

# INFOLIO 40

RIVISTA DEL DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN ARCHITETTURA, ARTI E PIANIFICAZIONE  
DELL'UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO - DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA

## INNER AREAS

# INFOLIO

RIVISTA DEL DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN ARCHITETTURA, ARTI E PIANIFICAZIONE

## **Direttore**

Filippo Schilleci

## **Comitato scientifico**

Filippo Schilleci  
Tiziana Campisi  
Simona Colajanni  
Maria Sofia Di Fede  
Emanuela Garofalo  
Francesco Maggio  
Marco Picone

Comitato di redazione:

## **Revisori**

Simona Colajanni, Maria Sofia Di Fede,  
Marco Picone

## **Redattori (2021-2022)**

Dottorandi dei cicli XXXV, XXXVI, XXXVII

## **Progetto grafico**

Marco Emanuel Francucci, Francesco Renda

Per questo numero:

## **Curatori**

Clelia La Mantia, Gloria Lisi, Luisa Lombardo, Martina Scozzari

## **Impaginazione e redazione**

Laura Barrale, Marco Bellomo, Mauro Filippi, Fabrizio Giuffrè, Clelia La Mantia, Erica La Placa, Gloria Lisi, Luisa Lombardo, Elia Maniscalco, Salvatore Oddo, Alessandra Palma, Claudia Patuzzo, Martina Scozzari, Elif Sezer, Salvatore Siringo

## **Contatti**

infofolio@riviste.unipa.it

## **Sede**

Dipartimento di Architettura (D'ARCH)  
Viale delle Scienze, Edificio 14, Edificio 8  
90128 Palermo  
tel. +39 091 23864211  
dipartimento.architettura@unipa.it  
dipartimento.architettura@cert.unipa.it (pec)

## **In copertina**

*Il borgo di Gangi, Luisa Lombardo*



**Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo**

**DA  
RCH** DIPARTIMENTO  
DI ARCHITETTURA  
UNIPA



**DOTTORATO DI RICERCA  
IN ARCHITETTURA,  
ARTI E PIANIFICAZIONE**  
DIPARTIMENTO  
DI ARCHITETTURA DI PALERMO

## La Rivista

**In folio** è la rivista scientifica di Architettura, Design, Urbanistica, Storia e Tecnologia che dal 1994 viene pubblicata grazie all'impegno dei dottori e dei dottorandi di ricerca del Dipartimento di Architettura (D'ARCH) dell'Università di Palermo (UNIPA).

La rivista, che si propone come spazio di dialogo e di incontro rivolto soprattutto ai giovani ricercatori, è stata inserita dall'ANVUR all'interno dell'elenco delle riviste scientifiche dell'Area 08 con il codice ISSN 1828-2482. Ogni numero della rivista è organizzato in cinque sezioni di cui la prima è dedicata al tema selezionato dalla redazione della rivista, mentre le altre sezioni sono dedicate all'attività di ricerca in senso più ampio. Tutti i contributi della sezione tematica sono sottoposti a un processo di *double-blind peer review*.

Per questo numero il tema selezionato è:

### **"Inner Areas"**

Inner areas, as defined in the Italy's National Strategy (SNAI), are part of the territory that plays a central role in the cultural and social fabric of our communities, are an essential component of our society, economy, and environment. However, they are still often neglected and overlooked, resulting in deterioration, abandonment, and social exclusion. For this reason, it is crucial that the fields of architecture, restoration and architectural history and urban and territorial planning are committed to revitalizing and enhancing inner areas. These disciplines have the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to create sustainable and innovative solutions that can transform these territories into vibrant and liveable communities. Moreover, inner areas are an excellent laboratory for innovation in these disciplines. These areas provide a unique opportunity to experiment with new approaches and techniques that can then be applied to larger-scale urban and territorial planning projects. The challenges posed by inner areas require innovative thinking and creative solutions, making them an ideal testing ground for new ways. The papers presented in this special issue of *Infolio* are the result of the conference "Inner areas' cultural, architectural and landscape heritage: study, enhancement and fruition. Potential driver for sustainable territorial development?" held in July 2022 at the University of Palermo. The conference brought together experts in the fields of architecture, restoration, and urban planning to discuss the central role of inner areas in our society and the need for innovative and sustainable solutions to revitalize and preserve them, being sometimes critical and some other prepositive. The papers explore a range of topics, including the use of technology in restoration, the importance of architectural history in urban planning and the role of

community engagement in revitalization projects.

The reflections that emerged at the conference highlighted how inner areas are a crucial part of our territory and society, and their revitalization is essential for the well-being of our entire community and the preservation of our cultural heritage.

## **DOTTORATO IN ARCHITETTURA, ARTI E PIANIFICAZIONE (XXIX-XXXVII CICLO)**

Coordinatore del Dottorato: Marco Rosario Nobile

### **Collegio dei docenti (XXXIV CICLO-XXXVI CICLO)**

#### **Indirizzo in Storia dell'Arte e dell'Architettura**

Fabrizio Avella, Paola Barbera, Maria Sofia Di Fede, Francesco Di Paola, Emanuela Garofalo, Vincenza Garofalo, Laura Inzerillo, Francesco Maggio, Marco Rosario Nobile, Stefano Piazza, Renata Prescia, Fulvia Scaduto, Rosario Scaduto, Ettore Sessa, Domenica Sutura, Francesco Tomaselli, Gaspare Massimo Ventimiglia.

#### **Indirizzo in Progettazione Architettonica, Teoria e Tecnologia**

Tiziana Campisi, Simona Colajanni, Rossella Corrao, Giuseppe De Giovanni, Giuseppe Di Benedetto, Cinzia Ferrara, Maria Luisa Germanà, Santo Giunta, Manfredi Leone, Luciana Macaluso, Antonella Mami, Antonino Margagliotta, Emanuele Palazzotto, Silvia Pennisi, Dario Russo, Michele Sbacchi, Andrea Sciascia, Francesco Sottile, Cesare Sposito, Zeila Tesoriere, Gianfranco Tuzzolino, Calogero Vinci, Serena Viola, Rosa Maria Vitrano.

