

The Process Of Heritagization In Morocco From The French Protectorate To The Independence

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ADAPTIVE CITIES THROUGH THE POST PANDEMIC LENS

Ripensare tempi e sfide della città flessibile nella storia urbana
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Il processo di patrimonizzazione sull'eredità della cultura locale tra storia e cambiamenti

The heritagization process of the local
heritage between the history and the
changes

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THE PROCESS OF HERITIGIZATION IN MOROCCO FROM THE FRENCH PROTECTORATE TO THE INDEPENDENCE

IL PROCESSO DI PATRIMONIALIZZAZIONE IN MAROCCO AL PROTETTORATO FRANCESE ALL'INDIPENDENZA

Il paper approfondisce il processo di patrimonializzazione dei membri SFU in Marocco, nella prima metà del XX secolo, concentrandosi sulla prospettiva verso il patrimonio e la collaborazione con le autorità locali, approfondendo l'approccio di Prost e Laprade attraverso casi di studio, alla luce delle iniziative urbanistiche di oggi. Si mira a fornire un dibattito sui valori materiali e immateriali in una prospettiva decoloniale, partendo dall'analisi degli interventi coloniali e cultura locale.

Parole chiave

Patrimonializzazione, patrimonio locale, scambio culturale, decolonizzazione, urbanismo francese

Keywords

Heritigization, local heritage, cross-culture, decolonisation, French urbanism

Colonization of non-European countries made holistically visible the European approach to the historic urban environment. As Jean-Paul Sartre suggested, the interaction of colonizer and colonized has generated the colonial “situation”. This situation has mostly affected the Mediterranean countries, whose definition expanded after decolonialism, framing the area from Latin America to Turkey. The interwar period marked historical breaking points in this area resulting in changes in socio-political frameworks such as the Mexican Revolution, the Brazilian Revolution, or the proclamation of Republican Turkey. Under this global atmosphere, the stance of France in its colonies differed. At the beginning of the 20th century, the French colonial policy shifted from association to assimilation. This meant to approach with a respectful tendency to local traditions, customs, habits, preserve the historic city center, and integrate local symbols into architecture. In other words, a full concentration on tangible and intangible local values in urbanism and architecture.

The official declaration of the Moroccan Protectorate was the first demonstration of this shift in French colonies. In 1914, the Marechal Lyautey, the first responsible for the protectorate has expressed the urbanism approach as “intervene everywhere, change nothing”. This was perceived as an opportunity for French architects. In particular, the

members of Société Française des Urbanistes have been mostly contacted by French political figures to plan Moroccan cities.

As one of the founding members of SFU, Henri Prost was the pioneering actor in urban planning in North Africa where he implemented the radio centric theory that segregated the city into the *ville indigène*, destined for Moroccans (or non-European), and a *ville nouvelle* for French citizens (or European), experimenting also forms of *aménagement* between the 1910s and 1930s. However, his collaboration with prominent French architects such as Albert Laprade, Michel Écochard, and Jean Gallotti create changes in local heritage values and in the approach to restoration.

The urban plans and architectural designs of these architects-urbanists, who developed the principles of modern French urbanism in the intellectual atmosphere of SFU, framed the preservation of *medina*, historic gardens, religious buildings, etc.

In parallel to the changing colonial policy, these actors sought to involve the perspective and designs of local artists and architects. This resulted in the main traces of the current urban environment in Morocco, in other words current “situation” as defined by Sartre. Accordingly, this paper frames the approach of the actors in Morocco during the first half of the 20th century. It seeks to focus on their perspective on local heritage and on the way of the collaboration with local authorities. In particular, the paper focuses on the approach of Prost and Laprade by demonstrating several case studies. The main concentration of the paper is to discuss the heritagization process through the lenses of current international standards. In other words, reconsidering the colonial interventions, the paper aims to provide a debate on tangible and intangible values with decolonial perspectives.