



THEME COMMONS

SUB-THEME:

Environment, Ecology and Sustainability

TITLE OF WORKSHOP

Degrowth, Landscape and Ecological
Sustainability



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THE FRANCIGENA: CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ROUTE

The walking paths and the bicycle paths are a tool to encase local development and integrating it in the socio ecological system. It can be a new design in landscape for both local citizen and tourist. An example can be the case study Blessonville a small village in which the Francigena, historical, cultural route passes through it.

Università IUAV Virgino Bettini, leonardo Marotta, Auro Michelin, Filippo Giaononi, Leonardo Filesì
Paper Abstract

The project is situated in the department of Haute Marne in Blessonville. We came upon this village after walking 35 km in the woods and in the plains; a landscape of open fields appear to us as the sun was setting designing its silhouette. What was waiting for us was only the generosity of its people. A landscape very different from what you would expect to find in a region where extensive industrial agriculture dominates, in this part of the landscape we find a good balance between agriculture and forests, land use in agriculture is 50% or 55% the extension forest goes from 45% to 50% with a very large forests areas.

The village grew around the road that passes through it as we can see from the map of the etat major, it is at the center of the cultivated plain, and all round you grow forests of enormous size that nearly surround it. We can see how the map from 1800 of the etat major has no significant changes from tokay development, the village has more or less the same number of inhabitants (200) and the perimeters of the of the forests and cultivated land are roughly the same. The change from cultural farming to a broad industrial agriculture has not led to a subsequent appropriation of land and destruction of forests it can in effect be considered an example of degrowth and changes in the mean of production did not lead to a subsequent change to the landscape as it did elsewhere in France. An example of how the countryside to industrial agriculture co-exist. The village has no services of any kind both in terms of the pilgrim as what concerns the inhabitant, our project therefore seeks to respond to the basic needs from social to commercial. There are several services missing as it can be a bar or a restaurant, a square missing a store that sells at least the basic necessities without which



we should move to 20 km. Then there are all those services that can hold a pilgrim or a walker that are missing, from showers, to baths, to beds. These are the services that we intend offer.

As you can see we have designed a new building because all the buildings available within the village are used 100% but our best hope is the reuse of pre-existing buildings.

The buildings will be constructed using all materials at 0 km, the stones from the clearing of the fields, the wood from the forests, the glasses s from the factories nearby. The behavior make buildings compatible and entirely similar to the traditional ones constructed in 1700 with the same techniques.

There will be installed more than 40 kW of rooftop solar panels that will be used to cover all the consumption of energy required for the project and will also provide extra energy so as to cover all the needs of the public and reduce consumption to 10% of the village. The restaurant and shop will sell local products which will increase the local production of organic agriculture and cultural farming, questioning the sustainability of industrial agriculture. All these behaviors will reduce the amount of Energy brought from outside in to the system.

Depopulation and Public Spaces: The Case Study of Lisbon

by Francisca Machado Lima

Paper Abstract

Urban depopulation has been a growing phenomenon since the mid 20th century namely in developed countries of the northern hemisphere (Oswalt, 2008; Pallagst & Aber, 2009; Rink & Haase, Annegret; Bernt, Matthias; Grossmannn, 2012). Among the general drivers are the processes of de-industrialization, peripherisation, post-socialism periods, suburbanization and birth rates decline (Audirac, 2011, Fritsche et al., 2007; Hollander, 2009; Oswalt, 2008). Depopulation is having profound impacts in the city's form and in it's livelihood including an increased social segregation followed by public and private disinvestment with consequences to the accessibility to education, health services and employment combined with an increased sense of insecurity, either



perceived or real (Glock & Häussermann, 2004; Schetke & Haase, 2008). Other impacts include the rise of urban fragmentation and perforation, when demolitions are put forward (European Environmental Agency, 2009; Haase, Lautenbach, & Seppelt, 2010; Haase & Seppelt, 2008; Oswalt, 2008); spontaneous vegetation growth (Ryznar, 2001) and; a decrease on social creativity and innovation (Knudsen, Florida, Gates, & Stolarick, 2007). Along with a contraction in the population size, there is the potential “*landscape expansion*”¹ inside the city with the increase of urban open-wild sites where biodiversity can grow exponentially and where some communities such as groups of adolescents (Ward Thompson, 2012), immigrants with community gardens (Bartlett, 2005; Rosol, 2005) or environmental activists and concerned residents (Kuhoutek & Kamleithner, 2003) occupy the space spontaneously. This expansion can be capitalized in different ways. Either by endowing the city with more and better green infrastructure, with the known benefits for citizens wellbeing and to the cities’ ecological balance, or by increasing cities’ density and avoiding urban sprawl and the associated energy consumption. Although, the two previous perspectives are not necessarily opposites they can compete in the everyday political decisions. The inner cities of most cities in Europe are inherently denser being potential assets to the resolution of such potential conflict between greener and/or denser cities. However, precisely in these areas the abandonment has been more intense in the last decades. This paper intends to explore the role of public open spaces in the rekindle of inner European cities having as case study Lisbon city.

