



The Second Life of Modern Period Architecture

Resilient and adaptive renovation towards net-zero carbon heritage buildings





Building for the people: the role of citizen science for the preservation of built heritage

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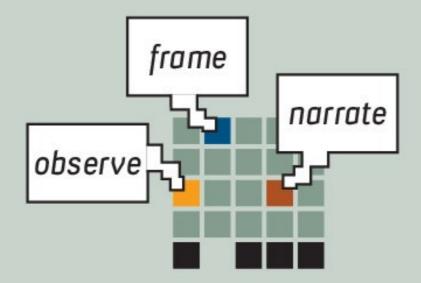
2 September, 2025, Padova





The talking buildings challenge

Give a voice to a building in $\mathbf{5}$ steps

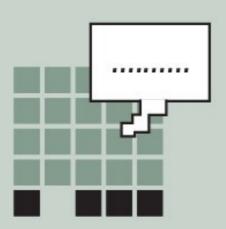




What should I do?



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?

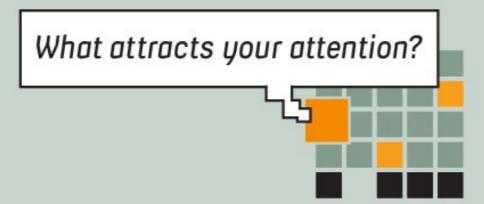




Using all the senses, except taste!



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

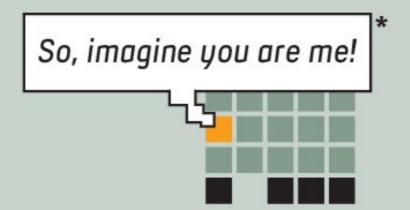




You!

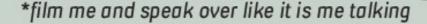


4. **Narrate** a story or a thought from the building's perspective

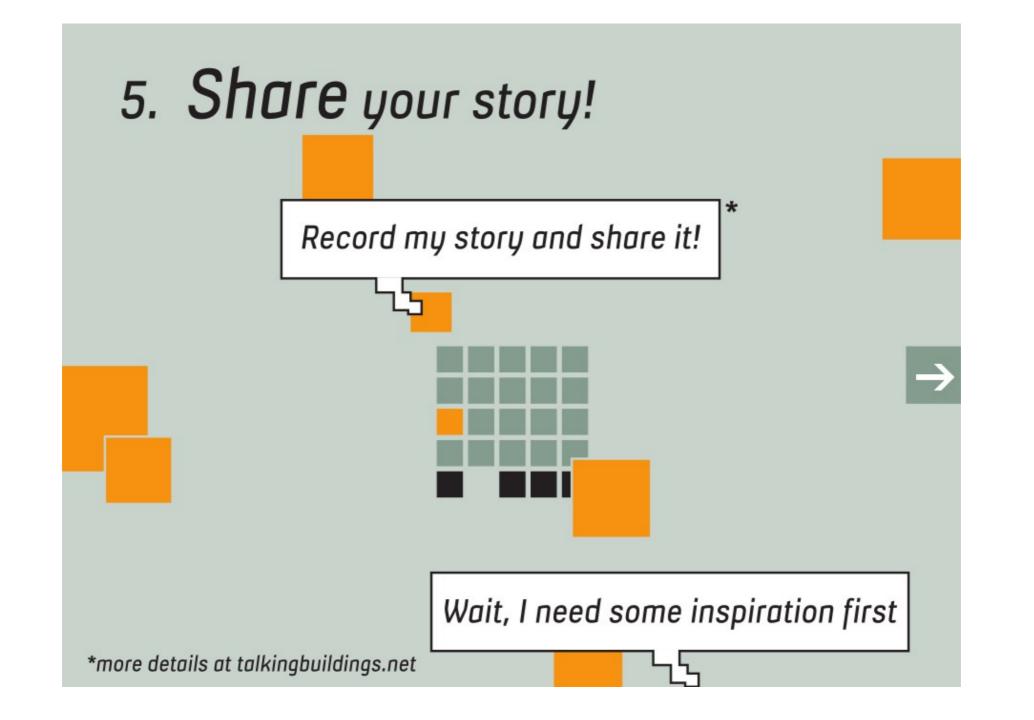




And the real me, what will do?











