

# 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

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*Il borgo di Gangi, Luisa Lombardo*



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**DIPARTIMENTO  
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**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.

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# Indice

## PREFACE

- 06 Inner areas' cultural, architectural and landscape heritage: study, enhancement and fruition. Potential driver for sustainable territorial development?  
*Filippo Schilleci, Emanuela Garofalo*
- 08 Rethinking inner areas.  
A multidisciplinary approach to the revival of the territories.  
*Luisa Lombardo*

## LOOKING OUT OVER EUROPE

- 16 Appropriate construction techniques for the reconstruction of housing after a seismic disaster in a rural and heritage context. Case study Colca Valley, Peru.  
*Montserrat Bosch González*
- 24 Work in the historic city: Interventions, reflections and experiences.  
*Pablo Manuel Millán*
- 34 Location-Based Social Networks as a research line. The exploration of geolocated data for the study of the city  
*Pablo Martí - Álvaro Bernabeu-Bautista - Leticia Serrano-Estrada*

## ROUND TABLE

- 46 *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*

## URBAN PLANNING E TECHNOLOGY

- 50 Planning the Unesco sites in Syracuse: Inefficacy and ambiguity in WHL Management Plans.  
*Francesco Lo Piccolo*
- 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  
*Tiziana Campisi*
- 74 Exploring the Rural within the Italian local development policy  
*Ignazio Vinci*
- 82 From disuse to the caring-use for the built environment.  
A further key strategy to enhance the inner areas.  
*Maria Luisa Germanà*

## ROUND TABLE

- 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*

## ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE & DESIGN

- Historic cities and inner areas in Sicily. The point of view of the Restoration.  
*Renata Prescia*
- Renaissance Itineraries between Nebrodi and Peloritani: Architectural Heritage, History and Technology.  
*Emanuela Garofalo, Armando Antista*
- Against Landscaping  
*Michele Sbacchi*
- Inland areas between description and transformation. The case of the disused quarries on the island of Favignana  
*Giuseppe Marsala, Pasquale Mei*

## ROUND TABLE

- 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*

## Postfazione

- Inner Areas between theories and practices.  
An ongoing laboratory.  
*Gloria Lisi*





*Opening image: an example of caring-use in a historical center in Southern Italy (photo by M. Listri, 1985).*



# From disuse to the caring-use for the built environment

## A further key strategy to enhance the inner areas

Urban Planning & Technology

Maria Luisa Germanà

*Abandonment characterizes the inner areas: in fields, infrastructures, public spaces, productive and residential buildings, the use which constitutes an indispensable reference in analytical, evaluation and design approaches concerning the built environment has now almost completely ceased. The restitution of a use is often indicated as the goal of strategies for revitalization; however, use is not enough as a tool in itself, if it does not meet the multifaceted requirements of sustainability, acting as a 'caring-use', in which users are custodians and not carefree profiteers. After having extended some considerations on sustainable use from the architectural heritage to the common built environment, the contribution refers to an applied research experience that exemplifies the application of a holistic approach to different forms of the built environment, which concerned Montalbano Elicona, a place that summarizes many of the typical characteristics of inner areas.*

**Keywords:** Built environment; Sustainable use; Architectural Heritage; Inner Areas; Baukultur

### Inner areas and abandonment

In the description of urban settlements, the adjective 'inner' qualifies parts of cities characterized by socio-economic problems, regardless of location<sup>1</sup>. In the Italian context, 'inner' is often used as an alternative to 'inland' to translate 'internal'. This adjective is often used to indicate the areas characterized by the coexistence of some main key-problems that results to be more evident than in the rest of the territory. Problems such as: distance from collective services especially education, health and mobility; digital divide; demographic decrease; critical conditions in production activities especially agriculture. Important government decisions, guided by the Italian SNAI (National Strategy for Inner Areas) in the last decade have focused on these areas, within the general framework of the European cohesion policies of the *European Network for Rural Development*<sup>2</sup>.

The set of critical factors of inner areas synthetically appears, in the phenomenon of abandonment, which can be observed at various scales: in agricultural areas; in infrastructures of any type; in buildings, both traditional and more recently built, public or private, residential or specialized, located within

urban areas or scattered in the countryside<sup>3</sup>. In general, abandonment – as a direct consequence of lack of use – is a serious risk factor for any artifact, intended as the result of any intentional transformation process of anthropogenic origin. In fact, it is true that, the use inevitably generates wear, but, it also poses the preconditions for caring and triggering and facilitating the implementation of continuous maintenance processes. This is even more evident in artifacts that, like buildings and other forms of the anthropization of the natural environment, even if unused are exposed to decay factors, such as atmospheric agents.

