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SHORT VERSION

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Coordinator Network 2 “Conservation of the urban historic
contexts”**

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25 GIUGNO MATTINA

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MANUELA DAL LAGO

ANTONIO FRANZINA

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LIONELLO GABRICI

CHANTAL JACQUOT

HELOISA PASSAREIRO

LEZIONE MAGISTRALE

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ROSA CANOVA Y GOLLER

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JUAN PEDRO MORENO CARRASCO

LUIS BERGES ROLDAN

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INTERVENTI DEI MEMBRI E PROPOSTE DI PROGETTI

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25th JUNE 1999
MORNING

INTRODUCTION

Franco Pepe: Good morning, and welcome to villa Cordellina. I will only be the moderator and I will point out the important moments during this two-day-meeting. First of all I would like to introduce the speakers sitting around this table: in the middle the President of the Province of Vicenza, professor Manuela Dal Lago, who is our hostess, on her right the provincial counsellor Antonio Franzina, in charge of the URB-AL Programme. On my left the architect Alfonso Govela from Mexico City free University, professor Lionello Puppi from Venice University, who coordinates the Scientific Committee also formed by the architect Govela and the architect Jean Pierre Errath from Bordeaux, France. Then, for the European Union, doctor Leonello Gabrici, on behalf of the European General Commission, especially of doctor Cioffi. Then, the Technical Secretariat of the European Union for the URB-AL Programme represented by Heloisa Passareiro and Chantal Jacquot. This morning we are listening to the opening speech of this international seminar by the President of the Province professor Manuela Dal Lago, then the counsellor Franzina and afterwards doctor Gabrici for the European Union. Immediately afterwards Chantal Jacquot and Heloisa Passareiro will illustrate the technical aspects of the Programme. There will be a short coffee break and then a lecture by professor Silvio Castro, teacher of Portuguese and Brazilian Literature and Language at Padua University.

Afterwards, there will be another important moment, the new members that joined the second net of the URB-AL Programme in the last 12 months will be introduced. Lunch will be served immediately afterwards and in the afternoon we will meet again. Now we will listen to the President Manuela Dal Lago.

Manuela Dal Lago: Welcome to all the representatives of different institutions, cities, provinces and regions coming from Europe and Latin America to take part in this annual international meeting of the second net of the URB-AL Programme.

We are surrounded by a magic and suggestive place, Villa Cordellina, built in the XVIII century by Giorgio Massari, with the magnificent frescoes by Gianbattista Tiepolo.

I would like to remind you, very briefly, some elements and data which are essential to this meeting. Last year, in May, here in Vicenza we organized the first seminar of all the members of the second net which led to the constitution of working groups for the elaboration of common projects.

Today the main objective is not only to introduce the new members of the net and the common projects approved by the European Commission, but also and above all, to encourage the constitution of other working groups which can offer new ideas for common projects. The final goal of the URB-AL Programme is to stimulate, as much as possible, the creation of common projects which can really build a linking bridge between Europe and Latin America, first and final objective of this worldwide Programme.

In the last months we tried to improve the organization of the URB-AL Office, which now counts with a fixed team that works at the net's disposal. The development of our civilization, under the pressure of technical and scientific information, the spreading of welfare, on the

one hand, and the worsening of living conditions on the other hand, are reflected in a tumultuous growth of our cities to the detriment of their historical reality, affecting, therefore, the civil identity of the cities. Many times the elemental principles of urban preservation have been ignored, just at the time when it would have been necessary to respect them, without damaging historical, social and spiritual situations.

The restoration and conservation of historic environments, therefore, cannot omit the conscience of their social aspects, within a dimension in which the quality of life must be improved in order to become the aim and rule for the whole urban development.

All the members of the net unanimously agreed on this principle. The act of conservation, from the material point of view, is meaningless if the social identity is not taken into consideration.

This is something new in Italy, we hope we will overcome the problems and obstacles emerging from an incomplete autonomy. As President of the Province I must say that the levels of government are too many: State, Region, Province and City elaborate plans and very often the roles overlap without defining precise responsibilities and in that way the government is not able to carry out dynamic processes.

A new kind of ethics is necessary and I can think of four main related points: transparent management, resources, equity and competence.

Urban innovation is a central subject, but at national level it is also necessary to find an integration between urban and social, work and development policies.

It is not a simple task. We must take a further cultural step, we need new common strategies, at European level, following the leading concept of the URB-AL Programme.

Our commitment to the net is a positive sign which shows that something is changing in order to create, in this big area of civilization, a common cultural and critical conscience. I hope that during these two days our work will confirm this unifying wish that binds us beyond linguistic differences, beyond the boundaries of the ocean. Good work to everybody and have a pleasant stay in Vicenza.

Franco Pepe: Now we will listen to the counsellor Antonio Franzina, responsible for the URB-AL Programme in the provincial council.

Antonio Franzina: Welcome to everybody. As coordinators of this seminar we have fixed some objectives, as coordinators of the net we need your suggestions to make it work better and offer a more efficient and effective service. We think it is important to understand why some of the projects presented last year were approved and some others were rejected. This step becomes indispensable to start the discussion and presentation of the new projects which may be accepted by the assessing committee. We must encourage the debate and according to this principle we remind you that the "citizen" must always be the essential point when discussing the subject of the conservation of historic centres. Preserving the historic centres means, above all, keeping a big number of inhabitants and residents in the historic centres.

A city is an intangible fabric of relationships, affinities, feelings, sentiments: it is not an empty container, more or less in order. Rereading the city means decoding this invisible fabric. We must move from a museum-like concept to a dynamic dimension, we must bring again children, old and young people and workers into the heart of the city. The squares, the renowned Italian "piazze" are deserted in the evening like in the metaphysic paintings by De Chirico. We have to change this situation. It is a great responsibility for all of us but we can do it by means of our new projects. Our European and Latin American cities developed in the last century like some big trees with enormous leafiness and innumerable branches. But there is a risk: the roots, which is to say our history, may not support the burden of the new branches. Let us think about the terrible pressure some Latin American megalopolis have to

bear or the increasing demand for services on the existing economic resources. The background of our debate is the crisis of an urban model founded on the symbiosis city-factory. It is essential for us, members of the administrative staff, to move from an assisted city to a new relationship with the historic centre, where the community identifies and is represented. I will quote doctor Gabrici "in periods of crisis and changes it is necessary to have the courage and the strength to cling to the fundamental values". We must rediscover our commitment, our love for the tasks we have to carry out. The new wealth is the city that plays the same role it had in the Italian Renaissance.

In order to do this , the city must be adequately organized to offer spaces and services to cope with the challenge of globalization. From this point of view, the historic centre offers extraordinary opportunities.

Let us think about a firm that may be called "capitalism of the knowledge". Let us think about the so-called "business information", about the technical and cultural support of information that a centre of knowledge can provide to the company and the businessman. Wherever there is communication, we find opportunities for development and work. We are approaching the civilization of permanent education, of everyday professional qualification and requalification. Who, better than the historic centre, can give concrete answers to this new requirement of knowledge?

This is the reason why our work in the second net of the URB-AL Programme is so important. This is a laboratory where new initiatives can be tested. They will focus their attention on the citizen and his needs for quality in the defense of public green areas, practicability and profitable use of the city, pollution control, social areas and entertainment. To discuss about the conservation and restoration of historic centres means to be connected, ideally, with the other nets of the URB-AL Programme. Welfare is not only given by high level incomes, efficient social services and controlled social security but also by cities with an excellent quality of life, spaces where history and the roots of the big tree I mentioned before, can be interpreted and projected into the future. Thank you!

SPEECHES FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Franco Pepe: After the counsellor Franzina we will listen to Doctor Lionello Gabrici who represents the General Commission of the European Union related to Latin American affairs.

Lionello Gabrici: I would like to remind you what the URB-AL Programme means for the European Commission in Brussels, and why we have confidence in it. Contrary to what was said in Italy during the last European elections, European foreign policy is not weak, it does not exist at all. The European Commission can carry out foreign policies only by means of plans suggested to the different local governments. If they accept those suggestions, they can be, later on, put into practice. As far as URB-AL, we have planned a global strategy and we are carrying out foreign policy activities not as European Commission but according to the Council's decisions. What was our suggestion for Latin America? We proposed a political dialogue and in parallel, as a global strategy, we included the economic and commercial aspects. The main Latin American countries are the members of Mercosur: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile.

We must keep in mind that in these countries Europe is the first investor. So, from the economic and commercial point of view, in a globalized world, to work in partnership with Latin America is fundamental. Moreover, there is a third aspect in our strategy to approach Latin America, and it is cooperation.

