

2nd Biennial of Architectural and Urban RESTORATION - press release

Migration and Multiculturalism



Aykut Erkal, Nina Avramidou

CLOSING SPEECH held in Istanbul by Nina Avramidou

FROM 15 October 2013 TO 30 October 2013, THE SECOND BIENNIAL OF ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN RESTORATION, ALONG THE NEW VIA EGNATIA, STARTING IN BRINDISI-TARANTO AND ENDING IN ISTANBUL, was successfully held.

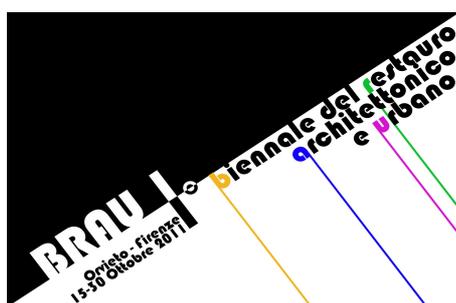
The event received the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, the Ministries of Culture, Italian and Greek, of the Italian Navy, of ICOMOS-Italy, of ICCROM and several other national and local organizations that operate in cities where BRAU2 was held: Superintendents, municipalities, universities, professional associations, cultural associations (patronages are listed on the Brau website, www.brau.it).

In the charming and prestigious venues of the PALACE PANTALEO of Taranto and the Castello SVEVO of Brindisi, in the Officers' Club of the Italian Navy, took place the opening ceremonies of the Second Biennial of Urban and Architectural Restoration (BRAU2), promoted by the International Centre for Conservation of Architectural Heritage (CICOP Italy). CICOP is a non-profit, non-governmental association, known in the professional communities and among public institutions for its scientific and cultural authority in the Protection and Conservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage.



A. Carella, M. Di Stefano, D. Palmiotti, N. Avramidou, L. La Rocca, A.F. Uricchio, C. La Monaca, A. Ressa

During the ceremony was presented a video which exposed all activities and exhibitions of BRAU1 created by Architects Sabatino Cecchini and Francesca Curotti.



At the opening ceremonies of the BRAU2 participants included the Dr. Michele Emiliano, Mayor of the city of Bari, the Dott. Cisberto Zacchaeus, Deputy Mayor for Economic Activity and Production, Tourism, Entertainment and Local Marketing delegated by the Mayor of the Municipality of Taranto Ippazio Stephen, Dr. Michele Emiliano, Mayor of the Municipality of Bari; Commander Cosimo Daniele La Monaca delegated from

Admiral Ermenegildo Ugazzi, Naval Department of the Ionian Sea and the Strait of Otranto; Dr. Luigi La Rocca, Superintendent of Archaeological Heritage of Puglia ; Augusto Arch Ressa , Chief Superintendent BAP, Prof. Eng Arch Maurizio Di Stefano, President of ICOMOS Italy; Dr. Domenico Palmiotti, director of Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno of Taranto, Prof. Eng Theodossios Tassios, Professor Emeritus of the Technical University of Athens (Greece), Honorary President of the Biennale, the Mayor of the City of Ioannina, Dr. Filios Filippou, Dr Maria Stratsani (Head Office of Culture of Ioannina), the deputy Mayors of the city of Thessaloniki (Pavlos Melas), Arch Ferenidis Dimitrios and Kyriakos Tsatalmpasidis, and all coordinators of the participating cities.

The closing ceremony was held in Istanbul, in the amphitheater of the ISTANBUL KEMERBURGAZ UNIVERSITY, in the presence of local authorities and representatives from various organizations working in the field, the Deputy Chairmen of the ICOMOS-ISCARSAH, Prof. Dr. Gorun Arun, the Director of the Superintendence of of North Portugal, DRCN, Arch. Paula Silva and the General Director of ICCROM, Mr Stefano De Caro, who presided over the ceremony, the Rector of Isik University of Istanbul, Prof. Dr. Yorgo I Stefanopoulos.



S. Kuru

N. Avramidou



Y. I Stefanopoulos, S. De Caro, N. Avramidou, S. Kuru

Moderator of the ceremony was Prof. Dr. Selahattin Kuru, Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of Istanbul Kemerburgaz University. Mr. Lokman Cagirici; Mayor of Bagcilar, Istanbul, was also present and he accentuated the significance of cooperation during these cultural events. Many students followed the speeches with enthusiasm.



The starting and the affirmation of the Biennale, the strengthening of the basic idea of the "Itinerant Cultural Axis" along which to organize its own activities every two years, the dissemination and communication, has allowed us to achieve unexpected results not only in traditional worlds of the professions, of academics and research, but also among direct Users, which is one of the strategic targets of the Project Brau. Under this light, the Biennale is always more open to interact

directly with citizens and the local communities, encouraging their active participation.

