



International colloquium on the theme: « Vernacular architecture, a support for territorial development. »¹

**National School of Architecture of Rabat
4-5 October 2024**

Colloquium Brochure

In its formal diversity and ecological adaptations, Vernacular architecture embodies an exceptional mastery of the environment. It reveals a collective heritage, embodying the diversity and richness of natural, human, and socio-cultural contexts. This architecture is the result of ancestral knowledge in the use of local materials and pure craft techniques. It is an authentic expression of the environment's potential, testifying to the deep bond between communities and their natural habitat.

The variability of vernacular architecture is evident from region to region, influenced by the physical characteristics of the land (plains, mountains, desert, etc.), lifestyles (sedentary, transhumant, etc.), settlement patterns, and the local availability of materials (stone, earth, wood, etc.). The construction techniques employed contribute to shaping extremely diverse and rich architectural landscapes, ranging from simple nomadic tents to solid sedentary homes, all the while adapting to the challenges of the terrain, the rigors of climate, and the scarcity of natural resources.

Internationally recognized for its particularity and uniqueness, vernacular architecture has been the subject of numerous international charters and has captured the interest of various authors and researchers. It has inspired architectural movements and mobilized many players in the field of territorial development and marketing. This craze has enriched our understanding of vernacular architecture, particularly its characteristics and formal typologies, as well as the approaches and methods used to analyze its productions. These studies address both the material and immaterial, natural and human, technical and aesthetic dimensions of this field.

Vernacular architecture, characterized by its virtuosity, ingenuity, technicality, and flexibility, has regained interest for its advantages in terms of thermal comfort, resource savings, and harmony with the environment while meeting contemporary requirements. Emblematic architects of the modern movement such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, and Alvar Aalto, as well as more recent figures such as Hassan Fathy and Luis Barragán, have drawn inspiration

¹ This Colloquium brings to a close the research project financed under the “Ibn Khaldoun” program to support scientific research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

from this architecture to create a “new vernacular architecture”. This revival, based on artisanal production, demonstrates the continuity of traditions adapted to today's needs.

Vernacular architecture is attracted by its adaptability and continuous evolution. It presents itself as a passive solution, maximizing the use of sunlight and natural ventilation while respecting site constraints and local know-how. It symbolizes an identity and a culture while demonstrating resilience in the face of various environmental and climatic risks. Despite these qualities, the vulnerability of these structures to disasters such as earthquakes and floods underscores the intrinsic fragility of this heritage, which, while resilient, remains exposed to major risks.

In the face of threats of vulnerability, abandonment, and destructive transformation, vernacular architecture in rural areas continues to symbolize a strong local identity. Its bioclimatic and ecological virtues remain a source of inspiration, despite the increasing standardization and globalization of architectural models. Taking an interest in this heritage also means contributing to the preservation and enhancement of the rural environment, fostering sustainable economic and human development. This heritage, rich in lessons on the rational use of traditional building materials and techniques, calls for restoration and rehabilitation strategies that aim not only for conservation, but also for the active integration of these buildings into the dynamics of local development.

From this argument stem four main areas of focus in which the multiple interventions should fit:

Focus 1: Vernacular architecture: Richness and diversity of forms of expression

Focus 2: Vernacular architecture: restoration issues and revitalization challenges

Focus 3: Vernacular architecture: Natural risks and resilience

Focus 4: Vernacular architecture: A source of inspiration and a lever for development

Colloquium expectations

This scientific Colloquium, organized by the National School of Architecture of Rabat (ENA Rabat), in partnership with its Doctoral Studies Center “Architecture and related Disciplines”, its research structure LabHAUT (Habitat, Architecture, and Urbanization of Territories Laboratory) and its UNESCO Chair “Education and Research in Sustainable Bioclimatic Urban Planning and Architecture”, and in collaboration with the CNRST (National Center for Scientific and Technical Research), and the University of Le Havre Normandie, proposes to examine, on the one hand, the architectural production described as vernacular, appreciated for its diversity and richness, its specificities and singularities adapted to various environments and contexts. On the other hand, it will look at local building skills and techniques, analyzing their organization, use, adaptability, evolution, and durability. By extension, this symposium explores the benefits and virtues of vernacular architecture in the field of eco-responsible practices and comfort, aiming to make it an invaluable source of inspiration for new construction.

It is also proposed to examine national and international experiences in protecting, restoring, and rehabilitating this essential architectural heritage. Depending on the context, these rehabilitation initiatives are interpreted through various prisms, including a) the regulatory and institutional aspect, b) intervention and governance strategies and techniques, and c) the social perception of this type of architecture. These interventions seek to preserve the authenticity of the structures while adapting the original architectural forms to contemporary requirements, thus balancing conservation and modernization.

