The Role of Heritage in Localising SDGs in the Metropolis

Strategies, Insights, and Innovations from Regional Workshops and Research Forums

HERITOPOLIS

UN-Habitat UNI Consortium on Metropolitan Heritage

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The Role of Heritage in Localising SDGs in the Metropolis:
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Heritopolis Working Papers | Volume 2

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1. Introduction

This is the Volume 2 of the Heritopolis Working Papers representing the activities of its Research Forum and the diverse studies on Heritage and the Metropolis that were debated by researchers around the world. The document is an effort to reflect on the new role of heritage in the current context, being aware of the on-going demographic, economic, political and demographic challenges while considering heritage as a resource to be managed in the support of common wellbeing. Moreover, with the metropolis becoming a dominant urban typology, the heritage values can support vibrant living and unique identities in the ever-growing conurbations. This demonstrates the key role that heritage, both natural and cultural, plays in supporting spatial sustainability and the symbiotic relationships. The changing notion of heritage poses a challenge to metropolitan policies, calling for a more comprehensive view that acknowledges its dynamic nature and its influence on future generations. For this reason, it is believed that the overarching approach to heritage in the metropolis should be in the localising of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other future goals and priorities, which have brought to give this Volume the title of The Role of Heritage in Localising SDGs in the Metropolis.

This Volume is divided in two Parts. The first brings together five international workshops held, in chronological order in Istanbul, Shanghai, Guadalajara, London, and Mombasa. The geographical variety of these events highlights the need to consider different contexts and different approaches to the new meanings, attributes and values that are to be accredited to heritage in the 21st century and in its relationship with the metropolis and the new emerging concepts of the city. We can see how different scales of reflection have been addressed and realised. In the case of Marmara Urban Forum: Resilience and Beyond, the difficult synergy of the relationship between metropolitan dynamics and the preservation of its heritage is raised. In Shanghai, the "The Power of Nature in Metropolitan Area, Special Activity for the World Metropolitan Day and Shanghai Urban Space Art Season." The experts visited the Yangtze estuary and discussed how sustainable development can be compatible with natural ecosystems and how spatial planning can support the collaborative and harmonious development of the natural heritage sites and its surrounding areas. In the Conference "Latin American Metropolises, Disputed Territories or Dialogue of Knowledge" with a total of 60 presentations, the topics are distributed in three lines: Heritage in metropolitan planning and governance; Heritage and urban-metropolitan fabric; and Heritage, socio-environmental systems and climate change. At this conference, the difficulties of working to achieve the SDGs, due to the lack of governmental frameworks that define metropolises, were highlighted. In the case of "London National Park City: Integrating Natural and Cultural Heritage to Build Metropolitan Resilience in the Face of Climate Change" the Swahilipot Hub Foundation and its focus on youth and heritage probes further, interrogated the role of youth in preserving heritage.

The second Part summarises three online research forums, which were held between January and June 2024. This has been a unique opportunity for sharing ongoing cutting-edge research with 16 studies from 11 universities and institutions in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. These diverse studies explore the potential of how heritage can localise the SDGs in the 21st century's metropolises. The aim of the Research Forum 1 'Rural-Urban Linkages´ was to reflect on the relationships between the rural and the urban, and the role of heritage, mainly natural, in shaping the territorial developments and

its meanings today. New methodologies for mapping the metropolitan landscape were presented as part of the wider cartographic methods. The Research Forum 2 focused on the hitherto rather neglected issue of 'World Heritage Sites in Local Metropolitan Contexts'. With over 300 cities in over 100 countries listed with World Heritage, the monitoring processes and interactions with the surrounding urban fabric shows the difficulty in the management and identification of these heritage sites. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape has highlighted the need to go beyond the accepted boundaries of conservation areas, while the future challenge will be going beyond the accepted boundaries of the city to the metropolitan territories. Finally, Research Forum 3: 'Heritage in Metropolises: Strategies for its Identification and Reactivation to Improve the Quality of Life of Citizens' focused on deepening the importance of citizen participation in the identification and valuation of cultural heritage, giving special space to intangible heritage, but stressing the need to build shared narratives from different disciplines, stakeholders and administration.

In the current agenda for sustainable development neither culture nor heritage are included as a separate SDG, rather they are to be traced in other SDGs, such us SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) – of special interest to Heritopolis, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) or SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Recognising that most of the urban population by 2035 will be living in metropolises, [1]this will be a new dimension to be considered through spatial sustainability, linking the urban and rural. Based on Heritopolis recent events, the regional workshops and the research fora, conclusions and recommendations will be formulated. It is planned that this document will be a step towards the preparations for the post 2030 UN development agenda that have started and the intention of Heritopolis is to show that heritage can play a critical role in addressing the challenges of the coming decades. This Volume provides academic evidence for this endeavour.

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[1] *According to the UN-Habitat Global State of Metropolis - Population Data Booklet (2020), based on the 2018 Revision of the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects research, it is expected that by 2035, 39% of the global population and 62.5% of the world's urban population will reside in metropolitan areas.*

Part 1. Reporting from regional workshops

While designing regional workshops Heritopolis put forth a number of important questions linking heritage and metropolises. How are metropolises re-shaped by heritage? Is there a potential loss of natural and cultural heritage? How and to what extent each metropolitan authority engages with global governance tools and instruments to advance heritage activities and measure progress in that regard? And finally, how heritage contributes to achieving SDGs in the metropolitan context?

Regarding the latter, it is important to point out that some or all the SDGs are incorporated into the public policies of many metropolises, however, sometimes in a rather reduced way. One of the reasons is that the national state is mostly responsible for implementing policy in this domain and reporting on an international scale. Since cultural and natural heritage are only noted as a target in SDG11.4, the scale of harnessing them to achieve the goals, in many cases, is rather limited. It is worth mentioning a few exceptions where metropolises openly announced their involvement in localising SDGs. For example, Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) has announced the Seoul Sustainable Development Goals (SSDGs) 2030 in 2017,[2] reflecting the SMG's roles and responsibilities, Goals 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), and 15 (Life on land) include targets related to culture and natural heritage (8.7, 11.4 and 15.3), which are actively pursued. Also, a draft vision document for Delhi intends to strengthen efforts to implement SDG 11 and specifically its Target 11.4 to protect and safeguard the cultural and natural heritage. The vision document is part of the Master Plan of Delhi 2041 prepared by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and aims to provide a strategic framework for the city's development over the next 20 years, has identified specific indicators for this target:

World Heritage Sites, historical sites free of encroachment, adequate tourist sites.

In order to deepen knowledge on the role of heritage in localising SDGs, Heritopolis has organised the workshops to discuss and analyse the following specific issues:

- What specific role cultural and natural heritage can play in 21st century metropolises?

- What are the limits of the current heritage paradigms and how metropolitan authorities can change them?

The Heritopolis initiative saw the need to delve deeper into the nature of metropolitan identities and to bring to light significant innovation in the heritage field as an enabler for sustainable development. There were questions rising about the integrated natural and cultural perspective of metropolitan spatial sustainability in four phases: approach, design, conservation, and management.

The workshops reflected on whether to preserve heritage as it is or re-imagine it for better outcomes and discussed the relationship of metropolitan heritage and architectural design. They highlighted the key role of metropolises in shaping our heritage and the necessity of reevaluating architectural design approaches. Metropolises must be recognised beyond traditional heritage artefacts, especially exploring the multi-faceted connections between tangible and intangible heritage assets and metropolises. A more dynamic view of heritage in urban and metropolitan spaces as advocated by the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Landscape[3] is necessary.

Heritage in metropolitan planning and governance, heritage and urban-metropolitan

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[2] https://english.seoul.go.kr/seoul-city-announces-2030-sustainable-development-goals/?form=MG0AV3
[3] The 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is an additional tool to integrate policies and practices of conservation of the built environment into the wider goals of urban development in respect of the inherited values and traditions of different cultural contexts. https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul/

fabric, and socio-environmental systems were also relevant themes during the regional workshops. Concerning the first topic: What is the connection of heritage with metropolitan governance? Recognising the complexity of the metropolitan context, and considering that metropolises share natural infrastructures, as well as tangible and intangible heritage, the need to protect and conserve heritage was discussed from a comprehensive perspective. It is stated that metropolises (because they constitute functional territories that most often comprise several municipalities) have a social and territorial integrating role and are responsible for the development of a geographical environment. Do communities play a vital role in shaping and preserving metropolitan cultural heritage? How are different stakeholders locally and internationally engaged?

Finally, there was the following question asked. How to study cultural heritage in metropolises and to build and promote metropolitan resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change? The transformation of environmental systems due to the increase in temperature, extreme weather events and biodiversity loss, especially in densely populated areas such as metropolises have not been evaluated in depth. There is an interdependency between the urban and the natural in the context of the climate crisis. Will the challenges become insurmountable without due attention to human–nature relations (including urban biodiversity and blue–green infrastructure) in the urban areas where most of humankind now lives?

The five international workshops held, in chronological order, in Istanbul, Shanghai, Guadalajara, London and Mombasa stand out among the activities of Heritopolis in 2023 and 2024 and contribute to the discussion on localising SDGs:

- Istanbul: Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF): Resilience and Beyond (6.10.2023).

- Shanghai: The Power of Nature in Metropolitan Areas. The Special Activity for the World Metropolitan Day and Shanghai Urban Space Art Season 2023 (9-10.10.2023).

- Guadalajara: Latin American Metropolises, Disputed Territories or Dialogue of Knowledge (10-12.04.2024).

- London: London National Park City: Integrating Natural and Cultural Heritage to Build Metropolitan Resilience in the Face of Climate Change (13.06.2024).

- Mombasa: Future Metropolis: Localising the SDGs (10.2024).

MAR UF — MARMARA URBAN FORUM

4-7 Ekim / October 2023
ISTANBUL

dayanıklılık ve
—— ötesi

resilience and
—— beyond

Metropolis

06 Oct 2023 09:30 - 11:00 @ Room 4

#Culture #Heritage #Metropolitan

In this session, Heritopolis, an international network that explores the value of the metropolis as one of the future legacies from the 21st century with the aim of highlighting its significance for the future generations will be featured. The session will present, for the first time to the public, comprehensive field research findings regarding approaches and institutional measures related to the preservation of cultural heritage in major global metropolises. The discussions will revolve around new concepts, approaches, and perspectives such as the integration of nature and culture in preservation, the DNA of cities, and the transformative power of metropolitan heritage.

Moderator
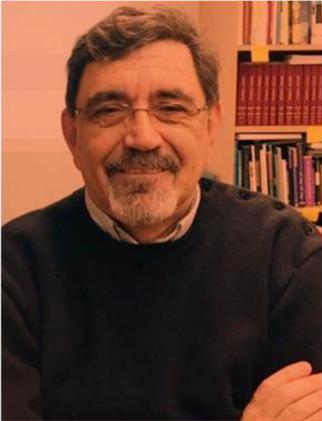
Speakers

Himmet Murat Güvenç

Prof., Director of Istanbul Studies Center, Kadir Has University

Antonella Contin

Assist. Prof., Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

Eric Huybrechts

Manager of International Affairs, Institut Paris Region

Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga

Assist. Prof., Institute of Spatial Development and Urban Studies, Cracow University of Economics

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Heritopolis – a global consortium on metropolitan heritage

Istanbul Workshop – October 2023: Marmara Urban Forum: Resilience and Beyond

By Marmara Municipalities Union (MMA)

The Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) focuses on metropolitan heritage and architectural design, exploring the multi-faceted connections between tangible and intangible heritage assets and metropolises. In 2023, the forum addressed urbanisation as the legacy to future generations, raising questions about the quantity and quality of heritage passed on. It highlighted the need to recognise metropolises beyond traditional heritage artefacts, prompting a shift in perspective towards a more dynamic view of heritage in urban spaces, as advocated by UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. The Heritopolis session, organised within the Forum, highlighted the pivotal role of metropolises in shaping our heritage and the necessity of reevaluating current architectural design approaches. Keynote speakers focused on the relationships between metropolitan dynamics and heritage preservation.

MARUF underscored the demographic shifts towards urban living, which now accounts for a significant portion of the global population. This transition to urbanized ways of life is taken up as a heritage to future generations, and a scholarly challenge prompting reflection on the implications of present actions. It is crucial to consider how this scale of urbanization is integrated into current architectural conservation practices and intangible heritage issues.

The definition of a metropolis extends beyond mere size, encompassing its economic, social, and geographical dimensions, blurring the lines between urban and rural areas. It is seen as a complex entity, characterised by its economic activities as well as the intricate relationships between various urban processes and in an extended spatial context of rural interplay. The Paris Metropolis, for example, extends beyond city limits, encompasses natural reserves, agriculture, and urban developments. The complexity of current metropolises challenges traditional notions of heritage, given their function as hubs for diverse activities and their dynamic nature, evidenced for example by changing mobility patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The forum reflected on whether to preserve heritage as it is or re-imagine it for better outcomes. It emphasises a dynamic, unconventional (new) approach to enhance the value of tangible and intangible heritage by improving quality of life and functionality.

Collaborations with universities and the support of planning agencies like MTPA have enabled comprehensive surveys on cities to capture key elements of their heritage and metropolitan spaces. These surveys, which initially covered 15 cities, have grown to include diverse regions of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and South America, with Istanbul playing a key role. The surveys aimed to describe the unique characteristics of each metropolis, using frameworks like UNESCO guidelines, the New Urban Agenda, to define and measure urban heritage value. Policymakers face the challenge of identifying the "DNA" of their metropolis, including distinctive qualities and soundscapes, reflecting the multifaceted nature of heritage.

MARUF also examined the issues of identity within a metropolis, the importance of shared identity for its tangible reality, and the interaction of identities creating a new cosmopolitan culture. Case studies like

Barcelona and Beijing illustrated the shift towards a broader understanding of heritage and innovative urban planning strategies. Barcelona's metropolitan documents, unlike those of London and Paris, prioritise heritage, while Paris focuses on culture as a core of its urban planning, in relation to World Heritage properties.

The discussion concluded with considerations for policymakers and urban planners to re-evaluate the role of heritage in urban environments and policies, suggesting alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. It also highlighted the significance of natural heritage in sustainable urban development in Africa and the focus on urban renewal in East Asia. Moreover, the forum recognised the need for a nuanced understanding of heritage, which also includes intangible aspects (such as music and cultural expressions) and the need for collaboration on the topics of metropolitan identity and heritage with the Schools of Urban Planning that would provide insights into the interplay between culture and urban development. The novel interdisciplinary approach would enrich our understanding of heritage, considering both tangible landmarks and intangible elements that shape an urban character. The importance of engaging with diverse stakeholders to contribute to a sustainable and culturally rich future for the metropolis was also emphasised. The evolving concept of heritage challenges metropolitan policies, advocating for a broader perspective on heritage that considers its dynamic nature and impact on future generations.

Eric Huybrechts, Antonella Contin and Murat Guvenc (photo: F Fehanoglu).

THE POWER OF NATURE IN METROPOLITAN AREA

Heritopolis Shanghai Conference on the World Metropolitan Day 2023

SUSAS 崇明 分展区
CAUP TONGJI UNIVERSITY
W)TRAP
上海同济城市规划设计研究院有限公司
SHANGHAI TONGJI URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE CO.,LTD.
上海崇明东滩鸟类国家级自然保护区
SHANGHAI CHONGMING DONGTAN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
IC⬤MOS China
中国古迹遗址保护协会

Special Activity for the World Metropolitan Day
and Shanghai Urban Space Art Season 2023
(Chongming Venue)

HOST
College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University

ORGANIZERS
World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region
Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute Co.,Ltd

CO-ORGANIZER
Shanghai Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve Management Center

SUPPORTER
ICOMOS China

10.09
Mon.

10.10
Tues.

Wen Yuan Building, Tongji University
Shanghai Chongming Dongtan National Nature Reserve

Shanghai Workshop – October 2023: The Power of Nature in Metropolitan Areas

By WHITR-AP | Tongji University

The Special Activity for the World Metropolitan Day and Shanghai Urban Space Art Season 2023

Experts at the bird sanctuary on the Yangtse estuary as part of Metropolitan Shanghai.

