TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S)– DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

• Paper / Title:
Heritage as a design driver: The case of community based projects from the global South

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• University or Company Affiliation:
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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
i. present via pre-recorded film (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
The proposed paper looks at heritage as both a tangible physical form – traditional building materials- and an intangible socio-cultural influence on the way the built environment can be produced in some areas of the global South. In both cases, there is a focus on the role of the community, human agency and practice, in creating the built environment (infrastructure, housing neighbourhoods, etc.) through community driven initiatives. The paper considers heritage as a dynamic and active agent of social transformation and community rebuilding. Using two case studies from Ghana and Algeria, it discusses how such projects can make use of heritage, which embodies traditional knowledge and existing practices, be it in the form of materials/craftsmanship or tradition-inspired space planning/urban design approaches to create built
surroundings that are rooted in local environments, traditions and places, and are in tune with and responsive to the local context (cultural, social, economic and ecological). Drawing on the two case studies and other examples from the literature, the paper seeks to identify what could be learned from an often-neglected heritage –under pressure from globalisation- in order to inform the design and improve the creation of built environments that respond to the socio-cultural aspirations of people within a contemporary context, which is often characterised by a multiplicity of complexities when compared to traditional ways of life and its production methods.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Hocine Bougdah is a reader in architecture at the Canterbury School of Architecture, University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury, UK. His research interests span two areas that are different in approach but complement each other. The first area is interested in seeking sustainable architectural solutions using low technology, low cost design and construction methods and having user participation at the heart of the process. The second area focusses on immateriality in architecture as something that forms part of the users’ spatial experience that is largely by socio-cultural factors among others. It sees culture and heritage as sources of an invisible technologythat extends to materials and craftsmanship that can be deployed through user participation in the design process. His current work involves looking at what can be learned from traditional methods of design to inform contemporary sustainable design solutions. Dr Bougdah is a member of the editorial board for the international journal; Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Development, a co-editor for a book series ‘Advances in Science Technology and Innovation’ to be published in 2018/19 by Springer as well as a reviewer for a number of publications including the Journal of Islamic Architecture, Sustainability, Architecture and Culture and Plos One.

Maria Panta completed her PhD research degree titled, ‘Approaches to the resilience and the potential for adaptation through community-driven construction projects in the global South’, at Canterbury School of Architecture in 2018 (funded by the University for the Creative Arts, UK). She undertook her primary research in rural Ghana building a school canteen as part of a local community driven organization. She is the online editor for The Architects’ Project (TAP), an autonomous initiative involved in the education and practice of architecture operating from Accra & Kumasi in Ghana with a global agenda. In 2011 Maria joined Reset Development, a London-based charity, on a two-year research based project titled the ‘Affordable Low-Carbon and Cyclone resilient Housing in South West Bangladesh’, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID-UK). She became an associate of Women’s Design Service (WDS) in 2010 and got involved in community-led design projects in London using participatory planning consultations in order to influence planning in the boroughs, and a WDS Lottery-funded
project aimed at improving public toilet provision. She undertook her RIBA Part II at London South Bank University with the research-based thesis titled ‘Seven City Farms in London’, discussing sustainability and community based adaptation in London.