

In the aftermath, again

The earthquake of Amatrice from an historical perspective

Francesco Gangemi

Bibliotheca Hertziana | Max-Planck-Institut für Kunstgeschichte | Roma

Abstract

In the wake of the 2016 earthquake that hit many towns across Central Italy, this paper focuses on Amatrice and draws attention to its history and cultural heritage. This town developed into an exemplar of an economic system based on the mobility of men and animals. As the Middle Ages drew to a close, the intense movement of shepherds, soldiers, and saints forged the identity of a territory whose essence was built on cultural exchange, even if its borders are no longer reflected in modern administrative divisions.

At the same time, the paper reviews various reconstruction projects carried out in Italy after the larger seismic disasters of the last 150 years, and it highlights the disparities among implemented policies. These reconstruction efforts are significantly shaped by the historical and cultural contexts in which they take place. Thus, a summary of restoration charters developed over the last century bears witness to an evolution in the methodological and normative frameworks in which the restoration of cultural heritage should occur.

This presentation of both the territory's specific history and character and the more general policies of reconstruction in Italy provides the basis for a discussion of the post-disaster landscape of Amatrice and its monuments.

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