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People _ Places _ Architecture



florence Accessibility lab

PEOPLE_PLACES_ARCHITECTURE book series

Firenze University Press

CALL FOR BOOKS PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

The purpose of the *People_Places_Architecture* book series is to provide a dialogue space for scholars mindful of social and environmental responsibility in the process of creating *spaces for interaction* in the Mediterranean context.

In the current situation, which favours the quantitative dimension of a scholar's scientific production, the series intends to affirm the values of reflection and careful research, taking advantage of time and the exchange of ideas.

More specifically, the series aims to support young Italian and foreign scholars in sharing works with a broader scope than an article in a scientific journal. (in order to read the founding document of the book series see https://www.dida.unifi.it/upload/sub/pdf/unity/fal/People_Places_Architecture_ITA.pdf)

The series is promoted by the *Florence Accessibility Lab*, an Interdepartmental Research Unit of the University of Florence (see <https://www.dida.unifi.it/vp-136-fal.html>). The series is included in the catalogue of the Firenze University Press.

The *People_Places_Architecture* series will annually publish open access books arranged in two subseries:

1) *Impronte (Imprints)*

These books are authored by established scholars¹. They are issued in digital and paper format.

2) *Opera Prima (Debut work)*

These books are authored by scholars in training. They are issued in digital format. Particularly, *Opera Prima* subseries is addressed to Ph.Ds interested in publishing an adaptation of their doctoral thesis.

2. Purpose of the Call

Young researchers are invited to submit book proposals for the *Opera Prima* subseries of *People_Places_Architecture* series. The call is reserved to **authors under 35 years of age at the date of submission**.

The proposed book must be written in Italian or in English.

The proposed book should be 40,000 to 50,000 words long. The publication will be settled by a publishing contract between FUP and the Author.

The publication costs will be covered by the Interdepartmental Research Unit *Florence Accessibility Lab*.

3. Framework theme

In order to pursue its objectives, the *People_Places_Architecture* series annually establishes a topic to which book proposals must conform.

For 2022, the topic is: *Accessibility to places of cultural interest as a bridge to beauty and to understanding the world*.

More specifically, the proposal can be focused on the following scenarios:

- Cultural districts
- State-owned areas
- Urban and peri-urban green areas
- Public space
- Commons
- Community buildings.

4. Description of the Framework theme

Accessibility has a core value in our lives. It concerns all human activities, the use of material goods and the performance of intangible assets such as communication, knowledge, decision-making processes, participation, services management, and so on.

Accessibility goes beyond disability issues, affecting everyday life of each human being. In the words of Richard Wurman, it “signifies the ability to do what everybody else can do and to make use of what everybody else can use; access means the liberty to take advantage of resources.” (Wurman R.S., *Information Anxiety*, Doubleday, New York, 1989, p. 45).

In addition to being a tool that contributes to the well-being of the person and the promotion of human rights, accessibility is also a collective resource for expanding individual freedom, social opportunities and knowledge, and for enabling each person to fully exercise his or her rights to active citizenship, to participate in community life and give his or her own contribution to the development of the society.

Spatially, accessibility expresses the degree to which a built or natural environment enables people, different by age, gender, culture, health, status, education, physical, sensory or cognitive abilities, etc., to carry out their own life project and to achieve the desired objectives.

At different scales, accessibility crosses a plurality of domains (physical, sense-perceptual, cultural, managerial, etc.) and plays an important role in allowing each person to ‘read’ and

understand a spatial context and to inhabit it consciously.

As far as cultural assets are concerned, we could define accessibility “the liberty to take advantage of knowledge and beauty”, to paraphrase Richard Wurman.

Accessibility must be thought of as a real *cultural strategy*.

Since “Culture is the only asset of humanity that increases when shared by a larger number of people” (Gadamer H.G. “Il compito dell’intellettuale, Dialogo tra Gerardo Marotta e Hans-Georg Gadamer”, in *Enciclopedia multimediale delle scienze filosofiche*, Rai educational, 1999), expanding the audience of those who can enjoy cultural heritage means expanding knowledge of the world. Each person, as Oddbjørn Sørmoen says, becomes a resource when he or she meets cultural heritage, since he or she can contribute, with his or her reflections and experiences, “to increase our common perception of heritage [...] and (to) the understanding of what it means to be a human being.” (Sørmoen O. “Cultural Heritage – a vehicle to understand ourselves”, in Sørmoen O. (Ed.), *Accessibility to Cultural Heritage. Nordic Perspectives*, Tema Nord, Copenhagen, 2009, p. 14).

Since cultural heritage belongs to humanity, making it more accessible represents an ideal goal to promote knowledge, beauty, dialogue and mutual understanding.

5. How to submit the book proposal

Book proposals must be sent (in Italian or in English) to the email address in Section 6. Proposals must include:

1. Title of the book and subtitle, if any
2. Five keywords
3. Abstract – maximum 3,000 characters including spaces – structured as follows:
 - State of the art
 - Objectives
 - Methodological design
 - Expected results
 - Conclusions.
4. Summary of the chapters (unlimited number of characters)
5. Essential bibliography (maximum 15 references)
6. Short CV of the applicant (maximum 2,000 characters, with spaces) including telephone number and email address.

On the basis of this information (and, if necessary, additional documents), the Steering Committee of the series will select the work to be published.

Non-compliance with these indications will constitute a reason for exclusion.

After the delivery of the manuscript complete with images, there will be a single-blind peer review phase (90 days in total between revision and adaptation of the manuscript by the author). This procedure is managed in-house by the Steering Committee of the series and involves Italian and foreign scholars of proven competence.

During the drafting of the manuscript, the author will be supported by the members of the Steering Committee and the Scientific Committee of the series, as well as by the members of the Florence Accessibility Lab Interdepartmental Research Unit.

The following table shows the expected timeline for the year 2022.

Relevant dates of the selection and production process of the book “Debut Work” year 2021							
2021		2022					2023
by 15 th November	31 st December	31 st January	31 st July	1 st August/ 31 st October	1 st /30 th November	1 st December	by 1 st March
Call	Proposals	Selection	Manuscript Delivery	Review process	Approval of the FUP editorial board	Book production	Publication

6. Where to send the required documentation / Where to request information on the Call

The proposals for publication and any requests for clarification must be sent, by **31 December 2021**, to the following email address: people_places_architecture@fup.unifi.it

7. Communication of the selection results

The results of the selection will be communicated by email to all applicants by 31.1.2022.

(Florence, Florence Accessibility Lab Interdepartmental Research Unit, October 2021)