



CYBER AGORA #9 Urban Heritage

A joint webinar co-hosted by

[International Society of City and Regional Planners \(ISOCARP\)](#)
&
[International Association of World Heritage Professionals \(IAWHP\)](#)

Date and Time: Friday 2 June 2023, 12:00-14:30 CEST

Cultural heritage has potential impacts on economic development and the people's quality of life. During the last decades, the role of cultural heritage has been increasingly acknowledged as a strategic source for economic growth, employment and social wellbeing. This refers particularly to urban heritage, especially regarding quality of life.

Different from single monuments or sites, the living heritage of urban neighborhoods, towns and cities is facing challenges not only related to its physical structures and their progressive decay over time, but also to the quality of life of large numbers of people who live inside the historic cores. The communities are part of the heritage as well as the creators and protectors of local culture including the built settlement and intangible heritage such as traditional handicrafts. They comprise the different generations of residents, business people who run the traditional shops that contribute to the vitality of the place as well as associations of civil society which are involved in the daily practices of heritage management. Therefore, in terms of urban heritage, one of the largest challenges is to integrate the local communities in the process of heritage protection and management. The

restrictions imposed by heritage management may be a costly burden and a challenge to modern lifestyles. To help the communities achieve better living and working conditions in the protected environment is one of the major tasks of heritage management in an attempt to sustainably conserve the site.

Given its high universal value, urban heritage is shaped and shared by broad communities across institutions and territories. However, the conservation of heritage has remained in the hands of few groups and they do not always communicate with each other. Thus, the joint webinar aims to stimulate dialogues between practitioners, academics and professionals. International best practices and research on protecting and managing urban heritage will be introduced, discussed, compared and reflected upon.

Three sessions are organised with regard to the sustainable conservation of urban heritage. Session 1 is dedicated to voices of practitioners who work at the front line of heritage protection, dealing with complex daily social and political challenges. In Session 2 academics draw attention to the understated heritage. The cultural and social significance of urban heritage shaped local identity and built a collective memory. In Session 3 urban planning professionals take a broad view on heritage protection and endeavor to explore innovative strategies towards sustainable urban heritage conservation. The following questions will be explored:

1. In the practice of heritage conservation and management, how do local communities get involved and get to be part of the decision-making process?
2. If the past is another world, how do we acknowledge the value of heritage through rediscovering it?
3. How to integrate heritage management into the governance structure?

Curators:

Li Fan (Vice Chair, ISOCARP Scientific Committee)

Tianren Yang (Assistant Professor, University of Hong Kong)

Programme

12:00-12:05 Welcome

Pietro Elisei, President of ISOCARP

12:05-12:10 Welcome

Patricia Alberth, President of IAWHP

12:10-12:30

Input 1 The Revitalization of Star Street in Bethlehem, Palestine

Issam Juha, Director, Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation,
Palestine

Input 2 Horticulture as Urban Heritage in the World Heritage City of Bamberg

Diana Büttner, Acting Head of Office, World Heritage Office, City of Bamberg, Germany

Q&A

12:30-13:00

Input 3 VINČA, First of the Modern Age

Martin Cuff, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism, Government of the Republic of Serbia

Input 4 The Shifting Landscape of Urban Heritage in Shrinking Cities

Elena Batunova, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

Input 5 Research on the Built Heritage of the Third Front Movement Cities in China as Modern Heritage

Tan Gangyi, Professor and Associate Dean, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China

Q&A

13:00-13:20

Input 6 Mapping Communities with “Urbanitarian” - the Spatial Heritage of the Future

Honorata Grzesikowska, Founder, Urbanitarian, Barcelona - Spain

Input 7 Multi-Level Governance Role in Supporting Effective Policies for CH-Led Regeneration of Urban and Rural Areas

Natalia Magureanu, Urban Planner, Urbasofia, Romania

Q&A

13:20-13:45

Review by Experts

Shi Nan, Secretary General, Urban Planning Society of China

Zeynep Enlil, Chair GPEAN/ISOCARP Scientific Committee Member

Rolf Schütt, Vice President, IAWHP

Johanna Blokker, Chair of Architectural Conservation, BTU Cottbus

13:45-14:30

Panel Discussion

Moderation: Sabina Dimitriu (ISOCARP Board Member)

Leading Question: What is the role of urban planning professionals in heritage conservation and management?

Register now!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsc-mvrjgvHdOgnxQRZzpV9oOlyNO0VYce>