Since the multi-scalar phenomenon of abandonment is one of the most characteristic of the inner areas, it follows that the fight against abandonment is often indicated as an objective and/or as a tool, to solve the critical conditions of these territories, through the re-proposal of the original uses, or the attribution of renewed or new uses. However, such proposals can hide the misleading preconception, that choosing one particular use rather than another is enough to reverse the processes of demographic decline and aging of the population.

The very identity of these territories, which during the

second half of the twentieth century caused their marginalization, is today the basis of resource-based local development policies, which enhance it in close links with the specific natural context and cultural heritage. These development policies have found support, fueling it at the same, in the profound paradigm shift that has taken place in recent decades in the general vision of the built environment, which has consolidated the trend towards new approaches, in which the twentieth-century segmentations are gradually fading.

This is made evident by looking at the topic of use from the most different angles: at the large scale, in the fact that the links of inner areas, mainly rural, with the surrounding urban poles are increasingly highlighted [Vinci, 2015], at the scale of public spaces, in the fact that different uses and different users over time are encouraged, to distribute management costs, maximize efficiency and ensure maintenance [Carta, 2015, 33]. Within this framework, the cultural heritage – of which the inner areas are rich – occupies a central position, most of the time connected to tourism, in line with the cohesion policies underlying the Italian SNAI [Battino et al., 2017]; [Cerquetti et al., 2019].

### The use in the approach to the built environment

The use is one of the traditional pillars of the theory of architecture since the Vitruvius treatise and, over time, it has contributed to the definition and to the assessment of the quality of the built environment. In fact, use remains at the heart of the definition of

the architect's skills, as can be seen, for example, by comparing the words of Leon Battista Alberti with the EU Directive 2005/36/2005 on the *Recognition of professional qualifications*, despite the five centuries between the two definitions<sup>4</sup>.

The theme of use pervaded the disciplines that deal with architecture and the built environment, becoming, especially during the twentieth century an undisputed reference, albeit at times controversial. Some relevant examples are the relationship between form and function (the latter term which actually fits more to a machine than to an anthropized place); the idea of "intended use" in the identification of homogeneous areas in urban and territorial planning; the definition of building quality as a complete response to the needs that derive from the activities deriving precisely from the uses, basis of the performance approach to the technological design of architecture<sup>5</sup>.

The current prevailing trend considers the use a theme that shuns the rigid twentieth-century segmentations, to actualize in any intervention (regardless of scale) the mixed-use of the pre-industrial built environment, paying attention – as well as to the benefits of the integration of different uses – also to the possibility of future evolutions, through the orientation towards flexibility and reversibility [Di Battista et al., 1995].

To some extent, the reasons for this trend can be traced back to the gradual adaptation of the technological culture to the prevalence of interventions on existing buildings, which began to characterize the areas affected by the construction boom in the second Twentieth century. If in general the intended use is among the objectives of justifying the subsequent



Fig. 1. An example of hostile architecture: "Concrete spikes under a road bridge in Guangzhou city, Guangdong, China" (photo by Imaginechina/REX" published in "The Guardian" 18/02/2015).



design choices, this becomes particularly relevant in the interventions on an existing building, where the use is a part of the analytical data, to be critically evaluated taking into account the qualitative and quantitative aspects, the tangible and intangible dimensions, and the Time variable (previous, current and potential uses).

Recognizing that most of the criticalities encountered in any anthropic settlement can be traced back to this multifaceted theme, the use today is confirmed as one of the indispensable references in any approach to the built environment, with both analytical, evaluative or design purposes. It is an even more strategic reference in those situations in which the absence of use and/or abandonment occurs, such as in the inner areas, provided that one substantial fact is taken into account: if certainly disuse is a risk factor, the use in itself is not enough to prevent it.

