Spring 2018 workshop BEYOND THE BOUNDARY April 3-5, 2018

Introduction

FLORENCE

UNIFI

The workshop "Beyond the limit" continues the long-time collaboration between Kent State University Florence, College of Architecture & Environmental Design and DIDA, Dipartimento di Architettura dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze. Previous experiences have seen students engaged in architectural design workshops focused on the reconstruction of the urban fabric in small Tuscan historical centers: Bientina (2008), San Miniato (2011), and Magliano in Toscana (2017).

The current workshop represents the final phase of the design research carried out in Magliano in Toscana. It will consider the overall redesign of a medium-sized area close to the city walls, in order to increase the values of urbanity and collective use.

Magliano in Toscana as a typical hillside village

The urban structure of the traditional Tuscan hillside village is the result of a stratification of interventions that date from the Etruscan civilization up to the present day. Despite the historical vicissitudes, the Italian hillside village, and especially the Tuscan one, still retains some of the characteristics that have made it a model of reference for architects and urban planners during the 20th century. The value of this model refers to the harmonious insertion in the surrounding landscape, the clear definition of the limits of the settlement, the accentuated building density of the urban structure, the volumetric complexity of the buildings which compose it. Further elements of interest are the rich relationship between monumental architecture (churches, palaces, portals, walls) and residential buildings and the relationship between public, semi-public and private spaces. As such, the hillside village continues to be of inspiration to establish guidelines for the future development of the village itself and as an example of a settlement full of suggestions to be applied in other forms and design contexts.

Project site

A site has been selected on the outer boundary of Magliano in Toscana in an area where, according to the approved Structural Plan, a residential and commercial mixed-use development is already envisioned.

The workshop is aimed at identifying settlement principles, spatial solutions, morphological choices that are alternative to the urban form of the suburbs, as the latter has been taking shape over the last century.



On a regular road network scheme the currently used architectural types are: • the three- and four-story condominium building with 4 to 10 dwelling units; • 2 /3 floor townhouses.

The buildings, surrounded by private gardens, do not define the road front line. The development of alternative typological models is open to many types of proposals. However it is considered appropriate to verify the design proposal after a careful analysis of the existing historic village. It is therefore suggested to propose development strategies which express a volumetric density and a formal configuration such as to give the site a recognizable character of urban intimacy. The project will also consider mixed-use activities, enhancing the presence of an important religious building to which an appropriate pedestrian area must be guaranteed.

Design requirements and limits

To stay within the limit of realistically feasible proposals, each project should take into account the following requirements:

• To maintain the current road access with regard to State Road 323 and Via della Madonna. The other roads on the site can be diverted or closed to traffic.

• To keep the access to the schools on the site. However, it is possible to modify the existing access points.

• To provide for a possible expansion of the Elementary School up to the boundaries of the lot on State Road 323.

• To provide for the inclusion of at least 2400 square meters (7200 cubic meters) for residential use and about 800 square meters (3200 cubic meters) for commercial use, the latter mostly at street level.

• To design a pedestrian square adjacent to the facade of the Santissima Annunziata

church. The church, of particular artistic, historical and architectural value, dates back to the 15th century.

Project presentation

Each project developed by an individual groups will be presented according to the following requirements:

A1-size board:

- description of the project proposal (text of about 300 words)

- rendering (external view)
- plan of the intervention at 1: 500 scale
- table 1: 200 (excerpt)
- section 1: 200 (excerpt)
- overall volumetric view

The board, with the colophon containing the names of the participants of each group and the title of the project, must comply to the graphic layout that will be provided.

Physical model of the intervention (scale 1: 500)

Calendar

Preliminary meetings

- Thursday February 22, 4.30 to 6.30 pm
- at Santa Verdiana
- Thursday March 1, 2:30 to 6:30 pm
- at Palazzo Vettori

Design studio

- Tuesday April 3, 10:30 am to 6:30 pm at Palazzo Vettori
- Wednesday April 4, 9:30 am to 6:30 pm at Palazzo Vettori
- Thursday April 5, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at Palazzo Vettori

Final presentations

Thursday April 5, 2:30 pm (location TBD)