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This cooperation means to give up the old concept of “helping for the development” and think of it as “partnership”, in order to reinforce the civil society on both sides. For Latin American reality what really counts is a Programme like URB-AL. We do not know anything about restoration problems or conservation of historic centres, we are not specialized and we are not supposed to be. You are qualified, the civil society, those elected by the people to manage the cities with responsibility. We would like you to join together. You have a programme in your hands, where it is necessary to have ambition and courage to present projects which should obviously be structured, organic and sustainable and we will take care of the financial aspects. We have the power of initiative. By means of this power I can include an URB-AL Programme pointing out the fact that between Latin America and Europe there are probably more links than between Latin America and the United States. It is very important to underline this aspect. I address now to the European members of the net – unfortunately there are too many Italians, Spanish, Portuguese and French – the reinforcement of the relationships between Latin America and Europe, the problems of these two continents that must globalize together in a world which runs at the speed of North American multinationals, are a common problem for the whole of Europe, even for Ireland, Denmark or Germany.

What I mean is that you must try to make the URB-AL Programme become a tool for the Commission to finance initiatives that were not accepted in bilateral committees. If we have Milan and Dublin working with Santiago de Chile, Caracas and Quito in a university programme that may be dealing with urban problems, I think it is not very difficult to include URB-AL in the project. There are other programmes for small and medium-size companies, for example AL-INVEST which may help these companies – even European handicraft companies specialized in restoration – to organize a meeting. That is the business. Thank you!

Franco Pepe: Thanks Doctor Gabrici, and now some useful and valuable information from the Technical Secretariat. We will listen to Chantal Jacquot.

Chantal Jacquot: Good morning. Very briefly I will speak about the present situation of URB-AL and the last activities of the other nets. My colleague Heloisa Passareiro will illustrate us about the common projects. Last year, in May 1998, the second net of the URB-AL Programme, in Vicenza, started its activities and soon after we started the third net “democracy in the city”, coordinated by the French city of Issy-les Molineaux, which had the opening seminar last February. This net has around 120 members and deals with the subject of democracy, it is working with some common projects and the first ones will be presented next July. The fourth net, coordinated by the municipality of Madrid deals with “urban economic development” and will start its activities next September. This net has had an enormous success and has around 180 members of which 150 are cities or regions. If you are interested in the opening seminar of this net and how to participate, we will give you all the necessary information. The fifth net, “urban social policies”, is coordinated by the municipality of Montevideo and had the opening seminar last April. It was a very interesting seminar in which the participants prepared common projects, and about twenty of them are feasible. They have also identified the possible coordinators and I would like to speak about this aspect. Regarding the last three nets the coordination has just been appointed to the local institutions. These are: the net “urban environment” coordinated by Brussels, the net “urban planning” coordinated by the municipality of Rosario (Argentina), and the net “mobility” by Stuttgart (Germany). We have all the information concerning the contacts and soon they will be officialized. The nets are open and if you want to participate you must contact the coordinators. The opening seminars will take place in the year 2000. The last piece of information I would like to give you is about the second biennial meeting which will be in

Rio de Janeiro in June or July 2000. It will be a political event and at the moment we are preparing the material with the local entities. Now Heloisa will speak about common projects. Last year six projects were presented and four of them were accepted. Good work to everybody and I want to remind you that we are at your disposal. We will go around the different groups to answer all your questions.

Franco Pepe: And now Heloisa Passareiro will give us more information.

Heloisa Passareiro: I will speak about the common projects, the central subject of our meeting. Last year in Vicenza six common projects were presented and four of them were accepted. I would like to remind you that now you have the possibility to elaborate new projects and that there is not a fixed number for them, you can present as many as you want. The Commission counts with a Technical Committee which assesses the technical aspects of the projects. I also want to let you know that the coordinators of the projects that were accepted last year cannot coordinate a new project, and this is very important. So, the cities of Coria, Vilafranca del Penedés, Arucas and the province of Jaén will not be able to coordinate another project. Moreover, in order to coordinate a project the entity must be a local institution and a member of the second net, therefore N G O s and associations cannot coordinate common projects. The coordinator has an important role: he will be the spokesman for the Commission, he will sign the contract and will take all the responsibilities for the actions and the use of the funds the Commission will grant to the project. It is important to underline that once Vicenza sends the projects to Brussels, projects that Vicenza had received from the different coordinators, the time for their acceptance is rather long. If the project is accepted, the contract is prepared and sent to the legal department of the Commission. It is important not to take any further action until the contract with the Commission is not ready. As Chantal said we will go around the different groups to answer your questions, even those related to administrative aspects. Good work to everybody. Something else regarding financial aspects: the Commission will finance a 50% of the total budget of the project, with a maximum of 100.000 euros. That means that all the participants of the project must contribute financially, but this contribution can be in different ways: involving the staff of the entity, the use of the premises or facilities, photocopiers, faxes or telephones. Not necessarily money. If you do not have any other question I would like to remind you that we are always at your disposal.

Franco Pepe : Now it is the turn of professor Silvio Castro.

THE MAGISTRAL LESSON

Silvio Castro: The main objective of the net is the conservation of historic urban areas and in the long run it becomes history of culture. We are conscious of and long for a synthesis centred on the democracy of culture that will allow everybody to develop culture and knowledge. This is not true now because the urban reality is so big and complex that we are often far from that worthy objective.

Our starting point must be the analysis of the chaotic urban reality in Brazil, keeping in mind the cultural and historic processes which led to this consequence. Fortunately, even the Europeans, in a modernizing process of the community, were able to obliterate the old euro-centred mentality which today is open to other perspectives. I also have to start from a European concept, the Portuguese culture which is present in the Brazilian historic-cultural and urban reality. We must see how the Portuguese mentality and the cultural history of

Portugal, so open towards the rest of the world, were the main elements for the development of the Brazilian reality, the Brazilian territory, the Brazilian urban characteristics and the present development of this country. In order to analyse more methodologically the Brazilian reality I have always thought that it was indispensable to consider the territory as the starting point, and I think that for all Latin America and America in general, more than in any other part of the world, the territory is a value that, no doubt, must be considered. From the very beginning it is absolutely necessary to consider the physical territory. From the knowledge of the territory it is possible to analyse the cultural process. The famous letter known as "on the discovery of Brazil" unpublished until the end of the XVIII century for political reasons, immediately mentioned a territory, a certain kind of territory, because the chronicler describes without delay the marvels of that land and territory to the king of Portugal. If you want to understand the concept of the city, this is an extremely important element, because in this way we will be able to understand the present urban chaos and the problems related to the urban structure in Brazil. It is necessary to create a methodology.

The idea of territory gives birth to Brazil. There is a conscience of the territorial immensity, there is a territory that threatens and conditions, that attracts the explorers' attention. Vespucci recognises the importance of the territory, the importance of the strength of the territory. The old science was wrong when it declared that there were no possibilities of culture in the antipodes. While the changing process of the unknown territory and the known territory plus culture takes place, man comprehends the territory, takes possession of it and transforms the boundaries of the unknown territory into new cultural spaces. Obviously, all the Portuguese wisdom accumulated by the different contacts with the world had to face a new hard space, more violent because it was a territory that had to be built. It was different from all the previous experiences, the travels to the Orient, where there was a contact with old cultures already settled. Now there is a new reality. The Portuguese pioneers tried to conquer the unknown territory, and they had to face the real life of the aboriginal people, their culture, their life structures; the aboriginal architecture was a big space without internal divisions, it was a common space where an enormous family group lived. They could not find the appropriate material for their buildings and so they had to use what the territory offered, therefore it was necessary to know the new territory. Through this knowledge it was possible to integrate the urban settlements and the architectural models. As a result some houses were built with a roof covered with vegetal material, taking into account the local weather conditions.

The urban concept in Brazil started in the second half of the XVIII century. There are not civil buildings or structures from that period because the materials and the building methods used were not technologically developed.

But the concept of the city enlarges because the conscience of the territory grows. Nevertheless, there is not a real urban culture. Everything was concentrated on the rural areas. The first cities with the typical characteristics of the Portuguese tradition come into existence. Which were these characteristics? The colour of the houses, for instance. It is the beginning of the style that is inadequately called Brazilian colonial style. It could be called the style of the colonial period, because there is not colonialism during this process, there is only the incorporation of a culture in a new space, which is not the Portuguese city, the Portuguese architecture. It is the Portuguese architecture plus the native elements, plus the environmental structure influenced by the materials, the local labour, all the different factors which belong to the new land. It is a city with Portuguese origin but greatly modified. As a result we will find the baroque cities of Minas Gerais or Ouro Preto.

Ouro Preto is the absolute model and nowadays it has become a centre of cultural value with a beautiful architecture and high urban and historic significance. The XIX century is the magic moment for the consolidation of an urban spirit already present. At that time – even if there

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was a strong development – there was not violence in the urban growth. The urban settlements were built according to the Portuguese model with a nucleus, a big central space, the square, with a fountain in the middle, which was the essential element for the social life of the city. From 1920 onwards we find a new element which gives birth to new cities: the football field, together with the traditional ones: the river, the church and the railways. In the forties a new building system brings about the destruction of the cultural environment. This is the beginning of the tragedy of San Paulo, which suffered a violent growth. There is not a political commitment that can stop this violence, therefore, your initiatives for the cultural preservation represent the only possible solution.

