

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

HERITAGE CITIES AND CONFLICTS

“War is the father of all and king of all;
some he shows as gods, others as men;
some he makes slaves, and others free.”

Heraclitus, VI-V c. B.C.

(G.S. Kirk, Heraclitus, The Cosmic Fragments, 1954; fr. 53 DK)

Today, with more than fifty active armed conflicts around the world, the relationship between architecture and conflict is a relevant and multifaceted issue.

Wars shape territories, erase heritages, and force entire populations to flee their land. But conflict, understood not only in its warlike form but also as social tension, ecological crisis, struggle for resources, cultural or identity fracture, can also become a transformative force. It can indeed shake the existing order, generate instability, but at the same time reveal new needs, fuel radical visions and thus stimulate design imagination.

ADH Journal, in an issue devoted to the relationship between Heritage Cities and Conflicts, invites reflection on the role of architecture in contexts marked by conflict, exploring its critical, memorial and generative potential.

In a time when climate change is intertwined with increasingly widespread geopolitical tensions, conflict takes on new and pervasive forms. It is crucial to interrogate how architecture can interpret, narrate, and sometimes overcome the fractures of the present.

Numerous examples show how conflict act as catalyst for significant transformations. These events force crucial decisions, redefining architectural functions and values, or leaving permanent traces that become symbols of historical memory.

At the same time, conflict manifests itself in the everyday dimension, in urban landscapes marked by inequalities, exclusions and latent tensions.

In this perspective, the project becomes a critical act, capable of shaping new possibilities of cohabitation, presiding over memory and generating future.

To contribute to this issue, we invite groundbreaking investigations and reflections about themes revolving around (but not limited to) the following fields:

- Architecture and armed conflict, exploring the role of architecture before, during or post-conflict.
- Architecture and conflicting memories, investigating how to manage the controversial legacy produced by totalitarian regimes, revolutions, and post-colonial historical categories.
- Architecture and conflict of interests, exploring how divergent interests and climate and economic crises threaten the world's urban and architectural heritage.
- Architecture and Inner conflict, considered as the driving force behind the creative act in architecture and art.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- The participation to the call is open to national and international structured and independent scholars (PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, research fellows, researchers).
- The issue will host essays and articles selected through a double-blind peer review process.
- To apply, please visit the journal page (<https://www.adh.journal.mantova.polimi.it/>) and submit your abstract through the platform no later than June 20th, 2025.
- The outcome of the selection and the judgments of the peer review will be communicated by e-mail to the author of the article.
- Proposals selected for publication must be developed into unpublished texts, complete with bibliography and images.

For inquiries, please contact: adh-journal@polimi.it

TIMETABLE

- Launch of the Call: May 20th, 2025
- Abstract submission deadline: June 20th, 2025
- Notification of acceptance: by July 2nd, 2025
- Text delivery for peer review: September 25th, 2025
- Notification of full-text peer review outcome: October 25th, 2025
- Final text delivery: November 10th, 2025

THE JOURNAL OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND HISTORY

The Journal of Architectural Design and History is a biannual magazine, undergoing a double-blind peer review process, realized within the framework of the UNESCO Chair in Architectural Preservation and Planning in World Heritage Cities at the Mantova Campus of Politecnico di Milano.

This editorial project intends to generate and disseminate a critical and multidisciplinary debate around the past, present and future of heritage cities, by soliciting the international scientific community to reflect on the related themes through the analysis of architectural, historic, interpretive, and didactic experiences that operate on Heritage as a laboratory of knowledge.

The selection of the contributions will draw on the exploration and the comparison of different theories, techniques and practices tackling the complex questions pertaining to the transformation, conservation, and enhancement of historical contexts, with the aim to unfold connections and exchanges among different disciplines, technologies, and perspectives, and to promote a strategic and evolutive notion of the interventions on built heritage.