

Dissonant Heritage and multiple narratives

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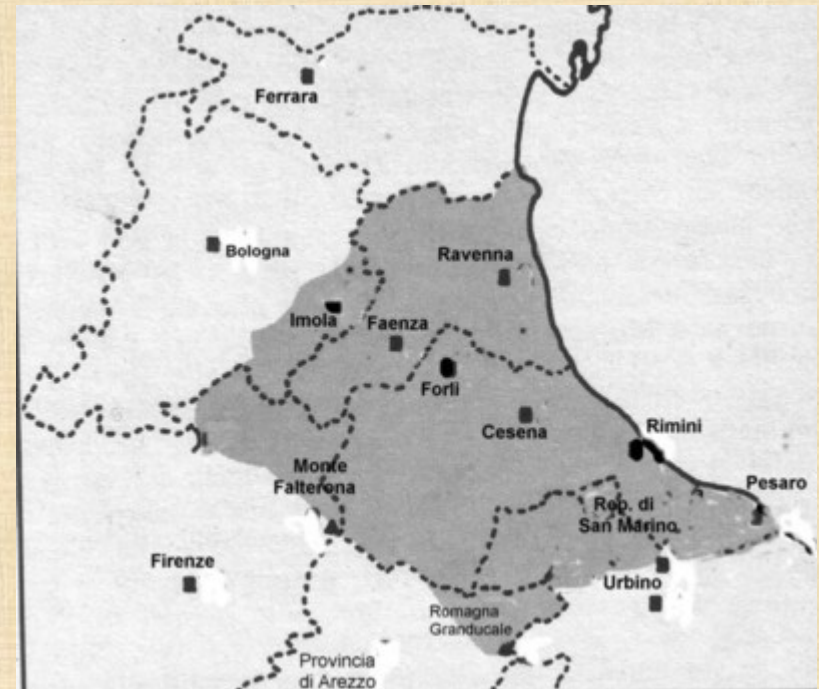
The Faro Convention Approach and Urban Regeneration
FARO CONVENTION MEETING
15–16 November 2017
Vilnius, Lithuania

- Forlì and its dissonant heritage
- What is ATRIUM?
- Multiple narratives of Forlì
- Forlì and the Faro convention
- Involvement of local stakeholders
- Urban regeneration
- Contrasting narratives/contrasting meanings

Italy



Emilia Romagna



Romagna and Forlì



Forlì as 'Città del Duce'

Three functions:

- Modernisation
- Functional
- ideological

Economic



**Forlì, viale
Mussolini/
viale della
Libertà**

Functional



Hospital of Forlì



Ideological

Statue of Icarus



Mosaics of the History of Flight, 1938

Dissonance: city of the Duce

- gap between:
 - the function and meaning of the architecture when it was built
 - its interpretation in the democratic European present
- Focus on *discontinuity* not *continuity*

What is ATRIUM?

**Cultural Route recognized by the Council of Europe
(2014)**

**Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century
In Europe's Urban Memory”**

Purpose (art 1): ‘disseminating knowledge, protecting and promoting the European heritage – both tangible and intangible - associated with **the architecture and history of the 20th century, with special focus on periods marked by dictatorial and totalitarian regimes in Europe.’**

Principle (art. 2):

What is ATRIUM: members

16 members in 5 different countries:

- Forlì, Forlimpopoli, Bertinoro, Cesenatico, Ferrara, Predappio, Castrocaro, Tresigallo, Tor Viscosa (Italy)
- Labin, Rasa, Uble (Croatia)
- Sofia, Dimitrovgrad (Bulgaria)
- Iasi (Romania)
- Tirana (Albania)

What is ATRIUM: principles and values

Starting point:

Art. 2: ‘The Association’s activity is **inspired by the principle of the promotion of the values of democracy** and cooperation between peoples as the foundation for peaceful and civil coexistence. In **no case and in no way does the Association accept expressions and forms of historical revisionism, exculpation for authoritarian, dictatorial or totalitarian governments.**”

Limits to re-construction?

