HERITAGE MANIFEST AGAINST THE URBAN STANDARDS
Cultural Recovery Plan though architectural and urban elements: relations between Lorca and Leipzig

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http://lorcaintangible.tumblr.com/

Abstract

Within this paper we picked two specific study cases: Lorca and Leipzig. We consider both as singular study cases but with the idea of answering a broad urban problematic.

There are two current topics that this research will attempt to link together. The first is the present definition of the term, Cultural Heritage, within the current context of urban and architectural design. The other topic is the limitations and challenges that public administrations encounter when tasked to reconstruct a city or a region after a natural disaster or stressing situation. We underline the important task of public space and criticise the gentrification[1] strategies undertaken by the public administrations in such cases.

This revision will not only deal with palpable architecture or; What is a **Monument or a Industrial complex**? As well as; How and When do we define, or redefine, **Identity**, for an area in the process of recovery?

Keywords: Immaterial Heritage, urban planning, identity, collective memory, know-how.

Hypothetical Questions

- What may be the roles of architecture and urban planning after a major disaster?
- What should be the first priority of recuperation after such phenomenon? Reconstructing the Monuments, or the repairing the Immaterial or Intangible aspects of the Cultural Heritage of everyday life[2] ?

This is the starting-point for developing the hypothetical questions of the research goals.
Finding an immediate solution to the destroyed dwelling problem is crucial and should be the first issue to be dealt with. But the inhabitants and their culture should also be strongly considered early in the recovery process. This investigation wants to suggest and prove that **culture heritage and architecture** are tools to recover a city after a disaster or a crisis.

Our research is a **political manifest**, where the theory of the different authors and our own experience of the city as an architect allow us to propose a way where some of the social demands of nowadays could be cover with the architecture that we are proposing. For us, the architecture an urbanism is then a tool in order to react against a society with a deep social, economic and ecological crisis. Our political tool opens a new stand research on urban solutions witch adapted to our social and technological time consider our traditions but react on a different way being a complementary tool to be used.

We suggest the use of Immaterial and Material Heritage as a key **Degrowth strategy[3]** where the rehabilitation of stressed spaces would be the first objective: sufficiency, innovation on social and technological arrangements will be rewarded.

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[1] Glass, Ruth (1964) Introduction aspects of change. In London: Aspects of Change, ed. Centre for Urban Studies, London: MacKibbon and Kee.

[2] Chiara Bortolotto, 2007, « From the 'monumental' to the 'living' heritage: a shift in perspective », in John Carman and Roger White (edited by), World Heritage: global challenges, local solutions. Proceedings of the conference at Ironbridge, 4th-7th May 2006, British Archaeological Reports International Series, Archeopress, Oxford, p. 39-45.

[3] Strategies of Degrowth according to Research & Degrowth (R&D) http://www.degrowth.org/

Context

The main aim of the research is the development of an architectural/urban methodical tool being able to react towards any kind of stress or difficulty though the Cultural Heritage.

The context of such condition could differ, for instance: 1) Natural disasters, such as the earthquake in Attila (Italy) 2009 or in Lorca (Spain) 2011, 2) Social and economic crisis, as the currently global crisis in South East Europe, or 3) Loose of identity in the European shrinking cities and mega-cities, for instance the shrinkage at the post-socialist era in East Europe on cities like Leipzig (Germany) or the post-fordist era on cities like Bilbao or Liverpool. We understand that all of them and more that will come on future researches cheer the lack of including on the administrations approach the Immaterial Heritage as essential measurement.

We chose these spaces because of their vulnerability, in one hand because they had been exposed to a stressing situation and the other because they have to start to recover themselves. On these places the decisions should be taken consequently, knowing that each specific place would have one particular solution attending to their problematic. Our proposal contemplates the idea of adding the experiences of the different locations and cheering all of them, in order to create a methodology of reaction.

