

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

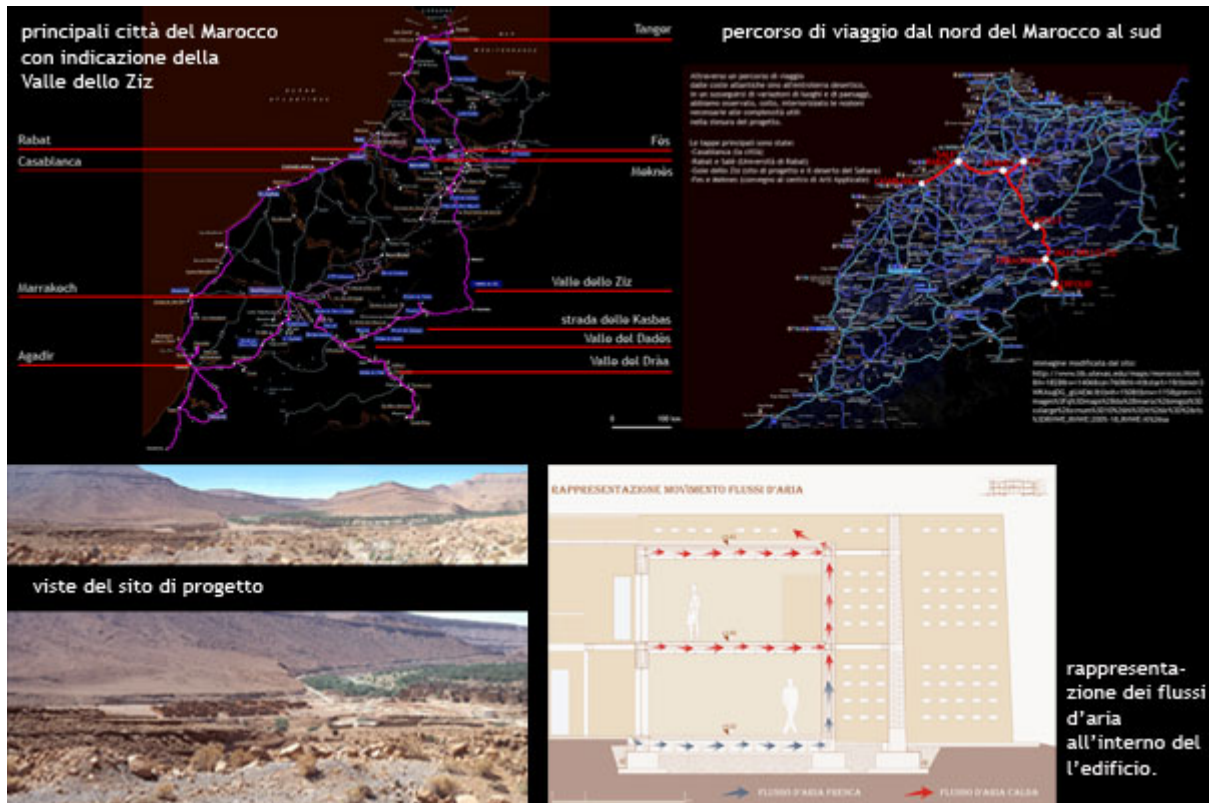
The Ziz valleys in Morocco: experience of project