- **Restoration of Fascist loyalty oath:**



to



Rocca delle Camminate: debate over relighting the 'faro' (Fascist lighthouse)



Narrative 1: city of the Duce (sympathisers and 'nostalgics')

- utopian rejection of old, medieval city and projection of utopian new city
- Fascist tourism – to Forlì and then to Predappio
- myth of flight: mosaics

Narrative 2. Resistance, iconoclasm and the imposition of new meanings (left organisations)

- destruction of the oath of loyalty to the regime
- Name changing: *Viale Mussolini* -> *viale dell'Indipendenza*; Gardens -> *Parco della Resistenza*

Narrative 3: negation and repression (many ordinary citizens)

- functionality of the buildings which are de-semanticized:
 - Station (not new station built in 1925)
 - School (not Rosa Maltoni School)
 - Sports complex (not Fascist GIL building)

Narrative 4: validity of the artistic/architectural legacy (architects, cultural critics)

- Modernist and rationalist expressions
- Quality of decorative elements
- Last major era of Italian excellence in architecture

Narrative 5: heritage as critical gaze on the history of the 20th century (ATRIUM)

- rediscovery of the full history of the city in the '900: ATRIUM
 - constant critical questioning of the heritage and the relationship of the city to it
 - involvement of associations and citizens
 - urban regeneration following these guidelines

Forlì, ATRIUM and the Faro Convention

- **narratives** (five above)
- **commons** (common heritage of Europe: “ideals, principles and values, **derived from the experience gained through progress and past conflicts**, which foster the development of a peaceful and stable society”)
- **cooperation**: civil society and political authorities
- **conflict as a resource**



Involvement of everyone...

- Municipalities
- **Universities and research centres**
- Schools
- Local cultural firms
- **Cultural associations**
- Citizens

Universities and research centres

- Architecture departments of Universities of Bologna, Florence, Tirana and Weimar (Bauhaus Institute)
- Tourism department (Bologna)
- Languages (Bologna)
- Resistance Institute of Forlì (eg 'Reistenza maAPPe)
- Resistance Institute of Bologna (Predappio)

Tutoring activities with the schools

Cultural associations

- Città di Ebla: series of events based on 'heritage'
- Spazi Indecisi: Totally Lost exhibitions
- 6 gradi: connections between cultural objects