Metropolitan heritage, comprising valuable architecture, cultural sites, and urban spaces with historical, cultural, and artistic significance in the human urbanization process, carries the memory and spirit of the city. Protecting metropolitan heritage is not only a responsibility to preserve history but also an essential path to drive urban sustainability. Heritage in metropolitan areas faces significant challenges, such as rapid urbanization, pollution, and the impacts of climate change, all of which pose threats to our collective future. Initiating a dialogue to balance metropolitan development and heritage preservation is crucial. Advocating for sustainable metropolitan development practices while nurturing the natural environment is a necessity.

We are living in an urbanized era, with metropolitan areas being the predominant form of human habitation and vital engines for economic development, cultural innovation, and social change. The question of how to protect and pass on our cultural and natural heritage in metropolitan areas is a matter of common concern. "Metropolitan heritage" is a new model and approach that provides an essential analytical dimension.

The conference focused on the following topics:

- The Power of Nature.
- The Relationship between Nature and Culture.
- How to Manage the Nature in Metropolitan.
- Heritopolis Reporting and Futures.

The conference began with a keynote address by Ms. Shao Yang, Professor at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University and Executive Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (Shanghai). Speaking on "The Water Town in Jiangnan Region and the Great Shanghai: Nature and Cultural Conservation of International Metropolis," she outlined the history of Jiangnan Water Towns and Greater Shanghai and proposed new concepts, methods, and pathways for the natural and cultural conservation needed by Shanghai as an international metropolis. Prof. Michael Turner, UNESCO Chair Professor in Urban Design and Conservation Studies at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Israel, then presented on "The Heritages of Spatial Sustainability." He provided a philosophical perspective on the fundamental thinking for "metropolitan heritage," combining nature and culture, with sustainability as the primary goal.

The first session of the conference, entitled "The Power of Nature," featured four experts from Delhi, Seoul, and Shanghai. They discussed their perspectives on the natural aspects of metropolitan areas from four angles: the conservation and management of natural resources in large cities; public participation; the interpretation of the value of natural metropolitan heritage; and measures for embodying sustainable development.

Director Niu Dongliang from the Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve Management Center introduced the biodiversity conservation and management efforts in Chongming Dongtan.

Ms. Peng Wenyu, a representative with extensive experience in public participation practices, shared two project cases illustrating experiences and reflections on encouraging the public to actively engage in the sustainable conservation of natural or cultural heritage within the context of global Sustainable Development Goals.

Professor JaeHeon Choi, a leading figure in the field of human geography in South Korea, presented the value of natural heritage in the Seoul metropolitan area and the interesting process of incorporating natural elements (i.e. Hangang River and its branch streams as well as surrounding mountains) into the urban basic plan of Metropolitan Seul. It

is an example of the situation where the nature-culture linkage is materialised as a part of urban planning, being a resource to enhance quality of live. Ms. Jana Chaudhuri, a strategic thinker and critic in the field of urban heritage from India, started with an understanding of nature and, through a series of cases, discussed the complex yet close relationship between nature and the metropolis. She concluded by sharing thoughts on the embodiment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using the example of the redevelopment of the Central Vista area in Delhi.

The second conference session, titled "Nature and Culture Relationship," four experts from China, Germany, Italy, and Spain explored the integration of culture and nature in metropolitan areas from various angles. They discussed heritage narratives, practical cases in Barcelona, teaching cases in Italy, and Shanghai's waterfront heritage.

"Heritopolis" integrates cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible heritage. He posed the question of "what are the major challenges of our time" and inspired answers by exploring forward-looking perspectives, the three elements of the sustainable development agenda, the uniqueness of each metropolis, opportunities arising from similar challenges, and integrative development to address these challenges.

From the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, the Director of the Open Space Planning Office of the Green Infrastructure and Services Agency, Dr. Eugenia Vidal-Casanovas, introduced systematic heritage preservation methods that combine nature and urban development through three project cases. Researcher Prof. Antonella Contin from Politecnico di Milano emphasised the importance of integrating nature and culture into metropolitan planning, illustrating specific implementation methods with Chinese cases and projects. A good example here would be Wengding, located in Yunnan Province, that has developed functional buffer spaces that enhance public areas while respecting heritage conservation. The plan creates designs that harmonise the cultural and environmental elements, aiming for sustainable development that balances heritage preservation with community needs while fostering a resilient and interconnected rural-urban environment.

Associate Professor Xiao Jianli from Tongji University's College of Architecture and Urban Planning presented "Waterfront Heritage, Urban Code," outlining the development process of Shanghai's Suzhou River waterfront heritage from natural ecology to cultural landscape, including such projects as M50 Creative Park (an old textile factory transformed into a gathering place for internationally renowned art galleries, creative studios, and fashion designers), the War of Resistance Memorial Museum (in adapted warehouses), creative office spaces and cultural venues South Suzhou River Creative Park, and renovation of the waterfront public spaces. She emphasised the importance of waterfront heritage preservation for the city's sustainable development, which included its role in strengthening social cohesion, economic transformation and growth, ecological environment improvement, urban space optimisation and reuse, urban image and brand shaping as well as cultural heritage engagement.

The third conference session, entitled "How to Manage Nature in Metropolitan," was explored in depth by three experts from China and Indonesia, covering both practical and theoretical aspects of management issues.

Professor Wiendu Nuryanti from Indonesia introduced the protection challenges faced by Yogyakarta, the former capital of Indonesia, which is a new addition to the list of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites. She highlighted the current lack of comprehensive planning and public engagement. Dr Wen Cheng, the General Manager of Jing Lang Ecological Technology Co., Ltd. in Beijing, discussed the ecological conservation challenges facing Beijing, including changes in biodiversity and ecosystems in different geographical regions. He also emphasised the importance of blending culture and nature in metropolises and introduced three key regulations applied to landscapes in Japan. construction of ecological networks to reconnect urban areas with nature. Professor Xu Tong from Beijing Forestry University inspired the audience with various landscape approaches.

In the fourth conference session, titled "Heritopolis Reporting and Futures," four experts from Australia, Brazil, Poland, and the United States, all speaking online, explored the development directions of "Urban Heritage" from the perspectives of urban conflicts, climate change, economy, and law.

From the researcher Daniel Athias De Almeida at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, participants learned about the narrative conflicts and pathways related to World Heritage Sites. They presented community-engaged urban heritage management methods through various project examples. Mr. Moses Gates from the Regional Plan Association introduced the impact of climate change on waterfront areas in New York City and discussed three aspects to enhance urban resilience for better heritage protection - protecting people and preserving communities, including then relocation is unavoidable; providing more, not less, access to the places affected by climate change; and maintaining traditions and creating new ones in conjunction with the changing environmental landscape. Professor Joanna SANETRA SZALEGA, from the UNESCO Chair for Heritage and Urban Studies at Krakow University of Economics in Poland, emphasised the similarities and importance of natural and cultural capital in urban development, highlighting culture as the ultimate goal for achieving sustainability and the crucial role of cultural capital in urban social and economic resilience. Professor Ana Filipa Vrdojlak from the UNESCO Chair in International Law and Cultural Heritage, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, explained the significance, content elements, and different types of normative texts in urban heritage preservation, emphasising their pivotal role of the legal norms and their implementation and oversight in promoting sustainable development and cultural protection. The conference unanimously approved the Shanghai Metropolis Initiative as encapsulating the spirit and intentions of the meeting. It will be taken forward by Heritopolis, along with outcome documents from the other regional workshops over the coming months.

Heritopolis Shanghai Metropolis Initiative

In the context of localising the 2030 Sustainability Goals and the impacts of climate change, how should metropolises harness the integration of cultural and natural heritage? The Initiative aims to optimise the urban ecosystems of metropolises for maintenance, sustainable development, and socio-economic transformations. The Heritopolis initiative will be presented from the integrated natural and cultural perspective of spatial sustainability in three phases: design, approach, conservation, and management.

First, there is a need for an appropriate approach:

1. Reconnect the dots that converge nature and culture in the extended environment of the metropolis based on the Historic Urban Landscape approach.

2. Initiative for a discussion on ways of thinking, identifying new approaches that go beyond the nature-culture dichotomy and provide and important platform for new heritage models.

3. Call on more metropolises to join us in comparative research in reflecting on the very urgent challenges and opportunities we face today and exploring innovative methodologies.

Second, conservation and development are also needed:

4. Natural and cultural heritage resources providing for metropolitan resilience and sustainability.

5. Nature-Based Solutions enhancing research in the mitigating adaptive and transformative actions for responding to climate change from a metropolitan perspective.

6. Calling for practical examples of metropolises that can encourage ground-breaking ideas by all city stakeholders

Finally, a look forward to the perspective of management processes and mechanisms:

7. Initiative for a normative instrument on metropolises and heritage that includes a dimension of metropolises as heritage, adding the words "to enhance the synergistic development of natural and cultural heritage in metropolitan areas with neighbouring communities."

8. Applying the processes of the New Urban Agenda and localisation of the SDGs for integrative biodiversity management in metropolises.

9. Considering sustainable environments and participatory management in the context of disputes and conflicts.

10. Promoting comparative studies of the ways in which metropolitan natural and cultural heritage are integrated as part of sustainability strategies.

Metrópolis latinoamericanas.

¿Territorios en disputa o diálogo de saberes?

Programa de actividades

10-12 abril 2024

Guadalajara Workshop – April 2024: Latin American Metropolises, Disputed Territories or Dialogue of Knowledge

By The Latin-American Metropolis – University of Guadalajara

The conference manifesto stated that metropolises constitute a new spatial order, and are inhabited by an urban-metropolitan society, which is characterised by its heterogeneity. In the metropolitan dimension, the territory resumes an integrating role, and its cultural values are shared with a larger population. The metropolis is, potentially, a generator of new heritage values and new identities that begin to build a metropolitan collective memory. It was emphasised that there was a need for the study, management, and conservation of heritage to be approached with a vision that can reconcile the dichotomy between the cultural and the natural in a new territorial dimension. A key aspect that was mentioned was the need to differentiate the "urban" from the "metropolitan" in environmental, economic, and above all, the social context. Although in some cities metropolitan planning was discarded in the 1960s and 1970s, there is a need of resuming the discussion on it, to face contemporary challenges.

The conference's discussions revolved around the following topics:

- Heritage in metropolitan planning and governance.

- Heritage and urban-metropolitan fabric.

- Heritage, socio-environmental systems and climate change.

Metropolises (because they constitute an agglomeration of municipalities) have a social and territorial integrating role, and are responsible for the development of a geographical environment. However, a metropolis must have a legal framework that provides legal foundations for their governance in order to be manageable and possible to govern. A good example here would be Guadalajara in Mexico where only in 2014, with development of the Metropolitan Planning Institute (IMEPLAN), there was an attempt to prepare managing background for the whole territory of the metropolis, that ensured unified criteria for the preservation and regulation of cultural-natural values, as well as establishment of ecological planning criteria, and integration of various stakeholders (academia, civil population and political actors) in decision-making in order to carry out the Metropolitan Land-Use Plan (POTMET).

The SDGs offer an important reference for the development of metropolitan governance. However, it is important that they would not be applied in isolation by different parts of a metropolis but dealt with using a holistic approach designated for the whole territory, including rural parts. The SDGs should have an impact on the executive planning process, and public policies, preferably established through some co-creating process with the stakeholders. When talking about heritage, the concept must include tangible heritage and intangible heritage, both are part of the wealth of the metropolis, and when planning, the heritage that must be protected needs to be identified, together with its potential for local development. With culture not being specifically included in the SDGs, culture and heritage must be brought to the fore to incorporate the needs of the different metropolitan communities to ensure cultural plurality.

Heritage and the urban-metropolitan fabric theme were discussed in the context of heritage landscapes and their transformation (resulting from the fragmentation of the subject-object duality, which had led to an

environmental imbalance). There were two main issues raised here. First, an important idea mentioned here was a biophilic city which fostered enjoyment and connections between urban communities and the natural environment.[4] The main question posed was whether biophilic cities could offer an urban model that encourages closeness between humans and nature.[5] This proposal is pertinent, due to the environmental imbalance that the planet has faced for several decades noted by the regular assessment reports detailing the impacts of human activity on the environment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The model conceives the city as an ecosystem, putting nature before the planning and design of cities. Apart from having a green infrastructure and large spaces of natural areas, the biophilic city includes the way of life of people, who know and are responsible for their environment. (Beatley, 2016). In this regard, the different works presented at the conference address topics related to specific cases of green infrastructure, natural areas, and sustainable mobility, among others.

Another of the topics analysed is the inclusion of the landscape to the heritage list of the metropolises, a fact that potentially increases tourist interest, and consequently, the gentrification of a certain area. The above could produces impacts in heritage conservation issues. For this reason, it is important that, in metropolitan planning, strategies for the protection of heritage are contemplated.

One of the important issues to be considered by metropolises is the impact of climate change (increase of temperature, droughts, heat waves, availability of water, fires, among others) on cultural heritage management. What are the main challenges of managing cultural and natural heritage, what factors of this heritage are related and how do they interact, what actors are involved in this management? Again, an important factor of successful dealing with the problems would be to have an appropriate, holistic, approach to the whole territory of a metropolises, meaning a right legal framework that corresponds to the challenges of contemporary metropolises. Otherwise, situations like the one in the Metropolitan Zone of the Valley of Mexico could appear, where the population of 21.8 million inhabitants, distributed over an area of 1900km2 is governed by 76 political-administrative units, often representing different political parties and governing approaches.

The topic of metropolis' heritage and climate change has not yet been evaluated in depth. It also raises a methodological question, how to approach studies of the metropolis, in this case, how to study cultural heritage in the face of climate change? One proposal would be to analyse the connection between the two through the study of risk management, environmental history, environmental anthropology and climate conservation sciences, considering aspects such as temporality and scales of analysis, since climate events have an impact on different scales. It is crucial to remember that although heritage might be divided into different categories to facilitate its understanding and analysis, those categories are in fact intertwined and connected to each other.

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[4] Ten examples: https://urbandesignlab.in/10-inspiring-biophilic-urbanism-case-studies/?form=MG0AV3
[5] Tarek, S., Ouf, A.S.ED. Biophilic smart cities: the role of nature and technology in enhancing urban resilience. J. Eng. Appl. Sci. 68, 40 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1186/s44147-021-00042-8

London National Park City:

integrating natural & cultural heritage to build metropolitan resilience in the face of climate change
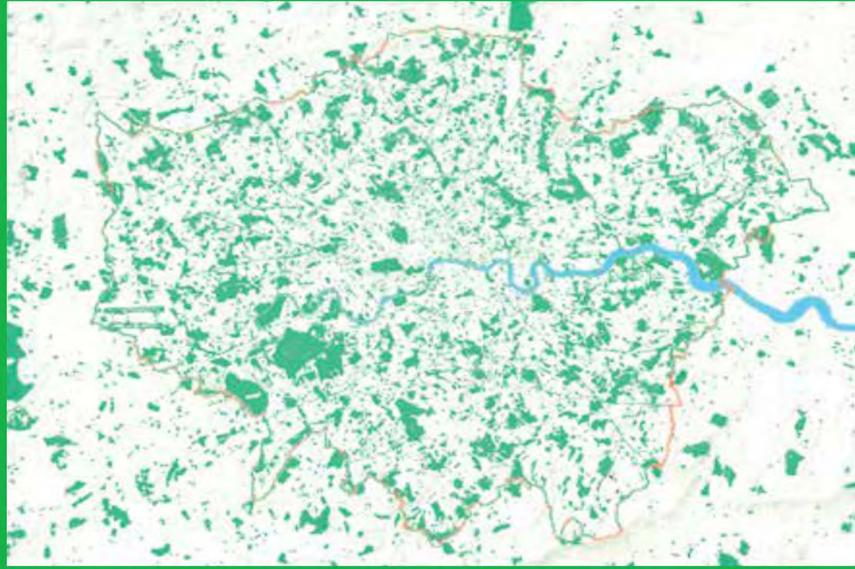
Thurs 13th June 2024, 10.30–16.30
London National Park City visitors centre, 109 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 2AB

London was designated as a 'National Park City' (https://www.nationalparkcity.london/) in 2019, with the ambition to 'turn London into a more liveable, workable and sustainable city', emphasising the importance of the relationship between environmental stewardship and socio-economic inclusion in the metropolitan area. As a concept explicitly associated with non-urban, natural environments, imported into urban and metropolitan policy discourse, it recognizes the interdependency between the urban and the natural in the context of the climate crisis. This workshop presented by LNPC and the London Hub of Heritopolis (www.heritopolis.org) will explore progress in developing the potential of London's National Park City designation in two key areas: as a policy tool to mobilise the 'power of nature' in the context of climate change and localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and in articulating integrated conceptualisations and knowledge of urban-natural culture and heritage in the metropolis, both with comparative reference to relevant metropolitan comparators.