Not a new idea!



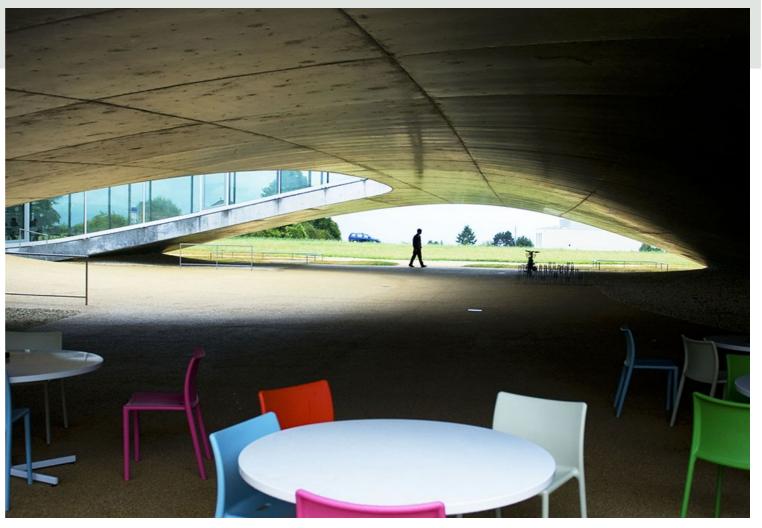
If Buildings Could Talk ...

... 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



atlasofthefuture.org

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.

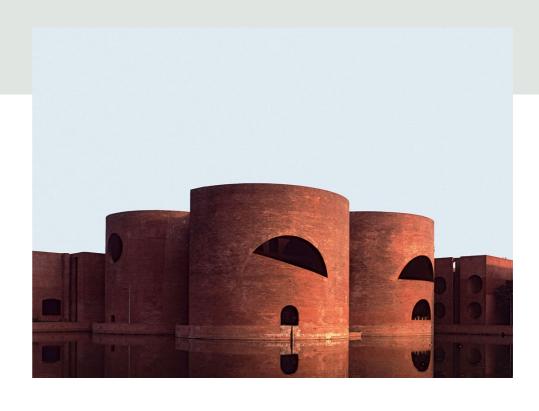
What do you think of that, Brick?'

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



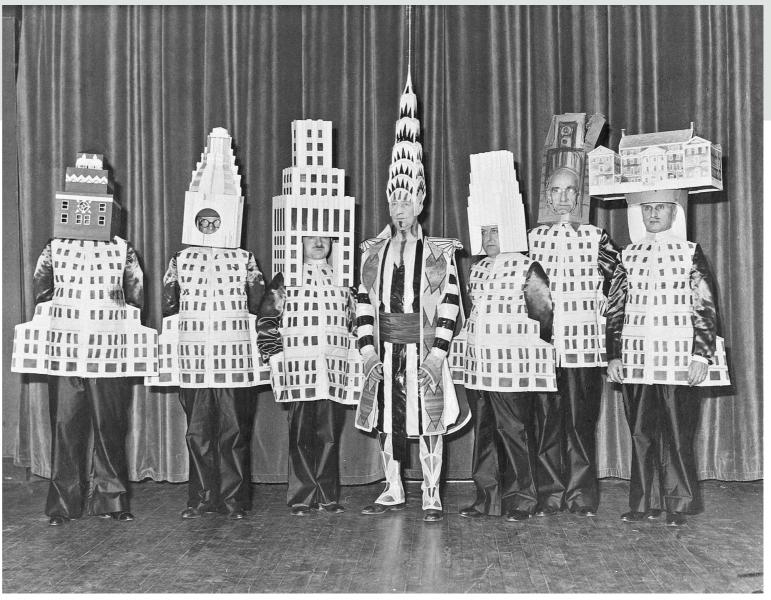
Inspiration
Who?