#### **Indirizzo in Pianificazione Urbana, Territoriale e Paesaggistica**

Giuseppe Abbate, Angela Alessandra Badami, Giulia Bonafede, Maurizio Carta, Teresa Cilona, Barbara Lino, Francesco Lo Piccolo, Grazia Napoli, Marco Picone, Daniele Ronsivalle, Valeria Scavone, Flavia Schiavo, Filippo Schilleci, Vincenzo Todaro, Ferdinando Trapani, Ignazio Vinci.

#### **Docenti stranieri**

Pablo Martí, Andrés Martínez Medina, Enrique Nieto, Manuel Alejandro Rodenas Lopez, Adrian Iancu, Ionut Julean, Virgil Pop, Cristina Purcar, Vlad Rusu, Dana Vais, Alex Deffner, Konstantinos Lalenis, Pantelis Skayannis, Alfonso Senatore.

### **Collegio dei docenti (XXXVII CICLO)**

#### **Indirizzo in Progettazione Architettonica**

Antonio Biancucci, Giuseppe Di Benedetto, Santo Giunta, Manfredi Leone, Luciana Macaluso, Antonino Margagliotta, Giuseppe Marsala, Emanuele Palazzotto, Michele Sbacchi, Andrea Sciascia, Francesco Sottile, Gianfranco Tuzzolino.

#### **Indirizzo in Rappresentazione, Restauro e Storia: studi sul patrimonio architettonico**

Fabrizio Avella, Paola Barbera, Zaira Barone, Maria Sofia Di Fede, Francesco Di Paola, Emanuela Garofalo, Vincenza Garofalo, Francesco Maggio, Marco Rosario Nobile, Stefano Piazza, Renata Prescia, Fulvia Scaduto, Rosario Scaduto, Ettore Sessa, Domenica Sutura, Gaspare Massimo Ventimiglia.

#### **Indirizzo in Studi Urbani e Pianificazione**

Giuseppe Abbate, Angela Alessandra Badami, Maurizio Carta, Teresa Cilona, Chiara Giubilaro, Barbara Lino, Francesco Lo Piccolo, Grazia Napoli, Marco Picone, Daniele Ronsivalle, Valeria Scavone, Flavia Schiavo, Filippo Schilleci, Vincenzo Todaro, Ferdinando Trapani, Ignazio Vinci.

#### **Indirizzo in Progettazione sostenibile dell'architettura e Design: Human centered**

Emanuele Angelico, Tiziana Campisi, Anna Catania, Simona Colajanni, Rossella Corrao, Giuseppe De Giovanni, Cinzia Ferrara, Tiziana Firrone, Maria Luisa Germanà, Antonella Mami, Dario Russo, Cesare Sposito, Vita Maria Trapani, Calogero Vinci, Serena Viola, Rosa Maria Vitrano.

#### **Docenti stranieri**

Beatriz Blasco Esquivias, José Calvo Lopez, Javier Ybanes Fernandez, Vincenzina La Spina, Jorg Schroder, Jordi Bellmunt, Yolanda Gil Saura, Pablo Martí, Andrés Martínez Medina, Enrique Nieto, Manuel Alejandro Rodenas Lopez, Adrian Iancu, Ionut Julean, Virgil Pop, Cristina Purcar, Vlad Rusu, Dana Vais, Alex Deffner, Konstantinos Lalenis, Pantelis Skayannis, Alfonso Senatore.

# Indice

---

	<b>PREFACE</b>	
06	Inner areas' cultural, architectural and landscape heritage: study, enhancement and fruition. Potential driver for sustainable territorial development? <i>Filippo Schilleci, Emanuela Garofalo</i>	94
08	Rethinking inner areas. A multidisciplinary approach to the revival of the territories. <i>Luisa Lombardo</i>	
	<b>LOOKING OUT OVER EUROPE</b>	98
16	Appropriate construction techniques for the reconstruction of housing after a seismic disaster in a rural and heritage context. Case study Colca Valley, Peru. <i>Montserrat Bosch González</i>	110
24	Work in the historic city: Interventions, reflections and experiences. <i>Pablo Manuel Millán</i>	118
34	Location-Based Social Networks as a research line. The exploration of geolocated data for the study of the city <i>Pablo Martí - Álvaro Bernabeu-Bautista - Leticia Serrano-Estrada</i>	124
	<b>ROUND TABLE</b>	134
46	<i>Antonino Margagliotta to Montserrat Bosch González Federica Fernandez to Montserrat Bosch González Emanuela Garofalo to Sandrine Françoise Victor Renata Prescia to Pablo Manuel Millán Modesta Di Paola to Pablo Manuel Millán Daniele Ronsivalle to Pablo Manuel Millán and Montserrat Bosch González</i>	
	<b>URBAN PLANNING E TECHNOLOGY</b>	138
50	Planning the Unesco sites in Syracuse: Inefficacy and ambiguity in WHL Management Plans. <i>Francesco Lo Piccolo</i>	
60	The shared project "SMART REHABILITATION 3.0" for the EU architectural rehabilitation Examples of enhancement, preservation and intervention of traditional architecture in the Mediterranean area <i>Tiziana Campisi</i>	
74	Exploring the Rural within the Italian local development policy <i>Ignazio Vinci</i>	
82	From disuse to the caring-use for the built environment. A further key strategy to enhance the inner areas. <i>Maria Luisa Germanà</i>	
	<b>ROUND TABLE</b>	
	<i>Maria Luisa Germanà to Francesco Lo Piccolo Gloria Lisi to Francesco Lo Piccolo Gloria Lisi to Ignazio Vinci e Maria Luisa Germanà Mauro Filippi to Montserrat Bosch González, Maria Luisa Germanà, Federica Fernandez, Emanuela Garofalo Emanuela Garofalo to Tiziana Campisi</i>	
	<b>ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE &amp; DESIGN</b>	
	Historic cities and inner areas in Sicily. The point of view of the Restoration. <i>Renata Prescia</i>	
	Renaissance Itineraries between Nebrodi and Peloritani: Architectural Heritage, History and Technology. <i>Emanuela Garofalo, Armando Antista</i>	
	Against Landscaping <i>Michele Sbacchi</i>	
	Inland areas between description and transformation. The case of the disused quarries on the island of Favignana <i>Giuseppe Marsala, Pasquale Mei</i>	
	<b>ROUND TABLE</b>	
	<i>Gloria Lisi to Emanuela Garofalo Daniele Ronsivalle to Emanuela Garofalo Tiziana Campisi to Renata Prescia Erica La Placa to Renata Prescia Alejandro Gana to Giuseppe Marsala</i>	
	<b>Postfazione</b>	
	Inner Areas between theories and practices. An ongoing laboratory. <i>Gloria Lisi</i>	



