

**Dies Domini CENTRO STUDI**  
per l'architettura sacra e la città  
FONDAZIONE CARD. GIACOMO LERCARO



in collaborazione con FONDAZIONE FRATE SOLE

**Dies Domini Centro studi per l'architettura sacra e la città – Fondazione Card. Giacomo Lercaro, Bologna  
Fondazione Frate Sole, Pavia**

### **International Seminar**

### ***The Church and the City, 50 years after the II Vatican Council***

**Friday, 14 March 2014  
Via Riva di Reno 57, Bologna**

*Every moment in history praises the living God through the language of mankind*  
*Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro*

50 years after the II Vatican Council a time series analysis of what has been done so far in the field of architecture can be attempted: the number of interpretations given to the Council directives regarding both architecture and urbanism should be approached in a critical way, as well as their relevance today.

Through practical examples, the purpose of the seminar is to think about and investigate the role of the Church in the complex urban reality of today.

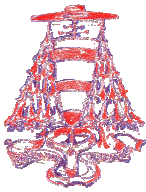
Starting from the assumption that the much debated issue of the Church identity directly refers to need of the Christian community to identify itself in the architectural forms, the main theoretical and methodological topic of the seminar will be the study of the different ways in which ecclesial communities can express themselves and find their identity today, always keeping in mind the multiculturalism which shapes the European cities today more than ever before.

The seminar follows and completes the experience started in October 2012 when the seminar of the *OSSERVATORIO SULL'ARCHITETTURA SACRA* was promoted by the *Centro Studi per l'architettura sacra e la città*; on that occasion both experts and researchers dealing with sacred architecture debated the topic of the Church presence in the city; at the end of their meeting they showed their interest in further investigating the issue and opening their horizons by meeting 'savants', researchers and university assistants at European level. Proceeding this way, the experiences acquired by people working in the same field and dealing with the same issue from various different perspectives could be compared.

This is how our proposal of an International Seminar was born.

As the 'Osservatorio' before, this Seminar aims at becoming an annual meeting to promote reflection and exchange of views.

Participants will be members of the 'Osservatorio', selected speakers (call for papers) and individuals interested in the debate.



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## ***I SESSION – The identity of the Church building in the multicultural city***

After World War II European cities have deeply changed their structure and their image, and even more have relationships between individuals and groups at social level.

Therefore, the Council directives as to the Christian presence in the world should be further investigated and, maybe, reconsidered within the correct context, together with the issue of the identity of Christian communities and, last but not the least, the Parish identity within the urban context.

What visible presence should the ecclesial community have in the social context in the multiethnic and multi-religious city of today?

What kind of relationships should the sacred building (cultural space and parish) establish within the urban context?

And, above all, what is the role of the Christian sacred building in a multiethnic and multi-religious society?

## ***II SESSION – Church and city space***

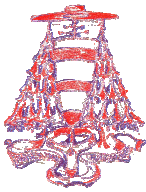
Although over the past centuries the sacred building was considered both the centre and a reference point in the urban landscape, reaching his utmost importance in the period of the cathedrals, a big change occurred in the XX century, when the Church - considered as a discreet presence in the society – had to change its ways of being and living inside the city.

If the extreme theories developed and then followed around the 70s are now – in some contexts – being seriously debated, how the Christian sacred buildings can find their place in the urban context of today is still a point to be clarified – although very often this question is not even dealt with.

The urban context has deeply changed and very little is left of that consolidated urban structure made up of easy rules where the Church building was located before and where the relationship between context-main buildings was clear and visible.

Suburbs and new cities, whose development often does not include a place for the Parish complex, tend to become self-organizing units instead of living inside the city; the results are buildings which seem to defend themselves against a fragmented and aggressive context, a tissue which is no more shared.

How have the relationships between the Church complex (Parishes, first of all) and urban context changed from the end of the war until today? Which models can we see in the urban context of today?



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## CALL FOR PAPERS

Experts and researchers in the following fields are invited to send their paper

- History of Architecture
- History of Christianity and religious disciplines
- Architecture and urban design
- Theology and philosophy
- Human sciences with special interest in architectural studies or image studies of contemporary city.

Priority will be given to papers reporting innovative research resulting from documented case studies (dissertation, graduation or PhD thesis, finalized research paper, projects of national or international interest, European announcement) with disciplinary or multidisciplinary approach.

**Paper submissions** are invited on substantial, original and unpublished research.

Paper language: Italian or English.

### **Abstract submission deadline: September 30, 2013**

Manuscript should not exceed 2000 characters (including spaces) and should be accompanied with a short CV (1 page, A4 format, including academic or professional title, main relevant publications and research projects with graphics or images, if any). The session, the paper is submitted for, should be clearly mentioned.

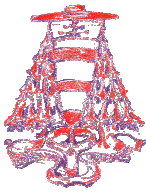
Abstracts will be evaluated by the scientific committee of the 'Osservatorio' according to the following parameters: originality, innovative method if compared to the available scientific literature, case-study relevance in the context of the international debate, clearly stated sources of information and criteria chosen, applicability of the method to other case studies.

Notification of whether the *paper* has been *accepted*/rejected for oral presentation and publication will be sent via email within **October 31, 2013**. No more than 6 papers will be accepted for each session; presentation should take no more than 15 minutes.

Invited speakers will cover their own travel expenses, whilst the Fondazione Lercaro will arrange for their boarding and lodging in Bologna during the Seminar.

Oral presentation of a *paper* means the documents must be submitted to the scientific committee within **February 17, 2014**. Full text papers with royalty-free images are to be sent with power point presentation (no more than 10 slides), together with a cv (max. length 500 characters, including spaces). Papers should not exceed 8000 characters, including spaces; accepted languages: English or Italian. We recommend that your **manuscript** be professionally edited prior to **submission**.

After the seminar the paper can be reviewed and completed with notes and references for publication in the proceedings.



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Applications should be addressed to:  
Centro Studi per l'architettura sacra e la città – Fondazione Card.Giacomo Lercaro  
Via Riva di Reno 57, 40122 Bologna  
Phone no. + 39 051-6566287  
e-mail: [osservatorio.centrostudi@fondazionelelcaro.it](mailto:osservatorio.centrostudi@fondazionelelcaro.it).

Participants, *selected speakers excluded*, should register and pay a 30 Euro-fee as a contribution to cover the expenses: registration form available at [www.centrostudi.fondazionelelcaro.it](http://www.centrostudi.fondazionelelcaro.it).

Information:  
Organizing Secretariat  
Centro Studi  
Via Riva di Reno 57, Bologna  
Phone no. + 39 051-6566287 (Mon o Fri 9.30 to 13).

### **Scientific Committee**

#### *Head*

Claudia Manenti, Director of the Centro Studi per l'architettura sacra e la città

#### *Members*

Giorgio Della Longa, Architect, Andrea Longhi, Professor, Politecnico di Torino, Mons. Tiziano Ghirelli, Head of Uff. Beni culturali, Reggio Emilia Diocese, Mons. Giuseppe Russo, Head of Servizio Nazionale Edilizia di Culto CEI, Vittorio Vaccari, Secretary, Fondazione Frate Sole, Pavia

### **PROGRAM**

Ore 9.00 Registration  
Welcome and opening remarks  
Introduction  
***I SESSION – The identity of the Church building in the multicultural city***  
Chairman Enzo Pace  
Paper presentation (15 minutes each)  
Discussion

#### *Break*

***II SESSION – Church and city space***  
Chairwoman Maria Antonietta Crippa  
Paper presentation (15 minutes each)  
Discussion

Conclusions

The official language s of the conference will be English and Italian; simultaneous translation will be provided.