Finally, the aim is to reveal the potential of vernacular architecture as a driving force for revitalization and territorial promotion. The transformation of these buildings into tourist attractions, places of natural beauty, and spaces of communion between man and the environment illustrates their growing appeal. These conversions, manifested in restaurants, bed & breakfasts, or exhibition areas for local produce, testify to their successful integration into the local economy. This revival is sparking debate on the relationship between heritage and tourism, as well as on the interaction between terroir and globalization, highlighting the importance of these structures in contemporary development dynamics and providing inspiration for new forms of urbanization.

These are the major objectives behind the present international symposium on: « **Vernacular Architecture, a Support for Territorial Development** ».

Colloquium committees

Coordination Committee

- M. Ibnayahya Abdelhadi, Director of ENA Rabat
- Prof. Kharmich Hassane, Scientific Coordinator of Colloquium and LabHAUT
- Prof. El Harrouni Khalid, Deputy Director of Research, CEDoc Director
- Prof. Karibi Khadija, Scientific Coordinator of Doctoral Studies
- M. Zerrad Youssef, SG of ENA Rabat
- Mme Cherkaoui Ghizlane, Head of Communications, ENA Rabat
- Mme Fars Sara, Phd Student , ENA Rabat
- Mme Majidi Salma, Phd Student, ENA Rabat

Scientific Committee

- Prof. Hassan Kharmich, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Khadija Karibi, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Khalid El Harrouni, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Ouafa Messous, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Mouna M'hammedi, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Assia Lamzah, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Hicham Mouloudi, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Sanae Aljem, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Youssef Talibi, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Iman Benkirane, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Mouhcine Ben Aïcha, ENA Rabat
- Dr. Karima Berdouz, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Rachid Alillouch, ENA Fès
- Prof. Majid Mansour, ENA Rabat

- Prof. Soummaya Samadi, ENA Rabat
- M. Hakim Cherkaoui, ENA Rabat
- Dr. Nezha Tlemçani Mekkaoui, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Tarik Harroud, INAU, Rabat
- Prof. Mohamed Tamim, INAU, Rabat
- Dr. Mohammed Akazzaf , ENA Rabat
- M. Aziz Ouahabi, ENA Rabat
- Prof. Samuel Deprez, Le Havre Normandie University
- Prof. Tariq Ouahbi, Le Havre Normandie University
- Prof. Mohamed Azrour, Faculty of Science and Technology, Errachidia
- Prof. Khadija Baba, Superior School of Technology, Salé
- Dr. Nadya Rouizem Labied, Sup. National School of Architecture, Paris Val de Seine
- Prof. Brahim Al Fasskaoui, Moulay Ismail University, FLSH Meknés
- Prof. Abdelaziz Adidi, INAU, Rabat
- Prof. Mohammed Hanzaz, INAU, Rabat
- Prof. Nabil Mekaoui, Mohammadia School of Engineering, Rabat.

Organizing Committee

Doctoral students of the CEDoc Architecture and associated disciplines, ENA Rabat

Terms and conditions of participation

Calendar

- 03 June 2024: Launch of the call for papers
- 15 July 2024: Deadline for receipt of abstracts (maximum 300 words, Times New Roman 12, single-spaced).
- 31 July 2024: Notification of the Scientific Committee's opinions to authors
- 20 September 2024: Deadline for receipt of final papers
- 30 September 2024: Finalization and dispatch of colloquium program
- 04 – 05 October 2024: Date of the colloquium

Submission procedure

Communications must contain the following elements:

- The aim of the research, the problem, the theoretical framework, the methodology, the main results, the elements of discussion, the main bibliographical references, and indicating the focus of the paper;
- Papers should be submitted in the following format: 6000 words maximum, Times New Roman 12, single-spaced;
- The first page should include the name(s) and position(s) of the author(s), e-mail address, title of the paper, and 4 to 5 keywords.

Applications for abstracts and papers should be sent (in Word format) to the following e-mail address: archivernac2024@enarabat.ac.ma

Type of presentation

Four presentation categories are featured:

- Plenary lectures;
- Round tables;
- Oral communication;
- Posters.

Publication of proceedings

Selected articles, after evaluation by the scientific committee, will be considered for publication in a collective work.

Colloquium languages

- French, English, Arabic

Location of the Colloquium

National School of Architecture of Rabat, Allal El Fassi Avenue, Madinat Al Irfane, Rabat, Morocco.