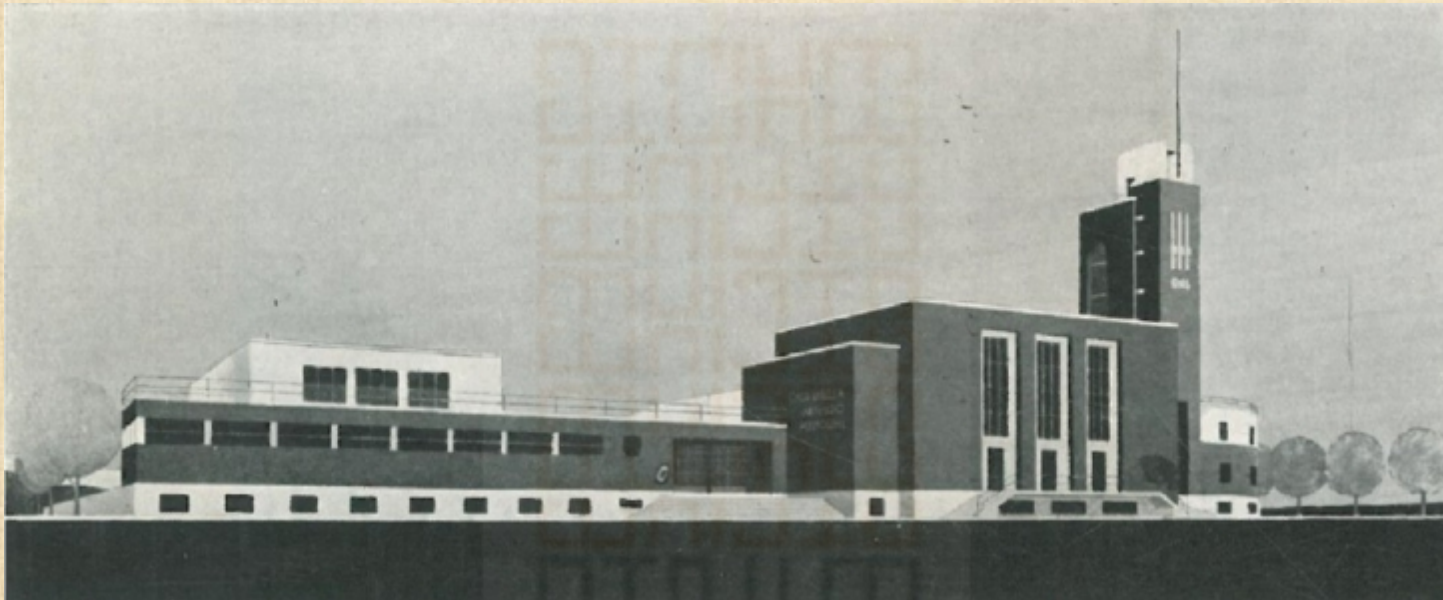
Cultural associations

- Sei gradi: review of cultural connections



Urban regeneration: Ex-GIL

- Exhibition centre:
 - Cesare Valle (architect of ex-GIL)
 - Overseas architecture (Tirana, Rhodes, Asmara)



Urban regeneration: ex-ATR

Contemporary theatre and
arts centre:

‘ATR Contemporanea’



Urban regeneration: Asilo Santarelli

Multi-use public services centre:

- Innovation laboratory
- Library and resource centre
- Atrium interpretation centre



What next...other ATRIUM cities?

Labin, Istria

- New library in the former mine works (built during Italian Fascist occupation)
- Experiential tourism in the mine



What next ...other ATRIUM cities

Fascist party house,
Predappio (Mussolini's
birthplace,
1934-37)

Plans for a Documentation
Centre on Totalitarian
Regimes



What next ...other post-European totalitarianism sites

- Nuremberg?



- Kaunas?



What next ... comparison with other sites of dissonant heritage

- Charlottesville...?
 - opposition to statues to civil war 'heroes' under attack
- Oxford...?
 - 'Rhodes must fall': campaign againsts the statue to the British imperialist, Cecil Rhodes



What next ... comparison with other sites of dissonant heritage

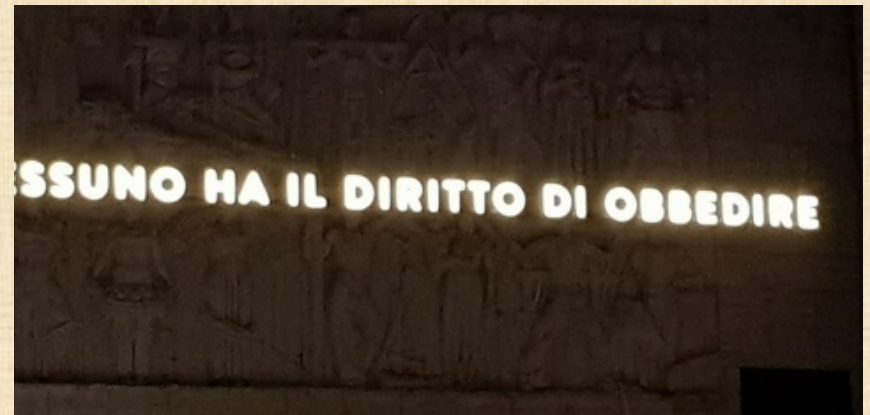
Liverpool....?

- International Slavery Museum



Contrasting narratives, contrasting meanings...

Hannah Arendt phrase
in neon suspended
over Fascist mural in
Bolzano



Contrasting narratives, contrasting meanings...

«Re-veiling» ceremony of
the statue of the British
imperialist, H. M. Stanley,
Denbigh



Contrasting narratives, contrasting meanings...

- Unveiling of the restored statue of Icaro, Forlì

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyRAbioMt2E>



Thank you for your attention
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