ONCE UPON A TIME IN LOUIS GENTIL

YOUSSOUFIA MZINDA MILANO FIRENZE PERUGIA BOLOGNA

URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE NOSTOI
WWW.NOSTOI.XYZ
INFONOSTOI@GMAIL.COM

WHERE	Youssoufia, Mzinda, Milano, Firenze, Perugia, Bologna
WHEN	1-11 June 2024 (to be confirmed)
GOALS	It's 1928, and in Khouribga (the subject of the 2019 workshop "Villes Minières/Mining Cities), the extraction work of the phosphate deposits controlled by the Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP) is in full swing. The city is gradually taking shape, and new neighbourhoods are being built to accommodate workers, employees, and managers. About 250 km away, north of Marrakech, the OCP decides to start the exploitation of a recently discovered deposit around El Gantour, where, until 1931, the construction of any urban settlement was not considered necessary. The construction of the ville des Européens will in fact begin only in late 1931, while the cité ouvrière for the Moroccan workers will not see the light until another few years. The city that sees the light is called Louis Gentil, in memory of the French geologist who so much contributed to the mapping of the phosphate deposits in Morocco.
	After the end of the French Protectorate, Louis Gentil was renamed Youssoufia, after Sultan Moulay Youssef. Not far from Youssoufia, in those same years, the village of M'zinda – or 9000, as it was baptised at the time of its foundation – was built in a territory carved by human activity in search of the most used fertiliser in the world. A few orthogonal streets defined by a series of one-storey patio houses and a large central space that houses the collective buildings of the settlement (the mosque, the post office, the dispensary, and the sports hall) make up the small, dusty and semi-deserted village of M'zinda.
	Starting from the study and planimetric redrawing of this village and similar cases in Morocco, students will be asked to elaborate design proposals that investigate the question of founding cities in a place such as that of the Moroccan inland, characterised by the presence of numerous phosphate mines. It is precisely because of the very large extractive activity (Morocco is the third largest producer in the world of phosphates, after the United States and China), which attracts large domestic and international investments, that it is estimated that the area under study will be, in the coming years, more and more exploited and urbanized. The workshop participants will therefore have to face the challenge posed by economic and political conditions, developing sustainable design solutions from urban, architectural, and environmental points of view.
	In collaboration with local institutions, and with the support of the teachers of the Faculty of Architecture involved, students will therefore have the opportunity to visit and explore the places where they are called to design, spending most of the time devoted to the design and survey activities.
ORGANIZED BY	Associazione Culturale NOSTOI
PARTNERS	Politecnico di Milano | Scuola AUIC (POLIMI)
	Università di Bologna | Dipartimento di architettura (UNIBO)
	Università di Firenze | Dipartimento di Architettura (DIDA UNIFI)
	Università di Perugia | Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile e Ambientale (DICA UNIPG)

TEACHERS	Prof. Michele Caja (POLIMI)
	Prof. Francesco Collotti (DIDA UNIFI)
	Prof. Martina Landsberger (POLIMI)
	Prof. Angelo Lorenzi (POLIMI)
	Prof. Eliana Martinelli (DICA UNIPG)
	Prof. Annalisa Trentin (UNIBO)
	Arch. PhD Cecilia Fumagalli (Associazione Culturale NOSTOI)
	Arch. Chiara Simoncini (UNIFI)

PARTICIPANTS   The workshop is open to maximum of 25 students enrolled in Architecture Faculties.

LANGUAGE   English, Italian

CFU   The AUIC School of Politecnico di Milano assigns to its students 4 c.f.u.

APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT   Students are invited to submit an application form consisting of a single .pdf document (no more than 20 pages in A4 format and no larger than 5 MB) including the following informations:
• one motivational letter (maximum 2000 characters);
• one curriculum vitae et studiorum;
• one portfolio of works.

The application must be sent to infonostoi@gmail.com by April 15, 2024.

A commission composed by the workshop organizers will be responsible for selecting the candidates. The results will be emailed out by April 20th

PROGRAM*   to be defined