

# Beyond the 2026 Winter Olympic Games

Sustainable Scenarios for the Valtellina Mountain Region

Edited by Andrea Arcidiacono Stefano Di Vita

> palgrave macmillan

### Mega Event Planning

Series Editors Stefano Di Vita Dipartimento Architettura Studi Urbani Politecnico di Milano Milano, Milano, Italy

> John Lauermann Geography City University of New York Cumberland, RI, USA

The Mega Event Planning Pivot series provides a global and cross-disciplinary view into the planning for the world's largest sporting, religious, cultural, and other transformative mega events. Examples include the Olympic Games, Soccer World Cups, Rugby championships, the Commonwealth Games, the Hajj, the World Youth Day, World Expositions, and parades. This series critically discusses, analyzes, and challenges the planning for these events in light of their legacies including the built environment, political structures, socio-economic systems, societal values, personal attitudes, and cultures.

#### Andrea Arcidiacono • Stefano Di Vita Editors

# Beyond the 2026 Winter Olympic Games

Sustainable Scenarios for the Valtellina Mountain Region



Editors
Andrea Arcidiacono
Dept of Architecture and
Urban Studies
Politecnico di Milano
Milano, Italy

Stefano Di Vita Dept. of Architecture & Urban Studies Politecnico di Milano Milan, Italy

ISSN 2633-5859 ISSN 2633-5867 (electronic)
Mega Event Planning
ISBN 978-981-99-8091-8 ISBN 978-981-99-8092-5 (eBook)
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-8092-5

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. 2024, corrected publication 2024

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use. The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd.

The registered company address is: 152 Beach Road, #21-01/04 Gateway East, Singapore 189721, Singapore

Paper in this product is recyclable.

# Contents

Pa	art I Analysing Olympic Mountain Region	]
1	Introduction: Risks and Opportunities for the Valtellina Mountain Region in the Face of the Olympic Perspective Andrea Arcidiacono and Stefano Di Vita	â
2	Bidding for and Planning the Winter Games of Milan- Cortina 2026: The Plurality of Trajectories and the Contradictions of Challenges Stefano Di Vita, Abdallah Jreij, and Francesca Mazza	11
3	The Spatial Rescaling of Italian Mega-Events: From Large-Scale Projects to Urban and Regional Regeneration Stefano Di Vita, Andrea Rolando, and Davide Ponzini	29
4	The Spatial Change of Winter Olympics: The Analysis of International Case Studies Alberto Bortolotti, Abdallah Jreij, Francesca Mazza, and Virginia Vecchi	43

Part II Shaping the Transition of the Olympic Mountain Region		61
5	Sports as Well-Being Practice: The Diversification of Tourism Through the Integration of Sport, Wellness, and Health Alberto Bortolotti, Abdallah Jreij, Francesca Mazza, and Virginia Vecchi	63
6	Culture as a Trans-Scalar Encounter: The Increase of Livability Through the Integration of Landscape and Services Helyaneh Aboutalebi Tabrizi, Huilei Cao, Thein Manimekalai Sowrirajan, and Antonio Jose Salvador	83
7	Olympics as an Opportunity to Improve Mobility and Accessibility in the Mountains: A Sustainable, Comfortable, and Feasible Approach Jaime Sierra Muñoz, Doruntina Zendeli, Siyuan Li, and Chenling Wu	103
8	Governance and Planning: From Complexity and Contradictions to Multi-Level and Collaborative Approaches Francesca Chiara Ciccarelli, Lorenzo De Stroebel, Anna Fera, Margherita Gori Nocentini, and Elia Vettorato	123
Pai	rt III Learning and Conclusion: The Future Challenges for Mega-Events in Remote Areas	141
9	Through and Beyond Mega-Events: Scenarios and Prospects from Cities to Mountain Regions Andrea Arcidiacono, Stefano Di Vita, and Ilaria Mariotti	143

Correction to: Olympics as an Opportunity to Improve	
Mobility and Accessibility in the Mountains: A Sustainable,	
Comfortable, and Feasible Approach	
Jaime Sierra Muñoz, Doruntina Zendeli, Siyuan Li,	
and Chenling Wu	
т 1	171
Index	101

#### Notes on Contributors

Helyaneh Aboutalebi Tabrizi is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). Her PhD fellowship is funded by the CORAL-ITN project (2020–2024) that is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network. Her research focuses on the taxonomy and location patterns of collaborative workspaces in rural and peripheral areas of the Alpine regions, using a mixed methods approach.

Andrea Arcidiacono is Full Professor of Urban Planning and Design at the Politecnico of Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), where he coordinates the Bachelor Program in Urban Planning, and is a board member of the PhD Program in Urban Planning, Design and Policy. He is Scientific Director of the Land Take Research Centre (CRCS) and, since 2016, Vice-President of the National Institute of Planning (INU). He is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Urbanistica*.

