

International conference
on
Blurred boundaries:
In search of an identity

Published by
Brick Publication House
SMEF's Brick School of Architecture, Pune

Satish Misal Educational Foundation's



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Title:

Conference Proceedings
International Conference On
Blurred Boundaries: In Search Of An Identity

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ISBN: 978-93-5473-568-4 (Online)

Published By: Brick Publication House
Survey No. 50/3, Jagdamba Bhavan Marg, Undri, Pune Maharashtra, 411060
Email: brickpublication@brick.edu.in/ conference@brick.edu.in
Website: brick.edu.in
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Preface

Identity is often perceived as an intangible set of associations wrapped around the historical memory of the built environment. However, with the transformative nature of any place, do notions of Identity metamorphose with time? Or, are they constant with renewed meanings and perceptions in the evolving context?

The amalgamation of historically diverse cultures and regions in the present globalised world has resulted in the cross-cultural synthesis of identities to produce a synchronous and interdependent global consciousness. Although boundaries have blurred, environmental psychologists argue that, now, more than ever, people crave a sense of belonging stemming from cultural identity. An Identity that promotes the feeling of ownership which translates into individual and collective responsibility. Identity, therefore, is one of the essential goals for a sustainable and resilient future of cities.

With capital-driven development, we see an impatient production of space that negates holistic processes of space conception . The resultant is, an increasing conflict between man and nature; struggles around economic divide and social exclusion of the marginalized ; a negligence of historical narratives and a consequent altering of perceptions around cultural identity. The notion of identity has become ambiguous, more fragile and on the verge of complete omission. There is therefore an urgent need for recalibrating existing design processes to evolve more resilient solutions that value and include evolving identities .

This conference was an opportunity to trigger a discourse and provide a platform for investigation of robust processes of exploration 'in search of an identity' in the urban and architectural realm within a global consciousness. As a part of the conference 'Call for Papers' the brief floated was that the papers were to be an investigation of the built and unbuilt environment and its connecting threads between the Past, the Present, and the Future in terms of transforming meanings in identity. The scope of the investigation (Broad or Specific) and the approaches of study, for all themes, were open-ended and up to the authors.

All interested academicians, researchers, practitioners, and students were invited to submit papers under 5 themes. **The themes were broadly grouped as follows.**

- **Heritage as an Anchor:**

Built and unbuilt heritage shapes cities and influences its identity. How can permanent or ephemeral urbanity evolve around heritage as an anchor? How can the intangible values of the built historic fabric transition to the present context and further project to the future?

- **Resilience in the Era of Change:**

With the advent of technological advancements, cities are evolving 'Smart' solutions in the built environment that attempt to facilitate the fast pace of urban life. But are these solutions holistic and do they address core issues? Are they inclusive of diverse identities? Several rural and peri-urban areas are also struggling with changing identities in the process of urbanization. How can the urban fabric become resilient in the era of change?

- **Space as an Expression of a Democracy:**

The Built and Unbuilt environment acts as a representational space that provides non-verbal cues that shape democratic narratives in a Nation. Any Democracy must convey values of inclusion and freedom of expression through its built environment. In the volatile political environment of today, often hegemonic narratives take over, diminishing the values of a democracy. How can Space act as an equalizer and empower people? How can it manifest as an expression of a Democracy?



- **Identity and Sustainability**

With a capital-driven production of space, images that promote a certain lifestyle take over. In the conception of this ocular-centric built environment, we often negate the abuse that we are putting our environment through. 'Sustainability' and its connotations often become mere tools that feed into this materialistic market of branding and advertising. How can we change these superficial meanings of sustainability to truly work towards providing for deeper and more holistic solutions that sensitively sustain the identity and values of any built environment?

- **Architecture and the local community**

The cities that we see today were born out of an amalgamation of diverse local communities that came with their unique identities. These communities integrated seamlessly with the city and contributed in their own ways to its growth. Today we see that with changing contexts, evolving aspirations of newer generations, these local communities are at the verge of losing their identity. How can the design of settlements of these communities facilitate a transition that retains their uniqueness yet respects evolving identities?

The International Conference spread over 3 days brought together 19 experts from 10 countries in an global exchange of ideas and perspectives. The first day saw a keynote speech from Ar. Jacob van Rijs, Founder Partner at MVRDV from Amsterdam, Netherlands; two sessions on paper presentations and a keynote speech by Ar. Ernesto Klingenberg from Barcelona, Spain in the evening slot. The second day was curated to include panel discussions on the conference theme. The first panel, moderated by Dr. Poorva Keskar and Dr. Pushkar Sohoni comprised panelists- Dr. Peter Scriver from Adelaide, Australia; Ar. Bijoy Ramachandran from Bangalore, India and Ar. Pedro Aibéo from Helsinki, Finland. The second panel moderated by Mr. Ramprasad Akkiseti, Managing Director of CCBA Designs, Pune comprised panelists- Ar. Suha Ozkan from Turkey, Ar. Savneet Kaur from Chandigarh and Ar. Chi Ti-Nan from China. The sessions on paper presentations also continued on the second day. The third day of the conference began with a keynote address by Ar. Md. Rafiq Azam, principal architect at 'Shatotto: architecture for green living' based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Post the keynote, the Mega Design Competition Juries on **'The Pandemic Memorial: of remembrance and reflections'** commenced. We were graced by an eminent Jury Panel with Ar. Rafiq Azam, Ar. Anagha Paranjpe Purohit and Ar. Dean D'cruz. Day 3 ended with a keynote speech by Ar. Christopher Benninger. His talk was the perfect culmination of the 3 days of intense deliberations around the theme of our conference: Blurred Boundaries, in search of an identity.

The conference was organized under the leadership of Ms. Pooja Misal, Founder- Director of Brick School; Dr. Poorva Keskar; Principal, Brick School of Architecture; Ar. Manali Deshmukh, Academic Coordinator, Brick School of Architecture and the joint efforts of Conference Chairs and Design Competition Chair- Ar. Ketaki Gujar, Ar. Sharduli Joshi and Ar. Rama Raghavan, respectively, with the support of all the faculty and staff at Brick School- is planned as the first among the many more conferences and knowledge sharing initiatives to follow in the future, by the SMEF's Brick Group of Institutes.

