

RES DERELICTA - From abandoned to emblematic places
Vincenzo Casali | Harald Gsaller | Armando Lulaj | Built Event
September 11th – October 12th 2008

With the kind collaboration of:

KAM - Centre of Mediterranean Architecture, Chania, Crete, Greece

University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece

Vitra Design Foundation, Birsfelden, Switzerland

Opening:

Wednesday, September 10th, at 18.30

Presentation of the special project by Vincenzo Casali

Behind my back Vitra Headquarters by F.O. Gehry

Thursday, Sept. 11th at 18.30 - Campo Sant'Agnes (Venice)

Res derelicta in the Roman law meant the state of abandonment of goods and things of which you may regain possession by *occupatio*. Here it is a metaphor for considering the fringe areas, and for thinking about that which is left over from all rational territorial planning and production processes. Thus, it is a metaphor aiming to show how our society is characterised by its incredible ability to producing scraps, relics, waste, making abandonment into a widespread and ubiquitous condition. Environment/dump, consumption/waste, use/disuse: among *res derelictae* you can find not just the negative aspect of our society, but also other possibilities.

Art is a research that actually seizes this potentiality, these possible further meanings and knows how to develop them into new ways of participation and communication. Thus abandonment and the emblematic meet in spaces and practices that are experimental and ductile, as well as paradigmatic. An oil barrel rolls through the streets of New York and Rome, reflecting the faint and unsteady image of the city; a desert island in the Sporades archipelago becomes the setting for the re-enactment of possible narrations; a philosopher thinks back to the places and stages of his education, whilst short descriptions reveal unusual urban views; an ancient Italian park is emblematically caught in its total state of neglect.

Armando Lulaj, the **Built Event** team (coordinated by **Aristide Antonas** and **Filippos Oreopoulos**), **Vincenzo Casali** and **Harald Gsaller** present a journey through places and things, opening up new points of view on the role of art, the processes of individual and collective transformation and on the condition of the spaces we live in.

The project is part of a wider initiative by Galleria Contemporaneo, the Vitra Design Foundation, the ISR-Spazio Culturale Svizzero in Venice and the Venice Academy of Fine Arts that consists of an exhibition, *Building Vitra – New Projects* (September 12-30, 2008 at Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi, Dorsoduro Venice), and of a conference with Jacques Herzog - Herzog & De Meuron (September 12th - 11.00am at Aula Magna, Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, Ex Ospedale degli Incurabili, Dorsoduro - Venice).

For further information and press pack, please contact:
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