



ICOMOS TheoPhilos ISC Conference

***The Protection of Archaeological Heritage:
Theory Meets Practice***

27th Conference, 17th in Florence

Florence (Italy), 12–13 March 2026

Palazzo Coppini (Via del Giglio 10)

Conference Organizers:



ICOMOS ICAHM
International Committee
on Archaeological
Heritage Management

In collaboration with:



PALAZZO COPPINI

Thursday, 12 March 2026. Day 1

Palazzo Coppini, *Sala Domes in the World Room*

9.15-9.45: REGISTRATION

9.45-10.30: OPENING & INTRODUCTION

Carlotta Del Bianco – Italy

Welcome Greetings

Paolo Del Bianco – Italy/Hungary

Heritage protects Heritage

Cynthia Dunning – Switzerland (ICAHM)

Welcome Greetings

Giora Solar – Israel (TheoPhilos)

Protection of the Built Archaeological Heritage

10.30-11.00: Coffee break

11.00-12.45: SESSION I

Dimitrios Zygomas – Greece

A Solid Theoretical Basis for a Delicate Issue? The Guidelines of International Doctrinal Documents for Works on Archaeological Monuments

David Garrard – UK

Intending the Monument: Notes Towards an Archaeology of the Future

Franca Malservisi – France

The Restoration of Roman Monuments in French Theory and Practice: from Exemplary Projects to the Decline of the Archaeological Exception

Calogero Bellanca, Susana Mora Alonso Munoyerro – Austria / Spain / Italy

The Theory and the Cultural Criteria of Archeological Conservation

Helka Dzsacsovszki – Hungary/Germany

Theoretical Frameworks for the Protection of Medieval Ruins in Hungary, c. 1964

12.45 -14.15: Lunch break

14.15-16.00: SESSION II

Nigel Walter – UK

Inhabited Archaeological Remains: the Example of the West Front of Bury St Edmunds Abbey

Simay Cansu Ekici Üner, Güliz Bilgin Altınöz – Turkey

Beyond Isolated Ruins: Connectivity, Borders, and the Conservation Challenges of Tao-Klarjeti Medieval Monasteries in Turkey

Evrin Ulsan – Türkiye

What Defines Visitor Paths? A Values-Based Approach to Heritage Visitation in Archaeological Site of Ani (Türkiye)

Divina Abou Jaoude – Lebanon

Ethics and Practices of Urban Archaeological Integration

Francesca Brancaccio – Italy

Towards Sustainable and Integrated Conservation and Management of Archaeological Heritage in Albania: The Archaeological Park of Bylis and Kos Through New International Strategies and Synergies

16.00-16.30: Coffee break

16.30-17.45: MEETING OF THE ICOMOS ISC THEOPHILOS

Friday, 13 March 2026. Day 2

Palazzo Coppini, *Sala Domes in the World Room*

9.30-11.15: SESSION III

Shirley Cefai, Joann Cassar and Reuben Grima – Malta

A Century of Conservation Practice at the Tarxien Temples, Malta

Franceen Galea – Malta

From Destruction to Preservation: An Island's Journey to Protect Archaeological Monuments

Eleni-Eva Toumbakari – Greece

Stabilized Earth-Based Mortars in the Conservation of Prehistoric Stone Remains: Durability, Sustainability, and the Safeguarding of the Image of the Ruin

Gilly Carr – UK

A Window into the Past? The Fight Against Holocaust Denial and Distortion in Poland

Rona Shani Evyasaf – Israel

Reconstructing Ancient Gardens, Theory Meets Practice: Theoretical Research vs. Physical Conservation of Archaeological Monuments.

11.15-11.45: Coffee break

11.45-13.30: SESSION IV

Stefano Gizzi – Italia

Coverings For Archaeological Sites As A Matter Of Architecture

Li Xie – China

Petra Beyond the Nabatean Capital: From Archaeological Park to Living Nomadic Heritage

Lilas Mohammed Ali – France

Major Projects for Major Archaeological Sites in Syria: How did the Story Begin?

