



# THEME WORK

**SUB-THEME:**

**Technique, Technology, Management**

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP**

**Degrowth in Architecture**



## **PROPONENT:**

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## DEGROWTH IN ARCHITECTURE

Remigio Masobello. AEF - Associazione Eco Filosofica di Treviso.

### Paper Abstract

The acceptance of ecology, but in particular of profound ecology, is the premise for degrowth in our habits and in new architecture.

If we consider ourselves ecologists (and it is hard not to for those with even just a little common sense), we must truly respect our environment, nature as a whole and our planet. Such respect will lead us to the path of degrowth.

Of course we know that in our daily lives we are obliged to consume (thus changing the environment in some way). But we should consume in the most discreet way possible, making sure that our actions are completely reversible and that they actually improve the environment. There are various ideas as regards to how the environment can be improved through our architecture; initiatives are not lacking. However, for the most part, these initiatives only worsen the situation. As regards nature, we should try to create a relationship based on attention, respect, sharing and love. By studying and loving nature, we discover its beauty, a beauty that is born from the perfect and rational use of the energies and the characteristics of the place, its situation, its surroundings. We thus discover the beauty-energy equation. This fact enables us to understand that our architecture, which by definition seeks out beauty, can only be born from the energy of the place. Energy in the broadest sense of the word. We will also come to realize that being at one with nature and with the beauty which we have found in its energy, are key elements to happiness.



## **URBANIZATION AND DEGROWTH: MISSION POSSIBLE?**

Volker Mauerhofer United Nation University

### **Paper Abstract**

Urban areas are increasingly attracting people. Reasons include the larger number of education opportunities, the stronger concentration of employment facilities and the huge variety of leisure offers. Although the expectations of 'newcomers' in urban areas are often not met leading to substantial living conditions ("slums") in poverty and illness. In comparison, spaces outside of urban areas provide usually more green living conditions, cheaper accommodation and a bigger amount of square meter's per capita living space. A sustainable development towards environmental, social and economic sustainability constitutes also for urban areas an overall aim during the past decades. This puts a main challenge upon all public and private stakeholders on all levels of the geographic scale. The living style in urban areas appears in the first view often more sustainable due to e.g., smaller number of square meters, shared walls, no or less cars per capita and more efficient public transport. The current work in progress questions this assumption based on the reflexive interlink ages between urban areas and the spaces outside of them.

## **NOTHING IS MORE**

n'UNDo Alejandro Del Castillo Sánchez, Verónica Sánchez Carrera (Spain)

### **Paper Abstract**

To construct from renouncement (n'UNDO) is an attitude, a cultural reaction, extendable to any field of knowledge and life that, from architecture and by means of the implication of diverse disciplines, aims to generate a base of thought and action (No Construction, Minimization, Reuse and Dismantlement) as a way of doing sustainable architecture of the territory and the city. This



is formulated as a philosophy of renunciation, of the search for the essential and necessary, of the do without doing, as the nothing is more philosophy.

Two major crises challenge our models, one systemic and cultural, samples that the subculture of masses of our society, advocates insatiable consumption, irresponsibility, continued growth, uncontrolled accumulation, obsolescence, unsustainable waste generation, mass propaganda and monumentality. A culture where speculation has replaced economy; technocracy is understood as politics; consumption as freedom and charity as social justice.

At the other end, a primary crisis, of basic needs, where countless data show the situation of many countries called euphemistically South. These numbers reveal that 2200 million people worldwide do not have health care, 1200 million lack access to safe water or that last year, forty-four million people had to flee their homes to seek refuge somewhere else.



## TACKLED ISSUES:

- Remigio Masobello: Ecology needs to be a preliminary remark for the degrowth. Architecture needs to be beautiful and connected to the place. Degrowth doesn't mean to do bad buildings. The houses should be built for our happiness. Architecture language needs to be linked to the landscape in which people build so it should be specific. An oriental wise said "the way of doing is to be". If we want to make an architecture based on degrowth first of all we must decrease

- Volker Mauerhofer: There is a relationship between urbanism and degrowth

Four fields analyzed and solutions linked: space, traffic, energy consumption, matters consumption (see poster) He focuses on urban areas because they attract people and so they need to be more sustainable.

- n'UNDO: Their Architectural association is an attitude, a cultural reaction, The motto their manifesto sustainability change the model. DO IT WITHOUT DOING. They explained the difference between efficiency and sustainability. Efficiency means use better the resources while sustainability means to consume only the necessary. N'UNDO 4 principles are : NO CONSTRUCTION, MINIMIZE, RE-USE, DISMANTLE

Their priority is the social and environmental sustainability.

## GIVEN ANSWERS:

- Urban degrowth has a relation with politics and ideology: this influences the choices.
- The crisis can help the degrowth architecture because it can be an element against speculation, can favor new public policies and create sharing spaces
- The organized crime influences negatively processes of urban and sustainable development (referred to Spain)

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

## MESSAGES AND COMMENTS:



- What will be the action of transition to degrowth for the mass of society, not for the minority we are?