Who talks through the building?



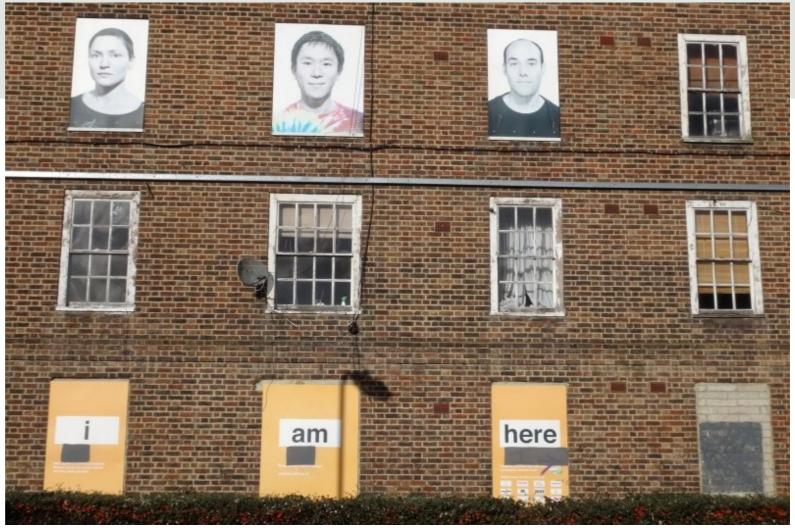
The architects?



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



The residents?



Residents of the under demolition Haggerston estate in Hackney, London



The activists?





The owners ?





The artists?





The Nature



Conversations with the historic buildings of Rhodes, Photo; Maria Bakari



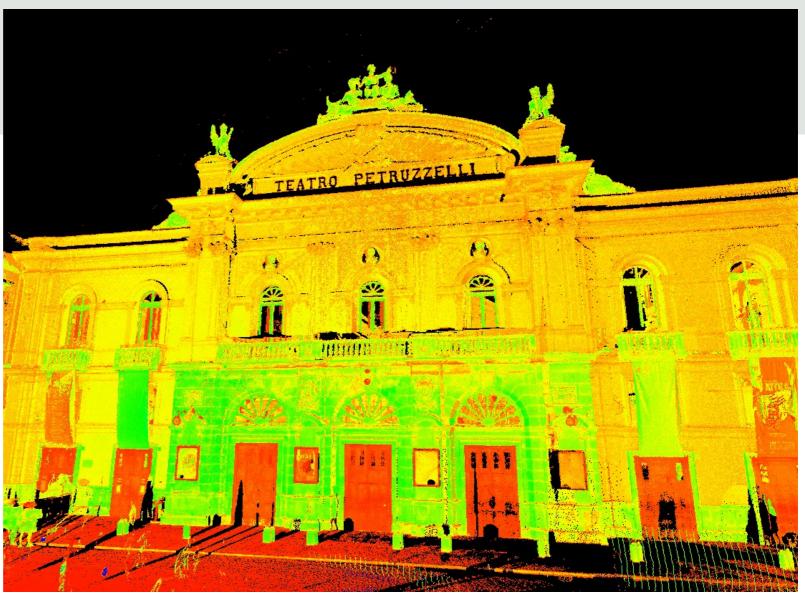
The History ?



Conversations with the historic buildings of Rhodes, Photo; Maria Bakari



The technology





The users ?





The users ?



