

Events

URBAN / NOMADIC

Research Innovation and Internationalisation, Comparing National and International Experiences.

Martina Suppa

The UID Symposium on Internationalisation and Research Innovation in Ferrara on 26th March is part of the 7th edition of the *Days of Restoration and Cultural Heritage 2025*. It aims to promote the internationalisation of research and its continuous innovation.

The Symposium was held in line with previous years' editions, consolidating the roadmap of the Innovation Commission's work based on strategic development areas that include the themes of digitalisation, visualisation, and *Social Innovation* for the enhancement of cultural heritage, the conservation of built, historical, and artistic heritage, and the contexts of city, territory, landscape, and environment.

The focus of the 2025 edition addressed the theme of the *Urban/Nomad* oxymoron, opening up the opportunity for a comparison between what can be defined in the contemporary world as *urbanus* (der. of *urbs urbis* 'city'), grounded and structured, networked and connected, and what is 'wandering spirit' and meditative thought, wandering but also 'adapted language', mutable and related, intersecting tangible and intangible heritage (the latter often nomadic by definition and in some traits elusive). The syntactic union of the two themes, *Urban* vs *Nomadic*, induces the development of multiple comparisons

such as: standardised/adaptive, concentration/distraction, identity/inclusive, superfluous/necessary.

The event, organised by the DIAPReM departmental research centre and the *TekneHub* laboratory of the University of Ferrara in collaboration with UID - Italian Union for Design and the *After the Damages* International Academy, saw the submission of thirty contributions in this edition, of which six were selected for oral presentation and divided into the two sessions *Nomad* and *Urban*.

Emanuela Chiavoni (Department of History, Design and Restoration of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome), President of the UID 'Internationalisation' Commission and Marcello Balzani, (Department of Architecture, University of Ferrara), President of the 'Innovation' Commission, opened and moderated the day's proceedings.

The Urban session was opened by Caterina Morganti (Department of Architecture, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna), who presented the research developed with Alfonso Ippolito and Federico Rebecchini (Department of History, Design and Restoration of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome), Cristina Bartolomei (Department of Architecture, Alma Mater Studiorum University of

Bologna) and Davide Mezzino (Department of Humanities, IULM University) entitled *KNOW.it: Virtual Return of Italian Architectural Heritage in Southern Brazil*, aimed at promoting the protection and enhancement of eclectic architectural heritage of Italian origin in the state of São Paulo.

The definition of a methodology for the knowledge and digital and analogue documentation of the decorative apparatus of earthen buildings in the Elqui Valley and the Limari Valley (Chile) was the focus of the presentation by Elena De Santis, Emanuela Chiavoni (Department of History, Design and Restoration of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome) and Natalia Jorquera Silva (University of Chile, Chile) as the result of an extensive study that led to the realisation of research activities with local communities for the recognition and sharing of the fragile earthen heritage rooted in collective memory and the identity of the place.

Anna Osello, Michele Zucco, Davide Lorenzo, Dino Aschieri and Laura Fiorino (Department of Structural, Construction and Geotechnical Engineering, Polytechnic University of Turin) presented the paper *Memories in Motion: The Strada dell'Assietta* developed within the *Spoke 4 - Digital and Sustainable Mountain* of the NODES



Fig. 1. Event poster.

project (North West Digital And Sustainable), an Innovation Ecosystem funded by the PNRR. The project integrates Digital Twin, BIM/GIS platforms, and open-access online models, emphasising the importance and potential of Virtual Reality for training, education, and natural risk management.

The *Nomad* session opened with the contribution of Maria Elisabetta Ruggiero, Maria Linda Falcidieno and Ruggero Torti (Department of Architecture and Design, University of Genoa) focused on cognitive nomadism and urban identity, with particular attention to the influences that another urban environment (such as Beijing, the research's case study) can have on our perception and understanding of living and urban identity.

Massimiliano Ciammaichella (Department of Project Cultures, Iuav University of Venice) addressed the phenomenon of digital nomadism closely connected to the themes of innovation, in terms of a radical transformation of the concept of travel and 'living', where continuous mobility and ease of movement have a significant impact on material needs, pushing towards a re-evaluation of the essential, which is reflected in the concept of versatile and multifunctional clothing.

