



Dwelling on space
 representation and safeguarding
 of its tangible and intangible heritage



20th

Anniversary 2003-2023

Intangible Cultural Heritage

In occasion of the twentieth anniversary of UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The international Conference is part of the activities of the project "The state as an Artwork, the State and the artworks" funded by Università Telematica Pegaso

Carmine Gambardella
Maria Natale
Rosaria Parente

Dwelling on Space
Representation and safeguarding of its tangible and intangible heritage
20th Anniversary 2003-2023 Intangible Cultural Heritage

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Gangemi Editore spa
Via Giulia 142, Roma
www.gangemeditore.it

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ISBN 978-88-492-5059-6

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Topics:

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in education

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through education

Priority Africa

Priority to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Africa, one of the most active regions for the implementation of the Convention

Living Heritage in Emergencies

Living heritage throughout the world is increasingly affected by emergencies, including conflicts and disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards

Living Heritage and Indigenous

People Indigenous peoples hold a rich diversity of living heritage, the practice and transmission of which contributes to the ongoing vitality, strength, and well-being of communities

Sustainable Development and living heritage

The notion of "sustainability" in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development echoes the concept of "living heritage" in the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Dwelling on Space

International Conference

Naples
17 October 2023

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Peer review

Scholars has been invited to submit researches on theoretical and methodological aspects related to Smart Design, Planning and Technologies, and show real applications and experiences carried out on this themes. Based on blind peer review, abstracts has been accepted, conditionally accepted, or rejected. Authors of accepted and conditionally accepted papers has been invited to submit full papers. These has been again peerreviewed and selected for the oral session and publication, or only for the publication in the conference proceedings.



International Conference

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International Conference Dwelling on Space representation and safeguarding of tangible and intangible Heritage

Questo libro, pensato e realizzato in formato digitale per consentirne una più ampia diffusione, nasce dalla collaborazione proficua tra il Consorzio Universitario Benecon, la Cattedra UNESCO per il paesaggio e il patrimonio culturale presieduta dal Professor Carmine Gambardella e l'Università digitale Pegaso, finanziatrice del progetto "Lo Stato opera d'arte, lo Stato e le opere d'arte", coordinato dalla Principal Investigator Professoressa Maria Natale.

In occasione del ventesimo anniversario della Convenzione per la salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale immateriale siglata a Parigi il 17 Ottobre 2003, si è voluto ospitare un confronto sulle tematiche connesse alla tangibilità e intangibilità del patrimonio culturale e sulle problematiche relative alla salvaguardia del patrimonio stesso nella sua dimensione materiale ed immateriale.

Il 17 Ottobre 2023 il Convegno *Dwelling on space: representation and safeguarding of its tangible and intangible heritage* si è svolto a Napoli, nella meravigliosa cornice del Palazzo Zapata.

Al fine di ampliare il dibattito a livello internazionale e garantire un'ottica multidisciplinare ed interdisciplinare, una call for paper ha preceduto il convegno offrendo la possibilità a studiosi inseriti in diversi contesti internazionali di ricerca.

Nell'articolazione del volume si è, pertanto, deciso di rispettare l'ordine degli interventi susseguiti durante il convegno e di collocare nella seconda parte i contributi pervenuti grazie alla call for papers.

I testi raccolti hanno l'ambizione, grazie alla convergenza di prospettive di indagini che attengono a svariate discipline, di arricchire il già vasto campo degli studi in materia di patrimonio culturale, rappresentazione e salvaguardia, che qui è declinato in numerosi peculiari percorsi di ricerca che offrono al lettore suggestioni, spunti, orientamenti per il futuro sviluppo della ricerca.

International Conference

Dwelling on Space

representation and safeguarding of tangible and intangible Heritage

This book, conceived and created in digital format to allow for wider dissemination, was born from the fruitful collaboration between the Benecon University Consortium, the UNESCO Chair for landscape and cultural heritage chaired by Professor Carmine Gambardella and the digital Pegaso University, financier of the project "The State as a work of art, the State and the works of art", coordinated by the Principal Investigator Professor Maria Natale.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention for the protection of intangible cultural heritage signed in Paris on 17 October 2003, we wanted to host a discussion on the issues related to the tangibility and intangibility of cultural heritage and on the problems relating to the protection of the heritage itself in its dimension material and immaterial. On 17 October 2023 the international conference *Dwelling on space: representation and safeguarding of its tangible and intangible heritage* took place in Naples, in the wonderful setting of Palazzo Zapata.

