Events

Drawing in the Archives of Architecture

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The enhancement of the archival heritage of architecture in terms of accessibility, usability, preservation and creation of new content is a topic at the center of multiple and interdisciplinary interests.

The UID, Italian Union for Drawing, with the project *Drawing in the Archives of Architecture* has concretely taken an official position regarding this topic.

In fact, on 18 June 2021, the UID database entitled *Drawing in the Archives of Architecture* was presented [1]. On this occasion, a seminar was held to discuss the role of drawing in the complex world of the documentary and iconographic conservation of architectural projects, in museums and archives.

Through the creation of an online platform, it is possible to think about the research that the representation experts elaborate on the archival materials, on their complexity and possible declinations, to enhance the heritage made up of the memory of past building and urban processes.

In addition to collecting the research data uploaded by users, the open access database allows the detection of topics of interest to UID members throughout the national territory.

In the opening greetings of the event, the President of the UID prof. Francesca Fatta focused on the importance of drawing to document the memory, but also for the future projection of the memory itself and on the methods of interpreting project documents of architecture and the forms of their communication.

Then followed some interventions that returned the state of the art regarding the interests, skills and actors involved in the complex enhancing process of graphic and textual documents as the testimonies to the project phases of architectural and engineering works, from conception to construction.

Prof. Caterina Palestini, Scientific Director of the Archives of Architecture Commission, stressed the contribution that graphic analysis and representation, traditional and digital, can offer on the theme of the Archives of Architecture and Engineering; Margherita Guccione, Director of the MAXXI with her speech on *From the Archive to the Museum. Strategies of valorization of architectural projects* has found that there isn't a clear border between archives and museums: preserve and show at the same time, also interpreting the primary source; Cristina Casero, member of the Scientific Committee of the C.S.A.C., proposed a specific communication on *Visual culture as a project. The twentieth century of CSAC and its future*. Finally, Dr Gabriella Arena of the Department of Infrastructure and Sports Engineering presented the theme of the *Digitalization of sports facilities of the Parco del Foro Italico in Rome* showing the possible relationships between different institutions and related disciplines such as architecture and engineering faced with the willingness to read the past memory in view of future regenerative actions.

In the second part of the seminar, the focus was on the description of the UID database structure and on the presentation of some case studies uploaded to the Association's platform [2]. In particular, the project is the result of the work of the Architecture Archives Commission, started some time ago by the previous Commission chaired by prof. Piero Albisinni. He traced the path of enhancing the work of teachers in the representation of architecture based on graphic analysis, interpretation of signs and digital reconstructions of architectural projects, including unrealized ones, and their communication. An intent, therefore, to show the great contribution of the discipline of drawing to the culture of architectural project and engineering. Researchers have published online their studies with new graphic contributions, analysis and digital reconfigurations that starting from the original drawings of the project

allow three-dimensional explorations. The latter provide a dynamic and interactive use of materials kept in archives of the entire national territory, an uncommon feature in the current funds. It emerges, therefore, that the renewed uploading of the material elaborated by the researchers will offer understanding of the actual contribution of new contents of which the archival sections, responsible for the conservation, could benefit in connection with the UID Project. The Archives Commission has proposed with this project to enter into a network with the conservations institutions. The database, structured considering the complexity of the contributions that representation experts can offer, is divided according to some categories of reading and organization of information, such as the typology of the archivist source, made up of three sections: historical archive, project archive, educational archive. You can also identity: the typology of the theme of research declined in the history of representation, graphic analysis and critical history, digital reconstructions and video; the archival source; the author considered; the theme of research and the work examined; the title of scientific research accompanied by a brief abstract; the bibliography and keywords. You can view the original material (when present), graphics analysis images, digital reconfigurations and videos that are stored on the Youtube channel of the UID association.

