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PG | POCKET GARDENS

Ephemeral Regeneration of Super-Blocks in Tirana

International Work Schools

SpaRe
LIFE
2019



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The Department of Architecture at Epoka University, supported by “Design al Centro” (international network for integrated and multi-scale designing) and together with a list of **International Scientific Partners**, is pleased to launch:

IV edition of SpaRe.Life 2019 | IWS titled:

PG | Pocket Gardens

Ephemeral Regeneration of super-blocks in Tirana

It is a full-time experience of learning, researching and designing that provides participants an opportunity to reflect on the multi-scale urban regeneration of the informal fabric in the capital city Tirana, considering “informality” as a possible added value in both the development and the transformation of the real city, through:

- The practice of Urban Planning and Space Design, of Architectural Design and Technology, of Design for Public Spaces and Facilities;
- The application of the next theories and models of micro/small interventions for the shared urban spaces regeneration;
- The on-field experience and citizens’ involvement through the socio-cultural animation of the area and the erection of micro/small outdoors installations.

Directed by

| Fabio Naselli |

Scientific & Didactic Committee

| Sokol Dervishi (Scientific Responsible) | Edmond Manahasa (Didactic Responsible) |
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Organizing Secretariat & Teaching Assistants

| Francesco Mingrino (Coordinator) |
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General overview

The SpaRe.Life 2019 | IWS aims to promote a multi-disciplinary and multi-scalar approach, in an international comparison, to encourage the development of additional and innovative skills of the participating students and the curricula of both the host university and the partners. It is an opportunity that may provide insight and alternative scenarios for the enhancement of marginal urban areas in order to promote and to redesign new opportunities, features, and ways of living in the micro/small urban spaces.

The IV Edition 2019 will focus on the urban regeneration of some selected inner areas of Tirana, Capital City of Albania.

Tirana is a city re-founded at the beginning of the last century thanks to an “imposed” urban planning intervention (1925) and now-a-day it presents itself as (the most) young European Capital. It has evolved mainly informally after the fall of the socialist regime, up to more than two decades ago. From just over a decade, the city is experiencing a real physical, social and cultural transformation, which sees it today as the vanguard of an interesting and - in many ways - paradigmatic process of drastic changes on the way of transition from informality vs. formality.

A process coming up under the guidance of a sort of soft “democratic authoritarianism” capable of driving the city (with merits and defects) towards a deep and not-easy transition, to the contemporary city, but a process mostly oriented to the main structures and

infrastructures. These all are happening in a non-circular process that, instead, could more usefully be considered such as “from the formal to the informal growing and return”, in which the “informality” may also considered as a new value in the actual regenerative interventions.

The aim of the workshop is to reach a “**vision concept**” for an ephemeral regeneration on the way of the most recent experiences, such as *Tactical Urbanism*, *Pop-Up Designing*, *Guerrilla Urbana*, *Acupuncture Urbanism* and so on. This Summer School would like to represent a different point of view on current city planning and rebuilding. It is also, and mostly, an attempt to introduce new principles of city planning and designing even if temporary, transitory, flexible, reversible, low-cost and... moderate.

It would be a further opportunity in rethinking the small urban spaces, organic streets and paths, micro-economic and energy alternatives, linked in a logic of unique system to increase urban soft mobility, to enhance the quality of urban life, to improve the social and the physical cohesion and to emphasize the many roles may played by the “inner of precincts” in Tirana urban fabrics. The subject will be based on the most recent experiences accrued in Albania, Egypt, Italy, Netherlands, Oman, Spain, in the alternative regeneration of “pocket gardens” and, more in general, of micro/small green spaces. Experiences carried out from the involved scholars are from various nationalities and backgrounds.

Methodology

The methodological approach adopted is based on a diachronic and holistic analysis of the local urban context, particularly focused on the evolution of space-time relation with the Metropolis.

The working groups will interpret the approach - to this kind of city evolution - as an environmental and cultural history of the interpretation process of local social dynamics within territorial and landscape components.

The desirable output will be to “invade” the places system, derived by those theoretical reflections with ideas, designs and real applications (such as it is happening nowadays in several actual experiences, from both private and public initiatives, of urban invasion, open streets and so on).

Therefore, the SpaRe.Life 2019 | IWS is oriented to adopt specific approaches to the urban regeneration themes according to the following criteria:

- Regeneration in the peripheries is not a kind of restoration, renewal (etc.) or a technical or procedural “tool kit” but it is a flexible social/cultural/economical project based on the shared visions from both the professionals and the citizens/community
- who have to participate in the decision on how to live and how to use their own area of city;

- The knowledge of both the human and environmental urban elements must be complete as more it is possible: the school will adopt the evolution culture/history of the places like a pillar of the design based on risk assessments and common awareness;

- The project must derive from a general urban vision to reach a detailed scale and, as required, a real installation in the specific area/areas;

- Technology, public design, architecture & urban design, planning & landscape analysis, risk knowledge, energy needs and so on, are together the ground of the urban regeneration in the spatial sense;

- The design of architectures is only one of the required actions because several different design solutions better may qualify sustainable alternatives of political decision-makers and simplify the participation of dwellers reducing the local social conflict;

- All the plans and projects of the past are fruitful for the future of the city: nothing can be lost for the urban regeneration because the opportunity to learn from the past errors/successes is very fruitfully.

