

What can architecture do?

Mariolle Béatrice

Some territories encounter an accumulation of difficulties, despoiling of resources, slavery, maltreatment, then abandonment with pollution, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, diseases... The mining basin of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais is a good illustration. It was exploited from the beginning of the 18th century for its coal. Despite its recognition in 2012 as a Unesco World Heritage Site, it remains a territory in economic decline and whose social indicators are alarming.

The chair created in 2018, entitled “Acclimatizing post-mining territories”, proposes to take into consideration social and economic issues as a basis for education and research activities in architecture. Considering that it is therefore in a situation of weak economy that the architectural and ecological transformations are posed. The acclimatization of mining cities is interested in the houses themselves (thermal insulation, energy production, ventilation, finishing work...), but also in the relations between the house, the garden and the public space (permaculture, rainwater management, meeting spaces...), in the links between the house and the large territory (bio and geo-sourced materials sector, reproducibility of the proposals, green and blue webs...) The inhabitants are the primary actors in the project, along with social landlords, elected officials and technicians.

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