Workshop summary: Water as hazard and water as heritage

Maria Bostenaru-Dan

"Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest, Romania (Maria.Bostenaru-Dan@alumni.uni-karlsruhe.de)

Rationale:
In a changing climate, hydrological and meteorological hazards related to water provoke more and more losses. Water courses are also causing other types of hazards, as alluvionar soil deposits are raising vulnerability to earthquakes through the Mexico City effect. On the other hand, water itself is a vulnerable habitat. To deal with the later, living museums including acquaria are planned, to raise awareness to protect the ecological diversity of water and water sites. Protecting water sites can be, at times, also protection against water related hazards, as landscape architecture begun to recognise recently. Floodplains are an alternative to dams and dikes. This would be already enough to underline water as dual element, but the duality goes futher. Having to think about duality, we think of Chinese philosophy. Water (or the lack of it, as in drought) destroys life as a hazard, but gives life as well. To this symbology of giving life is connected to role of water as heritage, to building culture next to the water. Architecture of river and coastalscapes underline this. Leisure architecture is connected to this, and includes also architectural objects such as bathes.

Workshop
I was a two day workshop, first day presentations and second day study tours. The morning session included introduction of the topic and then in chronological order approaches from archaeology of water sites, Ottoman time, and late 19th century. The Ottoman time approach was connected to an initiative shown in the introduction, from riverbed to seashore. The 19th century presentation was on the villa Gamberaia, a villa of a Romanian princess in Italy, featured on the poster of the workshop. In the 1966 floods in Florence which have an anniversary this year it was used as a symbol to maintain the positive significance of water. Places in the villa garden also make reference to hazards, as the earthquake shaped water fountain behind.

The second part of presentations featured the modern time: the water challenges of Venice and Copenhagen, reconstruction after man-made hazards (war) in Beirut and Belgrade, and then technical presentations on meteorology and smart cities and natural hazards.

In the afternoon the poster session was held, in frame of the exhibition of fellows in Rome. This included a work of a fellow for flood resilient San Francisco harbour, but also geology issues of Romania. Some of the talks were also acompanied by posters. Another issues discussed was water scarcity and drought. In the exhibition the organiser had an art piece showing water reflection.

After the poster visit a book launch of the convener of the workshop with Cerasella Craciun, Space and time visualization published in 2016 by Springer International in the geography series took place. Some of the authors were present. It also built a welcome transition to the introduction to the museum visit on the next day, the Etruscan museum villa Giulia where the workshop took place, to a project showing the virtual model of Tiber valley in antiquity. Ciprian Buzila drew the conclusions and conducted the study tours next day, among others to thermal bathes.

Detailed information on the workshop, including some of the abstracts, is available at https://sites.google.com/site/egutopicalevent/home

Conclusions
The workshop featured participation from Romania, Italy, the USA and UK. Numerous disciplines were present and we made a contribution to science and the arts.