



CIRICE 2020

9th International Congress - Naples, October 22-24, 2020
Call for papers

THE CITY AS PALIMPSEST

Traces, gazes and narrations
on the complexity of historical urban contexts



André Corboz used the term palimpsest to propose an effective metaphor (*Le territoire comme palimpseste*) between the parchment document and the city and/or territory on which man applies his doing. The parchment, which has handed down the scriptures since the Middle Ages, was a material of great value and was reused, abraded, sometimes inverted and rewritten several times, while never losing its 'stratification', traces of which remained legible.

The city and its territory are like a parchment, transformed by the action of nature and man, and endowed over the centuries with different meanings in relation to the societies that modify them, without however erasing the signs of time, both natural and anthropic. Are the studies that have improved over the years still current? The answer is clearly affirmative and the layers that appear today superimposable in urban fabrics and in their territories represent for our society a legacy not to be erased, but, indeed, to be known and enhanced.

We would like to ask ourselves about this complex patrimony of tracks, images, narrations: how did we get to the current urban complexity? how can we describe our cities? how do we see and represent them? how can we recover and enhance them?



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Deadlines

Interested scholars can register on the OCS conference website indicating the Topic for the proposal with an abstract (Italian/English languages, max 1,000 characters, blanks included) by **February 15, 2020**.

[registration](#)

Abstracts valuation and acceptance will take place by **March 15, 2020**.

The authors of the accepted proposals will have to upload the full paper to the OCS platform (Italian or English, max 20,000 characters, blanks and notes included, max 5 figures) by **May 15, 2020**. The full paper must be written according to the editorial rules.

[info and guidelines](#)

The proposals will be double-blind peer reviewed and the acceptance notification will take place by **30 June, 2020**. The authors must subsequently confirm their participation by paying the participation fee. The payment must be made on c/c n. 0025/11 Banco di Napoli, made out to: Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sull'Iconografia della Città Europea - IBAN IT27 S010 1003 4280 0002 5000 011 - BIC IBSPITNA - causal: "CIRICE 2020 – Surname, Name".

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Subscription fee

180 € (researchers employed in a public administrations and private institutions with fixed-term contract)

120 € (independent researchers, scholars, students, accompanying persons and speakers/authors more than one)

The registration fee includes registration with the Eikonocity association, participation as conference speaker, publication in ebook, lunches, coffee breaks, etc.

As usual for CIRICE international congress, starting from the beginning of the congress, the writings that passed the double-blind peer review will be available on e-book pre-print.

The volumes of the previous editions – book series "Storia e iconografia dell'architettura, delle città e dei siti europei" (FedOA - Federico II University Press)

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Macrosession A

Excavation, memory and reuse: a multi-directional reading of historical sites

Bianca Ferrara, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (bferrara@unina.it)

Federico Rausa, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (rausa1963@gmail.com)

Urban archaeology has its own deeply consolidated cultural tradition; in the sixties, during the post-war reconstruction in European cities, people began to reflect on how to stitch together the remains and testimonies of an urban palimpsest stratified over time in differently elaborated forms; the whole urban stratification, in its complexity, becomes the centre of attention and the concept of urban archaeology, which is developing over time, assumes a central role in the study of the city seen in its physical and political formulation. Looking even further back in time, the heritage of an ancient past that many cities nowadays can frequently due to toponymy continuity vaunt, is documented through a plurality of forms, testimonies and traces that are still alive in the urban pattern. Even in those places where archaeological excavations could not systematically bring the remains of past to light, it survives in constant dialogue with the present, thanks to recoveries, reuses, conversions of places, artefacts and buildings, perceived over time as markers of urban identity.

A.1 - Urban archaeology and archaeology in the city

Bianca Ferrara, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (bferrara@unina.it)

The theme of the session aims to focus attention on those centres where new tested strategies and methods of research and analysis can offer different keys of interpretation. These can be used to understand the difficulties in recomposing the urban settlement and also to explain how, today, it is possible to face the problem of structural and historical stratification in terms of methodology.

A.2 - Memories of the antique in historical sites

Federico Rausa, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (rausa1963@gmail.com)

The theme the session proposes and develops is the revival of the past through a “horizontal” view of the urban palimpsests which, complementary to the “vertical” one offered by archaeological stratigraphy, can work for the recognition of persistent memories.