San Paulo offers all the typical values of the urban culture – knowledge, wealth and high quality of life – but actually it destroys the unprotected masses of people that come to the city looking for those values.

We have to keep in mind that the Brazilian urban reality is chaotic. In San Paulo the violence of economic and financial globalisation is nowadays present and it will not be possible to interrupt – not even politically – the growth and continuity of this process, but it is feasible to create a cultural policy which conscientiously considers this fact. Rio de Janeiro has an environment that is self-preserved, the most harmful intentions of globalisation cannot destruct it, because the environment is able to restore itself. So, Rio de Janeiro could be defined as a territory- environment; San Paulo, unfortunately, has lost the spirit of the environment, there is no environmental culture. In Rio de Janeiro there is environmental conscience. The only solution is the restoration of the city. Some cities are real models, like Curitiba or Caixas do Sul, a city of Veneto origin, less than a hundred years old, which nowadays has six hundred thousand inhabitants. It is peaceful and well balanced and it is developing in a normal way.

These are the ideas I wanted to share with you. The only synthesis we can draw from the Brazilian urban reality is to try to understand it, as you are doing here, looking for new instruments and cultural elements which can lead to the creation of an environmental culture.

25th JUNE 1999
AFTERNOON

INTRODUCTION

Lionello Puppi

I would like to underline the high quality of the projects, considering the short time available, for objective reasons, to form groups dealing with common interests. It is also relevant the fact that half a dozen projects were examined by the European Commission. It is not my responsibility to illustrate the projects, the co-ordinators of the accepted projects will do it.

The subjects considered in these projects do not exhaust the problems specified and expressed in the basic document. The topics taken from the basic document and discussed in the different groups were about the relationship between the protected historic heritage and the social reality, in order to establish a dialectic between the transformation and the renewal of historic urban sites. In the booklet there is valuable information about the right concept of monument and urban context, influenced by the problems of urban growth, the specific legislation, the relationship between city, economy and market, the practicability for the restoration, conservation and recovery of historic centres and naturally the conflict between the urban context and the social component. As you all know this annual meeting has an operative objective, it is not only the exchange of experiences through personal and direct dialogue or the introduction of questions and suggestions but also the intense and significant discussion of proposals which lead to requirements. In order to elaborate a project I think it is fundamental to consider the inseparable link between the historic context and the social component. I am thinking now about the clamorous and distressing situation of a city that for my teacher, Sergio Bettini, was "the city": Venice, and about the comment Giulio Carlo Argan made on Bettini's commitment for Venice. He used to say "You are the last historian who studies Venice, the next person will be an archaeologist".

Keeping in mind the essential importance of the social component I think that the speeches delivered up to now were all highly significant: the first one by the President Professor Dal Lago and the one by the counsellor Franzina, later on enriched by the representatives of the Technical Secretariat of the URB-AL Programme and the European Commission representative engineer Lionello Gabrici and the relevant lesson by our friend Professor Silvio Costa. All the conditions to work and get further advantages from the programme established by the basic document are given. The technical secretary of the net is already operative, under the responsibility of doctor Arzillo and her collaborators, whom we want to thank sincerely. Use it because it constitutes a safe and practical service.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Miguel Saavedra Saenz

The municipality of Santiago is one of the nearly 30 towns which constitute the metropolitan region of Santiago de Chile. It is located in the middle of the other 30 towns. It has a population of about 230.000 inhabitants and a surface of 2.200 hectares with a density of over 100 inhabitants per hectare. The expansion of the city started at the beginning of the XX century. The municipality coincided with the city and all the economic institutions were concentrated there until 1960, when the economic activities started to move from the historic centre to the suburbs.

In the forties the residents started moving from the centre to the western areas, which is to say near the Andes range. As a consequence the population decreased from 600.000 inhabitants in the forties to 200.000 inhabitants at present. In the nineties, an ambitious plan of re-population was carried out by the local authorities, based on a subsidy that the central government grants to middle class inhabitants. The problem is that the neo-liberal town-planning programme abolished all the previous legislation, which was very strict as far as the height of buildings, open spaces and concentration of edifices, producing a violent gap between the new constructions and the historic centre. Since 1996 onwards the municipalities have become aware of this reality and have started a common programme of collaboration with Paris in order to study the conservation of the historic centre of Santiago de Chile. Chile is located in a seismologic area, so there are very few buildings from the colonial period and the historic centre has a heritage of some buildings from the XIX century or the beginnings of the XX century. This valuable heritage is being destroyed at a rapid speed by the new constructions. The project of co-operation includes the conservation of some boroughs still populated on the west side of the city, not exactly in the historic centre, the revision of the legislation and the construction of buildings that respect the historic traditions. This is our challenge, this is the project we want to present to the second net of the URB-AL Programme. Thanks for giving us this possibility.

Good afternoon.

Hernán Pinto

Good afternoon. Only here in Italy Santiago and Valparaíso were able to meet. We came into existence 432 years ago, when the Spaniards started using our ports to supply Diego de Almagro. With this function and because of the presence of the sea, Valparaíso was born and created. Valparaíso has always been a cosmopolitan city, a melting pot for all the manifestations of the cultural life. The historic centre will be declared by Unesco part of the World Cultural Heritage in a few months. We are interested in working with other cities about the problem of the harbour, and we would like to build a model for the recovery of the port because there are many important historic centres related to this activity. Our city does not have big architectural structures. Our beauty is expressed in another way, in the urban fabric of the city, in the houses that look like balconies, in the forty-two hills that surround the bay. Our beauty consists of all these elements together and this is what we want to share with you. We thank all those who supported our request, the members of the Scientific Committee, the representatives and all the people who gave us the possibility to participate in the net. The people of Valparaíso work with great energy to build a sacred and important place, which is to say our home. We will work with the same energy. Thank you very much.

Rosa Cànovas y Goller

Good afternoon. Girona is a city of services with an important industrial structure. In 1990 an office was created to deal with urban problems and to stimulate the recovery of the historic centre. Its main objective is the renewal of buildings and houses in the historic centre, as part of an integral policy of preservation. After ten years of existence, we can say that the balance is positive. There was an intense revitalising activity, which showed the energies created around an integral project focused on the transformation of the historic centre, in the frame of new functions and uses in a changing city. No doubt, all these activities improved the collective perception of our historic centre. The main objective of this office is to gather all the aspects related to the recovery, improvement and conservation of the architectural heritage. As members of the second net, we want to collaborate with the experience accumulated for more than 16 years, with excellent results. We also want to exchange experiences and ideas about new strategies for the city and the historic centre. As a conclusion, we want to say that, for us, the historic centre must be the most modern expression of the city, because it has values related to the different activities and to the population: identity, symbolic elements, density and interaction as well as the capacity of producing changes that will allow us to face the challenge of the next century. Thank you.

Teobaldo Paredes

Good afternoon. I am Teobaldo Paredes, an architect, and I represent the School of Architecture of the University “Arturo Prat” of Iquique. Iquique means sleep or rest in “aimará”. The city of Iquique has an important historic architectural heritage, as a result of the magnificent period the city lived from the second half of the XIX century, due to the commercial activities derived from the exploitation of saltpetre. The architecture wisely adapted to the desert climate and developed some typical characteristics which are still present in the image of the city. The decline of the commercial activities was caused by the opening of the Canal, in Panama, the First World War and the invention of synthetic saltpetre. This was the beginning of a process of deterioration of the architectural heritage of the city.

In order to stop this process, the local public authorities carried out some protective measures to remedy the damage caused to buildings and places. These measures consist of a classification of the works, according to zones of interest, with a prohibition for the owners to destroy the place or modify its state or aspect without a special permission of the competent authorities. This created zones of protected heritage. The owners, most of them private ones, are not investing in the restoration because of high costs, and the situation of the protected areas is getting worse.

The short term project intends to develop a stronger awareness of the problem, emphasising the fact that the cultural heritage represents an economic value and can become an instrument of progress, considering the rapid process of impoverishment that the region is suffering due to the global economic crisis. The medium term objective is to look for the support of international associations, thanks to URB-AL. And the third one, a long term objective, is the activation of a project to renew the historic centre of Iquique and create a centre of education at university level for the north-west region of South America, involving Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Paraguay. On the other hand, private initiatives have had poor results organising seminars or exhibitions about these subjects. In the last decades the risk of losing this valuable heritage has increased enormously: globalisation, the incorporation of foreign architectural models, the economic crisis and the lack of effective official policies have contributed to the deterioration of these historic values. At national level, there are some activities focused on the cultural heritage, for instance the regional administration of

Tarapaca, member of URB-AL, is carrying out a plan for the recovery, within the conceptual frame of the net. The administration counts on the financial support of the central government for the creation of a project of restoration of the historic centre in the city of Iquique. This project has three parallel activities which are being developed in the region : 1) the inclusion of the saltpetre factories of Hamberston and Santa Laura in UNESCO World Heritage List. 2) the project “Chile centro” for the recovery of the historic architectural heritage of the coastal town of Pisagua, 191 Km north of Iquique. 3) the project of the bi-oceanic route, which thanks to a net of roads will link Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil, ending in the Pacific Ocean, in the port of Iquique. I think that it is evident that urgent measures must be taken in order to save these architectural values, threatened to disappear for lack of funds. Thank you.

