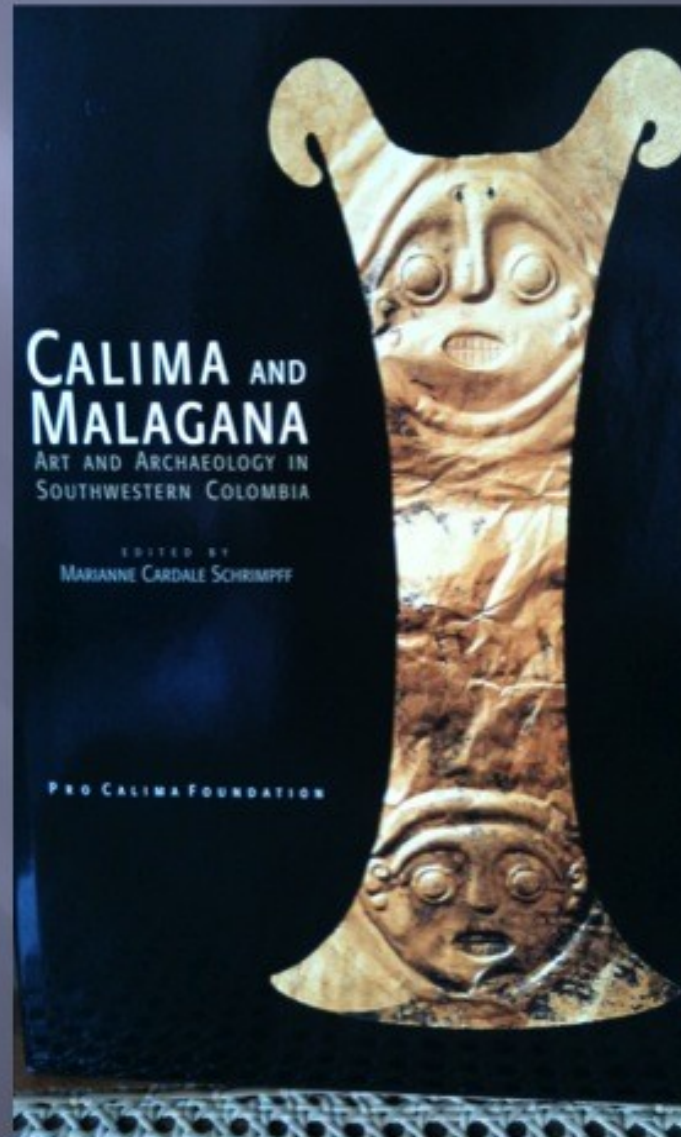


NASHIRA, BUILDING A NEW MATRIARCHAL SOCIETY
IN COLOMBIA BASED ON THE GIFT ECONOMY



In the first century AD in the Cauca River Valley in what is now Colombia, there lived a community that is believed to have adhered to matriarchal principles and worshipped an earth mother figure and many female deities. The Malagana culture was only discovered 17 years ago when a sugar cane worker accidentally uncovered a gold figure.



He had discovered a remarkable hoard of ceramic and gold artefacts, very different in character from other previously familiar indigenous cultures found in the region. The gold pieces were very fine and experts have recognised their quality by comparing them to objects found in the tomb of Tutankhamun.

There were gold pectorals depicting the birth of a child. The ceramics were mostly female figures and amongst them were alcarrazas or drinking vessels with double spouts in the shape of houses or multiple female breasts, quite distinct from any seen before in other pre-Columbian cultures.



Archeologists believe the Malagana culture with its very exquisite artistic talents only lasted a few centuries and it was soon superseded by the Yotoco culture, a warring society that extended its influence by conquest over a large area



WOMAN IN A SITTING POSITION



DRINKING VESSEL IN THE SHAPE OF MULTIPLE FEMALE BREASTS





Significantly and symbolically, Nashira constructed on the principles of the gift economy is located in the same area as the recently discovered Malagana culture

“Every year poverty kills more people than the entire Second World War, which killed quite a few. But from the vantage point of the powerful extermination is not a bad idea if it helps to regulate a population that is growing too fast. Experts decry surplus population in the South where ignorant masses violate the Sixth Commandment day and night: surplus population in Brazil where there are seventeen inhabitants per square kilometre or in Colombia where there are twenty-nine? Holland has four hundred inhabitants per square kilometre and no Dutchman dies of hunger, but Brazil and Colombia belong to a handful of gluttons.”

Eduardo Galeano

In Colombia, 32% of households are headed by women and depend on their work as the main source of income. As a result of the gender structure of Colombian society and high male mortality rates, due to 50 years of civil war, massive displacement of rural communities and endemic violence, women are frequently responsible for the care of the family including the elderly as well as children. Sadly 72.5% of homes with women as heads of households are below the poverty line. Women with little or no formal education have a difficult time finding work, and there is little and often no state welfare system to protect the unemployed, or aid for families with dependent children. Most of the women in Nashira work as day workers, cleaning houses, washing and ironing clothes, or as caretakers of empty farms with no remuneration other than a roof over their heads. What a better place to put in practice the gift economy.