### **‘Caring-use’ VS ‘Consumer-use’**

The use of the built environment depends on a set of conditions that are not easily determined by applying top-down models and that is even more complex extending the observation scale. Many examples demonstrate the close connection between the use of the built environment and the consequences, in the short and medium term, of financial facts: for example, the global phenomenon of unfinished construction following the 2008 financial crisis [Germanà, 2020]; the numerous cases of gentrification in urban centers; the countless cases of regeneration of urban districts grafted by adaptive reuse interventions, activated by public administrations or private investors. A similar connection suggests the need to reflect on the use of the built environment to circumscribed case studies, applying rather a bottom-up model, to find a more concrete field of application. In the contemporary vision of architectural heritage, which includes the built environment if invested by «conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest» [CoE, 1985], the theme of use, long neglected or opposed to conservation, has become a prerequisite of an ethical nature, indispensable for reliable and inclusive conservation and enhancement processes [Germanà, 2021]. In this field, the role of users (visitors and general public, individuals and communities) has become a key issue, which thanks to the IV Industrial Revolution always encounters new opportunities and potential for the management of architectural heritage. Some ideas taken from the reflections on use in this

specific field [Germanà and Nicolini, 2021], remain valid even if they refer to the ordinary built environment, such as the distinction between direct and indirect use. The first presupposes a physical contact between place and user, which could be intentional or unintentional, sporadic or continuous, individual or collective, always generating consequences on the material essence of the built heritage. The second type of use occurs through cultural mediation (historical or artistic narration) which amplifies the evocations generated by a place, which can attract visitors, producing a deferred indirect effect on a physical level. The distinction between the intangible dimension of use, linked to the socio-cultural context, and the tangible dimension also remains valid. The latter much depends on the physical characteristics of the built environment that can prevent or limit accessibility to certain categories of people (contextual environmental and anthropogenic conditions; type, size and interrelation between spaces; indoor or outdoor finishing materials). In the direct and tangible use, some quantitative characteristics can be recognized (frequency and intensity, referring to the chronological extension of use and the number of users), which coexist with some qualitative aspects. The latter affect the ways of using a certain part of the built environment, for example tending towards inclusion (if they favor its use by anyone), or deliberately towards exclusion (if they apply ‘hostile’ solutions, limiting or preventing use, with the most varied reasons, such as safety, public order, decorum, etc.) [Fig. 1].

Taking into account the quantitative and qualitative aspects and the tangible and intangible dimension, an evaluation of the direct use of the built environment can be determined in an objective and more useful way to achieve its improvement, within a scale in which in the one extreme we find disuse and in the other one the sustainable use. Among these extremes, different types of unsustainable use can be identified, such as: abuse (illegal use, in which individual interests prevail to the detriment of public ones); misuse (inappropriate or harmful use, with respect both to the characteristics and meanings of the built environment and to the categories of users); overuse (excessive use, when excessive crowding compromises a satisfactory quality fruition).

Sustainable use, a precondition for the overall quality of the built environment, is a goal that requires continuous confirmation, due to the variability of what affects it. It can be read with reference



*Fig. 2. The "Festa Aragonesa" every year in August commemorates the entry of King Federico II of Aragon in Montalbano Elicona (photo by the author, 2015).*





*Fig. 3. Montalbano Elicona (ME). The unfinished public building seen from the Swabian-Aragonese castle (photo by the author, 2020).*

to the three usual dimensions of sustainability: for the economic aspects, some uses can be more advantageous, triggering win-win situations thanks to virtuous management models; for social aspects, some uses more than others result in greater involvement of people in the management of the built environment, encouraging responsible, supportive and cooperative attitudes; for environmental aspects, some individual and collective behaviors, influenced by the built environment, substantially affect the consumption of natural resources and emissions, at all scales of observation. Keeping in mind how the reckless use of the built environment can be erosive of natural resources and compromising the quality of life of users, the neologism 'consumer-use' is proposed here in addition to the previous forms of unsustainable use (abuse, misuse, overuse). In contrast, in a certain sense sustainable use can be understood as a 'caring-use': a kind of use that is careful and thoughtful, that controls, fine-tunes and adjusts while using, in which the user is active and aware because it attributes the right value to what is used. Taking care brings together qualitative and quantitative, tangible and intangible aspects in the use; it represents a challenge that requires to be based on fundamental educational and ethical principles, because it requires us to feel like only temporary users [Rifkin, 2000] and not carefree takers of what we use, of which we will be required to give account, sooner or later.

