

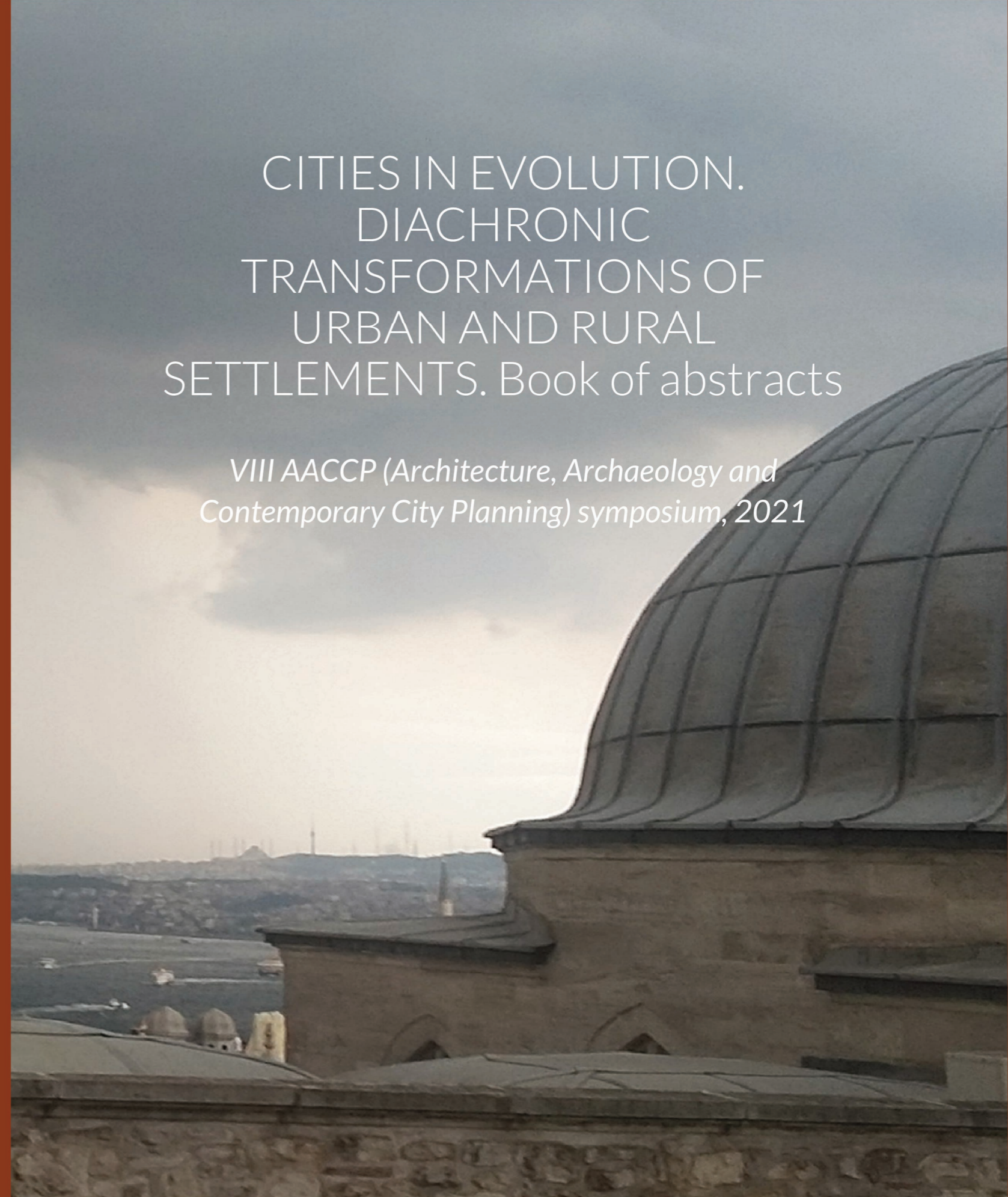
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*VIII AACCP (Architecture, Archaeology and
Contemporary City Planning) symposium, 2021*



