



**Raw earth architecture and construction.  
Historical, sociological, and economic approaches**  
5<sup>th</sup> Cross-disciplinary exchange on raw earth constructions  
International round table

Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Montpellier (Hérault)  
23-24 October 2019

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The fifth Cross-disciplinary exchange on raw earth constructions (*Échanges transdisciplinaires sur les constructions en terre crue*) will take place in Montpellier, France, in October 2019. It follows four other meetings (2001, 2005, 2008, 2016) focusing on major earth building techniques (pisé, cob, mud bricks, wattle and daub), finishing processes, and the manufacture of objects and furniture.

This series of conferences and roundtables aims to stimulate dialogue among researchers with complementary skills and approaches, by reaching across the boundaries of different specialisations: archaeologists, historians, architects, builders, restorers, ethnologists, writing experts, materials analysis experts, and so on.

Unlike the previous events, the European conference in 2019 will not address technical or lexical aspects; it will be exclusively devoted to social, economic and historical approaches to earth construction and the act of building with this material. After having thoroughly explored material issues, by examining remains in the light of the realities and knowledge provided by preserved heritage sites, mainly with a view to answering archaeological questions of a technical order, and after having presented the multiple facets of earth construction heritage in France and other countries, a need has emerged to consider this archaeological or heritage architecture from other perspectives.

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition will therefore focus on two themes with broad scopes:

- Theme 1: the socioeconomics of earth habitats;
- Theme 2: evolution through history.

Topics and issues of interest to the Scientific Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Geography-based studies on the distribution of earth structures throughout an area (regardless of scale), in relation to buildings made of other materials or to earth buildings using different techniques, etc.;
- Historical studies of the evolution of earth constructions or specific techniques, the processes involved in the transmission or adoption of a technique or the development of a building culture, which can also be of varying scale, and so on;

- The visual dimension of earth (as a material or earth architecture): does it play a role as an identifier or as a social, cultural, geographic or other indicator? Or, on the contrary, is it deliberately hidden from view?
- The treatment of earth as a material in construction treatises; legal texts relating to the regulation and the protection of earth constructions, building cost estimates and contracts, inspection reports, construction accidents, the vulnerability of earth structures, etc.;
- The socioeconomic status of the owners and/or occupants of earth housing;
- The status, origin, specialisation and remuneration of earth builders; the manufacture and sale of mass-produced materials, etc.;
- The analysis of ancient documents such as travel writings, visual works, press articles, and so on.

The current dynamics relating to the promotion of this material (valuation, preservation, local strategy, experimentation and innovation, etc.) will not be addressed.

**Relevant periods:** every period since recent Prehistory.

**Geographic area:** European and Mediterranean countries.

**The presentations will include the following formats:**

- Summary papers (25')
- Short presentations focused on case studies (15')
- Posters presented orally during a specific session (5')

**Submission of proposals:** proposals for papers or posters must be submitted to the Scientific Committee by **15 January 2019**.

**Scientific Committee selections:** the committee will meet in January 2019 and rapidly notify their decision to proposal authors.

**Steering and Organising Committee**

Claire-Anne de Chazelles (Cnrs, Umr 5140-ASM)  
 Emilie Leal (Inrap)  
 Alain Klein (Architerre architecture workshop)  
 Alain Derey (Ensam)  
 Philippe Devillers (Ensam, Lifam)  
 Archéologie des Sociétés Méditerranéennes, Cnrs

**Scientific Committee**

Claire-Anne de Chazelles, Cnrs, Montpellier  
 Emilie Leal, Inrap, Nîmes  
 Alain Klein, Architerre, Poucharramet  
 Aymat Catafau, Université de Perpignan Via Domitia; CRESEM  
 Philippe Devillers, Ensam, Lifam, Montpellier  
 Hubert Guillaud, honorary professor, former scientific director of the AE&CC research unit-CRAterre-ENSAG lab  
 Bastien Lefèbvre, Université Jean-Jaurès, Toulouse; TRACES  
 Hélène Mousset, French Ministry for Culture, Limoges  
 Bérengère Perello, Cnrs Umr 5133-Archéorient, Lyon

**5<sup>th</sup> Cross-disciplinary exchange on raw earth constructions**

Montpellier 23-24 October 2019

Last name: .....

First

name: .....

Organisation: .....

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Address: .....

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Email: .....

Proposal:

Paper

Poster

Theme 1

Theme 2

Title, author(s). Attach a synopsis no longer than half a page:

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**Proposal to be sent to all three organisers by 15/01/2019**

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[emilie.leal@inrap.fr](mailto:emilie.leal@inrap.fr)

[architerre@wanadoo.fr](mailto:architerre@wanadoo.fr) (Alain Klein)