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DAM-LAKEFRONT PLAZA: Riqualificazione di una Diga su un Bacino Idrico per l'Agricoltura a Kashar – Tirana/Albania

DAM-LAKEFRONT PLAZA: Revitalization of an Agriculture Reservoir Dam in Kashar-Tirana/Albania

Il Dam-Lakefront Plaza a Kashar-Tirana/Albania è un progetto di ricerca che propone non solo la riconsiderazione e consolidamento delle dighe costruite durante il Socialismo in Albania all'interno dei bacini idrici artificiali, ma prevede anche la manutenzione delle dighe stesse e riqualificazione dell'area intorno al lago promuovendo la collaborazione tra pubblico e privato. Inoltre, prevede la creazione di spazi pubblici di qualità nelle prospicenti zone suburbane. Accettando i laghi artificiali come nodi specifici di infrastrutture realizzate dall'uomo dentro il paesaggio, e di conseguenza considerando le dighe (assieme ai canali di drenaggio) come importanti elementi idrotecnici delle infrastrutture protettive in caso di alluvioni, questa ricerca intende operare all'interno di un unico tipo di infrastruttura paesaggistica – gli schermi verticali, offrendo una mediazione tra il paesaggio naturale e quello costruito.

The Dam-Lakefront Plaza in Kashar-Tirana/Albania is a research project that proposes not only the re-consideration and reinforcement of the artificial Reservoirs Dams built during Socialism in Albania, but envisions the maintenance of dams and revitalization of the lakeside area promoting the public-private collaboration. In addition, it envisions the generation of qualitative and lively public spaces in sub-urban areas as well. Admitting the artificial lakes as specific nodes of man-made infrastructure in the landscape, and consequently the dams (together with the drainage channels) as important hydrotechnic elements of the flood protection infrastructure, this research intends to elaborate on one type of landscape infrastructure - the vertical screens, offering a mediation between the natural and built landscape.

Parole chiave: Infrastruttura del paesaggio, Schermo verticale, Diga in un bacino idrico per l'agricoltura, Consolidamento della diga, Infrastruttura per la prevenzione delle alluvioni, Ex-paese socialista
Keywords: *Landscape infrastructure, Vertical screen, Agriculture reservoir dam, Dam reinforcement, Flood prevention infrastructure, Former Socialist country*

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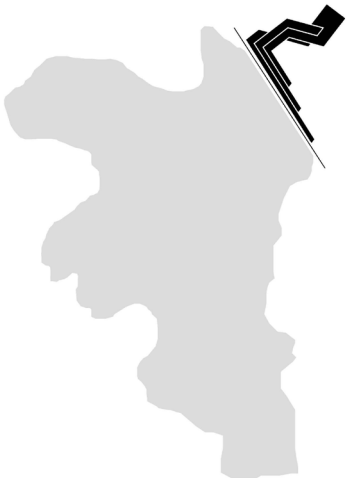

Figure 1 - The Dam-structure in relation to the reservoir

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Figure 2 - Extract of the 'Water-Systematic Landscape' Map zooming in to Kashar area. Source: KUL, 100 Lakes Tirana, Albania, April 2013, Interim Research Report

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE STUDY

This research describes the project of Dam Lakefront Plaza- Revitalization of an Agriculture Reservoir Dam in Kashar-Tirana/Albania, presented in ExpoTunnel: Infrastructure& Landscape Workshop, an event organized by Department of Architecture & DICAM, University of Bologna in October 2013. This project was developed by Fitim Miftari under the guidance of V.Koci & I.Nase within the framework of Arch 454-Advanced Research Project in EPOKA University, during spring term 2013.

The article is constructed of mainly two sections: a brief theoretical one, covering the concise definition of landscape urbanism, emphasizing the importance of awareness in architecture education about this discipline aiming to include it in the professional discourse. Part two, an extended and illustrated one, intends to provide with a detailed explanation of the research and project itself. First, the bigger picture of the regional study is given (100 Lakes developed by KUL team), zooming in into Kashar project (developed by EPOKA team) and then focusing on this specific project, which related to landscape, infrastructure, agriculture reservoir dams, public space and program, etc. The project unfolds as the contextual analysis is highlighted, the arguments for choosing the site and building a functional and programmatic program are offered; and the attempt to avoid package formulae proposal and commodification of the public space are expressed. Finally, there is an underline of the fact that this project could be an applicable and successful model in the Albanian context, which inherits from communism a complex water system serving agriculture that currently fails. This presents the most important aim of the research project. Furthermore, a discussion that echoes the potential of landscape urbanism to re-envision the productive landscape in Albania is triggered.

