

YES WE STRAW!

E.V.A.: rebuilding the social after the quake

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3.32 a.m. L'AQUILA (Italy)

- ◆ 6.3 M.M.S. (Richter)

309 dead

1.500 injured

- ◆ 65.000 evacuated



PescoMaggiore (AQ)

- ◆ Mountain region (950 mt.)
- ◆ Depopulation process after the 50's (ending of agropastoral economy)
- ◆ 44 inhabitants before the quake (mostly old people)
- ◆ Post-quake risk: displacement toward the governmental C.A.S.E. project →



E.V.A. (Selfbuilt EcoVillage)

- ♦ Post-traumatic birth (housing necessity)
- ♦ Built by and for the earthquake's victims
- ♦ B.A.G. studio designers
- ♦ Land loan from Pescomaggiore tenants
- ♦ E.V.A. building start: August, 2009
- ♦ First house finished: February, 2010
- ♦ 5 houses (4 timber structures, 1 load bearing)
- ♦ 7 inhabitants at the beginning (co-housing model)
- ♦ 1500 volunteers in a few months



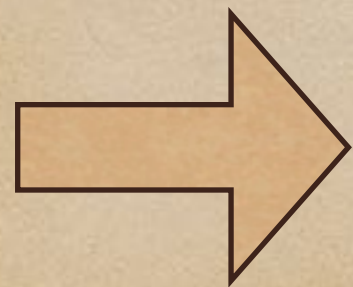
The straw circle



1) The Gift

Building a "Common Good"

- ◆ Volunteers and inhabitants (labor force)
- ◆ Private funding (monetary value)
- ◆ Shared expertise and ideas (knowledge)
- ◆ Tools and materials (loan)



Reactivating a rural social-economy

2) D.I.Y.

- ◆ Learning through making (together)

2) D.I.Y.

- ◆ Low-tech, relatively easy and low-specialized building environment (gender aspects)



3) Shared KNOW-HOW

◆ Carpentry



◆ Masonry



◆ Plumbing



4) D.I.(for).Y.



Individual and community Self-
Empowerment.

4) D.I. (for) .Y.



- ◆ After the quake self-building is a query for socio-political autonomy and a therapeutic praxis for the earthquake's victims: the purpose is to rebuild the self by means of building its own environment.

Creativity from a collective trauma



Life cycle (death and renaissance)

- ◆ The social in the E.V.A. case study is a network of human and non-human forces where the straw-bale house represents the gravitational center that affords the birth of a new creature. Straw bale houses are part of this cycle.



Conclusions

- ◆ Building with straw-bales is a socially appropriate technology after natural disasters within vulnerable rural areas.
- ◆ Main advantages: aseismic, low-cost, shared knowledge, low-tech, l.c.a., participative methods, self-empowerment, etc.

Thank you ! Merci ! Grazie !