Barrio San Fernando
Lorca, Murcia (España) May 2011
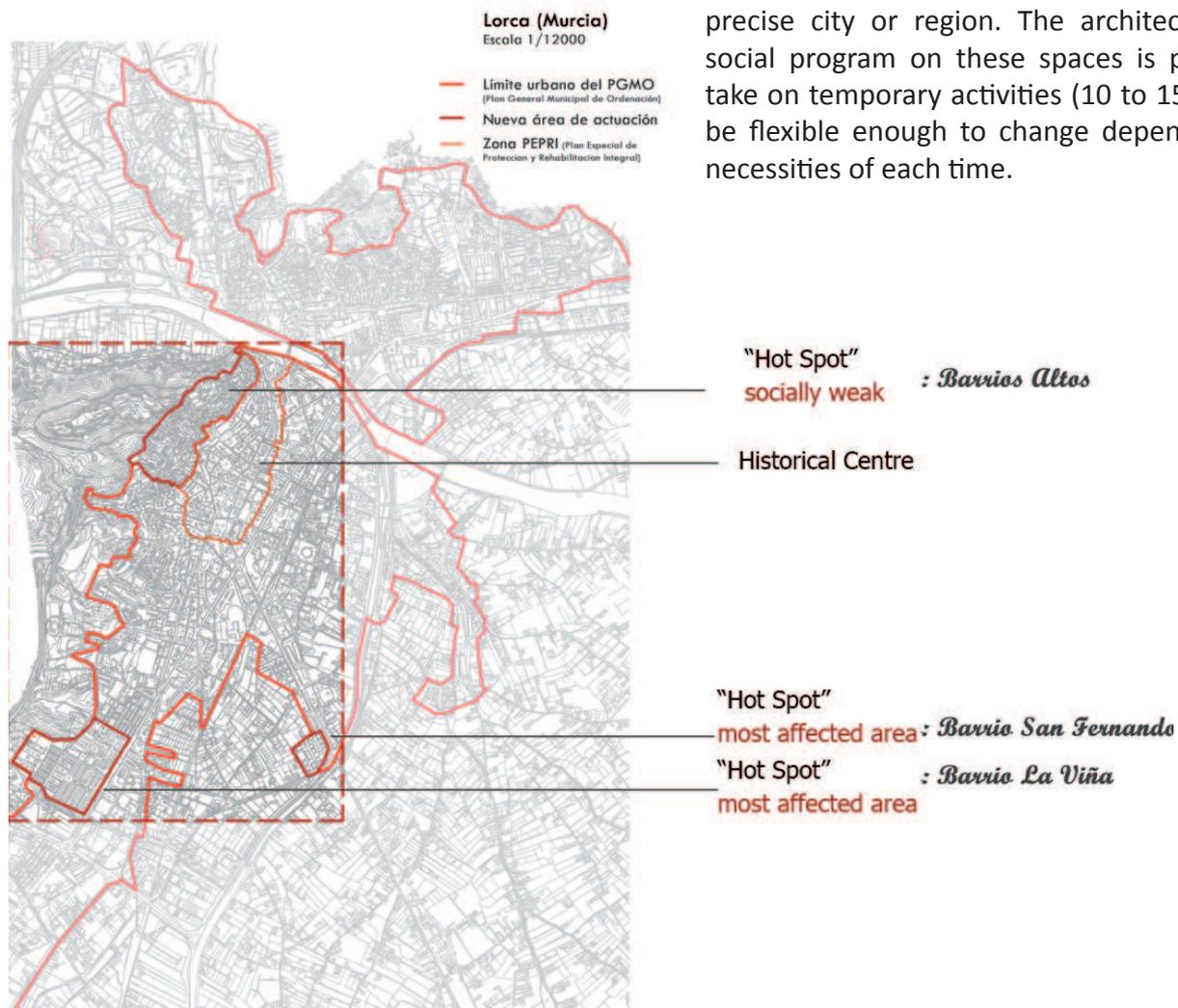Source: Photographer Paco Alonso

Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei
Leipzig, Sachsen (Germany) 2008
Source: Roland Rossner

Lorca: Study Case 1

Lorca, Murcia (Spain) is a middle town positioned in the south east of the Spanish Peninsula. Last may 11th of 2011 an earthquake rocked the town of Lorca affecting to more than 90.000 inhabitants (rural and urban setting). The administration's (Spanish Ministry of Culture, the City Council of Lorca and the Community of Murcia) reaction towards the heritage was the design of the "Recovery Plan for Cultural Heritage of Lorca". This former plan concentrates on the recovery of religious buildings, palaces and most representative dwellings. The limits or borders of their formal plan were not only **territorial but also on a social, cultural and ecological standard.**

Due to this fact, we go further the tangible and monumental heritage, taking one step beyond and consider **Lorca's Cultural and Social Heritage elements** (Immaterial Heritage [4]). Secondly, the research focuses on finding **public spaces with high potential** strategically interesting on an urban scale. The analysis not only on public space but also on inherited elements was developed through experts, selected bibliographic sources, our own inquiry with closed questionnaires and direct observation. The results of this deep analysis developed in 6 months (to 600 of the 60.000 inhabitants of the city) lead us to plan qualitative proposals.

