

School art project: „Borderless Way of Water“ creating a new landscape with sand, water and paper

Gymnasium Rohrbach / Mühlviertel/ Upper Austria



1. Region is a term from geography: A physical area to be specified, a kind of sphere like arctic, tropic, mediterranean, monsoon et.al. In politics „Region“ is an administrative unit.

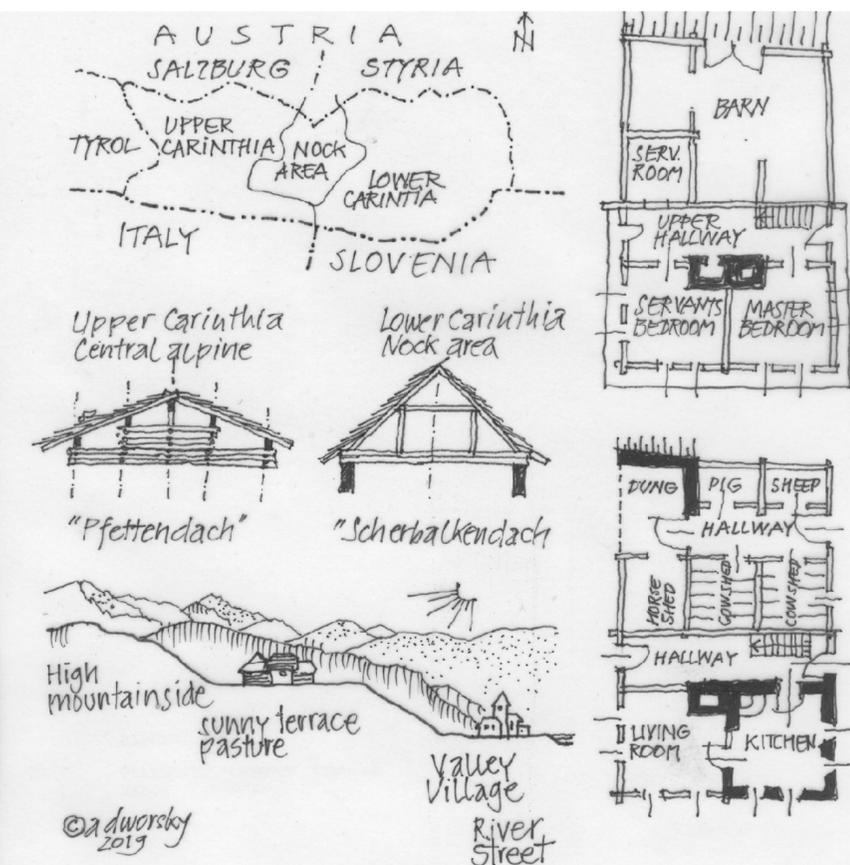
1.1. How should we define „Region“ As an administrative, environmental or cultural realm ?

Thesis:

In the process of European integration transnational cooperations and overcoming of historical divisions become more and more important:

North and South Tyrol,
Austrian Weinviertel and Southern Bohemia,
Saxonia and Poland.

In Future we will come to a new, more environmental and cultural understanding of „Region“





Urbanization New „Village“ in urban density. Metropolitan-rural region of Shanghai