Speakers will include Mark Cridge (LNPC), David English (Historic England), Guy Mannes-Abbott (UCL/ Heygate Community Forest), Clare Melhuish (UCL), Alan Smithies (GLA Design Heritage and Environment), Paul Powlesland (Lawyers for Nature), David Simon (RHUL). Comparative cases will include the Paris Bioregion (l'Institut Paris Region), Tel Aviv Garden City (Els Verbakel, Bezalel Academy), and Rio de Janeiro Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site (Daniel Athias de Almeida, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro). There will also be dedicated discussion sessions.

The workshop represents one of four Heritopolis events in preparation for World Urban Forum 12 in Cairo, 2024, focused on addressing the two priorities adopted by UN-Habitat, Localising the SDGs and Climate Change.

Register at:

London Workshop – June 2024: London National Park City: Integrating Natural and Cultural Heritage to Build Metropolitan Resilience in the Face of Climate Change

By Urban Lab, University College London and Royal Holloway, University of London

Following a campaign led by a guerrilla geographer, Dan Raven-Ellison, a conference and then public consultation process, London was designated as the world's first 'National Park City' (NPC)[6] by the National Park City Foundation[7] in 2019, with the ambition to 'turn London into a more liveable, workable and sustainable city'. This emphasises the importance of the relationship between environmental stewardship and socio-economic inclusion in the metropolitan area. Adelaide in Australia became the second such city in 2021, with Breda (the Netherlands) soon to become the third and potentially 25 worldwide by 2025.

As a concept explicitly associated with non-urban, natural environments, imported into urban and metropolitan policy discourse, NPC designation recognises the interdependency between the urban and the natural in the context of the climate crisis. This reflects the realisation that without due attention to human–nature relations (including urban biodiversity and blue–green infrastructure) in the urban arenas where most of humankind now lives, the challenges would become insurmountable. The workshop explored progress in developing the potential of London's NPC designation in two key areas:

- as a policy tool to mobilise the 'power of nature' in the context of climate change and localisation of the SDGs;

- in articulating integrated Heritopolis' conceptualisations and knowledge of urban–natural culture and heritage in the metropolis, both with reference to relevant metropolitan comparators.

One of the first issues raised was the need for an integrated approach, which places conservation and enhancement of natural heritage in urban and metropolitan contexts fully front and centre. The situation of Greater London with the history of green and open space, only 20% is publicly accessible, comprising a mix of natural and designed landscapes spoke directly to the importance of an integrated approach to cultural and natural heritage. Exploring similarities and differences between the London NPC model and those of the fifteen rural National Parks in the UK could provide some suggestions. The Parks were proclaimed in terms of the 1949 National Parks Act, with the twin statutory purposes of conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage, and promoting public understanding and enjoyment of these qualities to foster social and economic wellbeing. There are four contemporary themes through which the national parks currently operate to this end: Climate leadership (YouCAN); landscape for everyone (Green Halo, PEDALL); wildlife and nature recovery (What we do & how we do); and sustainable farming and land management (LURA).

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[6] See: https://www.nationalparkcity.london/
[7] See: https://www.nationalparkcity.org/

The London-centric discussions were informed and contextualised more widely with three diverse but pertinent examples from experience in other cities within the Heritopolis network. Paris has experience of using pilot projects for a nature metropolis, as well as the various planning concepts operationalised in so doing. The historical underpinnings of Tel Aviv as a Garden City could act as a prelude to surveying current challenges and initiatives to conserve different cultural heritages embedded in parts of the metropolis of Tel Aviv-Yafo at a time of conflict and contestation. And finally, Rio de Janeiro's Carioca Landscapes World Heritage listing provided vital information on constituting 'a creative fusion between nature and culture' and highlighting the importance of participatory management towards a more sustainable future. An interesting legal innovation was also mentioned and raised a lot of discussion, namely Lawyers for Nature's efforts to give legal force to the rights of nature in landmark cases in parts of London.

The top-down policy and practice was balanced by more ground up approach, including insights from the award-winning urban forest campaign at the Elephant and Castle (2010-13) and its implications for academic research and wider urban forest conservation, highlighting a distinction between the categories of 'urban forest' and 'national park city' (favouring the former) as potential policy tools for forwarding integration between natural and cultural heritage. Another important example described the research and preparation undertaken to date towards declaration of a West Midlands National Park. This is a long-term spatial vision to deal with the everyday challenges faced by communities in the West Midlands, including the climate emergency, regeneration, environment, transport, identity, infrastructure, employment, skills, well-being, and a resilient green recovery.

PWANI INNOVATION WEEK

The Pwani We Desire:
Youth, Culture,Peace and Innovation in the Decade of Action.

Future Metropolis:
Resilience and Heritage in Mombasa -

Heritopolis in localising the SDGs

Venue:
Swahilipot Hub Foundation

HERITOPOLIS UN-HABITAT Metr⊙HUB UNI

Heritopolis - a global consortium on metropolitan heritage

Prof. Michael Turner – 15 October 2024

SWAHILIPOT · AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU KENYA ET EN SOMALIE · NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA · Ministry of Information, Communications and The Digital Economy · SEACOM · LIQUID INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES · CLOSE THE GAP KENYA · KONZA Technopolis · HUAWEI · SMACHS FOUNDATION

Mombasa Workshop – October 2024: Future Metropolis: Localising the SDGs

By Swahilipot Hub Foundation

Pwani Innovation Week is an annual multifaceted event held at Swahilipot Hub Foundation, Mombasa. The event brings together innovators, though-leaders, youth and investors in various conversations focused on issues that directly or indirectly impact the Pwani region (East African coast).

The Heritopolis workshop which occurred on the third day drew panellists from Lamu, Mombasa, Tanga and the Heritopolis Society represented virtually by Prof Mike Turner. In Mombasa, the Heritopolis Society is represented by Swahilipot Hub Foundation, Mombasa County Government (Department of Lands and Urban Renewal) and Technical University of Mombasa coordinated by Dr. Kalandar Khan. The objective of the discussion was to interrogate ways youth can be incorporated in localising SGD11 through active roles in building sustainable communities.

Heritage, in the perspectives of the majority of youth, can be somewhat complex and largely seen as an idea that only focuses on dull antiquities and ruins. The workshop demystified some of these notions, with Heritopolis representatives giving a passionate and youth-friendly presentation on how people are at the centre of heritage preservation. From the people angle, it was easy for the largely youthful audience to relate, and even understand what is built heritage.

One of the outcomes of the workshop was the creation of a youth-oriented initiative, Zamaan, which leverages on the collaborative structure drawn from Lamu, Mombasa, and Tanga, all Pwani spaces with shared heritage. Zamaan will focus on how young people interact with their urban spaces and the forms of heritage and products they also create from this interaction. As with many cityscapes in Kenya, language is an important aspect of intangible culture that is propagated through sheng, a largely urban lingo that was created and also primarily utilised by young people. Sheng has become a strong marker of identity among the young people and Zamaan is working on building conversations around this and other ways that young people interpret the historic urban landscape.

In conclusion, the Heritopolis Society can have a huge impact on the young people of the East African coast through mentorship and trainings around localising SDG targets and the New Urban Agenda. The youth of today have the potential to take heritage to new heights through digital means by creating new ideas and products that can go a long way in preserving our cultural expressions for the coming generations.

Moderator, Nashon Njoroge, Physical Planner, Mombasa County Government, Dr. Kalandar Khan, Technical University Mombasa.

Part 2. Applying knowledge and urban case studies - Research Forum Papers

This second part provides a summary of three online Research Forums held between January and June 2024. These forums offered a unique opportunity to share groundbreaking ongoing research, featuring 16 studies from 11 universities and institutions across Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The diverse studies examine the potential of heritage to contribute to localising the SDGs in 21st-century metropolitan areas. Below is an introduction to the themes and objectives of each Research Forum, as well as a report of the research presented. Finally, the Annex 1 includes the agenda and the abstracts presented at each Research Forum.

Research Forum 1: Rural-Urban Linkages
Introduction

Antonella Contin, Politecnico di Milano, Convener

The Forum's goal was to examine the urban-rural linkage within metropolitan areas, viewed as a gradient of intensity across various places. The metropolis is seen as an inseparable combination of the biosphere, water, and soil, requiring regenerative practices. This approach highlights the symbiotic relationship between culture and science, reinforcing the antifragility of natural systems. In pursuit of sustainability, it is essential to develop tools to understand ecological systems' interactions. A critical focus is how human communities have historically adapted to changes in anthropo-ecological systems, ensuring sustainable habitats. In this Forum, the aim was to evaluate these systems' antifragility through innovative approaches at the local scale but adaptable to metropolitan contexts. These methods prioritise environmental respect, democracy, and self-organisation.

The main objective is to establish a transdisciplinary framework for evaluating policies, management practices, and projects in metropolitan landscapes, drawing on local ecological knowledge. This involves exploring social mechanisms and practices that support resilience.

Territorial intelligence, which expresses geographic relationships and resource management, is central to this process. The physical structure of landscapes and urban design reflects the intertwining of public and private spaces, shaping collective memories and cultural landscapes. This intelligence addresses social, economic, and ecological concerns, offering a framework for inclusion, accessibility, and democracy. It guides the design of resilient, non-fragile solutions to spatial transformation.

Since national funds are often directed towards adaptation or mitigation, subnational governments, especially at the metropolitan level, must implement systematic prevention measures. These governments can better adapt climate funding to local needs. The European Union's focus on environmental and social governance (ESG) underscores sustainability as a strategic necessity, not just a marketing decision.

The Urban-Rural-Linkages project in the Politecnico di Milano, MetroURL[8] adopts an antifragility approach to understand territorial identity nonlinearly. The One Health strategy, which connects human, animal, and ecosystem health, is key to rethinking

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[8] *The Metro Urban-Rural Linkages project follows the URL-GP by UN-Habitat aimed at fostering positive economic, social, and environmental connections between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. The project focuses on strengthening national and regional development planning to ensure balanced territorial development and reduce spatial inequalities.*

metropolitan landscapes. The proposal advocates for regenerative agriculture, strategic partnerships, and a balance between urban and rural needs.

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) are central to the MetroURL project, offering tailored responses to local challenges. These solutions tap into nature's energy, aligning with goals of decarbonisation, hydrogeological rebalancing, and climate adaptation. Additionally, NBS contributes to Culture-Based Solutions (CBS), integrating nature and culture to address social needs. The project hypothesises that incorporating NBS into metropolitan urban-rural connections transforms them into commons of sustainability, providing holistic solutions to ecological challenges.

In conclusion, hybrid metropolitan landscapes and their transitional areas require innovative mapping methodologies. These maps offer a non-verbal narrative to interpret reality. "Metropolitain connectivity" a key concept, refers to the spatial connections within metropolitan territories, describing the continuity of green-grey infrastructure. Studying these connections through cartography can help identify urban-rural margins as potential sites for revitalising metropolitan cultural, natural, and anthropic services, a central aim of the Heritopolis project.

Rapporteurs Report

Paola Branduini (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) and Adva Matar (TU Delft, The Netherlands and Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem)

Human practice is a geophysical force that creates new environments and fundamentally reshapes our understanding of the relationship between humanity and the landscape. This perspective recognises that human activities, particularly in the context of metropolitan development, are not separate from natural processes but are in fact a powerful force shaping our environment. As we expand our cities, develop infrastructure, and alter landscapes for urban use, we are effectively creating new ecosystems and environmental conditions. All present commitment to societies of the metropolis deals with the well-being of the citizens as a starting point and as a target receptor of research and work results.

This realisation brings us to the question of scale: from the regional to the local or the other way around? It is a reciprocal investigation.

The interplay between regional and local scales is crucial in understanding and managing the impacts of human geophysical force. On one hand, broad regional perspectives are essential for grasping the full extent of metropolitan influence on landscapes and ecosystems. They allow us to see patterns of urban expansion, changes in land use, and large-scale environmental impacts. On the other hand, local-scale investigations reveal the nuanced ways in which human practices interact with specific environments, shaping unique local ecosystems and cultural landscapes.

The reciprocal nature of this investigation means that insights gained at the local level can inform regional strategies, while regional patterns provide context for local phenomena. For instance, a local study of urban heat islands might reveal specific design solutions that, when applied regionally, could significantly mitigate climate change impacts across a metropolitan area. Conversely, regional water management strategies might need to be adapted to account for unique local hydrological conditions.

Within this dynamic interplay of scales and human-environment interactions, the role of rural heritage in the metropolis emerges as a critical consideration. As metropolitan areas expand, they often encroach upon or absorb surrounding rural landscapes. These areas, rich in cultural and natural heritage, present both challenges and opportunities for metropolitan development. Rural heritage sites, such as historic farms, traditional villages, or ancient water management systems, can serve as anchors of cultural identity within the rapidly changing metropolitan landscape. They provide tangible links to the region's agricultural past and traditional ways of life. Moreover, these heritage elements often embody sustainable practices and local knowledge that can be invaluable in addressing contemporary urban challenges. The integration of rural heritage into metropolitan planning can lead to more sustainable and resilient urban forms. For example, preserving historic agricultural landscapes on the urban fringe can serve multiple functions: maintaining local food production, providing ecosystem services, offering recreational spaces for urban dwellers, and preserving biodiversity. Similarly, traditional water management systems might be adapted to enhance urban water resilience in the face of climate change. However, the preservation and integration of rural heritage must be approached thoughtfully. There is a risk of rural areas becoming *museumized*[9] or losing their authentic character when absorbed into urban contexts. The challenge lies in finding ways to keep rural heritage elements alive and relevant within the metropolitan fabric, allowing them to evolve while retaining their essential qualities.

In other metropolitan case-studies, the urban development and patterns affect the rural areas, which begin to urbanize in a way that is not entirely urban necessarily, but no longer rural. Learning from sustainable urban fabrics at different cores across the metropolis could benefit the urbanizing rurality of these cases, and support spatial sustainability within the region as an expanding urban-rural field.

In conclusion, recognising human practice as a geophysical force, engaging in multi-scalar reciprocal investigations, and thoughtfully integrating rural heritage can lead to more sustainable, resilient, and culturally rich metropolitan environments. This approach acknowledges the profound impact of human activities on our landscapes while seeking to harness traditional knowledge and practices for contemporary urban solutions.

Research Forum 2: World Heritage Sites in Local Metropolitan Contexts

Introduction

David Simon, Royal Holloway, University of London, Convener

The inspiration for this session arose out of a desire to pull together several separate strands of Heritopolis' work in order to reflect constructively on the potential agenda highlighted by that integration. First, there remains little formal integration between cultural and natural heritage in the constantly growing number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites worldwide: of the 1199 declared by the end of 2023, 933 were exclusively cultural, 227 exclusively natural and a mere 39 mixed (or integrated). Existing WHS can be reclassified but this rarely happens, probably at least as much because of the dichotomy in thinking that still pervades many parts of the heritage conservation 'industry' as because of the precise nature of these Sites. This point will be explained below.

Second, UNESCO's process of codifying and integrating heritage, including its shift from individual buildings, monuments or sites to wider areas or landscapes, from the 1972 World Heritage Convention to the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban

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[9] According to Galla, A., Paulo, D. (2016), museumization refers to the "phenomenon of presenting and interpreting cultural groups and their representative tangible and intangible heritage".