Franco Pepe

And now from Chaves, Portugal, Mr Altamiro da Resurreçao Claro

Altamiro da Resurreçao Claro

I represent the Municipality of Chaves, in Portugal. Chaves is a town with six hundred thousand inhabitants, with a hundred and thirty thousand communities in an area of six hundred square kilometres. The principal town is Sinval, with twenty thousand inhabitants. It is in the north of Portugal, only ten kilometres far from the border with the Spanish region of Galicia.

Chaves was a Roman municipality. At that time it was called “Acque Flavie”, that is to say Flavian waters, after the emperor Flavio. From that period, there are still some important ruins. The most important one is the Roman bridge, also known as “Trajan Bridge”, which remains intact. The Romans built Sinval there because of the presence of thermal waters and gold. During the Middle Ages, Chaves was an important centre, military site of the resistance in the war against Castilla and during the French invasions. For a very long period, Chaves was an entrance and exit door in Portugal. As it is located in a northern internal region, Chaves obviously suffered more than other places from the problem of desertification of the rural areas, and therefore the emigration to other European countries (France, Germany, Luxemburg, etc). Chaves has an important historic centre that we want to protect and renew. At present we are carrying out some programmes, such as the recovery of the infrastructures and the encouragement of the traditional commercial activities in the historic centre. We have an office in the centre with technicians, architects, engineers, social workers, etc.

We have come here to observe and we are ready to collaborate in a concrete project for the preservation of the historic centre and the professions related to it. We hope that in this project we will be able to use the traditional materials we have, for example: granite. I hope this has been useful for you, thank you.

Franco Pepe

And now Italy with two towns from Campania: Striano in the province of Naples and San Valentino Torio in the province of Salerno, in the region of Sarno. We will listen to the architect Federico Cordella.

Federico Cordella

Good afternoon. We are in the middle of a tourist triangle, which is one of the most visited places in Italy: Pompeii, Caserta and the coast of Amalfi and Cilento and Paestum. There is an enormous flux of tourism and we would like to use this resource to create services and to recover some important elements of the historic centre.

In our territory there are remains from the Etruscan period, Roman and medieval ruins. There is a very interesting phenomenon, the “terre murate” (walled lands) which has not been properly studied. There are many signs of the past, remarkable models of the baroque architecture from 1500 to 1700, typical of the province of Naples, and so our historic centres are very rich. We would like to recover all these values, all the historic centre through restoration and maintenance, especially the area where our town originated, a group of old houses that still keeps almost all its original characteristics. We are working for the recovery of the historic centre, and our starting point is the cultural aspect, related to the historic roots. This recovery could be an occasion for economic investments, for the restoration of buildings used by the residents or suitable for the tourist industry. It could also be an opportunity to create new jobs, especially for young people, helping to solve the problem of unemployment. We hope that our participation in this net will give us the opportunity to exchange ideas and to receive suggestions, in order to carry out profitable activities for our historic centre.

THE JOINT-PROJECTS APPROVED IN 1999

Franco Pepe

We have introduced all the new members, so now we will listen to the common projects accepted in 1998. The first group is led by Arucas and the project is called “Manual for the municipal management of tourist impact on the historic centres”. The members of this group are: Querétero, San Luis de Potosí (Mexico), Quetzaltenango, La Antigua (Guatemala), Arequipa, the province of Cuzco, Huamanga (Peru), Montevideo (Uruguay), Olmedo (Spain), Trento, Ferrara, Ragusa (Italy)

Alicia Hernández Padrón

Good afternoon. Undoubtedly, the artistic heritage has its highest expression in the city of Arucas. Arucas is situated in the southern part of the mountain of the same name, and the city summarises through its urban fabric, monuments and buildings, the historic process developed from the hispanic period up to the present. The Ministry of Culture included the old centre of the city in the artistic and historic heritage. The development of agriculture, sugar cane, wine production, potatoes, cochineal and later on the production of bananas, which is the basic economic resource of the municipality of Arucas, contributed to create this historic heritage. In the last few years there has been an important increase of tourists, who come to Arucas to discover its cultural values. This is seen as something positive for the tourist industry, which is also growing. The local administration is convinced that it must play an important role in the projects related to the development of tourism.

One of the main objectives of the project is to create mechanisms of control in order to reconcile the sustainable economic development with the protection of the heritage. So, the municipalities are not passive in front of the tourist phenomenon in the historic centre. In order to protect the heritage, there was a special plan for the renewal of the whole historic centre. It consisted of a catalogue of the architectural values in the historic centre, showing the basic characteristics of the buildings. But later on, we became aware that some important buildings were not included in the catalogue, so it was necessary to project a new catalogue including this time, the protection of the buildings of different towns and quarters. Last May we opened an office for the management of the historic centre, within the general project called “Integral plan for the renewal of the historic centre of Arucas”. This office promotes a series of projects for the owners and the purpose is to create a dynamic market of apartments in the historic centre and the surrounding districts. First of all we intend to evaluate the situation of the historic centre of each town that takes part in the project, regarding the tourist

facilities. Then, all the towns will elaborate an information file, a questionnaire about all the necessary requirements of the physical and socio-economic structures of each historic centre to face the tourist reality. The information will be quantified and selected, the data will be controlled and a diagnosis of the situation of each historic centre will be elaborated. Later on the results will be exchanged among the different participants. The next steps will be:

- identification of the main problems and of the public or private entities related to the tourist industry,
- elaboration of a manual with the definitions of the principal activities, guidance for its usage,
- identification of a pilot project with concrete measures for the creation of a net of municipalities to finance the common project.

Thank you.

Franco Pepe

And now the second project, Arcadiae, coordinated by Coria, Spain, with the participation of: the Polytechnic of Milan (Italy), Nisa and Vila Viçosa (Portugal), Coro (Venezuela), Santa Cruz de Mompox, Pamplona, San José de Cúcuta and Manizales (Colombia)

Juan Pedro Moreno Carrasco

Good afternoon. In order to preserve historic urban sites, our common project has identified common special solutions by means of activities, which allow the development of collaboration among local participants. The analysis, development and study of these solutions are the objectives of our project. The solutions we found could include even the total renewal of the site.

Considering the social aspect, the initiative promotes the development of the political representation of those who live in the historic centre; it is curious that Coria has associations which represent the different quarters of the city, except for the historic centre. As far as the historic heritage, we support the restoration and conservation of the historic sites, because they are fundamental symbols of the urban identity. The technical solutions for the improvement of the quality of life can be: sanitary, electric and heating services and for the improvement of the urban environment: paving, urban decoration, street lighting, the study and improvement of the emergency system. Another solution for the renewal of the historic centre is the recovery of traditional techniques and materials used in each city, their historical reasons, the research and reutilization of the original sources of raw material, the study of the original architectural models and the revitalisation of the old crafts. Moreover, we propose a constant reflection on the irreversible effects of the interventions and the unique value of every trace of the past. All these objectives will be developed by means of a series of activities which were already programmed: surveys carried out by experts, training of municipal representatives, projects of activities for each nucleus, visits and missions for diagnosis, technological transference, reinforcement of municipal institutions, identification of resources and co-operation between the different participants of the nets and of the social reality, training of monitors – and this is very important – in the school-shops by special courses, exchange of workers and experts.

I want to thank all the members of the net, especially Villa Viçosa and the Polytechnic of Milan, here present. We hope that all the projects will encourage the new members.

Thank you very much.

Luis Berges Roldàn

Good afternoon. We all know how the historic centres have changed and how difficult life is for the residents: the way of living, the lack of means of transport and parking sites. Some magnificent buildings, after a very expensive restoration, become public offices because they

are not inhabitable. Parallel to this process, there is another one concerning a very important and interesting historic reality which is also deteriorated, I mean the rural cultural and architectural heritage. There should be an institution, in the European Commission for example, to prevent the complete disappearance of the rural architectural heritage. This initial project has not antecedents, I know that it is very difficult because it supports a philosophic idea which tries to save a whole culture. It is not only a particular architecture but also a way of living that ranges from the construction of buildings to the writing of poems.

