ARCHAEOLOGICA HEREDITAS

Preventive conservation of the human environment

6. Architecture as an element of the landscape

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First at all let me offer warm thanks to the editors of this volume for offering me the honour of this introduction which gives an opportunity to pay a sincere tribute to the memory of my predecessor, the former Director of ICCROM, Andrzej Tomaszewski. I had no opportunity to know him personally, but I received the memory of his activities for our organisation both from the staff colleagues who knew him and from the pages of the excellent book Conservation turn – return to conservation. Tolerance for change, limits of change, published in 2012 as the proceedings of the conferences organised by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for the Theory and the Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration, gatherings held in 2010 and 2011 in the Czech Republic and in Italy, Florence. I also heard about him through my frequent contacts with the Fondazione del Bianco in Florence, a second home for Tomaszewski, which today preserves his memory through its main conference hall which is named after him.

Today at ICCROM we are once again in a moment of decision on the upcoming Strategic Directions, upon which the Council and the General Assembly should build our next six-year program. It is therefore interesting to return to the document Quo vadis ICCROM? that Tomaszewski wrote 26 years ago to define for the following decade the challenges and the needs of the heritage conservation as emerging in his time. Other ICCROM Directors, Marc Laenen and Mounir Bouchenaki, have recalled the main lines of his vision: the need to respond to the expanded consideration of heritage on a global scale, questioning also the consolidated traditional Western vision of conservation; the need to expand conservation beyond strictly professionals, focusing also on the role of communities in order to obtain more public support; the redefinition of ICCROM’s mandate in conservation science as “the clearing house of authoritative information on conservation theory and practice”; the need to reinforce the policy of “training the trainers”; the need to accompany the development of theory with continued attention to the concrete problems of conservation of materials (wood, stone, paper, mural paintings, earthen architecture); the need to expand the capacity of ICCROM’s action through the collaboration of a reinforced network of Associated Partners, and of an “Association of Friends of ICCROM”; the need to update all ICCROM’s potential through new digital technologies. Most of these lines continue to be valid today, even though the last decades have seen the emergence of new challenges for heritage, the most relevant being destruction through terrorism and climate change as globally recognised dangers of our day.

In a moment in which the great idea of an European Union risks being damaged by new moments of selfishness, it could be perhaps useful to return to Tomaszewski’s work to reconcile two countries deeply divided by World War II, Germany and Poland, through the study and the practice of the architectural conservation. By studying his example, all European politicians might thus be encouraged to create a common policy for setting up a strategy for the preservation of the common European heritage, including numerous bicultural and multicultural heritage instances. And in light of his sensitivity to these themes, it would be precious in our dramatic days to listen him about the role of immigration in European cultural history.

After this foreword, let me come back to the topic of this conference, the role of architecture in the creation, enhancement and preservation of cultural landscapes. First at all I wish to remind you that I am not an architect in the academic sense. Nevertheless as an archaeologist having worked 35 years in the Italian Superintendences for Antiquities, I had to opportunity to develop, through practice and through discussion with Italian and foreign colleagues and different kinds of professionals, a quite strong experience dealing with the problems of conservation of ancient architecture dating up to 476 AD, the end of the Western Roman Empire, which according Italian law was under the responsibility of these offices. Therefore at first, as Inspector Archaeologist, I was busy with day to day conservation, involving very different problems of minor sites in landscape areas in the Apenines such as Sepino¹ and Pietrabbondante² in the Molise.

region, or of large tourist sites such as Pompeii\(^3\) or the Roman villas of its countryside, \textit{e.g.}, Villa Regina\(^4\) near Boscoreale (NA). Afterwards, as Superintendent of the Provinces of Naples and Caserta, I had the responsibility to care for the excavation and conservation of ancient monuments in an area that often provided outstanding examples for the study of ancient architecture.\(^1\) I could mention the famous Baiae baths\(^5\), the many Roman theatres of the region (Naples\(^7\), villa \textit{Pausilypon}\(^8\), \textit{Teumum Sidicum}\(^9\), Sessa Aurunca\(^10\), Monte San Nicola)\(^11\), and amphitheatres (Puteoli\(^12\), Capua\(^13\), Nola\(^14\)). Multidisciplinary issues of ancient and modern architecture and its contemporary uses by the community, for example the case of ancient temples reused as churches, were the focus of an international competition I organised for the famous temple of Augustus/Cathedral of Pozzuoli\(^15\); this was one of the most difficult cases in restoration of the first settlement of this ancient famous port metropolis – the Rione Terra\(^16\), abandoned after the bradyseism of the 1970s.

