

International Scientific Meeting

EARTHHERITAGE

Towards an Atlas of Earthen Architecture in the Mediterranean

Palermo, Monday 22nd September 2025

Università di Palermo, Dipartimento di Architettura, Aula Basile viale delle Scienze Edificio 8 Palermo

Earthen architecture is one of the most impressive expressions of the human ability to create a unique built environment from modest natural resources. Chosen by ancient communities for its availability and minimal energy requirements for extraction, earth has played a fundamental role in shaping the architectural identity of the Mediterranean region. Rich in both archaeological and vernacular earthen architectural heritage, this region has been extensively studied by archaeologists, geoarchaeologists, and architects using innovative approaches. As a result, the Mediterranean serves as a pivotal case study for advancing research on earthen construction techniques, material analysis, and contemporary applications. Despite the increasing recognition of earthen materials in reconstructing archaeological and environmental contexts—and their essential role in the region's cultural heritage—there remains a pressing need to expand the existing knowledge base. This requires fostering a dynamic dialogue between Past, Present and Future, particularly as the Mediterranean faces the growing challenges of Climate Change. Collaborative, cross-disciplinary research is essential to ensure the resilience and sustainability of the region's earthen architectural legacy. Archaeological and vernacular evidence reveals deep-rooted connections between human identity, environmental adaptation, and sustainable building practices that continue to hold relevance today.

The **EARTHHERITAGE International Conference** seeks to advance knowledge on both the archaeological and vernacular applications of earthen architecture, with a focus on the Mediterranean islands. It will also explore how traditional construction techniques can inform and inspire contemporary sustainable practices. This meeting is part of the research project "**Earthen Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean between Archaeology and Sustainability**" funded by the 2022 PRIN program (Ministry of Research Projects of National Relevance).

Scholars and researchers interested in this theme are invited to contribute to the International Meeting by submitting their proposals **by April 28, 2025** via the link provided below. Submissions should include:

Name and Surname; Affiliation and Position; E-mail Address; Participation Modality (in presence/remote); Kind of contribution (Full Paper/Case study Report); Title; Abstract (max 2000 characters).

Additionally, participants should indicate one of the following thematic sections in which their contribution fits:

- 1. From Earth to Architecture: Sourcing and Selecting Raw Materials**
Examining the geological, environmental, and cultural factors influencing the selection of earthen materials, with an emphasis on sustainability and material performance.
- 2. Building with Earth: Archaeological and Vernacular Construction Practices**
Investigating archaeological and contemporary techniques of earthen construction, focusing on structural integrity, climate adaptation, and evolving methodologies.
- 3. Sustaining the Legacy: Preservation of Earthen Architecture in a Changing Climate**
Exploring conservation strategies, long-term durability challenges, and the role of community engagement in safeguarding earthen heritage, with particular attention to the impact of climate change on archaeological and vernacular structures.

Authors may submit, in addition to or as an alternative to the Full Paper, a Case study Report (following a specified format). These Reports will be published in the first issue of the *Atlas of Archaeological and Vernacular Earthen Heritage in the Mediterranean*.

We look forward to your contributions and to fostering a meaningful dialogue on how insights from the Past can help shape a more sustainable Future.

Deadlines

28/04/2025	Abstract submission via link https://forms.gle/1iKuizWmG9Tagzkx7
22/09/2025	Hybrid conference
19/10/2025	Full paper submission to: earthheritagepalermo2025@unipa.it
by 30/03/2026	Double blind peer-review and publication

International Scientific Meeting PRIN scientific and organization board

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