We chose the culture related to the cultivation of olive trees, because it generated a very particular architecture that includes from the houses where the workers lived in the olive groves to the factories that produced olive oil. The process we thought of can be the starting point for the project. First of all, we suggest a direct contact with the areas where olive oil is produced, in Latin America and around the Mediterranean, from the south of Spain to the north of Africa in Morocco. Obviously, it is an overspread historic context and culture. Once we have a general idea of the activities in the Latin American contexts, this experience in the form of data, files and a series of elements and documents can be applied, after several meetings, in the U.E countries. At the same time the European countries will provide not only the spaces but also their experiences and a report of their relationship with the different municipalities, in order to see how to involve the public and private organisations interested in this project. We hope that all the members of this project will work with us and in the near future the concern for the rural architectural heritage will become a concrete reality. Thank you.

Roberto Labandera

The subject of our project is “how to create jobs and attract systems in the historic centres”. We started our work with an evaluation of the urban reality in our cities. Most of them have an agricultural tradition. I will only point out the objectives of our work, first: to analyse the local experiences related to the preservation of the heritage and the models of economic promotion for the renewal of the historic centres, how to turn them into active economic zones. The second objective is: how to involve the residents and the social and economic agents of the city and the territory in this project. The third one is: to plan strategies, which may transform the action of recovery of the historic centre into opportunities for the creation of new jobs. We have designed a biennial plan, with a series of meetings, and with several products, some of which were created by micro teams and above all we would like, as a consequence of this work, to be able to find, apart from the multiplying elements, new products, concrete facts to measure the results of our actions. The second activities are seminars for the analysis of these experiences. We have two main purposes: to analyse the interaction in the historic centres and then, to co-analyse this process to find solutions for the problem of unemployment. The third product is a manual for the promotion of new jobs and the preservation of the historic urban sites. The fourth is a series of modules for the education and awareness of all the agents that work in the territory, especially in the historic centres.

There is a means at our disposal: the virtual community, we intend to connect the operators, local authorities and technicians involved in this project, to the virtual community in order to create a horizontal, not only vertical, relationship among them. We know it is a very difficult challenge. Nowadays, there is a great development of the culture of virtual communication. The sixth product is a manual for the systematic organisation of all the multiplying elements. After this two-year experience, we would like to know which elements will still be useful for our cities. Thank you.

SPEECHES FROM THE MEMBERS AND PROJECT PROPOSALS

Valerio Ursini

I am Valerio Ursini, an architect and I work for the province of Chieti. We have an idea for a project and we are looking for partners. First of all, I want to speak about a process we are carrying out in the province of Chieti, it is the renewal of the provincial territorial planning. The process led to a series of studies, projects and initiatives to provide the basic elements for the application of this plan. As professor Castro said this morning, it is impossible to consider the territorial development without the physical, concrete, material, cultural, social and economic knowledge of the territory. In our general and sectorial studies, we developed two phases, two steps of research with the support and for the implementation of our territorial system of information, considering fundamentally what we called the territorial plan of the cultural heritage, as part of the co-ordination plan. The cultural heritage consists of all the elements present in our territory that represent important artistic, historic, cultural or architectural resources. I am speaking about two studies, about two materials that are also two ways of building, two ways of relationship with the territory, two ways of sustainable use of our resources, I mean: clay and gypsum. We have a great number of buildings of cultural and architectural value, made of clay. I know that many European and Latin American countries share this situation. I have a synthesis of our research, and even a C D for all those who want to study and investigate this subject. Ten urban sites in the province of Chieti are built on gypsum beds. This project will deal with, not only the fundamental subjects of the protection and restoration, the importance of the materials, the architectural values, but also with the possibility of recovering the systems, techniques, methods and secrets of the profession. The province of Chieti has passed a law giving precise directions for the restoration and conservation of buildings made of clay. For this subject, clay, the province of Chieti candidates to co-ordinate a project, and we would like to find European or Latin American partners to work together. We are also interested in participating in other nets of the URB-AL Programme, particularly net number four, the city as a promoter of economic development, net number six, environment, and net number seven, urban management and control. Thank you.

Franco Pepe

I think that architect Ursini has understood the meaning of this seminar, which is to say: giving ideas for common projects.

Filipe Lopez

I thought that someone could be interested in our experience in Lisbon. First of all, we must change our point of view. We always speak about heritage, but generally we mean the heritage related to Fine Arts, the erudite heritage, the monumental one, the one that increases tourism. But, we must change our objective and speak about the common heritage. Our old cities, our old quarters are very important for many reasons, not only historic and classical motives. We do not want to reduce their importance, but the idea is this: the old heritage of our ancient quarters is the place where, in the majority of our old cities, people of a low social level, poor people, often marginal people live. And when we speak about the experience of European cities, of Latin American cities (I know some of them) we must keep in mind that those Latin American cities are very often "social bombs" where the problems of poverty and segregation are enormous. The heritage can help solve these problems. The objective will not be the heritage itself, but the social fabric and the social problems the residents live within this cultural heritage, in old quarters of ancient cities, in old centres where the quality of life is very bad due to the accumulation of deteriorated buildings and poor houses. Only the poor live in these places, but there, the social relationships and the social fabric are fundamental,

because there is a feeling of belonging. People set their roots, get to know and help one each other, there are ties of solidarity, and this is something technicians cannot build. The social fabric must be respected and the quality of life must be improved in these old quarters, in the most economical way. It is possible to do it, satisfying all the needs without great expenses. We are doing it in Lisbon. I think it is really important to create a project for a group of people and cities interested in exchanging ideas about the problems of housing in the old centre, the social role it may play because it contributes to social cohesion and peace. It is essential in all the big cities but also in the small ones, where there are big agglomerations of poor people. This is also possible, and meanwhile we save the heritage because there must be minimal actions, very little must be changed. Why? To spend very little, to reutilize things. It is like using the old shirts or socks. It means to reutilize the old buildings, following the concept of durability and sustainability. We can save energy, production and transportation of materials, and so we spend less and improve the environment. In Lisbon, with 56.000 inhabitants in 26.000 lodgings in the old quarters, we were able to recover 6.500 lodgings. Building new social lodgings would have cost the double.

It is fundamental for every city to have a social housing policy. This is important for social cohesion and peace. We must reflect on these problems: the role of the inhabited environment, and the restoration of the buildings where the residents of the historic centres live, in European and Latin American cities. This is the central subject of our proposal. I hope some other members will join our project. As I said before, we always speak about the important and monumental heritage, but the heritage includes all the things built in the city that are useful, especially for the residents. We can exchange experiences and design a project for the restoration of the historic centre in our cities. Our experience in Lisbon can be helpful. Thank you.

Franco Pepe

Another proposal now. Doctor Giovagnoli from Ragusa, Italy.

Alessandro Giovagnoli

Good afternoon. Last year we attended a seminar and this year we are here with a proposal. First of all there is a synthesis of the history of our town, then an analysis of economic and statistic information and finally the proposal. This morning we spoke with the representatives of other two cities: Pisa and Civita Castellana, which in some way support our project. First, a summary of the strategies we want to use. One of the solutions to solve the problem of emigration and the growing presence of old people among the residents in the historic centres is to encourage young couples to move into this zone. This is possible by means of the restoration of some buildings. These private or public actions must respect the laws and regulations of town planning. The lodgings restored using credits, tax exemption or subsidies should be given exclusively to those who fulfil the requirements or lived there before. As far as communitary open spaces, it is necessary to use-in the best possible way- the green areas, streets and squares following a revitalising urban project. We must encourage the creation of places for socialisation, this forgotten way of living that only old people are able to hand down. These strategies cannot ignore the identification of traditional materials and methods. If we can save them there will be more possibilities to create new jobs. It is also necessary to revitalise another deteriorated sector of activities, the one related to the arts and crafts. Ronciglione boasts of a secular tradition in the manufacturing of iron, copper, paper and leather. Now there are only a few craftsmen and the buildings that housed those activities are not longer used. The old iron-foundries, paper mills and tanneries could be restored and become schools of arts and crafts and be exploited for tourism as models of industrial archaeology.

The local authorities have programmed the recovery of an old iron-foundry purchased with the intention of turning it into a museum of the history of the iron industry. This recovery is part of an environmental project which involves the valley of the river Vicano, effluent of the lake Vico. Ronciglione is situated by this lake. The problem of traffic is also very important, it is necessary to develop a project to improve not only traffic conditions, but also commerce and services, creating alternative zones, more accessible, in the outskirts. In this way the commercial activities in the historic centres will be qualified as well. We are looking for Latin American partners as we are already three Italian cities: Ronciglione, Civita Castellana and Pisa. We have to respect the percentage established.

Thank you.

Franco Pepe

Now, Francesco Poidomani from Ragusa.

