

The significance of the bridge in the historic urban landscape among history and future, metaphors and hints, dream and vision, challenge and wit.

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The world is the custodian of a certain “wealth“ that is not quantifiable or exchangeable only as an accumulation of things, but is based on internal and external relationships between man and the Historic Urban Landscape. If we consider the association among individuals, different communities, human beings and their environment as the true mechanism of the world, we can understand how important it is to build bridges not only to connect sites, but also to bring people, cultures, nations and generations together.

All cultures felt the need to build bridges, and still today primitive pigmy populations build bridges with lianas and poles to cross the African equatorial forest, in order to be connected with other men, to get to know each other and to survive. In Tibet, some people used to suspend three connected ropes between the sides of the mountains in order to get over deep crevices. In France, the Chauvet Pont d'Arc, *"the largest natural bridge in Europe"*, forms the entrance of the Chauvet cave , a particularly 'sacred' place through Palaeolithic eyes.

Andrea Palladio, the great 16th century Italian Architect and Engineer, hit on the essence of bridge building when he said "...bridges should benefit the spirit of the community by exhibiting commodiousness, firmness, and delight."

In this way, how can a bridge transform a place? What might be the reasons for its project, its meanings and the consequences of the choices made? What can the effects of a new project be in a Historic Urban Landscape, not only from the perceptual but also from the social point of view? The paper will explore and try to answer these questions through the analysis of the meanings of a place and the possible transformations that a bridge can generate in historical sites, highlighting the paradigm conservation/development of works included in the World Heritage properties.