LANDSCAPE URBANISM – THE APPROACH

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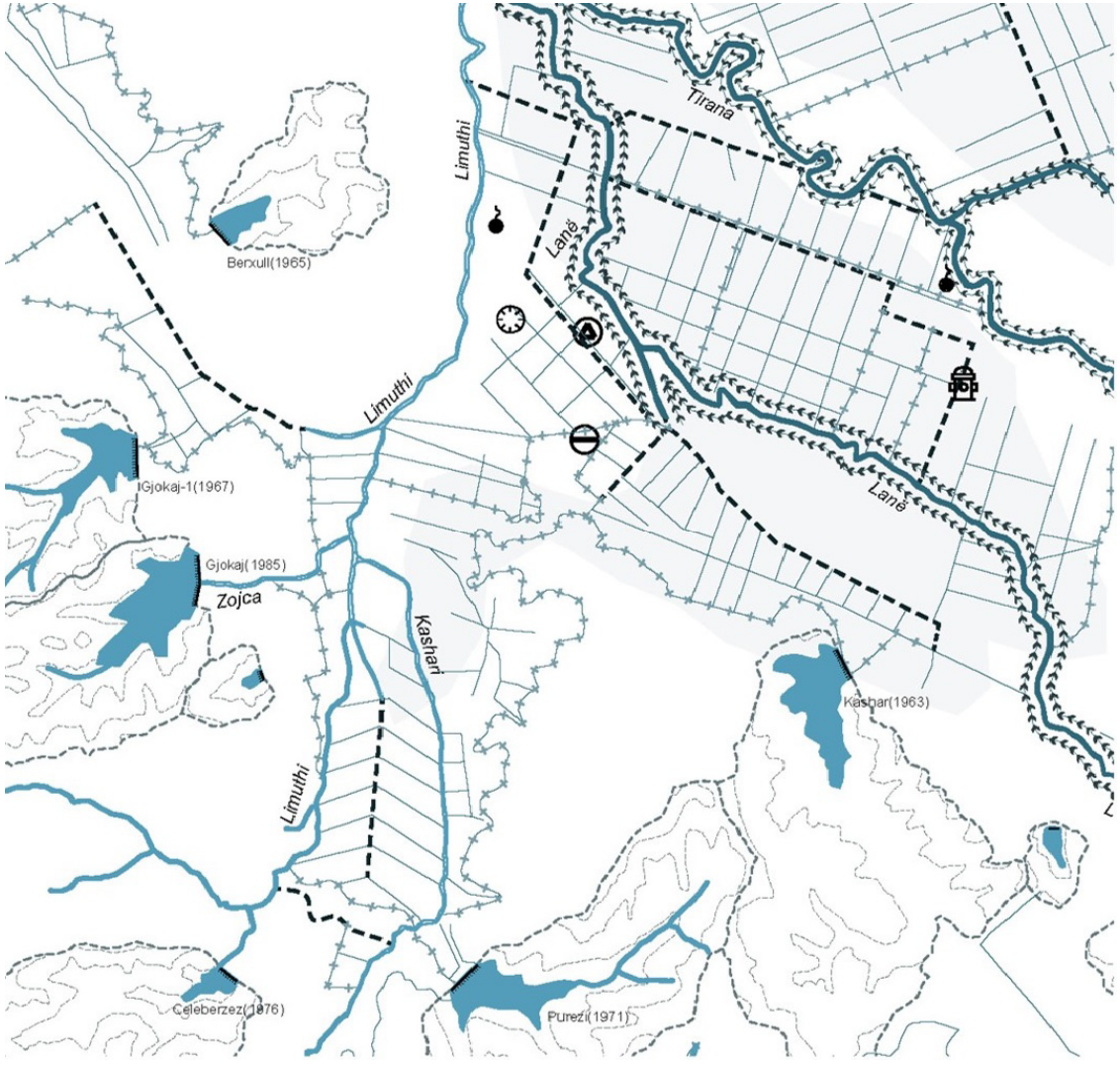
(TO BE) APPLIED IN ARCHITECTURE /PLANNING SCHOOLS

Landscape Urbanism, a term first launched by Charles Waldheim, depicts a set of approaches to planning, urban design and landscape in which the interaction of natural and built systems is taken as the basis for decisions about urban form. Nature (environment, natural history), built systems (structures, arrangements), urban form, as well as methods and procedures, are the key concerns of landscape urbanism; thus its focus is on urban space production in the contemporary city, in relation to the natural system. The diversity and intricacy of the present-day city matters, the phenomena of continuous rapid transformation of the nature and systems necessitate constructive collaboration among professionals and experts of different fields. Quoting Waldheim, it is possible to grasp the nature of this interdisciplinary practice:

Landscape Urbanism describes a disciplinary realignment currently underway, in which landscape replaces architecture as the basic building block of contemporary urbanism..., across a range of disciplines, landscape has become both the lens through which the contemporary city is represented & the medium through which it is constructed (2006, p. 14).

Praxis and theory are two spheres quite complementary to each other. Education in (landscape) architecture and planning is what



proceeds the prior actions/spheres. Supporting this theory, Weller argues that landscape urbanism 'shifts the landscape architectural project from an art (or craft) of making beautiful landscapes to one of interdisciplinary negotiation and the seeding of strategic development processes" (Weller 2008, p.248). In relation to this very brief theoretical framework on LU, one assumes that landscape urbanism is emerging as a medium through which urban form can be achieved more qualitatively. Design strategies use landscape ideas to organize the ultimate shape of the urban form and the territory. For over decades now, it has been obvious that landscape architects and urban designers are more capable of intervening into the actual context of the contemporary city, dealing simultaneously with the socio-cultural, environmental and ecological issues, as well as the formal ones. This estimation should affect the critical thinking in Architecture and Planning Schools, emphasizing further the idea that Landscape Urbanism and its principles should be the complementary guidelines in education when dealing/working with real issues/context. This could assure a generation of future architects/planner/landscape designers who will be able to deal with the complexity of relationship between natural and built systems.

To conclude, we could modestly affirm that the methodology used in 100 LAKES/ Albania, 1/100 LAKEside settlements: Kashar, Dam-Lakefront Plaza and in each and every single project presented within this framework of this collaborative design process, presented a multi-disciplinary and contextual approach.

DAM-LAKEFRONT PLAZA PROJECT IN THE CONTEXT OF 100 LAKES/ ALBANIA & 1/100 LAKESIDE SETTLEMENTS: KASHAR

The Dam-Lakefront Plaza project, is only one fragment or sequence in a whole range of proposals presented within the framework of two mayor projects: 100 LAKES/ Albania[1] and Rethinking WaterLand- 1/100 LAKEside settlements in Kashar[2]. The idea of 100 LAKES/ Albania had already emerged some months

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Figure 3 - View of Purrez Lake and area around. Picture taken by F.Miftari, April 2013

prior to the initiation of the collaboration between practices (51N4E), universities (KUL and EPOKA) and other Albanian actors such as Ministry of Agriculture, communes, local experts, etc. The vision of this research project presented the consideration of Tirana-Durres, the current metropolis of Albania, on a regional level in order to harness the potential of the area's assets. The assumption emphasized the importance of the fact that the city should anchor itself into the region's physical territory whose generous natural landscape would provide fresh impetus to the character of the urban environment. Within this framework, 100 Lakes[3] built during the communist period, as assumed by the idea generators (51N4E), could be such a stimulus.

