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Department of Architecture, University of Chieti-Pescara.



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*Graphic project:* Clara Verazzo, Valeria Cataldo, Alessandra Cirillo.

# Heritage in conflict

Memory, history, architecture

*edited by*

María Pilar García Cuetos  
Claudio Varagnoli

*Essays by*

Esther Almarcha Núñez-Herrador  
Stefano D'Avino  
Ascensión Hernández  
Antonella Montanari  
Aldo Giorgio Pezzi  
María Pilar García Cuetos  
Francisco Erice Sebares  
Lucia Serafini  
Patrizia Luciana Tomassetti  
Andrea Ugolini  
Claudio Varagnoli



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[www.aracneeditrice.it](http://www.aracneeditrice.it)  
[info@aracneeditrice.it](mailto:info@aracneeditrice.it)

via Quarto Negroni, 15  
00040 Ariccia (RM)  
(06) 93781065

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# Memories and architectures

PILAR GARCÍA CUETOS, CLAUDIO VARAGNOLI

The joint research presented in this book sums up a series of reflexions in which memory and architecture are the common denominator.

In 2009 the Spanish team devoted to the analysis of the reconstruction and restoration in Francoist Spain, promoted a seminar to introduce and debate on different aspects of monumental restoration and reconstruction in Spain and Italy between the 1930s and 1970s. In 2012 the seminar on post-war instances was hold in Italy, at the University of Chieti-Pescara. As a result, a conjoint book was published (*Restoring memory. Spain and Italy in the face of post-war monumental restoration*, Trea, 2010).

From that moment on, we have developed the analysis of the complex interaction between memory and architecture and its manipulation in different periods of history.

Architecture necessarily integrates the visual and physical memory of wars, of the most complex and negative stages and of the regimes whose existence people would rather forget. Post-civil-war Spain and post-war Europe faced the presence of memory in ruins, monuments; milestones which perpetuated events with an emotional charge difficult to overlook, or which had been politically or ideologically manipulated. Post-war reconstruction and restoration were determined by these circumstances.

The papers we introduce now have this common target and are the result of the work by two researching teams.

The Spanish contribution to this collective work is related to two research projects on reconstruction and restoration of monuments during Francoism. Both projects are *Restauración y reconstrucción monumental en España (1938-1958)*. *Las Direcciones Generales de Bellas Artes y de Regiones Devastadas*, ref. HUM2007-62699 [Monumental Reconstruction and Restoration in Spain 1938-1958. The General Directions of Fine Arts and of Devastated Regions] and *Restauración monumental y desarrollismo en España 1959-1975*, ref. HAR2011-23918 [Monumental Restoration and Developmentalism 1959-1975]. Both were financed by the I+D+d Plan of the Spanish Government and by FEDER funds.

Previous to our work, the restoration and preservation of monuments during Francoism was an unsystematized line of research at a national level and the ignorance of the monumental restoration and reconstruction processes in those years restricted our capacity for rigorous analyses of our monumental legacy and its proper tutelage. In the first phase, we elaborated a panorama of monumental restoration in the first

Francoism and all data was systematized on a database, conceived of as an instrument for transferring knowledge. This database had more than a thousand records. In the second phase, we focused on the research on the restoration processes during the Spanish Developmentalism, using the same methodology. A traveling exhibition through Spain was organized, the database was completed, amounting to more than three thousand records, and the interventions of the first phase of the project have been geolocated, making available all the information. At the moment, we are focusing in the biographies and the analyses of the works by the most outstanding architects in Francoism (1939-1975). At the same time, a series of monographs on those architects is being scheduled together with a context examination which sets the restoring activity in a wider panorama (social, cultural, artistic). We also try to establish the relationships with the European methodological and theoretical frame. The main feature of our research is its double aspect: theoretical, as knowledge increase, and practical, since that knowledge is a compulsory strategic tool to develop tutelage policies for monumental heritage today.

In this conjoint publication there are four chapters about Spain. The first one, Francisco Erice Sebares, professor in the University of Oviedo, studies the creation of collective memories, which are a source of conflicts, controversies and disputes. The past re-appropriation these processes imply take place in different social and cultural “vectors of memory”, among them the erection of monuments, memorials or the reassessment of urban and architectonic elements significance. These practices are usually carried out by states and the authorities; nevertheless alternative forms of resistance and proposals for interpretation and use of the past are also involved. This lecture is the frame for the rest of the essays, where the concepts of past and memory are the common foundations.

María Pilar García Cuetos, professor in the University of Oviedo and head researcher of the projects, analyses the manipulation of some compounds and monuments by Francoist ideology and the creation of sites of memory of this regime. Linked to that manipulation, a new restoring methodology was imposed that could suit the recreation of the past by the new state. Monuments and cities were transformed in order to create sites of memory at the service of Francoism. This ideological charge that influenced their reconstruction and restoration, is still present in those monuments and biased the reading and reception by today society.

Esther Almarcha, professor in the University of Castilla la Mancha, focused on the analysis of the reconstruction processes in the Alcázar of Toledo and Brunete (Madrid), two of Francoism symbolic milestones. She shows how the policy of the New State defined in Spain after the civil war wielded at the beginning a strong ideological charge above its functionality. Years after the Alcázar kept that charge,