

ZAG

ZAVOD ZA
GRADBENIŠTVO
SLOVENIJE

SLOVENIAN
NATIONAL BUILDING
AND CIVIL ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE

2ND INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

In situ techniques in
preservation of built heritage

1st – 3rd July 2026

Slovenian National Building
and Civil Engineering Institute
Ljubljana, Dimičeva 12, Slovenia



Dr. Panayotis Antoniadis

NetHood



Talking Buildings

The role of impersonation in citizen science
processes for the sustainable renovation of
cultural heritage buildings

Ljubljana, 1 July 2026



Co-funded by
the European Union



Project funded by

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
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SINCERE at a glance

Technology

Optimize the carbon footprint and energy performance of historic buildings through innovative materials, energy harvesting technologies, and ICT tools.

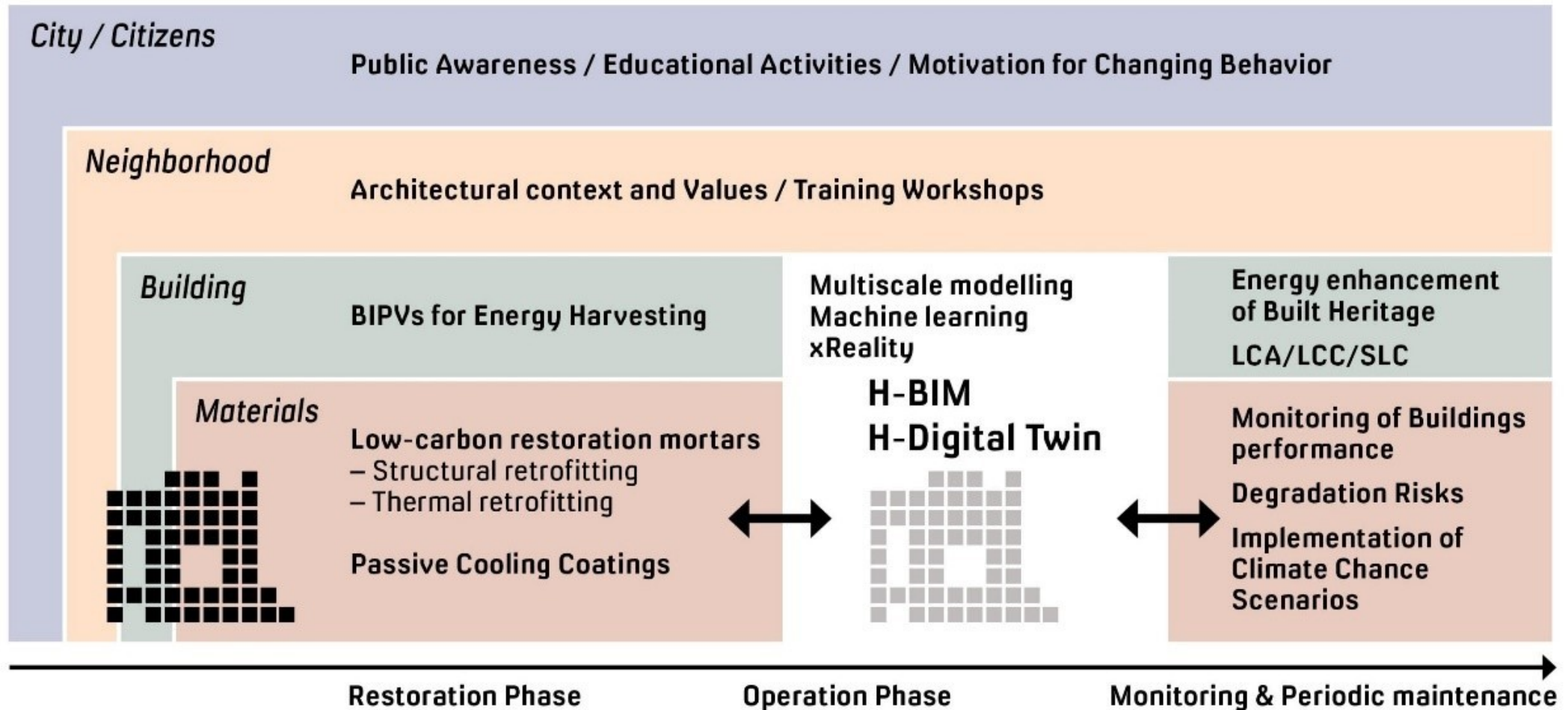
Society

Raise awareness and offer opportunities for engagement for the preservation of cultural heritage buildings at national and international level.