The 100 lakes provide an ecological and economic space extensive enough to absorb an expanding population while harboring the capacity to develop attractive living conditions for inhabitants. Furthermore, redevelopment of the 100 lakes would provide a common project where a new column of positive reference can be shaped for the benefit of the region as a whole - a reconciliation between local inhabitants and the dificult heritage associated with the lakes. Crucially, 100 Lakes has the potential to act as a framework for other regional projects: notably the vision on formal-informal settlements, public transport, water supply strategy, agriculture and the preservation of resources. (Extract from 100 LAKES project proposal)

The 100 lakes studio attempted, at first instance, to capture the specificities of the area, and take them aboard while dealing with its core questions, which were always considering a regional issue: 'how can the (metropolitan) district of Tirana- Durres manage its increasing dynamic as a whole? How can it invest in an integrative urbanism that links housing needs with economically and ecologically viable solutions? What meaning can the inherited and massive socialist infrastructure find today? How to develop again positive notions of collectivism?' (100 LAKES/Albania)

While the '100 LAKES' project presented regional visions, 'Rethinking Waterland' aimed to develop bottom-up strategies for reinstating the impact of man on nature, especially in developing economies where the sustainable use of natural resources has least been considered. This project is a new vision for the future of an informally urbanized rural landscape in the commune of Kashar, near Tirana. The site comprises forests, orchards and agricultural land serviced by two reservoirs built during communism. This whole natural landscape is under pressure from urbanization triggered by the construction of a highway linking the capital to the main city-port of the country. The current condition is better described by a 'parasitic symbiosis' of the built environment (the parasite) and nature (the host). Conditioned by topography and local building knowledge/techniques, the main impact of this parasitism has been on hydrology.

Rethinking Waterland project proposes a platform for reconsidering the current interrelationship between the built and natural environments. It aims to redefine the balances in the coexistence of the built environment with infrastructure, water, nature and food production. The bottom-up approach based on nine individual projects[4] stems from economic, social and environmental sustainability targets of the area. These projects include also approaches such as the 'neo-laissez faire' introduced to control urbanization on agricultural land. Implementing bottom-up strategies was considered the best response to national/regional policies that lack environmental sensitivity and consideration for the local context. Project applicability will be considered with the Commune of Kashar. The design team strongly believes that this model is highly replicable to the urban landscapes along the Tirana-Durres national highway to introduce urbanization that uses natural resources sustainably.

DEVELOPING A CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

DAM-LAKEFRONT PLAZA: Revitalization of an Agriculture Reservoir Dam in Kashar-Tirana, is one project out of the nine students' proposal presented within the 1/100 LAKEside settlements-Kashar research project. The overall research was conducted first by making a spatial analysis of the water in relation to the agriculture land and urbanized area. The intention was to explore and understand the functioning of water systems and the relations between the rivers and streams, lakes and reservoirs, irrigation and drainage canal in (former) agriculture lands (see fig.2).
Interpretative mapping, as a powerful cartographic tool to understand the inherent logics of territories, was made use of. The tools of research were both quantitative and qualitative data, such as maps, images, pictures, reports of the dams and artificial lakes, etc.

Primarily, due to the information package[5] attained by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection on Agricultural Dams Study as part of Water Resources Management Project, 2009, it was possible to get technical data on the water system in Kashar area and the whole region of Durres-Tirana. Moreover by developing and interpreting the new maps, it was possible to construct an understanding on the inter-relation between topography, landscape-as a collective project, water-as a systematic landscape, agriculture-as a landscape and water-dependent sector, and finally urbanization-as infrastructure driven territory occupation phenomenon.
Focusing on Kashar project site, an area comprising of forests, plantations and agricultural land serviced by two reservoirs Kashar (built in 1963) and Purrez (1972), and by developing the proper contextual analysis in order to identify the Dam – area of intervention, it was possible to rich to the following conclusions: while Purrez Lake is distant to the new constructions (fig. 3), Kashar Lake is embraced by and threatened by new buildings which overpass the 'buffer zone' even (fig.3); Purrez lake is still functional. The water is used for irrigation and the tests have proven the quality is good enough to be used as drinking water, given some water filtration plants are installed. While Kashar Lake is highly polluted due to

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Figure 4 - View of Kashar Lake and area. Picture taken by F.Miftari, April 2013

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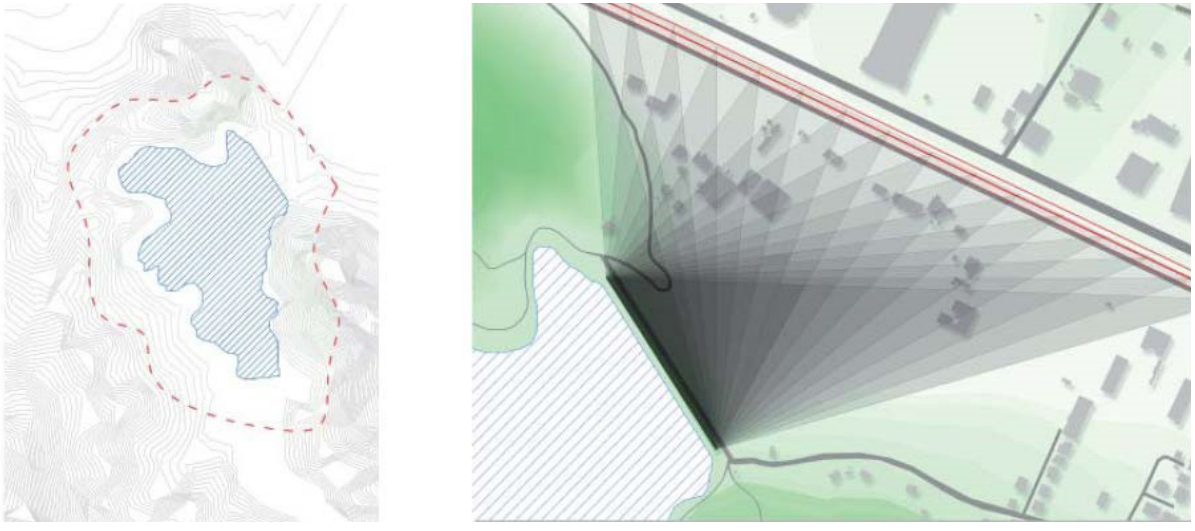

