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Rencontres internationales du patrimoine
architectural méditerranéen

RECUEIL DES RÉSUMÉS



INTERMEDIATE CONFERENCE - FIRENZE 2020
8.5th Intermediate total on line Edition Firenze 25/26 November 2020



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Villages et quartiers à risque d'abandon.

Stratégies pour la connaissance, la valorisation et la restauration.

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*a cura di: Saverio Mecca, Susanna Caccia Gherardini,
Massimo Carta, Giuseppe De Luca, Fabio Fratini, Stefano Galassi,
Lamia Hadda, Giovanni Pancani, Daniela Pittaluga.*

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QUE EST-CE QUE RIPAM:

En 2005, des chercheurs, universitaires, historiens, scientifiques du patrimoine, architectes, conservateurs issus de pays et d’institutions du bassin méditerranéen ont souhaité établir des liens privilégiés autour des enjeux du patrimoine architectural. Ils ont ainsi initié des rencontres alternativement de chaque côté des rives de la Méditerranée, à Meknès (Maroc) en 2005, à Marrakech (Maroc) en 2007,à Lisbonne (Portugal) en 2009, à M’sila (Algérie) en 2012, à Marseille (France) en 2013, à Monastir (Tunisia) en 2015. Ces rencontres ont réaffirmé à chaque fois la volonté de les pérenniser, de partager des connaissances et de conforter la conservation du patrimoine bâti dans les politiques et consciences nationales. Leur succès avec plus d’une centaine de participants par édition a aussi montré le besoin de les structurer pour mieux faire connaître et accroître ce réseau de compétences et faire de cette heureuse initiative de près de 10 ans une rencontre incontournable pour le patrimoine architectural méditerranéen. Les RIPAM sont à la fois des rencontres et un réseau de personnes et d’institutions œuvrant à la connaissance et à la conservation du patrimoine architectural et urbain méditerranéen. La communauté RIPAM regroupe des universitaires, des responsables de biens patrimoniaux, des professionnels de la conservation et de la restauration, des scientifiques du patrimoine, des professionnels de l’architecture, des urbanistes... qui étudient, analysent et travaillent sur tous les types et composantes de ce patrimoine architectural: histoire, type architectural (urbain, rural, industriel, officiel, domestique, ...), archéomatériaux et conservation matérielle, techniques de construction et de conservation, structure urbaine et urbanisme, réalisation architecturale, méthodes d’analyse et d’investigations, documentation et archives d’architecture, législation et réglementation, gestion et valorisation, mesures de prévention...

Les RIPAM constituent un lien privilégié pour échanger et dialoguer sur ces sujets, présenter des travaux de recherches, de conservation ou de mise en valeur. Elles reposent sur les principes et objectifs suivants:

- Connaitre et faire connaître le patrimoine architectural et urbain méditerranéen afin de participer à sa conservation, sa transmission aux générations futures et sa valorisation, dans le cadre des études et politiques patrimoniales en lien étroit avec les enjeux du monde méditerranéen contemporain;
- D’assurer à cette connaissance et à sa diffusion une haute valeur scientifique, une diversité d’approches dans l’affirmation d’une communauté méditerranéenne et le respect des spécificités de chacun;
- De favoriser les échanges et le partage d’expériences entre les deux rives.

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The paper intends to illustrate some research conducted in the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed in 2019 between the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo and Montalbano Elicona, an old village of about 2100 inhabitants that rises 900 meters above sea level, in the northern part of the province of Messina. Due to the central position in the Mediterranean, since very remote times Sicily has played a role of crossroads for populations of different cultures. For this reason, Montalbano Elicona can be considered a case study of general concern to the built heritage of the Mediterranean area, in which some recurrent specific elements occur: the rich stratigraphy; the close link between material and immaterial dimensions; the traces of cultural contaminations that have occurred over millennia; the heterogeneity of the heritage, which is also found in the conditions of knowledge, conservation and enhancement. The persisting financial difficulties in Southern Europe and the related neighbourhood area constitute a further feature that makes the objective of reliability of each intervention even more pressing.

The paper deals with the issue of risk regarding the specific features of the Mediterranean built heritage, retracing the main typologies and mentioning its developments, from the 80s of the last century to the contemporary debate, which takes into account climate changes, war conflicts and terrorism. In this framework, the abandonment will be traced back to a contextual anthropic risk, considered as the opposite of intense and poorly managed utilizations and the use will be highlighted as an essential aspect in the processes of conservation and enhancement of the architectural heritage. In the case of internal areas, marginalized by the most recent socio-economic factors and subject to important depopulation phenomena, the theme of use takes on more critical features and must be considered within a holistic and multi-scalar approach, considering the potential of digitalisation.

The village of Montalbano Elicona is not abandoned, but the risk is high, because many districts are roughly empty and – in some cases – the buildings are almost reduced as ruins. Leveraging the awareness of a remarkable architectural heritage (among which the imposing Swabian-Aragonese castle stands out) and an extraordinary natural context (with the suggestive Argimusco plateau), the Administration and citizens have put in place huge efforts to enhance the territory, culminating with the appointment as “Borgo dei Borghi d’Italia” in 2015 and with the ICOMOS ICHAM international conference in 2018. However, these efforts need to be relaunched, finding continuity, new synergies and wider application.

The paper will describe some enhancement strategies that can be considered indirect, as they do not physically act on the built heritage, but facilitate the contextual conditions. From a theoretical point of view, the concept of high quality Baukultur guides these strategies, in that it “embraces every human activity that changes the built environment. The whole built environment, including every designed and built asset that is embedded in and relates to the natural environment, is to be understood as a single entity. Baukultur encompasses existing buildings, including monuments and other elements of cultural heritage, as well as the design and construction of contemporary buildings, infrastructure, public spaces and landscapes”. From an applicative point of view, the design experiments consist of the application of the same methodology to three different cases, all of which are strategic in various ways for the enhancement of Montalbano Elicona: the completion of an unfinished building of considerable size designed in the 90s of the last century; the research on the improvement of urban accessibility in the oldest part of the inhabited centre; some solutions aimed at facilitating the visit of the Argimusco, while respecting the landscape integrity.