A.3 - *Tabula inscripta*. Reuse and spolia in contemporary architecture

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Federica Deo, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (federicadeo@libero.it)

In every stage of the millennial history of western architecture, the multiple actors involved in the construction of the city did not falter to empower / hasten / make use of material traces belonging to the recent past to be overcome nor accrue from the depth of history. Along these lines, architecture has furthermore self-fed, activating measures of appropriation of fragments and real *spolio* practices, which had several purposes, not infrequently with an explicit cultural and even ideological connotation. With less plainness, nevertheless with an increasing extent in recent decades, this has also happened within the culture of modern design. Even in urban environments or contexts where the temptation of a clean slate seemed stronger through which to peremptorily affirm new logic, new languages or models on behalf of the *forma urbis*.

The session intends to present case studies relating to works from the second half of the twentieth century – or from masters of our time – which operated the reuse of fragments or shards of pre-existing buildings, on site or elsewhere. Material traces condemned to the hush by the ruin: ancient words to be embedded in the new language to make meaningful the way in which the architecture of the contemporary city continues to speak, to raise its historical sense and its beauty.

Macro-session B

Social, economic, cultural and political dynamics underlying the transformations and representations of urban realities between the modern and contemporary ages

Annunziata Berrino, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (annunziata.berrino@unina.it)

This macro-session proposes three calls: the first calls for contributions dedicated to the transformations and stratifications of the *forma urbis* and its representation along the modern age under the push of social, economic, cultural and political dynamics; the second opens a specific focus on the functional and iconographic transformations that industry and tourism – in opposition, in succession, simultaneously – bring to cities in the contemporary age and on the public debate that accompanies them; the third focuses attention on the smaller centers of internal Italy, going as far as current events, since it proposes an attempt to evaluate the sources and methods of historical research adopted, starting from a balance of the results of the recovery and regeneration programs elaborated and carried out in the context of the latest territorial cohesion policies of the European Union.

B.1 - Urban spaces in early modern Italy: additions, insertions, overlaps

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Piero Ventura, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (piro.ventura@unina.it)

Since 15th century, under the pressure of social, cultural and political dynamics, several Italian cities have experienced significant transformations of their urban fabric. Between 16th and 17th century, some intervention plans have been implemented on the *forma urbis*. In many cases, those urban spaces remained substantially intact until 19th century, protected from tumultuous and radical transformations; nevertheless, other changes, perhaps less significant, have characterized the city life. The main objective of the session is to analyse the dynamics that have affected urban realities, through additions, such as the progressive joining of villages to the cities, insertions of new buildings or groups of buildings, rectification of road networks in medieval urban fabrics, interventions to modify the directional poles, especially in cities where the demographic and real estate development was more intensive. Between the 15th and 19th century, the multiplicity of

political or religious centres sometimes made the internal articulation of modern cities more complex, also activating jurisdictional conflicts. These spaces have been the subject of multiple representations, often with the aim of showing them as an ideal background for the manifestation of power, civil and religious virtues, or to enhance their beauty and increase their prestige. The session aims to consider the consequences of these transformations also in terms of representations, thanks to the intersection of different sources with historical cartography.

B.2 - Transformations of cities and territories under tourist pressure in the last phase of the industrial age

Annunziata Berrino, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (annunziata.berrino@unina.it)

After the Second World War, tourism in Italy and in the Mediterranean area became mass tourism and became a topic of public debate. It was no longer an economic activity of specific territories or cities, characterized by natural resources or cultural attractions – for example spas or monuments –, but a common aspiration, a social need, an established practice that required widespread services. However, in those same years the path of industry-based development for some cities became the only possible option.

The central theme of the session is the political discourse that guided the vision of the cities and territories in the thirty years after the conflict, and how, and if, the complexity of the government of those cities was resolved which, despite having tourism experience, assumed a fully profile industrial.

B.3 - Small settlements in the Italian marginal areas. Which histories for which palimpsests?

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Roberto Parisi, *Università degli Studi del Molise* (roberto.parisi@unimol.it)

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Having almost reached the temporal horizon of the year 2020, the programmed deadline for European policies regarding territorial cohesion adopted by Italy to resolve the profound social, economic and cultural crises affecting minor historical centres, today it is perhaps legitimate to resort to the metaphor of the palimpsest questioning the theme once again, starting from the centrality of documentary sources and historical research. Leaving aside the specific typology of the *villages désertés*, in the most widespread case of hamlets and small towns of inland Italy where the living soul of the local communities continues to strive, means fully understanding if and to what extent the criteria used to orientate the individualisation, the selection and the historical and testimonial recognition of the characterising signs of territorial palimpsest were able to influence the environmental recovery and recuperation plans and programmes of the marginal areas.