Figure 5 - Lake buffer-zone and Visibility of the Dam from the High-way

many reasons including the lack of proper sewage system of the new settlement emerging around the lake. The dam of Purrez Reservoir is in a better condition than that of Kashar, which requires heavy maintenance. A possible failure in Purrez dam, high precipitation and eventually flood would endanger approximately 500 ha of agriculture land, an area it was designed to irrigate; while a similar condition for Kashar Reservoir Dam would cause a lot more causalities in the current situation. It would not only flood some 500 ha of land, but would endanger the infrastructure& hundreds of new residential and economic activity buildings emerging along the highway.

Referring to the data obtained in the Dam Report[6], Kashar Lake is located some 8 km away from Tirana; at the TWL (total water level) the reservoir has a capacity of 1.800.000m3 of water and covers a surface area of 24.5 ha. The catchment area of the reservoir is 350 ha and it was designed to irrigate some 500 ha of agriculture land. The Dam has a relative height of 18 m, the length is 240 m and the crest width is 4.5 m. The upstream face slope approximates a slope of 1:2.5 while the downstream face slope approximates an average slope of 1:2.75. The flood risk occurs at TWL. The reservoir flood is 1.5m with a pick outflow of 36m3/s that is produced by inflow reaching at max 109 m3/s. As indicated earlier, a possible dam failure would eventually create a flood risk condition.

CHOOSING THE INTERVENTION SITE

The detailed comparative analysis of both sites Purrez and Kashar Lake concluded with the decision that Kashar Reservoir Dam, the lake area as well as the Dam-front space was an appropriate site to intervene in with a design proposal. The location of Kashar Lake and the Dam, so close to the Tirana–Durres highway, yet hardly visible or perceivable as a 'vertical landscape screen' is a further reason for choosing this agriculture dam as a test-site to propose and develop the revitalization project. Moreover, referring to the dam height, the highway remains approximately 12 m below the

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Figure 6 - The Dike as seen from the highway. Picture taken by F.Miftari, October 2013

highest point of the dike. In addition, two hills define the valley where the dike is constructed creating thus an attractive landscape. Yet, the buildings constructed along the highway block the view of the dike at some point.
The spatial analysis of the territory and the water-land relation, led to a project proposal marking some constrains, which became procreative for some ideas later on. It was important to define a "buffer zone" of 200 m off the lake shore, meaning the prevention of constructions, eventually preventing the discharge of grey and black waters of (informal) buildings in the lake. The reason is not only the preservation the flora/fauna of the lake and lake-shore habitat, but the improvement of the water quality as well, assuming that the water is and will be used for various purposes such as irrigation, recreation (swimming), industry (fish cultivation), etc. In addition, the definition of a buffer zone and mainly the reinforcement of the dam would prevent possible floods in the future.

BUILDING UP A PROGRAM
FUNCTIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC SOLUTION

The proposal to make a reinforcement of the agriculture dam of Kashar reservoir in a very architectonic way, relates with some arguments: first it related to the presence/introduction/ visibility of the Dam and Lake behind it, from the highway (see fig.6&7). One objective of the intervention was to indicate and emphasize the presence of the water body, thus the reservoir behind the green vertical screen. Secondly it relates to the intervention, for maintenance reasons on the Dam itself, thus the prevention of dam failure due to water penetration and erosion on the downstream face slope. One of the most problematic issues posed to the structure of the dams built during socialism, is the water penetration, which causes soil erosion on the downstream, eventually leading to dam failure. A technique of dike reinforcement is the injection of the concrete wall (see fig. 8). Yet, what we propose is "building on the dike slope", making use of

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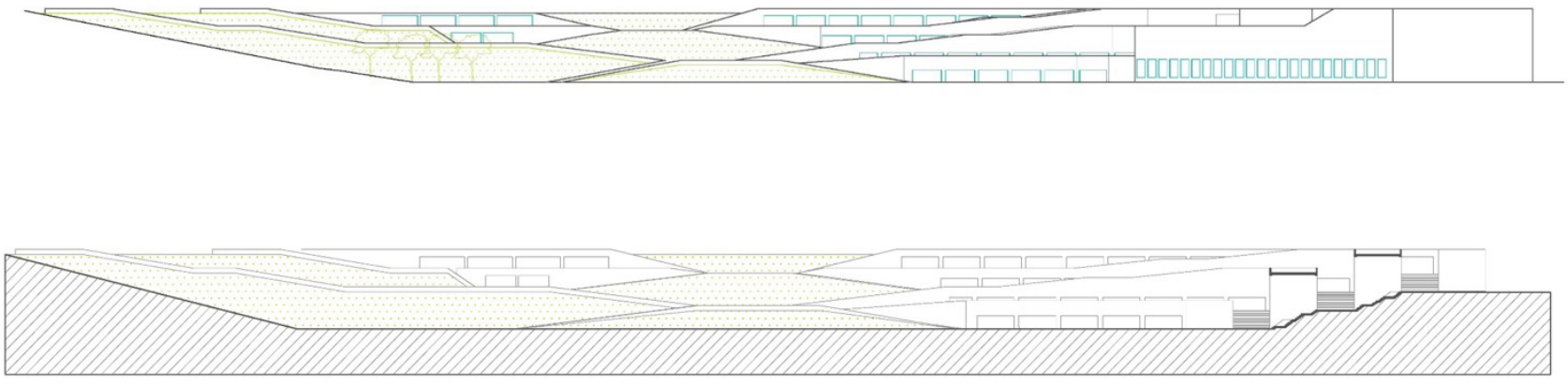