### **Baukultur and sustainable use of the architectural heritage in inner areas**

The theme of the sustainable use of architectural heritage in the inner areas must necessarily take into account the numerous risk factors that are extremely accentuated in these territories. With reference to the well-known classification of risk within the built heritage<sup>6</sup>, the prevailing intrinsic conditions produce an intertwining of vulnerability factors. In fact, we are looking at constructions often built with poor techniques and materials, inadequate to contemporary standards of comfort and usability, that have come down to us in ruderal conditions or distorted in material and structural consistency by subsequent interventions. In addition, the prevailing conditions in the inner areas, both in the natural context (inaccessible places or buildings, exposed to landslides and often with high seismicity), and in the anthropic context (demographic and economic aspects of abandonment) aggravate the effects of these intrinsic vulnerability factors [Germanà, 2022]. Risk is a common condition in the entire built environment in the inner areas; when concerning parts with cultural significance, it hinders the processes of conservation and enhancement, jeopardizing the very identity of the places, more or less quickly and clearly. On the other hand, the cultural heritage of the inner areas possesses an inherent aptitude for resilience, in the intertwining





Fig. 4. Poster of the public conference held in Montalbano Elicona in October 2019, in order to involve the local community in the choice of the intended use of the unfinished building (poster by C. Belvedere, 2019).

of its material and immaterial dimensions, thanks to the inherent ability to adapt and the high potential for innovation [Fabbricatti et al., 2020]. The widespread belief that every strategy for the enhancement of the inner areas must deal – in one way or another – with heritage (considered as an irreplaceable development lever) and the relevance of the phenomenon of abandonment that characterizes these territories, confer on the theme of sustainable use a centrality even more marked than elsewhere. However, referring in an abstract way to the persistence of the heritage isn't enough for the rebirth of inner areas and generates unsustainable uses in various ways. This is the case of the occasional scenographies (i.e. living nativity scenes, historical commemorations) to which the built heritage remains confined, deprived of the daily care enabled by uses more really integrated with the Present [Fig. 2].

In light of the contemporary vision of heritage, based on the *people-centered* approach [Wijesuriya, 2015], sustainable use can only be integrated with contemporaneity, helping to pursue the objectives of human development and quality of life (CoE, 2005, art.9 "Sustainable use of the cultural heritage"). Today it is now clear that the preferable form of heritage conservation is the use compatible with its cultural meanings [ICOMOS, 2013, art.1-11-23],



Fig. 5. Poster of the didactic seminar held in October 2019 by the designer of the unfinished building (poster by V. Melluso, 2019).

in line with the objective of sustainable tourism also for areas at risk of abandonment [García-Esparza et al., 2018]. For this reason, forward-looking strategies for the enhancement of internal areas must involve the protagonists of the use of the architectural heritage (visitors and host communities) within a unitary framework, in which every process of transformation and management of the built environment is inspired by the *baukultur* (Swiss Confederation, 2018 and 2021), which shuns the segmentations to which the legacy of the last century has accustomed us.

The trend towards a unitary approach, which implies important methodological consequences on analytical and design activities, manifests in three interrelated aspects:

- the vision of the built environment, as a unique entity that includes contemporary buildings, infrastructures and public spaces and to which the architectural heritage is an integral and inseparable part;
- the vision of the building process as a sequence of phases that adapt to the specific intervention;
- the request for convergence between bearers of different interests (individuals and communities, public institutions and private subjects, technicians and economic operators) in order to achieve satisfactory results, from an intergenerational perspective.



Fig. 6. The unfinished building seen from the northern entrance of the city (photo by G. Mignacca, 2018).

### Some proposals for Montalbano Elicona with a view to caring-use

Montalbano Elicona, a town of about 2100 inhabitants located at 900 m asl in the north-eastern part of Sicily, provides an example of the unresolved coexistence of lights and shadows that often hinders lasting enhancement strategies for the inner areas. Despite being the scene of a dramatic process of

demographic decrease (a quarter fewer residents from 2001 to 2019), Montalbano Elicona has put in great efforts to enhance its territory, leveraging its extraordinary natural and cultural heritage (both tangible and intangible)<sup>7</sup>. However, the tendency to apply a vision of heritage still anchored to the segmentations of the last century and not fully integrated with contemporaneity has produced uncertain results, where flows of sometimes intense



Fig. 7. One of the completion projects of the unfinished building, elaborated during the Environmental Design Laboratory of the Master's Degree in Architecture of the University of Palermo, Department of Architecture (from E. Cicala, 2019)