From this prospective, the session solicits a comparative reflection on the methods of investigation, on the linguistic codes and on the various documentary sources, from the first «Inchieste» published in Einaudi *Storia dell'arte italiana* up to the most recent documentary exhibition «Arcipelago Italia» displayed at the Venice Biennale of Architecture, which in varying degrees have distinguished studies directed towards an integral and longdurée interpretation of the territory, overcoming the rural/urban contradiction and not reducing the historiographical image of «opera d'arte corale» (choral work of art), often used to qualify small settlements, to an anonymous and instrumental background scenario to exalt the castle, the church and the square.

Macrosession C

Pieces and evidences of the modern and contemporary city, and of its architecture, through the traces found in the urban tissue and documentary sources

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Fabio Mangone, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (mangone@unina.it)

The European city shows countless traces of its evolution and stratification in the modern and contemporary age. The urban palimpsest can be investigated, and even ‘reconstructed’, both directly through the ‘fragments’ found in its tissue and in its districts, than thanks to documentary, textual and iconographic sources, taken from narrations and city views by writers, artists, landscape painters or cartographers. The evidences of the different historical periods, from the dawn of the modern age to the 20th century, should be read and interpreted today in relation to the underlying logic, dictated by politics and the consequent urban strategies, in continuity or discontinuity with the original inhabited cluster. The signs of the history, from the fragments of the Ancient to the fortifications, from the noble and ecclesiastical buildings to the poorest building tissue, up to the public and private gardens, all contribute to the city and urban landscape construction. It is a common cultural asset that has often been misunderstood and unfortunately tampered with, especially in recent times.

C.1 – Naples capital city. The urban palimpsest and the modern city image from the 15th to 19th centuries

Alfredo Buccaro, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (buccaro@unina.it)

Today, Naples probably represents the European city that better than any other offers the opportunity for a complete analysis of urban models repertoire widespread in the modern age in the old continent: from the ideal fifteenth-century city to the Renaissance military one, from the capital of the Ancien Régime to the metropolis center of the new enlightenment and revolutionary instances, up to the bourgeois city of the 19th century. All is reflected and transpires in the schedule of the urban and suburban tissue, easily legible as an open book of the history of the Italian city through the tools of archival documentation and historical iconography. The session is aimed at contributions on unedited readings of the evolution of the urban structure and its image, or parts of it, also with the help of the new potentialities of representation offered by digital technology.

C.2 - Urban fortifications in the modern age: construction, representation and transformation of the limit of the city

Emma Maglio, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (emma.maglio@unina.it)

The iconographic, cartographic and documentary sources identify the modern city starting from its fortifications, which belong to the urban space and are autonomous structures at the same time: they are places of legal exception, symbols of political power, spaces of building, technological and strategic updating, signs of boundary between the city and the countryside. It is about a complex palimpsest of architectures and infrastructures that has undergone multiple transformations over the centuries, in use too – see in Naples Castel Capuano and Castel Nuovo, which were reused as palaces and royal residences. In many cases, the walls have been demolished to enhance the urban expansion since the 19th century: their traces are often visible in the current urban layout. The session welcomes contributions aimed at investigating, also in a perspective of comparison and *longue durée*, the dynamics of construction and transformation of the urban fortifications during the modern age, the lost ones as well as those surviving until today, and their relationships with the public and private spaces of the city.

C.3 - Urban overlaps: plans and images for the city in the modern age

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From the 15th century the urban bourgeoisie acquires a significant role in the architectural-urban planning discipline, giving the city a main role. Humanist architects design noble palaces, often on an urban scale, intended to reconfigure the entire town and its image. Interesting projects are carried out for many small, medium and large cities, even if only a few of them are actually carried out thanks to the minds of the enlightened promoters. The city is, therefore, the result of successive stratifications, it becomes a complex palimpsest where the old and the new, in perfect synthesis, appear admirably represented in the real or ideal perspective views; these images magnify the entire urban layout or its most significant parts in the modern era. The city is, therefore, the result of successive stratifications, it becomes a complex palimpsest where the old and the new, in perfect synthesis, appear admirably represented in the real or ideal perspective views; these images magnify the entire urban layout or its most significant parts between the 15th and 18th centuries.

The session aims to compare real cities and ideal cities, transformations of parts of cities or unrealized projects, conceived in the context of modern age.

