



Dwelling on space
 representation and safeguarding
 of its tangible and intangible heritage



20th

Anniversary 2003-2023

Intangible Cultural Heritage

In occasion of the twentieth anniversary of UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The international Conference is part of the activities of the project "The state as an Artwork, the State and the artworks" funded by Università Telematica Pegaso

Carmine Gambardella
Maria Natale
Rosaria Parente

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20th Anniversary 2003-2023 Intangible Cultural Heritage

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Topics:

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in education

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through education

Priority Africa

Priority to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Africa, one of the most active regions for the implementation of the Convention

Living Heritage in Emergencies

Living heritage throughout the world is increasingly affected by emergencies, including conflicts and disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards

Living Heritage and Indigenous

People Indigenous peoples hold a rich diversity of living heritage, the practice and transmission of which contributes to the ongoing vitality, strength, and well-being of communities

Sustainable Development and living heritage

The notion of "sustainability" in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development echoes the concept of "living heritage" in the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

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International Conference

Naples
17 October 2023

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Peer review

Scholars has been invited to submit researches on theoretical and methodological aspects related to Smart Design, Planning and Technologies, and show real applications and experiences carried out on this themes. Based on blind peer review, abstracts has been accepted, conditionally accepted, or rejected. Authors of accepted and conditionally accepted papers has been invited to submit full papers. These has been again peerreviewed and selected for the oral session and publication, or only for the publication in the conference proceedings.



International Conference

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Valeria Cera, Marika Falcone A knowledge system for Micaelic rupestrian architecture in Campania (Italy)

Valeria Cera, Department of Architecture, University of Naples Federico II
valeria.cera@unina.it

Marika Falcone, Urban/Eco Interdepartmental Research Center, University of Naples Federico II
marika.falcone@unina.it

Abstract

The paper reports on the progress of a scientific collaboration agreement between the University of Naples Federico II and the Diocese of Teggiano-Policastro, focused on the mapping and cataloguing of the micaelic rupestrian architectures in Campania (Italy). The aim is the setting up of knowledge, monitoring, and conservation systems for the assets of this heritage, through the digitisation and manipulation of survey data. The case study of Sant'Angelo a Fasanella (Salerno) is introduced.

Keywords: rupestrian architecture, micaelic culture, hermitages, heritage preservation, 3d survey technology

1. Introduction and state of the art

For the past couple of decades, increasing attention has been paid to the knowledge and protection of rupestrian architecture, aided by the inclusion of many sites in the UNESCO World Heritage list [1]. It is a particularly significant type of architecture because it describes Man's life choices in his evolutionary history [2] as well as the changing solutions and techniques formulated by human ingenuity to make natural cavities suitable places to host different forms of activities [3]. Undoubtedly, the cultic use of rupestrian hypogea characterises most architectures [4][5], which have been profoundly intertwined since archaic times with the rituals and spiritual needs of specific religious faiths. Within this framework, Christianity offers notable examples, many of them linked to the cult of St Michael the Archangel [6]. These are extremely typified rupestrian architectures, whose fascination is amplified by the spread of the micaelic faith throughout Europe with a geographical location of the most important sites according to imaginary, but rigorous traces known today as the *Sacred Way* (Fig.1). Beyond the religious faith, however, what all examples of cave architecture have in common is their status as a true Cultural Heritage, given both by the wealth and variety of artistic and architectural works that distinguish them, and by the intangible value enclosed in the rock walls. At the same time, it is a particularly fragile heritage because its close relationship with the natural element that generated it also determines its being exposed to various factors of deterioration, especially linked to microclimatic conditions and their variations [7][8][9]. Based on these considerations, the research presented here was defined, which is part of a scientific collaboration agreement between the Urban/Eco Interdepartmental Research Center of the University of Naples Federico II and the Diocese of Teggiano-Policastro (Campania, Italy). The study is oriented, in a first phase, to the mapping and cataloguing of the architectures dedicated to the cult of St. Michael located in the Campania region, to reach, in a second phase, a detailed analysis of some exemplary cases for which to prepare appropriate knowledge, monitoring, conservation and protection systems through the digitisation of the asset. (M.F.)