In order to broaden the debate at an international level and guarantee a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspective, a call for papers preceded the conference, offering the opportunity to scholars inserted in different international research contexts. Therefore, it was decided to respect, in the structure of the volume, the order of the interventions that followed one another during the conference and to place the contributions received thanks to the call for papers in the second part.

The contributions collected in the book have the ambition, thanks to the convergence of research perspectives that pertain to various disciplines, to enrich the already vast field of studies on cultural heritage, representation and protection, which is expressed here in numerous peculiar research paths which offer the reader suggestions, ideas and orientations for the future development of research.

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Teresa Ciona, Maria Ala **Mediterranean landscapes to live and re-inhabit.**

An innovative project to be safeguarded, enjoyed and enhanced.

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Abstract

The Mediterranean is endowed with a great variety of natural and cultural landscapes. This interdisciplinary approach study examines the redevelopment project of the magical Sicilian landscape of the Kolymbethra Garden, within the Archaeological and Landscape Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, a UNESCO world heritage site. A *best practice* - realised by FAI - that has succeeded in combining the relationship between man and nature, the built environment, and individual, social and cultural well-being. The aim is to '*re-inhabit*' an enchanted place that, in the past, was abandoned and used as a landfill. Today it is an important example of '*living heritage*', to be enjoyed and passed on.

Keywords: landscape, heritage, well-being

1. Introduction

The Kolymbethra Garden is one of Sicily's - tangible and intangible - most beautiful and enchanting heritages. Incorporated in the area of the Archaeological and Landscape Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento (winner of the 2017 Landscape Prize), it is now firmly established in a key role in the cultural, tourist and economic development of the city, and has more than 80,000 visitors every year. With traditional crops, starting with almond and olive trees, it presents an exceptionally rare, almost unique landscape of irrigated arboriculture. The Kolymbethra is a garden of approximately six hectares at the western end of the Hill of Temples, between the Temple of the Dioscuri and the Temple of Vulcan (fig. 1). Originally identified as a water reservoir or '*Pool of the Gods*' for the city of Akragas during Greek rule in the 5th century BC, it was formerly fed by the ancient "*Aqueducts of the Feaci*", some of which are still visible and active today. Throughout history, it is a place found in historical-literary sources, in the iconography of *Grand Tour* travellers, and in other stories and pictorial images. In more recent times, the area has remained unused for many decades, agriculturally abandoned and used as a waste dump (fig. 2). This study aims to rediscover the values and variety of this landscape, stimulating in users (current and future) that attraction, interest, thirst for knowledge for an asset that seemed lost and which, since 2001, has been rediscovered and valorised [1-2].

2. The redevelopment project: a *best practice* to be handed down

The Kolymbethra Garden risked disappearing due to neglect and degradation, until in 1998 the FAI (Italian Environment Fund) obtained use of the area for 25 years, offering in exchange the necessary environmental restoration and landscape, aimed at conserving the use of the territory and the Mediterranean scrub, together with the protection of ancient varieties and traditional agricultural techniques. The Garden is open to the public with the aim of restoring to visitors an invaluable agricultural and cultural landscape, a vast green area - a place of peace and serenity (atarassico) - that summarises the agrarian and natural landscape of the Valley of the Temples (fig. 3). Here, immersed and inebriated by the scents of nature, it is possible to admire, together with the archaeological finds, the extraordinary biodiversity of citrus fruits and other fruit trees, the traditional landscape of irrigated arboriculture, the vegetable garden, the underground caves (fig. 4) or hypogee (water system of refined hydraulic engineering, excavated in the rock, for the outflow of rainwater and groundwater, conveyed for irrigation and drinking use). Accessibility to the site is guaranteed by a convenient network of dirt

paths, which can be traveled on foot or by bicycle, reconstructed thanks to the historical memory of the older farmers and the identification of the original traces in the ground. The paths are part of the planning of the environmental itineraries recently created by the Archaeological Park of the Temples, called "*Environmental Routes*" and "*Green Ways*". These are connected to different parts of the garden and lead the visitor to scenic or culturally significant places (hypogea, monumental trees, archaeological remains). Additionally, with the idea to make better use of the Kolymbethra landscape, and to better promote tourism and socio-cultural events, the antique railroad line between Agrigento and Porto Empedocle has been reactivated, which crosses the southwestern part of the Archaeological Park - with stops at the Temple of Vulcan - with the possibility to arrive directly inside the Valley with the historic train [3].

