

Preface

SOSTierra2017 (International Conference on Vernacular Earthen Architecture, Conservation and Sustainability) was born of the need to debate and highlight the recent studies, problems, and difficulties linked to vernacular earthen architecture and its conservation. In addition, and on a broader scale, it deals with the vernacular architecture which includes earthen architecture and the possibilities that vernacular heritage opens up for a more sustainable future. The SOSTierra2017 conference, held on 14, 15 and 16 September 2017 at the Higher Technical School of Architecture of Universitat Politècnica de València, as part of the project “SOSTierra: La restauración y rehabilitación de arquitectura tradicional de tierra en la Península Ibérica. Líneas guía y herramientas para una intervención sostenible” (Restoration and rehabilitation of traditional earthen architecture in the Iberian Peninsula. Guidelines and tools for a sustainable intervention) (Ref.: BIA2014-55924-R) funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.

The wide range of topics discussed at this conference has been organized into six main blocks. 1-Vernacular earthen architecture (study and cataloging of vernacular earthen architecture; vernacular construction techniques that employ earth; sustainability mechanisms in vernacular earthen architecture); 2-Rehabilitation of vernacular earthen architecture (case studies of vernacular earthen architecture rehabilitations; techniques and materials employed in the rehabilitation of vernacular earthen architecture; studies and sustainability mechanisms in vernacular earthen architecture rehabilitations); 3-Contemporary earthen architecture (case studies of contemporary earthen architecture; techniques and materials used in the construction of contemporary earthen architecture; contemporary earthen architecture and sustainability); 4-Restoration of monumental earthen architecture (study and cataloging of monumental rammed earth architecture in the Iberian Peninsula; study and cataloging of monumental earthen architecture; techniques and materials employed in the restoration of monumental earthen architecture); 5-Lessons from vernacular heritage for a sustainable contemporary architecture (study and cataloging of vernacular architecture; sustainability mechanisms in vernacular architecture; conservation and restoration of vernacular architecture; application of sustainability lessons from vernacular heritage to contemporary architecture); 6-Structural analysis of vernacular architecture (non-destructive testing, inspection and structural monitoring; structural repair and strengthening techniques; analytical and numerical approaches; seismic behavior and retrofitting).

Given the wide scope of these topics, all six have been grouped under the common umbrella of the SOSTierra2017 conference, although two of them, Restoration of monumental earthen architecture and Lessons from vernacular heritage for a sustainable contemporary architecture, were covered in two independent events connected with the SOSTierra2017 conference: ResTAPIA 2017—3rd Conference on Rammed Earth Conservation (the first was held in 2012 and the second in 2014, both at Universitat Politècnica de València), and VerSus 2017—3rd Conference on Lessons from Vernacular Heritage for Sustainable Architecture (the first was held at ESG-Escola Superior Gallaecia in Cerveira—Portugal in 2013, and the second at Universitat Politècnica de València in 2014).

The Scientific Committee for SOSTierra2017 | REStapia2017 | Versus 2017 was made up of 68 internationally recognized researchers from 26 different countries and all five continents. All the contributions to the conference, both the abstracts and the final texts, have been subjected to a strict peer-review evaluation system by the members of the scientific committee. The 133 contributions by 286 authors from 35 countries published in this book, “Vernacular and Earthen Architecture: Conservation and Sustainability”, have been chosen following a strict selection process from almost 250 submissions received. As well as the papers, the book includes guest contributions from two renowned authors in the field of earthen architecture: “Markers of Earthen Construction Modern Revival” by Hubert Guillaud (CRAterre-ENSAG, ISCEAH, France) and “The Geography of Earth Building” by Miles Lewis (University of Melbourne, ICOMOS-CIAV, Australia). These are major contributions not only to the knowledge of vernacular architecture and earthen architecture, but also to its conservation, restoration, and to lessons to be learnt from this for future architecture.

The International Conference SOS-TIERRA 2017 was held under the aegis of: ICOMOS-CIAV (International Scientific Committee for Vernacular Architecture); ICOMOS-ISCARSAH (International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage); ICOMOS-ISCEAH (International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage); ICOMOS Spain; CHAIR UNESCO UNITWIN—Earthen Architecture, Building Cultures & Sustainable Development; PROTERRA (Red Iberoamericana de Arquitectura y Construcción con Tierra). Additional institutional support was received from: IPCE—Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural de España of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport; IVE (Institut Valencià de l'Edificació); INTBAU-Spain (International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture & Urbanism—Spain); IEB (Instituto Español de Baubiologie); EcoHabitar (Magazine EcoHabitar: Bioconstrucción—Bioarquitectura—Biología del Hábitat).

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Finally, we would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to the quality, scope, diversity, and wealth of these publications. We would also like to express our gratitude to all the members of the Scientific Committee for their work throughout the long review process for abstracts and papers. And above all, we wish to thank the Organizing Committee for the complex organization of the entire conference, the style and language reviewers for their corrections, and all the collaborators for their invaluable work in management and organization throughout the entire process.

Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas,
Lidia García-Soriano & Valentina Cristini
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