

Igoudars against climate change in Morocco

RIME EL HARROUNI

Euro-Mediterranean School of Architecture, Design and Urbanism, Euromed University of Fez, UEMF, Morocco

Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, University of Mons, Belgium

Abstract

The collective granaries of Morocco's Anti-Atlas known as Igoudars are a brilliant synthesis of architecture, economic resilience, cultural wealth, and environmental empathy. Made with locally sourced materials like argan wood, oleander wood and pisé, these buildings have traditionally functioned as warehouses and communal spaces. The design is determined by sustainable building typologies and an awareness of the specific climatic context.

These granaries are richly associated with cultural practices, rituals and oral traditions that sustain community identity and continuity. Igoudars are also environmentally friendly and support biodiversity and water-sensitive design. However, climate change presents huge threats to the structural soundness and socio-cultural practices related to them leading to their abandonment. With this paper, we try to illustrate the different values of Igoudars and call for conservation programs to safeguard one of Morocco's essential heritage in response to environmental change.