Just slightly easier was the case of reusing Medieval or modern historical buildings for hosting museums, as in the Angevine Loggione of Teano, or in the Cavalry Casern of S. Maria Capua Vetere.\(^17\)

An integrated approach going beyond the field of architecture needed to be developed in organizing strategies of preventive archaeology to respond to large infrastructure projects in the urban context, such as the subways of Naples\(^18\), or on a larger territorial scale as with the high-speed Milan-Naples train.\(^19\)

Last but not least, the task of archaeologists heading the Italian superintendencies included, besides the research and conservation of the ancient structures and sites, also to contribute to issuing rules and regulations for the preservation of archaeological heritage in the new Landscape Plans at regional level or in the master plans of historic cities. This was quite a sensitive role considering that nearly all the cities of Campania have an Etruscan, Greek or Roman origin, and even today large areas are suitable for archaeological parks and request protection.

This topic, the role of the ancient layers in our living cities, has for a long time been at the core of the discussion on so-called “Urban Archaeology” which, connected with the methodology of “Preventive Archaeology”, is a theme that has developed over several decades in France, UK, and other countries. The core idea is to go beyond archaeological research on single monuments to deal with the city as the object of a unique integrated research. The paradigm is to use archaeology as one of the many possible sources of information and interpretation to understand the long-lasting transformation process of the urban context: see the meeting of Vilnius in 2004 on “European Preventive Archaeology” by the Council of Europe together with the European Association of Archaeologists.\(^20\)

The joined topics of preventive and urban archaeology, having unavoidable consequences also on the decisions on development projects for unique archaeological areas, have always provoked animated discussions, such as in the 1960s the vibrant campaign for the protection of the Via Appia neighborhood launched by Antonio Cederna\(^21\), or in the 1970s around the project for the Naples University Faculty of Medicine clinics occupying the site of the Greek acropolis in Naples. The theme becomes even more sensitive when development projects come after disasters such as earthquake or conflict: then archaeology, rather than a research methodology, is perceived as an obstacle to swift development aiming at the quickest reconstruction or a maximal return of the investments. We have many examples of controversial practices as in Beirut where a real estate company, tasked to develop the downtown area, succeeded in the sidestepping the practice of leaving antiquities on site. Thus archaeological sites have been systematically destroyed after being painted as luxuries that the country cannot afford to preserve. In periods of economic crisis, like the current one, the temptation becomes ever more attractive and dangerous to shorten and “simplify” laws, bylaws, procedures that could appear – rightly or wrongly – as a waste of time and money. And so in the current situation we can predict that some countries of Europe, and obviously many in the South and East Mediterranean region, will be confronted with large public works programmes that put greater and greater pressure on the archaeological heritage and on the organisations involved in their protection. All this despite the fact that today preventive or rescue archaeology is the major field of research from which by far the most numerous, original and unexpected discoveries are made, much more than from pure academic research excavations (see for instance the great results obtained by the

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\(^3\) E.g., De Caro 1983.
\(^4\) De Caro 1994.
\(^5\) De Caro 2012.
\(^7\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teatro_romano_di_Neapolis.
\(^8\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parco_archeologico_di_Posillipo.
\(^10\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teatro_romano_di_Sessa_Aurunca.
\(^11\) Cinque and Panariti 2011.
\(^12\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anfiteatro_Flavio_(Pozzuoli).
\(^13\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anfiteatro_campano.
\(^14\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nola.
\(^16\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rione_Terra.
\(^17\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museo_archeologico_dell%27antica_Capua.
\(^18\) De Caro 2015.
\(^19\) De Caro 2008.
\(^20\) Bozoki-Ennyey (ed.) 2007; and more recently Guermandi and Salas Rossenbach (eds) 2013.
\(^21\) https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Cederna.
systematic activity of the French INRAP – Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives22).

