



UNIVERSITY FOR BUSINESS
AND TECHNOLOGY



POLITECNICO
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Ecologies of Identity, Kosova 2008

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“Ecologies of Identity”

international student workshop in Kosova, nov. 2008

ECOLOGIES OF IDENTITY

“Ecologies of Identity” introduction

Prof. Ursula Faix and Prof. Paul Burgstaller have invited Prof. Gennaro Postiglione and Ass. Prof. Lorenzo Bini (Politecnico di Milano) to lead a joint-workshop in Pristina November 2008. 5 students from Milan, Italy and 10 students from Pristina, Kosova have participated in this urban design workshop.

The idea was to work on the complex topic of “building” a national identity of Kosova and its consequences for the urban development of Prishtina and the whole Kosova.

The framework is the recently declared independency of Kosova and the need to build its own identity in order to proceed with the international discussion. A clear and visible identity is vital if you need to assert your country in relation to other countries. This is a consequence of a long term policy dating from last century where the idea of Nation & State was gathered together bringing also the theme of ethnicity.

GROUP K

ECOLOGY OF NARRATION

Enrico Forestieri, Milan

Lert Mullademi, Prishtina

Leka Kelmendi, Prishtina

1. The ecology of narration:

In “Nation and Narration”, Homi Bhabha defines the relationship built in the 20th century history between the need of national identity with the practice of “story-telling”: The mythology of the foundation/birth of your own nation – and all the connected stories – was the first step towards independency, autonomy etc, all needed characters in order to be able to compete in the global society. National writers have a relevant role in this concern. In this ecology relevant writers will be traced.

GROUP 0

ECOLOGY OF BUILDINGS

Laura di Donfrancesco, Milan

Besarta Elezaj, Prishtina

Arlinda Sheqiri, Prishtina

2. The ecology of “buildings”:

A second step towards a “building” of a city identity is the role of the built environment:

The architecture / typologies of buildings can become either a metaphore of political power or an expression of the social composition of population. One could think of the role architecture has always had in the building of the social image of a country and its identity (Culture). In this concern the architects and the urban planners are relevant figures.

GROUP S

ECOLOGY OF HERITAGE

Adelina Berisha, Prishtina

Francesca Guarascio, Milan

Maljetë Hoxha, Prishtina

3. The ecology of cultural heritage and nature:

There are also other “genuine” aspects we can recognize to be part of a national identity policy: every country has a culture (even we should state clearly that this is neither monolithic neither static neither forever: concepts such as tradition, origin, roots, and similar are both powerful and dangerous and very often manipulated in order to demonstrate the opposite of what they are). See also Iain Chambers, Homi Bhabha, and the Cultural studies group working on this topic. Back to the idea of a “genuine” culture, it was manifested into the “built environment” of some quality (tangible heritage: an heritage we recognize has something to say about the Culture that produced it) it depends, or it descends, or it come from something it is defined as Un-tangible Heritage (few years ago UNESCO launched a campaign for taking into serious consideration non visible aspects of own culture as they are, at the very end, what is deeply connected with what we are able to recognize as Culture Products). Knowledge, skills and other similar categories have the privilege to “maintain & transform” or better “maintain through transformation” the DNA (the Identity) of a specific Culture.

GROUP V

ECOLOGY OF NETWORKS

Zana Elezi, Prishtina

Matteo Perin, Milan

Faton Spahiu, Prishtina

4. The ecology of networks:

The people in Kosovo dispose over several densely knit networks inside Kosovo and across the world. Refugees in the European Union and other countries, who have not returned after the war, still hold contact with the family and support them financially. For the people in Kosovo these contacts to their family members abroad are in most cases vital and helpful if they need a visa in order to get abroad. (See also Mark Lombardi's visualisation of networks) Next to these invisible networks also other networks like highways, railways, air routes etc. have to be examined and related to identity.

GROUP A

ECOLOGY OF BORDERS

Alberto Clerici, Milan

Rineta Jashari, Prishtina

Enis Pakashtica, Prishtina

5. The ecology of borders:

The definition of an entity is described through the relationship with the neighbors. The outer limits of an area and therefore itself a closed line. The border is the distance around a given object. The characteristics of a border is the definition of an outer and an inner space, therefore the border makes these different definitions distinguishable.

The definition of the physical borders of a newborn country is not just a political issue but also a way of claiming national identity. Nevertheless borders assume an even stronger meaning as they are observed from an architectural point of view. They define, enclose and protect physical space but they are also the threshold that link different entities.