Francesco Poidomani

Good afternoon. I am the head engineer in the municipality of Ragusa. Ragusa is already taking part in a project. Our city is at the moment carrying out a series of activities related to the community. Ragusa is the southernmost region in Italy, with a vast territory that extends from the sea to the mountains, with a historic centre of high historic and socio-cultural values. It is one of the two cities that the region of Sicily included in two special laws: one is Siracusa with the historic centre of Ortigia and the other is Ragusa with the historic centre of Ragusa Ibla. It is an eighteen-year old experience, because the law was passed in 1981 and it allowed to create, having many resources at our disposal, a group and a structure to work exclusively for the historic centre of the city. Sometimes there were positive results, sometimes we had crisis we could not solve. In the last years the situation of the historic centre, which belongs to the baroque period of Val di Noto, improved considerably. Ragusa Ibla was, up to 1929, a separate district. There were two Ragusas. When Ragusa became a province the two cities joined into only one. As a result the population of the centre emigrated but by means of a series of initiatives, encouragement of economic activities and restoration of many churches and monuments, it became a lively and busy place. We still have a big problem: the access to the core of the city. The law established the creation of a single commission for the problems of the historic centre, and this is another positive aspect. This commission, which deals with all the realities and agents which operate in the historic centre, is a fast means for the approval of any kind of initiative or project.

The legal aspect is extremely important together with the accessibility to the centre, the creation of pedestrian zones and the use of alternative means of transport. If we are able to solve these problems, we will have the possibility to live in a more humane dimension. Thank you.

Franco Pepe

And now, Claudio Mammoli from Perugia.

Claudio Mamoli

I am not able to offer a proposal for the net, I would only like to present some requirements concerning urban and land planning. Our problem is the landscape, the rural landscape, under the typical structure of "mezzadria" which still characterises the landscape in Umbria. It is a rural landscape highly urbanised, with lots of infrastructures. The problem we want to highlight is the conservation of the different centres that were registered in a census. The "mezzadria" was a multi-centre system, a net that worked thanks to a continuous and constant relationship with the territory. After the war, there was a process of concentration in the

valleys, where there are services and communication, and consequently the marginal areas were abandoned. Nowadays these zones are extremely rich, they have an enormous heritage, but very few resources, there is no relationship between these centres, the territory and the landscape that originated the heritage and culture. As a province we feel an urgent need: from the knowledge of this fact we want to pass to the identification of some strategies for the preservation of the landscape and the monumental and historic heritage. The objective of an eventual project could be the elaboration of a series of manuals which, in a simple and clear way, illustrate the conclusions of this work.

Gustavo Paulsen

Good afternoon. Valparaíso is a city with a port and it is characterised by this economic activity. We think it is extremely important to study the relationships between the historic centre and the port, relationships that are not always positive. Many times the historic centres were born due to the existence of the port and it is important to study the implications and contradictions that emerge from this relationship, the use of the sea-front to preserve the heritage, not only for the port management but also for the tourism that it generates, the relationship between this preservation and the normal activities of the port. It is necessary to make an evaluation and a diagnosis of the different realities, to analyse the positive and negative experiences, establish programmes and policies related to this subject, define criteria between different cities. In Europe and in Latin America we can find positive and negative examples.

Within the URB-AL Programme we should study them, draw some useful conclusions for our work, identify the relevant agents in this relationship and establish standards for the training of experts in the relationship port- historic centre. This is our proposal, and we want to invite all the cities, countries and associates to study the possibility to work with us on this subject. Thank you.

Alfonso Goveia

Good afternoon. I am not representing the Scientific Committee, but some Mexican cities that are very interested in proposing a series of projects. They are looking for partners. There are three Mexican projects and one from Vicenza. The first one belongs to the city of Guadalajara, it is very concrete, the exclusive objective is: how to keep the population in the historic centre "Dwelling in the historic centre". The city of Seville is very interested and they have already had a contact with Guadalajara, as well as the city of Quito. I have also spoken with José Antonio from Madrid, which is already participating in the project and we would be pleased if Lisbon joined too. So, there is the first nucleus to start a new sub-net. A couple of Latin American cities are also interested, and all those who want to associate are welcome. Second project: The city of Saltillo attended the first seminar but today they are not present. Saltillo is one of the oldest cities in Mexico, it is in the north and works independently for the conservation of the heritage thanks to some popular groups. There is an association of civil agents, non-governmental, for the renewal of the historic centre. Saltillo would like to create a net of agents to share experiences and for the defence of the historic cores. I spoke with Umberto, from Treviso and they are interested in this subject. There are eight Mexican cities included in the World Heritage list, and many entities that collaborate: the organisation of the World Heritage villas, an NGO, an official subsidy from OEA and the interest of the World Bank to create institutions related to this aspect for the promotion of an education programme for the protection of the heritage. This programme includes the training of public authorities – with the participation of the World Bank - and a project of education for the population in general – with the help of OEA. The fourth proposal was presented by a Committee of experts from Vicenza, already in contact with the Catholic University of Santiago and the Vatican. I

think it is very interesting and it deals with the study of religious spaces. It is very specific but it can have a great influence on all the urban structures in the world. Internal religious space and urban religious space. Summarising the projects are: Dwelling in the historic centres, Nets of agents for the protection and defence of the heritage and promotion, Education for the protection of the heritage, and Religious space. Tomorrow I will be in group number three because the subject seems very promising “Technical, conceptual and practical aspects for the definition of successful projects and working guide-lines in the URB-AL Programme”.
Thank you.

Lorenzo Monterrubio

We want to present a project for the historic centres of cities related to the mining industry. Those districts are clearly differentiated in the urban or rural centres because of their particular topographic characteristics, hills and houses that constitute extraordinary dwellings with an inherent history. The problem we want to emphasise is the obsolete condition of the mining processes that at present have no practical use. The loss of economic value of some metals, silver for example, because of political or economic pressure, the urban sprawl of these cities, the impoverishment of the mining sites, the lack of proper laws and regulations, all these circumstances contributed to neglect this traditional activity which is not any longer the kernel of the cities. We believe that the relationship between mining industry and the historic centres is similar in many regions and cities in Latin America and Europe, so we present this proposal which should start with an analysis of the situation. It could be a catalogue of all the valuable elements in the historic centres. Then, we will be able to coordinate all the agents interested in each area or region, in order to involve them in the conservation of those centres. Now, a suggestion for the Technical Committee about the project that deals with the cultivation of olive trees. Hidalgo participates in this project, even if in our state this cultivation is not possible because of geographic and natural reasons, but we are considering the possibility to include the cultivation of agave and pulque, a typical beverage, which developed in the region a very particular kind of architecture with strong historic values. We would like to know if it is feasible to enlarge the project, not exclusively olive, but including a wide range of cultivations related to the historic heritage. Thank you.

Jacques Savine

I am a member of the Town Council of the city of Grenoble, so I am a politician. I have been in charge of the revitalisation of the urban heritage of the city of Grenoble since 1995. I have a great respect for architecture, but the problem of recovery does not mean only architecture – I share the position illustrated by Philippe Lopez – but it is also necessary to consider the total environment. Since 1974 we have been trying to keep the population in the different quarters, and to keep the diversity of each quarter, economic, cultural or social diversity. Otherwise, we will have deserted historic centres and outskirts over pressed by the burden of economic and social problems that may become unbearable. I only wanted to say that we have been working in this direction for a long time, even if we had an interruption, for political reasons. Tomorrow, I will work with Philippe on this subject with great pleasure.

Massimo Gennari

We joined the net only ten days ago. We have a programme, a project about the interdisciplinary research and experimentation for the education and information concerning the recovery of the environmental and urban heritage and the revitalisation of the river or sea ports. There is an inter-regional net of Italian cities which represent an important sample of these problems, they are: La Spezia, Livorno, Porto Ferraio and Orbetello. The project has two directions. It deals with environmental planning, the environment on one side and

mobility on the other, which is to say the problem of transportation, which in the river or sea-towns acquires singular and more complex characteristics. When we speak of the architecture of transport we do not consider only the physical means of transportation but also the virtual ones, related to new information and communication technologies. There are three aspects to consider: first, the most conventional one, the formal participation of all the agents to form mixed groups, the identification of the subjects and cases to study, for example the plans for urban renewal, the recovery actions, urban planning and the sustainable development of the territory, etc. The second and third aspects are more experimental. The second one contemplates the creation of a multiterminal computerised centre for the collection of data, communication and technical advice. The third one considers the institution of a telematic atelier for the experimentation of new ways of co-operation, in order to codify and unify information, digital files, co-ordinate analysis and evaluations, etc. This will not involve only the research but also the didactic aspect, that is to say: the organisation of courses and other training activities. The purpose is to reinforce a post-industrial culture which can guarantee a balance between resources and development, within a frame of civil growth and individual promotion. The last part of the project includes the human resources already identified in the two centres: Brasilia and Florence, with the participation of local and regional organisations such as the Region of Tuscany. Thank you.

INDIVIDUATION OF THE WORK GROUPS

Lionello Puppi

I have listened to all the projects and I think that there are at least four groups. I confronted the proposals made with our Base Document, which is the reference we must keep in mind when we elaborate a project. We cannot ignore – even if it is not The Bible – the logic and the programme fixed by the Base Document. I consider valuable the proposal presented by the group of Perugia about the relationship between the city and the territory, particularly in the region of Umbria, and how to restore the relationship between the historic contexts and the rural landscape. It is more or less the same requirement made by the representative of Hidalgo about the relationship between mining territories and the historic centres of the cities built around them.