At the seminar, the professors who are members of the Archives Commission exemplified this information through some interventions: Chiara Vernizzi (University of Parma, Department of Engineering and Architecture) presented *The Project Archives. The CSAC and research on the drawings of Pierluigi Nervi*; Piero Albisinni (Sapienza Univer-
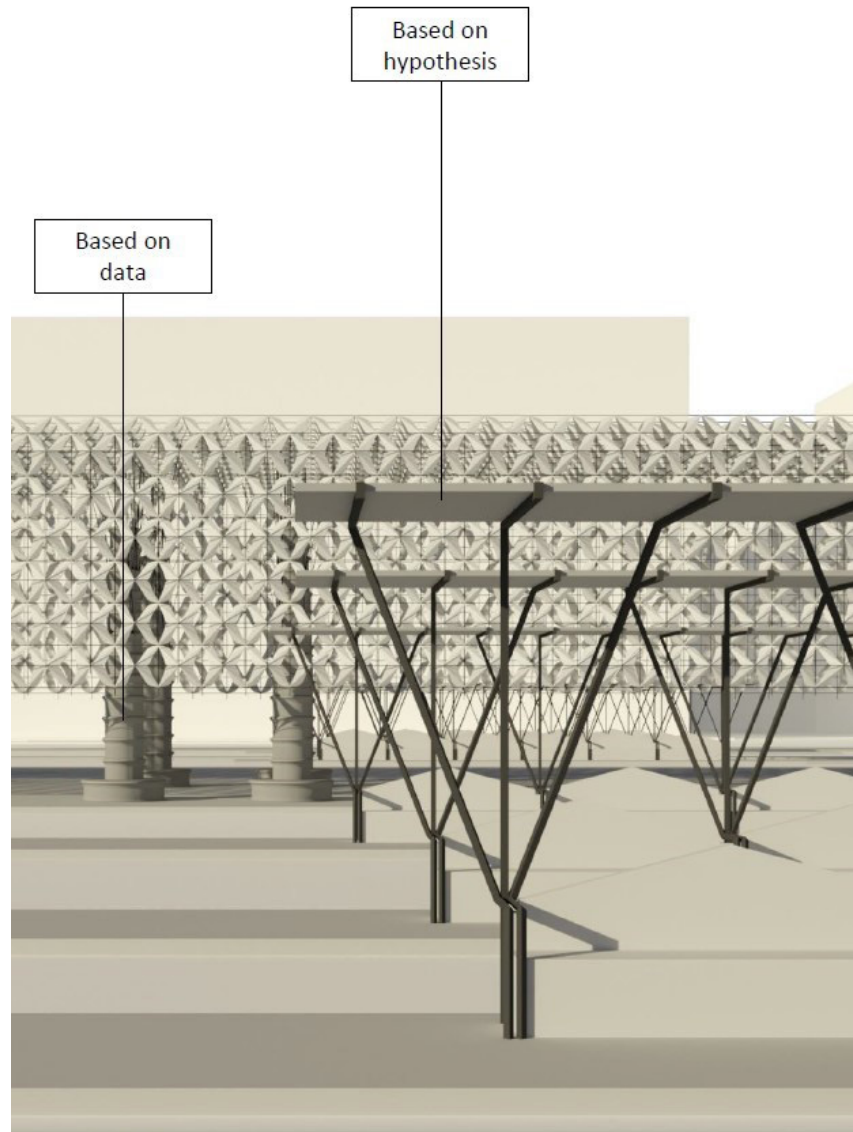

Fig. 1. Digital reconfiguration of the project for piazza dei Cinquecento in Rome by Francesco Cellini (1981-1982), L. Farroni and M.F. Mancini.

sity of Rome, Department of History, Representation and Restoration of Architecture) showed reflections on the digital model for the analysis and communication of architecture; Francesco Maggio (University of Palermo, Department of Architecture) has narrated some *Graphic readings of Palermitan drawings* and Emanuela Chiavoni (Sapienza University of Rome, Department of History, Representation and Restoration of Architecture) focused on the aspect of teaching related to the funds held by the same university with the report *Digital archives of Sapienza. Cultural itineraries for knowledge Archive of Educational Drawings of the Former Department of Survey, Analysis, Representation of the Environment and Architecture* (RADAAR).

The project is included in the UID website in online and open access mode. This makes possible a free usability to all surfers. UID members, on the other hand, can independently upload their work to the digital platform and possibly update it using an insertion link [3].

In conclusion, if the elaboration of the database represents an important point of arrival for the disciplinary field of drawing, it also constitutes the beginning of a research path that strengthens the network of archives and produces contents that depend on the sensitivity of researchers to reveal visible and intangible information detectable in drawings.

Notes

[1] UID database presentation, Web Seminar June 18, 2021. Event available at link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_B-zKIeJ9M7X-CLJvZfO--Q> (accessed December 31, 2021).

[2] Available at: <https://www.unioneitaliana-disegno.it/test/Ricerca/> (accessed December 10, 2021).

[3] <https://www.unioneitalianadisegno.it/test/login.php> (accessed December 10, 2021).

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