

THE WOUNDED CITY **LA CITTÀ FERITA**

Urban spaces as sites of conflict, life, and memory

Gli spazi urbani come luogo di conflitto, vita, memorie

CALL FOR PAPERS **BOOK OF SESSIONS**

(English version)

XIII AISU Congress
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This volume brings together the sessions and the other participation opportunities that make up the Congress programme and for which proposals may be submitted. In addition to papers for the **academic sessions** (pp. 7-112), the Congress welcomes proposals for the **Poster Session** (p. 115) and for **Agora**, the section devoted to public engagement activities (pp. 113-114). A separate call is also open to **publishers, academic journals, scholarly associations, and cultural institutions** wishing to participate in the publishing presentations organised as part of the Congress (p. 116).

The final section of the volume contains **practical information** for contributors, together with **alphabetical indexes** of the sessions and their convenors (pp. 117–125). To facilitate consultation, all entries in the table of contents and indexes are hyperlinked directly to the corresponding sections of the volume.

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MACROSESSION 1. Governing and Controlling the City. Powers, Institutions, Negotiations

1.1. Contending for the City: Spaces, Actors and Practices of Governance in the Late Middle Ages

Convenors: Caterina Cappuccio, *Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom*; Julia Andree, *RWTH Aachen University*; Lorenzo Caravaggi, *Lancaster University*

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Medieval cities have been the subject of important studies and historiographical reassessments. Having moved beyond the paradigm of Italian exceptionalism within the European context and the Risorgimento myth of the commune as a symbol of liberty in the struggle against an external invader, more recent historiography has focused both on the self-awareness of the early commune and on the assembly-based dimension of communal government, on its social component, on communal justice, and, more recently, on the languages of power and its representation, including in figurative form. The panel situates itself within this historiographical context and aims to offer an innovative perspective on certain aspects of governance in late medieval cities (13th-14th centuries). The objective of the session is to compare different situations and to propose a broad reflection on the urban political system, examining the actors, the languages, the practices of government, and the relationship with authorities – whether civic or universal powers. The late medieval urban context was notoriously characterised by numerous tensions, at times conflicts, arising mainly from the presence of different political parties and factions, as well as from the emergence of new social forces increasingly seeking political expression. How does this dimension of conflict and contention between different parties emerge in the sources concerning urban governing practices and the selection of political offices? How is political polarisation expressed in the organisation of urban spaces? What role did universal powers play in polarising political discourse and events? The session aims to address late medieval urban political history, starting from – though not limited to – the questions outlined here, through contributions that engage with the dimensions of urban government and the political languages characteristic of the communal age, placing particular emphasis on the dimension of conflict, its management at the institutional level, and its resolution within the configuration of late medieval political systems.

1.2. Architecture of Power, Fortifications and Urban Transformations between the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period

Convenors: Darka Bilic, *Institute of Art History, Zagreb*; Irena Benyovsky Latin, *Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb*

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Between the Middle Ages and the early modern period, the consolidation of new political powers (local and supralocal) within cities often brought about profound transformations of urban space and public architecture. These processes could involve varying degrees of continuity, adaptation, negotiation, transformation or rupture in relation to inherited urban and social structures and patterns of settlement, reflected in interventions in public spaces, administrative buildings, fortifications and centres of authority. This session aims to investigate the relationship between political change and urban transformation, focusing on the ways in which new authorities, state, seigneurial or imperial, established themselves within inherited urban structures. According to the observed patterns, new administrations inherited existing buildings and urban layouts and adapted them to changing political, economic and military circumstances. Interventions ranged from the introduction of new architectural details and symbols and the remodelling of existing structures to the reorganisation of urban layouts or, in some cases, the removal of earlier seats of political power. Their scale and character depended on the historical context in which cities came under new authority and on their importance within broader political frameworks. Within these processes, new public architecture and urban layouts emerged through the interaction of local and supra-local policies, reflecting inherited conditions as well as imported models, while their form, organisation and function depended on financial resources, local needs and the interests of central authorities. The session therefore explores processes of continuity, discontinuity and transformation in changing political contexts, examining how inherited public spaces, administrative architecture, fortifications and infrastructures were preserved, adapted or redefined. Contributions are welcome on topics including, but not limited to:

- public architecture and geographies of power
- protagonists of urban change
- urban transformations and foundation of new suburbs/towns linked to the establishment of new political authorities
- relationships between central powers, local elites and urban communities
- cities and urban centres in peripheral political contexts
- cities as parts of urban network: shared features and specific elements

Case studies from different geographical and political contexts are welcome.

1.3. Places of Worship, Spaces of Conflict. Architectures and Representations of Power in the Contested City between the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period

Convenors: **Armando Antista**, *Università degli Studi di Palermo*; **Sonia Jiménez Hortelano**, *Universitat de València*; **Gaia Nuccio**, *Università Kore di Enna*

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Religious buildings - especially the principal churches of urban centres, such as cathedrals, collegiate and parish churches, and churches dedicated to the veneration of civic patron saints, though not exclusively these - also constituted privileged spaces for the self-representation of secular powers. These included, foremost, civic authorities, but also confraternities, urban elites, and organised groups within the local population. Spaces associated with these buildings, both inside and outside their structures, could be marked through the placement of monuments, burials, furnishings, and other material signs. They could also be temporarily occupied, arranged, or traversed during ceremonial and ritual events, whether recurring or occasional. Such practices interacted with the architecture and urban context through the attribution of symbolic political and social meanings that were mutable and not necessarily connected to the religious function that provided their setting. Transformations of sacred space – including rebuilding campaigns, architectural modifications, and the reconfiguration of church interiors and furnishings in response to the intervention of secular authorities – could generate episodes of conflict, which constitute the focus of this session. Indeed, underlying these dynamics one can often discern the balance of power among the various institutions governing urban life, while changes to architectural forms and the artefacts they contained reveal shifts and reconfigurations within urban society itself. This session therefore seeks to investigate conflicts related to:

- the intervention of civic and governmental authorities in the financing of building campaigns;
- the relationship between burial practices and programmes for the enlargement, renovation, or modernisation of ecclesiastical buildings;
- the construction, placement, and symbolic significance of seats of civic, governmental and religious authorities;
- the relationship between liturgical use of space and material objects invested with shared symbolic values;
- the reconfiguration and transformation of church forecourts, churchyards, and spaces associated with ecclesiastical buildings;
- representations of places of worship commissioned or promoted by secular and religious authorities;
- conflicts among groups of citizens concerning the cult of saints;
- public celebrations as occasions for disputes over the management, use, and occupation of sacred spaces.

1.4. “Expropriated”, Decommissioned, and Demolished Conventual Complexes as Urban Wounds: Experiences and Comparisons in the European Context

Convenors: **Ilaria Papa**, *Università degli Studi di Padova*; **Silvia Beltramo**, *Politecnico di Torino*; **Emanuela Garofalo**, *Università degli Studi di Palermo*

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The establishment of conventional complexes, frequently characterised by extensive building programmes from their very foundation and by continuous growth over the centuries, was a defining feature of many European cities between the Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern period. From the spread of the Mendicant Orders to the various forms of regular religious life and later through the establishment of monastic communities rooted in the Benedictine tradition that flourished in towns and cities, these foundations occupied strategic sites (whether peripheral or central) across the urban fabric that accommodated, and at times endured, their presence. As prominent landmarks, they profoundly shaped the physical configuration of urban compounds but also social dynamics, collective practices, and how civic space was used and experienced. Already during the Early Modern period, military requirements for the defence and fortification of cities in times of conflict – suffice it to consider the confrontations between Christian and Ottoman forces (16th and 17th c.) – occasionally necessitated the “sacrifice” of such buildings, particularly those located in proximity to urban walls.

In the contemporary era, from the 19th c. onwards, against the backdrop of the progressive secularisation of civic life and society, many of these complexes were expropriated and converted to new uses, not infrequently at odds with their original function; in other cases, they entered a gradual process of abandonment, leading to their inexorable physical deterioration. Frequently, and again especially for complexes alongside city walls, partial or total demolition followed (sometimes preserving only the churches and severing them from their context), making way for new functions and infrastructures. Such interventions often resulted in urban wounds, in a material sense, but also in terms of accessibility and use, social relations, and collective memory.

This session seeks to investigate the dynamics and outcomes of the phenomena, considering both the Early Modern and Contemporary periods within the broader framework of European cities. Contributions may adopt a wide-ranging diachronic and comparative perspective or focus on individual case studies. Building upon the experiences and research developed within the international project “Medieval city. City of the friars” (<https://www.friarscity.eu/>), the session welcomes proposals concerning convents of Mendicant Orders, while also extending to the Observant movements of the Early Modern period, both male and female, as well as to the processes through which monasteries became integrated into the urban fabric, particularly in the case of female religious communities. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are especially encouraged, insofar as they can address the complexity and implications of these phenomena, their role in the reconfiguration of the built heritage, and their impact on urban history.

1.5. Slow Wounds. Urban Hierarchies and Uneven Modernity from the Early Modern to the Contemporary City

Convenors: **Massimiliano Savorra**, *Università di Pavia*; **Carlos Plaza**, *Universidad de Sevilla*

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Urban historiography has often interpreted urban change through traumatic and punctual events – wars, revolutions, natural disasters – favoring models based on rupture and discontinuity. Yet many urban transformations unfold through long-term, cumulative processes that, though less visible, profoundly shape territorial hierarchies, urban functions, and relations between cities and political systems. This session proposes the notion of the “slow wound” as an analytical category for interpreting urban change from the early modern period to the present: gradual processes through which cities lose, modify, or reconfigure their political, economic, or symbolic centrality without necessarily corresponding to acute crises or destructive events. Urban modernity thus appears as a selective and uneven process. State formation, administrative centralization, infrastructure development, fiscal and health policies, industrial and post-industrial dynamics simultaneously produce concentration and marginalization. Some cities consolidate their role as capitals or economic hubs; others undergo downsizing and functional reconversion while maintaining new symbolic and cultural centralities. In these processes, architectural artefacts, monastic complexes, industrial buildings, and infrastructures play a key role as material traces of lost functions, instruments of urban memory, and resources for reuse.

The session adopts a comparative and multi-scalar approach across a broad chronological span, focusing on the mechanisms producing urban hierarchies: administrative centralization, territorial policies, institutional reforms, productive transformations, and mobility networks. Cities such as Pavia and Seville provide key perspectives: the former through the loss of political centrality and academic reconfiguration; the latter through the restructuring of imperial and economic networks and the construction of new urban identities. Ferrara, Bruges, Gdańsk, and others, extend the analysis to broader geopolitical and infrastructural dynamics. The session welcomes theoretical contributions and case studies on European and non-European cities affected by long-term transformations. Interdisciplinary approaches combining urban, economic, social, state, architectural, and memory studies are encouraged, with particular attention to the built environment – civic, religious, industrial, and infrastructural – as a driver of urban identity redefinition. The aim is to move beyond the growth/decline dichotomy by framing the “slow wound” as a structural process through which urban centrality is unevenly produced.

1.6. Making the Early Modern City through Markets and Circulation: Governance, Control, and Dynamics of Power (15th-18th Centuries)

Convenors: Daniela Nunes Pereira, *University of Exeter*; José Damião Rodrigues, *Universidade de Lisboa*

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Starting from the congress's general theme, according to which the "wounds of the city" result both from practices of violence and imposition and from processes of discipline, reform, and the reorganisation of urban space, this session proposes a reflection on commerce as a structuring dimension of urban governance in the Early Modern period. Between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries, the intensification of maritime and mercantile circulation, imperial expansion, and the redefinition of borders and relationships between Mediterranean, Atlantic, African, Asian, and Ibero-American spaces profoundly transformed the ways in which cities and their dependent territories were organised. The need to regulate these flows gave renewed importance to the spaces in which goods, people, and revenues were concentrated, controlled, and inscribed within the city. More than mere places of exchange, commercial spaces, such as squares, commercial streets, ports, docks, but also access routes, maritime stopovers, supply infrastructures, and storage facilities, became central instruments of urban and territorial organisation. Within these areas, economic interests, forms of political authority, and the control of the use and ownership of space were closely intertwined.

The session is based on the assumption that commerce should not be understood solely as an economic activity, but also as a practice involved in the material and institutional production of the city. The reorganisation of port and maritime fronts, the definition of road and mercantile axes, the concentration of commercial activities, and the imposition of architectural, fiscal, and administrative mechanisms frequently entailed the transformation of pre-existing urban fabrics and the redefinition of relationships between the urban centre and peripheral or "subaltern" spaces, circulation routes, and supply areas. These interventions gave rise to complex processes of negotiation, adaptation, resistance, and conflict, involving royal and municipal authorities, religious institutions, merchants, and local communities. They therefore constitute a privileged point of observation for examining the tensions between authority, everyday practices, and urban governance. Proposals focusing on case studies, comparative approaches, and transregional perspectives are welcome, particularly those that explore how commercial spaces and mercantile circuits contributed to the material, institutional, and symbolic transformation of cities between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries.

1.7. Early Modern Women and Urban Space: Governing and Transforming Court Cities

Convenors: **Valeria Manfrè**, *Universidad Complutense de Madrid*; **Esther Alegre Carvajal**, *Universidad Internacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)*

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This session examines the role played by noblewomen in the transformation and management of urban space in the early modern period, with special attention to the territories of the Spanish Monarchy and the principal Italian court contexts. Through architectural patronage, the promotion of urban planning projects, the repurposing of ducal residences, and the redefinition of court spaces, numerous female figures belonging to the aristocracy played a significant role in the governance of the city and its territory. Far from constituting marginal or merely celebratory episodes, these initiatives were part of broader strategies of dynastic legitimacy, consensus-building, and the representation of power, concretely impacting the material and symbolic configuration of urban centers. The city and the ducal villa thus became privileged sites of political and cultural mediation, in which noblewomen were able to intervene through networks of relationships with architects, artists, officials, and institutions, contributing to the definition of new geographies of power.

This session will feature contributions on the processes of urban transformation promoted by female patrons between the Renaissance and Baroque periods, favoring interdisciplinary perspectives that connect urban history, political history, architectural history, and gender studies. Attention will be paid to spatial governance practices, urban renewal strategies, forms of self-representation at court, and the territorial and symbolic consequences of interventions promoted by female elites. Through case studies from across the territories of the Habsburg Monarchy, the session aims to interrogate the role of noblewomen in the processes of construction, management, and representation of the modern city, highlighting the relationship between urban space, political power, and dynastic identity.

1.8. Recurring Catastrophes: Cities, Seasons and Floods in a Long-Term Perspective

Convenors: Salvatore Valenti, *Università Ca' Foscari Venezia*; Rachele Scuro, *Università Pegaso*

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Floods are a peculiar type of catastrophe. They have cyclical, seasonal patterns that make them somewhat predictable. Furthermore, with few exceptions, they do not result in the same number of casualties as other catastrophes, such as earthquakes and epidemics. Floods are influenced by climatic and seasonal variations in close connection with the social management of watercourses. As a result, floods were a frequent occurrence for urban societies that developed and prospered by adapting to and exploiting watercourses and their rhythms. Profound changes and transformations within the urban fabric and its periphery have often represented the most visible and significant response of urban societies to such calamities. However, in most cases, such interventions were exceptional solutions, contrasting with the continuous, long-term management of “recurring catastrophes”.

It is true that numerous cases of specific flood events have prompted robust political, emotional, organisational and infrastructural measures, but in others the response of communities to hydrogeological catastrophes has been far less categorical: in these cases, rather than a disruptive intervention, what emerges is a continuity of initiatives over the long term, to mitigate the frequency or impact of recurring catastrophic events. These strategies of risk mitigation can be observed in both their material manifestations and their social dimensions (for example, in the organisation of disaster prevention efforts or in the management of ordinary and extraordinary taxation).

The return to normality (however variously perceived), the preservation of social and economic structures, and the repair of damage without enacting radical disruptions are all responses that are equally probable and verifiable, yet they have been significantly less investigated by historiography. This session aims to explore the ordinary dimension of water disaster governance in European urban environments between the sixteenth and the nineteenth century — an era in which a dedicated legislative and urban planning approach began to face hydraulic and environmental instability as a structural element of vulnerability in the life of these communities. Among the questions raised by this context are:

- What transforms a hydraulic risk into a disaster?
- Which conditions transformed a flood into an opportunity to context existing power relations?
- Conversely, in which cases was a rapid transition back to the pre-existing status quo the response to traumatic events?
- What preventive measures did urban societies take to minimise the risk of flooding, and how did water management change according to the cycle of the seasons?

The session welcomes comparative proposals, as well as analyses focusing on single case studies.

1.9. Wounded Civic Architectures: Destruction, Trauma, and Reconstruction between the Early Modern and Contemporary Age

Convenors: **Elena Svalduz**, *Università degli Studi di Padova*; **Isabella Balestreri**, *Politecnico di Milano*

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This session aims to reflect on civic architectures affected by destructive events – fires, floods, collapses, wars, and natural disasters – and on the ways communities responded to the loss, damage, or transformation of major public buildings between the early modern and contemporary periods. Town halls, administrative buildings, archives, loggias, civic theatres, schools, hospitals, cemeteries, and other public buildings are not merely functional infrastructures of urban life, but embody symbolic, identity-based, and memorial values deeply rooted in the history of cities. Their destruction produces a rupture affecting urban space, institutional continuity, and collective memory. Subsequent reconstructions – complete, partial, symbolic, or never undertaken – often become crucial moments in the redefinition of civic identity and the public representation of power. In numerous Italian and European contexts, fires and floods acted as ruptures capable of accelerating ongoing architectural and urban transformations or generating new models for the representation of civic authority. In cities crossed by major river systems, water-related disasters reshaped the relationship between public architecture and the urban environment, requiring adaptations, raised ground levels, redefined access routes, and new hydraulic defense strategies.

The session seeks to investigate these dynamics through an interdisciplinary perspective involving architectural history, urban history, art history, heritage studies, political and cultural history, disaster studies, and memory studies. Particular attention will be devoted to responses to catastrophe: reconstruction practices, restoration debates, the persistence of ruins, functional adaptations, urban transformations, and strategies for the monumentalization of trauma. Wounded civic buildings constitute a privileged observatory for understanding the relationship between city, trauma, and memory over the *longue durée*. The destruction of a public building does not merely imply the loss of a structure, but challenges the very image of the urban community, making reconstruction a profoundly political, cultural, and symbolic process. In this sense, the wounded building becomes not only an object of restoration, but also a space for processing trauma and reaffirming civic identity. Contributions concerning Italian and European contexts from the early modern to the contemporary period are welcome, focusing, for example, on:

- fires and destruction;
- floods and transformations;
- urban reconstruction and institutional continuity;
- civic ruins and collective memory;
- reconstruction sites as instruments of political propaganda;
- conservation, restoration, and renewal;
- iconographic documentation and narratives of disaster;
- protection of civic heritage.

1.10. Tensions, Fractures, and Wounds in the Processes of Urban ‘Modernization’. A Comparative Analysis of Italian and European Experiences (18th-20th Centuries)

Convenors: **Maria Grazia Turco**, *Sapienza Università di Roma*; **Bruno Di Gesù**, *Technische Universität Dresden*

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This session will focus on urban transformations from the 18th century, when debate began to focus on public issues (from health and hygiene to the inclusion of green spaces, from infrastructure growth to the introduction of new building typologies), to the first half of the 20th century, when the process of urban ‘modernization’ gave rise to urban “reform and renewal initiatives” that transformed European cities into industrial metropolises. Of particular interest is the debate on Italian cities between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries, when Italy began to integrate into the context of European urban policies, practices, and theories. This was a time of renewal that saw new initiatives and projects, often required to manage rapid population growth and economic/industrial expansion. However, in some cases, these initiatives led to tensions, fractures, and wounds in the ‘old’ urban centers destined to accommodate new administrative, social, and cultural functions. A context in which social issues, healthcare needs, and housing issues emerge forcefully, which, in some places, have led to massive illegal expansion as well as significant spatial and architectural inequality between the city center and the periphery. The session therefore requires not only a simple chronology of facts and events concerning cities, but also a connection between modernization programs and the relevant political, cultural, and urban planning framework, proposing comparisons and exploring, through concrete cases, significant examples of different approaches to this specific urban issue.

1.11. Local Public Services and Urban Governance between the 19th and 21st Centuries

Convenors: **Keti Lelo**, *Università degli Studi Roma Tre*; **Guido De Blasi**, *ACoS - Roma Capitale*

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This session aims to offer a historically critical discussion on the role of local public services and urban infrastructure in the construction and governance of the modern city, with particular attention to the relationships between technical networks, territorial transformations and forms of urban governance between the 19th and 21st centuries. Between the late nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century, the rapid growth of European and North American cities necessitated new forms of administrative, territorial and technological organisation. In this context, local public services took on increasing importance not only in technical terms, but also in political, economic and institutional terms. The management of urban networks gradually became a crucial issue for municipal authorities, which were faced with unprecedented challenges in terms of planning, regulation and investment. In 1902, G. Montemartini's "Municipalisation of Public Services" offered one of the first and most influential systematic analyses of public services as a central issue for the modern industrial city and municipal governance. During the same period, in Italy, the debate on municipalisation was also widely discussed in political and economic circles by intellectuals and economists, such as L. Einaudi – then a young professor of economics – who offered a critical assessment of the reforms underway and the relationship between public administration, economic efficiency and private enterprise. The issue of municipalisation, concessions and the relationship between public and private management of infrastructure was, in fact, one of the main areas of debate surrounding the redefinition of the relationships between the state, the market and local authorities. Through the construction and control of technical networks, local authorities acquired new administrative and productive functions, contributing to the formation of increasingly complex models of urban governance. This session aims to promote a interdisciplinary discussion on the historical origins of urban infrastructure governance, welcoming multidisciplinary contributions on the following themes:

- Infrastructure and the construction of the modern city: the role of public services and technical networks (water, energy, transport, sanitation, lighting) in the processes of urbanisation, industrialisation and urban modernisation between the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Urban governance and models of public service management: relationships between municipalisation, private concessions, municipalised companies, public regulation and hybrid forms of management; relationships between local authorities, central government and economic actors.

1.12. Reports, Surveys, and Statistics. The Persuasive Power of Empirical Data in the Governance and Control of the City

Convenors: **Eugenio Lux**, *Politecnico di Torino/LTH-Lund University*; **Alberto Terminio**, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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From the nineteenth century onwards, and with increasing intensity throughout the twentieth century, architecture and urban planning progressively incorporated empirical data – statistical, demographic, economic, hygienic, environmental – not merely as an analytical tool but also as a rhetorical and political device for legitimising design. This session seeks to explore this transformation by examining how the production of reports, surveys, and statistics became a form of persuasion capable of shaping decisions and building consensus also for the purposes of controlling and governing the city. The origins of this process lie in the major hygienist inquiries of the nineteenth century – from Charles Booth’s maps of poverty in London to the French parliamentary investigations into unhealthy housing conditions – which translated social distress into numbers and cartography, paving the way for systematic public intervention. In the twentieth century this practice became consolidated: from the 1930s onwards, the International Congresses of Modern Architecture developed a language that combined comparative tables and data on minimum dwelling (*Existenzminimum*, 1929), on the rational land development (*Rationelle Bebauungsweisen*, 1930), and on the functional city (*Die funktionelle Stadt*, 1933), constructing a rhetoric of scientific evidence that legitimised radical interventions, transcending national borders and establishing itself as a model for the modern city. The books and manifestos of modern architecture were likewise shaped by this approach, demonstrating how empirical data became a tool of legitimisation and consensus in support of architectural discourse. The session welcomes contributions addressing national and international case studies that investigate the role of empirical data in architectural and urban production from the nineteenth century to the present day, both as a technical argument and as a persuasive instrument. Studies devoted to buildings, neighbourhoods, infrastructures, urban plans, public housing programmes, competitions, exhibitions, atlases, books, journals, manifestos, and research projects that relied on the analysis, visualisation, or construction of data as a foundation for design are particularly encouraged.

1.13. Sacred Wounds: Church Building Sites That Shred and Sew Back Together the Fabric of Cities (20th Century)

Convenors: **Andrea Longhi**, *Politecnico di Torino*; **Gianmario Guidarelli**, *Università degli Studi di Padova*

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In the construction of urban structures and landscapes, major religious building sites have always served as prime settings for “conflict, life, and memories,” as the Congress’s subtitle states. Over the centuries, in fact, the tensions, negotiations, and debates that animate the building sites of cathedrals or large religious complexes have shaped the histories of cities over decades and centuries, effectively creating “wounds” and breaks in the continuity of the urban fabric. At the same time, however, when cities are deeply wounded by catastrophes, disasters, crises, and various economic circumstances, church building sites are often places of rebirth and reconstruction for wounded cities: they offer opportunities to heal wounds and to trigger processes of social cohesion, institutional dialogue, and economic revitalization. This occurs especially when the destruction of a city due to war or natural events takes on the characteristics of a “tabula rasa,” as has happened very often in the last century. The session will focus on discussing how the construction sites of cathedrals and large religious buildings have created “wounds” in the continuity of the urban fabric; above all, it draws scholars’ attention to how the religious wounds generated by 20th-century conflicts and catastrophes – which have torn apart the urban fabric in ways that were at times devastating, with lasting and irreversible effects on material, human, and spiritual levels – have generated processes of reconstruction and re-aggregation: scholars are invited to investigate the roles of institutional and economic promoters, designers and planners, intellectual leaders, and funding bodies.