Landscape, to the 2015 Policy Document for Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of WHC, represents important progress as well as opportunities to rethink heritage in a more forward-looking way as part of sustainability and resilience strategies. To facilitate this, heritage is integrated into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an integrated manner within SDG11, on sustainable cities and communities, thus:

- Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

- Indicator 11.4.1: Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship).

Third, it emerged from Heritopolis' research survey of member metropolises (Working Papers Vol. 1) that a significant proportion, including Beijing, Delhi, Istanbul, London, Paris, Seoul, and Shanghai, contain World Heritage Sites. Indeed, several have more than one – indeed, Istanbul and London both have four, as Can Emre Memiş examines below. Several are individual buildings but most are historic conservation areas or landscapes. Only one, the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew is classified as natural heritage but its entire composition and appearance are not indigenously natural but a very culturally-produced landscape comprising arrangements and assemblages of plant and tree species collected from around the world during and since Britain's imperial era. This illustrates the potential to rethink and ultimately reclassify WHSs as the thinking about them evolves and their future comes to be better understood as integral components of expanding metropolises in need of more sustainable and resilient development. On this basis, the four individual presentations, which, while themselves diverse and produced independently, speak to these themes and issues in helpfully complementary ways.

Rapporteurs Report

Charlene Jo Darmanin (University of Malta)

World Heritage Sites are responsible for introducing the concept of heritage to cities. Stretching our paradigms further, the research forum revealed how World Heritage Sites reach beyond to inspire metropolises with systematic structures, create new ideas and diverse opinions, and establish new management approaches and policies. With ever expanding cities, evident tensions surpass World Heritage Sites to metropolises transformed in a collection of processes, not simply an agglomeration of projects, presenting new possibilities of perforating across city borders and barriers to encourage a more dynamic approach to change. Inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches now play a crucial role in the protection of World Heritage Sites in such metropolitan contexts, breaking through discipline silos, with diverse perspectives creating an intricate web with dependency between each node.

World Heritage Sites within metropolitan cities are facing similar challenges across the globe, climate change and urban heat island at the forefront. Xingyu Mu accentuates how climate change is a new opportunity which forces us to change perspectives towards nature-cultural management. Climate action is promoted in heritage sites through vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies, to encourage synergies that transcend the sole protection of cultural assets, extending to concepts of holistic sustainability, resilience and liveability of a city. Olivia Bina

promotes these concepts in her studies of the application of nature-based solutions in historic city centres, generating multiple benefits that form part of cultural diversity and biodiversity.[10] These translate to inclusiveness, well-being, resilience and plurality of values with potential effects on climate change mitigation strategies.

The metropolises, therefore, require a new approach to heritage, with a focus on open spaces and heritage as an active agent to territory in terms of sustainability, as presented by Eugenia Vidal Casanovas. A more transversal approach is here proposed to explore the synergies between cultural and natural heritage. The integration of nature and culture is an urgent need, this as multiplicity for a holistic approach to our cities. This echo's Mu's proposals for green infrastructure and participatory planning, integrating the citizen into a holistic habitat without compromising the ecological balance, bringing opportunities in social, cultural and economic terms, while creating networks to contribute to a more sustainable

model. The tools of smart development of metropolitan areas, combined with digital heritage, creates a basis to vibrant, liveable and resilient metropolises. As with all tools, dangers arise with the risk of misuse, however, this should not stop their exploration and the development of regulation through law.

A re-evaluation of current conservation practices is an imminent need, Can Emre Memis' research collating a macro-scale perspective to the protection of World Heritage Sites. A geographical approach to historical places is required for a holistic understanding, allowing for a reframing of that which such sites present. A society's change in response to heritage should not be dismissed to the different agendas of legal institutions, with public participatory methods crucial for a bottom-up notion of heritage. This, combined with the united call for new strategies across the research forum, reveals a new dimension to metropolitan cities and the protection of the heritage involved.

Research Forum 3: Heritage in Metropolises: Strategies for its Identification and Reactivation to Improve the Quality of Life of Citizens

Introduction

Julia Rey Pérez, University of Sevilla and Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga, Krakow University of Economics, Conveners

The aim of this Research Forum has been to focus on the relationship between citizens and heritage from different points of view, with an emphasis on the alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. In this sense, the speakers have been asked to present research that contributes to the following questions:

- Proposing tools and methods to define the heritage of the metropolis from a broad perspective (social perception, meanings, use, among others) - SDG 11.

- Identifying strategies for the heritage of the metropolis to help improve social well-being - SDG 3.

- Mainstreaming heritage to localise the metropolis for safe and inclusive communities - SDG 11.

- Defining strategies to ensure the participation of citizens in decision-making (governance) – SDG 16.

The diversity and breadth that the concept of heritage has acquired forces to think of heritage as an issue that goes beyond the historic centre, extends to the rest of the city, is located in the metropolis and extends throughout the territory. This also makes it difficult to limit it to tangible heritage, extending to intangible heritage as well. This question leads to talk about the concept of "heritage city", considering the diversity of layers and resources that make it up, as well as the stakeholders involved in its daily experience. To manage this urban diversity that characterises the heritage city is, in short, to know how to manage this historical, social and cultural heterogeneity. The heritage

[10] Mercado, G., Wild, T., Garcia, J. H., Baptista, M. D., Lierop, M. v., Bina, O., et al. (2023) Supporting Nature-based Solutions via Nature-based thinking, across European and Latin American cities, Ambio, *https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01920-6*

city, like any living ecosystem, evolves and changes take place, and this is the key point: knowing how to "manage change", i.e. to bring both urban conservation and urban development in parallel. This highlights the need for management tools that allow the heritage city (a way of including heritage in the metropolis) to be approached in a holistic and integral manner with all its singularities and needs.

Key factors in these new management models are multidisciplinary, placing the citizen and different stakeholders at the centre of the process (which is why it is considered fundamental to approach participatory methodologies to guarantee consensus in the different phases of the heritage processes) and the commitment to heritage management based on the identification of heritage attributes and values but with a landscape approach. In short, it is a question of going a step further in terms of urban heritage management. In this framework, cultural heritage is no longer an object of interest for a small elite or for specialists. Today, cultural heritage belongs to everyone, and for this reason, it can be said that it is also located in the metropolis and must involve the heritage community, as highlighted in the Faro Convention.

This global situation on which various international bodies and organisations have already set their sights obliges researchers to participate in this change in the management of urban and territorial heritage. It is a matter of building a new management based on three principles: a new holistic approach to heritage; multi-disciplinarity and multi-scalarity; and a protagonist incorporation of citizen participation in the definition of heritage values and attributes and therefore in decision-making. This leads to an inclusive management of heritage and, in short, ensures the sustainable approach that is so much in demand from different spheres. This type of reflection is the aim of this forum.

Rapporteurs Report

Hyunjae Kim (University of Cambridge)

Since the establishment of the academic field of heritage studies in the late 20th century, heritage researchers have critically been identifying how present uses the past. The crux of this discussion has been on who uses the past. While it encompasses a diverse array of stakeholders, the focus is increasingly shifting from governmental and institutional authorities to individuals, grassroots, and communities. The researchers of this forum commonly highlight the role of communities to localise heritage of metropolis and create identities using heritage in metropolis. The metropolis, as a historical and cultural intermediary, serves as a composite space where different groups of people express their plural narratives. While the metropolis is expansive in its physical form, the behaviours of individuals within it, along with the phenomena that arise, can be meaningfully understood through a bottom-up approach.

From this perspective, the significance of community engagement in heritage management and preservation is discussed in the following two ways.

First, there is a need to redefine the term of community. It is essential to elaborate on who has been defining the concept of community thus far and how the community perceives itself. The term "community" is often used indiscriminately, as though it were a panacea, implying that doing something "for the community" is inherently positive. In the context of heritage management and interpretation, there is a need for critical reflection on who constitutes the community in a metropolitan area. A multi-scalar approach addresses different scales by distinguishing between individuals, communities, heritage professionals, and governmental agencies. However, it is worth noting that stakeholders at all these

scales can be encompassed within a single scale of community. For instance, an entity that exhibits ambivalent tendencies or lies between the official and the private—such as academia researching community heritage or grassroots heritage activists within the community who are supported by government officials—should be recognised within the context of community. It is imperative to dismantle the boundaries of scale and revisit the implications of the concept of community in discussions on metropolitan heritage management.

Second, it is significant to enhance the understanding of geographical approaches. This need applies not only to academia but also to communities involved in heritage management. The experiences and perceptions of heritage practices invariably involve spatial considerations. Heritage is inherently linked to the history of the land where it resides and where it has been experienced or transmitted by individuals. Additionally, community engagements in heritage are often shaped by various power dynamics that exist within and around both epistemological and ontological space of the community. This is deeply intertwined with discussions of the concept of territoriality, raising questions about who owns the space and heritage. The shaping

of territoriality includes numerous power dynamics, leading to different processes of conflicts, negotiations, and communications. Addressing these phenomena calls for a geographical approach that encompasses heritage within spatial context, rather than treating each heritage element in isolation.

In conclusion, to effectively discuss heritage and the dynamic of communities living in metropolises, it is important to address foundational questions such as "what constitutes a community" and "who comprises the community that possesses heritage." This forum presented a range of methodological strategies for fostering community engagement through different case studies. These discussions encompass approaches that actively reflect the unique cultures of individual communities, as well as the application of international institutional frameworks such as the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) conventions. Additionally, a critical analysis was undertaken to examine the extent to which these activities can influence local identity. The implications of the presented research contribute to the development of practical approaches to the myriad challenges arising at the intersection of metropolitan settings and heritage.

Conclusions/Epilogue – Policies for planners and decision-makers. New innovative approaches and tools

Metropolises constitute a new socio-spatial order, where the territory assumes a unifying role, and the cultural values are shared with a broader population than simply in a traditional city. What is more, the metropolis becomes, in essence, a source of new heritage values and emerging identities, contributing to the formation of a collective metropolitan memory. Metropolitan heritage, comprising valuable architecture, cultural landmarks, and urban spaces with historical, cultural, and artistic significance in the urbanization process, carries the memory and essence of the city and its surrounding area. Protecting metropolitan heritage is not only a responsibility to preserve history but also indispensable to promote sustainable urban development of the territory.

Heritage in metropolitan areas faces significant challenges, such as rapid urbanization, pollution, and the impacts of climate change, all of which pose threats to the collective future. Initiating this dialogue to balance metropolitan development and heritage preservation is crucial. Advocating for sustainable and resilience-bringing metropolitan development practices, while nurturing the natural environment and heritage is crucial for successfully achieving SDGs.

One of the main questions, how can cities leverage the combination of cultural and natural heritage in the framework of localising the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and addressing the effects of climate change, has been tried to answer by the Shanghai Metropolitan Initiative. It advocates for a new approach or a mindset that reestablishes the connections between nature and culture in the broader context of the metropolis, using the Historic Urban Landscape framework and considering that many metropolises, like the Paris Metropolis, for example, extend beyond city limits, including nature, agriculture, and urban developments. Considering the role natural and cultural heritage resources can play in providing resilience and sustainability, new approaches have to be identified that go beyond the nature-culture dichotomy and provide a platform for new heritage models and innovative methodologies. An important element of this would be to collect and exchange good practices using innovative methods to harness nature and heritage in metropolitan development, protecting their value at the same time.

Many communities demand participatory governance models where they have a say in how metropolitan heritage sites are managed. They may argue for inclusive policies that consider their needs and voices in decision-making processes. The processes of the New Urban Agenda and localisation of the SDGs for integrative biodiversity management mechanism but also in the context of disputes and conflicts must be applied in metropolises.

In order to create a framework for metropolises to grow sustainably, maintain their identity, and prepare for future challenges while respecting their historical and cultural roots, the following aspects need to be considered.

1. Establishing a legal framework for governing the metropolis. For any successful action on a larger scale there needs to be some sort of central agenda/institution of a metropolis whose role would include ensuring that certain actions considering culture, heritage and natural environment are consistently implemented by all parts of a metropolis.

2. Participatory governance models in managing metropolitan heritage sites. Urban and rural heritage can be managed in a fruitful and active collaboration between institutions, non-profit companies, businesses and citizens, with appropriate formal and informal arrangements for mutual responsibility and awareness. Access to technical support and capacity-building programmes must be facilitated to enhance community-driven heritage initiatives.

3. Symbiotic relationship between urban and rural elements of the metropolis. While urban areas drive economic growth and innovation, rural spaces support them with essential resources, land, and a more sustainable environmental footprint. Balancing these two aspects is key to the development of healthy, liveable metropolises and part of the Spatial Sustainability noted in the New Urban Agenda Illustrated.[11] Designate metropolitan areas for multifunctional uses that incorporate heritage preservation, can balance urban growth with the conservation of cultural landscapes.

4. Relationships between people and nature in metropolises. It can be often characterised by a tension between urbanization and the need for green spaces. While cities are centres of human activity, commerce, and infrastructure, the presence of nature within these environments plays a crucial role in the well-being of residents and the ecological health of the area. Similarly, cultural

and natural heritage must be included in climate action plans, highlighting heritage's potential to support nature-based solutions and disaster risk reduction.

5. Promoting cross-border metropolitan cooperation. Encourage collaboration between neighbouring metropolitan areas, including those across national borders, to address shared heritage and sustainability challenges, such as climate change impacts and urbanisation pressures. Create regional agreements for joint heritage conservation initiatives and knowledge exchange. Establish regional heritage corridors that connect metropolitan heritage sites, fostering shared cultural identity and collective conservation efforts.

6. Strengthen financial mechanisms for heritage conservation. Introduce innovative financial models, such as heritage bonds or public-private partnerships, to fund conservation projects is urgently needed. Additionally, establish metropolitan-level heritage funds that pool resources from various stakeholders is highly recommended.

7. Foster digital integration for heritage management. Develop and deploy digital tools, such as GIS-based platforms, for real-time monitoring, mapping, and planning of metropolitan heritage. These tools can integrate cultural and natural heritage data, enabling planners to make data-driven decisions that promote resilience and sustainability.

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[11] *https://unhabitat.org/the-new-urban-agenda-illustrated*

Annex 1

RESEARCH FORUM 1
Rural-Urban Linkages

Date/Venue: 27 March 2024 / Online

Convener: Antonella Contin

Rapporteurs: Paola Branduini (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) and Adva Matar (TU Delft, The Netherlands and Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem)

Agenda

	Name	Title
Keynote Speaker	Prof Kathryn Moore	Challenging the existing paradigms
Presenters	Luis Miguel Cortés	The material relationship between architecture and the landscape - the metamorphic process from the concept of landscape-object to landscape-subject
	Adva Matar	The role of heritage planning in the evolution from garden cities to green metropoles
	Gioia Gibelli	Ecological and cultural dynamics of rural landscapes: looking for limits
	Paola Branduini	Managing historic rural landscapes and climate change through community participation
	Arxhenda Lipovica	In Between Boundaries; Diffused Metropolitan Centralities
	Dicheng Yang	Metropolis As Heritage: Integrating Local Knowledge into Heritage's Future, a Research to Design Approach
Concluding Remarks	Francesco Bandarin	

Abstracts (in order of appearance)

Landscape as heritage. A look at past interventions

Luis Miguel Cortés Sánchez, University of Sevilla

One of the most significant shifts in architectural thinking during the mid-20th century was the transition from a landscape-object perspective to a landscape-subject approach. This shift marked a departure from the machine-focused, functionalist, and universal-solution-oriented model that had dominated architectural discourse. It initiated a new era of architectural exploration, leading to a transformation in the way architecture was conceived and executed. The objective of this research is to identify the architectural experiences that marked these pivotal moments, where architecture explored novel approaches to landscape engagement through materiality, while maintaining functionality, yet with a new emphasis on humanistic and cultural considerations.

The landscape, understood today as a fundamental element of our heritage, served as a generator of project strategies whose aim was to propose an architecture that would enhance and conserve it, especially with regard to large urban plans due to the growth of cities in the second half of the twentieth century. The contextualisation of this period is approached through a methodological

process based on the analysis of the events that defined the architecture of the first half of the last century and served to measure the concerns and trends in architecture. These include the International Congresses of Modern Architecture, CIAM. The end of the 1950s and the beginning of the 1960s were pivotal in the emergence of groups of architects who espoused these new guidelines, as evidenced by the Finnish couple Reima and Raili Pietilä.

