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Batuz
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Dear Batuz,

It was a great pleasure to hear from you today of your discussions with Ministerpräsident Biedenkopf concerning the expanded role of the Batuz-Foundation/Société Imaginaire in the future use of the monastery of Altzella.

As we have discussed in general terms, there is much to be gained for the Société, MIT, and, I think, Saxony, if we establish an on-going program with its base at Altzella. Our current proposal for an urban design study concerning Dresden serves as an example. MIT faculty and students will conduct field research in Dresden, but with a home base, adequate studio and computer facilities, and an intellectual network centered at Altzella. We anticipate fruitful relations with the authorities who have responsibility for the planning of Dresden and with German professors and students who share these interests — in this case presumably from the Technische Universität Dresden.

We expect other possibilities to unfold. One of our civil engineers, trained at the ETH in Zurich, is interested to lead students in the realization of inventive, light structures that will enhance the meaning and use of Altzella by the Batuz-Foundation and its associated groups. Our faculty also includes art and architectural

historians who may find association with Altzella, singly or with students, to be fruitful. The same is true of our distinguished faculty in the visual arts, two of whom are prominent in Europe for their work in public spaces (one of these is the Pole, Krzysztof Wodiczko).

Mention of Professor Wodiczko, raises another potential of work at and through Altzella: association with artists, scholars and students not only of Saxony, but also with those from the rest of Germany and from near-by countries of central and eastern Europe — especially Poland and the Czech Republic. The special relation you have built with the countries of the Mercosur is also an important potential: we, as perhaps the European countries, have given, to our own loss, far too little attention to Latin America.

As it now seems, through the generosity of the state of Saxony, you will soon be able to fit out a building at Altzella to the needs of visiting MIT architects, artists, and scholars. This is a remarkable proposition for which we are most grateful. At the same time, it is clear that we can mount only so many international ventures and few of these can be limited to time at Altzella only. Thus we will have reason to use such a facility for only a limited number of weeks each year. We should then collaborate in making such a valued facility available to the representatives of other institutions with whom the Société and your sponsors in the government of Saxony would be proud to be associated.

I would end by thanking you and your sponsors once again for opening such an exciting prospect of collaborative work.

With best wishes,



Stanford Anderson