THE 32.000 SQUARE METRES OF LAND ON WHICH THE ECOVILLAGE HAS
AND IS BEING CONSTRUCTED WAS A DONATION



THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH A SUBSIDY POLICY FOR RURAL HOUSING PROVIDED THE FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS SUCH AS THE PREFABRICATED PANELS MADE FROM RECYCLED BUILDING DEBRIS. THE WOMEN WORKED, BUILDING THE HOUSES UNDER PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION,





THEY WERE ABLE TO MOVE INTO THE HOUSES WITHOUT THE NEED FOR MORTGAGES OR DOWN PAYMENT IN OTHER WORDS THEY WON'T HAVE TO PAY EVEN ONE CENT AS THE HOUSING IS FREE.

El Proyecto consta de:



Una gran zona de cultivo

88 viviendas

Salones Comunales.

Talleres

Guardería

Restaurante ecológico

Sitio para la cría de animales



Al Bolo Alizal





ALL THE IMPORTANT
DECESSIONS ARE
TAKEN BY WOMEN





GROWING THEIR OWN FOOD



THE SOLAR RESTAURANT



FRUIT AND VEGS MARKET



NONI



QUAIL EGGS PRODUCTION





THE COMMUNITY STORE



CHICKEN REARING



CERAMIC MAKING



EVERY SATURDAY NASHIRA HOLDS A MARKET

THE WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM AND THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM HAVE BEEN FINANCED BY FUNDS OBTAINED FROM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. A FARMERS' COOPERATIVE FROM CATALONIA HAS INVITED THE WOMEN OF NASHIRA FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO GO AND WORK ON A TEMPORARY BASIS DURING THE ANNUAL FRUIT HARVEST, AND THEY HAVE ALSO FINANCED A PART OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. A PART OF THE MONEY EARNED IN CATALONIA HAS ALSO BEEN USED FOR THE WATER SYSTEM, A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE GIFT ECONOMY IN ACTION.



WASTE WATER TREATMENT BY A SYSTEM OF FILTERS AND ARTIFICIALLY CREATED WETLANDS

FURTHER FUNDS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS
FISH PONDS, INSTALATION OF A BIOGAS PLANT, AND
SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATIONS.

EQUIPPING A CLASSROOM FOR COMPUTER TEACHING

A RECYCLING UNIT AS A CHILDREN PLAY AREA WHERE
CHILDREN WILL LEARN TO MAKE TOYS AND ELEMENTS FROM
RECYCLED OBJECTS

A SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING RAIN WATER FROM THE ROOFS
AS A MEANS OF USING MOTHER NATURE TO WATER THE
PLANTS IN TIMES OF DRAUGHT

A NEW COMMUNITY SHOP WITH ACCESS TO AN EXTERNAL
ROAD AS AN OUTLET FOR THE OF THE GOODS PRODUCED IN
NASHIRA

BUILDING OF 47 HOUSES WHICH ARE STILL MISSING

TO BE A
Matriarchal
community and
practice the gift
economy does
not just happen.
Profound
changes have to
take place at all
levels from the
youngest member
to the more
senior.

Nashira received
a price from UN
Habitat to carry
out a project
with young
women and
children



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WORKSHOPS





felicidade
Nuchira





TOGETHER WE TAKE CARE OF MOTHER EARTH



PARTIES ARE ALSO IMPORTANT



BUILDING THE CASTLE OF THE THOUSAND WONDERS



BUILDING WITH BAMBOO THE CASTLE OF THE 1000 WONDERS







FOLLOWING THE ANCESTRAL TRADITION OF CERAMIC MAKING



KILN BUILT WITH BRICKS AND MUD







TABLE WARE MADE IN NASHIRA WITH TRADITIONAL METHODS



THE FLOOR OF THE AGORA WAS MADE WITH BROKEN TILES
DEPICTING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF NASHIRA







THE OUTLINE OF THEIR BODIES SERVED AS A CANVAS ROOFING



ACCORDING TO THEIR FEELINGS THEY PLACE TEXT OR DRAWINGS ON THEIR HEARTS ARMS AND LEGS





TOGETHER WE BUILT THE BUTERFLY GARDEN



NOTHING GETS WASTED IN NASHIRA WITH RECYCLED PLASTIC
WATER BOTTLES WE BUILD WALLS



I ALSO WANT TO HELP





THE BUTTERFLIES ARE COMMING



MINGA OR COLLECTIVE WORK TO DECORATE WITH BROKEN TILES THE FOUNTAIN OF THE PASHA MAMA OR MOTHER EARTH



THE CENTRAL FIGURE IS A PREGNANT MERMAID





THE FOUNTAIN OF THE PASHA MAMA



BICYSHOWERS AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF ENERGY



THE BEGINNING OF THE LABYRINTH





GETTING LOST IN THE LABYRINTH



NASHIRA FOR A BETTER WORLD

THE FUTURE IS IN THE HANDS
OF THOSE WHO DREAM AND
HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE
THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE



NASHIRA “Por un mundo mejor”



**Porque el mundo esta en
manos de aquellos que
tienen el coraje de
soñar y de correr el
riesgo de vivir sus
sueños.**

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