Chozos de pastor - Asuncion Molinos Gordo

The project involves the reconstruction of a ?chozo? and its subsequent conversion into a landscape observatory.

Chozos are refuges built by nomadic shepherds in common land across rural Spain. Farmers, hunters and shepherds used them to protect themselves from weather adversities, but after the industrialization of the countryside they fell into disrepair. At the end of 2009 I rebuilt the first chozo in my hometown GuzmÃ¡n, a Spanish village of 80 inhabitants, and turned it into a life size camera obscura in which you could see the external landscape in the chozoâ€™s interior, but inverted 180Âº.

The work aims to reconnect the rural population to their surroundings. The farming land, once a place buzzing with life and people, today sits emptied from its social fabric. The activation of this vernacular architecture worked as an invitation to go out in the fields for reasons other than work. It has become a place for visual experimentation as well as social encounter.

The chozo gives back the reflection of our familiar landscape flipped upside-down, forcing the viewer to restart the recognition process. While most of the rural imagery is stuck in the nostalgia of a glorious past, the chozo reloads the image of the current situation in real time, generating an ever-changing portrait.

The plan is to expand the scope of this landscape observatory by rebuilding and transforming into pinhole cameras the other chozos which lay abandoned in different locations of GuzmÃ¡nâ€™s farming land.

The objective is to recover the legacy of shepherdsâ€™ architecture as a tool for knowledge transformation, involving other fields such as optics, physics, eye anatomy and photography, and to contribute to the intellectual growth of the region.

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Website:
www.visibleproject.org/blog/project/chozos-de-pastor-guzmn-burgos-spain/

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