TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S): AN INTERPLAY OF DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

• Paper / Proposal Title:
- The revalorization of the vernacular villages heritage of the Aures region through an eco-touristic approach

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
Building for the present implies knowledge of the past. Heritage has become a topical issue that is no longer perceived as the material aspect of the building or the object but as a set of tangible and intangible goods and, furthermore, as the interaction of a population in its environment, the latter being a purveyor of venerable know-how and social identity. This is the direction that has been taken by recent studies in several regions of the world.
The Aures region in Eastern Algeria is one of the oldest and richest in terms of heritage; it was populated centuries ago by the Chaouia people (a Berber tribe), who were able
to adapt to a hostile environment, erecting villages and putting together management systems of their territory. Although the region was marked by the passage of the Roman, Hillalian, Ottoman and French civilisations, the population did not relinquish its way of life. However, nowadays, many buildings are in ruin, often mere vestiges, while others are still inhabited but not in the same way any longer, mirroring the change in the inhabitants way of life and in the social relations among them.

The vernacular habitat remains a sustainable habitat, both for its local materials and its energy efficiency, as well as for its respect for, and integration with, the environment. This ancestral architecture, should be preserved and improved in order to meet modern comfort needs, as well as serve as an architectural model in the region to maintain cultural identity. Through a documentary search to identify the history of these traditional Berber villages, and an assessment of the current state of the locations following an in-situ investigation that will help produce a territorial analysis of the interaction between inhabitants and the environment.

The approach chosen to preserve the Berber identity in the Aures will consider the entire territory as heritage through its architecture, its landscape and its population’s way of life to insert it into a sustainable tourism framework not only through the rehabilitation of abandoned housing and their development into tourist structures and souvenir shops, but also through the creation of tourist circuits and heritage interpretation centres.

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

**Serhane Karima Imène**, architect, graduated from the University of Batna I, speciality: habitat and landscapes. Currently completing her 3rd year as a PhD student in architecture, built heritage and environment at the University of Blida I, Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning. A researcher in conservation of historical buildings and sites, she is also interested in cultural landscapes searches. She has participated to several seminars and workshops about built heritage and local development. She has taught urban engineering and construction modules to master I students as a temp teacher at the University of Blida I. An active member of the association "Les Amis de Medghacen" working for the protection of the Aures region’s heritage. Completed an Internship at BET FABRIS & PARTNERS ARCHITETTI, Architecture Sector for CIC Alger International Conference Center.

**Abdessemed-FOUFA Amina**, is Dr. in architecture, Ass. Professor, Director of ETAP laboratory and President of the PhD courses at the University of Blida I, Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning. She is an architect at the prestigious Monuments et Sites Historiques depending on the Algerian Ministry of Culture. She has published several international papers on the conservation of historical buildings. She is a researcher involved in different projects in Algeria and in Europe on “seismic hazard...
assessment in North Africa, the seismic load resistance of traditional construction and on constructive typology of traditional building in Algeria”. She has supervised more than 30 masters in architecture and cultural heritage and 10 doctorate thesis in the same field. She was a visiting lecturer at Intensive European Courses on Local Seismic Culture, European University Center for Cultural Heritage, (CUBEC), Ravello, (Naples), Italy, in 2003 and 2004. Visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture of the Politecnico of Bari, Italy, in 2008 and 2018. She has restored several historical buildings in Algeria. She has contributed to the first Safeguarded Map of the Casbah of Algiers in 2007. She has supervised the safeguarded plan of the ancient site of Cherchell (Ceasarea). She is member of the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction (GADR).