This online publication of the conference proceedings is a compendium of 70 academic papers received under the aforementioned 5 themes. It offers a kaleidoscopic perspective around pressing issues relating to the built environment and notions of identity. The papers received spoke of diverse scales, multiple stakeholders, varied sites across the world- under one overarching theme **'Blurred Boundaries: In Search of an Identity'**. We hope that this compilation will enrich the perspectives of the readers, inspire them in some way to pursue connected research areas and also contribute to the pertinent discourse of resilient space making in the fragile built environment of today.

Convenor's Message - Ms. Pooja Misal

At the onset, I would like to thank all participants for joining us in the journey of blurring boundaries together and finding our identity amidst the growing global architecture of personalities, cultures and traditions.

SMEF's Brick School of Architecture, Pune, was thrilled to host a one-of-its-kind International Conference to bring together academicians, industry experts, professionals, students, teachers and design enthusiasts on a common platform.

Post the pandemic, we're all facing the challenges of finding our identities, adjusting to the new normal and finding ways to reconnect with our passion and our people. Yet, amidst all the chaos surrounding us, the team at Brick wanted to find a place to create, explore, innovate and inspire. Thus, we conducted this International Conference on **Blurred Boundaries – In Search of an Identity** on the **24th, 25th and 26th September 2021**.

The conference brought together global knowledge partners, universities from across the world, educational institutions and mavericks to talk about blurring boundaries to find our identities. We invited speakers, panellists, session chairs and jury members from countries like Australia, Italy, Spain, Bangladesh, Finland, Turkey, China, Dubai, Cuba, Singapore, the USA and more to promote collaborative learning. Hosting this international conference aligned with Brick's philosophy of promoting an inclusive learning environment, evolving together and growing as a global community for the betterment of our society. The keynote speakers enlightened the participants with their thought process by sharing their work and the session chairs communicated their passion for design, architecture and education beautifully to all attendees.

We also invited research papers on various topics and hosted a design competition on the topic 'The Pandemic Memorial'. We received over 500 registered participants for the conference and more than 150 entries for the papers. In case you missed the conference, you can always get access to the insights through our exclusive publication.

This first-ever international conference by Brick gained immense recognition in the academic circle, and helped us to add to the existing knowledge and data for global students in the architecture and design fields. All the papers and ideas from the conference are collated for easy access to everyone. We hope to inspire people from different walks of life to build a rewarding and promising future for themselves and their environment. We also took this opportunity to showcase our students work through a virtual exhibition that is available on our website.

Ms. Pooja Misal

Founder - Director



Co-Convenor's Message - Dr. Poorva Keskar

The pandemic has made us realize that we all are one world, connected so intensely that a small incident of one person getting infected with COVID-19 could not be contained. COVID-19 has changed our perspective on almost all the things conventional.

Environmental sustainability which was just a concept discussed, has now gained real dimension and we have realized that we will have to act as one world when facing the challenges to address climate change, food, water, energy, poverty, and other interconnected issues.

Urbanization of modern cities have slowly melted the visual differences between the cities. The global and trans-boundary nature of environmental sustainability challenges suggests a potential need for global identity, or connectedness to people around the world. Global identity may address certain issues but also allows the individuals to merge into this identity without taking onus of individual identity. Hardin in his book, Tragedy of the Commons, argues that identity will lead to feeling of belonging; this in turn would give a sense of ownership and responsibility towards common resources such as air, water and land.

Sustainable development goals, with actionable Agenda 2030 has been interpreted by various countries and put in as policies, however till the individual mindset of an individual is not addressed, the policy will not be successfully implemented. Behavioral change will get triggered if individual identity is established. The region, the city, the neighborhood and the individual should respond to its unique context to get a character and be responsible towards its resources for a sustainable future.

With this in mind, we thought of exploring various dimensions of concepts that could lend an identity to an entity. Heritage as an anchor; sustainability and identity; resilience in the era of change; architecture & community; and space as an expression of democracy were threads that we thought of exploring.

Dr. Poorva Keskar
Principal

Advisor's Message- Ar. Vishwas Kulkarni

It was great that BRICK School of Architecture took the initiative and organised an International Seminar on Blurred Boundaries: In search of an Identity

The Conference was very well arranged and the selection of the topics and Speakers was absolutely relevant to the subject.

Though I could not attend the full Conference in detail, however the part in which I attended was rejuvenating and imparting knowledge. It was also a pleasure to interact with the experts round the Globe and the interaction was certainly enjoyable.

The subject of the Conference was Blurred Boundaries: In search of an Identity. I interpret that the boundaries may not be physical boundaries but intellectual level boundaries. Any Architect, Planner or Designer experiences different thinking ways to arrive at a conclusion and he always likes to cross these boundaries and come out with the best of design principles.

Architectural Design is definitely not the subject which can be explained in words. As there are no definite boundaries to analyze and arrive at a decision which one is better than the other.

With the advancement of technology and new considerations such as Environmental, Facade Engineering, etc. the boundaries between thinking and design is still blurred and the boundaries are ever shifting and will continue to be like that for years to come.

Though one has to work within these constraints, he has to try hard or always has to be in search of an identity for his works.

. Ar. Vishwas Kulkarni



Conference Chair's Message - Ar. Ketaki Gujar & Ar. Sharduli Joshi

Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness...

-Frank Gehry

We believe the conference-Blurred Boundaries- In search of an Identity, provided a medium to have intellectual discourses to opine on time, place and identity in the urban and architectural realm within a global consciousness. It also provided a platform which encouraged and motivated young researchers, Academicians, students and professionals alike. Our objective was to talk about a subject which is often underlying and not thought or spoken about.

We had an overwhelming response to the conference registrations, call for papers and the Design competition. The 'Call for Papers', received a response in the form of 145+ Abstracts which got converted to 75 Full Papers. We had 24 Indian and International reviewers give detailed reviews on every paper received. 4-5 papers were selected under each theme for presenting live in the respective sessions.

Over the three days, we brought together a unique plethora of panelists, session chairs, and experts from across the globe who presented a unique take/ perspective on the theme. While some conversations were food for thought, some left us with a new insight.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Director of SMEF's Brick School of architecture, Ms Pooja Misal, Principal Dr. Poorva Keskar and our dear colleagues without whom this conference would not have been a huge success. We would also like to thank all the 'knowledge partners', panelists, eminent architects and session chairs for enriching the content of the conference with their wisdom and all the 'support partners' for being there for us throughout the process.

