Provincial Governing Council of the Board of Surveyors in Brescia and is appointed Secretary from 1975 to 1978.

From 1978 to 1983: is elected member of the National Board of Surveyors.

1985: elected for the first time as Delegate to the Italian Social Security Fund for Surveyors, representing the Lombardy region.

From 1989 to present: officiates as the President of the Provincial Board of Surveyors for the Province of Brescia – a professional order with 3,000 professional members enrolled.

April 1997 to 2008: is elected President of the Italian Social Security Fund for Surveyors, an organization with 95,000 enrolled members that issues 24,000 pensions, with movable goods and real estate property amounting to €1,400,000,000.

2005: is nominated by the Mayor of Brescia as Member of the Board of Directors of the Brescia Mobilità SpA, a company with capital of the Brescia Municipality and the ASM of Brescia for the construction of the urban subway network.

2007 to present: Member of the Board of Directors of F2i, a fund for the creation of infrastructures which stands third in the world for its capitalization.

2008 to present: is elected President of the Consiglio Nazionale Geometri e Geometri Laureati

2008 to present: FIG Commissions 1 and 2 Italian Delegate

2008 to present: Member of the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors

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