Horizon Europe

*Grant no. 101123293
HORIZON-CL5-2022-D4-02
Start: October 1st, 2023
Duration: 3 years
Budget: 5 420 275 EUR
18 partners
4 pilots*

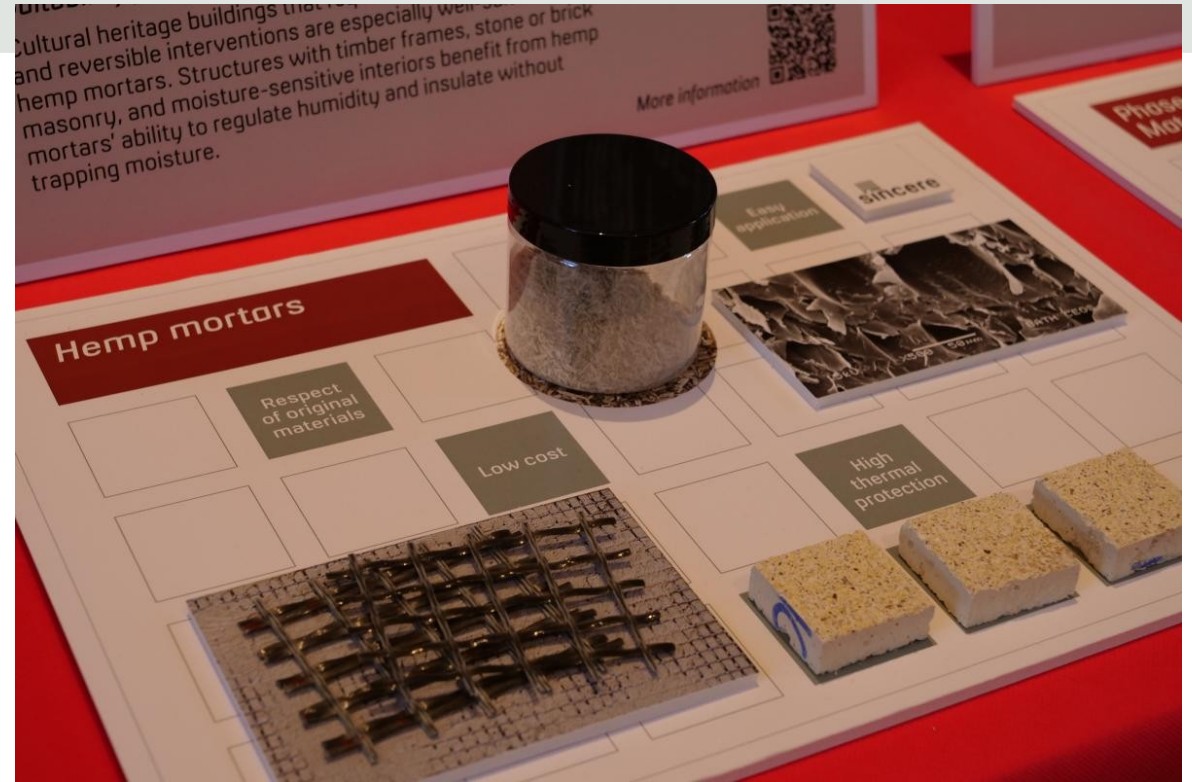
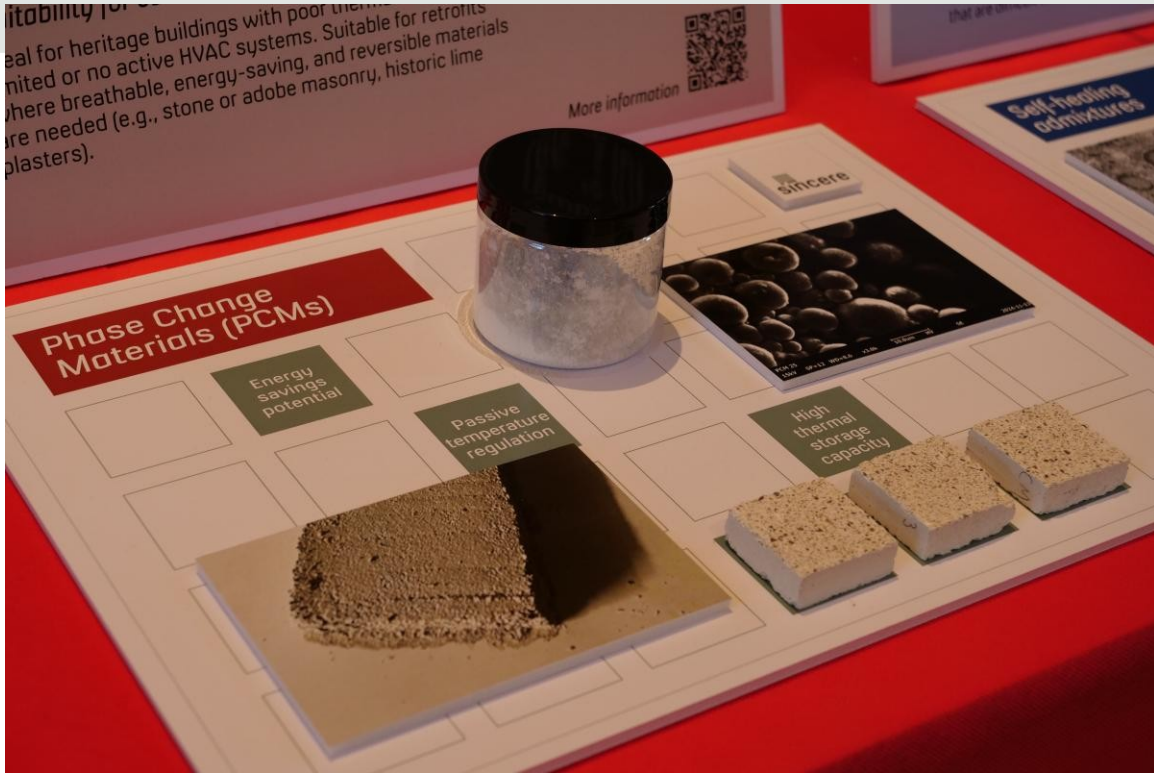
SINCERE – the big picture