1.14. Religious, Encounter and Care-Related Spaces. Churches, Churchyards and Squares in the Twentieth-Century City

Convenors: **Renzo Riboldazzi**, *Politecnico di Milano*; **Alessandra Marin**, *Università degli Studi di Ferrara*

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Historically in Italian and European cities, the public space in front of churches has been both a place of representation of ecclesiastical authority – where religious buildings and churchyards have characterised the image and meaning of these contexts – and a crucial area of urban sociality – where the secular dimension of civil life has had more or less freedom and capacity for expression –. Churches, churchyards, and squares have been complementary in embracing forms of interaction, or simple coexistence, between religious spirit and civil society: a union that has been a source of conflict but which even in the twentieth century –that is, in a period in which social transformations were most evident – has not ceased to offer significant spatial evidence. This session aims to investigate such public spaces in their formal expressions. The aim is to verify how much 20th-century architecture and urban planning were able to interpret a hybrid condition, keeping in mind that urban communities frequently continued to consider the religious element (church, outbuildings, and churchyard) as a factor of social cohesion rather than an element foreign to civil life. This is from a regulatory point of view – let us think, for example, of the urban planning law of 1942 which provided that the master plans indicated the areas for the “construction of schools and churches and [...] works and systems of general public interest” or of the rules on building standards which since their first definition in the “ponte” law of 1967 and in the subsequent decree 1444/1968 have also defined religious equipment as equipment of common interest – as reflecting on urban planning at all scales of the project. In the twentieth-century plans, even those of the post-war period, the church and the public spaces in front – as well as schools, oratories, and centers dedicated to providing services to the community – continued to present themselves as a hub of social life. This is evident in the INA Casa neighborhoods and other ERP experiences, in the agrarian reform suburbs, as well as in the plans that investigate the future of the historic city. The same applies to religious buildings. Let us consider –to give just one example – the international competition promoted by Giovanni Paolo II for the Jubilee of 2000: fifty churches on the outskirts of the capital also intended as a sign of redevelopment, protection and care for the communities.

1.15. Instrumentalization of the Past: The Role of Heritage under Infrastructure-Driven Transformations of Landscape

Convenors: Mesut Dinler, *Politecnico di Torino*; Pinar Aykac, *Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi, Ankara*; Özgün Özçakır, *Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi, Ankara*

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Large-scale infrastructures – dams, coal mines, power grids – have long served as instruments of modernization, governance, and territorial control. Their impact on historic landscapes varies dramatically: from the deliberate submersion of entire settlements to the forced relocation of monuments, from the dislocation of communities to the slow erasure of landscape character accumulated over centuries. In historical narratives, heritage has most often appeared in these contexts as something lost – the submerged, the demolished, the displaced. Yet heritage has a far more complex and active role. The UNESCO-orchestrated salvage campaign during the construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s remains a paradigmatic case: it reveals not only the workings of international power dynamics within modern infrastructural projects, but also how heritage can become a principal instrument in controlling narratives, legitimizing decisions, and determining what – and whose – past is deemed worth saving. This case is not an exception. Across different historical periods and geographical contexts, heritage has repeatedly functioned as a terrain of negotiation, contestation, and governance in the face of infrastructural transformation. This session seeks papers that move beyond victimization narratives to examine how heritage has functioned as an active instrument in the transformation of landscapes through modern infrastructures. Such processes are visible across radically different contexts: the submersion of Hasankeyf, a 12,000-year-old settlement beneath the Ilisu Dam reservoir in southeastern Turkey; the relocation of Kiruna Church in Sweden as a deliberate act of territorial reorganization in the service of iron-ore extraction; or the post-industrial rebranding of coal-mining landscapes in the South Wales Valleys, where heritage became an instrument of economic regeneration rather than community memory. Moreover, the rapid expansion of data centres is posing unprecedented land and resource demands, opening new frontiers of landscape transformation that heritage scholarship has yet to engage. Each case raises questions not only about loss, but about governance, agency, and the production of new landscape narratives.

We invite contributions addressing – but not limited to – the following themes: the role of heritage in legitimizing or contesting modern infrastructural decisions; new modes of heritagization emerging from infrastructural rupture; the agency of communities, institutions, and states in negotiating heritage claims under conditions of urgency; and the long-term consequences of infrastructural transformation on landscape character and historical identity. Case studies from any geographical context and historical period are welcome.

1.16. Transforming Post-War Italian Cities: Regeneration Projects between Aspirations and Failures)

Convenors: **Fabio Cosentino**, *Sapienza Università di Roma*; **Tatiana Lo Bartolo**, *Università degli Studi di Catania*

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In the post-war period, the need to modernise historic cities prompted local authorities to intervene in the existing urban fabric. Substantial demolition programmes were planned to make way for service sector buildings and new road networks, designed to link parts of the historic centre to infrastructure in the outskirts. These drastic cuts, however, inflicted deep wounds: they created a sharp divide between old and new, leading to the social displacement and expulsion of residents and the consequent destruction of the layered historic fabric, thereby erasing forever unique contexts in which architectural masterpieces had coexisted organically with social housing, which was sometimes dilapidated. We welcome contributions that highlight those interventions which, whilst acquiring value in terms of urban and symbolic transformation as part of the modernisation of cities, ultimately resulted in failures due either to delays in construction work or to the deliberate or accidental abandonment of projects, leaving behind destructive chasms as modern and contemporary testimonies.

1.17. Urban Governance and Socio-Spatial Inequalities in the Contemporary City

Convenors: **Marco Ingrassia**, *Università degli Studi di Palermo*; **Gaia Del Giudice**, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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Cities are structurally marked by differential conditions of access to resources, services, and opportunities, which translate into shifting forms of inclusion, exclusion, and inequality. Public action - exercised through plans, policies, projects, infrastructure, and administrative devices - has played a decisive role over time in shaping these conditions, defining priorities, criteria for resource allocation, and differentiated ways of accessing urban goods. The definition of the public interest, far from neutral, reflects differing balances of power and the differing capacity of actors to negotiate and influence decisions, translating interests and objectives into instruments for governing territory and urban space. From this perspective, the history of the contemporary city shows how such processes have taken on multiple and often divergent forms: from seasons of reform and the expansion of urban welfare and housing policy, to the season of urban competition and austerity; from large programs of urban modernization to regeneration or renewal strategies oriented toward sustainability, up to infrastructural interventions. These processes have produced territorially differentiated effects, redistributing opportunities, costs, and benefits, and contributing to the production of new forms of socio-spatial inequality and injustice. The session analyses the ways in which urban governance practices have contributed to producing, transforming, or countering inequalities in the contemporary city, with particular attention to the relationships between institutions, decision-making processes, social actors, and the configuration of urban space. Through a multidisciplinary approach, the session welcomes contributions on the contemporary city (from the second half of the twentieth century onward) relating to the various fields of public action. Research is welcome on, among other things, the following questions:

- infrastructure, services, and major works as devices for governing, regulating, and organizing urban space, and their distributive effects;
- urban policy, planning, and territorial governance instruments in the production of socio-spatial differentiation, inclusion/exclusion, and segregation;
- programs of reform, modernization, and urban regeneration and their effects on the distribution of resources, services, and opportunities;
- conflicts, negotiations, and forms of resistance generated by governance practices and processes of urban transformation;
- inequalities as territorial and social legacies of urban governance processes, public policies, and urban transformations;
- decision-making processes, the construction of the public interest, and negotiation among actors in the definition of urban policy.

1.18. Authoring Absence: Demolition, Forgetting, and the Wounds of the Contemporary City (20th-21st Centuries)

Convenors: **Gunce Uzgoren**, *Politecnico di Milano*; **Basak Kalfa**, *Çankaya Üniversitesi, Ankara*

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When part of a city is demolished, two wounds open at once. The first is physical: a street is cleared, a neighborhood is removed, a monument is dismantled, and the urban fabric carries the mark of what no longer stands. The second is slower and less visible: collective memory loses one of its material anchors which causes a social amnesia, and successive generations of inhabitants lose access to the spatial conditions under which their society's past could be known and transmitted. The social discontinuity that follows demolition, across generations, and across the historical depth from which a society can understand its own present, is itself a wound, distinct from but bound to the physical absence in the ground. This session interrogates who has held the authority to author these paired wounds across the contemporary city. Following Maurice Halbwachs's foundational claim that groups remember through spatial frameworks, and Paul Connerton's argument that modernity produces its own characteristic forms of forgetting, the session treats demolition as a productive historical act through which political administrations, planning and conservation institutions, property regimes, and emergency authorities shape what successive inhabitants of the city are able to remember.

The session welcomes work across the long twentieth century into the present, attentive both to historical episodes of authored clearance and to ongoing demolitions in the contemporary moment, including but not limited to mega-project clearances, gentrification-driven removals, and the contested afterlives of inherited political structure and spaces. We invite historically grounded papers built on close engagement with primary evidence. Preservation enters the analysis where it functions as part of the demolition story – through withheld designation, selective listing, withdrawn protection, or partial conservation. Cases from a range of political contexts are welcome – including fascist and totalitarian regimes, socialist and post-socialist transitions, post-authoritarian moments, and contemporary democratic and populist administrations – while recognizing that the institutional mechanisms of demolition authority differ significantly across these contexts. The session asks: who authors the wounds of the contemporary city, and how do those wounds become the conditions of its forgetting?

1.19. Business Districts and Cities of the Future: Territorial Governance, Architectural Experimentation, and Urban Imaginaries from the Twentieth Century to the Present

Convenors: Annarita Teodosio, *Università degli Studi di Salerno*; Marsela Demaj Plyku, *Universiteti POLIS, Tirana*

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Since the end of the Second World War, business districts have been among the principal instruments through which cities, planners, and public authorities have imagined, planned, and governed urban modernization. Conceived as hubs concentrating administrative, financial, and advanced service functions, they have served as privileged sites of architectural and urban experimentation, where programmes of territorial transformation, typological innovation, and symbolic ambitions have converged.

This session seeks to investigate business districts as complex historical objects, moving beyond narrowly architectural or planning-oriented interpretations. It starts from the premise that these developments offer a privileged lens through which to examine the relationships between urban governance, the production of space, and the construction of urban imaginaries. From the major European and North American projects of the twentieth century to Italian examples – from Turin and Naples to Milan and Rome, as well as more recent tertiary-service hubs – business districts have often embodied visions of the future while simultaneously revealing conflicts, unfinished projects, processes of functional redefinition, and public controversy.

Adopting a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, and welcoming contributions from all chronological periods and geographical contexts, the session aims to explore the role of business districts as laboratories for new urban and architectural forms. Particular attention will be devoted to the emergence of the skyscraper, large-scale mobility infrastructures, and settlement models shaped by managerial and technocratic cultures, as well as to the tensions between design and use, expectations of efficiency and practices of appropriation, and planned centralities and the actual dynamics of urban life. A further area of inquiry concerns the cultural and media construction of these spaces. Business districts have been represented through photography, cinema, television, and literature in ways that have amplified their symbolic significance, defining them variously as emblems of progress, landscapes of metropolitan alienation, or icons of the global city.

Methodologically, the session encourages contributions drawing on the integration of planning and administrative records, archival documentation, visual culture, professional and specialist publications, oral histories, and spatial analysis. Rather than treating business districts as isolated building projects, the session invites participants to examine them as socio-spatial dispositifs through which to interpret the aspirations, contradictions, and “scars” of urban modernization.

MACROSESSION 2. Attacking and Defending the City. Crises, Emergencies, Discontinuities

2.1. Walls, Divisions, and Boundaries within Cities from Antiquity to the Twenty-First Century

Convenors: Donatella Calabi, *Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*; Guido Zucconi, *Università Iuav di Venezia*

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Throughout the long history of human settlements, walls have defined spaces of exclusion and passage. Built for social or security reasons, prompted by fear, economic inequality, religious conflict, and, more recently, by the need to manage migration flows, such forms of boundaries have existed since antiquity. They have shaped not only territorial divisions but also the internal organization of cities. Walls have histories of their own: they reflect the causes, purposes, and functions that led to their construction. Among the many possible examples are:

- Historic city walls later transformed into internal urban divisions within the built fabric and reused, even in widely separated historical periods, for social or security purposes. Originally constructed around settlements to protect them from external threats, and therefore conceived as defensive structures, they were gradually absorbed into the expanding urban fabric.
- Protective walls. In seventeenth-century Manhattan, the line of what would become Wall Street originated as a boundary between lands occupied by newcomers (first the Dutch and later the English) and those of the Indigenous population. In Paris, the Mur des Fédérés marked the site associated with the insurgents of the Paris Commune (1871) and later became a place of remembrance and pilgrimage. In the contemporary period, many walls have been built either to separate communities perceived as potentially in conflict (as in Gaza and Hong Kong), or to guarantee security and tranquillity, becoming forms of protection for privileged groups of inhabitants (such as gated or monitored districts).
- Walls of regulation or segregation within settlements, designed to control one part of the population in relation to another. Examples include lazarettos intended to confine the sick during epidemics or periods of quarantine, Jewish ghettos, and the peace lines of Belfast, which separate Catholic republican communities from Protestant unionist ones. These are examples of urban spaces perceived and used simultaneously as places of confinement, refuge, protection, and, at times, identity.
- Walls built for fiscal purposes. In eighteenth-century Paris, the customs wall (mur des Fermiers généraux) separated inhabitants subject to specific taxation rules from those exempt from them.
- Walls created to unite. These include artistic installations such as the “Wall of Heroes” (London, 1900; New Orleans, 2011).
- Walls that have become symbols of epochal change. Bringing together many of the aspects mentioned above, the Berlin Wall – built in 1961 by the GDR to stop citizens fleeing from East Germany to West Berlin – became, on the night of its fall (9-10 November 1989), the emblem of the end of the Cold War. In Nicosia, following the Turkish invasion of 1974, the Green Line, controlled by the United Nations, has divided the Greek and Turkish parts of the city.

2.2. Crisis, Mobility, and Urban Resilience in the Early Middle Ages (5th-10th Centuries)

Convenors: *Giulia Zornetta, Università degli Studi di Padova; Mateusz Fafinski, Universität Erfurt; Helen Foxhall Forbes, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia*

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This panel investigates the interplay between crisis, human mobility, and urban transformation in the early medieval West, bringing together case studies that span environmental, economic, and demographic dimensions of urban change between Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. The papers share a common analytical focus: how moments of rupture – whether political violence, environmental pressure, or economic disruption – triggered movements, depopulation, abandonment or displacement that in turn reshaped urban spaces, hierarchies, and functions. Rather than treating the crisis as mere destruction, the panel asks how displacement, migration, and the arrival or departure of economically active groups acted as vectors of urban reorganisation. Moreover, it investigates the influence of such ruptures on the processes of urbanisation and de-urbanisation and problematises to what extent economic and environmental crises disrupted urban populations. The papers address environmental and economic dimensions of urban crisis and mobility across the same broad chronological horizon, exploring how cities of the late antique and early medieval periods negotiated stress, abandonment, and reorganisation in response to pressures beyond the purely political. The panel offers a rethinking of how the urban displacement was framed in the second half of the first millennium. It also reframes the crisis of displacement as a multi-faceted phenomenon that prompted various resilience responses.

2.3. Peaceful Violence and Violent Peace in Borderlands: Urban Responses to Crisis and Change in the Mediterranean and Central Europe from the Early Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period

Convenors: **Sanja Miljan**, *Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb*; **Krisztina Arany**, *National Archives of Hungary*

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The session focuses, in a comparative approach, on the South-Eastern Mediterranean area and on Central Europe (from the High Middle Ages until to the Early Modern period). The Mediterranean, in particular the South-Eastern part, and Central Europe share a series of common features, as well as notable differences, from the presence of central authorities to local (inner) rivalries, from competing urban emergence(s) to civic societal organisms, all with direct impact on the principles and practices of governance. In analyzing (and understanding, to variable extents) these developments, an “old” relation, between center and periphery, is of paramount importance. This applies, for instance, both in regard to the hinterlands of coastal towns (on a more local level) and to responses to recurring crisis (on more general level), more often than not paced by the changes of rulers and of ruling dynasties. The latter aspect directs our attention towards a key-issue (almost irrespective of vantage-point): loyalty (and its reverse). Loyalty was particularly tested in the areas of interest by the emergence and expansion of the Ottoman Empire, broadening therefore the scope of our session. The session will therefore attempt to maintain a balance between the “grand-scale designs” (and topics) and the “lesser issues” (and questions). The said balance is particularly important when it comes to the meanings, customs and practices of peace and violence in the areas under scrutiny. The medieval and early modern understandings and uses of these “keywords” often differ from present-day perspectives and habits. Nevertheless, they are still very appealing because either they seem very familiar or quite “unusual”. Cities, in this respect too, harbored a variety of relevant information.

2.4. Fragile Cities, Resilient Communities: Confronting Environmental Emergencies in Medieval and Modern Europe

Convenors: **Salvatore Bottari**, *Università degli Studi di Messina*; **Mirella Mafrici**, *Università degli Studi di Salerno*

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Throughout history, cities have repeatedly confronted natural disasters and environmental crises that have challenged their social, economic, and spatial structures. From medieval epidemics to floods, earthquakes, and fires, and more recently the impacts of climate change, urban centres have been sites of multiple and recurring forms of vulnerability. At the same time, they have served as laboratories for adaptation, fostering collective responses and innovative strategies to cope with environmental emergencies. This panel welcomes papers that explore the historical relationship between urban vulnerability and community resilience from the medieval period to the modern era. It aims to examine both continuity and change in the ways urban societies anticipated, managed, and recovered from environmental crises. Particular attention will be given to the role of civic institutions, networks of solidarity, and forms of social cooperation in developing mechanisms of relief, prevention, and reconstruction in the aftermath of disasters. The panel also seeks to investigate the connections between the environment, public health, and urban governance, highlighting how crises frequently acted as catalysts for innovation in sanitary policies, municipal administration, and the organisation of urban space. More broadly, it invites reflections on how the historical study of disasters can deepen our understanding of contemporary urban vulnerabilities and contribute to current debates on sustainability, resilience, and climate adaptation. By bringing together scholars working across different chronological periods and geographical contexts, the panel seeks to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue on the ways European cities have confronted environmental challenges and how historical perspectives can inform present-day approaches to building more resilient urban communities.

2.5. Defense Systems and Reconstruction Interventions of Port Cities in the Mediterranean from the Middle Ages to the Contemporary Age

Convenors: *Elisa Vermiglio, Università per Stranieri Dante Alighieri di Reggio Calabria; Giuliana Quattrone, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)*

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The evolution of defensive systems and the reconstruction of Mediterranean port cities have radically transformed the coastal landscape, from a close integration between settlements and fortifications in the Middle Ages to the construction of imposing defensive systems in the modern era, and on to contemporary urban regeneration projects and waterfront redevelopment for tourism and commerce.

The historiographical debate of recent years has focused on decoding ports not only as military hubs, but as flexible urban spaces that redefine their function in response to external events.

This session aims to explore, from a multidisciplinary perspective, how port cities have redesigned their urban fabric in response to traumatic events, and in particular, to what extent interventions aimed at ensuring the defense of territories threatened by maritime incursions (piracy, war) or struck by natural disasters have led to a reconfiguration of these territories. The aim is to grasp, from a long-term historical perspective, similarities and differences in the Mediterranean urban port context and to identify, from a comparative perspective, attitudes and practices of redefining the urban landscape in relation to traumatic events.

2.6. The City and the Fortress: Defence, Demolition, and Urban Transformation between the 15th and 18th Centuries

Convenors: *Anna Rebecca Sartore, Ghent University; Lorenzo Fecchio, Università per Stranieri di Siena*

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Beginning in the second half of the fifteenth century, the gradual obsolescence of medieval fortifications, based on the principle of vertical defence and characterized by high walls and towers, gave way to the bastion system, designed to counter the effectiveness of artillery fire through low curtain walls, ramparts, and polygonal bastions. The Italian Wars (1494-1559) accelerated this process, turning the peninsula into a crucible of experimentation in military architecture, from which new fortification techniques soon spread across continental Europe. The modernization of city walls and the construction of citadels and fortresses brought about profound alterations to the urban fabric, revealing an apparent paradox: to secure urban defence, civil and military authorities frequently resorted to the so-called ‘politica del guasto’, sacrificing densely built neighbourhoods, churches, convents, and traces of the past to make way for new defensive works.

The consequences were far-reaching. The transformation of streets layout and systems of access, expropriations and population displacement, often accompanied by inadequate compensation, the reconfiguration of social relations, and new forms of territorial control. This was a widespread and long-lasting phenomenon affecting large parts of Europe and the Mediterranean until the early nineteenth century, when the rise of manoeuvre warfare gradually rendered the fortress model out-dated.

The session aims to explore the role of fortresses in processes of urban and territorial transformation, highlighting their political, social, economic, cultural, and material implications, while encouraging a broader geographical perspective that includes the territories of the Ottoman Empire and extra-European colonial spaces, among them Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Atlantic islands.

Contributions addressing the following themes are welcome:

- urban communities and practices of negotiation, resistance, and mediation in response to demolitions and transformations imposed by new fortifications;
- the design, construction, and management of fortresses, with particular attention to the role of military architects, engineers, and practitioners;
- strategies of adaptation, demolition, and reuse of pre-existing structures;
- the impact of defensive works on cities and territories, including street networks, systems of access, places-of-arms, glacises, buffer zones, expropriations, and population redistribution;
- fortresses as complex architectural organisms and as instruments of government, control, and the organization of urban space;
- representations of fortifications, theoretical debates, and military-architectural treatises;
- the memory of transformations brought about by fortifications, the heritage that was demolished or reconfigured, and the processes through which such losses were perceived, recorded, and reinterpreted.

2.7. Defensive Spaces and Collective Fears: Cities under Siege in the Early Modern Mediterranean (16th-18th Centuries)

Convenors: **Alessandro Abbate**, *Università degli Studi di Messina*; **Claudia Pingaro**, *Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli*

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Throughout the early modern period, the city represented a space constantly exposed to war, sieges, political violence, sanitary and food emergencies, and the frequent corsair incursions that made Mediterranean coastlines perpetually insecure. The Mediterranean – that liquid space stretching from West to East, from the Strait of Gibraltar to the Black Sea – emerged as a privileged arena of urban change, where defensive needs and the enduring vulnerability of urban settlements profoundly shaped the transformation of cities. Ottoman and Barbary threats, privateering warfare, urban revolts triggered by epidemics and subsistence crises, and recurring emergencies compelled urban and state authorities to continuously redefine defensive systems, practices of social control, and strategies for emergency management. The session aims to investigate the “wounded city” as both a material and a symbolic space in which crises generated institutional, urban, and cultural transformations. It seeks to promote an interdisciplinary reflection on the ways and timing through which urban communities responded to situations of danger, developing forms of individual and collective resilience, adaptive practices, and new configurations in the relationship between political power, urban space, and population. Particular attention will be devoted to: urban defence systems, fortifications, and military infrastructures;

- port cities and maritime frontiers;
- representations of individual and collective fear, siege, and threat in narrative, epistolary, and iconographic sources;
- political and institutional responses to urban emergencies;
- practices of social and religious control and the disciplining of urban space;
- the impact of military, epidemic, and food crises on urban transformations;
- forced mobility, refugees, and the redefinition of social hierarchies in “wounded” cities;
- the capacity of urban communities to resist and adapt to crises through processes of material and symbolic reconstruction.

The session welcomes contributions from scholars working in early modern history, military history, urban history, architectural history, historical geography, and cultural studies, while encouraging comparative and transnational perspectives. Its primary focus will be on case studies from the Mediterranean world, while remaining open to comparisons with European and extra-European contexts. By exploring the interplay between conflict, emergency, and urban transformation, the session aims to demonstrate that crises not only “wounded” cities, but also acted as catalysts in redefining their identities, functions, and collective memories.

2.8. Targeted Attacks and Wounded Cities. Intersections of Knowledge, Practices, Interpretations, and Narratives on the Traces of Trauma in Urban Space

Convenors: **Martina La Mela**, *Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria*; **Maria Rossana Caniglia**, *Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria*; **Monica Musolino**, *Università degli Studi di Messina*

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Cities have historically been exposed to traumatic events – wars, riots, political and collective violence – that have transformed their material, symbolic, and social dimensions. These events don't end with the moment of destruction but continue to shape the relationship between places and communities. Space becomes not only the stage of the violent event, but also a surface upon which material traces, memorial practices, processes of re-signification, and interpretative conflicts are sedimented. This session aims to focus on attacks – terrorist, mafia-related, political, or attributable to other forms of intentional violence – that have affected urban space, without chronological or geographical limits. Attention will be devoted both to cases in which the target of the attack was a specific place, materially and symbolically transformed, and to those in which the targets were individuals or groups, but where the place itself nevertheless suffered a trauma capable of altering its historical and memorial meaning. The attack produces a redefinition of urban space, altering both its materiality, its perception and use. The reflection takes as its point of reference the distinction between the urban “wound” and the urban “scar.” The wound coincides with the rupture produced by the destructive event, while the scar represents the persistence of trauma within the city and the collective imagination. If the wound may be associated with the rubble left by the event, the scar is instead a meaningful and memorial trace, a ruin charged with historical value. This process, however, is not linear: ruins may be disavowed or silenced by communities, reverting to mere debris. Such phenomena may be analyzed through three interconnected levels of interpretation: the first, material, concerns the traces left by the event and the ways in which they are preserved, interpreted, and monumentalized; the second, immaterial, explores the processes of signification and re-signification of affected places, the construction of social memories, and the dynamics through which a community attributes, transforms, or rejects meanings connected to trauma; the third, narrative, examines the role of journalism, photography, cinema, and literature in shaping the imaginary of wounded places and shared memorial practices, also including the phenomenon of dark tourism. The session seeks to encourage contributions emerging from the intersection of different forms of knowledge and disciplines, capable of highlighting how understanding wounded cities requires a shared and multidimensional perspective. Both theoretical contributions and applied case studies are welcome, particularly those interconnecting the fields of architectural conservation, history, urban studies, social sciences, memory studies, media studies, and more generally any inter- and transdisciplinary perspective capable of critically interrogating the relationship between trauma, trace, memory, community, and urban space.

