

Theme 1: Lessons learned and new challenges in the practical implementation of the Valletta Principles

9. Adapting Urban Heritage for Health and Well-Being

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The subsequent Covid-19 emergency has generated new lifestyles and introduced new principles and tools for long-lasting urban quality improvement in historic environment. Further, it is becoming increasingly clear that climate change projections suggest that some extreme events can be more frequent, and this would increase urban risks. However, the focus of climate adaptation it must be ensured on both building stock and associated sensitive open spaces. In recent evidence, both changing climate and pandemic priorities should be given to urban change. For sure, Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) need to be particularly considered for protection, urban quality and improvement for health and well-being.

This contribution has been developed in the framework of the research study on *Heritage Open Space in Transformation, (HOST)* (Year: 2017) that deals with urban change in historic environment. In defining by the author, the 'Heritage Open Space in Transformation' as a "historic open space of great challenge that is strictly connected within innovative urban change" one should consider a HOST of special interest, the character of which can be sensitively preserved and transformed. More recently research study on *Health and Well-being for the Post-Covid City (Year: 2021)* puts forward a HOST to be considered also in relation to the pandemic contingency and in accordance with its location, utility and its contextual use for accessibility, mobility, improvement for health and well-being. Research investigations stress how to manage a HOST providing an appropriate balance to create good urban places of strong character. However, the main purpose is to identify an urban strategy that can effectively be adopted within urban heritage in the most effective way.

The contribution mainly aims at quality improvement of a HOST regarding the valuable Florence UNESCO Area. It shows some proposals on how core urban spaces can be managed to reflect selected sites' character/distinctiveness and respond to current urban pressures and risks. Particularly, open spaces need to be of high-quality by adopting a network strategy for 'active travel' (walking, cycling and public transportation); by promoting greening to obtain a higher degree of space equity.

Historic environments have a huge potentiality to satisfy community and visitors' needs. Adaptive, dynamic strategies and design approaches must be better defined towards a revitalization of a challenging post-Covid historic City.

References

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