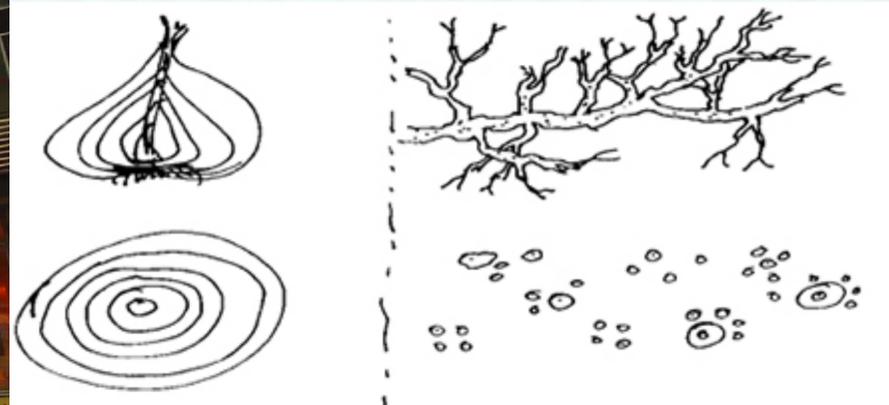
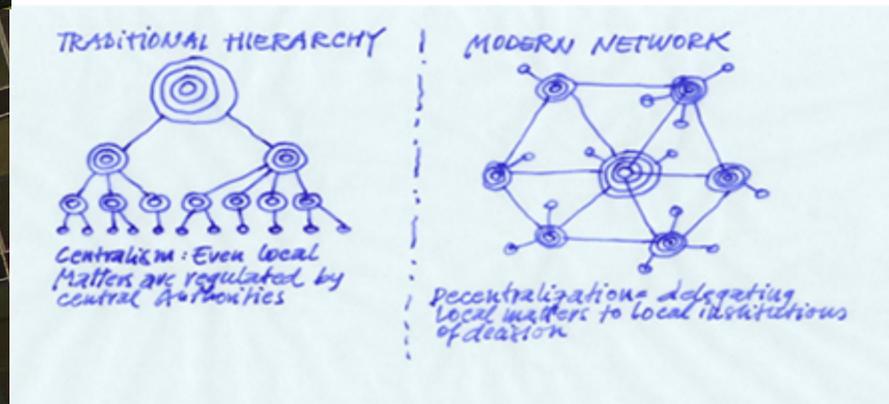
2. The traditional European spatial concept: Metropolitan region/City versus rural space/village is in a state of flux.

2.1. Do the cities become greener and the villages more urban ?

Thesis
The traditional centralized and hierarchic structure of space will shift to a kind of rhizomatic network.



Interlinking highest urban density with green spaces. Germany / Berlin





Spain/L.Hospitalet
Jujol / Residence



Switzerland/Vals
Therme / P. Zumthor

3. The interest of urban architecture schools in rural traditions began around 1820 with rural romanticism, switching to Heimatstil , changing to vernacular structuralism, citing postmodernism, critical regionalism and now to the aesthetics of sustainability.

3.1. Are we aware that the problems of metropolitans and global civilization are reflected in the programs of regional development and regionalistic architecture ?

Thesis:
The relationship of man to nature is in constant change. This development takes place with very different dynamics and speeds. There is still a peasant and folkloristic tendency to conserve cultural heritage, as well as a strong move towards modern ecology and environmental care.



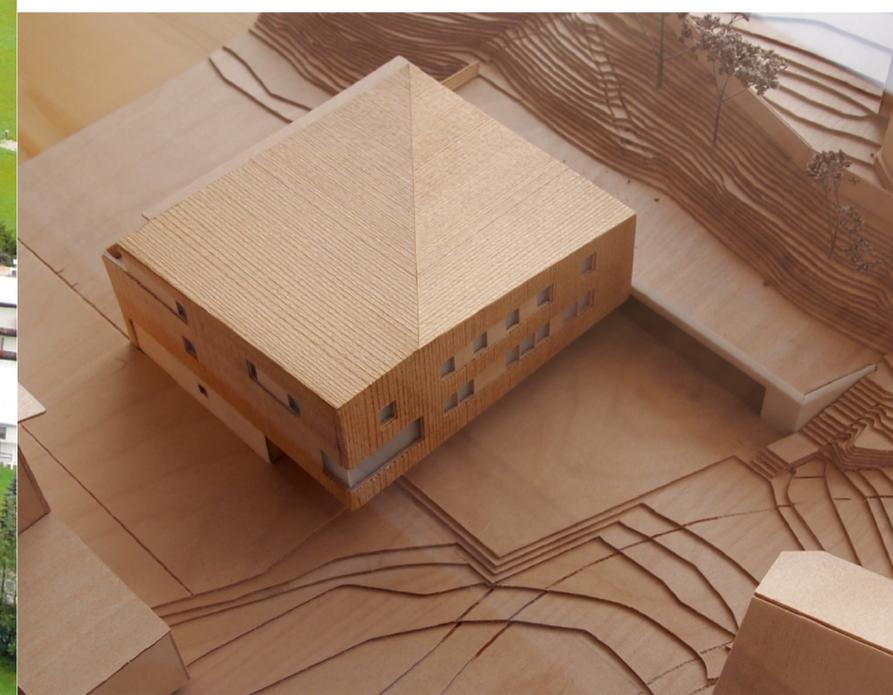
Danmark Hörsholm /
Residential cluster near Kopenhagen



4. In urbanism and architecture of rural areas, a profound transformation must be made: From a purely agrarian structure to a fully equipped infrastructure and living space. Regional architecture has a wide span ranging from high-quality cultural goods to trivial everyday buildings, in most cases without the involvement of professional architects.

