

EAAE conference 2017

the EAAE/AEEA

# **CONSERVATION NETWORK**

review of experience

in any review of anything that exists for a purpose there are

**3** (really 5) questions

what is it/ what is it for

how does it work/what has it done

what is its future

EAAE CONSERVATION NETWORK  
review of experience: the story begins  
in Genoa

**2007**

international workshop for  
researchers and teachers of  
architectural conservation

## **Teaching Conservation/ Restoration of the Architectural Heritage**

School of Specialisation in  
Restoration of Monuments,  
Faculty of Architecture, University  
of Genoa

supported by the Socrates programme through  
ENHSA and by public bodies and private  
companies

Professor Stefano Musso and  
Luisa de Marco





## 2007

The Genoa event was a broad-ranging conference, with 98 participants from 15 countries

prior to this event, two meetings on conservation had been organised by the Lemaire Centre at the Katholieke Universiteit at Leuven: Professor Herman Neuckermans

### Ref. EAAE/ENHSA **THEMATIC NETWORKS**

supporting teaching and research in architectural education



## EAAE CONSERVATION NETWORK

### review of experience

follow-up meeting: Stefano Musso, Francesco Doglioni, Loughlin Kealy, Chris Younes

## A Fresh Idea for a Network

- the network would be open
- it would develop through participative workshops
- different in focus, format and purpose from traditional workshops or conferences: practice/ teaching/ research integration
- develop an atmosphere that supported discussion and debate, rather than the presentation of formal papers
- the workshops would focus on issues in the context of real sites
- participants attend on the basis of submitted abstracts and engage in active debate on issues
- after the workshop, participants submit papers for publication: papers must explicitly reflect on discussions; peer review process

## The initiative would be experimental

if it worked it would be a distinctive EAAE contribution: accepted by Council in 2008



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2009

workshop **2** in Ireland:

## **CONSERVATION/ TRANSFORMATION**

The first “guinea pig”  
workshop had 4 themes:  
communication; design;  
sustainability; access and  
ethics, 3 sites  
city with medieval core;  
country mansion/demense  
ruined monastery

65 participants  
11 countries





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2011

workshop **3** in Romania:

## CONSERVATION/ REGENERATION

examination of urban conservation  
and renewal in the context of a  
modernist neighborhood in  
Bucharest

- more highly structured, more  
closely focused

51 participants

8 countries



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2013

workshop **4** in Italy:

## **CONSERVATION/ RECONSTRUCTION**

overlapping themes: post disaster  
recovery/ the future of small towns facing  
abandonment:

small historic centres:  
conservation in the midst of  
change:

Rome/ Castelvecchio Calvisio

- scales of intervention/ design,  
planning, regeneration,  
community development
- rich, theoretical and practical

70 participants

16 countries





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2015

workshop **5** in Belgium:

## CONSERVATION/ ADAPTATION

keeping alive the spirit of the place: adaptive reuse of heritage with symbolic value

- theoretical and practical issues in an emerging field of practice and consciousness

73 participants

12 countries



**EAAE  
CONSERVATION NETWORK  
publications**

2007	TEACHING CONSERVATION/ RESTORATION	
	Genoa	2008
2009	CONSERVATION/ TRANSFORMATION	
	Dublin/Kilkenny/Borris	2011
2011	CONSERVATION/ REGENERATION	
	Bucharest	2013
2013	CONSERVATION/ RECONSTRUCTION	
	Rome/ Castelveccchio	2015
2015	CONSERVATION/ ADAPTATION	
	Hasselt/ Liège	2017





so, returning to the **3** (really 5) questions

what is it/ what is it for

how does it work/what has it done

what is its future

## Answer 1      what is it/ what is it for

the conservation network is an open organisational framework that supports academic relationships based on opportunity for debate about change

- participants recognise the incompleteness of their own knowledge and the partiality of their experience. The expectation is that, through open discussion, they can challenge their knowledge, their preconceptions, and their approach to their work
- participants comprises teachers, researchers, practitioners and doctoral students of conservation, in schools of architecture. They have in common that they are all students of conservation, working in schools of architecture in different ways, at different levels.

The direct aim of each event, discussion, reflection, writing and the publication process is

- a. deepen understanding of the changing field of conservation
- b. provide an opportunity to connect with colleagues in academia and practice through collaborative investigation and discussion;
- c. provide an outlet for the results of the work and reflection
- d. improve teaching practice



## Answer 2            how does it work/what has it done

it works through people coming together to work on key questions in the context of specific locations. 4 workshops, organised every 2 years, have followed the initial events in Genoa in 2007. In addition, the Network has held several intermediate meetings to consider development strategies/ future events. Some summary data/metrics

number of participants in workshop 1	98
number of participants in workshops 2, 3, 4, 5	259
participants with multiple attendances	60
schools	70
countries	23
books published	5
papers (workshop1)	47
papers (workshops 2,3,4,5)	164
and additional other contributions	

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review of experience

## Answer 3

what is its future

2017 workshop 6 in Spain

### CONSERVATION/ CONSUMPTION

preserving the tangible and  
intangible values

□ challenges for acceptance of  
the conventional idea of  
inheritance as a resource

La Corunna/ Santiago de  
Compostella  
27-30 September 2017





## Answer 3

what is its future – looking further ahead

the network is a living resource: can reference the ERASMUS+ project, Confronting Wicked Problems: within the **Heritage** Think Tank the Conservation Network provided some indicative insight into questions about the place of conservation within architectural curricula throughout Europe

but specifically: workshop 6 in La Corunna/Santiago has a session on the future development of the Conservation Network: intermediate meetings

some broad questions within architectural education and practice:

- a deep challenge - the place of the inherited built environment within architecture, its culture, educational systems and pedagogies – how that culture finds its place within an evolving , globalising societal and cultural milieu

a question for EAAE

- need to reflect on the potential of a network: what can it do for its members, intellectually and practically; what can it do in the broader context – the role of EAAE/AEEA in European architectural education

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review of experience

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION