



ASOC

Architecture School of Commons

PRESENTATION FILE - FEBRUARY 2022

PROLOGUE

For the past ten years, collectives of architects have been questioning the architecture profession, its posture and its role through practice. **They propose to reinvest the architectural project in its political, social and cultural dimensions by taking an interest in the place of the inhabitant in the making of his common spaces.** They claim values of empowerment of non-expert actors, frugality and ecology and propose alternatives to top-down decision-making mechanisms that are too far removed from inhabitants' real social and ecological needs.

The need to exchange good practices on a European scale has led us to imagine bridges between several actors in making the city in Europe. After many meetings, we, Collectif Etc, are starting an international collaboration to bring these subjects to the forefront by inviting other actors.

By training experts, schools of architecture have a crucial role in alerting students to their responsibilities in the face of contemporary issues, both as citizens and as future architects. Today, we wish to offer architecture students and teachers the opportunity to collaborate on concrete projects to allow immersion and confrontation with real situations.

Interested in the «commons» movement, **we imagine collaborating with schools of architecture to support local communities, active in transforming their living environment and willing to invest in the design and construction of their shared spaces.**

Thus, through this European project, we propose to create the conditions for natural synergy between these different actors: students, teachers, local communities and collectives of architects around projects that are situated, valuable and concrete.



COLLECTIVES OF ARCHITECTS

TO PRODUCE DIFFERENTLY
BY LINKING DESIGN & THE
CONSTRUCTION SITE
COLLECTIVELY

TO QUESTION
THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE
ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION
& ITS EVOLUTION



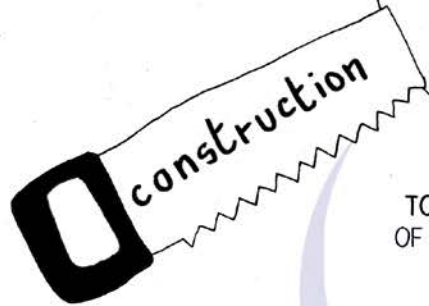
LOCAL COMMUNITIES

TO FEDERATE
BY CREATING INTENSIVE &
EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

TO SUPPORT
DIRECTLY AND CONCRETLY BY
REMODELLING SPACES

WORKSHOP IN-SITU

EXPERIMENTATION
RURALITY
REHABILITATION



TO INCREASE AWARENESS
OF STUDENTS ABOUT SOCIAL
& ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

TO PROMOTE
AN ALTERNATIVE PEDAGOGY
IN ACADEMIC CURRICULA

SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE



1_

ASOC SHORT BRIEF

TRAINING CITIZEN ARCHITECTS

an Architecture School of Commons project is interested in **building bridges between schools of architecture, local community projects and a generation of young activist professionals organized in collectives of architects.**

