

INDUSTRIES' OPPORTUNITIES

9th MULTIDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM ON CIRCULAR
ECONOMY AND URBAN MINING

20-22 MAY 2026 / PROCIDA, NAPLES, ITALY

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SUM2026

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ECONOMY AND URBAN MINING
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUM – Symposium on Urban Mining and Circular Economy is an **international scientific forum** bringing **together research, industry, utilities and public authorities** within a qualified and independent context. The next edition will take place on **20–22 May 2026 in Procida, Italy**, a location selected for its strong alignment with the principles of circular economy.

SUM Symposium is organised by IRACE, and builds on a **legacy of internationally recognised scientific conferences** in circular economy, waste management and resource recovery, ensuring continuity and scientific credibility.

For companies, SUM **provides access to a scientifically authoritative, multidisciplinary setting**, where interaction with research institutions and public authorities takes place within a recognised scientific framework. Company engagement ranges **from technical participation to institutional and corporate sponsorship**, offering a credible context for technical contribution and institutional visibility.

CONTENTS

About the Symposium	4
Why SUM Matters for Companies	6
Corporate Engagement Options	7
Join the discussion - Present your projects and solutions.....	8
Topics	9-11
Fees	12
Sponsorship & Partnerships	13
Forms of Sponsorship & Benefits	14-15
Key Information for All Companies	
Audience Profile	17-18
Event and Programme Structure	19
The Venue	20
Next Steps and Contacts	22

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

9th MULTIDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND URBAN MINING
20-22 MAY 2026 / PROCIDA, NAPLES, ITALY

SUM – Symposium on Urban Mining and Circular Economy is an international platform focused on the design, testing and evolution of circular-economy systems, bringing together research, industry and policy through evidence-based and practice-oriented dialogue. It is conceived as a professional working environment, where solutions, technologies, governance models and strategies are discussed with direct implications for industry, utilities and public decision-making. SUM is not structured as a mere academic showcase, but as an arena where knowledge is generated, transferred and critically tested in real-world contexts.

A Recognised Scientific and Institutional Context

SUM is promoted and coordinated by **IRACE** (International Research Association on Circular Economy) and operates within a **consolidated international scientific framework** dedicated to circular economy, waste management and resource recovery. The Symposium is governed through a formal scientific structure, including international scientific committees and a selection for all technical contributions. The Multidisciplinary Executive Committee brings together **internationally recognised senior figures from research institutions, regulatory bodies and innovation ecosystems**, ensuring a consistent alignment between scientific excellence, industrial relevance and real-world decision-making. This governance framework positions company participation within a recognised scientific and institutional context.



A History of International Symposia

SUM (Symposium on Urban Mining and Circular Economy) was first held in 2012 and has since developed into a stable international forum on circular-economy systems. Initially organised biennially, SUM has transitioned to an annual event, reflecting the ongoing evolution and global relevance of circular-economy challenges.

SUM is part of the same scientific conference lineage as the Sardinia Symposium and the Venice Symposium, long-established international reference events in waste management and circular-economy systems.

Across its editions, SUM has attracted a multisector international audience, with an average of 200 participants from 34 countries engaging research institutions, utilities, industrial players and public authorities.

This continuity and international reach position SUM as a long-term reference point for discussion, collaboration and strategic insight on global circular-economy issues.



WHY SUM MATTERS FOR COMPANIES

SUM provides companies with a high-credibility scientific context to support sustainability positioning beyond communication-driven claims,



Credible Scientific Validation

Within SUM's scientifically independent framework, company participation or support carries inherent technical credibility.



Beyond Commercial Exposure

Positioning comes from supporting an active sustainability system, not just from exposure. Company engagement is therefore read as a credible sustainability commitment by institutions and stakeholders.



ESG Positioning

ESG positioning emerges through technical scrutiny and operational discussion, allowing companies to move from communication-led narratives to credible, verifiable sustainability positioning.

