The Schönbrunn Palace is given multiple voices

The 31st Cultural Heritage and New Technologies conference (CHNT31) takes place for the first time at the Schönbrunn Palace, moving from the Vienna City Hall after 30 years.

Zurich, 14.10.2026

With this occasion, on November 13th, Schönbrunn will present itself in a keynote talk on the last day of the conference. It will make it clear that buildings are much more than what we see. They are unmovable observers of everything that takes place in a specific location, and beyond, since they are built and until they disappear. They provide shelter, stage, reference, identity. They are made of materials, thoughts, plans, dreams, labour. They can stimulate the senses, the imagination, the motivation. They are affected by, among other things, the weather, their residents, their visitors, politicians.

Conference participants will be the ones that will transform all these aspects of a building's existence and identity to a speech, starting with "I, the building", "I, the Schönbrunn", using the #TalkingBuildings methodology developed in the context of the Horizon Europe project SINCERE.

For this, they will have the chance to be guided by experts to the use of new technologies, like 3D scanning and subsurface scanning, but also more creative forms of representation like architectural sketching, sensorial analysis, and ethnographic methods. There is already a core group of researchers and professionals who will lead the process. They come from fields related to the restoration of cultural heritage buildings: from material engineers to historians, from net zero and passive house experts to user behaviour analysts, from architects to ICT tools developers, and many more.

The stage is open to everyone who wishes to introduce another way to represent a building, and more specifically the Schönbrunn. Technology and methodology providers in the TalkingBuildings training session get a discount!

In this playful way of engaging with innovative tools, technology developers will have the opportunity to come closer with non-experts and researchers from different disciplines related to cultural heritage. New technologies introduced in the conference will be thus summarized within the keynote talk of the Schönbrunn Palace.

About the training session

The training session will be initiated on the first day of the conference on November 11th between 13:20-16:20, where all technologies and methodologies will be introduced by experts. Participants will then form groups that will explore the venue with their selected tool throughout the conference and give the corresponding voice to the building. The session will end with a keynote talk by the Schönbrunn at the Digital Creative Award, putting together all different voices produced, on November 13th at 16:00. See https://sincere-project.eu/events/chnt31/ & https://chnt.at/programme-2026/

About the session organizers

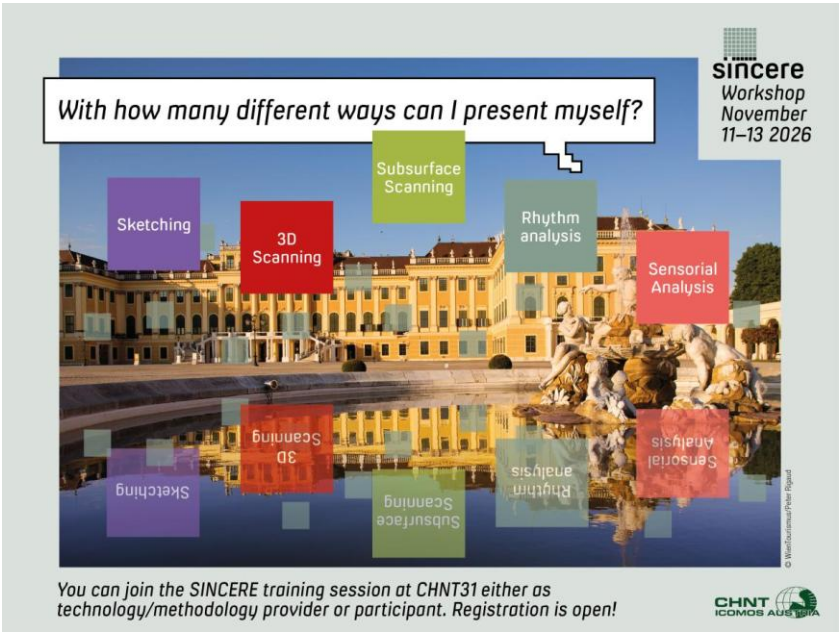
The CHNT31's Training Session "Listen to the fountain / the voice(s) of the Schönbrunn" belongs to a series of workshops co-organized by Panayotis Antoniadis, ecosystem facilitator (NetHood) and Elias Messinas, architect (ECOAMA/ECOWEEK) in the context of the Horizon Europe project SINCERE. The goal of these workshops is to bring closer the technology developers with social scientists and citizens in understanding better the complexity of the renovation process, in order to include all perspectives in decision-making processes that aim to find a balance between authenticity and modern usage, cost and sustainability, aesthetics and performance. Especially in CHNT31, we invite more technology and methodology providers to become co-organizers and open the space for more perspectives on understanding and representing a building. Check the growing list of tools available for hands-on experimentation at CHNT31: https://sincere-project.eu/events/chnt31/#tools

About the SINCERE project

SINCERE is a Horizon Europe project titled "The second life of modern period architecture: Resilient and adaptive renovation towards net-zero carbon heritage buildings". The SINCERE consortium brings together seven academic and two research institutions conducting high-end research on materials, energy harvesting, and modelling, with leading European companies like TITAN, RIMOND, and ACCIONA, and SMEs with expertise on ICT tools for cultural heritage buildings with >

At the same time Schönbrunn will get a different type of representation that in the long-term it could be further developed and attract more attention and more visitors to explore its multiple perspectives and identities. Such important buildings have the potential to become drivers of change instead of museal objects just to admire.

Let's listen to the fountain!

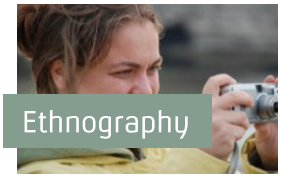












And more!

Event page: https://sincere-project.eu/events/chnt31/

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institutions and organizations from the civil society with the ambition to engage the general public to the complex processes around the sustainable renovation and maintenance of their built heritage. In addition to high end research for the development of innovative materials and tools, the project develops also, a variety of participatory methodologies for community engagement and citizen science processes, like the #TalkingBuildings that will guide the process of revealing the different voices of the Schönbrunn.
More info: https://sincere-project.eu/

About #TalkingBuildings

At the core of the TalkingBuildings methodology is the impersonation of buildings, to express themselves as humans, "I, the building". The main idea is inspired by the work of many important artists like Wim Wenders, scientists like Bruno Latour, and architects like Louis Kahn.
In the context of the SINCERE project, it is presented as a methodology, a tool, developed by NetHood, in that its main purpose is to facilitate community engagement processes, to raise awareness, to create links between people and buildings, and encourage participation and action for their sustainable renovation and maintenance. There are no strict rules for becoming part of the TalkingBuildings community, just a playful attitude toward getting closer to buildings, and understanding their soul better. More info:
https://talkingbuildings.net/

About CHNT31

CHNT stands for Cultural Heritage and New Technologies and has taken place at Vienna's city hall since 1995, organized by the association CHNT-ICOMOS Austria, a sister association of the Austrian National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The conference brings together scientific research, management responsibilities, and communication objectives, within a dynamic space where contemporary cultural heritage practice takes shape. For its 31st edition, CHNT31, the conference will move to the Schönbrunn palace, which will be hosting the conference from now on.
More info: https://chnt.at/