Category: The teaching of the sustainable approach

Case Study: Experiences “learning by doing”

Project cofinanced by
European Regional Development Fund

Lead Partner
Provincia di savona

SCORE
Sustainable Construction in Rural and Fragile Areas for Energy efficiency

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Case study Experiences “learning by doing”

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Students of the Faculty of Architecture of Genoa to the described work experience "learning by doing".

The teaching of the sustainable approach to the project, in a region such as Liguria, should allow the future technicians (architects, engineers and other professionals) to compete directly with the landscape features, natural, social and cultural of a rich and complex context.

In most cases, however, during the training of architects and engineers are not given any chance to test what actually happens in the transition from project to its realization.

The two initiatives "learning by doing" summarized below, both developed by the Faculty of Architecture of Genoa, show the ability to make students direct experience of concepts such as respect for natural materials and resources, recovery of local historical building technologies and participation.

Potential for transferability

It is believed that such experiences, however made with limited resources and costs and based mainly on the concrete commitment of teachers, students, administrators and interested citizens, are easily reinventing into coastal areas and interior MED area and can significantly contribute to diffusion of a culture of sustainable intervention in areas of high complexity.

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RICICLAB
Promoter: Prof.ssa Rossana Raiteri – Università di Genova
Client: District and citizens of Genova Pegli
Date: 2011

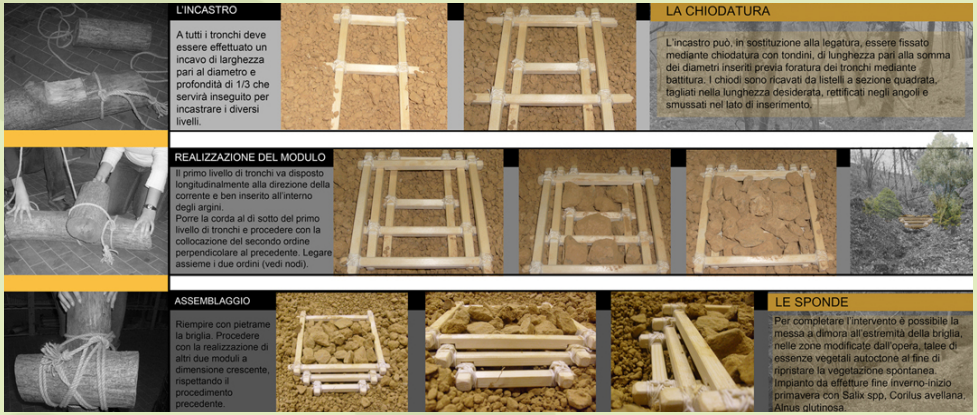
Lo spazio pubblico, riqualificato dagli studenti con materiali di recupero, accoglie nuovamente i suoi utenti che hanno partecipato ai lavori (foto: Anna Positano).

RICICLAB (Recycling Laboratory), born from an idea of Prof. Rossana Raiteri of the Faculty of Architecture of Genoa, is a workshop that begins to work from the moment in which the context has a requirement that can be satisfied with the intervention of a small group of student volunteers, with the cooperation of the concerned citizens and with the supervision and guidance of some teachers and graduates as senior.
The main objectives of RICICLAB are:
−motivating students, citizens and local authorities to the issue of sustainability using mainly recycled materials and producing "zero cost" objects;
−allowing students to gain awareness of the whole construction process of a small building into a complex context;
−promoting the participation of citizens;
−underlining what can be produced by a creative collaboration between University and local authorities, in a critical moment for the lack of resources for both.
The experience started with RICICLAB is the thesis of Riccardo Rossi and Amedeo Scofone: it's the redevelopment of an urban area on the seaside promenade of Genoa Pegli, realized with the participation of other students and users, mainly retirees, who have worked directly providing their own work previous experience as blacksmith or bricklayer, acquired in previous employment. The project, supported by technical and communal, has been realized entirely from recycled materials.

Categoria Insegnamento dell'approccio sostenibile
Caso Studio Esperienze "Learning by doing"

Sustainable Construction in Rural and Fragile Areas for Energy efficiency

Application Laboratory of natural architecture
Promoter: soc. Agricola Anidagri srl - resp. Valia Galdi
Project: Prof. Massimo Corradi – Università di Genova
Date: 2009



From design to yard (realization), works at the CentroAnidra during summer 2009.

In 2009, students of the course of History of Technology of professor Massimo Corradi were hosted at the CentroAnidra for the experimental application of bioengineering techniques. Through the year, students have designed accommodation types of soil stabilisation that they have realized during summer. It's been a successful experience for students who were able to test the project during construction, and also for the soc. agrarian Anidagri that pursues sustainable living practices.

The ligurian landscape is entirely man-made also at high altitude; an ensemble of small signs (cribwalls, riverbank protection, brush layers, dry-laid stone walls) defines a system of flood control and containment of the slopes which, together with crops trees (chestnut, olive, etc..) conserves the environment from erosion and landslides. The abandonment of decades has made this landscape - which is only apparently natural - very fragile.

The recovery of the rural park, in accordance with its landscape values, can be realized only maturing a proper ability to read the signs that man left in the area for centuries and that the territory has demonstrated to "sustain" and through a group of small works realized in accordance with the naturalistic emergencies, recovering a longstanding culture of environmental management that is going to be forgotten (in danger of being forgotten).

Experiences such as this one described contribute to keep alive and to spread this culture.

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