

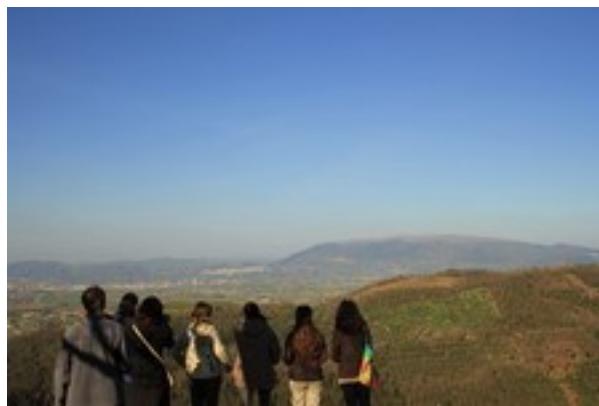


A study of the Officine al Sole landscape through Goethean science

From March 31 to April 6, 2011 Officine al Sole hosted a study group with the aim of studying the territory where the project is being developed and to try to draw insights relevant to the future of it.

This experience saw the participation of 8 students of the [Master in Holistic Science of the Schumacher College](#) and two project managers of the Officine al Sole.

The Schumacher College students were able to get practical experience of many of the topics that they have touched in their academic year.



Of particular importance in this experience, it has been the application of the scientific approach formulated by Goethe for the study of living phenomena. According to the German poet and philosopher, to perceive and study a natural phenomenon we must combine quantitative analysis (typical of our modern science) and qualitative analysis (based for example on feelings and intuitions).

In our case, Goethe's scientific approach has been applied on the study of a natural landscape and the interrelationship this has with human activities occurring in that place. A thorough study of this kind was carried out during the development of the [Pishwanton Project](#) in Scotland.

The group spent six days at the Officine al Sole collecting and sharing quantitative and qualitative information about the characteristics of the area and their implications for future development of educational, agricultural, business, and residential endeavours.





The group members worked together to capture and distil their insights drawn from personal and collective experiences to provide a useful resource for the Officine project.

In a first phase, the focus was primarily to collect objective information (sun, wind, water, plants, soil, animals, etc. ..) and to map the territory.

In the second phase, starting from the sensitive data collected, we tried to perceive the territory in its essence and entirety, in its dynamic development from the past to the future and to understand how the design process can emerge in harmony with the *genius loci* ("The spirit of the place").

For us, that are developing the Officine al Sole project, was an extraordinary opportunity to collect information, feedbacks, insights, ideas on the territory and possible future developments of the project; we felt the enthusiasm of people that for the first time were experiencing the place and this confirmed to us that we are on the right track. It was also very interesting to learn more about the scientific approach of Goethe and test a methodology that allows us to directly approach a land with respect and sense of responsibility.

