

Simon Battisti

Director, Qendra Marrëdhënie

Simon Battisti is a trained architect based in Tirana, Albania, where he was a Fulbright Fellow in 2014-15. He is also the director of Qendra Marrëdhënie (Relationship Center), a non-profit technical implementing agency working to strengthen bridges between early childhood development science and urban planning and management.

He is the founding director of the *Atelier Albania Academy*, a government-sponsored five-week summer school studying trajectories of rural development; their framing in culture including music and language, and their impacts within the milieu of Southeast Europe. This work draws on many allied disciplines and methodologies, most importantly critical development discourses, narrative ethnography, environmentalism and its theories and modes of activism, critical planning, and radical pedagogy.

In 2016, he was curator of *I Have Left You the Mountain*, the representation for the Albanian Pavilion at the 15th Venice Biennale of Architecture, which used singing to articulate ways in which patterns of departure have affected Albanian cities and towns for five centuries. *I Have Left You the Mountain* became part of the permanent collection of the museo Castello Di Rivoli in Turin in 2018.

He holds an M.Arch from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and a B.Arch from the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

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