

EDITORIAL

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGIES, FORMS OF CULTURE AND CREATIVITY THAT EMERGE AND EVOLVE

An approach to architectural technology from different fields can be helpful in remotely understanding the dynamism, twists and turns, of the very sense of technology and sustainability and their importance in the discourse. Architecture has to deal with certain cultures, with societies inhabiting a space, with their background and interests and finally with the quality of the engineered element, its materials and its adherence to well-defined models. However, the relationship between the society and the architectonic object, whose interactions can be loosely defined, requires a multidisciplinary approach. An analysis that helps us understand the polyhedral shape of the matter.

In this volume, there are quite different approaches to architectural technology and sustainability. From the perspective of Spatial Analysis there are approaches to cultural landscapes and monuments including digital technologies for documenting heritage assets and their social interaction. In the realm of Transformation of Urban Areas there are specific case studies relating to preservation, adaptive reuses, energy efficiency and management; contributions that inform adaptation, reuse and regeneration of buildings and districts.

All of the approaches, the vernacular, the monumental and the urban, are contributions that refer to specific forms of culture and creativity that emerge and evolve from 'conscious' and 'unconscious' simulations in their making. These creations and transformations are not incidental, they emerge from social practices which constantly re-define the relationship of individuals with their environment. This calls for architectural objects that can be connected to multiple alterities and favour new territories for adaptation and re-creation.

Therefore, this editorial critically explores the ways in which built environments come into being and how they change along the way through justifying the need for processual questions on objects and habitats. Technology and sustainability are approached not

just as a quality inherent to an object but as a quality inherent to a living space with a rich potential for connecting and readapting past qualities towards future.

The discourse aims to explain the evolving concepts of technology and sustainability as key roles in analyzing behaviours, expressions and adaptations as causes of idiosyncratic innovation and experimentation in the material world of specific vernacular, monumental and urban contexts. The papers provided in this number offer options to comprehend contemporary 'conscious' and 'unconscious' constructions and reconstructions, although they are subject to the hidden structuring of the different contexts and timeframe.

In any case, technology is intrinsically related to creativity and quality and they have priority, as was once pointed out when referring to the legacy of the past. Creativity and quality sometimes define the binomial distinctiveness of every technicality in a given context. The distinctiveness tend to be settled when it is viewed from a future tense, nonetheless in that distinctiveness values are rarely represented and perceived as absolute. It happens because representation and perception allow alternative interpretations that depend on contextualization. Thus, the prioritization of creativity and quality is fully dependent on the cultural contexts where the architectonic technicality is created and eventually re-created.

For that reason, a wide view to cultural heritage, music, painting, craftsmanship may well explain intermediate processes where static and dynamic authentic objects define cultural specificities. The example serves well to understand that objects and places are constantly re-engineered not only technically but societally. They are the result of progression, adaptation and new interpretations - new approaches where facts -the existing place- can be reconfigured and narratives -the evolving technology- can change.



Traditional technologies in which evolving decay and unsustainable maintenance perform the role of this heritage for the future.

That is why VITRUVIO journal seeks to establish new paradigms in order to comprehend alternative and polyhedral views on the reuse and reinterpretation of architectural technology just because it is entirely affected by dynamic socio-cultural processes of decay, maintenance, abandon and reconstruction.

Finally, I will pose a remark on what has been a cornerstone in my professional career. As Senior Lecturer, I understand that a challenge exists on assuming the need for a multidisciplinary education where architects, technicians and engineers merge with geographers, sociologists and philosophers looking for new insights. Therefore, there is a need for not to isolate concepts such as Heritage, Historic Built Environments, Smart Built Environments, Landscape, Buildings, Uses, Users, Techniques, Materials, Efficiency and Transformation. We need to look for new university degrees at adapting and understanding technologies, social demands, tradition, environment and globalization. There is a need to apply multidisciplinary knowledge and multidisciplinary science in architectural technology.

Juan Antonio García-Esparza