BRINGING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

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Heritage is a treasure we have to be responsible for. As per UNESCO definition, cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. By this definition is very explicit that having the past as the focal center of the research means necessary thinking and working for the future. The aim of the research is to understand methods of revitalization, preservation, and interpretation of the past, considering both, the tangible and the intangible. The research is carried out on a triple path, considering the three parallel profiles of the researcher, that is a scholar, a teacher, and a professional architect.

As a scholar, Anna Cornaro explores and studies heritage at different scales starting from the urban environment arriving at the single monuments, with the aim of making our historical treasures a new source of public life and revitalization of the urban neighborhood. Papers have been presented at different conferences (AISTUGIA Conference, Milan 2006 – do.co,mo.mo International Steel Conference, Tokyo, 2007 - Med.Net.EU.2 Genoa 2012 - Changing Cities lll, Syros 2017 - Reclaiming Public Spaces within Metropolitan Areas, Amman 2017, Changing Cities lV, Chania, 2019) and published on books, specialized magazines and conference proceedings.

As an architect, founder and principal of COdESIGN architecture office (Italy, UAE, China), she designed projects for the conservation, refurbishment, and reuse of ancient buildings and archeological sites (Italy, China, UAE, Vietnam), exhibitions for the dissemination of the tangible heritage (China, Italy), installations for the revitalization of the intangible heritage (UAE, China). The majority of the projects are the winners of design competitions or awarded as best practice, demonstrating that the professional work is deeply driven by the research.

As a teacher, Anna Cornaro is leading experimental ways of teaching in courses of Theory and History of Architecture. Her philosophy is considering the heritage, not only to be revitalized in the making, and through research, but also in the way it is taught in the schools of architecture. She applies the use of digital collage and new social media, experimenting with a totally new approach to the field. Her methodology as been presented in different specialize refereed conferences (Amps, New York Conference 2019; ACSA Conference Fall 2019, Standford; JIDA 2019, Madrid) and it is under publication in conference proceedings.