



Politecnico
di Torino



Università
di Catania



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
FEDERICO II



Call for Papers

International Conference

TRAVELLING IN SEARCH OF THE MIDDLE AGES IN ITALY AND EUROPE

Pavia-Turin, November 11-13, 2024

The conference *Travelling in Search of the Middle Ages in Italy and Europe* aims to investigate the discovery by European architects between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries of the existence of a plurality of medieval architectures, which cannot be ascribed to an unambiguous conception of a complex historical period.

The aim of the international conference is to construct an original view of the birth and evolution of traveling architects' interest in buildings and monuments of the Middle Ages. Often read by artistic historiography as belonging to codified styles (Romanesque, Byzantine, etc.), the countless European medieval architectures are for the first time reproduced, surveyed, and studied with an eye to the value of historical as well as constructive knowledge. The same concept of the Middle Ages declined in the plural will be investigated keeping in mind how travelers deal with different historiographical aspects.

Discussion topics on which scholars are invited to develop their own proposals may include, among other topics: the history and evolution of travel, from the Grand Tour to tourism, in its characters related to medieval architecture and cities; the discovery of the existence of different medieval architectures; invented Middle Ages based on real Middle Ages; descriptions of medieval architecture, monuments and cities, resulting in the production of consolidated images; the discovery of medieval architecture in minor territories, particularly inland and rural ones; reflections on medieval building techniques; internal itineraries as opposed to the established routes of the Grand Tour; travel narratives with special emphasis on European medieval architecture and cities: evolution and role of odeporic literature and specialized publishing with reference to medieval periods; travel and exploration aimed at recognizing architectural values for the preservation and protection of medieval complexes; the role of travel and tours organized by institutions or associations, also in relation to the development of civic awareness and environmental sensitivity; the iconography of travel and landscape: analysis of cartographies, postcards, photographs, and travel souvenirs where the different medievals take a central and priority role.

Locations: University of Pavia, UNIPV - Polytechnic University of Turin, PoliTO

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Images from
G.E. Street, Brick and Marble in the Middle Ages.
Notes of Tours in the North of Italy, 1874.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Abstract (max 2500 characters, including spaces)

Short biography of the author (max 500 characters, including spaces)

Languages allowed at the Congress: English, French, Italian and Spanish.

KEY DATE

Abstract submission deadline: May 30, 2024

email viaggidellarchitetto.medioevi@gmail.com

Notification of acceptance: June 30, 2024

The conference is part of the cycle of international meetings entitled:

The Architect's Journeys. Travels and Transfers across the Mediterranean and Beyond (XVIIIth-XXth Centuries)

Les voyages de l'architecte. Circuits et transferts à travers la Méditerranée et au-delà (XVIIIe-XXe siècles)

I viaggi dell'architetto. Itinerari e transfer culturali nel Mediterraneo e altrove (XVIII-XX secolo)

Los viajes del arquitecto. Circuitos y traslados culturales por el Mediterráneo y más allá (XVIII-XX siglos)

The cycle of international meetings (2023-2026) aims to deconstruct any univocal interpretation of the idea of travel, and to highlight the multiplicity of its modalities and interpretations and the transfers produced, both material and immaterial, through the links established with history, human geography, contexts -in the broadest sense of the term- and the places visited. In the period from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, architects' journeys to the Mediterranean and beyond must be read and repositioned in the broader context of the problem of confrontation with otherness and the very way in which the notion of the identity of places is defined by their perceptions and representations from outside.

ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS

University of Pavia

Polytechnic University of Turin

COLLABORATING INSTITUTION

Winner of the Label announcement of the Università Italo Francese/Université Franco Italienne

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