

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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