2.9. Governing Catastrophe: Legal and Institutional Strategies for Urban Resilience in Southern Italy (17th-18th Centuries)

Convenors: Michele Luminati, *Universität Luzern*; Giacomo Pace Gravina, *Università degli Studi di Messina*

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During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Southern Italy was struck by numerous natural disasters (including the 1627 earthquake in Capitanata, the 1669 eruption of Mount Etna, the 1693 earthquake in the Val di Noto, and the 1783 earthquake in Calabria). These catastrophes affected societies already weakened by profound economic and political crises, which risked being completely destabilised. Historiography has mainly focused on the social, urban, and architectural aspects of reconstruction processes, while the legal and institutional dimensions – namely, the ways in which the crises generated by these disasters were “administered” and managed – have long been neglected. This session aims to focus on these less explored aspects, which were nevertheless of fundamental importance for reconstruction.

One significant example is the rapid management of the emergency caused by the 1693 Val di Noto earthquake by the viceregal government, in cooperation with the Church and local ruling groups. In this case, a remarkable degree of resilience emerged, preventing a complete collapse and enabling the launch of a reconstruction process whose results can still be admired today in the innovative urban solutions and extraordinary architectural richness of the late Baroque towns of the Val di Noto (inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2002).

The aim of the session is to compare case studies concerning individual cities, with particular attention, on the one hand, to the strategies adopted by central and local authorities to overcome the emergency and the initial trauma and, on the other, to reconstruction processes, which were often accompanied by deep conflicts – beginning with disputes over the location of the city to be rebuilt. These conflicts set in motion different decision-making procedures within a legal and administrative system shaped by the complex relationship between Spanish institutions and local traditions, without overlooking the role played by the Church. The diversity of approaches and outcomes in individual reconstruction processes was undoubtedly influenced by the institutional and legal cultures and practices that this session seeks to bring back into focus.

2.10. Unravelling Places. European Architecture, Settlements, and Landscapes after Abandonment (18th-21st Centuries)

Convenors: Ludovica Galeazzo, *Università degli Studi di Padova*; Emma Maglio, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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In a celebrated book devoted to the identity of deserted villages, Vito Teti describes abandonment as “an explosion that alters the density of places, changes the morphology of settlements and memories; at times it fragments, at times it destroys” (*Il senso dei luoghi*, 2004). When a town, an urban space, or a building loses its original users, its *raison d’être* begins to fade, together with the network of relationships and practices that shaped its emergence and development. Abandonment is a recurring feature of urban and architectural history and accompanies, as a counterpart, broader processes of social transformation. The suppression of religious orders, which deprived monasteries and convents of the communities for which they had been established; the depopulation of villages resulting from shifting demographic and economic balances; and the gradual obsolescence of military facilities and large ecclesiastical complexes – often disproportionate to contemporary needs – all testify to the ways in which changing social realities reshape the built environment. In such cases, abandonment is not merely a material condition but the visible manifestation of collective lives transformed, displaced, or dissolved. Disused buildings and sites thus become repositories of suspended memories and tangible traces of vanished social worlds. Their persistence invites reflection on the relationship between conservation and transformation, between inherited legacies and the construction of new meanings. At the same time, the loss of an original function may open up unforeseen opportunities for experimentation, making abandonment not only a condition of decline but also a catalyst for new forms of use, appropriation, and heritage-making. Against this backdrop, particular attention should be paid to the dynamics affecting disused buildings and sites, as well as the processes of refunctionalisation that redefine their future. If abandonment may be understood as an open wound in the urban fabric, adaptive reuse inevitably leaves its own scars, marking the identity of places and disrupting the relationship between built form and practices of use, often generating spaces unstitched from their urban context.

The session welcomes contributions exploring processes of disuse and adaptive reuse in urban spaces and architectural complexes, considering both their historical and social implications and their material and architectural manifestations. Papers may address, among other topics, depopulated settlements, disused buildings and architectural complexes, declining neighbourhoods, and other spaces that have lost their original function. Contributions may adopt monographic or comparative approaches, focusing on European contexts from the late early modern period to the 21st century.

2.11. Healing the Wound. Cities, Reconstruction and Seismic Risk in Post-Unification Italy (1861-1908)

Convenors: **Giulia Assalve**, *Politecnico di Torino*; **Luca Placci**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

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The Ligurian-Piedmontese earthquake (Diano Marina earthquake) of 23 February 1887 is one of the most significant natural disasters in post-unification Italy. The destruction that affected numerous towns in the provinces of Genoa, Porto Maurizio, and Cuneo tested the capacity of the newly formed Italian state to manage emergency response and post-disaster reconstruction. Through Law 31 May 1887, no. 4511, and subsequent implementing measures, administrative, financial, and technical tools were introduced, contributing to the development of new forms of public intervention in crisis contexts. Taking the 1887 earthquake as a key case study, this session promotes a reflection on post-seismic reconstruction processes in Italy between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, in a comparative perspective including major events such as the 1883 Casamicciola earthquake and the 1908 Messina and Reggio Calabria earthquake. During this period, growing awareness emerged regarding the vulnerability of the built environment, urban safety, and the protection of local communities, leading to a gradual elaboration of technical standards and regulatory frameworks that would shape future national seismic prevention policies.

The session investigates the relationship between destruction and reconstruction as a critical moment in the redefinition of urban layouts, building practices, and the interaction between central authorities and local administrations. Particular attention will be paid to transformations in urban fabrics, strategies of conservation or replacement of damaged heritage, the circulation of technical and scientific knowledge, and the emergence of a culture of risk in a country marked by strong territorial and constructional diversity. Contributions from urban history, architectural and engineering history, heritage studies, historical geography, and institutional history are welcome, with a focus on interdisciplinary and comparative approaches based on archival, cartographic, photographic, and technical-administrative sources. Through case studies and comparative analysis of reconstruction experiences, the session aims to contribute to a broader history of risk mitigation policies and territorial resilience practices, highlighting the role of seismic emergencies in shaping the urban and administrative-technical culture of modern Italy.

2.12. Mapping the Wounded City: Military Representations of Urban Space in the Nineteenth Century

Convenors: Matteo Previtera, *Comune di Genova*; Ten. Col. Andrea Podestà, *ISCAG Roma*

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Nineteenth-century military cartography represents a privileged vantage point for understanding the transformations of the modern city and the evolution of surveying and urban space representation techniques. Through the eyes of military engineers, the city is interpreted as a complex, vulnerable, and strategic organism, to be precisely measured for defensive, offensive, and territorial control purposes. In this context, the map takes on a role that goes beyond the mere description of space: it becomes an operational and experimental tool, intertwining military requirements, technical knowledge, and scientific innovation. Indeed, the maps produced during the 19th century bear witness to the complex relationship between civil infrastructure and defensive systems, rendering visible the limits, criticalities, and strategic potential of the urban fabric. Concurrently, military cartography serves as a primary laboratory for experimenting with new surveying and graphic rendering techniques, fostered by the introduction of increasingly sophisticated optical and topographic instruments and the rise of practices such as tacheometry (*celerimensura*), which enabled a faster and more effective representation of the territory and its transformations. Within this framework, figures like Ignazio Porro, Johann Jacob Baeyer, and Aimé Laussedat play a pivotal role in the development of geodesy, topography, and the earliest photogrammetric applications to territorial representation. Mapping the city thus means not only defending or conquering it, but also constructing new forms of scientific knowledge regarding urban space and its transformations. Without institutional frameworks as structured as those of the military, it would have been impossible to carry out cartographic enterprises requiring such extensive time, adequately trained personnel, and cutting-edge technical equipment. Furthermore, contemporary documentary analysis of historical cartography, moving beyond the mere graphic sign, is capable of rereading the past in the light of the present, interpreting phenomena whose evidence stems from the intersection of data, knowledge, and deductions. The session welcomes contributions focusing on, but not limited to:

- The map as an element representing the complex relationship between military and civil infrastructures;
- The map as a design for defense and attack;
- The map as a symbol of conquest;
- The map as an element for experimenting with technical cartographic evolution;
- Military mapping as a starting point for the creation of modern technical cartography;
- How wartime cartography transcends conflict to become a source of knowledge for retrospective urban studies;
- Walls and fortifications as central elements in military cartographic representations and for the study of new defense systems;
- The graphic evolution of cartography, from an evocative and picturesque representation to a rigorous, Cartesian, and Enlightenment-based one.

2.13. Disasters, Calamities, Collapses, and Reconstructions. The Role of the Civil Engineering Corps from the Unification of Italy to the Second Postwar Period (1860-1950)

Convenors: **Marcello Schirru**, *Università degli Studi di Cagliari*; **Micaela Antonucci**, *Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna*

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Large-scale infrastructure development is one of the tools through which the Italian state seeks to build a model of national unity that has little basis in reality: the country is the sum of various states, each with distinct historical and cultural characteristics that vary from region to region. Even stronger is the government's commitment in the face of catastrophes, natural disasters, and wars – true tests for the administrative apparatus and its numerous branches. Opportunities for intervention are numerous, linked to the region's seismic activity, the lack of hydraulic, road, and railway infrastructure, and wars. From the earthquakes in Casamicciola and Messina, to frequent flooding within and outside urban areas; from the collapse of buildings and monuments, to demolitions for health reasons, or even post-war emergencies: the range of projects – unpredictable and impossible to fully assess in the moment – is long and complex.

Within this context, the Civil Engineering Corps plays a leading role. Reorganized within the complex organizational structure of ministerial affiliations, areas of responsibility and, above all, professional staff, the State Technical Office designs and oversees an impressive number of projects, applying the most advanced knowledge of the era. Chief engineers and their subordinates, widely distributed across the Corps' provincial offices, built infrastructure, service facilities, and emergency response systems, or designed buildings to replace those destroyed by natural disasters – some of which are still in use today. After World War II, the Office itself managed the reconstruction of public architectural heritage and the restoration of monuments.

This session aims to shed light on the historical contribution of the Corps of Engineers from the unification of Italy through the years following World War II. Figures who have been overlooked or considered secondary to the more famous names in textbooks or academic circles created works of immense significance, holding coveted professional positions: a true status symbol among the designers of the era.

2.14. The Scars of Borders. Traces and Memories of Annexations, Secessions, and Urban Recompositions between the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Convenors: *Martina Massaro, Università degli Studi di Padova; Francesca Capano, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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The dynamics of annexation and secession of portions of territory – the forced aggregation of municipalities, the redrawing of state or provincial borders, the incorporation of fractions into larger urban centers – are practices that have left legible scars on the territory. At the level of community identity, traditions, and sometimes different languages, people suddenly find themselves relocated within administrative boundaries that are alien to their history. Italian administrative history, like that of other pre-unitary states – and the phenomenon recurs equally for other nations – is a constellation of territorial reorganization operations that have stitched together profoundly diverse realities: mountain and plain communities, agricultural villages and industrial centers, historic neighborhoods and recently urbanized peripheries. These forced junctures, often dictated by the logic of bureaucratic rationalization, economic savings, or political centralization designs, have produced outcomes that rarely correspond to the cohesion aspirations promoted by their proponents. On the contrary, administrative suturing has often been more visible at the distance it leaves on the territory, leaving scars that no urban plan or institutional reform has fully managed to heal. Such scars manifest at multiple levels. At the material level, they are recognizable in incomplete infrastructures, in urban voids that mark ancient municipal boundaries, in discontinuities of the building fabric where different design logics meet without dialogue. At the social level, they emerge in the daily practices of communities that continue to identify with pre-existing memberships, resisting the homologation imposed by the new administrative geography. At the level of collective memory, they are deposited in place names that survived, in local festivals, in local dialects, in the historical archives of suppressed municipalities: material and immaterial traces of a collective life that the reform has not erased, but simply displaced to the margins of official representation.

The session aims to collect contributions that explore these dynamics in their historical, social, and spatial implications, investigating cases of merger and separation of territorial entities, incorporation of boroughs into metropolitan areas, redrawing of provincial and regional boundaries. Both monographic and comparative approaches are welcome, referring to any geographical context in relation with a chronological framework spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with particular attention to the material and immaterial traces that such processes leave on the territory and the communities that inhabit them.

2.15. Images of the Wounded City: War Damage as a Source for Knowledge and Assessment of the Built Environment

Convenors: Rita Vecchiattini, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; Chiara Calderini, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; Carlotta Coccoli, *Università di Brescia*; Alessia Zampini, *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*

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War damage can be interpreted as profound wounds in the fabric of cities. Material traces of traumatic events persist over time, ingraining themselves in buildings, spaces, and the collective memory. Concurrently, such wounds reveal the deep structure of the urban “body,” exposing materials, construction techniques, and historical stratifications otherwise hidden. From the twentieth century to the present, images of the destruction caused by armed conflicts have been a primary source of knowledge regarding built heritage. Aerial photographs, military footage, news reports, and campaigns promoted by public institutions or private entities compose an extraordinary yet fragmented archive, from which it is possible to reconstruct the transformations of urban fabrics and individual buildings. However, the use of such precious material raises significant historiographical, methodological, and legal questions that must be critically addressed. The session aims to interrogate the relationship between the representation of destruction and the knowledge of built heritage. By recording the effects of bombardments, images provide unique insights into otherwise recognizable construction solutions, the extent and type of damage, as well as the associated cracking and deformation patterns. This understanding is crucial not only for the history of construction, but also for vulnerability assessment and new design perspectives.

The session is designed as a forum for interdisciplinary discussion on the use of images of war damage as sources, welcoming contributions from historians, architects, engineers, surveyors, and jurists. Attention will be paid to the use of images in historical studies, geographic information systems, digital reconstructions, state-of-conservation assessment processes, and interpretive and predictive models. The images will be interpreted not only as evidence of destruction, but also as knowledge bases for recognizing vulnerabilities, understanding damage dynamics, and guiding prevention, protection, and intervention practices concerning built heritage in crisis contexts. Contributions relating to various geographical and chronological contexts will be considered, with an interest in comparative and interdisciplinary proposals. The goal is to promote critical reflection on the use of war damage images as tools for understanding historical built heritage, highlighting their role not only as documentary evidence but also as tool for generating knowledge useful for protecting our built heritage.

2.16. War Damage and Historic Gardens: Losses, Damage, Institutional Gaps, and Repairs. Cases from World War II to Contemporary Conflicts

Convenors: *Maria Vitiello, Sapienza Università di Roma; Paola Branduini, Politecnico di Milano; Stefania Landi, Politecnico di Milano*

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The Second World War was a traumatic event for historic garden heritage, with consequences that extended well beyond the cessation of hostilities. The inherent vulnerability of this category of cultural heritage, due to the intrinsically complex and indivisible nature of its architectural, botanical, artistic, and technological components, meant that historic gardens not only endured unprotected wartime conditions but also sustained irreversible damage. At the regulatory level, the Italian institutional response in the immediate postwar period proved structurally inadequate to address the specific nature of historic garden heritage. This shortcoming likely contributed to the multifaceted damage experienced by this heritage, which was not limited to the direct effects of bombing but was extensive and pervasive. In addition to aerial destruction, historic gardens suffered four other silent yet equally devastating forms of damage: prolonged military occupation, indiscriminate tree felling, insufficient funding for subsequent restoration efforts, and urban planning policies during the reconstruction phase that sacrificed extensive green spaces to accommodate new developments. On the one hand, bombings inflicted damage; on the other, Italian, German, and Allied troops stationed in numerous historic villas utilised their parks as camps, ammunition depots, field hospitals, or driveways. This led to the systematic destruction of vegetation, damage to fountains and sculptures, and interference with hydraulic systems, whose repair required specialised technical expertise and financial resources that were often unavailable in the immediate postwar period. The Ventimiglia Botanical Gardens perhaps exemplify one of the best-documented episodes of wartime devastation; however, numerous other gardens across Italy were similarly compromised.

This session seeks to compile contributions that compare Italian cases from the Second World War with contemporary European contexts, with particular emphasis on European landscape complexes. It also considers current armed conflicts, where similar issues recur with essentially comparable yet unprecedented implications. For instance, in Ukraine, the ongoing conflict since 2022 has had profound direct and indirect effects on significant landscape heritage; nearly 40% of the country's protected or ecologically important areas have been occupied, resulting in damage, including destruction and landmining. The objective is to synthesise a broader, more detailed understanding of war-induced damage to gardens and their subsequent restoration efforts, thereby addressing a notable gap in historical and cultural scholarship.

2.17. Reconstruction Generation: Childhood and Design among the Ruins of the Post-War Era

Convenors: **Francesca Rognoni**, *Politecnico di Milano*; **Aurora Pizziolo**, *Università Iuav di Venezia*; **Francesca Usai**, *Università Iuav di Venezia*

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“The school [could be considered] as the most jealous matrix of human rights [...] and every citizen must insist that, in the present reconstruction of the country, this work of the school be undertaken with the due energy in every sector.” In 1947, when Europe was recovering from the wounds of war, Ernesto Nathan Rogers, director of “Domus”, introduced with these words the monographic issue of the journal dedicated to “educative architecture”. Aware that the war had left in European cities not only physical ruins but also wounds inflicted upon the community, Rogers underlined the urgency of initiating a debate on this theme within the complex forge of reconstruction, proposing to offer childhood environments of profound architectural quality, capable not only of overcoming material destruction but also of generating new processes of community. “Reconstruction” therefore means not only the restoration of buildings, but also the definition of new collective social arrangements. In this context, Rogers’s thoughts are linked to an international debate, in which Alfred Roth was a fundamental reference. With his volume “Das Neue Schulhaus” (1950), Roth – who had been working on the theme since the 1930s – proposed endowing schools with a political significance, capable of giving form to the new society. In the post-war landscape, schools, kindergartens, children’s homes, orphan villages and educational centres thus assumed a role that transcended mere welfare functions, acquiring a genuine political value, while girls and boys – destined to inherit and transform the reconstructed cities – became the subjects onto whom the greatest expectations of social refoundation were projected.

The panel seeks to address the relationship between reconstruction, politics and architecture by taking school building as its field of analysis, recognised as strategic in addressing reconstruction and the creation of a new civic community after the devastations of totalitarianism and war. The session welcomes contributions that deepen the political dimension of architectures for education, investigating projects and programmes directed towards childhood in post-war contexts, while also giving careful consideration to the significance assumed in such projects by the relationship with the material and symbolic presence of ruins. Particular attention will be devoted to Italian and international cases in which spaces for the care of minors were configured as fields of architectural and social experimentation, translating a condition of uncertainty into a political project for the future.

2.18. Hands over the City. Property Speculation, Architectural Quality and Cultural Resistance in Post-War Italy

Convenors: **Francesca Castanò**, *Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli*; **Ornella Cirillo**, *Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli*; **Denise Ulivieri**, *Università di Pisa*

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The Italian post-war period left cities in a condition of radical vulnerability: war damage, demographic pressure, rapid urbanisation and weak regulatory frameworks opened a space in which private interests, land rent and institutional complicity found fertile ground. Reconstruction was not merely a technical process of repairing damage, but a field of forces in which opposing visions of the city confronted one another: on one side the logic of rent, transforming urban land into a commodity; on the other, demands for quality, public oversight and architecture understood as a cultural and civic act. The session addresses this issue in its dual dimension: speculation as an “attack” on the city – in its most visible forms as well as its more opaque ones, from amendments to urban plans to permits granted by exemption, through to the erasure of layered urban landscapes – and the architectural, cultural and institutional resistance that opposed it, from quality planning initiatives to the intellectual battles waged by architects, critics and administrators. The title of Francesco Rosi’s 1963 film *Hands over the City* has exerted a lasting influence not only on the collective imagination but on the historiography of Italian speculation itself, sedimenting a reading that locates the problem geographically in the South and in Naples, framing it as collusion between organised crime, land rent and local political power. Powerful in its denunciation, this reading has over time functioned as a pre-established interpretive framework, directing research towards certain contexts while obscuring others. Questioning how far that metaphor has shaped – and constrained – the historiography means opening a necessary critical space: asking what has remained off-screen, which geographies and mechanisms went uninvestigated because they did not fit the film’s narrative model.

The session takes *Hands over the City* not as an interpretive endpoint but as a historiographical case from which to depart critically. The session will bring together contributions illuminating this dialectic across different contexts and scales – from post-war reconstruction through to the 1980s – integrating architectural history, urban history and the history of territorial policies, to restore the complexity of a period in which the Italian city was at once wounded and a site of resistance, an object of predation and a laboratory of ideas.

2.19. From Epidemics to Everyday Care: Healthcare Architecture in Italian Cities (XIX-XX Century)

Convenors: **Luisa Ferrari**, *SC Anatomia Patologica, ASL AT*; **Mariano Martini**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

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Bringing together perspectives from the history of medicine, urban history, social history, and architectural history, this session examines healthcare facilities as sites where scientific knowledge, medical practices, and health policies intersect with broader processes of social change and the transformation of urban space. It invites contributions that explore these intersections across different historical contexts and methodological approaches. How have hospitals, isolation sites, and specialized facilities contributed to the transformation of the contemporary city, both in the emergency phases brought about by major epidemics and in the routine management of care, prevention, and assistance? What role have they assumed, beyond spaces dedicated to treating the disease, as institutions capable of impacting social organization, the relationship between public health and urban administration, care practices, and the physical configuration of the city?

Starting with emblematic cases such as the Genoese hospitals - Pammatone, the Hospital for the Incurable, and the San Martino complex - the session aims to broaden our perspective on other Italian contexts, fostering a comparative reflection on the history of healthcare spaces. Among the aspects the session proposes to discuss: the evolution of care structures in relation to the concept of physical and mental illness, the development of medical science, social and health emergencies, and the role of medical specialties.

2.20. Cities under Attack: Architecture, Infrastructure, and the Evolution of Urban Defence from the Twentieth to the Twenty-First Century

Convenors: **Giusi Ciotoli**, *Independent researcher*; **Marianna Charitonidou**, *National Technical University of Athens*; **Marco Falsetti**, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*; **Raffaele Pontrandolfi**, *Università degli Studi Roma Tre*

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Throughout the 20th century, new forms of warfare profoundly changed the relationship between military technology, architecture, and the city. Strategic bombing and new, powerful weapons forced architects, engineers, and military planners to think of urban space as a battlefield. This led to new materials, techniques, and defences such as shelters, bunkers, casemates, flaktowers (flaktürme), and underground facilities. The distinctive feature of these types lies in their dichotomous nature – “visible or hidden” – within the urban fabric: in some cases, they reshape entire sections of the urban landscape; in others, instead, they are hidden deep underground, reinforcing the ambivalence between “inside and outside”.

From the Second World War onwards, cities became primary targets of military operations. Urban defence systems assumed a dual role: they functioned both as military installations and as instruments of civil protection. Existing infrastructure (including metro systems, tunnels, basements, and public buildings) was frequently adapted to provide temporary refuge at the outset of a conflict. But if the war continues and the threat of attack is constant, it becomes necessary to relocate what is on the surface, underground or in permanently defended areas: this is the architecture of urban shelters, underground factories, subterranean bunkers, and, in the most complex cases, atomic urbanism, with the underground cities planned or built during the Cold War. “Atomic urbanism”, in particular, has given rise to a process that has created a clearly defined architectural and urban condition, in which the subterranean has become a strategic domain of habitation, production, and governance. The threat of nuclear war led to the construction of full-functioning underground facilities, designed to ensure the continuity of government and the survival of the population in the event of a nuclear attack. Today, renewed geopolitical tensions and the re-emergence of large-scale warfare have brought questions of urban defence back to the forefront.

The session aims to investigate the genesis, evolution, and transformation of urban defence architectures and infrastructures, also in light of the most recent conflicts – characterised by the emergence of drones and hypersonic missiles – and to examine how changing military technologies continue to reshape urban form and defensive space.

2.21. Beyond Reconstruction. Informal Practices of Care, Memory, and Heritage-Making in the Wounded City

Convenors: *Giulia De Lucia, Politecnico di Torino; Rolando Volzone, ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa*

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Wounded cities are often examined by urban historiography through the lens of large-scale reconstruction and urban refoundation projects, emergency public policies, restoration interventions, and institutional strategies for safeguarding urban heritage. Yet the recovery of a city after a crisis cannot be reduced to initiatives promoted by public authorities alone. Alongside reconstruction programmes and repair policies, spontaneous, informal, and non-institutionalised practices of care frequently emerge, involving buildings, monuments, public spaces, and sites of memory affected by destruction, neglect, or abandonment.

In times of crisis, such practices often constitute an immediate response to the material and symbolic wounds that mark urban space. Through acts of maintenance, protection, repair, stewardship, commemoration, and reappropriation of damaged places and structures, individuals, communities, and social groups contribute not only to the preservation of urban heritage, but also to the reconstruction of the links between cultural memory, collective identities, and attachment to place. Care thus emerges as a form of urban resilience that complements, and at times precedes, institutional interventions, helping to mend the fractures produced by trauma.

These acts of care, often localised and seemingly marginal, also provide a valuable perspective from which to examine the processes through which communities assign value to wounded places. Efforts to protect, care for, or preserve their material fabric may generate new forms of heritage recognition and contribute to the redefinition of the meanings attached to them.

The session welcomes contributions grounded in historical methods and approaches, while also encouraging the use of non-conventional sources that complement more traditional forms of evidence, without chronological or geographical restrictions. Acknowledging the challenges involved in identifying, collecting, and systematising such materials – particularly oral and memory-based sources – the session seeks to foster reflection on their potential for deepening our understanding of the role of spontaneous care practices in the reconstruction of wounded cities, as well as of the complex relationship between history, memory, and urban communities.

2.22. Safeguarding, Conservation, and Planning in the Twenty-First Century

Convenors: **Marco Bussoli**, *Università degli Studi di Ferrara*; **Veronica Balboni**, *Università degli Studi di Ferrara*; **Giorgia Ranieri**, *Università degli Studi G. d'Annunzio di Chieti - Pescara*

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The historic urban landscape, understood as the stratification of material, cultural and natural attributes within the city, is increasingly central to the debate on conservation. The international geopolitical and cultural events of the last century have profoundly shaped the development of the anthropised environment, initially leading to the need to codify principles such as integrated conservation and subsequently orienting planning towards the involvement of citizens, who are able to generate meaningful contributions to both the built and natural environment.