The identification of the time period enabled the recognition of the work of Raili and Reima Pietilä as a pivotal factor in the subject at hand, warranting special attention. This leads to a second part in which, through the selection of their built works, we will exemplify what was previously developed in the theoretical framework. In these works, landscape is the driving force in the search for an active relationship between city, architecture, and landscape. The second part of this study will focus on two significant large-scale urban planning projects: the "Mukkula" master plan for the city of Lahti (Finland) and

the "Märsta Valsta" project for Märsta (Sweden). Both projects were initiated a year earlier, in 1961. The arrangement of the volumes and their heights are based on topographical and geological references. The pseudonym under which the proposal for the city of Lahti was submitted alludes to this: The designation "Mukkulan kukkulat" (Mukkula Mountains) was used. Furthermore, the research aims to compensate for the lack of documentation in previous studies by analysing unpublished documentation from the archive of the Museum of Finnish Architecture. The analysis of this unpublished material will deepen the understanding of the landscape as a special element incorporated into the project. The analysis of this built landscape heritage will serve to bring together innovative design strategies that paved the way as the first experiences between architecture, city and landscape. This will build a field of reflection on the reading of landscape – from the material that builds it – in the second half of the 20th century and that laid the foundations for future currents.

Superimposition of the orthophoto of the city of Märsta (Sweden) in 1960 with the model of the Pietilä's proposal, 1961. Own elaboration based on material from the archives of the Museum of Finnish Architecture (MFA) and Lantmateriet.

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From Urban Planning to World Heritage: Decoding the cultural significance of Tel Aviv metropolis and its origins

Adva Matar,[1,2] Daniel Cannatella,[1] Els Verbakel[2] and Ana Pereira Roders[1]

[1] TUDelft, The Netherlands

[2] Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Israel

Metropolises, often the largest, busiest, and most important urban centres in a country or region, blend cultural and natural environments with varied layering of urban development, with associated values and attributes of nature-culture linkages, often intertwined, such as those seen in garden city planning.

Today, these metropolises face challenges like rapid urbanization, demographic shifts, economic transformations, and the climate crisis, threatening their sustainable development by endangering nature-culture linkages. Frameworks like the New Urban Agenda, the Historic Urban Landscape approach (HUL), and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG11 Target 11.4, aim to integrate heritage planning into urban development. However, there's limited understanding of heritage planning's practical role in safeguarding natural and cultural environments in metropolises, and as a result -not informed-enough strategies to utilise it in improving social well-being.

Current research often focuses on culture and heritage in sustainable management of specific districts or regions, emphasising citizen participation, heritage tourism, or natural resources management. Yet, comprehensive studies on heritage as a whole, encompassing both tangible and intangible aspects and its evolving cultural significance, in metropolitan context and especially in former garden cities, are scarce.

This study explores the Tel Aviv metropolis, originally planned as a Garden City and a World Heritage site since 2003. It compares the original Patrick Geddes' Report of Planning for Tel Aviv (1925) with the White City World Heritage Nomination File (2003), focusing on the built-natural linkages. By employing content analysis, using a theoretical framework on cultural significance, both documents are coded to identify attributes, values, and their interrelations. The comparison of classifications and thematic clusters illustrates the evolution from initial conceptualisation to heritage recognition, shedding light on contemporary heritage planning in the metropolis.

Such a method can be adapted to other metropolises, particularly on policy analysis, underscoring the significance of heritage planning in enabling sustainable development of metropolises and in localising the metropolis for safe and inclusive communities, through decoding their cultural significance. This method can contribute to the broadening of the notion of what is the heritage of the metropolis, by including various meanings, uses and perceptions of different stakeholders into the cultural and natural significance of the metropolis. In addition, it could be applied not only at the decision maker's level, but also with the participation of citizens and therefore ensure their inclusion in the decision making.

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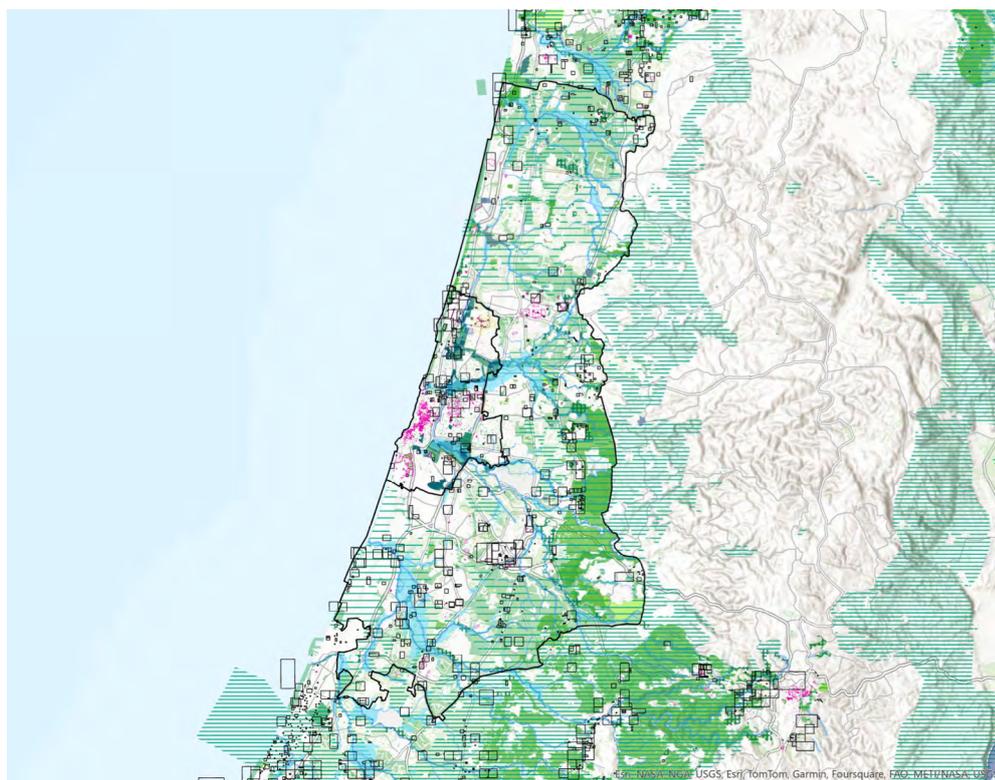
GIS Metropolitan mapping of natural and built heritage in the Tel Aviv metropolis, 2024. Source: Adva Matar for Tel Aviv-Yaffo municipality, prepared by author.

Metropolis As Heritage: Integrating Local Knowledge into Heritage's Future, a Research to Design Approach

Dicheng Yang, Politecnico di Milano

If home is scared shrine of sense of belonging, then the territories are an outgrowth of this sense of belonging and the invasion to the vacant area and assert themselves (Lévi-Strauss, 1967). When the sense of belonging exceeds an individual's sensory capability, the recognition and understanding of a larger territory becomes an imaginative process based on collective experience. As a result of this imagination, intersections were generated between individuals and collectiveness, nature and culture, the past as lived and the possible future. Those intersections as ruptures (UNESCO, 2022) liberated from the spatial temporal continuum, the research proposes to reverse the imagination process in order to situate images of lived experiences and collective landscapes, These images are therefore a projection of anthropological values on an environmental context, which is the concept of the Anthropological Image.

The Anthropological Image is rooted in lived experiences and local knowledge, and extends beyond the visual realm to include oral traditions, texts, artworks, and digital media. The Anthropological Image reflects how people interpret their environment. An example is The Demoness of Tibet, which imagines Tibet as a demoness. This map illustrates the phenomenological basis

of anthropological images: the natural aspect, where the land of Tibet due to its harsh geography and climate has seen as merciless (as Demoness) in another hand also maternal (as Mother), because is also the earth not only given birth but also nursing all Tibetan inhabitants. In the historical dimension, where past experiences are embedded in the landscape and collectiveness could be understood and shared to continually shape the current present of human-beings. These images embody local knowledge, reflecting evolving attitudes and values over time.

This approach to understanding anthropological images from local knowledge and using them to research and design historic urban landscapes (UNESCO, 2011) not only reflects the importance of preserving the intangible heritage of the metropolis; it also illustrates the integrity and complexity of the definition of 'heritage' in the metropolis. Integrity and complexity lies in understanding that the particularly phenomenal parts of heritage, its environmental and social practices and collective sensory and emotional values need to be restored and preserved to ensure the sustainability of the heritage.

The Demoness of Tibet; Tibet; Early 20th century; Pigments on cloth; 16 3/8 × 24 3/4 in. (estimated); Rubin Museum of Art; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2006.1.1

Source: *https://rubinmuseum.org/ the-demoness-of-tibet/*

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Integrating Metropolitan Heritage in Urban Design: A Vision for Pristina, Kosovo

Arxenda Lipovica, Politecnico di Milano

The rapid urbanization of cities worldwide has led to an increasing disconnection between urban dwellers and the natural environment, necessitating innovative design strategies (SDG 3 & SDG 16) that prioritise nature integration. This study explores the potential of diffused metropolitan centrality as a comprehensive solution for Prishtina, the capital of Kosovo, to reconnect with nature and create a sustainable and liveable urban environment. Through an in-depth analysis of Prishtina's current state and the detrimental effects of urbanization, this research highlights the critical concern of disconnection from nature and its implications for residents' well-being and the city's overall sustainability. The concept of diffused metropolitan centrality is introduced as a transformative urban design approach that begins at the train station and extends throughout the city, incorporating various facilities and elements to foster a stronger bond with nature. (SDG 11).

The proposed design strategy goes beyond the train station, envisioning a network of interconnected facilities spreading throughout Prishtina. These facilities include a new civic plaza, cultural nodes, a museum of exile, and the reopening of the river, each connecting to the city's heritage while embracing the natural environment. The integration of parks, green spaces, and other natural elements ensures a seamless and harmonious relationship between the urban fabric and the surrounding landscape. (SDG 11).

This comprehensive proposal not only enhances residents' access to nature but also improves the overall quality of life in Prishtina. The incorporation of sustainable design principles, preservation of cultural heritage, and economic opportunities through increased tourism contribute to the city's long-term resilience and prosperity. Moreover, the diffusion of metropolitan centrality fosters community engagement, creating a sense of place and belonging among residents. (SDG 16).

In conclusion, this thesis presents a holistic and sustainable approach to reconnect Prishtina with nature through the implementation of diffused metropolitan centrality. Starting at the train station and extending throughout the city, this proposal integrates various facilities, green spaces, and cultural elements to create a vibrant, resilient, and environmentally conscious urban environment. (SDG 16).

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Linkage to heritage: A man in Albanian traditional clothes. Source: *https://i.pinimg. com/originals/dd/20/d8/ dd20d8688bd406babe- f4661a0c7b1503.jpgPg*

Agricultural heritage resource for the metropolitan landscape. The example of Milan metropolis

Paola Branduini, Politecnico di Milano

Heritage for the metropolis encompasses not only built heritage but also landscapes and agricultural landscapes. Landscape represents both tangible and intangible heritage, embodying goods and knowledge. "Over time, the meaning of cultural heritage in professional practice has expanded from single monuments and sites identified as objects of art to cultural landscapes, historic cities, and serial properties. Contemporary practice further extends the concept of heritage beyond 'tangible heritage' to the intangible dimensions of heritage as well. This includes the entirety

of knowledge derived from the development and experience of human practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills, along with associated objects and spaces that communities recognise as part of their cultural heritage" (ICOMOS, 2019).

Historic agricultural landscapes are not relics of the past but resources for contemporary society, offering nature and culture-based solutions. They are palimpsests of historical traces and repositories of knowledge that have shaped our territories and, in many cases, continue to manage them despite

Teaching a job while restoring an ancient water meadow in the periurban area of Milan. Source: Paola Branduini.

being severely threatened by market economies, urbanization, and infrastructural development. These landscapes can provide solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change, even in peri-urban areas, such as droughts and floods.

Urban agricultural landscapes, whether intra-urban or peri-urban, have evolved due to the need for food production (especially vegetables) and building materials for the city over time (Scazzosi, 2020). For the well-being of cities, it is important to include the conservation and enhancement of agricultural spaces within urban areas (agro-urbanism) and to propose tools and methods to define the heritage of the metropolis from a broad perspective (social perception, meanings, use, among others) – SDG 11.

Local communities can be involved in recognising the cultural and environmental values of historical landscapes and in co-constructing future landscapes. They can participate in raising awareness as well as in practical activities of caring and maintenance.

With the aim of "Defining strategies to ensure the participation of citizens in decision-making (governance) - SDG 16," the heritage community "Friends of the Marcite" (ICOMOS 2003; Branduini, 2024) was formed in Milan around the agricultural landscape of the marcite. This system involves a series of actions and projects for the recovery and enhancement of the management practice of the marcite meadow—a type of medieval-origin meadow that can produce large quantities of fodder for cattle and horses thanks to a widespread network of canals that allow water to flow even in winter. This practice, which was widespread until the 1960s and then declined, contributes to increasing urban biodiversity, recharging groundwater, and mitigating the urban heat island.

The heritage community involves institutional actors, volunteers, and farmers in cultural and educational activities, as well as in practical heritage care and maintenance, through an intra- and intergenerational knowledge transmission action.

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RESEARCH FORUM 2
World Heritage Sites in Local Metropolitan Contexts

Date/Venue: 29th May 2024 / Online

Convener: David Simon, Royal Holloway, University of London

Rapporteur: Charlene Jo Darmanin (University of Malta)

Agenda

	Name	**Title**
Keynote Speaker	David Simon	Setting the Scene
Presenters	Xingyu Mu	Intersections between UNESCO World Heritage and Metropolises: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development
	Oliva Bina	World Heritage Sites and Urban 'Green' in Times of Uncertainty and Possibility
	Can Emre Memis	World Heritage Sites in Istanbul and London: Pillars of Sustainability and REsilience in Global Cities
	Eugenia Vidal Casanovas	Integrating Landscape and Heritage: A Metropolitan Perspective from Barcelona
Concluding Remarks	Michael Turner	

Abstracts (in order of appearance)

Intersections between UNESCO World Heritage and Metropolises: Challenges and Opportunities for

Sustainable Development

Xingyu Mu, Whitrap, Tongji University, Shanghai, PR China

The intersection between UNESCO World Heritage and metropolitan development presents a critical and complex dynamic in the context of sustainable urban growth and heritage preservation. This paper examines the emerging interactions between these two fields, with particular emphasis on addressing climate change, integrating nature and culture, and adopting smart development strategies in urban planning. By exploring the challenges and opportunities posed by these intersections, this research aims to provide insights into how cities can balance the preservation of invaluable cultural and natural heritage with the demands of modern urbanization.

Climate change has been a growing concern for UNESCO since 2005, when the World Heritage Committee first highlighted its impact on World Heritage sites. Over the past two decades, significant progress has been made in developing climate adaptation strategies, which can serve as a model for urban disaster response. This research identifies three key areas of focus for climate action in World Heritage sites: vulnerability assessments, tailored adaptation strategies, and creating synergies between climate action and heritage preservation. These strategies not only safeguard heritage sites but also enhance urban sustainability and liveability. Moreover, aligning climate action with heritage protection creates synergies that benefit both heritage sites and urban communities.

A notable trend in the field of World Heritage is the increasing emphasis on integrating nature and culture. This approach, which recognises the interdependence between cultural and natural heritage, provides valuable insights for sustainable urban development. The paper identifies three key strategies that can be applied in metropolitan contexts: ecological restoration, biocultural diversity, and participatory planning. Ecological restoration efforts within and around heritage sites enhance the site's resilience, improve its aesthetic appeal, and

provide recreational opportunities for local communities and visitors. Recognising biocultural diversity encourages more holistic urban development approaches by fostering a deeper understanding of the relationship between people and their environment. Finally, participatory planning, which involves local communities in the design and management of green spaces, promotes a sense of ownership and leads to more inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

The research also delves into the role of smart development in metropolises, highlighting three major directions: digital transformation, sustainable development, and building resilience. Digital technologies such as sensors, data analytics, and digital twin models enhance the management and interpretation of World Heritage sites, improving visitor experiences and allowing for remote access. Sustainable development strategies prioritise green and low-carbon urban growth through the promotion

of renewable energy, green building construction, and low-carbon transportation. Finally, cities are utilising the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance early warning systems and response capabilities to natural disasters, public health emergencies, and other urban risks.

