ISSN 2384-9576

edA

Esempi di Architettura

2015, VOL. 2, N. 1

edA
Esempi di Architettura

2015 VOL. 2, N. 1

Indexation
EdA, Esempi di Architettura
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING
MIUR E211002
ANVUR - GEV 08 - SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL
Class B (VQR)

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EdA, Esempi di Architettura
2015, vol.2, n. 1

Biannual Journal

www.aracneeditrice.it
info@aracneeditrice.it

via Quarto Negroni, 15
00040 Ariccia (RM)
(06) 93781065

ISBN 978-88-548-8586-8
ISSN 2384-9576 (*print*)
ISSN 2035-7982 (*online*)

Printed in July 2015 by « ERMES. Servizi Editoriali Integrati S.r.l. »
00040 Ariccia (RM) – via Quarto Negroni, 15 on behalf of « Aracne editrice int.le S.r.l. » of Rome

INDEX

HOW TO FACE THE *INCOMPLETENESS* OF THE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDINGS

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Accepted March 30, 2015

ABSTRACT

The relationships between archaeological buildings and contemporary city can be observed through material and immaterial features (topographical, morphological, social, and cultural aspects) and can be considered a privileged point of view not only for the Past, but also for the Present and the Future of an urban settlement and its inhabitants.

Several studies, carried out by researchers of different disciplines, have focused on this issue that is very relevant considering the permanence of archaeological vestiges as one of the distinctive identity-making factors of many European cities.

Every archaeological building has a unique consistence. The relationships with the current surroundings are always complex and must be studied on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, a methodology could be applied to face the need of appropriate and reliable interventions on urban built archaeology. This is an essential aim, considering that the client is mostly public and the stakeholders are recognizable both in individual and in collective sphere, both in contemporary and in future generations.

The urban archaeological buildings raise many well-known questions. This paper proposes the incompleteness as an original keyword to summarize most of them, also referring to the wider field of the Architectural Heritage. The idea of incompleteness will shortly explain some critical situations recurring in the activities on the Architectural Heritage (knowledge, conservation, and enhancement processes). Thereafter the incompleteness will be referred to the conditions of the Architectural Heritage (and in particular of the urban archaeological buildings), including both physical and immaterial dimensions.

Considering the multifaceted incompleteness as a barrier that can limit the knowledge, the conservation and the enhancement, the final aim of every action on the urban archaeological buildings is an impermanent, notional, and emotional entirety (of knowledge, meanings, relative physical conditions, appropriate utilization, community participation) to be pursued by a proper methodology.

Keywords: Urban Archaeological Buildings, Incomplete Architectural Heritage, Technological Approach.

INTRODUCTION

The Archaeological Heritage materializes the deepest roots of our identity, while imposes particular difficulties (regarding understanding, conservation and enhancement) that significantly increase in the urban archaeological buildings.

Every archaeological building has a unique history and consistence. The relationships between the current human settlement and the natural surroundings are always complex and must be studied on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, a general methodology could be applied to face the need of reliable interventions on built archaeology. This is an essential aim, considering that the client is mostly public and the stakeholders are recognizable both in individual and in collective sphere, both in contemporary and in future generations.

Some distinguishing features typify the archaeological buildings in the urban areas. The cultural meanings are the first specific feature of the urban archaeology. The permanence of archaeological vestiges is indeed one of the distinctive factors of identity making in many European and Mediterranean cities, where the time passing has left its sedimentary traces in the ground. In the case of archaeological buildings, the distinguishable factors increase and include a broader interest: the relationships between urban built archaeology and contemporary city can be observed through material and immaterial features (topographical, morphological, social and cultural aspects) and can be considered a privileged point of view to discuss not only on the Past, but also on the Present and on the Future of an urban settlement and of its inhabitants (Bailey, 2005).