General Targets and Objectives

Great attention will be given to the targets of safeguarding in interrupting the Cycles of the urban metabolism (social, water, waste, energy, etc.) and those degradation processes, typical of the marginal urbanized contexts. The soil and its fertility, the water and its life cycle, the plants and their contribution to the vitality of the environment, they have ceased to be passive components of the city and take on a new meaning: that of “active environmental infrastructures” in the process of recovering new conditions of socio/ecological functioning in the city.

The target of the school is re-thinking these marginal but flexible areas as a new core of urban service polarization without heavy additions of new big infrastructures but, exactly the opposite, re-using what is already existing in the place.

Following these targets, the SpaRe.Life 2019 | IWS has three overall objectives to pursue through the program of activities:

- The implementation of the opportunities for scientific and applied research thanks to the trans-disciplinary approach proposed by the school and to the comparison between scholars from nearby but different geographical areas.

- The experimentation of new scenarios and forms of ephemeral, low-cost regeneration in the themes that are at the basis of an “action-training” designing.

- The animation of concrete forms of active participation of the concerned community, crucial to manage the transition in full consciousness toward models of alternative and sustainable urban transformation.

Key topics

The 2019 International Summer School's key topics will be:

- Space Design & Urban Planning
- Architectural Design
- Participated Designing
- Landscape Design
- Green-Blue Infrastructure
- Landscape Infrastructure
- Nature Based Solutions for Urban Challenges
- Resilient Cities
- Multi-Scalar Approach
- Social and Generational Cohesion
- Art Hybridisations
- Next Technology Opportunities
- Public Space & Facility Design
- Social Streets Invasion
- Historical Heritage Enhancement
- Alternative Mobility Scenarios
- Urban Metabolism
- Environmental Design & Adaptation to Climate Change
- Economic feasibility and sustainability
- Enhancement of tangible and intangible identity heritage
- Management plans and models
- Parametric landscapes





Who can participate and how to enrol

Participation is open to all university students, PhD students and young professionals, with no limitation of age, nationality and scientific field of interest.

The application form can be filled at the link <http://sparelife.epoka.edu.al/>,

it must be received by **00:00 GMT of 28/04/2019**, exclusively by e-form filled on the website or by email sparelife.iws@gmail.com, and must be accompanied by **a short biography, by a copy of the identity card or passport and by a recent photo.**

The acceptance will be regulated through appropriate forms of selection that could be activated in respect to the total number of applications received.

Fees and rules of participation

The SpaRe.Life | IWS is self-financing

Therefore, **the regular fee for participants is set in €550.00**, according with the budget needs. As usual, the participants coming from the host institution or from other University in Albania have a reduced fee set in **€100.00** (excluding accommodation).

It is established a gratuitousness for one supervisor (including airfare and accommodation) every 10 enrolled participants coming from the same institution. In case of additional accompanying persons from the same Institution, the fee is set at € 350.00 and includes accommodation.

The fee includes all the necessary costs to support the activities of the workshop (lectures, materials, tutoring, field trips, etc.) it also includes the expenses of accommodation, food and local transportations for participants coming from outside. The fee does not include travels expenses.

The fee must be paid in Euro and after the acceptance confirmation from the Didactic Committee of the School.

The accepted participant, whom receives the confirmation by email, must pay no later than **02/06/2019** according with the payment request and the modality that will be communicate later.

Practical information

Official and work language:

Official language is English (for meetings, lectures, exhibitions, exams, etc.)

Place of activities:

Department of Architecture at Epoka University,
A-Building, Rruga Tirana-Rinas Km.12, Tirana
(Albania)

Duration:

2019 September 2-12 (total days: 11)

Number of participants:

Min. 20 - Max. 60.

The Scientific Committee may establish possible derogations from the maximum number of participants, if it deems appropriate.

Total number of hours and Formative Credits (ECTS):

Total 88 hours (8 hours/day: 90:00 am - 5:00 pm).

The organizers will provide a detailed certificate in order to obtain the recognition of Credits (ECTS) by their own universities.

Note: Considering the design aims of the planned activities during the workshop, participants are strictly advised to bring his own laptop. The School itself will provide the Internet connection.

Contact us

For any inquiries or further information, please contact the persons responsible of the Organizing Secretariat

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University Partners

Mansoura University (Egypt) - University of Salento (Italy) - British University in Egypt (Egypt) - University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” (Italy) - University of Lisbon (Portugal) - Sultan Qaboos University (Oman) - University of Sabana (Columbia) - Helwan University (Egypt) - Scientific College of Design (Oman).

Represented Universities

University of Groningen (Netherlands) – Horus University (Egypt) - University of Palermo (Italy) - Suez Canal University (Egypt) - Polytechnic University of Cataluña (Spain) - Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria.

Scientific Partners

ASRT, Academy for Scientific Research and Technology - CSFS, Centre for Sustainability and Future Studies - CRUEC, Italy-Egypt Research Centre - FCT, Foundation for Science and Technology - SITdA, Italian Society of Architectural Technology - Urban Lab of the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria - CiAUD, Research Center at the University of Lisbon. - CoRDA, Center of Research and Design in Applied Sciences at Epoka University - commonsense.studio, architecture practice based in Tirana - PAA, Portuguese Architects Association.

Patronages

Municipality of Tirana

AKPT of Albania (National Agency for Territorial Planning)



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