Another fundamental question could be the problem of minor buildings, perfectly explained by Lopez from Lisbon, when he asked us to change our point of view, because we always speak about selected heritage and very rarely about popular heritage, about social dwellings, inhabited by poor people, where the social fabric and solidarity are very important. The representative of Ragusa spoke about the problem of accessibility to the historic centre, contemplated in points 8 and 4b of the Base Document, so this could be another group. Then, the problem of the relationship between the historic centre and the port, presented by the representative of Valparaíso and by Massimo Gennari, in this project different realities could participate. Govela spoke about the common project “dwellings and historic centres” guided by Guadalajara (Mexico) and the contribution of Seville, Quito, Lisbon and Madrid. The idea presented by Saltillo could be included in the group dealing with “minor buildings”, because we know that UNESCO included in the World Heritage list some historic centre with single monumental sites, natural landscape areas etc. So, we can run the risk of going out of the Document. I also think that the problem of religious spaces is off-subject, although it could be included in point 3 of the Base Document. Four groups were clearly identified: city and territory, minor buildings, accessibility to historic centres and the relationship port-city.

26TH JUNE
AFTERNOON

RESULTS OF THE WORK GROUPS

Franco Pepe

And now we will listen to the results of the different groups, the first one is “relationship historic centre-port”, Mr Hernán Pinto from Valparaíso.

Hernán Puite

We worked on the relationship between the historic centre and the port. We considered some general observations: the first one is that each city was born around the port, the second one is that the historic centre of the city was also founded linked to the different activities of the port. The third observation is that even nowadays the historic centre is related to the port, which in general terms is the most important activity of the city. The fourth is that our cities are the entrance and exit door for goods and people and so they are cosmopolitan cities, where the cultural and architectural expressions correspond to a diversity and a variety of styles, because they represent cultures from different parts of the world. The fifth is that our cities and the historic centres suffered the same ups and downs of their ports. The sixth observation is that the population in the historic centre is decreasing, as in other cities. A possible activity could be a common diagnosis of the relationships between the city, the historic centre and the port, in order to know if all the cities lived this process in the same way and to establish if these relationships are still maintained.

We propose the elaboration of a record of all the positive experiences, in that way we will be able to know if there are possible solutions for the problems, without losing our identity and our historic relationship between the port and the sea. It is also necessary to find a method to invert the process of emigration from the historic centres. Nowadays heritage is considered as something positive, not long ago it was seen as a burden. If we turn this heritage into something positive people will appreciate living in such environments. All the elements we mentioned should be considered if we want to revitalise our cities and ports, without losing their identity. We decided that Valparaíso will co-ordinate this project. Thanks for trusting us and for the possibility to share these days with you.

Franco Pepe

The next subject is “accessibility to the historic centre” and the co-ordinator is Francesco Poidomani.

Francesco Poidomani

This group analysed the problems of accessibility and mobility in the historic centres considering the situation of each member of the group. The subjects discussed were: the problem of accessibility to the historic centre, the mobility within this area, the mobility in sites with a particular orography, accessibility to social spaces and the use of high technology means of accessibility, such as lifts or escalators. Another important subject is: mobility in relation to the social components in the historic centre, that is to say the residents and the people who use or work in the buildings. These are the general topics more or less common to

all the cities. Some specific examples: in Pachuca, near Mexico city, in a strongly modified historic reality they apply the American model, great demolition and few rests of the historic core. In Girona, where the reality is more developed, the problem of parking was solved with a seven-storey building where people can park their cars before going into the centre. In Ragusa they are still using the traditional means, they are working on a project, with many resources, to revitalise and re-populate the centre, the solution could be the use of elevators because now the only access is a series of stairs through the residents' buildings. Madrid has a very particular situation, there is a very deteriorated district where it will be necessary to demolish the additional parts of some buildings, because they are not coherent with the historic context. So, the big problem is the sensibilisation of the residents. As a conclusion we think it is necessary to elaborate a catalogue or a text about accessibility and mobility in the historic centres.

Franco Pepe

Now group number four, co-ordinator Felipe Mario Lopes.

Filipe Lopez

Good afternoon. Our proposal was: how to restore the social fabric in the historic centres. A group of cities analysed the subject and illustrated their experiences. In these centres the residents have their roots and a strong feeling of belonging, they help each other, there is great solidarity. It was pointed out that the interventions must be minimal and economical in order to keep the residents in the historic centres and to improve their standard of living. In this way we maintain the identity and preserve the heritage. Besides, these actions should be supported by public authorities. The different situations must be analysed considering three main aspects: 1) the existing legal instruments for coercive or encouraging actions. 2) the financial instruments with incentives for public subsidies and with interest discounts for private financiers. 3) probably the most important one, the instruments for the management, which are the most accessible for the population. After the discussion and the exchange of experiences we elaborated a document that was accepted by all the participants. Thank you.

Franco Pepe

Group number five worked on the subject "historic centres and territory", co-ordinated by Jean-Pierre Errath.

Jean-Pierre Errath

We changed the name of our subject because we thought it was better to call it "Heritage sites and landscape". We considered the fact that a historic city is placed in a territory and it cannot be separated from it. The method used was: to identify common problems, to look for the possible solutions and to see if it was necessary to establish a programme for these solutions. The first city was Ronciglione, from Italy, which is organising a project for the management of a so called "minor" historic centre of great interest. If we discover, analyse and understand this town, we can see that it is very beautiful and whenever men recognise the creative capacity of human intelligence they want to preserve it, to restore it. But, how? A possible way could be the archeological aspect, but there are no solutions. How can we preserve this site which is not any longer part of the living system of the present population? Then, we have the province of Chieti that carried out a research work, a planning and a record of the heritage. They gathered all the necessary material to justify a heritage made of stone, clay and straw houses, but how can they be preserved?

In Spain the problem is: how to preserve the landscape facing the aggressions, the transformations that are part of the characteristics of the landscape. It is a landscape

endangered by the urban pressure. In Perugia, Italy there are some problems with the town-planning programme. They gathered information, like in Chieti, they have all the documents that allow them to start working ,but how to deal with what was built on the landscape? The old system of “mezzadria”, from the XIV century, changed the landscape originating a net of streets, small towns and isolated houses that survived until around 1950. This kind of organisation has maintained the special character of the landscape. At that time man was responsible for the management of the landscape, but using soft methods and instruments that did not damage the environment. Is it necessary to make an eco-museum? or a restaurant ? In an eco-museum it is possible to gather, in the same space, the architectural elements and the elements of the landscape. If we want to restore a farm we must get chickens, vines and fruit trees which belong to that specific region. An “eco” museum because we feel that the environment is deteriorating. Everybody should preserve their own character, otherwise we lose an important element, an element of our heritage. Then the problem of the port of Iquique, Chile, which involves the actions professionals. There is a valuable architectural heritage in the city of Iquique, but it seems to be extremely fragile. Irresponsible works or urban projects may accelerate the process of degradation because this heritage has not the prestige of Venice or Rome. There is always the risk that local authorities could impose projects that do not respect the architectural heritage. From all these considerations two different subjects emerged: a general problem and a project for a programme. The common problem is that when we speak of landscape we divide it into urban and rural landscape. We must point out a very important aspect: the landscape is modified, modelled by man and it could be a city, a small town, a farm, a cultivation, a street, a bridge, a wash-house, a church, a square, the paving of a square, the whole environment where man lives. But nowadays, man affects the landscape, in its total or particular aspect, and sometimes the damage is irreversible. When somebody is the promoter of a project, not the actor, very frequently there is a lack of capacity, of competence, of professional qualification, especially when dealing with big common spaces. When it is a monument, things are different. The whole space is part of the heritage and we can make an observation, an analysis of the space, considering the heritage as the basic criterion not the urban or port structures. It means that if we want to build a new port, we must consider the heritage of the place where we are going to build it. So, it is necessary to keep in mind two important notions – as you most probably already know – the notions of space and object. The notion of object gave birth to the document of Venice that deals with the restoration of the monument-object. But when we are dealing with the space, the specialists are not enough, because they have to face the problem of population. There is a passive part: the inhabitants, and an active one: the ones who look for business and commerce, propose projects, modify the landscape, they are architects, etc. It is necessary to consider the population when we work with the space, because nothing can be done without it. It is necessary to involve the society, the population, the municipalities, the professionals, the administrations, to promote a permanent education and sensibilization. Our programme is called “Practical measures for the preservation of the character of rural and urban landscapes”, the co-ordinator will be the province of Chieti, under the direction of Mr Ursini. One of the objectives is to identify two places, one in Europe and one in Latin America, where the objectives of our work will be put into practice in a sort of pilot experience. The term will be two or three years. In the next fifteen days we will send the programme to all the members. Then we will see how to make it operative, but this programme shows the commitment of all the participants and their desire to work. There are six participants, only two from Latin America, so we would like to increase this number and we thought of Bogota from Colombia, Santa Cruz de la Sierra from Bolivia and Tacna from Peru. I will personally invite Saint-Emilion to participate and we do not have to forget the notion of the associate members, the participation of experts for instance. We did not have enough time to give a role

to each member, but the city of Chieti, with Mr Ursini will work on this aspect. This is our programme.