Figures 7.1 & 7.2 - Frontal Elevation/Sections of the proposed dam structure

the building foundation as dam reinforcement, and offering ground and space for activities accommodated within and on the structure itself (see. fig.9). Consequently, the solution is both functional and programmatic (architectonic).
The idea to present such a reinforcement that would not only function structurally, but aesthetically and programmatically as well, sounded quite interesting and relevant. Such an intervention, would call for attention, people and events, fulfilling thus the ultimate goal of the project.

The introduction of a proper structure that would primarily act as reinforcement for the dike and then offer appropriate space to accommodate some relevant programs in, was the outcome of a thorough process of contextual analysis (refer to fig. 10). The new structure had to consider the water element, thus the Reservoir surface, its water capacity and possible use, as well as the Dike top, the strongest boundary and interface between water & land that emerges as a linear element with a certain length and width. This space would be part of a promenade along the lakeside. Furthermore, the Topography thus one of the most crucial features to consider while proposing the morphology of the new reinforcement structure. Though man-made, the structure has to gradually emerge with the topography and the context, being both authentic but contextual. The current access points to the Dike and the existing buildings in the close-by area were determinant for the Approach and Access to the new structure, as well as the functions taking place in / on the structure. Ultimately, as one of the primal purposes of this project, the open space in the project had to be designed and not left-over. The dimensions, proportions and shape of the Square, the enclosure ensured by the Dam Structure and the new buildings around, create a public space that could house a series of ephemeral and programmed activities. Many events can take place on Dam-Lakefront Plaza such as Concerts, Exhibitions, Fairs, Local Markets, Open-air cinema, Installations (see fig.11).These programs would be supported by other recreational facilities in the built structure, such as swimming pool and other indoor/ outdoor sport services, shops, etc. Furthermore, the downstream of the artificial lake, is turned into a recreational water pathway, as an important water feature present in the built & natural landscape, creating a dam(med) landscape or a landscaped dam.

The analysis that lead to contextual proposal started by first checking the existing structures and programs sheltered in the buildings along the highway. The present activities were dominated by: hotels/motels, hospitals, private university buildings, warehouses, office buildings, shopping centers and residential buildings. These structures are supported by mainly private initiatives and investments. What is missing in the area are Sport facilities, leisure centers, gathering places – public Plaza, thus programs which could be for the public but not necessarily supported by public funds. Cooperation of private investors and public structures could be tested. Thus the proposal presented a platform that serves the community and collects people from other parts of the city; a gathering place that would be multi-functional and friendly; it introduced multi-purpose spaces for different events, such as: indoor and outdoor sport activities, exhibitions, performing, lecture, shopping and exercise. What is mostly important to emphasize is the morphology and architecture of the structure proposed, which is structurally, functionally and programmatically related to the context. It offers a hierarchy of spaces: Open – the Ramp, Semi open – Multifunctional spaces; and the Closed Space which becomes the leisure centre (see fig. 13). In this perspective, the Ramp leads visitors to the top of the dike and lakeshore, and vice versa brings them to the Dam-front Plaza. The Semi open spaces, which architectonically emerge from the structural interweaving, could accommodate rental spaces for different services, temporary or permanent, such as offices, classrooms, shops. Finally, the closed space which becomes a Leisure center, would accommodate sport activities such as swimming pool,

Figure 8 - Section-intervention on the Dam

[Next page]
Figure 9 - Building on the dam slope / reinforcement

fitness center, cafeteria/restaurant etc. The logic behind is that all spaces (open / semi-open/ closed) are owned by public institutions but managed by private – public cooperation. Within this framework, this project presents a model whose applicability could be considered with the Commune of Kashar and other institutions both in the governmental and local administration level, which are involved with planning and design issues.

BUILDING UP A PROGRAM
AVOIDING COMMODIFICATION AND SPECTACLE-ISATION OF THE (PUBLIC) SPACE

The design of public spaces that lack contextual analysis are emerging as a package project, which has a list of pre-defined programs and sometimes schemes, producing thus a commodity[7]. This package project is produced to be copied and further consumed in most geographical regions of the world. This is s a phenomenon widely spread in Albania as well, especially in small cities and/or sub-urban areas.

Among other places, some of the artificial lakes built during Communism in Albania, have come to the point of being recorded into the abandoned areas' list. They functioned as agriculture lakes, thus for irrigation purpose, for industry (fishing and cultivation or other water species), as drinking water supply reservoirs, or recreational assets, etc. The abandonment is a phenomena which highly relates to the change of political, economic and social system[8] after the demise of communism in 1991, and eventually to the lack of the maintenance. Yet, the very complex water system composed of natural and artificial elements such as streams, rivers, lakes / reservoirs, drainage and irrigation channels etc, which we inherited from the previous economic system , could become prosperous sources of capital, on the condition that these assets are properly valuated, used and maintained. Because of the physical, social, cultural and economic features inherent in them, these systems and especially the sites in direct relation to the water– the irrigated lands, reservoir edges, dams etc,

