

Review of: "Ancient Houses in Ben Tre City: A Multifaceted Approach to Preserve Artistic Architectural Heritage and Boost Local Tourism"

Stefano Bizzarri

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Very interesting text that opens a window on a very precise and localized architectural typology. Basically, I believe that the text is well developed and touches on various topics that, in our time, end up being all related. The shortcomings of this article are both in the premises and in some parts of the final discussion.

In the abstract, the authors' intent is perceived but is not concretized in the final part. The restoration process is a long and difficult process, and only applied knowledge can succeed in leading us to the non-invasive recovery of the object. In this case, I would explain better the use and impact of CSB, if this type of material is the only one intended to be used for the restoration process, or if it can be integrated with other solutions. Furthermore, it is not explained how we can clearly understand where the original building ends and where the reconstructed part begins.

In the archaeological sites where I have been working for fifteen years now, a small but effective system is used to distinguish the original stone pattern from the reconstructed one (where it is strictly necessary from the philological and structural point of view): a light layer of geotextile is laid, which does not alter perception but effectively indicates the differences. So, I wonder if similar systems could exist in the case of Ben Tre City.

Another suggestion that I feel like giving is to further explore the evaluation of the use of tourism to support architectural buildings. Unfortunately, as we see in several parts of the world, there is not a linearity between tourism and improvement of the conditions of historical and archaeological assets. Tourism affects social aspects, pollution (in all its different meanings), and certainly needs to be carefully analyzed and evaluated when proposed as a support element.

I'm sure that with a more in-depth analysis, this article will have the luck it deserves and will be read carefully, sensitizing those who will then have to decide on restoration interventions.