Chapter 30
Heritage as an Active Space and Spatial Resource

Mladen Obad Šćitaroci

The reflections contained herein were stimulated by the quality of the landscape and quality of life (QLandQLife) project, which applies a transdisciplinary approach to examine the historical, cultural, and environmental components of the western Adriatic region, investigate the quality of the environment, and develop new enhancement models and a model of dynamic integration in order to measure the sustainability of the environment. Two aspects of the project are particularly encouraging and significant for this communication, namely, distinctive and pleasant and efficient and nice.

On the other side of the Adriatic, we begin with research within the Heritage Urbanism (HERU)—Urban and Spatial Models for Revival and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage project—financially supported by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ-2032) and carried out at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb. This project has three prominent aspects: planning and heritage, perceiving heritage, and development based on heritage.

The purpose of this communication is to show the thoughts of the Heritage Urbanism project in the context of the QLandQLife project and thus the mutual contribution to better understanding and enriching both projects. Both projects have a lot in common, and although they are neither structured identically nor use the same approaches, they are compatible and complement each other. It is therefore useful and encouraging to highlight some of the themes of mutual interest.

Heritage is, without a doubt, an important component in the quality of the landscape and quality of life. The revival and new life of heritage increase the quality of the landscape and quality of life. Cultural heritage, with its possibilities for spatial and economic development, expands the quality of the landscape and quality of life. Why build something new when the heritage is disappearing or in a very poor state?

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© Springer International Publishing Switzerland 2018
R. Cocci Grifoni et al., Quality of Life in Urban Landscapes,
The Urban Book Series, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-65581-9_30

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ISSN 2365-757X    ISSN 2365-7588 (electronic)
The Urban Book Series
ISBN 978-3-319-65580-2 ISBN 978-3-319-65581-9 (eBook)
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-65581-9

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017950129

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Printed on acid-free paper

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The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

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Acknowledgements

Authors want to thank the whole research group of the transdisciplinary QlandQlife Project for participating in discussions and debates, providing scientific guidance, and sharing methodologies, ideas, and results.

Components of the research group are as follows:

Topic DISTINCTIVE and PLEASANT: Giandiego Campetella, Roberto Canullo, Andrea Catorci, Roberta Caprodossi, Marco Cervellini, Stefano Chelli, Maria Teresa Idone, and Paolo Santarelli

Consultants: Paul M. Bray, Teodor Bilushi, Giorgio Osti, and Vincenzo Riso

Topic EFFICIENT and NICE: Anna Bonvini, Roberta Cocci Grifoni, Rosalba D’Onofrio, Marta Magagnini, Maria Federica Ottone, Massimo Perriccioli, Monica Rossi, Massimo Sargolini, and Michele Talia

Consultants: Paolo Angelini, Massimo Battaglia, Luca Cetara, Fabrizio Cinquini, Renato De Leone, Marco Frey, Riccardo Santolini, Luciano Spinozzi, and Angioletta Voghera

Topic CLEAN and HEALTHY: Alessio Acciarri, Claudio Alimenti, Carlo Bisci, Gino Cantalamessa, Bernardino Gentili, Giorgio Di Pancrazio, Barbara Fenni, Alessandro Fusari, Gilberto Mosconi, Francesco Alessandro Palermo, and Adriana Vallesi

Consultants: Graziano Di Giuseppe, Piersebastiano Ferranti, Maria Chiara Invernizzi, and Sara Spuntarelli

This book is published with the University Research Fund (FAR) of the QLAND/QLIFE (Quality of the Landscape and Quality of Life in the Sustainable Adriatic City) Project (ERC panels: SH3_1 Environment and sustainability; SH3_6 Spatial and regional planning; SH3_8 Urbanization and urban planning, cities. Principal Investigator and host school: Prof. Massimo Sargolini – School of Architecture and Design of the University of Camerino).
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