*Opening image: view of Licodía Eubea from Santapau Castle (photo by C. La Mantia, January 2023).*

# Historic cities and inner areas in Sicily

## The point of view of the Restoration

Renata Prescia

*The discipline of restoration has long established a cultural background on the subject of historic cities as a heritage area to be safeguarded, beginning with the Amsterdam Declaration (1975), which introduced the fundamental concept of «integrated conservation». The purpose of this contribution is to emphasize the importance of raising an awareness and care for heritage as a community identity card and not just a reason for tourist offer. The territory and cultural heritage thus become a pedagogical challenge in defining a model of heritage enjoyment, for the promotion of local contexts and in the constitution of learning communities in which restoration likewise participates.*

*Keywords: Sicily, Conservation, Valorization, Pedagogical value.*

«The heart of the problem does not lie in the decay and instability of physical urban and building structures but lies, as they say, “upstream,” and that is where action needs to be taken: not on things but on the diminished interest in them, in the economic, social, and cultural decline of their inhabitants, in that of customs and traditions» [Boscarino, 1994, 10].

### Premise

The disciplinary field of restoration has contributed to the establishment of a culture of the historic city with the extension of the concept of “monument” from the individual object to the urban or landscape environment, developed in the so-called Restoration Charters, not norms, but cultural references that anyone working in monument restoration is required to respect [Prescia, 2016].

«The notion of historical monument includes both the isolated architectural creation and the urban or landscape environment that constitutes evidence of a particular civilization, significant development or historical event. This notion applies not only to major works but also to modest works that have acquired cultural significance over time» (Venice Charter) [International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments, 1964, art.1].

The next innovative and pragmatic step is that taken

by the Amsterdam Charter of 1975, which introduced the concept of «integrated conservation» «as a result of the joint use of restoration technique and the search for appropriate functions» [point 7] opening up to economic needs, to be evaluated in any program of concrete implementation which, however, cannot disregard the «permanent educational value» inherent in architectural heritage for which:

«it is necessary to preserve the testimonies of all eras and experiences because this allows the meaning of forms to be documented and compared and constitutes a way of examples of their use. These testimonies can only survive if the need for their preservation is understood by the majority of the population, especially the younger generation» (Amsterdam declaration) [Congress of EU Ministers, 1975, point 5].

Based on these assumptions, restoration engages in the current debate on the subject of historic cities, which has now taken on a broad international scope, monitored by Unesco, which in 1972 with the «Paris Declaration» identified a cultural heritage (monuments, complexes, sites) and a natural heritage (natural monuments, geological and physiographic formations, natural sites) to be protected through their recognition in «lists of goods».

The «historic center» already extended into «historic city» with the Washington Charter in 1987, is transformed into «historic urban landscape» that is, «the urban area understood as the result of a historical stratification of cultural and natural values and characteristics that go beyond the notion of historic center to include the broader urban context and its geographical location» [Unesco, 2011] [Verdini et al., 2016]. In Italy, the cradle of an ongoing elaboration on theories of restoration throughout the 20th century, which has a duty to establish a national identity, without yielding to globalized visions, a new process of meaning to be given to heritage is initiated starting with the «Cultural Heritage Code» [Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, 2004] and with the ratification in 2011 of the «Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society» [Council of Europe, 2005], which later became Law no. 133 of 1/10/2020.

It, by assigning a centrality to the pedagogical value of monuments, constitutes a turning point in the process elaborated so far, putting «heritage communities» and «heritage» at the center, empowering populations to play an active role in the recognition of cultural heritage values, forcing specialists to find a new role, and inviting states to promote a participatory valorization process based on the synergy between public institutions, private citizens and associations.

With it, the «stylistic restoration» of nineteenth-century origin definitively ferries into the current «critical preservation» to be exercised, through the drafting of rigorous cognitive and interpretive programs, not as instruments of embalming intangibility, but as a coherent, coordinated and planned objective of a process of control and measurement of transformations, through the stages of prevention, maintenance, restoration<sup>1</sup> and subsequent management for the transmission of cultural values as flywheels of development and cornerstones of social welfare.

Setting aside the ideologies of inane preservation or therapeutic overkill on the one hand and restitution to the origins on the other, interventions characterized by balanced choices can find space, which, in their ability to return the heritage to the new reality in a better state of preservation, with the maximum preservation of the stratified phases, deliver us a renewed testimony dense with meaning.

By recomposing the disciplinary shattering between restorers, planners and urbanists, initiated since the post-war years, in the current socio-political context we can recover an organic approach to the «city» question, actually impossible to treat individually.

The primary consciousness of heritage conservation is to protect not only things but what in things has value for the psychic and spiritual life of man; conservation is no longer a goal but a means of applied ecology for the preservation of the human environment; just as enhancement is no longer an end but a means of contributing to the care of the monument and man.

An urban «regeneration» process that is incapable of understanding the plurality of values stored in the physically and historically stratified environment in which we are embedded and whose provisional heirs we are, or of addressing the issue of the economy of the future and environmental sustainability, would be partially and culturally poor [SIRA, 2017].

In more recent times, and even more so after Covid, interest on the issues of historic cities is renewed around the dimension of «inner areas» and the observation of a gradual disappearance, for multiple reasons, of so many small towns, located in them. There are several causes of this danger: a high geomorphological hazard and a widespread level of risk of the monumental heritage, first and foremost structural, but also of materials, which has not been countered by a continuous state of monitoring, prevention and maintenance and by a general state of serious neglect; an exaggerated and solipsistic tourist function. And again, especially in the south, an endemic lack of jobs, with the correlated exodus of young people; the lack of a collective consciousness capable of participating in public affairs and afflicted, moreover, by an endemic lack of entrepreneurial capacity that has fueled a policy that is rather welfarist than a tool for the growth of local communities [Stella et al., 2015].

A useful review on these issues was rendered in the emblematic International Conference «A Country It Take» Studies and Perspectives for Abandoned and Depopulating Centers» held in Reggio Calabria in November 2018 [Oteri et al., 2020] in which a vast and diverse field of research at the international level emerged. Launched as a joint initiative of the CROSS Laboratory active in the PAU Department of the University of Reggio Calabria and formed by researchers in history and restoration, in a region, Calabria, where the phenomenon of depopulation has always been, for a long time, massive and around the cry of alarm of the anthropologist Vito Teti<sup>2</sup> [2018].