4.1. Is the rural community capable and to manage this change?

Thesis: There is no other way than training and education. Modern construction technology is increasingly complex. Even discovering the qualities of historic buildings and applying them to restoration and or new construction has become a highly professional task. Planners have to develop a comprehensive graphic or even 3 dimensional language to get into dialogue with local people, craftsmen and firms. Animation and motivation is the indispensable point of departure towards enhanced Baukultur.





Vorarlberg / Krumbach /School of sight

4.2. What kind of support and help is needed or useful to improve the rural building culture?

Thesis:

It is a process of some different steps:

The first step is to develop the understanding and appreciation of the historical inventory.

„School of sight“

.To „read“ the cultural landscape.

Enhancing the general awareness of environmental issues simultaneously with children, youth and grown up people. Workshops, fun and some activities.

Building a bus stop all together. Have a party.

Inviting students of architecture for sketch design.

In this state „Dorferneuerung“ professional Architecture can remain in the background, primary it should be a democratic process, first step to a productive community.



Vienna / Parkdesign



China / Anhui / Summerschool Sketch design



Upper Austria / Haslach

4.3. Are guides and Handbooks helpful for non-professionals to avoid serious mistakes ?

Thesis:
Most of the buildings in the countryside are built by the owners themselves. The advertising of DIY stores has a large and usually confusing influence on the builders. In this situation, a clarifying guide is very useful.
Better is a consultation by an experienced person and the best is the cooperation with a qualified architect.



Switzerland / Urnäsch
Jury and advisory board



Austria/Vlbg./Walgau Residential buildings

4.4. Should general design regulations be used by the administration or should design advisory boards play a decisive role?

Thesis:

A regionalist architectural law administered by officials is not desirable.

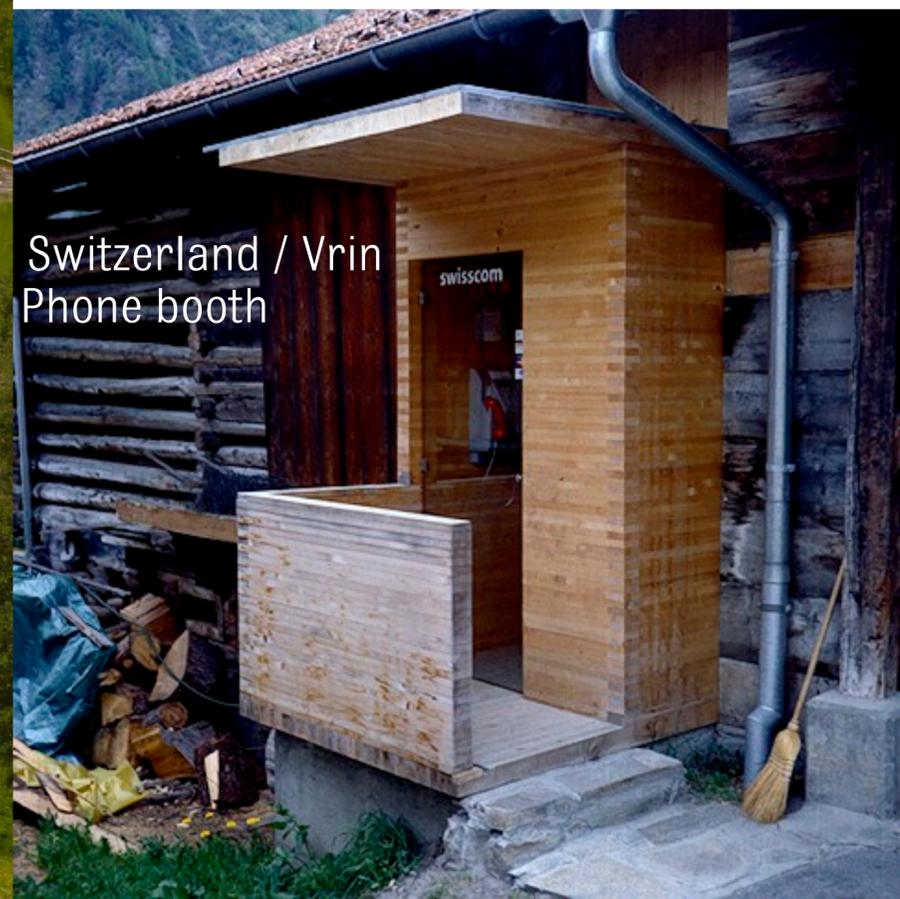
Especially if historic farmhouses have disappeared in a region but are still a mandatory model for new buildings.

