

Events

Cortona between Archaeology and Architecture. Digital Surveys and Documentary Heritage

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The Seminar of Studies: *Cortona between Archaeology and Architecture. Digital Surveys and Documentary Heritage* was held on September 22, 2019, at the Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca e della Città di Cortona (MAEC).

The event was promoted by the University of Florence, with its Department of Architecture (DiDA), together with the Accademia Etrusca di Cortona, the MAEC (Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca) and the Municipality of Cortona, and was sponsored by the Unione Italiana per il Disegno, which on the previous day, in Perugia, had concluded the 41st *International Conference of Teachers of the Disciplines of Representation*. Therefore, an intentional continuity of initiatives on topics of common interest, particularly in the field of survey and digital representation, as also evidenced by the presence at the Seminar of researchers and teachers of Drawing from various universities.

The setting for the event was the Etruscan Academy Museum of the City of Cortona (MAEC), which not only houses a very rich repertoire of archaeological evidence from the Etruscan period, but also features sections dedicated to all the other periods of the city's history, with finds related to the Academy's long life and works. A place, therefore, that while narrating the history of Cortona,

also plays a central role in a vaster project embracing the local archaeological, as well as architectural, heritage.

As pointed out by Paola Puma (University of Florence), curator of the initiative, the Seminar intended to attest the fertile and long-standing scientific collaboration between the promoters of the Seminar; and to share, in addition to the provisional results, the aims, methodologies and tools of a project for the survey and enhancement of the town's cultural heritage. Therefore, starting from specific research, an opportunity was created for comparing different experiences on the topic of digital survey and for a common reflection on the realization and dissemination of the documentary heritage of historicized contexts.

The Seminar's program included contributions organized into two sessions, with a concluding round table discussion. After the opening greetings extended by representatives of the local institutions and of the University of Florence, the *Digital Surveys* Session, coordinated by Stefano Bertocci (University of Florence), was opened. In his presentation, Bertocci underlined the long tradition of the University of Florence in the field of survey at different scales and in different contexts, both Italian and international, with the use of advanced technologies; the town of Cortona specifically rep-

resents a place of particular cultural and architectural significance. In ancient times, it was one of the twelve Etruscan city-states which, according to tradition, formed a powerful alliance of economic, religious and military character; and is located in a hilly position that from the time of its origins proved to be strategic; in the fifteenth century, having become a city subjugated to Florence, it benefited from a new cultural and artistic impulse, gradually consolidated over time.

Stefano Bertocci's presentation was followed by the interventions of Paola Puma, Federica Maietti (University of Ferrara) and Alessandro Luigini (University of Bolzano).

Paola Puma presented the *Cortona Heritage Project. Survey for the enhancement of architectural and archaeological heritage*, which motivated the Seminar: "Why have we spoken about survey and digital representation? Because this is the theoretical and applicative scenario, basis of the current potentialities of virtual heritage. This approach has allowed the DigitCH group, which I created about 5 years ago in the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence, to work on interactive heritage systems for cultural communication that can make use of various devices, languages and outputs. Virtual heritage, therefore, plays a crucial role by exploiting its, I would



Università degli Studi di Firenze - Dipartimento di Architettura DiDA
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Seminario di studi
Cortona tra archeologia e architettura
rilievi digitali e patrimoni documentari

Cortona, 22/09/2019 | MAEC
Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca e
della Città di Cortona

Cortona tra archeologia e architettura, rilievi digitali e patrimoni documentari si svolge nell'ambito della pluriennale collaborazione scientifica tra il Dipartimento di Architettura dell'Università di Firenze e il Comune di Cortona, dove si sono svolte una serie di attività di didattica e ricerca relative alla documentazione del patrimonio archeologico e architettonico della antica città di origine etrusca.

Il seminario nasce come occasione di incontro per una riflessione sul tema del rilievo digitale dei contesti storicizzati e della costruzione e divulgazione dei relativi patrimoni documentari.

