

Fig. 10 - The Mediterranean is an area of high seismic activity. Its vernacular architecture has a wide variety of aspects due to the specific economic and historical contexts plus their resources available etc. However, it often contains elements which have an obvious aseismic function (from the catalogues of the examples of local aseismic technologies of the Southern Alps, France, Lefkas, Greece and S.Lorenzello, Italy).

### At what stage is the project?

The research project stemmed from a meeting in 1987 which defined the theoretical and methodological foundations.

Following this, scientific hypotheses and methodological protocols were experimented in five case studies (in Italy - Paestum, Calitri, S.Lorenzello; in Greece - Lefkas; in France - the Southern Alps). Two new case studies will begin in 1993 (Vernègue in France and Santorini in Greece). Further tests to complement this work were also carried out (in Italy - Ceppaloni, Friuli; in Columbia - Popayan) (Fig.11).

During a convention held in Lisbon in 1992 an important component of LSC was analysed i.e. the response of the authorities to seismic hazards.

To encourage further research and intervention programmes two intensive training courses were set up which were attended by 39 researchers from 9 different countries.

Five books were published (in four languages) as well as four posters (in three languages) and an addition to the fourth edition of STOP DISASTERS (on aseismic prevention measures). A few monographs were also published. Five booklets on specific sites (Cerreto Sannita and Noto) and one on a particular building technique ("Stone and Wood: Allies against Earthquakes") are presently underway and will be published in October 1993.

Five years after it was set up the LSC project can now count on a permanent network of experts in a variety of fields (architects, town-planners, volcanologists, seismologists, geologists, archaeologists, geographers and historians who work in scientific institutions in Greece, France, Italy and Portugal).

### Is the Atlas to be a new map?

A previous identification of the sites where it is highly likely to find traces of seismic culture and the positive protocol test to identify it, has enabled the Ravello Centre to launch a plurennial action/research programme which aims to produce an "ATLAS OF LOCAL SEISMIC CULTURES".

The ATLAS will include thematic maps as well as catalogues of aseismic techniques. However, it will not just be a specialist publication but instead will be a programme of co-ordinated activities based on:

- \* Case studies to continuously test hypotheses and procedures; these will gradually be collected together to make thematic maps and catalogues to feed back the research results to the local community.
- \* Training of co-ordinators to conduct a multi-disciplinary action/research programme with the active participation of all local agents.
- \* Training of specialists in all the relevant disciplines (architects, engineers, seismologists, archaeologists, geographers and historians) so they can make use of their specific know-how to discover and up-date LSC.
- \* Production and distribution of thematic monographs which document traditional aseismic techniques (booklets for the Atlas)
- \* Production and distribution of the "protocols" for re-discovering and re-evaluating LSC.
- \* Production and distribution of written material to back up the field action (posters, manuals and catalogues).

THE RESEARCH FOR LOCAL SEISMIC CULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

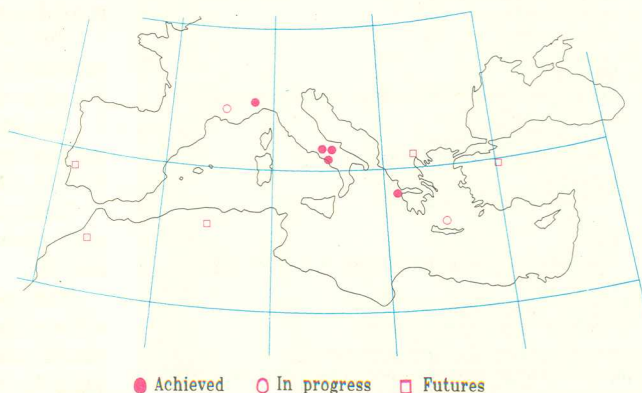


Fig. 11 - Case studies (present and future)

# ATLAS (OF LOCAL SEISMIC CULTURES) PROJECT

- ACTION-RESEARCHES (AR): IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA  
IN THE OTHER SEISMIC REGIONS
- TRAINING
- DIFFUSION OF PROTOCOLS

