

The Second Life of Modern Period Architecture

*Resilient and adaptive
renovation towards net-zero
carbon heritage buildings*

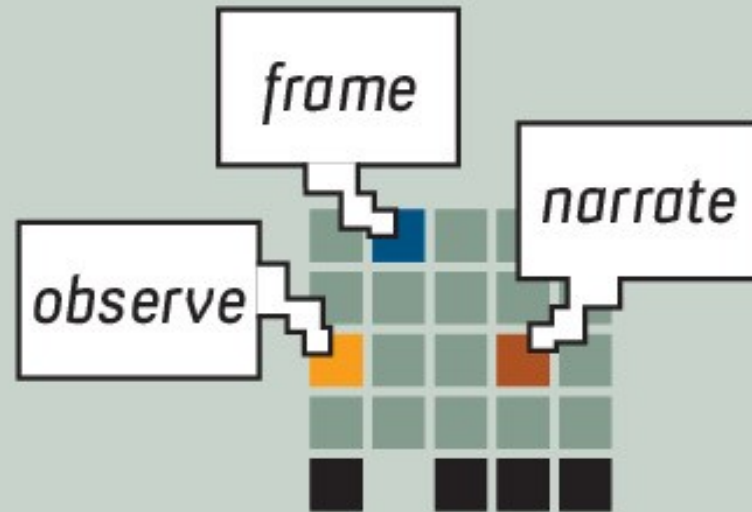
From Talking Buildings to Building Stories

Panayotis Antoniadis (NetHood)

4 November, 2025

The talking buildings challenge

Give a voice to a building in 5 steps

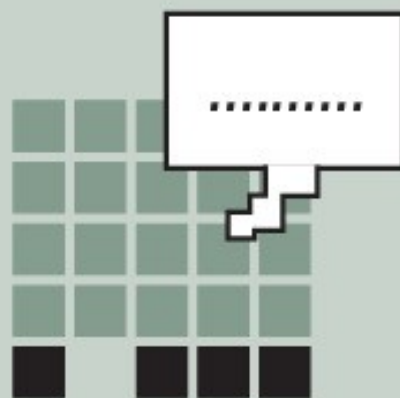



sincere

What should I do?

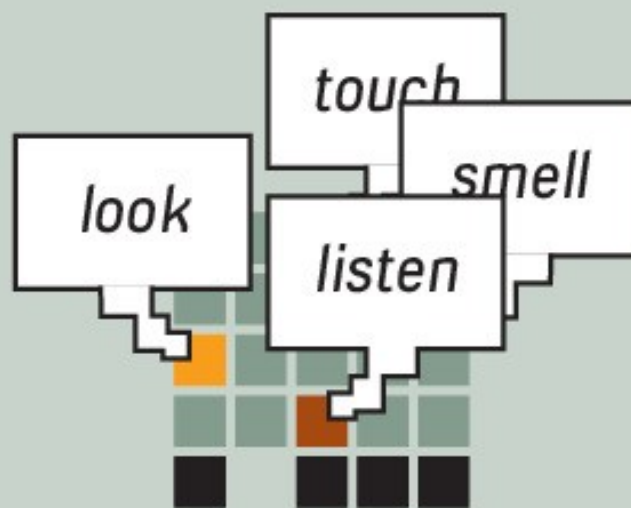


1. Visit a cultural heritage building you feel connected to



This building wants to say something

2. Observe its facade, its details. Can you enter inside?



Using all the senses, except taste!

3. *Frame* an object or an area inside or outside

What attracts your attention?



You!

4. *Narrate a story or a thought from the building's perspective*

So, imagine you are me!

*



And the real me, what will do?

**film me and speak over like it is me talking*



5. *Share your story!*

Record my story and share it!

*



Wait, I need some inspiration first

**more details at talkingbuildings.net*





If Buildings Could Talk ...

