



ICOMOS THEOPHILOS ISC CONFERENCE

THE ROLE OF ICOMOS IN THE EVOLUTION OF HERITAGE THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY: ACHIEVEMENTS, PROBLEMS, CHALLENGES

LIÈGE, BELGIUM, NOVEMBER 20–21, 2025

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE,
FONCK BARRACKS

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS:

ICOMOS International Scientific
Committee for the Theory and
Philosophy of Conservation and
Restoration



University of Liège
Art, Archaeology and Heritage
Research Unit



ICOMOS Belgium



Wednesday, 19 November 2025. Day 0

Leuven

10.00 - 12.30: VISIT TO THE RAYMOND LEMAIRE ARCHIVE

This archive, held by KU Leuven, contains ICOMOS records from 1965 to 1981, including the documentation of drafting process of several doctrinal documents.

Meeting point: Monseigneur Ladeuzeplein, 3000 Leuven, in front of the central library.

Google Maps location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/mghMbiZD6bAgry5u6>

14.00 - 17.00: GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Guided walking tour of the Great Beguinage in Leuven, plus a visit to the nearby St. Lambert Chapel in Heverlee – both were important projects by Raymond Lemaire, contemporary with the creation of ICOMOS.

Meeting point: Entrance of the Great Beguinage on Schapenstraat

Google Maps location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/SUjMiUexVRgb773KA>

Thursday, 20 November 2025. Day 1

Faculty of Architecture (Fonck barracks), Chapter Hall

8:45-9.15: REGISTRATION

9.15-10.00: OPENING & INTRODUCTION

Pierre Hallot, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture ULiège

Philippe Sosnowska, Director of the Art, Archaeology and Heritage Research Unit

Jean-Sébastien Misson/ Eva Roels (ICOMOS Belgium President/VP)
- TBC

Welcome greetings

Bogusław Szmygin – Poland, President ISC Theophilos

The Evolution of Heritage Theory and Philosophy – Paradigm Shift until Turning Point

10:00-11:30: SESSION 1

Claudine Houbart – Belgium

The Development of an International Doctrine: The First Thirty Years of ICOMOS

Nigel Walter – UK

ICOMOS at 60: Surveying our Philosophical Foundations, and How We Might Fix Them

Jelka Pirkovič – Slovenia

Ethical Foundation of Heritage Protection

Calogero Bellanca, Susana Mora Alonso Munoyerro, Cecilia

Antonini Lanari, Tommaso Ciciarello – Austria/Spain/Italy

The Mission of ICOMOS

Discussion

11:30-12:00: COFFEE BREAK

12:00-13:30: SESSION 2

Théodore Guininic – France

Towards an Ethics of Vulnerability: Rethinking Heritage Conservation Theory in the Context of Climate Change

Kameli Zephaniia Bwambale – Uganda

Decolonizing Heritage Stewardship in the Face of Climate Crisis: Reflections from the Rwenzori Mountains National Park-World Heritage Site

Bianca Gioia Marino – Italy

The Historical Centre of Naples: Enhancement, Tourism and Authenticity

Yasemin Sarikaya Levent – Türkiye

Bridging the Financial Gap in Heritage Conservation: Theoretical Challenges and the Potential of Public-Private Partnerships

Discussion

13:30-15:00: LUNCH BREAK

15:00-16:30: SESSION 3

Franca Malservisi – France

Twelve Years Later: a key ICOMOS France Event for Dissemination of Venice Charter Principles

Stefano Gizzi – Italy (VIRTUAL)

The Revision of Restoration Theory: The Role of the Italian ICOMOS Committee Name

Dimitrios Zygomalas – Greece

A Tough Interrelation: Architectural Conservation Theory and Mechanical Installations Arrangement in late 19th and Early 20th-Century Monuments Name

Lukasz Mikolaj Sadowski, Aleksandra Sumorok – Poland

Socialist Realist Heritage in Poland – Successes in Protection and Challenges for the Future Discussion

Discussion

16:30-17:00: COFFEE BREAK

17:00-18.30: ROUNDTABLE

Presentation and discussions on the contemporary heritage landscape and the place of ICOMOS within it, with representatives of other heritage bodies including ICCROM, the Getty Institute, the Association of Critical Heritage Studies and Historic England.

