



Lizori

*There where life sees*



## *In the heart of Umbria*

“Lizori” is the imaginary name given 40 years ago to Borgo S. Benedetto, a hamlet in the municipality of Campello sul Clitunno, in the province of Perugia, Umbria, the green heart of Italy. A soft and musical name, coined for fun by Antonio Meneghetti, what does ‘Lizori’ mean? Three words in one: “Li” is an adverb of place in Italian, that means ‘there’; “Zo” is the most ancient form that the Greek verb ‘to live’ used to have, while “Ri” is a conjugated form of the ancient Greek verb orao, that means “to see”. “There where life sees”, “there where life contemplates itself”.







## *Deep in history*

Lizori and the underlying Spoleto valley used to be privileged garisons of Imperial and Republican Rome, of commanders and senators (for instance, it was Caius Marius Sil-la who, in the 2nd century BC commissioned the construction of the tower on top of the hamlet), of legendary conquerors from across the Alps like the Germanic Barbarossa and Frederick II; the hamlet served as an exclusive residence for Emperors and Popes, as a watchtower and a military stronghold, in an area chosen by mystics coming from the neighbouring duchies since the Longobard and Carolingian periods; the hamlet has progressively evolved before rreaching the shape it has today: defensive perimeter structures which draw one of the rarest, perfectly preserved triangular slanting castles in Italy.





## *The project of modern times*

With centuries of glorious past behind and a more recent period of total neglect after WWII, the hamlet experienced its rebirth in the second half of the 1970s, thanks to the initiative of a group of Italian architects, engineers, businessmen, artisans and professionals coordinated by Antonio Meneghetti.

The entire recovery of the hamlet was undertaken and accomplished, returning a true historical/architectural jewel to the public use, that soon became an international art, culture and education lab, under the sign of timeless, humanistic values. Thanks to Meneghetti, other places in the world would experience a new fate, in Brasil, Russia, and in some farmsteads in Lombardy; yet it is Lizori that remains the first project that gave a home to this everliving Humanism.





For this reason, Lizori, a place of accomplished environmental and civic ecology, is also home to a number of Italian and international associations, bodies and institutions, operating in various fields, from art to science, from research to education of a man who is industrious in his place, yet open to the new globalization, to radiate social, civilization and development values.



## ***Past can teach to the present while looking at the future***

Lizori is a place where you can breathe the open possibility to cross the bridge between seasons of history: because “not only the future is captivating, the past, as well, brings a logic that can enlighten, in a more constructive manner, our rational processes”. Here, the desire wasn’t only to retrieve the past as such; the intention was to work on man as a symbol of everlasting beauty, on his daily path toward the future.

Since the beginning, the aim that Meneghetti had while recovering this place, was “to restore the soul of the everlasting man, the bringer of values on this wonderful planet. An industrious man in his place, yet open, as intelligence and as message, to the new globalization. A man rooted like a tree to his historical place, in artisan, mastery loneliness, in a piece of perfect environmental and civic ecobiology, to radiate from such fullness as operator of social values, as master of developing civilization.”





## *The recovery*

The reconstruction was a veritable art school in the sense the term used to have during the Renaissance, with all building yard's implementation phases taking place at the workshop. The methods and results of the work were successfully presented at the IUA 2005 World Congress (International Union of Architects) in Istanbul. Technically speaking, the hamlet's restoration was conducted in strict respect to the original structure, integrated, when necessary, by the adaptation to new functions. Natural stones, terracotta, lime mortar, wood, handmade bricks, huge beams made of age-old olivewood ... materials all recovered till the last pebble, a construction approach updated interpreting what was previously already existing. The comprehensive work undertaken ranged from static consolidation to urbanization works and underground utilities set-up. Not just the individual homes, but in all public spaces: streets, squares, terracings.





## ***An Eternal Genius Loci***

The expression "Genius Loci" comes from the classical knowledge of ancient Romans: the soul, the mind, the spiritual presence of a place, a living, intelligent presence embodied in a precise space, a unique alchemy of chemical, physical, environmental and energetic variables. A privileged choice criterion, for privileged places. "Pass not unblest the Genius of the place!" Thus English poet George Byron used to tell the traveler, referring to these lands, explaining in his "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage", Canto The Fourth:

*"If through the air a zephyr more serene win to the brow, 'tis his / and if ye trace along his margin a more eloquent green, if on the heart the freshness of the scene sprinkle its coolness / and from the dry dust of weary life a moment lave it clean with Nature's baptism, / 'tis to him ye must pay orisons (...)"*







## ***One among the rarest slanting, triangular castles***

Lizori is one among the rarest slanting, triangular castles perfectly preserved in Italy. Totally neglected, deserted and falling apart, in the mid-1970s it was a pile of ruins and underbrush. From the dungeon to the octagonal tower that incorporates the old bell-tower, from the lord mansion to all houses inside the boundary walls (not a single roof was intact), everything was risking to be lost forever, like many other Italian villages.