Edited by Alessandro Camiz, Zeynep Ceylanlı, Zeren
Önsel Atala and Özge Özkuvancı

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DIACHRONIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF URBAN AND RURAL
SETTLEMENTS
Book of abstracts**

VIII AACCP (Architecture, Archaeology and Contemporary City Planning)
symposium, Istanbul 2021

Edited by

**Alessandro Camiz, Zeynep Ceylanlı,
Zeren Önsel Atala and Özge Özkuvancı**

DRUM Press
Istanbul, 2021

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VIII AACCP (Architecture, Archaeology and Contemporary City Planning) symposium
Istanbul April 26th May 2nd 26 2021

Edited by:

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DRUM Press, Istanbul, 2021

ISBN: 978-1-716-22187-3

Printed by Lulu.com, Raleigh, NC, USA

Dynamic Research on Urban Morphology books, 1

Book series directed by Alessandro Camiz

<http://labs.ozyegin.edu.tr/drum/books/>

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All the abstracts in this volume were double peer-reviewed by the symposium's scientific committee

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**VIII AACCP (Architecture, Archaeology and Contemporary City Planning) Symposium
CITIES IN EVOLUTION. DIACHRONIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF URBAN AND RURAL SETTLEMENTS**

Organized by the Dynamic Research on Urban Morphology-DRUM laboratory, Özyeğin University, Istanbul, Turkey, April 26th-May 2nd, 2021

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Table of Contents

AACCP 2021 CALL FOR PAPERS	10
<i>Alessandro Camiz and Zeynep Ceylanlı</i>	10
Special session: Abruzzo: a new settlement model for ghost towns?	12
<i>Discovering the Mediterranean. Itineraries of travelers between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries in Abruzzo region</i>	13
Massimo Angrilli Valentina Ciuffreda	
<i>Network strategy for culture-based development and revitalization of rural areas in Abruzzo</i>	15
Laura Vivola Claudia Genitti Raffaello Fico	
<i>Territorial sections: a tool for the landscape morphological reading and modeling. The experience of Castelveccchio Calvisio Workshop 2020</i>	17
Giulia Bertola Fabrizio Natta Francesca Ronco Thomas Greene Rankin Francesca Ronco	
<i>Post seismic typological transformation of three medieval houses, Castelveccchio Calvisio (AQ).</i>	21
Alessandro Camiz Giulia Bertola Özge Özkuvancı	
<i>Online summer school in Castelveccchio 2021</i>	23
Darko Reba Olivera Markovic Fabrizio Natta	
Digital survey and documentation of archaeology and architecture	26
<i>Aerial photogrammetry, laser-scanner survey and virtual tour: the foundations of urban image renewal</i>	27
Ylenia Ricci Stéphane Giraudeau Andrea Pasquali	
<i>A Digital Humanities Project: Photogrammetry of Ertokus Caravanserai And Incir Han</i>	29
Nur Erdemci Güzden Varinlioğlu	
<i>Information strategy to support the building intervention in rural Middle Eastern city centers: a multi-level knowledge for the management of Bethlehem city center</i>	31
Raffaella De Marco Elisabetta Doria Sandro Parrinello	
<i>Digital survey as a base for the recovery of Mezzana settlement, Tuscany: a multidisciplinary reconstruction activity</i>	33
Giovanni Anzani Riccardo Sinni	
<i>TLS survey and architectural representation of a Genoese tower for the Museum of the city and territory of Galata</i>	35
Doruk Peker Roberta Spallone Alessandro Camiz Marco Vitali	
<i>Digital Survey and Documentation of Vlahsaray Church (Panagia Paramythia)</i>	37
Hasan Bora Yavuz Can Bora Sezer	
The archaeology of architecture, the architecture of archaeology I	40
<i>Baghdad Unesco heritage site. Memory of Places. New design museum and cultural center</i>	41