19:30: CONFERENCE DINNER

Venue: La Mairie, rue des Ecoliers, 16, 4020 Liège

Google Maps location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Wbt6McYM14q9NTH38>

Friday, 21 November 2025

Faculty of Architecture (Fonck barracks), Chapter Hall

9:00 -10:30: SESSION 4

Tamás Fejérdy – Hungary (VIRTUAL)

Monuments & Sites vs Cultural Heritage

Jinze Cui – China / Belgium

Incompatible Modernities: Dilemma in the Conservation and Display of Earthen Historic Sites in China

Xi Chen, Qinyi Shi – China

Reflections on the Reconstruction of Architectural Heritage in China

Timothy Augustus Y. Ong, Drew Ashley Paige L. Rabadon – Philippines (VIRTUAL)

Ship(s) of Theseus: Authenticiti(es) and Identiti(es) of Biñan's Alberto House(s)

Discussion

10:30-11:00: COFFEE BREAK

11:00-12:30: SESSION 5

Marc Laenen – Belgium

Cultural Heritage from an Argument of Conflicts between Cultures to an Educational Tool for Inclusive Policy and Planning

Paolo Del Bianco – Italy/Hungary (VIRTUAL)

A Third Point of View

Malin Myrin – Sweden

The Dynamic Management of Change – Today's Challenges for Integrated Conservation

Ayesha Agha Shah – Pakistan/Bahrain

Expertise Under Question: The Shifting Authority of Heritage Professionals in the Context of Heritage Developments in Pakistan

Discussion

12:30-13:00: CONCLUDING REMARKS

13:00-14:30: LUNCH BREAK

14:30-17:00: WORKSHOP TO RESPOND TO THE REVIEW OF THE DOCTRINAL TEXTS ADOPTION PROCESS

Members of TheoPhilos are strongly encouraged to participate in this workshop to develop a TheoPhilos statement in response to the ADCOM review of the process for the adoption of Doctrinal Texts (Articles 8-11 of Rules of Procedure); the aim of this review is to ensure that future adopted texts are of high quality, effective and of enduring relevance.

17:30: RECEPTION

Saturday, 22 November 2025. Day 3

10.00 - 12.30: GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Guided walking tour along selected routes in the historic centre of Liège, with stops at major monuments of the city, including the Princebishop's Palace, the slopes of the citadel, the « Cour Saint-Antoine » ensemble, the Collegiate Church of Saint Bartholomew and the Grand Curtius Museum.

Meeting point: Place du Marché, in front of the Town Hall

Google Maps location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/BDCBHR8qjbbQhWPS9>

PRACTICAL DETAILS

1. Registration

To participate in person or to receive the link for the live streaming, all participants (including speakers) must complete the Registration Form by **Sunday November 9, 2025**:

Click HERE to REGISTER

(<https://forms.gle/dXvye3Ni35upJonQ6>)

2. For Participating Speakers

All selected speakers should submit the final version of their presentation (Powerpoint or pdf formats only), to the organisers c.houbart@uliege.be by **Sunday November 16, 2025**.

Online speakers are also requested to submit their presentation in advance by November 16, 2025, even though they will be presenting it remotely.

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](#).

3. Conference fees

Due to the generous support of our conference hosts there is no conference fee payable for attendees.

4. Conference Dinner (optional)

At the end of the first day of the conference, there will be an optional Conference Dinner, at « La Mairie », a traditional Liège restaurant.

The menu includes a starter, a main course and a dessert, to be chosen in advance upon registration.

The cost of the dinner will be €35 per person, drinks not included, payable at the end of the dinner directly to the restaurant.

