

rahovitza

slow tech campus



program 2012



CAMPUS

We believe in the creative power of humans and want to take the space and time to re-connect to our basic human needs and to learn making responsible use of technology. In this campus, we want to explore with curiosity, creativity and across all disciplinary boundaries the magic of life.



Rahovitza is a mountain retreat, a center for experimentation, learning and exchange on topics related to alternative food gardening, ecological building, re-skilling and personal development. We are located 1km outside and above the village of Kosovo in the Bulgarian Rhodope Mountains, on a south facing hill at an altitude of 980m, surrounded by forest.

How to get there:

Low-cost airlines to Bulgaria: www.wizzair.com, www.ryanair.com
From Sofia: Take bus to Plovdiv from central bus station
From Plovdiv: Take bus direction Smolian from bus station Rhodopi

Get off 2km after the stop Naretshenki Bani (1h from Plovdiv) at the bifurcation to Kosovo (tell the driver) and walk or hitchhike to Kosovo village (3km), ask for Rahovitza.

TEACHERS



www.zemnostroitelstvo.net

VARVARA VALTCHANOVA

Varvara is Bulgarian, she grew up in Bulgaria and Algeria and has studied architecture in Grenoble (France), where she graduated in 2002. Afterwards she specialized in earth construction at the Research Center for Earthen Architecture (CRATerre) in Grenoble. Since moving to the Netherlands in 2005 Varvara has worked in a small architecture office specialized in ecological building in The Hague and is currently working in the field of advanced lightweight structures with Buitink Technology in Duiven.



www.ognenchitak.com

OGNIAN CHITAKOV

Ognian is a Bulgarian sculptor living in nearby Asenovgrad. Sculpture is for him a way of thinking, a way of communication, a way of living and an outlook on life. Sculpture gives him the freedom to create and make his ideas visible. He loves sculpture because it is at the same time a form, space, function, architecture, design, engineering, technology and most of all it is arts – both fine and plastic arts. Among all materials used to shape sculptures his passion lies in stone. Stone is ancient and sacred, and it is part of his nature.



www.studiosculpture.org

RASHO MITEV

Rasho is a talented Bulgarian sculptor who lives and works in Smolian, the biggest city in the Rhodopean Mountains. He works with different materials like stone, wood, bronze and seeks inspiration in the surrounding nature. To be autonomous in stone carving, he learned how to make his own tools as a blacksmith. Rasho loves working by hand and takes his time to crystallize his ideas. Besides, he is an excellent pedagogue who transmits his passion for the form to his audience with grace.



mihailkossev.weebly.com

MIHAIL KOSSEV

Mihail has been teaching and designing Permaculture since 2007. He received his undergraduate education from New York University where he studied film, fine art and pedagogy. After graduation, he has specialized in Environmental Education, working with a wide diversity of ages and ran an organic farm, putting permaculture principles into practice for local markets. Presently he is teaching workshops on the subjects Forest Gardening, Sustainable Food Systems, Seed-saving, Non-violent Communication and Soil Science. Mihail is currently developing a forest garden and nursery with the Balkan Ecology Project in Central Bulgaria.



FOREST GARDEN AND PERMACULTURE INTRODUCTION

Mihail Kossev

Dates: April 4-9 (6 full days)

Course fee: 470 €

Kick-off your gardening season with a hands-on demonstration of a subsistence food garden for a cool, temperate climate.

This 6-days course develops the participants' abilities to assess and implement a permaculture garden project in cool, temperate climate regions, such as the Balkan region and northern Europe. Beginning with thoughtful observation and careful planning, into the building and enriching of soil, to the propagation and maintenance of both annual and perennial food plants; this course provides the beginner gardener with the foundations of designing a garden for your kitchen, and intermediate and advanced gardeners will have a place to share ideas and learn something new.

This course weaves theory, practice and discussion to suit a variety of learning styles. Participants get the opportunity to put some innovative gardening techniques into action, and will come away with fresh ideas for food gardens of their own.

*Optionally travel as a group from/to Eindhoven with WizzAir :
departure April 3, 8h30; arrival April 10, 8h00*





STONE CARVING RETREAT

Ognian Chitakov & Rasho Mitev

Dates: June 8-11 (4 full days)

Course fee: 340 €

Escape from your everyday activity and discover the pleasure of manual creativity in an unspoiled mountain retreat.