Regarding to material sphere, specific characters of the urban archaeology are often the thick and rich stratigraphy in the excavations and the limited space for the exposition *in situ* of the discoveries. The built archaeological heritage, in particular, is exposed to more dangerous contextual conditions, due to the proximity

to the present-day life. The presence of harmful contaminants and of the vibrations caused by traffic and the overexposure of the human beings (tourists; citizens; vandals) are some examples of this. In addition, a more insidious risk has often endangered the urban archaeological buildings: the combined effect of the *shortsightedness* of governing bodies (D'Agostino *et al*., 2009) and of the widespread indifference towards the past vestiges, sometime paradoxically prevailing where the urban archaeological potential is higher.
In the last years, many studies were carried out to focus on the urban archaeology as a relevant issue in the contemporary design of architecture and in the public archaeology issues (Ruggieri Sposito, 2004; Guaitoli ed., 2011; Tricoli, 2011; Ancona *et al*. eds., 2012; Ruggieri Germanà eds., 2013; Ercolino, 2014). Many examples of archaeological buildings in European urban areas have been studied and compared, including the re-interred or scarcely visible vestiges, the imposing constructions in open air spaces, the ruins covered by shelters, embracing the cases of archaeological traces now part of new buildings, dedicated to conservation and exposition, or mainly used for other purposes.
The paper introduces a new interpretation for this issue: the incompleteness as an original keyword to summarize the current conditions of the urban archaeological buildings and as the principal reason of the difficulties of the understanding, conserving, and enhancing them. After examining the various meanings of the incompleteness, a methodology will be proposed to face it, distinguishing between two different prevalent conditions: the archaeological building that has continuously been a part of the urban scene and the vestiges that have suddenly re-emerged, during archaeological explorations or, more often, in excavating for new constructions.
The conclusions will discuss the relations with the incompleteness of the urban archaeological buildings as an indicator both for analysing the realized examples and for steering new projects, keeping the aim of a notional and emotional entirety (of knowledge, of meanings, of relative physical conditions, of appropriate utilization, of community participation).

THE INCOMPLETENESS OF THE ACTIVITIES ON ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE: KNOWLEDGE, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

The idea of incompleteness is here applied to the activities on the Architectural Heritage as built environment *conspicuous for historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest* (UE, 1985). These activities usually pursue each time a singular goal (knowledge, conservation, enhancement), without the necessary holistic and strategic vision: the knowledge is often an end in itself, the conservation focuses only a short term and the enhancement becomes a sort of *cultural-wash* often aimed to cover up other intentions (Germanà, *in press*). In addition, the separation of the goals can explain the inability in the management of financial resources (Marocco, 2007). This *process-incompleteness* (Tab. 1) doesn't depend on the kind of Heritage or on its conditions inherited from the Past: it must be observed considering every local situation because its reasons are linked to some aspects of the present time and depend from social, economical and cultural factors and from institutional and regulatory framework. For this reason, the *process-incompleteness* doesn't involve the urban archaeological buildings in a distinctive way, compared with the others kind of built archaeology. Nevertheless it could be relevant here, due to the fact that it could be linked to the more specific features of incompleteness that will be described in the following paragraph. The *process-incompleteness* explains some critical situations recurring in the activities on the Architectural Heritage in Italy. This kind of incompleteness can't be explained from a quantitative point of view. On the contrary, it can be faced only within a qualitative dimension and a process-based vision, that highlights the finalized sequence of decisional, executive and management phases that renders the quality a more practically pursuable objective. In a general reference frame, the management of every activity for each phase should define the specific objectives, the required skills, the operational tools, the costs and the procedures. This rarely occurs in the activities on the Architectural Heritage, with the exception of a few cases (Marsolo, 2014). Several deficiencies more frequently occur, as will be shortly outlined in the following.