These and other principles, established by the Faro Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe in 2005, contributed to the development of a holistic approach aimed at integrating the social, economic and cultural dimensions of landscape, in its rural, urban and historical meanings. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, adopted in 2011, marked a turning point in this field: urban space is increasingly threatened by pressures such as climate change, migration processes and over-tourism, which require substantial transformations of the urban environment and place at risk the conservation of the elements that compose and characterise it.

The desired operational direction involves the integration of conservation into urban planning, so that its role becomes central to the definition of strategies for development and adaptation, also through the involvement of communities, in accordance with the principles of Faro. Cultural heritage thus becomes a structural element within urban space, without being altered or diminished by inadequate design solutions. The aim is not to freeze the city, but to govern processes of transformation through actions embedded in the urban environment and responsive to its specific characteristics.

The session reflects on conservation design at the urban and participatory scale, bringing together contributions that engage with the management of urban transformation and with the choices that progressively shape the city's development, as well as with the safeguarding and conservation of historic, anthropised and natural urban spaces. Within this framework, proposals will be welcomed that highlight how attention to the elements characterising urban space may reflect its territorial identity and its relationship with the communities that inhabit and care for it.

2.23. After the Rupture: Reconstruction, Memory, and Urban Transformation of Earthquake-Affected Cities (20th-21st Centuries)

Convenors: **Clara Verazzo**, *Università degli Studi G. d'Annunzio di Chieti-Pescara*; **Claudia Aveta**, *Università di Pisa*

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Earthquakes represent critical rupture points capable of profoundly reshaping both the material and symbolic organization of the city. The destruction of the built heritage and of the spaces of collective life is followed by reconstruction processes that go beyond mere repair, generating new urban configurations, shifting social equilibria, and different interpretations of the relationship between conservation and innovation. The session aims to bring together contributions that explore the interplay between seismic events, transformations of urban form, and heritage conservation practices through Italian case studies from the 20th and 21st centuries. It seeks to examine how crises have acted either as accelerators of ongoing processes or as opportunities to experiment with new models of urban planning, restoration strategies, and design approaches. In particular, the session highlights how earthquakes have generated moments of critical reflection on the relationship between safety, conservation of the built environment, and the reconfiguration of urban space, showing how existing structures can assume an active role in reconstruction and transformation processes, beyond logics of mere preservation or straightforward replacement. Through the comparison of different experiences, the session intends to provide a forum for discussion on the practices that have guided post-seismic reconstruction, bringing to light the tensions and opportunities that emerge at the intersection of memory, design, and urban transformation. From this perspective, earthquake-affected cities offer privileged vantage points for understanding how societies have interpreted disaster, negotiated their relationship with existing built environments, and redefined both forms of habitation and urban space itself.

2.24. Memory and Damage: Understanding Vulnerability through the Construction Histories of Building Aggregates

Convenors: *Elena Zanazzi, Università Iuav di Venezia; Paolo Faccio, Università Iuav di Venezia; Lia Ferrari, Università di Parma; Luca Sbrogiò, Università degli Studi di Padova; Isabella Zamboni, Università Iuav di Venezia*

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This session aims to investigate the material dimension of the “wounded city” through the analysis of transformations in historic building aggregates and the resulting structural vulnerabilities. In line with the themes addressed in macro-session 2, *Attacking and Defending the City*, the proposal interprets the fragility of the built environment not simply as a static or quantitative condition, but as the outcome of centuries-long processes of transformation, repair, and reorganization, often triggered by traumatic events.

The focus of the discussion is historic building aggregates, understood as an evolving architectural palimpsest. The session welcomes contributions that examine how transformations over time - from incremental aggregation and urban densification processes to alterations driven by changing functional requirements - have affected the structural safety of these building complexes. Attention will be given to studies addressing the recurrent and cumulative nature of seismic damage, whereby historical crack patterns may define preferential paths for future failures, leaving a lasting imprint on the material memory of the building.

The session promotes an interdisciplinary approach that integrates construction history with the methods and interpretative tools of architectural conservation. Contributions employing qualitative readings of the built heritage are especially welcome, including studies on materials and construction techniques, traditional building practice as a system of structural control, masonry quality assessment, and stratigraphic analysis. Such approaches can help decode present structural behaviour as the result of the building’s historical evolution. The discussion is also open to critical analyses of more recent transformations, particularly twentieth-century technological solutions that, although originally conceived as repair and strengthening measures, have often proved detrimental by introducing new vulnerabilities into the historic buildings.

The aim is to demonstrate how a thorough understanding of transformative processes can provide an essential framework for interpreting the current structural behaviour of the built heritage and, consequently, support effective strategies for preventive conservation and risk mitigation policies, with positive implications extending to the urban scale.

2.25. Urban Canals. Hydraulic Crises, Defences and Discontinuities

Convenors: **Silvia La Placa**, *Università di Pavia*; **Nannan Dong**, *Tongji University, China*

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Within the framework of the 13th AISU Conference, dedicated to the theme of the “wounded city,” this session proposes a reflection on urban canals and artificial water networks as key elements in the history of urban transformation. For centuries, canals played a fundamental role in the organization of settlements: they supported trade and productive activities, regulated the distribution of resources, shaped defensive systems, and contributed to the construction of urban landscapes. Their history, however, is also one of crises and profound alterations. Floods, structural failures, land reclamation, wars, pollution, changing sanitary conditions, and economic transformations have often modified or erased hydraulic networks that had long been essential components of urban life. In some cases, canals came to be perceived as problems to be eliminated; in others, they have returned to the centre of policies of recovery, regeneration, and renewed valorisation. The session therefore invites scholars to investigate the relationship between cities and water through case studies that highlight moments of rupture, adaptation, and reuse. Particular attention will be devoted to the consequences that transformations of hydraulic systems have had on urban form, social organization, collective memory, and representations of urban space. Contributions dealing with different geographical and chronological contexts are welcome, especially those exploring the relationships between hydraulic infrastructures, environmental change, and urban development. The session also aims to encourage dialogue among perspectives from architectural history, urban history, environmental history, historical geography, and heritage studies. Possible topics include:

- Urban canals and defensive systems;
- Transformations of hydraulic networks from the early modern period to the contemporary era;
- Floods, emergencies, and water management;
- Canal burial and the redefinition of urban space;
- Water, industry, and infrastructure;
- Political and military control of water networks;
- Urban hygiene and sanitary transformations;
- Images, narratives, and memories of waterscapes;
- Recovery and reuse of historic canals;
- Climate adaptation and new water policies.

Through specific case studies as well as broader reflections, the session seeks to provide an opportunity to discuss the significance of canals in the construction and transformation of cities, highlighting how water-related “wounds” have left lasting marks on urban history and contemporary landscapes.

2.26. Urban History for Geo-Hydrological Phenomena Management

Convenors: **Martino Terrone**, *Comune di Genova*; **Francesco Faccini**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

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Many European cities share a centuries-long history, revealing an intense stratification of the urban landscape. This, especially starting in the second half of the 19th century, radically changed the landscape, with the creation of narrowings/culverts in riverbeds, cuts in the slope, and the juxtaposition of ten-meter-high retaining walls for the construction of roads, squares, and neighborhoods, adapting the city to the needs of the period.

With less importance, but no less significant in terms of risk to human safety, are the sinkhole phenomena concerning roadway due to the action of culverted streams during heavy rainfall events, the collapse of building foundations due to landslides, and the collapse of retaining structures.

A holistic approach is therefore essential, integrating architectural, urban planning, historical, archaeological, geological, and geomorphological studies to detail urban transformations. This is useful for understanding the forces underlying certain geo-hydrological phenomena with a view to optimal land management and planning.

2.27. The Long Duration of Climate Disasters. Global Warming and Urban Learning

Convenors: **Claudio Marciano**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Stefania Mangano**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Alessandro Sciullo**, *Università di Torino*

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The Long Timescale of Climate Disasters. Global Warming and Urban Learning Climate has always represented a fundamental variable in processes of urban destruction, transformation, and reconstruction. In the present historical phase, however, anthropogenic climate change can no longer be understood merely as a “natural” variable: it alters the frequency, intensity, and spatial distribution of extreme phenomena, reshaping the material, institutional, and symbolic conditions of survival in contemporary cities. The recent Lancet Countdown Europe 2026 shows how these transformations are already producing profound socio-economic and public health impacts. Yet many of these effects remain only partially recognized in public debate precisely because they cannot easily be attributed to single, clearly identifiable catastrophic events. This perspective recalls Hale’s notion of long problems: problems in which causes and effects are temporally and spatially separated, making it difficult to build political consensus, assign responsibility, and generate the capacity to act in the present. As a consequence, adaptation tends to prevail over prevention, and resilience over sustainability. The session proposes to interpret climate change as a peculiar form of “urban wound”: not necessarily produced by a single exceptional event, but rather by cumulative, persistent, and often invisible processes. Its temporal dynamics challenge the capacity to recognize causal relations and to build legitimacy around actions that are costly in the present while producing benefits only in the long term. The focus of the session therefore concerns not only climate change as an empirical object, but more radically the problem of time in contemporary societies and urban governance. The issue is not only how past events produce effects in the present, but also how the future acts upon the present through predictive scenarios, climate models, foresight practices, warning systems, and preventive policies. The session welcomes disciplinary and interdisciplinary contributions addressing:

- theoretical and methodological reflections on the study of long problems and the temporalities of climate risk;
- reconstructions of climate-related processes in recent history that have produced material, health, economic, or social impacts;
- studies on prediction, anticipation, and foresight in urban and territorial policies;
- analyses of learning, adaptation, and urban transformation processes developed in response to climate impacts;
- comparisons across cities, regions, and national contexts, highlighting how different institutional responses have produced different degrees of adaptation and resilience.

MACROSESSION 3. Living in and Inhabiting the City. Interests, Practices, Uses of Space

3.1. Public and Private in Medieval Urban Space: Expropriations, Norms, and Regimes of Appropriation

Convenors: Sara Menzinger, *Università degli Studi Roma Tre*; Giuliano Milani, *Université Gustave Eiffel, Paris*; Massimo Vallerani, *Università di Torino*

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The dichotomy between public and private space constitutes one of the most fertile interpretive issues in medieval urban history. Far from being fixed and universal categories, the notions of *res publica* and private property were defined through a continuous process of political and social negotiation, which varied considerably from city to city and across the centuries.

The call aims to attract papers on research exploring these tensions in medieval European cities, addressing themes such as the evolution of conflicts between private interests and collective prerogatives; the different regimes of appropriation of urban goods and spaces; the development of conceptions of the inalienability of public assets – such as city walls – ; the interferences between public and sacred spaces; the forms through which urban decorum was asserted; the drafting of norms that define the public nature of space or that regulate what is permitted or forbidden within it; the identification of the boundaries separating the public from the private, and the ways in which such boundaries are transgressed or, conversely, defended and preserved; the legislation and administration governing the property of outlaws in Italian communes of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, with particular attention to the destruction of their urban houses and their conversion into public space, as well as the strategies through which outlaws and their families sought to contest the publicatio of confiscated assets and reintegrate them into the line of family transmission.

3.2. Pecunia Non Olet: Visualizing the Architecture of Indebtedness

Convenors: **Fabio Gigone**, *University of Copenhagen*; **Angela Gigliotti**, *OST - Ostschweizer Fachhochschule*

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In contemporary capitalist societies, debt stands out as one of the most pervasive forces shaping the lives of states, institutions, and individuals alike. Architecture can be understood as a material apparatus of debt: it translates abstract obligations into spatial relations of power. Produced within – and actively productive of – regimes of indebtedness, the built environment mobilizes aesthetic and formal strategies that render specific configurations of capitalism both operational and legitimate.

As a transcultural phenomenon, debt has never been historically confined to the economic sphere. Predating modern financial systems, it has long been embedded in religious, moral, and socio-political frameworks. From ancient societies to medieval theologies, debt operated as both an economic mechanism and as a symbolic construct, shaping hierarchies, social bonds, and collective imaginaries. Its ambivalence persists: morally, it signals gratitude (Benveniste, 2016) and obligation (Mauss, 1923); theologically, it affirms faith (2 Cor. 6:10) while masking exploitation (Matt. 18:25-35); debt is central to modern democracies (Ferguson, 2008) and foundational to global economic history (Stasavage, 2003). However, architectural history has rarely addressed debt as an analytical category beyond the buildings that house financial institutions.

This session explores how the multifaceted phenomenon of debt shaped architectural and urban formations in the Early Modern period on the global scale (13th-19th centuries). How did systems of credit, obligation, and moral economy inform the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings? In what ways did religious conceptions of debt materialize in modes of urban governance? How did public and private debt regimes contribute to urban reinvestment, real estate practices, and spatial ordering? What spatial strategies or urban ceremonies were devised to redeem debt?

We invite contributions that examine architecture as both a material and symbolic site of indebtedness, revealing how debt operated as a spatial force shaping urban imaginaries and architectural constructs across confessional and political divides.

3.3. Property and Housing Conflicts in Early Modern European Cities (16th-19th Centuries)

Convenors: Daniel Mena Acevedo, *Universidade of Santiago de Compostela/Sorbonne Université*; Ana María Coll Coll, *Universitat de les Illes Balears*

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Urban housing contains a history of tensions and conflicts that are fundamental to understanding family and neighbourhood relations, living conditions, social inequalities, the dynamics of enrichment and decline, the impact of economic circumstances, and the scope of political intervention. In this regard, inheritance disputes, disputes arising from construction work, eviction conflicts between tenants and property owners, and property confiscations, among others, allow these confrontations of urban life to be integrated into historical analysis – from the most everyday to the most exceptional – identifying their causes, consequences, and mechanisms of resolution. The towns and cities of early modern Europe offer a wide diversity of demographic, social, economic, political, and legal contexts. Consequently, the forms of use and occupation of residential space, as well as the conflicts they generated, display specific characteristics while also sharing common elements. Our interest therefore focuses on understanding conflicts related to property and housing from an international and comparative perspective, with the aim of identifying shared interests, circumstances, and solutions. Furthermore, this panel seeks to foster methodological and critical reflection on the sources available in each context and their analytical potential. The various judicial institutions produced a large body of documentation for the study of housing-related conflicts in urban early modern Europe. It is also worth considering the value of fiscal, notarial, private, and administrative sources, among others, which offer highly valuable evidence for the study of these issues. Accordingly, our proposal is open to the following thematic strands: Family conflicts
Neighbourhood conflicts
Conflicts with construction professionals
Conflicts between urban property owners and tenants
Conflicts over seizures and confiscations of property

3.4. Women and Urban Space in Late Medieval Europe

Convenors: **Elena Maccioni**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Umberto Maria Delmastro**, *Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa*

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In recent decades, there has been a proliferation of research on the relationship between urban space and gender. The most innovative analyses, particularly within the fields of urban planning and sociology, have focused on the use and organisation of space (often imposed upon them) by women. In historical research, the space occupied by women has often been examined as an exclusively domestic and religious sphere. However, women are clearly visible in the sources and within the medieval European urban life, particularly those from the lower classes, engaged in daily labour: in production, trade and hospitality. Through the papers presented in this panel, we therefore aim to focus on the special (or otherwise) relationship that women developed, on the one hand, with the urban 'property market', and on the other, with the market understood both as a physical, regulated space where retail and wholesale trade took place, and as the meeting point of supply and demand within shops, squares and public streets, given the prevalence of street trading. Which were these spaces, and how were they occupied by women? Were there class-based differences in the ways in which women used space or managed (actively or passively) the family's property assets? Can we identify distinctions in the approach to space between male and female workers? Is it possible to identify specific patterns of interaction between working and non-working women and the municipal institutions responsible for regulating community life? Contributors are invited to address these questions from a comparative perspective, across different geographical, cultural, political, and economic contexts.

3.5. Contested Spaces. Urban Elites and the Struggle for Visibility in European Cities between the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period (13th-16th Centuries)

Convenors: *Renata Novak Klemencic, Univerza v Ljubljani; Laris Borić, Università di Zara; Stefano D'Ovidio, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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Between the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period, European cities underwent profound political, economic and social transformation. Trade, manufacturing and banking allowed new groups to rise rapidly on the social ladder, claiming a visible and recognisable position in urban space. Elites of old and new formation – merchant patriciates, noble lineages, guilds, ecclesiastical institutions – consolidated their presence through strategies of appropriation, both material and symbolic: domus located in the vicinity of strategically and symbolically significant places; family altars, chapels and tombs in major religious buildings; coats of arms and inscriptions displayed in the built environment and in the urban fabric. This generated frequent conflicts with civic and ecclesiastical authorities and with other users of the city and its spaces – conflicts that surface in archival sources as well as in street layouts, building development, furnishings and architectural decoration.

The session aims to explore, from a comparative perspective, how struggles among urban elites for control and visibility in city space contributed – between the 13th and 16th centuries – to shaping the city itself, both materially and symbolically, and the interpretations that have been given of it. We are interested in cases drawn from diverse geographical contexts across medieval and early modern Europe, approached through sources of an archival, literary, material and iconographic nature. Contributions may address the following themes:

- Residential space and neighbourhood conflicts: how the construction and positioning of the domus generated tensions with authorities and other inhabitants, and how such tensions shaped urban morphology.
- Ecclesiastical patronage and control of sacred space: disputes over chapels, altars and burial sites as a driver of transformation in religious buildings.
- Funerary space and contested memory: how conflicts over the control of sites of memory shaped the forms of funerary representation and their legibility.
- Heraldic visibility and public regulation: the tensions between family self-assertion and sumptuary legislation as a field of negotiation between private and public.
- Social mobility and urban reconfiguration: the relationship between the rise of new elites, struggles for recognition and the transformation of the urban landscape.

3.6. Everyday Lives in the Cities of the Iberian Peninsula, between the 17th and 19th Centuries

Convenors: **Liliana Andreia Valente Neves**, *Universidade do Minho*; **Sílvia Daniela Faria Pinto**, *Casa Sarmento, Guimarães*

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The sociocultural transformations that took place throughout Europe during the seventeenth century had a decisive influence on the reconfiguration of practices and spaces, gradually assigning greater value to the public sphere in relation to the private sphere. Addressing public space therefore implies analysing territory, landscape, urban planning, and architectural design, as well as the social and economic settings interwoven within them. These distinctive features had long been readily recognisable within the territories defined by cities, from which the very notion of the public sphere emerged.

With this session, we aim to promote discussion on everyday life in Iberian cities between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. To guide the debate, the following key questions are proposed: How were the different social profiles and relationships within this urban setting characterised and articulated? In what ways did mobility, conflict, poverty, and the outbreak of diseases shape daily life and the survival strategies of urban populations? How were professional and economic connections and networks structured during this period? And what was the role and agency of women in the reconfiguration of this public space?

Based on these issues, we invite paper proposals that explore the social, institutional, and economic dimensions of cities across the Iberian Peninsula between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, and that contribute to enriching this debate.

3.7. Sharing and Contending Space: Devotional Confraternities in Early Modern Cities

Convenors: **Giulia Zanon**, *Università di Verona*; **Francesca Ferrando**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

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Devotional confraternities have played a significant role in shaping and defining European urban settings. Their presence was evident in their management of spaces within religious buildings, such as chapels and altars, as well as in the construction of new buildings. Confraternal spaces were places of devotion, ritual, and social interaction, but also contexts in which collective identities, social hierarchies, and power relations were defined and negotiated. The material and visual culture of the confraternities – from architecture to devotional objects, from works of art to processional paraphernalia – further helped shape the urban experience and provided tools through which groups and communities represented themselves and asserted their presence in public space.

Confraternities provide a privileged vantage point for investigating the mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion that characterised early modern societies. While some associations restricted access based on gender, social group, profession, or economic means, others offered opportunities for participation and representation to often marginalised groups, such as women, people with disabilities, migrants, or religious minorities. In this sense, the spaces of the confraternities could serve as both instruments of social control and places for the expression of identity. Coexistence within the same urban contexts required forms of negotiation, but it could also give rise to conflicts over the management of spaces, devotional practices, and access to resources. On other occasions, however, the presence of close collaborations attests to the existence of networks built around shared interests.

This session invites contributions that explore confraternities as spaces of interaction, representation, conflict, and negotiation. Studies focusing on the social uses of space, the construction of collective identities, expressions of female agency, material and visual culture, ritual and processional practices, as well as the relationships between confraternities, religious institutions, and civic authorities are particularly welcome. Through these perspectives, the session aims to foster reflection on the role of confraternities in community-building and in defining the social, cultural, religious and gendered spaces in early modern Europe.

3.8. Power, Charity and Dependence: Assistential Institutions in the Urban Spaces of the Iberian Peninsula (18th-19th Centuries)

Convenors: **Mikel Larrinaga Ortiz**, *Universidad del Pais Vasco / Euskal Herriko University*; **Maria Marta Lobo de Araújo**, *Universidade do Minho*

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Assistential institutions were one of the great nodes within the urban sphere, and cannot be understood as closed places disconnected from it, but rather as living organisms that interact in multiple ways with their most immediate environment. Regardless of whether their funding was municipal or not, they constituted a point of reference both for the popular classes, who benefited from their assistance, and for the elites, who used them to project their power. Control over charitable resources reinforced their position as leaders of the community, placing them at the top of networks of dependence – an aspect that found its most visible expression in the processions associated with these establishments, as was the case with the Portuguese misericórdias. These centres were by no means innocuous, and many of them aspired to promote elite values by imposing specific standards of behaviour. This was the case with the Spanish hospicios, which, following models previously developed in other contexts across the European geography, made relief conditional on the performance of certain tasks, in an attempt to promote new industrial hubs and expand the availability of labour for manufacturing. Despite this, more recent research increasingly highlights the important welfare function performed by these foundations: providing temporary care for the sick, facilitating the support of children during non-productive phases and easing their entry into the labour market, accompanying the elderly in the final stage of their life cycle, or assisting the families of precarious workers through aid in kind or in cash. The various models, the available funding, and historical circumstances shaped the relationships between institutions and those they assisted, and it was common for a given centre to alter its initial objectives and end up specialising in a particular profile of the needy. This proposal aims to explore and deepen our understanding of how different Portuguese and Spanish assistential establishments interacted with the social agents of urban spaces, assessing the impact they had on family economies, the labour market, and the strategies of projection employed by municipal elites.

3.9. Coastal and Inland Cities: Ports, Trade, Urban Spaces and Identities (15th Century-Mid-20th Century)

Convenors: **Giorgio Dell’Oro**, *Università degli Studi di Milano*; **Stefania Bianchi**, *Archivio Storico Ticinese, Bellinzona*

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This session aims to bring together scholars to analyse how regulations, institutions, social networks and conflicts developed within urban contexts among the guilds responsible for the distribution of goods within city centres or in port communities. Of particular interest is understanding how these groups interacted within contexts linked to inland waterway networks and the relationship between these and the interconnected maritime trading systems. More generally, it would be interesting to understand how the various guilds (in northern Italy, for example, those from Bergamo, Valtellina – and thus Graubünden – and Ticino) divided up the work and whether and how they competed with one another for activities such as the loading and unloading of goods in port areas. The city itself, at least until the first half of the twentieth century, contained identity-defining spaces in which these networks wove both horizontal and hierarchical relationships. These interdependencies could be explored through the organisation of work and everyday life, shared intangible spaces, and the relationship between places of origin and processes of integration (for example, the *camalli* in Genoa, Livorno and Naples in 1944-46). This final aspect is particularly relevant to inland waterways. What links existed between maritime and inland ports? How were urban ports connected to inland waterways organised? Who worked there? Which institutions were involved? Which social, corporate and religious networks operated within them? What goods were transported, and how were they distributed? Were there links or conflicts between different urban networks? Were there forms of discrimination based on religion, gender or social background? How significant was the presence of women, and what roles did they play, if any?

3.10. Commerce, Conflict and Urban Life in European Ports (1450-1815)

Convenors: **Pablo Sánchez Pascual**, *Universidad de Cantabria*; **Alexandra Cooper**, *University of Leicester*

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The aim of this session is to examine European port cities between 1450 and 1815, analysing the interdependence between the urban environment, maritime communities and port activity. Through the lens of the ‘wounded city’, we will discuss how these elements interacted not only to generate wealth, but also as sources of tensions, conflicts and inequalities, profoundly transforming the urban fabric of port cities during the Modern Age and the Enlightenment. The European port network was instrumental in the continent’s economic progress, but conflict across all spheres and the struggle over hierarchies and spaces shaped that rise. Despite the Atlantic Arc’s leading role in the process of global integration, its growth was closely linked to other regions – from the Mediterranean to the Baltic – which were often the scene of profound conflicts, rivalries and exclusions, beyond their socio-economic role; how did the various ports adapt to the changes that redefined their trade routes? How did the appropriation of space by market interests affect the social reality of the city? How was this conflict reflected in the unequal use of space? The social fabric of these cities cannot be understood without taking into account the interplay between the authorities, dockworkers, traders and financiers. Organised into networks, these groups built communities with their own distinct identities, yet at the same time generated profound imbalances and tensions. It is essential to recognise the role of women, whose contribution was vital to the urban port economy and to the dynamics of the conflicts themselves. Given this reality, one might ask: how did commercial pressure groups influence the drafting of regulations that often marginalised other urban actors? How did merchants interact with the other actors who made business possible in a context of unequal access to resources? This session aims to explore in greater depth how ports have shaped urban life. We invite you to reflect on the city as a space of conflict; to this end, we are seeking papers that analyse both the social dimension – maritime workers and communities – and the economic dimension – traders, bankers and institutions – , integrating approaches from archaeology, infrastructure and social dynamics that shed new light on this reality.