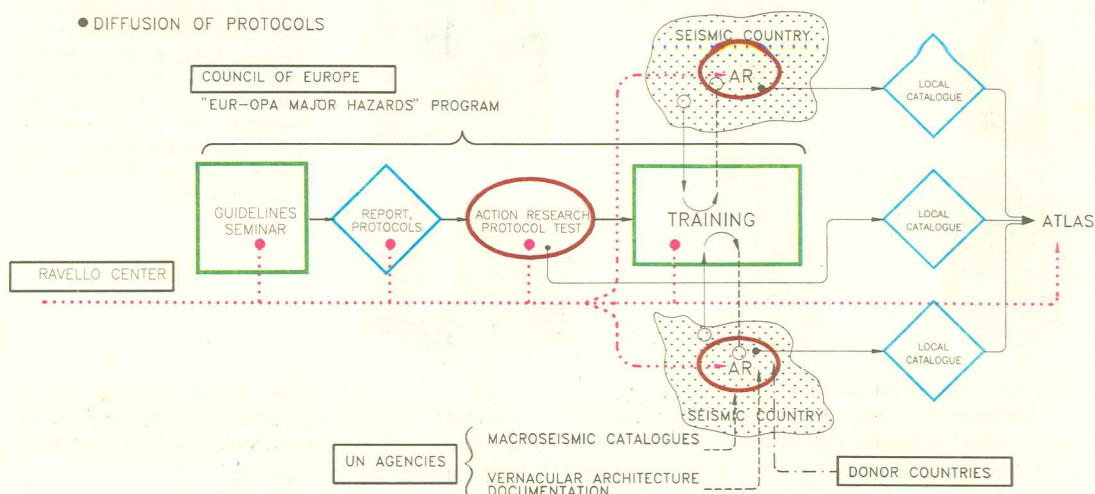


Fig. 12 - The Atlas programme includes seminars, action/research projects, the training of co-ordinators and specialists, new action/research projects in their country of origin, the systematic and continuous of local catalogues. The production of macroseismic catalogues and monographs on the Vernacular Architecture of Major Seismic Areas is by way of introduction.

## How the programme can be carried out

The ATLAS programme is certainly a very ambitious one. A case study requires between 4-6 months of work of a specialist team of 5-7 people. It is obvious that the Ravello Centre can carry out no more than one or two programmes per year and these would strictly concern the Mediterranean basin. Then, if the action is to have any effect on the local situation, the community living in the area must be actively encouraged to participate. On the other hand, scientific tools and methods can be usefully applied to contexts other than those for which they were originally tested.

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Written and edited by  
F. Ferrigni, B. Helly, A. Rideaud  
along with the collaboration of M. Valiante.  
Translated by  
Philip Gorman (A.I.T. Naples, Italy)  
Produced by  
C.I.R.I.  
(International Centre for Research/Interventions) Naples, Italy.*

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Villa Rufolo, Ravello, ITALY.  
Tel: (39.89) 85 76 69; Fax: (39.89) 85 77 11.

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In order to completely fulfill its potential, the programme should be planned as follows: (fig.12)

- \* a limited number of case studies carried out directly by the EUCCH;
- \* Intensive training courses for co-ordinators and specialists from seismic countries (organised by the EUCCH within the context of the Programme of the Council of Europe entitled "EUR-OPA Risques Majeurs", with the full support of the Italian institutions.
- \* Case studies organised in the areas the participants come from (along with their involvement) which have the full methodological support of the EUCCH and the scientific contribution of major international agencies. (In developing countries the re-evaluation of LSC may be included in co-operation programmes in the health, development and urban re-habilitation.
- \* The booklets written by researchers and produced and published by the EUCCH deal with sites or specific topics (for use as suggested case studies).
- \* The support material produced by the EUCCH is edited and distributed by International Agencies and Programmes (IDNDR, OMS).

Starting from the next intensive course (in October 1993) study grants will be available to researchers selected by IDNDR.

From now on, the Centre's newsletter (Ravello News) will be willing to circulate article abstracts, essays and other material relating to cases of traditional aseismic techniques and/or the re-discovery and re-evaluation of LSC.