The incomplete knowledge

The knowledge has been very often claimed as an essential condition, instrumental in every action on Heritage. Out of historical vision, here off topic, what could limit the activities aimed to knowledge? At first, they very often lack the necessary continuity: every generation should *recognize* the Architectural Heritage, to update its meanings; moreover, the status of the buildings and of their surroundings changes continuously and there is a need to refresh the old knowledge. The obsolescence of the information is made worsen by the obsolescence of the supports, both traditional (as hardcopy archives) and digital ones (hardware and software). This problem finds evidence in the Italian scenario: despite the financial efforts since the 80's of the last century in inventory and cataloguing the Architectural Heritage, the knowledge must almost always restart from the zero level, when any activity is under attention.
The technological approach faces this aspect of the incomplete knowledge through a process-based vision. The decision phase delimits first of all the object of the knowledge, the level of detail and extent in comparison with the framework of resources and constraints, and then it defines the operational tools (skills and instruments), confirming the feasibility. At the end of the execution phase, after the results validation and their storing, the knowledge management should start: a no-ending process, in which the information (always open-access) will be updated, cyclically or after circumstances as inspection or conservation activities and natural or anthropic events.

The incomplete conservation

The conservative aim is the distinguishing factor between an intervention on the Architectural Heritage and any activity on ordinary built environment, in the necessary intergenerational perspective. The conservation is often incomplete because it lacks of the long-term vision, which could make it reliable. The incomplete conservation shows itself in some *phenomena* as unfinished works, useless results, unmanageable solutions, not lasting performances and even failures in the conservation effects (Germanà, 2004; *Ead*. 2013a). Every phenomenon like these doesn't amaze, because it has always reasons very clearly readable in the *process-incompleteness*. Anyway even the best conservative activity is always incomplete, because it cannot be achieved once forever and ever, demanding continuous and updated activities (monitoring, maintenance) in order to be accomplished.
The incompleteness of conservative activities is also related to social issues: although forty years went by, after the Declaration of Amsterdam in 1975 (Congress on the European Architectural Heritage, Council of Europe) the goal of the *integrated conservation* hasn't completely been reached, due to the difficulties of involving all age and social groups. The process-based vision faces even this class of *process-incompleteness*. The programming phase identifies the specific objectives of the conservation (*What* and *Why* to conserve?), referring to the resources and the constraints (*How* and *When*?). The design phase is focused on the comparative choice of solutions in order to consider the functional and technical aspects, referring to the requirements. After the execution phases, that emphasize the role of the operational skills, the no-ending phase of management should start, including use and maintenance.

The incomplete enhancement

The role of the Cultural Heritage in a social frame and in a long-term vision is very well known (EU, 2011). The principle of matching the conservation with the enhancement is always evoked, even if these two objectives are often clashing in the operational field. The first incompleteness of the enhancement is related to the theoretical meaning: the English word means improvement, but it isn't clear exactly *what* to enhance. It could be pertinent to discuss on the object of the enhancement: to improve – in an appropriate manner – the "use" is for more reasons preferable improving the "value" or the "meaning", because the current utilization of Architectural Heritage is the unmistakable link between the Past and the Future, whereas the value and the meaning could be debatable issues. This puts in evidence other aspects of the *incomplete enhancement*: the scarce connection, both theoretical and operational, with the knowledge and conservation processes; the difficulties in lasting participation of people; the lack of a systematic vision, thanks to which different kinds of Architectural Heritage can be involved in the same enhancement process; the rareness of the large-scale vision, through which the enhancement could favor the built heritage in a wider territory. Only a systematic and process-oriented vision could face the high complexity of this objective: there is a need of a comprehensive methodology to manage the various stakeholders and the conflicting goals of the Heritage enhancement.

Table 1.
Types of *incompleteness* in the activities on the Architectural Heritage

Process Incompleteness		
Type	**Lack**	**Consequences**
Incomplete Knowledge	Continuity	Information obsolescence Supports obsolescence
Incomplete Conservation	Long term vision Socio-economical integration	Unreliability Unfeasibility
Incomplete Enhancement	Clarity in objectives	Partial effects Not lasting effects

THE INCOMPLETENESS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE:
THE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDINGS AS BORDERLINE CASE