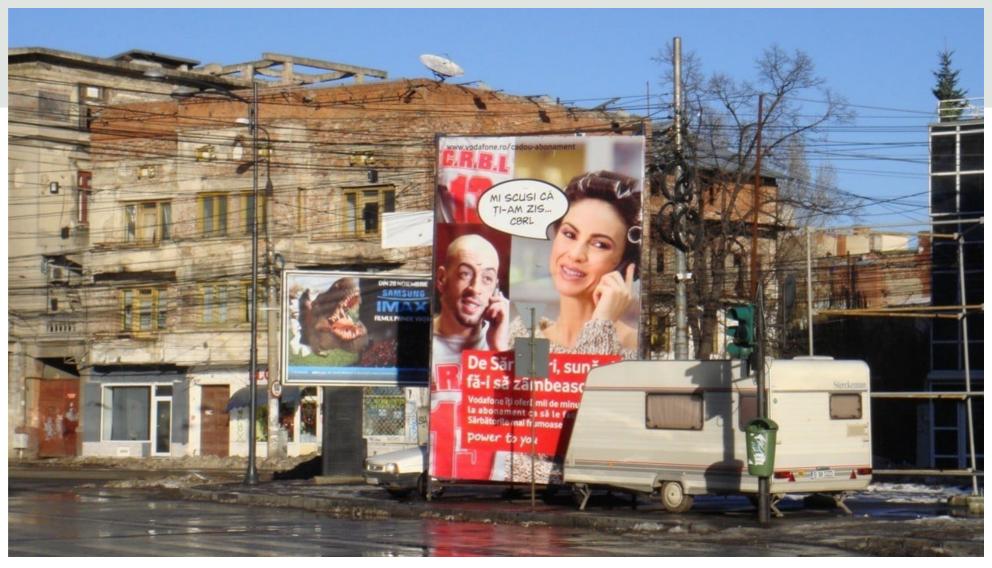


The visitors





The market ?





The media ?





I, the building





We, the materials?



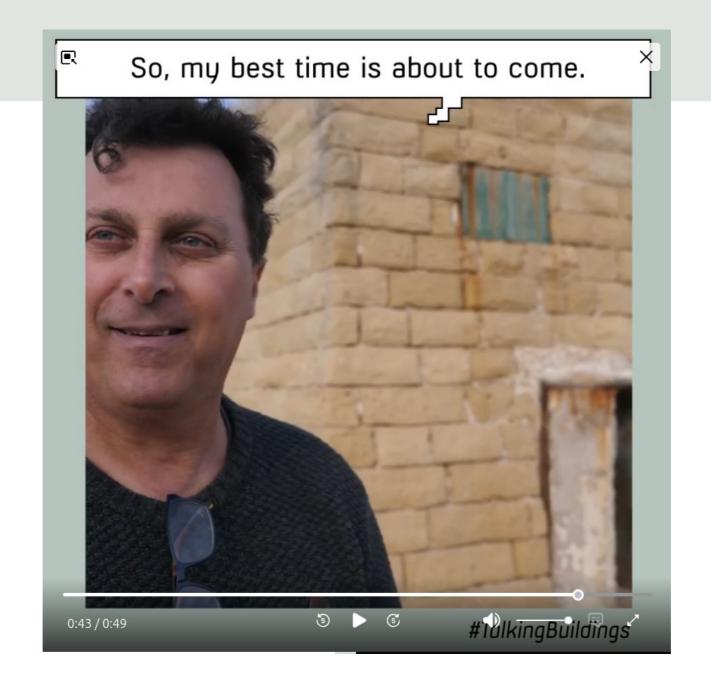




How can a building talk?



