



BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
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ISSUES OF HOUSING,
PLANNING, AND
RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT OF
THE TERRITORY

**Towards Euro-Mediterranean
Perspectives**

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Issues of Housing, Planning, and Resilient Development of the Territory Towards Euro-Mediterranean Perspectives

Conference Theme and Rationale

Albania, along with other Western Balkan countries, has undergone significant economic, social, and political changes in recent years. As a result, housing, planning, and the resilient management of territorial development have emerged as critical issues. This is because these regions face significant challenges in providing affordable housing, addressing the impact of urbanization on the environment, fostering evidence-based decision-making on the territory, and bringing forth the commitments towards climate neutrality.

The organizers use the term “multi-modality” to define complex situations (in matters of territorial planning, management, architecture, housing, public space, technology, etc.) that have historically encompassed Western Balkans and Mediterranean cities in a logic of coexistence and value co-creation. A combination of knowledge and heritage that throughout time and history have given life to civilization in this region of Europe. The active involvement of Albania in the existing network of the Mediterranean Basin and the EU, through a joint action plan with UN / UNECE, and the Albanian and regional authorities, including reputable scientific bodies such as the Academy of Sciences of Albania, makes this conference even more intriguing to explore fascinating areas of research. The conclusions, to be considered as a stage for open innovation, will include recommendations for further scientific and applied research, projects, and events.

The geographical focus of the conference covers three dimensions: i) Albania; ii) the Western Balkans; iii) Euro-Mediterranean countries. POLIS University aims to focus on the above-mentioned research areas that are of common interest to both Western Balkans and Mediterranean cities, including, but not limited to: housing policies, urban history and architecture typology, innovation and digitalization in urbanism, energy efficiency, resilience and environmental sustainability, governance and smart technologies for city management, education and gender aspects in urban planning research.

In this regard the main aim of this international conference is to bring together scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners to examine the pressing issues of housing, planning, and land development in these regions, in a context of transition fatigue, climate challenges and post-pandemic realities.

Issues of Housing, Planning, and Resilient Development of the Territory Towards Euro-Mediterranean Perspectives

Conference Aim

The main aim of this international conference is to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners to examine the urgent issues of housing, planning and land development in these regions, in a context of transition, climate challenges and post-pandemic realities.

Objective

- Consolidation of the cooperation network between Albanian and non-Albanian researchers, lecturers, managers, with the aim of participating in joint research projects at the regional and international level;
- Support of local authorities with contemporary data, on the state of housing issues, planning and sustainable urban and environmental management, as well as representatives of public and private institutions operating in this field.

The conference is organized by POLIS University (U_POLIS) in cooperation with the Academy of Science of Albania, and supported by other local and international partners.

In the framework of resilience, the main conference theme is devoted to Issues of Housing, Planning, and Resilient Development of the Territory from a Euro-Mediterranean Perspective, including Albania, Western Balkans and the Mediterranean Basin. This event aims to bring together academics, policymakers, researchers, experts, practitioners, and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to discuss and address critical challenges related to housing, urban planning, and the development of resilient territories.

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Concept of heritage Materialization and Modernity INTERACTION BETWEEN MODERN CONSERVATION AND MODERNITY

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Abstract

This research aims to investigate the inclusion of approaches and ideas of heritage materialization and modernity through analysis and case studies of both the period of modernity and the preservation of cultural heritage. The relationship we find between the materialization of cultural heritage and modernity is a dynamic interaction between the preservation of cultural heritage and the rapid transformations that occur with modern architecture. Materialization is both physical for cultural identification and historical heritage that is related to concrete places and traditions of a certain space or a physical place. The preservation of objects of important cultural value, such as old buildings, monuments, are part of the process of materializing the value of heritage.

The methodology used shows how the modern method tries to protect the materialization of the heritage from the influences of the modern period such as urban expansions, mass productions by making an adaptation of the traditional methods to the contemporary ones. The methodology will be developed by comparing the materialization and modernity without affecting its history, but preserving it.

The aim of this study helps us to understand how modern conservation navigates practical challenges, in innovative technologies, strongly preserving materialized heritage in the face of new modern forces. By promoting a dialogue that maintains the balance between the materialization of heritage and modernity, in this way a sense of continuity with the past is preserved in the complexity between the present and the future.

The initial hypothesis is related to the research question: What is the connection between modern conservation and modernity? Heritage has an important role in determining not only the physical identity of objects, but also the individual and collective identity of people. It connects us with the past, influences the present and informs the future.

The results are expected to show how heritage is a factor that is preserved, passed on to future generations, materialized and guarantees important values in our society. In general, the materialization of cultural heritage is fundamental in the transmission and preservation of data. Every object and building must be preserved physically and also from a historical point of view, since they have a certain value.