-Ar. Ketaki Gujar

Associate Professor

-Ar. Sharduli Joshi

Assistant Professor

Keynote Speakers



Ar. Jacob van Rijs

Founding partner, MVRDV,
Amsterdam, Netherlands



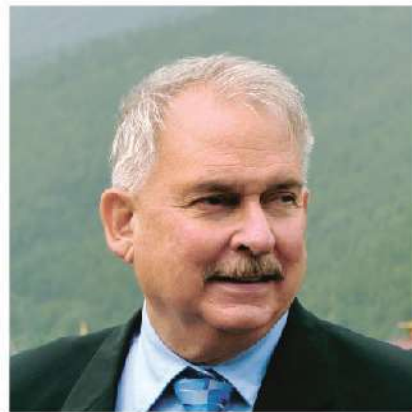
Ar. Ernesto Klingenberg

L35, Barcelona, Spain



Ar. Md. Rafiq Azam

SHATOTTO, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Ar. Christopher Benninger

CCBA, Pune, India



Panelists



Ar. Bijoy Ramachandran
Founder, Principal Architect
Hundredhands,
Bangalore, India



Ar. Peter Scriver
Associate Professor
School of Architecture and
Built Environment
Adelaide University, Australia



Ar. Pedro Aibéo
Founder and CEO of
Gamified Cohousing,
Helsinki, Finland



Dr. Suha Özkan
Architectural theorist,
Former Secretary - General of
the Aga Khan
Award for Architecture, Turkey



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Chi Ti - Nan Architect
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Session chair's Note

In 1971 the well known Italian movie director and writer Pier Paolo Pasolini made a short film entitled "The Walls of Sana'a", accompanied by a poignant appeal to international authorities: «we turn to UNESCO to help Yemen save itself from its destruction, which began with the destruction of the walls of Sana'a». Pasolini work aimed to obtain recognition as a World Heritage Site by Unesco for the capital of Yemen and to help its inhabitants «to be aware of its identity and the precious country that it is» and «stop a miserable speculation in a country where no one denounces it».

This is in my opinion a very pregnant example to introduce the Session Heritage as an Anchor, conceived as part of the broader and more choral reflection about Blurred Bonduaries and the search for identity.

Pasolini, in a truly pioneering way, raised a cry of alarm on the need to safeguard the specificities of local cultures of archaic memory against the drift of neo-capitalist building speculation, which in the name of profit and an idea of modernity that translates into alienation, at the beginning of the 1970s was devastating the architectural, urban and environmental heritage in the industrialized West. He placed his hopes precisely in the least developed countries, in Asia and Africa, to raise awareness of the importance and identitarian value that cultural heritage has for people.

The current scenarium, of course, is very different and the attempt to find a possible armony between modern and antique or a compromise between profit and culture, must consider also other combinations - or better-pairs of opposites, specially that of global and local. We already live in a global world and the globalization phenomenon is still on-going, as the current pandemic situation and its speed demonstrates very clearly. This is not all bad, for example for the possibilities of networking and fast communications, but the risk to loose any kind of identity, local specificities, long lasting traditions and finally the memory of the communities is really high.

As an hitorian I'm aware of this risk and I strongly believe that memory of the past is a crucial issue for consciousness in the present and for the future.

But cultural heritage, with its wealth of history, memory, traditions and identity, mustn't be intended as an istrument to raise barriers; as written by the French anthropologist, psychologist and philosopher Claude Lévi-Strauss: "The diversity of human cultures must not invite us to a fragmenting or fragmented observation. It is functional not so much to the isolation of groups as to the relationships that unite them". (C. Lévi-Strauss, *Razza e storia. Razza e cultura*)

Starting from this reflections, heritage can really be considered as an anchor helping us to find a sustainable and fulfilling balance between global and local dimensions.

The idea of materil heritage as a precious inheritance received from our ancestors and to be passed on to our posterity is not at all new of the modern times; especially in the field of artistic production, history is full of examples of the attention payed to preserve and transmitt works of art, including architecture or architectural elements, often charged of symbolic additional values.

Anyway, in the last decades the term heritage has been interpreted in a more extensive and inclusive way, focusing not only on material goods but also and increasingly on intalgibles legacies, till the idea of heritage as performance recently affirmed by Laurajane Smith in her studies.

Emotial heritage is the title of her last pubblication on the subject, with the eloquent subtitle: *Visitor Engagement at Museums and Heritage Sites*, "highlighting the affective and political consequences of heritage-making".

Within the general framework of cultural heritage, this session is focused on a specific field, that of architectural and urban heritage, a tangible heritage including at the meantime a lot of intangible values. Thus, the historical architecture and urban contexts should be preserved and appreciated not only for the eventual artistic relevance and estethic quality, but also for their role of whitness of civilizations, ways of living, symbolic meanings, helping to create links between past and present, between places and people and a sense of belonging that can rebalance the atopic character of globalized cities.



Heritage, urbanity and transition: methods and tools for a possible future.

Rosa Maria Vitrano¹

¹*Department of Architecture DARCH, University of Palermo (Italy)*

Abstract

It has taken millennia to provide our world with works of art that are sometimes comparable in magnificence and character to natural creation. Some civilizations of the past, without having any of our means, have created a historical heritage of infinite beauty.

The literature on heritage and memory reports that heritage exists because society attests that an artefact, event or place is so valuable that it is handed down to the next generation. Heritage is our anchor and beauty will save us. Architects, historians and geographers have argued that the concepts of heritage and memory are socially constructed, they shape cities and influence their identity. In the current metamorphosis, how to imagine our tangible and intangible heritage in a possible future? How can we heal its wounds in order to regenerate it? Cities, by integrating urban ecology solutions, are able to face some of the environmental challenges that threaten heritage by involving today's citizens in the construction of their own history. The problems of heritage and the built environment increase when the imbalances of natural settings and urbanization grow (Glassberg 2001). The aim of this study is to investigate the links between this ongoing metamorphosis and the opportunities and benefits that the inclusion of green spaces and lungs bring to urban landscapes from an eco-sustainable perspective.