Voice over



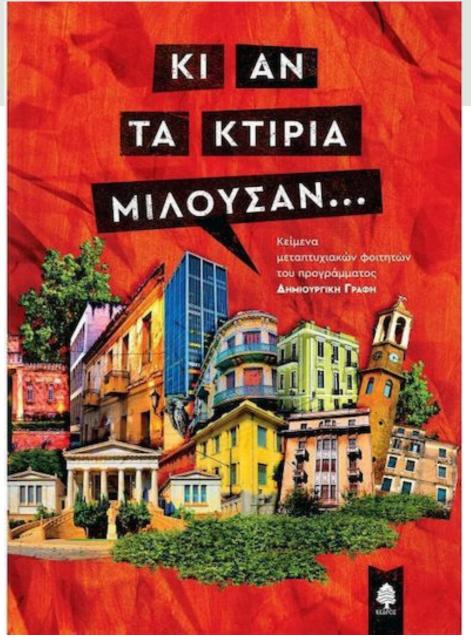
Creative writing

130. Ταχυδρομείο Ρόδου

Καλοκαιριάζει. Η αγαπημένη μου εποχή. Νιώθω πάλι έντονο το χάδι του ήλιου να πυρώνει σιγά σιγά τους τοίχους μου. Αλλά δεν είναι αυτός ο λόγος που αγαπώ πων καλοκαίρι. Το αγαπώ γιατί ακούω πάλι αυτή την τραγουδιστή γνώριμη πώ το καλοκαίρι. Το αγαπώ γιατί ακούω πάλι αυτή την τραγουδιστή γνώριμη γλώσσα που τόσο μου λείπει τον χειμώνα, τα ιταλικά. Καλοκαιριάζει και το νησί γριμζει Ιταλούς τουρίστες. Βλέπετε, Ιταλός ήταν ο δημιουργός μου, Ιταλοί και σι γριμζει Ιταλούς τουρίστες. Βλέπετε, Ιταλός όταν ο δημιουργός μου, Ιταλοί και σι κακόδωι που που πουκόδωι που με έχτισαν. Μεράκλωναν πολλές φορές και τραγουδούσαν ιταλικές επιτυχίες της εποχής. Ωραίες στιγμές... Ακόμα συγκινούμαι όταν ακούω το «Ο Sole mio» από το στόμα κανενός Ιταλού συνταξιούχου τουρίστα που περιμένει υπομονετικά να αγοράσει γραμματόσημα για να στείλει τις καρτ-ποστάλ του, αρνούμενος πεισματικά να υποκύψει στην τεχνολογία της εποχής και στο διαδίκτυο. Δυστυχώς, σπάνιο πια, ομολογώ.

Μη με παρεξηγήσετε όμως. Λατρεύω τον τόπο μου και την ελληνική γλώσσα. Δεν θα ξεχάσω ποτέ τις στιγμές που έζησα την ημέρα της Ενσωμάτωσης με την Ελλάδα. Κοσμοπλημμύρα, πανηγυρισμοί, γέλια, κλάματα, συγκίνηση, χοροί... Αγαπώ αυτό τον ηλιόλουστο τόπο με τη δροσερή θάλασσα και τους ζεστούς ανθρώπους. Απλώς γαλουχήθηκα με άλλα ακούσματα και όσο γερνώ τα νοσταλγώπού και πού, τίποτε άλλο...

ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ ΜΑΡΑΓΚΟΥ



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)



From talking buildings to Citizen Science: a concrete example (part 1)



Heritage in Dialogue (an inspiring event)

SINCERE project - Heritage in Dialogue - European Heritage Days 2024





Ostrava iron factory aka "Blasty"

Neoclassical school aka "Antiye"

because SINCERE also visited us this month.

