

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture Construction City
Honors theses

**Ecotourism as a sustainable alternative for development
Motion for a network of key points of the Quirimbas archipelago**
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The Quirimbas' Archipelago, with its 32 islands is located in the north of Mozambique, precisely in the province of Cabo Delgado. This is a place of particular value, unspoilt and still largely unexplored. What sets it apart is both the historical importance (given by centuries of colonial invasions Arab and Portuguese, who have left their architectural remains), both the wildlife and landscape. Despite its many qualities, presents complex and contradictory conditions: on one hand there are the urgency and the need to protect sites of high ecological and historical value, on the other hand there is the will to intervene with planning actions aimed at supporting the local economy.

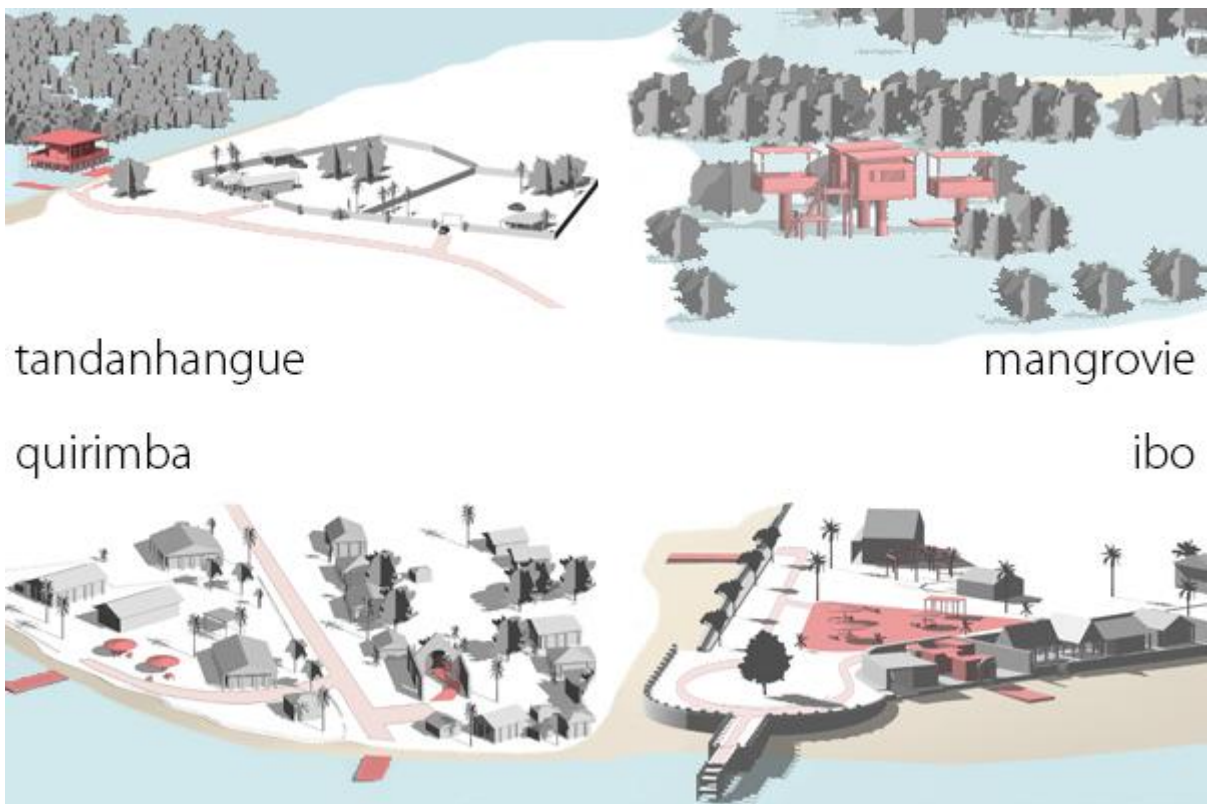


The sociological intent is to encourage a self-sufficient economy, to improve the living conditions of the population and of the places where the projects are located, and also to promote a growing economy, even in terms of tourism.

The type of tourism that is currently spreading in these places has peculiar characteristics: it's elitist, linked to the privatization of some of the islands, and the construction of resort by foreign entrepreneurs, whose income does not bring economical benefits to the local population.

In this regard, the projects are located in strategical points within the archipelago: in the islands of Ibo and Quirimba, at a point of connection between the two, and in Tandanhangue, the only chosen place on the mainland.

In each case, the intention is to act respecting the identity of the host places, that have different morphology and preexistences. For this reason the suggestions proposed include the design of small architectural objects, easily designed to be built on site by the population using recycled and local materials, and up to a larger and urban scale.



The recurring theme of all the projects is the choice to operate in the area near the sea. The term Waterfront indicates the portion of the land that's located on the edge of water. This area has a strong potential for development, not only on the land but also in the water, so the area of influence is much broader.

Regarding the scientific value of the research, the main issues examined are:

- The tidal range that changes every six hours (about five feet tall), greatly influenced life, transports and the technologies used for the projects;
- Reuse of Portuguese colonial ruins and its exploitation;
- The use of local and recyclables materials.

The projects can be summarized and analyzed by typologies:

1. Stilt House. Located in the path between the islands of Ibo and Quirimba, and near Tandanhague, has a structure of wood and is covered with a makuti roof.
2. Ruins. Present in large quantities on the islands, they are reused to become containers of new objects, whose intended uses are: reception point for tourists and museum complex.
3. Floating structure. Can be used as a landing place and for recreational purposes, and it's anchored by ropes that allow the float to rise and fall according to the change of the tide. The materials used are recycled and readily available: bamboo, plastic bottles produced by tourists, fishing nets no longer usable, and thin strips of tires.



These projects aspire to the creation of a much more dense and extensive network, allowing to tie together the islands with the park that's located along the coast, which currently include them all inside, but only formally.

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