Keywords

heritage, conservation, modernity, materialization, preservation, city

Introduction

This paper examines the heritage value of contemporary architecture. In particular, it examines how different social, political, economic and cultural contexts have influenced, contested, changed and used the understanding of modern architecture. This thesis examines two case studies, showing how modernity has influenced the materialization which is preserved as a part of the cultural heritage. The two case studies that make up this study are listed, each with its own thematic introduction and conclusion. This entry describes the larger search background regarding the basic ideas of heritage and the value of heritage, materialization of the value of heritage and cultural heritage, and the relationship between heritage and modernity ideologies. The introduction concludes with a review of the literature on heritage value and conservation.

This paper also considers the relationship between the materialization of heritage and modernity. It represents the challenge that exists between modernity and the preservation of cultural heritage. Analyzing material heritage and non-material heritage, this paper aims to show the interaction that exists between the materialization of heritage and the forces of modernity.

The concept of these two key words as the materialization of heritage and modernity are adapted to the course of modern times. The materialization focuses on the physical preservation of monuments, objects, villas or the documentation preserved for these historical values. So, values that pass from generation to generation and preserve the history of a country. The most important thing is how heritage materializes and shapes the interpretation of culture and history.

Modernity changes by becoming more complex and moving away from traditional elements and approaching rationality and individualism. Since it is more innovative, always following the new rules, it puts in tension the few points where the connection between modernity and cultural heritage is created. To connect these elements together, we must restore the buildings and monuments to preserve the historical values. Being that modernity is related to different transformations in society, this transformation is characterized by a departure from the traditional towards new values. With these changes, the materialization is also connected with innovation, the integration of technologies that promote the improvement of life. These processes affect the evolution of society.

The preservation of monuments or objects of cultural importance, such as old buildings and works of art, are part of the materialization of heritage. Cultural heritage has an important role in defining individual and collective identity because it connects us to the past and informs us about the future. . Heritage can be preserved and passed on to future generations by being materialized and in this way highlights the values in society.

The materialization of cultural heritage values has an important and fundamental role in its preservation. In the restoration of architecture, the most important thing is the restoration of the structure of buildings or monuments, and therefore it is valuable for the preservation of cultural heritage that has value for our society.

Finally, we must emphasize that the concept of materialization and modernity both act in a dynamic way between preservation and progress. If we manage to maintain this balance between the two, cultural heritage will become a vital aspect for contemporary society. These forces hold the key to the preservation and sustainable development of our common heritage for future gener-

ations. Wanting to adapt to the modern world, it is imperative that we value our heritage and its value in development.

Objectives and Materialization

In architecture, the material is an important part which is related to the tools of architecture to identify virtual elements, photographs, images. Also, materiality in architectural objects is related to elements which are natural physical substrate. In architecture we limit materiality in the theoretical aspect as an image in representative objects. The object with materiality is related to the structural and aesthetic factors. Being that an object can be individual or a group of objects that are of different typologies like us:

- morphology
- stylistic argumentation
- materialization including new materials in construction.

Some of the objectives of this study are related to:

Objectives 1: Examine the Impact of Modern Technologies on Heritage Materialization

Examine how digital technologies, virtual platforms, and multimedia contribute to the preservation, representation, and dissemination of cultural practices and artifacts in the modern era as you investigate their role in the materialization of heritage.

Objectives 2: Explore the Tensions and Synergies Between Tradition and Innovation

Examine the intricate interactions that exist between cutting-edge techniques and conventional heritage preservation strategies in the current setting, noting points of conflict, adaptation, and cooperation in the materialization of heritage in modern societies.

The procedures used to preserve, interpret, and convey cultural heritage to modern audiences are collectively referred to as “heritage materialization,” which is a broad and ever-changing term. The merging of the materialization of heritage and modernity has emerged as an essential topic of research in a time of rapid technological advances and changing cultural norms. By looking at the theoretical underpinnings, real-world applications and implications of the materialization of heritage within the framework of modernity, this study aims to investigate this connection.

Definitions from the field of monument conservation are beneficial for the preservation of buildings:

- The preservation of monuments, which are objects, collections of objects and fragments of artifacts, is in the public interest. The preservation of objects is in the public interest if they have artistic, scientific, folklore, landscape or urban design merit and are important to human history, cities, urban estates or the evolution of labor and production relations.
- Monument protection areas are collections of architectural structures, including those in which not every architectural structure meets the requirements for an individual monument. In addition to complete architectural, landscape, horticultural and agricultural complexes, monument conservation areas can also be urban planning, cities, urban landscapes and silhouettes, districts and urban areas, residential properties, building complexes and road segments. If particular structures are crucial to the overall aesthetic, they should be listed, along with their immediate surroundings. There are also places of business and industry, transport hubs and places of worship. (fig 1)

In the end, we must comprehend how materials combine with structure to produce shape in structures, making them a fundamental precondition in the formation of an architectural institution. The material will follow three key procedures from the time it is received until it is applied. The first is the selection of appropriate materials, which is typically based on the future building’s in-

tended use and the opportunities presented by this natural resource. Second, it entails sculpting materials based on their attributes and how the architect wishes to express his artistic vision. The matching and assembling of the materials come last. Here, the articles are arranged in accordance with the stage of technological development that was at that time, as well as with how it was used and what consequences were anticipated.