3.11. The Port and the City. Contested, Built, and Reused Spaces, from the 19th Century to the Present Time

Convenors: **Marco Doria**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Giulio Mellinato**, *Università di Milano Bicocca*

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This session aims to gather contributions on the relationship between port and city in the contemporary era. The radical innovations in maritime transport – from the first increasingly large steamships to the container revolution – together with the changing importance of the types of goods handled – from spices and colonial products to mass commodities and energy products – have profoundly transformed port spaces, leading to their gradual expansion and/or spatial relocation. The balance – or the disruption of balances – between urban and port spaces is a central theme in the history of port cities, which have often become, to use the effective definition coined by maritime historian Frank Broeze, “cities with a port,” highlighting the fracture that has occurred between port and city. Historically, the relationship between port and city has always been close, dialectical, and at times conflictual, while constantly evolving. Topics (among those that may be explored):

- The scale of port infrastructures, their expansion over time, and their (re)location along coastal spaces
- The relationship between port areas, the sea, and urban spaces (residential areas, etc.)
- Externalities generated by port activities in terms of transport infrastructure networks, traffic, and pollution: their impact on the city
- The city of dockworkers, sailors, and cruise passengers.

3.12. Safe Space: Discrimination by Design

Convenors: **Shelley Hornstein**, *York University, Toronto*; **Anat Falbel**, *Independent researcher*

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The cultural and geographic contours of liveable space are oftentimes invisible and deserve closer examination. Theories of individuation or culturalization abound, splitting communities across migrant or non-migrant backgrounds. This is true for deep historic cities or neighbourhoods as well as communities in newer cities. In the culturalization hypothesis, for example, people without a migration history tend to perceive distinctions of urban settings based on socially constructed entities. Diversity, a perhaps flawed and complex term, continues to shape spatial environments, nonetheless. This session proposes to examine the role of spaces primarily in the 19th and 20th centuries, but can reference earlier chronological periods, that set in motion (symbolic) boundaries to include, exclude, neglect, welcome or categorically expunge individuals from, or include communities in, liveable sites. What sites are no longer liveable due to discrimination or conversely, what sites open doors, in an architectural metaphor, to melting or dissolving boundary perceptions?

3.13. The Nonhuman City: Wounded Animals and the Development of Urban Modernity

Convenors: **Corey Ratch**, *Independent researcher*; **Mimi Cheng**, *Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz - Max-Planck-Institut*

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The modern city was built, in no small part, on the bodies of nonhuman animals. Its streets were paved and goods transported through the labour of horses and other draught and pack animals; its expanding populations were fed by the hidden machinery of the industrial slaughterhouse; its parks enclosed exotic creatures behind iron bars for the edification and amusement of its citizenry; its sewers and back alleys were colonized by rats and pigeons whose presence was managed, moralized, and even racialized. Yet the history of urban modernity has largely been written as though the nonhuman animals who inhabited, powered, and were consumed by the modern city were incidental to its story, or no part of it at all.

This panel takes as its point of departure the transformation of European and global cities from the mid-nineteenth century onward, with particular attention to the ways in which processes of urban modernization reorganized, displaced, concealed, and reimagined the nonhuman animal lives that had long been woven into the fabric of urban existence. But one example is how the banishment of slaughterhouses and related trades to the margins rendered animal death invisible in the name of hygiene and the so-called “civilizing process,” producing an organized forgetting of the lives and deaths that powered the modern city.

This panel invites papers that take seriously the nonhuman animal as a subject of urban history, attending to the full range of creatures whose presence in and relationship to the modern city has been shaped by, and has in turn shaped, the processes of urban transformation. Who, and what, has been allowed to inhabit urban space, on what terms, and at what cost? It examines how animal bodies and lives have been managed, exploited, displaced, aestheticized, exterminated, and mourned, and what has been suppressed or rendered invisible in these processes. Particular attention is given to the racialized and discriminatory dimensions of urban animal management, including the association of “vermin” with marginalized, racialized, and immigrant communities. The reorganization of urban space in relation to nonhuman animals was a global process shaped by colonial encounters, imperial networks, and local and Indigenous histories. We therefore welcome contributions addressing cities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and beyond, and engaging critically with colonial and postcolonial contexts.

Topics may include the history of the slaughterhouse and other animal industries; the displacement of working animals by technological change (for instance, the replacement of horses by automobiles); the zoo as a site of imperial knowledge production; urban hygiene and the extermination of “pest” species; and representations of urban animal life. Methodologically, the panel welcomes interdisciplinary approaches spanning history, art history, urban studies, environmental humanities, and postcolonial and decolonial critique.

3.14. Invisible Traces and Urban Wounds: Colonial Legacies, Contested Memory in Contemporary Spaces

Convenors: **Pelin Bolca**, *Politecnico di Torino*; **Mariantonica Coppola**, *Conciliare Project*; **Nina Jean-Louis**, *University of Miami*

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Colonial legacies continue to shape contemporary cities through visible and invisible traces embedded in urban space. Beyond monuments, landscapes, infrastructures, street names and symbolic places, colonial histories persist as overlooked urban traces. These traces reveal unresolved relationships between memory, identity and belonging, while exposing urban spaces as sites of vulnerability, conflict, and negotiation, as well as spaces for re-appropriation and re-signification. This session investigates how colonial legacies are inscribed, contested and reinterpreted within contemporary spaces. Particular attention focuses on urban transformations following political ruptures, social conflicts, environmental crises, and demands for historical and systemic justice. Colonial traces may emerge as urban wounds, revealing exclusion, accountability, and spatial inequality, while creating opportunities for prioritizing vernacular knowledge (e.g. lived experiences and local practices) as sources of reinterpretation. The session explores how local actors and heritage initiatives engage with contested spaces through re-storying and community-based initiatives, exploring the role of the city both as a material archive of suppressed memories and as a field of political and cultural experimentation. Such practices reveal overlooked colonial histories, transform neglected places into spaces of memory, and enable alternative narratives. It explores these practices within three case studies located in Italy, the Mediterranean region, as well as the southeastern region of the US. Changing public spaces and threatened heritage reveal how colonial legacies shape urban transformation, resilience and recovery. The session welcomes contributions addressing the Mediterranean Basin, Italy, and comparative perspectives involving US coastal cultural landscapes. Questions may include: How do cities reveal, obscure, or negotiate colonial histories within contemporary space? How do contested memories and invisible traces reshape identities, and senses of belonging? How do urban risks expose unresolved colonial legacies and threatened heritage? How are contested spaces transformed and renegotiated? How can heritage initiatives and communitybased actions make hidden histories visible and support inclusive urban futures? Adopting a transdisciplinary perspective, the session fosters dialogue on colonial legacies, contested memory, urban vulnerability, and contemporary urban transformation.

3.15. The Supermarket in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century: Architecture, Urban Space, and Conflict

Convenors: **Lorenzo Ciccarelli**, *Università degli Studi di Firenze*; **Antonio Labalestra**, *Politecnico di Bari*

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The history of contemporary architecture and the city is closely linked to the rise of new spaces for displaying and selling goods: from 19th-century covered passages to department stores, right up to more recent shopping centres and malls. Within this context, which has been extensively studied by historians, surprisingly little attention has been paid to the supermarket as a building type. Based on the principles of self-service, free choice and the standardisation of consumption, the supermarket has transformed not only shopping habits, but also forms of social interaction, the rhythms of urban life and the organisation of the suburbs, often becoming the focus of heated controversies and conflicts. Its spread is intertwined with some of the main wounds of the contemporary city: the uncontrolled expansion of suburban areas, the loss of centrality of traditional public space, the fragmentation of the urban fabric and the gradual replacement of civic relations with consumer practices. The supermarket can therefore be interpreted as one of the privileged vantage points through which to interpret the city wounded by economic crises and the transformations of contemporary capitalism. At the same time, supermarkets, superstores and shopping centres were conceived as instruments of political, economic and territorial renewal. In the post-war period, they embodied the promise of a new urban modernity based on democratic access to consumer goods, infrastructural efficiency and the development of new models of community life. In many contexts marked by industrial crisis, urban marginalisation or the scarcity of communal spaces, these commercial establishments have taken on the role of new urban hubs, gradually replacing the town square, the traditional market and other historic venues of public life. They have therefore not only accompanied the transformations of the contemporary city, but have actively participated in the construction of new urban imaginaries and in genuine programmes for the redefinition of communal space. The session has a twofold objective: on the one hand, to reconstruct the spread of the supermarket and its evolution in Italy during the second half of the 20th century; on the other, to examine the role such structures might play in the future of the contemporary city, reflecting on the possibility of transforming what have long been considered 'non-places' into tools for urban regeneration and social renewal capable of addressing the fragments of the wounded city.

3.16. Touristification and Overtourism. From Historic City to Tourist City

Convenors: Marco Pretelli, *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*; Annunziata Maria Oteri, *Politecnico di Milano*

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Touristification and overtourism are real phenomena that, in recent decades, have contributed to radically altering the historic built heritage of many cities, not only in Italy. At risk of permanent change are not only the cities themselves, but also their inhabitants, their habits, and the ways in which they use the cities. This session aims to gather contributions addressing this phenomenon: - from a quantitative perspective (for example, through analyses of visitor numbers and the “carrying capacity” of areas affected by tourism pressure);

- in relation to the impact on the communities affected (gentrification, tourism phobia, etc.);
- in relation to the economic aspects of this anthropogenic pressure on the territories;
- in relation to policies to counteract them and governance models at various levels;
- with regard to the “physical” damage that regions, historic districts, and built heritage sustain at various levels and scales.

MACROSESSION 4. Narrating and Representing the City. Memories, Identities, Contested Heritage

4.1. Looking Inside: Architecture and the City in Endoscopy

Convenors: **Daniele Pascale Guidotti Magnani**, *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*; **Elena Ramazza**, *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*

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The dialectic of construction-destruction is closely connected to the life of cities and architectures. Cycles of construction-destruction-reconstruction succeed one another throughout history, leaving traces in the urban fabric and sedimenting in the collective imagination in the form of literary, visual, and musical creations, where the initial and final phases of architecture (design and construction; demolition and ruin) often become blurred. Over the centuries, representations of these phases have brought the history of cities closer to the evolutionary observation of a natural organism, from conception to natural decomposition or anatomical dissection (the metaphor of city/architecture-human body is a well-known topos in architectural literature). When the break of the architectural epidermis follows a traumatic event, the representation of ruin speaks of devastation, apocalypse, prophesied and feared destinies, or planned demolitions, along with their historical, political, and philosophical implications. If the break is distant, anesthetized by time, or created artificially, the wound becomes an opportunity for knowledge and the dissection becomes fully scientific: the ruin becomes a representation of a hybrid phase, where destruction (real or imagined) is merely a passage to future construction. Thus, Serlio, in his treatise, represents Roman architectures in a depiction that lies between scientific section and ruin. There is also a constructive vision of the architectural interior, a “reverse ruin,” as seen in representations of construction sites, restorations, or buildings still in pieces, before they are composed or reassembled, where semantically destructive elements blend with their opposites. The panel will focus on the elasticity of meanings between destruction and construction, associated with the vision of the interior of architectures. Contributions related to the history of architecture, art history, literature, musicology, and all disciplines dealing with the mechanisms of representation are welcome. Contributions may refer to the following categories:

- Representations of destructions or constructions across all eras and techniques;
- Illustrations of literary works referring to ruins, destructions, constructions of buildings or cities;
- Literary descriptions of ruins or construction sites, or other themes related to the architectural vision described above;
- Architectural or artistic treatises that use the rhetorical device of ruin;
- Anatomical treatises referring to architecture in their illustrations.

4.2. The Skin of Buildings: Stratifications and Fractures between Building Envelopes and Urban Space

Convenors: Paola Placentino, *Università degli Studi di Padova*; Marzia Marandola, *Università Iuav di Venezia*

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Architecture possesses a skin. Like every epidermis, it records over time the traces of what it has undergone: incisions, sutures, amputations, grafts.

Extensions, partial demolitions, superimpositions and inclusions of new building volumes do not constitute neutral operations at a formal or cultural level, but rather interventions that irreversibly alter the constructed identity of a building, potentially leaving legible scars in the matter, in the geometry or in the relationship between its constituent parts.

Parts built according to different logics, materials and languages are brought together with novel outcomes at the aesthetic and formal level, within a single organism. The history of architecture – Italian and beyond – is punctuated by reorganisation operations that have sewn together deeply heterogeneous realities.

On occasion, the ‘new’ architecture proves to be the outcome of a progressive process of adaptation of the building to social transformations and the evolving needs of its users. Architecture thus composed succeeds in providing physical representation to a new institutional arrangement or in responding to a different intended use. In other instances, forced junctions – frequently dictated by economic rationalisation, change of use or the mere necessity for additional available space – have yielded outcomes that do not invariably correspond to the formal coherence envisaged by their promoters.

The traces left on these buildings manifest themselves at multiple levels. At the material level, they may be recognised in masonry of different eras juxtaposed without mediation, in infilled window frames, in the traces of disappeared floor slabs impressed upon the façades, as well as in the executive imperfections of a cladding or in structural discontinuities, where two constructive logics converge without dialogue. At the spatial level, they emerge in interrupted or varied formal sequences, in the void residues that bear the imprint of demolished building volumes. It is, therefore, the physical traces that bear witness to the life of the building which the transformation has not erased, but merely displaced to the margins of current scholarly reading.

The session seeks to gather contributions that investigate these dynamics in their historical, social and spatial implications, through the analysis of traces present on buildings, in order to examine, furthermore, how the relationship of the architecture under consideration with the urban context evolves, and to what extent the intention (or possibility) of introducing constructive innovations is embedded within the transformation project. Both monographic and comparative approaches are welcomed, with reference to any geographical and chronological context.

4.3. Politics in Public Spaces. Events, Conflicts, and Symbolic Stratifications in European Cities (14th-20th Centuries)

Convenors: **Marco Folin**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Marco Felicioni**, *Università della Svizzera Italiana*

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The session aims to reflect on the relationship between political events, collective memory, and urban spaces, focusing on places that, over time, have acquired a particular symbolic density as stages of public life, political conflict, and the representation of power. At the core of the proposal lies the idea that squares, streets, monumental complexes, and other urban spaces are not merely neutral settings for political action, but actively contribute to shaping events, defining their public perception, and inscribing them into urban memory. Wars, revolutions, repression, celebrations, demonstrations, attacks, and collective rituals all leave material and symbolic marks upon the city, marks that are continually reinterpreted, erased, or redefined over time.

Building upon the reflections opened by Mario Isnenghi in *L'Italia in piazza. I luoghi della vita pubblica dal 1848 ai giorni nostri* (1994), the session welcomes contributions exploring the ways in which specific urban places have been used, reinterpreted, and resignified through political demonstrations, public ceremonies, revolutions, marches, occupations, episodes of violence, commemorative rituals, or practices of collective participation. Particular attention will be devoted to processes of memorial stratification that transform certain urban spaces into true “palimpsests,” where historically distant events continue to overlap, interact, and redefine one another, turning the city into a site of sedimentation for political traumas, public memories, and commemorative practices.

The session welcomes both diachronic perspectives, focused on the transformations and resignifications of the same place over the *longue durée*, and synchronic analyses devoted to specific historical and political contexts, within a European framework extending from the late Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Comparative contributions will be especially welcome, particularly those addressing the relationships between urban space, political theatricality, public memory, and the construction of collective identities, as well as the forms of representation – iconographic, photographic, cinematic, literary, or media-based – through which urban spaces participate in the processes through which collective memories are constructed and reconfigured between the fourteenth and twentieth centuries.

4.4. Writing and Rewriting the City. Urban Wounds in Writings on Display

Convenors: **Giulia Becevello**, *Università degli Studi di Padova*; **Erica Bacigalupi**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

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Cities preserve in their architecture and public spaces the material and symbolic traces of the wounds, crises, and transformations that have marked their history. Among these traces, writing on display offers a privileged key to understanding the fractures and recompositions of urban life. Through inscriptions and other forms of public writing, communities, social groups, and institutions record, interpret, celebrate, erase, or rewrite events and transformations, turning the city itself into a widespread archive. In line with the theme of the conference, this session proposes to examine writing on display as an active device through which public memory is constructed, collective identities are defined, and urban space is represented and governed. How do these texts record traumatic events that have shaped cities? How do they contribute to the elaboration of shared narratives or, conversely, to the production of conflicting memories? What role do they play in processes of reconstruction, re-foundation, and restoration of urban spaces, as well as in the celebration of individuals, families, magistracies, institutions, or social groups? Particular attention will also be devoted to the role of epigraphic programs, inscriptions, graffiti, and other forms of public writing as tools for regulating and managing urban space. How do they contribute to establishing or restoring civic order, preventing conflicts, and defining forms of urban coexistence? How are inscriptions, monuments, architecture, and the urban landscape connected? Furthermore, what happens when disruptive events of a political, institutional, or dynastic nature lead to the rewriting of the past or to the reshaping of the present? Through what forms do the replacement, re-signification, or erasure of previous inscriptions become visible? Conversely, what meanings are produced by the reuse and relocation of forms of public writing inherited from the past? How are official memories, contested heritage, and competing collective identities constructed through these media? Contributions addressing any geographical area and chronological period, from Antiquity to the Contemporary Era, are welcome. Comparative and interdisciplinary approaches bringing together different fields of research are particularly encouraged, in order to explore how urban communities have elaborated, represented, and transmitted the wounds of their past through writing on display.

4.5. The “Wounds” Told by the Brotherhoods between the Early Modern Period and the Twentieth Century

Convenors: **Elena Gianasso**, *Politecnico di Torino*; **Manlio Montuori**, *Università degli Studi di Ferrara*

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Reading the pages of guidebooks and descriptions of the city’s past, wounds are sometimes hidden, deliberately concealed from the view of a visitor or curious reader, or they are celebrated, emphasized as an expression and reminder of acts that occurred in the city. Diaries and urban chronicles allow us to study in detail the moment of the wound or its healing. The word “wound” can be interpreted as a discontinuity, a laceration healed or to be healed, but also in relation to the etymology of Italian word “ferita”, with the meaning of the Latin term “feritas”, “cruel”, “ferocious”.

The session examines the narratives of injuries, traumas, damage, and even scars found in descriptions of sacred spaces or spaces intended for assistance and charity established by brotherhoods - Catholic associations of lay faithful recognized under the Code of Canon Law - over the broad chronological span that begins with the modern era and ends in the early decades of the twentieth century. Confraternity activities aim to promote evangelization initiatives and the exercise of works of piety or charity, according to the Code of Canon Law (Can. 298 § 1). The actions of the brotherhoods, with an interdisciplinary point of view, themselves could be considered an example to recognize and heal wounds, including physical trauma. In cities, confraternity buildings can be explored in terms of the relationship between the naming of a confraternity itself and the actions of the brothers, studying the design of urban space, so discussing the resulting urban geography. At the same time, the architecture built by lay Catholic associations can become a tool for questioning the rationale for locating churches, hospices, and hospitals as a means of revitalizing urban space, even in the relationship between properties owned by the same group of believers. The question can be extended to the analysis of the constructed building, in drawings that emerge between the project and the construction site. It’s here it’s possible to know the professional figures, sometimes cited in guidebooks or news reports, committed to repairing the trauma and damage suffered by the city.

Guides, diaries, chronicles and descriptions serve as documentary sources for identifying confraternities - churches, and their assets - sometimes even votive offerings of thanks for a wound averted. It should be interested to discuss the same topic considering the repositories of collective memories and their iconographic heritage, acknowledging the meanings and roles of churches and spaces functional to the brothers’ work. How, again, do churches and confraternity buildings allow the memory of overcome or unhealed wounds to be written? How do they become part of a city’s identity? What role do they play in overcoming the traumas of the past?

4.6. Uses and Abuses of Architectural Restoration: Models, Actors, Narrations

Convenors: **Olha Zarechnyuk**, *Center for Urban History, Lviv/Università di Venezia Ca' Foscari*;
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Architectural restoration has the capacity to both treat old wounds and create new ones. Depending on how it is used, it can facilitate healing, e.g. in the aftermath of disasters, natural decay, reconcilements between societies or groups. But through erasure of historical layers or features, addition of new ones, redefinition of buildings' uses and meanings, it can symbolically erase or misrepresent people and their stories. Perpetuated in material forms, the changes it brings, affect how viewers perceive the buildings. Moreover, it influences how the heritage – and the past it represents – is reflected in historiographies, affecting generations to come. Architectural restoration has seen a range of approaches. Thinkers, such as Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, John Ruskin, Alois Riegl, Camillo Boito, or Gustavo Giovannoni, have developed models of restoration that have since become canonical. Yet practical application was another matter. The ways these models have been interpreted, adapted, or even discarded, as well as the underlying causes – including political, social, cultural, and other factors conditioning them – have frequently been overlooked in scholarship. These causes have been disregarded under pretenses of their non-universality, belatedness, or simply as signs of unprofessionalism. This session calls to explore the diversity of approaches to architectural restoration and their consequences in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We invite contributions focusing on intricate interplay between restorations and political agendas, buildings and their restorers, past and its representations. We encourage investigations of contested heritage, as well as studies of and from historically underrepresented cities, regions, states, aiming to challenge established national and global Western art historiographies. Some questions to consider include:

- Heritage-making processes: building selection, description, and explanation in architectural restoration and preservation and their far-reaching objectives;
- Restoration/preservation and politics: architectural restoration and preservation as shaped by political agendas and their reflection on historiographies;
- Buildings and texts: discourses instrumental in forging new narratives about the history of the city, region, or state that were used as sources for restoration;
- Actors and networks, especially the non-professionals, amateurs, politicians, civil servants, activists, and art historians or architects as well.

4.7. Urban Landscapes of Modern Treaty Port Cities: Cosmopolitan Elites, Emerging Social Groups, and Conflicting Narratives (C. 1870-1950)

Convenors: Jie Han, *Xiamen University*; Xianqing Zhang, *Hainan University*

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From the late 19th to the mid-20th century, under the impact of Western global expansion and modernization, treaty port cities underwent a dramatic transformation from traditional administrative and regional trade centers to cosmopolitan, semi-colonial metropolis, profoundly reshaping their spatial structure, economic form, and social landscape. Most treaty port cities underwent Westernization in their spatial layout and urban form. Aside from the rise of concessions and enclaves, treaty port cities also experienced the modernization of city building, as well as the introduction of new building types. Modern streetlights, running water, drainage systems, and electricity and telephone networks gradually became widespread. And the connection between treaty port cities and traditional inland waterway shipping via railways and highways strengthened their links and economic exchanges with the hinterland, greatly promoting the early industrialization of most treaty port cities. Traditional historiography on treaty port city building stresses the impact of colonial power in this process. It is worth noting, however, that treaty port cities during this period experienced the emerging of new social groups composed by local elites, cross-regional and overseas immigrants, seizing the opportunity to gain power in homeland. They embraced modernization. As treaty port cities gradually became the headstreams of revolution, reform and new cultural movements, these new social groups also constructed their identities. With the international order of the post-war period many treaty port cities underwent a restructuring of their urban spatial landscape. Nowadays, quite many colonial concessions, as important elements of the heritage narrative of treaty port cities, were given attention to conserve. Meanwhile, the trace of modern urban development driven by the emerging social groups of the period in question often suffered due to regime change and real estate movements, being largely integrated into rapid urban development through demolition and redevelopment, causing wounds to the urban landscape of treaty port cities. This session focuses and aims to reveal and reconstruct the forgotten narrative, for reshaping the urban landscape related to treaty port cities in the specific period, including :

- physical remains, such as urban development, urban morphologies, building types, materials, toponyms, infrastructural facilities;
- images and memories of the vanished past , through historic photos, family archives, maps, oral history, etc.;
- relatively intangible aspects, such as craftsmanship, technology, localization of foreign knowledge and technology ;
- protection, reuse, or redevelopment through which people nowadays reinterpret the past and form a new identity for the current city.

Papers may deal with case studies or a more theoretical approach of the issue of conflicting narratives on the treaty port city history.

4.8. Wounds, Ruins, Spolia: Spatial Regimes of Memory in the 20th Century

Convenors: **Ráhel Gyöngyvér Györffy**, *Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz - Max-Planck-Institut*; **Franz Bittenbinder**, *Politecnico di Milano*

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The macrosession is centred around three phenomena, which are key in the discussion of reconstructions after environmental and human-induced violent act against the city and the urban environment: the wound, the ruin and spolia. The session hereby seeks to answer the question if there exist any specifically architectural methods and tools for the construction of post-catastrophic memory. How do ruins and voids of destruction construct an urban environment of memory together with the new architectures, that fill in the traumatic voids, overwrite the catastrophic urban imprints and establish urban ensembles, city- and streetscapes of memory through spatial and architectural narration, whereby the wound itself is often subject to heritagisation. Specific case studies as well as theoretical frameworks are welcomed, which analyse through a phenomenological approach how architecture can at the same time induce oblivion and be a quasi-therapeutic method to work-through traumatic memory as spatial tool of narration.

The session will seek to raise questions concerning what can be regarded as a wound within the urban fabric, what the openness of this wound means and if scarring as process is something that can be traced spatially and materially. The re-framing of the notion of the urban ruin, as well as modern ruined ensembles, abandoned cities (also forced abandonment) is encouraged, whereby the impossibility of ruination on the late-capitalist context is put to debate and the semantic instability of the ruin (HELL/SCHÖNLE 2010) is proposed as a point of departure for the discussion. Finally, the use or the decided disregard of spolia and other material remains of the state before the destruction or that of the violent act itself in the construction of new architectures is reconsidered in the context of preservationist principles and the affects in the construction of spatial narratives, whereby the urban is subject to a process of negation between different memory communities.

The metaphor of the wound has a long tradition in being used for cities struck by catastrophe, be it a natural disaster or human violence (SCHNEIDER/SUSSER 2003, TILL 2012, FOLIN/PRETI 2015). The 'body' of the city is hereby anthropomorphised and the lacunae, the debris and the destroyed elements of the former fabric are regarded as wounds. The wound hereby is primarily open and allows a view, which, without the catastrophic circumstances, would not be possible to be seen. This materialisation of "something leaking or bursting out of a representational shell" (COUSINS 1995) is essential in the phenomenological discussion of the topic. As collective memory is always a construction, whereby involuntary memory appears to be something precisely out of control, especially traumatic memory and the images of traumatic nature lingering out of reach of rationalisation (cf. ASSMANN 2018), the session attempts to detangle how memory is spatially narrated.

