RehabiMed 11

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE REHABILITATION OF TRADITIONAL MEDITERRANEAN ARCHITECTURE

DECEMBER 2007

Morocco promotes further education related to Mediterranean heritage

With a view to promoting the values of Mediterranean culture, architecture, urbanism and heritage management, the Union Méditerranéenne des Architectes (UMAR), together with the Ordre national des architectes du Maroc (ONAM) and the Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE), has created the Mediterranean School of Architecture in Tangier (EMAT). The project is to be ratified in January 2008 at the meeting of the UMAR in Beirut.

The School's fundamental objective is to study architecture throughout the Mediterranean basin. Although it will be open to international collaboration and students, it will give priority to both teaching staff and students from Mediterranean countries. The School's foremost aim is to be a platform and forum for Mediterranean culture. This project is set in the framework of the ambitious "Alliance of Civilizations" programme.

Also in Morocco, the Rabat School of Architecture has introduced a new master's degree course, "Heritage and Heritage Trades". It is directed at the sector's professionals and aims to promote and sensitize cultural heritage. The master's course provides specific training in the field of rehabilitation and integrated projects to meet the complex needs of the heritage complexes of medinas and ksars.

The course will last two years and has been created as the result of a collaboration agreement between the Centre des hautes études de Chaillot in Paris, Parma Architecture University in Italy, the Ecole d'Architecture de la Chambre in Belgium and the Ecole d'Architecture de Paris Val de Seine in France.

Urban rehabilitation in Cairo

Two large-scale projects are being built in Cairo: a car park developed by the local administration in the city's central Ramses Square, in front of the train station, and Cairo Finance Centre on Muqattam Hill, near the wall of the Citadel, developed by a private company.

The two interventions are proving to be controversial for different reasons and have mobilized many of the city's professionals to modify the initial projects. In the case of Ramses Square, as the photo shows, the car park stood six storeys high, representing a major physical and visual aggression both for the train station and the square as a whole. Mobilization has brought about changes to the project and all the above-grade floors will be demolished, with the two underground levels being used for car parking. In the case of the Citadel, where the Finance Centre is planned, with buildings to house a hotel, multi-storey car park, administrative centre and conference hall, environmental viability studies are also being conducted. It seems paradoxical that no measures have been taken to preserve the surroundings of a World Heritage Site.

The singularity of domestic architecture

A new book has been published about façade restoration in Barcelona. It is a compilation of the presentations given at the conference coordinated by the Escola Sert and the Heritage Service of Barcelona City Council, and held at the Escola Sert in 2005. Both the publication and the conference were directed by the architect and art historian Fernando Iglesias Acero, and bring together the direct experience of professionals and firms in the sector in domestic façades in Barcelona in recent years.

An extensive introduction analyses and outlines the basic concepts underlying good practice in this kind of intervention, with reference to and evaluation of some of the most important publications. The singularity of the publication lies in the analysis of each of the interventions presented, illustrating the harmonious coexistence in one city, under the same set of regulations, of different heritage actions. The restoration of lime renderings using traditional techniques and procedures takes its place alongside the application in these façades of the latest products on the market and individual colour tests carried out on each element in a façade, in keeping with the prevailing colour plan. In short, a series of actions that prioritizes the treatment of individual features in keeping with official regulations. More information: http://www2.coac.net/escolasert/papers.html.

This programme is financed by the European Union

EUROMED

euromed HERITAGE

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the opinions of the European Commission

AGENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL

Project coordinated by: Col·legi d'Aparelladors i Arquitectes Tècnics de Barcelona

A new lease of life for houses in the Medina of Marrakech Inauguration of the pilot operation

11 September saw the inauguration of RehabiMed's pilot operation in Marrakech, with the presence of local authorities and government representatives, the RehabiMed team in Morocco and Xavier Casanovas, director of the project. The operation consisted of the rehabilitation of three historic buildings in the Medina, home to 150 people, with a view to improving their living conditions and preserving important heritage values.

