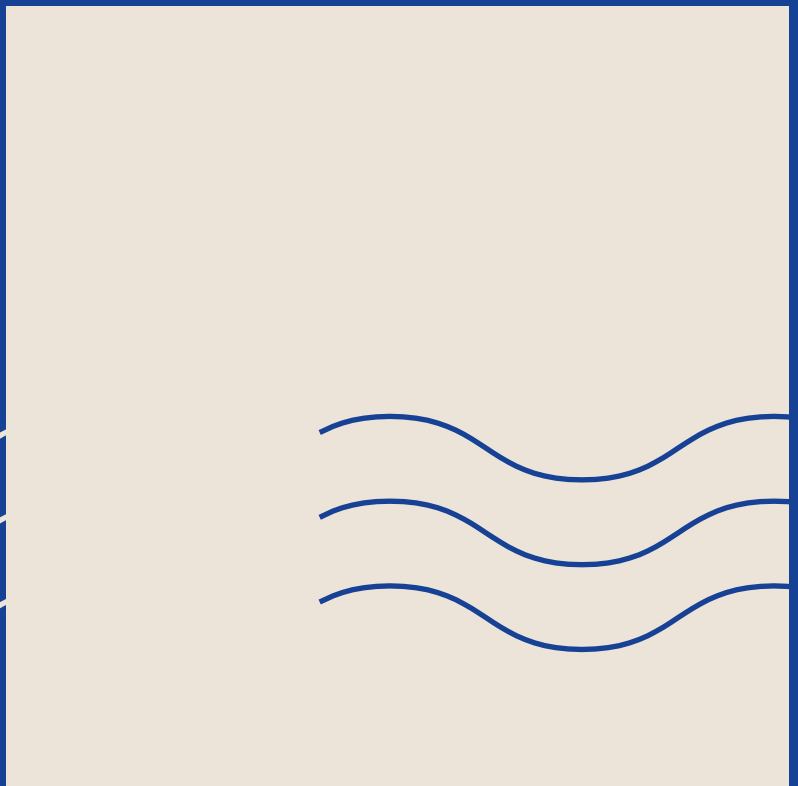


# Modern Architectural Heritage of the Mediterranean: Common Grounds – Parallel Stories

Conference  
October 12–13, 2024,  
CAM, Chania, Greece



TECHNICAL  
UNIVERSITY  
OF CRETE  
SCHOOL OF  
ARCHITECTURE



University of  
Ioannina  
Department of  
Architecture



# MODERN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: COMMON GROUNDS – PARALLEL STORIES

## WELCOME TO UMAR CHANIA CONFERENCE 2024

The Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR), in collaboration with the Association of Greek Architects (SADAS-PEA), the Center for Mediterranean Architecture (CAM), the School of Architecture of the Technical University of Crete (TU Crete School of Architecture), CRISIS research lab of the Department of Architecture of the University of Ioannina (UoI CRISIS Lab), and the Greek Section of the International Union of Architects (UIA Greek Section), are launching the project *Modern Architectural Heritage of the Mediterranean: Common Grounds – Parallel Stories*. Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit papers for the Conference that will take place in Crete, Greece, on October 12–13, 2024.

The conference takes place in the context of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the organization by the Rabat Declaration, in Morocco, in January 15, 1994 and the founding General Assembly of July 1, 1994, in Rethymnon, Crete.

## BACKGROUND

In many Mediterranean countries the relation between rural and urban space was profoundly transformed by the mobility and demographic diversity introduced throughout the second and third quarter of the twentieth century (1925–1975), as a result of industrialization and socio-political circumstances such as world wars, colonialism and other. While for some countries industrialization developed in line with modernity, for other, modernity evolved from a complex process of modernization that was related to colonialism, socio-political conditions, as well as the climate and geography. Consequently, these processes raised concerns about concepts such as locality, identity, form and materiality in relation to the doctrine of international modernism.