For reservations, please select the appropriate option in the registration form, in addition to specifying any dietary requirements or intolerances.

5. Accommodation

In-person attendees should make their own arrangements for hotel accommodation.

The following hotels offer preferential rates for our event:

[AMOSA](#) (15 minutes walk from venue)

Participants can benefit from the ULiège rate by mentioning the name of the event when making their reservation. Rates (subject to availability):

Standard room for 1 person: €109.50/night, breakfast + tourist tax included

If accompanied, a supplement of €25.00 per night will be charged, including breakfast and tourist tax for the additional person.

[IBIS](#) (17 minutes walk from venue)

Form to be filled in (contact Sophie.Labalue@uliege.be to receive it) to benefit from the ULiège preferential rate (99 €/single room; 115 €/double room breakfast included). Tourist tax not included.

[LA COURONNE](#) (40 minutes walk from venue, but next to Guillemins station easy to reach by tram)

Participants can benefit from the ULiège rate by mentioning the name of the event when making their reservation. Rates (subject to availability):

Standard double room for 1 person: €89/night, breakfast included

Standard double/twin room for 2 people: €99/night, breakfast included

[NEUVICE](#) (10 minutes walk from venue - the most expensive but also the most charming)

Participants can benefit from the ULiège rate by mentioning the name of the event when making their reservation. Rates (subject to availability):

Standard room: €135/night, breakfast and tourist tax included

[VAN DER VALK CONGRES](#) (30 minutes walk from venue)

Participants can benefit from the ULiège rate by mentioning the name of the event when making their reservation. Rates (subject to availability):

Standard room: €128/night, breakfast included

6. Conference Venue

Faculty of Architecture (Fonck barracks), Chapter Hall

41, Boulevard de la Constitution, 4020 Liège

Google Maps Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/q5xr9qPcPKKR4oZE9>

7. Contact

For any practical queries or questions on your stay in Liège, kindly contact Sophie Labalue (Sophie.Labalue@uliege.be).

8. Organising Committee

ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for the Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration:

Boguslaw Szmygin

President

Calogero Bellanca

Vice-President

Nigel Walter

Secretary-General

Claudine Houbart

Conference host

Rosa-Anna Genovese

Susana Mora

Dimitrios Zygomalas

9. Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the University of Liège Art, Archaeology and Heritage Research Unit and to ICOMOS Belgium for their help and support.

ABOUT LIÈGE

Liège is a historic city located in eastern Belgium, close to the borders with Germany and the Netherlands. Although human settlements date back to prehistoric times and the remains of a Roman villa have been discovered there, it was during the Middle Ages that the city really flourished. From the end of the 10th century until the revolution at the end of the 18th century, Liège was the capital of an episcopal principality attached to the Holy Roman Empire. The imposing palace of the Prince-Bishops, which now houses the courthouse, still bears witness to this period of glory, as do its seven medieval collegiate churches, which are important historical monuments combining Romanesque remains, Gothic developments and Baroque or Classical transformations. Liège also has significant heritage of more recent times, notably through its University, which was founded in 1817 and has reoccupied buildings from the Ancien Régime. The University also commissioned scientific institutes in the 19th century and developed several new campuses in the 20th century, housing numerous modernist, brutalist and post-modernist buildings of great architectural quality.



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THE CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will be held at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Liège, housed in the former Val des Écoliers convent, which was converted into cavalry barracks in the 19th century. The campus, located in the historic Outremeuse district, is also home to the Ecole Supérieure des Arts Saint-Luc.

The site retains traces of its successive functions; while the former abbey residence, unlike the church, has been preserved and now houses representative, research and administrative functions, the main faculty premises are located in the wings built when the site was converted into barracks. The former riding hall, with its remarkable roof structure, is now a performance hall. A project to extend the faculty premises is underway but will not be completed by the time of the conference.

The conference sessions will take place in the former chapter house of the convent, under Gothic vaults, on the ground floor of the abbey palace.



The Faculty of Architecture © Pierre Hallot



Chapter house © C.Houbart