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PER UNA ARCHITETTURA DELLA RESPONSABILITÀ FOR AN ARCHITECTURE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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PAOLO PORTOGHESI



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Con il numero 37 la rivista "Abitare la Terra", a quattordici anni dalla sua nascita, cambia il suo formato, ma non il suo obiettivo: la tutela dell'ambiente e la promozione di una architettura, che abbandonata la tendenza all'esaltazione individualistica delle grandi personalità creative, che ha condizionato la produzione architettonica degli ultimi decenni, torni ad essere una disciplina rigorosa, che ha per obiettivo il miglioramento della vita di tutti gli esseri viventi e per questo non rinuncia a utilizzare i frutti di una esperienza secolare che coinvolge le diverse civiltà umane.

Il termine Geo-architettura, che si legge nella testata, è stato coniato da Le Corbusier, nel 1942 per la sua riflessione su *Les trois établissements humains* e allude a una architettura che abbracci tutto ciò che l'uomo ha costruito sulla superficie terrestre. Per noi oggi Geo-architettura vuol dire una architettura umile, che, sia arte senza per questo ammantarsi della superbia del nuovo fine a sé stesso, che si faccia carico della necessità di proteggere l'ambiente, di ridurre i processi di inquinamento, di combattere la disuguaglianza tra i popoli, di ridurre i processi che attraverso i cambiamenti climatici rischiano di distruggere gli equilibri del pianeta e il suo paesaggio. Per fondare la Geo-architettura è necessario a nostro parere: imparare dalla natura e dalla storia, rispettare l'identità dei luoghi, recuperare la "coralità" degli spazi urbani, abbattere gli sprechi di risorse non rinnovabili e di tempo umano, contrapporre a uno sviluppo senza limiti, che presuppone una impossibile "crescita infinita", una crescita spirituale di cui si avvertono i primi sintomi anche nella architettura.

Fourteen years after *Abitare la Terra* was published for the first time we have decided to change its format, but not its goal: to protect the environment and promote architecture. No longer an architecture that has abandoned its tendency to praise and exalt larger-than-life creative individuals and the architectural works that have influenced recent decades, but an architecture that is once again a meticulous discipline focusing on improving the lives of all living creatures; an architecture that exploits the 'fruits' of its centuries-old history and many different civilisations.

The term Geo-architecture at the top of the front cover of this issue number was coined by Le Corbusier in 1942 when he wrote *Les trois établissements humains*; the term refers to an architecture that embraces everything man has built on the earth's surface. For us, Geo-architecture means humble architecture, an architecture that is art without necessarily the arrogance of being an end unto itself; an architecture that assumes the responsibility of protecting the environment, reducing pollution, fighting inequality between peoples, reducing the processes of climate change that may destroy the balance that exists here on earth and its landscapes. We believe that to create Geo-architecture we need to: learn from nature and history; respect the identity of places; reinstate the "choral nature" of urban spaces; drastically reduce the way we waste non-renewable resources and human time; and replace unlimited growth (involving impossible "endless growth") with spiritual growth, the seeds of which are now beginning to grow in architecture.



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Società editrice
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Direttore responsabile
Paolo Portoghesi

Caporedattore
Mario Pisani

Redazione
Petra Bernitsa, Lucia Galli,
Francesca Gottardo, Rosaria
Parente, Leone Spita, Stefania Tuzi
Via Giulia 142 - 00186 Roma
abitarelaterra@gangemieditore.it

Comitato scientifico di
Abitare la Terra
Mario Botta, Augusto Romano
Burelli, Francoise Burkhardt, Orazio
Carpenzano, Maurice Culot, Richard
England, Carmine Gambardella,
Sabina Martusciello, James Wines,
Paolo Zermani

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I Quaderni di Abitare la Terra sono a cura di Carmine Gambardella

