This theoretical-practical investigation explores the arena of public art, focused on

participatory design, which is sustained by an integrated view of the place. In this context,

place is considered as an interaction between a set of human, biophysical, geographical,

economic, political, historical, social, cultural and ecological conditions that characterize

and determine, greatly, life in that place. This view focuses on a specificity of place that

relates to the labor activities and natural resources manifest locally and, consequently, in

the landscape.

The methodology used in this investigation is experimental in nature. The investigative

artistic practice and, in particular, the methods used in the projects development were

open, involving the local people in the realization of the project through an empathic

approach of interaction design based on paradigms of listening and dialoguing.

The artistic projects were realized in peripherical places, which are strongly characterized

by the relationships between the bodily subsistence of their population and the local

natural resources.

The artistic practice developed crossed with the participatory design expanded the notion

of place for artists and designers.

The aim of this active research was to analyze, test and interpret the evidence about

the importance that place, considered in its multiple dimensions, can have in the

conception and materializing of artistic interventions that interact with local populations,

in a interaction and participatory design. It was also intended to test and evaluate the

receptivity of the participant populations to the methodological characteristics of the

realized projects.