

# FUTURE ON THE PAST



FROM EARLY 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION TO DATABASE:  
DIGITAL HUMANITIES APPLIED TO INVESTIGATE LOCAL SEISMIC, FLOOD, FIRE CULTURE

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## MOBILITY SCIENTIFIC REPORT

**Start and end date:** 31/03/2023 to 05/04/2023

**Name:** Dr. Maria BOSTENARU DAN and Prof. dr.Cerasella Craciun

**Place:** Rome

**Event:** Technoscape and Sergio Musmeci archive exhibitions; case study Rome

**Organisation:** MAXXI museum

### PURPOSE:

Rome is one of the case studies in the project. As a Latin country capital, such as the home city of Bucharest and Lisbon, as well as Paris, where one of the methods used in the project was developed, the psycho-geography, Rome has been the subject of Grand Tour architecture travels. Some already consulted literature dealt with psycho-geographic approaches for Rome. Also some other innovative mapping methods except psycho-geography were developed in Rome, such as the Nolli map in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (when the Illuminism brought the advent of modern seismology after the Lisbon earthquake) or the approaches building on it of Muratori and Caniggia, some of the innovative ones of the 1960. More recently and in line with the Grand Tour, fellows at the Romanian and respectively French academy mapped the green space and the pavement, with focus on material, just as the topic of the year in Art Nouveau in 2023. The project director has been fellow in Rome as a postdoc. Apart of exploring the city, the layers from Piranesi till today, during the stay the holding of the MAXXI museum, with an important architecture component have been explored with the goal to acquire archive material for the project. The targeted exhibitions were on one side Technoscape, offering insight into the cooperation between architects and engineers – used also in a paper on the example of Bucharest – useful in case of disasters, and the archival holdings themselves – at that time featuring an exhibition on engineer Sergio Musmeci, author of the mediated bridge in Potenza, and thus related to this.

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT

The detailed succession of the places visited and persons met can be seen from the attached table and map. An overview of the highlights is given by seeing:

- Green spaces with focus on the temporal simultaneity to Japanese blossoming of cherry trees. Such were seen in two places: The EUR, a notable interwar development, relevant for the project, and the Valle Giulia of the foreign academies (where the project director did her mentioned postdoc) from 1911, and thus also relevant for the project. It is to be noted that both sites are former exhibitions, a programme to be further explored. At the EUR the project director and the senior researcher met another former colleague who did her postdoc at the Accademia di Romania, Dr. Anca Cezarina Fulger, archeologist and co-author of two abstracts and one paper within the project. On another day, when visiting valle Giulia, the Japanese Institute with the garden and the exhibition were visited, together with Assoc. Prof. Maria Beatrice Andreucci from the Sapienza University in Rome, Faculty of Architecture. The Faculty of Architecture, which has its premises in Valle Giulia as well, was also visited, and well as the outdoor installations of the National Gallery of Modern Art. The monograph to be published in 2023 on which it is worked as well as the exhibition in 2024, both deliverables of the project, are on Richard Bordenache, a former fellow of Accademia di Romania during the interwar time, the one relevant for the project. Valle Giulia is located at Villa Borghese, and also the academies on the other side of the Borghese garden were presented, such as the French Academy (the villa Medici) and the Swiss Institute, as well as the Bibliotheca Hertziana, another digital humanities centre with relevant materials for the project and the Hotel de la Ville next to it, designed by Secession architect from Oradea József Vágó, who emigrated to Rome and, after winning the ONU contest in Switzerland further to Paris, where his son Pierre Vago founded the International Architects' Union. József Vágó was very appreciated by Marcello Piacentini, who is responsible of the

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- urban/landscape design of the EUR along with Raffaele de Vico (about whom there is a doctorate and a research project at the Alma Mater of the project director, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) and Maria Theresa Pargagliolo, the first woman landscape architect in Italy, and thus subject of her postdoc. While seeing this, also the Art Nouveau museum of Rome, the museum Ludovisi Buoncompagni was visited, in line with the related museum visit during the previous trip in Berlin.
- In the footsteps of Piranesi at the Maltese order. The project director visited the Maltese order place, featuring developments of Piranesi in both architecture and landscape. Piranesi was a contemporary of Nolli, who drew the mentioned seminal plan of Rome. Another architect active in research of disasters, Randolph Langenbach, was a fellow of the American Academy in Rome and his topic was on Piranesi redone with contemporary digital photography. Apart of the Sovereign Order of Malta, the Vatican is another state rendering Rome special through seeing more countries in the same city.
- The exhibitions at MAXXI. From the Technoscape exhibition it is to be noted that it also featured earthquake engineering in Pavia, where the project director was Marie Curie fellow twice. At the Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori di Pavia also water related hazards are studied, as in the postdoc of her, and as such and for an exchange about this there was a meeting with PhDc Margherita D'Ayala from IUSS Pavia. The exchange took place on the basis of the book of the workshop as postdoc at Accademia di Romania, a workshop in which the other three persons met took part. Margherita is also co-convenor at the EGU session later in April and co-guest-editor at the NHESS special issue. In relation to water hazards the Tiberina island was seen and images on its flood are hold in the digital humanities centre at the American Academy in Rome, one in several phototeques holding such images in Rome, related to the project. The other exhibition was in the archive room. Assoc. Prof. Maria Beatrice Andreucci gave information and materials about her own cooperation and work with MAXXI.
- Finally on the last day a meeting took place with Patricia Osmond from Iowa State University, in the USA. On a previous day the neighbourhood of the Pantheon was visited, in the vicinity of which not only the Rome programme of the College of Design in Rome of the Iowa State University is, but also of the Penn State University as Pantheon Institute. Some colleagues at the home university cooperate with the later, and after the visit to the Vatican also the Angels bridge was seen, which was inspiration of the entry of professionists to the Piranesi prize, organized by the Pantheon Institute, to which Prof. Craciun did the landscape part. During the month of April a meeting with these colleagues is organized. Patricia Osmond is researching the Villa Gamberaia of princess Ioana Ghika, a Romanian, in Florence. Exchange took place on the basis of books again: a book on Vladimir Ghika, a holy man (and on one day a connection was done to Prof. Vasile Babota from the Pontifical Gregorian Institute) and a book edited by the project director and in which the senior researcher and Assoc. Prof. Beatrice Andreucci wrote, as well as a colleague from Florence. For restoring villa Gamberaia funds were acquired through the Italian PNRR and study days will take place in November 2023 and June 2024. It is to be discussed if something can be organized together with Accademia di Romania and/or Sapienza University. It is to be discussed if the exhibition on Richard Bordenache can be connected to this.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

Rome being one of the study cases, material was gathered and will flow into the project, regarding the early 20<sup>th</sup> century heritage, the hazards and the mapping, which was already begun. The four meetings with specialists will lead to substantial further collaboration within the project.

## FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

One clear future direction is the one opened on the last day of the project. But more concrete are the on-going collaborations with an already submitted article within the days after the stay with Dr. Anca Cezarina Fulgerand also the on-going special issue and the upcoming session at the EGU, which might be reiterated in 2024. Maria Beatrice Andreucci is also Le Notre member, an endeavour of the ECLAS, the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools, in which the home university is a member. The project director is deputy contact person in it. Through this, there is a connection to the Landscape Forum

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in Rimini, mentioned at the other study trip, and to a Landscape Forum taking place in the first year of membership in Rome. The senior researcher coordinates the landscape direction at the home university and one of the postdocs focuses on green transition. Nature based solutions for disaster resilience are relevant for flood and fire considered in the project. Future visits should include also the Museum Luigi Pigorini at the EUR.