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# Heritage for people

## *Sharing vernacular knowledge to build the future*

versus plus
heritage for people

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## *Sharing vernacular knowledge to build the future*


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CONTENTS


**INTRODUCTION**

**Foreword** 12
Hubert Guillaud

**Foreword** 14
Marwa Dabaieh

**Heritage for People. A project for connecting people with their tangible and intangible heritage** 16
Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas

**LESSONS FROM VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE TO SUSTAINABILITY** 30

**VerSus Methodology: development and application** 32
Gilberto Duarte Carlos, Mariana Correia

**Transmission of the VerSus method to architecture students and lecturers** 38
Sebastien Moriset

**From intangible heritage to circular knowledge** 44
Letizia Dipasquale, Saverio Mecca, Lucia Montoni

**Indigenous & traditional knowledge systems and the circular paradigm** 50
Debora Giorgi

**Diversity and sustainability of traditional architecture in global warming and ecological and digital transitions** 56
Saverio Mecca

**Lessons on conservation from vernacular architecture** 62
Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto, Valentina Cristini, Lidia García-Soriano

**Vernacular parameters of sustainability in 21st century architecture** 68
Juan María Songel, Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto, Juan Bravo

**STRATEGIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE** 74

**Conservation and design** 76
Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto

**Conservation and restoration of traditional architecture** 80
Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas

*Restoration of a vernacular house in Sesga, Valencia (ES)* | Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas 86

*Urban building on calle Maldonado 33, Valencia (ES)* | Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto 87

*Conservation of a Valencian barraca (ES)* | Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto 88

*The sun temple (IN)* | Edoardo Paolo Ferrari 89

**Renovation and adaptive reuse of vernacular architecture** 90
Letizia Dipasquale

*Alcino Cardoso house renovation by Álvaro Siza (PT)* | Teresa Cunha Ferreira, Soraya Genin, Mariana Correia 97

*Toolkit for innovative and eco-sustainable renovation process* | Lucia Montoni, Gisella Calcagno, Giacomo Pierucci, Antonella Trombadore 98

*Renovation of a stone and rammed earth house in Tuscany (IT)* | Elena Rigano 99

*Memory garden in Vinaroz, Castellón (ES)* | Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto 100

*Renovation, seismic and energy retrofit of a farmhouse in Val di Chiana, Tuscany (IT)* | Sara Bartolini 101

**Designing with tradition: old techniques for modern architecture** 102
José Luis Baró, Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto

*Tile vaulting in 21st century* | Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto, Lidia García-Soriano 108

*House of Nature, Silkeborg Højskole by Reværk* | Birgitte Tanderup Eybye 109

*Ses Menorquines* | Alicia Casals, Karl Nyqvist 110

*Fan Forest Houses by Bergmeisterwolf Studio (IT)* | Matteo Zambelli 111

**Education strategies** **112**
Sebastien Moriset

**Teaching architecture and heritage to kids** 118
Sebastien Moriset

*Educational trunk in support of traditional architecture* | Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas, Lidia García-Soriano, Valentina Cristini 124

*Rehabimed kids: workshop on traditional architecture* | Letizia Dipasquale, Montserrat Villaverde 125

*Practical tools for teaching architecture and heritage to children* | Borut Juvanac 126

*Elémenterre* | Nathalie Sabatier, Alba Rivero Olmos 127

**An overview of university and post-university education in vernacular architecture** 128
Bruno Andrade, Telma Ribeiro, Mariana Correia, Goreti Sousa, Ana Lima

*DSA: earthen architecture, building cultures and sustainable development* | Bakonirina Rakotomamonjy **136**

*Workshops on traditional trades and preservation of traditional techniques* | Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas, Valentina Cristini, Lidia García-Soriano **137**

*The first Traditional Architecture Summer School in Portugal* | Rui Florentino, José Baganha, Alejandro García Hermida 138

