ANNUAL MEETING OF LIEU NETWORK 2018

Grenoble, 22nd and 23rd of October 2018

Patrimonializing the living practices. When do uses become heritage?

LIEU Network’s recent research activities concerning the issue of “inhabit the patrimonialization” have shown that urban heritagization processes impact considerably living practices: insecurity, gentrification, identities reconstruction, urban practices transformations, etc.

This next meeting wishes to pursue the reflection about the relation between living practices in contemporary cities and patrimonialization processes - already engaged during the 2017 meetings on heritage and insecurity in Paris - by questioning contexts in which the act of inhabiting becomes itself a form of “heritage”.

Since two or three decades heritagization phenomenon concerns more and more different objects and scales. Within this frame, is to inhabit the city becoming an object of heritage itself? We are interested in processes that transform the ordinary and daily practices - and the spaces in which they take place - in a unique and representative experience, capable to identify, qualify and/or protect spaces of patrimonial value (labeled, ordinary, common heritage, etc.).

We propose three lines of discussion:

1. Today, heritage is an “evolutionary and dynamic reality” that goes beyond the pure scientist dimension in order to get inside a “collective engagement, at least by transfer”. Shall we consider that ordinary living is becoming heritage? Which is the relation between forms of ordinary living and the

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1 The international thematic scientific network LIEU is financed by the Bureau de la recherche architecturale, urbaine et paysagère (BRAUP) of the French ministry of culture. It is hosted by the Laboratoire Architecture Anthropologie of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture Paris La Villette – UMR 7218 LAVUE.


3 GRAVARI-BARBAS, Maria (dir.) (2005), Habiter le patrimoine. Enjeux, approches, vécu, Rennes : PUR.


production of the spatial frame allowing to protect uses, practices and memories^6?

2. Forms of living can be the object of fictions producing narrations and representations, sometimes convoluted, of the urban heritage. Those fictional productions can question the future of a place and build a story on a voluntary heritage of the city^7. Which is their role in the patrimonialization of living practices?

3. Which are the social and spatial consequences of the patrimonialization of living practices, especially in popular districts? Which “forms of urban citizenship”^8 can this patrimonialization produce? Which forms of exclusion?

Several objects and case studies could be presented. Here further some examples: collective constructions of urban “common goods”; spontaneous rehabilitations of abandoned built heritages; ephemeral forms of patrimonialization (celebrations, festivals, street-art, etc.); uses and practices considered as important to the legitimation of an ordinary heritage; forms of exclusions or vulnerabilization within urban patrimonialization processes.

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Call for papers

Authors willing to participate can submit abstracts no more than 1500 characters long (bibliography excluded) and a short biography. The event will be bilingual French/English. Authors can send their abstract in English of French specifying if they can communicate in both languages or just one.

Proposals have to be sent before the 1st of September 2018 to the mail address: reseaulieu.archi@gmail.com


After the meeting, papers will be published on the LIEU network journal: État des lieux http://www.reseau-lieu.archi.fr/La-revue-Etat-des-lieux

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