Since then, with reference to Sicily, the theme continues to be carried out by restoration scholars, through various contributions [Campisi, 2020] [Vitale et al., 2020a] and specific research and teaching



actions on areas of Palermo, Enna [Vitale et al., 2020b]: dissertations [Fig. 6] and/or doctoral theses<sup>3</sup>; or, also, with specific reference to the new Regional Law on historic centers [Campisi, 2017] [Sanfilippo, 2020]. All highlight the continuous hemorrhaging of inhabitants, in the face of "ineffectiveness of traditional urban planning, and culpable inattention on the part of politics, claiming the need for an urgent "paradigm shift". «*Staying means maintaining the feeling of places and walking to build a new world here and now. a great project of rebirth and reconstruction, presupposes totally new, loving gazes, immediate interventions and long-lasting projects; ability to create an experience of "reanza"» [Teti, 2018].*

### The Sicilian situation: policies and practices

In Sicily, a very complex region rich in many identities, in the face of limited planning [Trombino, 2022] [Fig. 1] and ineffective conservation action carried out by conservation bodies, moreover isolated from the rest of Italy by a pernicious idea of "autonomy"<sup>4</sup>, a process of development that is indifferent and unrelated to places is put in place in the last fifty years, with devastating outcomes for each of them<sup>5</sup>.

Entirely abandoned centers are relatively few: those ruined by earthquakes (1693 Val di Noto earthquake

and 1968 Belice earthquake) and the «fascist villages» built in the first half of the 20th century; many are those where the population has significantly decreased for various reasons: lack of work, hydrogeological disruptions, difficulty of connection, lack of services. Others, for which restoration can do something are: abandonment of building structures, limited planning and/or conservation action, loss of affection for places. In the face of this framework, the Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) developed by the national government was certainly a turning point, the start of a different political process. It was shared by the Region of Sicily in the project «Liberating roots to generate culture» hinged in the programming cycle of the European Regional Development Fund 2014/2020 (ERDF, ESF and EAFRD), in which, out of the 291 municipalities identified as inland areas, 72 were included in the aforementioned "strategy" that assigned a central role to local development and territorial policies. The areas were identified on the basis of their high distance from the centers of supply of services-base related to the areas of health, education and accessibility<sup>6</sup>; a special project is that of the «Minor Islands» which in Sicily includes the Pelagie, Aeolian and Egadi Islands.

The interventions and resources provided in the plan are, consequently, aimed at raising the quantitative and qualitative level of essential services aimed at the

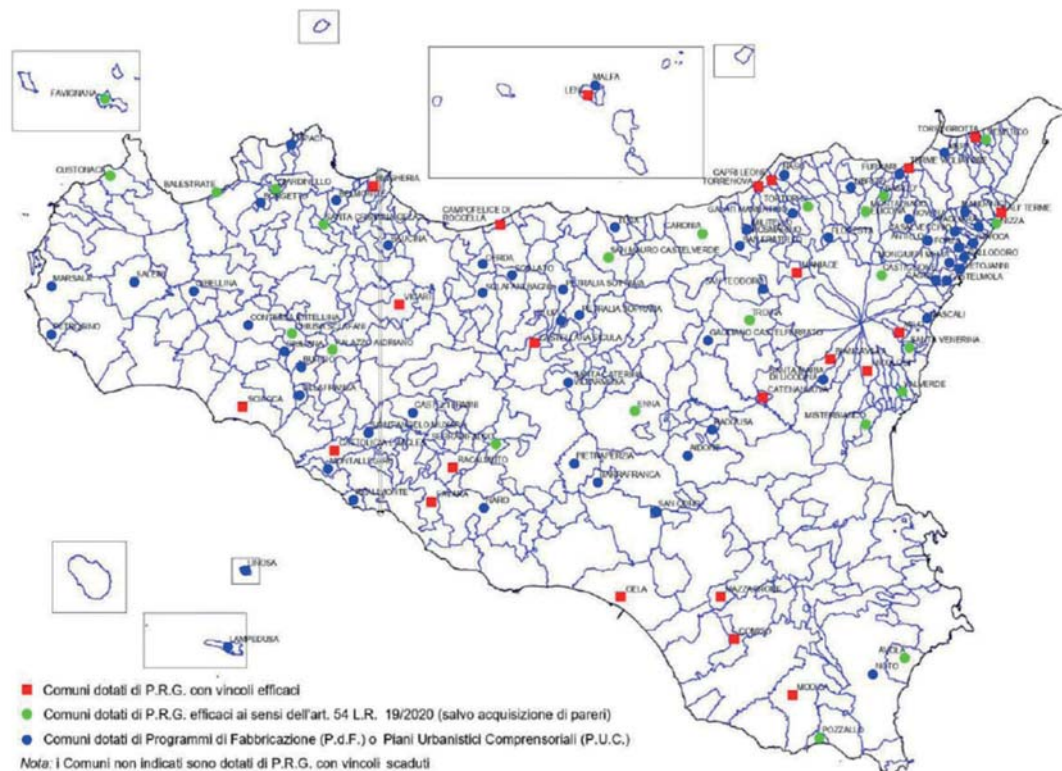


Fig. 1. Distribution of the different instruments of protection on the Sicilian regional territory (from Trombino, 2022, pp.20-21).

population: education, health, digitization, roads, land protection, crafts, energy, agribusiness.

Five of Sicily's first inner areas formed into consortia: Madonie, Simeto Etna, Nebrodi, Terre Sicane and Calatino, characterized by a higher and more differentiated degree of marginality and disadvantage. We are not yet able to take stock of how much this strategy has made possible in these contexts that, as we said before, are severely depleted of young people and, in particular, of technicians who should manage the proposed projects as well as in need of a process of «cultural re-education» informed by the new models of development. This is absolutely evident with regard to the «measure», launched with the PNRR, in favor of a «Village Plan» that awarded 21 municipalities throughout Italy 20 million euros for each regeneration project presented, in which the emphasis on the concept of «village» as opposed to the more suitable one of «town», the allocation of huge economic resources to individual places, and the priority given to a touristic rather than structural spin-off [Martinelli, 2022] [Chetta, 2022] [Chiapperini et al, 2022], raise several perplexities and concerns about the preservation of the historical-testimonial values of the chosen places, as in the case of the *Cunziria* of Vizzini, the only Sicilian case chosen [Fig. 2]. *Cunziria* is a small group of houses and factories, in which hides

were tanned, an extraordinary catalog of authentic building techniques, strongly degradable but still recoverable, immersed in a wooded landscape crossed by the Masera creek, and particularly characterized by an original growth of prickly pears; values all strongly at risk if attentively targeted by tourist «branding» rather than by authentic restoration work as protection and maintenance rather than remaking.

