

Dies Domini CENTRO STUDI
per l'architettura sacra e la città
FONDAZIONE CARD. GIACOMO LERCARO



in collaboration with FRATE SOLE FOUNDATION

Dies Domini Study Centre for Religious Architecture and the City – The Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro Foundation
The Frate Sole Foundation, Pavia

International Seminar

ARCHITECTURE AND LITURGY: DESIGN AUTONOMY AND STANDARDS

Friday, 20 March 2015

Via Riva di Reno 57, Bologna

*Each moment in history says:
In the language of the living is the praise of the living God*
Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro

The second International Seminar offers a new stage of critical reflection on the relationship between the liturgical and ecclesiastical guidelines offered by the Second Vatican Council and church architecture. After examining the subject of the role of church buildings in modern cities in the Seminar of March 2014, we now offer a reflection on what the terms of dialogue and the interdependence between architecture and liturgy are.

The dogmatic constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium* is a fundamentally important document in the Church's struggle for renewal, and in the desire to make the celebrating assembly participate fully in the liturgical action, the moment of proclamation of the Word and the central role of the Eucharistic Sacrifice have been made more prominent as cornerstones of the moment of worship, with immediate and obvious repercussions on the architectural questions concerning the construction and organisation of the celebratory space.

A few decades after the first experiments of renovated liturgical structures and new ecclesiastical architectures, there is still much room for research and reflection on offer, since, among the architectural achievements inspired by conciliar guidelines, there have been very different, even contradictory, results.

Whether and to what extent the new liturgical sensitivity should or could direct the design of space is the fundamental theme around which architects and liturgists are working.

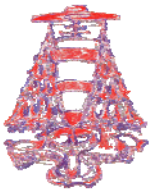
Therefore, this Seminar is intended as an occasion to compare and propose various ways of seeing and experiencing the relationship between autonomy and the standard applied to the architectural design, in reference to conciliar liturgical instances.

SUBJECT AREAS

The works of the International Seminar will be organised around the following subject areas, which the reports presented in response to the *call for papers* should explicitly address.

1 – Interdependence/Independence in the relationship between liturgy and architecture

The construction or conversion of a building must deal with a number of laws, standards and regulations. Can the liturgical aspect be reduced to "one" standard that delimits the autonomy of artists and architects? And in what terms is liturgy a standard: with respect to the hierarchy of the sources and the Magisterium, which are the most binding stipulations and which constitute a resource for fuelling the creativity and independence of the design? In what terms does adhering to the ritual allow for different liturgical experiences and interpretations? In what way can the possible celebratory pluralism--while remaining within the standard--affect the programmes that precede the architectural designs (construction and compliance)? If the founding conciliar standard is the enculturation of the liturgy, is the operational regulatory framework for the architecture being defined excessively vague? What knowledge, expectations, concrete work conditions affect the reasoning on autonomy and liturgical standards? Who is responsible for applying the standard and ensuring its correct interpretation?



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2 – Autonomy and standards from the commissioner's point of view

A solid foundation of dialogue between the commissioner and the designer is a useful tool that can be a determining factor for the positive outcome of the design over time.

What tools do the commissioner, architects and artists communicate with, outlining the limits of the designers' and artists' autonomy? In what terms do calls for entries and the documents preliminary to the design propose the relationship between liturgical standards and creativity, between liturgical standards and liturgical experimentation? How legitimately can a commissioner for a building or adaptation propose/impose/wish for their own specific--insofar as it may be allowed--interpretation of liturgical standards, influencing the future use of the building?

3 – Permanence and impermanence

Liturgical standards have changed over the course of history (both in terms of rituals and their interpretation), and will likely continue to do so, over time and space.

In what terms is architecture called upon to remain stable, identity-making, while answering a liturgical standard that is canonical, yet temporary? Can the liturgical space be thought of as welcoming for various liturgies, or should it merely be modelled on the ritual of the moment and place where the intervention takes place? Is there a liturgical welcoming, an availability of space, that goes beyond the ritual? In the case of adaptations, is there a limit beyond which the necessary adaptation neglects, and finally abandons, the profound meaning of a building in terms of historical worship?