4.9. Wounded Monuments and Contested Heritage: Dispersal, Dismemberment, and Re-Signification from the Enlightenment to the Present

Convenors: Rosa Esmeralda Partucci, *Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli*; Luisa Sefora Rosaria Puca, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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Cities preserve the traces of political, religious, social, and military conflicts that, from the Age of Enlightenment to the present day, have affected monuments and both movable and immovable artistic heritage. Wars, revolutions, secularization processes, urban transformations, colonial and decolonial practices, totalitarian regimes, modernization programs, and recent armed conflicts have generated phenomena of damage, dismantlement, dispersal, relocation, adaptive reuse, and re-semantization of urban artistic heritage.

This session aims to explore monuments and urban artistic heritage, in their multiple manifestations, as devices for the sedimentation and transmission of memory, focusing on the processes of transformation that have redefined their appearance, functions, and iconological horizons. These processes reveal how the past is continually subjected to practices of reinterpretation, appropriation, negotiation, and contestation, through which societies construct and redefine their collective memory. Particular attention will therefore be devoted to the histories that have entailed the loss of the material and symbolic integrity of artworks and monuments, their displacement within urban or museum spaces, the fragmentation of their original contexts, and the subsequent strategies of reconstruction, conservation, reinterpretation, and re-semantization.

The chronological span extending from the late eighteenth century to the present offers an opportunity to investigate long-term historical phenomena: from revolutionary and Napoleonic requisitions to the processes of nineteenth-century industrialization; from the programmes developed within the context of the Risorgimento for the construction of national identities and the suppression of ecclesiastical property, to the representational strategies of Fascism; from the cities scarred by the wars of the twentieth century and their subsequent reconstruction, to contemporary practices of restitution, heritagization, and the redefinition of the meanings attributed to monuments. Specific attention will also be devoted to the role of exhibitions, art surveys, and major cultural events as privileged sites for the observation, interpretation, and recording of historical and social phenomena. Exhibitions, biennials, world fairs, and artistic events may in fact be understood as critical devices through which emblematic events and symptomatic conditions of a given era can be interpreted, contributing to the construction of new narratives about the city, cultural heritage, and collective memory.

The session welcomes contributions that, through a retrospective and diachronic approach and by means of the analysis of documentary sources and visual representations (including paintings, prints, city views, photographs, posters, films and installations), seek to advance our understanding of the histories of monuments and urban artistic heritage.

4.10. Trauma, Destruction, and Urban Transformation: The Impact of War on European Artistic Culture during the First and Second World Wars

Convenors: **Matteo Fochessati**, *Wolfsoniana - Palazzo Ducale Fondazione per la Cultura*; **Anna Vyazemtseva**, *Politecnico di Milano*

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During the two great conflicts of the twentieth century, the visual arts, active in an era still characterized by the limited reach of the media, represented fundamental and powerful tools for propaganda and for preserving the memory of the transformations brought about by the war. By helping convey propaganda messages, artistic research represented a fundamental documentation of the wounds inflicted on urban centers by the war. By preserving the memory of these dramatic transformations of the architectural and social fabric, they were a useful resource in the subsequent years of reconstruction. The documentation of the war's damage – the collapse of public buildings and civilian residences, the destruction of infrastructure, and the progressive lack of services – was entrusted not only to the major arts, painting and sculpture, but also, for a more immediate and incisive form of communication, to mass-produced art, such as posters, signs, and urban installations.

The session invites proposals for interventions that, focusing on the visual relics of the First and Second World Wars, analyze the impact of war events on urban structures through the diverse range of artistic forms produced at the time.

4.11. Museums in the Postwar Era: Symbolic Architectures between Public Space and Urban Reconstruction

Convenors: Daniela Barbieri, *Musei Nazionali di Genova*; Sara Rulli, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

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The panel discussion will focus on the role played by museums in the post-World War II reconstruction of European cities, particularly in relation to the urban context, and on their profound significance as public spaces and repositories of shared memory. Despite the decades that have passed, this topic remains highly relevant and deeply complex. What were the reasons that led some cities – amidst a landscape still in ruins – to prioritize investing funds and energy in the reconstruction of museums? And where this did not happen immediately, what were the reasons behind this decision? The session will provide an opportunity to initiate a discussion and reflect on the role assigned, then and now, to the museum as an institution: from an elitist venue for study and in-depth research, it was, starting in the postwar period, reinterpreted and reimagined as a public, educational, and civic space, thus laying the foundations for the contemporary museum; at the same time, rebuilding the museum meant preserving memory and reconstructing society's collective cultural and democratic identity. In this vein, we will also examine the role played by the museum within the broader process of urban reconstruction; its nature as 'symbolic architecture' and a 'political sign' has made it – and continues to make it – a place where different strategies for processing the wounds of war are confronted: from the desire to preserve the memory of the old building through the philological reconstruction of pre-existing elements to the highlighting of the rupture through the adoption of contemporary architectural languages. It is in this context that we wish to emphasize museums as cultural hubs and part of a broader system of spatial, social, and political relationships; complex and interdisciplinary entities capable of triggering processes of urban regeneration.

4.12. Wounds and Conflicts. Italian Postwar Reconstruction through Cinema: Perspectives and Insights

Convenors: **Gemma Belli**, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*; **Ermanno Bizzarri**, *Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli*; **Andrea Maglio**, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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The reconstruction of Italian cities in the aftermath of World War II represents one of the most significant processes of urban and social transformation of the twentieth century. Between the late 1940s and the following two decades, the need to address wartime destruction intersected with rapid urbanisation, internal migration, housing shortages, and extensive building activity. On the one hand, substantial interventions were carried out in areas damaged by the conflict; on the other, new neighbourhoods and suburbs were developed, profoundly reshaping the appearance of cities and their social geographies, often generating tensions and conflicts. This session aims to explore how cinema has represented these processes, functioning not only as a means of depicting reality but also as a privileged lens through which to observe the contradictions that accompanied the emergence of the contemporary city. From the images of war-scarred cities in Neorealist films to the narratives of peripheral districts and borgate, cinema has captured the many dimensions of the Italian Reconstruction and of the country's material and social transformation. Works such as *Roma città aperta* (1945) by Roberto Rossellini and *Il tetto* (1956) by Vittorio De Sica document, respectively, the transition from war to recovery and the issue of the housing crisis; *Accattone* (1961) and *Mamma Roma* (1962) by Pier Paolo Pasolini portray the new forms of marginality emerging in Rome's suburban settlements, while *Le mani sulla città* (1963) by Francesco Rosi addresses the conflicts generated by real-estate speculation. More recently, films such as *C'è ancora domani* (2023) by Paola Cortellesi have renewed attention to the living conditions and aspirations of the immediate post-war years. Bringing together perspectives from Film History, Urban History, and Architectural History, the session seeks to reflect on the role of moving images in shaping a collective memory of the transformations that marked Italian cities during the Italian Reconstruction. Contributions are therefore invited on films that depict the Italian Reconstruction and the conflicts it generated, as well as on the capacity of cinema to make visible forms of social hardship often overlooked by official narratives, at times contributing to broader public debates on urban policies and urban development.

4.13. Urban Heritage in Ruins: Planning and Design Concepts for Historic City Centres Following Military Conflicts Since the 20th Century

Convenors: **Birgit Knauer**, *Technische Universität Wien*; **Carmen M. Enss**, *Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg*

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The destruction caused by armed conflicts presented architects and local authorities in the 20th century with a challenging task. This was to strike a balance between preservation and transformation in historic neighbourhoods through architectural and urban planning solutions. However, many city councils also sought to initiate profound transformations that continue to shape many cities to this day. Approaches ranged from historicist reconstructions and pragmatic repairs to radically modern redesigns.

New visual and cartographic sources on destruction and reconstruction have been made digitally available, and in recent years, stakeholder histories from the war and reconstruction years have been investigated in depth. These developments offer new perspectives on historical reconstruction research. Taking this as a starting point, the session will focus on place-specific planning and architectural reconstruction concepts of that period, as well as address the accompanying debates. Particular interest will be paid to the tension between continuity and new beginnings, and how this is reflected in architecture and urban planning. How was the historic building stock assessed and integrated into the plans? What strategies did architects develop when reinterpreting historical urban structures? How were architectural reconstruction, adaptation, and deliberate rupture employed? How did these plans relate to the city's self-image as projected to the outside world and to the narrative that local authorities sought to convey? Possible topics include:

- Design strategies for dealing with ruins, partial destruction and 'ruined landscapes'
- Reconstruction vs. redesign: ideological and aesthetic conflicts
- Spolia, materiality and the preservation of remains
- Theoretical reflections on 'building within the existing fabric' following destruction
- Culture of remembrance and narratives of reconstruction

We welcome submissions for papers in the fields of architecture and architectural theory, architectural history, urban planning, heritage conservation, historical building research and cultural studies. Comparative approaches, case studies and theoretical contributions are equally welcome.

4.14. The Wounds of Deindustrialization. Urban Traumas, Post-Industrial Cultures, Factory Ecologies, and New Memories of the City

Convenors: *Maggie Altinier, Independent researcher; Fosca Anita Marianna Grespi, Università di Torino; Aurora Iannello, ISMEL - Istituto per la Memoria e la Cultura del Lavoro, dell'Impresa e dei Diritti Sociali*

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Deindustrialization has represented one of the deepest and most visible ruptures in the urban history of Europe since the second half of the twentieth century: a shock that reshaped the geographies, economies, and social bodies of entire cities. From a historical perspective, it was a complex and deeply ambivalent process. On the one hand, deindustrialization constituted a wound and a trauma for the affected cities. The closure of industrial plants, the collapse of employment, demographic decline, and the crisis of working-class identity left profound economic, social, and cultural “scars” on the urban fabric.

At the same time, however, deindustrialization also contributed to reducing some of the contradictions produced by the previous phase of uncontrolled industrial expansion, thereby alleviating the social, environmental, and health-related traumas associated with large-scale industrial production - traumas that historiography cannot afford either to forget or to underestimate. Light and shadow therefore coexist within a process that remains deeply contradictory and cannot be confined to univocal interpretative categories, nor absorbed into the language of urban “regeneration” policies.

This session aims to explore deindustrialization historically as a traumatic yet contradictory urban event, analyzing its effects across multiple and interconnected dimensions: the social, economic, and demographic transformations of affected neighbourhoods and urban spaces; the political, cultural, and identity transformations linked to the decline of the large factory system; the evolution of collective memories of the factory, labour, and working-class identity after deindustrialization, as well as the memories of deindustrialization itself; the impact on the health of workers and residents in affected areas; the environmental and ecological consequences of deindustrialization; the forms and languages through which deindustrialization was represented between the 1970s and the 1990s, from punk music to literature and the visual arts; the transformations of urban fabric and industrial landscapes; the policies of reconversion of “urban voids” and their contradictions; and attempts to valorise industrial heritage and industrial tourism.

The session welcomes contributions in urban, economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental history focusing on cases of urban deindustrialization in Italy and across Europe. Its aim is to foster a comparative and interdisciplinary dialogue capable of restoring deindustrialization to its status as a complex historical event, one able to reshape cities, urban spaces, and communities across generations.

4.15. Scar Tissues. Memory, Traces and the Afterlife of Industrial Heritage in Urban Transformations

Convenors: **Valentina Pintus**, *Università degli Studi di Cagliari*; **Nino Sulfaro**, *Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria*

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Cities are shaped by cycles of growth and decline, construction and dismantling. Among the most powerful agents of urban transformation, industrialisation has profoundly shaped territories through systems of production, infrastructures, and social organisation, embedding itself deeply within historic urban fabrics. Equally, deindustrialisation has played a decisive role in redefining contemporary urban landscapes, as the disappearance of productive activities does not simply result in absence. Rather, it gives rise to an enduring 'industrial afterlife': a condition in which former sites of production continue to exist, beyond their functional, 'death' as spatial-material forms and socio-cultural memories. In other words, the afterlife of industrial landscapes is an extended temporal condition in which transformation remains ongoing and unresolved. Architectures, infrastructures, and communities persist as layered traces, shifting regimes of value and meaning, while influencing perception and inhabitation of cities. Far from disappearing, former productive sites are actively reconfigured over time through processes of transformation, oscillating between abandonment and reintegration, obsolescence and reinvention. Simultaneously regarded as burdens inherited from a difficult past and as resources for possible futures, industrial remnants are not relics of what has been, but active components of the contemporary urban landscape, material and symbolic residues through which the city continues to evolve. In this sense, they persist as forms of "scar tissue" within the urban fabric, mark of what has been damaged, but also evidence of what continues to live on. Unlike a "wound", which signals a singular moment of rupture, scar tissue embodies the persistence of transformation over time. The metaphor is therefor particularly useful for interpreting the role of industrial legacies in the contemporary cities. By framing industrial legacies through the lens of their afterlife, the session seeks to foster an interdisciplinary discussion on how cities confront the long-term consequences of deindustrialisation and negotiate the challenges of contemporary ecological, economic, and social transitions. Key themes include:

- the role of conservation in negotiating difficult and contested industrial legacies;
- experiences of conservation and management;
- memory, regeneration, and market pressures in industrial heritage design;
- values, authenticity, and integrity in post-industrial contexts;
- heritage-making processes and the patrimonialisation of productive landscapes;
- preserving, transforming, or reactivating industrial afterlives;
- industrial heritage within ecological and energy transitions.

4.16. Negotiating Difficult Pasts: Contested Heritage and Landscapes of Memory and Displacement

Convenors: Katerina Chatzikonstantinou, *University of Thessaly, Volos*; David Martin Lopez, *Universidad de Granada*

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Urban and territorial environments are shaped by layered historical processes in which memory, displacement, and social transformation are embedded in the built environment. Buildings, monuments, infrastructures, and public spaces linked to dictatorships, authoritarian regimes, wars, colonialism, migrations, and political violence form part of wider spatial systems rather than isolated artefacts. These environments evolve through redevelopment, demographic change, heritage practices, and ongoing negotiations over memory and identity. Contested heritage is understood not only as the absence of interpretive policies regarding historical places of memory that may be considered uncomfortable today, but as part of broader landscape conditions where rupture and continuity coexist. Landscapes marked by displacement and conflict remain active settings of negotiation, where inherited spatial structures intersect with contemporary urban transformation and shifting social relations.

This session examines how architectural heritage management engages with such landscapes and how they are reshaped through processes of reinterpretation, adaptation, reuse, or removal. Building on research on contested heritage and wounded urban landscapes, it extends discussion to the spatial consequences of political change, migration, and long-term urban restructuring. Attention is given to how meaning is produced across scales, from individual sites to wider urban and territorial configurations. Monuments, infrastructures, and public spaces retain material and symbolic presence, yet their interpretation is continually reshaped through everyday practices and evolving social and political contexts. Landscapes thus provide a framework through which societies engage with difficult pasts while accommodating new urban conditions.

The session invites contributions addressing how these processes are governed, interpreted, and experienced. Key questions include: How do landscapes shaped by displacement and political rupture influence contemporary urban identities? How can heritage practices engage with layered memory without simplification? What roles do architecture and landscape play in social transformation? How do migration and urban change intersect with inherited conditions of exclusion or violence? Can interventions in contested environments support recognition and repair, or do they reproduce inequalities in memory and representation?

The session welcomes interdisciplinary contributions from architecture, urban studies, heritage studies, geography, anthropology, sociology, history, landscape studies, and memory studies. Comparative and transnational approaches are encouraged. By bringing together diverse perspectives, the session aims to advance critical discussions on how landscapes of memory and displacement shape contemporary urban and territorial conditions, and how their transformation may contribute to more inclusive and critically informed spatial futures.

4.17. Dislocated Cities, Abandoned Cities. Vulnerable Territories and Neglect Places, between Oblivion, Controversial Memories, and Renewed Attention

Convenors: **Carla Bartolomucci**, *Università degli Studi dell'Aquila*; **Adalgisa Donatelli**, *Sapienza Università di Roma*; **Pedro Hurtado Valdez**, *Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola, Lima*

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This session aims to focus on those damaged places that (following natural disasters or human-induced causes) have been rebuilt elsewhere, with particular attention to what remains of the urban spaces abandoned after such relocations. Earthquakes, disasters, wars, and new urban developments have caused various (more or less) improvised displacements over time; the aim is not to address the topic from a demographic and socioeconomic perspective, but rather to reflect on what remains of these exodus phenomena. While the re-establishment of cities and towns have been the subject of various studies highlighting their urban and architectural innovations, consideration for the relict spaces still appears to be secondary, even though abandoned sites and “ghost towns” are now the focus of new interest and curiosity. In addition to the well-known and effectively museum-like cases, many places in Italy and Europe are the subject of explorations and rediscoveries that, while opening prospects for new development, also expose them to further degradation. Over time, abandonment has caused material and structural deterioration of the buildings, leading to the loss of an integrated vision of the place, but almost never of an authentic perception of the specific characteristics of the buildings. Conversely, especially in contexts hit by recent disasters, the reconstruction interventions observed thus far seem to annihilate historical and architectural values, prioritizing functional and structural needs. We are therefore faced with a paradox in which the loss of use seems to have better preserved the identity of abandoned settlements, which are nevertheless destined to disappear unless action is taken to at least limit the inevitable progression of decay. The preservation of such material testimonies today presents significant challenges, both conceptual and operational. From redevelopment projects that – by transforming villages exclusively for elite tourism – seem to deny the history of abandonment in favour of regenerating architectural and urban spaces intended for privileged uses, to the persistent conditions of disrepair and ruin (widespread in both natural and urban and peri-urban areas) that undoubtedly demonstrate appeal, but also highlight the risk of irreversible loss. The session hopes to focus attention on new possible approaches that can reconcile memory with the preservation of the materials of places to be handed down to the future.

4.18. Fragile Monumentality in the City. New Conceptions of Urban Monumentality

Convenors: **Carlos Bitrián Varea**, *Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya*; **Carmen Rodríguez Pedret**, *Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya*; **Ramon Rispoli**, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*

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This session proposal is born from the reflections held within the MoFra project (Fragile monumentality and non-institutional production of heritage in Spain. A representative catalogue, PID2023-148529NA-I00, financed by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación, Spanish Government), with the intention of opening to the scientific community the progress made and encouraging participation around its content. In accordance with the project on fragile monumentality, we believe that “a field within monumentality and heritage that still needs to be systematized. This is what we have called fragile monumentality, meaning those physical signatures and spatial fingerprints that are produced spontaneously and freely by people and social groups in order to express their own memorial messages, be those of mourning, political revindication, or an artistical expression from their sense of belonging to a specific group. Fragile monumentality, contrary to cultural heritage as it is understood traditionally, is characterized by its production on the boundaries of institutions and those social groups with access to them or in a position to condition their politics. Both of them - institutions and those groups with representation - have the privileged capacity to produce public space, even from the point of view of memory. However, reality opens cracks - through other shapes, material languages, and temporalities - achieving the space connotations with memories and messages - most of the time anonymous, spontaneous, slippery, and ephemeral. That is, fragile” (our project memory). The aim of the session is to promote reflection on this type of monumentality to help define it, to establish the types of elements that conform it and to know examples that possess it. It is especially important to obtain a global vision of the phenomenon, in order to observe the differences that, depending on the social or geographical context, may occur in relation to fragile monumentality. One aspect that seems to us necessary to deal with is the political consequences that fragile monumentality has or may have, in the conviction that it has a transformative potential that can help local communities to achieve greater levels of democracy and self-management. It is also necessary to reflect on the formal, material and constructive characteristics of this type of monumental interventions, and to raise the possibility of deriving from them an aesthetic that can be valued. In this sense, we encourage discussion on the traditional bases that support the general approach to what is beautiful and worth being preserved. The session would be open to general approaches, as well as to the search for typologies and the presentation of specific case studies, to the account of experiences of creation, management or destruction, as well as to historical studies that address the political, social and aesthetic consequences of this type of monumentality.

4.19. Narrating the Wounded City: Museums, Urban Memories, and Contested Heritage

Convenors: **Nicola Urbino**, *Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli*; **Bella Takushinova**, *Università degli Studi di Bari*; **Nadiaclara Trigari**, *Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli*

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The session invites reflection on the museum as a space where the city works through, displays, and debates its wounded memories. Situated within broader discussions on how cities are narrated and represented, it aims to examine the role of museums in all their diversity, from civic and city museums to ecomuseums and community-based institutions, in shaping narratives able to hold together fractures, silences, and conflicts that run through both the urban past and the urban present. Cities preserve material and symbolic traces of war, forced transformation, social exclusion, migration, demolition, and marginalisation, all of which weigh heavily on the ways urban history is told. Within museums, these traces reappear as documents, objects, images, testimonies, architectural remains, and narrative frameworks that call for interpretation. It is precisely within this tension that the museum emerges as a space of public mediation, where official memories, minority memories, and difficult legacies are brought into relation, debated, and at times redefined. The aim is not to produce a reconciled or unified account, but to make visible the tensions that have shaped urban identities and their heritage.

The session therefore welcomes contributions that address the museum both as a means of telling the city's story and as a cultural actor involved in heritage-making, the re-signification of places, and forms of civic participation. Particular attention will be given to cases in which museums engage with contested heritage, traumatic memories, stigmatised neighbourhoods, troubling legacies, conflicts over remembrance, and practices of caring for the past developed through participatory, digital, or multimedia languages. Relevant papers may focus on city and civic museums, ecomuseums and community museums, curatorial practices devoted to urban memory, the museum representation of violence and urban rupture, contested heritage processes, the relationship with controversial monuments, ruins, and place names, oral history, and the links between museums, public space, and citizenship. In this way, the session seeks to frame the museum as a place where the city gives narrative form to its wounds, negotiates their meaning, and experiments with critical ways of reassembling urban memory.

4.20. Representing the Wounded City. Critical Drawing, Advanced Integrated Surveying, and Interpretive Practices of Urban Space

Convenors: **Giulia Pellegrì**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Noelia Galván Desvaux**, *Universidad de Valladolid*

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The session aims to address the representation of the city as a scientific device for understanding, interpreting, and communicating urban processes. In particular, it focuses on the role of critical drawing, advanced integrated surveying, and analytical-interpretive representation systems in reading the historical, morphological, perceptual, and material layers of urban space. The proposal is based on the assumption that representation should not be understood merely as a descriptive or illustrative outcome, but rather as a genuine heuristic process, capable of revealing spatial relationships, continuities, discontinuities, vulnerabilities, traces, transformations, and conflicts embedded within the city. From this perspective, drawing acquires a critical value not only as a tool for documentation, but also as a method for selecting, abstracting, comparing, and interpreting urban data. The session welcomes contributions addressing, among others, the following topics:

- methodologies for the critical representation of the historic and contemporary city;
- advanced integrated surveying, digital documentation, photogrammetry, laser scanning, mobile mapping, and 3D modelling;
- representation of urban stratifications, continuities, and discontinuities;
- analytical, interpretive, and comparative drawing applied to the study of urban space;
- cartographic systems, GIS, urban atlases, visual databases, and information models;
- representation of material traces, surfaces, voids, edges, and vulnerable heritage;
- integration of historical sources, metric data, perceptual information, and visual devices;
- scientific visualization, heritage communication, and public engagement;
- national and international case studies concerning stratified, fragile cities or urban contexts undergoing processes of transformation.

4.21. Conflicts in Comics: Contested Spaces and Architecture in Graphic Novels

Convenors: **Fabio Colonnese**, *Sapienza Università di Roma*; **Manuela Piscitelli**, *Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli*

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Due to their innate function of concentrating heterogeneous communities in a small space, cities were often a site of more or less visible conflicts. The walls built over the centuries to divide Guelphs from Ghibellines in Tuscany, pro-Russians from pro-Americans in Berlin, or Christians from Protestants in Belfast are just the most conspicuous attempts to stem the most dramatic consequences. In the contemporary city, while walls primarily define the boundary between public and private, new conflicts are fuelled by aggressive financial, commercial, political, and tourism dynamics that disrupt social structures and urban space. In recent years, comics, in their recent evolution into illustrated literature, graphic novels, and illustrated journalism, seem to be increasingly capable of giving form and visibility to these conflicts, also thanks to an increasingly broad audience that is more and more receptive to their layered language. For decades, the city, especially the American metropolis, has been serving as the backdrop for fictional clashes between superheroes and their adversaries, eventually resulting in a sort of multifaceted and labyrinthine playground. Recently, comic book artists are exploring its forms and spaces to showcase aspects that risk remaining silent or invisible, going far beyond the practice of adapting novels and biographies.

This is the case with the effects of real estate speculation or gentrification (Thompson, Nadler, and Zawadki's *The Dregs*); the slow adaptation to the environmental paradigm (Bengana, Baechtold, and Maréchal in *Béton. Enquête en sables mouvants*); the contrast between rural and urban culture (Naoki Urasawa's *20th Century Boys*); capitalist planning (Christine and Balez's *Robert Moses*), up to the perversion of urban cloning (Gnehm's *Die kopierte Stadt*); grassroots associationism (Cyril Pedrosa's *The Equinoxes*); microstories of poverty (Will Eisner), marginalization (Chris Ware or Paolo Bacilieri), alienation (Manu Larcenet's *Blast* or Hariton Pushwagner's *Soft City*), occupation (Oesterheld and Solano López's *The Eternaut*), or dictatorship (Guy Delisle's *Pyongyang*); the patient reconstruction of individual memory (Jiro Taniguchi or Delisle's *Occupation de sols*) over time, and the evolution of collective memory (Lutes' *Berlin*) in institutionally held places, such as museums; the projection of the architect's ego, myths, and operational categories (the saga of Shuiten and Peeters's *Cité Obscures*); or the eternal conflict between the material and ideal dimensions, between the city of forms and that of symbols (Moore and Campbell's *From Hell*; Auster and Mazzucchelli's *City of Glass*; Marc-Antoine Mathieu).

This session examines the medium of comics, in all its categories and declinations, and its ability to construct incisive and critical representations of urban dynamics, conflictual phenomena, and their causes, with particular attention to the roles assumed by built environment's depictions.

