

Vernacular architecture, a new paradigm?

International Symposium – First edition

18 September 2025 – ENSA Paris-Belleville

19 September 2025 – ENSA Paris-Malaquais

Programme

Thursday 18 September

Morning

- 8h45 Welcome
9h15 - 9h30 Opening: ENSA Paris-Belleville Headmaster
9h30 - 10h05 Keynote 1 Meghal ARYA, Professor, Centre for Environment Planning & Technology – CEPT, Ahmedabad
Whispers of the Vernacular: Building with the Grain of the Land

Session 1: The roots of vernacular architecture

Moderators : Enrico Chapel, Joseph Rustom, Panayotis Tournikiotis

Vernacular architecture has its origins in local, empirical practices adapted to the environment from which it emerges. It reflects a collective intelligence based on usage, available materials and transmitted know-how, offering a way of building that is linked to the territory, culture and everyday needs. Would returning to its roots, questioning its definitions and representations, and examining its implementation and the impact it has already had on architectural, urban and landscape design enable us to assess the relevance of these practices in the face of current challenges of sustainability and habitability?

- 10h15 - 10h30 *On the Polysemy of the Word Vernacular and Its Architectural Forms*
Jordi BALLESTA, Lecturer, ENSA Marseille, INAMA
10h30 - 10h45 *Vernacular Architecture in Urban Historical Images*
Anda-Lucia SPÂNU, PhD, Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Sibiu, Romanian Academy
10h45 - 10h55 *From Beijing to the Mediterranean: the Movement of Courtyard Houses along the Silk Roads*
Liangyu LI, PhD student, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville
10h55 - 11h10 *The Invention of Tradition: The Architecture of Edmond Brion's New Medinas in Casablanca, Khouribga, and Boujniba*
Annalisa TRENTIN, Professor, University of Bologna, DA, Francesco COLLOTTI, Professor, University of Florence, DIDA
11h10 - 11h20 *Vernacular Architecture of the Eastern Himalayas along the Southern Silk Roads: Case of Darjeeling and Kalimpong*
Sonali GURUNG, PhD student, Centre for Environment Planning & Technology – CEPT, Ahmedabad
11h20 - 11h35 *Climate and Culture in the Thought of André Ravéreau*
Mounia BOUALI, Lecturer, ENSA Paris-Val de Seine, Jeanne-Marie GENTILLEAU, Independent Researcher, Marie-Anne POULLY, Graduate Architect

11h35 - 11h50 *The Chantier 1425 and Scholarly Representations of Rural Architecture: The Case of Yvon Almairac in Hérault, 1942–1945*
Frédéric FIRRERI, PhD student, LRA – ENSA Toulouse

12h00 - 12h30 Discussions and debates

12h30 - 13h45 Lunch break

Afternoon

14h00 - 14h35 Keynote 2 Alain BORIE, former Associate Professor at ENSA Paris-Malaquais
The houses of Jaipur

Session 2 : The diffuse Orient or the imprint of the vernacular

Moderators : Cristiana Mazzoni, Paolo Girardelli, Alain Borie

This session explores the circulation of architectural forms and principles across different regions of Asia, Africa and Europe. Transfers between countries traversed by the ancient Silk Roads are evident in the layout of certain architectural types, such as courtyard dwellings, in the presence of gardens and in a set of elements that impact the climate management of interior spaces. These are hybrid cultural transmissions, where the vernacular becomes a medium for adaptation, revealing the history of exchanges and shared imaginaries through architecture and its outdoor spaces.

14h45 - 15h00 *From the Asian Steppes to the Monsoon Asia: Dwelling as a Folk Art*
Olivier BOUCHERON, Associate Professor, ENSA Paris-La Villette, LAA / LAVUE

15h00 - 15h15 *To Each Their Paradise: The Garden as a Matrix of the City in Isfahan*
Sina ABEDI, Associate Researcher, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville

15h15 - 15h25 *Human Habitat and Water Environment: A History of Co-Adaptation in Iran*
Kasra ALIZADEH, PhD student, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville

15h25 - 15h40 *Earthen Materials: Between Diverse Uses and Climate Resilience – The Case of Morocco*
Mouna SEDREDDINE, Associate Professor, National School of Architecture of Fès, Hassan KHARMICH, Professor, National School of Architecture of Rabat

15h40 - 16h10 Break

16h10 - 16h25 *The Origins of the Sofa House between Venice and Constantinople*
Serena ACCIAI, Associate Researcher, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville

16h25 - 16h40 *The 'Primitive Future' of Today's Japanese House: A Reading through Ottoman Miniatures and the Ancient Silk Roads*
Mete KUTLU, PhD student, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville

16h40 - 16h50 *The Influence of French Architecture and Urbanism on the Other Shore of the Mediterranean: Ecochard's Contributions in Damascus*
Alexandre MAHFOUD, Architect

16h50 - 17h00 *Ahmedabad: The Shankar Bhuvan Basti Shaped by Its Inhabitants*
Mathilde GRILLON, Graduate Architect, ENSA Paris-Belleville

17h00 - 17h15 *Documenting Vernacular Housing in Southeast Asia: A Case Study of the City of Chiang Mai, Thailand*
Pijika PUMKETKAO, Associate Researcher, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville

17h15 - 17h45 Discussions and debates

17h45 - 18h00 *The Oak and the Reed: The Future of Vernacular Architecture in the Post-Industrial World*
Fondation pour l'Architecture / La Table Ronde de l'Architecture Asbl

Friday, 19 September

Morning

8h45 Welcome
9h15 - 9h30 Opening: ENSA Paris-Malaquais Headmaster (to be confirmed)

9h30 - 10h05 **Keynote 3** Luc VILAN, Architect, former Associate Professor at ENSA Paris-Belleville
From the Palestinian Ahwâsh to the Architecture of the city

Session 3 : Circulation of models and reconfigurations of the vernacular: tourism and architectural issues

Moderators : Joanne Vajda, Paolo Girardelli, Luc Vilan

Explorers, archaeologists and geographers travelled along trade routes. Their narratives fuelled imaginations and inspired travel guides. To what extent does the tourism that developed subsequently contribute to constructing a representation of vernacular architecture? How is this architecture reinterpreted or exploited in tourism projects? How do these practices preserve vernacular knowledge and contribute to the promotion of local architectural heritage? Exploring all these movements raises questions about the tensions between authenticity, adaptation, conservation and innovation.

- 10h15 - 10h30 *Inhabiting the Territory. The Example of Small Rural Communities in Italy*
Flavia MAGLIACANI, Associate Researcher, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville, Domizia MANDOLESI, Professor, University of Sapienza Rome, PDTA
- 10h30 - 10h45 *Tourism Whims versus Conservation. A critical View on the Restoration of Medieval Caravanserais in Cappadocia*
Özlem LAMONTRE-BERK, Associate Professor, ENSA Lyon, Asli ÖZBAY, Architect
- 10h45 - 10h55 *The Boukarous of the Sahel: Resilience and Transformations in Tourist Circuits*
Gabriel II A-AVAVA NDO, PhD student, GRIEF - ENSA Bretagne
- 10h55 - 11h10 *Soviet Modernities Inspired by Vernacular Traditions in Central Asia*
Fabien BELLAT, Researcher, ENSA Paris-Val de seine, EVCAU
- 11h10 - 11h25 *Responsible Tourism: Facilitating the Protection, Conservation and Valorization of the Existing Vernacular Heritage*
Stefana BADESCU, Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of Timisoara
- 11h25 - 11h35 *The Vernacular Architecture of the Mastic Villages of Chios as a Timeless Construction Model: Urban and Architectural Design, Residential Organization, Impact of Contemporary Lifestyles and Tourism on Their Structure*
Anna BENETOU, PhD student, IPRAUS - ENSA Paris-Belleville, National Technical University of Athens
- 11h35 - 11h50 *From Ruin to Revival: The Vernacular and Modernist Interplay in Santorini*
Dimitra KANELLOPOULOU, Associate Professor, ENSA Paris-Malaquais, Leonidas KOUTSOUMPOS, Associate Professor, National Technical University of Athens

12h00 - 12h30 Discussions and debates

12h30 - 13h45 Lunch break

Afternoon

14h00 - 14h35 Keynote 4 Panayotis TOURNIKIOTIS, Professor Emeritus, National Technical University of Athens
The Vernacular and the Modern

Session 4 : Rethinking the conceptual foundations of architectural practice

Moderators : Thierry Mandoul, Marius Miclaus, Panayotis Tournikiotis

Rethinking architectural practice starting from vernacular means adopting a critical stance that restores meaning to the act of building by reconciling heritage and renewal. In a context marked by climate, economic and migration crises, this commitment is essential as a political, cultural and ecological act. Could vernacular architecture be a way of putting architecture back at the service of inhabitants, places and long-term practices?

14h45 - 15h00 *Vernacular Architecture and Climate Change: Contributions and Limitations*
Jean-François MARTI, Associate Professor, ENSA Toulouse, LRA, Marc LOZZA, Architect

15h00 - 15h15 *Can Vernacular Architecture Become Modern?*
Hassan BOU MELHEM, PhD, Saint-Joseph University of Beyrouth

15h15 - 15h25 *Urban Morphology and Architectural Typology of the Vernacular Architecture of Kasbahs and Ksour in Southern Morocco: A Socio-Spatial Analysis of Climate Adaptation*
Zakaria ABYAA, PhD, LADYSS - Université Paris 1 Panthéon – Sorbonne, LabHAUT - National School of Architecture of Rabat

15h25 - 15h40 *Climate Devices in Levantine Architecture in Deir el-Qamar: Case Study and Contemporary Update*
Théophile CHATELAIS, Alexis DE LA TAILLE, Joanne RIACHI, Architects

15h40 - 15h55 *The Reinterpreted Low Dome in Everyday Architecture in India*
Savitri JALLAIS, Associate Professor, ENSA Toulouse, LRA

15h55 - 16h10 *Transitional Materialities: Rethinking Future Transitions through Vernacular Installations*
Halimatou MAMA AWAL, Associate Professor, ENSA Grenoble

16h15 - 16h45 Discussions and debates

16h45 - 17h30 *Closing remarks* - Enrico CHAPEL, Thierry MANDOUL, Cristiana MAZZONI, Joanne VAJDA

Organizing Committee:

Enrico Chapel, ENSA Paris-Belleville, IPRAUS
Savitri Jallais, ENSA Toulouse, LRA
Thierry Mandoul, ENSA Paris-Malaquais, ACS
Cristiana Mazzoni, ENSA Paris-Belleville, IPRAUS
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Stefana Bădescu, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of Timisoara
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Marius Miclaus, Archæus Foundation
Daniel Pinson, Aix-Marseille University
Joseph Rustom, Oriental Library, Saint Joseph University of Beirut
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