

# **CONTESTED SPACE AND RESPONSIVE ARCHITECTURE MAKING AND SPECULATING**

A SUMMER SCHOOL IN ITALY  
SUPINO, LAZIO  
AUGUST 19th - 24th 2013

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Following the success of the summer school last year we are launching the second summer school this year. The aim of this second summer school is to build on the research and some of the emerging concepts and ideas of the first summer school and further explore more specific architectural and urban potential of small towns such as Supino which exist on the periphery of a major European historical city -- in this case, Rome -- and within the context of the current capitalist crisis. Countries in southern Europe like Italy, the long-term projection is that of continued high unemployment and financial instability. Indeed, it is a reality that all European countries are going to have to adapt to conditions of greater austerity and scarcity, as global capital shifts increasingly to eastern and southern Asia.

## **2. AIMS OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKSHOP**

This 6-day workshop is intended to investigate the role that the small town of Supino, which has just 5,000 inhabitants, can or cannot play within the global context, especially as a result of the local pressures it faces due to the proximity to Rome. Hence the participants in the workshop will have the option of projecting their intellectual discussions and design investigations to include as well the city of Rome, and as such look at possible future scenarios for the Rome/Supino region in, for instance, 2050 AD.

## **3. WHY SUPINO**

As a general rule, it is the smaller satellite or peripheral towns that reflect more painfully economic and social crises than their big urban neighbours do. This is because larger cities possess more socio-economic flexibility at a time of austerity and scarcity, and thus can behave in different, even often contradictory manners. All this allows the possibility for architecture and urbanism to give birth to resistance and revolution, by creating new ideas, or else to react more passively and instead return to older and more familiar orders. Rome could be seen to have taken both these routes in the 1930s and 40s, with on one hand the mannered yet inventive modernism of Gruppo 7 as led by Giuseppe Terragni, and on the other hand the neo-Classical approach of Marcello Piacentini and colleagues in the EUR district.

What, then, is the role that Rome and satellite towns like Supino can play within the current global 'free market' system? What is the role of architects and spatial/urban designers in this situation? Smaller towns such as Supino have long experienced the effects of immigration, not least the

returning Italian migrants from other European countries or the USA. As a result, there has been a gradual loss of agricultural land and public space in order to build new developments. The older part of Supino, being up on the hill, is thus now bridged to the more modern section of the town at the bottom of the hill, creating a dualistic character that is often in conflict with itself. Furthermore, its close relationship to Rome, only about 70 kilometers away, is causing other socio-economic pressures which are destabilizing, and even threatening, the livelihood of Supino. It is therefore essential for us as architects and urbanists to analyse the impact of these problems on Supino's built environment, so that we can come up with more positive approaches for towns that are in its situation, and not only those in Italy.

#### **4. SITES AND OUTCOME**

There are Two sites and two outcomes are suggested for the Summer School:

- a- Designing and making temporary fragments of a hut that can host the visitors of the unique Mountains of Supino called Monte Serena
- b- Speculative design ideas based on selected narratives within the town that connect the historic centre to the modern parts of the town as well as surrounding landscape.

Both will take place following the initial activities of extensive site observation, re-reading existing local maps, and carrying out techniques such as 'social mapping' or other forms of documentation, which will influence the participants conceptual design ideas. The Ideas will be translated spatially into responsive architecture by using speculative, visionary methods of investigation and representation, or on-site 1:1 physical interventions.

#### **5. SUMMER SCHOOL STRUCTURE**

The summer school will be formed of a number of small teams – concentrating on 2 or 3 specific sites located within and outside Supino addressing specific themes under the title of contested space exploring the potential as that the place and its community offers to address urgent problem that the town faces.

Some of the suggested themes are as follows:

- A - Traces and Signatures (addressing personal memory, social invisibility, etc)
- B - Comfort and Breathing (addressing everyday life, climate and environment)
- C - Cultural Identity (addressing global/local migration, local empowerment)
- D – Resources and employment ( provisions for young generation and national or international visitors )

The summer school will place particular emphasis on fieldwork research, mapping techniques, design testing, representation methods and close participation with the local community. The end outcomes will be a small exhibition of Summer School work to be held locally in Supino, along with an online pdf publication about the workshop which also has the potential to be also printed in hard-copy (funds permitting). Hence each participant will have at the end of the workshop a body of work plus a collective online publication from the Summer School to include in their portfolio when applying for architectural jobs or postgraduate courses.

In terms of the outline schedule for the Summer School, this will comprise of:

- Series of lectures and other presentations
- 2 days of mapping and social/urban documentation
- 3 days of intensive designing

1 days of review and debate in conjunction with a local exhibition of work

In addition, and only by agreement with participants, there will be a 1 or 2 excursion to venues to Rome or the planned 1930s seaside community at Saubadia on the coast.