Fig. 8 One of the completion projects of the unfinished building, elaborated during the Environmental Design Laboratory of the Master's Degree in Architecture of the University of Palermo, Department of Architecture (from E. Cicala, 2019).

use do not touch pockets of abandonment, in which the built environment is more or less ruined. One year after hosting the ICOMOS ICAHM international meeting dedicated to the theme "Discover

Sicily's Argimusco. A Holistic Approach to Heritage Management", in 2019 the Municipality of Montalbano Elicona has entered into an agreement with the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo dedicated to promoting technological design studies for architecture, with the aim of supporting the enhancement strategies already launched in its territory.

Precisely the holistic approach has inspired some design experiments which, although applied to different case studies, have followed the same methodology (oriented to bio-climatic and Design for All criteria) [Germanà, 2022], indicating some perspectives for sustainable uses of the built environment of public interest in Montalbano Elicona. In addition to improving the use of the Argimusco plateau and the general accessibility conditions of the oldest part of the urban settlement [Renda et al., 2021], most of the activities developed in the agreement concerned the hypothesis of completion of a municipal building unfinished for about thirty years [Fig. 3].

The never finished constructions, regardless of the different levels of material incompleteness, are always hopelessly useless, precisely because of the functional incompleteness [Germanà, 2020]. Therefore, even in the case of the unfinished building of Montalbano Elicona, the choice of a destination was the first step to take, considering the fact that the original one (bus station with a multifunctional center) was no longer feasible, also because it was connected to never realized urban planning forecasts.

A public conference was dedicated to this topic [Fig.

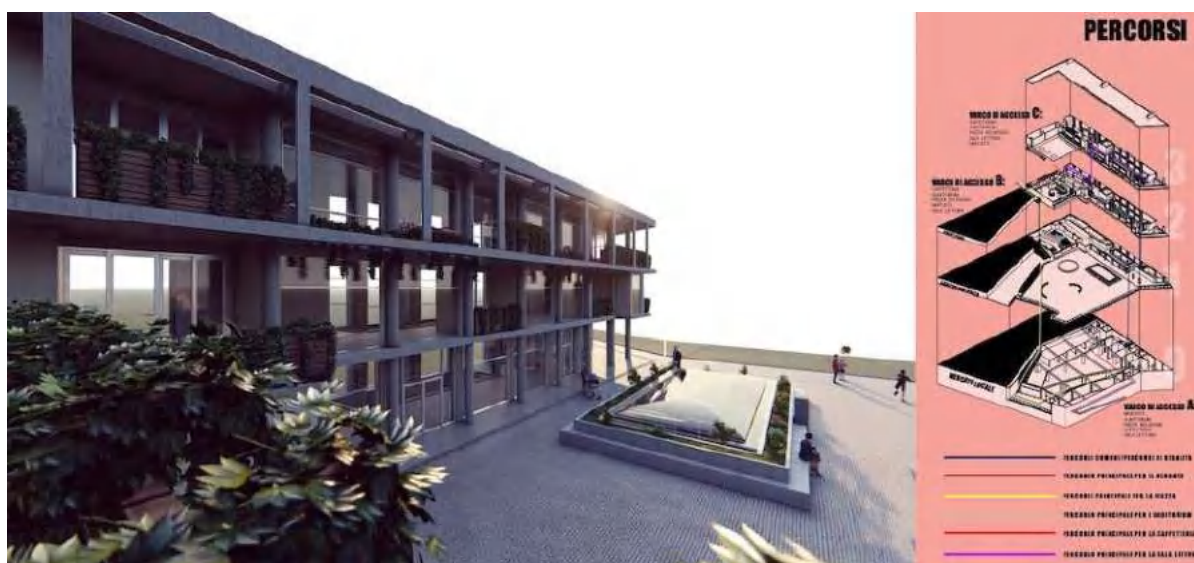


Fig. 9. One of the completion projects of the unfinished building, elaborated during the Environmental Design Laboratory of the Master's Degree in Architecture of the University of Palermo, Department of Architecture (from E. Cicala, 2019)



4], in which the municipal administration called the citizens to express opinions on the possible fate of the never completed structure. The shared reflection on that occasion confirmed the opportunity to enhance the concept of the original project (designed by Prof. Vincenzo Melluso, with Giuseppe Arena and Michele Ministeri), that was based above all on the urban role of the building and on the functional mixite, as the designer has explained during a didactic seminar [Fig. 5]. The completion hypotheses developed<sup>8</sup> took both these aspects into consideration. As for the urban role, the visibility of the building, whose dimensions are significant compared to the surrounding urban fabric, makes it a visiting card for those who come from the Tyrrhenian coast [Fig. 6].