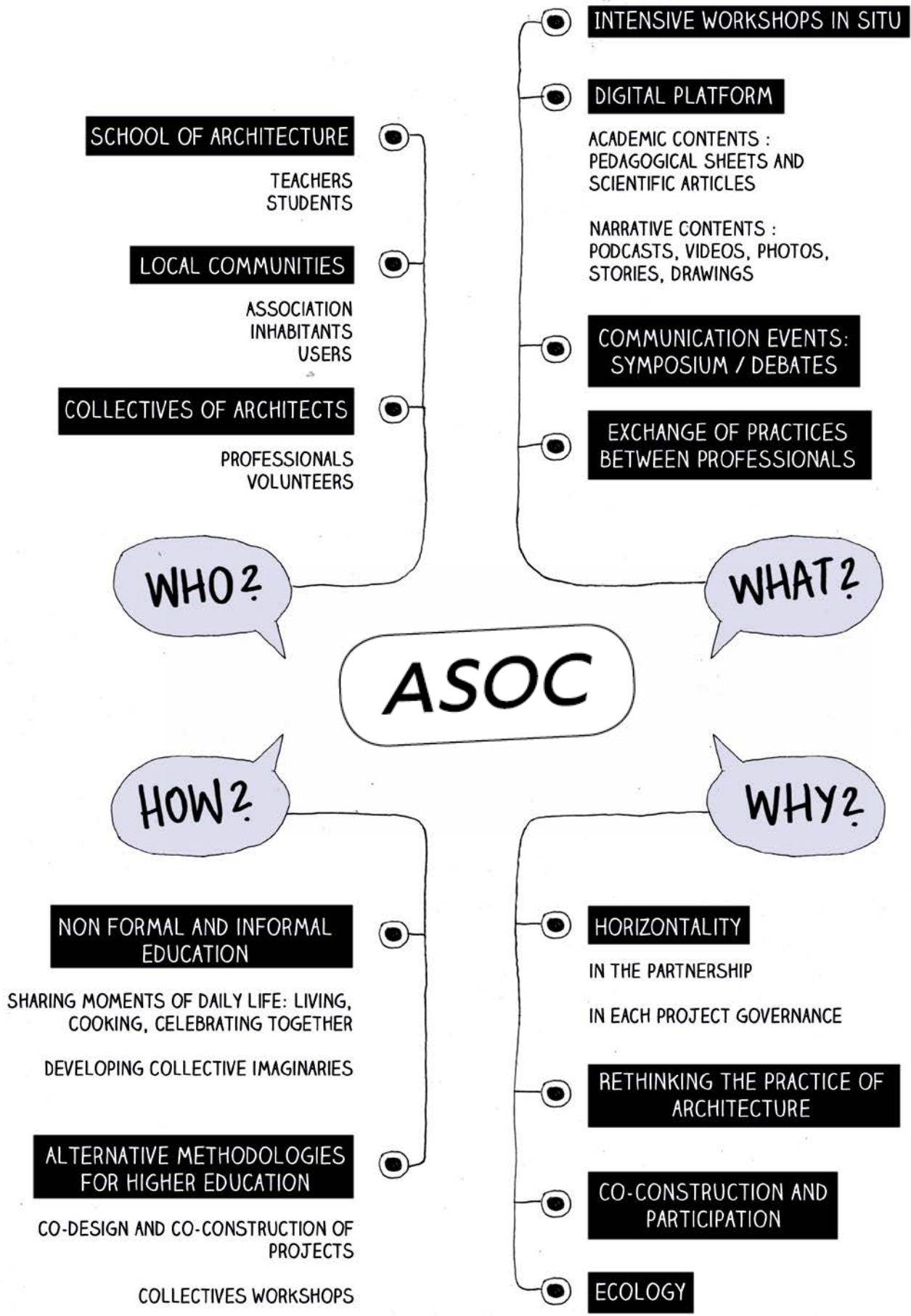
Partly financed by the Erasmus + programme, this partnership in higher education takes place in three European countries (France, Italy, Greece). **Architecture School Of Commons proposes integrating new alternative pedagogies in schools of architecture as close as possible to contemporary social and ecological issues.**

This takes the form of intensive learning-by-doing workshops, involving all partners and producing substantial changes. Investing in disused buildings and federating communities through open building sites and convivial moments will be some of the elements aiming to build a network of exchanges of practices on a European scale.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES BUILD COMMON PLACES TO FACE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

COLLECTIVES OF ARCHITECTS RETHINK A CHANGING PROFESSION'S ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES

This European strategic partnership is today composed of **three schools of architecture** (ENSA Grenoble, Politecnico di Torino and NTUA Athens), **three collectives of architects** (Collectif Etc (FR), Zuloark (GR), Orizzontale (IT)) and **three local communities** organised around common places in France, Greece and Italy (Les Tracols (FR), Les Seppie (IT), Tirilab (GR)).



2_

CONTEXTUALIZED GOALS

ACTING AND EXPERIMENTING IN A CRISIS CONTEXT

In economic, democratic and ecological crises, many civil society initiatives have emerged over the last ten years in Europe. Often creating «common places», **they aim to promote solutions adapted to the social and ecological needs of local communities.**

These resource centers bear witness to the richness of an original process based on social ties and horizontality. **Whether in rural or urban areas, they echo contemporary reflections on «the commons» and reveal another way of doing architecture.**

HOW
CAN LOCAL
COMMUNITIES
BE INVOLVED
IN THE DESIGN,
CONSTRUCTION
AND
MANAGEMENT OF
THEIR COMMON
SPACES ?

