

Recovery of Public Spaces

“Estonoesunsolar” program for Zaragoza City



In the frame of **Rehabilitation of Urban Heritage in the Cities of Iraq** Project funded by the DAAD, part of activities between the Middle East Cooperation Unit- in Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU), The University Baghdad, and the University of Sulaimani, we are pleased to invite you to this online lecture.

The Lecture: Contemporary cities present a wide variety of unresolved issues, as shown by the many different abandoned plots in the urban fabric. This situation has been taken advantage of by the inhabitants of Zaragoza as an OPPORTUNITY to intervene directly in the city. The “Estonoesunsolar” programme of Zaragoza City Council commits to the recovery of PUBLIC SPACE as the backbone of today’s city through the OCCUPATION OF PLOTS OF LAND for transient public use. “Estonoesunsolar” started with temporary interventions in abandoned plots in the city’s historical quarter of public and private ownership. Later, given their great success, they spread to the rest of the city. The programme offered a quick answer to the needs of each neighbourhood, analysing the socio-economic conditions, amenities and green spaces that already exist, as well as the deficiencies of each area. Social cohesion is favoured through citizen participation processes. At the same time, many different cultural and educational activities have been carried out that emphasise the value of the interventions, inviting citizens to experience these spaces.

Work has always been carried out providing flexible, sustainable solutions, which can be transformed in time, considering that one of the essential aspects of a living city is its inhabitants’ capacity to share experiences.

Prof. Patrizia Di Monte. is an Architect by IUAV, Venice. Mibact fellowship for a Masters and PhD at ETSAB. In 1998 she founded with Ignacio Grávalos Lacambra “Grávalos-Di Monte arquitectos” in Zaragoza (Spain). They have promoted and implemented the “ESTONOESUNSOLAR” program which transformed abandoned voids into public spaces, including over 40 urban interventions. Awarded by Eurocity 2011, Urban Innovation and Quality 2010, SAIE Selection, Il Biennale Spazio Pubblico 2013, Living Labs Global Award 2013, their works are internationally published in architectural magazines. Invited Architects to the Venice Biennale, Italian Pavilion, Taking care in 2016, Arcipelago Italia in 2018, to collective exhibitions of the NAI in Rotterdam, Daz in Berlin, Maxxi in Rome, Ministerio de Cultura and BEAU, Madrid, the Citee de l’Architecture in Paris. Currently. Visiting Professor in several international universities and currently project partner of gE.Co, research program funded by EU, Horizon 2020.

