

The school and the house: public architecture and rural residence in Basilicata.

Interpretation, redraw and representation as strategies for the preservation and the maintenance of the Modern Heritage.

Keywords

Modernity, Representation, Relief, Regeneration, Patrimony.

Modern architecture has been for long time a painful legacy, has always been associated with an ideological reading, but today it received attention of experts on architecture; with a new perspective of knowledge and historical and criticism reflection.

Its appreciation is arrived late in comparison to other national realities and the appeal of its protection is matured equally late.

However, the current rise from 50 to 70 years of the temporal limit to enter the historical and artistic heritage, risks to leave without any protection the large part of works of the modern legacy in the Basilicata region. Ludovico Quaroni, Luigi Piccinato, Plinio Marconi, Carlo Aymonino, Marcello Fabbri, Giancarlo De Carlo, Mario Fiorentino, Ettore Stella, Nallo Mazzocchi Alemanni 's works are in danger. Modern architecture in Basilicata region realized in the fifties, as La Martella, Venusio, Policoro, Scanzano Jonico, Taccone and S. Maria of Irsi, neighborhoods as Spine Bianche, La Nera they risk to lose its own identity.

It's Important to specify that Modern Movement in the south of Italy and

in specific way in Basilicata region, it is developed in architecture with a strong delay; only in the years of the post-war reconstruction the region will be crossed by a cultural debate not only in architecture and urbanism, but in social and economic research.

The Basilicata region will become in the fifties the model of the renewal and the reconstruction of the Italian society that will bring to the architectural and urbanisms experimentations of the rural villages where the corporate Ente Riforma Fondiaria together with the Unrra-Casas will be the interpreters of a wide intervention of territorial planning.

The primary need of lodgings, that the war had already destroyed together with the already flimsy houses that people owned, focuses on the Italian architectural debate the theme of the house.

Theme, which will be accompanied to that of the school. The design of structures suitable to accommodate students without primary education, you start to feel consistently it is the state that at this time begins to engage directly to, *“dare ai bambini il luogo fisico dove dovrebbero trasformarsi da analfabeti in cittadini civili”*⁷

These two themes have a predominant position in Italy, for example, in the tenth edition of the Milan Triennale in 1954 will present the film “Cronache dell’Urbanistica italiana” in which La Martella represents the realization of new housing solutions that does not mortify the social models proper of the community of the inhabitants of the Sassi. In the same edition it is present also a model of houses UNRRA-CASAS planned by the architect Luigi Piccinato under construction at the Borgo Venusio.

Of the great quantity of works realized by the corporate in Basilicata region only a small number of works we can consider a patrimony where we must set a protection.

For the understanding of the Modern in Basilicata the research has restricted the field, focusing the analysis to the study of the scholastic buildings and the rural residences, that they certainly represent the realization of cultural and architectural ideas of those years.

The research has developed a comparative synthesis among the modern architecture in the Basilicata region and the experience that it is concretized

7

Ernesto N. Rogers, 1960. *Dramma di una scuola. Casabella e Continuità*, 245, 1960.

in the same years in Spain with the “Pueblos de Colonizacion”. Among the years Forty and Seventy the Spanish National institute of Colonization (INC) realizes a complete transformation of the rural areas, with the irrigation of vast cultivable areas and the construction of almost three hundred suburbs. Today with the temporal distance these villages, in the Spanish countryside, can be considered with different value architectural and different state of maintenance. It ‘s interesting to note how similar are the intentions of the principles adopted by L. Quaroni and his team in the design of Borgo La Martella, and the architects of INC. Why the great tower of the church, which served as a bell-lantern-dome, was to focus the eye of the farmer’s return from the farmland. So also these villages follow a curved path that fits organically to the terrain and directly from the fields, through secondary arteries converge toward the civic center. Research has found interesting the comparison between the farmhouse designed by Fernández del Amo and the farmhouse designed by the masters of modern architecture in Basilicata region. Layouts designed with spaces dedicated to the barn, the garden, the oven can be traced in both architectural experiences although it seems there are no influences and contacts between the architects. Today many Spanish suburbs are inserted in the catalog of Docomomo Iberico, and it seems by now acquired their architectural value.