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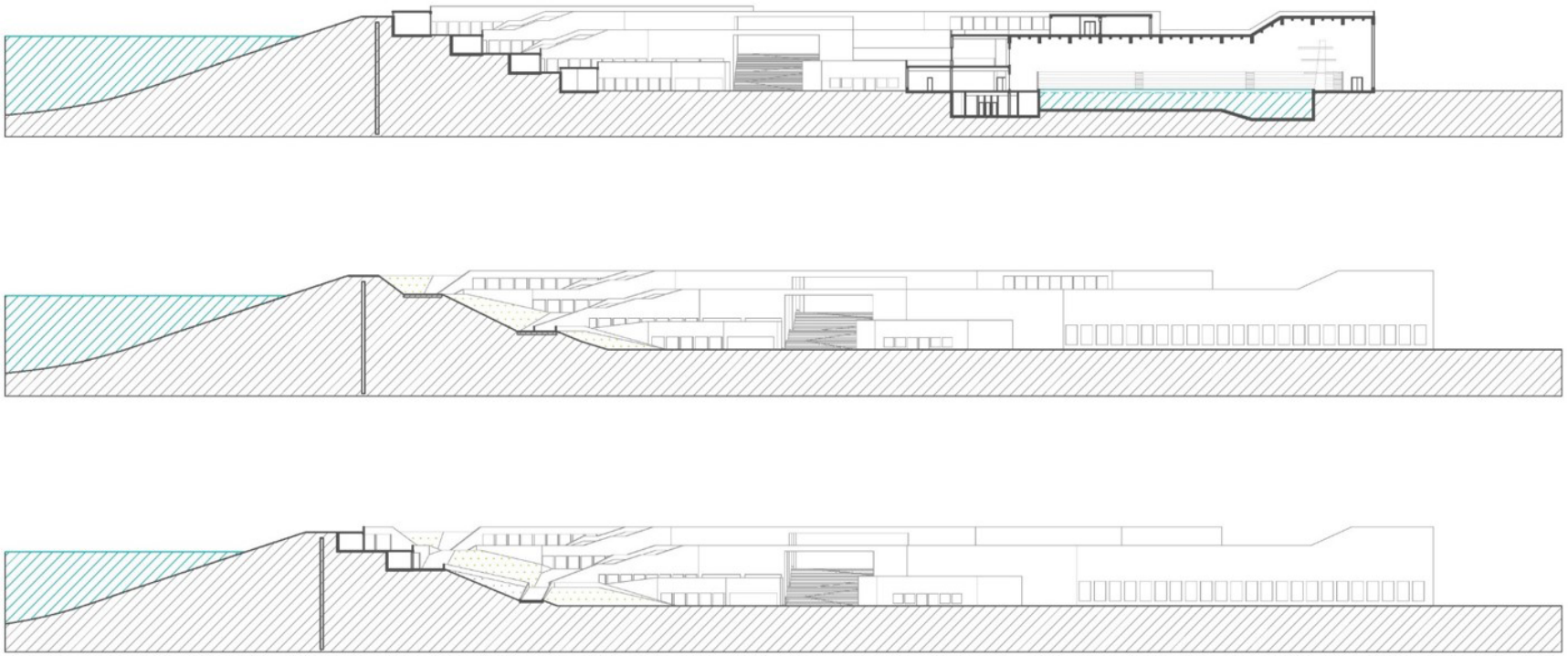

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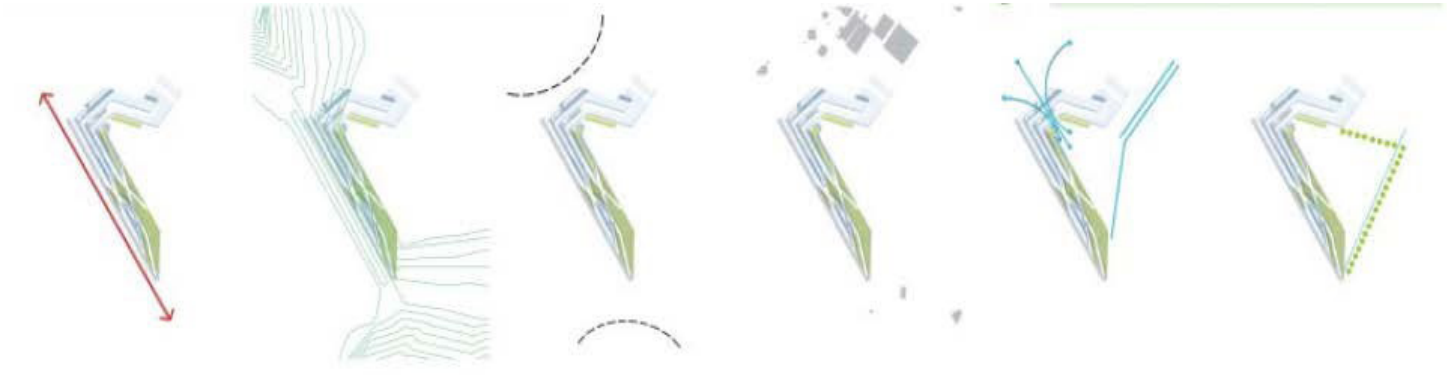

Figure 10 - Contextual Analysis supporting the proposal of the structure on the dam: Reservoir & Dam, Topography, current Access to the Dike, existing Buildings in the close-by area, Approach & Access to the new structure, Dam Lakefront Plaza

could generate extensive flow of investments and spontaneous revenues.

The above-mentioned process convert the space, in our case the agriculture dam & lake; into a commodity, which needs to be developed, used and ultimately exploited. It was previously mentioned that the public space projects are usually transformed into "package-formulae" planning principles introduced and implemented on different location. In some cases, these planning or design approaches neglect the local features, the geographical, historical, economic and cultural assets of the region. The argument that the implementations of these projects is merely an insertion of new images, which Harvey claims to "have themselves become commodities" (1989: 287) emerges. I support the idea that presented by Harvey that "many images can also be mass-marked instantaneously over space" (1989:288), and this is a similar phenomenon occurring to the public space-commodity and its created image.

