

EARTHHERITAGE

Earthen Heritage in the Mediterranean between Archaeology and Sustainability

International Scientific Meeting - Palermo, 22nd – 23rd September 2025

Università di Palermo, Dipartimento di Architettura, Aula Basile, Edificio 8, viale delle Scienze

Monday 22nd September (9:00 – 18:00)

9:00 **Welcoming and registration of participants**

9:30 **Institutional greetings**

Francesco Lo Piccolo, Director of the Dipartimento di Architettura, Università di Palermo

Maddalena Achenza, President ICOMOS ISCEAH (International Scientific Committee on the Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage) [recorded message]

10:00 **The PRIN 2022 research project EARTHHERITAGE**

Earthen Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean between Archaeology and Sustainability

Luca Bombardieri, Maria Luisa Germanà, Ivano Rellini

(Università di Siena, Università di Palermo, Università di Genova)

10:30 **OPENING LECTURE**

Living Earthen Architectural Heritage. The Syria's earthen domes. Knowledge, Value, Sustainability

Saverio Mecca (Formerly Università di Firenze)

11:00 **Break**

SESSION 1 – From Earth to Architecture: Sourcing and Selecting Raw Materials

Moderators: *Ivano Rellini, Sabina Ghislandi*

11:30 **1.1 Tracing the Provenance of the Earth Materials at Erimi-Laonin tou Porakou, Cyprus**

Sabina Ghislandi, Ivano Rellini (Università di Genova)

11:50 **1.2 The Use of Earth in the Protohistoric Northeast Iberian Peninsula: Challenges and Insights through Micromorphology**

Marta Mateu (ICAC - Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology)

12:10 **1.3 The Stories of Matter: Clayscapes and Craft Practices in Ancient Lagash**

Sara Pizzimenti, Marialucia Amadio, Claudia Sciuto, Sara Quaggio (Università di Pisa, Università di Siena)

12:30 **1.4 The abandoned earthen heritage of Greece and future applicable perspectives**

Angeliki Pappa, Myrsini Kaltsa, Maria Mandalaki (Architects Msc)

12:50 **1.5 Foundations in Earth: A Geoarchaeological Study of Mozia's Earthen Architecture**

Paola Sconzo (Università di Palermo) ; *Marta Lorenzon* (University of Helsinki)

- 13:10 **1.6 From Earth to Architecture; From Earthen Craft to Social Practice. Reconstructing the Chaîne Opératoire of Mudbrick Building Technology at Prehistoric Thessaloniki Tumba**
Andreas Samouris (School of History and Archaeology Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) [on-line attendance]
- 13:30 **Discussion**
- 13:45 **Lunch break**

SESSION 2 – Sustaining the Legacy: Preservation of Earthen Architecture in a Changing Climate

Moderator: *Maria Luisa Germanà, Andrea D'Amore*

- 15:00 **2.1 From Archaeological to Contemporary Earthen Architecture between Evolution and Adaptation**
Dalia Nabil (Università di Firenze)
- 15:20 **2.2 Earth constructions in Morocco: Bioclimatic response of various vernacular and cultural constructions**
Dora Francese, Luca Buoniconti (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II)
- 15:40 **2.3 Preservation of Earthen Architecture in a Changing Climate: Results and Reflections on Some Key Experiences Gained Within the UNESCO WHEAP Project**
Mauro Bertagnin (Formerly Università di Udine) [on-line attendance]
- 16:00 **2.4 Climate, Materiality, and Decay: An Archaeological Perspective on Adobe Architecture in Castilla y León**
Alejandra Sánchez Polo (Universidad de Valladolid) [on-line attendance]
- 16:20 **2.5 The Impact of Material Thickness on the Thermal Performance of Wattle and Daub Residences in Sri Lankan vernacular architecture**
Oshanie Kumudika Rammuthupura (General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University) [on-line attendance]
- 16:40 **2.6 Closing the Circle for the Earthen Construction: Heritage and Contemporaneous Buildings between Perishability and Mediterranean Identity**
Maria Luisa Germanà, Andrea D'Amore (Università di Palermo)
- 17:00 **Discussion**
- 17:15 **Visit of the “Tecnoteca CUBÂTI” of the Dipartimento di Architettura**

Tuesday 23rd September (9:00 – 13:00)

SESSION 3 – Building with Earth: Archaeological and Vernacular Construction Practices

Moderators: *Luca Bombardieri, Marialucia Amadio*

- 09:00 **3.1 Shaped by Earth, Built by Many: materials and techniques in mudbrick production at Middle Bronze Age Erimi and Pyrgos, Cyprus**
Marialucia Amadio, Luca Bombardieri (Università di Siena), *Yiannis Petrou* (Archaeological Museum of the Lemesos District), *Yiannis Violaris* (Department of Antiquities, Cyprus)
- 09:20 **3.2 Building with daub: evolution, contexts, and continuities in late Prehistoric Greece**
Paul Bacoup (UCLouvain - INCAL, AegIS) [on-line attendance]
- 09:40 **3.3 Building with earth and timber in Neolithic northwestern Greece**
Dimitris Kloukinas (Numismatic Museum - Hellenic Ministry of Culture), *Niki Saridaki* (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
- 10:00 **3.4 Rethinking Celtiberian Earthen Architecture: Building Techniques, Materiality and Cultural Transitions in Iron Age Iberia**
Lucía Ruano Posada, Raquel Licerias Garrido, Carlos Tabernero Galán, Juan Pedro Benito Batanero, Sergio Alfonso Cabello Quintero (Oppidum Research Group, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Areco Arqueología S.L., Areco Arqueología S.L., Numantia Archaeological Project) [on-line attendance]
- 10:20 **3.5 Shaping home, shaping landscape: domestic architecture in nuragic Sardinia**
Marta Pais (Università degli Studi di Sassari)
- 10:40 **Break**
- 11:10 **3.6 Rediscovering earthen architecture in ancient Sicily: resilience, sustainability and innovation**
Davide Labartino (University of Bern)
- 11:30 **3.7 Etruscan and Roman raw earth architectures in Tuscany. Traditions, adaptations and transformations of construction practices**
Maria Teresa Sgromo (Università di Pisa)
- 11:50 **3.8 Reflections on the origins of the different earth building techniques in the Mediterranean**
María Pastor Quiles (University of Alicante)
- 12:10 **3.9 Teaching and Research on Adobes at the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus**
Maria Philokyprou (University of Cyprus) [on-line attendance]
- 12:30 **Discussion**

CONCLUSIONS

- 12:45 **Luca Bombardieri** (*Università di Siena, PI Research Project EARTHERITAGE*)