

EDITORIAL**Valerie Magar**

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e-dialogos is a new annual online journal on research in conservation and cultural heritage born to offer both young and experienced professionals a forum to express and discuss new ideas on conservation. The first number, focused on Sharing Conservation, embraces a concept that we would like **e-dialogos** to emulate: a space for debate on what is happening in the conservation field around the world.

This number includes an article on conservation policies in Palestine by archaeologist **Mazen Iwais**, who states the problem of conservation focused on urban milestones, which take into account the entire urban context, as well as the local community problems. After a decade of conservation interventions, which have allowed saving some of the most important Palestinian historical buildings, M. Iwais points out the necessity of enlarging the scope and thinking at a larger scale, even within a complex political situation.

Another contribution focuses on a methodological approach for architectural conservation. Architect **Pablo Latorre** presents an analytical method, emphasizing the need to thoroughly understand the various historical phases and transformations these buildings have undergone. This can be achieved adapting methodologies from the field of archaeology. P. Latorre describes the life of a building, from its original construction to its modification caused by use, change of styles or derived from past conservation interventions, as a process of historical

loss, consolidation and superposition of old and new elements, all of which will inform and guide any new treatment.

Moving into the new technologies sector, architect and art historian **Lucía Gómez-Robles** raises an important question on the real contribution of new techniques coming into the scene when designing dissemination strategies at heritage sites. L. Gómez-Robles analyses examples of technological display used for dissemination and she comments on visitors' reactions. Her analysis offers interesting insights into the benefits of both traditional and high-tech methods used at various sites. She soundly suggests never to forget the focus on objectives of dissemination, before choosing specific tools. It should be a clearly devised strategy that dictated which are the best methods available to convey different messages, which may be new techniques or not.

These three proposals discuss current problems in conservation stressing the ever present need for accurate and scientific preliminary studies, prior to undertaking conservation projects; the importance of the urban and landscape context and the local community when planning conservation interventions; and the necessity of designing coherent and useful dissemination strategies in a moment where we run the risk of getting fascinated by amazing technologies developing all around us.

Another contribution describes the guidelines followed in the projects carried out by DIADRASIS which becomes operational in 2011, both with the launch of e-δialogos, as well as with a first training workshop, to be held in the Greek island of Zakynthos. Conservator **Laura-Melpomeni Tapini** describes the aims and objectives of this newly created non-profit organization dedicated to interdisciplinary research in Archeological & Architectural Conservation.

The last section of e-δialogos proposes a thematic article called 'My favorite...' which will be dedicated to outstanding pieces of architecture, archeological sites, conservation interventions, or any other topic

related to heritage depending on contributors' preferences. This section is inaugurated by **Dr. Peter Gouldsborough**, who presents an 18th Century Neoclassic temple in Duncombe Park, Yorkshire (UK), as his favorite building in the middle of a picturesque landscape.

We are at the very beginning of this 'sharing conservation' initiative, which we hope will prosper and continue offering a free space to keep sharing experiences and ideas in the future.

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Valerie Magar



Editor-in-chief

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Editorial board

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