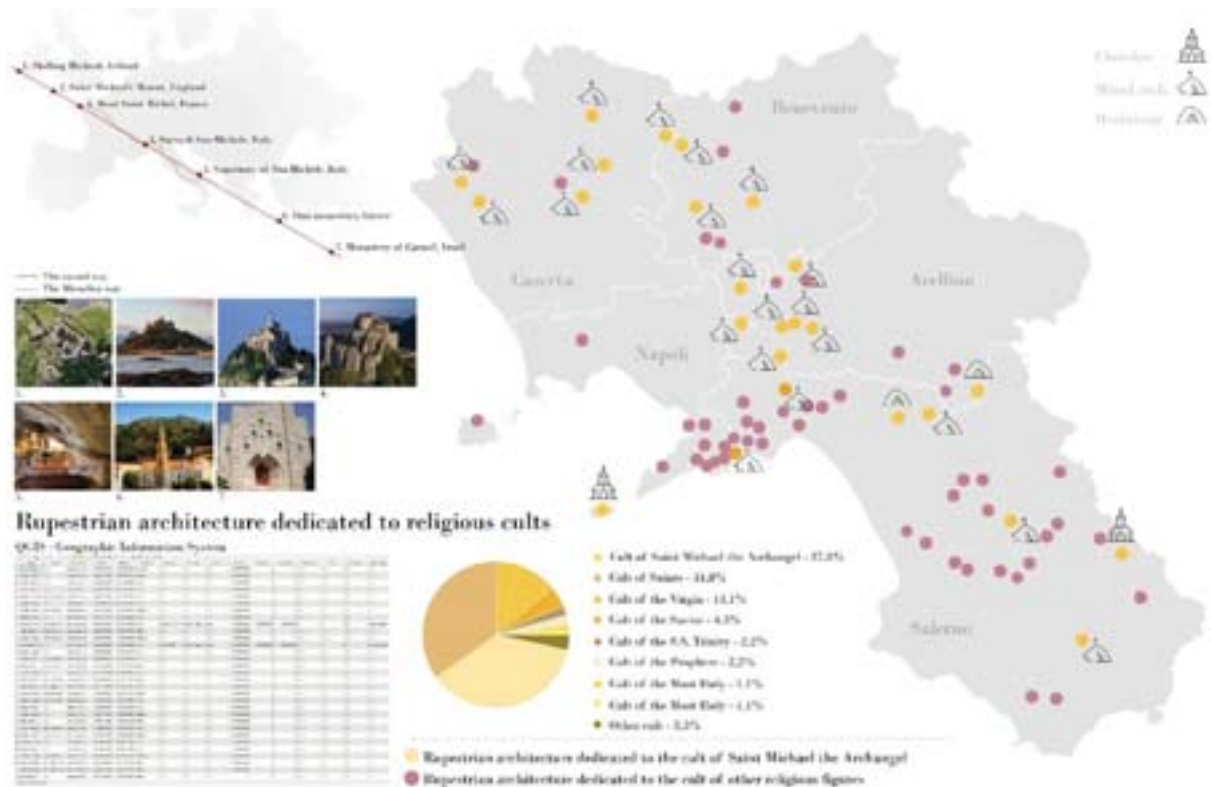


Fig. 1: The sacred way and mapping religious rupestrian architecture in Campania region (Italy). Image by the authors.

2. Methodology and first results

The study of the cultic rupestrian architectures present in Campania began with an initial classification and mapping of them in GIS, distinguishing 4 types (Fig.2): (i) churches, places specifically dedicated to Christian religion; (ii) chapels, small places of worship, isolated or dependent on a more complex architectural organism; (iii) sanctuaries, places of devotion linked to miraculous events or manifestations, or parts of churches where relics or sacred images believed to be miraculous are preserved; (iv) hermitages, isolated places to which one or more individuals originally went to lead a life devoted to prayer and contemplation; with the addition of a fifth category (v) for mixed architecture.