The research methodology is analytical and comparative and will be based on the critical analysis of innovative case studies of built heritage regeneration. The results will concern the formulation of guidelines for the regeneration and environmental transition of built heritage with particular identity and community value. Conclusions will illustrate the design solutions, the critical supporting analyses and the benefits brought to the heritage in terms of environmental, social and economic comfort.

Keywords : Heritage; urban regeneration; transition; sustainability; built environment

1. Introduction

In this paper we focus on some aspects of the general framework of urban regeneration; the connection between quality and urban liveability; the sharing of regeneration objectives and meanings. Without claiming to be exhaustive, we elaborate on the reasons and the “essential” conditions to guide the regeneration process and the coherence between urban regeneration objectives and the protection of the existing heritage. In the process of sustainable urban regeneration, the involvement of public real estate assets is indeed essential, and it is necessary to consider the strategic value and criticality of these assets.

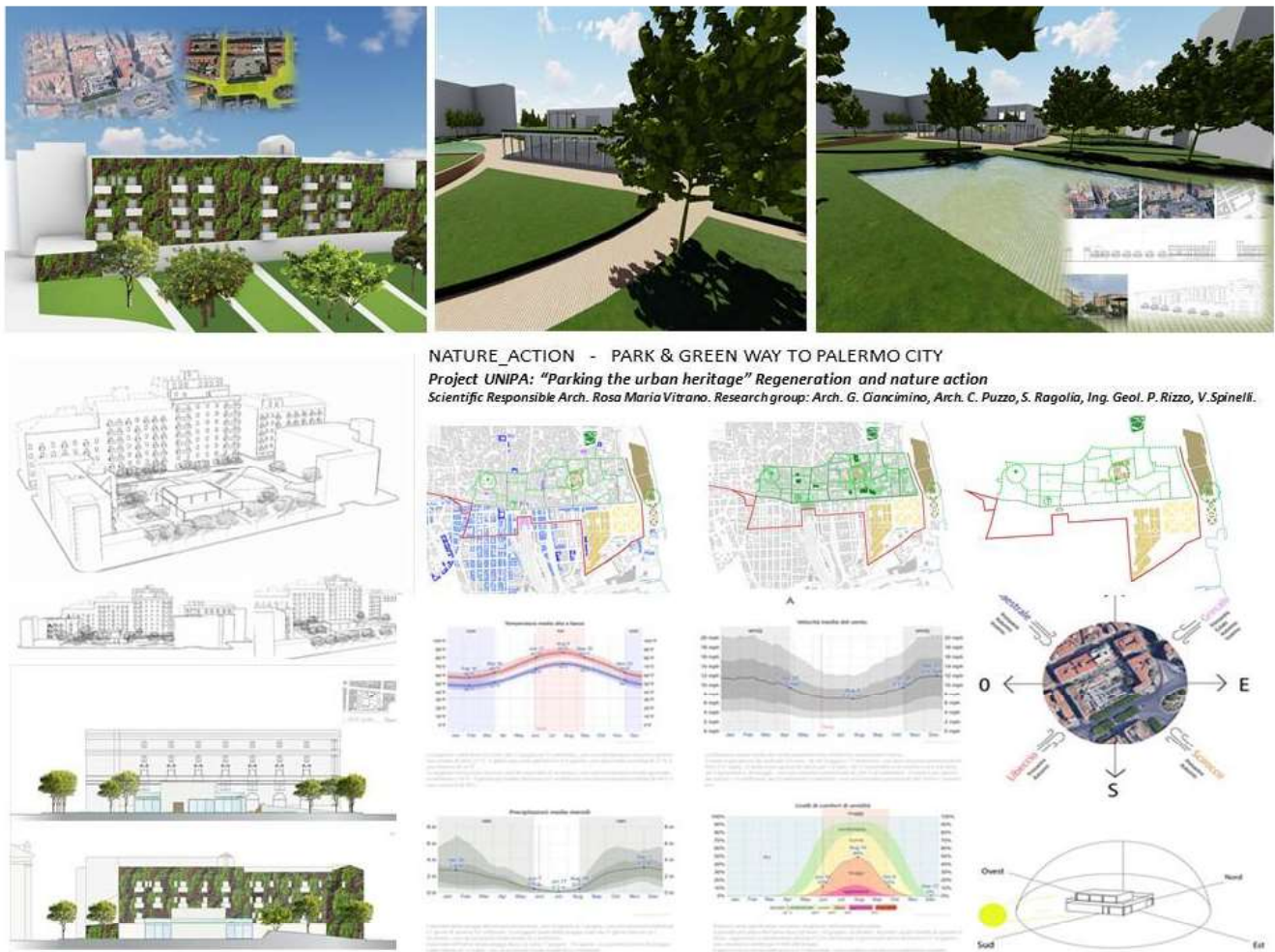
Designing for sustainability means ensuring that interventions, both urban and territorial, are ‘compatible’ with the need to improve and protect the quality of life and the environmental context in relation to future needs as well as current ones. Sustainability is part of the broader issue of the relationship between technological culture and environmental culture, and in particular of the central issue of optimising resources, both natural and artificial, and the problems arising from the fracture between the built environment and the physical-climatic context.

In the light of these considerations, the main aim of the research project “Park the urban heritage” carried out by the University of Palermo in agreement with the Municipality of Palermo and the Sicilian Region, which forms the basis of this contribution, was to implement the guidelines for urban regeneration, i.e. to identify the technologies and operational tools aimed at energy saving and sustainable development. In particular, it is argued that it is necessary to use nature-action/parkification to create healthy urban environments that combat pollution and congestion in the city. see Figures. 1, 2.

2. Regenerating the built heritage - connections with existing literature

It has taken millennia to provide our world with works sometimes comparable in beauty and personality to natural creation. The literature on heritage and memory reports that heritage exists because society attests that an artefact, event or place is so precious that it is passed on to the next generation (Glantz and Figueroa, 1997). Architects, historians and geographers leading research on historic preservation and heritage have argued that the concepts of heritage and memory are socially constructed (Crane, 2000; Glassberg 2001).

Figure1: Project "Park the urban heritage" carried out by the University of Palermo in agreement with the Municipality of Palermo and the Sicilian Region.



All forms of heritage are therefore created in a social/political context in which culture, class, power and religion, will influence what is considered to be worthy of preservation as heritage (Graham et al., 2000).

