

Maremma Desiderata

structuurschets voor de Maremmavlake/ Italië

The Maremma Plain, as the result of a man-controlled transformation of a swamp into a polder, took tremendously much time, labour and human 'ingenio' to be realized. About 60 years after the completion of its last phase, the 'Bonifica' (land-reclamation) doesn't seem to meet the requirements for a lasting development. Paradoxically this drained land has to deal with an important problem of water supply; its peasants are impoverished and it is deserted by youth. Here, in this long attended and desired plain, the actual situation appears to us as a particularly eloquent and dramatic expression of the ever existing friction between desire and reality: the impossibility for man to find a coherence between how he would wish things to be and their reluctant nature, between the image he has of things and their actual experience. As this is also a central issue for our disciplines, we decided to take up this friction between desire and reality, between image and experience, as a leading theme for our work for Maremma.

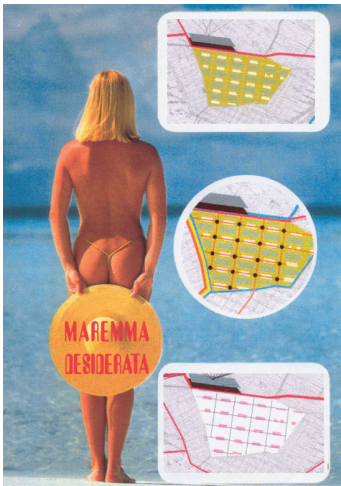
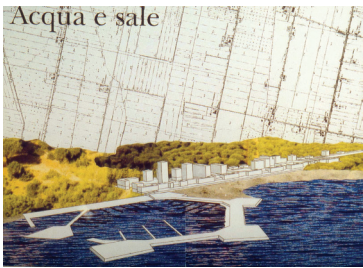
We focused on what we framed as real demands: Giving the agriculture a possibility to be restructured and redeveloped & Reinforcing the tourist exploitation of this territory which is bordered by the sea, surrounded by hills, adjacent to a reserve park and presenting such a strongly characterised and so obviously man-made landscape.

Out of these demands we identified three independent development-logics: Agriculture, Ecotourism and a Seaside Borough. These logics have their own 'desire' for image and significance, their own specific 'demands' for means and infrastructure, and their own 'claims' on territory and on things making part of it.

Each of the three scenarios happens to claim a portion of the former dumping area and of the strong grid dating from the last colonisation -the fascist implant of Venetian farmers in 1928- because of their central position in the plain and their location along the main road. The former dumping-ground has the additional advantage of providing a panoramic view on the whole plain (elevation about 4m).

On the 'Zolla del Buttero' (former dump) all the sheds needed to house the services, are aligned along a huge car park. The shoot is covered and provided with a system collecting the gases produced by fermentation. These are evacuated through the pole of a 10m-high Buttero-statue. The automatically ignited gas randomly produces a huge flame. On the 'Tessuto Scozzese' new allotments and an agricultural show garden with its rectangular fields and orchards reinforce the geometric coherence of the grid, additionally giving it a spatial expression.

Taking part in the representation of each of the three scenarios the 'Zolla del Buttero' and the 'Tessuto Scozzese' are in charge of producing a strong image for the region.



workshop ALL

International Workshop "Architecture, Infrastructure, Landscape"
Alberese-Grosseto, September 1998
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