

Spatial Conditions of Collectivity in the South-European Context

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The issues raised within the New European Bauhaus directly point to the question of the collective, both as a spatial as well as a social notion. In its physical manifestation, the spatial imprint of collectivity has a direct relation to the cultural and climactic context. While many implications of answering these issues can be shared regardless of geographical position, when talking about the physical framing of collectivity we can find common denominators among countries in southern Europe, in their traditions, way of life, relationship to open space, but also challenges facing urban expansion, heat islands, pollution, contemporary and active approaches to heritage etc.

The proposal investigates spatial conditions triggering appropriation by communities in both historic and contemporary South-European environments – the historic patterns of public and communal spaces; the specific conditions of warm climates making the interstitial space of the city a stage for public life; the green infrastructures mitigating consequences of climate change and making open spaces more livable; active reuse going beyond reprogramming to establish new identities.

Through case studies, vernacular and designed spatial interventions are viewed as social acts, addressing inclusivity, and extending the notion of sustainability toward one that is societal, cultural, more-than-human, bringing us into a shared productive ecology. Finally, the role of the architect as well as the content of an architectural upbringing is challenged, posing the issue of design as a collective, inclusive endeavor.