Furthermore, the particular location, at the junction between areas of public interest placed at different heights (the town hall square, bordering the oldest part of the settlement and a twentieth-century expansion area further downstream), has placed the accent on the definition of paths (horizontal, vertical and inclined), strategic for the mobility of people with motor difficulties [Germanà et al., 2020] [Figg. 7-10]. As for the intended uses, collecting some ideas provided by the public conference, the proposals – keeping account of the public nature and of the urban role of the building – have largely maintained a balance between uses of a continuous nature, by residents, and discontinuous uses, by visitors. In the light of the holistic vision of the built environment of Montalbano Elicona, the choice of the potential uses of the never-finished building was oriented towards those that, due to regulatory problems or distributive conditions (especially of multi-scale accessibility), cannot be adequately hosted in the historic buildings of considerable relief that are available to the Municipality (first of all, the imposing Swabian-Aragonese castle), without compromising their conservation. The mocking fate had willed that the experience on the unfinished building of Montalbano Elicona was also incomplete, compared to what had been planned: in February 2020 all activities on the site were stopped by the pandemic, hindering the exposure and verification of the results by the local stakeholders<sup>9</sup>.

Despite its limitations, the experience has however highlighted the benefits of a holistic approach oriented by the concept of *baukultur* and by the issue of the caring-use: instead of emphasizing the distinctions, this approach relies on the relationships that substantiate every complex reality as the built environment is always, in any of its manifestations.



Fig. 10. One of the completion projects of the unfinished building, elaborated during the Environmental Design Laboratory of the Master's Degree in Architecture of the University of Palermo, Department of Architecture (from E. Cicala, 2019)

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## Notes

1. «You use inner city to refer to the areas in or near the centre of a large city where people live and where there are often social and economic problems» .
2. «"Inner areas" is, therefore, an Italian concept that profoundly underscores the cultural identity of the nation's territory and culture, and has been the object of increasing attention» [Cerquetti et. al. 2019, p. 16].
3. «Demographic decline and population ageing is more pronounced in Inner Areas than in the rest of Italy, although it is counterbalanced by a strong growth in immigration (which doubled in the last decade across all regions). Farm abandonment and unused land is also a bigger issue in Inner Areas, due to lower land productivity in these areas. Economic productivity and the quality of services in these areas is also affected by the digital divide».
4. «Chiamiamo architetto colui che ha appreso (...) a divisare e anche nei fatti a eseguire tutte quelle cose che (...) meglio si possono adattare all'uso degli uomini; e per poter far ciò, bisogna ch'ei conosca e padroneggi cose ottime ed eccellenti» [Leon Battista Alberti, *De re aedificatoria*, 1485, IX]. Architectural training "must maintain a balance between theoretical and practical aspects" and must guarantee, between others, "the necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations" EU Directive 2005/36/2005.
5. In this approach, the theme of use refers to the Usability (*Fruibilità*) requirement class, defined as set of conditions relating to the ability of the building system to be adequately used by users in carrying out the activities. The related requirements are: Constitution and sizing; Functional equipment; Accessibility; Furnishing; Adaptability; Privacy; Correlations, Aggregability (Italian UNI 8289:1981).
6. The "Carta del rischio" (Risk Charter) is a government decision support system launched in Italy in the last quarter of the twentieth century. It distinguished between individual vulnerability, deriving from intrinsic conditions (original materials and construction systems; anamnesis of transformations and damage suffered) and territorial danger, deriving from: 1. static risk of different structural factors (due to the eventuality of earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions); 2. environmental risk (linked to climatic factors and atmospheric pollution); 3. anthropic risk (linked to demographic processes, tourist flows, thefts, vandalism). The Carta del Rischio was supposed to provide a tool aimed at planned conservation. Instead, the ambitious project was implemented leopard-

skinned in the national territory and then abandoned, to give way to sectoral visions, such as the one focused on seismic vulnerability [Petraroia, 2014].