Comitato scientifico

Francesco Attesti, Comune di Cortona
Marcello Balzani, Università degli Studi di Ferrara
Paolo Belardi, Università degli Studi di Perugia
Stefano Bertocci, Università degli Studi di Firenze
Paolo Bruschetti, Accademia Etrusca di Cortona, Maec
Antonio Conte, Università degli Studi della Basilicata
Luigi Donati, Accademia Etrusca di Cortona
Francesca Fatta, Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria
Paolo Giandebiaggi, Università degli Studi di Parma
Alessandro Luigini, Libera Università di Bolzano
Paola Puma, Università degli Studi di Firenze
Pietro Zucchini, Comune di Cortona

say, ontological property of finding itself at the intersection between Digital, Culture and Technological innovation". With these words Paola Puma described the essence of the project which aims, at the same time, at the dissemination of cultural heritage and scientifically validated research, characterized by the intention of strengthening the unitary perception of the various material and immaterial expressions which also make Cortona a town highly appreciated and visited by many tourists, and uses virtual heritage to configure tools useful for valorizing the rich local cultural heritage and making it more accessible. The speaker went on to explain that the three-year research program was developed according to strict measurement and representation standards, and has operated at different scales, as shown by the case studies analyzed, which go from a section, about 200 meters long, of Cortona's city wall, to the grave goods consisting of about 50 finds among the precious ones present in the MAEC, and finally, to two important Hellenistic tombs, the Tanella of Pythagoras and the Tanella Angori; all episodes that *Cortona Heritage* intends to connect in an exhibition highlighting the common historical and cultural nature of the case studies.

The creation of a visual repository makes it possible to present, in a unified way, the offer of the assets of the so-called diffused museum, and in a precise way, the in-depth analysis of the selected works, and to then move on to the engineering of the interactive environment for digital and on-site use, with IOT technologies.

After Paola Puma's lecture, Federica Maietti presented her contribution: *Methodologies of survey and digital models for the documentation and enhancement of historical-architectural heritage: the experience of the Incep-*

Fig. 1. The flyer of the Seminar.

CORTONA HERITAGE



Fig. 2. Cortona Heritage: the concept of the project. (from Puma et al., 2019).

tion project. The speaker described the main phases and objectives of the project, which aims to develop innovative methodologies for the realization of 3D models with an inclusive approach to cultural heritage, developing interoperable models able to enrich the interdisciplinary knowledge of European cultural identity by various groups of end-users, from scholars to researchers, professionals and curators, to non-expert users.

Effective cognitive experiences in immersive digital environments for the Generation Alpha was, instead, the topic addressed by Alessandro Luigini, with specific reference to digital environments whose experiences are now a major part of Western society, especially for the younger generations.

Documentary Heritage was the theme of the second session, coordinated by Paolo Giandebiaggi (University of Parma) which presented four scheduled speakers, starting with Paolo Bruschetti, from the Etruscan Academy, who dwelt on the richness of the historical documentary heritage collected thanks to the work of the Etruscan Academy, founded in 1727 by a group of members of noble families from Cortona, who used to meet in the rooms of Palazzo Casali, located in the center of town, to discuss history, culture and, of course, archaeology, since in this period the first Etruscan discoveries were made in their lands.

Cultural and documentary heritage: from measurement to the interpretation of data was the title of the intervention by Marco Bini (University of Florence), fo-

cused on the importance of the methodological and operational definition of the survey project, with particular reference to archaeological sites and to the specific skills required.

The two concluding contributions of the Session, those of Alberto Sdegno and Andrea Giordano, presented two experiences of research on the theme of the representation of historicized architecture and urban contexts with the use of digital technologies, and with the intent to communicate, manage and share cultural heritage.

Digital restitutions of Roman works in Friuli was, in fact, the title of the contribution presented by Alberto Sdegno (University of Udine), while *Visible Padua: making archaeology hidden by urban transformations visible* was the title of

the intervention by Andrea Giordano (University of Padua), describing the process that led from the knowledge to the virtual dissemination of the ancient city of *Patavium*, through a transdisciplinary methodology.

After the lectures, a round table discussion, coordinated by the President of the Unione Italiana per il Disegno, Francesca Fatta, took place. The participants included, together with Paola Puma, Francesco Attesti, the Councilor for Culture of Cortona, Marcello Balzani, Paolo Belardi (University of Perugia), Stefano Bertocci, Antonio

Conte (University of Basilicata), Luigi Donati, of the Accademia Etrusca and Paolo Giandebiaggi.

Appreciation for the initiative and for the interventions was combined with a series of considerations regarding the evolution of Drawing, which assumes an important role in the critical definition and in the experimentation of rigorous processes of representation of cultural heritage, which are constantly changing in relation to the transformations of the socio-economic contexts of which they are, at the same time, both memory and engine of development; this translates

into a combination of humanistic knowledge and technical-scientific knowledge that contributes to the acquisition of information, its management and dissemination, as well as to its visualization and communication, with the identification of strategies that allow better interaction between cultural heritage and users, so that the latter can become a part of the cognitive experience.

In this process, cultural goods acquire, in addition to their original identity, a new digital identity generating a different heritage that must be managed and preserved.

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Reference list

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