We propose to perform on these spaces the reconstruction, reformulation or rehabilitation through the inherited elements. These spaces will be linked with certain productive activities generating for instance job promotion on the precise city or region. The architectonical and social program on these spaces is proposed to take on temporary activities (10 to 15 years) and be flexible enough to change depending of the necessities of each time.


Lorca (Murcia)
Escala 1/12000

— Límite urbano del PGMO (Plan General Municipal de Ordenación)
— Nueva área de actuación
— Zona PEPRI (Plan Especial de Protección y Rehabilitación Integral)

"Hot Spot"
socially weak : Barrios Altos

Historical Centre

"Hot Spot"
most affected area : Barrio San Fernando
"Hot Spot"
most affected area : Barrio La Viña

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[4] Establishments of the UNESCO at the "Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage", from 29 September to 17 October 2003, at the 32nd session.

Study Case 1: <u>LORCA</u>

Heritage Analyse
-Union Path: Identity

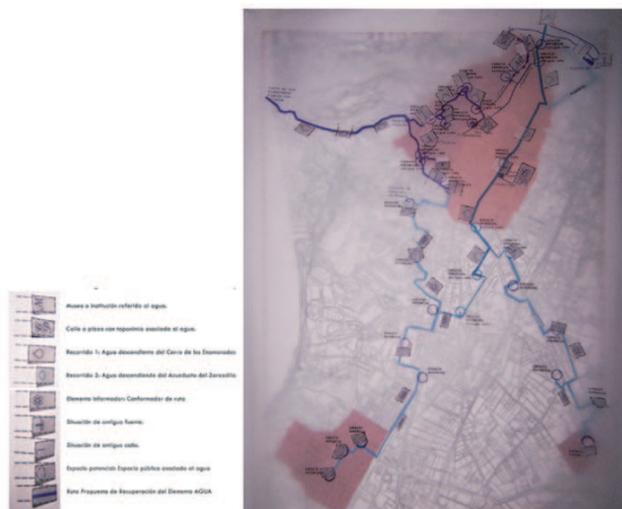
1) The art of needlework in silk and gold.
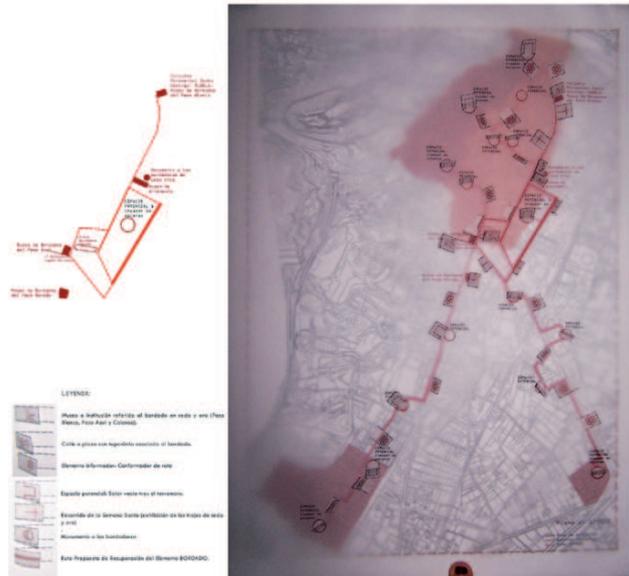
Study Case 1: <u>LORCA</u>

Heritage Analyse
-Union Path: Identity

2) Water as a key element for Lorca's society.

