

EDITORIAL

ENGAGING ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IN CLIMATE ACTION

The ICOMOS Working Group on Climate Change and Cultural Heritage have recently released an *Outline of Climate Change and Cultural Heritage*. The document starts claiming the general absence of the cultural heritage field in the climate discourse. It emphasizes the gap between culture and heritage sectors, as important institutions in most communities, and their lack of mobilization on climate change actions. Accordingly, the texts ambitions climate change to become a baseline competency of heritage management against which heritage communities may measure their engagement.

The last issue of *Vitruvio* for 2019 pays tribute to the engagement of architectural heritage in climate action. Following the Outline of ICOMOS, the Alhambra contribution emphasises the need for regular maintenance, as it can ensure optimization of conservation and protection without negatively impacting its heritage values, authenticity and integrity. Regular cleaning and maintenance, and use of traditional construction methods and materials, as well as maintenance of landmark's surroundings, all can contribute to adaptability to the natural and anthropic risks, which are in turn specific to the history of its fragile materials and the maintenance of the physical condition, both under increased contemporary pressures.

According to the ICOMOS document, good conservation practice of buildings and structures always begins with a clear understanding of the cultural significance of the place. Garofalo factory research brings in the needs of stakeholders, the neighbourhood and the city. This approach goes beyond a physical condition and fabric analysis to understand the history of the development of the site to assess its associations in search of the reuse of a large industrial Asset. This type of assessment follows the basis of Conservation Management Plans, which are the standard methodological approach for systematically managing change to heritage places.

The Outline document of ICOMOS makes explicit mention of the ability of cultural heritage to support adaptation (Article 7 of the Paris Agreement), especially when Cultural Values are incorporated into adaptation governance. The Instituto do Café analysis provides here the analysis of functional and appealing Cultural Values as an asset to guide adaptation options and bolster the enabling conditions for adaptation that should explore the notion of cultural commons; the city structure and the revitalization process among others. Therefore, in the adaptation context, also different types of Cultural Significance (and different types of heritage) are in need to be carefully considered.

In the section Correlating Heritage to the Paris Agreement of the Outline document, Loss and Damage (Article 8 of the Paris Agreement) refer to the identification and documentation of knowledge systems likely to be lost or damaged due to climate actions. Similarly, Company Towns approach includes loss of local and industrial knowledge. The disappearance of landscape features and relative elements on which knowledge systems are based leads to the loss of cultural practices, loss of historic character and setting. In this line, the Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss, and the role of sustainable development in reducing loss and damage.

Cultural Heritage and Social Resilience Act as a Climate Action Asset. Following the Outline document, community and societal responses to climate change vary widely, but all can benefit from the participatory governance models found in the cultural heritage field. As it is the case of the study undertaken in Barcelona, in some cases, citizen science approaches utilise technology to monitoring and recording heritage at risk and vulnerable environments. Cultural heritage inventories and participatory cultural mapping initiatives, serving as a knowledge-gathering process as well as a platform for citizen capacity building to detect hazards and raise awareness to minimise imbalances depends on perception and resilience. Both, traditional approaches like oral histories and new technologies such as GIS and Big Data applied to architectural heritage assist in this task.

In *Good Conservation Practises*, the Outline document calls for proactive management and Assets' modifications for carbon mitigation. Building rehabilitation, as showcased here, is becoming the driver of heritage conservation management policies. Proposals to analyse the extent to which CO₂ emissions can be diminished by means of different measures of energy efficiency can start by simple monitoring of change, or by an analysis of the embodied energy of existing heritage infrastructure. Other actions such as retrofit programmes, proposals of wet and dry constructive solutions and the use of tools like Life Cycle Assessment reveals how specific actions can help integrate architectural heritage in climate action. Irrespective of the architectural heritage we deal with, today we are creating the nostalgia that others will unfold tomorrow. Therefore, a fact that faces conflicting objectives before that future unfolding has to do with the approaches we undertake towards contemporary heritage that suffers not only from climate change, poor conditions and lack of renovation and repair but also from the increase of rent and housing costs, energy poverty, evictions, homelessness, etc. Architectural heritage would necessarily need to meet the Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The breadth of the architectural heritage sector allows for meaningful connections with almost all 17 SDGs. For instance, SDG6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG8 (Productive and Decent work), SDG11 (Resilient Infrastructures, Inclusive and Safe Cities, SDG13 (Climate change and impacts), SDG15 (Sustainable Use of Ecosystems) .

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NOTES

This Editorial was written in a zero-energy building.

REFERENCES

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