



MILITARY LANDSCAPES

ISLANDS OF LA MADDALENA AND CAPRERA /
SARDINIA, ITALY / 21_24 JUNE 2017

A FUTURE FOR MILITARY HERITAGE

An international overview event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the decommissioning of Italian fortresses

The 150th anniversary of the decommissioning of Italian military strongholds forms an appropriate occasion for reflection on the significance and the future of military landscapes. This international conference, organized by the University of Cagliari (DICAAR), the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Tourism (Polo Museale of Sardinia), the Istituto Italiano dei Castelli and the University of Edinburgh (ESALA), aims to share case studies, interdisciplinary scientific research initiatives and institutional programmes concerning military landscapes with particular focus on their possible protection, conservation and cultural enhancement, and also in the case of conversion, reuse or dual (civil and military) use.

How have military activities interacted with the landscape, and how can we recognise, interpret and protect the often uncomfortable memory of war, usurpation and violence by transforming it into more reassuring messages of security, commemoration, peace and progress?

The prospect of a new wave of decommissioning brings the challenges of converting this particularly vulnerable category of architecture and sites to the forefront of the debate. With this in mind, our interdisciplinary event will share case studies; investigate significant experiences of analysis of military landscapes; establish protocols for the conservation, surveillance and maintenance of heritage sites, and propose strategies for restoration and reconversion for civil uses (e.g. residential, social, cultural, productive, touristic), focusing particularly on examples inspired by aims of social integration, reconciliation and public use.

Sardinia, together with its archipelago of La Maddalena in the Mediterranean, constitutes a representative microcosm of the global concerns and challenges of military heritage. For this reason, this is also a symbolic and highly appropriate location in which to reflect on principles and guidelines for the protection of international military landscapes.

Session and topics

A. History and identity. Knowledge, analysis and representation

The inaccessibility of military sites and the traditional secrecy of the related documentary sources have hitherto restricted the identification and the study of military heritage. Such limits may be overcome by interdisciplinary studies. This session gathers together contributions on the following sub-themes: analysis of sources, iconography and military cartography; military history; relations between military activity and the landscape; archaeological and stratigraphic examinations; investigation and modelling techniques; applied diagnostics; analysis of the components of settlement typologies; construction methods and techniques in relation to their serial nature. These contributions may include methodological aspects, operational protocols and case studies of landscapes.

B. Networks of military sites: Protocols for protection and reconversion policies

Military sites, even when isolated, form part of complex relationships. They are linked to each other through their geography, their historical typology, their construction techniques and their official administration. This session welcomes contributions concerning the protection of historical military networks, their visual and perceptive aspects, and the infrastructural system to which they belong. Military landscapes are typically subjected to intrinsic vulnerability (through environmental aggression, structural fragility and hydro-geological instability), to the risk of abandoning because of their isolation or, on the contrary, to the pressures of human settlement and tourism, especially in coastal areas. With regard to protocols for protection, the session aims to open up reflections on the role of the military presence as a protective element for the historic landscape and on the legacy of military techniques and styles, such as camouflage, which is also a significant aspect in the wider debate on the role of imitation as a systematic instrument for the protection of landscapes.



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C. Old and new functions: plans and design projects for renovated urban and territorial hubs

Military architecture embodies the characteristics of force, importance, measure, order, repetition and durability. It comprises shapes that are easily recognisable in contemporary urban landscapes. The need to maintain 'maximum security' in such sites has led to a controlled modification of codes, and different rules from those that apply to 'normal' urban architecture. Contributions in this session concern case studies and theoretical developments on the topic of reconversion and civil use, both public and private, in relation to the existing methods for protection at various scales. In detail, the session investigates architectural and spatial values and the way they may establish new connections with the related landscape, between memories and new identities.

D. Social and economic geographies. Strategies for cultural enhancement

The links between geography and military sites are diverse and pervasive. This session aims to explore these connections, focusing on the most conflict-ridden current situations (political, social, territorial) in order to highlight their critical character and underline possible opportunities for territorial management. Contributions to this session are concerned with: spatial practices and territorial behaviour; political, social and environmental conflicts, and social and political perceptions; the ecology of power. Critical, too, is the level of economic compatibility between the protection and enhancement of military landscapes. This aspect is particularly urgent in the context of the current international economic crisis. The session comprises: the definition and analysis of policies for economic maintenance and enhancement; reflection on the economic sustainability of conservation activities and management of heritage sites in line with current international norms and policies; the costs and benefits of redevelopment and reclamation; the role of institutions and of regional or governmental agencies working at various scales.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Military heritage and/or Arts

A special contributions session is dedicated to the relationship between military heritage and art. There are three proposed elements within this session: the reconversion of military sites for cultural use, predominantly for didactic and exhibition purposes; the links between symbolism and military design, and key international artistic trends; and the connection between military remembrance sites and the dimensions of commemoration and sacredness.

