

PLANNING IN HERITAGE PROTECTED AREA

Multicultural Dimensions

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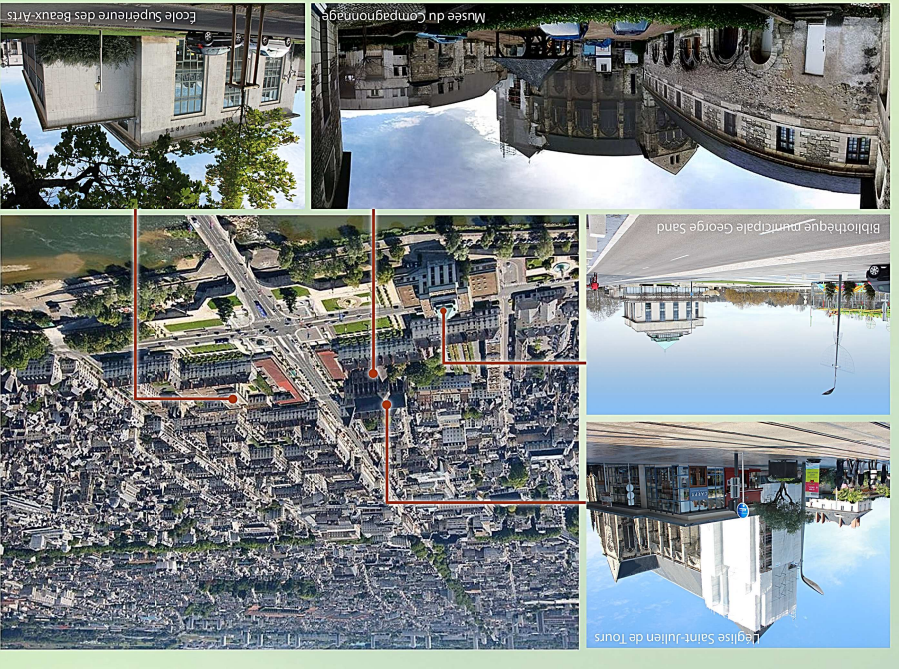
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INTRODUCTION & PROCEDURE

This exercise has been produced according to a previous work developed by the students of the international research master "Planning and Sustainability: Urban and Regional Planning" of Polytech Tours within the module on Project, Heritage and Sustainable Development, under the supervision of professor Laura Verdelli.

As our cities keep evolving and growing the heritage conservation is becoming more important for planners, who have to balance the needs of modern societies, the economic challenges and the preservation of historical culture. The aim of this poster is to highlight the different conceptual ways in studying and handling heritage conservation projects within different planning teams. Accordingly, the exercise pursues to find out, how different planning teams deal with the same case study area in a different way from the perspective of heritage conservation? The reason is that different planning teams manage particular heritage conservation issues differently, even within the same recent academic background and according to a pre-established protection framework.

According to the previous aim, the presented exercise shows three different ways of facing the same heritage conservation study case. Hence, the core idea is to evaluate some common points existing for all the studies, such as, the aim, the approach, the scale, the positioning on heritage conservation and the final proposal which lead to a better understanding of the procedure by each of those teams, as well as to spotlight the reasons causing differences. The content analysis which has been explained before would come up with concrete results, focusing on the pre-assumed conceptual differences and giving rise to the assessment of the produced assertion, understanding this way whether different teams face a particular case similarly or not.



The area of study is in the north end of the Rue Nationale, the main axis of Tours. Built in the fourth century, linked the neighborhoods of Saint-Martin in the East and Saint-Gatien in the west of the city. It used to be the main entrance of the town for centuries and it is redesigned by the architect Pierre Patout following the destruction of the 2nd World War. The urban regeneration proposals have to meet the objectives set by the economic and cultural value and potential of this protected space located in the downtown of an urban area.

ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS

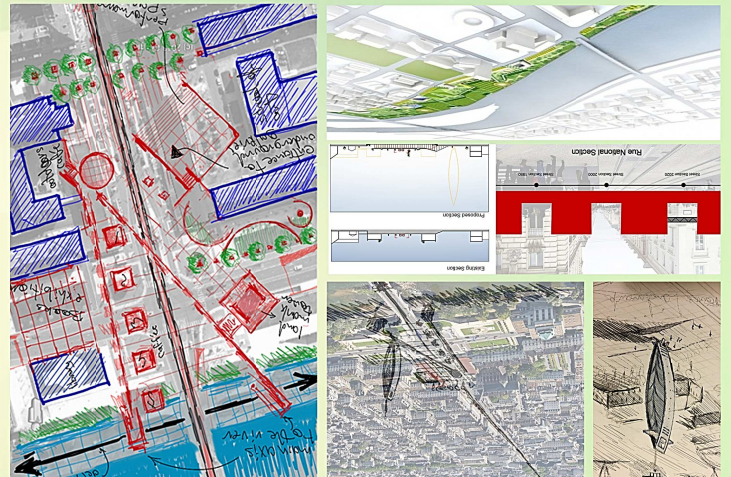
The Cultural Gate

Aim
To increase connectivity between the two separated parts of the street and the riverside, to introduce this area as the new cultural gate of the city forming a new identity.

