



ICOMOS TheoPhilos ISC Conference

Dialogue between Conservation Experts and Other Stakeholders in Built Heritage Protection – 20th Anniversary of The Faro Convention

Florence (Italy), 13–14 March 2025

[Palazzo Coppini](#) (Via del Giglio 10)

Conference Organizers:



CIF

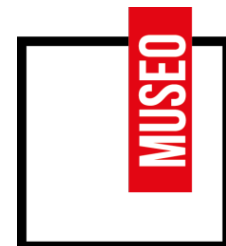
ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL D'ICOMOS POUR LA FORMATION



In collaboration with:



**TRAVEL TO
DIALOGUE**



PALAZZO COPPINI

1. ISSUES OF THE CONFERENCE

The importance of the built heritage to a well-functioning society is widely recognised, which is why many modern countries have developed systems of monument protection and conservation. These specialist activities require competent professionals – architects, archaeologists, engineers, site managers, etc. However, the decisions made by conservation experts/specialists are often incomprehensible or even contrary to the expectations of other stakeholders. Therefore, it is necessary to define the relationship between conservation experts, stakeholders and rights-holders, including the owners and/or users of monuments.

In the past, decision-making in heritage protection was believed to be the sole responsibility of the conservation expert. Nowadays, there is a growing awareness of the constructive role that stakeholders and rights-holders play in identifying the subjects of protection, defining heritage and determining the forms of heritage protection. Dialogue between conservation experts, stakeholders and rights-holders is thus becoming increasingly important. Such an approach to heritage protection is more and more often included in policy documents adopted by organizations and institutions related to heritage protection, culture, and the economy. An example of such a document is the Faro Convention adopted by the Council of Europe in 2005, which has been ratified by many European countries.

The idea of broad participation of stakeholders and rights-holders in heritage protection is indisputably right. However, stakeholders may propose the adaptation of monuments to contemporary functions and standards that require excessive degrees of change, and thus the loss of historical, scientific and artistic values. The most important task of conservation experts is to protect these values. Therefore, the dialogue between conservation experts and stakeholders – as part of the monument protection system – should be organized in such a way that heritage values can be recognised and protected.

Conservation experts should prepare for the increasing participation of stakeholders and rights-holders in decision-making on the protection of monuments, and embrace this dialogue. Upskilling, whether formal or informal, will sometimes be required, with education and training playing a greater role. Conservation experts should prepare appropriate

arguments, know how to communicate them effectively, and learn how to build consensus without destroying heritage values. The problem of dialogue between conservation experts and stakeholders should therefore be developed in two aspects – as an issue of conservation theory and as an issue for conservation training.

The question of the dialogue between conservation experts and stakeholders concerns all types of heritage, in all countries, regions and cultures. Therefore, it should be taken up as soon as possible and as widely as possible within the framework of ICOMOS. The conclusions developed can help all conservation experts in the effective protection of monuments not only in the present, but for generations to come.

2. AIMS AND THEMATIC SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the conference ***Dialogue between Conservation Experts and Other Stakeholders in Built Heritage Protection*** is to comprehensively discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by this relationship which lies at the heart of modern conservation.

The conference will address three groups of questions (in three sessions):

1. The role, rights and tasks of conservation experts and other stakeholders in the protection and conservation of built heritage /theoretical approaches/
2. The organization, training and education of conservation experts for multi-disciplinary work in conservation /methodological approaches/
3. Examples of good practice of dialogue between conservation experts and stakeholders /practical approaches/

We hope that the conference will be a forum for exchanging views and shaping opinions. We invite representatives of all ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, ICOMOS Working Groups, and ICOMOS National Committees to join us for this important discussion.

3. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of abstracts for proposed papers is via this web form: <https://forms.gle/h4nASfjFDdLU7F7v5>. Proposal abstracts will be limited to 2,000 characters (around 300 words), and you will be asked to indicate the session (1, 2 or 3) within which you suggest your paper would be presented. The deadline for submissions is **Saturday, 18 January 2025**.

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 of the decision of the reviewers by **Monday, 3 February 2025**.

Please note that presentations are limited to **15 minutes**.

Following the conference, the proceedings will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal [Protection of Cultural Heritage](#), published by ICOMOS Poland, ICOMOS ISC TheoPhilos, and the Lublin University of Technology. [Submission information for authors](#).

The Organizing Committee
ICOMOS ISC for Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and
Restoration (TheoPhilos) and ICOMOS ISC on Education and Training
(CIF)

theophilos@icomos.org

[Click HERE to submit your proposal](#)



PALAZZO COPPINI

“Museum of the Gratitude” of the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation

<https://www.museofondazioneidelbianco.org>

History of the Palace



The **ancient via del Giglio**, where it is located, whose origins date back to at least the 14th century, connected two important religious realities of the city such as the basilica of San Lorenzo and the Dominican convent of Santa Maria delle Vigne (later Santa Maria Novella). The street followed a **section of the city walls** built by the Florentine Republic between 1173 and 1176.

A circuit of walls, the fifth in chronological order, had a short life. In fact, the demographic explosion of Florence at the time - fourteenth-century chroniclers attribute to Florence at that time a figure of 100,000-120,000 inhabitants - led the Republic, just over a century later (1286), to deliberate a new large circle of walls enclosing an area of about 520 hectares.



Coppini Palace stands out among the Florentine buildings of particular interest, since in the ensemble of its structural and furnishing elements, it is possible to identify some fundamental periods of the city enclosed by the Arnolfian walls. The first period relates to what remains of the **original medieval building**, identifiable in the section of one of those city towers "scraped" in 1250 by decree of the government of the First People, and then incorporated into noble residences. The second period is represented by a phase of **planimetric and structural expansion dating back to the sixteenth century**, and among the prominent elements we mention a **beautiful spiral staircase** in stone and an **elegant fountain** located in a niche and surmounted by a mask typical of Mannerist grotesque. The third period, nineteenth century, is characterized above all by an increase in its volumes, which is part of the almost total restructuring of the oldest noble area, and reflects in the **restorations in style, the neogothic and neo renaissance taste** between the end of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century.

“Museum of the Gratitude” of the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation A Monument to Diverse Cultures and Human Relations

The Museum Foundation Del Bianco physically represents the culmination and symbol of the decades-long work carried out by the Romualdo Del Bianco® Foundation - Life Beyond Tourism®, and its international network, to recognize human relationships, openness to others, and mutual understanding through tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage as indispensable needs of the 'Human Family'.



Located in Palazzo Coppini, the Museum Foundation Del Bianco is a vital part of the Congress Center at the Duomo, which the Romualdo Del Bianco® Foundation has established and annually supported as a Research Study Center on the themes of travel, heritage, and dialogue among cultures, developing and realizing the concept of interculturality among peoples through the Life Beyond Tourism® Ethos in over 25 years of activity.

Within its walls, it preserves, communicates, and exhibits for study, education, and enjoyment a private collection of gifts, received during travels or delivered personally, made available to the citizens. This collection encompasses various sectors of culture related to the traditions, customs, and practices of over 83 countries that share the Foundation's commitment to developing communication between peoples.



It houses a rare library with over 6000 volumes written in 51 languages and 12 alphabets from around the world, largely focused on tangible and intangible world heritage.

The museum also boasts precious collections of objects that, in addition to their invaluable material worth, represent gratitude and esteem towards the Foundation from individuals, public, and private institutions who have donated them wholeheartedly.