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Les défis de développement pour les villes et les régions dans une Europe en mutation

Abandoned landscapes as receptors of alternative tourism activities: the case of the village “Paliouri”

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Résumé / Summary

We are planning a future that only its preamble we know.

Space is a given and programming is a variable. The place survives the user who created it. We have a contradiction of heritage, with an aesthetic that others had devised, along with the freedom of contemporary interventions in old buildings, or next to them, to restore a dialogue between spaces, uses and architecture.

Therefore, we are talking about “architecture of conversion”. This architecture should be a part of an urban and human narrative, rather than a celebration of the past. The quest for prosperity in today’s economic climate, mobility (especially through the rehabilitation of rural environments), necessity of contact with nature (ecology trends), awareness of environmental challenges, led to the search of a spatial environment that will allow the application and incarnation of this kind of architecture throughout the proposed project.

The proposal focuses on the reuse of the abandoned village Paliouri, at the area of “Aisonia”, close to the city of Volos, Greece. The space was continuously inhabited from Neolithic Age till today and it was created by landowners of Pelion, who owned towers in the village, where they used to gather their crop. However, the village was abandoned around 1950, due to often earthquakes and lack of water. The local architecture is defined by the economy of the village, where the house was an independent, individual, economic unit, with uses such as oil presses, small wineries and stoves. The house unit was turned to a self-sufficient small-scale economy. The center of the village was the church, where people used to gather in many occasions, and the internal routes were mainly traditionally built stone paths.

The idea is to create an alternative ecotourism center, where visitors will have the chance along with their holidays, to come closer to earth, by participation in the cultivation of land, and to other similar agricultural activities. Furthermore, they will have the chance to participate in seminars or cultural events that may take

place in the area. In fact, the following are proposed:

- a. Highlighting of the paths, either the old ones, or the new ones, so as to suit the proposed building program. The Neolithic settlements Sesklo and Dimini (which are 5 and 3 km away from the village) are connected through paths with the area of intervention.
- b. The ecotouristic character of the intervention will be enforced by the creation of small hotels and houses that take into consideration energy factors and environmental design. In the meantime, organic crops are proposed in order to organize the participation of guests in cultivation, harvesting and elaboration of the products.
- c. Cultural and educational activities, such as seminars, workshops and courses or even bigger scale events such as concerts will take place, as part of this alternative tourism approach.

Bibliographie / Bibliography

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