CLOSING SPEECHES FROM THE EXPERTS

Franco Pepe

Now we will listen to the conclusions, two members of the Scientific Committee have already spoken, so I would like to ask Goveia and Errath if they want to participate. Very briefly, please. Three minutes for each speaker.

Alfonso Goveia

I want to thank all the participants for three reasons: their confidence, patience and enthusiasm. Confidence because you came from very far away places, with the high expenses it involves; patience because you waited for a long time before starting the group work and enthusiasm because you worked with great vitality, something I had the opportunity to see, in my group and in other groups. This interest opens the areas for a future research on the territory, following the suggestions of the Base Document, and it is the seed for new projects. I think that in future meetings it would be better to have more time to work in groups, to listen to each other. You are in contact with the problems everyday. As soon as possible all the records of this seminar will be in the web site. Thank you very much.

Jean-Pierre Errath

Just a few words. I am very pleased with your work and I felt there was a sincere participation. I share Goveia's conclusions. That is all.

Franco Pepe

Now Doctor Lionello Puppi

Lionello Puppi

Thank you Franco. Our problem now is how to turn this work into concrete actions. It was a very important work, full of interesting proposals. Those who worked in the groups with great enthusiasm must now look for other realities, not represented here but already identified, and try to design new common projects. I listened to some extraordinary proposals that followed the logic expressed in the Base Document. They individualised a reality where the support of the European Commission can be used with positive consequences. I want to thank the experts of the second net and Mr Goveia, as well as my friend Franco Pepe who worked with great enthusiasm, the counsellor Franzina, responsible for the cultural activities in the province of Vicenza and the representatives of the Technical Secretariat of the URB-AL net. It was a pleasure to have met you and we will keep in touch for future initiatives. Thank you.

CLOSING SPEECHES FROM THE PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Franco Pepe

Now the counsellor Franzina.

Antonio Franzina

Last year, at the end of his speech Govea quoted Heidegger “thinking and writing poetry are the only answers to our time”. Considering this reflection, we can say today that in Europe and Latin America there is a transversal desire, a strong enthusiasm for a concrete work. After working in the darkness for many years, the intellectuals have now the possibility to find local administrations ready to listen to their ideas, ready to turn them into concrete actions, concrete policies and this is certainly very positive. I would like to add two brief conclusions: the first is an invitation for the European Community, I think that meetings like this should be organised more frequently, especially seminars for managers and technicians who work in the local administrations, to exchange information, compare experiences and see the technical solutions that are developing around the world. The U.E should provide economic support to this kind of meetings because, apart from the different projects, we can offer an authentic service to the citizens. Therefore URB-AL and our nets should continue to work together in the next months using new technologies, in particular the web site, to exchange information.

I hope to organise our next annual meeting - it is a commitment I take in front of you - in Latin America because it is important for us, Europeans, to get in touch personally with the Latin American world, which was here represented in an enthusiastic and innovative way. Their vitality can give us new strength. My invitation to work, to present these projects, to start new contacts and new relationships. We offer all our support. The cities that joined the net should consider in their budgets -for the year 2000- the necessary amounts which will allow their representatives to continue working. During this seminar we learned two lessons: first: the next national meeting should give more time to work in groups, and second: there is a hope for a better world and, thanks to your enthusiasm and your wish to work, the future millennium will certainly be better.

Thank you.

Franco Pepe

The representatives of eight countries participated in this seminar: Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. I want to underline that in this international seminar we had the opportunity to put in contact big capitals, like Madrid and Lisbon or big cities like Naples, Seville or Valparaíso with small realities like Thiene, Arucas or Coria. This meeting has finished but our work will continue in our office, which is at your disposal, therefore phone, send faxes, use your e-mails. I want to thank all those who have helped me, I think I have been fortunate to have an extraordinary staff. First the translators, like Matthieu and the others, who were really fantastic. Luigi Verdari who assembled the cabins and gave us technical assistance. My staff: Elisabetta, Anita, Lucia and the two collaborators Chiara and Claudia. There is a man who always works in silence, but is absolutely fundamental, Regildo Farinon. In this two-day seminar we gave strength to the subject painted by Gianbattista Tiepolo on the ceiling of this room. The subject of the light of intelligence, that pale and beautiful lady in the middle who dispels the darkness of ignorance, that obscure man in the corner. This is an auspicious sign that must encourage us to continue with our URB-AL Programme. Thank you very much. I hope to see you again next year, in Valparaíso where our friend Pinto kindly invited us. Thanks again.

	Participants - Bodies	Representative	Companions	Country
1	Acquaviva delle Fonti (Commune)	Giovanni LATERZA		Italy
2	Lisbona (Municipality)	Filipe Mario LOPES	Barbara LOPES	Portugal
3	Chieti (Province)	Valerio URSINI	Cesare DI MARTINO	Italy
4	San Valentino Torio (Commune)	Giovanni DE LUCIA		Italy
5	Treviso (Province)	Uberto DI REMIGIO	Claudio PAGANI	Italy
6	Striano (Commune)	Vincenzo CUCCO	Federico CORDELLA	Italy
7	Jaén (Province)	Luis BERGES ROLDAN	Catalina TORRES MARTINEZ	Spain
8	Vilafranca del Penedès (Municipality)	Josep SOLERO BARECELO'	Roberto LABANDERA GANACHIPI	Spain
9	Coria (Municipality)	Juan Pedro MORENO CARRASCO		Spain
10	Colonia Caroya (Municipality)	Hugo PESCHIUTTA		Argentina
11	Civita Castellana (Commune)	Vincenzo GUERRA	Simonetta PICIARELLI	Italy
12	Ferrara (Commune)	Paola POGGIPOLLINI	Alberto GUZZON	Italy
13	Pisa (Commune)	Riccardo CIUTI	Antonella LILLI	Italy
14	Girona (Municipality)	Rosa CANOVAS I GOLLER		Spain
15	Beja (Municipality)	Victor Paulo SOARES SILVA	Palmira SILVA	Portugal
16	Lagoa (Municipality)	Josè Inacio MARQUES EDUARDO		Portugal
17	Querétaro (Municipality)	Victor MOREL		Mexico
18	Chaves (Municipality)	Altamiro DA RESSURRECAO CLARO		Portugal
19	Ronciglione (Commune)	Alessandro GIOVAGNOLI	Massimo MORETTI	Italy
20	Madrid (Municipality)	Ana IGLESIAS GONZALEZ		Spain
21	Madrid (Province)	Josè Antonio ACOSTA MORALES		Spain
22	Santiago del Chile (City Government)	Miguel SAAVEDRA SAENZ		Chile
23	Sevilla (Municipality)	Maria Victoria BUSTAMANTE SAENZ	Hevia REYES MORALES	Spain
24	Hidalgo (State Government)	Antonio Lorenzo MONTERRUBIO	Juan Marcial GUERRERO ROSADO	Mexico
25	Aruacas (Municipality)	Alicia HERNANDEZ PADRON	Mario MARRERO ARENCIBIA	Spain
26	Valparaiso (Municipality)	Hernan PINTO MIRANDA	Eugenio GONZALEZ BERNAL Gustavo PAULSEN BRITO Eugenio TRINCADO SUAREZ	Chile
27	Palma de Mallorca (Municipality)	Tomas FORTUNY SALAS		Spain
28	Terni (Province)	Donatella VENTI		Italy
29	Napoli (Province)	Ulderico IZZO		Italy
30	Grenoble (Commune)	Jacques SAVINE		France
31	Politecnico di Milano (Associated Member)	Avelino VICENTELLO		Italy
32	Toscana (Region)	Vittorio MOSCHI		Italy
33	Università di Firenze (Associated Member)		Massimo GENNARI	Italy
34	Ragusa (Commune)	Farancesco POIDOMANI		Italy
35	Belém (Municipality)	Giorgio SARTORI		Brazil
36	Tarapacà (Region)	Guillermo JORQUERA MORALES		Chile
37	Iquique - Universidad "Arturo Prat" (Associated Member)		Teobaldo PAREDES CATALDO	Chile
38	Villa Viçosa (Municipality)	Eduardo ALMEIDA		Portugal
39	Thiene (Commune)	Alberto DALLE CARBONARE		Italy
40	Perugia (Province)	Claudio MAMMOLI		Italy
	EXPERTOS			
	Chantal Jacquot			
	Eloisa Passareiro			
	Lionello Gabrici			
	Lionello Puppi			
	Jean-Pierre Errath			
	Alfonso Govela			
	Silvio Castro			