Nilüfer Baturayoğlu Yöney – Türkiye (VIRTUAL)

Constructing Alternative Narratives for Archaeological Heritage Interpretation: Hi(stories) for Tell Tayinat in Antakya, Turkey

Kameli Zephaniia Bwambale – Uganda

Community Participation and Protection of Archaeological Sites in Uganda: Lessons from the Indigenous Knowledge Systems

13.30-15.00: Lunch break

15.00-16.45: SESSION V

Rosa Anna Genovese – Italia

Examples of Best Practices in Conservation, Restoration and Protection of Archaeological Heritage

Nabil Maklada – Israel

Integrating Theory and Practice in Archaeological Conservation: Best Practices from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) Conservation Department

Ştefan Bâlici – Romania

Conservation-Led Interpretation and Visitor Experience at the Roman Amphitheatre of Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Romania

Ayesha Agha Shah – Pakistan/Bahrain (VIRTUAL)

From Material Remains to Cultural Meaning: Place-Based Approaches to the Protection of Bahrain's Burial Mounds

Bogusław Szmygin – Poland (TheoPhilos President)

Closing Remarks, Conclusions

3. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

For the latest organisational information including details of conference fees, please go to <https://www.lifebeyondtourism.org/27th-icomos-theophilos-international-scientific-conference-in-florence/>

Key points:

- All participants, whether virtual or in-person and including speakers, must register here: <https://forms.gle/RMNdCj3pwG3DyCr1A>
- The farewell dinner on the evening of **Friday 13 March 2026** is not included in the registration fee and must be paid separately, directly to the restaurant by the participants. The dinner cost will be about €40.00.
- Speakers must submit the final version of their presentation, as it will be delivered, to icomos.theory@fondazione-delbianco.org by Monday, March 9, 2026. 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 Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM)

theophilos@icomos.org

4. NOTES ABOUT THE ROMUALDO DEL BIANCO – LIFE BEYOND TOURISM FOUNDATION

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



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.

Thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding signed originally in 2013 and renewed in 2019 all the ICOMOS ISCs have the possibility to hold their annual meetings in Florence, in collaboration with the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation and its “Life Beyond Tourism”

Model, that prompt local communities in WHS to protect and enhance heritage for travellers inclusiveness and intercultural dialogue.

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

Join us in supporting the Heritage for Building Peace Appeal

<https://www.fondazione-delbianco.org/en/appeal-heritage-for-building-peace-2025/>

Last November, the **Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco – Life Beyond Tourism®** hosted the international ceremony **“1945–2025: From the Metal of War to the Metal of Peace”** in Florence, marking the 50th anniversary of its Founder Comi S.p.A. and a milestone in cultural peacebuilding.



At the heart of the event was the unveiling of [Stupore](#), a bronze artwork transforming materials once destined for conflict into a symbol of dialogue, wonder, and peace. *Stupore* embodies the five pillars of **Life Beyond Tourism®**: tools for the Culture of Dialogue, spreading good practices, the power of encounter, sharing knowledge, and the reawakening of wonder.

The ceremony brought together voices from **48 countries across five continents**, including ICOMOS experts, cultural institutions, community representatives, and global networks. During the event, the renewed [international appeal “Heritage for Building Peace 2025”](#) was officially launched, endorsed by UNESCO MONDIACULT, and included in the [UNESCO Digital Library](#), promoting heritage as a bridge for dialogue and peace.

The following day, the [Officina of Good Practices for a Culture of Dialogue](#) was launched, continuing the Foundation’s commitment to transforming heritage into an active instrument of global understanding.

Florence, as a World Heritage Site and city of dialogue, sends a clear message: heritage is not only to protect, but to use to build bridges, nurture hope, and secure a sustainable, peaceful future.





**“Museum of the Sacred Expressions of Gratitude” of the
Romualdo Del Bianco-Life Beyond Tourism 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.