In conclusion, by leveraging climate action, integrating nature and culture, and embracing smart development, cities can ensure the sustainable transmission of cultural heritage while simultaneously supporting urban growth and prosperity. International cooperation, innovative policies, and inclusive governance are essential in striking a balance between heritage preservation and urban development, ultimately creating vibrant, liveable, and resilient cities that celebrate and protect their unique cultural legacies for future generations.
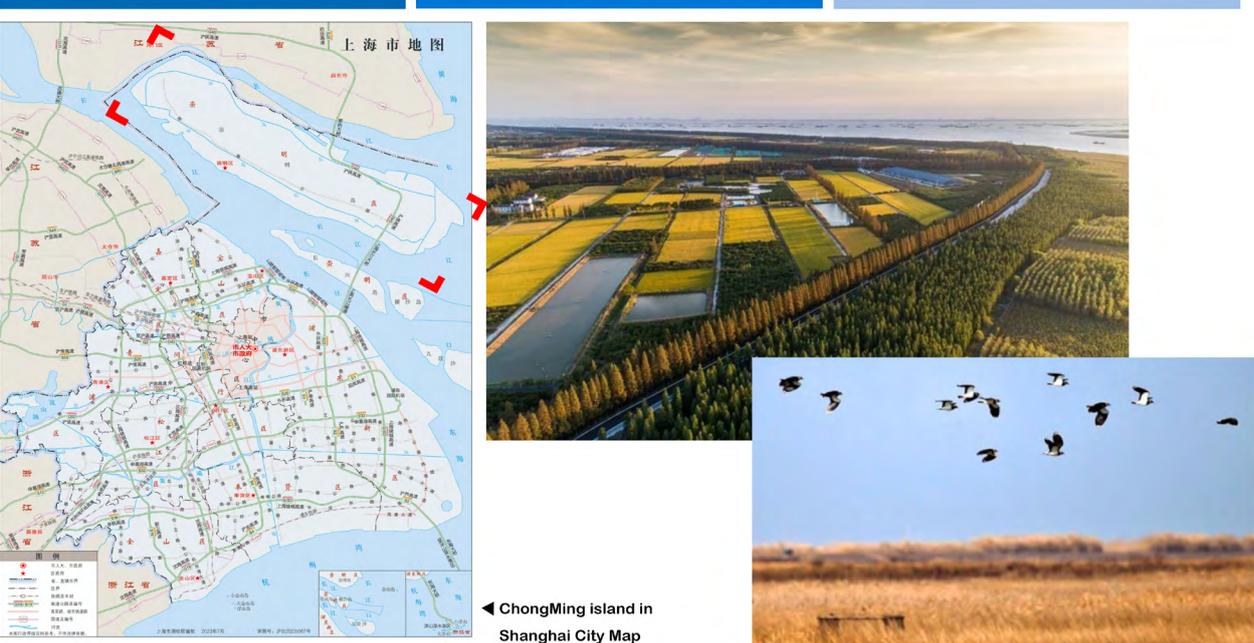
◄ ChongMing island in Shanghai City Map

A Corner of Shanghai Metropolis: The World Natural Heritage Site – Chongming Dongtan Migratory Bird Habitat in Shanghai. Source: Official site of Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Planning and Natural Resources and Chongming Dongtan Birds National Natural Reserve Management Office.

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Heritage and "Nature" in times of uncertainty and possibility

Olivia Bina, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Cities as both 'perpetrators and victims' of the increasingly unstable ecosystems within which they are to flourish or engage in existential struggle. The 2024 Europe report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change is unequivocal: 'unprecedented warming demands unprecedented action'. Indeed, it is the combined threat of heatwaves and inundation/droughts that demands bold action, both for the populations and the many heritage sites increasingly seen as proverbial 'sitting ducks' across our metropolises. It aims to explore the potential implications of such demand for accelerated change, taking the lens of a rediscovered culture/heritage-nature relationship, within the broad scope of SDG11.

The inquiry articulates across three arenas of urban 'accelerated change: 1) the gap between nature-based solutions of 30% canopy aspirations and urban historical centres and heritage; 2) the need for bold vision where the urban form might follow 'Life' – a global competition May-August 2024 (Bina, 2024); and 3) the proposition of botanical gardens as heritage sites of culture-nature experimentation. The idea is that any 'unprecedented action' as demanded by many, must be premised by a renegotiation of culture/heritage-nature relationship to allow for vision beyond static concepts of nature and of culture/heritage, towards new entangled urban landscapes (both physical and of the imaginary) of possibility in times of uncertainty.

Drawing on the wealth of insights from urbanists, landscape architects, botanists/neurobiologists I adopt the device of a thought experiment and ask 'what if...' we learnt from living systems' capacity for evolution and collaboration - to develop new strategies that would make cities and heritage more sustainable - i.e. capable of a future? The research builds on the work of Sir Patrick Geddes, Gilles Clément, and Stefano Mancuso to offer a framework capable of shaking up established and persistent divides between 'nature/living heritage' and 'humans/culture/cities/architecture/urban form/heritage preservation' to make physical and imaginary space for new possibilities. It then focus on botanical gardens (including world heritage sites) as potential sites of experimentation beyond their tradition of centres of 'calculation' (after Bruno Latour) towards being beacons of learning from vegetal living systems' capacity for evolution and collaboration

The three WHS, and a growing number of botanic gardens around the world, are already extending their mandates: developing biodiversity conservation programs not only in site but also ex situ; extending their repertoire in education and broader public engagement, including a "social turn" in botanic futures; acknowledging their potential in furthering climate change research, i.e. by identifying suitable urban trees in climate changed futures (Hirons et al., 2020); and combatting 'plant blindness' in society (Wandersee and Schussler, 1999; Daniel et al., 2023). This inquiry seeks to extend further the realm of such possibilities, by learning from vegetal living systems' how to renegotiate the culture/heritage-nature relationship, and how this might unveil new entangled urban landscapes in the past, present and future.

Whose world is this.
Source: Olivia Bina

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World Heritage Sites in Istanbul and London: Pillars Of Sustainability And Resilience In Global Cities

Can Emre Memiş, Royal Holloway, University Of London, UK

This study investigates the significance of World Heritage Sites, focusing on those in Istanbul and London, examining the main challenges and shocks they have faced and exploring the concepts of sustainability and heritage preservation in these cities. This study investigates the significance of World Heritage Sites, focusing on those in Istanbul and London, examining the main challenges and shocks they have faced and exploring the concepts of sustainability and heritage preservation in these cities. World Heritage Sites, designated by UNESCO for their outstanding universal value, must meet at least one of ten selection criteria. These criteria emphasise cultural and natural significance, ranging from masterpieces of human creative genius to areas of exceptional natural beauty.

In Istanbul, World Heritage Sites such as Sultanahmet Archaeological Park, Süleymaniye Conservation Area, Zeyrek Conservation Area, and the Land Walls Conservation Area exemplify the city's rich historical tapestry as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires. However, Istanbul faces significant

challenges due to rapid urbanisation, population growth, and the impacts of historical conflicts, natural disasters, and socio-economic pressures. The "Vision 2050 Document," developed by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and the Istanbul Planning Agency (IPA), addresses these issues through comprehensive guidelines emphasising sustainability, resilience, and cultural heritage preservation (Vizyon 2050 Ofisi, 2022).

Similarly, London's World Heritage Sites, including the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, Maritime Greenwich, and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, highlight its historical and cultural prominence. London has also faced numerous challenges, including wars, epidemics, and environmental crises like the Great Smog of 1952. These events have shaped the city's development, influencing urban planning and public health reforms.

Composition. Istanbul. Source: _https://unesco.org.tr/Pages/125/122/UNESCO-D%C3%BCnya-Miras%C4%B1-Listesi_ London. Source: _https://unesco.org.uk/world-heritage-sites/_

The city's commitment to sustainability is evident in policies that reduce carbon emissions and preserve green spaces, balancing the demands of heritage conservation with contemporary urban growth.

Proposed tools and methods for defining heritage from a broad perspective include employing social perception studies, exploring the meanings attributed to heritage by different communities, and analysing how heritage sites are utilised in daily life. These tools help create a comprehensive understanding of heritage, ensuring that preservation efforts are inclusive and reflect diverse social contexts.

Defining strategies to ensure citizen participation in decision-making processes is crucial for effective heritage governance. Inclusive governance models that encourage community involvement in heritage conservation foster transparency, accountability, and community ownership. These strategies include public consultations, participatory planning workshops, and the establishment of heritage committees that include representatives from various community groups.

Both cities employ technological innovations such as digital archives and 3D mapping to enhance heritage site documentation and accessibility. Community involvement is integral to their preservation strategies, fostering local engagement and ensuring conservation efforts reflect community values and needs.

In conclusion, integrating heritage sites into urban planning is vital for the sustainability and resilience of cities like Istanbul and London. Strategic planning, technological advancements, and active community involvement are essential for preserving cultural heritage while accommodating modern urban development. By trying to align heritage conservation with the Sustainable Development Goals, these cities provide valuable insights into sustainable and inclusive urban growth, emphasising the role of heritage in enhancing social well-being and fostering inclusive governance.

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Integrating Landscape And Heritage: A Metropolitan Perspective From Barcelona

Eugenia Vidal Casanovas, Barcelona Metropolitan Area

This paper explores the approach of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) towards heritage. It highlights the importance of integrating landscape and heritage and briefly reflects on the World Heritage sites located in the metropolis of Barcelona.

The metropolis is a new type of urban form that considers many factors beyond size and scale. An important aspect of the metropolis is the inclusion of all sorts of spaces, from urban, suburban and peri-urban areas, to rural, semi-natural and natural areas, as well as their various interactions. Unlike the traditional city, open spaces perform multiple roles in this new urban form. In addition to the peripheral position, linked to the modern concentric territorial model, natural and semi-natural protected areas can now be found in any part of occupied urban land. Focusing on the heritage and landscape of metropolitan open spaces makes it possible to identify relationships and understudied elements that provide a solid foundation for the construction of a more sustainable and resilient territory.

In particular, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona has been developed over the last century as a new urban form. Today, it encompasses 36 municipalities and 3.3 million inhabitants over 636 km2, comprising various urban settlements and a dense network of infrastructure and services. However, despite its density and complex metropolitan dynamics, open spaces occupy 54.6% of the metropolitan area, the vast majority of which are protected.

The AMB approach towards heritage focus on green infrastructure and seeks to promote initiatives that simultaneously have a social, economic and environmental impact. The final aim of any action goes beyond the sole protection of historic buildings or sites. One central priority is to create networks that contribute to a sustainable development model and to social well-being. This intersection among metropolis, landscape and heritage requires appropriate planning and management and a more transversal unitary conception of natural and cultural heritage, in line with the European Landscape Convention and the 1972 UNESCO Convention.

Regarding World Heritage sites, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona has nine sites distinguished for their architectural value. The two most relevant in relation to the green infrastructure or landscape are the Crypt of the Colònia Güell (1898-1914) and the Park Güell (1900-1914). The Crypt, that was conceived as a church for the workers of the Güell company town, is located near the Llobregat River and contributes to the environmental and social recovery of the river area. The Park, that is in fact a failed gated community project turned into a garden, is located in the foothills of the mountain range of Collserola. Besides their exceptional patrimonial values, they both contribute to improving and strengthen the metropolitan green infrastructure.

The integrated cultural-natural approach is a novelty essential in a metropolitan context. It makes it possible to think of heritage from a board perspective as an active agent of a new culture of the territory. In the case of the World Heritage sites located in the Barcelona metropolis, this means exploring the synergies between the heritage and the extensive green infrastructure network.

Metropolitan section of the Llobregat River (Source: Jordi Surroca. Rights of Metropolitan Area of Barcelona AMB © licence BY-NC-ND).

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RESEARCH FORUM 3
Heritage in Metropolises: Strategies for its Identification and Reactivation to Improve the Quality of Life of Citizens

Date/Venue: 26 June 2024/ Online

Conveners: Julia Rey Pérez, University of Sevilla and Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga, Krakow University of Economics

Rapporteur: Hyunjae Kim, University of Cambridge

Agenda

	Name	Title
Keynote Speaker	Alba Zamarbide	Heritage dimensions and management boundaries in evolving metropolitan contexts - international case studies
Presenters	Daniel Athias De Almeida	Disputes, Narratives, and Routes: Conflicts and participatory management in favour of sustainable development
	Gina Núñez Camarena	Landscapes of memory. Social perception as an effective strategy to safeguard heritage in the lake region of Patzcuaro (Mexico)
	Germán Herruzo	Methodology for heritage protection from a multidisciplinary and participatory perspective. Seville as a case study
	Rugile Balkaite	Challenges in Preserving Urban Heritage Amid Urbanization: The Case of Vilnius
	Milena Torres	Challenges in heritage conservation in Latin American metropolises: the HUL approach as a tool for the preservation zones of Recife, Brazil
	Juliana Forero	Intangible Cultural Heritage in Urban Contexts
Concluding Remarks	Juliana Forero	

Abstracts (in order of appearance)

Heritage dimensions and management boundaries in evolving metropolitan contexts - international case studies

Alba Zamarbide, Independent Consultant

While the contribution of heritage to sustainability and citizens' well-being is increasingly recognised and integrated into international policies, the reality on the ground evolves at the pace of national, regional, and local administrations. Historic urban areas are palimpsests of layers, in which different heritage values—expressed at various scales and through diverse forms—coexist (UNESCO, 2011). This complex landscape necessitates dedicated tools and the adoption of holistic, interdisciplinary, and participatory management models. In response to this need, UNESCO has, over the past decade, advocated for integrated multilayer approaches through its various reference documents (2011 and 2023).

However, practical implementation requires navigating through various pre-established boundaries—both technical and physical—which reflect differing sets of values. This challenge is particularly relevant in the case of World Heritage (WH) properties, where property boundaries and buffer zones must coexist and interact with national laws, local planning tools, and zoning regulations (Zamarbide, 2019).

Using the concept of "boundaries" as a connecting thread, the author, through direct involvement in three international case studies, compared: (1) the perspectives of the World Heritage Centre, planning agencies, and academia; (2) the coexistence of World Heritage, governmental, and local

heritage visions; and (3) the place of heritage in the context of rapid urban and regional change, with particular emphasis on nature-culture links, community knowledge, and social values.

First, the case of Córdoba, Spain, illustrated various initiatives supported by the World Heritage Centre between 2022 and 2024, which sought to encourage the identification of heritage layers beyond the official narrative linked to World Heritage properties (in this case, three UNESCO nominations[1]). These initiatives included organising an international World Heritage City Lab workshop focused on revitalising historic centres, contributing an article to the World Heritage Atlas platform, which highlighted the transformation of a patio-house into a cooperative housing block, among others.

Second, a pilot project was undertaken in 2023 in Kampala, Uganda, to redefine the buffer zone of the World Heritage site "Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi" (inscribed in 2001), whose original zone was narrow and outdated.

Culturally symbolic urban axis in Kampala, Uganda. Source: Author.

A series of participatory workshops involving local authorities, technicians, academics, and community members facilitated the identification of the site's values and the spatialisation of heritage elements. This process not only resulted in a larger, contextualised protection zone, but also produced proposals for the daily management of the property by surrounding communities, identified alternative revenue streams, and generated city branding ideas.

The third case study focused on the outcomes of a research project led by Waseda University (Japan) in Thua Thien Hue, Vietnam, between 2013 and 2023. This region is home to the "Complex of Hue Monuments" (inscribed on the WH List in 2003). While the site's nomination identified a series of monuments along the Perfume River, the research project revealed entire ecological systems designed in conjunction with these monuments, reflecting a vision distinct from modern technology and planning. Workshops held as part of the project revealed how local communities have preserved these culture-nature links and suggested ways in which they could be involved in the management of these ecosystems as part of an expanded heritage protection strategy.

