EDITORIAL

MEMORY AND TECHNOLOGY

The concept of "memory" has different meanings when analyzed within specific cultural contexts. In general, the memory expresses the ability of man to keep track of events, information, sensations, ideas, experiences, and recall this consciousness as soon as certain motivations make necessary the contribution of past experience.

However, in particular the history of Western culture teaches us that the re-enactment of the information and the experiences of the past have been fundamental to the development of knowledge and of the research, and hence of the "technology" that includes many disciplines in itself and has as main object the application of different technical tools for problem solving for specific goals.

This issue of VITRUVIO Journal offers an interesting opportunity to reflect on the important dialogue between "memory" and "technology" analyzing case studies that illustrate projects and research that highlight the different methodological paradigms for preserving the history without sacrificing functional compliance contemporary.

A dialogue "memory-technology" that reflects on the methodological and constructive evolutions especially of the history of Western engineering which, since the 17th century, has had major repercussions especially in the Latin American area, referring to the two articles relating to projects in Colombia and Guatemala.

A dialogue that finds many confirmations in the history of constructive techniques that have greatly contributed to the progress and growth of research in the field of applied technologies.

The papers selected in this issue of scientific journal also highlight the importance of research in the field of sustainable technological development without, however, obfuscating the inheritance received from history but rather enhancing existing experiences and methodologies to meet contemporary needs.

Bernard Stiegler, French philosopher, in the book *Etats de choc. Bêtise et savoir au XXIe siècle* (2012) says that any form of knowledge presupposes a techno-logical attitude, supported by a cognitive and, at the same time, critical ability capable of guiding and responding best to the cultural needs of the time.

Stiegler argues that any evolutionary process of a collective knowledge is based on a technological research supported by the memory of the past.

An example is the communication system that the man has adopted during his evolution: he moved from the Altamira rock paintings to the Johannes Gutenberg press and then to the photograph with the first major experiments by Louis Daguerre in France, to the advances in digital technology in the second half of the twentieth century.

They are all processes in which the dialogue between "memory" and "technology" has helped to improve the knowledges thus put it at the service of community.

In contemporary language, just for technological advancement, we have also witnessed the change of the concept of "memory", a word that is used to indicate a hard drive of a computer where computer data is stored and which relies on the preservation of digital documents.

But this concept does not obviously cancel the original one, that of "memory" as a complex of memories, and thus the ability to guard and recall facts of the past that help us interpret the present to build the future.

Thanks to human memory and the inheritance of the past, we have come to know our experiences and the millenarian knowledges. Now we just have to hope that the best results of the most advanced technologies can help us in this conservation and valorization of the cultural heritage to transfer our present to the future.

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