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1994 Annual Meeting - Programme
Firenze & Villa Cennina Siena - Italia
Dear friends,

we are looking forward to seeing you at the fourth annual conference of the INURA in Italy, precisely in an old country house, Villa Cennina, on the outskirts of Siena. It will be far from the splendour of last year at Beamish Hall, but we are happy all the same!

The title chosen for this meeting is "City, territory, environment. Research and action for a socio-ecological transformation". It is a vast theme which holds many of the topics traditionally tackled during the course of the previous meetings, together with a mutual research for alternatives in social, economic and urbanistic field, compliant with actual life and development patterns.

This year we want the accent to be put more sharply on the relationship between research and action. Proposals should be, as always, of three types:
- Theoretical considerations
- Study cases
- "Artistic performances"

The theoretical presentations should tackle some of the knots that are tied to the general theme of the conference.

The study cases should not testify on outside observer's point of view, that is, who is committed to an analysis of events and situations bound to specific spots, but should be the experience of one of us who is involved personally in projects and the practice of ecological and social changes on an urban, territorial and environmental level, from which the elements of thought and investigation can be drawn. The "artistic performance" obviously totally up to you!

To ensure the success of the Annual Meeting, can we ask you to send your deposit to us as soon as possible so that we can get an idea of how many people are coming. Sorry about this, but we cannot make bookings for Villa Cennina and for the Florence tour without some money coming in.

We are looking forward to seeing you, yours

Giancarlo Paba
Raffaele Paloscia
Daniela Poli

Editors and publishers of INURA Bulletin 7:
Giancarlo Paba, Raffaele Paloscia, Daniela Poli
Laboratorio di Progettazione Ecologica degli Insediamenti
Dipartimento di Urbanistica e Pianificazione del Territorio
Università di Firenze
1. Central Station
2. Coach Station to Siena
3. Dipartimento di Urbanistica
4. Pensione Geneve
5. Piazza Isidoro del Lungo

Meeting point
Saturday 21th May 11am Dipartimento di Urbanistica Aula VIIM - 1st floor Via Micheli 2 (n.3 on map 1)
Object: Introduction to the Florentin area issues

Meeting point
Saturday 21th May 3pm Biblioteca dell’Isolotto Viale dei Pini 54 (map 2)
Object: Community planning project at Isolotto
Meeting point

Sunday 22th  9.30am  Pensione Geneve (outside),
维达啦Mattonaia 43
(n. 4 on map 1)

Object: Plain of Florence tour

Meeting point

Sunday 22th  4pm  Piazza Isidoro del Lungo
(n. 5 on map 1)

Object: Leaving to Villa Cennina
Our annual meeting, this time, will take place in the heart of Tuscany, in an old country house in the commune of Sovicille, on the slopes of La Montagnola between Monteriggioni and Siena. The Montagnola is a kind of woody hinge of territory, in central Tuscany: it is the meeting point of different natural landscapes, different types of territory and precise systems of cultivation. It is, therefore, a good place to understand some of the environments and characteristic settlements of Tuscany.

We are near to Siena, too well known to be described, a town where the fusion of man’s work, nature’s forms and landscapes touch a balance point that is almost a miracle. Standing out from where the ridges join together in the heart of Siena, is Piazza del Campo, the centre of the town. It is a natural amphitheatre which has become urban architecture. Almost a symbol of an organic and vital way of building a city. It is also the city of the “contrade” and therefore a sign of its heritage of the collective rites of membership and construction of communities, which is an important theme of our meeting.

Around the city it is possible to see the clay of the Siennese landscape, the hills swoingly undulating, sown with fertile land, eroded by rain and wind, interrupted here and there by rural houses, villages, parish churches and castles, rows and rows of cypress trees and patches of woodland.

Towards the east we find ourselves in the heart of the Chianti, with its landscape forms built over the centuries of vine and olive cultivation. We hope to feel this neighbouring positive feeling during our work breaks.

Down from La Montagnola runs the course of the river Elsa and its valley. One can see Colle Val d’Elsa lengthening along the crest of it.

It is easy from here to reach San Gimignano and Volterra which are both still, today, the prototype of the measured city, in harmonious relationship with their surrounding territory. San Gimignano still maintains its medieval aspect as if time there has crystallised, the central squares, that of the church and the Town Hall, and that of the cistern and the market, the linear “borgi”, the dominating rock formation, the churches and convents,
Programme (provisional)

Title: City Territory Environment, Research and Action for a Socio-ecological Transformation

Monday 23rd May
am
- INURA introductions and brief update
- Presentation of the theme “Socio-ecological Transformation”
- Programme definition

pm
- Theoretical issues related to theme: local identity, marginalisation, community planning, environment, quality of living, etc.

evening
- The Time and the City: experimental workshop

Tuesday 24th May
am
- Socio-ecological transformation: case studies, projects

pm
- Local development, third sector

evening
- Multiracial, multicultural cities, societies

Wednesday 25th May
am / pm
- Piccole città tour (Siena, Volterra, San Gimignano)

evening
- Small cities, heritage, cultural tourism

Thursday 26th May
am
- Environmental issues, globalization, world cities, water front, etc.

pm
- INURA business: membership, bulletin, foundation, joint publications, financing, etc.

evening
- Party

Friday 27th May
am
- Return to Florence

Closure an ‘act of violence’

A plan to close a residential college is “an act of extreme violence” says one of its tutors.

Proposals to shut the college at Beamish Hall, near Stanley, are part of a cost-saving package put forward by the authority’s executive director, Mr. Lazzari.

Consultations are taking place before the final decision is made over the future of the college, which is used by schools, adult education courses, conferencen and as a meeting place for youth organisations.

Carl Lazzari, a visiting tutor at the college for 30 years, said: “To destroy a hard-earned reputation for quality education and to disperse such an experienced body of excellent staff gathered over many years is an act of extreme violence.“

He said withdrawal of funding from the college would bring an end to the authority’s impressive tradition in residential adult education – something which it would be impossible to recreate in evening classes.

“There is a wider deprivation. Beamish Hall is the only such residential institution of adult education in the North-East.

“In addition to its role in County Durham, it has been widely used by students of all ages from the neighbouring administrative region.

While I can understand the reluctance of Beamish to subsidize out-of-county students in these difficult times, surely some sort of joint financial negotiation could have been agreed long before bringing the ax to the head on the block.”

Mr. Lazzari said growing numbers of adults over 50, and an increase in redundancy and early retirement, meant there was a substantial majority of taxpayers for whom Beamish represented a deserved channel of education.