In conclusion, these three case studies illustrate how different heritage values both clash and intersect with existing tools in territorial management strategies. They propose alternative approaches to "breaking the boundary." Despite these efforts, the official management models in all three cities have yet to fully integrate the holistic vision shared by these initiatives. This underscores the need to further promote the role of "soft tools" and community practices in metropolitan heritage management strategies and highlights the necessity of formalising, integrating, and sustaining these practices in time.

[1] The World Heritage sites of the Historic Centre of Cordoba (1984), and the Caliphate City of Medina Azahara (2018) and Fiesta of the patios in Cordova, inscribed in 2012 (7.COM) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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Disputes, Narratives, and Routes: Conflicts and participatory management in favour of sustainable development

Daniel Athias De Almeida, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

This research aims to elucidate the intricate relationship between local communities and their territories by appreciating their cultural identities, connections, memories, expressions, and ways of inhabiting and occupying their spaces. Utilising multiscale participatory strategies and recognising cultural expressions as tools of resistance and cultural emancipation, this study seeks to transcend hegemonic narratives.

The case of Magé, an underprivileged city with a rich cultural heritage located 60 kilometres from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the upper margin of Guanabara Bay and part of the metropolitan region, serves as a prime example. Magé faces significant challenges from urban expansion, the hazards of an oil-based economy, and a fragile yet biodiverse environment. Home to five conservation areas, including mangroves, coastal plains, and mountains, Magé illustrates the delicate balance and challenges that coexist between development and preservation. In particular, cultural expressions are tools of resistance and cultural emancipation for the territory, and there are elements that transcend the hegemonic narrative, which allows us to think about different narratives beyond the documented archives. The city also boasts a traditional fishing community and historic maroon communities well-integrated into this ecosystem, underscoring the interplay between local livelihoods and environmental stewardship.

Methodologically, a multi-scalar approach is essential to articulate diverse narratives created by different scales of subjects. For instance, cultural mapping is adopted to express heritage of the regional level, and participatory inventory is used to understand the heritage of city level. In terms of metropolitan level, the focus is to view the case of Magé within the interconnected metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro in a geographical and cultural context.

Based on the case study of Magé, the discussion on sustainable development goals can elaborate on methods to approach to the relevant agendas. For example, bottom-up initiatives enrich strategies for the heritage of the metropolis to improve social well-being (SDG 3) through recognising the importance of communities' traditions and environment. Multi-scalar strategy is also helpful to rethink heritage closer to the communities and acknowledge their heritage as a tool and method to define the heritage of the metropolis from a broader perspective (SDG 11). In addition, communication to keep a close relationship with communities is significant to ensure participation of citizens in decision-making (SDG 16) as a comprehensive way to deal with conflicting histories.

Therefore, this research highlights the importance of incorporating local knowledge and cultural practices into sustainable development strategies to ensure the resilience and vitality of both the community and its environment. Particularly, the alternative as a bottom-up approach is essential to understand the asymmetry of forces and improve a collective creation process, including oral histories and cultural expressions beyond the documented history.

Folia de Reis Nova Aurora do Horizonte in Guia de Pacobaíba Railway Station, Magé, Brazil - Source: Author (2021).

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Landscapes of memory: Social perception as an affective strategy to safeguard heritage in the lake region of Patzcuaro (Mexico)

Gina Núñez Camarena, University of Sevilla

Through this research on tourism, it was possible to identify landscapes that are preserved in the memory of the Purepecha population, that knowledge being inherited orally, if not protected, will disappear in a short time. Therefore, this research shows how tourism policies have focused on safeguarding the architectural heritage of tourism-oriented populations, paying little attention to the oral and intangible heritage of Purépecha culture.

The national tourism strategy of the Lake Region of Pátzcuaro focuses on protecting the architectural heritage located in the historic centre, which is visible and tailored to the taste of tourists. In addition, similar public policies promote the festivals and

traditions that take place in the Lake Region of Pátzcuaro as if they were the only living heritage representing the Purépecha community. This situation means that the public policies do not incorporate the protection of tangible and intangible heritage in other Purépecha towns.

With this background, through social perception, the new generations of young Purepecha recognise that part of the intangible heritage that is part of their identity can be lost. In particular, factors that aggravate the loss of memory landscapes includes the lack of efforts to embed community knowledge into the sustainable tourism policies, the intergenerational evolution and changes of Purépecha community, and the disaffection produced by the migration of the Purépecha population to the United States.

However, different local collectives, without the help of the government, have planned strategies and developed local tools. For example, several Purépecha communities have organised themselves to implement local strategies for preserving local culture. The strategy is led by Purépecha women who have coordinated local society from the diaspora to preserve community knowledge. This initiative generates social coalition among the communities. With the intention of protecting and preserving the intangible heritage that is part of their traditions and disseminate the knowledge that is preserved in the collective memory of the community.

Patzcuaro's lake landscape: Fishermen and their butterfly-wing nets.

Author: Francisco Valdivieso, 2015.

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Methodology for heritage protection from a multidisciplinary and participatory perspective: Seville as a case study

Germán Herruzo, University of Sevilla

In Seville, legislative frameworks for heritage protection and urban planning are outdated by fifteen years, hindering effective integration between urban planning and heritage protection. Current challenges include mass tourism, increasing gentrification and cultural expropriation, and ruin of heritage buildings abandoned, climate emergency, the need for renewable energy measures, and the lack of integration of these factors into the General Urban Development Plan (PGOU), all posing significant threats to heritage.

Addressing these challenges requires updating the theoretical framework for heritage protection, incorporating new challenges and threats, and promoting citizen participation in decision-making due to their sense of belonging, memory, and identity regarding local heritage.

The Master Plan for the Historical Heritage of Seville is a document for managing and governing cultural heritage, focusing on 130 municipally-owned assets. This plan encompasses heritage buildings and complexes from Roman times to the mid-20th century, located in both the historic centre and 20th-century expansion areas. Managing this heritage is complex due to the diversity of contexts, locations, ownerships, and regulations governing these assets, as well as their varied legal status. Of these, 37 assets are located outside the Historic Centre, complicating their valorisation and protection as they are not part of the tourist circuit, and due to their diverse typologies and natures, which differ from monumental character and host other uses.

The Master Plan is considered an integrated management system for these assets, moving beyond mere conservative stewardship. Municipal assets are seen as reflective of the citizenry and possess added values such as representation and the ability to mobilise citizens, making them crucial for building an active heritage framework that addresses the city's contemporary challenges. The methodology proposed in this research will be verified through a selection of representative case studies from the Master Plan catalogue.

The research aims to update heritage protection by developing a methodology that not only assesses heritage value but also considers opportunities, threats, impact, sustainability, use and management, and identity, among others. This will involve incorporating citizen participation and the work of multidisciplinary teams, culminating in an open digital platform accessible to the public. This platform will serve as a catalogue and inventory of municipal heritage, facilitating its protection under interdisciplinary criteria and with the involvement of experts, administration, and citizens. It will also establish minimum criteria necessary for the protection of each heritage asset based on its specific circumstances.

Specific objectives include reviewing legislation and protection figures, creating a database of Sevilla's municipal heritage assets, and comparing heritage protection practices with international cases. The methodology is divided into three phases: literature review, definition of stewardship methodology, and proposal and implementation of this methodology.

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Challenges in Preserving Urban Heritage Amid Urbanization: The Case of Vilnius

Rugile Balkaite, Vilnius University

The preservation and development of Vilnius Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, have been shaped by a complex history of changing political regimes and evolving urban planning principles. These abstract reviews the key periods and challenges faced by Vilnius Old Town from the interwar period to the restoration of Lithuanian independence and beyond.

From 1920 to 1939, Vilnius was annexed by Poland, and heritage preservation was governed by Polish laws. During this time, urban development was characterised by chaotic and disorganised construction, leading to the need for comprehensive urban planning. In 1936, Vilnius Old Town was designated as a monument, recognising the significance of its entire urban plan. The 1938 Great Vilnius Zoning Project aimed to address urban development by dividing the city into functional zones, but it was not fully realised due to political changes.

The first Soviet occupation (June 1940 - June 1941) brought the enactment of

Lithuania's first Law on the Protection of Cultural Monuments, which broadly defined cultural heritage. However, Soviet urban planning focused on nationalisation and densification, often neglecting historical preservation. During the Nazi occupation (June 1941 - 1944), urban planning continued under Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, with a comprehensive master plan that included detailed schematics for functional zoning. The Cultural Monuments Inventory Rules of 1942 provided a clearer classification of monumental objects but operated under the repressive regime of Nazi Germany.

The second Soviet occupation (1944-1990) saw extensive damage to Vilnius Old Town during the conflict between Nazi Germany and Soviet armies. Post-war Soviet reconstruction efforts prioritised sanitary and utilitarian needs over historical preservation, drastically altering the city's historical layout. In 1953, a general plan implemented wide thoroughfares that cut through the Old Town. Despite these changes, Vilnius Old Town

was declared an architectural monument in 1949, with resolutions dividing cultural monuments into architectural, artistic, archaeological, and historical categories. The 1956-1958 reconstruction and regeneration project introduced innovative concepts for preserving the entire Old Town as a cohesive architectural-urban complex, though it adhered to socialist urban welfare principles, resulting in the widening of streets and reconstruction of historic properties.

The 1960s and 1970s presented challenges of new construction and increasing traffic. The adoption of international standards like the 1964 Venice Charter and Lithuania's 1967 Law on the Protection of Cultural Monuments emphasised the preservation of historic centres. However, modernisation initiatives often conflicted with heritage protection, leading to regulatory inconsistencies. The 1972-1974 Vilnius Old Town regeneration project expanded the protected area to 74 quarters, distinguishing between the core and suburbs for tailored preservation strategies. This project integrated comprehensive building assessments and categorised areas for different levels of protection.

With Lithuania's independence restored in 1990, efforts to preserve Vilnius Old Town continued. In 1994, Vilnius Old Town was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, based on its outstanding universal value. The current territory covers 352.09 hectares, with a buffer zone of 1,912.24 hectares established in 2010. Preservation efforts are regulated by several key documents, including the Master Plan of Vilnius City and the Regulation for the Protection of Vilnius Old Town. A new Conservation Plan initiated in 2023 aims to consolidate the regulatory framework, guiding preservation, construction, and landscaping activities within the Old Town and its buffer zone.

In conclusion, the development and preservation of Vilnius Old Town reflect a complex interplay of historical, political, and urban planning influences. The need for comprehensive studies, proper monitoring, and a holistic approach to heritage management remains critical. The integration of new architecture into the historical environment continues to pose challenges, underscoring the importance of adaptive and sensitive urban planning to maintain the cultural integrity of Vilnius Old Town.

The view of Vilnius Old Town. Source available at: *https://zw.lt/wilno-wilenszczyzna/od-przyszlego-wtorku-zakaz-wjazdu-na-starowke/*

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Challenges in heritage conservation in Latin American metropolises: the HUL approach as a tool for the preservation zones of Recife, Brazil

Milena Torres, University of Pernambuco

Latin American metropolises are dynamic and complex urban centres characterised by different historical layers that results on a rich urban landscape. These cities face numerous conflicts and challenges that impact on the heritage preservation, including socioeconomic issues, rapid urbanisation, insufficient regulatory frameworks, gentrification and verticalisation.

The challenges are evident in Recife, one of Brazil's four major metropolises located in the state of Pernambuco, which serves as the case study for this research. The special zones for the preservation of historical and cultural heritage of Recife, known as ZEPH, were established in the late 1970s and have faced significant difficulties in achieving an effective protection over the years. In the last twenty years, the ZEPHs located in the city's centre have suffered the most due to a process of rediscovery of the waterfronts, accompanied by changes in specific legislation and an absence of an integrated approach that considers heritage alongside urban development. For example, these areas have different characteristics, including sets of buildings that cover waterfronts, while others comprise of historic churches and their surroundings of vernacular architecture. In 1996, a new initiative of law of land use affected the ZEPHs by suspending the parameters of the buffer zones which have become insufficient and ineffective preservation. In addition, an important mark was the strategic metropolis plan and the recipient urban project in 2005, which proposes new architecture in the waterfront with the intention of developing city centre. Consequently, there are projects with significant impact on preservation zones, causing an irreparable impact on the historic landscape.

Thus, this research delves into this ongoing process in Recife, focusing on the current challenges and projects that are affecting the historic centre of the metropolis. It emphasises the potential of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach as a tool, offering a systemic urban perspective based on a landscape view. The approach addresses contemporary urban needs by promoting systemic and interdisciplinary vision based on landscape that combines conservation and sustainable development and respond to a demand for greater citizen participation. First, the HUL approach suggests an opportunity to expand the application exercises as an integrated conservation tool that overcomes the gaps between heritage, preservation, and urban development. Second, the approach is helpful to place society at the centre of safeguarding process, creating the way that heritage become a social product and a tool for development. In the case of Recife, the approach is helpful to enrich the context of improvements of citizen's participation, approach to the conservation within the urban development and integrated landscape view. Therefore, the HUL approach aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and enhances social welfare by emphasising citizen participation throughout the process. Furthermore, it provides a nuanced understanding of the metropolis' heritage as a dynamic palimpsest, reflecting its evolving layers over time.

São José Neighborhood (ZEPH 10) – Historic Centre of Recife, Brazil, and the impact of the verticalisation on the historic landscape. Author: Santana, A. (2021). Photograph by Berg Alves [Personal collection].

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Intangible Cultural Heritage in Urban Contexts

Juliana Forero, Programme Specialist in the Culture Sector at UNESCO

Changes in cities lead us to experience different ways of being resilient and practicing. In particular, a migration is an issue in all cities around the world, creating a place where people with different cultural backgrounds live together. When safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in cities, there are challenges, including rapid urbanisation, cultural homogenisation, lack of documentation and limited resources to support the preservation. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003, organised by UNESCO, articulates a methodological tool to embed ICH into urban planning contexts and to collaborate with planners, ensuring that ICH is safeguarded when organising a space of cities.

The social function of ICH can be explained in three ways: social sustainability, community empowerment, and intergenerational transmission. First, ICH safeguarding prioritises social inclusion, community well-being, and equitable access. For example, this aims to ensure that the traditions of people linked to a specific cultural practice, or certain cities are included. Second, community

empowerment is essential to engage local stakeholders in the decision-making and management of cultural heritage initiatives. When people feel empowered and recognise that they deeply belong to the city, it is expected that the quality of life in the city will improve as citizens are involved in creating a better place to live. Third, intergenerational transmission is highlighted to ensure the continuity of intangible cultural traditions by involving both the youth and the elders. This approach is closely related to the current trend of people facing the dynamics of globalisation when shaping their identities.

To elaborate on the subject of safeguarding, heritage can be categorised into two main types: formal heritage and informal heritage. While formal heritage is officially recognised and protected by governmental and institutional authorities, the bottom-up perspective is significant in understanding informal heritage. Particularly, informal heritage encompasses local and community-based heritage, which is deeply meaningful to people who engage with it in their daily lives. This not only addresses the gap between different perceptions of heritage but also keeps informal heritage alive in local life by enriching practical ways of policies and financial support.

The strategies for safeguarding ICH emphasise social cohesion, encompassing identity and belonging for communities, multicultural exchanges contributing to inclusive and harmonious communities, economic development for sustainable heritage practices, and social solidarity to transcend divisions and promote peaceful coexistence. In particular, the engagement of the community in cultural heritage initiatives is highlighted to provide methodologies. For instance, participatory mapping facilitates the identification and documentation of cultural assets and traditions for future generations. Additionally, co-creation involves community members in designing ICH programmes, and knowledge sharing and cultural education enrich the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge and skills. For a deeper understanding of ICH in urban contexts, the methodological tools include comprehensive fieldwork, ethnographic research, and geographic information systems to combine qualitative and quantitative data.

