

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR SMALL HISTORIC CENTERS. USE OF CLARENTANO PALACE IN RANDAZZO (CT) AS A HALL IN AN URBAN MUSEUM NETWORK

GIULIA SANFILIPPO E LAURA CARUSO.

Università degli Studi di Catania

giulia.sanfilippo@dau.unict.it

lauracarus86@gmail.com

Abstract.

European documents and laws (from Amsterdam Declaration to the code of cultural Heritage) promote safeguard and valorization policies of historical centers and trigger virtuous processes aimed at a community social, cultural and economic development. Nevertheless, nowadays the demographic decline in small towns persists and, consequently, the architectural heritage decays; this phenomenon mainly affects villages and small historic center in the hinterland.

In Sicily, for example on the Etna area, the new generations leave the historical centers (often deteriorated) to move into new residential areas in the suburbs. The restoration and the correct use of ancient buildings would promote its conservation; it would be sufficient to just connect them. From these reasoning stems the project for the old town Randazzo, an example rich of gothic-Mediterranean architecture. The paper illustrates how the analytic process deals with a multi-scale approach; starting from considerations about the ancient urban fabric and about people social and cultural needs, it leads to the design concept. At the urban scale we have identified design strategies for the realization a diffuse museum in the ancient town in order to activate virtuous processes of economic, cultural and social regeneration. The use of Clarentano palace (a valuable example of medieval architecture) as a cultural hub is integrated in the project as one of the links of the urban museum network.

In conclusion, the case study is an example of how the choice of use of monuments could facilitate the preservation of their urban contexts and their demographic contents.

Keywords: *Urban regeneration, restoration, built heritage, conservation.*