SINCERE @ Historical Mortars Conference 2025

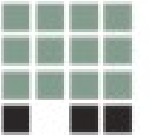


SINCERE @ Historical Mortars Conference 2025



From the lab to the field





***Can citizens support
sustainable renovation
processes?***



The talking buildings game

The game

Giving a voice to a building as a participatory process

Inspiration

Who talks through a building? How can a building talk?

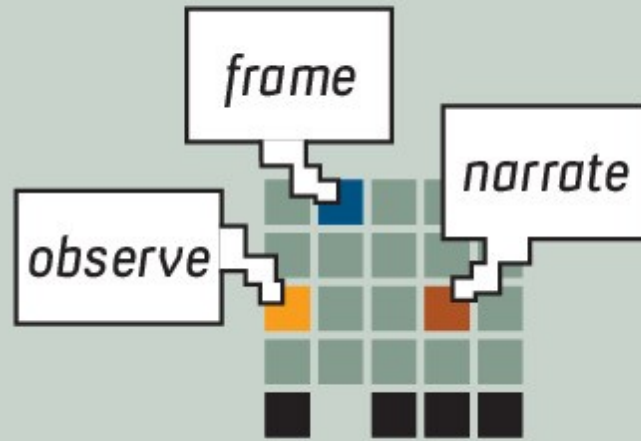
Application

How can we use this tool in different contexts?

The game

The talking buildings challenge

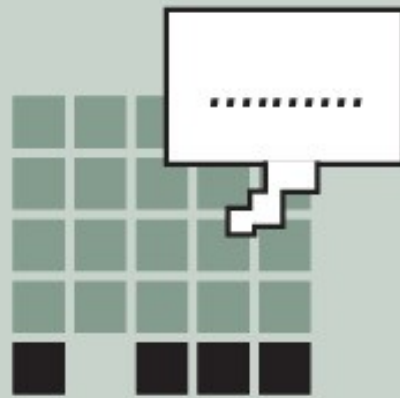
Give a voice to a building in 5 steps




sincere

What should I do?

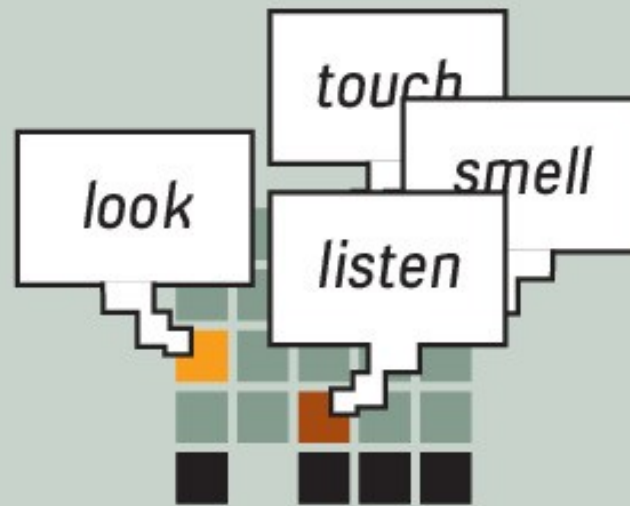
1. *Visit a cultural heritage building you feel connected to*



This building wants to say something



2. *Observe its facade, its details.* *Can you enter inside?*



Using all the senses, except taste!



3. *Frame* an object or an area inside or outside

What attracts your attention?



You!



4. *Narrate a story or a thought from the building's perspective*

So, imagine you are me!^{*}



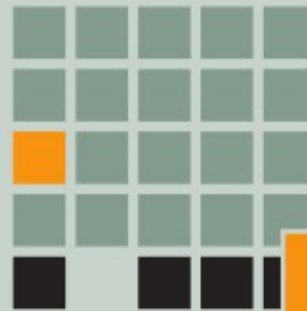
And the real me, what will do?

**film me and speak over like it is me talking*



5. *Share your story!*

*Record my story and share it!**



Wait, I need some inspiration first

**more details at talkingbuildings.net*



Συνομιλώντας με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου



ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΕΣ ΗΜΕΡΕΣ
ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ
2025



sincere
building stories



SYNERGY

Γίνε κι εσύ συμμετοχος
προάγοντας τη βιώσιμη
χρήση τους!

Συνομιλώντας Με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου ~ ~

Public group · 385 members

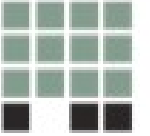


+ Invite

Share

Joined

Inspiration



Not a new idea!



If Buildings Could Talk ...

