

Slowork, room with view. Behaviors, Heritage, Design for new lifestyles.

Abstract

Starting from the interpretation of historic villages as models of sustainable open communities and social innovation capable of encouraging interaction between people and areas at multiple levels, and from the importance acquired by the psychological and sociological benefits deriving from the prolonged stay in these contexts, the research intends to provide an example of environmental design focused on the processes of behavioral change implemented by tourist behavior when it enters into a relationship with cultural heritage at different scales, from the architectural one to the single design artifact, without necessarily giving up one's own working needs through multisensory enjoyment.

The paper describes the eco-design process for the construction of temporary rooms for SLOWORK that can be placed inside the main tourist attractions and in external symbolic places, such as central squares and possible viewpoints. The temporary rooms will contain sustainable materials and renewable energy solutions determined by the particular seasonal climatic conditions.

Keywords (Arial 11 pt, bold)

Slowork, climate, energy, ecodesign, cultural heritage

1. Introduction

If art and nature can arouse a feeling of joyful wonder in the mind of the observer, living and even more so having the opportunity to work in them can improve our existence. The spontaneous attraction that can arise between the subject and the cultural asset places aesthetic and ethical feelings in close relation to each other. A renewed agreement between us and the world that affirms the centrality of beauty capable of expressing itself in us and in our actions. Slowork was born from these premises. Starting from the relational value, characteristic of historical contexts as well as of cultural spaces, the research project focused on the concepts of well-being and harmony deriving from the combined use of smart working technologies with the multisensory enjoyment of cultural heritage at different scales - from architecture to the single design artefact. Within the contemporary scenario, the processes implemented by tourist behaviour place the visitor in relation to the cultural heritage, associating traditional use with a plurality of services that favour changing working needs, starting from the interpretation of historical villages as open systems suitable for favouring interaction between different subjects at multiple levels, and from the importance acquired by the psychological and sociological benefits deriving from a prolonged stay in such contexts. This gave rise to the idea of creating temporary rooms for smart working that could be located both inside the main tourist attractions, museums, convent complexes, historic buildings and in symbolic outdoor locations, i.e. central squares and any belvederes. The tourist, in effect a temporary inhabitant, is enabled to stay in the contexts traditionally dedicated to short visits, favouring work performance with the aid of smart co-working stations. By means of an assisted stay pact, he or she has access to tourism promotion services and smart working services, with progressive and continuous experiential involvement. Similarly, the citizen, beyond the domestic threshold, has the possibility of accessing a wide range of additional services in the places of choice in his or her municipality, with new possibilities for interaction and exchange and in the full guarantee of professional standards linked to the de-materialisation of work. The rooms, designed, built and managed according to the circular economy model and within the framework of objectives to reduce energy consumption, arise from the study of alternative and renewable energy solutions based on climate and environmental surveys, with particular attention to the use and inclusion of people with physical, cultural and cognitive



Fig 1. Slogan-words of the Project

disabilities. At the basis of the design process that guided the project are the key words captured by the team in the meanings of responsibility, reproducibility, symbiosis, need, multidisciplinary, resilience, creation, polyhedral. An ideal synthesis of the entire process, starting from the sense of responsibility, understood as the possibility of foreseeing in advance the consequences of one's own behaviour and, if necessary, correcting it based on these predictions, to arrive at the multifaceted nature of beauty, of nature, of life, of art, of history.

