



ISCEAH
International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage

Theme 3: Technology

Proposal for the period 2018-2020

Problem:

It is very common in the literature to read descriptions of earthen architecture, which unfortunately are far from satisfactory. For example, there are: errors in the type of techniques that were used; descriptions limited to morphology without any mention of the associated constructive cultures (even in hypothetical form); lack of illustration of the technical ingenuity of these earthen constructions.

These generalities do not serve earthen architecture, while the lessons of archaeological, heritage and vernacular earthen heritage for a sustainable architecture are probably multiple (responses to natural context and hazards, economical aspects, etc.).

In order to participate in a better knowledge of earthen architecture, it is proposed that the ICOMOS-ISCEAH community take stock of the existing works on terminologies of earthen techniques in various languages and feed an atlas of technical ingenuity of earthen constructions, to provide a first base of knowledge illustrating the variety and richness of techniques. This knowledge shall open up perspectives on the question of technologies that could go beyond the subject matter to embrace broader notions, such as economy, environment, culture and societies.

Outcomes:

The theme on technology of the International Scientific Committee on the Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH) would like to collect and make public a selection of existing works on terminologies on earthen architecture techniques sorted by languages and an alpha version of the atlas of remarkable historic / traditional techniques in earthen structures; in order to:

- Disseminate the existing knowledge on the different techniques already recorded in earthen architecture;
- Bring awareness on the wealth of earthen architecture techniques.

Terminologies are defined as: the body of terms used with a particular technical application in a subject of study, profession, etc. It differs from glossary, which is a collection of specialized terms in several languages. To start, it is suggested to collect works on terminology in the languages of ICOMOS (English, French and Spanish).

Activities and Timetable:

During the next two years and a half, the theme technology of ISCEAH will collect and make public:



- a) A selection of the already existing works on terminology of earthen architecture techniques sorted by languages; and,
- b) An alpha version of the atlas of remarkable traditional techniques of earthen structures in countries where members undertake works and researches. Remarkable traditional techniques shall be original or judicious technical architecture or details.

These activities will be done following this timetable:

- 1) May-July 2018: Distribution of proposal. Call for members to be part of the theme. Call for members to be part of an ISCEAH Theme 3 Advisory Committee in charge of discussing the most appropriate works on terminology to be posted, revising the information made available in the atlas;
- 2) July-December 2018: Collection of existing works on terminology (open call to all ISCEAH members);
- 3) July 2019: Evaluation and recommendations by Theme 3 Advisory Committee on the ongoing process;
- 4) January-June 2019: Discussion among the Theme 3 Advisory Committee to select the most appropriate works on terminology to further be disseminate;
- 5) January-June 2019: Post selected works on terminology on ISCEAH website and disseminate the posting through social media;
- 6) July-December 2019: Open call to all ISCEAH members to contribute to the atlas by providing information to be posted on <https://cartoterra.net/> on at least 2 remarkable historic / traditional techniques of earthen structures, in countries where works and researches are undertaken;
- 7) January-June 2020: Revision by the Theme 3 Advisory Committee, regarding the information posted on <https://cartoterra.net/>
- 8) July-December 2020: Final evaluation and recommendations by the Advisory Committee.