Heritage in Dialogue (an inspiring event)

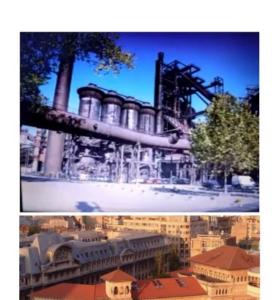


And Anna Šmehilová, who will make the voice

Heritage in Dialogue (an inspiring event)

SINCERE project - Heritage in Dialogue - European Heritage Days 2024





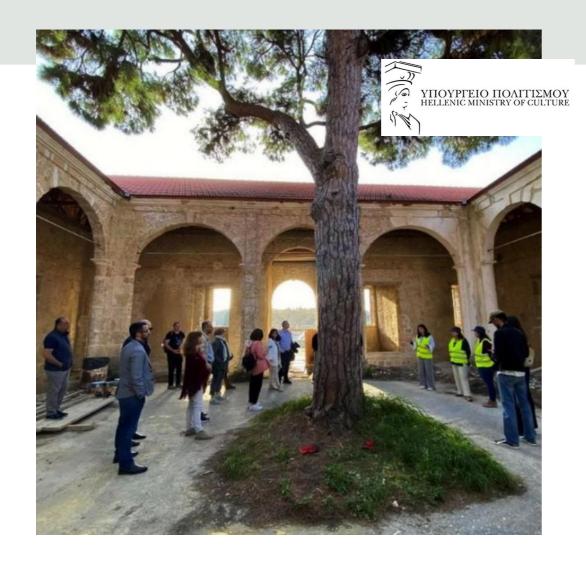






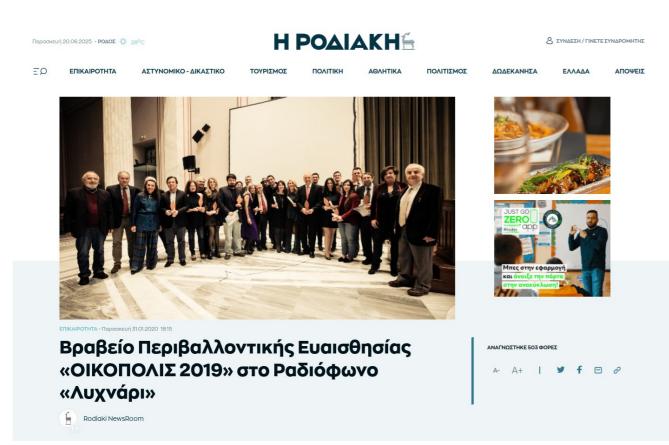
but if we look at the sustainability aspects of my existence

Moving to the ground (of Rhodes) 1. engaging with local actors





Moving to the ground (of Rhodes) 2. inviting citizens







Moving to the ground (of Rhodes) 3. collecting building voices

Συνομιλώντας με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου



Συνομιλώντας Με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου

~~

O Public group · 223 members







Moving to the ground (of Rhodes) 4. opening up the network of stakeholders





Σε κοιτάζω και νιώθω να με πλακώνει ένα βάρος. Αν και είσαι Θέατρο, Εθνικό, δεν μου ψιθυρίζεις πολιτισμό, μου φωνάζεις βαρβαρότητα. Η αρχιτεκτονική σου, στιβαρή, απόλυτη, που προσπαθεί, έστω κωμικά, να αναδείξει το στοιχείο της δύναμης του Φασισμού, με τρομάζει ακόμα. Είναι το Αρχιτεκτονικό Φασιστικό σου Στυλ, που αντανακλά τις ιδέες του Μουσολίνι, συγχώνευση κράτους και εξουσίας σε έναν όγκο επιβλητικό, που δεν αφήνει χώρο για εμένα. Δεν είναι μόνο η μορφή σου, ήταν και το κ... See more

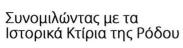




Ωστόσο εμπνευσμένα απο τη συγκεκριμένη δραση τα παιδια συνομίλησαν με τα κτιρια και αφουγκραστηκαν τα θέλω τους. Σε αυτά τα θέλω βάλαμε φωνη και σας παρουσιάζουμε το βίντεο όπου αυτα τα θέλω εκφράζονται.