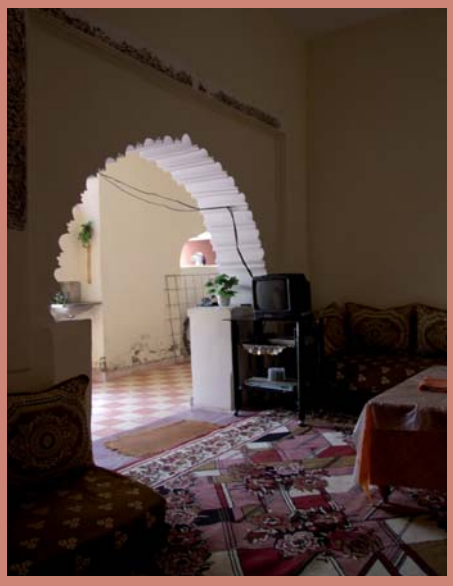
RehabiMed's aim with this pilot operation was to change the present-day dynamic of interventions in the Medina of Marrakech which mainly involve the rehabilitation of traditional houses as tourist accommodation, luxury *riads* or *hôtels de charme*. RehabiMed set out to create decent living space, providing the small dwellings into which the original houses are divided with ventilation and installations. Though modest, this intervention sought to give a real and innovative example as an alternative to housing policies that merely evict the occupants and allow the buildings to fall into ruin or into the hands of tourist enterprises, representing a death sentence for this historic centre.

The 150 inhabitants were very satisfied with the result; they had not thought it possible to improve their living space and allow them to carry on living there once work was complete. At the same time, the project showed both the local authorities and the Ministry of Housing an alternative path that prioritizes the social aspect. It also illustrates that recovery of the Medina does not require huge investment, as even modest economic resources can reverse the contradictory present-day trends towards degradation and gentrification, and redress the balance and social cohesion that are currently being eroded. ■

Publicizing RehabiMed's actions

The rehabilitation of these three houses goes beyond the basic-though very important-action of improving day-to-day life for these families. One of the foremost challenges of this pilot operation is to provide habitable living spaces without danger of imminent collapse that have functioning basic services, at the same time aiming to promote the intrinsic historic values of this first-class traditional architecture. For beauty and comfort, tradition and innovation to advance together, campaigns are needed to raise public awareness and inform the resident population, and this is a decisive issue for the future. In the case of the pilot operation in Marrakech, the best paintings produced by the children during the awareness-raising activity have been printed as postcards, highlighting the personal appreciation and fun approach of the kids to traditional architecture and its rehabilitation. These initiatives serve to educate future generations about the quality of this architecture.

A small dossier was also printed to explain the key points of rehabilitation work on the three houses: Sidi Bel Abbes, Hart Soura and Hay Essalam. For each building, this outline included a historical note, a brief economic analysis, analysis of the structure and pathologies, and work carried out. The accompanying illustrations help to explain the process. This rehabilitation project is to be published in a special publication in the near future. More information: www.rehabimed.net. ■



RehabiMed News

An artistic activity in Kairouan

Jraba Square, in the Medina of Kairouan (Tunisia), is the site of one of RehabiMed's most significant pilot operations to improve the quality of the urban space, rehabilitating a rather run-down square that is a stop on tourist routes of the town. The Medina of Kairouan was declared UNESCO world heritage in 1989 and has received many illustrious visitors in the course of its history, but today it is visited by hundreds of tourists who only visit the Great Mosque before disappearing into a bazaar to listen to the ritual spiel of carpet-sellers. Local authorities aim to offer interesting routes around the Medina in an attempt to turn this mass tourism into cultural tourism that respects local traditions.

On 9 September, RehabiMed organized an artistic activity in the square to raise public awareness of local heritage. The Association for the Protection of the Medina decided to pay homage to famous painters such as Paul Klee (1879-1940), August Macke (1887-1914) and Louis Moilliet (1880-1962) by organizing the activity under the title "In the steps of the great painters". These three artists had the pleasure not only of painting Kairouan but also of celebrating its splendid light, its colours and the magnificent volumes of its austere architecture.

A group of 15 children gave artistic form to the way they see Kairouan and the town's relation with present-day tourism. It was surprising to see that almost all of them painted the minaret of the Great Mosque to represent the town, emulating tourism posters from the mid-20th century. It seems obvious that, for them, their town is this exceptional monument that attracts thousands of visitors, and the rest of Kairouan is just an unremarkable setting for everyday life and therefore, in their eyes, of little interest. The purpose of RehabiMed's pilot operation in Jraba Square in Kairouan is to highlight other places of interest and attract tourists who want to visit the town as a whole and discover its hidden treasures.

