

SHIFTING PARADIGMS : culture and heritage in a key role for sustainable development

Our group of experts in architecture and urban planning advised the French government to prepare the Habitat III conference. We drafted a statement with six goals:

- 1/ promote strong integrated planning strategy to prevent land speculation and stop the accumulation of projects disconnected from one to another.
- 2/ encourage synergies and enhance their complementarity among metropolitan areas, small cities and countryside.
- 3/ reconcile and balance "participation of inhabitants" and the need for a "city government".
- 4/ pay close attention to local cultures diversity, when studying environmental problems.
- 5/ enhance a dialogue between urban planner technical language and the usual language of inhabitants.
- 6/ place culture and heritage at the heart of the reflection on sustainable development.

All around the world, one of the to day priority is to drive different cultures to live together in peace. Rehabilitated heritage places are mostly places of **urbanity, conviviality in a human scale**, even industrial sites with XXth century factories.

Is it because rehabilitation, total or partial, gives roots to the projects, because it links the past, to the future? Could it be the way to think differently the city of tomorrow? It might be, but, as mentioned in the title, we will have to shift paradigm first.