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT OPTIONS

SUM offers companies a clear and structured framework of engagement, designed to support different strategic objectives while operating within the same authoritative scientific context.

Join the discussion

Show real projects and solutions to utilities, public authorities and circular-economy experts.

[More info](#)

Sponsor

Increase visibility and connect with a qualified audience across the circular-economy community

[More info](#)

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Submit your projects and solutions and present as speaker

Today, companies operating in the circular-economy ecosystem face a critical gap: sustainability programmes, **ESG strategies and innovation projects** are increasingly exposed to public scrutiny, while the **risk of being perceived as declarative or impacted by greenwashing** is growing.

Within this context, SUM allows companies to anchor their sustainability and innovation pathways to a recognized, independent and high-authority scientific ecosystem.

Technical participation consists in **presenting your company's projects and solutions** related to Circular Economy and Urban Mining topics (see *Topics* section below) as one of the Symposium Speakers, and is therefore conceived as a **reputational and strategic positioning tool, rooted in scientific affiliation** — and not as a commercial activity.

Companies may join the discussion **by submitting a proposed contribution** (see *Forms of Contribution* below) related to the Symposium topics. Once the Organising Secretariat confirms its inclusion, companies complete **standard registration**.



**CREDIBILITY OF
YOUR
SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGIES**



**ROBUSTNESS OF
YOUR ESG
POSITIONING**



**AUTHORITATIVENESS
OF YOUR
COMMITMENTS**

Forms of Contribution

Companies may contribute to the SUM programme through:

- **Scientific papers and technical presentations**, based on real projects, pilots, data and operational models;
- **Technical workshops**, focused on applied solutions and concrete implementation experiences.

Both options are defined in direct coordination with the SUM Secretariat, in order to shape a tailored proposal aligned with the company's projects.

Company participation under this framework is not commercial and does not include product promotion or corporate visibility activities. Companies interested in commercial visibility or structured promotion can refer to the dedicated opportunities within [Sponsorship & Institutional Partnerships](#).

Topics

If your company is currently developing projects in these areas and wishes to share them as a starting point for an open, constructive and forward-looking discussion, SUM welcomes your contribution (paper or workshop proposals) on the following topics:

Area	Key Topics
1. Concepts	Prevention and minimization (ecodesign, industrial symbiosis, sustainable production and consumption, extended product life, EPR, repairability, takeback systems, sharing & leasing, dematerialisation, remanufacturing, refurbishment, repurposing, toxic-free recycling/reuse, zero waste); Recovery and recycling of material resources (decarbonization, sound material cycles, critical raw materials, urban mining, footprint, closing the loop, GHG reduction, ecological waste management, greenwashing); Circular Economy as part of the global eco-system (planetary boundaries, global pollution, biodiversity, sustainability goals); Ecocities (smart waste collection, energy recovery and decentralized production, food waste reduction, e-waste management, smart technologies, zero-waste cities, combined kitchen waste & sewage treatment, pneumatic collection, water recycling, eco-tourism).