TOWARD A NEW SUSTAINABLE DEGROWTH: AN INTEGRATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF TRADITIONAL EARTH CONSTRUCTION IN EMDIBIR-GURAGE-ETHIOPIA

Mauro Bertagnin, University of Udine, DICA-Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture

Paper Abstract

I.The UNESCO. WHEAP Programme towards a new perspective of a sustainable degrowth
The World Heritage Programme on Earthen Architecture (WHEAP) is an UNESCO-WHC programme aiming to improve the state of conservation and management of earthen architecture sites worldwide. The programme basically seeks to identify best practices and supports examples for the development and dissemination of appropriate methods and techniques in conservation,



management and capacity building in order to ameliorate know-how in the field. “Expected results include a better understanding of the problems facing earthen architecture, the development of policies favoring its conservation, the definition of practical guidelines and the organization of training and awareness activities, particularly in local communities through workshops, exhibitions, conferences and technical publications to raise the recognition of earthen architecture, as well as the creation of an active global network for the exchange of information and experience. Earthen architecture is the most original expression of the human ability to create an appropriate built environment with limited resources and the most sustainable and locally available material” (1). For these reasons earthen architecture can be considered the most appropriate solution for the housing in a perspective of “prosperity without growth” (2). Moreover earthen architecture includes a great variety of architectural urban and rural production, ranging from palaces to historic city centres, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and vernacular shelters. The evidence of its cultural importance throughout the world has led to the consideration of the earthen architecture as a common heritage of humankind. In fact earth construction plays an important role in defining the identity of many local communities being an appropriate solution for the third millennium habitat in the degrowth perspective. There is in fact an increased interest for its ability to contribute to ecological and cultural assets. However, despite this interest the earthen architecture is increasingly threatened by natural and human impacts as global warming, floods, earthquakes, urbanization and disappearance of traditional building maintenance and conservation practices.

Considering that earth will probably remain also in the third millennium, one of the most important resources available to build low cost quality houses, it becomes urgent for the International community to focus on the safeguarding of the most outstanding earthen heritage around the world. At the same time it is also important to inform on the significant role of earth construction for social improvement as well as its great potential for contributing to poverty alleviation. In this perspective the World Heritage Committee approved, in 2007, the World Heritage 10 years WHEAP programme (2007-2017) with the main purpose to develop an integrated global approach to identify and formulate appropriate methods, techniques and



policies of conservation and management for a sustainable development of earthen architectural heritage protected under the World Heritage Convention. This is to be achieved through development and dissemination of best practices of both conservation methods and techniques and technical adaptations using new available means, and through capacity building at State Party level. Implementation of these activities should be supported by agencies specialized on earthen architecture and involve research projects, pilot activities in the field, publications on the results, awareness raising and promotional activities. The integrated educational programme for the improvement of traditional earth construction in Emdibir area in Ethiopia, described in this paper, is conceived in this operational perspective and delineate a new vision connecting prosperity, degrowth and bounded capabilities. The path of training is divided into two main areas: the study of vernacular architecture and local building cultures and the improvement of local building techniques using earth as basic material for the construction of new buildings respectful of local typological patterns but improve by protection from fires. This was indeed the original warrant that started the project.



TACKLED ISSUES:

- Francesca Machado Lima: presentation paper about depopulation in cities and examples of shrinking cities Detroit, Liverpool, Dresden, Leipzig, Lisbon. She presents two different processes: green infrastructures (Dresden/Leipzig) increase density city.

In Dresden and Leipzig the demolition has been important and positive for the urban landscape and for the population growth. The degrowth in Europe is in particular in the peripheral areas. The main character is the degrowth of historical center like in Edinburgh and Lisbon. The question is: how this cities can be still attractive?

- Mauro Bertagnin: Presentation paper about traditional earth construction in Emdbir Gurage Ethiopia. Bertagnin works in educational program WHEAP that is a UNESCO program to improve the state of conservation and a management of earthen architecture sites. Relation between education-architecture-traditional constructing techniques.
- The project is for reconstruct traditional houses destroyed by fire with new design and traditional material looking to the integration with the landscape.
- Leonardo Marotta: Paper about Cultural Routes and Greenway. Landscape is: human ecosystem, walking, cultural routes. The importance of new mobility then greenways that conserves social memory and tradition (for example city walking, songs-lines, Bruce Chatwing). Two main walking toward: Santiago de Compostela, Francigena Route
Think about New Kind of Science — New model. Design slow mobility
- Auro Michelin: Paper about Via Francigena and in particular about Blessonville village in France. Interesting for the good ecological balance. Little traditional village with traditional agriculture for locals not used for visitors or export. The place doesn't have services. Project proposed is create social services for tourists (hostel, restaurant, bathrooms) with the objective to move the local economy. Integration locals and visitors for local improvement.

GIVEN ANSWERS:

- What do you think about the role of the information and education of people/citizens where you worked? Referred to Ethiopia project



2 different ways:

- Be in contact with locals leaders for example catholic church net (medical, social, material support)
- Get involved young people in constructing a model: explain to them that is possible improving the existing
- Referred to cultural routes (Marotta): Designing little projects not big one, little local and reversible solution. Use the constraints as a value (low level of energy and consume)
- How can we catch people to walk on pilgrim's walks? Referred to Blessonville (Michelon): Marketing strategies on
 - mobility: biking, walking, local production
 - tradition and brand: nice place, you have to be there

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS MESSAGES AND COMMENTS:

- Public greenways, made by synergetic gardens, which should be located around the city core (for example on brown fields and other decommissioned areas) to:
Auto produce food and energy (by biomass); Create new green public spaces; Reduce urban runoff and other risks linked with the climate change; Reduce human disease and unemployment
- Short circulating production cycle is practically impossible in a global economy unless at the same time create a local pricing system. e.g. voucher? Anthony
- How does one design constraints such that ecological approach is the logical conclusion?
- Is it possible that people could leave job and "old" lifestyle to start walk on pilgrims ways? It would be a new kind of tourism, but it won't be a life style for the most of people, because we strictly depend on money (we are sons of the "consumerism's program")