

Ecomuseums and cultural landscapes

State of the art and future prospects

edited by
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with contributions by
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Ecomuseums, born in France in the 1970s, are nowadays experiencing a new season of development. A renewal expressed through the evolution of participatory models, the growth of the involved competences and professionalism, the expansion of the spatial, disciplinary, and strategic scopes. Moreover, a renewal that sees in the network model and in interdisciplinary and transnational cooperation, a prospect of enrichment, for the conveyance of good practices and the increase of effectiveness and efficiency in the management of transformations and in the enhancement of the built environment.

In the globalisation era, characterised by dynamics of transformation often detached from local contexts, ecomuseums express a potential for innovation in urban and territorial regeneration processes, and can, therefore, take on a referential role for the landscape design.

Through awareness-raising, information, educational, research, and experimentation campaigns, they educate local communities to recognise the value of their collective heritage, supporting the development of planning skills for its transformation.

This book, starting from the debate launched in 2016 in Milan, on the occasion of the 24th ICOM General Conference, with the Forum of Ecomuseums and Community Museums, and the conference “Museums and cultural landscapes. The ecomuseums and community museums perspectives”, accounts for such renewal. It presents reflections, projects, and best practices of recognition, care, management, promotion, and enhancement of cultural landscapes, offering an opportunity for a debate at an international level on the social role of the project, and on the importance of participation and the enhancement of heritage as incentives for social, environmental and economic development, in harmony with the values and needs of local communities.

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She conducts researches with reference to the contents of environmental planning, with respect to the issues of governance, the redevelopment of settlement systems, the enhancement of the landscape, and cultural heritage for local development.

She participated to the activities of *Mondi Locali*-Local Worlds practice community, and now in the National Coordination of Italian Ecomuseums.

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The cultural landscape of Parabiago in the north of Milan, Italy (photograph by Adrones - Alberto Dellavedova).

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(*) *Odalice Miranda Priosti, founder and Coordinator of the Ecomuseu Comunitário de Santa Cruz (Rio de Janeiro), passed away on Christmas Day, 2017.*

She was a contributor to the debates of the Forum of Ecomuseums and Community Museums, in Milan during the 24th ICOM General Conference. Her text is reproduced in this book.

We want to pay her a well-deserved tribute, for her pioneering role in the promotion and experimentation of ecomuseology in the last thirty years, not only in Brazil, but also internationally. She has visited ecomuseums and colleagues in Europe and America and she has organized, with great vision and wisdom, two international encounters of ecomuseums and community museums, in her own Ecomuseum, in 2000 and 2004.

We can say that she has thus paved the way to the success of the Milan Forum.