Area	Key Topics
2. Streams of potential material resources	Municipal and special waste (MSW, C&D waste, ELVs, e-waste, end-of-life renewables, paper, plastics, textiles); Agricultural waste (crop residues, manure, food processing, aquaculture & fishery waste); Industrial waste (food & beverage, textiles, paper & pulp, metallurgical & mining waste, plastics & rubber); Municipal and industrial wastewaters (water reuse, AOP, nutrient recovery, FOG, sludge pretreatment, insect-based treatments).
3. Technical Recovery & Recycling Supply-Chains	Preparing for reuse (cleaning, repair, upgrading, certification); Materials sorting & recovery (source segregation, manual & sensor-based sorting, extraction technologies); Treatment & recycling technologies (mechanical, biological, chemical, thermal, biorefineries, nature-based and insect-based solutions); Quality control (non-toxic recycling, recycled product quality, carbon/water/energy footprint).
4. Closure of Materials Loop	Mass balance and recycling efficiency; Technological and natural sinks (back-to-earth solutions); Sustainable deposit of residual waste on soil (updated regulations, sustainable landfilling, temporary storage of valuable materials); Enhanced landfill mining (feasibility, surveying, excavation, sorting, valorisation, regulation).
5. Energy in Circular Economy	Energy in waste recycling (phosphorus recovery, tyres, plastics); Integration of energy & material cycles (CHP, industrial symbiosis, biorefineries, waste-energy-water nexus); Energy storage, conversion & reuse (battery recycling, second life, hydrogen, thermal storage, waste heat); Case studies & best practices (symbiosis parks, smart grids, WtE, circular cities); Reuse of waste from energy production (combustion residues, digestates, end-of-life PV, turbine blades).
6. Applied Circularity Scenarios	Circular business models & industrial symbiosis; Companies/Industries (production redesign, technologies, transition strategies, R&D collaboration, certification); Municipalities/Local Governments (circular cities, water loops, public procurement, community engagement); Universities/Research (innovation, pilots, circular curricula); Other scenarios (agriculture & food systems, tourism, logistics, mobility sharing, product-as-a-service).

Area	Key Topics
7. Environmental & Health Impacts	<p>Direct emissions (collection, recycling, reuse, biological recycling); Indirect emissions (contaminants in products, consumer exposure, downcycling releases); Environmental impacts (microplastics, PFAS, emerging pollutants, pharmaceuticals); Health implications (toxic exposure, accumulation, microbial risk, ecotoxicology, epidemiology); Risk–benefit balance & mitigation policies.</p>
8. Economic, Legal & Social Issues	<p>Economic & financial aspects (circular business models, EPR, fiscal tools, sustainable finance, CO₂ costs, emissions trading); Legal aspects (CE legislation, waste law, liability, transboundary shipments, eco-design, permitting, MS EU compliance); Education, communication & social aspects (awareness, behaviour, curricula, media, human rights in CRM); Cooperation between environmental sciences and arts.</p>
9. Methods & Tools	<p>CE metrics & impact assessment (indicators, monitoring, SDGs alignment); Assessment tools (MFA, LCA, circularity metrics, CBA, EIA, carbon accounting, energy balance); Social & ecological models (cooperatives, informal recycling, citizen science); Methodological innovations (new quantitative approaches, AI in modelling); AI & digital solutions (IoT, Big Data, digital passport, real-time analysis, predictive analytics, generative AI, digital twins).</p>
10. Policy & Strategies	<p>Policy & standards (EPR, DRS, green claims, ESPR, PPWR, CSRD); Governance models & multi-level coordination (PPP, territorial networks); Integration of recycled/reused materials (certification, hybrid products, modularity, second life); Circular Economy in developing countries (appropriate technologies, inclusive governance, grassroots initiatives, financial support).</p>

Fees

Participation in the Symposium, for all attendees — both speakers and participants — requires payment of an entrance fee.

To encourage broad participation in the conference, organisers are offering lower registration fees for delegates from developing countries (based on the World Bank Classification).

REGULAR FEES

High Income Countries ⁽¹⁾ - Early bird (until 28/02/2026*)	€ 590
High Income Countries ⁽¹⁾ - Regular fee (from 01/03/2026 onwards)	€ 690

SPECIAL FEES

Upper Middle Income Countries ⁽¹⁾	€ 590
Low Income and Lower Middle Income Countries ⁽¹⁾	€ 400
PhD students ⁽²⁾	€ 500
Undergraduate and Master students ⁽²⁾	€ 350
Members of the Advisory Boards	€ 550

PLEASE NOTE: FEES ARE EXCLUSIVE OF VAT 22%

*** The deadline refers to the actual receipt of payment, not just the submission of the registration form.**

(1) Please check the World Bank classification of your country in this [relevant list](#)