*... some of them would sound like Shakespeare.
Others would speak like the Financial Times,
yet others would praise God, or Allah.
Some would just whisper,*

*Buildings are like people, in fact.
Old and young, male and female,
ugly and beautiful, fat and skinny,*

*Don't get me wrong: this is not a metaphor.
Buildings DO speak to us!
They have messages. Of course.
Some really WANT a constant dialogue with us.
Some rather listen carefully first.*

Wim Wenders



Rolex Learning Center, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (CH)

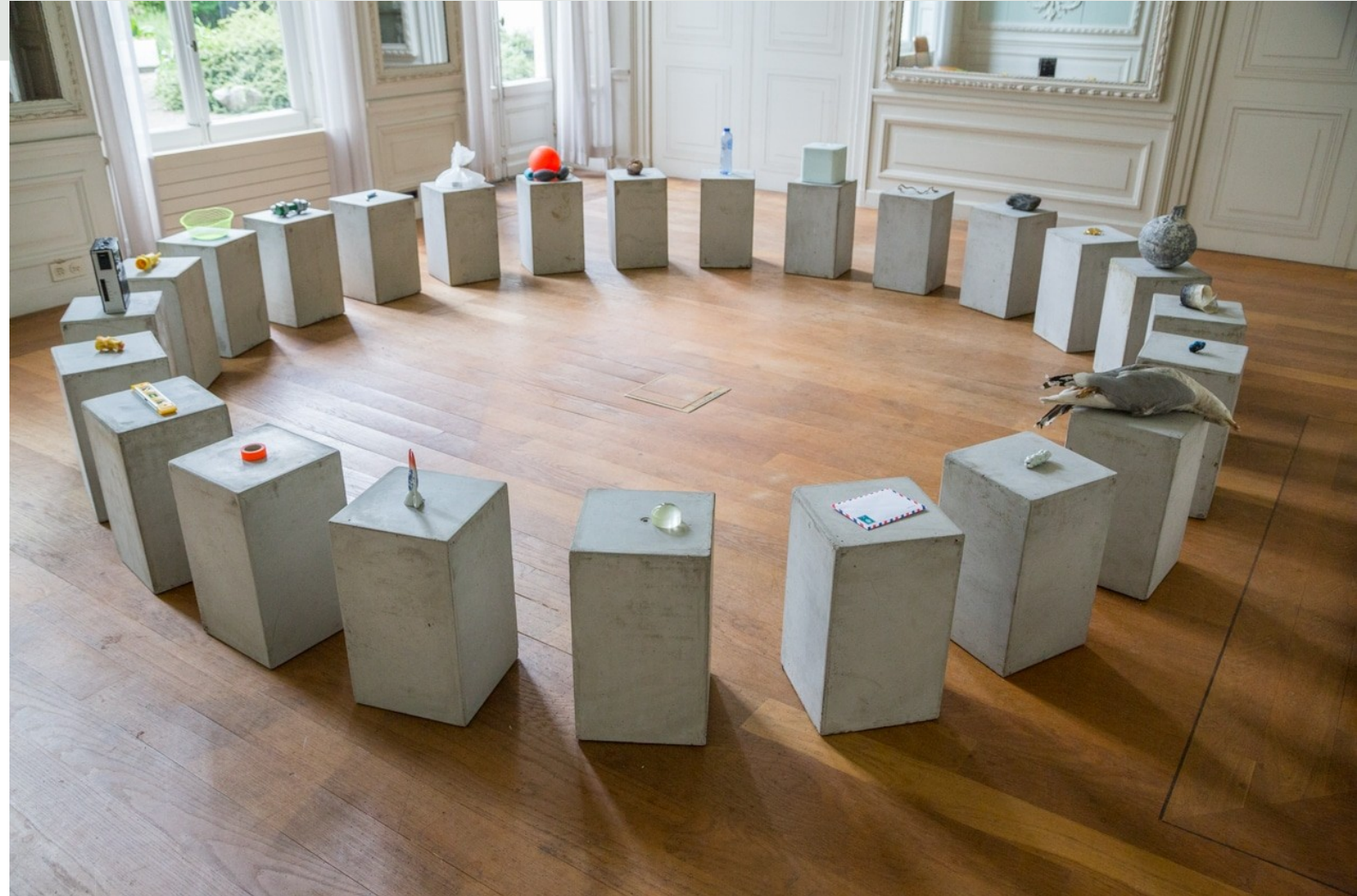
The parliament of things

*What if we welcomed
all animals, plants and
things into our Parliament?*

*What would the argument of the
cod, algae or Gulf Stream be?*

*What positions would the
trees take and what future
would oil see for itself?*

Bruno Latour



Even A Brick Wants To Be Something

If you think of Brick, you say to Brick,

'What do you want, Brick?'

And Brick says to you,

'I like an Arch.'

And if you say to Brick,

'Look, arches are expensive,

and I can use a concrete lintel over you.

What do you think of that, Brick?'

Brick says, 'I like an Arch.'

And it's important, you see, that you honor the material that you use. ...

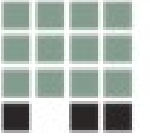
You can only do it if you honor the brick and glorify the brick instead of shortchanging it.

Louis Kahn



Inspiration

Who?