Alberto Bortolotti is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy), where he is a teaching assistant for the course on urban policies in the Bachelor Program in Urban Planning. He has been a visiting scholar at the Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development of the University of Amsterdam and the Public Governance Institute of KU Leuven. Moreover, he has been a junior researcher at the Feltrinelli Foundation and the Humboldt University of Berlin.

Huilei Cao is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). She is also a visiting PhD student at EIREST (Equipe Interdisciplinaire de Recherche sur le Tourisme) at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, France. She obtained a Master of Architecture from Tongji University, China. Her PhD topic is about how star architecture projects, especially heritage-related projects, are now utilized as a narrative for urban competitiveness or other purposes by different public, private and non-profit actors.

Francesca Chiara Ciccarelli is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy), and Early Stage Researcher at the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network 'CORALITN'. Her PhD research focuses on creative work and collaborative workspaces in rural and peripheral areas. Her background is in sociology and political science.

Lorenzo De Stroebel holds a PhD in Urban Planning, Design and Policy from the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). His research was funded within the national research project on territorial fragilities and addresses the relationship between urban commoning practices and experiences of feminist movements in facing gender-based violence in the contemporary city. His research interests investigate the transformations of the contemporary city around the theme of inhabiting and coexistence, socio-spatial transformations of the urban, urban practices, social movements, welfare spaces and political ecology.

**Stefano Di Vita** is Researcher in Urban Planning and Design at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). His research focuses on spatial dynamics related to the economic transition of urban cores and regions (including digital innovation of public spaces and production activities, periodic and temporary events), on planning and design of spatial transformation and regeneration, and on the background of processes of international repositioning and regional rescaling of urban phenomena. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Territorio*.

Anna Fera is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). With a geographer background, her research focuses on territorial marginalization processes in rural and mountain areas. In particular, she studies the role of food systems and slow tourism projects as opportunities for local development.

Margherita Gori Nocentini is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). She has an interdisciplinary background in urban sociology, political science and urban planning. Her research focuses on urban climate adaptation planning and governance and socio-environmental justice issues.

Abdallah Jreij is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). He holds a scholarship funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (PON Research and Innovation). His research focuses on studying the environmental impact and sustainability of projects and infrastructure constructed for hosting mega-events such as Expos and Olympic Games, with a special emphasis on the Milan-Cortina Winter Games 2026. He has been serving as the elected representative of the PhD candidates within his department and within the Doctoral School Council.

**Siyuan Li** is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). She also serves as a visiting PhD student at the Department of Architecture (DOA) at the National University of Singapore. Her research focuses on the circulation of 'urban models' and 'best practices' from transnational urbanism perspective, with a particular emphasis on the China-Singapore government-to-government collaboration projects. She also maintains a broader interest in the transfer of urban policies and planning knowledge across various Asian countries.

Thein Manimekalai Sowrirajan is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). She is an advocate for rural-urban entrepreneurial ties and leverages her expertise in architecture, urban planning and policymaking to empower rural communities, notably

through youth-led initiatives. Founder of the Nonurban Foundation, she champions sustainable entrepreneurship rooted in local knowledge. Her research emphasizes shifting resources to rural entrepreneurship, aiming to elevate rural innovation and branding to global prominence.

Ilaria Mariotti is Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Economics at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy), where she is a member of the PhD Board in Urban Planning, Design and Policy (since 2013). She is the project coordinator for the Politecnico di Milano of the Horizon Project REMAKING 'REmote-working Multiple impacts in the Age of disruptions: socioeconomic transformations, territorial rethinKING, and policy actions' (2024–2027). She is a member of the scientific board of the Italian Regional Science Association (AISRe).

Francesca Mazza is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). As an architect (BA) and urban planner (MS), her research focuses on the planning and design of territorial regeneration in mountain tourist regions in the framework of the sustainable transition, with specific regard to the alpine macro-region and the Alta Valtellina area in the Lombard Alps.

Davide Ponzini is Full Professor of Urban Planning and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy), where he is director of the TAU-Lab. He has been a visiting scholar at Yale, Johns Hopkins, Columbia University and Sciences Po and visiting professor at TU Munich. His research activity focuses on planning theory, urban and cultural policy, and contemporary architecture. Recently he led the research project HOMEE—Heritage Opportunities/threats within Mega-Events in Europe, winner of a European Heritage Award/Europa Nostra Award 2022. His latest single-authored book is titled *Transnational Architecture and Urbanism* (Routledge 2020).