Once its intrinsic identity was recognized beyond the wounds of time, in 1976 a new season started, that brought this place back to our present, alive and experienced. Even the hamlet's plant is a pleasure of panoramic naturism, its triangular shape with terracing diagonals, a functional, concentric architecture distributed in a bustle of parallel streets that nonetheless have a quick vertical descent one with the other, the highest pleasure of panoramic naturism.

## ***“Nihil jucundius vidi valle mea spoletana”***

Lizori and the underlying Spoleto valley used to be privileged garrisons of Imperial and Republican Rome, of commanders and senators, of legendary conquerors from across the Alps like the Germanic Barbarossa and Frederick II, exclusive residence for Emperors and Popes, a watchtower and a military stronghold, chosen by mystics from the neighbouring duchies.

“Never I saw anything more joyful than my Spoleto Valley” (“Nihil jucundius vidi valle mea spoletana”): that is what St. Francis exclaimed on his way back to Assisi from Rome, while passing through the olive groves of the area. Noblemen and artists, writers, painters and poets from each corner of Europe, from Virgil to Goethe, from Pliny the Young to Herman Hesse, from Juvenal to Caligula, and then Hans Christian Andersen, Alexander Dumas père, Charles Dickens, George Byron, Giosuè Carducci (who dedicated one of his most beautiful odes to the Fonti del Clitunno).









## ***A Natural Theatre***

When in summertime the sunset paints the valley in flaming colours, it draws breath-taking sceneries between earth and sky.



## *A splendid location...*

Inside the hamlet, in an absolutely exclusive landscape and architectural context, it is possible to organize conventions, presentations, fashion shows, professional meetings, seminars and congresses planned for a couple of hours, a whole day, a weekend or even longer periods. Similarly, ad hoc solutions can be prepared for photocalls, video services, concerts and shows, theatre, dance performances or other forms of entertainment. Listening to music while at Lizori is absolute magic, exactly like during its starry nights: prestigious symphony orchestras performed here, such as the West London Symphony Orchestra in 1998 or the Parmesan Opera Orchestra in 2015; public competitions for young singers and composers also took place; but it can also be the case of a Christmas bagpipe, or an amateur singing performance that create the magic feast among friends, In the recovery of the hamlet, many spaces were thought for this, indoor or outdoor alike, and many have been the concerts and shows that found in Lizori an unparalleled stage.



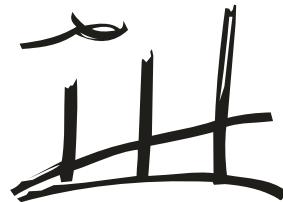




## ***Greenery at Lizori***

Lizori looks like owning special refractions: the greenery is “spun” and selected with artistic, mystic intelligence, with the complicity of the light plays effects at sunset. A full-blown triumph of vegetation, from pines to cypresses, laurel and rosemary, jasmine festoons framing stone arches, juniper hedges, spontaneous ferns under the shade of an arch, figs to draw the sky’s blue, coloured cascades of flowers from the windows.

It is difficult to say what is the best season in this hamlet, though a special thought goes inevitably to May’s many-coloured roses, of all species and nature, small and climbing, fleshy and so perfumed... Everything is in its right place here, everytime taking everyone by surprise: “grace and essence, embroidery and posture, the happy, regal stride of a man in his home, the world”.





## *Extra-Virgin Olive Oil and the Living Cuisine®*



The Lizori's oil "Natural" is exceptional both for the ground where the olive groves are and for the care they are grown with, also generously taken while collecting and pressing the olives. It is produced from centuries-old plants, growing all around the hamlet's houses, on rocks lashed by the sun of this privileged slope of the Spoleto valley, renowned for location and terrain, which offers the world the best green gold. Most olive groves are "moraiole", some are "frantoiano". The harvest is handmade, not mechanical, and allows to bring the olives to the oil-mill intact, grind them within 24 hours, thus guaranteeing a quality extra-virgin olive oil.