Study Case 1: LORCA

Urban Proposal
-Union Path
>Potential Space
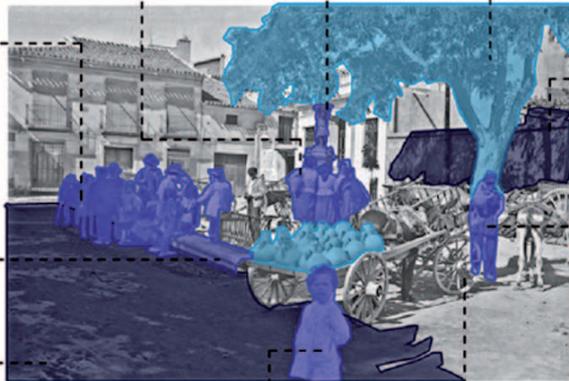
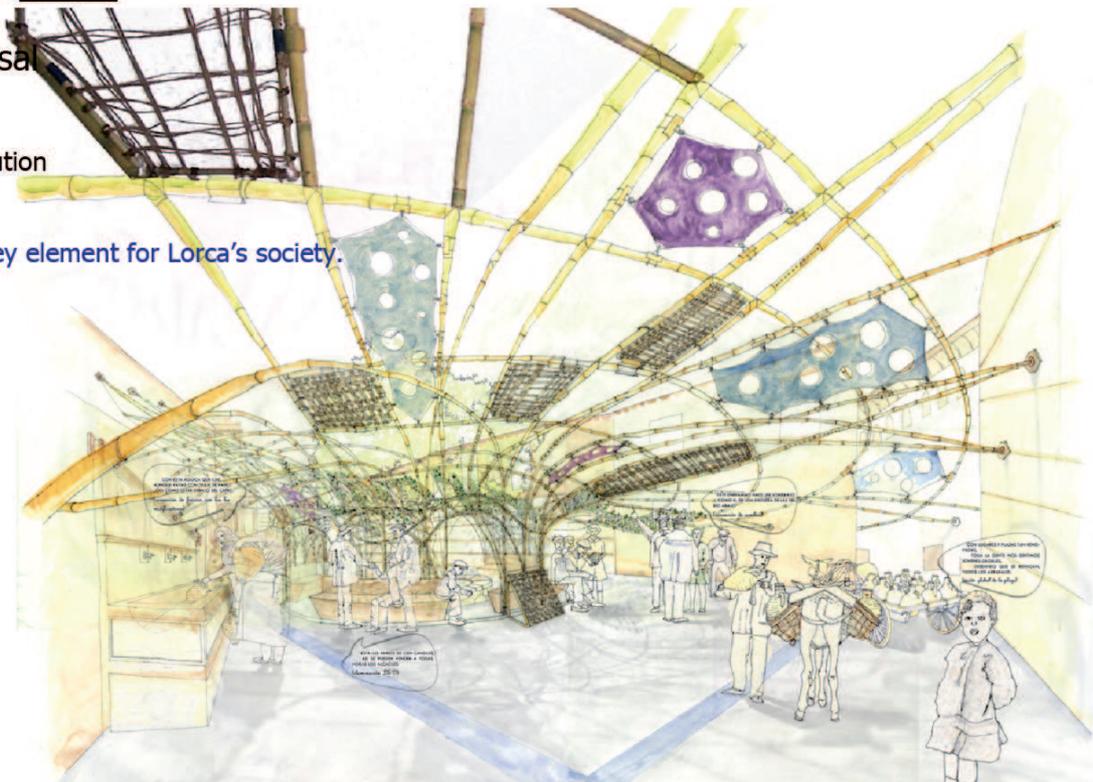2) Water as a key element for Lorca's society.

Study Case 1: LORCA

Urban Proposal
-Union Path
>Social Contribution

2) Water as a key element for Lorca's society.

Leipzig: Study Case 2

Leipzig, Saxony (Germany) originally a Slavic settlement called Lipsk. Leipzig, since 12th century, was conformed a significant commercial centre placed at the crossroad of important trade routes. The city has become well known because of its high culture, especially music but also visual arts. Until World War II was the most important German centre of music and publishing industry, and the European centre of trade in smoked foods and furs. Industry has played an important role along the city history, raising in 1930 a population of 700.000 inhabitants and being in 1989 the second largest city of the GDR. Knowing that the economic transformation and structural changes of the East Germany region after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 entailed a major collapse on the industry production, Leipzig for instance leaded to a loss of 63% of the jobs between 1991 and 2006 [5].

