

Report of the 7th Historic Mortars Conference - HMC 2025

Padua, Italy, 2-4 September 2025

RILEM was happy to co-sponsor the [7th Historic Mortars Conference - HMC 2025](https://www.hmc2025.com), taking place in Padua, Italy, on 2-4 September 2025. The event was jointly organized by the University of Padova, the Politecnico di Milano, the Institute of Condensed Matter Chemistry and Technologies for Energy of the Italian National Research Council (CNR-ICMATE), and the Associazione Italiana di Archeometria (AIAR).



Around 240 delegates from 4 continents contributed to make this conference as successful as the previous editions in Portugal in 2008, Czech Republic in 2010, Scotland in 2013, Greece in 2016, Spain in 2019 and Slovenia in 2022. The organisers were also very happy to announce that 30% of the participants were students, highlighting the interest in historic mortars of the young generation of researchers.

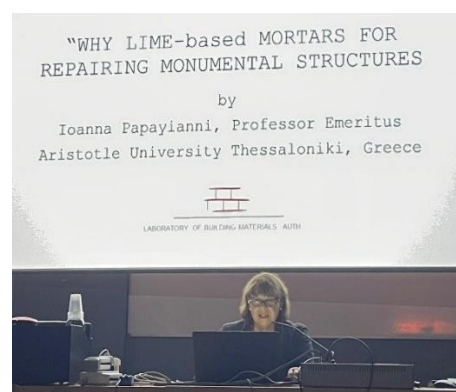
The conference featured 4 keynote lectures:

- Prof. Gilberto Artioli, University of Padova, Italy, presenting “*Ancient binders: their role and history*”
- Prof. Marie D. Jackson, The University of Utah, USA, presenting “*Reactive aggregates in the mortars of ancient Roman concretes: clues to chemical and mechanical resilience*”
- Prof. Ioanna Papayianni, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, presenting “*Why use lime-based mortars for repairing monumental structures?*”
- Prof. Carlos M. Rodriguez-Navarro, University of Granada, Spain, presenting “*Learning from the past to build the future: ancient lime-based mortars inspire new formulations for built heritage conservation and sustainable construction*”.



Keynote speakers of the 7th Historic Mortars Conference - HMC 2025. From the left: Prof. Carlos M. Rodriguez-Navarro, Prof. Gilberto Artioli, Prof. Marie D. Jackson, and Prof. Ioanna Papayianni. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.

The remaining presentations took place in the 3 parallel sessions per day, organised outside the plenary sessions. One of these was the Special Session “[RILEM 277-LHS Specifications for testing and evaluation of lime-based repair materials for historic structures](#) - State of the Art Report of the RILEM Technical Committee”. During this session, members of RILEM TC 277-LHS, which terminated its activities in 2024, presented the content of the upcoming [State-of-the-Art report \(STAR\)](#). Some delegates opted for the option to present their research with a poster. The topics of the presentations spanned from *Mortars in archaeological sites* to *Historic Portland cement mortars*, and *Preservation, consolidation materials and techniques* to *Repair mortars and grouts*, to mention a few.



Keynote presentations. On the left: Prof. Artioli; on the right: Prof. Papayianni. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.



On the left: poster presentation area at Palazzo Maldura. On the right: the Co-Chairs of the event: Prof. Michele Secco and Prof. Cristina Tedeschi. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.

The venue of the conference was a real highlight of this event. Participants sat in the beautiful Galileo Galilei Great Hall of “[Palazzo del Bo](#)” for the opening session of the conference (in the same room where Galileo used to teach his lessons for the students of the University of Padua), and in the rooms of [Palazzo Maldura](#) during the parallel sessions. The daily lunch and coffee breaks, and the gala dinner, were hosted by [Caffè Pedrocchi](#), one of the most important European cafes and one of the few historic and still working Italian cafes.

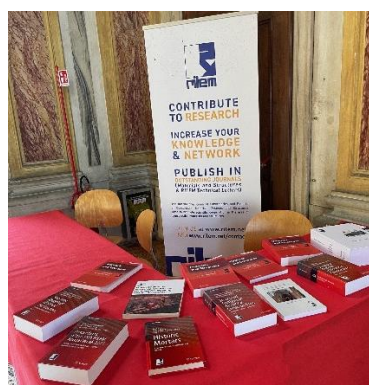


On the left: entrance of the Great Hall of Palazzo del Bo. On the right: Maldura room in Maldura Palace. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.



On the left: Galileo Galilei's teacher desk. On the right: Palazzo del Bo. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.

RILEM members were numerous amongst the delegates of this conference, but the event also offered the occasion to present the Association to the participants who were not familiar with RILEM, by visiting the RILEM desk and attending the keynote presentation done by Prof. Maria Stefanidu, RILEM Regional Convener for Europe.



On the left: Maria Stefanidu presenting RILEM to the delegates of the event. On the right: the RILEM desk showcasing the books of RILEM Publications and Springer. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.



Some of the RILEM members who attended the event. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.