Today's relationship of the living area to the surrounding open space is completely different from the historical peasant relationship.

Architecture and landscape must go together to a new kind of Synthesis, a contemporary harmonized cultural landscape of high environmental quality.

The basic structures of qualified vernacular architecture

The basic structures of qualified vernacular architecture were and are always meaningfully intertwined with the cultural landscape.



Switzerland / Vrin
Phone booth



Austria / Vlb. / Krumbach Bus stop 2013

5. Preserving the rural cultural landscape and biodiversity is an undisputed European goal. However, this goal is associated with less profits, more awareness and care.

5.1. Do we refer to the agrarian conditions of 1500, 1800, 1900 or 1950?

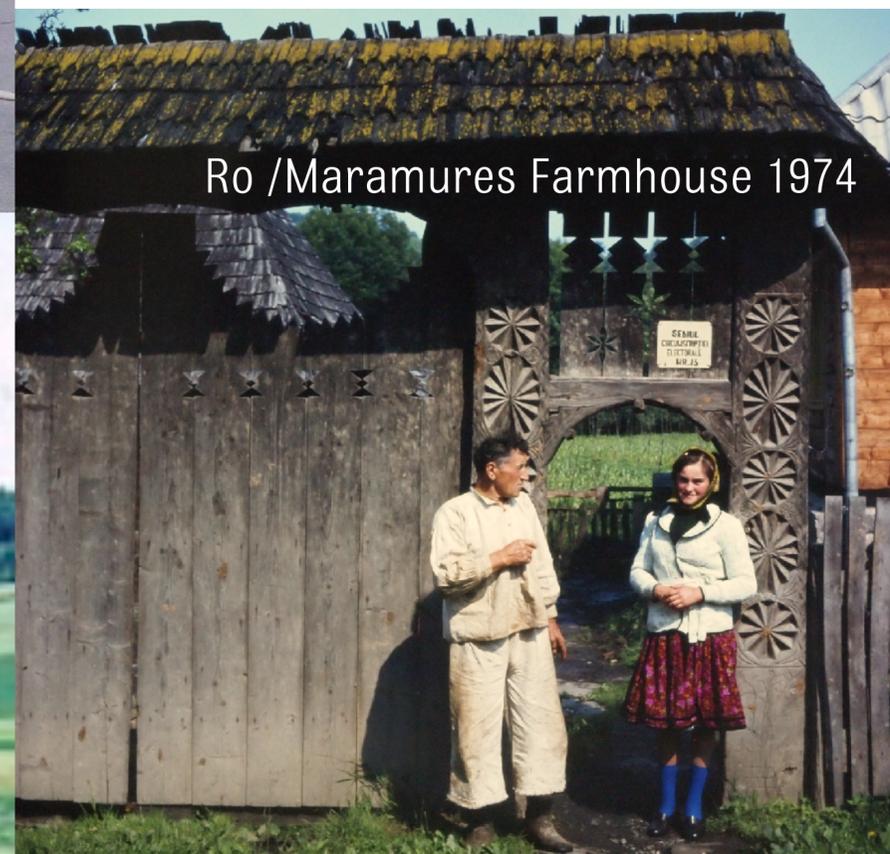
Thesis;
Nature conservation is quite easy, you just have to avoid all interventions, but mostly you want cultural landscape protection. First of all, you have to commit yourself to a certain epoch for the appropriate care and management activities.

Mostly the pre-industrial era around 1800 or the low-mechanized agriculture of 1900 gives the standards for rules of protection.

Based on the fact that today's as well as the future, sustainably managed cultural landscape will not be that of 1900, contemporary spatial concepts must be developed.



Austria / NÖ /Göllersdorf 1750



Ro /Maramures Farmhouse 1974

Thank you for attention and listening !