Abitare la Terra SI TROVA IN TUTTE LE PRINCIPALI LIBRERIE. PER INFORMAZIONI E RICHIESTE POTETE RIVOLGERVI ALLE SEGUENTI LIBRERIE FIDUCIARIE: ANCONA LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | BARI LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | BENEVENTO LIBRERIA SRL MASONI | BOLOGNA LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | BOLZANO MARDI GRAS | BRESCIA LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | FERRARA ARCHITECTURICA SNC DI BORSARI & C. | LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | FIRENZE ALFANI EDITRICE • CLU (COOP. LIBRARI UNIVERSITARIA) • CUSL (COOP UNIV. STUDIO LAVORO) • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI • LIBRERIA L.E.E. | GENOVA • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI • LIBRERIA PUNTO DI VISTA | MILANO • LIBRERIA L'ARCHIVOLTO SAS • CUSL (COOP UNIV. STUDIO LAVORO) • EQUILIBRI DI SCHERINI IVAN • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI, MANZONI • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI, BAIRES • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI SARPI • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI, DUOMO • LIBRERIA HOEPLI • LIBRERIA TRIENNALE, PALAZZO DELLA TRIENNALE | MESTRE LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | NAPOLI LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI • LIBRERIA C.L.E.A.N. • LIBRERIA IL PUNTO, DI BAGNO VERDUCI | PADOVA LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI PALERMO LIBRERIA DANTE • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | PARMA LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI • LIBRERIA FIACCADORI SRL | PESCARA LIBRERIA CAMPUS SNC • A. DI SANZA & C. • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI • FILOGRASSO LIBRI • LIBRERIA DELL'UNIVERSITÀ | PORDENONE LA RIVISTERIA, DI RUSCOLO GIUSEPPE | RAVENNA LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | REGGIO CALABRIA LIBRERIA ASCHENEZ • PE.PO. LIBRI | REGGIO EMILIA LIBRERIA VECCHIA REGGIO SRL | ROMA LIBRERIA DEDALO • LIBRERIA DEDALO SRL • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI, ORLANDO • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI, BABUINO • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI, ARGENTINA • LIBRERIA KAPPA DI CAPPABIANCA ANDREA • LIBRERIA KAPPA DI CAPPABIANCA PAOLO • GANGEMI EDITORE | SALERNO LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | SARONNO S.E. SERVIZI EDITORIALI SRL | SIENA LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI | TORINO • LIBRERIA FELTRINELLI • LIBRERIA CELID | TRENTO LA RIVISTERIA SNC VERONA LA RIVISTERIA • LIBRERIA RINASCITA | VENEZIA LIBRERIA CLUVA • LIBRERIA PATAGONIA | VIGEVANO FER.NET. SRL

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Campi Flegrei, Pozzuoli: georeferenced image taken from the monitoring carried out with the Benco technological platform, twin-engine aircraft equipped with PhaseOne 150Mpix and TABI 1800 TSR Thermal Search & Rescue sensors.

Cultural landscapes of the Unesco WHL. Some considerations from the cases of Val d'Orcia (Italy) and Las Médulas (Spain)

ALEXANDRA DELGADO JIMENEZ,¹ GIACINTO DONVITO,²
FERNANDO MORAL ANDRÉS³

⁽¹⁾ Universidad Nebrija Madrid

⁽²⁾ Sapienza Università di Roma

⁽³⁾ Universidad Nebrija Madrid

1. Introduction

The Italian case of Val d'Orcia was selected because it is considered successful, and the Spanish case of Las Médulas because, despite having great patrimonial value, it is currently in a phase of re-thinking its actions for better management. They allow us to highlight useful elements for a better orientation of the strategies for the implementation of protection where the landscape and cultural value play an important role. The comparison allows us to observe how among the success factors of the processes of protection and improvement of landscapes as cultural assets are the population of the territory, the identification of value by this population and the type of inscription process.

2. The Spanish case study: Las Médulas

The territory, located in the northwestern region of Castile and Leon comprises 2,208.20 ha, and is mostly composed of forest areas (76.40%), agricultural areas (16.46%) and artificial surfaces (4.81%), among other land cover, analyzed from the scope of the three municipalities in which the area is the reason for protection: Puente de Domingo Flórez, Carucedo and Borrenes. Las Médulas is located in the Bierzo, and its landscape

is the result of Roman gold mining, which began in the first century AD, giving it a unique identity. For the monitoring and protection Las Médulas Foundation has been created, with a board of trustees that includes institutions at all levels of administration, as well as universities and cultural

associations interested (Sánchez-Palencia, 2012: 33).

