

P19. (Re)Envisioning the Vernacular Built Heritage

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Vernacular built heritage, as a cross-temporal materialization and expression of community know-how, has been transmitted through generations over the centuries. Its adherence to energy efficiency building principles as well as harnessing local materials and resources are lessons of learning in how buildings and sites can be effectively designed. Despite the recognized sustainability of this knowledge, nowadays, it is being forgotten due to the prevalence of new materials and technologies and construction trends. Both the tangible and intangible parts of this specific heritage are increasingly being lost. This has a negative impact on the understanding, heritage valorization and recovery of vernacular structures.

What is the current and future role of vernacular-built heritage? How can it be protected towards its heritagization? How can vernacular-built knowledge contribute to a broader debate about the common heritage acuteness, strategies and policy making? By investigating the sustainability and adaptability of its inherent practices, which local and global challenges might it face?

This panel aims to bring to the debate vernacular-built examples that can play a catalytic role in clarifying and consolidating a vision of a Heritage and also as drivers for the re(creation) of shared values to come up with a common heritage. Case studies can include elements built in urban or rural areas: residential (dwellings), agricultural facilities (e.g., mills, storage), religious buildings (e.g., chapels, hermitages) and landscape components (e.g., enclosures, thematic paths), among others. Proposals concerning buildings with a different state of conservations and usages are admitted. A main focus will be given to the underused and unused ones, as well as the buildings with new functions. The panel is targeted to researchers, professionals and workers who deal with this specifically built heritage and who are interested in the future-oriented role of the vernacular, both in its material and immaterial values.

Keywords: Vernacular Architecture; Cultural Heritage; Sustainable Development; Constructive Techniques; Knowledge Creation and Transfer.

Thematic lines: Heritage Practices; Heritage Management; Conservation, Restoration and Sustainability; Patrimonialization/Heritagization; Challenges, Discourses and Heritage Policies; National and International Strategic Challenges to the UN SDG; Digital Transition; Citizen Participation.

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Short bio: Mafalda Pacheco is an architect and a postdoctoral researcher at CHAM-Center for the Humanities, FCSH - NOVA University and Universidade dos Açores. She has a Ph.D. in Architecture from the Instituto Superior Técnico-University of Lisbon (2018), supported by a scholarship (2012-2016) from the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT). Previously, she had professional experience collaborating in several architectural studios (2002-2010) in Portugal, Spain, and Croatia with a scholarship from IAESTE (2004). Since 2019, she has been teaching: as an invited Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture - University of Lisbon (2019-2020), as a lecturer at FCSH - NOVA University (2019-2022) and as a mobility teacher abroad through the Erasmus + Program. Since May 2022, she is the principal investigator of the project Vaulted South - Vernacular vaulted houses in southern Portugal, funded by FCT (EXPL/ART-DAQ/0171/2021). She has active participation in heritage associations, being a member of ICOMOS Portugal, SPEHC and Centro da Terra. Recently, she is participating as a post-doc fellow in two COST Actions: “Decolonising Development: Research, Teaching and Practice” and “Underground4Value”.

Rolando Volzone is an architect, working on building rehabilitation, and a post-doc researcher at DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte. Since 2022, he is also Assistant Professor and lecturer in Master's degrees and Ph.D. programs at ISCTE-IUL. He concluded his Ph.D. in December 2020, funded by FCT, focused on the cultural heritage of religious orders in the South of Portugal. Since 2017, he is the coordinator of the international conference "Architectures of the Soul". In 2020, he joined the national project “CONVEMOS” and the European project "F-ATLAS” led by Università degli Studi di Firenze. He is a member of ICOMOS Portugal, of the International Scientific Committees PRERICO and CIPA Heritage Documentation, and also of the Scientific Board of the association Future for Religious Heritage (FRH). More recently, he joined two COST Actions: “MARGISTAR” and “Underground4Value”. He authored several publications, edited two international books, and has been a reviewer of indexed scientific articles. Moreover, he attended numerous national and international conferences.

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