

This Eco village and sustainable could start in 2015

Rui Vasques created an auto-sufficient community model, designed to change mentalities and save resources. This pilot project “Eco-Village Community” should start in 2015, in the center region, with a “low-cost” budget.

A sustainable and ecological community – using recycled raw materials and natural and local resources – aiming to educate and change mentalities is what Rui Vasques strives to construct in Portugal. The designer of 26 years old designed the “Eco-Village Community”, which is soon passing from “conceptual model” to reality.

The idea came up during his master degree in Design and Industrial Production, in the Visual Arts, Design and Marketing Institution (IADE), still in 2012. Rui was born in Brazil and developed an interest for the global society's problems, and decided to search ways to integrate “the old knowledge and design and technology of today” into sustainable solutions. The Master’s thesis, entitled as “Eco-Village Community”, was evaluated with 20 points.

In Coja, near Arganil, Rui got a terrain where he will implement a mini eco-village, always with the motto “do more with less”. Ideally, the community will have “camping space and various single bungalows”, in a business model still defining with no more than 20 structures. Turning to tourism, this project may come to welcome “an open-air museum and a therapies and events space”. All built in turn of one center, where all community members must converge, and which project should start in 2015. “One of the best clays in Portugal and Iberian Peninsula is from the region”, says. As the constructions of small dimension are ready to be tested, there will be many “various mix” of this clay. The people’s reaction has been good, they like because they feel inspired by the connection with nature, the evolution and the field”.

IMAGE DESCRIPITON: Rui Vasques has 26 years old and lives in Carcavelos DR.

There are three principles, that for Rui are fundamental: “the local construction, the auto-sufficient energy and the local resources production”. “Of course, there are locals where it isn’t possible to have all resources”, admits, with P3 interview, but the objective is to be as little dependent as possible. This sustainable and community village must “use ancestral construction techniques, of land or stone”, ideally with local resources. “The ‘super adobe’, or compact soil bags, was the construction typology that I found to be resistant, cheap and innovative, adaptable for any part of the world”, says.

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: This house, build in Andanças Festival during 2014, didn't exceed the 300 euros of construction. Live with Earth.

In terms of local production, Rui bets in biological agriculture and renewable energy. Everything to “start closing the orgânico materials cycles”: compostable, permaculture and hydroponics are some of the techniques that can be used, besides biomass production, local water treatment and rain waters.

To be able to concretize the project, already registered, this young man wants to create a non-governmental organization for the sustainable development (ONGD) that could establish partnerships and be successful in the community development.

In the last August, together with Ricardo Fernandes, the Association Green Concentration – Ginjões de Baixo (Rui's project partnership), Rui was invited though the Andanças Festival organization, to build “ a natural house” [see vídeo on the side]. Taking advantage to test the model and use various techniques and materials “such as tires, bales of straw, trunks of wood and earth, bottles and paints with natural pigments”. In the end the budget of the “eco-house” didn't exceed the 300 euros.

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