

Today me, as national contact and representative of Armenia have the second opportunity to present you the country and 2 possible places in different parts of the Armenia where we think it will be very interesting to realize the camp.

Regarding to last NC meeting in Bergun when we discussed that can we have enough participants ready to pay the travel costs to get there, your draft approve was the start point for me and our team.

As you see, Armenia is the one of the eastest points of Europe. In this moments the eastest country which is a member of EASA family. (I hope after few years we'll have Azerbaijan with us and then we'll pass our status to our neighbors).

Armenia is a landlocked country, lacking a seacoast or a port. It is usually considered to be technically part of Asia, however as it also has much in common with Europe, it is sometimes clamed to fall within that continent. It is located between the Black and the Caspian Seas, border on the north Georgia and Azerbaijan, and on the south and west by Iran and Turkey.

Armenia has about 3 million populations and the half of them lives in capital city Yerevan, from where I'm. Armenia's economy is in better situation than five years ago and there is no any political problems now. We've only one architectural school which I'm representing now.

Armenia first emerged into history around 800 BC as part of the Kingdom of Urartu or Van, which flourished in the Caucasus and eastern Asia Minor until 600. The first Armenian state was founded in 190 BC. At its zenith, from 95 to 65 BC, Armenia extended its rule over the entire Caucasus and the area that is now eastern Turkey, Syria and Lebanon. For a time, Armenia was the strongest state in the Roman East. It became part of the Roman Empire in 64 BC and adopted a Western political, philosophical, and religious orientation. In 301 AD, Armenia became the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion, establishing a church that still exists independently of both the Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox churches. During its later political eclipses, Armenia depended on the church to preserve and protect its unique identity. From around 1100 to 1350, the focus of Armenian nationalism moved south, as the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, which had close ties to European Crusader states, flourished in southeastern Asia Minor until conquered by Muslim states. Between the 4th and 19th centuries, Armenia was conquered and ruled by, among others, Persians, Byzantines, Arabs, Mongols, and Turks. For a brief period from 1918 to 1920, it was an independent republic. In late 1920, the communists came to power following an invasion of Armenia by the Red Army, and in 1922, Armenia became part of the Trans-Caucasian Soviet Socialist Republic. Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union on September 21, 1991. Armenia is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Nations, the Council of Europe... and now the process of being member of European Unions is on the first stage.

If you haven't any questions regarding this brief info about my country let me to continue.

The them of EASA summer camp will be: *east>west west>east*

Understandings of visible and invisible borders: Europe as whole transforms and changes during the time. West reaches east and the cultural differences are mainly erased in the every day life, keeping the traditions as symbolic memories. Religion as another cultural understanding separates civilizations enabling their independent existence. It can be said that east has been left "untouched" because of less influence of "western civilization" and now, having kept its identity actually becomes something exotic.

These understandings have greatly changed or rather transformed during the whole human history. As you already saw in detailed presentation of Armenia being located now in the far Eastern part of the today's "Political Europe" and being surrounded mainly with Muslim culture it is in fact carrier of Christian culture and character.

It is very important that we come to a common understanding that apart from contradiction and dialogue that we see between east and west in classical understanding of these categories, Europe itself is also very diverse and means not only an economic place to live, but it is a social and cultural "stage" as well. Especially for architecture, being "absolutely visible" side of the culture it is in fact an issue: try to develop our "European feeling" based on the rule of saving our national values and of course after all enrich the European culture.

We hope that during we'll have opportunities to talk about all things above mentioned and have some workshops to solve this cultural transformations. For that reason we keep the last years lecture marathon idea and we hope that we'll have international guest lectors. We'll work on it.

The 2 possible places where we suggest realizing the EASA 2007 camp. We've chosen this two from suggested 10 versions. The final decision making was very difficult for us, and the difference between planned budgets is the reason of presenting you two different locations

As you'll say the difference between this two location is really big. One of them is in the existing civil village, other one is in mountains and no any minimal requirements for human living.