The archaeological buildings are a sort of borderline case in the Architectural Heritage: most of pragmatic and theoretical characteristics are emphasized, because of the intertwined interactions with natural and anthropic surroundings, the severe intrinsic vulnerability and the evident split from the contemporary life (Germanà, 2013a). Coherently to this, the archaeological buildings are the clearest example of that *object-incompleteness* always distinguishable in the Architectural Heritage, as a deep-rooted condition in the same idea of Heritage. The passing of time, as one of the principal connotative factors, converts the ordinary built environment in Architectural Heritage, as something that has suspended its ordinary evolution and now is well distinct from present life, being out the common chronological dimension and belonging to a sort of *theoretical time* (Augé, 2003). This depends on a concept of *linear time*, deeply rooted in Western culture that is currently thrown into crisis by the global scenarios (Germanà, 2013b).
This condition of incompleteness includes both physical and immaterial dimensions, in very often-linked ways. It is a multi-scale phenomenon: the technical, building, urban and landscape levels are all relevant in the lack of

entirety that we have inherited (Tab. 2). The answers to the incompleteness mainly consist of material remedies (never aimed to a total entirety) and more often of immaterial solutions. The incompleteness is in any case a keyword to face the difficulties of understanding, conservation, and enhancement processes relating to the urban archaeological buildings.

Table 2.
Types of *incompleteness* in the Architectural Heritage

Object Incompleteness

Type	Lack	Consequences
Physical Incompleteness	Component scale (incomplete surface finishes; uncovered building material)	Perishability Difficulties in understanding
	Building scale (incomplete or missing part of the building)	Difficulties in access Difficulties in understanding
	District scale (incomplete or missing relationships with original and current surroundings)	Difficulties in access Difficulties in understanding
	Urban and Landscape scale (incomplete or missing relations with original and current wider frame)	Difficulties in understanding
Immaterial Incompleteness	Function / Utilization	Abandonment New inappropriate uses Difficulties in understanding
	Meaning (due to partial knowledge) Sense (due to misleading interpretations)	Selective conservation Partial understanding
	Relationships with intangible heritage	Soul loss Partial understanding
	Interest of local communities	Useless conservation Abandonment Vandalism

The physical incompleteness

The *physical incompleteness* regards ruins or unfinished buildings and traumatized constructions (by earthquakes, fires, attacks, wars). This incompleteness reaches its top level in the archaeological buildings: in fact they are always ruined and sometimes some very few and indistinct traces remain. In addition to the lack of constructional parts or elements, the *physical incompleteness* is also evident at a district scale, due to the loss of almost all relations with the surrounding context. This condition obviously gets worse in the urban archaeological buildings. The *physical incompleteness* has material and immaterial consequences. In fact, these buildings are very perishable under the natural and anthropic agents just due to the incomplete conditions and this increases their vulnerability. In addition, the incompleteness makes very difficult to understand the original architectural and urban consistency. Maybe for this reason many people disaffect the archaeological sites and prefer others kind of Architectural Heritage (as a recent opinion survey of FAI – *Fondo Ambiente Italiano* – has shown: between 31.000 *beloved places* in Italy only 831 are archaeological sites).
In XIX century Eugène Viollet-Le-Duc theorised and put into practice the aim of re-establishing the completeness of the ancient buildings (*which may in fact never have actually existed at any given time*). Starting from John Ruskin, this aim has been decried as a crime for countless times. Current sensibility seems holding off this well-known conflict; thank to many experiences and disputes, a relative conceptual completeness, rather than a physical entirety, summarises the current shared ambition regarding the Architectural Heritage.
Nevertheless a certain level of physical entirety remains indispensable for the preservation. Depending on circumstances, the *physical incompleteness* of urban archaeological buildings needs to be faced by physical devices, that range from the *zero level* of the reburial (Woolfit, 2007), to the entire buildings in which the architectural design is mostly devoted, at the same time, to shield and to exhibit the urban built archaeology (Figs. 1-2). Between these two extreme conditions, many different solutions try to solve the *physical incompleteness*, reaching several levels of stitching with current urban settlement and several levels of integration of new additions, aimed to safeguard the vestiges and to access them.