*... some of them would sound like Shakespeare.
Others would speak like the Financial Times,
yet others would praise God, or Allah.
Some would just whisper,*

*Buildings are like people, in fact.
Old and young, male and female,
ugly and beautiful, fat and skinny,*

*Don't get me wrong: this is not a metaphor.
Buildings DO speak to us!
They have messages. Of course.
Some really WANT a constant dialogue with us.
Some rather listen carefully first.*

Wim Wenders



Rolex Learning Center, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (CH)

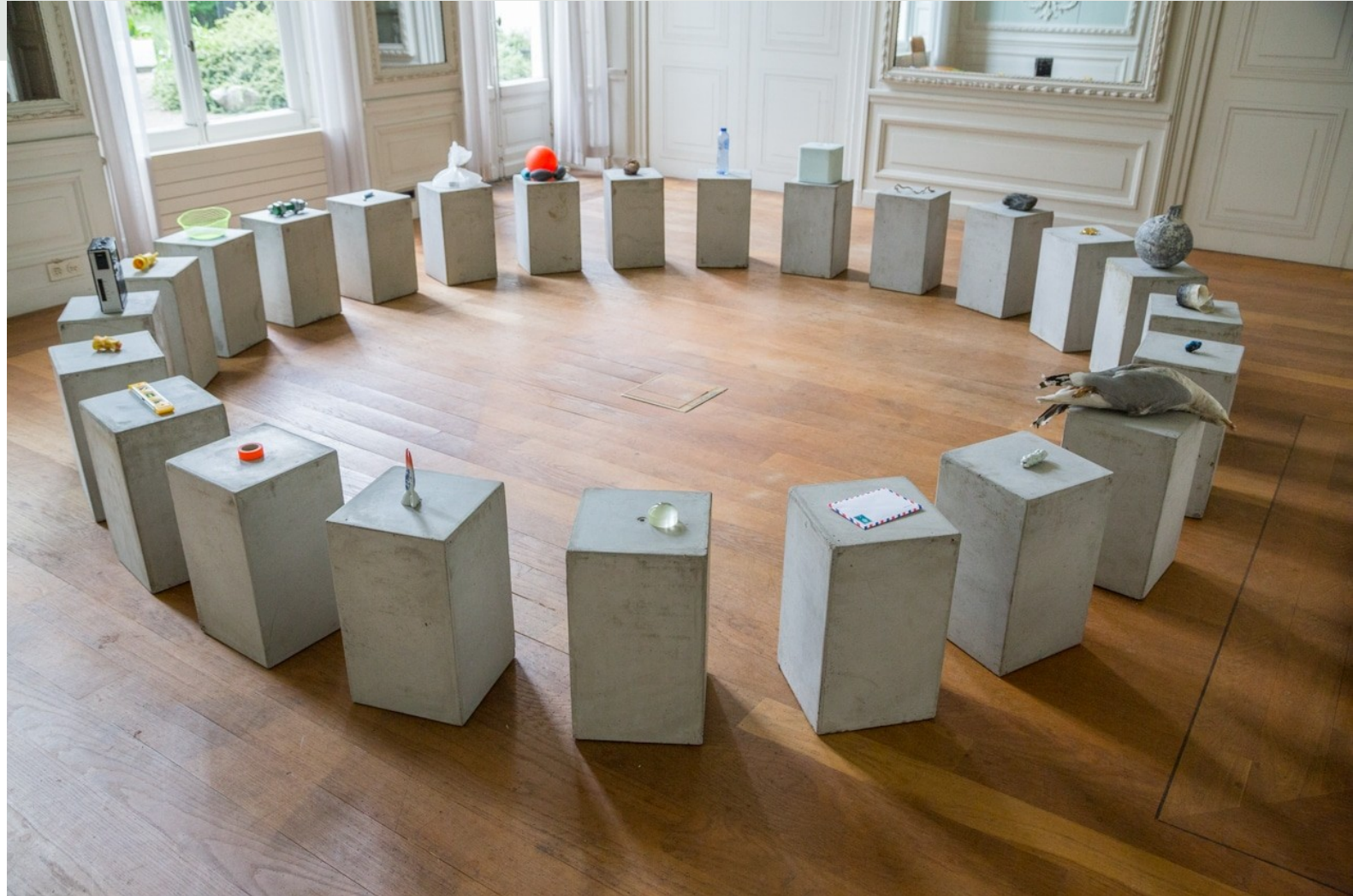
The parliament of things

*What if we welcomed
all animals, plants and
things into our Parliament?*

What would the argument of the cod, algae or Gulf Stream be?

What positions would the trees take and what future would oil see for itself?

Bruno Latour



Even A Brick Wants To Be Something

If you think of Brick, you say to Brick,

'What do you want, Brick?'

And Brick says to you,

'I like an Arch.'

And if you say to Brick,

'Look, arches are expensive,

and I can use a concrete lintel over you.

What do you think of that, Brick?'