While modernism and modernity in the Mediterranean evolved with different speeds, chronological beginnings and ends, that is 'in parallel' within this period, the number of architects educated and

practicing away from home increased unprecedentedly, as well as the construction enterprise outside the traditional limits of the city. The rapid transformation and demographic growth in the region, lead to the expansion of both architecture and practice that shaped the nations after the Second World War and the wars for independence. The construction of new infrastructure mobilized by public works, industry, tourism and the democratization of the access to the sea created a new Mediterranean landscape with many common and recognizable modernist features for the region.

Today, these transformations have led to a practice in which the reinterpretation, manipulation and hybridization of architectural systems take precedence over contemporary stylistic, regionalist or popular motivations. The practice departure from the circle of the modern pioneers to a trans-local condition throughout the Mediterranean built a contemporary landscape which share in common identity and building knowledge tradition but also inequalities, ambiguities and insufficiency. For instance, the region's architecture perception of the building as a concept and an artifact changed strategies for cultural, social and natural integration beyond the modern materials, building function and aesthetic program. For many, the recognition of casual and informal rituals of space and use gained a great importance with tourism and recreation along the coast, and not only.

## THE PROJECT & ITS SCOPE

Historians and other scholars of architecture devoted to the history of Modern architecture have been focusing on a practice that evolved around the urban spatial and social modernization while the colonial and the postcolonial contexts, infrastructure and tourism, as well as the question of cultural identity in relation to form within the spectrum of the international style, were kept absent. Using the UMAR platform to exchange knowledge and documentation, is an opportunity to develop a methodology that allows understanding an architectural practice agenda along the Mediterranean region and beyond motivations known as a 'western' production of knowledge and its reception everywhere else.

Therefore, the scope of this project is to share information regarding the common stories behind the development of Modern Architecture in the countries of the Mediterranean basin and study common, as

well as specific to a place, morphological and other characteristics. These stories might relate to modernization and industrialization processes, tourism and infrastructure and/or the social, cultural and political regimes during which such architecture practice took place.

Following an initial stage of recommendation and selection of practices from all over the region, by the different UMAR member states, the Modern Heritage Committee of the organization intends to engage in intensive examination of the archival collections and sources of documentation available, including drawings and other project-related material. This first collection will support a critical review of content and contextual references, to latter confront these with the support of different local and biography experts.

## DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The project is expected to have a three-year duration and will be in three parts, one per year, as follows:

- i. 2024 –  
Conference: oral presentations, panel discussions and lectures
- ii. 2025 –  
Exhibition: of built and unbuilt projects, panel discussions and lectures
- iii. 2026 –  
Publication: of the material collected in part I & II. It is a goal of the UMAR Modern Heritage Committee to publish all papers presented at the 2024 conference. Submission of the full manuscripts will be asked after the Conference.

Each part is intended to take place consequently with the yearly UMAR General Assembly which occurs once a year, at a member-state. Arrangements will be made for the touring of the project or parts of it to all Mediterranean countries, regardless of their status in relation to the organization. It is also desirable that the exhibition be presented at major international architectural forums.

On this occasion, UMAR welcomes new members from the Mediterranean to expand its family by joining the organization.

## THE 2024 CHANIA CONFERENCE

With this framework, we are pleased to announce the Conference titled *Modern Heritage of the Mediterranean: Common Grounds – Parallel Stories*.

The conference intends to provide a platform to scholars, researchers and practitioners for exchanging knowledge, views and material. The research material and conclusions will contribute to contemporary historiography on this subject and to the further understanding of our built environment.

The research material collected is fundamental to demonstrate the biography and work from each architect selected as the result of the interaction of two factors: i) the political and cultural transformations, throughout the region during the twentieth century, determinant to the architect's exposure to diverse relationships between architecture, planning, landscape and economy; ii) on the intellectual framework and modern critic of the post-war period, which was determinant to the formation and professional practice of the architects and their technical aspirations.