Maintenance, management and functional adaptation for new military uses

The reconversion of military heritage sites does not always imply total decommissioning. The efforts made by leading countries to curb government military expenditure, alongside the new logistical demands stemming from current modifications to the structure of the armed forces, require skilled restoration operations that attain the most up-to-date work and safety standards, and maintain areas of significance which, in the case of such interventions, assume their value in terms of the landscape. Contributions to this session focus on the identification of principles and instruments for the maintenance of the structures, for the evaluation of appropriate modern military functions, whilst respecting the historical memories embodied in each site.

Organized by



Università degli Studi di Cagliari
Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, Ambientale e Architettura



Ministero dei beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo- Polo Museale della Sardegna



Istituto Italiano dei Castelli
Consiglio Scientifico Nazionale e Sezione Sardegna



University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Collage of Art



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Comune di La Maddalena



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Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica - INU
International Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage - ICOFORT
DOCOMOMO-International (Committee on Urbanism and Landscape)

Fortress Study Group
*invited to be confirmed
*Ministero della Difesa e Forze Armate (Esercito, Aeronautica, Marina, Guardia di Finanza, Carabinieri, Polizia di Stato, Corpo Forestale dello Stato)
* Ministero Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti, Provveditorato Interregionale per le OO.PP. Lazio -Abruzzo - Sardegna
* Agenzia del Demanio
* Istituto Geografico Militare
*Europa Nostra
*Ordini Professionali (Ingegneri, Architetti)

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Preliminary Dossier

Michela Becciu (DICAAR), Vania Statzu (SEA)

Credits

Logo design: Stefano Asili, Un. di Cagliari

Web design: Activenet

Submission

The official languages of the Conference are English and Italian.

The conference includes a poster session, oral presentations and keynote speeches by international invited experts. Contributions should focus on the topics outlined above. Abstracts, not exceeding 4,000 characters (including spaces) and containing no more than 4 tables and figures and 6 references can be submitted using the template available in the conference official website. Submissions will be double peer reviewed. All the accepted abstracts will be admitted to oral or poster presentation and included in the Conference Proceedings (open access with ISBN).

Templates for paper and poster will be available in the website. Posters will be printed by the conference organizers, and the costs of this are included in the registration fees.

Important Dates

Submission of extended abstract: 31 March

Acceptance of extended abstracts and communication of papers selected for oral presentation: 10 April

Fees

Regular subscription fee for poster and conference (poster print included):

Reduced fee: 180,00 euro (before 15April)

Full price: 230,00 euro

Third Cycle Students (doctorate):

Reduced fee: 100,00 euro (before 15April)

Full price: 150,00 euro

The registration fee includes coffee breaks and lunch-buffet.

Preliminary Programme

Wednesday, 21

18:00-20:00 Opening Ceremony of the Poster exhibition. Preliminary registration and delivery of the material for the conference.

Thursday, 22

09:00-18:30 Invited speakers and thematic sessions coordinated by a chairman and concluded by a final round table with qualified international discussant.

Friday, 23

09:00-18:30 Invited speakers and thematic sessions coordinated by a chairman and concluded by a final round table with qualified international discussant.

Contacts

website <http://militarylandscapes.net>.

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SPECIAL AWARDS

A selection of high quality works will be singled out for development into longer papers, for inclusion in a special book together with the keynote speakers' contributions.

A selection of high quality contributions focusing on 20th century heritage will also be published on the Docomomo International website.

Other Italian journals are also considering the publishing of high quality papers from the conference, where relevant to their thematic issues. Further information will be provided on the conference website.

The recognition of professional credits is required for engineers and architects.

Full poster and final extended abstract submission: 20 May

Conference presentation: 22-23 June

Gala dinner is optional (information on venue and costs will be provided shortly)

'Basic' Conference attendance (with no submission of papers or communications): free of charge

The registration fee for engineers and architects with professional credits will be communicated later and includes coffee breaks, lunch-buffet and conference bag.

Gala dinner is optional (information on venue and costs will be provided shortly)

Saturday, 24

9:00-11:30 Invited speakers and thematic sessions coordinated by a chairman and concluded by a final round table with qualified international discussant.

Workshop of the Scientific Committee on the Sardinian military landscape based on a preliminary dossier

11:30-13:00 Declaration and public discussion of a document of Principles and Guidelines for Military Landscape Protection, based on the ICOFORT Charter.