Brick says, 'I like an Arch.'

And it's important, you see, that you honor the material that you use. ...

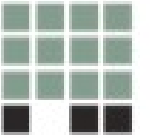
You can only do it if you honor the brick and glorify the brick instead of shortchanging it.

Louis Kahn



Inspiration

Who?



Who talks through the building?



Who talks?

The architects ?



Famous Architects Dress as Their Famous New York City Buildings (1931)

Who talks?

*The
residents
?*



Residents of the under demolition Haggerston estate in Hackney, London

Who talks?

The
activists
?



Who talks?

*The
owners
?*



Who talks?

The
artists
?



Who talks?

The Nature ?



Conversations with the historic buildings of Rhodes, Photo; Maria Bakari

Who talks?

The History ?



Who talks?

The
technology
?



Who talks?

*The
users
?*



Who talks?

*The
users
?*



Who talks? The visitors ?



Who talks?

The
market
?



Who talks?

*The
media
?*



Who talks?

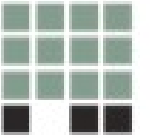
*I, the
building*



Who talks?

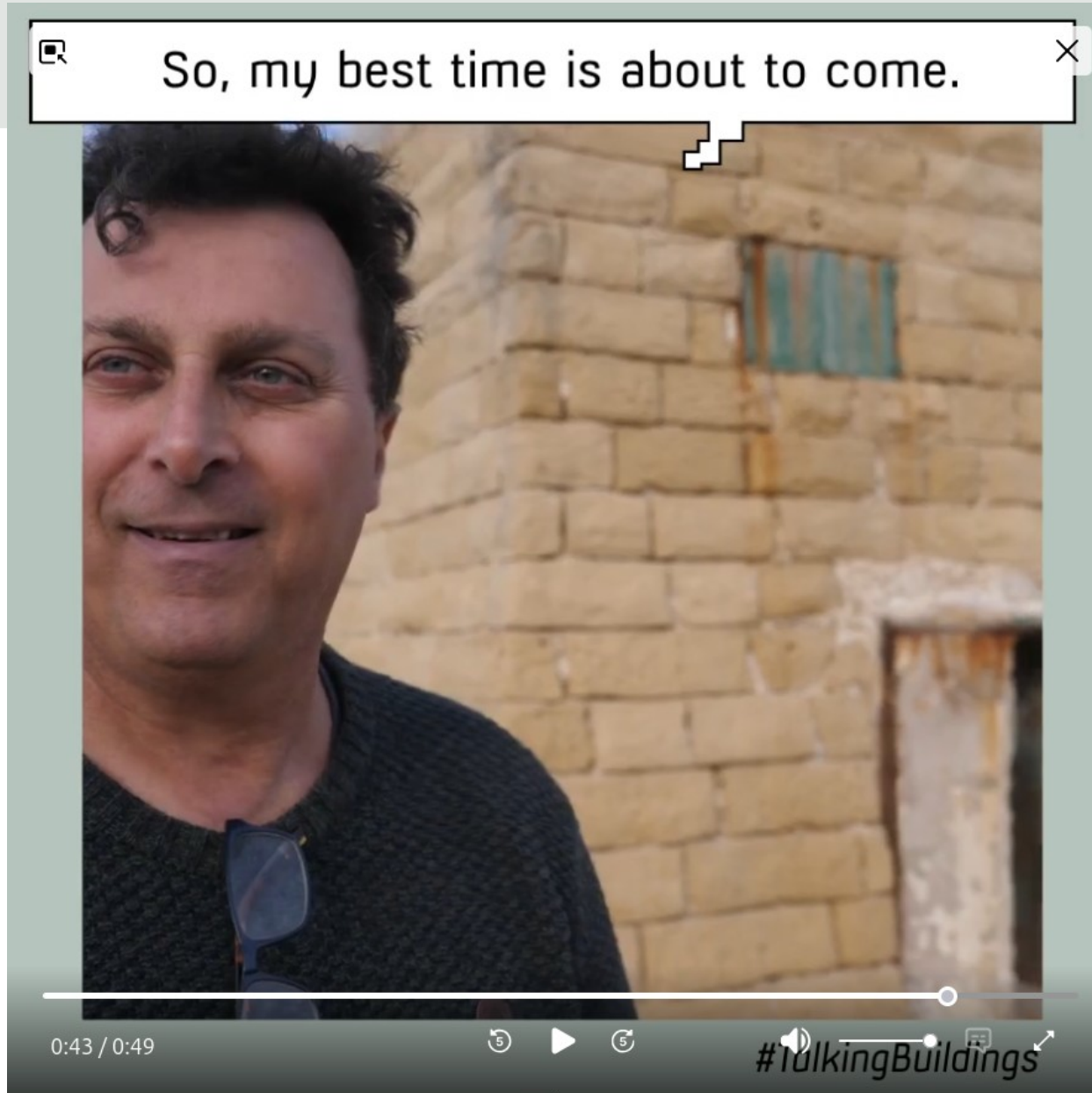
*We, the
materials
?*



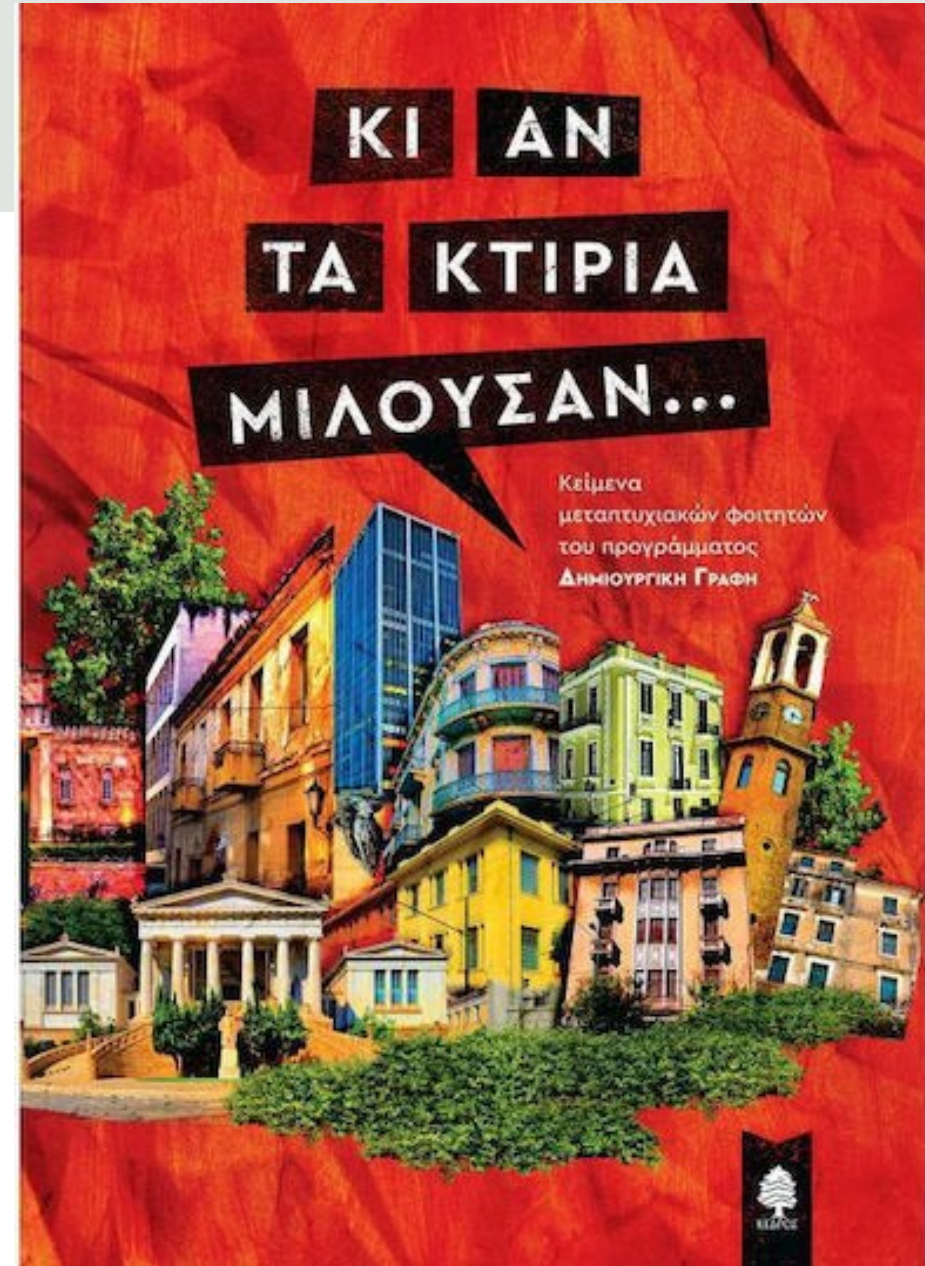
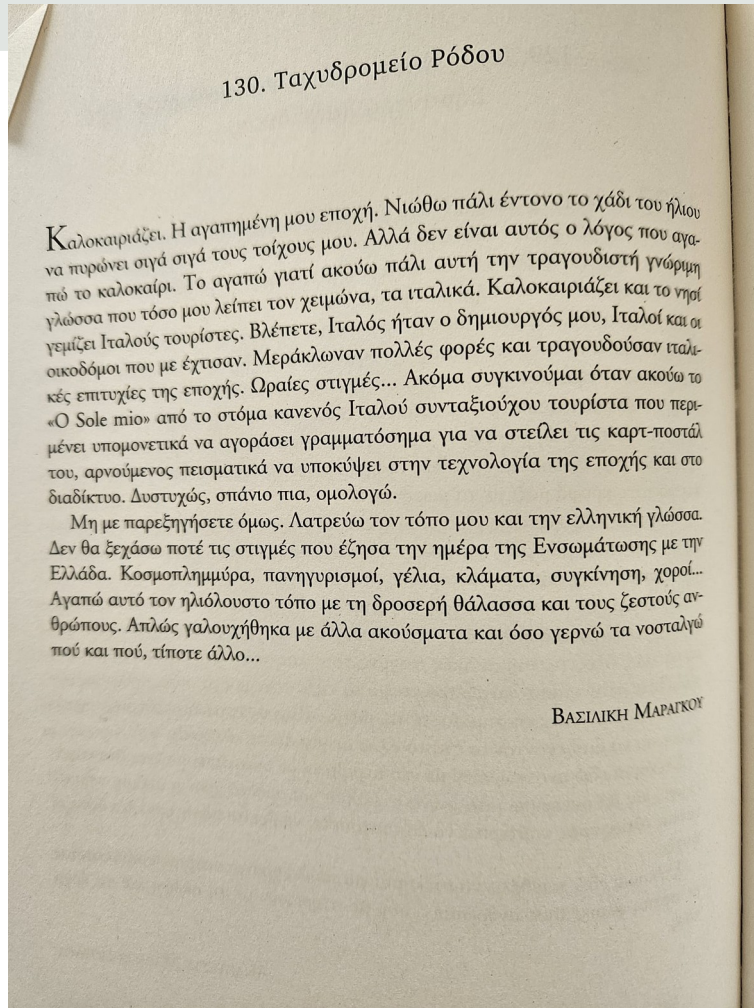


