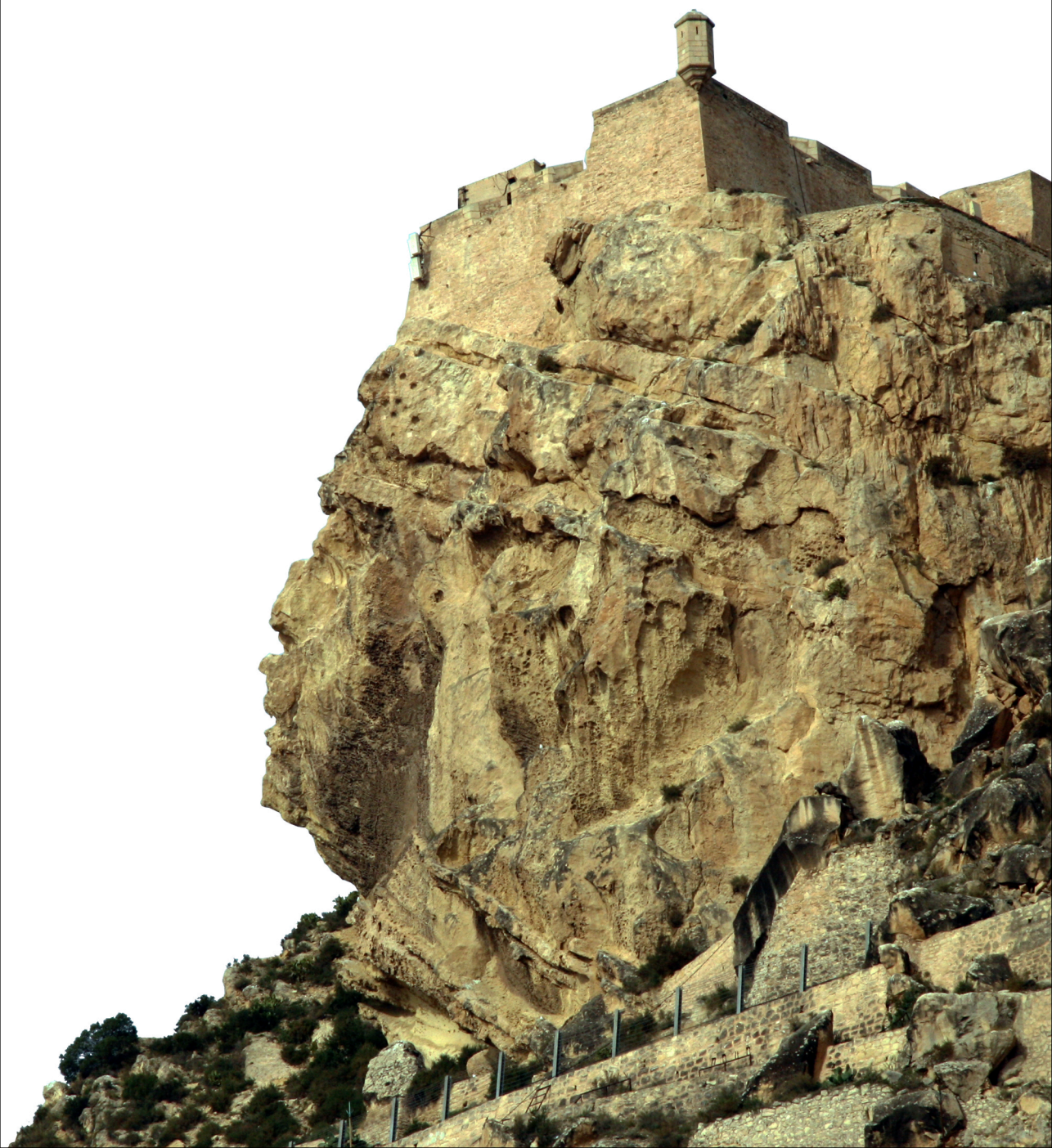


5 DEFENSIVE ARCHITECTURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

XV to XVIII Centuries

Víctor ECHARRI IRIBARREN (Ed.)