First-class raw material (not just olive oil), the high-quality natural ingredients of the area (truffles, aromatic herbs, fruit trees, laurel plants towering over the roof tiles, arugula and chicory spontaneously growing all around the hamlet, local meat and cheese), the embers of big ovens and fireplaces inside and outside the houses in stone, emanating pine resin perfumed clouds... maybe these are the reasons why Lizori gave birth to the Living Cuisine more than thirty years ago, that is, how to highlight the order of life in relation to nutrition, from the choice of food and seasoning, to the preparation methods; an experience that Lizori can export everywhere. Lizori's Living Cuisine has also been featured in Expo 2015.







## ***Collaboration of public and private sectors***

Lizori is an example of how public and private sectors can concretely collaborate. The most recent case is the remake of the hamlet's public lighting and the creation of an artistic lighting system for the hamlet's walls and towers, accomplished in 2015. The intervention was strongly wished for by those who take care of the place, who rose the interest of the Administration of Campello sul Clitunno, and was made possible by free donations of private subjects, who co-funded the work. The lamps are all handmade, though technologically sophisticated, and make use of high-pressure sodium, thus allowing the maximum energy saving and confirming the high ecobiology agreement that Lizori is based upon. A warm light that does not twist the colours and exalts the stones' natural tonalities, a light that embraces Lizori's skyline in a golden cloud, shining on the valley till its farthest spurs.



Fondazione di Ricerca Scientifica  
ed Umanistica Antonio Meneghetti

La limpida ispirazione artistica di chi ha riconosciuto, amato e ricostruito il borgo medievale Lizori continua a conservare la sua fecondità grazie alla Fondazione di Ricerca Scientifica ed Umanistica Antonio Meneghetti (Svizzera) in collaborazione con il comune di Campello sul Clitunno

Promoting educational activities, artistic and cultural events, also at international level, at the Burg. Incentivize new entrepreneurial activities, artisan workshops, tourist services. These are but some of the missions pursued by the Antonio Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation while investing in the place, missions that guarantee the full and pleasant experience of the Burg. The relations that the Foundation established with local institutions proved very fruitful. The various partnerships have made possible the creation of the new artistic lighting system, inside and outside the hamlet's wall.

Thanks to the partnership with the Public Administration, the Foundation was given the direct management of the spaces owned by the City of Campello sul Clitunno inside the hamlet, such as the Dukes' Palace, whose inner spaces were recovered and given back to full public use.



## *Loving Lizori... (Amare Lizori)*



The hamlet's redevelopment was strictly carried out through private funding. Dozens of private individuals – united by their enthusiasm and passion – invested their money not only to purchase and refurbish derelict properties for personal use, but also to restore all public areas so that they could, once again, become available to the community. All this was achieved without subsidies or sponsors, without any public or third party funding whatsoever, with absolutely no speculative intent.

“An A for Lizori” is a project fostered by the Antonio Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation (a Swiss non-profit foundation). You will be able to get an A with a minimal donation which will help further development of the Lizori hamlet. All project's revenues will be used by the Foundation to support culture, leisure, scientific and art events organized in respect of those humanistic values that brought about the rebirth of this hamlet.





The A in this project was created precisely in the Umbria region, the land where Lizori stands. The age-old pottery art of Deruta was used, applying the liquid clay pouring technique, which makes this item valuable and sophisticated.

*You can order your A, available in different colours, by email: [lizori@fondazionemeneghetti.ch](mailto:lizori@fondazionemeneghetti.ch)*





## ***My House At Lizori***

*Years back, I was looking for a house  
in a hidden place, hit by the sun,  
a house where I could meet my soul  
in the silence.*

*The aspect had to be  
poor and neglected,  
yet alive and sunny inside.  
While looking for it,  
I recognized it among the others.  
I met it and soon it was a feast.*

*Many repaired their lives  
under its waiting portals.*

*Its windows were uselessly scanning the valley  
below, till the horizon.*

*When it was thick with sheep and donkeys,  
hens and rabbits,  
it sighed from its podgy chimney,  
maybe knowing my day would come,  
and waited patiently.*

*In the afternoon on that day,  
I climbed its slopes like a man on his horse.*



*The olive trees were smiling  
and pouring their silver all around.*

*The small fountain  
was swerving here and there.  
As the light-emanating stones  
turned into a staircase to the sky,  
my house saw me and gushed over,  
it opened on the street  
and with its hot oven it laid inside my lungs.*

*In silence it sang its love  
and I brought my friends t  
o turn it into Lizori's heart,  
there where life sees.*

*I disrobed it of the laziness of time,  
kissed its wounds and made its veins stronger,  
then I dressed it again,  
more beautiful than a sea dawn.*

*Now, years after,  
my Lizori house  
understands.*

*Antonio Margherita*





**LIZORI**

**Borgo S. Benedetto, Campello sul Clitunno**

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