*Teaching vernacular architecture: different pedagogical approaches in higher education* | Telma Ribeiro 139

**Training with craftspeople and maintenance of traditional knowledge** **140**
Sebastien Moriset

*The artisans of Venice* | Angela Squassina 145

*Italian Dry Stone Walling School* | Edoardo Paolo Ferrari 146

*Restoration of heritage assets programme atDuoc UC professional institute* | Carmen Gómez Maestro 147

**Community engagement** **148**
Mónica Alcindor, Emilia Simão

**Traditional heritage preservation and enhancement through community participation** **152**
Sebastien Moriset

*Terraccogliente experience* | Maddalena Achenza 158

*El Cabanyal: neighbourhood participation against urban expropriation* | Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas, David Morocho 159

*Adopt a house in Rosia Montana, Romania* | Stefan Balici 160

*Andean architecture and earthen construction Lab* | Julieta Barada, Jorge Tomasi 161

**Participating in building and restoring vernacular heritage** **162**
Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto

*Rempart* | Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto 167

*European Heritage Volunteers* | Valentina Cristini 168

*Cob in Lower Normandy, France* | François Streiff 169

**Gamification for community engagement in heritage and sustainability** **170**
Alessandro Merlo, Letizia Dipasquale

*Calasetta heritage games* | Amanda Rivera Vidal, Maddalena Achenza 176

*Artisans to the rescue* | Davide Leone 177

*The Seven Families of Formentera* | Nuria Sánchez Muñoz 178

*Contahistoria* | Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas, Marina Elia 179

**Knowledge management and dissemination** **180**
Letizia Dipasquale, Saverio Mecca

**Documenting and safeguarding intangible heritage** **184**
Letizia Dipasquale, Edoardo Paolo Ferrari

*Ràixe: Digital Spaces for Tabarkan Culture* | Marzia Varaldo 190

*Practices of Cultural Re-appropriation: projects in co-authorship with the First Indigenous Peoples of South Africa* | Magda Minguzzi 191

*The village of Esfahak: knowledge transmission on vernacular construction techniques in the Iranian desert* | Edoardo Paolo Ferrari 192

*Red de maestros - network of master builders* | Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas, Valentina Cristini 193

**Documentation and digital survey of tangible heritage** **194**
Alessandro Merlo, Gaia Lavoratti

*International workshops on traditional architecture in Rincón de Ademuz, Valencia (Spain)*
Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto 200

*Documenting and virtual visiting World Heritage in 3DPAST* | Mariana Correia, Gilberto Carlos 201

*3D survey of the vernacular architecture of the Aysén region* | Carlos Castillo Levicoy, Constanza Pérez Lira, Amalia Nuevo-Delaunay 202

*Modelling traditional knowledge on earthen domes of Syria* | Letizia Dipasquale, Saverio Mecca 203

**Managing constructive and architectural knowledge for builders and designers** **204**
Letizia Dipasquale, Telma Ribeiro, Rui Florentino, Mariana Correia

*Heritage for people: a collaborative app* | Letizia Dipasquale, Lucia Montoni, Edoardo Paolo Ferrari 210

*Learning to conserve* | Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto 211

*Cartoterra* | Sebastien Moriset 212

*Mapadaterra platform* | Leticia Grappi, Kin Guerra 213

**Sharing knowledge with a wide public** **214**
Sebastien Moriset

*Full Immersion nella Terra* | Maddalena Achenza 219

*Grains d'Isère Festival* | Bakonirina Rakotomamonjy 220

*Homo faber Exhibition* | Francesco Trovò 221

*Regio heart* | Alina Negru 222

*El Adobe educational video* | Amanda Rivera Vidal, Cristian Muñoz Catalán 223

**CASE STUDIES: FORMENTERA AND SANT'ANTIOCO ISLANDS** **224**

**Formentera: cultural heritage and sustainability** **226**
Fernando Vegas, Camilla Mileto, Lidia García-Soriano, Valentina Cristini

