Essential Places

“Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University in Skopje, Macedonia, Faculty of Architecture
International Summer School of Architecture
30th Jubilee Session 2021, Lazaropole

Architectural workshop with Maruša Zorec
13-19 September 2021

Online workshop without participation fee // Apply with CV and Portfolio (pdf, max 5 projects, A4 format) not later than 20 July at ssarch@arh.ukim.edu.mk // Students are encouraged to visit the village of Lazaropole before the workshop // For more information visit: www.arh.ukim.edu.mk
It is necessary to proceed from one’s heritage and accept advances of modern architecture.¹

Can we create modern architecture without knowing the place we come from? Its origins and specifics can be our guide and help us to understand better the place and the logic of its inhabitation. From this knowledge we can create new places for the community and rethink the spaces of our being. The ground is our horizon and the sky is our longing, in-between we will search for a shelter in the specific conditions of a wonderful village of Lazaropole in Macedonia.

The workshop will be focused on the research of the tradition expressed in the settlement, public places and small private architecture. We will try to discover the tradition in the field of construction and materiality to use it for designing the new. Students are invited to discover new essential spots and transform them into the places for community. With small architectural interventions we’ll try to intensify the spatial experience and create new spatial ambiences. Existing architecture of Lazaropole will help us to understand better the local context, its premises and guidelines and to rethink and create new on the basis of this understanding.

After long period of isolation, we try to offer the chance to broaden our horizons, experience new and rethink the essential – the meaning of the place and the essence of the archetypes. We’ll discuss the wall, cube, roof and landscape as potentials for the future life of Lazaropole.

In 1949 and 1950, Slovene architect Dušan Grabrijan and some of his students were traveling through the countryside of Macedonia. A wonderful book which came out of this research, equipped with sketches and photos will be the guide on our journey.

The workshop will be structured by days and invite all the students to participate in the process of rethinking the idea how to involve traditional materials and techniques in a creative process to plan in 2021 and built a new community space in the summer of 2022.

¹ Dušan Grabrijan: Macedonian house, 1955