

NETWORK OF EMBLEMATIC MEDITERRANEAN MOUNTAINS

Definition of criteria

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Definition of the term “Emblem”



.....a visible object or representation that symbolizes a quality, type, group, etc, esp the concrete symbol of an abstract idea....
(Collins English dictionary)

Etymology: 15th Century: from Latin *lat. emblema*, raised decoration, mosaic, from Greek, gr. ἔμβλημα literally: something inserted, from *emballein* to insert, from *ballein* to throw

Concrete symbol of an abstract idea



The mountain has long been associated with symbolic representations that changed in function of the time and culture.

The same geometric shape of the mountain, this triangle jutting upward, has been interpreted symbolically, from the most ancient cultures, as a “meeting place” between the human and the divine

The time, the culture and the mountain “raison d'etre”



The iconography of the "high ground" in the ancient and medieval world gives us a magical image

From time immemorial, the tops of the mountains were represented in the form of places of deity or demonic presences. Because of their sacred value, the peaks were spaces forbidden to man, places to avoid because they were protected by prohibitions and cultural taboos.

Mountain as “horrific” place in the summit and place of fatigue in the middle lands



The example of the crosses

The Christianization of our Alpine valleys, slower than the evangelization of the city, has left traces of magical thinking in the mountain community.

Among these, “interdiction” in access to the peaks.

The penetration of Christian symbols gradually affect rural societies of the Alps formed by farmers and shepherds, but will cover the areas of social life. Votive pillars, and crosses begin to draw the landscapes of mountains inhabited and lived



The example of the crosses

The image of a mountain purifying the spirit, mind and body is most recent.

The crosses scattered throughout the “mountain median area” are an integral part of the cultural landscape to this day

Conversely, crosses on peaks are mainly the result of the attendance of the mountain that began with the affirmation of another vision of the “romantic era” and of the need to escape from urban life

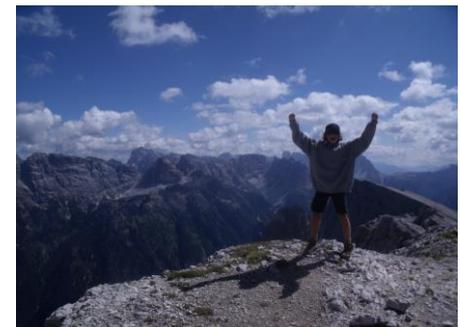


Several possible “universe”

Give an emblematic dimension to a mountain means giving “voice” to it, speaking not only of naturism, biodiversity, geomorphic, environmental and climatic characteristics but also of the aspect of spiritual nature and all the reasons that led the man to deal with the mountain (including mountain climbing and wars)

Place that represents several possible "universes":

- Spiritual place
- historic place,
- anthropic place
- symbolic place of escape and abstraction
- place of freedom

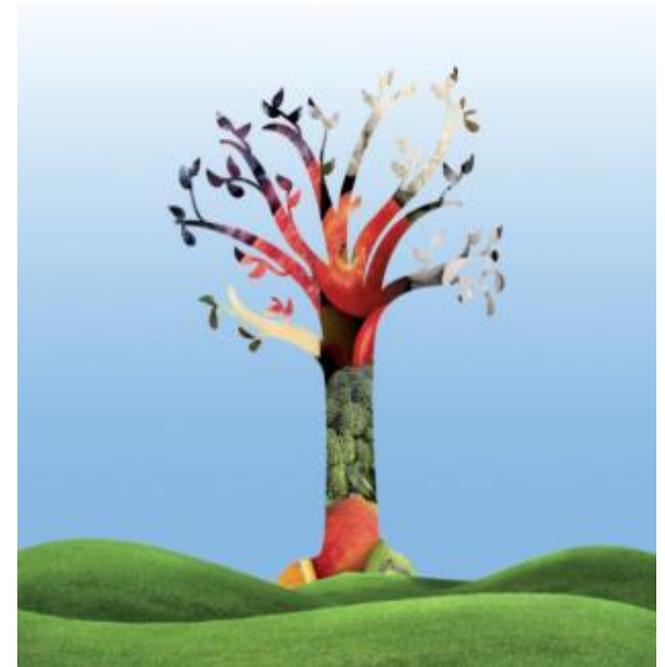


Symbolic language rich in meaning

Each mountain has to “re-think” its history

Keywords and images that can express the symbolism of a mountain are numerous but could be reduced if they are related to the local and cultural context.

Emblematic words need to find their roots in the specificity of the places, that should be open to new opportunity but also able to redesign and interpret it self as places rich in collective memory and individuality for a “true emotional sharing”



Thanks for the attention

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