## GENERAL TOPICS

Papers presented cover a wide range of topics within the core framework. Some of these include the following, the list being unlimited:

- Housing, Urbanism, Infrastructure
- Colonialism and the sociopolitical
- Tourism
- Biographies and Monographs

With the extensive survey of individuals and architectural works, the committee intends to unveil dozens of anonymous practices that have been neglected by the recent history of architecture for its singularity or inadequacy to the dominant narratives.

The conference will be held in English.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Michelangelo Sabatino, IIT

Michelangelo Sabatino is trained as an architect, preservationist, and historian in universities in Canada, Italy, and the United States. His award-winning research broadly addresses intersections between culture, technology, and design in the built environment. His research on pre-industrial vernacular traditions and their influence on modern architectures of the Mediterranean region has brought new light on larger patterns of architectural discourse and production. He is currently a professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology and a director of the Ph.D Program in Architecture. Before joining IIT's faculty, Sabatino taught courses and seminars at Harvard University, the University of Houston, the University of Toronto and Yale University.

Professor Jean-François Lejeune, Miami School of Architecture

Jean-François Lejeune graduated from the University of Liege (Belgium) and holds a Ph.D. from TU Delft. He is a Professor of architecture, urban design and history at the University of Miami School of Architecture and is, since 2022, Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Notre-Dame Rome Gateway. His research ranges from Latin American architecture and urbanism to 20<sup>th</sup> century Mediterranean modernisms in Spain and Italy. He has received multiple grants including from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Arts, the Università della Sapienza and the American Academi in Rome. He is a founder and director of DoCoMoMo US/ Florida.

Michelangelo Sabbatino and Jean-François Lejeune are the co-editors of *Modern Architecture and the Mediterranean Vernacular Dialogues and Contested Identities* publication by Routledge.

Jean-François Lejeune will talk about *North-South Collisions*.

Michelangelo Sabbatino will be addressing the conference under the general topic *In Search of the Mediterranean: architecture, landscape and preservation*.

## ORGANIZING & SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Stella Evangelidou, UMAR Council, UMAR Modern Heritage Committee  
Ricardo Camacho, UMAR Modern Heritage Committee  
Juana Canet Rosselló, UMAR Modern Heritage Committee  
Olga Pappa, SADAS-PEA  
Dimitris Xynomilakis, SADAS-PEA  
Fani Vavili, UIA Greek Section  
Dimitris Tsakalakis, CAM & TU Crete School of Architecture  
Alexis Tzompanakis, TU Crete School of Architecture  
Alexandros Vazakas, TU Crete School of Architecture  
Nikolas Patsavos, UoI CRISIS Lab  
Yorgos Rimenidis, UoI CRISIS Lab  
George Smyris, UoI CRISIS Lab

## PLACE & VENUE

The conference will be held at the Center for Mediterranean Architecture (CAM) in Chania, on the Greek island of Crete, on October 12–13, 2024.

The Centre for Mediterranean Architecture was founded in 1996 with the purpose of promoting architecture and the values that derive from it, by reaching out to the public and expanding their understanding of architectural matters. Since 2002, it is housed in the Great Arsenal, a 15th-century Venetian monument at the port of Chania, Crete.

The conference will occur with physical participation.

We will be happy to host you on-site. This will give you the opportunity to get a feeling of the spirit of UMAR. Participants will have the opportunity to meet UMAR Council Members and alternates from the member-states and hear in person about their views and plans regarding Architecture in the Mediterranean, as well as many local practitioners and academics. Certificates of attendance and/or participation may be issued after the end of the Conference upon request. Attendance is open to all, at a first come first served base

We look forward to meeting you and inviting you to join UMAR's List of Experts for future projects.

## CONTACT

For any question or further assistance feel free to contact us at [umar.chania.2024@gmail.com](mailto:umar.chania.2024@gmail.com)