Grünau (Leipzig), Ringstraße 1983
Source: "Traum und Tristesse. Vom Leben in derPlatte" Harald Kirschner

With new regime and former infrastructure placed along the urban landscape, Leipzig was going to become a boom city at the beginning of the 90s. The administrations bank on creating a **new identity.** This new identity focused on: g**reen leisure and culture.** In terms of green leisure solutions for instance; 1) change of use of the former inner city rivers from main transport of goods to leisure boat traffic and 2) creation of artificial lakes suitable to swim out of the former flooding opencast mine pits. In terms of **culture**: 1) big cultivation of the high elitist culture for instance the Gewandhaus or the Opera House and 2) intention of building an "alternative creative scene" to live and work specially on the former industrial quarter of Plagwitz. This scene is partly financially helped by administrations (For instance the Baumwollspinnerei emplaced at the former Leipzig Cotton Spinning Mill or Tapetenwerk at the former wallpaper factory) but also defends and exercises strategies of self-organization and bottom-up approach.

Referring to the statement on the previous Study Case, we consider again the policies or strategies of this Study Case also limited in terms of space (public space) and in cultural heritage. They defend partly the idea of recuperating the artistic and industrial heritage that represents the heritage of Leipzig, but concentrate on private or semi private agents not including big part of the society. Our opinion is that they are building a **new excluding identity.**
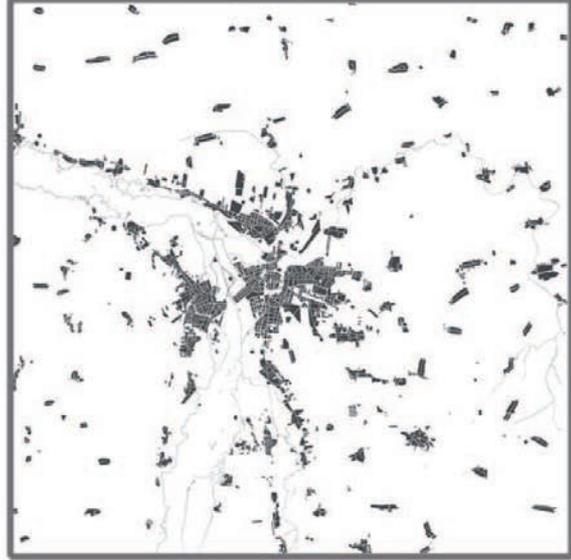
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[5] Source: Leipzig Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
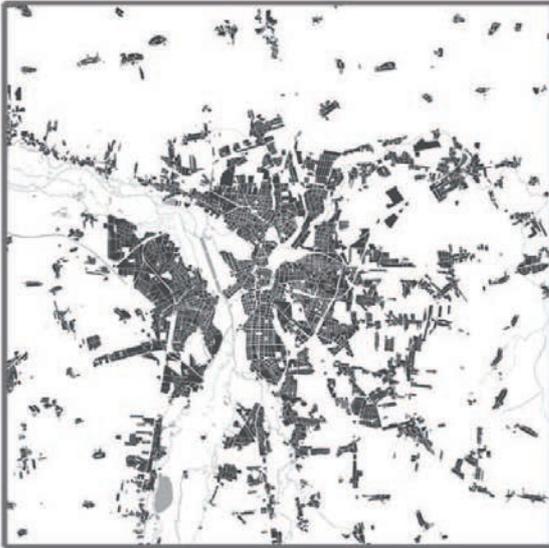
Urban development

Leipzig 1860_ (ca. 75,000 inhabitants)
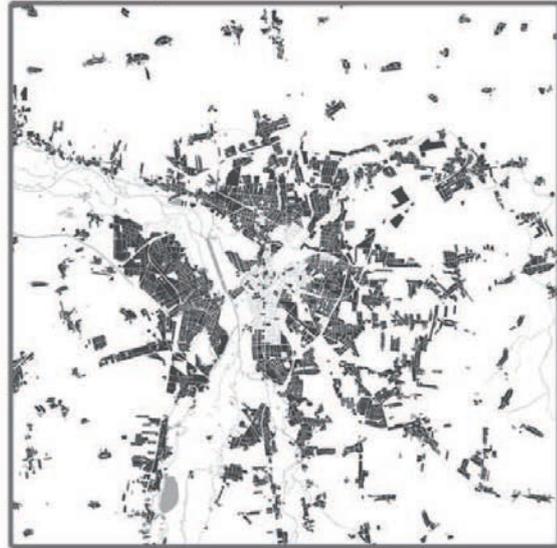the city centre as the first "suburbs" pre-industrial stage