It can be understood that it has been a top-down process where institutions from different administrative levels, standing out among all the regional government, have led their protection and enhancement through different figures. This protocol may

present conflicts at the time of its implementation in the specific field, if issues raised by different local agents have not been collected through alternative channels. Possible problems that could appear, due to the aforementioned, would imply an ineffective protection of the focused area.

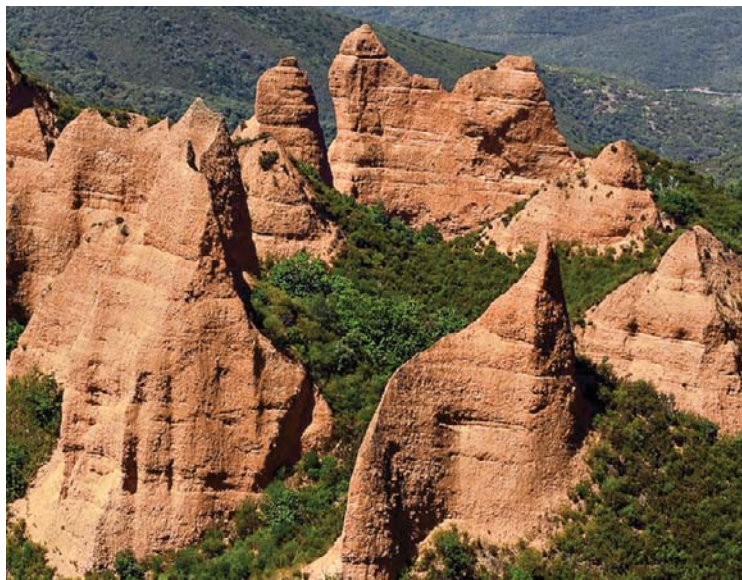
2.1. Population and visitors

The population in the three municipalities in which the Las Médulas protection area is located has always been limited, under 4,000 inhabitants, and since the beginning of the last century it has been declining. Since 1991 (before the inscription) until today, around 1,100 inhabitants have been lost. The number of visitors has a completely opposite trend. In 2010 there were more than 50,000 visitors and this figure is increasing by 79.54% to almost 100,000 visitors per year, before COVID 19. A growing disproportion between population and visitors is shown.

2.2. Tourism features: mobility and transport pressure

This preamble leads to the preparation of the first document of an executive nature derived from the plan of the Plan of Adaptation and Uses: the Document of Advancement of Guidelines for Mobility in June 2017, dealing with an enclave that is comprised of a vast territory lacking infrastructures dimensioned for a tourist flow in constant growth.

The priority objective is to organize the use and enjoyment of the place at the time



of greatest number of visits, since there are “specific problems of traffic collapse that the cultural space suffers at times of maximum influx” and it is necessary to improve the visit of tourists with a public transport service “in line with the excellence of the place and the current requirements of UNESCO for World Heritage sites” as indicated from the regional administration (Fidalgo 2017a). The plan, articulated through an appropriate commission, a concessionaire company and a team of local employees and volunteers, would start in an experimental mode and with an activity schedule of 72 days of which, in 14 of



tation of the program had generated in its early stages. The Regional Government took the decision to suspend the program indefinitely (Ical 2018) leaving any possible solution in the hands of the various municipalities of the site. Throughout different years, important economic funds have been provided to meet different needs, but twenty-one years later we have found a critical situation in this territory. In 2021, it was created a consortium in order to achieve a unified management. It was signed after two complex work years but, at this moment, it does not work. Future will be built by this new skeleton.



them, the use of such public bus transportation system and elimination of private vehicle traffic except for residents, emergencies and supplies would be mandatory. During the 2018 Easter Week different incidents were developed that attempted against the operation of the system (Fidalgo 2018), making explicit the friction that the implemen-



3 The Italian case study: Val d'Orcia

The territory, located in the southern region of Siena, comprises almost 61,000 ha, mostly composed of agricultural land (62.82%) and natural and wooded areas (about 36%). The main configuration of this rural landscape, crossed by the Via Francigena, remains mainly that of the dawn of the metayage system introduced in Tuscany between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The park of Val d'Orcia is an example of particular interest in the field of active conservation of cultural landscapes combined with the development of the local economy being a case of bottom-up planning, promoted by local authorities.