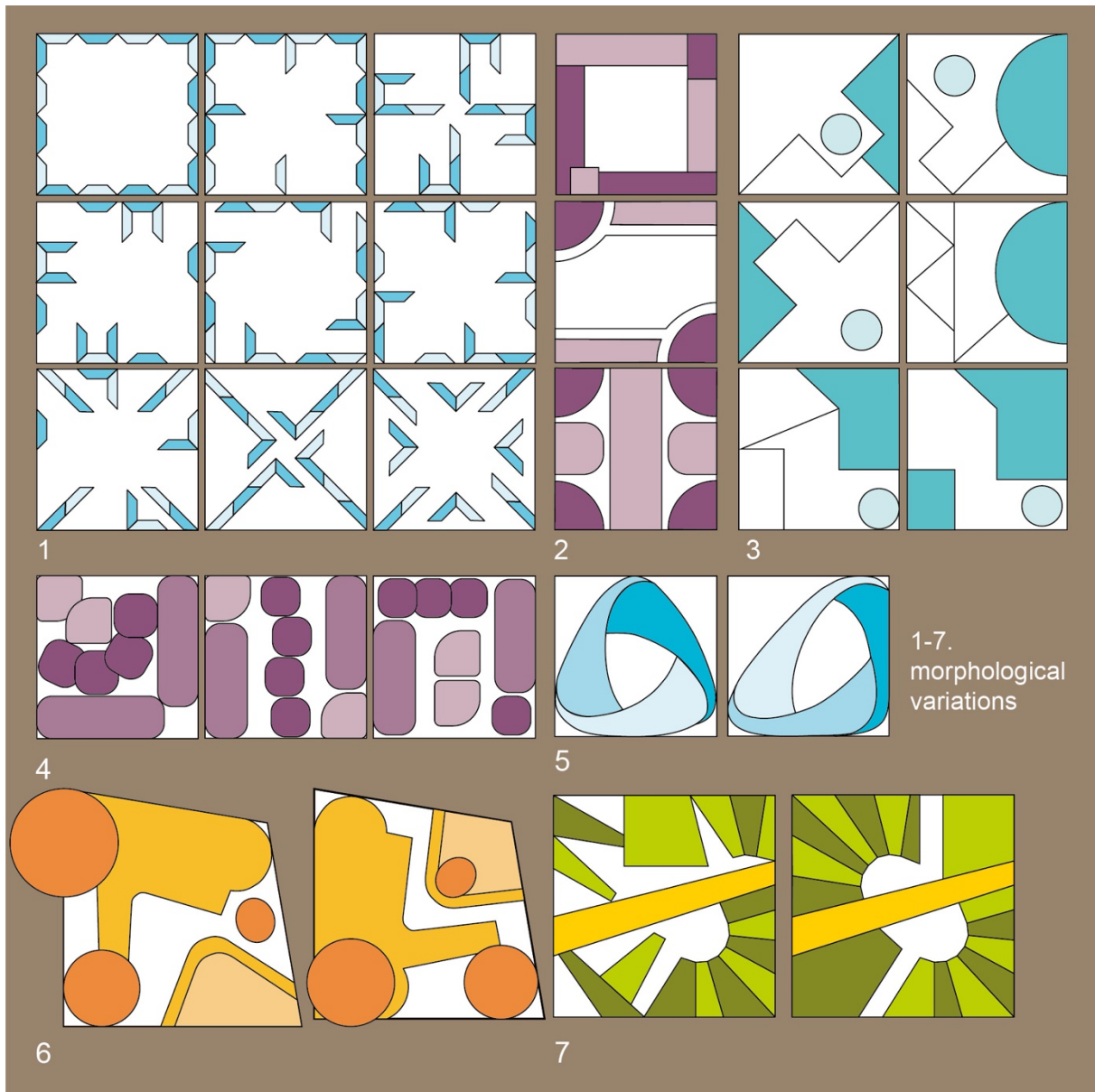


Fig 2. Morphological variations of the room

2. Behaviors

For a slow lifestyle

Villages emptying has significant economic, social and cultural consequences: their disappearance involves the loss of historical memory and the abandonment of a territory full of productive and artisanal potential. The epidemiological emergency from COVID-19 highlighted the phenomenon of depopulation that has characterized small Italian municipalities for over a decade, accompanied by the aging of the population and the scarcity of job opportunities, with the consequent thinning of the supply of services essential. The possibility of a reversal of the trend must not only be grasped, but made structural, thinking of a rebirth model for small municipalities and as proposed and envisaged in the law proposal No. 2316 "Delegation to the Government for the promotion of agile work in small municipalities" aimed

at communities with less than 5,000 inhabitants, which represent over 70 percent of the nearly 9,000 Italian municipalities, with a population of 11 million citizens. The national strategy for inland areas, conceived and launched a decade ago, precisely to counter marginalization and decline, now can find an additional strength in agile working (smart working). The slowwork, room with view project aims to design a temporary structure using sustainable materials, renewable sources to accommodate six workers/students in some Umbrian villages with the possibility of working/studying in smart working, promoting an alternative lifestyle to the metropolitan ones, favoring the development of innovative economic and social models capable of combining tradition and modernity, triggering a real rebirth of the territory by favoring the construction of an environment on a human scale.