HOW CAN COLLECTIVE ARCHITECTURAL
PROJECTS BE SUPPORTED IN A CONTEXT OF
AUSTERITY AND LACK OF PUBLIC RESOURCES?

HOW CAN THE ACT OF BUILDING
COLLECTIVELY FACE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES,
TRANSFORMING FORMER BUILT HERITAGE AND
USING LOCAL OR REUSED MATERIALS ?



CONSTRUCTING WITH OTHER METHODS

Our approach aims to make everyone an actor in transforming their environment. **Thus, students are not the only ones to learn during the intensive workshops.** Local communities, collectives of architects and professors also learn from these collective experiments. Between formal and informal education, we create the conditions for collective emancipation through group intelligence and not only a hierarchical one from the knower to the student.

CREATING LINKS BETWEEN FORMAL, NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHING METHODS.

SUPPORTING INVOLVED LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY HELPING THEM TO THINK, DREAM, MANAGE AND BUILD THEIR SPACES WITH INCLUSIVE METHODS.

Through these experiments, **teachers will be able to draw hypotheses that they integrate into the curricula of traditional educational programmes.** By iteration, these experimental workshops will define the critical elements of a pedagogy engaged in the field to defend active citizenship within the institutions.

It is here that the dream of a different architecture practice, necessary in the face of social and environmental challenges, can be built. It is here, in the students, that the desire to develop their tools to transform this profession without repeating its most obsolete mechanisms can be born.

TO QUESTION THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION AND ITS



FRANCE - LES TRACOLS - LA PLACE DES POSSIBLES

3_

DOWN-TO-EARTH AND FRUITFUL ACTIONS

IN-SITU COLLECTIVE WORKSHOPS TRAINING FORTHCOMING ACTIVIST-ARCHITECTS

We propose a pedagogy located close to social realities, and we wish to make students aware of contemporary issues. Subjects such as third places, sustainable renovation of disused buildings, open building sites, self-management of citizen groups, creation of commonplaces, etc., are the basis for questioning the responsibility of today's architects and their potential role in tomorrow's world.

