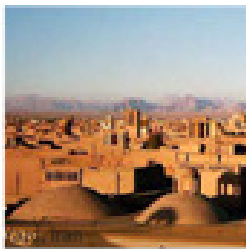
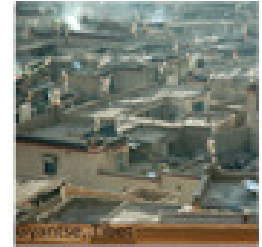


ANCESTRAL CITIES

ANCESTRAL SUSTAINABILITY

Cases in third world countries still living vernacular architecture

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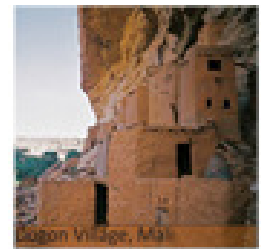
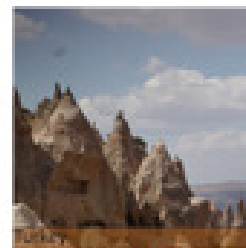
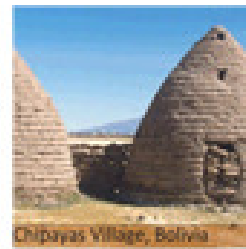
Nowadays the world, our cities, the places where we live, are collapsing. The actual crisis in all of these matters is obviously affecting us in our everyday life. The cost of living, paying for our cities gets harder by the day. We have to learn from the past, from our cultures.

Aim

I would like to research about ancient cultures and their way of living in the cities and towns in order to understand their relationship with geography and climate; their relationship with nature. I believe it is necessary to learn from the past in order to assure the survival of our future cities and towns. In order to assure the quality of the places in which we live. Many cultures in the past have developed several ways of sustainable urbanism and architecture, where the use of natural resources was determinant for their survival.

Engagement

In most of third world countries these ancient cultures still exist. Normally they are being extinct and had not been paid attention. I, as an inhabitant of a third world country, would like to explore our still living vernacular urbanism and architecture, to research their relationship with nature and their sustainable strategies. I plan to travel for two and a half months through South America, Africa, Middle East and Asia.



America

Chipayas are an ancient American culture located in the south of Bolivia. They live in the altiplano at 4,000 meter above sea level in a very dry area where changes of temperatures during the day are huge. They have developed communitarian ways of building their towns with roots and earth. Puerto Miguel in the Peruvian Amazonia is a fishing village next to the Yacapa River. They have developed ways of association mostly because of the inundations and others climate conditions, the village expands through the river.

Africa

The villages in the north of Togo have an especial way of organization, developing a way of controlling the heat and shelter from the sun; towns grow in order of this protection. The Dogon Towns in Mali were built into the stone. They have been growing perforating them. They get to control the temperature and shadows building inside the hill; this town keeps growing according to the geography.

Middle East

Ksar de Ajl-Benhadoune in Turkey is a city that has grown from an ancient stone settlement. There are still people that live in the old houses, protected from the hot weather. Yazd is "the second most ancient and historic city in the world". This Iranian city is an example of sustainable technology, the entire city is built with wind towers in order to control temperatures inside the houses and the city.

Asia

Kalimantar is in the Borneo Island. This 'sparsely populated landmass' is built above the river. They have ways of communication and circulate through the houses with bridges and boats. They prepare for the river growths in a communitarian way. Gyantse is a city in the Tibet region of China. The lack of rain allows them to inhabit the roofs in a permanent way. It has grown between the high mountains of the region, taking advantage of their presence.

Context

It is an urgent need for the planet to improve the sustainable way of building our cities and towns; global warming is not stopping and our cities are the main reason for this. There is an imperative need for a change in our way of seeing and living our lives.

Method

I believe that an architect has to know about so many things to be able to create space for people and traveling is a fundamental way of achieving this, which is what we are working for. In order to understand their world vision and way of living and building, I believe one of the mayor ways of tackling my investigation is through talking to people. I would like to know their reasons to live like that and how they see nature.

Photography should be a way of representing the reality and to record what I'll see. Drawing and writing should be a way to analyze in order to help me understand this cultures and their way to built.