During this 4-day course you will have the opportunity to smith your own tools, you will learn the basic techniques for working stones and you will have the opportunity to make your own piece of art under the supervision of two talented sculptors.

This manual effort will give you the space to reflect on your personal needs and to re-connect to Nature in an overwhelmingly beautiful landscape. There will be time left for excursions in the mountains and neighboring villages.

*Optionally travel as a group from/to Eindhoven with WizzAir :
departure June 7, 8h30; arrival June 12, 8h00*





EARTH BUILDING WORKSHOP

Varvara Valtchanova

Dates: July 9-13 (5 full days)

Course fee: 390 €

Get a basic understanding of earth as a building material and practice earth building techniques

During this seminar you will learn about the characteristics of earth as a building material, the field tests that enable you to identify the right soil for building and the main earth building techniques. You will have a practical experience on adobe making, straw-earth infill and plastering.

A guided excursion to nearby villages will give you the opportunity to further explore traditional building techniques and their possible adaptation to modern requirements.





SUMMER VOLUNTEER WORKCAMP

Varvara Valtchanova & Markus Laubscher

Dates: July 30 - August 17, 2012

Participate in the renovation of a Bulgarian farm with natural materials in a beautiful setting and meet inspiring people from all over Europe

Welcome to the 9th edition of the Rahovitza architecture summer camp. We propose experience in ecological building, food and shelter in exchange for work.

Join in for as long as you like; flexible arrival & departure. Don't forget to bring your musical instrument!





ACCOMODATION

All course fees include accomodation in double rooms and full board.

Group size limited to 8 people

Summer volunteers get to try out the hay beds in the barn

Our residential house features 4 double rooms, a shared toilet/bathroom, kitchen and dining area with open fireplace. Additionally, we have an outdoor compost toilet, an outdoor summer bathroom and a summer kitchen.

We will serve three meals per day and intermediate fruit and snacks. You will be able to discover traditional Bulgarian dishes and home-made rakia, made from local, organic sources. Depending on the season, we will treat you also with our own harvest.



CONDITIONS

Registration

You are registered once we have received your signed registration form and full payment of the fee (if applicable) by bank transfer to:

Payable to: M LAUBSCHER
Account number: 49.13.89.698 (Netherlands)

IBAN: NLI4ABNA0491389698
BIC/SWIFT: ABNANL2A

Cancelation

Please be aware that for cancellations 4 weeks before the seminar starts, we charge half of the price of the seminar; for later cancellations we charge the total fee. In case of non-attendance (also in case of illness, accident or other unpredictable events) or discontinuation of the course, no claim for reimbursement for paid installments and any given contribution are possible. Cancellations are only valid in written form.

We reserve the right to reject an application without explanation or in exceptional circumstances to require a participant to leave the course. If we have to cancel a course, all fees paid to us will be refunded, but no liability will be accepted for any consequential losses. In particular, we cannot be held responsible for costs incurred for travel bookings.

Liability

We will provide personal safety equipment when appropriate and will give detailed safety instructions. We do not accept any liability in case of accident or injury during the course or travel. Please verify that you carry valid health insurance or consider insuring yourself.

We are not liable for loss or damage to personal items.

Privacy

The personal information you provide to us will not be disclosed to any other person or organization. We will add your email to our general mailing list. We will use images taken of you during the workshop for promotional purposes. If you have any reservation about this use of your personal data, please inform us.

Changes

We reserve the right to make changes to the advertised teachers and program as necessary.

Travel

Participants arrange for their own travel. We propose to travel as a group from Eindhoven for those interested.

REGISTRATION FORM

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Telephone :

Address:

Permaculture introduction

Stone carving retreat

Earth building workshop

Volunteer workcamp from _____ to _____

Please indicate any illness, disabilities or ongoing medical treatment that we should be aware of:

Please indicate if you have particular dietary wishes:

I hereby confirm that I have read and agreed to the terms & conditions.

Place / Date:

Signature:

Please return this form to info@rahovitza.org

rahovitza

slow tech campus



see you...

www.rahovitza.org