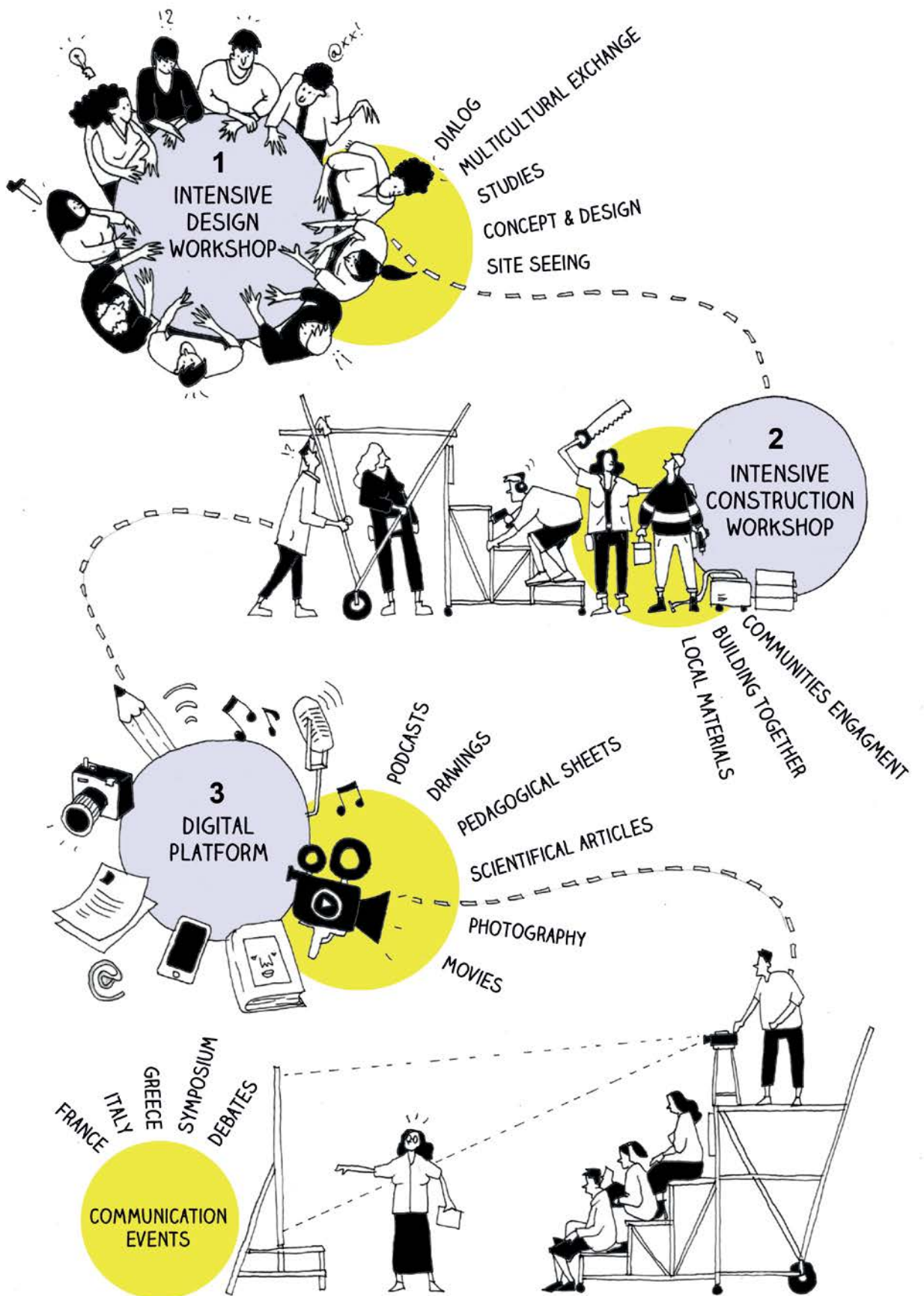
We wish to take students and their teachers out of the school to pose the hypothesis of **territorialized architecture schools and build institutions involved in the social and ecological transformations necessary to respond to contemporary emergencies.**

NARRATIVE, SCIENTIFIC AND PEDAGOGICAL CONTENTS

1. Organize in situ workshops in two stages: the first stage will involve meeting the actors and the site, sketching and writing a collective narrative linked to the local community's real needs to develop their project. The second stage consists of **concrete construction in the image of a participative building site that will directly equip each study site.**

2. **These workshop times will allow us to test, make and produce content to analyze these experimental approaches.** They will be disseminated through a dedicated digital platform, widely accessible, thus presenting all the working hypotheses tested in the field. This platform will therefore integrate all the information: the presentation of the actors, the experiments, the story of these adventures, the pedagogical programmes elaborated by the teachers and the scientific articles written on the different subjects addressed.

3. **Develop a communication strategy at several levels:** local, national and European, around the organization of conferences in schools of architecture, symposiums and large meetings in the places studied and others, which share the same values.



A COLLECTIVE AGENDA

A COUPLE OF KEY MOMENTS

We have chosen three specific territories: Saint Laurent en Royans, a village in Drôme, France; Belmonte, a town in Calabria, Italy; and a network of villages in Thesprotia, Greece. **These three European rural territories have similar characteristics:** reduction of public services, depopulation, ageing of the inhabitants, and the existence of a disused and vacant built heritage.

In each of these territories, a local community already organised and inaction is developing a project to transform places for the benefit of the inhabitants and the region: «La place des possibles», led by the Tracols association in France; «La casa di BelMondo», led by the Le Seppie association in Italy; «Mapping Thesprotia», led by the Tirilab association in Greece.

Each year, **we propose setting up intensive workshops, twice a year, which will bring together all the partners and several communication events**, which will widely disseminate the experiences, results, and questions linked to these moments of experimentation.

