Village Centres: Long-term local effect

Ambitious and Responsible:

Being aware of the modesty of resources and means should imply a focus on reducing risks, however without taking any risk there is no possibility for change. The proposed projects rely on a balanced approach to risk-taking, introducing changes in a phased manner in order to be able to address problems if something doesn’t work.

Resilient architecture:

In order for the built environment to be resilient, the proposed interventions are a reaction to the site rather than the programme. The projects rely on an adaptable approach to risk-taking improving and enabling the ‘genius loci’ of the area, making them specific but open to a wider variety of uses.

Developing local ecosystems:

The project is based financially and socially on the local ecosystem, instead of tourism detached from the local life, the New Nomads Programme adds a population and an activity component to the existing organisation in order to retool it. Local businesses, residents of all ages, tourists, New Nomads and architects develop a sharing strategy: mixing resources, knowledge, funds, services and links.

The focus on youth in the programme is only seen as the beginning. Instead of a straightforward reply to the problem of an ageing population, developing a constant around a connection which only deals with the effects rather than the reasons. The idea is too stimulate young people in order to stimulate the village.

The spark created by this change is an opportunity to trigger positive chain reactions that can lead to a renewal of the village centres. A rediscovery of the social ecosystem.

Phase 1: WOODWORKING WORKSHOP

The first part of the project consists of renovating the old hall to create a Woodworking Workshop. This project is funded in partnership between local wood actors, Eurex local members, the New Nomads community and the intercommunal group of Ussel. It is a school where teaching is learnt through real projects. Students obtain knowledge, businesses create jobs and the town centre sees a reactivation of its buildings.

- Local Wood Actors provide knowledge and guidance to the students of the Workshop. They benefit from an open access to all new technologies and from the help of students for a certain amount of hours per month.
- The New Nomads attend the woodworking school and benefit from professional training. They occupy the lower part of the former hall in exchange for taking care of its renovation.
- During out-of-hours, the workshop is open to Local Members Makers.
- A TAPARK truck run by the Makers Makes brings digital fabrication to the whole intercommunal group.

Phase 2: THE WOOD FAIRGROUND

- New Nomads transform the large hall into a wood fairground where they can exhibit and sell their production. They also help in renovating the third hall with the aim of turning it into a cafeteria and basketball field.
- By paying their membership fees, local members visit the TAPARK truck and exchange knowledge, or they use the building for private events.
- Tourists are welcome to visit the fairground and to attend any public events.
- E-consumers are connected to the wood fairground E-WoodPar and can purchase wooden objects while supporting ethical and local action.

Phase 3: BROWNFIELD REGENERATION

- Local investors in a participatory housing complex with a basement dedicated to elderly people and a top section open to everyone else.
- The New Nomads help build the wooden houses.