Alberto Pettineo and Sandro Parrinello (Department of Architecture, University of Florence) presented a study on traditional Berber architecture in the pre-Saharan areas of Morocco, analysing the link between settlements and caravan routes. The research integrates advanced digital surveys and technological analyses with studying traditional construction techniques for integrated documentation.

The UID Symposium on Innovation and Internationalisation of Research 2025 represented a significant oppor-

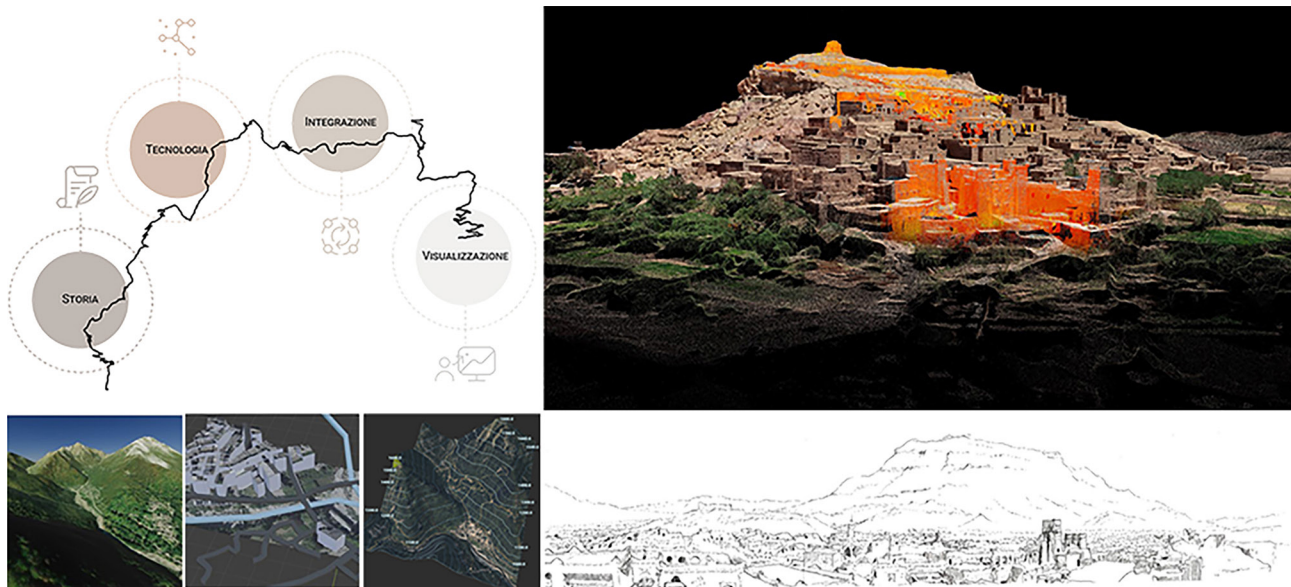


Fig. 2. On the left, for the Urban session, the integrated approach presented by Polytechnic University of Turin; on the right, for the Nomadic session, the documentation of the Presaharan Berber architecture through digital surveys presented by A. Pettineo and S. Parrinello.

tunity for discussion and the definition of possible future research directions in enhancing and conserving cultural, urban, landscape, and natural heritage, contributing significantly to a broader debate in the discipline.

The papers presented demonstrated how *Urban/Nomad* can be addressed through multiple approaches, including stories of places, buildings and cities, landscapes and territories, and innova-

tive techniques for describing tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The theme of digital nomadism or technological nomadism proved to be of particular interest and relevance, allowing the opening of innovative segments towards future scenarios in the application of surveying, documentation and representation technologies.

The proposed thematic oxymoron stimulated reflection on the contem-

porary dichotomies that shape our relationship with the built environment, territory, and identity. It highlighted the richness and multidisciplinary nature of the approaches needed to address current challenges.

After selecting contributions, the symposium's outcomes will be published in issue 1/2025 of the scientific journal *Paesaggio Urbano*, published by Maggioli Editore.

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