**Sant'Antioco: cultural heritage and sustainability** **240**
Letizia Dipasquale, Alessandro Merlo, Gaia Lavoratti, Lucia Montoni, Maddalena Achenza

## FAN FOREST HOUSES BY BERGMEISTERWOLF STUDIO (IT)

Matteo Zambelli
Università degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, Italy

The valleys of the Dolomites are dotted with barns. There is, in particular, one type of barn (which, depending on the geographical area, takes on different names) that consists of two volumes contrasting in construction system and materials. The first is the basement, a parallelepiped with a rectangular base tending to square, made of local stone, which, in addition to housing the cows and allowing other activities related to pastoralism to be carried out, had the function of raising the structure in elevation, made of wood with different construction systems, so as to avoid the deleterious effects of soil moisture and allow good ventilation. Commonly this second element was surrounded on two or three sides by a cantilevered "terrace" where hay was put to dry. The roofs of the barns were covered with *scandole*, that is, wooden boards 60 to 80 cm long. The slope of the roofs was very even among the different barns, because the slope of the pitches had to be such as to facilitate the sliding of snow without, however, dragging the shingles with it, but not too little slope, in order to avoid the stagnation of water and, consequently, the rotting of the shingles themselves.
The three vacation homes, part of a large hotel complex not far away, are arranged, as tradition dictates, not in parallel, but following the contour lines of the slope on which they lie. Their volumes are set consistently with the typological reference, although the building systems are actualized with respect to contemporary technologies. The basement in this case consists of two reinforced concrete walls, and it does not house any function. Its task is to support and lift the volume resting on it. Still in keeping with tradition, the latter is built with a wooden construction system, in this case using the contemporary technology of x-lam load-bearing partitions, i.e., laminated solid wood panels. The elevation structure, including the roof, is completely clad in pretreated gray wood laths capable of giving the volume a morphological essentiality typical of contemporary architecture.
Thus, the whole project speaks of tradition, capable of rooting the project in the place, although translated with the construction technologies and plastic research of contemporaneity.

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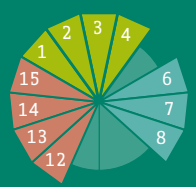
https://www.bergmeisterwolf.it/it/projekt/casa-sullalbero/

**VERSUS SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES**

1. Respecting nature and landscape
2. Taking benefit from natural and climatic resources
3. Reducing environmental impact
4. Ensuring environmental comfort and well being
6. Preserving the cultural landscape
7. Transmitting and sharing building cultures
8. Encouraging creativity
12. Promoting local activities
13. Optimising construction efforts
14. Extending lifetime
15. Saving resources




View and interior view of the Fan Forest houses
(*credits: Gustav Willeit*)

The publication presents the results of the project 'Versus-Heritage for People', funded by the Creative Europe EU programme. The main aim of the project was to actively involve a broad audience and raise awareness among it concerning the value of vernacular knowledge in shaping more sustainable and resilient models of development. The material and immaterial elements constituting a vernacular heritage (encompassing local materials, construction methods, models for living and social interaction, technical and environmental knowledge for the management of territories, natural resources, settlements, etc.) have enormous potential for generating forward-thinking models that can improve the environmental and social quality of our habitats, foster a sense of identity and belonging, and relate in a balanced way to the capacities of our planet. The book explores strategies and tools for managing and transmitting knowledge and the values associated with vernacular heritage. It includes concrete examples and good practices for engaging people in processes of knowledge and the enhancement of vernacular heritage values for sustainability. The outcome is the result of the collaborative efforts between the five academic institutions involved in the project – Universitat Politècnica de València as coordinator (ES), University of Florence (IT), University of Cagliari (IT), CRAterre-ENSAG (FR) and Escola Superior Gallaecia at Universidade Portucalense (PT). A total of 63 authors, comprising both external scholars and professionals, contributed to the book.

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