



Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Regeneration strategies to promote shared life and contrast the abandonment of rural settlements

2. Format:

Written paper

3. Author(s) Name:

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5. Abstract (300 words):

This work started from a line of research developed by the authors in the recent years, as part of several research projects, which focus on the forms of shared life and on the recurrent phenomena of abandonment of rural settlements.

The research aims to understand how ancient buildings in rural areas, which housed functions for the collective and shared life, could be recovered in the present days, housing again shared functions and becoming occasions to contrast the abandonment of rural areas, with particular reference to the realities of Europe, China and Central America.

These realities are rich in buildings, with traditional typologies (cascina, tulou and hacienda), which based their organization on sharing of spaces and functions. These buildings, often in a state of complete abandon, are now the subject of numerous interventions of regeneration, many of which are considered in the international contemporary debate as best practices. Among these, ten projects have been analyzed with a predominantly anthological method, with semantic analysis supports (books, documents, interviews' reports, etc.) and analysis of drawings and pictures that have revealed the distribution and functional characteristics of each individual project (in the past and nowadays).

Then, the research has compared the studied projects by extrapolating the common characteristics that indicate an attitude of sustainability, including: the regeneration of the existing; the limitation of land use and the creation of communitarian environments (not necessarily re-proposing the historical ones).

Therefore, the research confirms that several old rural buildings can be regenerated to contrast the abandonment of rural areas by proposing a sustainable approach and new forms of sharing, updated to nowadays, in functions and spaces. Moreover, by analysing the regeneration projects in three different geographical areas, the research outlines some guidelines applicable in a wide range of locations, better defined in the paper.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

EMANUELE GIORGI

Full Time Visiting Professor at Escuela de Arquitectura y Diseño, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus León (Mexico), where he teaches at the course of Community Buildings and Final Project. He is engineer, and research member at China Lab, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture at the University of Pavia (Italy). In the last years, he studied the topics of participation in architecture and communitarian settlements as major ways toward sustainable development. These topics have been the core of his doctoral research, thanks to which he achieved PhD in January 2016 with a supervisor from Tongji University in Shanghai (China). From this University he received also the title of Shuoshi Master of Architecture in 2012. In 2012 he received also the Master Degree in Building Engineering and Architecture from University of Pavia, Italy.

TIZIANO CATTANEO

Assistant Professor in Architectural design at University of Pavia, Italy, he is founder director of the China Lab. for architecture and urban studies. Since 2012 he is Visiting Professor at College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University, Shanghai. In 2015, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) awarded Tiziano Cattaneo as Judges' Choice Winner of the Climate Co Lab contest. He was PI of a national research project for the years 2011-2013 and recently has been involved in several international research activities. He lectured in international universities and institution in Europe, Brazil, Chile, Russia, USA and China, and is Author of numerous scientific publications.