C.4 - “Une ville comme une forêt”: giardini pubblici e città in divenire

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Francesco Zecchino, *Università di Napoli Suor Orsola Benincasa*
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Around the mid-eighteenth century, with a more sensitive look at the teaching of Nature, the landscape art proved to be a superior art and, for the city, a layout of the streets was conceived through the metaphor of the forest, according to the principle expressed by Laugier. The cities open up and cross their borders, without any juxtapositions between inside and outside the walls, in a mutual permeation: on the one hand the city turns into a theater of nature, on the other the promenades outside the gate indicate the lines of urban expansion. This permeability between the city and the countryside has more ancient origin and finds its first achievements in the modern age in the proliferation of gardens and in the design of public parks, squares and tree-lined streets, starting an inexorable process of mutation of the *forma urbis*. The *ville comme une forêt* takes on different meanings and values, becomes the subject of different treatments, finds a multiplicity of formal applications and becomes the place of travel over time.

The session aims to re-read the narratives, rediscover the looks, trace the persistence, tell the stories, recompose the fragments, restore identity, re-emerge meanings and reconstruct the image of these architectures that have profoundly affected the urban iconography, but that today appear distracted, decontextualized, quiescent or dispersed in the complex stratification of the historic city.

C.5 - Memory, architectural presences and urban identity in the redesign of the devastated city

Carla Fernández Martínez, *Universidad de Oviedo* (fernandezcarla@uniovi.es)

Alessandra Veropalumbo, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*
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In many cities affected by natural disasters, the reconstruction was heavily influenced by civil and religious buildings, which survived even only partially from the catastrophe. Their presence, or their memory, has conditioned, in evident cases, the layout of the contemporary city, both on an urban and architectural level. In many cases, when the urban nucleus was not moved to a new site, it was

possible to intervene directly on the building, trying to link the urban reconstruction to the pre-existing surviving buildings.

The session aims to analyze those urban traces and those architectures that influenced the shape of cities and that allow a reading of urban stratification through the comparison of cartography, documents, and signs still visible on the existing.

C.6 - Permanence and ephemeral: national and international exhibitions in the urban palimpsest

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Andrea Maglio, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (andrea.maglio@unina.it)

Over the past two centuries, great exhibitions offered a chance to experiment with building techniques, architectural typologies, urban forms and new settlement strategies. Among the most international celebrated events such as the 1851 London Great Exhibition, the 1983 World's Colombian Chicago Exposition, or those organized by the Deutsche Werkbund, down to the less studied events, the exhibitions become pieces of cities attracting, even for a short time, investments, projects and visitors, leaving a complex legacy, which is only sometimes reused with different functions of sign and character.

Not neglecting the aspects strictly related to architectural experimentation, the session aims to investigate the troubled and articulated relationship of the exhibition sites with the city, sometimes at the roots of their development and other times able to define guidelines for urban expansion or to leave a permanent mark within a specific urban context.

C.7 - The Palimpsest of the Modern

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Aldo Castellano, *Politecnico di Milano* (aldo.castellano@polimi.it)

The European territory, and the Italian one in particular, is characterized by a series of architectural and urban stratifications that tell an evolution of languages and cultures that represent, as a whole, a precious palimpsest. Starting from the second half of the 19th century, with the consolidation of industrialization and the development of languages conventionally recognized as contemporary architecture, the gap has gradually becoming more and more a real fracture between the new and the pre-existing. This has fed the ancient and new cultural debate in the historic centers, which has been developing and increasing since the 1950s. But in the history of architecture of the second half of the 20th century – in particular from the post-war reconstruction and from the crisis of the dogmatic principles of rationalism fed with the contribution of the CIAM – many architectural works that, carried out from the historic centers or in consolidated urban landscapes, have revealed well-founded foundations of integration, sometimes by analogy, sometimes by opposition, that are capable to come to light some artistic languages with evident signs of contemporaneity in an effective palimpsest of the Modern.

The session aims to analyze – through drawings, photographs, videos, historical and descriptive readings of case studies from the mid-40s of the last century – those original contributions where the integration between the pre-existing and new projects, urban and architectural, that are well highlighted and declared. Analysis that could represent a moment of development for the research about the debate and about the knowledge, to complete the book of history.