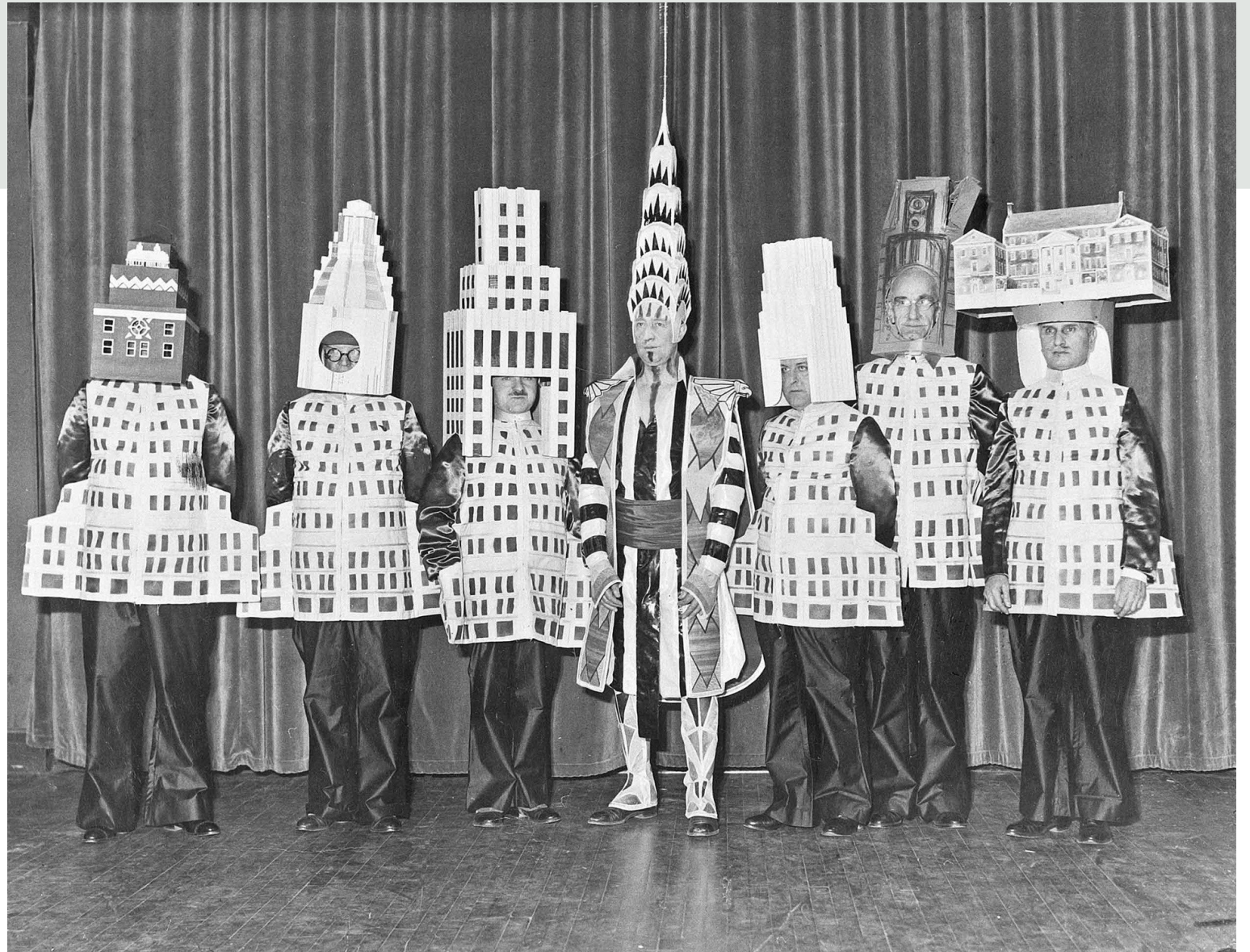


Who talks through the building?



Who talks?

The architects ?



Famous Architects Dress as Their Famous New York City Buildings (1931)

Who talks?

The
architects
?



Sketch of a villa in Bucharest by architect Alfred Popper

Who talks?

*The
residents
?*



Residents of the under demolition Haggerston estate in Hackney, London

Who talks?

The
activists
?



Who talks?

*The
owners
?*



Who talks?

The
artists
?



Who talks?

*The
Nature
?*



Who talks?

The
Nature
?



Who talks?

The History ?



Who talks?

The
technology
?



Who talks?

The
technology
?



Who talks?

*The
users
?*



Who talks?

*The
users
?*



Who talks?

*The
users
?*



Who talks?

The
visitors
?



Who talks?

*The
visitors
?*



Who talks?

The
market
?



Who talks?

*The
media
?*



Who talks?

*I, the
building*



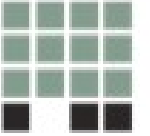
Who talks?

*We, the
materials
?*



Inspiration

How?