But it is also true that if heritage, national identity and memory are socially constructed, they are also intrinsically contested (Alderman, 2000). This shows that there is a polyvocality in the politics of heritage and memory. Those in power can shape the creation of heritage; changes in power can initiate new criteria for selection and/or belonging. (Ashworth, 1994). Johnson observes that each memory reproduces a moment in time when a characteristic view took on hegemonic status, even if only for a short time (Johnson, 1995).

As observed by Jannack (2015), especially for regeneration projects of public interest the real challenge for the future is to operate with the tools of co-design by implementing massive communication between citizens and experienced professionals. Optimising and valorising the experience and creativity of communities, i.e. that collective intelligence, which is itself a project asset. (Godet, 2014) [8]. Also in this direction, the use of digital platforms (Laing, 2018) is important in order to disseminate and involve all stakeholders on the strategies of reconversion, valorisation and fruition.

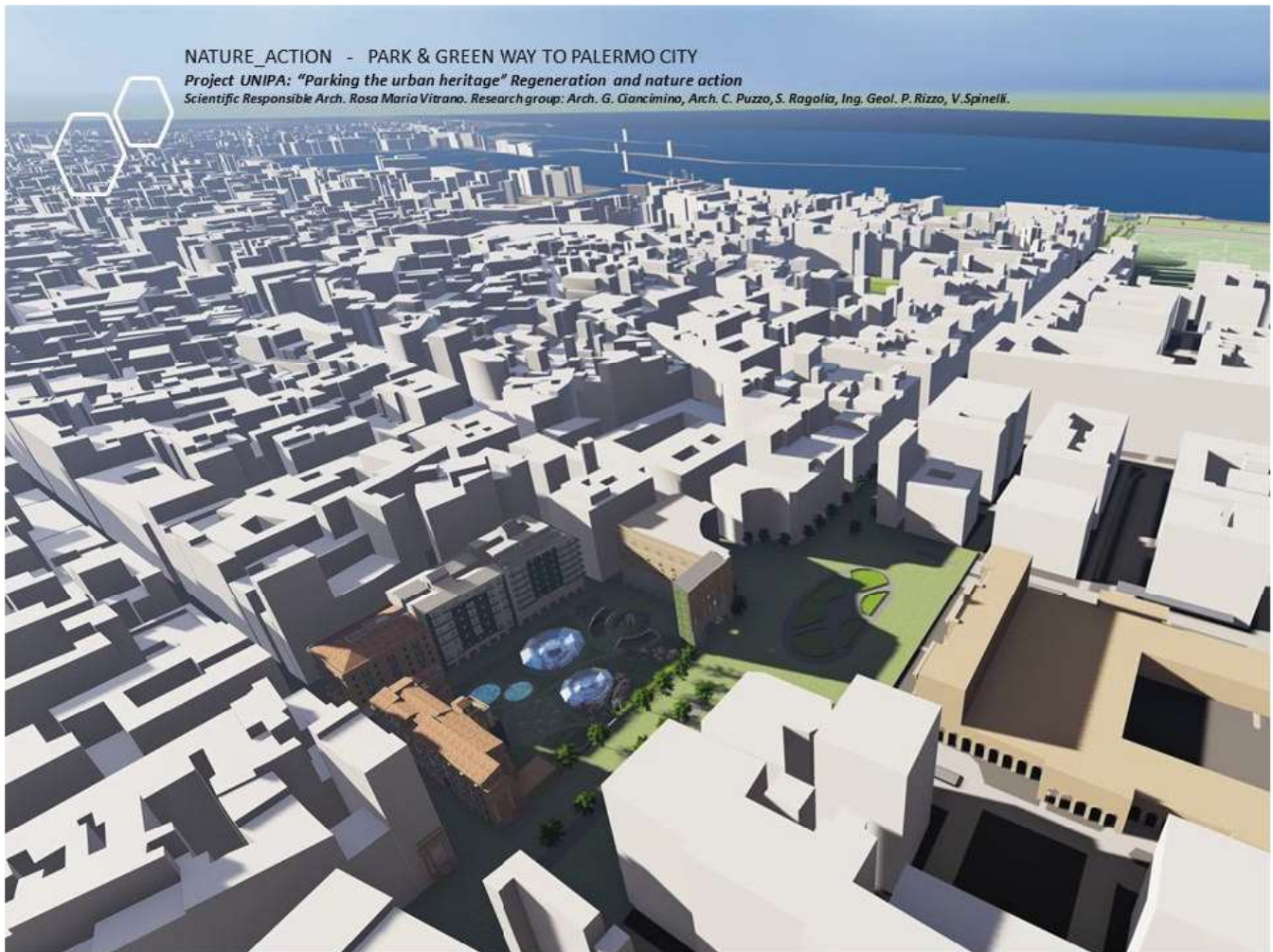
This means involving today's citizens in the construction of their history and thus in the reconstruction of their sometimes marginalised identity. Focusing on the community's capacity of identification and appropriation, considering it as a protagonist of regeneration and valorisation operations will also contribute to the development of the community itself.

3. Analytical aspects and debate on the topic - relevance in today's context

As Edoardo Vittoria argued back in the 1970s, technology is an expression of the "creation of new relationships between man and the construction of his own habitat". In this context, the environmental effects acting at the level of the community and the ecosystem



Figure2: Project "Park the urban heritage" carried out by the University of Palermo in agreement with the Municipality of Palermo and the Sicilian Region.



must be assessed with interpretations and reflections that are less conventional but appropriate to the complexity of contemporary life (Davies et al., 2001). The main objective is to think about new theories of "global architecture" through which the environmental system of cities and individual housing units can be rebalanced. These theories form the basis of a reform of living aimed at the wellbeing of citizens and the entire planet, which several European capitals are promoting (case studies: Barcelona, Valencia and Manchester) in a perspective of renaissance and ecological transition. It is necessary to start by humanising and "parkifying" cities by creating new urban metabolisms, developing an integrated design approach that, through innovative and inclusive processes, encourages the triggering of sustainable urban regeneration interventions from large to small scale. The results will be calculated on the basis of improvements in living space and citizens' health. The link between the morphological and functional characteristics of urban contexts and public health impacts, is given by the relationship between environmental quality and the adoption of healthy lifestyles/Healthy Lifestyles, (among environmental risk factors: air/acoustic/visual/soil pollution, urban heat island, vehicular traffic, safety and security; among salutogenic urban design strategies: green infrastructure, biodiversity protection, management of adverse and sudden weather events, private and public electric transport system, cycling and walking routes, municipal solid waste management, renewable energy, accessibility and design for all, ecodesign).