4.22. Cinema and Architecture. Urban Memories and Representations of the Wounded City in Authorial Cinema

Convenors: **Lorenzo Mingardi**, *Università degli Studi di Firenze*; **Ilaria Cattabriga**, *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*

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Starting from the observation that cinema has the capacity to capture precious fragments of everyday life, revealing the ways in which built or natural, public or private spaces are experienced, the aim of the proposal is to highlight how architecture and cinema constitute complementary devices for the construction, interpretation, and narration of urban space. The former enriches the narrative meaning of the spaces of storytelling, while the latter contributes to the understanding of architecture, fostering design culture through a rich range of tools useful for investigating the layers of memories, removals, and wounds stratified within the city, as well as the symbolic conflicts that shape the construction of its identity.

Assuming as its field of study exclusively fiction cinema, namely narrative works that use the language of film to tell structured stories, the curators of the session intend to emphasise how the auteurial gaze of the film director possesses the peculiar ability to reveal the most intimate essence of filmed places, thus proposing a repertoire of moving images that can be investigated by scholars of architectural and urban history in order to better understand the spatial qualities of architecture and the narratives, or narrative potentialities, suggested by it. From this perspective, cinema may be interpreted as a tool capable of bringing to light social tensions, submerged memories, and processes of urban transformation that traditional documentary sources can only partially convey.

The contributions to the session will highlight how the poetic, emotional, and sensory capacities of fiction cinema enrich the quality of the source available to architectural scholars, stimulating new perspectives of investigation. Camera movements, narrative editing, as well as the use of light and sound, contribute to a more adequate understanding of the intersection between space, form, and architectural function. By constantly offering an auteurial reading of places, the film director allows us to understand how layers of memory and processes of resemanticisation are deposited within urban space: cinema is capable of revealing what is superficially invisible, or not yet visible, bringing to the surface contents that differ from those deducible from documentary sources.

The cinematic experience, dynamic and immersive, offers scholars a richness of information that the static nature of photographic images or the precision of architectural drawings sometimes fail to provide. The proposal therefore aims to affirm the role of fiction cinema not merely as a visual testimony of the urban past, but as a genuine interpretative device capable of redefining methodologies and tools for historical research.

4.23. Playable Cities: Urban Memories, Contested Heritage, and Digital Imaginaries across Videogames and Online Cultures

Convenors: *Giulia Conti, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia; Enrico Barbetti, Universitas Mercatorum; Rossana M. Salerno, Università degli Studi di Palermo*

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The panel explores the city as a narrative, experiential, and contested space through videogames and the digital cultures that surround them. In videogames, the city functions as an explorable environment, but also as an active actant and a narrative structure, an archive of traces, a site of identity and memorial tensions, and a space of action and performance. Streets, ruins, monuments, abandoned neighbourhoods, maps, and post-traumatic landscapes become forms through which the past is selected, rewritten, spectacularised, or critically reinterpreted.

The proposal lies at the intersection of game studies, urban studies, cultural semiotics, and heritage studies. Building on scholarship that has highlighted the centrality of space in videogames (Aarseth, 2001; Nitsche, 2008; Gazzard, 2013), the panel aims to examine how game environments construct imagined, reconstructed, or transformed cities, generating distinctive relationships with historical memory, trauma, cultural heritage, and collective identity. Videogames are particularly relevant for investigating contemporary representations of the past because they combine visibility, navigation, agency, rules, and participatory interpretation (Chapman, 2016; Salvati & Bullinger, 2013; Anderson, 2019).

The panel welcomes contributions on historical cities reconstructed in game environments; ruins and post-war landscapes; representations of wars, migration, and catastrophes; colonial or contested heritage; dystopian and post-apocalyptic cities; and open-world environments as archives of cultural memory. Particular attention will be devoted to the intersections between games and digital platforms. Forums, YouTube, Twitch, TikTok, Discord, and collaborative wikis do more than comment on videogames: they contribute to the production of collective interpretations of playable cities, transforming individual experiences into shared discursive and community practices.

Through case studies, methods, and interdisciplinary perspectives, the panel contributes to broader reflections on how divided memories, contested heritage, and historical traumas are translated into navigable environments, operative images, and interactive narratives, where the past is explored, manipulated, debated, and continuously reimagined.

4.24. Radical Cartographies: Power, Resistance and Spatial Appropriation

Convenors: Anna-Paola Pola, *CNR - Istituto di Scienze del Patrimonio Culturale*; Benedetta Di Donato, *Sapienza Università di Roma*

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Over the past two decades, the proliferation of geographic information systems (GIS), GPS technologies, remote sensing, and other geomatics tools has transformed the production and use of maps. Access to vast datasets and the ability to visualise spatial information in real time has fostered the perception that contemporary cartography can provide objective, neutral, and comprehensive representations of the world. Yet, as Donna Haraway has observed, all alleged objectivity is produced by ‘situated knowledge’, and maps are no exception. By translating complex and fluctuating social and spatial relationships into fixed, self-evident representations, maps legitimise particular understandings of territory and spatial narratives. In this sense, cartography is not merely a descriptive tool but a powerful instrument in the production and exercise of spatial power. In response to this, a wide range of approaches (labelled critical cartography, countermapping, deep mapping, ethnocartography, experimental cartography, and decolonial cartographies) has emerged to challenge the authority of institutional spatial representations and foreground alternative forms of territorial knowledge, reclaiming the right to represent territory. Situated at the intersection of scientific research, artistic practice, political enquiry, and collective action, radical cartographies often experiment with both digital and analogue media. Alongside GIS and data visualisation, they may use drawing, collage, embroidery, storytelling, assemblage, participatory mapping, and other forms of expression. However, these practices also raise a fundamental tension: can mapping genuinely challenge dominant spatial regimes, or does the act of rendering territory visible inevitably expose it to new forms of governance, surveillance, extraction, and control? This session invites contributions that explore cartography as a critical practice and offer a critical perspective on the possibilities and pitfalls of map-making. We welcome examples and case studies from urban, rural, or environmental contexts that question the relationship between cartography and power, whether historical or present-day. Particular attention will be given to mapping practices that explore the tension between resistance and incorporation, that reveal hidden geographies, contest official narratives, generate new political imaginaries, or resist to dominant techniques.

4.25. Digital Humanities for Urban History: New Methodologies for Narrating, Representing, and Interpreting the City

Convenors: **Yichi Zhang**, *Chongqing University*; **Qing Qin**, *Huazhong University of Science and Technology*

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The rapid development of digital technologies has profoundly transformed the field of urban history, offering new ways to investigate how cities are narrated, represented, remembered, and interpreted across time, particularly in relation to conflict, trauma, resilience, and contested urban memories. Digital humanities methodologies have introduced innovative approaches to the texts, archives, maps, images, and spatial materials traditionally used in historical research, while simultaneously reshaping broader epistemological understandings of how urban histories and urban memories are constructed. Moving beyond earlier emphases on political and institutional history, the application of GIS, spatial analysis, and geospatial databases has repositioned space itself as a central subject of historical inquiry. At the same time, text mining, relational databases, and network analysis have enabled large-scale investigations of urban processes, historical discourse, and the production of urban narratives. Historical maps, aerial imagery, land records, property-value data, and visual archives – combined with image recognition, deep learning, and database technologies – have increasingly emerged as new forms of historical evidence for examining contested heritage, the spatial legacies of conflict and disaster, urban memory, and changing representations of the city. These methodological transformations, however, also demand critical reflection. Does urban history necessarily require digital methodologies? To what extent do such methods generate genuinely new historical interpretations, rather than simply new forms of visualization? Can digital approaches adequately capture the contested meanings, lived experiences, and symbolic dimensions of urban places, or do standardized algorithms and quantitative data risk producing forms of data determinism that obscure historical complexity? These questions become particularly relevant when digital methods are applied to urban contexts marked by conflict, environmental crises, forced displacement, reconstruction, or contested processes of heritage-making. This session aims to explore the emerging relationship between digital humanities and urban history by examining both the possibilities and the limitations of digital methodologies in studying urban narratives, historical representations, and collective memory. It seeks not only to investigate how digital tools reshape the writing and interpretation of urban history, but also to critically reflect on whether, why, and under what conditions such transformations are meaningful. More broadly, the session asks how digital humanities methods can be productively integrated into urban historical inquiry without reducing the city to a purely computational object. Topics may include, but are not limited to

- The application of image recognition, deep learning, GIS, and database technologies in urban historical research
- New forms of archival discovery and historical evidence enabled by digital humanities methodologies
- Spatial analysis, mapping, and network-based approaches in urban history
- Digital reconstructions and visualizations of historical urban environments
- Digital approaches to urban memory and conflicts, contested heritage, and historical representation
- GIS and spatial analysis of urban crises, displacement, environmental change, and heritage transformation
- Mapping and interpreting urban narratives across texts, images, maps, and archives
- Critical reflections on and critiques of digital humanities methodologies
- Comparative studies of digital and non-digital approaches to urban historical research
- Questions of data bias, algorithmic interpretation, and epistemology in urban history
- The relationship between digital methods and lived urban experience

4.26. Architecture Journals between Historiography and the Present [Roundtable]

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How do journals of architectural history investigate the wounds of cities? In what ways do they handle the process of historicizing phenomena, and through which mechanisms do they contribute to the consolidation of memory? Can a historiographical gaze upon the past actively enter the public debate of the present? What consequences are triggered by the choice of specific monographic themes and by the positions expressed in an editorial? This proposal seeks to invite and gather around a table discussion the editors, editorial boards, scientific committees, and readers of journals of architectural history in Italy and abroad, with the aim of initiating a structured exchange on the ways in which periodical publications address the issues raised by the call for papers of the XIII AISU Congress, with particular attention to the relationship between readings of urban history and public debate. Scientific journals represent a privileged standpoint from which to observe the city, its transformations, and its fractures. The roundtable will offer an opportunity to share good practices and patterns; to discuss how each editorial team develops its own tools for analysis and communication, selects research themes, interprets the fractures of the present, and contributes to a broader public reflection on urban space and architectural heritage. The roundtable aims to compare different editorial lines, working methodologies, criteria for evaluating and selecting contributions, and modes of dialogue between specialist research and scientific dissemination. The event, promoted by the editorial team of Studi e Ricerche di Storia dell'Architettura, seeks to enhance the role of journals as sites of critical elaboration and as spaces for building networks among scholars, citizens, and cultural institutions. Its objective is to encourage an exchange of experiences and perspectives that enables the identification of convergences and differences, thereby strengthening the contribution of architectural history to the debate on the contemporary city.

MACROSESSION 5. Imagining and Experimenting with the City. Programmes, Challenges, Visions of the Future

5.1. Representing, Imagining and Performing the Contested Urban Past in Postmodern Cities

Convenors: Christos Bakalis, *University of the Aegean*; Emiliano Pettenò, *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*; Elena Schipani, *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*

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Urban spaces are not neutral repositories of form or meaning, but terrains with different layers in which several, and often, conflicting urban pasts are perpetually represented, imagined, and performed. These “conflicting” pasts extend way beyond official histories or heritage narratives; they in fact include grounded experiences of social inequalities, economic stratification, gender exclusions, marginality, vulnerability, and conflict over the access to urban spaces and environmental conditions. In this perspective, the “contested urban past” coincides with a well dynamic field of tension in which both material and symbolic meanings are constantly reworked.

This session aims to investigate how these contested urban pasts take shape through a large spectrum of representation, imagination, and performative practices. These categories include architectural and monumental forms, the design of public space, photography, street art, graffiti, slogans, as well as musical and other performative interventions in urban space. All of these forms are considered key analytical, and expressive, mediums capable of both documenting and actively (re)constructing urban imaginaries.

A crucial concern of this session is the interaction between production and reception: how are these contested urban pasts represented, imagined, and performed, and how are they perceived, interpreted, and experienced by inhabitants, users, and visitors of a city? This dual perspective allows to analyse of urban space not only as a space of inscription, but also as the arena of an embodied and contextualized urban experience, in which meanings are constantly negotiated through the everyday practices of inhabiting, moving through, looking at the city. Contributions may further explore how these dynamics dialogue with the issues of gentrification, touristification, and urban planning, as well as with the selective visibility or marginalization of both groups or histories. This session welcomes empirical, comparative, and theoretical interdisciplinary approaches from urban history, economic and cultural geography, heritage studies, urban and performance studies, architecture, and visual and photography studies, with a particular concern for cities marked by deep and persistent social, political and environmental conflicts.

5.2. Sites Resisting Categorization: Artistic, Grassroot and Curatorial Practices in/on/with Exhausted Urban Infrastructures

Convenors: Ines Moreira, *Centro de Estudos Arnaldo Araújo, Porto*; Beatriz Duarte, *Universidade de Porto*

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This session departs from wounded infrastructural sites, understood as hybrid urban formations where technical systems, built environments, ecological succession, collective memories, and informal public use remain unsettled. These include abandoned or obsolete 20th century industrial spaces, demilitarized enclosures, contaminated lands, failed construction sites, rainwater basins, and other anthropogenic landscapes.

Former systems have been interrupted, emptied, damaged or suspended, while interstices left by abandonment may become new ecological, social and relational formations. Often described as vacant, degraded, residual, latent or expectant, these sites are marked by ambiguity, latency and unstable urban value (Solà-Morales, 1995; Jorgensen and Keenan, 2012). Each carries a specific urban history of construction, use, interruption and abandonment, whose traces, conflicts and ecological legacies invite new historiographical and methodological approaches. Exhausted infrastructures are sites where damage and possibility coexist, condensing histories of violence, dispossession and unfinished claims alongside unexpected forms of life and seeds for other ways of inhabiting the urban (Stoetzer, 2022).

Drawing on urban history, critical spatial practice, infrastructural critique, ecocritical and ecofeminist thought, the session focuses on artistic, curatorial, pedagogical and grassroots practices engaging critically with these sites of trauma and transition. We invite contributions working with damage, memory, ecology, care and future-making, while resisting the spectacularisation of ruin. Future-making is understood beyond abstract urban visions, as a situated practice for testing uses, protocols, governance, maintenance and public interpretation. Such practices may turn exhausted sites into common spaces, collectively produced through use, negotiation and shared imagination (Stavrides, 2019).

We are interested in methods that work with and care for gaps, silences, residues and traces through curatorial projects, counter-archives, living archives, fieldwork pedagogies, ecological witnessing, performative walks, commoning practices and storytelling, approaching the city as a laboratory. Care is treated as a material and political obligation, demanding sustained engagement with damaged sites (Krasny, 2019).

The session asks: how altered sites, ruderal ecologies, material remains, provisional occupations, community memories, infrastructural systems and more-than-human presences can become media through which urban exhaustion is read, debated and transformed? What forms of urban action can embrace disturbance, loss and uncertainty while allowing other urban futures to be tested in place? How can artistic, curatorial and grassroots practices make visible the conflicts, memories, ecologies and social claims embedded in exhausted infrastructures, while testing forms of use, care and imagination through which other urban futures become possible?

5.3. European Cities in Crisis: Negotiating the Future through Civic Action in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

Convenors: *Jasna Mariotti, Queen's University Belfast; Kadri Leetmaa, University of Tartu; Gianni Talamini, Aalto University, Helsinki*

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Across Europe and globally, cities are once again being shaped by a complex and unstable geopolitical landscape, marked by the return of a large-scale conflict. The renewed emphasis on defence infrastructure is reconfiguring how urban spaces are imagined, governed and experienced. Such framings are also reshaping cities into sites of control and resilience where spatial priorities are aligned with global uncertainties. In this context, interruption is not episodic, but a structuring condition of urban life. It is also a process that simultaneously produces new spatial models, with urban wounds as sites of new urban conditions (Susser & Schneider, 2003). The interrupted city is thus characterised with the coexistence of destruction and reconstruction and its central role in shaping spatial order. This session will examine how moments of interruption – environmental, economic, social, cultural or political – shape urban trajectories and challenge narratives of spatial continuity. Drawing on contributions from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, it will situate interruption not as a temporal event, but as a mediated condition (Hirst, 2005; Amin, 2015; Petrescu and Trogal, 2017). In this context, the session seeks to engage with an interdisciplinary dialogue on the practices of resistance in the built environment, emphasising the everyday dimensions of urban life under conditions of uncertainty. These practices reveal how residents, communities and civic actors navigate instability while actively producing forms of spatial organisation and political agency, challenging responses to interruption and offering insight into urban resilience. We invite contributions that critically engage with the concept of interruption across diverse geographical contexts. Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- the role of crisis in shaping urban form
- civic responses to disruption and practices of active citizenship
- ways in which civic actions and initiatives challenge top-down responses to crisis
- the reconfiguration of public space under conditions of uncertainty

By bringing these perspectives together, the session aims to foreground interruption as a productive force in urban transformation and will examine how urban futures are negotiated, contested and imagined.

5.4. Reviving the Urban: Civic-Academic Collaboration in Post-Conflict Cities of SWANA

Convenors: Parnian Nemati, *Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi, Ankara*; Nima Tabrizi, *TU Delft*

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Cities across Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA) are key sites where the consequences of armed conflict, political upheaval, environmental crises, displacement, and infrastructural collapse are negotiated. Urban wounds extend beyond physical destruction; they inflict severe trauma, causing social dislocation and the loss of collective memory. Post-conflict recovery frequently sparks deep friction between top-down emergency governance, securitised planning, and cultural heritage preservation in the shadow of rapid repair. These intersecting pressures reshape social relations, governance structures, and the everyday practices through which urban life and historical spaces are sustained. While recovery is often approached through rigid reconstruction and development agendas, increasing attention is paid to collaborative, experimental urban interventions. Urban Living Labs (ULLs) and intersectoral collaborations have emerged as initiatives where researchers, public authorities, civil society, local communities and private actors jointly engage in the co-production of knowledge and the testing of innovative responses to complex challenges. In cities affected by conflict and crisis, such initiatives offer opportunities for problem-solving, rebuilding trust, fostering participation, and reimagining urban futures. This session examines the potential and limitations of civic-academic collaborations in reviving the urban and fostering transformative resilience in SWANA. It explores how knowledge institutions can move beyond traditional roles as observers to become active participants in addressing urban fragmentation, social inequalities, contested governance and the long-term consequences of violence and displacement. The session also encourages critical reflection on the political dimensions of such collaborations, including questions of power, representation, inclusion, and the production of knowledge in fragile environments. We prioritize contributions showing how civic-academic collaborations actively restore urban agency, strengthen local capacities, and generate alternative visions for cities affected by conflict and crisis. We invite papers offering both theoretical and empirical insights, as well as reflections from practitioners engaged in urban experimentation, heritage conservation, and community-based initiatives. Suggested topics:

- Civic-academic collaboration and the co-production of urban knowledge.
- Urbicide, spatial violence, and their social and political consequences.
- Displacement, migration, and the negotiation of urban belonging.
- Participatory governance, collaborative planning, grassroots innovation and community-led initiatives in post-crisis environments.
- Intersectionality, spatial justice and inclusive approaches to urban recovery.
- Heritage reconstruction, memory practices, and contested urban identities.
- Urban Living Labs as instruments of recovery, resilience, and urban transformation.
- Universities as active urban actors in post-conflict recovery

5.5. Governing the Historic City. Decision-Making Mechanisms in UNESCO World Heritage Sites between Regulation and Negotiation

Convenors: **Alessio Re**, *Fondazione Santagata per l'Economia della Cultura*; **Silvia Campailla**, *Comune di Genova*

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Historic cities inscribed on the UNESCO List offer a privileged vantage point on the governance of contemporary urban space, functioning as arenas where regulatory instruments, negotiation mechanisms, participatory practices and economic enhancement strategies converge.

Inscription on the World Heritage List sets in motion forms of multilevel governance in which institutions, private actors, communities and international bodies share responsibility for safeguarding heritage. Within this framework, Management Plans serve both as a steering instrument and as the product of negotiated processes, giving measurable form to the work of protection and enhancement. Because they carry no binding force, their effectiveness rests on their capacity to mobilize actors, on their grounding in prescriptive planning instruments, and on their ability to align institutions, private parties and citizens around shared objectives.

The session takes as its starting point the case of “Genoa: Le Strade Nuove and the System of the Palazzi dei Rolli” – a site that in 2026 marked the twentieth anniversary of its inscription with an updated Management Plan for 2026-2030 – before extending the discussion to other comparable contexts.

Our aim is to examine how responsibility for heritage comes to be distributed among multiple stakeholders, within the relationship between formal government and negotiated governance. It is from this standpoint that the session addresses a set of closely connected themes: public-private partnerships, cultural and tourism-related enhancement, impacts on communities and local development, and the instruments available for protecting tangible heritage, together with their effectiveness in the changing fabric of historic cities.

We particularly welcome comparative perspectives on other Italian and international UNESCO sites, analyses of conflict and negotiation across institutional levels, and research on evaluation tools and participatory processes.

The session approaches the governance of UNESCO sites as a testing ground for the forms that urban government now takes: less reliant on regulatory constraint, more dependent on the capacity to forge agreements among institutions, economic actors and communities – a condition that produces new tensions and new balances within the urban fabric.

5.6. Transforming Historic Buildings into Museums: Restoration Projects and New Narratives

Convenors: **Veronica Ghizzi**, *Musei civici di Mantova*; **Keoma Ambrogio**, SABAP per la Città metropolitana di Bologna e le province di Modena, Reggio Emilia e Ferrara; **Monica Preti**, *Fondazione Pistoia Musei*

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The presence within the urban fabric of abandoned, damaged, or functionally obsolete historic buildings represents a particular form of “wound” in the historic city. This is not merely a material rupture – caused by physical decay, traumatic events, loss of use, or the interruption of the practices that once gave meaning to these places – but also a break in the continuity of relationships between architecture, communities, and collective memory.

The recovery and transformation of these spaces into museums, cultural institutions, or places open to public use are therefore complex processes, in which conservation and design, preservation and new functions must engage in dialogue. Adaptive reuse does not necessarily imply the healing or erasure of the wound; rather, it may provide an opportunity to preserve and reinterpret its traces, transforming the monument from a testimony of loss into an active element of the contemporary city.

Through case studies from across Italy, this session aims to explore the different ways in which historic sites marked by abandonment, destruction, disuse, or processes of marginalization have been recovered and reintegrated into new cultural and social networks. Its goal is to reflect not only on the architectural outcomes of these interventions, but also on the processes through which wounded heritage is selected, interpreted, and returned to the community.

Particular attention will be devoted to the relationship between the memory of the wound and the construction of new urban meanings: to what extent does the transformation of a historic building into a museum or cultural space allow the complex history of these places to remain visible and intelligible? And when, on the contrary, does recovery risk producing a new image that softens or erases the traces of trauma, abandonment, and the transformations these sites have undergone?

5.7. (Re)interpreted Cities: The Role of Pseudohistorical and Pseudoarchaeological Theories in the Construction of Urban Memory

Convenors: **Federico Cammarota**, *Musei Civici di Treviso*; **Chiara Maria Marchetti**, *Independent researcher*

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The session aims to analyze the role of pseudohistorical and pseudoarchaeological theories in the processes of constructing urban memory. The investigation is situated within a historical framework, examining alternative interpretations of the past, with particular reference to the period following the standardization of the scientific method between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The city is understood as a stratified historical organism in which, from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century, narratives grounded in scientific methods and imaginative reinterpretations have coexisted and adapted to different cultural and political contexts. These reinterpretations, although divergent, have significantly contributed to the shaping of urban identities. Pseudohistorical and pseudoarchaeological theories are not considered exclusively contemporary phenomena, but rather recurring modes of interpreting the past, present in different historical periods. The analysis adopts a comparative and diachronic approach, with the aim of identifying continuities and transformations in the ways historical knowledge is constructed and transmitted. From this perspective, the session seeks to investigate how such narratives contribute to the re-elaboration of urban memory, producing images of the city that stand in tension with historiographical reconstruction. The analysis extends to the age of artificial intelligence, understood as a new context for the production and dissemination of discourse on the past, while maintaining an approach grounded in historical-critical criteria. Alongside the historical-cultural dimension, the session also addresses the legal implications related to the construction and regulation of narratives about the past. In particular, it examines how, in European history, political authorities have controlled the production and circulation of historical knowledge through norms, censorship, and systems for the validation of sources. These processes have contributed to defining different regimes of public truth. Within this framework, pseudohistorical and pseudoarchaeological narratives can be interpreted as “wounds” in urban memory: simplifications or distortions that affect the documentary complexity of the city and introduce unverifiable representations.

5.8. The Landscape That Heals the Wound. Open Space and Shared Memory in the Contemporary City

Convenors: **Flavia Pastò**, *Politecnico di Milano*; **Alessandro Brunelli**, *Università degli Studi di Ferrara*

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The session aims to reflect on the role of landscape design and open space in the construction of shared memories related to traumatic events that have deeply marked the contemporary city: wars, terrorism, political violence, environmental catastrophes, industrial disasters, and conflict-driven urban transformations. In urban contexts that are increasingly plural in terms of language, culture, religion, and social belonging, traditional processes of monumentalization and heritage-making often risk producing selective, celebratory, or exclusionary narratives, unable to represent the complexity of contemporary communities. The proposal seeks to investigate how landscape design can instead activate accessible, democratic, and inclusive forms of collective memory. Natural elements and spatial devices – topography, water, vegetation, light, materials, paths, and urban voids – take on, in many contemporary interventions, the role of a universal and immediately legible language, capable of giving voice to the expressive dimension of matter and to the traces of trauma, transforming wounded places into public spaces for civic elaboration and identity-building. Landscape is therefore understood not merely as a decorative or mitigating component, but as a true narrative and memorial infrastructure. The session also intends to examine the relationship between the bodily experience of space, everyday practices of inhabitation, and the construction of urban memory, focusing on the role of open space as a place of transit, relationship, and collective recognition. From this perspective, nature and the design of public space can contribute to the re-signification of traumatic traces and wounded urban fragments, fostering processes of symbolic and social healing. The session welcomes theoretical, historical, and design-oriented contributions dedicated to contemporary urban memorials, landscapes of trauma, practices of re-signifying post-industrial, war-related, or disaster-stricken spaces, as well as reflections on processes of heritage-making and identity construction within public space. Particular attention will be devoted to both Italian and international case studies capable of showing how landscape design can contribute to the construction of shared and transcultural memories in the contemporary city.