Andrea Rolando is Full Professor of Representation at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). He conducts research in the fields of analysis and representation of urban and territorial phenomena, with main interests on heritage

landscapes and spatial effects of mobility infrastructures. His recent works concentrate on the role of ICTs as drivers of territorial innovation and on the processes of spatial and economic development generated by slow tourism. He is scientific director of the E-Scapes Observatory on landscapes crossed by slow mobility routes and teaches architecture and tourism at Università di Milano Bicocca.

Antonio Jose Salvador is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). His doctoral research focuses on planning and management mechanisms for agricultural land and food production in peri-urban areas through study cases in Milan, Barcelona and the Ruhr Valley. He holds a Master of Arts in Architecture from the Royal Danish Academy and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Notre Dame, United States. He previously held an adjunct professor position at Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

Jaime Sierra Muñoz is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy), and a scientific fellow at the European Commission's Joint Research Center, Ispra (Italy). His work has evolved from transport plans and projects to their implications within territories, looking for policies to achieve sustainable mobility and fewer related impacts. His research focuses on the concept of 'car dependence', employing a data-driven regional approach developing a comprehensive assessment together with qualitative perspectives.

Virginia Vecchi is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design, and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). Her doctoral research focuses on utilizing telephone data to analyze territorial dynamics, particularly surrounding remote working. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked as a junior researcher on a project related to smart cities and smart buildings. With a background in urban planning, she actively engages in interdisciplinary projects and activities, including collaborations with a landscape architecture studio and as a teaching assistant.

**Elia Vettorato** is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). His research topics focus on

peripheralization and marginalization processes, place-based policies and shared governance. His actual research focuses on the entanglement between peripheralization processes and SNAI (the Italian National Strategy for Inner Areas), both in theory and in local-grounded practice.

Chenling Wu is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). She holds a Master of Urban Planning (2021) from Tianjin University, China, and a Master of Urban Design and Planning (2020) from University College Dublin, Ireland. Her work lies at the intersection between urban planning and environmental issues, with a focus on air pollution. Her PhD topic is analyzing the combined effect of urban form and urban greening on air pollution exposure.

**Doruntina Zendeli** is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Milan (Italy). She has an undergraduate degree in Architecture and a master's degree in Urban Studies. Her research activities explore the relationships between cities, people and the urban climate. Her research interests include a diverse range of topics, such as urban morphology, geospatial analysis, remote sensing, urban health and urban resilience.

## List of Figures

Fig. 2.1	The localization of the four Olympic clusters and the event	
	timeline (Source: map elaborated by Francesca Mazza)	13
Fig. 3.1	The network of infrastructure corresponding to the Italian side	
	of the TEN-T European Corridor 5 (Source: map elaborated	
	by Andrea Rolando)	38
Fig. 4.1	Selected Winter Games in the Alpine macro-region	
	(by the authors)	45
Fig. 4.2	Venue map for St Moritz 1948 Winter Games (by the authors)	47
Fig. 4.3	Venue map for Cortina D'Ampezzo 1956 Winter Games	
Ü	(by the authors)	49
Fig. 4.4	Venue map for Innsbruck 1976 Winter Games (by the authors)	51
Fig. 4.5	Venue map for Albertville 1992 Winter Games (by the authors)	53
Fig. 4.6	Venue map for the Turin 2006 Winter Games (by the authors)	56
Fig. 5.1	Strategic concept and spatial representation. The image	
Ü	illustrates the concept of "sports as a well-being practice" (top)	
	and its spatialization in the context of Alta Valtellina (below)	
	(by the authors)	71
Fig. 5.2	Explanation of the actions for each strategic cluster linked to	
U	the territorial spatialization (by the authors)	72
Fig. 5.3	Adda Sports Greenway model section: transversal connections	
Ü	between valley floors and mountainsides (by the authors)	74
Fig. 5.4	Sondalo municipality and the three contexts of interventions:	
Ü	the Morelli hospital, historical center, and sports citadel (by the	
	authors)	77
Fig. 6.1	Strategic map of proposal (Source: elaboration by the authors)	91

#### xvi LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 6.2	Specific proposals for the four selected sites: 1—Bormio historic	
_	center; 2—the Cancano lakes; 3—the Stelvio Pass; 4—	
	Mottolino and Carosello (Source: elaboration by the authors)	98
Fig. 7.1	Localization of main infrastructure transport investments	
	(Source: elaboration by the authors)	108
Fig. 7.2	Railroad proposals and main road system in Valtellina	
	(Source: elaboration by the authors)	112
Fig. 7.3	New bus station and walkability insight for Bormio	
	(Source: elaboration by the authors)	115
Fig. 8.1	Role of institutions in the governance of the 2026 Winter	
	Olympics for the Alta Vatellina Alpine cluster	
	(Source: elaboration by the authors)	127

# Analysing Olympic Mountain Region