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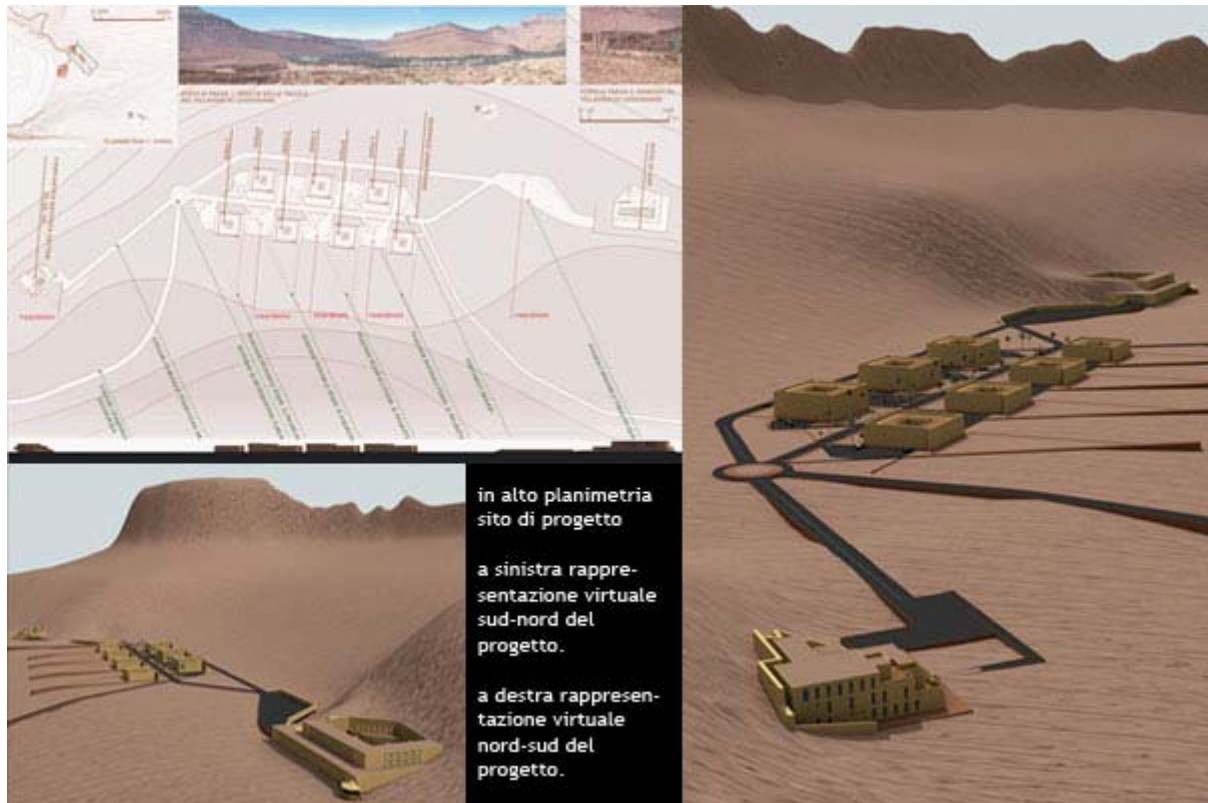
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The dynamics complexity of the project have influenced our choice to work in far country. Project site is in the south of Morocco, district to Er-Rachidia; proprieties of site are the mild climate (there is breeze every year that reduce thermo variations between night and day), the high natural and ecological value unpolluted by mass tourism and the existence of old berber buildings. These constructions are reusable for urban development.



We have done a lot of research (historical, economics and sociological) that we have used for the project: the village (for present and future villagers), the management building (for the co-operative dates office) and the hotel (for tourist reception). These three buildings are (together them) by a main street, and between the hotel and the management building there is another secondary street. The main street is connected to the other pre-existent access that connects the site to the main cities.



The building shape is important for us, but during the research we have understood the real needs of the people; and it's necessary for us to reverse the creation process. We used the former archetypal building because it was necessary for the people to identify with it. In this case the context is unpolluted and the natural dimension prevails on the human dimension.

The contribution of social learning analysis has been essential for us to understand the desires and the expectations of the people. The same things have influenced us for the project idea and we discovered that it's possible to translate the concept: "more ethic less aesthetics" in real life situations.

The project translates a special mental language that represents the different classes social. Actually there are: the family (represented by the residential area), the community (represented by the service area for inhabitants) and all community (represented by the tourist area).

