

Events

UID2023. TRANSITIONS. Cross Modulate Develop 44th International Conference of Representation Disciplines Teachers

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The 44th International Conference of Representation Disciplines Teachers, Congress of Unione Italiana per il Disegno, opened in the Sala delle Capriate of Palazzo Steri, seat of the rectorate of the University of Palermo. The institutional greetings preceded the celebrations of the awarding of "Benemerite alla memoria" to Margherita De Simone and Rosalia La Franca, founders of the Palermo 'drawing school', who contributed to the transition of the disciplines of Drawing from the 'limit of geometric instrument' towards representation of space in its physical and conceptual narrative'. We remember the *Seminari di Primavera*, organized in Palermo in which innovative representative procedures were tested for drawing as a language of sharing and methodologies for developing new research practices. Francesco Maggio opened the Conference by presenting the theme of *Transitions* in its meaning of an intermediate stage of a 'process in which a condition changes from one state to another' and in which, in the challenges proposed by the introduction of digital processes, the construction of new paradigms of the frontiers of representation is glimpsed. *Transitions* indicates possible futures of modes of expression, of practices of theoretical research, in transdisciplinary dialogue.

The three focuses on which the debate was centered are introduced by Fabrizio Agnello, who substantially summarized the reflections of the Palermo researchers contained in the volume of the Proceedings edited by FrancoAngeli and published the same day as the opening of the Conference.

Cross (History and Science of representation): means to cross "transversally with respect to a route taken as the main one, not with the intention of placing oneself across or 'sideways' but with the desire to establish contact with the multitude of aspects that characterise a given reality [...]. Transversely to paths already marked out, questioning the new frontiers of representation and imagining possible new horizons. [...] in search of languages that through the reduction of new images can lead to the delineation of innovative research paths" [Cannella, Garozzo, Morena 2023, p. 66].

Modulate (communication, reconstructions, descriptions): alludes to what concerns the design matrix of an architecture. "In the action of 'describing' the complex relations between visualization and cognition of architecture concept. Drawing elects itself as the privileged tool for the transposition between language, proportion" [Cannella, Garozzo, Morena 2023, p. 701].

Develop (Experiments, innovation, design): to continue, in time and space, in the interpretation of events. "The challenges proposed by the digital pose questions that start with the construction of new paradigms of visual language and aim toward a form of creativity capable of transporting information to new procedures in the formulation of design" [Cannella, Garozzo, Morena 2023, p. 2203].

Before the start of the Conference, Fabrizio Avella and Manuela Milone inaugurated and introduced the exhibition, which they curated, *La Collana di Pietra 1982-1996* set up in the foyer of the Aula Magna Margherita De Simone. It is a journey through the graphic production of geometric ink-line drawings made between the 1980s and 1990s, which constitute the graphic heritage of the volumes of *La Collana di Pietra*, conceived and directed by Margherita De Simone, whose goal was to organize, promote and coordinate the activities of research on the representation of the built environment, as well as to collect the outcomes of the *Seminari di Primavera* held from 1983 to 1996.

In the afternoon of the first day, the conference attendees were able to visit the exhibition *Palermo e la peste dell'insonnia and the Plague of Insomnia* set up in the Galleria delle Collezioni



Fig. 1. Banner of the event.

of the Department of Architecture. The Director of the Department, Francesco Lo Piccolo and Ettore Sessa, distinguished scholar of Sicilian architectural history and Head of *Collezioni Scientifiche* of the Department of Architecture, University of Palermo, introduced and narrated the reasons and content of the exhibition.

The *Collezioni* contain funds, archives, collections including the historic *Dotazione Basile*, the Ducrot Archives, the Archives of the Faculty of Architecture of Palermo, and the collection of the *Tavole Didattiche* del Corso di Architettura di Giovan Battista Filippo Basile per la Regia Scuola di Applicazione per Ingegneri e Architetti of the University of Palermo.

On a horizontal plane were placed models and drawings predominantly from the *Dotazione Basile*, while from the ceiling, in a tight succession of equidistant vertical planes hung more than a thousand A4 transparent sheet reproducing some of the drawings from the lectures prepared by Ernesto Basile for the students of Architecture Faculty.

The opening lecture of the session *Cross* was given by Riccardo Migliari, a recognized master for scholars of

representation and professor emeritus at La Sapienza University of Rome.

Migliari introduced the theme of solid perspective through moving images whose geometric construction transitions from Euclidean space to perspective space.

He shows that “perspective-solid looks at perspective space in the one and only direction that proceeds in front of the observer; solid homology sees the entire space but excludes man, while solid perspective puts him in the center; free to turn his gaze anywhere and makes him able to contemplate the infinite” [Cannella, Garozzo, Morena 2023, p. 34].

Lidia Tilotta, vice-editor in chief of *Tgr Sicilia*, Journalist of Peace 2023 “For the courage with which she tells and publicizes stories of humanity asking for peace and for the love with which she approaches the many people many times abandoned by the mainstream news media” (award motivation), introduced the *Modulate* session. With very few images, reading excerpts from the book *Lacrime di Sale*, he addressed the theme of Mediterranean migration. The essay, co-written with Lampedusa doctor Pietro Bartolo, leads through the sense of

tragedy but incites the duty of rescue and welcome.