These intensive workshops will be organised by a duo of schools of architecture and collectives of architects over three consecutive years: Collectif Etc and ENSA Grenoble in France (2022) ; Orizzontale and Politecnico di Torino in Italy (2023) ; Zuloark and NTUA National and Technical School of Athens in Greece (2024)



FRANCE
DRÔME
ST. LAURENT EN ROYANS

2022



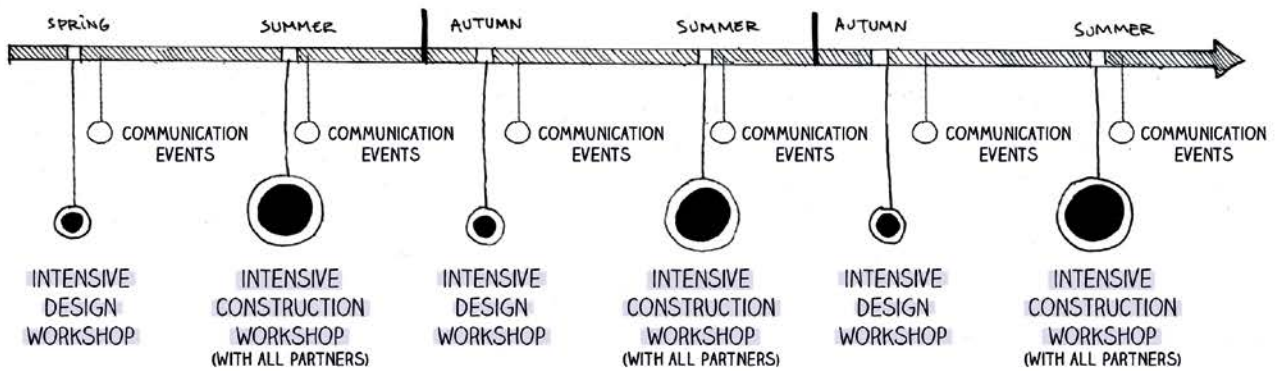
ITALY
CALABRIA
BELMONTE

2023



GREECE
THESPROTIA
MORFI

2024



5_

SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE

INSTITUTIONS PROMOTING GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES

By training experts, the **schools of architecture have a crucial role in showing students their responsibilities in the face of contemporary challenges**, both as citizens and as future architects. We regret today the lack of pedagogical situations that allow the implementation of experiential and cooperative learning to co-design and co-construct projects carried out by groups of people with concrete issues and impacting their territory. **We propose creating natural synergy between the actors: students, local communities, and architectural collectives around practical and concrete projects.**

Several schools of architecture are now partners in the project.



France

- ECOLE NATIONALE D'ARCHITECTURE DE GRENOBLE

Roberta Ghelli

Architecte DE / Docteure en sociologie

MCF associée TPCAUI / ENSA Grenoble

Chercheure CRESSON - UMR Ambiances Architectures Urbanités

Chercheure associée PAVE - Centre Emile Durkheim

Sébastien Fabiani

Architecte et co-gérant de NA architecture

Maître de conférence associé ENSA Grenoble

Théa Manola

Maîtresse de conférence en Sciences Humaines et Sociales ENSA (SHSA) - ENSA Grenoble

Architecte DPLG

Urbaniste

Docteure en Urbanisme, Aménagement et politiques urbaines

Chercheure CRESSON - UMR Ambiances Architectures Urbanités

Italy

- POLITECNICO DI TORINO

Ianira Vassallo

Assistant professor in urban project at DIST (Interuniversity Department in Science, Project and Policy of Territory) of Politecnico di Torino.

Greece

- NATIONAL AND TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

Nicholas Anastasopoulos

Doctoral Thesis, National Technical University of Athens

Associate Professor of Architecture

Associate Dean of Academic Initiatives

Professor and lecturer at the National Technical University of Athens

6_

GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES

DREAM OF MORE SOLIDARITY, BUILD BOTH PLACES AND BONDS

«Making the common» in architecture takes on a very concrete meaning: **how can places emancipate local communities by offering them resources, training, access to various tools, whether material or immaterial and cultivate a culture of collective self-management?**

Some rural areas are pioneers in creating «common» places, which combine work, culture and collective services - often replacing public services that are absent and/or being destroyed. The development of these places is often limited by technical and economic problems, **where collectives of architects will play the role of facilitators.**



France

- LES TRACOLS - LA PLACE DES POSSIBLES

The association Les Tracols places collective intelligence at the centre of its action to help the most vulnerable people find a place in our society. For the past five years, together with twenty or so associations, a few elected representatives and technicians and numerous actors in the area, it has been working on the creation of La Place des Possibles, based on the needs and resources that they share with the inhabitants. La Place des Possibles is defined as a third place or «Living Lab» where sharing, collaboration and co-construction are the key words. The Place des Possibles is a former textile factory, which is gradually being transformed into an open space and resource for the territory.