C.8 - Art on the façade: pictorial and sculptural decorations in the processes of urban and architectural transformation

Laura Cavazzini, *Università degli Studi di Trento* (laura.cavazzini@unitn.it)

Paola Vitolo, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (paola.vitolo@unina.it)

Within the complex phenomena of remaking, restoration and reconstruction of the buildings that have accompanied over the centuries the processes of urban transformation, the pictorial and sculptural decorations play a role of great importance: both as witnesses of the continuity of use and persistence of specific values, and as expression of new meanings and functions. The external walls and façades of the buildings thus become an eloquent “manifesto” of the processes of the historical memory, of the dynamics that accompany them, of the social forces and of the cultural thrusts that determine them.

The session therefore aims to investigate the role played by these representations in the urban history, considering them as an evidence of the different historical phases (and related cultural, social and political instances) in the growth of the cities.

Macrosession D

Many different forms of representation ‘of and in’ the city. Between the traditions of descriptive reflection and innovations of immersive realities

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The macrosession suggests a discussion about those necessary theoretical and thought foundations, as well as those technological and artistic aspects that lead to know and represent the city and the landscape as a palimpsest. Of these, constantly subject to operations of erasure and rewriting, the actions of detecting and representing have always known how to reveal the deep complexity and today, thanks to the effective combination of manual procedure and technology, they manage to communicate their essence in a projective and transformative perspective, strongly relational.

The invitation is to an inversion of the point of view oriented to a different reading of the existing and to the definition of a new image of city and territory that reunites the small and the large scale by revising its hierarchies.

D.1 - Representing architecture and the city: yesterday, today, tomorrow

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The invitation is aimed at comparing not only looks from the outside capable of recognizing peculiarities and perspectives of the urban and territorial palimpsest, but also instrumental applications that allow one to orient oneself among the fragments of images, architecture and signs that, over time, have left the incessant work of stratification and rewriting, both by natural processes and human interventions. The union of gazes and tools capable of creating views and cartographies constitutes an essential repertoire of representations that can be used to “name” cities and territories at any time: graphic forms suitable not only to express the coherence and reasonableness of a process of imagination but also capable of translating images and iconographies into concrete spatial design.

D.2 - Images and tools: layers, views, shapes of cities

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In the context of current trends, which aim to configure new urban realities in whole or in part different from the historical ones, the aim here is to collect studies and research that propose overlapping visions on an urban scale based on the integration of a plurality of resources and potential: from street art to new museum dynamics (widespread museum, museum-city, etc.), to new forms of spectacularization of the city (events, urban settings, video-mapping, etc.) that interpret the surface as a media architectural envelope contended between the traditional role of limit, vision technologies, digital culture. Thinking of the city as a set of visual layers in which multiple signs are deposited, superimposed and accumulated, the disciplines of representation open to the reading of re-composition of urban plots capable of giving different forms to historical contexts.

Macrosession E

Preserve the pre-existence and support its reading. The role of Conservation for the city-palimpsest

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The macro-session aims to address the present role that the Conservation discipline can play towards the city-palimpsest, the result of a sedimentation of human signs in history to preserve to the future, but also a place of contemporaneity to adapt to the needs of life and enjoyment. modern. The ability to read the architectural and material-constructive specificities related to the various phases and previous restoration works, as well as the multiple meanings of the stratified historic centers of our towns; the competence to act on the heritage built to extend its life and pass it down to future generations; the design ability to update the message of pre-existence also through measured contemporary signs necessary for functional adaptation and an improvement in use – inclusive and aware – are essential knowledge that have characterized the discipline of architectural conservation for more than two centuries. The macro-session opens up to the international debate, including sessions that address specific cases and update these crucial issues, also according to the changed perception of the heritage of cities.

E.1 - Ancient cities between Integrated Conservation and Urban Regeneration. Sustainable approaches to their protection

Aldo Aveta, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II* (aldaveta@unina.it)

The Italian historic centres live a moment of serious identity crisis with the consequent risk of loss of their values and their 'palimpsest'; a crisis that affects cultural, economic and social aspects. In the absence of guidelines at national level, since 1977 regional laws have proliferated often discordant in the content and also in the interpretation of the meaning of founding terms in the disciplinary field of Conservation, such as the Restoration. The conditions of these centres have become even more complicated with the affirmation of an urban approach aimed at urban regeneration processes that do little take into account the need for preservation of stratified parts of historic cities, and, therefore, the complexity they represent and with the enactment of completely different regional laws.

The proposed session aims to investigate what prospects can be pursued for such precious urban fabrics, taking into account the experiences at European level, and pointing out that some historic

centres are UNESCO Heritage Sites. And again, what are the correct approaches, what are the possible tools, such as resources. The aim of the various scientific contributions will, therefore, also be to define the ways to be applied to pursue an active preservation of these centres, correctly combining Conservation and Urban Renewal.