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Preface

The FORTMED Congress celebrates its third edition in October 2017 in Alicante. From its beginning in Valencia and its later jump to Florence, the interest for the investigation on the fortified heritage has only been growing, as much in extension as in depth. After the launch of this congress by the research group of the Polytechnic University of Valencia "Architectural Surveys", with extensive experience in the study of fortified towers of the Spanish Mediterranean, led by Pablo Rodríguez-Navarro with the collaboration of Teresa Gil Piqueras, the witness was collected by Giorgio Verdiani, Scientific Director of the Architectural Information Technology Lab (LIA), Università degli Studi di Firenze. Both editions had a large forum of researchers of different nationalities who shared their experiences in the study and intervention in fortified sets of the Modern Age. Historians, architects, engineers, archaeologists, geographers, cartographers and researchers from multiple disciplines exposed the fruits of their research, the lines they are designing for the near future, and a set of intervention projects in the fortified heritage.

In this third edition of the congress, the original idea has been to gather more inclusive, real and actualized data leading us to the level where research regarding this matter should be more readily available in the 21st century. The theme of the conference has been focused on western Mediterranean fortifications (Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco) dating from the 15th to the 18th centuries, including the rest of Mediterranean countries and the fortifications of this era that were built overseas (Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Panama, etc.). In this edition of Alicante has opted for a continuity in the thematic blocks, although some minor modifications have been introduced. Mainly the "Port and Fortification" line, due to the special interest of the Technology and Sustainability research group of the University of Alicante in the identification of the characteristics that distinguish the fortified set of the city of Alicante and the island of Tabarca. The debate produced by the different interventions of experts in fortified groups of coasts, and especially of the Mediterranean coast, is expected to be a clarifier of the proper elements of the Alicante heritage. The comparative analysis with other fortified settlements of the XVI-XVIII centuries, in their genesis and evolution, will help to contribute new values to the historical knowledge of the fortified heritage, and the way in which the intervention projects should be undertaken, both in their architectural conception, as well as of the uses that could be introduced and specific intervention techniques.

We hope that this new edition of the FORTMED congress will strengthen the bonds established between different researchers for a more effective collaboration in the knowledge, maintenance and intervention in the fortification heritage complexes. The interdisciplinarity that should be promoted in the master plans from the public administrations will certainly be reinforced with this type of events. The exchange of experiences, research results, and difficulties in interpreting the intrinsic values of each heritage element will undoubtedly be enriching. This is shown in many of the papers and communications presented at the congress, and included in these two books. Dive into the contents of more than 120 published works, peer-reviewed by members of the Scientific Committee, is an incomparable experience of the complexity that entails entering the soul of these architectural ensembles. It is a living architecture, often in daily use for cultural activities, playful, archival, etc., with very close and complex relationships with the urban plot or the landscape. Accessibility problems are

critical in the design of intervention strategies that strongly support the recovery of these patrimonial elements. In this sense, performances such as the mechanized accesses of the stairs of the Farm in Toledo, the architects José Antonio Martínez Lapeña and Elías Torres, or the elements projected in the walls of Pamplona, deserving in 2012 of the prize Europa Nostra, are worthy objects of reflection and approaches that shed light on this difficult task. Some of the communications presented reflect on how to deal with accessibility issues in other towns, including Alicante, such as Santa Barbara Castle and San Fernando Castle.

I would like to end by thanking Pablo Rodríguez-Navarro, President of FORTMED, for all the help he has given us in the pleasant task of organizing this congress. Thanks to Giorgio Verdiani, FORTMED chair of the last edition in Florence. Special thanks to the Vice-Rectorate of research of the University of Alicante for its constant support in the organization of the congress, and in the funding of the papers of the invited researchers. Thanks also to the Manuel Peláez Foundation and the Vice-Rectorate of Campus and Technology for their help in funding this event.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the authors of this publication for the quality of their contributions, their attitude in regard to the adequacy of the reviews and their patience throughout the editing process and registration. I also extend my gratitude to the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee for their selfless dedication and professionalism. It has been a pleasure to share with you all this year of intense work for the third edition of FORTMED in Alicante to become a reality. Special thanks to Ángel Benigno González Avilés, Secretary of the Congress, and Isabel Pérez Millán, for their good work and generous dedication. To Maribel Serrano and Asun Sempere, managers of the Department of Architectural Constructions of the University of Alicante. And Mateo Aires, who has worked as an intern in the many issues related to the management of the congress. It has been a pleasure to share this adventure with you.

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