

Topografia del Trauma

Landscape survey workshop in the Belice valley

SECOND EDITION

august 30th/ september 05th 2010.

In September 2009 we held the first Topografia del Trauma workshop in Gibellina. After this first experience the workshop has evolved into a collaboration platform about the Belice valley, with the goal of representing and interpreting the dynamics shaping the region after the 1968 earthquake.

The research compiled (photographic, cartographic, narrative, video, audio) during the 2009 edition, revealed the territorial complexity of the valley and the opportunities for its representation.

How to dynamically describe the mechanisms, still at play today, in a territory shaken by an earthquake that generated complex situations made of reconstructed and refounded cities and the monumentalization of the tragedy?

The 2010 workshop proposes an Atlas of Informal Geographies in the Valle del Belice, an updated cross reading of the places and situations traced during the 2009 and 2010 workshops.

In this second edition, the platform expands to include individuals, organizations and agencies with a long history of work in the valley, with the ambition of giving the Atlas an important role in identifying potential new ways of development and valorisation. Institutions like CRESM will help us go deeper into issues like local development, participation and rural land management, while Adaciu and Legambiente will give valuable insights in environmental protection, landscape and the natural history of the place, all within the framework of the still ongoing reconstruction of the Valle del Belice.

Our interest is to have insights from as many related disciplines as possible. We are open and interested in working with architects, geographers, anthropologists, sociologists, semiologists, communication experts, planners, agronomists, landscape architects, photographers, artists and all who can help to break down this territory and reassemble a critical representation, however partial and incomplete, in the form of an Atlas.

Therefore, we invite to participate in the workshop all professionals, researchers and students from the Faculties of Architecture, Engineering, Humanities, Geography and their doctoral degree, involved and interested in research and territorial representation. We extend the invitation to students of Fine Arts Academies, confident that their contribution will enrich the research with new elements and expand the complexity of the project.

Workshop original idea and coordination by Lucia Giuliano and Laura Cantarella, promoted by Accademia di Belle Arti di Catania Abadir under the support of Faculty of Architecture of the Politecnico di Torino

PLACES

Geography

The Valle del Belice is located in the western part of Sicily and occupies an area shared by the provinces of Palermo, Trapani and Agrigento. Its territory is defined by the course of Belice, a 77 km long river consisting of two branches, the right Belice (45.5 km) and the left Belice (42 km).

Events

In January 15 1968 a violent earthquake shook this region. In a snowy day that coincided with the local elections in Gibellina, its epicentre, the quake killed nearly 400 people, injured thousands, and left 98,000 homeless in what was the first major national catastrophe after the war.

Among the 14 town centres hit by the earthquake, Gibellina Poggioreale Salaparuta and Montevago were completely destroyed. Other towns and villages suffered considerable damage: Alcamo, Memphis, Partanna, Camporeale, Chiusa Sclafani, Contessa Entellina Sciacca, Santa Ninfa, Salemi, Vita, Calatafimi, Santa Margherita di Belice. The destruction and reconstruction affected these towns in very different ways: some of these centres now lie in the same place where they arose, in some cases totally abandoned and in ruins, others were rebuilt a few kilometres away, others next to the new ruins or right on top of them.

Reconstruction

Why have the Belice case generated so much attention?

Why, after more than 40 years, is the reconstruction still an open debate?

Why continue to investigate this place, when global earthquakes continue to ravage and kill and there are more urgent issues to be debated within the reconstruction debate?

Compared to these events the Belice earthquake is history. Reconstruction good or evil was completed and knowledge of its process can prove to be a valuable contribution for the assessment of contemporary events.

To answer these questions we need to make some assumptions. It must be said that the Belice is a paradigmatic case that covers an important part of the history of this country; many singular and visionary people left their mark on this territory, with their actions they shaped a unique experiment in the development of a city region, a social, architectural and artistic laboratory.

A lot of things have been said, most of them negative, about the reconstruction process and the architectural interventions done in the Valle del Belice. For the most part many agree on the strangeness of an alien architecture, fallen from nowhere and impervious to the real needs of the populations.

There are also references citing the misfortune of implementing a modern, nordic urban model in a Mediterranean context, which was unable to grasp the character of the core social values and structure of the communities they replaced. Indeed, the Mediterranean city is made of layers of changing and slow adaptations of typologies and modes of appropriating and living space; elements difficult to introduce in the newly founded cities of the valley.

The city lies with a partially removed memory, while struggling to built new relationships in an increasingly complex world.



Gibellina 1968



Salemi

Santa Ninfa

Gibellina Vecchia, Cretto

PALERMO

Poggioreale, Rovine

Santa Margherita di Belice

TRAPANI

Poggioreale Nuovo

Salaparuta

Montevago

Rampinzeri

Partanna

Gibellina Nuova

The workshop is organized in methodological lectures + a field work with tutors from different disciplines. At the end of the week there will be a public presentation of the works and a round table.

METHODOLOGICAL LECTURES

Rafael Argullos. Writer and philosopher, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Franco Farinelli. Geographer, Università di Bologna

Nicola Giuliano Leone. Architect, Università di Palermo

Francesco Marsciani. CUBE, Università di Bologna

Matteo Meschiari. Writer, Antropologist. Università di Palermo.

Francesc Muñoz. Geographer, Universitat Autònoma, Barcelona

Mosè Ricci. Architect, Università di Genova (to be confirmed)

Adaciu, Associazione per la cultura del tempo

Clac, Centro Laboratorio Arti Contemporanee

CRESM, Centro di ricerche economiche e sociali per il Meridione

Fondazione Orestiadi

Legambiente

TUTORS / FIELD WORK

Josep Baguena. Geographer. Barcelona

Building a geography of Belice

Gaspere Caliri. CUBE, Bologna

Etno-semiology of space. Values, narrations, practices, places

Laura Cantarella. Photographer, Torino

Photo-graphy of Trauma

Roberto Collová. Architect, Palermo

The Great Gibellina

Elena Rocchi. Architect, Barcelona

Farmers of history. Geography of Dust

Juan Zapata. Architect, Barcelona

Productive landscape. Agriculture and social coesion

WhyOff. Torino Lugano

Sound manipulatiois



WHERE AND WHEN

All workshop related events will be held at Fondazione Orestiadi (www.orestiadi.it) and Rampinzeri Castle (www.castellodirampinzeri.it). Acomodation will be provided at the Rampinzeri Castle + Bed and Breakfast.

The workshop will take place from August 29 until September 5, 2010.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Qualifications required for admission:

Academic degree or proof of enrolment in academic institution.

Participants will be selected based on their curriculum-portfolio.

Number of participants:15/25

If the maximum number (25) of participants is reached before the June 15 deadline, the application process will be closed.

Enrolment:

Candidates must send their request to participate via e-mail to: twp09@gmail.com

The application must be accompanied by the following documents in pdf format

(For a total maximum of 10 pages):

- CV of the candidate
- Portfolio and / or research projects
- Payment receive of Pre-enrolment fee of 150 €, after admission.

Deadline for submission of application forms: june 15, 2010

Registration fee:

For new participants: 580 € *

For those who participated in the 2009 edition: 380 € *

(*) These costs include meals (breakfasts, 2 lunches and dinners) + accommodation from monday august 30 to Sunday, September 5 + means of transport when necessary (not including transport to/from airport. A public bus line from Palermo - Trapani to Gibellina is available)

Educational Credits: The Faculty of Architecture of the Politecnico di Torino will award 3 academic credits to participants in the workshop.