

MANTOVA. Public-private agreements in Mantova

Le Pescherie di Giulio Romano

Restoration and renovation project

LE PESCHERIE DI GIULIO ROMANO, A UNIQUE AND EXTRAORDINARY BUILDING, WILL COME BACK TO ITS FORMER SPLENDOR. THE FOUNDATION OF PESCHERIE DI GIULIO ROMAN WAS SETUP TO RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE MONUMENT IN THIRTY-YEAR CONCESSION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANTOVA TO REHABILITATE THE BUILDING INTO A CULTURAL AND TOURISM ATTRACTION OF EXCELLENCE WITH A PERMANENT ACCESS TO THE SHORE OF RIO CANAL. ALL WORKS AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE MADE WITH THE CONTRIBUTION AND COLLABORATION OF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS OF MANTUA.

The rehabilitation project of "Pescherie de Giulio Romano" is being promoted and managed by the Foundation Le Pescherie, a private association that will recover the building and install there new functions and uses. It was previously identified as an important architectural and historical building that needed urgent attention in order to be preserved and rehabilitated.



In this pilot project, the Municipality of Mantova has granted to the «Le Pescherie di Giulio Romano» Foundation a 30 year concession to regenerate and valorize the monument located in the heart of the city to uncover and reconstitute part of its history to Mantua citizens. During project execution an Urbact Local Group (ULG) was setup to discuss with city stakeholders the programme that will be implemented after the restoration works are finished.

This is not however an ordinary project as the city is trying to use it as pilot to test new methodologies of participation by citizens and their representatives. A co-planning process that involved residents and small businesses in the area to devise the best solutions for its future use. The investment is part of a larger redevelopment and regeneration plan for the historic center of Mantua but lessons learnt here will be used in future project in the city centre.



Cultural Heritage Management in a city like Mantova is a constant challenge in terms of sustainability as almost every building in the city centre has historical value. Moreover the city is on the UNESCO World Heritage list recognizing its urban structure as a model of the renaissance era in Italy. The vast number of buildings currently under the municipality ownership management and constant need for rehabilitation works puts extreme pressure on city budgets and creates difficulties to define a sustainable use of these buildings. So the city council is trying to develop partnerships with the private sector to rehabilitate and re-use historical buildings.

Bringing people into the process

The municipality has made several agreements with other private entities to co-manage relevant cultural heritage sites in the city in order to implement a more agile and sustainable approach to the management of cultural heritage. Its aims to increase the fundraising opportunities and build a participatory approach on projects currently being implemented.



This is the case of the recent formed "Palazzo Te Foundation" established in 9th of May 2018. The foundation has its roots on the "International Centre of Art and Culture of Palazzo Te Association" (Associazione Centro Internazionale d'Arte e di Cultura di Palazzo Te) and its main goal is to manage the cultural activities of this important site. Under this arrangement the Palazzo Te is currently implementing some works that will increase the attractiveness of the site, namely by creating a cafeteria and a bookshop and open the gardens for public use. The main goal is to share this important patrimony with the people from Mantova so they can actively engage in its cultural activities.



Through this change a public private partnership was de facto established between the Municipality, owning the palace, and the foundation managing it.

Sustainability at work

Thanks to this governance shift, the management of the pole will become more sustainable for the Municipality. The palace at the moment is undergoing some important restoration work, that will make it more welcoming to visitors and at the same time give new functions to some of the areas, that will be opened to the public for free, or have new business-related activities and host new cultural exhibitions and activities.

Another example is the Pescherie building on the city centre where the municipality set up an agreement with the "Friends of Palazzo Te Association" (Associazione Amici del Palazzo Te) that concedes a 30 year period to this private association linked to cultural heritage for the rehabilitation of the building and management of the activities that will take place there. To manage the project the Foundation «Le Pescherie di Giulio Romano» was formed as a formal structure that accomodates an agglomeration of civil associations including the “Friends of Palazzo Te” and the “Mantovani Museums Association. The association is responsible for raising the necessary funds, manage the rehabilitation works and later explore the site.

This type of agreements allows the municipality to extend the number of projects in the city rehabilitation and progress faster without overstressing their funding needs. Association Together they presented a project, accepted by the Municipality of Mantua, for the restoration and functional recovery of both the «Pescherie di Levante» and the underlying bank of the Rio as part of a broader program to restore the relationship between the city and the water channel that runs throught the city.

Together they presented a project, accepted by the Municipality of Mantua, for the restoration and functional recovery of both the «Pescherie di Levante» and the underlying bank of the Rio as part of a broader program to restore the relationship between the city and the water channel that runs throught the city. Although tarnished over time, the Mantuan identity and its cultural heritage is linked to this waterway that has been the heart of productive and commercial activities and communication route of primary importance in the city development in ancient times.



“We are optimistic because there is already some convergence of ideas around our project and the network has already achieved a lot of success in different contexts. We had also some very important collaborations to monitor the water of the river with the objective of recovering both its quality and the aesthetic aspect of the canal

Paolo Corbellani, ULG Member, President of

As general objective, the project intends to return the complex to public use, creating the conditions for a shared and participated administration of the building. One focus groups were created to discuss and present proposals to define a programme for the use of the building after restoration works are completed. The focus group had two main objectives:

1. The first one is the restoration of the monument and open it to the public fruition;
2. And secondly to reopen a permanent access to the banks of the Rio Canal waterway.

In fact, the building is facing the Rio Canal, the river that crosses the city on which the Mantuan economy was forged over the centuries. The Canal is currently unusable due to water pollution and several disastrous after-war interventions that covered parts of it. The project will rehabilitate also the shores of the canal and will recover an emblematic relationship that existed for centuries between Mantuans and this water channel.

