

Project of structure for the interreligious meeting

by Davide Vicenzutto

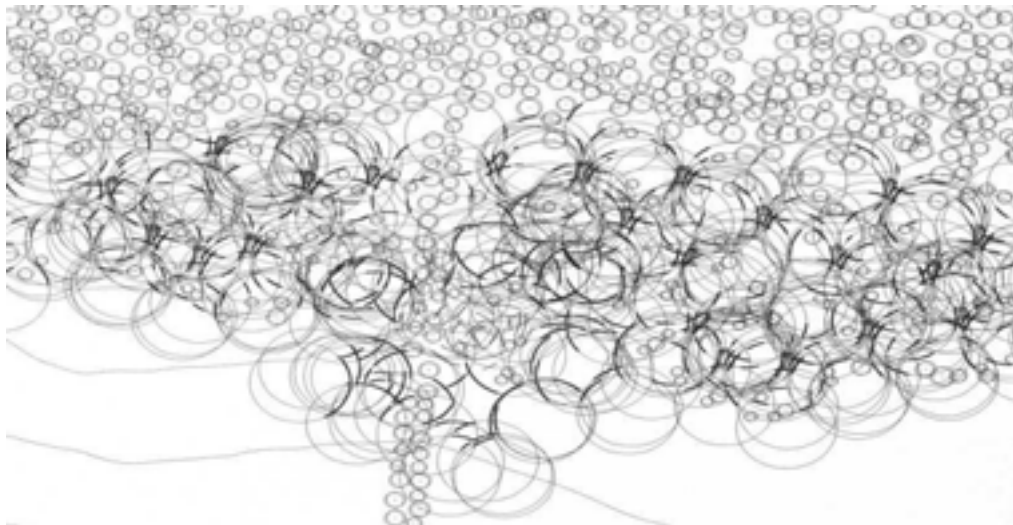
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At the dawn of the third millennium, technological and telematics progress, performed by humanity, produced a climate where physical distances have no great meaning any longer and the cultural barriers among different people become weaker every instant, changing the world into something similar to a "global village".

Those who want to get ready to project religious architectural spaces can by no means avoid the comparison with this reality.

The religious enthusiasm of modern beings corresponds mainly to two different tendencies, often coexisting: the research of occasions of meeting and interreligious dialogue, the desire of solitude and interior introspection.

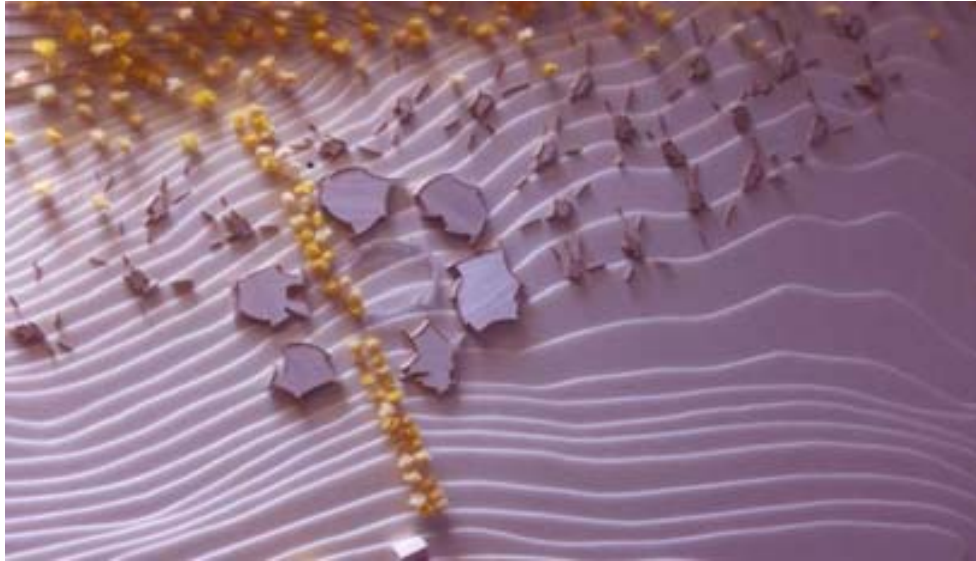


The challenge this work intends to propose is to gather these two needs together and to manage to shape a place where they can find adequate spaces to coexist.

In order to put this idea of religious community into practice and to find a suitable place and conformation, a thorough examination of the ways of living the contemplative experience in the different cultural realities was first of all made.

The place has been spotted in an environmental niche at the foot of the mountains, close to Turin, located in Villarbasse.

The conformation of the complex, a recurrent architectural system, sprang from subsequent phases of experimentation and can be considered an attempt of metaphorical representation of the religious research.



It develops around the few pre-existent elements on the territory, a farmstead now abandoned, linked to a wood by a row of mulberries. It is composed by an area dedicated to welcome and exchange, inserted in the recovered space of the farm, which allows the access to the hypogeum conference room, foreseen in the courtyard area; and the real community spaces, placed towards the woods. The kitchen, the library, the church, the synagogue, the mosque and the room for the eastern religions develop all around the cloister which underlines the place of convergence of the community, as well as having a distributive function. Again from the cloister develop the paths which lead to the contemplation cells, all oriented towards the wood-mass.



In the construction-system elaboration, the research leant towards poor materials, coming from the scraps of other processings, if possible.

Recomposed to a repeated and standardized model, they contribute to give a homogeneous and organic image to the whole complex, even if they offer quite free possibilities of composition.

In conclusion, the proposed intervention wants to be a small experimentation in an almost unknown territory, so widespread to offer infinite starting points to those who want to search for spaces where, in the coming future, men of different cultures will inevitably have to coexist.

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