All projects have one settlers aspect common : the mimesis between constructions and context. It's possible to translate this concept with the design and the material. The research shows that the typical material used for traditional pre-Saharan architecture are the palm wood and the raw soil. The raw soil was used for bricks, mortars (with other material vegetal) and walling; the special construction technique named pisè.

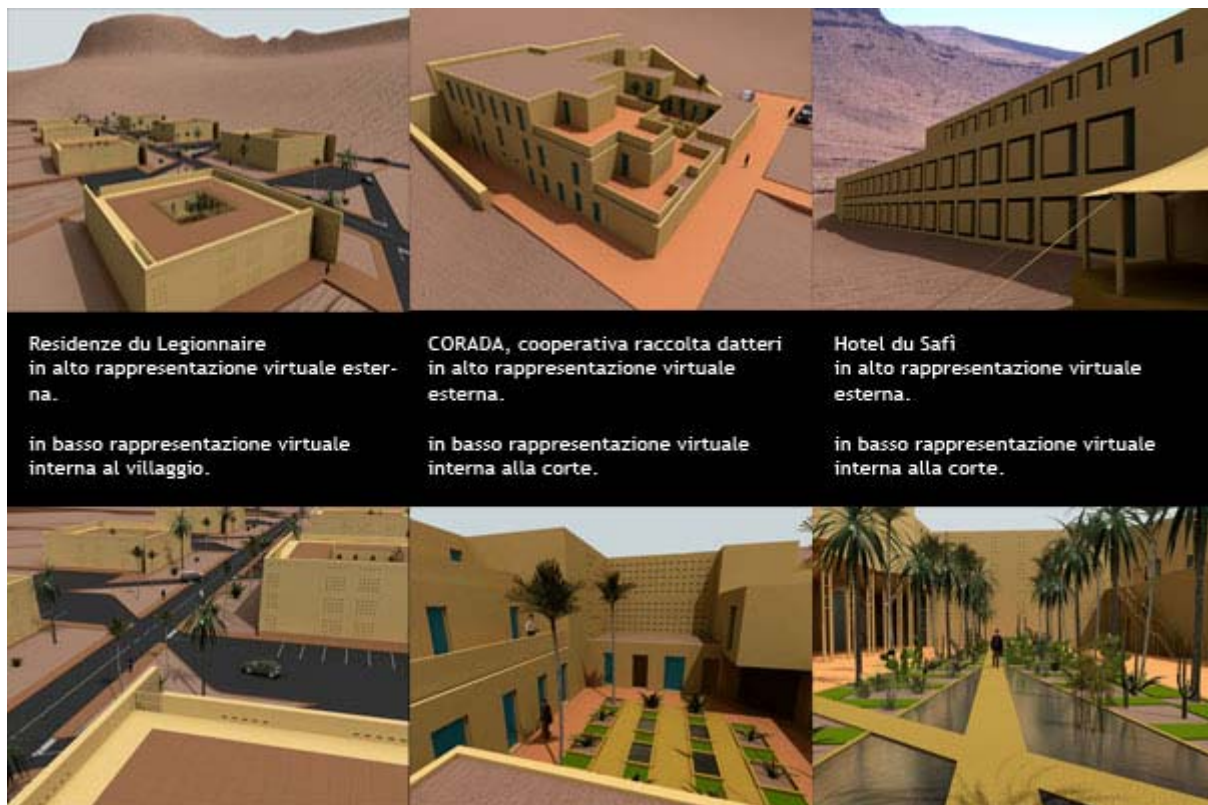
These materials and construction techniques influenced our projectual choices. It was necessary to join the traditional technique with modern technology, because the actual rules had impose too many limitations to construction.

The seismic territory ought a difference in the construction choices, because we could not use only the raw soil; the solution for us has been to make main structure in metal and the second one in raw soil, for all the project.

In general, all projects represent the fusion between technical tradition and modern needs.

The study of the site identity has resulted in the extrapolation some projectual indications that have been essential to the project itself. We have made the theory-practice code re-usable for the future.

The epilogue of work has been the awareness of the relationship between theory and practice.



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