So the first one is Sanahin village, near the Georgian border in northern part of Armenia. The Sanahin village is the medieval village is around the Sanahin Monastery Complex (10th century). The village is built on the top of plateau. Beside of that plateau is the river Debet on of the biggest rivers of Armenia. At end of 18th century near that river, founded copper mines and few French companies were started to work on that mines. Later before Soviet times the first communistic acts and strikes were organized here, and from here the Red army started to "liberate" Armenia. During Soviet times they built bigger factories and new city. And the industrial city "ate" old village. Now we have old church complex in the neighborhood of sovietic typical building that we can see all around eastern Europe and CIS countries.

Now in the central square of this village we've hotel and cultural hall. We're planning to close the square and make a big workshop area. We can sleep in hotel (which is out of order, but we can renovate it as we want), or in nearest open space under the tents. The cultural hall and the nearest school we can use for eating, working and lectures.

The second one is locates in eastern part of Armenia and this is one of the eastest points of Armenia, so it means the east-west summer camp we're doing in the eastest point of EASA Zone.

Khndzoresk is very old village. Until 1970's people were used to stay in their houses, which were underground partly. Some of the rooms of their houses were in caves. Later government decided that the citizens of the Soviet Union can't leave in caves so they took their houses (including stone and etc.) and built them in new location. Few structures were standing there now.

The idea of organizing the camp in this site is to rebuild this village as it was, or give life to this zone for two weeks. We can stay in caves or in flat parts we can make our environment as we did in "La Condition Publique" at 2004. But this time "our environment" will stay here and attract tourists. I think this is really good idea to organize camp here and just imagine you're writing e-mail to your family or friends from cave number 34 using wireless internet.

In this moment there is an restaurant which we'll use as kitchen and using big tents we'll have a big eating place. Regarding our main complain in Bergun was weather. We'll prepare the new school for case of emergency to have all of under the roof. The toilets and other utilities we'll be arranged. The foundation that is ready to be our sponsor is the sponsor of an solar energy research project so they are ready to give free hot water.

I hope we'll find enough funds to cover all required expenses and host all of you in Old Khndzoresk: EASA Village.

Draft agenda

Day 0: Accommodation ACCEA in center of Yerevan, Opening ceremony, Official part, Party

Day 1: Buses will take participants from ACCEA to camp, Stops near architectural monuments, Camp preparation, Party

Day 2: EASA Village preparation and guided tours in camp site

Day 3-4: *Lectures, Discussions*

Day 5: Workshop presentations, *Lectures*

Day 6-8: Workshops

Day 9: Day off, Tours around>>>

Day 10-13: Workshops

Day 14: Workshop presentation, *Closing ceremony*

Day 15: *We are done!!! Back way>>>* ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Because of expensive travel costs we offer
FREE Visa on border to all

FREE DRINKS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!!! ☺ ☺ ☺
FREE transportation from Yerevan to camp and back
FREE accommodation from Airport to ACCEA centre

Guided tours for first day in Yerevan
Computer lab connected to internet including color laser printer-station
Wireless internet connection (also in caves!!!)
Car rental in camp area
Daily cheap guided tours for traveling around Armenia

Budget

Version No. 1: Sanahin	~80.000 Euro
Version No. 2:Khndzorsek	~100.000 Euro

Incomes

Participation fees	~50.000 Euro
Extra funds	~23.000 Euro

All Armenian Youth Foundation	~15.000 Euro
A Foundation	~8.000 Euro

Main organaizers: Sarhat Petrossian, Nanar Kalantaryan

Organizational team: up to 60 students

Supporters:

All Armenian Youth Foundation, *with patronage of President of Armenia*

Ministry of culture and youth, *Vice minister Mrs. Lilit Asatryan*

Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction

Architect's Union of Armenia

Local Municipalities