5.9. Wounded Margins between Land and Water: Memory, Heritage, and Representation in Coastal and Island Landscapes

Convenors: **Claudia Pirina**, *Università degli Studi di Udine*; **Francesca Mugnai**, *Università degli Studi di Firenze*

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This session seeks to investigate coastal and insular territories through the interplay between the built environment, ecological systems, and collective memory, considering the relationship between land and water as both a generator of settlement forms and cultural constructions, and as a condition of vulnerability. From this perspective, islands are understood as lands within the sea, nodes within a dynamic and exposed territorial continuum, where the boundaries between the natural and the artificial are constantly renegotiated and fractured. Coastal and island territories constitute complex and stratified systems in which architecture, infrastructure, productive landscapes, and historic settlements form a diffuse heritage shaped by long-term processes. Today, these systems are undergoing rapid transformations driven by the abandonment and erosion of local practices, as well as by processes of economic restructuring and tourism-led development that generate new modes of spatial use and representation. These dynamics are further compounded by the impacts of climate change, which affect the resilience of territories – slopes in island environments and edges in lagoon and coastal systems – challenging ground stability and producing both material and symbolic wounds. Within this framework, architecture is called upon to engage with the critical preservation of heritage, increasingly subject to competing narratives and contested claims among local communities, global economies, and territorial policies. The session proposes to interpret territories situated between land and water as design ecosystems marked by unresolved tensions, where architecture acts as a mediating practice between natural processes and forms of inhabitation. This perspective is complemented by a further line of inquiry focused on representational devices – maps, atlases, design narratives, and literary accounts – understood as interpretative tools capable of making visible otherwise hidden flows (sediments, waters, practices, mobilities) while simultaneously selecting, concealing, or emphasizing forms of damage, exploitation, and abandonment. Within this framework, coasts and islands emerge as spaces of symbolic and spatial contestation in which competing paradigms confront one another: conservation versus transformation, infrastructural development versus ecological regeneration, anthropocentric visions versus ecocentric approaches. The session ultimately aims to explore the role of architecture in redefining the relationship between land and water as both a cultural and narrative practice, capable of shaping new imaginaries and forms of habitability for contemporary coastal and island territories.

5.10. Architecture of Extremes I. Bodies, Biopolitics, and New Conditions of Living in Changing Climates

Convenors: **Beatrice Moretti**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Giorgia Aquilar**, *Whitecliffe University of Applied Sciences, Berlin*; **Giovanni Carli**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

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In recent decades, scholarship in architecture and urban research has increasingly shifted its attention toward territories traditionally considered marginal, inaccessible, or exceptional. Climate change, geopolitical instability, resource depletion, and social fragmentation have transformed several regions of the world into contexts in which ecological, sociopolitical, and infrastructural transformations challenge conventional forms of inhabitation and urbanization. This session proposes to examine what we call the “architecture of extremes,” understood as the continuous negotiation among bodily limits and biopolitics, survival and resilience, vulnerability and the redefinition of living. Rather than focusing solely on the exceptionality of these conditions, the session frames the architecture of extremes as part of a longer history of imaginaries, practices, and habits that connect individual and collective memories, everyday experiences, and future possibilities. In this session the theme of the architecture of extremes is addressed through the lens of architectural and urban design in contexts shaped by climate change, resource exploitation, and geopolitical dynamics – factors that are redefining the balance of fragile zones and the communities that inhabit them. Within this perspective, several extreme environments – seas and oceans, deserts, forests, high terrains, extraction sites, mobility landscapes, etc. – will be understood as “ultimate lands”: strategic spaces for sustainable resource management and the reconfiguration of contemporary infrastructures, but also as sites where the effects of climate-induced displacement and the emerging geographies of human mobility become manifest. We invite contributions from scholars in urban and architectural history, architectural design, urban studies, geography, heritage, social sciences, and related disciplines. The aim is to investigate the architecture of extremes through historical cases, contemporary transformations, and comparative perspectives across different regions and temporalities.

5.11. Architecture of Extremes II. Contested Territories, Affective Landscapes, and Urban Futures

Convenors: **Elisabetta Canepa**, *Università degli Studi di Genova*; **Elisa Dainese**, *School of Architecture - Georgia Tech*

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In recent decades, scholarship in architecture and urban research has increasingly shifted its attention toward territories traditionally considered marginal, inaccessible, or exceptional. Climate change, geopolitical instability, resource depletion, and social fragmentation have transformed several regions of the world into contexts in which ecological, sociopolitical, and infrastructural transformations challenge conventional forms of inhabitation and urbanization. This session proposes to examine what we call the “architecture of extremes,” understood as the continuous negotiation among bodily limits and biopolitics, survival and resilience, vulnerability and the redefinition of living. Rather than focusing solely on the exceptionality of these conditions, the session frames the architecture of extremes as part of a longer history of imaginaries, practices, and habits that connect individual and collective memories, everyday experiences, and future possibilities. This session explores urban transformations in contested territories, where socioeconomic pressures and geopolitical challenges bring community-forming memories into tension with future-oriented imaginaries. We aim to discuss how architecture in extreme conditions shapes spatial practices, social relations, and affective landscapes, understood here in terms of attachment, care, and belonging. Case studies may include, among others, processes of reparation following internal separation in historically layered cities confronting systemic and epochal crises, as well as emerging geographies whose extreme conditions and adaptive modes of inhabitation offer paradigmatic insights into situated urban alternatives. Together, these cases highlight practices of community-based governance and local activism which open up to investigations on the relation between architectural interventions, the meaning of vernacular traditions, and the need for place attachment in future urban scenarios into dialogue. We invite contributions from scholars in urban and architectural history, architectural design, urban studies, geography, heritage, social sciences, and related disciplines. The aim is to investigate the architecture of extremes through historical cases, contemporary transformations, and comparative perspectives across different regions and temporalities.

5.12. Urban Voids and Architectural Design: Re-Signifying the Contemporary City (1945-Present)

Convenors: **Federico Gracola**, *Università degli Studi di Firenze*; **Mattia Cocozza**, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*; **Fabrizio D'Angelo**, *Università degli Studi Roma Tre*

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Demolitions, decommissionings, and sudden interruptions in the urban fabric: the void that occasionally breaks into city textures is never merely the absence of architecture. Rather, it is a spatial condition inherently charged with symbolic stratifications, sedimented memories, and latent design potentials. For this reason, throughout urban history, the void never remains as such for long: it demands the action of design, making it necessary, at times even urgent. At the core of this proposal is the investigation of the crucial moment when a space emptied of meaning is rescued from its state of suspension and apparent indifference to become a “place” once again. This transition can be considered complete when the architectural or urban project does not simply fill a physical absence, but rather enacts an operation of resignification, restoring to that space a recognizable presence, a shared value, and a form capable of taking root in the city’s collective imagination. Taking the period from the post-WWII era to the present as its chronological horizon (1945-present), this session aims to explore – through historical, critical, and methodological perspectives – the role of architectural and urban design in the processes of resignification of voids in the contemporary city. From post-war reconstruction to the transformations of the industrial city, up to the conversion and urban regeneration practices that have characterized recent decades, the void has emerged as one of the primary arenas for the confrontation between memory, identity, and urban transformation. The session welcomes contributions dedicated to case studies, works, authors, urban policies, and design processes, as well as reflections on the interpretative tools and methodologies used to investigate the role of architecture in meaning-making. The object of investigation is the project as a device for the resignification of the void: the moment when suspended space becomes place once again, redefining, through architecture, the relationships between memory, identity, and urban transformation.

5.13. Beyond the City's Anatomical Body. Urban Trauma and the Lived Body

Convenors: **Francesco K.B. Simi**, *Universidade de Coimbra*; **Alberta Piselli**, *Sapienza Università di Roma*; **Camilla Sette**, *Università dell'Aquila*

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Whoever passes through a wounded place often feels its weight – a silence, a presence that lingers: a knowledge without words. It is an atmosphere: a spatially diffused affective quality that touches us before any representation (the phenomenology of atmospheres by Schmitz, Böhme, and Griffero; affect studies; the geography of affects). It is one of the forms in which trauma returns: a tonality – or *Stimmung* – that invests the body. More than a sign to be deciphered, it is a dynamic that alters the movement, gestures, and posture of subjects. Trauma resides in what, about an event, exceeds the capacity to attribute meaning to it at the very moment it occurs. This is why it returns (Caruth), as an impact never converted into transmissible experience: an *Erlebnis* that does not become *Erfahrung* (Benjamin). When a wound finds no words, the urban trace – ruin, void, fracture in the built environment – becomes its repository. What bears its mark is the lived body of the city – space inhabited and charged with meaning, more than its plan or its built volume. But its status is never fixed: it depends on the practice of the bodies that encounter it (de Certeau), so that a monument can fall into invisibility (Musil) or supervene as a *lieu* in place of a dormant milieu (Nora). The ruin radiates trauma more than it signifies it. The task, then, is to shift analysis from a logic of repression to one of transformation. A wound persists and continues to inhabit the present; what changes is the way we listen to it – from mute invasion to an image that challenges us. This is the choice that every reconstruction faces – philological cancellation of the ‘as it was where it was,’ which represses and silences, versus the scar made visible and turned into material for imagination. For this reason, removal dampens an atmosphere as well as a sign, and successful transformation is also an atmospheric modulation: turning a mute laceration into a traversable space that remains eloquent. Possible lines of inquiry:

- Post-war and post-earthquake reconstructions between erasure and transformation. Persistences, residues, excesses that continue to ‘haunt’ the urban landscape.
- Ruins, urban voids, counter-monuments, and ‘negative’ memorials as devices for the memory of trauma. Walking practices, observation, narration: tools for interpreting their traces.
- Affectivity and wounded places: how space acts on bodies (atmospheres, affect studies, geography of affects), and how encounters and interventions modulate its tonality.
- Urban archaeologies: excavation, stratigraphy, latent presences in the built environment.

5.14. Geographies of Absence. The Void as a Form of Memory and Forgetting in the Wounded City

Convenors: **Maria Rosaria Vitale**, *Università degli Studi di Catania*; **Francesco Mazzucchelli**, *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*

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Wittgenstein asked: “How many houses or streets does it take before a town begins to be a town?” We may reverse the question: how many houses, how many streets, how many inhabitants, which practices and which memories must disappear for a place to become unrecognisable to those who inhabit or traverse it? And what remains when the transformation of space produces not only ruins, but also gaps, voids and absences that compromise its legibility? The session examines the geographies of absence as spatial, discursive and political configurations generated by destruction, abandonment, substitution, removal, and the semantic erosion of traces. While war represents an extreme manifestation of these dynamics, such processes also cut across other forms of urban transformation: depopulation, deindustrialised areas, gentrification, speculative demolition, interrupted infrastructures, contaminated territories, disasters, and removed or invisible heritage. The central theme is the void, understood as an active form of signification. Ruins, rubble, gaps, terrain vague, abandoned buildings, monuments and demolished neighbourhoods are not to be considered merely material remains of loss, but sites through which space continues to produce meaning even when what once signified has been removed, replaced or rendered opaque. The void does not merely interrupt urban continuity: it reorganises relations, altering practices of use, paths, belongings and forms of recognition. The void may be commemorated (or become an instrument of commemoration), but also administered; it may render violence visible, but also conceal it; it may open up a critical space, but also be neutralised by other narratives (urban, institutional, political, commercial, etc.); it may condense competing memories and conflicting interpretations or configure itself as a space of silence, removal and the unsaid, becoming a device for the production and contestation of urban space. Contributions are welcome on urban voids, ruins, removed heritage, forms of memorialisation based on absence, artistic practices of subtraction, processes of erasure and re-semantisation, or other wounds of the urban landscape in which spatial transformation produces unequal regimes of memory, forgetting, legitimisation and obliteration.

5.15. Reconstructing the Wounded City: Neuroarchitecture, Memory and Immersive Approaches to Post-Traumatic Urban Futures

Convenors: **Maria Beltran-Rodriguez**, *Universidad de Diseño, Innovación y Tecnología (UDIT)*; **Olena Oliynyk**, *National Union of Architects of Ukraine*; **Julio A. Soria-Lara**, *Universidad Politecnica de Madrid*

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Cities affected by war, natural disasters, forced displacement, or prolonged social crises face challenges that go beyond physical reconstruction. Urban trauma reshapes not only buildings and infrastructures, but also collective memory, emotional attachment, perception, and everyday experiences of space. In this context, processes of reconstruction increasingly require interdisciplinary approaches capable of addressing both the material and experiential dimensions of the city.

This sessions proposes a discussion on emerging methodologies for studying and imagining post-traumatic urban futures through the intersection of neuroarchitecture, immersive technologies, urban studies, and participatory design. The session aims to critically explore how tools such as virtual environments, digital twins, biometric evaluation, and sensory analysis may contribute to understanding the cognitive and emotional impact of urban environments affected by conflict, rupture, or disaster.

Particular attention will be given to the relationship between urban reconstruction, memory, wellbeing, and perception, as well as to the ethical implications of technologically mediated approaches to the “wounded city.” The session will bring together researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds to discuss how immersive and neurophysiological methodologies may open new perspectives for evaluating urban experience, supporting participatory processes, and rethinking reconstruction beyond purely functional or infrastructural responses.

The proposal is connected to ongoing European collaborative research exploring urban trauma, perception, and immersive methodologies in post-conflict and post-disaster contexts. Rather than presenting finalized results, the session seeks to open an interdisciplinary dialogue on future research directions, methodological challenges, and new forms of understanding the relationship between cities, crisis, and human experience.

5.16. Living the Unproductive. Bodies Beyond the Norm and Spaces Beyond the Paradigm of Performance

Convenors: **Caterina Padoa Schioppa**, *Sapienza Università di Roma*; **Giuseppina Scavuzzo**, *Università degli Studi di Trieste*

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Drawing upon the historical and contemporary experiences of individuals deemed unproductive – the elderly, the disabled, care recipients, and non-normative inhabitants – this session seeks to critically interrogate urban models predicated on extractivism, performance, and the economic valorization of space, thereby exploring practices and modes of dwelling that exceed such paradigms. One of the open wounds of the contemporary city is the progressive marginalization of the unproductive: of inoperoseness, waiting, dependency, care, infirmity, slowness, and dwelling that is not oriented toward consumption. From the city operating as a tourist machine to the home treated as a financial asset, from stations and airports transformed into commercial spaces to the commodification of leisure, unproductive spaces and times appear increasingly compressed. Driven at times by regenerative intents, urban capitalism tends to subsume bodies and places under the logic of efficiency and performance, reducing vague terrains, imprecise uses, and forms of habitability that are not immediately productive. Yet, the landscape suggests the generative potential of the unproductive: the fallow, understood as a period of rest, constitutes a phase of fermentation and transformation whose significance transcends the mere preparation for new productive cycles. Much like the bodies deemed unproductive, certain urban spaces and landscapes also elude the logic of performance maximization and economic valorization, revealing alternative forms of habitability, relationship, and interdependence. Unproductive space and time par excellence – the sacred, the ritualistic, and the contemplative – have historically represented, and continue to represent, essential apparatuses for the construction and preservation of social networks. The figures deemed unproductive do not, therefore, merely constitute a marginal condition to be included; rather, they offer a privileged vantage point from which to critically interrogate the landscapes and architectures of the modern and contemporary city. What collective wounds have these subjects made visible, and continue to make visible? What alternative models – both historical and current – have they suggested? What spaces remain habitable for those who do not produce? Is it possible to formulate a theory of dwelling that takes seriously what urban capitalism dismisses as unproductive? The session invites contributions of a historical, theoretical, and operational nature aimed at critically investigating the paradigm of performance. We welcome proposals that explore – though are by no means limited to – the historical genealogies of the critique of performance, the forms and practices of non-conforming dwelling, unproductive landscapes, and spaces of waiting, care, and inoperoseness.

5.17. Wounded Environment, Bodies under Threat: Interdisciplinary Dialogues between History of Architecture, Urban History, Medicine and Environment

Convenors: **Pilar M. Guerrieri**, *Politecnico di Milano*; **Fabio Mosca**, *Università degli Studi di Milano*

Email: pilar.guerrieri@polimi.it; fabio.mosca@unimi.it

In recent years, environmental, climatic and health crises have brought the relationship between cities, health and inequalities back to the centre of public and academic debate. The session proposes to reflect on the “wounded city” as an interpretative category capable of bringing together urban history, architecture, environment and medicine, investigating the ways in which urban space has historically produced – and continues to produce – conditions of risk, vulnerability and exclusion, but also possibilities for care and regeneration.

Through a historical-critical and interdisciplinary perspective, the session aims to gather contributions addressing the relationship between health and urban form, healthcare infrastructures, environmental crises, pollution, heat islands, epidemics, marginality and territorial inequalities, linking historical case studies with contemporary conditions. Particular attention will be devoted to the ways in which architecture and urban planning have, over time, shaped devices of prevention, control, assistance and wellbeing, from lazarettos and modern hospitals to recent reflections on urban health and the urban exposome.

A specific area of interest will also concern large metropolitan areas and contemporary megacities, where density, environmental pressure, social vulnerability and climate change make the contradictions of the contemporary city particularly evident. Air pollution, land consumption, lack of green spaces, climate risk, unequal access to services and new forms of urban fragility today represent crucial issues for understanding the relationship between the built environment, health and quality of life on a global scale.

The session also seeks to open a broader reflection on new directions in historical and architectural research in the face of contemporary urban crises, questioning the role of history in understanding ongoing environmental transformations and in imagining new forms of cities that are more equitable, resilient and attentive to quality of life.

AGORA

6.1. Public Engagement Initiatives

Convenors: Marco Folin, *Università degli Studi di Genova*

Email: genova2027@aisuinternational.net

For the first time, and on an experimental basis, the AISU congress invites proposals for non-academic activities and initiatives, developed with a focus on public history. Proposals may take a wide range of formats, provided they are methodologically sound and rigorously conceived: lectures, talks, screenings, performances, exhibitions, and installations are all welcome. Early-stage proposals are also encouraged and may be further developed and refined in collaboration with the organizers. A dedicated time slot (approximately 6:00-8:00 pm) will be reserved for selected proposals, which will be presented in public venues and will be open to a broader audience. In light of the experimental nature of this initiative, the organizers reserve the right to discuss and adjust proposals with applicants in accordance with spatial and logistical constraints.

Guidelines for Applicants

- AISU is not able to provide financial support for the proposed initiatives. **All organizational costs must therefore be borne by the proponents**, who may nevertheless rely on the full logistical support of the Congress organizers. The Congress is currently seeking sponsorship, although such support cannot be guaranteed.
- The spaces allocated to the initiatives will be determined by the organizers according to the number and nature of the selected proposals. In the case of non-conventional initiatives (such as performances, installations, screenings, exhibitions, etc.), proponents are kindly requested to describe as precisely as possible their space requirements and any other technical or organizational needs necessary for the successful implementation of the initiative.
- To submit a proposal: <https://aisuinternational.org/en/genova-2027-agera/>.

6.2. Urban Voids: Memory, Traces and Becoming [Exhibition]

Convenors: Amandine Dargaud, UMR5600 Environnement Ville Société (EVS), Lyon

Email: amandine.dargaud@ube.fr

Within the framework of The Wounded City, this call invites proposals for materials, works, projects, and reflections that will become part of an exhibition dedicated to urban voids, understood as both tangible and elusive manifestations of urban wounds. Cities bear the material and symbolic traces of conflicts, crises, erasures, displacements, and transformations that continuously reshape their spaces and meanings. Among these traces, voids occupy a singular position: they materialize absence. Far from being entirely empty or inactive, urban voids can reveal the traces of fractures and wounds within the urban fabric. The exhibition proposes to explore how absence becomes materially, visually, and sensorially perceptible in urban space. Urban voids may emerge in the aftermath of wars, demolitions, catastrophes, infrastructural decline, political violence, or more ordinary dynamics of neglect and disappearance. They may take the form of vacant lots, ruins, erased neighborhoods, abandoned infrastructures, ghost landscapes, or spatial discontinuities. The exhibition seeks to interrogate how absence can be represented, mapped, materialized, or sensed. How does a city register what is no longer there? How do traces of erased lives, demolished architectures, interrupted memories, or invisible populations continue to inhabit the urban fabric? What forms can make visible the spatial presence of absence, as well as the wounds inscribed in urban landscapes? Based on an understanding of voids as both loss and potentiality, the exhibition considers the void not simply as lack, but as an opening: a space where memory, new interpretations, and new forms may emerge. Urban voids are thus approached simultaneously as scars and as possibilities. The exhibition welcomes contributions exploring these themes through a wide range of media and methodologies, including photography, video, sound recordings, cartography, archives, installations, artistic works, participatory practices, and other visual and documentary languages. Contributions may document existing voids, reveal absences or forgotten histories, reconstruct erased geographies, or explore the affective, political, and sensory dimensions of emptiness in the city. Proposals may consist of individual materials, works, or contributions, as well as coherent groups or more articulated exhibition projects, potentially intended to form a thematic section of the exhibition or to shape its overall curatorial framework. To discuss the compatibility of materials, project ideas, or exhibition proposals with the exhibition format, as well as to receive further information regarding submission procedures, interested contributors are invited to contact: genova2027@aisuinternational.net and amandine.dargaud@ube.fr.

POSTERS

7.1. Call for Posters

Poster proposals are welcome on any of the themes covered by the congress macrosessions (<https://aisuinternational.org/en/genova-2027-macrosessioni/>). Posters will form an integral part of the programme and will be discussed during a dedicated session. Authors are therefore required to be present throughout the entire session in order to present their work and engage in discussion with participants.

- Poster proposals are **an alternative to presenting a paper** or delivering a contribution in a session or roundtable
- Acceptance of a poster entitles the author(s) to publish the abstract and, subsequently, the full paper—subject to peer review—in the volumes that will be published after the Congress (*Insights Proceedings* and *Insights* series).

Poster preparation guidelines

- Posters must be printed in standard A0 format (841 × 1189 mm) on paper (plastic or rigid supports are not permitted). Posters must be legible from a distance of at least 1-2 metres; appropriate font sizes and formats for text, graphics, and images are therefore recommended (titles: approx. 3 cm / 120 pt; body text: approx. 1 cm / 40 pt).
- Each poster must include, at the top, the title of the research, the authors' names, and their institutional affiliations. Clear and effective layout and graphic design are strongly recommended. For general guidance, numerous resources are available online
- Handouts, flyers, or other materials may be provided to explain or promote the content of the poster.
- Posters and any additional materials must be brought to the conference venue by the authors, who are responsible for their installation and removal. Installation is possible from 8:00 a.m. on 7 September 2027; mounting materials (pins and adhesive tape) will be provided by the organizing committee.
- To submit a proposal: <https://aisuinternational.org/en/genova-2027-poster/>.

CALL FOR PUBLISHERS AND EXPOSERS

During the congress, one or more spaces will be set up for the **presentation/exhibition of recent publications and other related materials related to urban history**. Publishers, journal editors, and cultural and academic associations are warmly invited to submit expressions of interest, specifying any particular requests or requirements (genova2027@aisuinternational.net).

The organizers will make every effort to accommodate as many applications as possible, depending on the number and quality of proposals received, and reserve the right to agree with selected participants on the most appropriate exhibition formats.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Proposals should be submitted through the online submission forms available on the Congress website (<https://aisuinternational.org/genova-2027-home/>), **no later than 18 October 2026**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 6 December 2026.

Further information: <https://aisuinternational.org/genova-2027-home/>.

Contact: genova2027@aisuinternational.net.

Guidelines for contributors

The conference will be held exclusively in person: proposals will be accepted only if at least one of the proposers is present. Only contributions actually presented at the conference will be included in the final publication.

Paper/poster

- **There are no restrictions regarding subject, disciplinary background, or academic status.** Anyone may submit a proposal, provided that it addresses a historical research question and is grounded in a clear methodological framework.
- **Only one proposal** may be submitted per participant. Multiple submissions will not be considered.
- Session convenors may, if they wish, present a paper in their own session (but not in any other session).
- Abstracts of accepted papers and posters **will be published** in the Book of Abstracts (Insights Proceedings series). Full papers, subject to peer review, will be published in the volumes issued after the Congress (Insights series).
- Paper proposals should be submitted via: <https://aisuinternational.org/en/genova-2027-sessioni/>.
- Submission deadlines (to be respected, in order to ensure the timely publication of the Book of Abstracts and the subsequent volumes):
Abstract: **15 June 2027**
Full paper: **15 October 2027**

Public Events (Agora)

- See p. 112 above.

Publishers and Exhibitors

- See p. 115 above.

TIMELINE

	from	to
First call (sessions, roundtables, Agorà events)	April 6	May 24 June 10, 2026
Notification of the call results		by July 5, 2026
Second call (papers, posters, Agora contributions, publishing presentations)	July 15	October 18, 2026
Notification of the call results		by December 6, 2026
Procedure for participation grants	January 7	January 31, 2027
Early registration	February 1	March 14, 2027
Standard registration	March 15	April 30, 2027
Late registration	May 1	June 14, 2027
Submission of registration form and final abstract		by June 15, 2027
Congress	September 7	September 10, 2027
Final paper submission		by October 15, 2027

PARTICIPATION FEES

	Early 01.02 - 14.03.2027	Standard 15.03 - 30.04.2027	Late 01.05 - 14.06.2027
Junior member*	€ 140	€ 170	€ 200
Senior member *	€ 190	€ 220	€ 250
Junior non-member *	€ 270	€ 300	€ 330
Senior non-member *	€ 370	€ 400	€ 430
Accompanying person**	€ 80	€ 100	€ 120

* The fee includes the welcome cocktail, coffee breaks, lunches, the conference dinner, and optional activities.

** This fee is reserved for accompanying persons and includes the welcome cocktail, the conference dinner, and optional activities.

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