(2) Proof of student status must be provided

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION

All fees include:

- Access to all Symposium sessions and workshops
- Conference Proceedings
- Conference materials and Symposium Guidebook
- Symposium App
- Coffee breaks
- **Free shuttle service from Piazza dei Martiri to the [conference venue](#)**
- 50% of the cost of the Closing Gala Dinner
- Certificate of Attendance

Get the submission details
in the Contact Page

SPONSORSHIP & PARTNERSHIPS

Within SUM, sponsorship is conceived as a structured institutional partnership, aligned with the scientific mission and governance of the Symposium. Sponsorship at SUM allows companies to anchor communication, positioning and institutional relations within a recognised scientific framework, rather than within a generic visibility context.

Sponsorship at SUM is pursued with a medium- to long-term perspective, supporting:

- strategic communication and positioning
- institutional recognition
- credibility and reputation consolidation

For concrete visibility, media exposure and networking tools, see *Forms of Sponsorship* section below.



**Support the sponsor's
STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND POSITIONING
OBJECTIVES**

**Enable
association with a
HIGH-AUTHORITY
SCIENTIFIC
ECOSYSTEM**

**Activate
QUALIFIED
RELATIONS WITH KEY
STAKEHOLDERS**



Forms of Sponsorship

SUM structures its sponsorship framework through two typologies, responding to different strategic needs: Standard Sponsorship and Sponsored Workshop.

1. Standard Sponsorship

BENEFIT	BRONZE € 690 + VAT 22%	SILVER € 1.500 + VAT 22%	GOLD € 2.500 + VAT 22%
Conference Admission	-	1 delegate	2 delegates
Onsite Roll-up Banner	-	✓	✓
Small table for displaying brochures	-	✓	✓
Company profile on website and app	✓	✓	✓
Company profile on conference guidebook	✓	✓	✓
Acknowledgement and logo in our newsletters	✓	✓	✓
Insert of company brochures in delegate bags	✓	✓	✓
Post on our social media	-	1 post	2 posts
2-week advert (image + text) in home page	-		✓
1 newsletter fully dedicated to the company	-		✓
Company logo on conference materials (bags, lanyards, pens, etc.)	Add-on	Add-on	Add-on
Sponsored Social Event	Add-on	Add-on	Add-on

Add-ons

- Company logo on conference materials : your company name directly in the hands of every attendee, for a lasting exposure. Available options include: delegate bags / badge lanyards / notepads / pens and more. Pricing varies depending on the selected item.
- Sponsored Social Event: get extra visibility by exhibiting your company during our exciting social events - such as the Closing Gala Dinner or the Welcome Cocktail. Company logo and roll-up banner will be showcased in prominent places during the sponsored event. Pricing varies depending on the selected event.

2. Sponsored Workshop

SUM Symposium offers the possibility to organize specific workshops or other practical activities to showcase Companies. Starting from the analysis of specific problems, through the presentation of peculiar case studies, it will be possible to advertise the activities of your company

€ 1.500

+ VAT 22%

- One slot of 60-75 minutes to be included in the conference programme
- Set up of a roll-up banner and a small table for the distribution of company brochures in the main registration hall, throughout the entire Symposium
- Company logo + profile on the Symposium website (and App) with a one-page advert (allowing for inclusion of a range of contents – images and videos – and download of company brochures)
- Company logo + profile + advertising page in the Companies section of the programme

If you still wish to take part to the Symposium in a non commercial way, [go to the dedicated section.](#)

Next steps for sponsors

in the Contact Page



KEY INFORMATION FOR ALL COMPANIES

Audience Profile

SUM attracts a **highly specialised international** audience, including researchers, industry professionals, utilities, policymakers and technical experts active in circular economy and urban mining.

Across recent editions, attendance has ranged between 160 and 255 participants per edition, with delegates from 22 to 34 countries, reflecting SUM's international reach within a focused, expert community.