The immaterial incompleteness

The incompleteness of Architectural Heritage is more often found in immaterial aspects. An *incompleteness of sense* arises in case of scarce knowledge or partial and misleading interpretations. In fact, there could be a lack of knowledge of the building or of the human settlement, or only few of its features have been studied. It is the case of some Sicilian monuments, in which only the medieval parts in 19th century were considered noteworthy, while the later phases have been neglected (Tomaselli, 2005). Regarding this aspect, currently the history of architecture finds by now the proper ways to improve the knowledge of all the phases of the built heritage.

Nevertheless the *incompleteness of sense* often arises despite the complete historical knowledge. The meanings of the built heritage are often strictly connected with the *intangible cultural heritage* (*practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage*; UNESCO 2003). When the intangible component of this connection of meanings dies, if there is nothing that refreshes it, the Architectural Heritage becomes an empty frame, silent and destined to perish. Finally, the worst form of *incompleteness of sense* results from the indifference: something is significant only if somebody attributes some meanings to it.
The *functional incompleteness* happens when a building has lost its original function through time. This kind of immaterial incompleteness is more characteristic in the archaeological buildings that – due to their belonging to a past civilization – have lost any link with functional sphere. For this reason they have been defined *dead monuments* by comparison with *living monuments*, *those which continue to serve the purpose for which they were originally intended* and that are still now usable in a certain way (Giovannoni, 1913; ICCROM, 2005).
The *functional incompleteness* is irreparable in most archaeological buildings, with the exception of some ancient theatres that still today contain performances, not always respecting the principles of conservation (Figs. 3-4). The functional issue must be properly outlined in the archaeological sites, that aren't comparable to other built environment regarding the "use" and where the requirement of accessibility is mostly partial (Sposito Germanà, 2003; Ruggieri, 2011; Cipriano, 2014). During the last three centuries, a profound transformation in using archaeological sites has occurred, which can be summarized in the locution "From Grand Tour to Tour Operator". There is a need to understand how improve their uses through design and management solutions, appropriately balanced between conservation and utilization.


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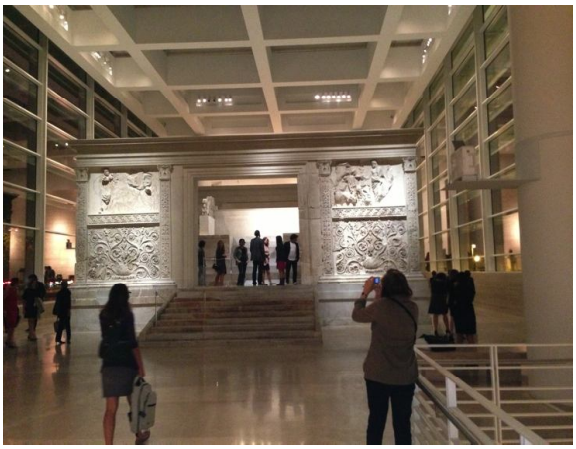
2

Figs. 1-2. Roma (IT). The *Ara Pacis Augustea* museum designed by Richard Meier and opened in 2006 [photos by M.L.G., 2013]


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Figs. 3-4. Siracusa (IT). Scaffolding to support the currently used stage in the greek theatre and effects on a stone block. Photos available at: http://palermo.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/03/11/foto/il_teatro_greco_di_siracusa_cade_a_pezzi-109280111

HOW TO FACE THE INCOMPLETENESS OF THE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDINGS

In the urban archaeological buildings a complex mix is recognizable, where every kind of incompleteness stokes the others: the ruined conditions and the transformations of the surroundings make very difficult to understand the original architectonical consistence and the interactions with the urban settlement (from the *physical incompleteness* towards the *immaterial incompleteness*). On the other hand, the interruption of the activities in a

building is usually the first step of the abandonment and of the decay process that produces the ruins (from the *immaterial incompleteness* toward the *physical incompleteness*).
In any case, the incompleteness is a keyword that well synthetizes all the barriers limiting the understanding, the use and the conservation of these vestiges. At the same time, the incompleteness summarises a large part of the attractiveness of the built archaeology. For this, coherently with the recent cultural frame of reference, the aim cannot be to delete the feature of incompleteness, but rather to manage it, finding creative and effective ways of holding it. The ways to face the incompleteness depend on two different general circumstances; they were shortly described in the two following paragraphs. The tendency to ascribe a peculiar chronological dimension to the archaeological buildings, as they are almost fixed in antiquity, is common in both conditions; for this reason there is a need to acquire an appropriate chronological dimension, in the awareness of the slow and incessant changing of the archaeological buildings. The *immaterial incompleteness* requires similar strategies for both conditions, while the effects of the *physical incompleteness* and the general objectives change.

