

Events

FORTMED 2018

Stefano Brusaporci

The “International Conference on Modern Age Fortification of the Mediterranean Coast FORTMED, organized by Anna Marotta and Roberta Spallone, took place on October 18th, 19th and 20th 2018 at the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) of Politecnico di Torino, in the marvelous location of Valentino Castle. Focuses of the conference were researches on modern fortifications in the Mediterranean area. The initiative favored the exchanging of knowledge and experiences in order to foster a better understanding and enhancement of cultural and architectural heritage developed in the Mediterranean countries (in particular Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Tunisia, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, Algeria, Morocco), and also in other regions, such as in central and southern America, characterized by similar historical dynamics (e.g. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Panama etc.). Over 200 scholars of different disciplines, coming from many countries, participated to the three days of the conference, with presentations organized in four parallel sessions.

Papers were presented in four parallel sessions, regarding the following topics: problems of historical themes, also in the field cartography and building techniques; military engineering

and defence systems, with particular reference to modern way to defence; research on architectural built heritage of castles, towers and fortifications and interventions of maintenance and conservation; the study of construction materials and alteration processes, with proposals for restoration interventions; the digital survey (Digital

Heritage) with the use of 3D acquisition instruments, such as laser scanners and photogrammetry, and advanced modeling, with the study of the evolution of representation in the forms of Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality; the management and enhancement of the fortified heritage and cultural tourism. Finally, further experiences were

Fig. 1. Poster of the event.



**FORT
MED**
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

POLITECNICO
DI TORINO
Dipartimento
di Architettura e Design



International Conference on Modern Age Fortifications of the Mediterranean coast
October 18th, 19th and 20th 2018, Castello del Valentino, Politecnico di Torino

presented in a section that did not include the previous topics, but which also dealt with general topics, though still pertinent to the main theme of the conference.

354 scholars from 19 countries joined the conference call, submitting 235 abstracts. After the review by members of the scientific committee, 190 contributions were accepted and published in the proceedings by over 310 authors from the following countries: Italy, Spain, Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Morocco, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Venezuela. The volumes of the proceedings [1], published in the editorial series that collects the results of the previous FORTMED conferences, were published in open access through a dedicated platform [2].

During the event, a number of speakers were awarded in three specific categories: Best Full Paper, Best Short Paper and Best Student Prize. These prizes were awarded to Marco Carpiceci and Fabio Colonnese (Best Full Paper), for the lecture entitled *Labyrinth as passive defense system: an analysis of Renaissance treatise of Francesco di Giorgio Martini, ex-aequo* with Antonio Bravo-Nieto and Sergio Ramírez-González for *Arquitectura religiosa en fortificaciones de Orán y Mazalquivir en el siglo XVI: varias obras de Jacome Palearo Fratrín y Juan Bautista Antonelli*; the Best Short Paper was awarded to Marco Giamello, Andrea Scala, Sonia Mugnaini and Stefano Columbu for the intervention entitled *Analisi compositiva comparativa delle malte di allettamento delle Fortezze del Peruzzi e dei Medici prima e dopo la caduta dello Stato di Siena*; and finally the Best Student Paper was won by Vito Antonio Di Leo and Nicola Vulpio with *Il castello di Serracapriola: rilievo e*

analisi per una lettura dell'architettura fortificata.

The conference was organized as part of the project entitled *Surveillance and Defense Towers of the Valencian Coast. Metadata generation and 3D models for interpretation and effective enhancement* with the scientific coordination (principal investigator) of Prof. Pablo Rodríguez-Navarro [3].

The Turin event represents the fourth edition of the FORTMED conference, whose precedents were held at the University Institute of Restoration of the Heritage of the Universitat Politècnica de València (2015), at the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence (2016) and at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de la Universitat de Alacant (2017).

The next edition of the FORTMED conference will be held in Granada

from 26 to 28 March 2020, and will be organized by the Laboratorio de Arqueología y Arquitectura de la Ciudad, of the Escuela de Estudios Árabes (CSIC) [4].

FORTMED conferences are organized within the activities of the *International Association for Mediterranean Fortifications FORTMED*, which has the objective of studying, safeguarding and enhancing the culture and heritage developed on the Mediterranean coast [5].

Without any doubt, we can say that the FORTMED conference series has now come to constitute a reference for the international scientific community. Particular point of relevance is represented not only by themes of specific interest, but also by the involvement of high-level academic and professional figures, coming from various fields, including those of architecture, engineering, archeology, history, restoration,

Fig. 2. Work session at the FORTMED 2018 Conference.



geography, cartography and communication. Wanting to outline a summary of the three days of work in Turin, it can be

said that the FORTMED 2018 conference was characterized by high-value contributions, favoring the meeting of scholars from different sectors and the

exchange of experiences of particular interest. A more than positive outcome, made possible also by the punctual and very careful organization of the hosts.

Notes

[1] The acts consist of the book of abstracts: Marotta, A., Spallone, R. (eds.). *FORTMED2018 Torino Book of Abstracts*. Torino: Politecnico di Torino; and from the three volumes: Marotta, A., Spallone, R. (eds.). *Proceedings of the International Conference on Modern Age Fortification of the Mediterranean Coast. FORTMED 2018*. Voll. 7, 8, 9. Torino: Politecnico di Torino.

[2] See the site <<https://fortmed2018.blog/>> (accessed 2019, May 10).

[3] Project reference code HAR2013-41859-P, funded by the National Program for Fostering Excellence in Scientific and Technical Research, National Sub-Program for Knowledge Generation, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Government of Spain).

[4] Information on the 2020 edition is available at: <<https://fortmed2020.wordpress.com/>> (accessed 2019, May 10).

[5] The association is chaired by Pablo Rodríguez-Navarro of the Universitat Politècnica de València, with vice-president Giorgio Verdiani of the University of Florence and secretary Teresa Gil-Piqueras of the Universitat Politècnica de València. More information on the association is available at the site <<https://fortmed.blogs.upv.es/it/>> (accessed 2019, May 10), where it is also possible to find the proceedings of previous conferences.

Author

Stefano Brusaporci, Department of Civil Engineering, Building-Architecture, Environmental, University of L'Aquila, stefano.brusaporci@univaq.it.