Italy

- LA RIVOLUZIONE DELLE SEPIE - CASA DI BELMONDO

RDS is an association of young local and international professionals, operating in Calabria (IT), with a transdisciplinary approach. They work in the voids of territories, both physical and virtual, looking for abandoned shells, occupying space and imagining multiple forms to transform it. They try to create a new community by nourishing it through the exchange of knowledge around the transformation of an old palazzo in the heart of the village of Belmonte: the casa di Belmonto. For 5 years, the association, with the help of the inhabitants, the town hall, architecture students and other local actors, has been transforming this abandoned building step by step into a «common place», with multiple uses: gardens, workshops, housing, meeting spaces.

Greece

- TIRILAB INITIATIVE - MORFI

TiriLab is a local initiative composed of 2 urban architects, and has mapped and identified more than 20 settlements in the hinterland of the Thesprotia region that show a variety of initiatives, mainly self-managed by women, that over the last three decades have organised themselves against an almost routine oppression. Since 2019, the association has organised numerous meetings and workshops establishing networks between its initiatives, and studying the needs of these initiatives and of the territory especially on shared spaces of care around the kitchen. Together, they imagine the transformation of abandoned buildings (schools, wash houses, sheepfolds).



FRANCE - LES TRACOLS - LA PLACE DES POSSIBLES





ITALY - LA RIVOLUZIONE DELLE SEPIE - CASA DI BELMONDO





GREECE - TIRILAB INITIATIVE - THESPROTIA



COLLECTIVES OF ARCHITECTS

RECONSIDER ARCHITECTS' ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES

Over the last ten years, new ways of doing architecture have shaken up the architectural profession. These «collectives of architects» most often claim a sharing of the project, action in the field via open building sites, economies of means and new forms of governance.

Their existence is complex and militant and is part of a history of counter-culture in architecture, claiming notions of empowerment of non-expert actors, frugality and ecology. These groups often criticize an architecture that consumes a lot of raw materials and top-down decision-making mechanisms that are too distant from the real social and ecological needs of the inhabitants.

Our project questions the role of architects in the making of «commonplaces», whether material by concretely transforming places or immaterial by helping to federate users around open and singular building sites. By sharing the project, organizing available and educational worksites, and unblocking legal or technical points, the architect allows communities to invest in places with horizontality and empowerment.



France

- COLLECTIF ETC

Since 2010, the Collectif Etc has been supporting concrete initiatives in the fields of architecture, urbanism, art and design. It proposes to make collective fabrication a tool for emancipation, solidarity and reflection to build a fairer and more sustainable world. The Collectif Etc is an association based in Marseille and in the Drôme, and occupies places with other actors of the territory. It is composed of a collegial management and a salaried team of five architects and an administrator with a horizontal functioning, as well as about twenty regular collaborators.

Italy

- ORIZZONTALE

Orizzontale is a collective of architects based in Rome whose work crosses the fields of architecture, urbanism, public art and DIY practice. Since 2010, the association has been promoting projects of common spaces, giving shape to both rejected and invisible images of the city. These projects have been the testing ground for new types of collaborative interactions between city dwellers and urban spaces as well as opportunities to test the limits of the architectural design process.

Greece

- ZULOARK

Zuloark is an architecture and urban planning firm founded in 2001. The firm develops fluid and collaborative professional working models and creates environments of co-responsibility through collaborative projects in Europe. As an architectural platform, Zuloark is currently based in A Coruña, Berlin, Bologna, Madrid and Morfi.

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ASOC is an european project interested in building bridges between schools of architecture, local community projects and a generation of young activist professionals organised in collectives of architects.

AN EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO



National
Technical
University
of Athens



La Rivoluzione delle Seppie



collectif **etc,**

orizzontale

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