How can a building talk?

Voice over



Creative writing



If buildings could talk, Kedros editions

Facade art

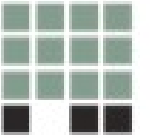


Installation on the facade of Place des Arts, Montreal, Quebec, 2014 by Krzysztof Wodiczko.

Soundscapes

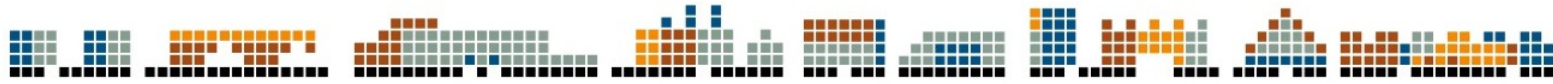


Screenshot from the film The Prison of History (2023)



***From talking buildings to
Citizen Science:
a concrete example (part 1)***

Heritage in Dialogue (an inspiring event)



SINCERE project - Heritage in Dialogue - European Heritage Days 2024



Ostrava iron factory aka "Blasty"



Neoclassical school aka "Antiye"

because SINCERE also visited us this month.

Heritage in Dialogue (an inspiring event)



SINCERE project - Heritage in Dialogue - European Heritage Days 2024



Do you have any
plans for the
European Heritage
Days?



Let's meet online!



