

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II
DIPARTIMENTO DI CONSERVAZIONE DEI BENI ARCHITETTONICI ED AMBIENTALI

SECOND MEDITERRANEAN MEETING OF CIVVH IN CORFU
AND THE SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM "MODERN CHALLENGES FOR THE
HISTORICAL CITIES OF MEDITERRANEAN.


TERESA COLLETTA
**The genius loci of Corfù
a fortified Mediterranean port-city .**



CORFU 17-20 APRIL 2008


In this Presentation I would like to stress the
**characteristic cultural qualities of the Corfù Old
Town** with emphasis on its comprehensive
urban an architectural Heritage
and on its numerous CULTURAL VALUES

In effect this complex of CULTURAL STRATIFIED
VALUES identifies
the genius loci of Corfù
and the necessity of the active preservation of this
particular urban heritage.



**CORFU' a fortified
Mediterranean port-city**

- The remarkable cultural argument that has already been stressed in my "2006 Evaluation ICOMOS Mission" is the **quality of multicultural urban history of Corfù** related to the other Greek towns, all submitted to Ottoman/Turkish Empire.
- I identified the continuous absorbment of elements in Corfù historical centre from the East and West Mediterranean as the fundamental reason to enter in the W.H.L.



The authenticity of Corfù Old Town


The "2007 Nomination" of the Old Town of Corfù in the World Heritage List on the basis of the *Criterion IV* put in evidence its preserved specific identity along the centuries and its AUTHENTICITY recognized by the World Heritage committee.

This IDENTITY is reflected not only in its system of fortifications and in its neo-classical building stock, but in its **distinctive sea-front as living city-port**



The Nomination in the W. H. L. 2007

- The Old town of Corfù can be included in the W.H.L. for the intrinsic value of the urban system in itself, as well as for being a *unicum* not only in the fortification system of the Mediterranean area, but also for the **particular preserved urban setting of the city-port.**
- In fact the Town has **three Harbours** and an especially complex natural-geological site protected from two impressive Citadel-Fortresses whose aim is to preserve the North sea-front and the harbours (Mandraki port, old and modern port). **As such it can be placed along side other major Mediterranean fortified port-cities.**



The recognition of the CRITERION IV by the WORLD HERITAGE Committee

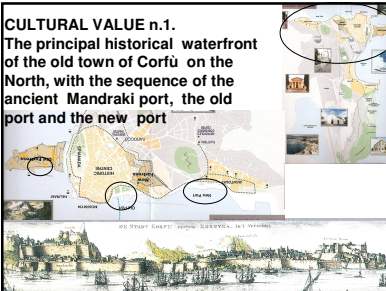
- The Old Town of Corfù exhibits an important interchange of ideas and human values in the development of military architecture, and mainly an **outstanding example of types of building architectural ensemble and cultural landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history (iv).**



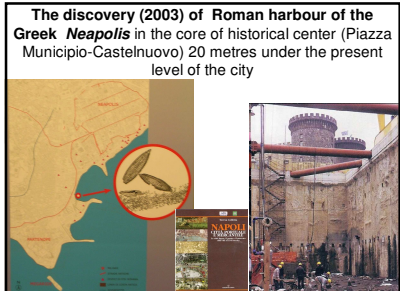
**THE CULTURAL and URBAN VALUES of
CORFU' OLD TOWN**

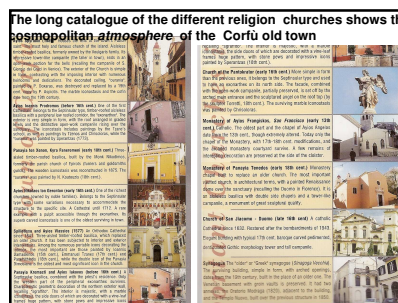
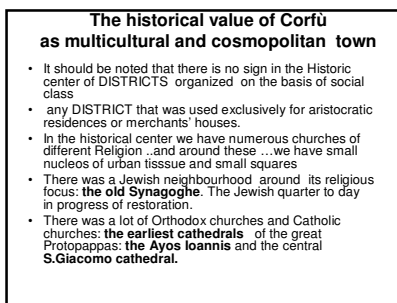
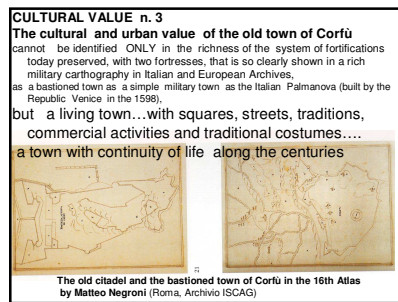
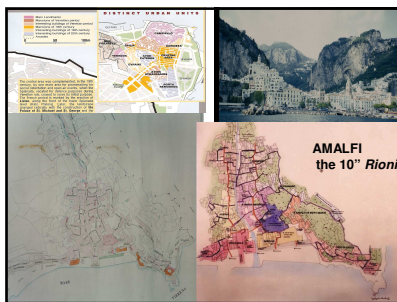
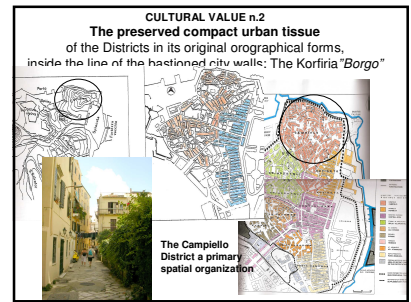
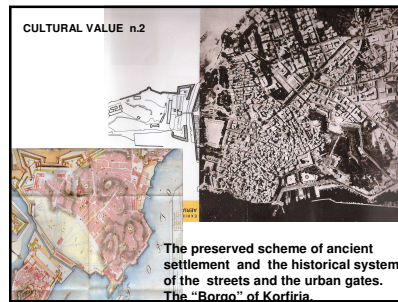
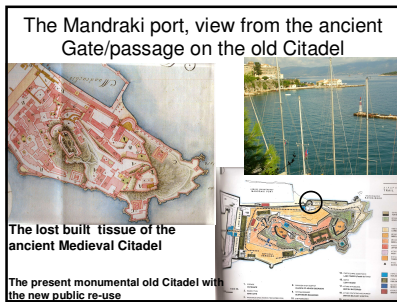
- 1. The **existence of three ports** in the long history of the settlement: all in the North waterfront of the town, connected through the maritime routes to Italy and the Mediterranean basin.
- 2. The preserved **scheme settlement and system of streets** of the town built outside of the ancient Medieval citadel, around the market zone near the port. This is the historical town enclosed in the 16th century in the line of the bastioned walls.
- 3. **The today preserved orographic land of the DISTRICTS on the historical center**, built between 15th and 18th centuries, an important preserved compact tissue, in comparison with the lost tissue of ancient medieval citadel. The DISTRICTS-QUARTERS and the originality of the subdivision and the landscaping and the commercial streets

CULTURAL VALUE n.1.
The principal historical waterfront of the old town of Corfù on the North, with the sequence of the ancient Mandraki port, the old port and the new port



The discovery (2003) of Roman harbour of the Greek Neapolis in the core of historical center (Piazza Municipio-Castelnuovo) 20 metres under the present level of the city





The large diffusion of urban culture
connected with
a large inhabitants participation
to preserve their town
is one
of the mayor intangible value
of Corfù old town



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

