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GREEN HERITAGE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

5th Webinar
Sustainable Building Conservation: The Essential Dialogue Between Theory, Science and Practice

November 5th , 16pm CET

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Sustainable Building Conservation: The Essential Dialogue Between Theory, Science and Practice

Date: 5th November, 16 pm CET

16:00 – 16:05: Welcome

16:05 – 16:45: Expert input

- **Nigel Copsey, Earth, Stone and Lime Company, UK**. *William Morris and Conservation Principles, Theory and Practice*
- **Dr Maria Stefanidou, School of Civil Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.** *The Importance of Science in the Conservation of Monuments and Historic Buildings*
- **Dr Nikola Unković, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, Serbia.** *From Biodeterioration to Green Initiative: Preservation of Deteriorated Works of Art and Architecture*
- **Stephen Gandolfi, Borgo Heritage, UK**. *A Rapid Look at England's Heritage Legislation and When Scientific Research-led Conservation Can be Realised in Practice*

16:45 – 16:50: Q&A

16:50 – 17:05: Breakout 4 groups: Conservation Theory and Practice (N.C.); Material Science in Conservation (M.S.); Biology in Conservation (N.U.); Collaboration and Decision-Making in Conservation (S.G.)

17:05 – 17:30: Sharing key ideas and closing



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About the speakers

Nigel Copsey, Earth, Stone and Lime Company, UK

Nigel Copsey holds a BA (Hons) in Political Science and an MA by Research in Building Conservation. Starting as a dry-stone waller, he trained as a stonemason and carver after 1989. He has extensive conservation experience across the UK, USA, Spain and Canada. A professionally accredited conservator-restorer and committed SPAB member, he specialises in historic building research, design and repair, advocating traditional materials for compatible, like-for-like repairs. He works with Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Cadw and international partners to deliver practical training. He led the Practical Skills module on the University of York's MA in Conservation Studies, contributed to Historic England's Practical Conservation series, and authored a book and numerous articles on traditional mortars.



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About the speakers

Dr Maria Stefanidou, School of Civil Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Dr Maria Stefanidou is a Professor in the School of Civil Engineering AUTH and Director of Laboratory of Building Materials. Her research interest involves upgrading both traditional and cement–based materials using by-products and new technologies such as nanoparticles, bio-fibres and industrial by-products. She has published 92 articles in international journals and more than 200 in conferences. Her work has received a high number of citations and an h-index of 32(SCOPUS). She has been ranked in the top 2% of scientists in its research field for the years 2020-2025, according to the international rankings of Stanford University and Elsevier.



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About the speakers

Dr Nikola Unković, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Dr Nikola Unković is an Assistant Professor and a Senior Research Associate at the Department of Algology and Mycology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade. His primary area of research is fungal deterioration of cultural heritage objects and the development of bioformulations applicable in the conservation of works of art. He has published over 100 bibliographic records, of which half are papers in renowned scientific journals of interest. He collaborated with institutions for the protection of cultural heritage in Serbia, which resulted in more than 30 expert reports regarding the evaluation of fungal infestations of works of art and safeguarding procedures.



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About the speakers

Stephen Gandolfi, Borgo Heritage, UK

Stephen Gandolfi holds two master's degrees: one in Town & Regional Planning (Leeds Beckett University) and another in Historic Building Conservation (University of York). He has over 15 years of experience managing sympathetic change to sensitive historic built and natural environments having previously held prominent policy-based decision-making and property conservation roles in both local government and for the English Heritage Trust. Stephen recently founded a heritage and planning consultancy called Borgo Heritage where he helps clients make positive and appropriate changes to their properties. Stephen strongly advocates for using traditional conservation methods alongside emerging modern ideas and technologies.



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Sustainable Building Conservation: Bridging Theory, Science and Practice

The conservation of built heritage requires an integrated approach that brings together scientific research, traditional knowledge, technical expertise and public policy. Understanding historic buildings, their materials and their relationship with the environment is essential to preserving their value while extending their lifespan.

Interdisciplinary collaboration between the humanities, natural sciences, engineering, arts and social sciences provides new perspectives on heritage conservation, connecting theory and research with practical solutions.

In this context, historic buildings are not only part of our cultural heritage, but also valuable sources of knowledge and inspiration for developing more sustainable building practices, protecting the environment and fostering a more sustainable future.


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