

Preface

The book deals with the Conservation Management Plan applied to the 20th-century architectural heritage, in an international perspective. The goal is to present a selection of international experiences which have been considered a reference for the preparation of the CMP of the University *Collegi* of Urbino.

The CMP is universally considered a fundamental tool for the sustainable management of the built heritage. However, its application to 20th-century architecture is still limited to a few famous buildings.

Through a selection of international case studies, the book fosters a comparative discussion on the main topics for the conservation of modern architecture: how to manage the change of the use? How to preserve the original materials and their authenticity? How to engage users and stakeholders in the process? How to match conservation and environmental sustainability?

The first part of the book (*An International Overview*) collects a selection of international case studies, selected among the grantees of the “Keeping it Modern” program of the Getty Foundation that in 2014 launched an international grant initiative to support the creation of Conservation Management Plans for the masterpieces of the modern era, meant to become at the international level.

The second part of the book (*The Conservation Management Plan for the University Collegi by Giancarlo De Carlo in Urbino*) outlines the results of the Conservation Plan of the University of Urbino *Collegi*.

The project, awarded by Getty Foundation within the “Keeping it Modern” program in 2015 (planning grant) and in 2018 (implementation grant), involved an interdisciplinary research team joined by a team of universities, research centers and professionals.

The *Collegi* were designed by Giancarlo De Carlo since 1962 to 1983. This complex is internationally considered a masterpiece of modern architecture. Despite their impressive size (about 62,000 square meters/home to about 1100 students) and the massive use of exposed concrete, the five buildings forming the complex (Colle, Tridente, Serpentine, Aquilone, Vela) are an outstanding example of compatibility among a contemporary building, the historic city and the natural landscape.

In addition, the *Collegi* are the tangible expression of the revolutionary ideologies of the 1960s and 1970s, when the increased access to higher education became an opportunity to raise awareness among the masses and advocate a radical change, in political and social terms. Therefore, the complex was designed to provide a unique life experience, not simply an accommodation. Common and public spaces, where people can meet informally, study, discuss, relax or simply hangout, prevail the private ones. Men and women shared the same spaces, and there was no clear demarcation between the areas dedicated to the students and those open to the citizens.

Although their architectural, cultural and social significance, internationally recognized for years, many critical aspects affect the conservation of the *Collegi*: from the conservation of the architectural elements and materials (exposed concrete surfaces, doors, windows, furniture), to the question of how to keep the complex in use (e.g., the compliance with the regulatory framework and maintenance) in a sustainable way (energy efficiency and thermal comfort).

The Conservation Plan realized within the “Keeping it Modern” project set specific procedures and guidelines, proposed improvement and new uses consistent with the value of the complex, developed on-site test intervention protocols.

The results here presented aim to be useful for most of the 20th-century architecture, which is an increasingly relevant part of the overall built heritage.

Milan, Italy

Maria Paola Borgarino
mariapaola.borgarino@cultura.gov.it

Davide Del Curto
davide.delcurto@polimi.it