

Advancing Heritage and Vernacular Studies: The Role of the Journal of Mediterranean Cities in Sustainable Urban Development

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ABSTRACT

The launch of the "Journal of Mediterranean Cities" represents a jumping step in the fields of heritage and vernacular studies in the Mediterranean area. Known for its heritage, impressive architecture, city context and vibrant urban settings the Mediterranean region offers a distinctive backdrop for exploring the connections between heritage preservation, architectural innovation, urban renewal, traditional construction methods and community conservation. The journal aims to address knowledge gaps by promoting collaboration among academics, architects, urban planners and policymakers to preserve the identity of the Mediterranean despite the fact of advocating for urban growth. By integrating disciplines like architecture, urban planning and regional development the Journal strives to encourage analyses and innovative problem-solving approaches that align with initiatives such as Urban Development (SUDs) and Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Action Plans. Highlighting the importance of preserving communities and cultural heritage this journal will highlight the significance of cooperation among stakeholders in shaping the future of Mediterranean cities. The journal is set to be a resource for scholars, policymakers and professionals in the field of architecture and urbanism who are committed to enhancing the fabric of urban spaces in this region.

ARTICLE INFO:

Article history:

Received: June 02 2021

Revised: August 13 2021

Accepted: November 10 2021

Available online: Dec 10 2021

Keywords:

Mediterranean region, heritage conservation, vernacular studies, sustainable urban development, urban revitalization, traditional building techniques.

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Journal of Mediterranean Cities stays neutral with regards to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations

JOURNAL OF MEDITERRANEAN CITIES (2021), 1(1), 27-28.

https://doi.org/10.38027/mediterranean-cities_vol1no1_4

www.mediterranean-cities.com

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I am writing to show my strong support for the launch of the Journal of Mediterranean Cities. This new Journal has the potential to improve our understanding and conservation efforts related to "heritage and vernacular" studies in the Mediterranean region. It comes at a time. Fills a crucial niche in academia providing a specialized space for interdisciplinary research and dialogues on the intricate issues and prospects within the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Mediterranean area, renowned for its heritage, architectural marvels and urban landscapes offers a captivating backdrop for exploring heritage and vernacular studies (Ocón, 2021; Lowenthal, 2015).

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How to cite this article:

Rahbarianyazd, R. (2021). Advancing Heritage and Vernacular Studies: The Role of the Journal of Mediterranean Cities in Sustainable Urban Development. Journal of Mediterranean Cities, 1(1), 27-28. https://doi.org/10.38027/mediterranean-cities_vol1no1_4

The dynamic interplay between settlements and natural surroundings in this region presents both challenges and opportunities for scholars and experts (Steingress, 2005). The Journal of Mediterranean Cities is well-placed to address existing gaps in the knowledge and practice in fields such as "heritage conservation", "architectural design", "urban revitalization", "traditional building techniques" and "community preservation" efforts.

Preserving heritage sites and architectural treasures is essential to the maintenance of the essence of the Mediterranean identity. Yet there remains a shortage of research that investigates balancing these aspects with sustainable urban development (Ocón, 2021; Hillali, 2007). This journal stands composed to play a role in fostering collaboration among scholars, architects, urban planners and policymakers by providing a platform, for sharing insights, and research findings based on innovative approaches. Urban revitalization and rejuvenation efforts, in the Mediterranean necessitate a grasp of backgrounds and contemporary urban issues. It seems that this journal will focus on the disciplinary exploration of human living environments encompassing architecture, city planning, and regional development will facilitate in-depth analyses and creative problem-solving. By merging these fields, the Journal can aid in constructing areas and fostering sustainable societal frameworks aligning with endeavours such as: Sustainable Urban Development (SUDs) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Action Plans.

Furthermore, the attention given to concepts and local community preservation highlights the importance of safeguarding the distinct identity and cultural legacy of Mediterranean cities. Though often ignored in studies these aspects are fundamental for preserving the region's uniqueness and promoting culturally rich and socially sustainable progress.

The publications' commitment to engaging stakeholders and its support for initiatives like SUDs and UfM Action Plans underscore the significance of cooperation among scholars, decision-makers, professionals and residents in shaping the landscape of Mediterranean cities. Through nurturing collaborations, the publication can bridge the divide, between theory and application leading to impactful and enduring urban interventions. Overall, I applaud the team for introducing the Journal of Mediterranean Cities and I believe that this journal will be an asset, for academics, policymakers and professionals committed to safeguarding and enriching the cultural essence of cities and settlements, in the Mediterranean region. I am looking forward to the interesting studies that will be published in its articles.

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