Leipzig 1890_ (ca. 295,000 inhabitants)
residential quartiers in Wildeminian style. Plagwitz and Lindenau the industrial areas on the urban development.
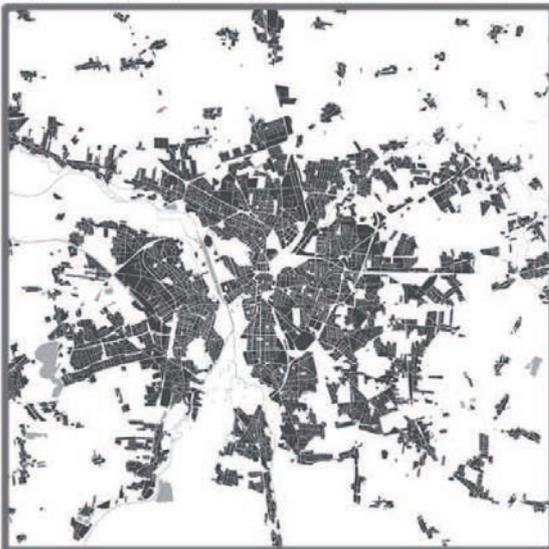

Leipzig 1840_ (ca. 700,000 inhabitants)
continously growing

Leipzig 1950_ (ca. 617,500 inhabitants)
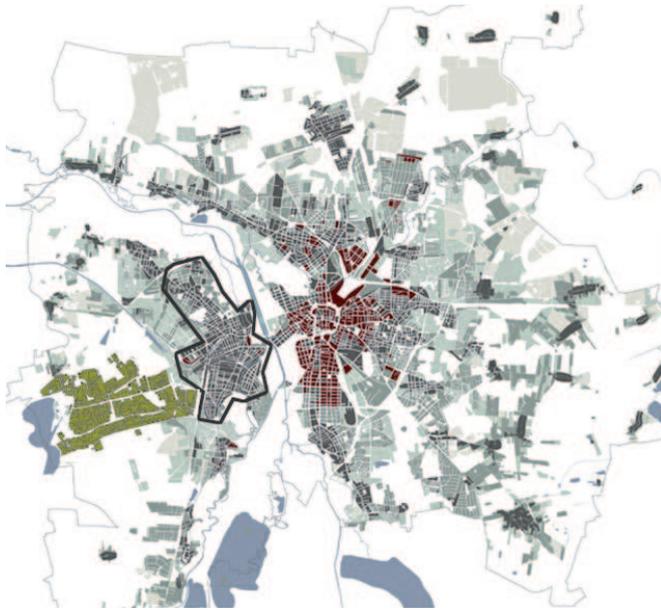building stock destroyed on the war.

Leipzig 1989_ (ca. 530,000 inhabitants)
singular buildings on city centre & large settlements on the outlying districts

Leipzig 2004_ (ca. 530,000 inhabitants)

Urban areas of interest

1 Former Industrial infrastructure, z.B. Plagwitz, River & artificial lakes.

2 Working force housing, Communist Era (Grünau)

3 "Centre" as a trademark, Neue Gründerzeit & monumental buildings.

1/ Former industrial infrastructure, Karl-Heine Kanal 1864 and 2013

2/ Working force housing, Grünau area construction 1982 and collapse in 2003

Source: a) Gahlbeck, Friedich. Bundesarchiv b)Matthias Bernt and Katrin Grossman, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ

3/ „Centre" as trademark, Augustusplatz 1930 and 2012

Current examples

Examples of interventions on the Public Space that exactly deal with remembering common elements (Immaterial Heritage) of the Identity of Leipzig.

"Public Light" Installation by Tilo Schulz and Kim Wortelkamp quartier vier in Leipzig.
Long term light installation at the Nikolai Church (Leipzig) in memory of the events of autumn 1989 as initiating point of the Freedom movement in East Germany.

Public space project at the Karl-Heine Kanal in Leipzig, reminiscence of the former railway at the industrial area (Plagwitz) and conversion into a bicycle and walk path.

Former railway along the industrial area of Plagwitz

Current Bicycle path

Conclusion

Established that we concentrate on social and urban damaged places, we will not compare both study cases because they are not comparable, neither the urban scale, the problematic (earthquake and post-industrial era) nor the culture. For instance, we pretend to manifest the importance and establish as mandatory the Immaterial Cultural Heritage and Public Space as key tools to use in spaces on process of recovery.