3. A Heritage to “live, listen, and taste.”

Kolymbethra presents a constantly evolving landscape, allowing visitors to interact and dialogue with the surrounding area, as well as enjoy the beauty of a place that changes during the various seasons. It is a place where it is possible to listen to the sounds of nature, taste agricultural products, experience a sense of *psycho-physical well-being*, witness traditional agricultural activities - which guarantee their maintenance and conservation, participate in cultural events that take place at different times of the year [1, 2, 3]. There are numerous initiatives to recover and enhance the Garden and the buildings present, as for example, the project for the restoration of '*Casa Montana*' - an old *peasant house* - purchased by the FAI in March 2019, to be used as a museum of rural history and cultural centre (fig. 5). The end of the work is scheduled for 2025 on the occasion of Agrigento *Italian Capital of Culture*. Furthermore, among the activities that take place at Kolymbethra, we remember:

- Sensory experiences to rediscover the ancient peasant culture, the of many species, and the classic myths linked to cultivated plants, archaeological finds, and those linked to the ancient irrigation system;
- Exploration of the underground networks dug by Carthaginian prisoners (Ipogei)
- Pomological exhibitions;
- Scientific works to spread knowledge about biodiversity;
- Painting experiences "*En Plein air*", clay modeling, simulated archaeological excavations, visits in typical costumes, botanical laboratories;
- Production, transformation and sale of citrus fruits into jams and sweet products;
- Literary aperitifs and presentation of books;
- Musical and cultural events;
- Creation of educational paths.

4. Conclusion

This paper describes an exemplary environmental and cultural redevelopment project, aimed at producing *physical* and *psychological well-being* for visitors and contributing to the economic development of the city of Agrigento. It is a multifunctional model of '*active*' conservation of an area of the Sicilian territory, allowing for a harmonious interaction between nature and culture through the protection of the landscape. This is why the Kolymbethra Garden constitutes an important part of the Sicilian landscape and cultural mosaic to be safeguarded, enjoyed and enhanced.



Fig. 1: The Kolymbethra Garden within the Valley of the Temples Archaeological and Landscape Park. In red the borders of the Garden.

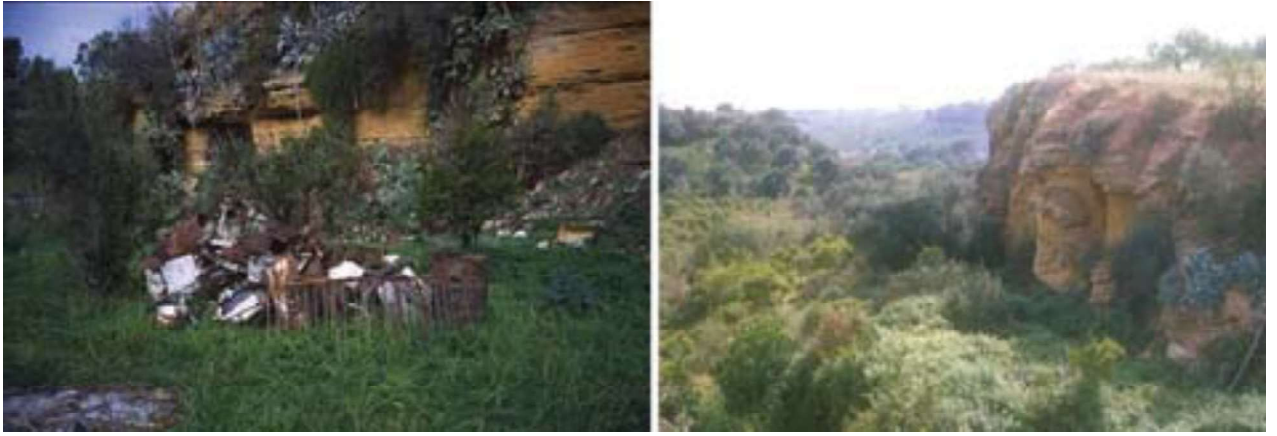


Fig. 2: The Garden during the period of degradation turned into a landfill.



Fig. 3: The Garden after the redevelopment work.



Fig. 4: Entrance to the hypogea



Fig. 5: Casa Montana - The recovery project plans to use the building as a museum of peasant culture.

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JANUARY 2024

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