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Annex 2

Biogrammes of contributors

Daniel Athias De Almeida

Architect and Urban Designer with a bachelor's and master's degree from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (FAU/UFRJ), he is currently pursuing a PhD in Architecture through a CAPES scholarship at PROARQ-FAU/UFRJ. He has been a Visiting Scholar and Research Affiliate at Columbia University's Earth Institute. His teaching experience includes positions at Anhanguera University in Niterói, where he coordinated Final Graduation Projects and the architecture office, and at Uni Redentor in Paraíba do Sul. He served as the Cultural Heritage Coordinator in Magé, implementing Heritage Education, Cultural Mapping, and Participatory Inventory initiatives. His research focuses on Cultural Heritage in the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro, aiming to establish new narratives through recognised routes and counter-hegemonic discourses. This work promotes a more comprehensive understanding of historical, cultural, and territorial contexts. He is actively involved in research with the SEL/PROARQ-UFRJ Group and the Heritopolis Society.

Rugile Balkaite

Ms. Rugilė Balkaitė Puodžiūnienė has over a decade of professional experience in policymaking related to urban and architectural heritage preservation. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. focusing on urban heritage and impact assessments of historic cities in the Baltic region at Vilnius University, Lithuania. Notably, she led the development of draft World Heritage Management plans for the Vilnius Historic Centre and the Curonian Spit. Her involvement in international cultural policy development at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, along with her previous role as the National Focal Point for World Heritage Sites in Lithuania, has significantly influenced Lithuania's cultural heritage strategies. She has also actively contributed to international working groups and forums under UNESCO and the Council of Europe, promoting heritage conservation and sustainable urban development across the region.

Francesco Bandarin

Architect and Urban Planner, specialised in Urban Conservation. From 2000 to 2010 he was Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Secretary of the World Heritage Convention. From 2010 to 2018 he served as Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture. He is Advisor of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Member of the Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian Institution Center for Cultural heritage and member of the International Advisory Council of ALIPH.He holds degrees in Architecture (IUAV Venice) and City and Regional Planning (UC Berkeley) and has been Professor of Urban Planning and Urban Conservation at the University of Venice (IUAV) from 1980 to 2016. He currently teaches at SciencesPo in Paris.

Olivia Bina

Olivia Bina is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, and a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. She focuses on the sustainability of socio-economic and socio-technical models, exploring urban futures, nature-based transformations, and climate impacts on urban historical centres. Her research includes re-imagining urban form, heritage sites, and the potential of botanical gardens as heritage and future-shaping sites. Olivia aims for an interdisciplinary approach, understanding the challenges this entails. She holds a Bachelor's in Political Sciences (Università degli Studi di Milano), a Master's in Environment and Development, a PhD in Geography (University of Cambridge), and a Master's in Landscape Architecture (Università di Cagliari).

Paola Branduini

Architect, PhD in Rural Engineering, she is assistant professor of architectural conservation at Politecnico di Milano. Her research fields concern knowledge, conservation and management of rural landscape as heritage and enhancement of urban agriculture with cultural heritage. She participates in EU projects: Cost Action Urban Agriculture Europe; Horizon Reach-culture and now Erasmus + Edulands for transition. She leads projects of recovery, knowledge and promotion of cultural heritage and rural landscape with national and local Italian authorities (Ministry of Culture, Grangia di San Gregorio, Ticino regional Park). She is the president of the Landscape Commission of Ticino Regional Park.

Antonella Contin

Antonella Contin, architect and Ph.D., is a researcher at DAStU, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, within the School of Architecture, Urban Planning, and Construction Engineering at Politecnico di Milano. She coordinates MSLab: Measure and Scale of the Contemporary City and MetroHUB, the UN-Habitat Centre on Metropolitan Dynamics, and is involved in the Politecnico di Milano initiative. She is the scientific coordinator and organiser of international workshops and seminars and leads several EU-funded research projects, including TEllme, Contested Territories, and Smart. With a regular presence at numerous international universities, her research centres on metropolitan architecture projects, urban growth, sustainable models, intelligent and responsive cities, new technologies, and urban mapping.

Luis Miguel Cortés Sánchez

Architect, researcher, and PhD candidate. Graduated in Fundamentals of Architecture (2017) and Master of Architecture (2018) from the Seville School of Architecture (Spain). In 2020 he was awarded a predoctoral contract that allowed him to belong to the Department of History, Theory,

and Architectural Compositions of the Seville School of Architecture (Spain), as well as to begin his career as a lecturer in this department. Member of the research group 'City, Architecture and Contemporary Heritage', he is currently working on his doctoral thesis, which focuses on the material relationship between architecture and the landscape.

Claus-Peter Echter

Architect, Urban Planner, and Sociologist with a diploma in Sociology and a Doctorate in Architecture. His doctoral thesis on "Monument Topography: A Recording Tool and Cultural History Enterprise" (2006) underpins his work as an international scientific heritage professional, based in Munich since 2008. An ICOMOS member since 2007, he served as Secretary General (2012-2018) and President (2018-2021) of ICOMOS CIVVIH, and now serves as Past President. He represents CIVVIH at World Heritage Panels and is the ICOMOS focal point for the UN Habitat World Urban Campaign (WUC) since 2020. Additionally, he is a Steering Committee member for Heritopolis Society and a council member of Europa Nostra. His research focuses on urban conservation, sustainable development, and resilience of historic cities.

Can Emre Memis

Can Emre Memiş is pursuing a PhD in Human Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London, sponsored by the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye. He earned a Bachelor's in Political Science and Public Administration and a Master's in Urban Policy Planning and Local Governments at METU. His master's thesis, "An Assessment of Political Fair Representation in Ankara Metropolitan Municipal Council," demonstrates his focus on political representation in local governance. Memiş engaged with the Local Governments Research and Development Centre (MIARGEM) and comparative research with Heritopolis. His research interests include local governance, urban policy, and resilience. After completing his PhD, he plans to join Hacettepe University, Türkiye, as a

faculty member, contributing to research and mentoring future scholars.

Juliana Forero

PhD in Urban Planning and an M.A. in Social Anthropology, has dedicated her career to the crossroads of Cultural Heritage, Sustainability and Urban Development. Her expertise extends to protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage, emphasising the social role of heritage through community involvement, acknowledgment of cultural diversity, and the formulation of public policies. Additionally, she has experience in the public, private, NGO, academic sectors, and in international organisations. At present, she is working on intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development. Furthermore, she contributes to scholarly advancements concerning the evolving notion of heritage, historical urban landscapes, and the function of intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts. Her research encompasses both Western and Non-western viewpoints. Currently, she holds a position as Programme Specialist in the Culture Sector at UNESCO.

Germán Herruzo Domínguez

Architect, Master's Degree in Architecture and Master's Degree in Architecture and Historical Heritage from the University of Seville. Member of the Research Group HUM-666, currently holding a Pre-doctoral Training Contract at the University of Seville (PIF), and enrolled in the PhD program in Architecture. His research trajectory focuses on heritage and architectural studies, specifically in heritage protection. His research is framed within one of the actions proposed in the drafting of the first Master Plan for Municipal Historical Heritage of Seville, where he has participated as a researcher and coordinator, as well as in other R&D&I projects of similar thematic, as the project "WHATS-UP. World Heritage: An Approach To Social Sustainability while UPgrading cultural Values".

Charlene Jo Darmanin

Conservation Architect & Civil Engineer, a Visiting Assistant Lecturer at the University of Malta, and an MPhil / PhD Candidate at the University of Malta. She studied at the University of Malta, where she completed a Bachelor in Architecture & Civil Engineering (Hons) (Structural Engineering Stream) (2013), and a Master of Science in Conservation Technology for Masonry Buildings (2015). She was involved in the restoration of St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral (Valletta, Malta), Phoenicia Hotel (Floriana, Malta), Manoel Theatre (Valletta, Malta), the Bartolott Crypt at St John's Co-Cathedral (Valletta, Malta) and the Museum of Literature (Valletta, Malta).

Hyunjae Kim

PhD Candidate, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. His current PhD research explores colonial heritage in East Asia, focusing on the plural memories and interpretations formed by local societies, which create distinctive perspectives that lie in-between material and epistemological spectrums. His research interests include colonial heritage, dark heritage, urban heritage, and postmemory. Having studied Geography at the undergraduate level, Hyunjae completed an MPhil in Heritage Studies at the University of Cambridge in 2020, where his thesis examined the postmemory of Jewish refugee camps in the UK. He has also worked as a researcher at the World Heritage Laboratory in Seoul and the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements. Currently, he is participating in professional volunteering programs with organisations such as Heritage and Metropolis (Heritopolis) and cultural projects in visual arts related to migration history and heritage.

Arxhenda Lipovica

Architect with a global perspective and a deep commitment to sustainable design. Hailing from Gjilan, Kosovo, she earned her bachelor's degree in Architecture and Spatial Planning from UBT and a master's in Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design from Politecnico di Milano. With over five years of international experience, Arxhenda has developed a diverse portfolio that reflects her philosophy of integrating architecture with nature. Now based in Italy, she works as an architect, researcher, and Teaching Assistant

at Politecnico di Milano, while preparing for her PhD. Her work is inspired by diverse cultures, innovative design, and the natural world.

Adva Matar

Adva Matar is a PhD Candidate at TUDelft's Department of Architecture and Built Environment, collaborating with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem. Her research maps the heritage layer of nature and culture in metropolitan areas, exploring urban-rural linkages and their role in sustainable development. She is the former academic coordinator of the Bezalel Institute for Spatial Studies and a lecturer at Bezalel's School of Architecture. Adva earned her Master's in Urban Design from Bezalel Academy in 2019 with honors and her Bachelor's in Architecture and Town Planning from the Technion in 2015. Her expertise includes academic research, research-by-design projects, teaching, and architectural commissions.

Xingyu Mu

Dr. Xingyu Mu is the Project Director at WHITR-AP Shanghai, a role she assumed in 2020. She spent 12 years in Rome, Italy, specialising in cultural heritage restoration and historic urban conservation, where she focused on bridging Eastern and Western conservation theories. Since 2013, she has been active as a practising architect on built heritage restoration projects. Dr. Mu earned her PhD in architectural history and restoration from La Sapienza, University of Rome, in 2016 and became a fellow at ICCROM in 2018. There, she addressed World Heritage issues and highlighted the uniqueness of Chinese conservation culture within East-West academic exchanges. At WHITR-AP, she oversees research projects and capacity-building initiatives, particularly on Climate Change impacts and mixed World Heritage sites in China. She has also represented China at the World Heritage Committee for three consecutive years.

Gina Núñez Camarena

Architect (Mexico) with a Master in Urbanism from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and a PhD in Architecture from the University of Seville. Currently part of the Research Group HUM 965-Tranhumancia. She recently defended her doctoral thesis "Heritage characterisation of the Purepecha lake region in its transfer to cultural tourism in Mexico." A research residency at the Documentation Centre of the Andalusian Institute of Historical Heritage (IAPH) and the Postgraduate Department, Faculty of Architecture, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo (UMSNH), Morelia, Mexico as a scholarship holder of the mobility program between Andalusian and Latin American universities. She has published scientific articles on architecture, urbanism, and heritage, and participated in conferences, seminars, and workshops in Spain, Chile, and Ecuador. Engaged in competitive research projects at regional and national levels.

Julia Rey-Pérez

PhD Architect and Associate Professor at Higher School of Architecture at the University of Seville (US). Master's degree lecturer at various Latin American universities. Since 2015, lecturer in the Doctoral Programme in Architecture at the University of Sevilla (line: City, Territory and Habitat), in the Master's Degrees in Sustainable City and Architecture (MCAS) and in Anthropology: Management of Cultural Diversity, Heritage and Development, both at the University of Seville. Visiting Researcher at Eindhoven University of Technology, Institute of Historical, Artistic and National Heritage (Brazil), Universidad de Cuenca (Equator), National Institute of Cultural Heritage of Equator, Unesco Chair "Heritage and Urban Regeneration" at the IUAV and at Edinburgh World Heritage (UK). Responsible for the "Historic Urban Landscape" Program in the 2020 Management Plan for the Municipal Historic Heritage in Sevilla. Member of Icomos Spain.

Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga

Dr. Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga is an adjunct professor at the Institute of Spatial Development and Urban Studies (UNESCO Chair in Heritage and Urban Studies) at the University of Economics in Krakow, a consultant at the Centre for Culture Statistics in Krakow, and Deputy Head of the Europa Nostra Heritage Hub for Central and Eastern Europe. She graduated from the University of Economics, where she defended her doctoral dissertation on the role of culture in urban development in 2017. She has experience in public administration, the cultural sector, and the non-governmental sector. Her research focuses on the socio-economic potential of culture, the use of cultural heritage in innovation and diplomacy, and the impact of mega-events on historic cities. She is a member of the UN-Habitat UNI MetroHUB Consortium and the Working Group on National Intelligent Specialisations at the Ministry of Development and Technology.

David Simon

Professor of Development Geography and Director for External Engagement in the School of Life Sciences and the Environment, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK. He was also Director of Mistra Urban Futures, Gothenburg, Sweden from 2014–2019. A Rhodes Scholar and Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences, he specialises in cities, climate change and sustainability, and the relationships between theory, policy and practice, on all of which he has published extensively. He is a member of the scoping team for the Special Report on climate change and cities for the IPCC 7th Assessment Report Cycle (2024) and serves on the international jury for WWF's One Planet City Challenge

Milena Torres

Architect and Urbanist, graduated from the Catholic University of Pernambuco (UNICAP). Participated in the Scientific Initiation Program (PIBIC) from 2015 to 2016 and researched at the Cultural

Landscapes Laboratory (2016-2017). Holds a Master's degree in Urban Development from the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) and is pursuing a Ph.D. funded by the Foundation for the Support of Science and Technology of Pernambuco (FACEPE). Undertook a research stay at the University of Seville under the Sandwich Doctorate Program (PDSE/CAPES). Since 2018, a researcher at UFPE's Landscape Laboratory and a member of the "Burle Marx Gardens" research group. Developing the thesis on "The Historic Urban Landscape and ZEPH of Recife." Consulted on the Burle Marx Gardens management plan in Recife. Research interests include integrated conservation, urban heritage, and visual integrity.

Michael Turner

Professor Michael Turner, the UNESCO Chairholder in Urban Design and Conservation Studies at the Bezalel, Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem. With international activities in urban sustainability, heritage, social inclusion and urbanism, he has lectured and published widely on these subjects. A member of the World Heritage Committee, 2005-2009, he is currently special envoy to its secretariat director focusing on the Historic Urban Landscape. He is co-editor of the upcoming trilogy on Urbanism and Architecture of the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme. Committed to civil society, he is a founding member of the OurWorldHeritage initiative and now coordinates the UN-Habitat University Network Initiative on Heritopolis - heritage and the metropolis.

Eugenia Vidal Casanova

Eugenia Vidal-Casanovas is an award-winning architect, urban designer and landscape architect based in Barcelona with over 20 years of professional experience in both the public and private sector. She has practiced, taught and conducted research in Europe, the USA, and Asia. Vidal-Casanovas is committed to the open spaces of the metropolis, protecting and restoring

ecologies and creatively transforming everyday landscapes. She is the Head of the Open Space Planning Office at the Green Infrastructure Service of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona [AMB], where since 2014 she has been Team Coordinator for the Collserola Natural Park Plan (formally approved in 2021). Vidal-Casanovas holds a PhD in Infrastructural Landscape Projects and a Master of Architecture from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.BarcelonaTech, and a MSC in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University. She is a registered architect in Spain.

Dicheng Yang

Dicheng Yang is a PhD candidate of Politecnico di Milano with eight years study experience of Architecture Design and Urban Planning. Dicheng focus on Chinese rural studies, in collaboration with Alibaba Group and the International Forum of Urbanism (IFoU), he has conducted research on the challenges arising from E-commerce and the urban-rural linkages in east China (2020). After graduating with honors from Politecnico di Milano in 2022, Dicheng's research centres on urban studies, incorporating perspective from the neuroscience discipline. His research specialises in people's well-being and perception related to urban complexities.

Alba Zamarbide

Alba is an architect-urbanist and Doctor of Architecture. Her research revolves around the notion of boundary and buffer zone in the management of the historic territory. Since 2013, she has participated in diverse projects related to integrated urban strategies and policies, participation of heritage communities, and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape worldwide. She is currently in charge of the "Management and Protection of World Heritage" within the "Network of Vauban's Major Sites", which she combines with independent research and consultancy projects.

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