Approach
A SWOT analysis has been done as a base study to determine the potential of the site and have a better understanding of dynamics of the project.

Scale
The study has a two scale-level approach. The first is the city scale connecting the site, La Loire River, and the whole city; and the urban scale focusing on the interconnections inside the actual site.

Positioning on heritage comprehension
The project focus on the heritage value of the buildings and try to increase attractiveness level by creates a new cultural centrality in the city. Reaction of existing heritage, combining it with contemporary architecture.



Roof Garden for the City of Gardens

Aim
To ensure the site's heritage value, to create a new entrance for the city and to increase the peoples' use of the space.

Approach
Renovation on the existing building stockage using new eco-friendly materials. Adding new uses that promote creativity by merging the previous art facilities and broaden their spectrum.

Scale
The intervention affects all the city starting from the river to the beginning of the commercial uses of Rue Nationale. Linking the river to the city by a new innovative public space.

Positioning on heritage comprehension
The existing historical buildings are the most important elements of the project. There is an effort to maintain their status and comply with heritage protection laws. To point out their importance a new green public space would be designed to connect them.



RESULTS

- The aims of all cases are quite similar. Even though the working groups exhibit some small differences, generally the intentions match with each other.
- Their approach to conceive the current situation is completely different from each other.
- Each group handled the process from totally different scales in order to understand what the accurate identity of site is. The scope of scale differs from the narrowest options to wider ones.
- During the analysis of three different studies, divergences have been obtained as regards the positioning of heritage comprehension of each group.
- At the end of their work process, each group comes up with totally different proposals for the same project area.

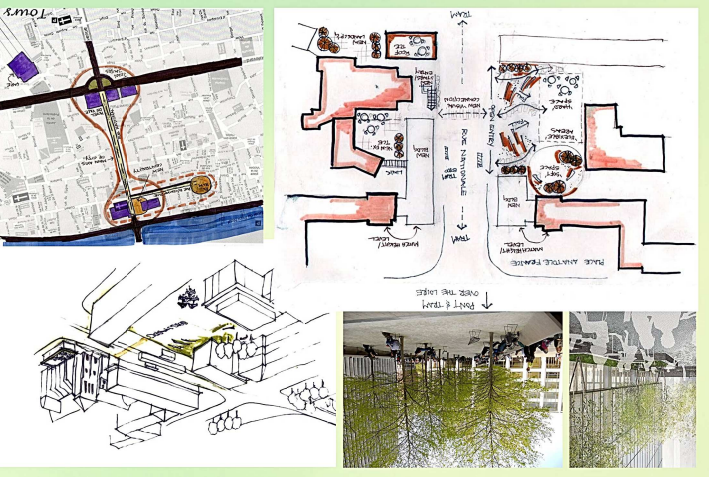
CONCLUSIONS

The stronger point of the tabletop exercise stems from the fact that none of the participants have a particular interest in the final outcomes as it occurs on the real case, providing this way a solid consistency to the workflow. As demonstrated before, although each team claims to be protecting heritage, trying to respect the history of the place, the produced proposals are totally different from each other.

Therefore, a lack of the existence of a universal answer around heritage conservation is highlighted through the previous simple exercise, showing this way, that even within teams with similar guidelines and recent backgrounds, conceptual divergences emerge as concerns the study of a particular case on heritage conservation planning.

The underlying reason for these different outcomes could be explained by the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, influences, and cultures of the participants as well as by the assortment of the existing interactions among group members. Similarly, the fact that planning is not just a technical concern but also a human issue should be highlighted, appearing deeply determined by the creativity of the involved social groups.

Proposal
Even though the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts building by demolishing a part of the commercial building stock in front of it, creating new space and a direct visual link between the road, the school building and the Saint-Julien church. The economic feasibility of the proposal considered important and in order to equal the losses of the wasted buildings a second floor enlargement is proposed for the ones in the other side of the street. The new empty space in front of the Beaux-Arts school would be transformed in a new public gathering place and the uses distributed in the new buildings would promote the team's vision for the creation of an art, culture and gastronomy pole for the city.



Aim
To create a new centrality for the city making this area an attractive pole.

Approach
Physical interventions on the architectural design of the area while the uses are reallocated.

Scale
The area is handled from city scale in order to clarify what should be the identity of the new centrality. The process starts from city scale and narrows down to the space along the two sides of Rue Nationale.

Positioning on heritage comprehension
This approach would not create new landmarks but highlight the existing ones. The church and the art school would be the key elements of the space and the area between them would be revitalized by the new square and the uses that would emerge.