The cultic use of the cave led Man to the creation of a number of small architectural artifacts to shape the nature of the rock to liturgical needs so that it was possible to find recurring elements distinguished in (Fig.3): (i) cave paintings, depicting an iconographic repertoire; (ii) altars, the number and type of which varied depending on the size of the cavity and the financial availability of the patrons; (iii) staircases, created by modelling the rock walls; (iv) brick aedicules, mostly located near the altars and decorated with sacred images; (v) graves of famous and not-so-famous people, the presence of which can be traced back to the predominantly funerary and private vocation of the places of worship; (vi) hermitages, symbolising the increase in the phenomenon of hermitism that occurred in the post-Tridentine age.

With reference to religious faiths, the research, in line with parallel initiatives [10][11], verified the predominance of the devotion of the hypogea to Saint Michael, focusing specifically on the hermitage typology, given that, from a typological and morphological point of view, it is the most significant, having maintained a close link with the natural component of the rock. The relationship with the cult of the Archangel defines the presence in the rocks of a further characteristic element consisting of the baptismal font which, in addition to being destined for devotional uses along the lines of the Gargano grotto, took on the practical function of a water collection basin and a reservoir for watering pilgrims.

Once the above-mentioned framework was in place, the study is focusing on a few exemplary cases identified, at the current state of research, in the hermitage of San Michele a le Grotelle (in Padula, Salerno) [12][13][14] and the hermitage of Sant'Angelo a Fasanella (Salerno). The second case study is introduced here, which is particularly interesting as it is part of the Vallo di Diano, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The research, in progress, started with the preparation of a historical analysis as well as the definition of a digitisation campaign of the hermitage. The artefact is notable (Fig.4): firstly, its planimetric configuration reveals a remarkable articulation, complexity and surface extension when compared to other rupestrian architecture in Campania. The presence of tunnels and gathered areas reveals an

interesting use of space that the current survey is bringing out in a new key, also in comparison to previous surveys. Moreover, the extremely naturalistic and wild aspect of the site is highly suggestive, especially regarding the exterior, where only the entrance suggests access to a cave, perfectly hidden in a rock wall that has remained intact in its consistency and nature. Finally, the remains of a Benedictine building at the base of the cave reveal historical and liturgical connections that have conditioned the architecture and statics of the cavity and that the survey in progress is analysing. (V.C.)