The proposal will widen within the field of **territory and heritage**, at the same time give ideas for specific **public spaces** that until now lack of ideas for accessibility and energetic efficiency.

We will work not only in these two fields, but also we insist on new inputs for **tourism and economic strategies** for the development of these places. At last but not least the research emphasize on **self-management** of the inhabitants, making them part of the reconstruction. In resume: new devices in order to socially strengthen the existing urban plans.

We develop the following resume table where both cities from both cities comparing the urban structure and suggesting new possibilities for each of them.

	Lorca	Leipzig
CAUSE Natural/social/economic stress	May 11th of 2011 an earthquake rocked the town directly affecting to more than 90.000 inhabitants and damaging 80% of the buildings (rural and urban setting)	Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 which implied a political and economic change- Collapse of the industry, originating a loss of 63% of the jobs between 1991 and 2006
Architectural/urban practice led by the **ADMINISTRATION** (Besides dwellings)	Design of the "Recovery Plan for Cultural Heritage of Lorca". This former plan concentrates on the recovery of religious buildings, palaces and most representative dwellings.	Different practices towards the shrinking of the city for instance: - Association with neighbour cities, - Creation of new identity, - Leisure and green spaces.
Urban strategy **VOID** on the plan developed by the administration	Too much concentration of the rehabilitation of the city centre	Too much concentration of the rehabilitation of the city centre
OPPORTUNITY we see answering to the lack of the administration measures	Mostly in public spaces but also temporary use of old structures of building on reconstruction	- Rehabilitation of the centre Gründzeit-Neue, - Greenery and alternative artistic identity.
Our **Urban PROPOSAL**, use the centre but also other areas on the periphery of the cities	- **Centre** as a union spot. - **Hot Spots** or boundary spaces that are: 1) Socially weak before the earthquake, 2) Highly destroy areas from the earthquake.	- **Centre** as a union spot. - **Hot Spots** or boundary spaces that are: 1) Old industrial infrastructure: River, Lakes 2) GDR working class neighbourhood: Grünau
Potential of the Union Element, Creation of **CULTURAL PATHES**. We propose a new urban strategy in order to link the parts we proposed on the last point. Immaterial Heritage will be the conductor wire in order to establish connections between the different parts. The methodology will be:	a) Reviewing the traditional element because of their cultural-historic character or due to their social-productive potential, as an alternative to more traditional proposals focused on the heritage-architectural elements. b) Detecting possible spaces in which developing nowadays productive activities or job creation for Lorca as a whole. c) Future long term or temporary architectural and social programs updated to our present.	a) Reviewing the traditional element because of their cultural-historic character or due to their social-productive potential, as an alternative to more traditional proposals focused on the heritage-architectural elements. b) Detecting possible spaces in which developing nowadays productive activities or job creation for Leipzig as a whole. c) Future long term or temporary architectural and social programs updated to our present.
CULTURAL HERITAGE elements	5 examples of **Social-Productive** character: 1) Art of needlework in silk and gold, 2) Water as a key element, 3) Food: pig as the main supply source, 4) Pottery craftwork and 5) Art of tanneries: leather. 5 examples of **Cultural-Historical** potential: 6) Water Auction: farmers fight for water, 7) Castle of Arab origin, 8) Lorca bordering city: strategic location between North and South, 9) Easter in Lorca (Holy celebrations): Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar and 10) La Aurora Lorquina: folk music and old crews of the Fraternities.	Some themes related with the industrial and artistic history of Leipzig could be: Post industrial area, Peaceful Revolution 1989, City of culture for instance: music & arts.
Future of this **PUBLIC SPACES**, architectonical proposal	Choosing a related with the immaterial element which now is socially and physically dead⊠ Implement the space in physical and social terms	Choosing a related with the immaterial element which now is socially and physically dead⊠ Implement the space in physical and social terms
ARCHITECTONICAL TYPOLOGY	-Long Term urban and architectonical solutions -Temporary installation (10 to 15 years)	-Long Term urban and architectonical solutions -Temporary installation (10 to 15 years)
CONTRIBUTIONS	Social, Economic, Environmental and Technologic	Social, Economic, Environmental and Technologic