The thoughts that emerged with the second Biennale of Restoration have updated the international cultural debate, amplifying and combining it with the new social, economic and environmental impacts of the countries in which it was performed, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Such ideas have also implemented opportunities to meet great scientific-technical, national and international personalities, promoting effective communication activities in all participating cities and in particular in Brindisi, Taranto, Lecce, Maglie, Ioannina, Thessaloniki, Kavala, Andrianoupoli,

Istanbul. Participation and sharing have largely characterized the second Biennale BRAU2 and inspired its local initiatives.

The Biennale Brau is not just a cultural synonym of Conscious Protection and Sustainable Restoration of the Architectural Heritage, but, more profoundly, it aims to promote actions that allow to operate easily in the complexity of socio-economic instances, highlighting the social profit that derives from these actions.

The Exhibition of more than 1,000 restoration projects have been set up in prestigious historic buildings and other modern, and in particular: in **Italy**, Puglia: in the Palazzo Pantaleo of Taranto, in the Aragonese Castle of Taranto, in the University Aldo Moro of Taranto, in the former Convent of San Francesco of Taranto, in the former factory Piccinino of Lecce), in the Historical Museum of the city of Lecce MUST of Lecce) and in the Officers' Club of the Navy of Brindisi.

In **Greece**: in the Cultural Center of the Municipality of Ioannina, in the historical complex of the former Monastery of Lazaristes in Thessaloniki (Pavlos Melas), in the New Town Hall in Thessaloniki, in the former building of Tobacco Kavala (actually cultural center of the city), in the modern complex of the shopping center of Kavala, in the historical Complex of Imaret of Kavala, in the former historical residence of Ali Mehmete in Kavala.

In **Turkey**, in the Faculty of Architecture of Andrianoupoli (Edirne); in the CARAVANSARY of EKMEKÇİZADE AHMET PAŞA in Andrianoupoli; in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, at Istanbul Kemerburgaz University.



The staging of the exhibitions has involved more than 100 architects, recent graduates and students of various faculties, to whom goes the merit for the success of BRAU2.

The extraordinary work done, for the creativity and commitment, by the local coordination has been accomplished by:

In Puglia, Architects Antonella Carella, Chiara Sasso, Donato Cosenza and Prof. Antonio Monte.

In Greece, Eng. Stefanos Zervas and Dr Mary Stratsani (Ioannina), Arch Paraskevi Kourti, Dr. Tina Sousourada, Arch. Irimi Kastanidou, Stathis Anastasiadis (Thessaloniki) Architects Ipsilandi Vassiliki and Xatziliadou Polikseni, and Eng. Teodoros Mouriadis (Kavala).

In Turkey, Prof. Dr. Burcu Ozguven and Dr Sema Saldaci (Andrianoupoli), and Prof. Dr. Selahattin Kuru and Asst Prof. Dr. Aykut Erkal (Istanbul).

The Awards were conferred during the ceremony of inauguration of BRAU2 at Palazzo Pantaleo in Taranto, by Eng. Rea Tassiou.

The first and second prizes were awarded to the prestigious Restoration of the Aragonese Castle of Taranto (Italy) and the Recovery of Turkish historical complex, Imaret, at Kavala (Greece). Both award-winning restorations, have a common connotation: the happy synergy of public - private which agreed their rapid recovery and at the same time the formation of local specialized labor.

Today, these two historic complexes, are, due to their importance and extent, a strong reminder of the the historical re-visitation, while allowing full use of the space for the new destination of use.

A third prize / declaration of merit was awarded remotely during the international workshop held on 28/10/13 to Ekmekçizde Karvansaray of Edirne, to the young Pakistani Architect Rahamzeb Mian, for his study of the transformations undergone by the Darul Aman Palace Kabul (1920-13) in Afghanistan.

A fourth award was awarded to a group of students from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at Istanbul Kemerburgaz University, for their study on the revitalization of the Waterfront Strip, Around the Old Galata Bridge in Istanbul; under the guidance of the mentors: Asst. Prof. Dr. Derya Yorgancioglu, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ufuk Soyoz and the Asst. Prof. Dr. Aykut Erkal.

A fifth prize was also well deserved by a group of students from the Faculty of Architecture of Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), for the diagnostic study and the proposed restoration and redevelopment of the former military complex of Pavlos Melas, of approximately 300,000 square meters. Mentor was the Arch. Paraskevi Kourti.

Numerous **seminars and workshops international** activities have been organized in Italy, Greece and Turkey, which relate mainly to the sub-theme of BRAU2, Migration and Multiculturalism along the Via Egnatia, with the aim of bringing out the common cultural models between the Balkan countries and Italy. The thematic workshops were repeated successfully in various cities participating in the BRAU2 in the period October 15 to 30, on subsequent dates.