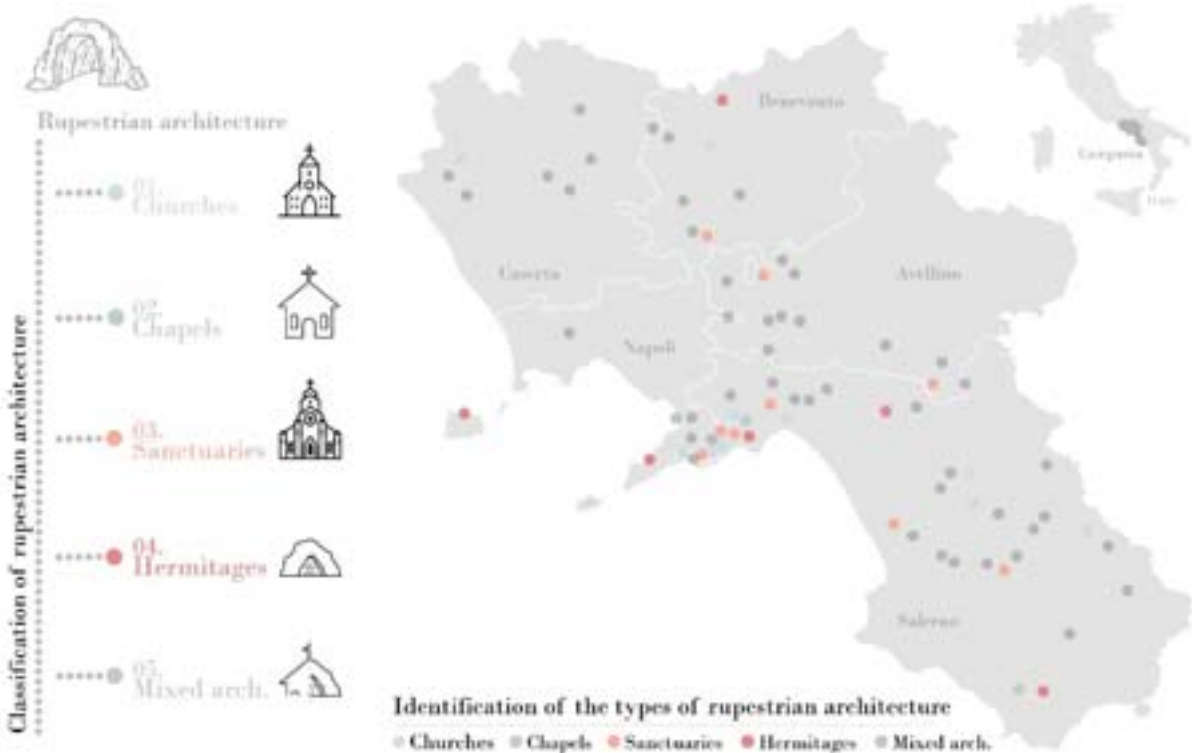


Fig. 2: Classification of rupestrian architecture and its distribution in Campania region (Italy). Image by the authors.

Characteristic elements of rupestrian architecture

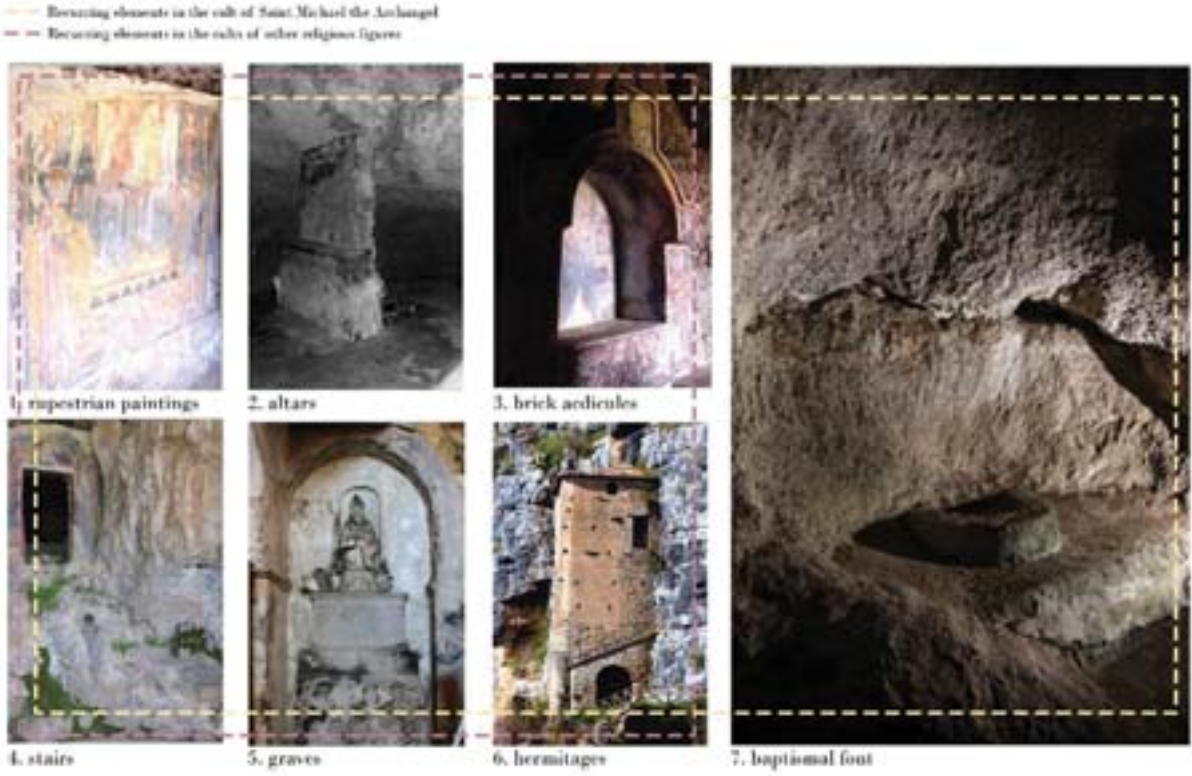


Fig. 3: Recurrent elements of rupestrian architectures. Image by the authors.