Interesting, however, seems to be the work that can be accomplished with the establishment of Ecomuseums (R.L. 16 of 2014), designed to respect the process of territory, community and heritage, insisting on central themes such as «participation, mediation, consultation and co-decision»:

«a deal by which a community commits to taking care of an area and is implemented through a shared and integrated project for the protection, enhancement, maintenance and production of culture of a geographically, socially and economically homogeneous territory, marked by historical, cultural, material and immaterial, landscape and environmental peculiarities»<sup>7</sup> [Sicily Region, 2014, Art.2] .

Or, as Hugues De Varine, the founder of the ecomuseums, states:

«The ecomuseum is a community and a goal: the development of the community itself. The ecomuseum has,



Fig. 2. The village for leather processing called «Cunziria» in Vizzini, Catania (photo by C. La Mantia, January 2023).

in addition, a general educational function that is based on a cultural heritage and walks on the legs of the actors of a community. It is, finally, a model of development-oriented cooperative organization and a critical process of continuous evaluation and correction» [De Varine, 2022, 15].

In the context of a «meridian thought» according to which the south, with its slowness, with times and spaces that resist the laws of universal acceleration, can become a resource [Cassano, 2005, 7] a new cultural sensibility has spread in recent years that has produced various bottom-up initiatives among which some manifest, in a more popularized way, the same values carried out by the scientific and third mission initiatives of restoration and universities [Prescia, 2017] [Pretelli, 2020], on the themes of heritage and art: broadening the participation and cultural growth of young people and society as a whole, accessibility and inclusion, development of a sense of community, and transmission of memory, which we could distinguish in two broad areas: those fostered by a charismatic personality and investing in the social, and those formed by networks of associations active on the cultural heritage of an area.

The first include the activity of Antonio Presti who, from a personal vision of life, in which the pursuit of beauty is understood as a condition of redemption from degradation, first and foremost social, has established

the «Fiumara d'arte», the first open-air museum in Sicily, and specific social actions in the Librino neighborhood on the outskirts of Catania [Fig. 3] and in the areas of the Oreto River in Palermo; but also the activity of the notary Bartoli in Favara (AG) and, now, in Mazzarino (CL) for a revitalization of abandoned historic centers through a promotion of visual art and architecture<sup>8</sup> [Fig. 4] [Pierro et al., 2022].

Among the latter, certainly the «Belican Museum and Nature Network»<sup>9</sup>, desired by a group of associations, active in the towns affected by the earthquake of 1968, was born in 2012 from the awareness that the identity of any place or small town has the possibility to consolidate only in an integrated system on a territorial scale that, starting from the individual communities, offers a continuous reading of the territory, art, material culture that allows their knowledge, preservation and enhancement; the «Road of Writers» initiative, along the SS 640 linking Agrigento with Caltanissetta, retraces the places of Sicily's most brilliant writers. Among the initiatives, the master of writing. The VI edition of the initiative, organized with the scientific direction of the Treccani Cultura Foundation (president Massimo Bray), was launched on July 7. Theme of 2022 is that of «Words of Sustainability»; the «Festival of the Villages of Treasures » organized every year by the association of the same name, which brings together



Fig. 3. Antonio Presti with students and teachers of the Liceo artistico «Renato Guttuso» in Giarre (CT) at the inauguration of the work «Kalokagathia», part of the Project «the door of butterflies» in Librino (photo by Officine Demetra, January 2023).

56 Sicilian municipalities, with the opening of hidden and little-known places, by the young people of the villages themselves, in the wake traced by the project «Le vie dei tesori» (the routes of treasures), which started its activities in 2006 from Palermo and dedicated to the narration and discovery of the material and immaterial heritage of the Island, to enhance it by networking its best resources. A project that believes, with a civic commitment even before a cultural one, in the infinite potential of a productive South, freed from welfarism<sup>10</sup> [Fig. 5].

### An urgent paradigm shift: the contribution of restoration

A paradigm shift is needed whose principles are:

- «a holistic approach», leaving behind intransigent ideological positions and willingness to be part of a set of interdisciplinary strategies (European Quality Principles European Council, 2019);



Fig. 4: «Embassy of farm», in Tortorici Palace, Mazzarino (photo by F. Trapani, 2022).



Fig. 5. Logos of «La strada degli scrittori», «Sistema museale e natural belicino» and «Borghi dei tesori» foundation, initiatives that network municipalities in inner areas of Sicily for their enhancement ([www.comune.palmadimontechiaro.ag.it](http://www.comune.palmadimontechiaro.ag.it); <https://retemusealebelicina.it/>; <https://leviedeitesori.com/borghi-dei-tesori>).

- idea of conservation as “care” not disconnected from the architecture, shifting the point of view from the conservation/innovation dialectic to the necessity/compatibility dialectic. Development of conservation programs for material heritage [Icomos, 2008a] [UNI, 2006];
- idea of conservation not disconnected from urban planning, a restoration that reconnects with urbanism by offering him his ability to see things up close with that ability that is inherent in his DNA, to read stones, to know how to take “care” of them and, with that, to connect with the people who live among those stones<sup>11</sup>;
- Idea of conservation as “care” not disconnected from economic evaluations, which introduced the concept of «integrated conservation» which opens to economic issues that cannot be disregarded in any program of concrete implementation. (Amsterdam Charter 1975); The objectives of these strategies (or actions) are:
  - ensuring a housing rebalance in the target area to increase the number of inhabitants, better distributed and place-focused tourism;
  - reducing the distance between specialists and the community/Reconnecting people with places.

A “fragile” territory and heritage needs first and foremost «securing» through the drafting of protocols and operational codes for the knowledge of widespread heritage and related conservation and prevention programs [Oteri, 2019].