Archaeological buildings as a permanent part of the urban scene

In the first general circumstance, the archaeological buildings have continuously been a part of the urban scene and the evolution of the settlement has pivoted around them (this may be the case of very imposing buildings and infrastructures; Fig. 5). After to be spoiled and used as a quarry, when gradually the idea of Heritage has arisen, the ancient buildings in this situation have been almost crystallized, sometime in a picturesque frame of vegetation, very well matched with the condition of incompleteness. Now their situation is a whole of environmental surroundings, ancient constructions and further additions, aimed to restoration, protection or utilization. In certain cases, these additions have already gained the status of heritage themselves (Figs. 6-7).
Regarding the current needs, similar urban archaeological buildings usually require – above all – to be appropriately managed according to the principle of the *preventive and planned conservation* (Della Torre, 2003) that is the main proper strategy to face the *physical incompleteness* caused by the ruined conditions. Depending on the specific circumstances, if financial resources are available, new solutions tackling the *physical incompleteness* can improve also other features, as the accessibility and the security regarding the users on one hand, and the duration of the ancient vestiges on the other.
Educational panels and virtual reconstructions of the original conditions of the building and its ancient way of use or its surroundings can as well amend the *immaterial incompleteness*, improving the understanding of the archaeological vestiges, to the benefit of the visitors and tourists and – above all – of the local community. Actions aimed to increase the sense of belonging, prerequisite of the interest and of the care, can be undertaken with people that live or work in proximity of urban archaeological buildings.

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Fig. 5. El-Jem (TN). The amphitheatre [photo by M.L.G., 2014]


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Figs. 6-7. Palermo (IT). Villa Bonanno, where two roman houses were casually discovered in 1868. On the left, the building designed in the early XX century by Giuseppe Damiani Almejda. Image dated 2014 available at: <www.mobilitapalermo.com>. On the right, view from the same building that safeguards a mosaic floor, towards the archaeological area and the near urbane scene. Image dated 2011 available at: <www.palermodintorni.blogspot.com>


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Figs. 8-9. Carthage (TN). Archaeologists working in an excavation inside a current street, where a part of the Tophet has been discovered [photos by M.L.G., 2014]

Re-emerged archaeological buildings

The second general circumstance of the urban archaeological buildings occurs when they have suddenly re-emerged, during archaeological explorations or, more often, in excavating for new buildings or infrastructures. In many European and Mediterranean cities the presence of archaeological vestiges in the underground isn't a surprise, due to the permanence of the urban settlement. The *Rescue archaeology* offers the specialist approach for this situation that is mainly inclined to quickly survey and documentation of the vestiges, as they appear in the place of their discovery (Figs. 8-9). If the survey finds any trace of an archaeological building, very often it is