E.2 - The «palimpsest city» at the time of UNESCO: an assessment fifty years after the 1972 Convention

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In 1972, in Paris, during the General Conference of UNESCO, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was approved, ratified in Italy in 1977. As is well known, the central hub of the Convention is World Heritage List, a list of sites worthy of attention and international cooperation that has gradually grown over the years. Among the latter, historical cities occupy a prominent place: for instance the historical centers of Rome, Florence, Naples, Siena, Verona for Italy and those of Avignon, Budapest, Krakow, Paris, Porto, Prague, Warsaw, Vienna, to mention only the main ones.

However, in the face of the numerous positive aspects that the World Heritage List process has entailed, less shareable repercussions have emerged over the years such as a trend towards the “globalization” of heritage, mass tourism, gentrification of historic centers. These are just some of the effects that, in recent decades, have touched the historic cities included in the World Heritage List. One wonders, in particular, if the complex dimension of a “palimpsest city”, which characterizes many European historic cities, is compatible with the expectations of the UNESCO “branding”, which often tends to push towards a monocultural vision of heritage, flattening specificity and differences, to privilege the tourist demand and the commercialization of heritage, as Françoise Choay already prophetically observed some years ago. Moreover, we also wonder how much the control tools (management plans) that UNESCO puts in place for the protection of these assets are truly adequate and effective. Thus, by banishing any Manichaeism, the session opens up to the widest possible international comparison on a theme that, precisely from a comparative perspective, can draw fruitful stimuli.

E.3 - Cities, Memories, restoration. The urban palimpsest between interpretation and intervention on the pre-existing

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The city, as the buildings, could be considered as a script, with infinite, tangible, and sometime imperceptible overwriting. Such overwriting can horizontally or vertically mark the city, creating complex layers of archeological and collective memory. The resulting stratifications have been approached differently according to the historical and cultural-political period. This has in turn influenced theories, practice and restoration/conservation techniques.

The session proposes to investigate the relationships between the perception of the urban stratifications and their representation, focusing on the cases where the recognition of the complex urban reality and the strata heterogeneity have influenced and/or directed theories and interventions on buildings and urban areas. In particular, the session addresses different forms of iconography, including photography, digital, cinema and mass media, which, in interpreting and representing the city, have succeeded in portraying the richness of layering and, as a result, have impacted the perception of pre-existing realities and the potential practical intervention choices.

E.4 - The hidden city. Restoration and project for the underground city

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Ancient cities, old aqueducts, mines, cisterns and crypts, are real underground cities, built in different periods and for multiple uses. From the “bottini” in Siena to the Orvieto “wells”, from the Turin “glaciers” to the “underground Naples”, just to stay in Italy, the cities “below” are in recent decades providing important knowledge for urban history and above all new touristic itineraries.

This heritage must be read, interpreted, but also restored through interventions that deal with the specific technical issues that these architectures present with a conservative approach, starting from the scarce ventilation that makes it difficult to preserve the decorated surfaces as well as the life inside these places.

Knowing how to interpret, read and enhance the evolutionary and construction phases of these articulated layers becomes a complex process that provides for a multidisciplinary of skills that work together in order to correctly read the layers and make them visible and usable. Protecting and enhancing this heritage through knowledge, restoration and design is in fact still a challenge that opens the debate to scenarios on highly binding topics.

The purpose of the session is, in this sense, to investigate and deepen the practices and projects of conservation and enhancement of underground cities to compare individual specificities, the most current methodological addresses and what has been achieved in recent decades.

E.5 - Layering and Restoration: Reading, Interpreting and Preserving the Architectural ‘Palinsesto’

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The landscape, the cities, the historical architectures constitute a complex heritage of traces, images, narratives, which testify to the action of time and men; over the centuries this heritage has taken on different meanings and values, in relation to the communities that have inhabited it, interpreted it, transformed and lived; it has been enriched by such a quantity of signs and memories that it has become unique and irreplaceable.

The session that is proposed is intended to accommodate studies, projects, experiments, insights, reflections on those urban-scale architectural complexes and those parts of the city that more than others preserve and manifest in their constituent matter the traces of their past, so much so that they can be called real architectural 'palinsesti'. And this with the aim of comparing the methods of restoration work realized or only designed to enhance this wealth of meanings and testimonies.