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Mediterranean Morphologies in Hot Summer Conditions: Learning from France’s “Glorious Thirty” Holiday Housing

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ABSTRACT



Climate change and rising temperatures lead to an air-conditioning proliferation in the summertime of the Mediterranean regions. This study links urban morphology to the microclimate. It claims that a lesson can be drawn from holiday housing morphologies designed with an additive approach during the “Glorious Thirty” French coastal development (1946-75). It is based on a morphological analysis of four case studies, with on the one hand re-drawing and site visiting, on the other hand, assessment of environmental performance through key parameters: Absolute Rugosity, Compactness Ratio, Building Density, Mineralization, Sky View Factor (SVF) and Height/Width (H/W) Ratio. Compared to literature reference values of a traditional courtyard morphology, the case studies are less compact and with a lower H/W Ratio (higher SVF), but they are less mineral than a historic medieval city centre. This research contributes to the search for semi-collective alternatives (for example additive morphologies) to individual housing in peri-urban areas, with high environmental performance in the summertime.

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1. Introduction

The “Glorious Thirty” - 1946 to 1975, a depiction of the thirty years of economic boom and the beginning of paid holidays for everyone denotes when mass tourism was born, consequently providing a huge demand for holiday housing on the Mediterranean coast. It is a period of great excitement and experimentation leading to a “new”

architecture occasioned by new technologies such as reinforced concrete, and by a reaction to the Modern Movement, the CIAM (Congrès International d'Architecture Moderne) and its

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