4 – Autonomy and standards in architecture

In literature, reference to architectural styles and models is frequent, as an identity-making and memorial reference.

In what terms can the styles of historical or established liturgical architecture constitute a formal, functional or poetic standard? Is the acknowledged absence of a canonical style of liturgical, post-conciliar building a cultural weakness, or the adhesion to liturgical enculturation? Is the search for a post-conciliar style useful, practical, according to what disciplinary statutes?

CALL FOR PAPER

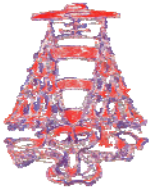
Scholars and researchers of liturgy, architectural history, history of Christianity, and religious disciplines, architectural and urban design, theological, philosophical disciplines and humanities related to architectural studies and catholic liturgy, are invited to present contributions to the Seminar.

Preference will be given to those contributions that consider the issues proposed in light of a variety of sources and accounts, favouring specific post-conciliar case studies that present documented and established structures.

Preference will be given to those papers that present the results of innovative research concerning documented case studies (dissertations, doctoral theses, targeted researches, designs of national or EU interest, European competitive tenders), with a disciplinary or multidisciplinary angle.

Contributions in English or Italian will be accepted.

Presentation by the **29th of September 2014** of an *abstract* of the report with a maximum of 2000 characters (spaces included), together with a brief Curriculum Vitae of 1 A4 page maximum [academic position or institutional research framework, main publications and research on the subject, main designs, which may be accompanied by elaborate graphics or images]. Please specify the subject area for which you want to submit the contribution.



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The *abstracts* will be assessed by the scientific committee of the Observatory, based on the following criteria: originality of the research, innovativeness of the method used compared with scientifically established literature, relevance of the case study within the context of international critical debate, clarity in identifying sources and hermeneutic criteria adopted, applicability of the method to other case studies.

The reports accepted at the convention and those reserved for publication will be announced by the **31st of October 2014**.

The speakers invited to present reports at the Seminar will be accommodated at the Foundation and will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

The full text of the reports with images free of copyright and the Power Point presentation (maximum 10 slides), together with a CV of maximum 500 characters (spaces included), must be presented by the **23rd of February 2015**. The reports must be no longer than 8000 characters (spaces included) and be written in English or Italian. The report may be reviewed and supplemented by bibliographical and critical notes for the publication of the seminar proceedings.

A maximum of 12 reports 15 minutes long will be accepted.

Request for more information and submission of the material required to attend the seminar should be sent to: Study Centre for Religious Architecture and the City - The Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro Foundation

Via Riva di Reno 57, 40122 Bologna

Tel. 051-6566287

Email: osservatorio.centrostudi@fondazioneleercaro.it.

It is possible to attend the convention as a listener after registration and payment of a 35 € fee as indicated in the application form available at www.centrostudi.fondazioneleercaro.it. Participation is free for the selected speakers and the participants of the Observatory for religious architecture.

Simultaneous interpretation English-Italian and Italian-English is provided.

For more information, contact the organising Secretariat of the Study Centre, via Riva di Reno 57, Bologna, Tel. 051-6566287, from Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

OBSERVATORY

This seminar is a continuation and completion of the experience launched by the *Study Centre for Religious Architecture and the City* and the *Frate Sole Foundation* in October 2012 with appointments of the Seminar by invitation of the **OBSERVATORY ON RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE**. A new opportunity for a meeting between experts and researchers, who are part of the Observatory, will take place on Saturday **21st of March 2015** from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. In this location, based on the findings of the reports of the International Seminar, the Observers will be able to find new terms of discussion and, as the case may be, offer conclusions and guidelines on the subject.

The Seminar speakers selected following the response to the *call for papers* may be present at the work of the Observatory. The participation of the Observers to the International Seminar is free and accommodation and dinner for Thursday the 19th and Friday the 20th March is provided. It is mandatory that registration for the Seminar and reservations of accommodations must be made by the **6th of March 2015**.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Claudia MANENTI (coordinator), Giorgio DELLA LONGA, Andrea LONGHI, Tiziano GHIRELLI Giuseppe RUSSO, Vittorio VACCARI.