Συνομιλώντας Με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου

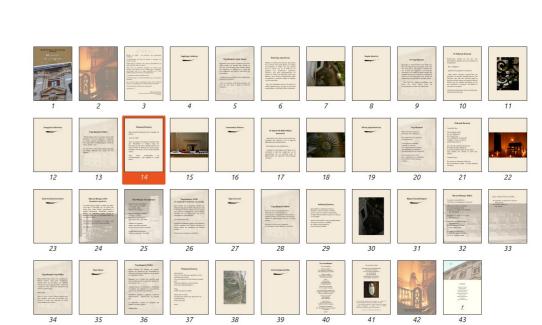




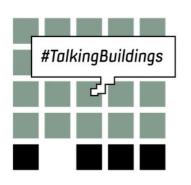


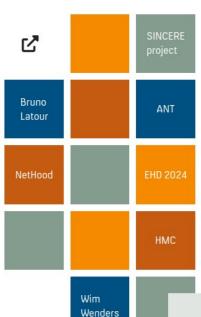






talkingbuildings.net is born!







About

Play Share Host



#TalkingBuildings

#Rhodes

#EuropeanHeritageDays

#SINCERE







A hub: not only talking buildings content but also guidelines, knowledge exchange, inspiration



From talking buildings to Citizen Science: a concrete example (part 2)



Citizen Science typologies

Contributory Projects

Designed by professional researchers, with members of the public primarily contributing data.



Collaborative Projects

Citizens provide data and may participate in analysis and communication of research results, assist in revision of project design.







Co-created Projects

Professional researchers and citizens work together on the project design and cooperate closely with each other in all project phases.