Furthermore, if we have a close-look at the programs presented in the public spaces redevelopment projects worldwide, it is possible to see the tendency of including the spectacle and entertainment among a variety of functions. It is argued that the capital accumulation is facilitated through the tool of urban spectacle. This *festival* (fair or exhibition of every kind), and primarily the stage it would take place on, is designed aiming the attraction of the society members, local inhabitants or foreign tourists. These spectacles, events, their stages and built environment have been transformed into material *simulacra*[9] employed in the *image production industry*. These *simulacra* "conceal almost perfectly any trace of origin of the labor process that produced them, or of the social relations implicated in their production" (Harvey: 300). Supported by the use of postmodern architecture, the style and attitude of the contemporary society, these assemblage of social spaces have become successful in attracting the crowd and in fulfilling most of the demands of the consumer society. In a mixed-use, multi-functional inner

[Next Page]
Figures 11.1 & 11.2 - Programmatic proposal (Concerts, Exhibitions, Fairs, Local Markets, Open-air cinema, Installations), on the Dam-Lakefront Plaza& Dam(med) Landscape

cityscape where people find extensive pleasure and entertainment, the regime of flexible accumulation is a very natural phenomenon. The very simple definition of this entire process would be the *consumption of the (public) Space.*

These reflections were present during the analysis developed both in the regional (Durres-Tirane) and local level (Kashar commune and specifically the Agriculture Dam / Reservoir of Kashar). The conurbation between Durres &Tirana, the infrastructure driven urbanization, the uncontrolled exploitation of former agriculture land occupied by illegal constructions, the prevalence of individualism over collectivism in landscape and water system, the expansion of massive shopping-malls and other selling unit that promote consumption over production, etc, are all indicators of a consumer society that would not resist the *commodification* and *spectacle-isation* of the Space, including the Public Space.

Even though 'Rethinking Waterland: 1/100 LAKEside settlements, Kashar/Albania' and all individual proposals were part of an education based process, we aimed at having a systematic analysis and eventually relevant, unique and contextual proposal, which would avoid the commodification of the (public) space.

CONCLUSION

This research project is quite significant for the Albanian context, because its ultimate purpose is to present a model or sample project that could be applicable, once there is good-willing and support from the local government of Kashar Commune. Conceptually this approach, or model of infrastructure revitalization can be applied to some 50 cases of Agriculture Reservoir Dams, out of 626 all over Albania, which necessitate high reinforcement intervention and maintenance, as indicated in the 'Albanian Agriculture Highlights' Report (2012: 111). Yet, a very contextual analysis and proposal should emerge from the genius loci of the place itself. As such, the di-

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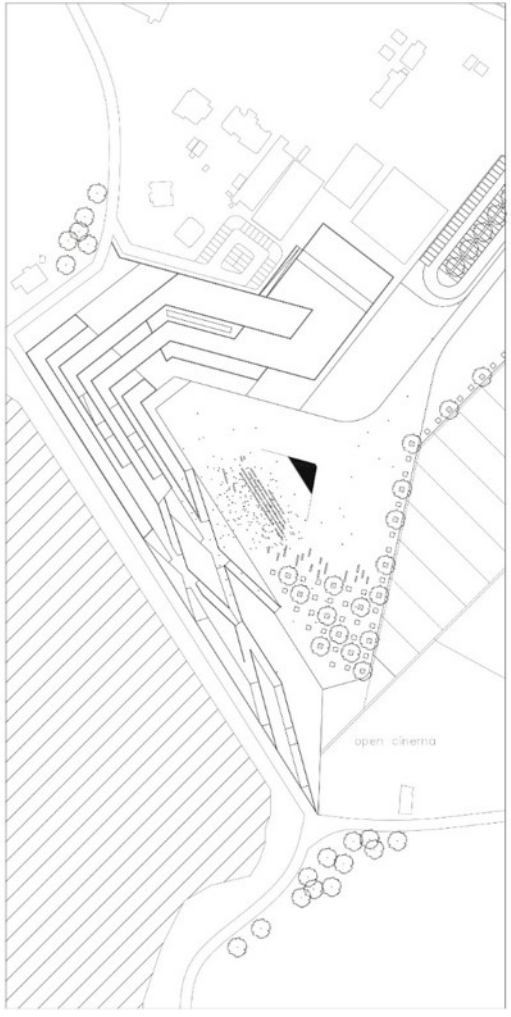

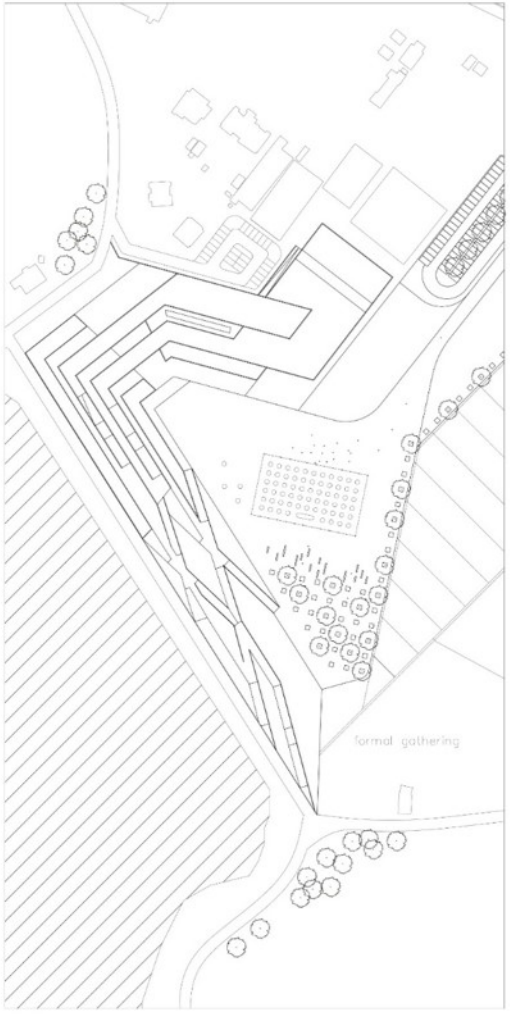

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scussion reflects on the potential of landscape urbanism to re-envision, re-structure and re-activate the former socialist productive water-landscape in Albania, at large. This research could become the keystone for many other projects to follow.

