

# COLONIA 2019.

## L.A. {AGRI} KULTURA

21. - 28. 09. 2019.

CULTURE CENTER, DOLAC 5, LASTOVO  
INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

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PARTICIPATION FOR STUDENTS: 800 HRK

Abandoning the fields as *raison d'être* of the village and discontinuing cultivation of field crops resulted in their gradual return to nature. Cultivable land grew into wilderness. Regrettably, at the island of Lastovo the agriculture was preserved only in reduced extent. The village of Lastovo, though assuming a number of functions of a town, had maintained its village form, largely due to its sparse population and distance from the town. The task of the workshop is to investigate the process of re-ruralisation of the village. Lastovo has 46 fertile fields, some of which have been cultivated since ancient Greece. Colourful valley basins seem at first to lack any order, but a closer look reveals consistent, rich and complex structure. The standard composition of agricultural land is as follows:

### } AREAS

**Active (agricultural) areas** denote cadastral plots which have been further divided during the years, mostly due to inheritance procedures. The areas are still used or were used for growing vines, olives, fruit and vegetables, i.e. diverse crops. The planting schedule and crop rotation represent a specific cultural aspect of Lastovo culture, agri-culture. For example, a few of the local farmers treasure seeds of the chickpeas plant or Lastovo cabbage. Rare almond trees grow in the middle of vineyards. One of the key issues identified for active areas is unresolved ownership status, as most are still legal property of deceased persons. This circumstance hinders their re-activation.

### } LINES

Active areas are framed by a **public paths network**, i.e. lines which were marked ages ago and which effectively connect all the areas. They follow natural features of the terrain. Supplementary network is formed by earlier irrigation lines, which are now completely abandoned.

### } POINTS

The agricultural zone is **dotted** by several natural recesses containing water holes or '*pjover*' – areas for collecting rainwater. Scattered over the agricultural area, we find small churches with accompanying surrounding areas; stone crosses which mark crossroads or starting and ending points of specific units and Illyrian stone field houses '*bunje*'. The architectural landscape is erratic.

*Basically, I have an instinct that the countryside will be increasingly a hyper-Cartesian rational order that enables massive whimsicality in the city.*

*Rem Koolhaas, The countryside, 2018.*





Lately, there have been some developments such as small family farms and utilisation of paths as bike and hike trails... However, modernity does not occur based on a plan or collective endeavour – it occurs accidentally and inadvertently.

Names of fields as geographical locations present an inspiring subject: Lokavje, Kosovo, Vino Poje, Prgovo... The names correspond to the natural features of the locations and the related cadastral divisions which are evident on location. In other words, the etymology of the name reveals the features of the land or the traditionally grown crops.

The fields are surrounded by a stretch of dense forest on the hillside. The forest fire protection system is in place, which contributes to sustainability of the eco-system.

## } the location

The location selected for the workshop is field **Pod Sveti Spas** (Below St. Saviour), a relatively small area located just outside the village – the centre of the island. The preliminary analysis is given in the handbook prepared for the participant to study before the start of the workshop.

## } the task

The task is firstly to record all the specifics and interesting points of the selected unit, both material and non-material, establish connections with the rest of the area, research archaeological sites and evaluate cultural heritage. The overall objective is to complete a critical analysis of the existing situation. The analysis will serve as a valuable theoretical material for further work. The main part of the workshop will cover visual, artistic and professional determinants of legal, landscape and infrastructure interventions, i.e. innovative architectural interventions with the purpose of enabling better blood flow, additional activity, re-establishment of ancient locations and similar aspects. In a nutshell, the outcome of the interventions should be to serve as an invitation to return to the production of food as primary human activity and primary rural production activity. In this context, tourism is a concurrence and agriculture is *raison d'être*, actual culture and actualization of this village and any village.



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Participants invited to register are especially students of final years of university study programmes in urban planning and/or architecture, agronomy, law, geography and ethnology. In the process of evaluating the received applications, the jury will focus on equal representation of all listed professions. Interdisciplinary approach should ensure systematic problem-solving.

The idea is to produce final work which will be useful for the local community, easy to put into practice, and most importantly, presented at the final public presentation.