ideation



project design

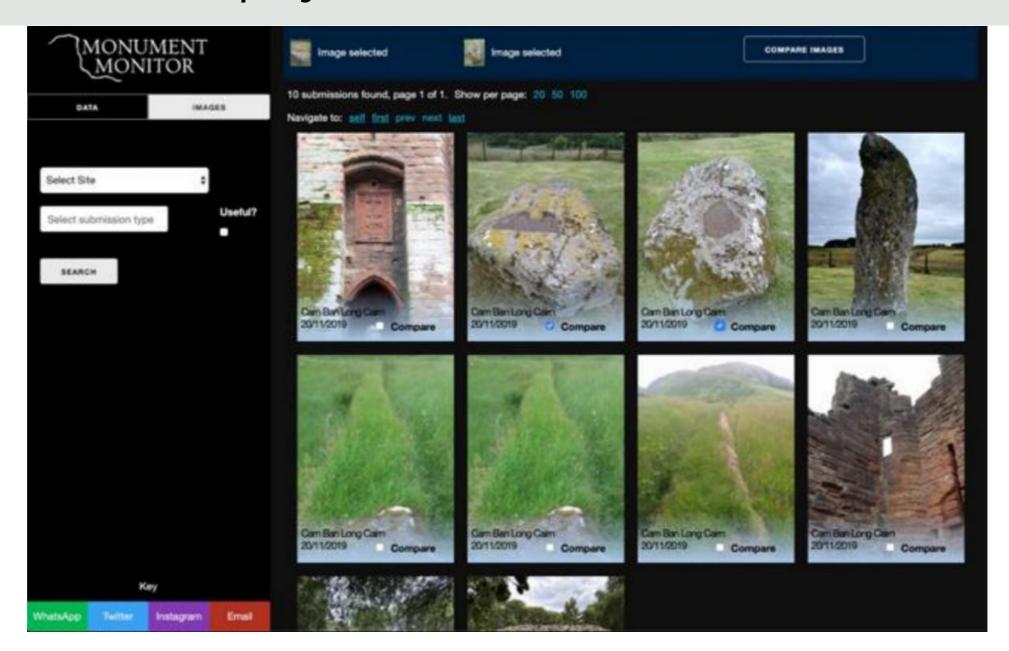


data collection and/or analysis

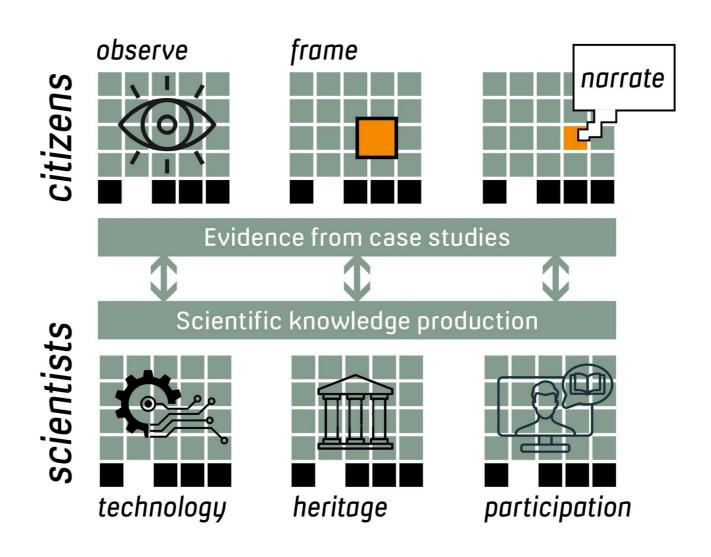


dissemination of results

Most related CS project:



The SINCERE citizen science methodology



International design workshops (Xanthi)





sincere













International design workshops (Xanthi)



International design workshops (Xanthi)









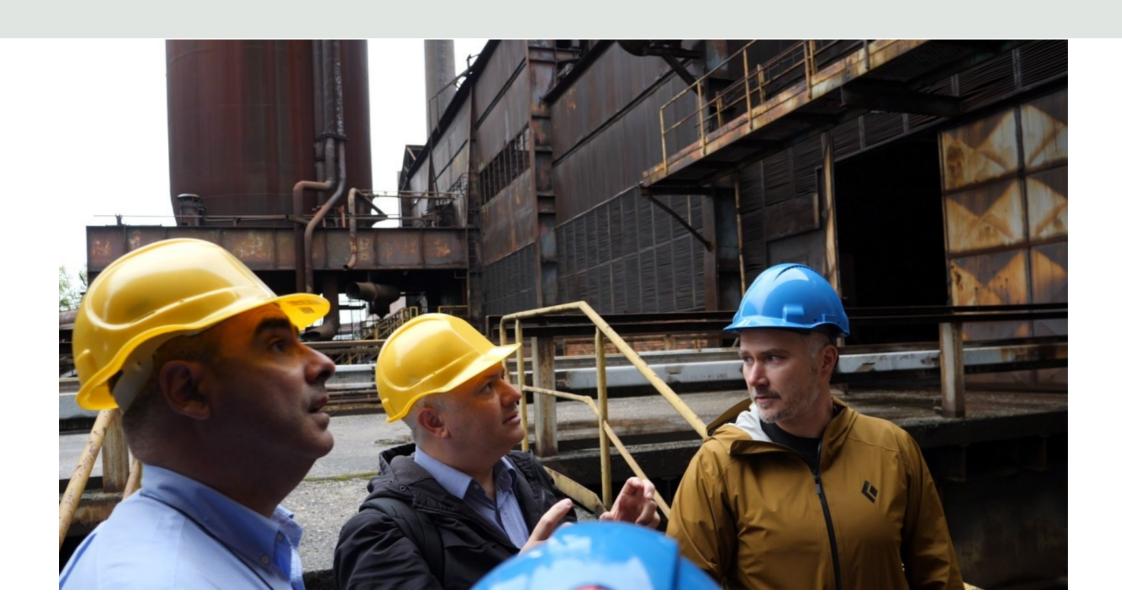








Ostrava CS workshop: "the eyes of the expert"



Contributing to the science of citizen science!

7th Historic Mortars Conference (HMC 2025) Padova, 2-4 September 2025 Extended Abstract

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Building for the people - the role of citizen science for the preservation of built heritage

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New web site: talkingbuildings.net

