

Algiers , capital of the arab culture. 2007.

Symposium : « Historical centers on gradual change »

The symposium « Historical centers on gradual change » would consider the question of patrimony on the basis of perspectives oriented towards major issues relating to the preservation of architectural and urban historical heritage with regard to the development's requirements.

Such a vision includes both cultural and identity dimensions and intends to go beyond the framework of the speech on lack of means, the multiplication of actors and the exclusive political will that has been dominating the national landscape for the last decades. Amid the dimensions of the symposium, the extension of pluridisciplinarity debate might be not only a reading of patrimony uses but especially the opportunity to show the true abilities of historical patrimony to assume modernity.

Since Algeria 's independence, the patrimony's issue has not been considered but occasionally and usually in form of intentions exposed during national or international symposia : namely « Coville » in 1988, « Lumières sur la ville » in 2003, « Images de la ville et citadinités » on December 2005. Other arab historical cities have also the opportunity to organize meetings on the preservation and the ineluctable development of the ancient city. Caïro, Fez, Sanâa, Damascus, Baghdad, Grenada, Sevilla, Palermo, Tunis, Medine, Alep, Ghadames, Constantine, Ghardaia and many more besides have already been the object of symposia of wich major subject is, either explicitly or implicitly, the intention to go beyond the duality : tradition-modernity.

Besides all the opportunities given to it, patrimony is approached through evaluations and even with a speech denouncing the lack of the cultural or urban policy.

« Algiers , capital of the arab culture » is the expected occasion for the capitalisation of the results of the debates undertaken up to now all over historical towns, in order to elaborate a charter on the future of the patrimony built in arab countries.

One of the symposium's objectives is situating in the axis developed by many research groups in the context of perception and reappropriation of patrimonial capital, necessary for the recovering of continuity with the historical and identity depth and cultural diversity.

The symposium could also suggest a reflection on the manner to interpret objectives relating to the reassessment of patrimony following theoretical visions that would call for attested knowledges and other disciplines which might seem distant such as social sciences (sociology, anthropology, literature...).

In 2007, Algiers will be the place of important meetings, the framework of major events of a cultural capital reflecting a bruised patrimony for which both State and civil society show a strong will to reconstitute it to our present and future generations.

The Conference Axes :

Axis 1 – Historical centers : subject of studies and achievements

The confrontation of the patrimonial policies and the specificity of the approaching methods form the suitable thematic for illustrating the duality between the need for preserving the heritage as regards the development requirements. The concrete operations carried out for several decades in different countries, on the historical centers, are as many experiences to be presented during the conference.

Axis 2 – Subject of researches and reflections :

The problematic relating to the rehabilitation of historical centers constitutes nowadays a major preoccupation for the searchers. Thus, the meeting offers the opportunity to consider the progress state of research, and consequently allow a confrontation of the approaching methods principles aiming to the (re) development of the historical centers.

The presentation and the analysis of the obtained results, take part and support the development of exchanges between the participants.

On an illustrative basis, it should point out the importance of the rehabilitation of the pilot inheritance of our past, and more over the permanent maintenance of the built frame work in order to ensure its gradual change.

The conference will take place on June the 26, 27 and 28 at Tipaza.

All the proposals (titles and abstracts of communications) are to be sent to the following address :

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