The registration confirmed the active conservation policy initiated in the 1980s by five municipalities: Castiglione d'Orcia, Montalcino, Pienza, San Quirico d'Orcia, Radicofani in order to: establish a unique strategy to preserve existing resources that promote local sustainable development (Falini 2012).

It can be understood that it has been a bottom-up process where institutions from different administrative levels, standing out among all the municipalities, have led their protection and enhancement through Establishment of the company Val d'Orcia s.r.l. created before the inscription to develop the process.

3.1. Population and visitors

The evolution of the population in all the municipalities of Val D'Orcia, in recent years, shows a substantial stabilization. Tourist presences, on the other hand, have more than doubled in the same period (from about 225000 to 540000 before pandemic period).

Val D'Orcia, along with its landscape and heritage, has a decisive agricultural sector. In 1996, eight years before the incorporation to the UNESCO list, the public company Val D'Orcia srl was founded, integrated by the municipalities of Radicofani, San Quirico, Pienza, Montalcino, Castiglione and the union of municipalities of Amiata Val D'Orcia.



This company has as social object the promotion and development of agricultural and artisanal products characteristic of the area, the marketing and diffusion of the brand. We are in front of a unitary vehicle and with a business organisation that is able to structure a sort of territorial mark from the work in different lines of development and integrates all the local administrations and leads to a clear management and action unit.

3.2. Tourism features: agritourism

It is decisive in this economic journey to confirm the strength of "agriturismo" as a development strategy, compatible with the reality and productivity of the place. Today "agriturismo" offers 60% of bed-houses in several Tuscan municipalities, being the leading region in Italy with 22.5% of this system (Randelli, Romei, Tortora, 2012).

The managers of Val D'Orcia consider that the UNESCO cataloguing has implied the development of two parameters, fundamentally: the increase in the number of tourists; the control over the use and conservation of the territory avoiding speculative initiatives and which could alter the perception of the landscape (Lorenzini, 2011).

4. Discussion

The different demographic situation of Las Médulas and Val d'Orcia is a reflection of the success of the socio-economic reality of Italian case study in comparison with numbers of Las Médulas. The Spanish territory has suffered an uninterrupted decrease in residents since the 1950s and this situation has not changed after its inclusion in the World Heritage List (from 5,461 inhabitants to 2,298). In the same period in Val d'Orcia there has been a progressive fall in population from 1951 to 2001 (from 25,297 to 13,947 inhabitants) and a subsequent stabilisation in the last twenty years around 13,550 inhabitants (Val d'Orcia was enrolled in the World Heritage List in 2004). The population dynamics in Las Médulas points to the need for participatory policies, within the framework of a defined institutional plan, from short to long term, that benefit an area that is in a critical demographic situation.

5. Conclusions

Dynamics must also be promoted to increase the awareness of the local population on the values that are concentrated in an enclave of special uniqueness that

must be governed by quality standards and respect for the context as established by UNESCO for the properties included in the World Heritage List.

Better results are obtained with a process that can be considered from the bottom-up because associated with it there is a higher level of participation that seems to connote the Italian experience, despite the good quality of the Spanish one.

In that way, future research is open to explore the question of the connection between active protection and improvement capable of redefining development models with the effect of safeguarding the diversity and peculiarities of the landscape. ■

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3. P. 41. The cultural landscape of Las Médulas.
4. P. 41. The cultural landscape of Las Médulas.
5. P. 41. The cultural landscape of Val d'Orcia.
6. P. 41. The cultural landscape of Val d'Orcia (Bagno Vignoni).
7. P. 42. The cultural landscape Val d'Orcia.
8. P. 42. The cultural landscape of Val d'Orcia.