This method of looking at materiality in architecture could lead to creative material use in the design field. The concept immortalized in this case extends beyond the conventional limitations of construction materials by starting with the qualities and properties of the material, including structure, elasticity, transparency, and fluidity. The various material activities highlighted here, including folding, bending, engraving, cutting, knitting, weaving, mirroring, and display, are the main points of interest.



Figure 1: Chand Baori, Indi / Source: <http://www.chandbaori.org/>

Heritage Materialization and Modernity

As a dynamic construct, inheritance changes over time, it is not a static thing. Artifacts, customs, languages and practices all fall into these categories of tangible and intangible aspects of culture. It is necessary to reassess the preserved tactics, because modernity often challenges traditional general ideas and emphasizes progress and innovation.

The materialization of heritage is tangible in cultural materials for preservation and exhibition, it is called the materialization of heritage. The construction of museums, exhibitions and digital archives are all part of this process, as well as the conservation of objects, architectural designs and natural environments. New techniques and technologies brought by modernity have an effect on

the way heritage is manifested.

The materialization of heritage has undergone radical changes with the development of digital technology. New possibilities for immersive and interactive experiences with historical sites and objects have emerged due to 3D scanning, virtual reality and augmented reality. These technologies allow the preservation of heritage and its creative presentation to a larger audience.

Some case studies that help us better understand how elements of the modern alternate with the traditional. These are: Louvre Abu Dhabi, Virtual Museum/ British Museum.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi is a case study that clearly shows us how modernity has influenced the materialization of cultural heritage because it combines elements of architecture with the latest technology, especially highlighting traditional and modern elements. (Fig 2)



Figure 2: The Louvre Abu Dhabi/Source: <https://thespaces.com/louvre-abu-dhabis-giant-dome-creates-a-rain-of-light/>

Virtual Museum/ British Museum. The concept of virtual museums is a worthy example of how modernity allows to coexist with the traditional. These digital platforms allow individuals to become familiar with cultural artifacts and understand how the materialization of cultural heritage can be preserved. (Fig 3)

The interaction between the materialization of heritage and modernity raises several important points:

The challenges of heritage conservation have become difficult in a time of rapid change and progress; therefore, the authenticity, sustainability and moral implications of contemporary technologies must be carefully considered.

Accessibility and inclusiveness to ensure that many voices and views are included in the preservation and display of cultural heritage, modernity must facilitate more inclusion in the materialization of heritage.

The application of the latest technologies to the materialization of cultural wealth raises a number of ethical questions, such as those involving data privacy, cultural appropriation, and the monetization of heritage.



Figure 3: Virtual Museum/ British Museum / Source:<https://www.britishmuseum.org/>

Conclusions and discussion

In the context of modernity, the idea of materializing heritage is a complex and dynamic process. The preservation and presentation of cultural heritage will always be at the center of cultural discourse, even as modernity continues to transform our environment. The theoretical foundations, practical applications and implications of this relationship are summarized in this study, with an emphasis on the necessity for a balanced strategy that values tradition while welcoming innovation.

Since modernism, modern society we, as architects, have been so focused on economic advancement and the search for something new that the primary purpose of the city becomes confused and loses its meaning, which is from people to people. The city is a construct that is initially related to geography and the specific social context that has more to do with people and pass a position on people's desires.

We must not forget the fact that a building is not a simple element placed on a white page and the relationships that this object must create are deeply based on its context and the understanding of

how it has evolved in relation to people and the Environment. People are the first consideration in the production of an architectural work as they are social creatures embedded in a particular physical location, such as a city or rural area.

Given that modernity has the interconnection of realities that have merged over time, heritage can be the link between cities and social experience in this sense. Here, we can use the essence of the past to create in the present for the future.

In the end, the idea of heritage is often associated with the past, with the preservation and restoration of ancient structures, cultural objects and traditional ways of life. But in the context of modernity and the rapid changes and transformations that characterize contemporary society, heritage also has a role to play.

Heritage can be a source of inspiration and direction in the context of modernity, providing a link to the past and a foundation for the future. In a rapidly changing world, it can also help foster a sense of continuity and identity.

Concluding that contemporary conservation is a common cultural heritage shared by all people. It upholds the past by highlighting the importance of these structures and recognizing the people to whom they belong as cultural heritage. As science and technology have grown in importance in recent times, they have increasingly contributed to the digitization and preservation of historical artifacts. We must consider the preservation of the original components and the basic framework.

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