Lefkara continues its rehabilitation work

Almost a year after the inauguration of rehabilitation work in the main street of Lefkara, the positive effects are starting to spread throughout the village. The results of rehabilitation have restored the urban and architectural quality that defines the urban landscape. Most of the façades had lost their original claddings, richness of texture and colour schemes; timber elements were deteriorated or had been replaced by new materials out of keeping with construction tradition. In addition, the discovery beneath layers of asphalt of the traditional stone paving helped to recreate the warmth of the space and suggest turning it into a pedestrian area.

It was shocking to see how, without this being our intention, we were inverting the use of materials proposed by supposed modernization: the façades were stripped back to reveal the stone, and we reproduced the cladding, applying colour and restoring the original image. Layer upon layer of asphalt was removed from the paving stones to reveal the original slabs. What a back-to-front world! The bare stone of the façades was transferred to the paving, and the smooth surface of the pavements returned to the façades, reclothed in attractive colours.

The situation in which we first encountered this street is the general case in the village, as well as in Cyprus as a whole and many other places in the Mediterranean. This is the result of processes of transformation which have not taken into account the preservation of the intrinsic values of traditional heritage, incorporating inappropriate construction typologies and denaturalizing the architecture and the urban setting as a whole. RehabiMed's intervention was marked by the desire to impose unity on the street, ordering it and incorporating contemporary elements such as street furniture. The result is a source of satisfaction to the local residents, shopkeepers and municipal agents who collaborated in the pilot operation and are now establishing a model for further rehabilitation work following RehabiMed criteria. Various privately-owned houses and the local museum have been rehabilitated, reversing a trend that seemed to be irreversible. Other towns in Cyprus have requested information about the project with a view to proposing their own old towns for similar interventions. In addition, since the project was featured in *Architecture +*, a magazine with an international circulation specializing in projects in the Arab world, it has awoken a great deal of interest among its readers, who are asking for information about the project and the Method used.

RehabiMed at the EU Training Conference

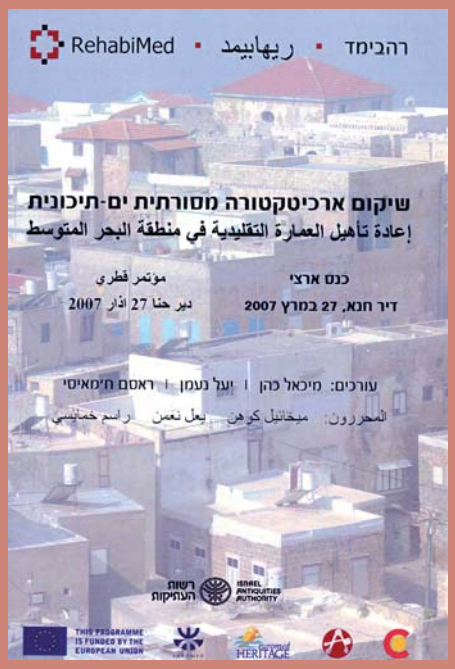
On 23 November 2007, before an audience of 300 people, Xavier Casanovas, RehabiMed Project Manager, presented the actions carried out by RehabiMed at the Information and Training Conference on European Union funding of cultural projects, which took place at the CCCB in Barcelona.

The presentation served to present the results of the three years' activity and also to generate interest in the management of rehabilitation work carried out in Cyprus, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. This was an excellent opportunity to publicize some of the pilot operations and address some of the intrinsic difficulties of this type of scheme that directly affects people's everyday lives.

RehabiMed News

A new RehabiMed manual in Arabic and Hebrew

The conference on the Rehabilitation of Traditional Mediterranean Architecture held in Deir Hana (Israel) on 27 March 2007 produced a bilingual publication (Arabic-Hebrew) which includes some of the presentations. From an analysis of interventions in this geographical scope to the exposition and application of the RehabiMed Method in the pilot operations, the publication offers useful information for all professionals in the sector. This initiative is the result of the positive synergies created by RehabiMed throughout the Mediterranean.



El-Magraby wekala seen by Susana Moreira

Susana Moreira was awarded the 2007 Euromed Heritage Prize for Journalism with an article about the pilot operation carried out by RehabiMed in Cairo, on a wekala in Khan Abo Tayika Street. This clear, expressive article centred on aspects of social rehabilitation associated with heritage rehabilitation.