One of these itinerant seminars concerned the knowledge of the territory through productive activities along the Via Egnatia, from Salento, Italy (Lecce, 22/10) to the West Macedonia, Greece (Kavala 26/10) and Andrianoupoli, Turkey (Edirne, 28/10). The focus of the debate was placed on the "food industry" (oil, wine, grain and pasta) and manufacturing (tobacco). Unexpected involvements and synergies emerged among the various cities, and in particular in the manufacture of Tobacco (between Kavala and Maglie), and in the food industry between the cities of Est Macedonia (Greece and Turchia).

The fascinating events and activities organized in the city of Kavala, to raise public awareness about the abandonment of the unused buildings of the tobacco industry deserve a special mention.

Great interest and involvement has also met the **itinerant seminar** aimed at the preservation of minor architectures (bridges, sanctuaries, cisterns, etc) from the risks as natural causes and the abandonment, which was held in Taranto (IT), Lecce (IT) and Istanbul (TK).

The documents collected and exposed concerning minor architectures and artifacts has been decisive in the systematic documentation and registration of the architectural characteristics and construction techniques, in the areas that flank the Via Egnatia. Due to the abandonment over

time of these artifacts, a serious threat of extinction began with their increased seismic vulnerability.

I believe the largest success of the second edition of the Biennale BRAU2, must be sought in the extraordinary **CULTURAL PROJECTS** promoted and carried out within fifteen days of the duration of the Biennale, namely: the **educational workshops** for the involvement of the adolescents and school children to the problems of recovery of disused architectural heritage of their city, entitled "rediscover the city through the eyes of children"; the **graffiti**, the computerized **banners** on canvas and **photographic exhibitions** with illustrations of buildings and places of historical and artistic interest, seen through the lens of experts / amateurs or professional photographers; the **thematic routes** organized for the visitation of buildings and places with the same destination and cultural identity (multi ethnic cemeteries, a former military camp, former factories of tobacco, etc..), with expert guides (architects, historians, archaeologists); the **small interventions of urban restoration** in specific points of the city, maintained even after the end of BRAU2; the illuminations and projections on abandoned buildings; the **competitions of ideas** for the design of items for urban furnitures (benches, waste bin, apparatus of street lighting, gardener), inserted in environmental education programs.



In Kavala and Thessaloniki, many of the cultural events mentioned above were also accompanied by musical, dancing and cooking events, with the involvement of students of the local schools of all grades, which were of a great stimulus to call attention of citizens to the issues raised with the Biennale.

I deeply thank, on behalf of the CICOP Net Confederation and the CICOP Italy Steering Committee, for the promotion of Brau, all the local organizers who made possible this extraordinary event in Italy, Greek and Turkey. More than one hundred Architects, Engineers, Archaeologists, Information technology specialists; they are all names of proven experience in the field of cultural heritage and on a professional level.

And also to the supporters and promoters of BRAU2: in Italy, Arch. Paolo Caggiano, Arch. Carmelo Garofalo and Arch. Giorgio Miranda; in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Prof. Eng. Amir Causevic and Prof. Arch. Neriman Rustempavic; in Portugal, Arch. Alice Costa Tavares; in Brazil, Prof. Arch. Maria Rita Amoroso.

A special thanks is due to the Secretary of CICOP Italy, Arch. Benedetta Maio, for the extraordinary work of the organization and archiving and interchange of information with all the organizers of the three participating countries.

BRAU3

The success of BRAU2 is strongly related to the sub-theme of *“Migration and Multiculturalism along Via Egnatia”*, and the choice of the places that flank the new Via Egnatia.

Around this theme we are strongly committed in the past three years, on aim to contribute to the Inter-cultural Dialogue and Community Building.

So, given the success and consensus collected until now, we believe that the third Biennial should have continuity with the basic objectives of the previous one, and with the places in which it was carried out.

The BRAU3 will have the title:

WITHOUT BORDERS

Cultures Without Borders, Countries Without Boundaries

BRAU3 aims to contribute to bridging the static conception of heritage and the enhancement of its constant and dynamic relationship with the territory and its belonging region, stimulating multicultural promotion projects.

BRAU3, as well as the BRAU2, will respond to the need to more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into development policies and strategies at all levels in the balkan countries.



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CICOP Italy founded by a group of architects and archaeologists of Orvieto in 1994 - besides contributing to raise consciousness, training and information on the issues of Awareness, Protection and Sustainable Restoration of the Heritage – has increasingly become an important voice of the public and accredited internationally. Having a long history behind it, the biennial, through an interdisciplinary approach, has addressed, many issues of the problems of the Existing Projects.