This assessment has not yet been incorporated to the urban neighborhoods of Matera and rural villages in Basilicata region, often mired in a situation of great deterioration. The subject principals to which the rural suburbs were destined, the farmers, have definitely abandoned the houses assigned them by the Corporate, making to fall in a total abandonment these manufactured. Clear examples of this phenomenon have been individualized by the research in the village S.Maria of Irsi, where, the total lack of interventions of ordinary maintenance has brought to a slow but inexorable abandonment. Also the use of new techniques combined to material of the tradition has accelerated the phenomenon of the deterioration. The situation is different for urban neighborhoods of Matera and the rural villages La Martella and Venusio still totally or partially inhabited. The presence of more or less constant inhabitants was due to a type of deterioration other than that distinguishes the villages uninhabited; a deterioration due to the presence of accretions which

have been added to the buildings originally designed. As often happens in the monuments of the Modern Movement, several interventions were made functional by the users, operations, though sporadic, have partially transformed the composition of fronts, carefully thought out and balanced by the architects. The family assigned, driven by practical needs, have created new works that are beyond the logic design, using materials not only unrelated to pre-existing ones, but also completely unrelated to the entire local building traditions. This has occurred in a totally spontaneous and without any control plan or development and conservation of the architectural artifacts. It was interesting to note that some architectural elements originally present in the villages, have undergone a complete mutation. the most striking example is represented by the granaries of La Martella and Venusio. architectural component distinctive types of houses. Lost their primary function storehouse for grain and hay, the people were left with a new space for reuse. The architectural theme has been interpreted by the individual in a spontaneous and varied, sometimes trying to give the store a new use. So the preparation of a schedule with the help of the drawing and the survey was used to understand and analyze the synchronic variations of the architectural element.

The use of drawing as a tool for representation of reality and original projects has helped to update the current situation and be able to add new variants. The relief, the conclusion of a specific program knowledge, it then used tools and codes to derive certain knowledge of the work.

The research has the purpose of suggest and lead by example, through strategies to be applied not only to individual buildings, but also to any intervention on the territory. They are trying to find solutions to the simple needs of owners, new lifestyles, all with a view organic respectful of the existing . At the same time we must not forget that the preservation and innovation of the “modern” neighborhoods and villages is realized through the recognition of the importance of architectural heritage from the inhabitants.

With the help of the archives that preserve the drawings and the story of the architects, the research has identified significant historiographical signals through two projects, completely forgotten by the experts, the value of which was such as to concentrate a large part of the time of the research on a careful and scrupulous study and work archive. The investigation has allowed us to

recover the drawings and papers of the original projects of two architectures of a master of modern Ludovico Quaroni. The projects relate to two schools: the Elementary School Grassano of 1955 and the Agricultural High School for the village of La Martella 1956. The results obtained from the analysis of documents found were given the opportunity to reconstruct and understand the individual steps and responsibilities of actors have intervened in execution of works. In addition, these documents have encouraged and facilitated the reconstruction of 3D model processed by computer of the original projects. The re-drawing of Quaroni's projects were considered essential, especially as a method of knowledge, and in the case of the elementary school Grassano also served to provide the local population the knowledge of a project that has never been realized in all its parts. The final representation of Quaroni's projects, did not stop to elaborate a 3D model, but has gone even re-using techniques similar to those used by architects in the fifties.

In addition, the comparison with other school buildings in rural villages, has allowed us to implement a direct comparison with other local processed in the same year, and has also helped to understand the references used in the projects and theories drawn during the writing of the works.

Of particular interest is the analysis of rural schools scattered throughout the landscape of Basilicata region. Used as a strategy to reduce illiteracy in the country, they are not only present in the vicinity of the villages, but are often located on the roads of passage. They represent for many years together with scattered farm houses, an essential component of the landscape. Their removal or partial transformation could completely compromise the vision of typical consolidated of the countryside. To make an inventory of these architectures, the materials with which they were made, the projects used, the main problems of deterioration was essential not only to preserve historical memory, but also to do works of recovery.