*How can a building
talk?*



Voice over



SINCERE project - Heritage in Dialogue - European Heritage Days 2024



but if we look at the sustainability aspects of my existence



SINCERE project - Heritage in Dialogue - European Heritage Days 2024

Participants in the meeting:

- Panayotis Antoniadis - Net...
- ARTEMIS G.
- Laura Piarulli (ACCIONA)
- iPhone - Evangelos
- Αθαναόλιου Μαργαρίτα
- stadtufer
- Giacomo Torelli (University ...)
- Jakub Jares
- MUSEum+
- ileana apostol
- Neoclassical School --

Highlights

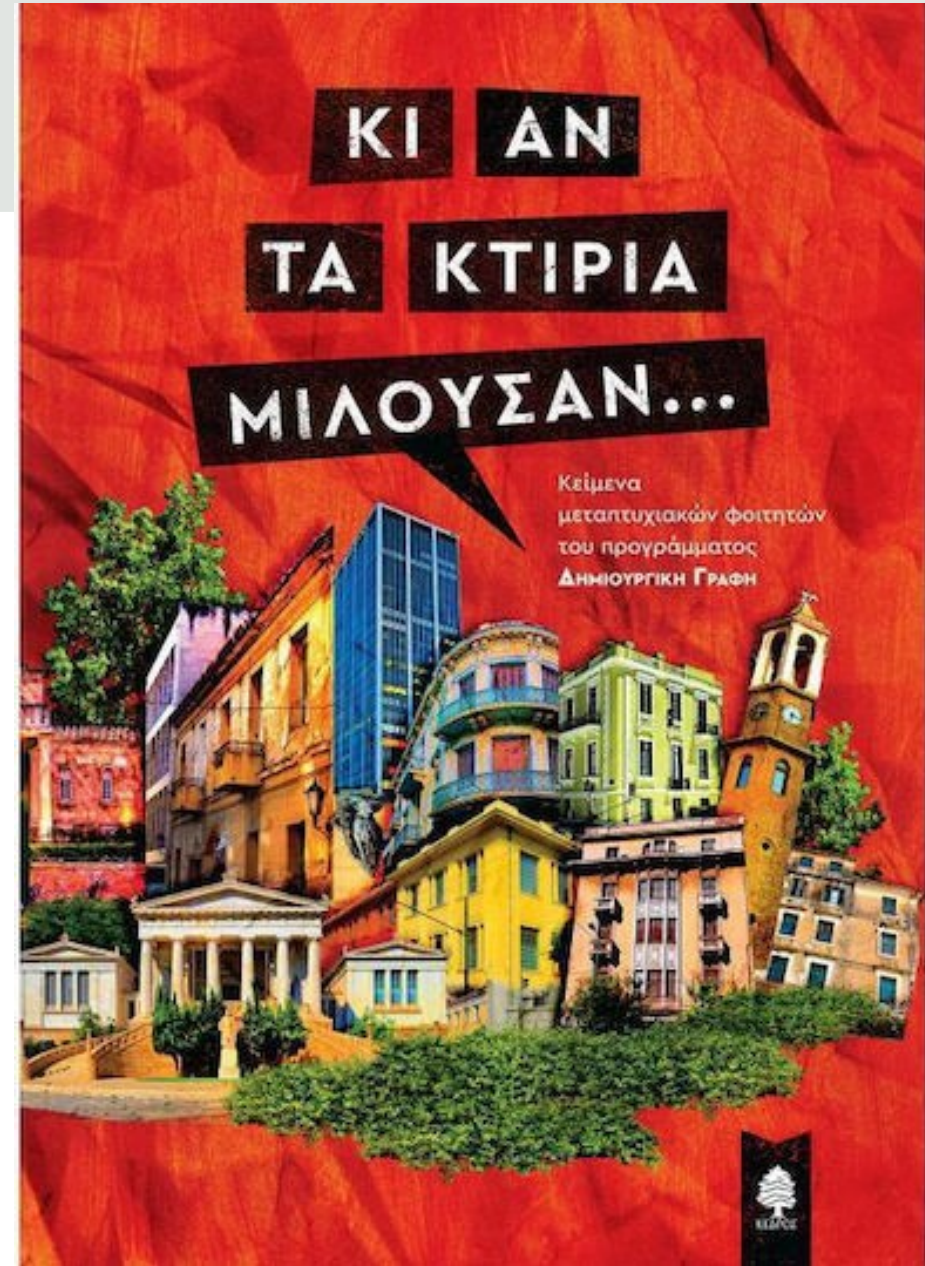
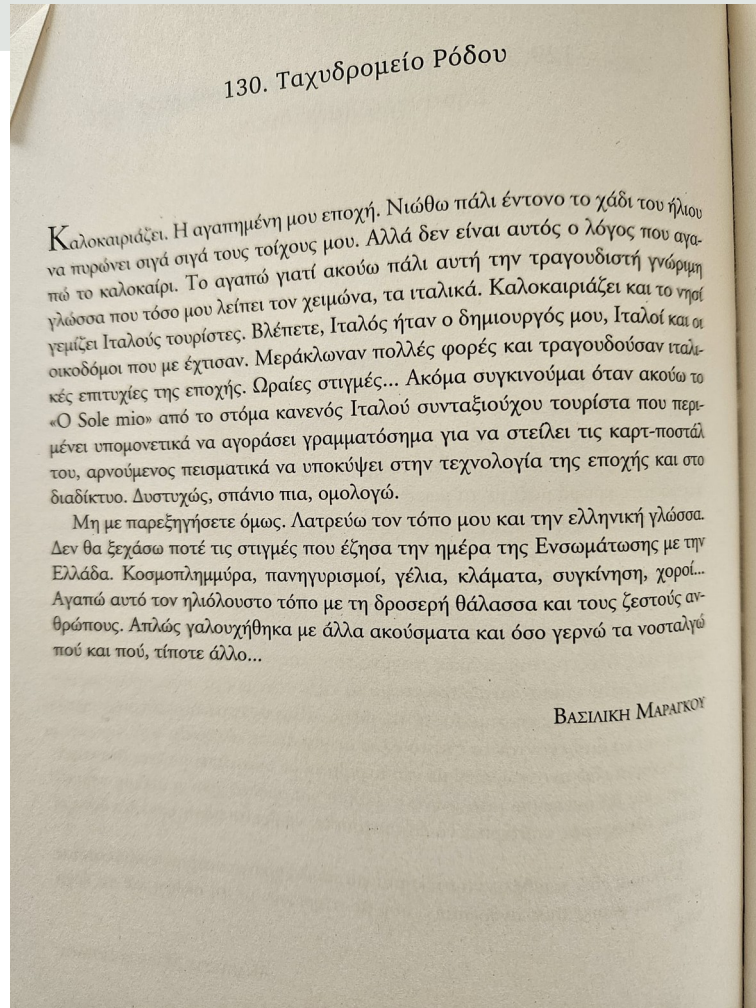
So welcome everybody in this unique event.

