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## **Invitation to Students of architecture and landscape architecture to participate in the proposal for the enhancement / redevelopment of Kaštela, Croatia.**

### **SEVEN PEARLS OF KAŠTELA - FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT**

The beautiful Adriatic sea, somewhere in the middle of it's Croatian coast, sneaked in between the island of Ciovo and the peninsula of Marijan, at the bottom of mountain Kozjak, forming the bay of Kaštela, positioned in the sun's traveling path. The area between Kozjak and the sea, with its beauty, mildness and fertility has always attracted people. To the prehistoric man it gave shelter; centuries ago it was covered with villas and planted with Mediterranean plants like vines and olives. The barbarians devastated it in the early middle ages. The Croats settled here in the seventh century and created here the center of their state. Here they converted to Christianity and built their settlements along the slopes of the Kozjak mountain. During the war with Turks they moved from the mountain villages towards fortifications erected by royals along the coast, in order to protect themselves and their peasants. Thus, 500 years ago there was a significant development of some twenty castles, fortifications, of which nowadays only seven are preserved. Around them settlements were sprouting to finally merge together into the town of Kaštela. Seven little stone pearls in one shell.

The magic number 7 will always remain the symbol of richness and variety of the town.





### KAŠTEL ŠTAFILIĆ



The fortification with the yard, today known as the tower Rotonda, was built in 1508 by Stjepan Stafileo on a rock embedded in the sea, as protection against the Turks. He had a grape (Greek) carved into his seal. Next to the castle a fortified village was established, surrounded by a channel and a moveable bridge with protection towers, of which one is still preserved in it's original form. People from the area of Bijaci settled here.

### KAŠTEL NOVI



**Pavao-Antun Cipiko**, royalty from Trogir, build in 1512 a fortified summer palace with slanting ground floor walls and next to it a settlement for the peasants from Kozjak villages, the largest of which was the one surrounding the church of Lady of Stomorije. The castle gives an impression of a stronghold, but the decorated balconies and windows point to it's comfortable, homely purpose.

### KAŠTEL STARI



**Koriolan Cipiko**, from a famous family of Trogir, a commander in the Levant wars, about which he also wrote, was the first to build a castle in the sea for protection from intruders. He built a castle which was a combination of fortress and a palace. It was separated from the coast by a channel and connected to it with a moveable bridge (brvno); thus the name, castle Brce (brvce). Beneath it's walls people from Radun and from Svecurje settled, while in the vacated place a typical old Croat church, the church of St. Juraj, remained.



## KAŠTEL LUKŠIĆ



**The Brothers Vitturi**, royals from Trogir, build a very beautiful castle in 1564 for their families and as protection for their peasants who were more and more often attacked by Turks in their village Ostrog on the Balovan bridge. The northern side with two towers and the slanting ground floor walls, joined with the mainland by a moveable bridge has a particularly defensive appearance. The southern side has a balcony and an emergency exit towards the sea. The expansive yard of the palace is separated by a hall and galleries on the southern side. This castle, known locally as Dobrila's, is closely associated with the nearby Miljenko's castle through a legend about a tender, tragic love.

## KAŠTEL KAMBELOVAC



**The brothers Cambi from Split** built in 1517 a deterrent castle on a small rock in the sea in order to protect themselves and the inhabitants from the nearby villages Lazani and Krusevik, situated below the Kozjak mountain. There were numerous smaller fortifications, but the best preserved one is this castle with a specific cylindrical form which eased the defenders' activities. In its vicinity there is also the preserved village gate.

## KAŠTEL GOMILICA



**In 1529 the Benedictine sisters** built this fortification (Kaštel) on a sea reef called Gomilica. The castle's entrance was protected by a tower erected above a stone bridge permeated with arcades. At the entrance there was a moveable wooden bridge. Between the walls of this castle inhabitants from Gornje and Donje Kozice moved in a settled down after the Turks destroyed their villages. Maybe the sisters planted also the 7 centuries old Medunac oak at the church of St. Kuzma and Damjan, one of the oldest churches in Kaštela.

## KAŠTEL SUĆURAC



**The first safeguarding tower** on the shore was built by the archbishop Andrija Gualdo in 1392 on a stone hillside in today's Kaštel Sućurac. With several subsequent modifications the fortification was expanded, especially in 1488 when archbishop Bartul Averaldo built his summer palace next to the already existing Kastilac (castle). The summer residence differs from the strong protective walls of the fortress by its appearance of a palace with distinct Gothic elements. Different to other settlements the square here is formed on the southern side of the palace, thus probably the name Podvorje (entrance hall).

## **The vision**

Is to create a workable enhancement and redevelopment plan of the entire area of the Seven Kaštela from Trogir to Split.

The redevelopment includes enhancement of existing properties in the first instance with the first line to the sea and the promenade between the sea and first line.

The project will also include developing possible activities / structures in the sea including marinas, ferries, which will have connection to the land.

## **The project**

Is open to architectural and landscaping students who wish to work on this project for a period of one / two months. The project will be coordinated together with the City of Kaštela council, ministry of culture and on site architects in Kaštela.

We offer under this period of time of one month for each sett of students free accommodation and sustenance in the period of May and June 2011.

The project will be presented to the appropriate channels with the possibility of incorporating it in the general plan for the future development of the Kaštela.

Based on the success of this project Kaštela will organize each year projects considering development and enhancement plans of other areas in Kaštela.

We look forward to receiving notification of interest for this project latest 15 march when we can then provide future details regarding logistics, accommodation and the requirements.

This project is open to students who have achieved their Bachelor and working on the Master in architecture and landscape architecture in England, Poland and Norway.

**Please contact me on the following email address for further details and interest:**

**Stuart Hall**

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Pictures from the area can be found on the following Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kastela-Croatian-adventure/138494439523495?v=wall>