And Anna Šmehilová, who will make the voice

Heritage in Dialogue (an inspiring event)



SINCERE project - Heritage in Dialogue - European Heritage Days 2024



but if we look at the sustainability aspects of my existence

Moving to the ground (of Rhodes)

1. engaging with local actors



Moving to the ground (of Rhodes)

2. inviting citizens



ΕΠΙΚΑΙΡΟΤΗΤΑ - Παρασκευή 31.01.2020 18:15

Βραβείο Περιβαλλοντικής Ευαισθησίας «ΟΙΚΟΠΟΛΙΣ 2019» στο Ραδιόφωνο «Λυχνάρι»

Rodiaki NewsRoom



ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΚΕ 503 ΦΟΡΕΣ

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Moving to the ground (of Rhodes)

3. collecting building voices

Συνομιλώντας με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου



Συνομιλώντας Με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου

~~

Public group · 223 members



+ Invite

Share

Joined ▼

Moving to the ground (of Rhodes)

4. opening up the network of stakeholders



Συνομιλώντας με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου



Συνομιλώντας Με τα Ιστορικά Κτίρια της Ρόδου

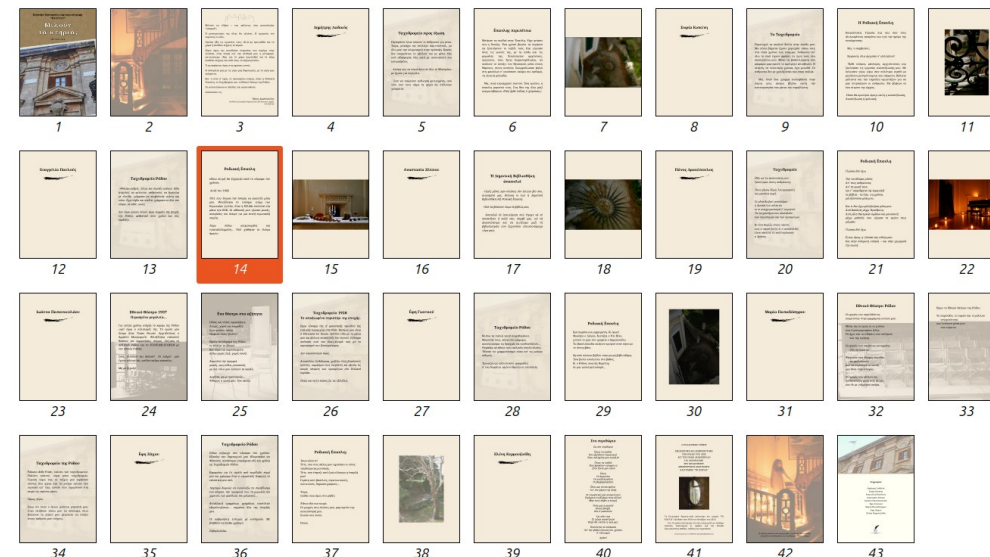
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Invite

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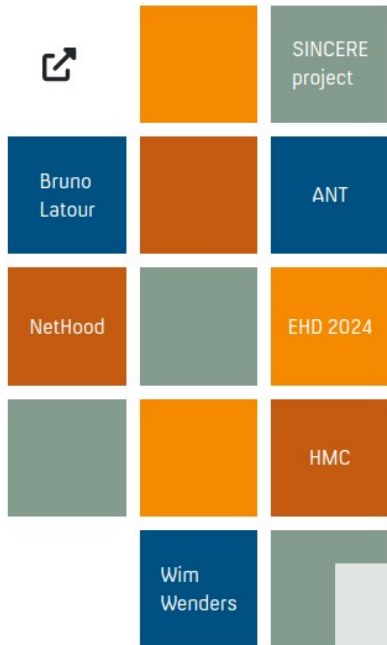
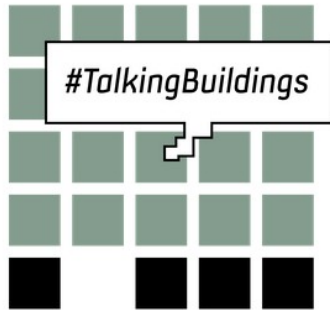


Moving to the ground (of Rhodes)

5. engaging the community



talkingbuildings.net is born!



The talking buildings game is now launched

“ SINCERE, 20th Jun 2025

Enter the talking buildings world
New web site from the SINCERE project

I want a 2nd life

#TalkingBuildings



talkingbuildings.net

#talkingbuildingsgame #sincere-project

About

Play

Share

Host

#TalkingBuildings

#Rhodes

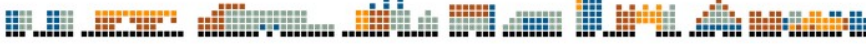
#EuropeanHeritageDays

#SINCERE



*A hub: not only talking buildings content but also guidelines,
knowledge exchange, inspiration*

building-stories.net is next ...

 building stories

[ABOUT](#) 



The SINCERE group visited us and thanks to the rain we were for once used as real casetas, protecting humans from nature. We are happy.

