

NEW HABITAT EXPLORATIONS

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This research aims to explore mountains as a world apparently distant to metropolis that offers chances to construct models of transformation towards resilience. In theories, in the last years a remarkable shift can be made manifest that overcame the definition of urban influence as indicator for fitness for the future (Diener et al. 2007). In the context of climate change and more advanced models of economic innovation, peripheries today are considered in a perspective of potential and effective "Emerging Creative and Resilient Habitats" (Schröder, Carta, Ferretti, Lino 2018): able to allow and foster performance, in regard to new living and working models based on digital and social innovation, new organisational and financing models for resilience, and territorial creativity to activate and connect cultural resources. The awareness and search for a new access to peripheries has been evolved in different European countries—e.g., in new regional approaches (Land Vorarlberg 2006; Schröder, Danielczyk 2017) and in new cultural and economic roles (Caminada 2005; Cucinella 2018). This perspective demands new abilities, new concepts, and new tools in architecture and urbanism to detect and foster potentials, to link to other disciplines, to local actors, and to society. Not at least in the situation caused by Covid-19, a qualitative and targeted focus on active construction—in terms of processes and of spaces (Schröder 2017)—of towns and villages as "places of good living", as Bätzing (2020) postulated for the idea of "Landleben", is very much highlighted in public and political awareness and debate.

Mountains in particular, due to extremes of climate, topography, and culture, have always been and are now—in climate change, social and eco-

nomical changes, and even in the Corona crisis—places of inventiveness and strong cultural experimentation (Schröder 2017). Here, our research interest are new lifestyles and living/working models that attract new settlers and "temporary citizens" in order to construct perspectives for peripheral and marginalised communities. Traditional concepts of seasonal migratory living and transhumance could give new perspectives for new living and working models beyond tourism. The existing (not only the protected heritage), as patterns of settlement and building culture, as tangible and intangible values, and in relation with nature, in this context "invite us not only to 'recycle' reality but to 're-inform' it ... by incorporating new layers of superimposed realities—combined, conjugated, superposed, infiltrated, crossed, or hybridised—in synergy and mutual interaction" (Gausa 2018). Both, processes of building culture and processes of territorial governance are already being reset and reconfigured (Schröder, Hartmann, Leitgeb 2015; Bätzing 2018). Images and ways to imagine undergo radical re-use, concerning imageries, subtraction, reinvention (Cantarella, Momo 2019). It is not to deny, that the Alps—as major European cultural creation (Bätzing 2015)—played a prominent role in the paradigm shift that started from social and entrepreneurial innovation—expressed in new approaches in architecture (Constructive Alps 2020; Kunst Meran 2018; Gantenbein 2014). In the perspective of urbanism, we address this spatial innovation as new patterns and networks of "habitat", and address spatial strategies, upscaling, replication, new typologies (Schröder, Ferretti 2018). For this, two working fields are at the core: new forms of urban and territorial projects,

more strategic, more adaptive, more interactive—and new forms of analysis to grasp cultural resources—material and immaterial—for a creative use towards the future, in the interaction space and society.

The materials gathered for this research open up to a broad range of territorial "drills": low mountain ranges in central Germany (Harz, Thuringia), diverse situations in the Alps (Engadin, Sarentino/Sarntal, Lago d'Iseo, Leukerbad, Soca Valley), mountains in the middle of the Barcelona metropolitan area (Collserola), on the Crimean Peninsula and in Nepal. The research and design projects generated a framework to analyse common topics and to generate a deeper understanding of local characteristics. Identified transversal approaches and trends in mountain areas, in particular, led to focus on re-signifying established structures and embed them into new regional and metropolitan networks and flows. The research into the mechanisms, figures, and evolution of these activities links architecture and urbanism in new ways to cultural and social sciences and, in particular, offers a comprehensive approach to politically and academically separated field: housing, working, mobility, leisure, tourism. In order to gain effective strategies towards climate change and to construct liveable places (Bätzing 2009), analytical as well as projective tools and concepts need to be re-informed, reconfigured, and invented.

The methodology developed for this task foresees three steps: In a first phase, the selection of case studies and of focus as well as the sharpening of objectives. In an analytical phase, the clarification of specific tasks for each study, in spatial,

programmatic, and processual aspects, according to the specific context. In the experimental and design phase, the work on a range from territorial to architectural strategy and intervention; in the scales 1:25.000 (valley), 1:5.000/2.000 (town, village), 1:500/200 (zoom). For this analytical-conceptual approach, particular tools for analysis, design, and communication have been collected and extended in the common platform of the studio—from mapping, diagramming, video, infographics, drawings, to models.

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