A photograph of a square stone tower, likely a windmill or a similar structure, built from large, light-colored stone blocks. The tower has a small, arched doorway at the base. The background shows a clear blue sky and a glimpse of the sea. The text "The Daughter of the Wind" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

The Daughter of the Wind

April 7, 2025 - SINCERE Encounter - Inwadar National Park, Malta

Creative writing



If buildings could talk, Kedros editions

Facade art



Installation on the facade of Place des Arts, Montreal, Quebec, 2014 by Krzysztof Wodiczko.

Soundscapes



Screenshot from the film *The Prison of History* (2023)

Traces from the past

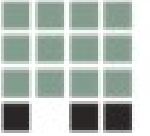


Jorge Otero Pailos



Different ways to use the game

- Understanding the space
- Understanding ourselves
- Communicating our ideas about the space



Who listens to the building?



Different actors, settings and processes

- Understanding the settings and processes
 - Knowledge production: scientific lab, expert conferences
 - Decision making: real life lab, participatory workshops
 - Collective awareness: public realm, interactive events
 - Learning: schools, social settings
- Understanding the involved actors

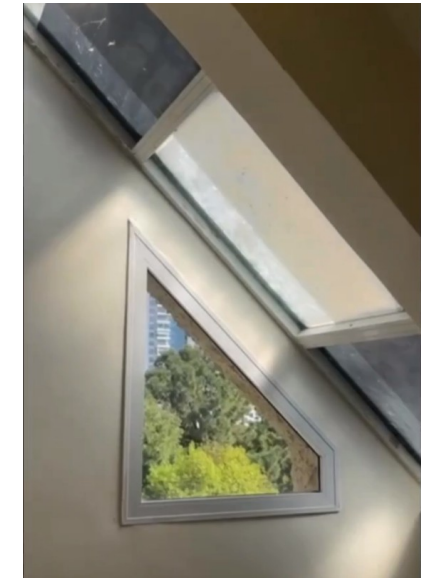
Providing suitable input to specific settings and various actors

- Various actors: scientists, architects, conservationists, engineers, policy makers, local community, nonhumans
- Citizen science: knowledge production by experts and citizens
- Inclusive decision making: authorities and local communities
- Social learning: many actors, long-term, learning by doing

Talking Buildings in citizen science - Xanthi 2025



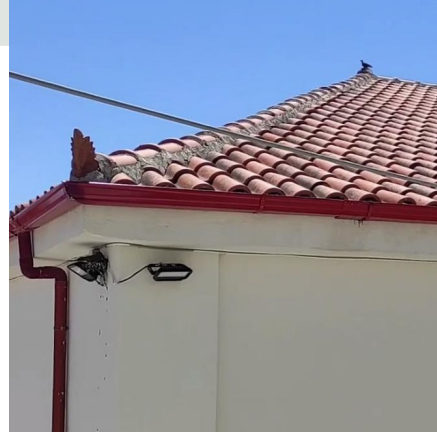
Talking Buildings in citizen science - Xanthi 2025



Talking Buildings for collective awareness - Rhodes 2025



Talking Buildings in school learning - Samos 2026



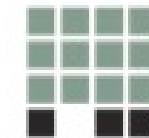
Talking Buildings in school learning - Samos 2026



Talking Buildings in decision making - Zurich 2025



Application



What is at stake?



Core tensions in negotiating heritage value

- Historical authenticity versus sustainability
- Reversibility versus performance
- Aesthetic and experiential values versus technical rationality
- Cost efficiency versus craft, quality and ethics
- Safety and building codes versus heritage values
- Energy production versus visual and cultural integrity
- Durability versus material authenticity etc

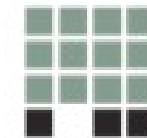
Inclusive decision making in negotiating heritage value



Inclusive decision making in negotiating heritage value



Application



So what?