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Special thanks go to Fitim Miftari for his creative work on this project. Most of the images displayed in this article are his contribution. We express gratitude to Ilir Nase, for his expert guidance, and all other collaborators - actors in the bigger initiative who in/directly have contributed to this project.

Figure 12 - The [Dam] Structure and the Hierarchy of Space: open - semi open – closed

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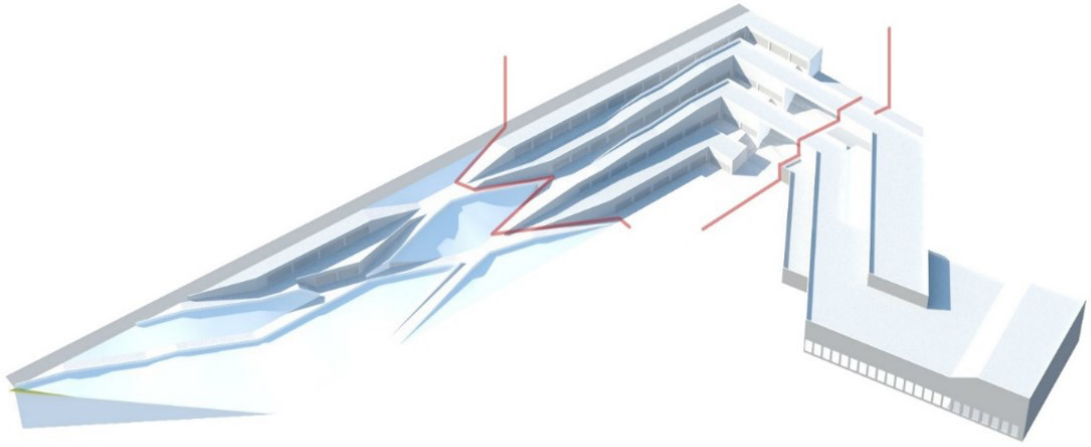
Figures 13.1 & 13.2- Collage Views of the proposed Dike Structure



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NOTES

[1] Spring term 2013, '100 Lakes/Albania', KUL & 51N4E in collaboration with EPOKA University. This is a research thesis to obtain a Master of Science in Urbanism and Strategic Planning degree in KU Leuven, (part of the EMU Program) Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning, Faculty of Architecture. Program director: Bruno De Meulder, Supervisor André Loeckx (KU Leuven), Tutor and coordinator Sotiria Kornaropoulou (51N4E), Co-tutor Freek Persyn, Johan Anrys (51N4E),Authors: Bogdan Ilie, Calin Lambrache, Tao Cai, Zhongkai Zhou, (EMU Students) and Wei Lu (MaUSP Student).

[2] 'Rethinking Water-Land, 1/100 LAKEside settlements: Kashar/Albania', Arch 454 Research project at EPOKA University, in collaboration with KUL & 51N4E, developed during January – June 2013, EPOKA University Instructors: Ilir Nase, Valbona Koci. EPOKA University Students: Ajmona Hoxha, Arnen Sula, Fitim Miftari, Griselda Ramaj, Jonida Aliaj, Klodiana Millona, Oriela Balloshi, Romiana Cupi, Vilma Gokaj

[3] The 100 LAKES is a tittle which eventually indicated the abundance of water captured in artificial reservoirs built during Socialism (1960-1980s), and does not indicate the exact number of lakes.

[4] The nine projects encompassing 'Rethinking Waterland – 1/100 LAKEside Settlements, Kashar' research project are as follows: 1-Green Loop& Pit Stop (O.Balloshi), 2-Dam Square & Leisure Center (F.Miftari), 3-Designing AGRITECTURE (G. Ramaj), 4-Elderly Lake House (A. Sula), 5-Hilltop Winery (A.Hoxha), 6-Man+Hydro biotic symbiosis (J.Alliaj), 7-House 'N Topography (R. Cupi), 8-ResArtist (K.Millona), 9-IN-COMmunity (V.Gokaj). More information on the individual projects can be found at: http://www.epoka.edu.al/gallery-s13-arch454-waterland-redifinition-228.html

[5] The information found in the Dam Reports consisted of Map of Dam Location and Catchment Area, Dam Layout Sketch, Photos, Hydrological Analysis, Indicative Flood Inundation Mapping, Indicative Stability and Seismic Assessment and other technical and assessment reports.

[6] Mott MacDonald and Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, Water Resources Management Project, (2009), Agricultural Dams Study, Dam Report, Kashari Reservoir, Dam Ref: TR-5

[7] In the mid 19-th century, Marx defined commodity as: 'an object outside us, a thing that by its properties satisfies human wants of some sort or another" (Capital and Political Economy, 1963:35).

[8] Communism, in relation to space production, is characterized by a centralized state economy. Wealth redistributed so that everyone in society is given equal shares of the benefits derived from labor. All means of production are controlled by the state. The means of production are commonly-owned, meaning no entity or individual owns productive property. Importance is ascribed to "usership" over "ownership".

[9] Simulacrum, according to Harvey, is a state of near perfect replication that the difference between the original and the copy becomes almost impossible to spot. (Harvey 1989, p. 289)

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