Beyond on-site participation, SUM benefits from a communication network exceeding **35,000 contacts**, extending visibility well beyond the event itself.



Young researchers (PhD / Post-doc)	Early-career researchers contributing new methods, data and emerging research lines, and representing the next generation of technical and scientific experts.
Senior academics & Key Opinion Leaders	Professors, principal investigators and scientific leaders shaping research agendas, standards and long-term directions of the field.
Industry – Utilities & Operators	Decision-makers and technical managers responsible for plant operation, compliance, implementation and performance in real systems.
Industry – Technology providers & Consultants	Companies and professionals developing technologies, engineering solutions, digital tools and advisory services for circular-economy systems.
EU-funded projects & consortia	Coordinators and partners of EU projects disseminating results, scouting partners and connecting research outcomes with industry and policy.
Public authorities & regulators	Institutional actors involved in policy design, regulation, oversight and strategic planning at national and European level.
Public-sector implementers	Municipalities and technical bodies responsible for procurement, service delivery and local implementation of circular-economy solutions.
Students & future professionals	Advanced students and graduates entering the sector through research, industry or public-sector career paths.

Event and Programme Structure

SUM is a three-day multidisciplinary symposium designed to cover a broad range of topics across the circular-economy spectrum, functioning as a shared forum where multiple perspectives and approaches coexist. The programme is interspersed with social events and coffee breaks supporting networking, and concludes with a gala dinner.

Scientific Programme

The programme is organised into thematic sessions covering different areas of circular economy and urban mining. Each day typically includes 3 to 4 sessions running in parallel, allowing a wide range of topics and research areas to be addressed within the same timeframe and participants can engage with the topics most relevant to their work.

Recent editions have featured over 120 presentations, resulting in a high concentration of content.

Session Formats

SUM supports a range of scientific formats:

Oral sessions typically consist of a block of presentations followed by dedicated discussion time, encouraging interaction between speakers and participants. Typically ~10–12 minutes plus Q&A, organised in thematically aligned sessions.

Workshops focus on in-depth debate around controversial or emerging issues, for targeted dialogue and exchange between participants and experts. They open with an introductory framing followed by interactive discussion.

Poster sessions run continuously in a dedicated area, allowing delegates to engage with research outputs throughout the event.



The Venue: Procida

For Sum Symposium, we sought a non-conventional destination, but a location capable of encouraging genuine reflection: Procida.

The island, off the coast of Naples, does not shout its beauty; it suggests it — shaped by authentic Mediterranean tradition. Among its pastel alleys and the salty air, Procida offers an atmosphere of quiet focus.

This intimate, reflective setting is precisely what we chose as the foundation for a scientific forum with global and multidisciplinary reach.

Just as our research is dedicated to identifying value in resources, Procida rewards attention to detail and a slower, more attentive rhythm.

This environment — shaped by cycles and preserved beauty — provides a fitting context in which the complex processes of the Circular Economy and Urban Mining can be discussed with clarity and scientific rigour.