As a result of the project participatory process four main areas of intervention were defined as follows:

- Requalify the architectural complex in question by making it compatible with the needs of participated use by the citizens and at the same time consistent with the testimonies that come from the past, whose protection and enhancement is promoted by focusing on the functional reorganization of the different environments;
- Retain an important link with the past life of the building and with the many destinations used over the centuries, united by the collective character and by having hosted activities related to the economic life of the city and the water that marks the specificity;
- Restore and allows the upgraded product to re-enter fully into the economic and social daily life of the city and the territory, identifying it as the container of actions and activities with a strong impact that "make" and "represent" the Mantuan culture;
- Organize the continuity of the relationship between the redeveloped building, city and territory, disseminating in the city,



on the territory and beyond its borders, the cultural and operational awareness of the available resource. It also should promoting integration with the citizen's context and territorial use of the complex through targeted events and meetings, participation in and functional integration with manifestations realized in the context of other projects or programs, the activities of civil society currently managed from partner. At the end It could experiment with sustainable management methods of the services to be started and thus making them able to continue to stand up automatically after the end of the project and project into the future.

Engaging students in the implementation

Another initiative to make citizens aware of their patrimony promoted by the city was to establish a permanent collaboration with the Mantegna High School with the objective to recover both the quality of the water and the aesthetics of the canal. To achieve this a convention was signed between the school and the Le Pescherie Foundation to involve students in the instalation of filter systems to analyse the water quality of the Canal. The main goal is to make the Rio navigable again in order to develop new businesses on its banks by creating tourist trips along the Canal. Although tarnished over time, the Mantuan identity and its cultural heritage is linked to this waterway that has been the heart of productive and commercial activities and communication route of primary importance in the city development in ancient times.



"The project of analysis of the 'Rio Canal' was born during the World Water Day celebrations. The foundation and our schools agreed to sign a convention to create internships of students alternating school with work."
Stefania Roversi, ULG Member, Microbiology Professor at Mantegna High School

The city of Mantua is taking steps to adopt innovative approach to rehabilitation of cultural heritage by building a strong relationship with the city civil associations creating a pilot project where citizens are involved at an early stage of the project. By launching an open call to give a 30 year concession to an association, the municipality creates the basis for real citizen engagement in the process, connecting restoration of the old centre with new development perspectives where citizens can and will play a far more important role than today. Le Pescherie project is launching the seeds to raise the level of citizens participation in the valorisation of cultural heritage. It will allow Mantuans to take possession of their heritage and influence the future of the city and its citizens in very concrete ways.

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By Pedro Soutinho, INT-HERIT LE

Videos

Palazzo Te Video Case: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dq4xRCDr_GA

Le Pescherie Video Case: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXX2Ao4P0H4>

Mantova Vox Pop Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZoCIRFDF0w>

Mantova Transnational Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsemvTp9iQg&t=378s>

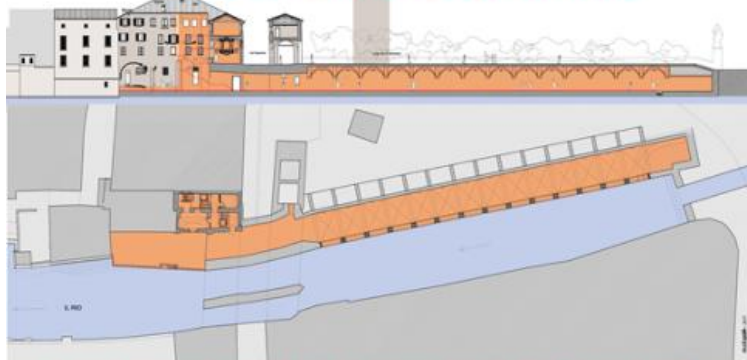
About the city: <http://www.comune.mantova.gov.it/index.php/turismo/english-version>

About the INT-HERIT Project

The INT-HERIT project is an Implementation Network under the Urbact Programme that identifies, collects and exchanges knowledge across nine small to medium-size cities sharing similar challenges when tackling cultural heritage protection, conservation or valorisation. Implementation has all sorts of constraints and variables that may influence the final results. New smart, low cost initiatives are being implemented to overcome these constraints by adopting an integrative and participative approach towards stakeholders aiming to increase the value created for the community through heritage conservation projects. This article provides an overview of some of the initiatives currently taking place in the city in order to contribute for a knowledge base of solutions that will be hopefully useful for other cities across Europe while managing their cultural heritage.

♥ pescherie

RESTAURO E VALORIZZAZIONE



UN LUOGO UNICO E STRAORDINARIO, LE PESCHIERE DI LEVANTE DI GIULIO ROMANO TORNERANNO PRESTO AL LORO ANTICO SPLENDORE. LA FONDAZIONE LE PESCHIERE DI GIULIO ROMANO È STATA COSTITUITA PER RESTAURARE E VALORIZZARE IL MONUMENTO GIULIESCO, IN CONCESSIONE TRENTENNALE DAL COMUNE DI MANTOVA, PER REALIZZARE E GESTIRE UN POLO CULTURALE E TURISTICO DI ECCELLENZA CON UN ACCESSO PERMANENTE ALLA RIVA DEL RIO. TUTTE LE OPERE E LE ATTIVITÀ SARANNO REALIZZATE ANCHE CON IL CONTRIBUTO E LA COLLABORAZIONE DELLA CITTADINANZA.



Fondazione Comunità Mantovana Onlus



Fondazione Banca Antoniana Mantovana



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