The "Health in All Policies" strategy indicated by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlights in particular that the health of inhabitants does not only derive from the presence and management of health environments/services, but also from the quality of living and working environments (D'alessandro, 2017). The ongoing health emergency has made policies and actions necessarily interdisciplinary to be undertaken even more urgent, both in terms of technical training (architects, engineers, urban planners) and medical/health training (hygienists, epidemiologists, public health professionals, molecular biologists, pharmacologists etc) (Capolongo, 2020). We are therefore once again experiencing how health is not individualistic but a collective condition strongly influenced by the environmental context. Today, providing answers corresponding to the new prospects of rebirth and ecological transition with salutogenic design strategies is an objective that can no longer be postponed, and technological design is one of the disciplines called upon to provide increasingly targeted and concrete answers.

3.1 Regeneration and heritage. Cultural and scientific background related to the topic

In Italy, the revitalisation of the country's sustainable development is the only and unavoidable road to take, seizing all the opportunities to quickly reach the horizon that is still barely visible.

In fact, our future and the future of our cities depends on adapting to the great changes taking place and on the ability to react and reconvert.

In the last fifteen years the approach to possible environmental regeneration has mainly focused on the criteria and tools of sustainability and resilience. Today, building on these previous research experiences, we are called upon to reflect on the deployment of new resources for social, environmental and economic reconstruction/regeneration.

In recent years, we have learned how necessary urban and environmental regeneration is for the satisfaction of housing needs and the sustainable development of the built environment, and we have also understood, also at European level, how indispensable it is to implement conditions of safety, inclusiveness, subsidiarity and social equity.

The complex of events and conditions that have formed the backdrop to the climatic-environmental and socio-economic polycrisis/megacrisis of recent times have led to a multidimensionality of risks that must be tackled with extreme urgency. It is necessary to use the architectural heritage as an "anchor" by holistically integrating solutions inspired by new scientific advances in the field of urban ecology. This is a proactive way of responding to the challenges and precariousness of the contemporary city, assessing the opportunities and benefits that the inclusion of green spaces and lungs bring to building contexts in a perspective of eco-sustainability (green globes) and social inclusion.

3.2 Technology project guidelines. Project references and intervention methodology

We have repeatedly highlighted how important the issue of environmental regeneration is, especially in this moment of pandemic crisis. The European Union has responded to this crisis with a planning and financial instrument named Next Generation EU (NGEU), defining the path started in 2020, aiming more strongly at an ecological and digital transition plan.

In Italy, the latest National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) blatantly states that the Covid-19 pandemic requires greater environmental sustainability and greater social participation and co-responsibility/solidarity.

In the PNRR, the "green revolution", the ecological transition with renewable energies and sustainable mobility, are the unavoidable directions in which we must invest for the realisation of "green projects" that will be financed with 38% of the total investments. The fundamentals of the ecological transition, already outlined by the European Green Deal at the end of 2019, aspire to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and to reduce climate-distorting emissions by 55% by 2030 compared with the scenarios of the 1990s. Studies by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show the need for counteracting and preventive measures in line with the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda, launched in 2015 by the United Nations.

In the light of these directives, the regeneration process proposed for the city of Palermo starts from the necessary reflections on the ongoing metamorphosis due to the current planetary megacrisis. This has highlighted how the destiny of all human beings is inseparable from the bio-ecological destiny of planet Earth. In addition to the climatic-environmental and socio-economic crises, which are shaking all dogmas and threaten to worsen, dragging us into chaos and uncertainty about the future, there is the crisis of civilisation, which prompts us to perceive the lack of solidarity and the consumerist intoxication that our civilisation has developed and asks us to think about an alternative civilisation policy; then there is the intellectual crisis, which should reveal to us the huge black hole in our intelligence, which makes the complexities of reality invisible to us; there is also an existential crisis, which prompts us to question our way of life and our real needs. It is necessary to transform the affirmation of our 'I' into the solidarity of 'we' and with a salutogenic approach (not only prevention but health promotion) to build the transition.

Intervention methodology:

In the perspective described the guidelines proposed by the research for regeneration are aimed at supporting:

- the valorisation of the built heritage and of cultural, environmental and natural assets;
- the requalification/regeneration of the built environment;
- the promotion of the community's sense of belonging, taking into account social expectations through participatory planning processes.



In particular:

1. First of all, the ecological requalification of buildings and the containment of emissions must be aimed at using alternative energies and vertical gardens for the greening of building façades, the use of photovoltaic on roofs and micro wind power in open areas destined to equipped green spaces and urban gardens;
2. Secondly, the redevelopment of the entire street system of the historic centre of Palermo must be carried out with the creation of green ways.