The journalist relates in the first person her visit to El-Magraby wekala and reproduces some of her conversations with Mahmoud El-Alfy and Wahid El Barbary, the architects in the RehabiMed-Egypt team. She also presents the opinions of people who live and work in the wekala. Moreira transmits a factual, hopeful message that clearly differentiates the macro-interventions on monumental heritage and the micro-interventions on traditional, living heritage, associated with its occupants' productive, commercial and residential lives. In her words, RehabiMed's pilot operation involves "reconstructing both the building and the people who live in it". You can read her article at http://www.euromedheritage.net/.

Forthcoming RehabiMed presentations

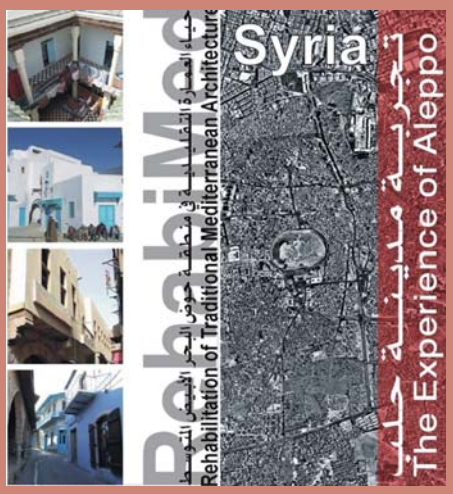
During the next quarter of 2008, various countries will be hosting presentations of RehabiMed: Turkey, Palestine, Jordan and Syria.

From 10 to 13 January 2008, it will be presented in Turkey, with theoretical sessions at the Technical University of Yildiz in Istanbul, organized by the University and the Turkish Chamber of Architects. Practical sessions are also planned, with visits to rehabilitation sites in Istanbul and Tarakli.

In Petra (Jordan), on 11 and 12 February 2008, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, jointly with RehabiMed, provides an opportunity to become familiar with the RehabiMed project and traditional Jordanian architecture, in the form of sessions devoted to an analysis of completed interventions and future projects.

On 14 February 2008, Birzeit University in Palestine will be devoting a day to RehabiMed, presenting its Method and analysing its application in Palestinian territory.

In Aleppo (Syria), the Shibani School will be hosting a major RehabiMed exhibition, which opens on 15 February and will run until 30 March 2008. The exhibition will present the work carried out over the last three years and the various publications promoted by the project. More information about future activities: www.rehabimed.net.



RehabiMed's 2008 Calendar

The Col·legi d'Aparelladors i Arquitectes Tècnics de Barcelona (CAATB) has published a calendar for 2008, using RehabiMed images, to mark the 50th anniversary of the European Community and celebrate European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. This initiative promotes knowledge of the diversity of traditional Mediterranean heritage, a faithful reflection of the lives of the people who live there.

Interview

Yassine OUAGUENI

Yassine OUAGUENI is an architect and restorer, a lecturer at the Polytechnic School of Architecture and Urbanism of Algiers, and an expert consultant to the Algerian Ministry of Culture. Ouagueni currently heads the Citadel restoration project and the rehabilitation of the Casbah in Algiers, and is directing various restoration projects around the country.

His collaboration of many years as assistant to Gianfranco Caniggia allowed him to contribute to methodologies that place built historic heritage, particularly "without architects", at the centre of the evaluation of the human environment.

Do we have a moral obligation to continue defending an architecture that is linked to uses that have disappeared?

It is useful to remember that the present day is heir to many centuries of illuminism, dominated by the idea of "pushing back nature's frontiers" and the conviction that each "period of history is superior to the last", based solely on the importance and wealth of consumer products.

Today, there is a parallel reconsideration of this secular attitude, with the appearance of a new approach (possibly as a reaction first to internationalization and then globalization) that tends to value the cultural product, emanating from its own past or from another's present, within a balanced relationship with nature. This reasonable choice is dictated by moral duty and requires us to move beyond the false idea of cultural superiority, whether the culture is ours or that of others, and to work for the rehabilitation of cultural manifestations that most eloquently express a society's culture-that is, traditional architecture. ■

What do you consider to be the essential values of traditional architecture that need to be preserved, and which can we give up?

The values of traditional architecture obviously come to the fore as prejudices begin to retreat and its fundamental status as a society's existential capital is recognised. In this respect, its multiple forms and dimensions make traditional architecture more than a mere object of curiosity or contemplation; it offers a "living milieu" that ensures ideal relations with the natural and social environment, often more so than contemporary architecture.