Riccardo Renzi	
<i>Between past and present: Aqua Virgo through the time</i>	43
Maria Elisa Amadasi	
<i>Inclusive edges. Strategies of interactions between ancient and contemporary city of Pompeii</i>	45
Francesca Coppolino	
<i>The Equisolar Axis in Urban Morphology: Pompeii, the Solstices and Sunlight Irradiation</i>	47
Ilaria Cristofaro	
<i>A hypothesis for the redevelopment of the Archaeological Park of Agrigento</i>	49
Fabio Guarrera	
Mirco Cannella	
<i>Ru(in)park. An urban museum of archaeological fragments in Miróbriga</i>	51
Chiara Barone	
The archaeology of architecture, the architecture of archaeology II	54
<i>Marketplaces next to the Nile in Ptolemaic Egypt</i>	55
Aneta Skalec	
<i>In Search of the Lost City of Pompey the Great: Urban Development in Pompeiopolis (Paphlagonia)</i>	57
Lâtife Summerer	
Julia M. Koch	
<i>Spatial Analyses of the Peristyle Courtyard Case of: Yamaç Houses-2, Ephesus</i>	59
Ayça Arslan	
<i>Marginal land and water management in Roman and Byzantine city hinterlands: Ravenna (Italy) and Galatia (Turkey) compared</i>	61
Paolo Maranzana	
Marco Cavalazzi	
<i>Aspects of Late Antique and Medieval Urbanism in Southern Italy. The case of Salerno</i>	63
Rosa Fiorillo	
Fortifications and urban heritage: documentation and restoration	66
<i>Painted landscapes from another age: what the Vasari's frescoes in Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, tell about urban fortifications</i>	67
Giulia Emilio	
Giorgio Verdiani	
<i>The Cerretaccio Castle. Investigations for material history and conservation</i>	69
Michele Coppola	
Ambra Maramai	
<i>The evolution of the war and the evolution of the place: fortifications across time and landscape</i>	71
Giorgio Verdiani	
Serena Di Grazia	
<i>Explicit Restoration</i>	73
Vidal Gómez Martínez	
<i>Life-Saving Stations on Black Sea Coast of Istanbul as a Coastal Heritage: Threats and Potentials</i>	75
Mustafa Tahir Ocak	
Zeynep İnan Ocak	
Urban Fabrics and modern city planning and design	78
<i>Design, Aesthetics, Built Environment and the Question of Time</i>	79
Per Cornell	
Anna Wyn-Jones Frank	
<i>Challenges in Conservation Planning of Multi-layered Western Anatolian Cities</i>	81
Zeren Önsel Atala	
<i>Sustainability Of Historical Bank Buildings In The Evolving City</i>	83
İrem İpek Pişkin	
Yegan Kahya Sayar	

<i>Reading the Modern Narrative of Amman between the Nation and the National</i> Saba Innab	85
<i>"Fragment, Field and Frame". Reflection on Heritage, Contemporary City and its Identity. The case of Perth, WA</i> Francesco Mancini Tanja Glusac	87
Small towns and historical urban tissues: visions, ideas and practices	90
<i>Pozzuoli. A multilayered Mediterranean port city in the South of Italy. Integrated conservation strategies of its long-lasting historical urban landscape</i> Teresa Colletta	91
<i>Vernacular architecture and seismic cultures in small towns: knowledge analysis and strategies for conservation. The case of Uglianacaldo in Tuscany</i> Denise Olivieri Stefania Landi Marco Giorgio Bevilacqua	93
<i>From simple past to present perfect continuous. Diachronic vision and urban plan for a small town</i> Michela Marisa Grisoni	95
<i>Spontaneous consciousness and critical result in urban fabric of Alberobello</i> Roberta Occhionigro Ilaria Stea Raffaele Tarallo Matteo Ieva	97
<i>Requalification of the historical fabric of Alberobello</i> Emma Sabatelli Antonella Roma Maria Pia Tridente Matteo Ieva	99
<i>From small town principle to urban sustainability actions: A project for the INA Casa "Sbarre Inferiori" neighbourhood in Reggio Calabria</i> Lidia Errante Alberto De Capua	101
<i>The Prospects of Towns in Serbia: Current Challenges and Policy Framework</i> Branislav Antičić Aleksandra Djukić Jelena Marić	103
Archaeology and the contemporary city	106
<i>Past, present and future of the Aurelian wall in Rome</i> Jan Gadeyne	107
<i>Corviale: "Collective Anxiety"*</i> Andrew Kranis	109
<i>The remains of the Horrea Agrippiana in the Roman Forum, from survey to virtual reconstruction</i> Francesca Montanaro Giorgio Verdiani Andrea Pasquali Ylenia Ricci	111
<i>The Stratigraphic Ramp in the Horrea Agrippiana</i> Thomas Greene Rankin	113
<i>Designing the north-western edge of the Roman forum: socially distanced antiquarium in the Horrea Agrippiana</i> Alessandro Camiz Özge Özkuvancı	115
Diachronic urban-territorial studies and "longue durée" ancient history	118
<i>From the Piano della Civita to Ardena: a diachronic example of urban and rural settlement patterns south-east of Rome</i> Jan Gadeyne	119