reburied and its memory remains in the specialist archives only, although if some cheap solutions could effectively evocate the hidden vestiges (Ruggieri Tricoli, 2013).
But when the findings are notable for some features, the aim of their exhibit arises and there is a need to tackle this challenge also through the architectural competences and the urban design (Manacorda, 2011). In this circumstance to maintain the *status quo* is impossible; new design solutions are urgently requested, to be properly studied referring the local specific condition (Germanà, 2013a).
Ranking the information on the vestiges and deciding a sort of hierarchy, due to the impossibility of exhibit all the archaeological layers (Brogiolo, 2000), could be the premise of a design process centred on facing the incompleteness. Passing to technical and morphological aspects, the *physical incompleteness* needs to be faced through a multi-scale approach. At the component scale, the main difficultly is the reliable conservation and it derives from the intrinsic vulnerability of the built archaeology. In open-air solutions some incomplete surface finishes, as plaster or mosaic, or some uncovered building material, as earth-bricks, are very perishable. The building scale increases the effects of the incompleteness, because it limits the understanding of the original spaces, especially in the height dimension. Finally, the urban scale produces the risk, higher in bigger cities, that the archaeological buildings are understood as disconnected points, confused with the flowerbeds – if open-air – or flattened under a glass – if protected (Zifferero, 2011).
The re-emerged archaeological buildings are very common in many European cities. The deepest difference in comparison with the previous circumstance is the way of their appearance in the Present. As the Archaeologists well know, the excavation is an inescapable trauma for the buried vestiges. In addition, as the general public very well knows, the excavation produces a too often enduring laceration in the urban texture (Figs. 10-11). The architectural design must face a scar trying to attenuate it, almost as a plastic surgeon.


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Figs. 10-11. Palermo (IT). Piazza Settangeli (near the apses of the cathedral). On the left: archaeological area in 2012. Image available at: <www.palermoedintorni.it>. On the right: the same area in 2014 [photo by M.L.G.]

CONCLUSIONS

The relations with the incompleteness of the urban archaeological buildings could be considered as an indicator both for analysing the numerous realized examples, and for steering new projects.
Regarding the consequences of the *physical incompleteness*, the following aims should be evaluated regarding their achievements:
– at the component scale, avoiding the degradation phenomena by protective shelters and by planned maintenance;
– at the building scale, improving the conditions of accessibility (compatibly with the archaeological consistence) and the understanding by reconstructions, virtually achieved or through museographical installations (Tricoli, 2011; *Id.* 2013);
– at the district scale, improving the interactions with current urban texture, by paths and by privileged points of view;
– at the urban and landscape scale, improving the understanding of the archaeological building as a part of a wider frame, by educational panels and hypothetical reconstructions (Di Maria Cusenza, 2009; Cusenza *et al.*, 2012, Figs. 12-14).
Regarding the consequences of *immaterial incompleteness*, there are two main aspects to consider.
– Referring to the functional issue, one could evaluate how much the urban archaeology design solutions have faced the question of the "use". In fact the level of utilization of an urban archaeological building should be a design constraint, faced through a multidisciplinary perspective: it could be possible only to view the archaeological building from a distance or to pass near it, using a garden, an urban street or a new building, doing something else or intentionally visiting it, free or paying a ticket.
– Referring the *incompleteness of sense*, the design solutions could be evaluated insofar they tackle the loss of meaning of the urban archaeological buildings. This is an educational issue, that requires to be faced also from a socio-economical perspective, thank to synergies and shared processes between researchers, communities and public administration.

Considering the multifaceted incompleteness of the urban archaeology as a barrier that encourages misuses or abandonment, limiting the knowledge, the conservation and the enhancement, the final aim of every action on this peculiar built environment becomes the pursuing a *notional and emotional entirety* of knowledge, meanings, relative physical conditions, appropriate utilizations, community participation, to be understood as full integration with the present life, in respect of conservation. Even in the awareness of its impermanence and of limitations, this entirety can factually guarantee a Future for what that we inherited from the Past.
There is a need of many inter-disciplinary competences to face this ambition that requires also a synthetic effort of integration between the experts and the users, both in the theoretical sphere and in the operational field.

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Figs. 12-14. Marsala (IT). Different perspectives on the archaeological area of *San Girolamo*. Design by M.C. Cusenza, P. Di Maria, and F. Franchina in 2003 [photos by M. Schiera 2007]. During the Christmas season, a nativity scene is set up within the area


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Fig. 15. Termini Imerese (IT). Aqueduct dated II-I cent. b. C., used until 1860 [photo by S. De Lisi, 2015]


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Fig. 16. The contemporary city of Agrigento seen from the archaeological area of *Contrada San Nicola* [photo by M.L.G., November 2014]

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