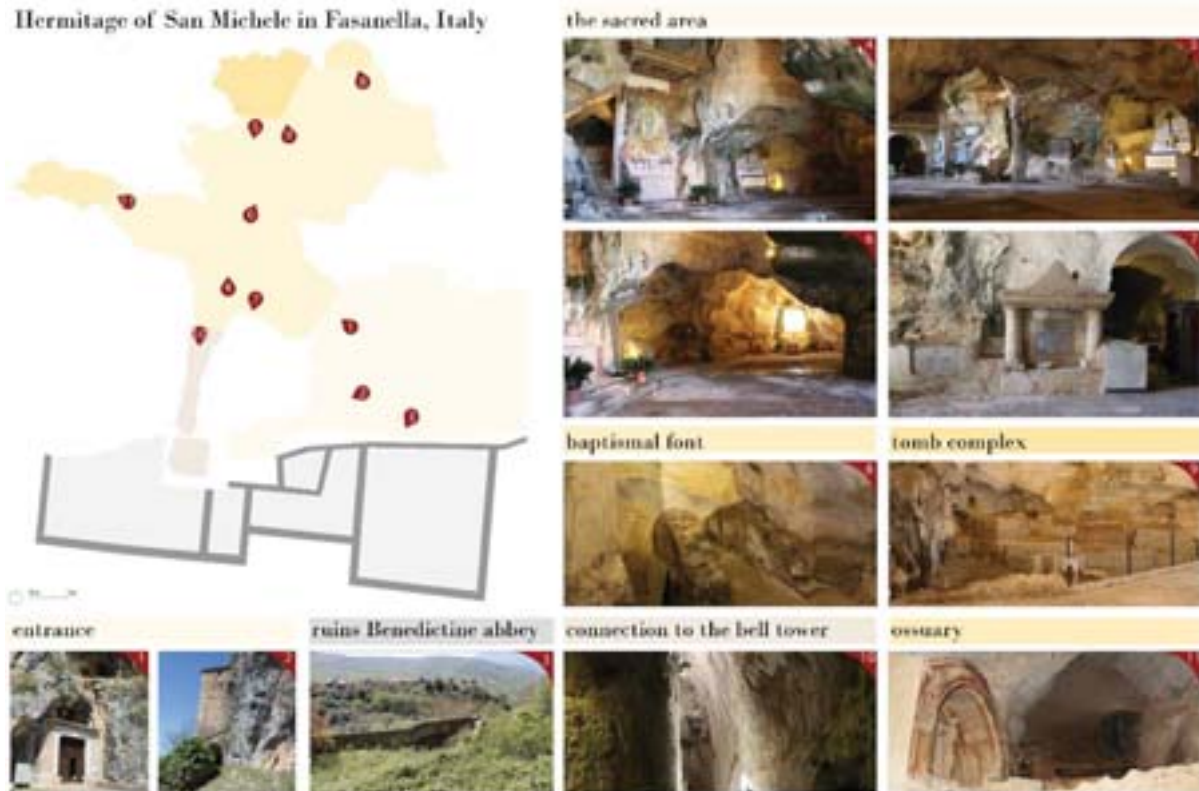


Fig. 4: Hermitage of Saint Michael in Sant'Angelo in Fasanella (Salerno, Italy). Image by the authors with Francesca Della Corte.

3. Conclusions and future developments

The research, as mentioned above, is in progress and aims to systematise knowledge on the hermitages dedicated to the Micaelic cult, located in Campania, through the indexing and cataloguing of the assets of this heritage and their networking. The ultimate objective is to safeguard Campania's micaelic rupestrian heritage through the setting up of specific preventive conservation and restoration programmes. To this end, some cognitive actions have already been initiated for specific examples such as the hermitage of Sant'Angelo a Fasanella. The process planned focuses on the digitisation of artefacts and the manipulation of survey data for the extraction of informative descriptors capable of guiding the most appropriate conservation and preservation choices, as was done for the first case of the Grottelle. The approach aims to be provident of subsequent developments, aiming to configure an analysis aimed at the search for invariants that manifest peculiarities or common wills to characterise specific forms in a typological family that is much broader in its declinations, with contents of the highest historical and cultural value. (V.C., M.F.)

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