The latest earthquakes have made possible a post-seismic regulation [Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, 2018; Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, 2019], which has introduced new reading tools elaborated for the identification of architectural components, with specific reference to the technical-constructive characteristics that, especially for basic building, are primary values to be safeguarded (maps of materials and construction techniques), and for the identification of the «state of preservation» declined in degradation and disruption [Varagnoli, 2009]. Cognitive abacuses of materials and building techniques have been drawn up to supplement «new generation» Plans or Building Regulations in the cases of Cagliari [Giannattasio, 2009] and Ferrara [Fabbri, 2009], while the urgency of knowing and managing ever better a heritage at risk (geological instabilities, floods), which should be the main objective of every administration today, informs a mighty research work being carried out by a team of researchers coordinated by Donatella Fiorani that aims at a classification of historic centers according to specific indices of vulnerability and transformation [Fiorani, 2019; Fiorani 2020] .

After the issue of security, the other issue, equally central, is that of fruition - the trait d'union between conservation and enhancement - for which each

municipality should draw up, overcoming the proposition of generic options, preliminarily to an implementation plan, a «reconnaissance of the heritages» in particular those of the State and Curia that make up the bulk of it, and today the subject of ongoing processes of divestment, whose location, very often within historic urban fabrics, and whose size, always very extensive, makes them nevertheless nodes to be addressed. These complexes, despite having lost their founding function, are still bearers of their original cultural, historical and spatial values as well as holders of new economic, urban and social potential. Their strong identity connotations and their heritage of meanings, psychological and social, as well as their considerable economic potential, together with the testimonial values that pose pressing conservation needs, are the issues to be considered when choosing a new function to which to assign them. Since the enactment of the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code [Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, 2004], issues of public enjoyment, including for the disabled, have become the priority vocation of cultural heritage [lvi, art. 2], along with those of enhancement [lvi, art.6]. In this sense, accessibility is a key-word that breaks free from the limiting reference exclusively to the disabled and widens to a much broader field of reflection that is expressed in terms of Universal Design and in terms of a new «education» to heritage, moreover triggering significant bottom-up experiences by associations, youth cooperatives, and small cultural enterprises.

Objectives to be pursued, for those concerned with heritage, and as recommended by the «Ename Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites» [Icomos, 2008b], therefore become the useful actions to:

- facilitate understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage sites and promote public awareness of and commitment to the need for their protection and preservation;
  - communicating the significance of heritage sites to diverse interlocutors through deep and well-documented recognition of this significance through recognized methods of scientific analysis and research in addition to living cultural traditions.
- And likewise, the Florence Declaration - Heritage and Landscape as Human Values<sup>12</sup> [Icomos, 2014] recommends the following:
- establish for communities' general practices for action within formal planning/management systems, giving the community a voice within conservation decision-making processes;
  - sharing the «value» of traditional knowledge and practices as the basis for innovative technological balanced development programs and sustainable development;
  - foster community engagement in the development of their home areas through the provision of services, entrepreneurship, and cultural production or volunteer activities, which can lead to the revaluation of cultural heritage and provide opportunities (supported by capacity building) to positively promote the diverse



Fig. 6. Educational experience of a master's thesis in architecture (University of Palermo, Department of Architecture, supervisor prof. Renata Prescia, co-supervisor prof. Emanuela Garofalo, a.y. 2020/2021) on Ciminna, a little town in the hinterland of Palermo with a very rich cultural heritage and landscape that we want to highlight, to counter the only identifying reading of the town, exclusively known for being one of the sets of the famous film «Il Gattopardo» (graphic elaboration by A. Alesi, 2020).

identities of resident communities. It is a revival of the forces of humanism [Prescia, 2020] or «of the contemporary post-human», as Caffo [2017] says, returned to take up the challenge of governing the excess of technologism and technocracy that we experienced during the twentieth century and that, in deference to the model of infinite growth, which today is perhaps understood to be a myth, needs to be endowed with appropriate correctives, in order to achieve higher levels of individual and collective «well-being»<sup>13</sup>.

The «bottom-up» initiatives that seem to be working in the direction of «defining and consolidating the symbolic characterization of the territory and connecting it to strategies for constructing individual and collective identities» must be able to converge, with the help of particularly aware and alert cultural mediators, in «cultural districts» in which the challenge lies in the attempt to decline culture not as a mere product to be sold (which leads to the death of art cities) but as a permanent source of regeneration to be nurtured and put into circulation in order to increase the «cognitive balance» as a product of active and conscious participation in experience [Caliandro et al, 2011] [Hinna, 2015] [Tavano Blessi et al., 2006]. Of course, these are processes that take a long time, and they can be helped by structuring governance networks: Unesco Serial Sites or SNAI Internal Areas. However, the «community», disproportionately invoked, needs modern administrations and university networks to ensure real policies, «cared for» territories and architectures, respecting a balanced dialectic between conservation/development<sup>14</sup>, sustainability or a new ecology [Pope Francis, 2015] [Schilleci 2012], increasing the desire and the right of «*restanza*» [Teti, 2018].

In this sense, Sicily can be a candidate, to live a new model of development if we all understand that, in the global political instability, there is a need for shared responsibility on the part of every community and, in it, every individual.

*Renata Prescia, Full Professor  
Department of Architecture  
University of Palermo  
renata.prescia@unipa.it*