Riccardo Florio introduced the session *Develop* through commentary on effective images investigating the theme of the relationship between representation and design with great acumen and sophistication.

The conference speeches were divided over the two days into five parallel sessions moderated by two chairs per session. Outcomes of more than 125 research papers by scholars from Italian, European and South American universities were presented.

In two additional sessions, the outcomes of the UIDSS Summer School 2023 *Designing applies game for heritage education*, curated by Alessandro Luigini and Daniele Rossi, which was held in Brixen July 19-24, 2023, were presented, organized by the UID together with the Free University of Bolzano and the University of Camerino, and of the Workshop 2022 *Hortus Lizori, Percorsi didattici sulla rappresentazione del paesaggio*, organized for European doctoral schools, curated by Fabio Bianconi and Marco Filippucci, which was held in Lizori-Campello sul Clitunno July 6-8, 2023.

The location for the concluding day, chosen by the organizers of the conference,

coordinated by an untiring Francesco Maggio, was the Sala Mattarella in Palazzo dei Normanni, the ancient Royal Palace and now the seat of the Sicilian Parliament.

Livio Sacchi introduced the *Lectio Magistralis* by Francesco Cellini, who led the participants in an interesting *promenade* through his works, in which the design and the modes of representation he adopted constituted a solid pre-digital era reference.

Francesco Cellini, among the best-known protagonists of the Roman school headed by Ridolfi and Quaroni, was awarded the UID 2023 Targa d'Oro with the following motivation: "In his intense activity as a teacher and professional Francesco Cellini has always considered Drawing as an instrument of thought, a language rich in expressiveness and technique. Through Drawing he has refined a way of designing and conceiving architecture, innovating techniques and tools according to the needs of the time, giving corporeity to the graphic structure, exalting the role of geometry and bringing out the construction of his own design ideation".

A second UID Targa d'oro was awarded to Livio Sacchi, professor of Drawing and "a scholar of Representation with scholarly interests directed at innovation applied to the field of education, research and the profession. [...] His latest volume *Il mestiere di architetto*, outlines a series of possible solutions for the future

of university education, on contemporary design and developments related to digitization, BIM, Big Data and artificial intelligence" (from award motivation).

The Targhe Gaspare De Fiore 2023 for the best PhD theses were awarded by the committee composed of Caterina Palestini, Enrico Cicalò and Massimiliano Ciammaichella to Martina Suppa, University of Ferrara and Universitèti Polis, with the doctoral thesis entitled *Optimisation of survey procedures and application of integrated digital tools for seismic risk mitigation of cultural heritage: The Emilia-Romagna damaged theatres*; to Valeria Croce, University of Pisa and Florence, with the doctoral thesis entitled *Semantic annotation transfer and retrieval for architectural heritage. A methodological system combining Artificial Intelligence, H-BIM and collaborative reality-based annotation platforms*; to Alessandro Martinelli, Sapienza University of Rome, for the doctoral thesis entitled *Principi teorici e sperimentazioni digitali finalizzate alla conoscenza e alla comunicazione della geometria delle forme*.

In addition, the Committee proposed to award 3 UID 2023 honorable mentions to Doctoral Theses carried out by Flavia Camagni, Sapienza University of Rome titled *La Sala dei Cento Giorni a Palazzo della Cancelleria, un mondo sospeso tra realtà e illusione. Studio, interpretazione e rappresentazione delle Prospettive Architettoniche di Giorgio Vasari*; by Salvatore Damiano, University of Palermo,

titled *Francesco La Grassa. Disegno e architettura*; by Federico Maria La Russa, University of Catania, titled *3DCITYGH: an Expeditious Parametric Approach for Digital Urban Survey and City Information Modeling of city-block Structural Models*.

At the end of the Members' Assembly, the chair, Francesca Fatta, awarded best papers to the session speakers; for the *Crossing* session, Edoardo Dotto was awarded for his paper *Heuristics of Error. The 'Reconstructed Stonehenge' by Inigo Jones*; for the *Modular* session the paper by Fabrizio Ivan Apollonio, Federico Fal-lavollita and Riccardo Foschi entitled *Systematizing Virtual Reconstruction of Lost or Never Built Architectures* was awarded. For the *Develop* session, three best papers were awarded to Jessica Romor and Graziano Mario Valenti for the paper *Procedural Models for Conceiving, Controlling and Generating Free Form in Decorative Appearances*; to Giuseppe Antuono and Pierpaolo D'Agostino for the paper entitled *Toward Information Modeling and Management for the Restoration Project. The Court Theater of the Regia di Portici* and finally to Cesare Battelli, Alessandra Cirafici and Ornella Zerlenga for the paper *Digital Transitions: artifacts from intelligent machines. Reflecting with Cesare Battelli*.

The Conference concluded with a visit, conceived and curated by Fabrizio Agnello and Mirco Cannella, to the Royal Palace and the Palatine Chapel, a masterpiece of Norman architecture in Sicily.

Reference List

Cannella, M., Garozzo, A., Morena, S. (2023). *Transizioni. Attraversare Modulare Procedere/Transitions. Cross Modulate develop. Atti 2023. Convegno Internazionale dei Docenti delle Discipline della Rappresentazione. Congresso della Unione Italiana per il Disegno. Palermo 14-15-16 settembre 2023. Milano: FrancoAngeli.*

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