



Out of the selected abstract proposals, the conference finally included 55 papers, 6 keynotes speakers, and 1 Roundtable on pandemics and climate change. The conference lasted from April 28th to April 20th 2022 in 13 different sessions. Finally, 128 delegates registered for the conference and attended online.

Figure 1 Thomas Cole, The Course of Empire. The Savage State, oil on canvas, 1833, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.

The Course of Empire

When published, the initiative was criticised by many scholars. Some declared that the pandemic crisis is not going to affect the urban form, therefore considering this topic was of no scientific relevance. We can reply today, that both the 2022-conference and this publication are showing that there has been some meaningful changes in the built environment in the present time, but also looking back into history, it has underlined how most of the improvements in planning and design of urban settlements were in the past determined as a response to pandemics. In fact, the denial of effects of the pandemics seems to be one of the understandable human responses to such a tragedy, which just to recall it here, caused over 7 million deaths worldwide in 2 years, and substantially changed everyone life for its duration.

Just to conclude with a few words about the image we have used for the conference poster, so the zoom conference



Figure 2 Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. The Arcadian or Pastoral State*, oil on canvas, 1834, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.

background, the cover of the book of abstracts, and finally the cover of the conference proceedings.

This is a painting by Thomas Cole, entitled *Destruction* and belonging to a cycle of 5 paintings, called the *Course of Empire*, accomplished between 1833 and 1836. The cycle depicts the very same imaginary landscape as changing across time, and perhaps besides the specific subject is a metaphor of the cycles of history. All those paintings were done using the oil on canvas technique and are now part of the New Historical Society Collection in New York City.

Starting from the *Savage state*, to the *Arcadian or Pastoral state*, to the *Consummation of Empire*, *Destruction* and *Desolation*, the cycle depicts the very same landscape as changing hence the action of human beings.

The growth of a city in that same landscape and its destruction, somehow may be correlated with the evolution of the territorial cycles as described by Saverio Muratori, (1967) or the Morphological periods analysed by Conzen (1960). The core notion of this cyclical understanding of History, as Giambattista Vico taught us, is that History moves in cycles, therefore what happened before, might happen again in a following cycle. Finally, I would like to express my sincere apologies to all the authors for the delay in the publication of this issue, in the meantime I moved from Özyeğin



University, Istanbul to University of Chieti–Pescara in Italy, and that transition took over most of my time for over a year.

This issue includes five selected papers from that conference, on the interrelation between pandemic and urban form. Peter Larkham gives an early response on the relationship of COVID 19 with urban form, posing the question if the challenges posed by the pandemic in the early 2020s are really that different from those posed by the historical predecessors. Daniele Roccaro examines how Berlin's tuberculosis sanatoriums influenced the transition from the city of closed courtyards to the modern urban settlement in the 1920s. Samira Khettab is portraying the genesis of three hospitals in Algiers on the historical background of this building type. Sergio B. Proença, Nawaf S. Al Mushayt, and André Lourenço examine how the introduction of cycle lanes could increase public health and transform the urban fabric of central Lisbon. Finally, Stefania Farina, Camilla Mileto, and Fernando Vegas are contributing to the study of correlation between pandemics, architecture and urban planning.

The volume includes two thesis abstracts. Imane Saidi presents a fascinating outlook on her morphological studies on the urban settlement of Ait Benhaddou in Morocco.

Figure 3 Thomas Cole, The Course of Empire. The Consummation of Empire, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.



Figure 4 Thomas Cole, The Course of Empire. Destruction, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.

Nahal Khorrami introduces the interrelation between water and urban tissues, exemplified with the Qanat system of Yazd in Iran.

Finally, Fabio Balducci reviews the publication *Built Heritage in post-Disaster Scenarios*, edited by Marcello Balzani, Frederica Maietti, Danilo Montuori, and Fabiana Raco.



References

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Figure 5 Thomas Cole, The Course of Empire. Desolation, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.