## Notes

1. Cultural Heritage Code [Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, 2004], was implemented by the Sicilian Region by Circular No. 7 of March 9, 2006 of the Regional Department of Cultural and Environmental Heritage). In Section II - «Conservation Measures», Art. 29 «Conservation», Paragraph 5 adds that «the Ministry defines, also with the help of the regions and with the collaboration of universities and relevant research institutes, guidelines, technical standards, criteria and models of intervention in the field of conservation of cultural heritage».
2. From Teti's thought, the association Riabitare l'Italia was born in 2020, which brings together scholars around a manifesto that has its programmatic heart, which is absolutely shareable, in «reversing the gaze» [Cersosimo, 2020].
3. The Ph.D. in «Architecture, Arts and Planning» of the University of Palermo, in its address «Representation, Restoration, History: studies on architectural cultural heritage», is in the process of carrying out a municipal doctoral grant, provided for by the Relaunch Decree - Conversion Law No. 77/20 (Department for Cohesion Policies, [ministroperilsud.gov.it](http://ministroperilsud.gov.it)), for the towns of Vizzini, Licodia Eubea and Grammichele aimed at the recognition of the monumental values of the three centers. An interesting government measure this one, for the structuring of integrated relationships between administrations and universities, which unfortunately it seems will not be proposed again.
4. Legal protection in Sicily, region of special status since 1945, became operational by Law n.80 of 1977 with the establishment of the 9 «Soprintendenze Uniche» (Unique Superintendencies), and of the CRICD e CRPR, similar to the corresponding national centers (ICCD and ICR).
5. Please refer to the full reading rendered in Lo Piccolo and Schilleci [Lo Piccolo et al., 2003].
6. [www.euroinfosicilia.it](http://www.euroinfosicilia.it).
7. To date, 25 eco-museums have been recognized in Sicily.
8. [Farmculturalpark.com](http://Farmculturalpark.com); [Pierro et al., 2022].
9. [www.retemusealebelicina.it](http://www.retemusealebelicina.it)
10. [www.leviedeitesori.com](http://www.leviedeitesori.com)
11. Noteworthy in this direction is the research of the «territorialists» [Magnaghi 2012] and of the Association Riabitare l'Italia [Cersosimo, 2020]; [Barbera et al., 2022]; [Lucatelli, 2022].
12. These cultural elaborations, of course, fully flowed into the Faro Convention, now Law 133 of 1.10.20 [Council of Europe, 2005].
13. Beginning with Ruskin's enlightened thinking in the

early twentieth century [Prescia, 2019].

14. In Sicily, a joint path of scientific research and operational practice between conservation and development, between culture and economics, was initiated by the collaboration between Professors Salvatore Boscarino (restoration) and Francesco Rizzo (economics) that produced a substantial bibliography. See in [Albanese et al., 2011].

## References

- Albanese A., Prescia R., Giuffrida S. (2011). "Approccio valutativo ed ortoprassi del restauro per un centro storico siciliano", *Territori*, 5, pp. 45-70.
- Barbera F., De Rossi A., Cersosimo D. (2022). *Contro i borghi*, Donzelli, Roma.
- Boscarino S., Federico A., Giuffrida S., Prescia R., Rizzo F. (eds., 1994). *Petralia Soprana. Ipotesi di restauro urbano e studi di analisi multicriteriale*, Medina, Palermo.
- Caffo L. (2017). *Il territorio fragile umanità. Il postumano contemporaneo*, Einaudi, Torino.
- Caliandro C., Sacco P.L. (2011). *Italia reloaded*, Il Mulino, Bologna.
- Campisi M. T. (2017). "Nuove leggi per una presunta conservazione dell'edilizia di base dei centri storici", in Giusti M. A. (ed.), *Questioni teoriche: tematiche specifiche*, section 1B, in Fiorani D. (coord.), *RICerca/REStauo*, Quasar, Roma, pp. 177-186.
- Cassano F. (2005). *Il pensiero meridiano*, Laterza, (1 ed. 1996), Bari-Roma.
- Cersosimo D., Donzelli C. (2020). *Manifesto per riabitare l'Italia*, Donzelli, Roma.
- Chetta A. (2022), "Quei borghi da top ten, bellissimi ma finti. Dal Piemonte al Sud", *Corriere Torino*, 30/07/2022, [https://torino.corriere.it/cultura/22\\_luglio\\_27/piemonte-quei-borghi-top-ten-bellissimi-ma-finti-3f20f1dc-0cfe-11ed-aed2-a42341ad3613.shtml](https://torino.corriere.it/cultura/22_luglio_27/piemonte-quei-borghi-top-ten-bellissimi-ma-finti-3f20f1dc-0cfe-11ed-aed2-a42341ad3613.shtml).
- Chiapperini C., Montenegro E., Viesti G. (2022). "Ventuno fortunati borghi", in Barbera F., Cersosimo D., De Rossi A., *Contro i borghi*, Donzelli, Roma, pp. 161-168.
- De Varine H. (2022). *L'ecomuseo singolare e plurale, Utopie concrete*, Udine.
- Fabbri R., "Manutenzione delle facciate nel centro storico di Ferrara. Linee Guida per l'integrazione del regolamento edilizio", in Varagnoli C. (ed.) *Muri parlanti*, Alinea editrice, Firenze, pp. 197-208.
- Fiorani D. (2019). *Il futuro dei centri storici. Digitalizzazione e strategia conservativa*, Quasar, Roma.
- Fiorani D. (2020). "Conoscenza e intervento come processo dinamico. L'impiego della carta del rischio come strumento di gestione conservativa dei centri storici", in Fiorani D., Romeo E. (eds.), *Realizzazione degli interventi. Gestione, valorizzazione, prevenzione*, section 4.1., in Musso S. F., Pretelli M. (coord.), *Restauro. Conoscenza progetto cantiere gestione*, Quasar, Roma, pp. 569-579.
- Giannattasio C. (2009). "Il quartiere Stampace in Cagliari: dalla conoscenza al progetto di restauro urbano", in Giannattasio C. (ed.), *Antiche ferite e nuovi significati. Permanenze e trasformazioni nella città storica*, Gangemi, Cagliari, pp. 225-240.
- Hinna A. (2015). "Tipologie di distretti culturali a confronto: politiche, governo e gestione", *Il capitale culturale*, supplement 3, pp. 43-59.
- Lo Piccolo F., Schilleci F. (2003). "Ambiguità e pluralità del paesaggio siciliano: una possibile lettura", in Lo Piccolo F., Schilleci F. (eds.), *A Sud di Brobdingnag. L'identità dei luoghi: per uno sviluppo locale auto sostenibile nella Sicilia occidentale*, Franco Angeli, Milano, pp. 52-83.
- Lucatelli S., Luisi D., Tantillo F. (2022). *L'Italia lontana. Una politica per le aree interne*, Donzelli, Roma.
- Magnaghi A. (ed., 2012). *Il territorio bene comune*, Firenze University press, Firenze.
- Martinelli L. (2022). "Contro i borghi, per i paesi. Perché dobbiamo ridare dignità ai territori", *Altraeconomia*, 29/07/2022, <https://altreconomia.it/contro-i-borghi-per-i-paesi-perche-dobbiamo-ridare-dignita-ai-territori/>.
- Oteri A. (2019). "Historical buildings in fragile areas. Problems and new perspectives for the care of architectural heritage", *ArchHistoR EXTRA*, 11, 2019, pp.169-205.
- Oteri A., Scamardi G. (eds., 2020). *One needs a town. Studies and perspectives for abandoned or depopulated small towns*, Conference proceedings, november 2018, *ArchHistoR EXTRA*, 7, 2020, supplement of *ArchHistoR* 13.
- Pierro L., Scarpinato M. (2022). "«Embassy of farm», Farm Cultural Park raddoppia a Mazzarino", *Il Giornale dell'architettura*, 12/01/2022.
- Prescia R. (2016). "Criteri e principi per il restauro architettonico", in Trombino G. (ed.) *Modica. Contributi per il recupero e la riqualificazione del centro storico*, 40due edizioni, Palermo, pp. 237-244.
- Prescia R. (2017). "Comunicare il restauro", in R. Prescia (ed.), *Valorizzazione e gestione delle informazioni*, section 4, in Fiorani D. (coord.), *RICerca/REStauo*, Quasar, Roma, pp. 867-877.
- Prescia R. (2019). "L'eredità di John Ruskin critico della società", in Caccia Gherardini S., Pretelli M. (eds.), *Memories on John Ruskin. Unto this last*, vol. 2, special issue of *Restauro Archeologico*, XXVII, Firenze, pp.34-39.
- Prescia R. (2020). "Abandoned small towns in

