



ICOMOS TheoPhilos ISC Conference

***“Venice at 60: Doctrinal Documents in
the Protection of Cultural Heritage”***

15th edition in Florence, Italy

Florence (Italy), 7-8 March, 2024

Palazzo Coppini (Via del Giglio 10 str.)

Sala “Domes in the World” Room

The Conference promoters:



In collaboration with:



1. ISSUES OF THE CONFERENCE

In 1964 in Venice, the Second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments made two important decisions. First of all, a new doctrinal document, the Venice Charter, was adopted. The Charter has been recognized as the fundamental, most important document for the protection and conservation of monuments. The second decision concerned the creation of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. ICOMOS was formally established in 1965 during the Constitutional Congress in Warsaw, where it was also decided to adopt the Venice Charter as the official document of this organization. The Venice Charter and ICOMOS are therefore permanently linked. ICOMOS therefore has the right and ongoing duty to analyze the validity and usefulness of the Venice Charter in the theory and practice of monument protection.

In 2024, the entire conservation world will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Venice Charter. However, since the adoption of the Venice Charter, the circumstances of monument protection have changed beyond recognition. In 1964, the Venice Charter was adopted mostly by representatives of European countries, bearing in mind the specificity of European monuments; today, Europe's heritage is only a fragment of the world's heritage. In 1964, the number of monuments was small, but now the concept of heritage covers a large part of the entire cultural environment. In 1964, the forms of heritage protection were decided primarily by specialists; today, all stakeholders have the right to decide what constitutes heritage and how to protect it. In 1964, the works undertaken on the monuments were supposed to serve their protection, but now the monuments have to perform many purposes.

The differences between the world of 1964 and the world of 2024 are therefore considerable. Discussions within ICOMOS held in previous years agreed that the Venice Charter should not be updated. However, it is necessary to analyze the current usefulness of the Venice Charter, the role of doctrinal documents in the contemporary protection of heritage, and the nature of the principles that can be formulated in doctrinal documents.

This fundamental discussion should be carried out by ICOMOS, which should also implement its conclusions. This is the aim of this anniversary conference organized in Florence by the International Scientific Committee on Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration.

2. AIMS AND THEMATIC SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the conference ***Venice at 60: Doctrinal Documents in the Protection of Cultural Heritage*** is to discuss the key issues of contemporary theory of heritage protection and conservation in the light of our doctrinal documents, and to reflect on the future of these documents.

The conference will take a comprehensive overview of the current status of doctrinal documents in heritage protection, and thus create a basis for identifying the main problems, needs and solutions. It will aim to articulate the problems and topics that can be discussed by the various bodies of ICOMOS.

The conference will address three groups of problems (in 3 sessions)

1. The Venice Charter – the foundation of heritage protection or the burden of the past?
2. Contemporary conservation theory in the light of doctrinal documents – critical analysis
3. The future of theory of conservation and doctrinal texts – needs and proposals

We hope that the conference will be a forum for exchanging views and shaping opinions for many international and national ICOMOS bodies. We invite representatives of all the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS and National Committees of ICOMOS to join us to discuss the current issues of theory of conservation.

We invite all specialists who wish to take a part in the discussion on the problems and future of doctrinal documents of heritage protection. We invite all those involved in the theory and practice of heritage protection in all its aspects.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Abstracts of the proposed papers should be sent by **15 January 2024** to the following e-mail: theophilos@icomos.org.

Abstracts should not exceed 300 words (the use of separate bullet points will make it easier for reviewers to grasp the concept of presentations).

The authors of conference presentations are asked to indicate the session during which the proposed paper is to be presented (session 1, 2 or 3).

The choice of papers to be presented at the conference will be made by reviewers appointed by the Organizing Committee of the conference. Authors of the submitted papers will be informed about the decision of the reviewers by **30 January 2024**.

The conference materials will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal "*Protection of Cultural Heritage*", published by ICOMOS Poland, ISC Theory, LUT.

We invite you to submit proposals for conference presentations, as well as to participate in the conference.

The Organizational Committee
ICOMOS ISC Theory of Conservation



Scientific Committee

ICOMOS International Scientific Committee Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration

Boguslaw Szmygin
President

Giora Solar
Secretary General

Diane Archibald
Vice-President

Calogero Bellanca
Vice-President

Marko Spikic
Vice-President

Susana Mora Alonso-Muñoyerro
Member

Nigel Walter
Member

Venue of Palazzo Coppini, Florence downtown

[Palazzo Coppini](#) is the historic seat of the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco, an Institutional Member of the ICOMOS ISC TheoPhilos



Some historical notes:

