Events

Innovative National and International Experiences Compared between Memory and Amnesia

Fabiana Raco

The UID Symposium on Internationalization and Innovation of Research is part of the *Days of Restoration and Cultural Heritage 2024* and aims to promote the internationalization of research and its constant innovation. Held in Ferrara on March 19, 2024, the conference aimed to give continuity to the events of previous years to promote research at the international level and to present the roadmap of the work of the Innovation Commission, starting from the strategic areas of development that include the themes of Digitization, Visualization and Social Innovation for the enhancement of Cultural Heritage, the conservation of the built, historical, and artistic heritage, and the contexts of city, territory, landscape and environment.

The theme chosen for this edition of the Symposium lies between 'memory' and 'oblivion', an extremely topical antithesis that sees the project of amnesia as a way for society to digest errors/horrors (primarily recent wars) In an attempt at a socio-cultural reset.

On the one hand, 'memory' is a whole: of history, places, buildings, and people, as the ability to remember to evolve and innovate. On the other hand, 'amnesia' is a tragic emptiness: of traditions and processes that are thus forgotten in a kind of great island of the Lotophagi of Homeric memory that connotes the society in which we live.

The UID Symposium 2024 involved eighteen contributions, eight chosen for oral presentation in the two sessions *Innovation of Research* and *Internationalization of Research*. The symposium was organized by the DIAPReM research centre and the TekneHub laboratory of the University of Ferrara in collaboration with UID - Unione Italiana per il Disegno and the International Academy *After the Damages*.

Following the Association's statutory goals, UID President Francesca Fatta opened the event by highlighting the significance of encouraging ongoing discussion and debate regarding the results of research and teaching efforts. The discussion was then led by Marcello Balzani of the University of Ferrara, President of the Innovation Commission, and Stefano Bertocci of the University of Florence's Department of Architecture, President of the UID International Relations Commission. The topic of Gaia Leandri's contribution (Department of Architecture and Design, University of Genoa) opened the discussion with the theme of the storytelling of the memory of digitally reconfigured pictorial apparatuses. She introduced the reflection on the role of the discipline in Third Stream activities, public involvement, and society at large. The dialectical relation that arose from the speech given by Cecilia Bolognesi (Politecnico di Milano, Department ABC) because of extensive research on the historical residential legacy of ALER Milan, was memory and identity, of places and the connections between them. The theme presented by Riccardo Florio, Raffaele Catuogno, Teresa Della Corte, Anna Sanseverino, Caterina Borrelli, and Alessandra Tortoriello (Department of Architecture, University of Naples 'Federico II') concerning the case study of the archaeological heritage of the Baths of Baia, is representation and memory as an ongoing method of investigation and understanding of fragments, traces, spaces, techniques, and materials. In the context of a more extensive research project on fascist rural towns, Cettina Santagati, Raissa Garozzo, and Rosaria Privitera (University of Catania) examine the relation between tangible and intangible cultural heritage for the reconstruction, deconstruction, and collective memory of Borgo Caracciolo. Paola Raffa (Università degli Studi 'Mediterranea' di Reggio Calabria) expands on the themes of social innovation and inclusion with a contribution to the role of the discipline for shared

spaces. She also introduces the topic of building territorial and trans-territorial networks as an intriguing domain for applying disciplinary contents and products. Ensuring the cultural heritage's traces in cross-border contexts to build shared memory is the focus of Sandro Parrinello, Matteo Bigongiari, Alberto Pettineo, Ilaria Malvone, Francesca Picchio, Anna Dell'Amico, Ludovica Galeazzo, and Gianlorenzo della Bartola's intervention. New research goals can be identified, and a wide, global dialogue can be developed by addressing territorial changes that may reveal the identity of the locations through exchanges, documentation, and representation. 'Openness and fragile patrimony', 'dispersed cities', and

'abandoned places' are terms used to describe the results of a research process that were presented by Emanuela Borsci, Antonio Conte, Marianna Calia, Roberto Pedone, Rossella Laera, and Ali Yaser Jafar. The studies conducted in the Southern Italian region, in Basilicata, Iran, and Afghanistan defined a transferable model of analysis and documentation for the over five hundred urban settlements scattered over the affected areas and the over one thousand abandoned communities in the national territory. The theme of memory loss, oblivion, and war is finally addressed by Andrea Pirinu (University of Cagliari), Emanuela Chiavoni (Sapienza Università di Roma), and Andrés Martínez-Medina (University

of Alicante). The Mediterranean Wars between the 16th and 18th centuries defined an investigative process that, from the scale of the territory to the scale of the type of architect, implemented a regional database accessible to successive elaborations. In considering the many objectives that the knowledge project requires, and the many topics and fields of application that were presented, the 2024 edition of the UID Symposium on the Internationalization and Innovation of Research as part of the sixth edition of the *Days of Restoration and Cultural Heritage* has therefore contributed to the larger discussion on the role of the field of the discipline in defining protocols for the survey, documentation,

Fig. 1. Banner of the event.

representation, and communication of cultural heritage at different scales. Using integrated digital representation and information for implementing strategies for the transfer of the tangible and immaterial value associated to the Cultural Heritage under study into practice and for disseminating that value to a broad audience was one of the reflections' primary issues. The symposium proceedings will be included in an edited collection published by Maggioli Editore titled *Survey and Representation Research, From Architectural to Industrial Design*.

Author

Fabiana Raco, Department of Architecture, University of Ferrara, fabiana.raco@unife.it