

Acronimo – AFROBRIDGE

Titolo – The African connection and post-war design principles in architecture: the intellectual bridge to Europe and the USA

Responsabile scientifico – Albrecht Benno

Borsista Marie Curie – Elisa Dainese

Dipartimento – Dipartimento di Culture del progetto

Settore ERC/SSD – Icar 14 Composizione architettonica e urbana

Ruolo Iuav – Beneficiario

Durata – 36

Termine previsto – 30/06/2016

Budget – 261.627,60

Finanziamento – 261.627,60

Tipologia – Call Unione Europea

Fonte di Finanziamento – FP7-PEOPLE 2012 - Marie Curie Action - IOF "International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development"

Descrizione – The project, developed in connection with the IUAV University of Architecture of Venice (Italy) and the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Pennsylvania (USA), addresses the interest of modern architects in the traditional architecture of sub-Saharan Africa after World War II and the imprint of African architecture on Western architecture. With a holistic approach and the use of newly declassified documents, the research will shed light on the spread of the design principles of sub-Saharan architecture among the members of the "Philadelphia school" (architects and teachers of the University of Pennsylvania, USA) and Europeans of the same generation. The research is linked with a multiplicity of historical and cultural problems, which will be taken into account: the crisis of the ideology of progress suffered after the Great Depression; the questioning of Western culture during World War II; the out of datedness of the "Charter of Athens" of 1933 in architecture; the new interest of the Modern Movement toward nature and landscape; the international search for new design principles for the "human habitat" (Aix-en-Provence, 1953); the increasing interest in traditional African architecture (e.g. Dogon and Mofou) and the aporias that leads to the discovery of "otherness". The project will be conducted by combining architectural history, architectural design science and anthropology, through the analysis of case studies and indicators from Europe, Africa and from the "Philadelphia school".

Obiettivi della ricerca –

1_ Documentation of:

- Western conditions which entailed the African imprint
- Modern western production involved in the African imprint
- Traditional African architecture involved in the African imprint

2_ Definition – Comparison

- Development and Definition of the indicators of the African imprint
- Identification and Comparison among modern western case studies
- Identification and Comparison among traditional African case studies

3_ Theory development

- Definition of traditional African design principles
- Definition of related modern design principles
- Definition of a theory about the African imprint

4_ Lessons for today: coping with environmental and cultural problems

- Identification of "good sustainable practices" based on modern design principles
- Identification of "good sustainable practices" based on traditional African design principles

5_ Dissemination of knowledge and Outreach activities

Website: http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/107168_en.html