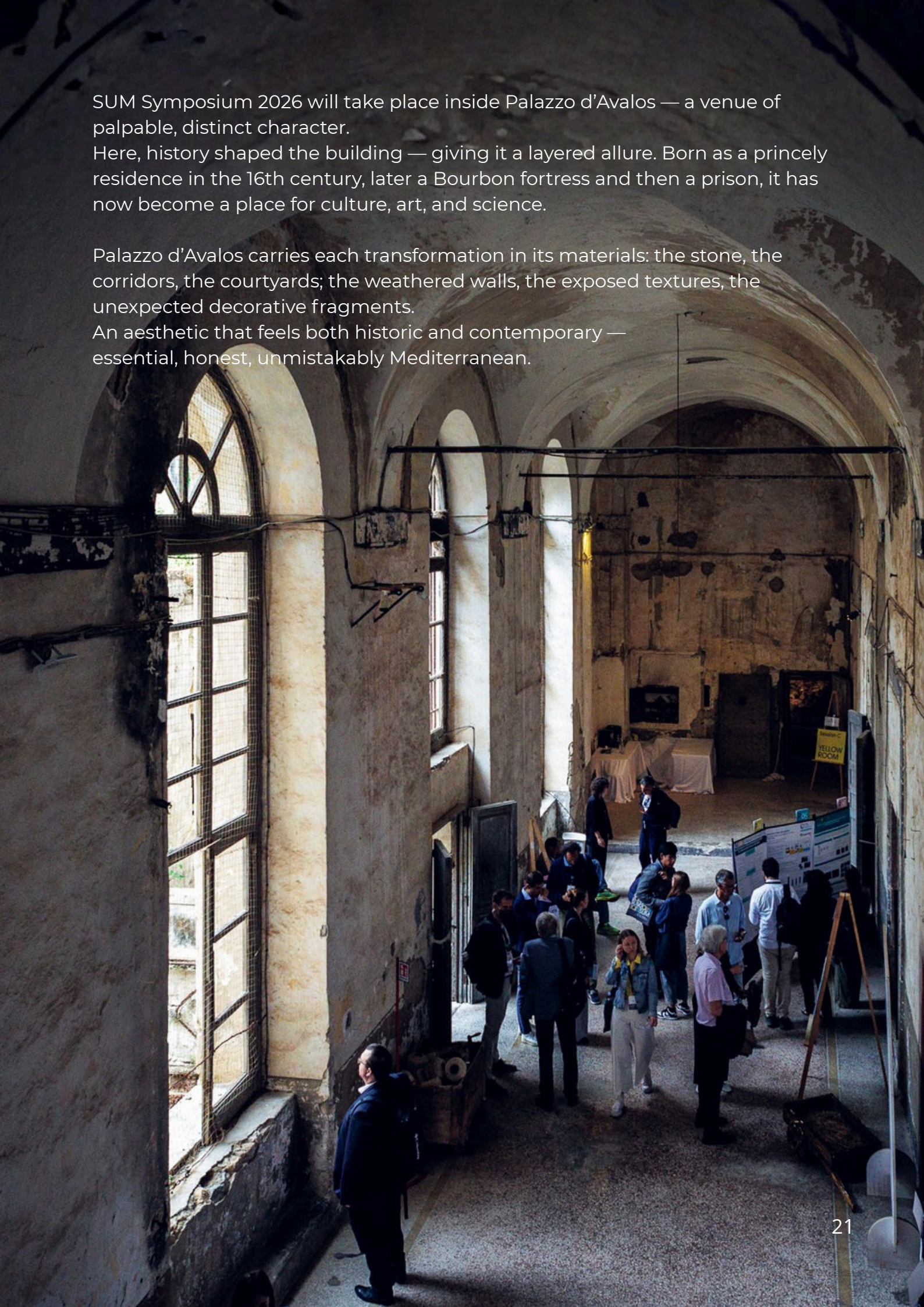


SUM Symposium 2026 will take place inside Palazzo d'Avalos — a venue of palpable, distinct character.

Here, history shaped the building — giving it a layered allure. Born as a princely residence in the 16th century, later a Bourbon fortress and then a prison, it has now become a place for culture, art, and science.

Palazzo d'Avalos carries each transformation in its materials: the stone, the corridors, the courtyards; the weathered walls, the exposed textures, the unexpected decorative fragments.

An aesthetic that feels both historic and contemporary — essential, honest, unmistakably Mediterranean.



NEXT STEPS

Join the discussion

Get the submission detail at the dedicated page [HERE](#) or contact the Organising Secretariat.

Sponsorship & partnerships

Get the details to proceed [HERE](#), or contact the Organising Secretariat to discuss available options.

Special requests or combined participation

Please contact the Organising Secretariat directly.

CONTACTS

Organising Secretariat

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