Palazzo Coppini is unquestionably of particular interest because its structural and decorative elements reflect some of the most crucial periods in the city's history before it expanded beyond its 13th century walls in the 19th century. First of all, the **medieval era** can be identified by a **portion of a tower house** whose top was one of several "lopped off" in 1250 in accordance with a decree issued by the "Government of the First People", its remains being subsequently incorporated into a noble residence. The palazzo was extended and **restructured in the 16th century**, two of the outstanding features from that period being a **very beautiful helical stone staircase** and an **elegant**

fountain in a niche surmounted by a large mascherone typical of the Mannerist "Grotesque" style. The 19th century saw a further enlargement of the palazzo involving a complete overhaul of the aristocratic family living quarters and redecoration in the **neo-Gothic and neo-Renaissance styles** popular between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Del Bianco Foundation Museum – a monument dedicated to different cultures and human relationships

The Del Bianco Foundation Museum physically represents the outcome and the symbol of the decades-long work accomplished by the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco® – Life Beyond Tourism® and by its international network, so that human relations, openness to the other, mutual knowledge through cultural and natural heritage, be it tangible or intangible, can be recognised as essential needs of the 'Human Family'.

Totally immersed in the collections, it is possible to breathe the air of internationality and start – as we hope – a series of reflections on the founding values of humanity, such as brotherhood and peace.



The purpose of its premises is to preserve, communicate and exhibit for the purposes of study, education and simple pleasure a private collection of gifts – which have been received from people during their stay or delivered

personally – made available to citizens, consisting of several cultural sectors related to traditions, usages and customs of over 83 countries that share the Foundation's commitment to developing communication among peoples.

A rare library with over 6,000 books written in 51 languages and in 12 alphabets from all over the world and focusing largely on the tangible and intangible world heritage.

Precious collections of artefacts that, in addition to being invaluable for the preciousness of the materials used, represent recognition and esteem towards the Foundation by the people and public and private institutions that have given them to us wholeheartedly.

Notes

Thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding signed originally in 2013 and renewed in 2019 all the ICOMOS ISC's have the possibility to hold their annual meetings in Florence, in collaboration with the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco and its "Life Beyond Tourism" Ethos, that prompt local communities in WHS to protect and enhance heritage for travelers inclusiveness and intercultural dialogue.

Since 2014 Life Beyond Tourism has been endorsed by the ICOMOS GA Resolutions n. 1 and n. 42

The Final Resolution of the 18th General Assembly in ICOMOS recognizes the operating of the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation's Life Beyond Tourism Model and considers the Foundation itself as a partner for promoting conferences and meetings with Foundation's university network and ICOMOS

ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites

ICOMOS 18th General Assembly
Heritage and Landscape as
Human Values
Italy Florence 2014

18th General Assembly of ICOMOS
Florence, Italy
9 to 14 November 2014

Resolutions of the General Assembly

18GA Agenda item 2 Opening of the General Assembly

Vote of thanks

Resolution 18GA 2014/01

The 18th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Congratulates with gratitude ICOMOS Italy for the successful hosting of the 18th General Assembly;

Thanks The President of the Italian Republic, the President of the Council of the Italian Republic, the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and UNESCO; as well as the Region of Tuscany, the Province of Florence, the Municipality of Florence, the ITA Italian Trade Agency, the Italian National Commission UNESCO, for their support;

Acknowledges with gratitude the support of partners and sponsors, in particular: Life Beyond Tourism – Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco, The Getty Foundation, P.T.I. Progetti Territoriali Integrati S.p.A., UniCredit, Carso Technologies, Fibre NET, De Feo Restauri, Officina Farmaceutica Santa Maria Novella, Acqua Fonte dei Medici, Consorzio Gragnano Città della Pasta, Fattoria Casa Sola, Consorzio Terra e Orti; and of the Scientific Partners: Università degli Studi di Firenze, CNR Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, PAU –Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, IULM Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione, Istituto universitario di Architettura di Venezia, Giambos Association Florence, Fondazione Spadolini Nuova Antologia, ITKI International Traditional Knowledge Institute, FICLU Federazione Italiana Club e Centri UNESCO

Resolution 18GA 2014/42 – Travel beyond sustainable tourism: Life Beyond Tourism, Travel for Dialogue

The 18th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling that the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco signed on 4 March 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding with ICOMOS regarding collaboration on scientific activity related to heritage conservation for intercultural dialogue;

Noting that the Fondazione has implemented the "Life Beyond Tourism" philosophy and model for promoting the presentation, interpretation and enjoyment of local cultural identities in order to promote sustainable development;

Noting that the Fondazione established the International Life Beyond Tourism Institute in October 2013 for the implementation of its philosophy and model;

Noting that the Fondazione develops initiatives for intercultural dialogue including "Life Beyond Tourism: Travel for Dialogue"; which advocates travel as personal outreach, and travel as a gift to share with others, to know and to be known, to be open to dialogue, to appreciate and to respect diversity;

Recognising with gratitude that the implementation in Florence of the Life Beyond Tourism Model has allowed a financial support to the Italian National Committee of ICOMOS for organising the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Florence;

Considers the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco - with its International Life Beyond Tourism Institute - as a partner for familiarising young people in the Fondazione's network with ICOMOS;

Supports the notion and activity of travel to promote dialogue among international youth.