



TOWN PLANNING DESIGN WORKSHOP, 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2016-17 A.Y.  
prof. Isabella Inti, prof. Riccardo Mazzoni, prof. Silvia Sbattella  
with Filippo Romano  
tutor: arch. Carlo Gallelli, arch. Mara Reina  
<https://ghostownlabriacebadolato.wordpress.com/>

PRESSE RELEASE

21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 | 3.00 P.M. TO 7.00 PM

## GHOST TOWN LABORATORY. 'NJONICA

Public Seminar about a vision, guide lines and prototypical projects for 'Njonica area in Calabria

Politecnico di Milano, School of Architecture, UrbanPlanning Engineering, Aula S.2.2 | MM2 PIOLA  
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From the media headlines, we read that in Calabria depopulation factors of Southern Italy small town intersect the news of continuous landings on the coast of migrants fleeing from war and famine, as well as data of the growing economy linked to tourism and northern European real estate investments.

Here the small towns of Badolato and Riace, as Santa Caterina of the Ionian Sea, Guardavalle, Monasterace, Isca, Davoli, San Sostene, Soverato, Squillace are some of the Calabria 52 double towns on the Ionian coast, today in part depopulated (**ghost towns**).

The reasons of abandonment of the villages since the 50 were either natural causes such as earthquakes, floods and landslides, such that human migration in search of work to the North Italy and abroad.

The villages are situated on a hill and built in medieval times to escape the incursions of the Turkish conquerors. Up behind them stand the rugged mountains of the pre Calabrian Serre, the Apennines that in this region form the Sila National Park. In the 50s and 60s due to floods and landslides the Italian state did move the residents from villages a few kilometers along the Ionian coast, giving rise to the formation of double towns or marine, along Highway 106 Jonica (SS 106) that extends for 491 km from Reggio Calabria to Taranto.

The close union of natural, archaeological and antropic aspects therefore, distinguishes the whole **Riace-Badolato area as a unique landscape of a chain of double villages**. A territorial opportunity that today needs new Strategies and Tools of Urbanism, architectural design and urban design for development. Also leaders in others **Shrinking cities** have attempted different strategies, with varying success, to reinvent their image and their economy around creative industries, a manufacturing renaissance, a sustainable tourism or the service sector.

The aim of the course wanted to answer the following town planning design question: **what vision, what tools and strategies we need to adopt for the enhancement of Badolato-Riace area?** Which strategies and projects to recover, maintain and enhance the entire set of villages and landscapes for environmental, cultural, social and tourist purposes? In the goal of enhancing the area, what can be the design relation between the historical and archaeological remains, the agriculture and shepherding landscapes and the shrinking contemporary small towns? Should interventions be public or private? How you can involve the different populations and flows of refugees, tourists, residents for a new sharing economy and the care and management of the heritage? What are the consequences of reception policies and sustainable tourism and how can they be controlled or guided with planning and design?



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The Town Planning Design team composed by 63 students, 3 professors and 2 tutors start with the Vision and **identification of an omogeneous geographical and environmental area: N'JONICA** including the double settlements area from Badolato to Riace. A few guide lines may define the **institution of an Agricultural District** through which we could promote new public policies and local coordination for new pilot projects for adoption and conversion of abandoned agricultural land and farms, the testing of new landscaping systems to stop the landslides, strengthening of the timber sector in the San Bruno forests with the conversion of abandoned buildings into new wood chain factories, but also experiment a landart and wood cutting program with residences for artists and new light camping structures for tourist summer hospitality. New proposals for a system of Fiumare territorial parks and public spaces combining the rough and wild Serre areas to the agricultural landscapes of olive trees and citrus groves to the mouth of the Ionian sea with a reuse and re-naturalization project of the harbor.

To combat desertification and to attract new national and international tourist flows we need to **develop an efficient services and infrastructures system**. With the redefinition of intermodal transport between regional and local trains along the coast, a transversal buses and electric cars line between double towns, the regeneration of ancient donkeys tracks with sustainable mobility, and last but not least the enhancement of the web access network. To counteract landslides, seasonal flooding and lead an effective water collection system to the double hilly villages is important to **enhance the water management** and develop projects related to drainage, the redefinition of riverbanks, and projects for water purification in connection both to the harbour and the railway station.

A dense fabric of historic buildings of medieval origin, eighteenth-century palaces of land-owning families, but also farmsteads and huts for the shelter of pigs and sheep and even INA social housing of the post-war period, isolated unfinished buildings and new tourist villages along the marina. There is a taxonomy of varied building types that could be redesigned and made more healthy, efficient from an energy standpoint, and not least for innovative solutions that can hybridize memory enhancement with contemporary forms and materials. How to systematize this heritage? Diffused hotel solutions in doubles villages and new public spaces and open space systems will then bring new flows of tourists and investors, but also new rules for the **regeneration of built legacy**.

How to reinvent and **promoting a dynamic cultural heritage?** A Slowfood School with a program of courses, workshops and internships on local farms and wineries, could be the trigger for the regeneration and networking of numerous farms and the requalification and the architectural and landscape reinvention of some of the historic hill village buildings, mills, former piggeries, but also wineries, vineyards, citrus groves. For us Njonica is an already existing agricultural district.



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## **GHOST TOWN LABORATORY. 'NJONICA**

**The program**

**3.00 P.M.**

### **GHOST TOWN LABORATORY**

**Public Seminar about a vision, guide lines and prototypical projects for Njonica area in Calabria**  
**INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS**

**Gabriele Pasqui** – Director DASTU Politecnico di Milano

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**Isabella Inti, Riccardo Mazzoni, Silvia Sbattella** – Professors Town planning Design Workshop  
Politecnico di Milano

With **Mara Reina, Carlo Gallelli** – tutors

#### **PHOTO INTRODUCTION**

**Filippo Romano** – Photographer and professor of photography at NABA Milan, IUAV Venice

**3.30 P.M.**

### **'NJONICA**

**International Students Presentation** of the Ghost Town Laboratory. Badolato-Riace Design Workshop. Vision, guide lines and prototypical projects for Njonica area in Calabria, edited by the Town Planning international students. Enhancement of the double settlements area from Badolato to Riace, with an Agricultural district, the regional and local infrastructures, a new system of Fiumare and waterfront open and public spaces.

**4.30-4.40 P.M.**

coffee break

**4.45- 6.00 P.M.**

#### **ROUND TABLE**

**Gerardo Mannello**, Mayor of Badolato Municipality

**Gabriele Pasqui**, director DASTU Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

**Gennaro Postiglione**, full Professor Politecnico di Milano, Coordinator of CCS MSc Architecture and Chairman of the Board for International Mobility Erasmus program School of Architecture

**Giacomo Borella**, Studio Albori, Milano

**Giulia Cantaluppi**, external expert, PhD IUAV and temporiuso.net

**6.15-7.00 P.M.**

#### **PUBLIC LECTURE**

### **LA PIETRA SCARTATA**

**Giacomo Borella**, Studio Albori, Milano

#### **INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS**

**Gabriele Pasqui**, Director DASTU Politecnico di Milano