Objectives of the project

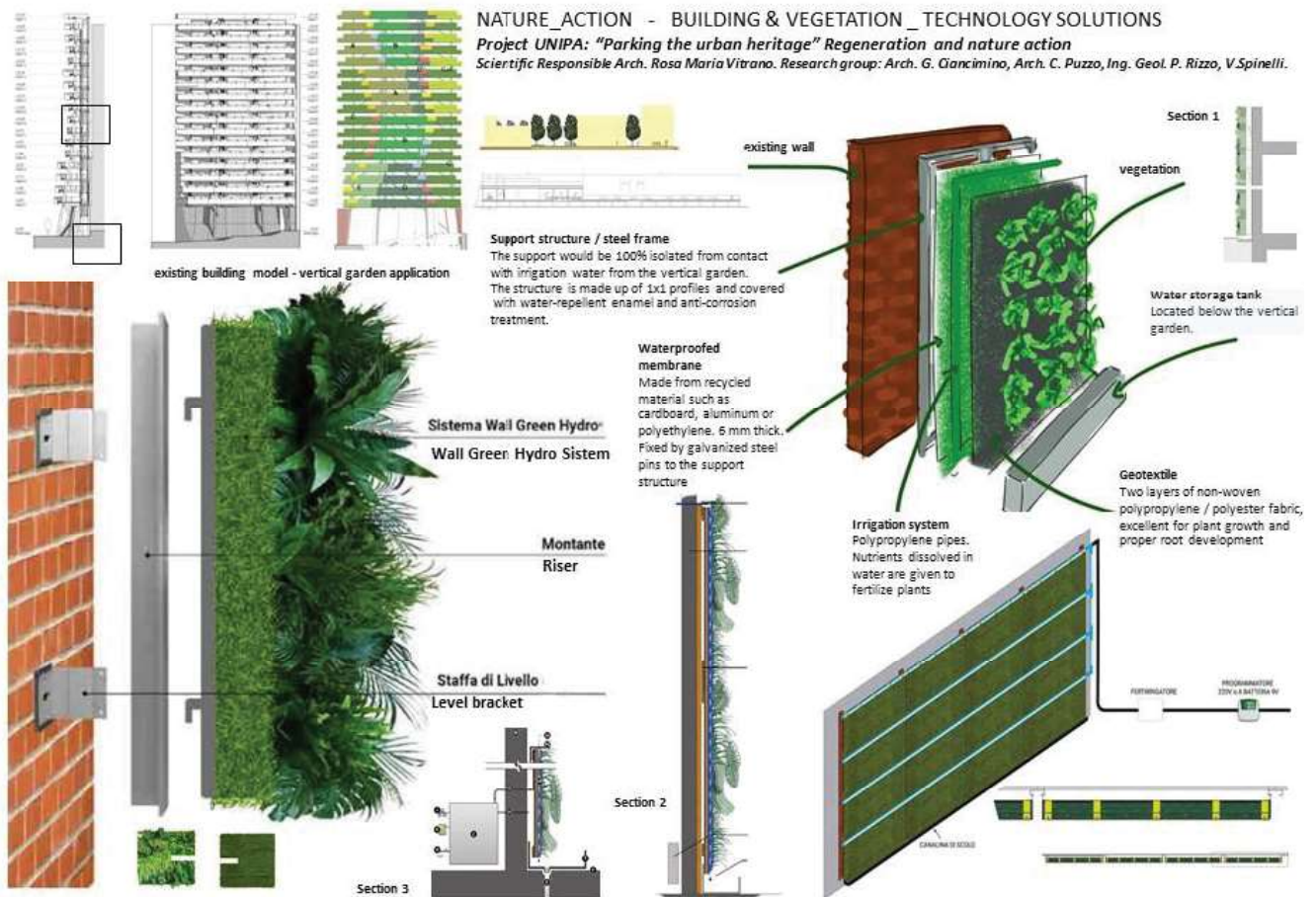
The urban regeneration project aims to create new spaces for meeting and socialising as new focal points for dialogue between citizens in a green city logic, where people rediscover the values of the territory and healthy living.

The retrofit of buildings includes a series of measures to improve their performance, also in terms of environmental and landscape impact. The final objective is to transform buildings with a horizontal and vertical greening/naturalising system to reduce harmful emissions into the environment. see Figure. 3.

The specific retrofitting actions, aimed at improving the plant engineering performance of the buildings, include the implementation and priority use of the following overall eco-sustainable improvement systems

- a. use of trombe wall systems in building façades, photovoltaic façades;
- b. use of the vertical garden;
- c. use of roof gardens;
- d. use of renewable sources - photovoltaic - solar thermal – micro wind turbines - wind and geothermal sources - eco-houses.

Figure 3: Nature-action – Retrofitting actions for the buildings



Building greening/nature-action technologies will decrease/reverse the use of already obsolete and polluting cooling systems.

This use of the greening of buildings is a way to integrate the existing with the new: the use of renewable energies, the use of environmentally friendly materials and techniques for insulating buildings and improving thermal comfort will create the ideal conditions for healthy, comfortable, attractive and sustainable living.

The design of urban districts such as those of Barcelona, Valencia, Manchester and Vancouver, used by the research as case studies and important design references, is a significant response at European level and a concrete application of the policies foreseen by the diffuse energy production. see Figures. 4, 5 .In them, as well as in the guidelines proposed by the research, the use of renewable energy sources is implemented, the reduction of energy needs, the electrification of mobility activities but also of the management of indoor and outdoor living spaces, green deal, home farming, urban agriculture, the activation of forms of circular economy, all responses that go in the direction of the necessary ecological transition. Contemporary design, through a virtuous integration of these wide-ranging sustainability components, must therefore be increasingly oriented towards health and safety and the decisive overcoming of dissipative anthropocentric models with a high exploitation of resources.

Figure 4: Design references for the Green way

Superilla Barcelona, Competition of Ideas organized by the Municipality of Barcelona, Spain, www.barcelona.cat

In **Valencia (Spain)** the ecological conversion project involves the construction of an urban forest that will offset CO2 emissions and will be the new habitat for local fauna.

In **West Gorton in Manchester (United Kingdom)** an exemplary green neighborhood is planned, with trees, shrubs, common crops, permeable pavements. A new park that will become a central point for the community.

The park is the final element of the West Gorton regeneration programme

The rain garden with a pontoon deck uses any excess water as a feature of the park.

DESIGN REFERENCES FOR THE GREEN WAY

The **Jardi del Túria** is a 110 hectare park located in the city of Valencia and is the largest urban garden in Spain.

The park was built in 1986 in the ancient bed of the Túria river, which was drained as a preventive measure in order to avoid the periodic floods that afflicted the city of Valencia.

After the severe flood that occurred in October 1957 which caused serious damage to the city and killed many people, it was decided to divert the river outside the city limits and to create gardens in its old bed.

NATURE_ACTION PARK & GREEN WAY
 Project **UNIPA: "Parking the urban heritage"** Regeneration and nature action
 Scientific Responsible Arch. **Rosa Maria Vitramo**. Research group: Arch. **G. Giancimino**, Arch. **C. Puzzo**, Ing. **Geof. S. Rogolia**, **P. Rizzo**, **V. Spinelli**.

4. Conclusions

The issue of sustainable regeneration aimed at safeguarding the environment continues to be at the centre of urban policy debates and has been further increased by the restrictions of the pandemic that has profoundly changed the way we live in the city.

Victor Olgay, one of the fathers of bioclimatic architecture, wrote in *Design with climate* in 1963: “the desirable procedure would be to work with the forces of nature, not against them, and to exploit their potential to create better living conditions in human settlements”. With this in mind, each territory must implement all its natural, cultural and landscape resources for a new characterisation of the urban image.

