

Atlante architettura contemporanea
a Project for Awareness and Promotion

Editorial Committee of Atlante
Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity

In 2018, what was then known as Directorate-General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries (DGAAP) launched a project for the enhancement of the *Censimento nazionale delle architetture del secondo Novecento* (National Survey of Late Twentieth Century Architecture), a method adopted by Ministry of Culture since 2002, undertaking a national campaign for the documentation of post-1945 Italian architectural heritage.

The first step consisted in a public call for a project aimed at designing a web platform that would convey, through different interpretations, the specialised contents of the *Census*.

This digital platform *atlantearchitettura.beniculturali.it* was developed by a research group led by the Department of Architecture and Design (DiAP) of the Sapienza University of Rome, with the support of Do.Co.Mo.Mo. Italy, with the scientific supervision of Angela Tecce from DGAAP, Piero Ostilio Rossi and Orazio Carpenzano from DiAP, Ugo Carughi from Do.Co.Mo.Mo., and a team of professional photographers (Altrospazio, Maurizio Alecci, Marco Introini, Alessandro Lanzetta, Emanuele Piccardo, Stefano Ferrando), and contained a selection of over 100 buildings distributed throughout the national territory, connected through a narrative thread that allows to retrace some significant episodes of Italian history, from World War II to these days.

Thus, the structured itineraries contain a selection of architectural assets, displayed through photographic narratives. Each piece of architecture takes shape through a descriptive and visual reading, which focus on new details or new perspectives, giving back to habitual and non-habitual users the beauty of the spaces that sometimes are observed distractedly, possibly because they are part of everyday life.

The field of investigation is wide, embracing numerous building types, different functions, multiple languages, and various protagonists – architects, engineers, artists, and designers – who in the history of each building played more or less relevant roles, but always instrumental to its construction. Including or at least outlining the listed subjects, even within an extensive selection, does not allow for an exhaustive depiction of the complex Italian architectural landscape. However, the development of a digital platform, an open and constantly implementable tool, made this task easier, primarily making available all the useful elements needed to independently carry out personal studies, and in second instance, offering the opportunity to increase and enhance in next steps the list of documented architectural assets, in hope of arousing curiosity and stimulating interest in them, in their context, and in their author.

Aiming at keeping a steady workflow on the digital platform, the Directorate-General has set up an operational group, the “Editorial Committee”, consisting of professionals (Paolo Castelli, Alessandra Cerroti, Stefania De Notarpietro, Eliana Garofalo, Maurizio Pece, Cinzia Schiraldi, Luciano Antonino Scuderi) who would constantly deal with the platform’s review and implementation, through the study of new itineraries, the analysis of the Italian architecture heritage, thus finalising the study

work carried out through regional census campaigns. The number of information contained in the *Censimento Nazionale delle architetture del secondo Novecento* is continuously updated and implemented thanks to the scientific contribution of the Regional Secretariats of the Ministry of Culture and various University Departments which are tasked with the related research.

On these premises, the Editorial Committee has undertaken the implementation of the platform by making a preliminary selection of buildings that could integrate with the already published ones. The parameter used for the selection is mainly “geographical”, since one of the project primary objectives was to display the plurality of architectural experiences scattered in the national territory.

The chosen strategy consisted in carrying on the photographic narrative through the eyes of the architecture photographer. Having this in mind, the Directorate-General has started a collaboration with Triennale Milano and Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea, with the goal of launching a call for the selection of young photographers that would be entrusted with the task of showcasing a part of contemporary architectural heritage, at the same time pursuing the promotion of architectural culture and the activity of young professionals who work in the field of photography.