



WISH

Workshop on International Social Housing

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Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Online Lecture Series →  zoom

www.wish.usi.ch

Organized by WISH
Workshop on International Social Housing
Professor: Martino Pedrozzi
Assistant: Vincenzo Tuccillo

Wednesday
26 April '23
h 17.10



The Oasis of Bukhara: history of water and people

Rocco Rante

Since antiquity, the last part of the Zerafshan River has flown along a north-east/south-west main channel, and a dense network of irrigation is connected to it. The last part of the river's path, today an endorheic delta, corresponds to the Bukhara Oasis, covers approximately 5,100 km². The geographical setting linked the region with the core Iranian lands to the south, with Khorezm and the nomadic regions to the north, and with China and the Far East. Throughout millennia the Zerafshan delta saw different kinds of human occupation, which always depended on water resources. According to the geomorphological and archaeological results, human occupations followed the landscape transformation, adapting behaviours to a perennially moving situation. Population distribution, once arranged within the territory, developed in this framework, thus assuring the immovability of the settlement organisation, which only changed because of depopulation, towards the end of the medieval period. This lecture will highlight the relationships between people and water, in urban and rural lands, from the 3rd c. BCE, until the modern era.

Monday
8 May '23
h 17.10



Tashkent – Open-Air Museum of Soviet Mass Housing

Philipp Meuser

Tashkent, the southernmost metropolis of millions in the Soviet Union, is a city redolent with architectural contrasts and paradoxes. Home to the most beautiful prefabricated buildings in the world, it features a prominent urban duality predicated upon the oriental Old City and the Russian New City. -Never was this contrast brought into sharper focus than during the severe earthquake of 1966 which left the New City relatively unscathed but the Old City in ruins. Yet one respite was offered: a rebuild-ing effort which triggered an upsurge of innovation. Architects incorporated regional building traditions in their socialist modern designs, including the visually intriguing façade mosaics attributed to the little-known Zharsky brothers. The rebuilding of Tashkent provides a perfect example of Soviet ideas about urban planning – in which technical standardisation and social requirements were no more of a contradiction than the design of experimental living concepts and the simultaneous search for an expression of national identity in building. Tashkent thus represents a unique example of radical urban redevelopment in a Soviet megacity with standard designs. Berlin-based architect Philipp Meuser will give an insight to his latest work on the legacy of Soviet architecture in Central Asia.

Monday
22 May '23
h 17.10



Bukhara. Reading of building types and urban fabrics.

Attilio Petruccioli

The oasis of Bukhara, located on the Silk Road, was for four millennia the crossroads of three great civilizations: the Turks of the steppes, the Persians of the plateau, and the Chinese of the great rivers. This encounter has a legacy in building techniques: although it was a plastic-mural area, favouring the use of unfired earth and brick, heavy structures, it welcomed and integrated elastic-timber elements, light structures. The result was an organic-episodic civilization, capable of gathering elements, structures, and systems into partial organisms, but lacking the condition of the unity of the organism. Using the method of Saverio Muratori's typological school, the lecture analyses the multipolar structure of Bukhara before the advent of the Soviets through the dialectical role of building types and urban fabrics.

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