## **6. VENUE AND DATES**

Venue: Supino High School in Supino, Lazio, Italy

Provisional timetable: 19th – 24th August 2013

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> Aug (Day 1): initial lectures and presentations, plus site visit welcome and collective gathering with the locals

Tuesday, 20<sup>st</sup> Aug (Day 2): fieldwork mapping/investigation /design work/visit to agriturism 'renewable energy passive architecture

Wednesday, 21<sup>nd</sup> Aug (Day 3): day' for students to go to Rome/Saubadia/relax on beach

Thursday, 22<sup>rd</sup> Aug (Day 4): fieldwork mapping/investigation design work

Friday, 23<sup>th</sup> Aug (Day 5): design work): review of design proposals

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> Aug (Day 6): plus opening of local exhibition and farewell dinner with the local

## **7. COSTS**

The fee for 6-day Summer School workshop is Eu.400 per person.

The fee includes full accommodation for 7 nights from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August to the morning of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August, this being provided for students in houses in the town of Supino. Indeed, it is essential principle of the Summer School that the participants really get a chance to find out how local people live in Supino, and what their views and attitudes are to their town.

In addition, please note that the cost covers the collective evening meals on arrival . Participants are expected to organize their own food separately. If there are any agreed excursions regarded as necessary for fieldwork research for the Summer School, or to be taken on the 'free day' for relaxation, these too will be additional costs on top.

## **8. SUMMER SCHOOL TEAM**

### ***A - Local representatives:***

***Luisa Morgantini:*** Luisa Morgantini, formely the Vice-President of the European Parliment, and citizen of Supino

She will be the host, and as such a representative of Supino. Luisa is also the former Vice President of the European Parliament and a Spokesperson of the Italian Peace Association. She was awarded the 2008 Peacemaker Award by the Rebuilding Alliance, a US non-profit organization.

***Alessandro Foglietta:*** He is the Mayor of Supino, and will act as such as the key municipal representative for the workshop.

### ***B - Lead tutors/design team leaders:***

***Nasser Golzari:*** He is senior director of NG Architects in London and also a member of the PART team. Nasser has taught at several British architectural schools, and currently at the

Oxford Brookes University and the University of Westminster and is the acting Dean at NH University.

**Yara Sharif:** She is a co-director of NG Architects and a third member of the PART team. Yara is a design studio leader at Oxford Brookes University, and has recently completed her doctorate by design on 'spaces of possibility and imagination'.

**Hossein Sadri:** He is working as an Assistant Professor and the acting Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Design & Fine Arts at Girne American University – CYPRUS. He completed his Ph.D. on "Architecture and Human Rights" at Gazi University - Ankara TURKEY in 2010.

**Senem Zeybekoglu Sadri:** She has completed her doctoral studies with her PhD thesis on urban transformation and right to the city in 2008 at Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul TURKEY. Since September 2010, she has been working as an Assistant Professor and the head of the Department of Interior Design at Girne American University

## **.8. FURTHER INFORMATION**

### ***Who can attend?***

This International Summer School is aimed at those practitioners and students who have some spatial Design, Interior Design, architectural, photography, art or urban design or with some related professional background.

### ***How to apply***

Applications will take place online. Visit <http://architecturesummerschool.yolasite.com/> For online-registration

Full payment is expected at the time of registration. See online registration for details.

### ***Certificates***

A certificate of attendance will be issued to each student by the organizers at the end of the Summer School, and will be signed by the lead tutors, host, and Mayor of Supino.

### ***Visa letters***

General invitation letters can be issued upon request from the lead tutors, host or Mayor of Supino.

### ***What to bring***

Participants need to bring their own laptops in order to do the work digitally. Some stationary and paper will be provided for the design workshop and preparing the final exhibition

### ***Transportation***

Students are responsible to make their own way to Supino. There are direct connection to/from Rome Central Station. With prior arrangements with the organizers you could be picked up from Supino train station.

## **9.00 Organisers**

The Summer School being organized and hosted by:

PART, Luisa Morgantini , and Supino Municipality.

Alessandro Foglietta, the Mayor of Supino

**10.00 Partners**

Ordine degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori della Provincia di Frosinone - Italia

School of Architecture Oxford Brookes University

Department of Architecture at Girne American University

NGArchitects

Agriturism supino

Sistema Natura

**11.00 contacts**

***Dr Yara Sharif; yarasharif2013@gmail.com***

www.architecturesummerschool.yolasite.com

Supino Council website: www.comunesupino.it

12.00 LINKS

<http://architecture.brookes.ac.uk/news/items/240513-summer-schools.html>

www.comunesupino.it

<http://update.dit.ie/2012/17-09-12/news-architecture.php>