Preserving or rehabilitating this "global value" of traditional architecture means, above all, recognising the multiplicity of values associated with the physical consistence and functional nature that inform a specific architectural language that is unitary and harmonious.

From this viewpoint, it is not a question of "giving up", but of improving continuity by means of rehabilitation work in order to make it truly, effectively lasting.

Although tourism is often considered exclusively from the viewpoint of economic activity, it expresses an existential demand that must be seen as a cultural indicator of mutations in our relations with traditional heritage. Trends show that today's cultural tourism, particularly for the West, is shifting from the regular range of activities associated with a "familiar milieu" (luxury international resorts) to integration (in foreign countries) or temporary reintegration (within their own geographical area), in a different traditional milieu.

Of course, what attracts the tourist, which is essentially the context of traditional architecture, runs the risk of becoming essentially denaturalized as a result of pressure brought to bear by the systematization of services (hotel chains), promoting stereotyped "images" at the expense of coherence with the material and intangible contents (skill, language, etc.). Only a specific policy to address this problem can prevent this drift. ■

Some rehabilitation interventions turn small enclaves into great theme parks. Is caricature better than disappearance?
Is turning some buildings into museums the only way we have of handing down the authenticity of this heritage to future generations?

For a long time, recognition of a cultural asset worth preserving has taken the form of its reuse as a museum, a museum of itself in the case of architecture or a museum of collections. This contemplative approach, romantic in origin, now seems to be giving way to more integrated forms of reuse that are better adapted to the context of the architecture and based on criteria of compatibility. Rather than being an intrinsic problem for the building, partial readaptation is an ongoing idea we have to consider. Changes of this type can already be seen, such as accepting the compatibility of having a drink in a library or temporarily opening public or private buildings to the public. The choice of a new, appropriate use also has to be justified by urban planning, because it is these plans that have been responsible for destroying much traditional heritage. ■

Is the rehabilitation of buildings and the revitalization of urban areas the key to preserving heritage values? Where is the dividing line?

This is a complex question, as it is difficult to provide clear, unambiguous arguments to convince those responsible, particularly in developing countries, of the need to revalue traditional architecture.

Considerations such as the contribution of rehabilitation of the traditional built milieu to improving the housing crisis or enhancing living conditions are not really credible. There is still a great deal of prejudice, and technology continues to have the power to dazzle. Unfortunately, the need to rehabilitate traditional architecture only becomes truly apparent when it is too late and soulless urban growth emerges, concerned only with quantitative results.

Paradoxically, it is only by stressing the anti-values of contemporary urban and rural sprawl that we find arguments for recognising the values of traditional architecture and ensuring its rehabilitation.

In addition to its countless intrinsic values, traditional architecture is a unique reference that can guarantee the quality of new architecture, thereby ensuring the basic quality of a milieu. ■

Reflections

The environment and rehabilitation of traditional architecture

We live in a time of environmental crises and growing awareness of our relationship with the environment. Every day, the scientific community reveals new and worrying information: the deforestation of large expanses of the planet, the hole in the ozone layer, contaminants discharged into a river, a congested city where it is impossible to breathe, the effects of climate change on wetlands... Inevitably, though with an unjustifiable time lapse, environmental protection is coming to the forefront of world attention, for politicians but also in our work as architects.

It is very satisfying that traditional architecture is cited as an example of every virtue: judicious location, adaptation to its occupants, the milieu and the landscape, bioclimatic configurations, adjustment of its filters to sunlight, slow response to temperature changes thanks to thermal inertia, and so on.

