POLITECNICO DI TORINO SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE Master of Science in Architecture for the Built environment *Honors theses*

Jordan Shelter Summerization

The permanent temporariness in the design of refugee camps

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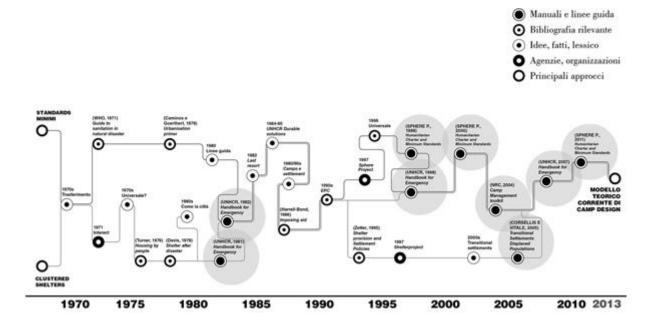
Jordan Shelter Summerization is an extraction process of knowledge from a project. The thesis starts from an experience of participation to a technical work in international cooperation for emergency field, at FAREstudio, in Rome. The scenario is the refugee camp Zaatari in Jordan, where many people fleeing from Syria live.



Tents and prefabricated shelters in Jordanian refugee camp Zaatari

The aim of the project is the construction of solutions for improving the summer thermal performances of the prefabricated shelters where the refugees live. During the project critical issues arise at different scales, due to bureaucratic, economic, political procedures. The impact of the critical issues on the quality of the built environment in the Zaatari camp is significant, and is the basis of the failure to complete the project. As a result of operational experience the thesis is accomplished through a series of checks for comparison, namely the identification of the nature of the critical structural or contingent assumed, and the reinterpretation of the solutions proposed by the project.

The system, the scenario and the project are the three parts of the thesis, related to different scales of observation of the problem. The system investigates the humanitarian activity about the political and economic dimensions. The scenario analyzes the spatial and temporal concept in the refugee camps. First, using interpretive categories of the human sciences, it emerges a systematic impossibility of self-determination of refugees, namely the annulment of citizenship rights, with considerable impact on quality of life. Subsequently, it detects a current model of camp design, almost uniquely applied throughout the world, consists of protocols for use of space based on a strict hierarchy and a set of numerical standards.



Summary. Development of the camp design model

Confirming the sociological interpretations, the degree of planning (choice) reserved for the inhabitants of the camps is almost zero. In this sense, the presumption of temporariness (part of the system responsible for the protection of refugees), stubbornly opposed to a reasonable unpredictability of the duration of the fields (due to the nature of military conflicts), has a negative impact on the quality of the built environment. The case of Zaatari, compared with the theory, confirms the structural inadequacy of the current model in the phases of design and implementation. The choice for the Jordanian camp of prefabricated shelters is a further critical point, whose contingency has been verified by comparison with representatives of industry experts in the management and design of shelters. The solution is totally inadequate from the point of view of thermal performance, economic, and respect of social and cultural practices. The answer to these inadequacies from the inhabitants is a reaffirmation of the right to self-managed projects, which is manifested in crushing orthogonal designed order to meet the real and not provided needs. In this sense, the third part of the thesis reinterprets the project of summerization highlighting, in its most advanced stage, an attempt to return to a small, but important choice to refugees.



Shade roof and veranda. Prototypes of the kits made in Zaatari by an UNHCR implementing partner

The means to this purpose is a flexible construction kit for a veranda, inspired by the pre-existing behavior, streamlines and facilitates the provision of self-managed prefabricated shelters, or the spontaneous potential and spatial reconstruction of social and community groups. In the end the thesis aims to reflect on the possibility of using architecture with redistributive purposes of resources and rights, from an eccentric and extreme environment, within an international system highly rigid and structured.

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