Our is an historical time when the city becomes the topic of new visions such as the UNESCO’s Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), or the New Urban Agenda (NUA) of Habitat III. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicitly acknowledge the important role that cities play in the pursuit of sustainable development. In this framework, archaeology has a major role to play, as an investigation methodology and, beyond this, as the study of the historical built heritage in their material remains, carried out in an integrated way by archaeologists, architects, archivists, historians, etc. Let’s just consider the example of the urban landscape of cities that were capitals in the Ancient Classical World. Thus Rome’s landscape today was largely determined by ancient monumental presences, as well as by the long discontinuity of the Middle Age when the city became quite empty in comparison with the ancient city. This vacuum, and a substantial humanistic culture of respect for the past, offered the modern capital of Italy the opportunity to be largely spared by modern development, at least for many free areas around the ancient Roman and Renaissance monuments.

An even greater discontinuity characterises Athens’ urban evolution. In the Middle Ages the city was reduced to a little village around the Acropolis, and it was this hill that played the role of privileged identity area for the modern capital of Greece. Because of this symbolism, the Acropolis and its surroundings were spared from the process of co-urbanisation that has concentrated in Athens a large part of the population of the whole Greece, occupying the entire Attica region with a sea of buildings. As we know, the Acropolis as well as the Agora are largely a reconstructed landscape achieved by archaeologist and architects who removed the buildings of the post-classical period and reconstructed some ancient monuments (e.g., the Stoa of Attalos), an operation that today perhaps would not meet with approval, but such interventions are part of the history of archaeology and restoration. Much more extended, quite unconditional, was the approval for the last major urban planning operation, the project of unification of the archaeological sites of the city23, a detailed work of mending and reintegrating the archaeological areas into the urban landscape. The Grand Promenade park, a long walkway that joins the Olympieion area to the Kerameikos, passing through the southern slopes of the Acropolis, has extended to much of the old town the availability of green areas within which to walk, a miraculous prerogative of archaeological sites.

I will remain in Greece to illustrate by an example the last point of my speech, the bridge that must be built between cultural and natural heritage. In the hinterland of the city of Corinth, on the road to Olympia, there are ruins of the ancient town of Stymphalia, especially known as the location of one of the labours of Heracles, the slaying of the terrible birds living in the local marshes that with their powerful beaks would kill the people of the region. Here the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation built an Environment Museum24 showing the values both of the marshy environment and of the human communities using the lake as a resource. A meeting in October 2014 examined the dual cultural and environmental value of this cultural landscape, discussed the preconditions and priorities for integrated management of cultural and natural heritage, and the main elements of a new policy which, based on the functional association between culture and environment, will aim towards the protection and management of cultural sites. Stymphalia is not a UNESCO World Heritage site, but it is a site of the European Union Ecological Network “Natura 2000”25 and, as with many of the cultural landscapes of this network, is considered a “best practice” and a model for the future training strategy in the framework of the 1972 UNESCO Convention.

I was particularly interested by this case because, as you know, ICCROM serves as advisory body to the 1972 Convention, with a particular role training, alongside ICOMOS and IUCN. In order to build a shared training model for natural and cultural heritage, we were requested by the World Heritage Committee to prepare a course offering to participants a framework and some tools for narrowing the gaps between the two sectors. The results and outcomes of this special module were published in April 2015 on the UNESCO World Heritage Review no. 75: Culture – nature links. Afterwards, together with the other advisory bodies, we decided in 2015 to start a joint 2016–2019 capacity building strategy Nature-Culture Interlinkages, Participation & Management in World Heritage starting with a workshop on Nature-Culture Interlinkages in Asia and the Pacific that took place in Tsukuba, Japan from 18–30 September 2016. The workshop was organised by the World Heritage Studies and the Certificate Programme on Nature Conservation of the University of Tsukuba, in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM.

A few weeks afterwards, ICCROM partnered with ICOMOS and IUCN on a joint Nature-Culture Journey at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii (USA). The Journey focused on connecting natural and cultural heritage practice. There were many discussions on how to advance conservation of the environment and harnessing the solutions that nature and culture offer to meeting global challenges. These include implementing the new UN Sustainable Develop-
26 In September 2017 the “World Heritage Leadership programme” started its activities: http://www.iccrom.org/it/?s=leadership.

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