

PARADISE LOST PARADISE FOUND

Globalisation and Sustainable Tourism

A multi-layered programme focusing on combining social, cultural, political and environmental research with local and international perspectives on the challenges and potentials of sustainable tourism in the global age

Proposal for collaborative enquiries

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

The question of sustainable tourism includes economic, social, cultural, political, environmental and aesthetic perspectives. This complex issue will be one of the most challenging topics for the near future and it is time to come up with alternatives in such an important field of economic growth. But developing an enduring solution for sustainable tourism is a challenge that has to be discussed not only in selected circles of experts but with a broad public. The question of sustainability is therefore not only applied to far off destinations in developing countries, but begins right on our doorstep.

This ANCB programme will stimulate a broad discourse about sustainable development in tourism. It will focus on different locations around the world and discuss local solutions with the potential to establish robust infrastructures for both permanent inhabitants and visitors. With a growing tourism industry worldwide, the programme looks at the ethical dimensions of tourism and how to deal with the challenge of sustainability in the age of global warming and the need for economic prospect in tourist destinations. Crucially, it addresses this normally abstract issue through the focus of architecture and urbanism whilst bringing into the debate a wide range of voices from the fields of governance, industry, technology, economy and travel.

The term ‘sustainability’ is adapted here to different global regions, taking into account the specific needs of the local population and the expectations of domestic and foreign visitors. Yet even with regional specifications, the final goal consistently remains directed towards social justice, economic development, environmental integrity, cultural authenticity, education and the improvement of infrastructure. This programme will use these criteria to generate fresh ideas and approaches and to instigate a rethinking of sustainable tourism in the global age.

TIME FRAME AND EVENTS SO FAR

Call for Submissions June 2014

Call for proposals, ideas, projects and papers looking at the subject of sustainable tourism from an architecture and planning perspective to kick-start the programme.

Mountains/Architecture/Tourism. Between South Tyrolean Alps and Tibetan Himalayas January 2015

Public debate on the occasion of the opening of the corresponding Aedes exhibitions comparing and contrasting approaches to spatial design for sustainable tourism in the Alps and the Himalayas and addressing crucial questions about tourist infrastructure and its impact on landscape, economy, culture and people's lives.

FRAMING THE ANCB PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

As an interdisciplinary cultural platform, ANCB does not focus solely on any single knowledge field. Instead it aims with each programme to bring together a range of different viewpoints and areas of expertise in order to stimulate a multi-faceted dialogue with an international outlook. Questions from each programme are framed within ANCB's ongoing 'urban challenges' to activate a broad-ranging exploration and understanding of the subject. Below are a range of starter questions on sustainable tourism.

MOBILITY

How are specific regions and the periphery accessible for tourists? What kind of alternative transport systems can be used to reach destinations in the hinterland without destroying the land? Should all places be accessible to tourists? What challenges exist in developing countries? How must existing infrastructure be updated for the needs of tourists? What can be learned from established examples in comparable situations? How can tourism increase social mobility and independence for women?

ACCOMMODATION

What strategies are appropriate to provide different types of accommodation for tourists beyond gated resorts or exclusive hotels? Is there a way to integrate tourist accommodation in an organic way into the existing urban or rural fabric? Can tourism be used as a strategy to upgrade local housing for the inhabitants? Can building typologies reduce the barriers and enhance social interaction between visitors and the visited?

SECURITY

In many places matters of security are used to justify gated resorts for tourists. How can security be improved for both tourists and locals? What spatial solutions or what kind of social interaction can help establish a lasting network of social stability? How can new infrastructures address the need for food security and the reliable supply of essential resources like water for both local and tourists in developing countries? With the increasing popularity of extreme tourism, including trips to slums and 'danger zones', how can this interest be used to invest in the areas and increase security for the population rather than exploit them?

RESILIENCE

The resilience of all measures related to tourism is a crucial issue. What happens to the local people, infrastructures and economic benefits in the event of a disaster (natural, political, social, economic)? How do tourism projects serve local communities in their daily lives? How can tourism infrastructure establish sustainable economies that aid survival in times of crisis?

RESOURCE CONSUMPTION

Most tourist destinations are based on natural or cultural attractions yet mass tourism often quickly destroys the basis for these visits. Therefore it is necessary to think about strategies for preserving and using the assets of a place in a sustainable manner. How can a balance be achieved between making natural resources available for appreciation by tourists and depleting them? How can tourist facilities provide comfort for visitors without consuming vast supplies of resources, particularly in areas with shortages?

ANCB FORMATS

Public Debates

Key figures from a range of disciplines take on questions within the framework of the programme, whether as single events or as a series of debates. Short and provocative presentations jumpstart the discussion between peers, involving a public audience.

Design Studios

University tutors and their students explore an urban challenge defined by the programme enquiry through case study sites. The studios are enriched with lectures and urban tours tailored to the specific topic.

Symposium and Workshop

Thematic focal points of the programme are brought together and reflected upon in a symposium. Defined questions are then drawn out as a basis for workshop proposals by advanced students and young professionals.

Publication and Archive

Results from all of the events are collated and summarised in the programme publication and as part of an ongoing, living archive on the ANCB website.

ABOUT ANCB

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory is a unique cultural and educational platform focusing on the future of our cities. Building upon three decades of expertise in the communication of architecture culture - through exhibiting and publishing the work of internationally acclaimed and pioneering architects and urban planners - Aedes Architecture Forum established, in 2009, an additional urban research and workshop programme - ANCB.

It is from these foundations that ANCB positions itself as the hub at the centre of an extensive international and interdisciplinary research network, based on a structure of cultural exchange and knowledge transfer. ANCB is uniquely placed to bring together key figures from different fields to debate the most pertinent urban questions of international concern and to search for new potential to improve global urban living conditions. Through interdisciplinary idea exchanges and workshops with international university partners, ANCB brings together social, cultural and technical research with governance processes, industry products and the proposals of the urban design and planning professions, generating the cross-sector collaborations necessary to offer innovative insights, positions and visions.