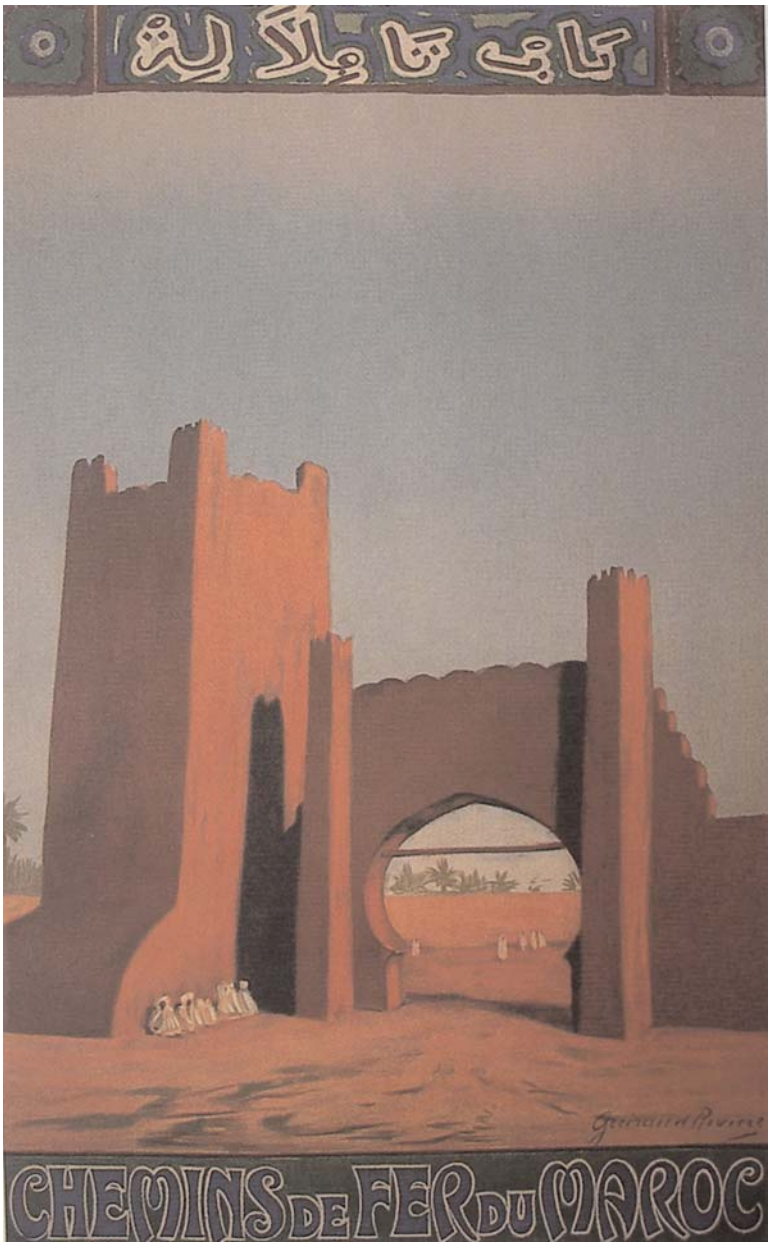
However, if we look closely at how traditional architecture in the Mediterranean is rehabilitated, it is hard to be quite so optimistic. Many of the rehabilitation projects carried out aim no higher than producing a caricature of the traditional house. This kind of rehabilitation is concerned only with maintaining an aged finish to recreate a rustic image, while forgetting how the spaces were used, leading to its internal transformation into a new building.

By way of example, in a temperate climate such as the Mediterranean, traditional architecture seeks to provide shelter, pleasant views and sea breezes by means of what we might term "intermediate spaces" between interior and exterior that generate agreeable microclimates depending on the time of year and day. The diversity of these spaces sets traditional Mediterranean architecture apart. *Solana*, *riwaq*, *iwan* and *iliakos* are all names of open galleries that can be found around the shores of this sea. Closing these galleries in to "gain space" is one of the many bad habits of rehabilitation projects that systematically ruin this form of architecture's easy insertion into the environment. ■

RehabiMed Vocabulary

	Lime	Whitewashed	Plaster	Mortar
Arabic	جير (كِلْس)	جير مَغْسُول (كِلْس مَائِي)	بَيَاض (جِبْس)	مُونَة
Catalan	Calç	Emblanquinat	Arrebossat	Morter
French	Chaux	Badigeon	Enduit	Mortier
Greek	Ασβέστης	Ασβέστωμα (Ασπρόγιασμα)	Επίχρισμα	Κονίαμα (πηλός)
Hebrew	סיד	מסויד	טיח	מליטה
Italian	Calce	Imbiancato	Intonaco	Malta
Spanish	Cal	Enjalbegado	Revoco	Mortero
Turkish	Kireç	Badana	Siva	Harç

Graphic Testimony



Chemins de Fer du Maroc advertisement. 1933. Design by Maurice Guiraud Rivière

Tradition and modernity are the key referents in the advertising posters produced in the first decades of the 20th century in Morocco. Even established artists, such as Jacques Majorelle, created veritable icons, frozen in time. The Ksar, the Kasbah, the Medina and traditional lifestyles came to form part of this iconography and serve to revalue hitherto anonymous architectures.