October 30, 2024 / **Algete Story**

[building-stories](#) [sincere-project](#) [algete](#) [new-tag](#)



Everytime my face is replaced by another material. I like to change but sometimes I am sad

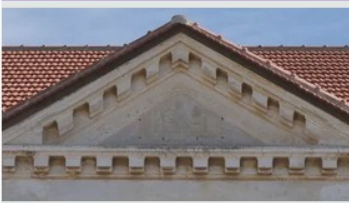
October 4, 2024 / **Algete Story**

[building-stories](#) [algete](#) [newtagthird](#)

Did you know that buildings can talk?

Join in and share the story with us. Your input will appear here on this platform. [Read more >](#)

August 30, 2024 / **SINCERE blog**



I will tell you my story, it started many years ago here in Rhodes Greece

August 4, 2024 / **Rhodes Story**

[building-stories](#) [sincere-project](#) [rhodes](#)



Voula Nikolaidou is the conservator of art pieces and she struggles to save the precious pieces of art hanging on me, because of tight deadlines and budget constraints

August 4, 2024 / **Rhodes Story**

[sincere-project](#) [people](#) [rhodes](#)



Can buildings talk?

August 4, 2024 / **Rhodes Story**

[building-stories](#) [sincere-project](#) [rhodes](#)



These are the people that take care of us, they are very nice and careful.

August 4, 2024 / **Algete Story**

[sincere-project](#) [algete](#) [people](#)



The SINCERE group visited us and they were impressed from my furnaces and even The School.

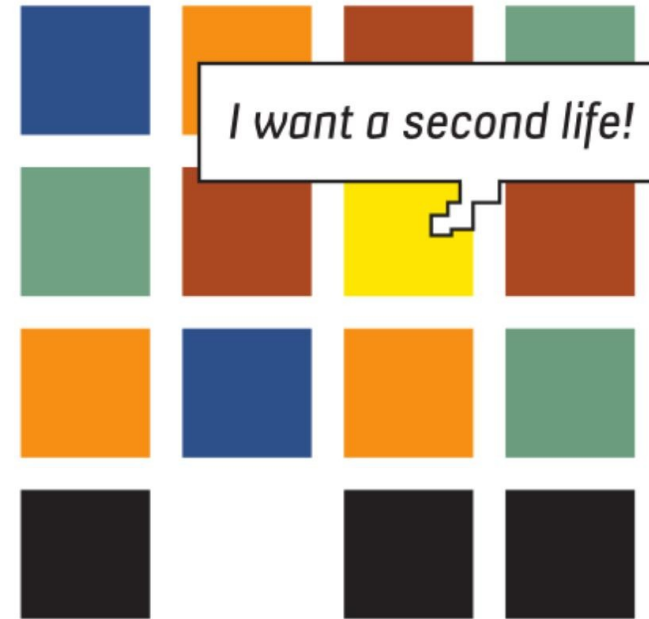
August 4, 2024 / **Ostrava Story**

[sincere-project](#) [people](#) [ostrava](#)

talkingbuildings.net



Buildings can talk! *And you can be part of the discussion**



*You can give a voice to a building of your choice, or listen to what other buildings have to say. Start here: talkingbuildings.net



The impersonation of buildings and other inanimate objects is not a new idea. NetHood conceived the TalkingBuildings method as a community engagement tool, inspired by Bruno Latour, Wim Wenders and Louis Kahn, among others. In the SINCERE project, TalkingBuildings provides the transdisciplinary

framework within wider participatory processes for the sustainable renovation of cultural heritage buildings. Key NetHood collaborators in the methodology's design and implementation in local processes have been Synergy Rhodes, ECOWEEK, and IG Seebahnhöfe retten. See <https://nethood.org/studio/>

instagram and tik tok: [@talkingbuildingsnet](https://www.instagram.com/talkingbuildingsnet)
Facebook group: [TalkingBuildingsNet](https://www.facebook.com/TalkingBuildingsNet)

ECOWEEK



SYNERGY
Building Emerald Culture

NetHood  sincere