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# PROCEEDINGS

SCHOLARS WORKSHOP:

# ARCHITECTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY CITY PLANNING

**Firenze**

16-18th June 2014

Firenze  
16-18<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Workshop:

**ARCHITECTURE,  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND CONTEMPORARY  
CITY PLANNING**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
WORKSHOP**

**editors:  
Giorgio Verdiani & Per Cornell**

Firenze  
December 2014

Firenze  
16-18th June 2014

Scholars workshop:  
ARCHITECTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY CITY PLANNING

The workshop took place in Firenze, via San Niccolò, 93 at the Dipartimento di Architettura in the Aula Magna placed at the first floor of the palace.

Workshop organizing committee:  
Giorgio Verdiani, Per Cornell, Alessandro Merlo, Gianluca Belli.

The workshop has been realized in collaboration between Architecture Department of the University of Florence, Italy, the Department of Historical Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden and MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology, UK)



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# Pictures from the workshop

Giorgio Verdiani, Andrea Pasquali, Angela Mancuso

DiDA (Dipartimento di Architettura) – School of Architecture – University of Florence

**Abstract:** Behind a conference, behind the proceedings and the book left to testify the complexity and the mountain of ideas flowed in few days, there is always the group of people who debated all the subjects, and their life around the event. So documenting with pictures is a nice way to add something more to the acts, and its something that can be done with group pictures, with reportage pictures, with casual shots, but is also something that can be done with an effort, the one that trying to capture the real essence of visit and of the people around. In this closing contribution it is possible to see a selected series of images from the workshop, the visited towns, but no people posing or common postcards, only few shots to put in order what was done and trying to capture the involvement of the participants to the workshop. All the pictures here are taken and post processed by the authors.

**Keywords:** Photography, Workshop, Firenze, Lucca, Livorno

The scholar workshop took place in June 2014, in a year that, in Italy, will be remembered for a very rainy and cold spring and summer, overall the climate was not a problem for the interested group of scholars taking part to the event, and the few nice weather occasions happened exactly when needed, so it was possible to have all the foreseen events in the right order and with the right mood. The workshop was organized in two phases, a first, preliminary moment of meetings and visits in Tuscany to learn and see places with significant example of urban tissues combined with its past and grown layer by layer until our days, and then a second one, made of meetings and discussions, organized around the presentation of each participant contribution, in the rooms of the Dipartimento di Architettura in Palazzo Vegni. The idea at the base of the workshop was to stimulate the discussion and create occasion to match each participants ideas and develop concepts and clear thinking.

Taking images of these moments was not easy, but it's a part of the activities who organize an event must always take care of, in our time, the continuous use of images makes difficult to concentrate on few, well chosen

pictures, most of the time there is a poor level of abstraction in taking images and few time is left to the further processing, but its a part of the multimedia approach to the media, and it's not a rule everybody must obey.

So, to close the rich series of contribution from most of the participants, here some pictures from those days are presented. Not a lot of images, but a small group of 25 images, just more or less like a typical rollfilm in 35mm format, chosen to document the mood and the significant moments of the workshop, some instant extended to represent the relationship between the event, the participants, the places, the towns, the monuments and the subject of the discussion.

All the pictures (except the scan of the sketch at the end of this series) were taken using an Olympus OMD EM-5 16Mp digital camera, a good quality and compact tool, capable to operate in low light as well to capture an high level of details from architecture and context. All the images were treated to get a specific consistence, paying attention in the enhancement of the details and in the tone calibration in the idea to add a "something more" to suggest the "climate" at moment of the shot.



### The Conference Venue

The location chosen as the place of the workshop in Florence was “Palazzo Vegni” one of the building hosting the *Dipartimento di Architettura*. The palace, placed in *via San Niccolò*, near the Arno River and at the feet of the hill of *San Miniato*, is the result of the unification of various houses from the XIV<sup>th</sup> century

into a single building in the XVII<sup>th</sup> century. The owner at the time of this transformation was Gherardino Gianni. The work of unification took time and included also a tower-house from the middle XIII<sup>th</sup> century. During these transformations a large room named “galleria” was realized at the first floor, it has been designed by Antonio Maria Ferri at the end of



the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century. The idea of such a space was to offer a representative space for the new owner of this property. This large, vaulted room, has paints from Alessandro Gherardini, a Baroque florentine painter. The building has seen various transformations across time, with a meaningful change in the façade operated by Angelo Vegni, who bought the palace

in the 1860 and who left his name on it. The complex was later acquired by the Florentine Municipality who is its owner since 1980, and then it was partially given in use to the former Architecture Faculty (now *Dipartimento di Architettura*). The “galleria” became the *Aula Magna* or *Aula 1*, a space for conferences, for lessons, for presenting degree thesis.



## Visit to Florence

Florence is such a rich town that any kind of visit is always capable to bring new surprise and interesting subjects worth of widening. The evolution of the town from the Roman period to the contemporary age made it a perfect subject to start any discussion about the balance between contemporary city planning, archaeology and architecture. In the days of the workshop a very curious event took place: the quite uncommon setup of the scaffoldings for the restoration of the Baptistery, made with colourful graphic and schematic layout. Thus the main visit took care about the town center with a special attention to the “Viali dei Colli” designed by Giuseppe Poggi for the works of “Firenze Capitale” and crossing the hills at the shoulder of the conference venue, a nice place to take an higher look to the whole town and to appreciate the integration between the ancient town and the intervention from the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, passing by significant and well known places like San Miniato al Monte and Piazzale Michelangelo.





### Visit to Lucca

Towns like Lucca offer an important context: they show well preserved walls and allow the reading of the balance between the ancient “inside” and the country outside, the richness and density of monuments inside the walled town once more create the conditions to

interpret the relationship between the previous traces from the roman and medioeval age as the main guidelines of any further development. A visit to the church dedicated to the Saints Giovanni and Reparata (developed over roman remains since the VI<sup>th</sup> century) was due while in this place, in facts there it is



possible to visit the whole stratigraphy from the ancient Roman villa up to the middle age reorganization, to the rising wall of previous baptisteries and the final connection between the last baptistery (obviously the St. Giovanni) and the church of St. Reparata. But even if the visit was about the “underground”, this same

place offers a visit to reach an high eyepoint, the ancient tower bell of the church is accessible to visits thank to a recent iron staircase, so it is possible to take a look to the roof and having a very nice view all over the town. The two picture documenting this visit are taken from the bell tower in that day.



### Visit to Livorno

Livorno has a very suffered town centre, the ancient remains suffer from the impact of the contemporary town and from many limits coming from poor choices made in the modern era. The whole system of ancient walls and fortresses, developed from the XIV<sup>th</sup> century, is going in pieces little by little, and

for each part partially restored a new one seems near to be lost.

Overall the general aspect of the ancient town can be better appreciated visiting it from the water, using a specific touristic service, bringing people to visit the system of channels and tunnels around and beneath the town. And so we did.





**The workshop days**

And so, starting from the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, the workshop took place, and for all the people there were very intense days, there was a lot to see and to listen and a continuous invite to the discussion. And at the end of the sessions, there was Florence all around, and this was like coming back to the subject of the discussion, having the



subject in itself talking to you. The scholars brought their studies to the others, and the participation of some students, professors, researchers, Ph.D. and collaborators from the Dipartimento di Architettura created an extended communication of the subjects of the discussion. The great level of attention and interaction allow to say that the workshop had a successful result in bringing each researches to be enhanced by comparing methods, subjects and strategies.

And just because when architects think, they often draw, here to close the book, a sketch realized during the workshop by Panaiotis Kruklidis architect and graphic.