Environmental regeneration must combine urban solutions of architectural quality with eco-sustainable systems in total respect of the historical and naturalistic pre-existences present. The purpose has been not to limit ourselves to implementing building and urban



regeneration, as happened in the past through special laws as a simple vision of recovery or reuse of the built environment; today the issue is broader and more complex and must be tackled by using every available resource in terms of innovative technologies for regeneration and in terms of environmental training and education. Regeneration should primarily control human behaviour, since it is the actions of citizens on the environment that must be regenerated, and find in social cohesion the limits of economic and consumerist growth. Only after this training of individuals will it be possible to actually achieve an urban regeneration that can be defined as environmental and social. Strategic regeneration as a process innovation, sensitising the original people of the place and the residents to preserve the values of their identity, contributes to renew/regenerate the concept of authenticity that for too long has been relegated to the mere static conservation of the built heritage. Instead, we need to work on the principle of dynamic heritage conservation, based on strategic management of the process and the project, to understand its interdependencies and variables.

Figure 5: Design references for the Green way



Today it is therefore necessary to set out on a new political-ecological-economic-social path guided by a regenerated humanism “in order not to disassociate the problem of knowledge of nature from that of the nature of knowledge” and to address regressive phenomena in their complex context. In this context the research operating the Guidelines for the city of Palermo has already inserted a piece for the ecological transition of the city, the results of which are already visible in the continuation of the regeneration project of an important area of Palermo that is the central station area, in which a general project for the environmental regeneration is being studied, with the introduction of a central park and green ways.

The paper was translated from Italian into English by Sara Manuela Cacioppo.

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International Conference on Blurred Boundaries: In Search of an Identity

24th-26th September

Participation Certificate

This is to certify that **Ms. Rosa Maria Vitrano** has participated and presented as an **Author for Paper: Heritage, urbanity and transition: methods and tools for a possible future** at **“International Conference on Blurred Boundaries: In Search of an Identity”** organized by SMEF’s Brick School of Architecture Pune in September 2021.

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Schedule



Day 1- Friday, 24th September

09.15 AM to 10.15 AM IST	Inauguration by Vice-Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune - Dr. Nitin Karmalkar	
10.30 AM to 11.45 AM IST	Session 1	Space as an expression of Democracy
	Paper presentations	Session Chair: Dr. Amit Srivastava, Adelaide University, Australia
12.00 PM to 01.00 PM IST	Session 2 Keynote Address	Ar. Jacob van Rijs, Netherlands
01.30 PM to 02.45 PM IST	Session 3	Architecture and the Local Community
	Paper presentations	Session Chair: Dr. Shaji Panicker, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai, UAE
02.50 PM to 03.45 PM IST	Session 4	Resilience in the era of change
	Paper presentations	Session Chair: Ar. Robert Fleming, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA
04.00 PM to 04.30 PM IST	Periscope- Interaction with Global Universities	
05.30 PM to 07.00 PM IST	Session 5 Keynote Address	Ar. Ernesto Klingenberg, Spain

Day 2- Saturday, 25th September

09.30 AM to 10.00 AM IST	Welcome note, Announcement of the Finalists of Design Competition	
10.00 AM to 11.20 AM IST	Session 1	Dr. Peter Scriver, Australia
	Panel Discussion	Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, India
		Ar. Bijoy Ramachandran, India
		Ar. Pedro Aibéo, Finland
11.30 AM to 12.45 PM IST	Session 2	Heritage as an Anchor
	Paper presentation	Session Chair: Dr. Emanuela Garofalo, University of Palermo, Italy
01.30 PM to 03.10 PM IST	Session 3	Identity and Sustainability
	Paper presentation	Session Chair: Dr. Abel Tablada, University of Havana, Cuba, Session Co-Chair: Dr. Harn Wei Kua, National University of Singapore, Singapore
03.30 PM to 04.00 PM IST	Periscope- Interaction with Global Universities	
05.00 PM to 07.00 PM IST	Session 4 Panel Discussion	Dr. Suha Özkan, Turkey Ar. Savneet Kaur, India Ar. Chi Ti - Nan, China

Day 3- Sunday, 26th September

09.00 AM to 09.30 AM IST	Inauguration by President, Council of Architecture, India- Ar. Habeeb Khan and Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology SPPU Pune- Dr. Manohar Chaskar	
09.30 AM to 10.35 AM IST	Session 1 Keynote Address	Ar. Md. Rafiq Azam, Bangladesh
10.45 AM to 01.30 PM IST	Session 2 & 3 Design Competition Student Juries and announcement of winners.	Design competition Jury
		Ar. Md. Rafiq Azam, Bangladesh
		Ar. Dean D'Cruz, India Ar. Shimul Javeri Kadri, India
03.00 PM to 04.00 PM IST	Periscope- Interaction with Global Universities	
05.00 PM to 07.00 PM IST	Session 4 Keynote Address	Ar. Christopher Benninger, India

Day 2 : Session 2 - 11.30 AM to 12.45 PM IST (75 Mins)

Heritage as an Anchor				Paper presentation
11.30 to 11.35	Introduction to the University of Palermo, Italy and session chair Dr. Emanuela Garofalo	emcee	5	
11.35 to 11.50	Presentation by Session Chair	Dr. Emanuela Garofalo	15	(8:00 AM) Italy
11.50 to 12.40	Architectural Heritage Assessment Model through Analytical Hierarchy Process and Complex Proportional Assessment:A Case of Odishan Temple Architecture	HA003 Partha Sarathi Mishra, Soumi	8+ 2	
	Human Movement in Space impacted by Architecture with Historical Narrative Study of Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad	HA017 Rutva Trivedi, Sujan Umaraniya	8+ 2	
	Heritage, urbanity and transition: methods and tools for a possible future	HA027 Rosa Maria Vitrano	8+ 2	
	Revenant architecture: values and significance of re-used elements in the reconstruction of sicilian cities (XVIth-XVIIIth century)	HA039 Armando Antista	8+ 2	
	HERITAGE INTEGRATION WITH URBAN ADVANCEMENT FOR THE CITIES IN INDIA.	HA040 Antima Kuda,Dipti Shukla, Ankur Kuda	8+ 2	
12.40 to 12.45	Conclusion of session by Session chair	Dr. Emanuela Garofalo	5	