7. Montalbano Elicona can be considered a case study of general interest, because it has many specific characteristics of the Mediterranean Inner areas. This town has an extraordinary location, featured by the abundance of water of excellent quality and the beautiful landscape, nestled between the Aeolian islands to the north and the Etna volcano to the south.

Despite the remarkable heritage and the vitality of the human factor (religious traditions; historical commemorative events; traditional activities in the artisanal, agricultural, and gastronomic fields, etc.), some critical conditions of abandonment still threaten its built environment, both in the town and in the scattered settlement [Germanà, 2022, 4].

8. These are design experiments produced during the Environmental Design Laboratory (course A) of the single-cycle master's degree course in Architecture of the University of Palermo during the academic year 2019/20. The design solutions developed have included passive solutions for comfort and the integration of renewable energy sources, aspects that are not explored here as they transcend the issue of use, being essential in any part of the built environment.

9. The results were however presented in November 2020 (on the occasion of the "European Researchers' Night Sharper") in the virtual gazebo "Costruzioni incompiute: infrangere l'incantesimo" (Unfinished constructions: breaking the spell)

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**Università  
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**DIPARTIMENTO  
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**DOTTORATO DI RICERCA  
IN ARCHITETTURA,  
ARTI E PIANIFICAZIONE**  
DIPARTIMENTO  
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## **RIVISTA DEL DOTTORATO IN ARCHITETTURA, ARTI E PIANIFICAZIONE DELL'UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO – DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA**

### **IN QUESTO NUMERO:**

#### **Editoriale / Prefazione**

CoRI\_2021\_Action B3 Project

*Filippo Schilleci, Emanuela Garofalo*

Rethinking inner areas.

A multidisciplinary approach to the revival of the territories.

*Luisa Lombardo*

#### **LOOKING OUT OVER EUROPE**

Appropriate construction techniques for the reconstruction of housing after a seismic disaster in a rural and heritage context

Case study Colca Valley, Peru

*Montserrat Bosch González*

Spaces and Project in the historical city centers

*Pablo Manuel Millán*

Listening to people

The contribution of involuntary participation through social media to sustainable development

*Pablo Martí Ciriquian*

#### **ROUND TABLE**

*Antonino Margagliotta a Montserrat Bosch González*

*Federica Fernandez a Montserrat Bosch González*

*Emanuela Garofalo a Sandrine Françoise Victor*

*Renata Prescia a Pablo Manuel Millán*

*Modesta Di Paola a Pablo Manuel Millán*

*Daniele Ronsivalle a Pablo Manuel Millán e Montserrat Bosch González*

#### **URBAN PLANNING E TECHNOLOGY**

Planning for the UNESCO WHL sites

Controversies and conflicts between UNESCO management plans and local spatial planning

*Francesco Lo Piccolo*

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

*Tiziana Campisi*

Exploring the 'rural' within the Italian local development policy

*Ignazio Vinci*

Architectural Heritage in Mediterranean internal areas: the concept of "baukultur" for sustainable uses and effective enhancement strategies

A case of study in North-East Sicily

*Maria Luisa Germanà*

#### **ROUND TABLE**

*Maria Luisa Germanà a Francesco Lo Piccolo*

*Gloria Lisi a Francesco Lo Piccolo*

*Gloria Lisi a Ignazio Vinci e Maria Luisa Germanà Mauro*

*Filippi a Montserrat Bosch González, Maria Luisa Germanà,*

*Federica Fernandez, Emanuela Garofalo Emanuela Garofalo a Tiziana Campisi*

#### **ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE & DESIGN**

Historic centers and inner areas in Sicily. The point of view of the restoration

*Renata Prescia*

Renaissance Itineraries between Nebrodi and Peloritani:

Architectural Heritage, History and Technology

*Emanuela Garofalo, Armando Antista*

Against Landscaping

*Michele Sbacchi*

Favignan Quarry Island

Architectures and Landscapes for 2050

*Giuseppe Marsala, Pasquale Mei*

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*Gloria Lisi a Emanuela Garofalo*

*Daniele Ronsivalle a Emanuela Garofalo*

*Tiziana Campisi a Renata Prescia*

*Erica La Placa a Renata Prescia*

*Alejandro Gana a Giuseppe Marsala*

#### **Postfazione**

Inner Areas between theories and practices.

An ongoing laboratory.

*Gloria Lisi*