- Sicily. Strategies and proposals for recovering and enhancement. Strategie e iniziative per il recupero e la valorizzazione: un bilancio sui centri storici siciliani”, in Oteri A., Scamardi G. (eds., 2020). *One needs a town. Studies and perspectives for abandoned or depopulated small towns*, Conference acts, november 2018, ArchHistoR EXTRA, 7, 2020, supplement of ArchHistoR 13, pp. 1625-1641.
- Pretelli M. (ed., 2020). “Heritage communities: cambio di paradigma?”, section 2, in Musso S.F., Pretelli M. (coord.), *Conoscenza progetto cantiere gestione*, Quasar, Roma 2020, pp. 353-358.
- Sanfilippo G. (2020). “Processi conoscitivi per la conservazione dei piccoli centri storici. Normativa ed esperienze in Sicilia”, in Boato A., Caccia Gherardini S. (eds.), *Conoscenza previa (preventiva) e puntuale (mirata). Metodologie*, section 1.1., in Musso S. F., Pretelli M. (coord.), *Restauro. Conoscenza progetto cantiere gestione*, Quasar, Roma, pp. 118-125.
- Schilleci F. (ed., 2012), *Ambiente ed ecologia*, Franco Angeli, Milano.
- Stella G. A., Rizzo S. (2015). *Se muore il Sud*, (1 ed. 2013) Feltrinelli, Milano.
- Tavano Blessi G., Sacco P. L. (2006), “Verso un nuovo modello di sviluppo sostenibile: distretti culturali e aree urbane”, *Working papers*, Dipartimento delle arti e del disegno industriale, IUAV, 6, agosto, pp. 2-32.
- Teti V. (2018). “Riabitare i paesi. Un “manifesto” per i borghi in abbandono e in via di spopolamento”, *Il corriere della Calabria*, 30/09/2018.
- Trombino G. (ed., 2022), *Paradigmi siciliani. Rapporto sullo stato della pianificazione urbanistica comunale in Sicilia*, INU, Roma.
- Varagnoli C. (ed., 2009), *Muri parlanti*, Alinea, Firenze.
- Verdini G., Re A., Fayad S., Zhou J., Rogers A. P., Juma M., Veldpaus L. (2016). *The HUL Guidebook: UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape Guidebook*, Fondazione Santagata, Torino.
- Vitale M. R., Sanzaro D., Circo C. (2020a). “La marginalizzazione dei centri storici in Sicilia. Fenomenologie, esperienze e strumenti di intervento”, in Veropalumbo A., Pascariello M. I. (eds.), *La città palinsesto, Acts of the CIRICE 2020 international conference*, 2 voll., FedOA University Press, Napoli, t. II, pp. 495-504.
- Vitale M.R., Versaci A. (2020b). “Un destino di marginalizzazione. Il ruolo delle politiche urbane nell’abbandono del centro storico di Leonforte”, in Oteri A., Scamardi G. (eds., 2020). *One needs a town. Studies and perspectives for abandoned or depopulated small towns*, Conference acts, november 2018, ArchHistoR EXTRA, 7, 2020, supplement of ArchHistoR 13, 1948-1969.
- Documents and directives*
- Congress of EU Ministers (1975), *European Architectural Heritage Charter (Amsterdam Declaration)*, Amsterdam.
- Council of Europe (2005), *Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Charter)*, Faro.
- Icomos (2008a), *Glossary on stone deterioration*.
- Icomos (2008b), *Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites (Ename Charter)*, Quebec, Canada.
- Icomos (2014), *Heritage and Landscape as Human Values. Declaration of Principles and Recommendations on the Value of Cultural Heritage and Landscape for Building a Society of Peace and Democracy (Florence Declaration)*, Firenze.
- International Charter for the Preservation of Historic Cities (Washington Charter)* (1987), Washington.
- Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (2004), *Cultural Heritage code*, D.lgs. n.42.
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (2018), *Aggiornamento delle Norme tecniche per le costruzioni*.
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (2019), *Istruzioni per l’applicazione dell’«Aggiornamento delle «Norme tecniche per le costruzioni»» di cui al decreto ministeriale 17 gennaio 2018*.
- Pope Francis (2015), *Laudato si. Encyclical on Care for the Common Home*, San Paolo, Milano.
- Sicily Region (2014), *Istituzione degli ecomusei di Sicilia*.
- SIRA (2017), *Letter to all the Italian Departments of Architecture*, 28.11.2017
- Unesco (2011), *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*.
- UNI (2006), *Italian standards on the degradation of stone materials*, 111182/2006.

## Web references

- [www.euroinfosicilia.it](http://www.euroinfosicilia.it) (last accessed 16/01/2023).
- [www.farmculturalpark.com](http://www.farmculturalpark.com) (last accessed 16/01/2023).
- [www.leviedeitorsori.com](http://www.leviedeitorsori.com) (last accessed 16/01/2023).
- [www.retemusealeblicina.it](http://www.retemusealeblicina.it) (last accessed 16/01/2023).