The poster reproduced according to Maurice Guiraud's design advertises the gradual expansion of Morocco's railways and announces the advent of modernity to mythical territories such as Tafilelt. The gateway, a vestige of the architectural forms introduced in colonial times, evokes the possibility of venturing into the traditional caravan trade routes. Through the gateway: the territory.

Agenda

Managing intangible heritage

The colloquium "Between objects and ideas. Re-thinking the Role of Intangible Heritage in Museums, Monuments, Landscapes and Living Communities" will take place from 26 to 29 March 2008 in the city of Ghent, organized by the Ename Centre for Public Archaeology and Heritage Presentation. Three days of debate will centre on intangible heritage and its links with society, the potential for transmission and its relation with new generations. More information:
http://www.enamecenter.org

HERITAGE 2008

The international conference on heritage and sustainable development, to be held in Vila Nova de Foz Côa (Portugal) from 7 to 9 May 2008, will bring together world experts to discuss the relations of heritage with its most immediate environment. The programme showcases the application of innovative, sustainable methodologies, highlighting the role of human and natural heritage as an anti-globalizing trend in an increasingly globalized world. More information:
http://www.heritage2008.greenlines-institute.org/

Exhibition: The Land of Olive Trees

"The Land of Olive Trees" speaks of the past, present and future of olive cultivation, the influence of Mediterranean culture and its growing importance in other regions of the world, in the conviction that the olive tree deserves thorough analysis with a view to promoting knowledge of it. Three principal themes with their complementary activities turn the provinces of Jaen and Cordoba, from 11 December 2007 to 30 April 2008, into international points of reference, which, throughout the months of the event, become a veritable International Museum of the Olive Tree. More information:
www.tierrasdelolivo.es

STONE2008

The 21st International Congress on the Deterioration and Conservation of Stone will be held in Torun (Poland), from 15 to 20 September 2008. The congress is committed to the protection of cultural heritage and takes place every four years, bringing together the experts and organizations involved in the conservation of stone objects and constructions. The basic themes proposed are Stone as a structural material: properties and pathologies; Documentation and research into stone; Conservation, Methods and products, and Practical case studies. More information:
www.stone2008.pl

DMACH2008

Digital tools and their application to cultural heritage are the themes of this conference organized by the Center for the Study of Architecture in the Arab Region (CSAAR), the Institute for Digital Fabrication, Ball State University (USA) and the Petra College of Architecture and Art (Jordan). The forum, which takes place from 3 to 6 November 2008 in Amman (Jordan), is open to all professionals in the world of cultural heritage. More information:
http://www.csaar-center.org/conference/DMACH2008

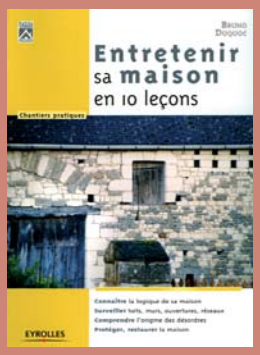
Clone Towns?

The high street and its role through history provide the framework of analysis for this conference, organized by Wolverhampton University. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 4 April 2008, and studies may be presented on this theme in any geographical location. The event will take place in Wolverhampton (Great Britain) on 10 and 11 September 2008. More information:
http://home.wlv.ac.uk/~in6086/clones.html

PUBLICATION NEWS
Entretenir sa maison en 10 leçons

Bruno DUQUOC. Chantiers pratiques, Eyrolles, Paris, 2007
ISBN 13: 978-2-212-12085-1
Language: French
80 pages
15.00 euros

This practical guide to home maintenance is divided into five parts of the building, which are analysed in the various lessons. All the chapters are illustrated with photographs and drawings to complement the explanations. It is intended as a guide for the general public, but is also useful for architects and artisans.
This book forms part of the collection Petite encyclopédie de la maison: Chantiers pratiques, on which the publishing company Eyrolles has been working since 2005. To consult other publications in this collection:
www.editions-eyrolles.com



WEB
French National Housing Agency

www.anah.fr
The ANAH network of regional and local agencies, by means of its technical services, informs, promotes and guides owners as to building maintenance and rehabilitation. It also manages various rehabilitation grants. This portal provides all the information you need about the nature of work covered by subsidies. An excellent instrument for improving buildings.

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