<i>The formation process of the Regio quartadecima Constantinopolitana, Istanbul</i>	121
Alessandro Camiz Hasan Sercan Sağlam Özge Özkuvancı	
<i>Adstratum and substratum: the typological process of the patio-house in Caesaraugusta (Zaragoza)</i>	123
Özge Özkuvancı Alessandro Camiz	
<i>From Roman to Umayyad: the formation process of the great Mosque of Damascus</i>	125
Alessandro Camiz Louai Al Hussein	
<i>Architecture and Landscape of the North Caucasus. Historical and procedural study of settlement systems and reconstruction of anthropization of territory. Heritage and its potential</i>	127
Anna Linnik	
Diachronic urban-territorial studies and “longue durée” medieval history	130
<i>A medievalized polis: The longue durée urban morphology of Adramytteion</i>	131
Hasan Sercan Sağlam	
<i>Diachronic Transformation of the Traditional Street Network:</i>	133
Radosveta Kirova	
<i>Morphology of the podium house for the multi-layered history of Apollonia ad Rhyndacum (Gölyazı)</i>	135
Ecem Boyacı Alessandro Camiz	
<i>The typological process of the Anatolian houses in Tophane district, Alanya</i>	137
Uzay Topal Alessandro Camiz	
<i>From the Anatolian house to the konak-house: the typological process in Odunpazarı, Eskişehir</i>	139
Feride Gül Keleş Alessandro Camiz	
<i>Comparing the typological process of Anatolian houses in Ortahisar and Ortamahalle, Trabzon</i>	141
Pelin Arslan Alessandro Camiz	
Diachronic urban-territorial studies and “longue durée” Mediterranean history	144
<i>Mediterranean cities in transition: knowing Venetian Candia between the lines of current Heraklion</i>	145
Emma Maglio	
<i>Evaluation of Sultan Mosques in the Historical Center of Edirne</i>	147
Hülya Dışkaya	
<i>Untangling Spatial Transformations: A Comparative Study on the Association Between Urban Cores and Hinterlands of Bursa and Ankara</i>	149
Saliha Aslan	
<i>Imaging Power: Visualization of Urban Development in a Mediatized world Tracing Socio-Visual Justice in Egypt</i>	151
Mennatullah Hendawy	
<i>Eastern Mediterranean Architecture: The Rumelian House Type and Its Way Toward Modernity</i>	153
Serena Acciai	
Diachronic urban-territorial studies and “longue durée” modern history	156
<i>The Ottoman Revivalist Architecture and the Turkish Identity: Architecture of the Early Republican Era (1923-1950)</i>	157
Orkun Dayioğlu	
<i>Eidetic mapping for design of historic urban landscapes in spatially heterogeneous city: Case of Jaffa, Israel</i>	159
Komal Potdar	
<i>Ma'an a crossroads city</i>	161
Soizik Bechetoille Norig Neveu	
<i>The Actual and Its Double: Experiential Learning from Historic Urban Fabric Pedagogically Considered</i>	163
Frederick Biehle	