3. The urban areas of Umbria

In the last twenty years, design processes and good practices oriented in an ecological sense have progressively taken shape. This is the case, for example, of the biomimicry of Janine Benyus aimed at projects of structures and processes inspired by nature, but also of the implementation of sustainable circular systems, where artifacts and waste are perceived and treated as fruitful resources, through the whole design, production, reuse or recycling chain. Individuals and communities have acquired an environmental awareness and a part of contemporary design culture has long understood the importance of a now essential "eco-design", which knows how to act in a multiscalar and transversal way, definitively changing the anthropocentric perspective into a new perspective ecocentric holistic. The investigations were carried out in the main squares of the eight municipalities selected and responding to the need for revitalization: Trevi, Spello, Foligno, Bettona, Bevagna, Deruta, Montefalco and Bastia Umbra. The analyzes related to the relationship between urban space and the landscape are typological, morphological, sensorial, with particular attention to the theme of urban furniture. The room has a temporary nature that can be counted as one of the artifacts of urban supplies for the revitalization of the historic center, the mediation between environmental and functional needs and the connection between contemporary needs, history, memory and culture.

The purpose of the townscape, wrote Gordon Cullen, is to take into consideration all the elements that combine to create the environment: buildings, trees, nature, water, traffic, advertisements and so on and weave them together, in order to create the drama (the city), through the dichotomous components: exposure, inclosure; hereness, there. ness; here, there; close, open; recession, projection; in out; and through the divisions and sequences of space: continuity, thisness, urbanity, lettering, wallscape, floors cape. All the elements that are part of the small centers, objects, facades, greenery, are examined through three categories: optics, place, content. In a qualified intervention, Giovanni Klaus Koenig tackles the theme of street furniture, on the other hand, in semiotic terms, stating that towns are emitters of cultural signals, therefore they must communicate a series of information. The project intends to place an "ecological" heart (the room) within the consolidated urban heart (the square) in order to trigger an osmotic process that goes from small to large and vice versa. Designing in these ways within a centuries-old spatial context requires a radical change in the thinking and attitude of the designer, who, reflecting on the characters and dynamics of nature, must offer an increasingly sensitive and convinced contribution to change non-logical sustainable still mostly recurring. "Slowwork, room with view" designs a "notebook of morphologies" by elaborating an interpretative model that identifies different models, starting from the study of the connective tissue, of the characters and compositional solutions, of the evident and/or hidden forms. They can be traced from the participatory sketch, from the measurement, from the photography of natural places and buildings, a chain of knowledge and interest in territorial issues up to the design of details, systems, technologies, materials with functional shapes and parts at the service of small compliant buildings, contemporary and recognizable, also and above all suitable for an important communicative role. "Slowwork, room with view" is connected to biophilic design, a discipline that frames nature as a regenerative tool, capable of satisfying the psycho-physical well-being of man when in contact with nature. A regenerative environment is such if it satisfies the five senses through thermal comfort, regenerating light and natural light, olfactory and neurological perception. Renewable sources become in this sense congenial tools for the design of highly technological envelopes that at the same time live with respect to the methods and times of nature. It is therefore possible, using the climatic analyzes elaborated by the Copernicus platform, to use renewable sources in the best way in the different topological configurations of the rooms for the slowwork. Natural ventilation allow the



Fig 3. Renewable energy solutions

achievement of the right level of healthiness of the internal environments, avoiding condensation and reducing the concentration of pollutants, using air exchanges that are naturally triggered between internal and external environments, due to differences in temperature and pressure. It can be used in a mini-wind system capable of using the energy of the wind and converting it into electricity for domestic use, a tree-shaped system, consisting of rotating leaves that follow a 360-degree movement. The first leaves are positioned three meters above the ground and overall there are at least 100 plastic leaves on small generators. The wind therefore allows the latter to act as turbines. The wind tree captures the wind regardless of its direction, favoring the storage of pure energy, using air currents and vertices. Another interesting system to be placed within the small spaces for the slowwork is the turbine wall, a system consisting of small vertical axis wind turbines that can be structurally integrated into the built environment. This kinetic wall is made up of a series of rotating blades that rotate individually, activating a small generator that creates electricity, capable of capturing the wind from all directions. The purpose of the wind turbine wall is to put together a series of silent kinetic walls through which to obtain hypnotic

visual effects. The roofs of the rooms are characterized by the best-known voltaic systems, which use solar energy to produce electricity through the photoelectric effect and the use of materials sensitive to sunlight. All typological solutions provide systems for the collection in suitable tanks of rainwater, through chimney collectors and gutters.

4. Conclusion

The project of the room with a view, used in the description as a space of slow work, or slow work, to be inserted in the center of the small villages to be revitalized, can also be declined in other functional modes. In particular, the small energy-self-sufficient space, built with ecological materials, can be used for temporary exhibitions, as a hobby or as a great communicative beacon of the resources of that particular urban place.

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