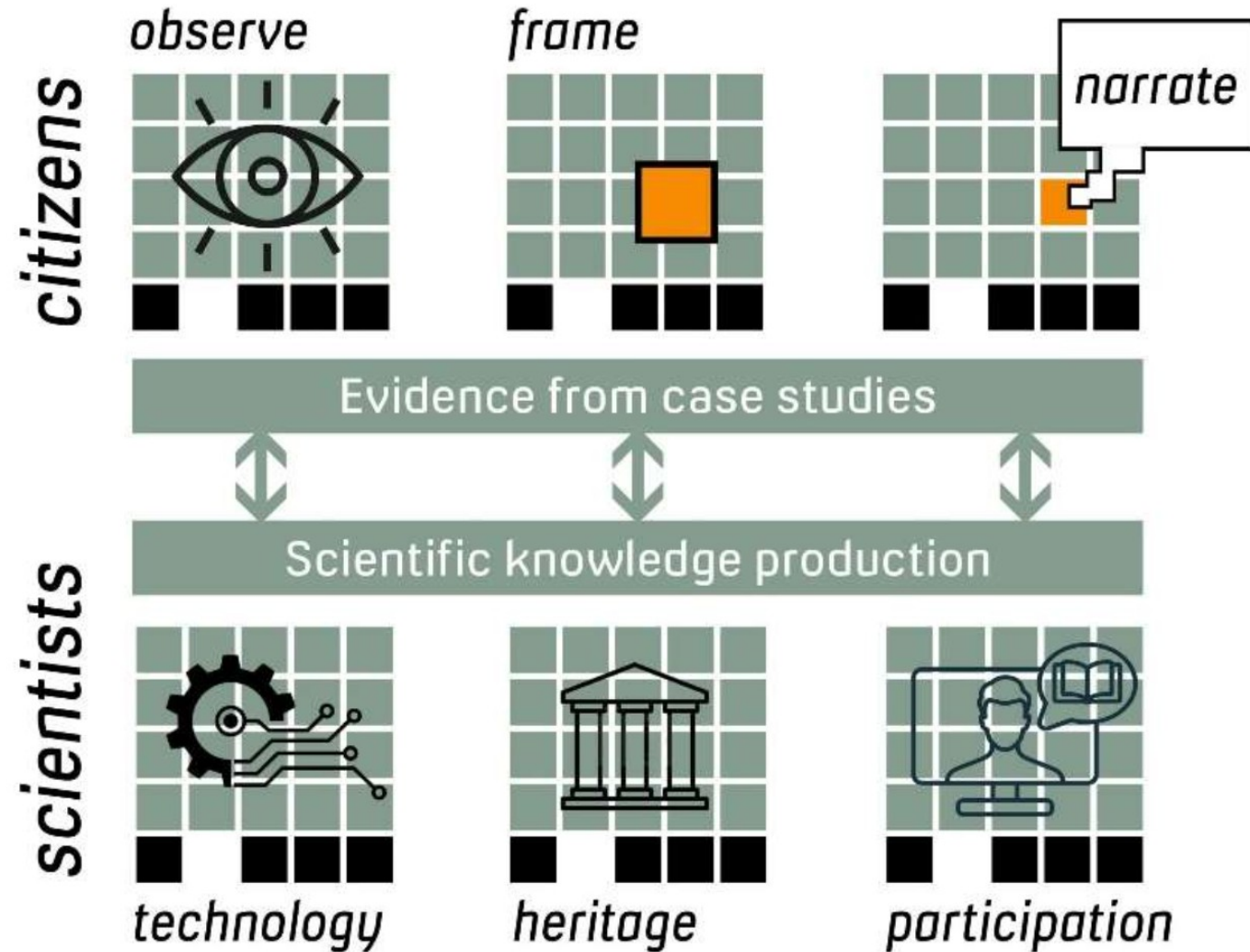
Talking Buildings - qualities of impersonation

- Drawing attention (humor, central stage)
- Diversifying perception (details, perspectives, temporalities)
- Stimulating participation (playfulness, anonymity, collective)

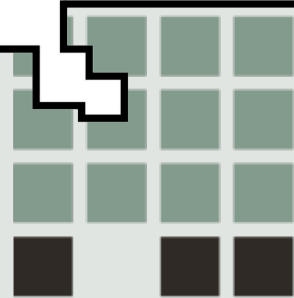
Extending the game with more rules

- Choose a core tension in the process of heritage renovation
- Use the dialogue form
- Identify and clearly express the generic and the specific of your particular case study

Talking Buildings in citizen science processes



*Explore more at
talkingbuildings.net*



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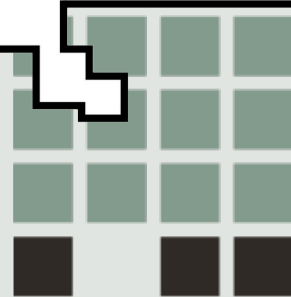


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*And follow SINCERE
on LinkedIn!*



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