<i>The role of elliptical squares in urban morphology: the case of Piazza del Popolo and Piazza San Pietro in Rome</i>	165
Jiayao Jiang Fellipe Decrescenzo A. Amaral	
Climate crisis, COVID-19 crisis, migration, cities and cultural heritage	168
<i>Built environment and cultural heritage identity and preservation. Safety solutions, mitigation strategies and prevention before and after the damages</i>	169
Marcello Balzani Federica Maietti Manlio Montuori Fabiana Raco Claudia Pescosolido	
<i>Ephemeral between post-pandemic city and nature</i>	171
Maria Maccarrone	
<i>From Open Space Green Zone—Back to Countryside</i>	173
Nir Buras	
<i>An Analysis of the Pandemic Impacts on the Concept of Urban Liveability and Urbanization</i>	175
Merve Grođlu Ađdađ Zekiye Yenen	
<i>Climate crisis, cities and cultural heritage: case study of the island of Ngazidja (Comoros)</i>	177
Tabibou Ali Tabibou	
The role, (mis)use and utilisation of archaeology in city planning and design	180
<i>Use of Archaeological Sites in Urban Land Use: examples of Marginal Archaeological Heritage in Tampere Region, Finland</i>	181
Ulla Lhdesmki	
<i>Rock formations as part of the cityscape in Stockholm – history and management</i>	183
Urban Nilsson	
<i>From crisis housing to cultural heritage. The changing views on exported Finnish wooden houses from the post-war decades</i>	185
Mia Åkerfelt	
<i>On the Prevalence of Timber-framing in Central Sweden</i>	187
Andrine Nilsen	
<i>Alvar Aalto and the “Florence in the North”. Visions, Realizations and Utopia in Early 1920s Finland</i>	189
Luca Placci	
<i>Heritage-making in Changing Environments: The Use of Archaeology in the West Link Infrastructure Project, Gothenburg</i>	191
Maitri Dore	
Museums, libraries, universities and the social perspective of heritage	194
<i>Museums in Heritage Sites and Exhibiting in the Post-Covid19 Era: The Case of Tekfur Palace Museum</i>	195
Zeynep Ceylanlı Ezgi Çiçek	
<i>Exploring Novel Optimization Methods for Online Immersive Museum Experiences Based on Photogrammetric Cultural Heritage Surveys: A Case Study of the Church of Panagia Paramythia in Balat, (Turkey)</i>	197
Can Bora Sezer	
<i>Unveiled ruins. Exhibition narrative and open perspectives for the Archaeological Museum of Paestum</i>	199
Bruna Di Palma Marianna Sergio	
<i>Fantastic of the shelter. Project for a House of Poetry in the places of Valentino Zeichen</i>	201
Fabio Balducci	
Vernacular architecture and landscape: from redevelopment to regeneration	204
<i>Syntactic units of the vernacular language in the construction of the anthropized landscape of the Amalfi coast</i>	205
Manlio Montuori	

<i>The quarries landscape of Matera: proposal for an original study of a neglected area.</i>	207
Antonello Capodiferro Anna Labbattaglia Chiara Tosto	
<i>Vernacular architecture in the Tratturi landscape system. Knowledge planning. A focus on the Molise segment.</i>	209
Maria Vitiello	
<i>Regeneration of rural settlements by renewal, remodelation and conversion of public facilities in village centers</i>	211
Aleksandar Videnović	
<i>Social housing through vernacular architecture. Capacities and opportunities of the hallway, patio and backyard house in Western Andalusia</i>	213
Vidal Gómez Martínez	
Contested spaces in urban planning and archaeology	216
<i>Assessing the Post-war Reconstruction of the Beirut Central District (Lebanon) through the Lens of Cultural Heritage</i>	217
Abir Eltayeb Michael Short	
<i>A living past ? The place of Medieval heritage in modern Lebanese towns</i>	219
Patricia Antaki	
<i>Reconstructing Early Ottoman Beirut</i>	221
Andrew Petersen	
<i>Martyr's square in Beirut, a production of urban space with a deep social belonging</i>	223
Marlène Chahine	
Urban and landscape evolution: from redevelopment to regeneration	226
<i>Diachronic informality and digitalizing human settlements</i>	227
Deborah Lefosse Todor Stojanovski	
<i>Kinshasa-DRC: When Macrocephaly Depopulates Rural Areas</i>	229
Gratien Noémie	
<i>The Alhambra's missing Landscape. Recollecting traces through Park Dehesa of Generalife</i>	231
Marilena Bosone	
<i>The interaction of landscape, history and a new urban context: Transformation of a multilayered historic site in Ulvsunda, Stockholm</i>	233
Jesper Fornander	
<i>The Poisonous Eye</i>	235
OPPA (Research and Architecture) Saba Innab Nuha Innab	
<i>City as a Cultural Landscape: Mapping Historic Urban Landscape of Sylhet city, Bangladesh.</i>	237
Kawshik Saha Chandan Dewan	
Urban evolution and landscape regeneration in the Balkan region	240
<i>Remains of Belgrade evolution from medieval to modern city</i>	241
Mirjana Roter - Blagojević	
<i>Ottoman Urban environment in the Balkans: The Case Study of Ohrid and its Vernacular Architecture</i>	243
Velika Ivkowska Luca Orlandi	
<i>Urban Transformation of Former Industrial Neighborhood: Scrutinizing urban networks – a case of Savamala (Belgrade)</i>	245
Kostica Dragana	
<i>1981-2021 forty years of urbanscape transition in Tirana</i>	247
Julia Demiraj Klea Neli	
<i>The landscape's construction: traces of modernist rural landscapes in Albania</i>	249

Urban evolution and landscape regeneration in the Balkan region

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The landscape's construction: traces of modernist rural landscapes in Albania

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Keywords): modernist rural landscape, Socialist Albania, rurality

Abstract

During the 20th century, embedded in the spirit of the nation- and state-building logic, Albania underwent three profound social transformations (Bardhoshi, 2011) based on state-driven development and modernisation projects and articulated by specific ideological perspectives governments had on society, culture, and people and that materialised into its rural landscape and architecture. Through the introduction of chosen representative macro-areas as case studies, this preliminary contribution investigates Albania' countryside as a modernist rural landscape example. In fact, since independence from the Ottoman Empire (1912), modernity seems to have been regarded in Albania chiefly as a state-based ideological project. The past communist regime's nationalistic emphasis enclosed existing rural villages within state-controlled collective farms and agricultural cooperatives, while planning the "urbanization" of the countryside and the industrialization of the country as a declared and tangible project towards the modernization process of a new classless society (Rugg, 1994; Lelaj, 2015). Then, in the early 1990s, at the dawn of its collapse, the communist government started the de-collectivisation of the agricultural lands following the principle of land distribution, denying any prior inheritance rights; a process that during the first years of the Post-socialist era took a drastic turn, basing itself on the opposite principle of land restitution (Bardhoshi, 2013). In this context, rural landscape and architecture underwent a further reshaping process that demonstrates all the difficulties involved in addressing and incorporating the memories, material culture and societal histories of the Socialist remains in the new democratic present (Lisjak, 2009; Myhrberg, 2011; Iacono & Këlliçi, 2016). Through the ongoing literature review and archival research processes, this contribution intends to illustrate the state-of-the-art and provide a wider overview on studies about socialist transformation in the Albanian countryside. The general purpose is not to cover all the contributions ever published on the topic, rather to combine different perspective and insights, initializing preliminary considerations while questioning further research developments and introducing the selected areas of study. Thus, stemming from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action EU funded project "Materializing Modernity – Socialist and Post-socialist Rural Legacy in Contemporary Albania", this paper aims at introducing and setting a debate on the Albanian modernist rural landscapes' legacy.

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DRUM Press, Istanbul, 2021
Printed by Lulu.com Raleigh, NC, USA
April 21st 2021
Dies Natalis Urbis Romae, MMDCCCLXXIV AVC

ISBN: 978-1-716-22187-3