



EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS 2025

Architectural Heritage:
Windows to the Past,
Doors to the Future

European Heritage Days
A joint action of the Council of Europe
and the European Union



European Heritage Days
Journées européennes
du patrimoine

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Mardin Midyat Municipality (Türkiye) Sahro Feast

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A DIGITAL VERSION OF THIS BROCHURE, CONTAINING LINKS TO ALL ONLINE RESOURCES MENTIONED, CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

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Introduction

The **European Heritage Days (EHD)**, a joint action of the **Council of Europe** and the **European Union**, are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by people living in Europe. The pan-European nature of the events contributes to bringing people together and highlighting the European dimension and the value of cultural heritage in the signatory States of the **European Cultural Convention**. Thousands of events are organised every year in order to help raise awareness of Europe's common heritage and the continuous need for its protection, as well as to create shared cultural heritage experiences, promote inclusiveness and foster creativity and imagination.

Every year there is a **theme for European Heritage Days**, which all participating countries are encouraged to adopt for their annual programme.

This brochure will help you think about to deliver your 2025 programme based on the theme of *Architectural Heritage*. Event organisers are welcome to adapt this theme in ways that would best suit their language and culture. At the heart of this theme is the notion that our architectural heritage, its related intangible heritage, the role that it plays in creating a sense of place and identity and the personal and collective memories it invokes, is something that all communities can share and that requires concerted action to protect for future generations.



Focus on Architectural Heritage

The theme for European Heritage Days 2025, "Architectural Heritage", celebrates the rich diversity of buildings that surround us, exploring buildings and infrastructure of all styles and scales. Architectural heritage offers a unique insight into our shared history and cultural identity. Deriving from the ancient Greek language, the term architecture acknowledges both the creative art and the technical aspects of building that go beyond pure functionality. In heritage terms we can appreciate innovative design, scale, form and decorative beauty, not only in the grand buildings and monuments of great cities, but also in the streets and houses in which we work and live everyday.



Such is the expanse of architectural heritage, the theme can be developed in various ways that reflect the different types of the built environment. Categories that may be useful for event organisers to develop could be based upon different functions such as:

- ▶ Religious architecture, focusing on churches, cathedrals, monasteries, abbeys etc.
- ▶ Commercial architecture, focusing on shops, department stores, offices, arcades, merchant houses etc.
- ▶ Industrial architecture, present and former sites of production, old factories, mills, railway stations, warehouses, chimneys etc.
- ▶ Domestic architecture, including private homes and local vernacular buildings;
- ▶ Commemorative monuments and statues.

Or, be based on architecture representing different historical periods and styles such as:

- ▶ Architecture from the Art Nouveau period (Jugendstil, Secessionist, Stile Liberty and Modernisme in Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain respectively);
- ▶ Architecture from the Art Deco period;
- ▶ Brutalist architecture, largely using concrete, that emerged post 1945.

Entry points

Approaching the theme through the work of notable architects can be a valuable focus for European Heritage Days. While famous architects are well-known, there are many local and regional architects whose contributions deserve more recognition.

Another interesting angle could be an exploration of the materials used in buildings. For example, locally sourced stone can tell us about the geology of an area and the history of local quarries. When buildings include exotic materials like marble, this can highlight historical connections, such as trade, conquest, or the movement of migrant workers.

Celebrating the diverse architecture in any region – whether in a city, town, or neighborhood – reveals many stories about people and places. These stories can range from significant historical events to personal memories. Even if a building isn't officially recognized as heritage, it can still hold great value for the community, whether for its function, decorative beauty, or associations with particular people or events.

It's also important to remember that architectural heritage isn't just about urban landmarks. Rural architecture, like farmhouses and agricultural buildings, is often overlooked but plays a crucial role in defining the landscape and telling the story of a region's agricultural heritage.



What is the significance of Architectural Heritage in local communities?

Every village, town and city has its own architectural heritage, reflecting local history, culture and economies. Communities cherish their favourite streets, buildings, monuments and statues which commemorate significant events, serve as meeting places, and enhance the quality of the environment and daily life. Buildings can hold deep personal meanings, but they also are important to collective memory. Material architectural features such as carvings, doorways or railings can be significant and tell a variety of stories. Though made of stone, brick or wooden constructions, buildings are also powerful symbols of cultural identity and connects us to local, national and international histories.

We should also consider “dissonant heritage,” which includes difficult or controversial sites. These are places tied to painful or contested histories, such as wars, oppressive regimes, colonization, or persecution. Even if the meaning of these sites is still being negotiated, and they are often neglected or hidden, they deserve recognition and preservation. They help us learn from the past, encourage social dialogue, and promote democratic values.

Archaeology adds to our understanding of architectural heritage. Ruins of buildings and settlements, which stand on the edge of structure and decay, show the tension between human influence and nature’s reclaim. They captivate us by embodying the struggle between survival and the passage of time. The European Heritage Days provide opportunities for communities to showcase the buildings they value and have valued in the past, whether they are grand designs or simple functional structures.



While visitors admire the craftsmanship of historic buildings, they may not know the stories behind the stone or brick facades. Events take place against the setting of our built environment. The buildings around us have hosted the lives of politicians, poets, artists, and famous architects. At the same time, important architectural constructions are founded on, or are a consequence of events such as conflict, invention and belief. European Heritage Days focused upon architectural heritage provide the ideal opportunity to share an impressive range of stories.



Key factors shaping Architectural Heritage across Europe

The architectural heritage of both urban and rural Europe is rich and diverse, reflecting different environments and cultures. Before concrete became widely available, local geology and natural resources shaped the materials that architects and builders used. When we think of historic buildings, we often picture stone structures, but it's important to also consider the traditions of construction from wood and other organic material, especially in Northern and Central/Eastern Europe. For example, Norway has its Stave churches, and Romania has its wooden churches.

Brick, first used by the Romans, was creatively employed in the „brick Gothic“ style seen in the Hansa towns of Northern Europe. It also played a key role in the industrialization and urbanization of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Understanding the materials used in heritage buildings, whether stone, brick, wood, concrete, or glass, can give us an insight into the local landscape and historical trade patterns. It also highlights the contributions of local craftsmen. During the Medieval and Renaissance periods, architects and skilled workers often traveled across Europe, bringing their knowledge of different materials to projects like castles and cathedrals. This is why we see similarities in design and architectural styles across the continent.





The crucial role of intangible cultural heritage in understanding Architectural Heritage

When we think about buildings, we often overlook the intangible cultural heritage behind them. This includes the knowledge, skills, and craftsmanship that went into creating each structure. While we recognize the architect as the designer, many other skilled workers contributed to the building process. These include the quarry workers who cut the stone, the masons who carved it, the plasterers who created intricate designs, and the gilders who applied gold leaf. These craftsmen often remain anonymous and easily forgotten.

The techniques used in building and decorating have largely stayed the same over time, even with some

mechanical improvements. However, in today's age of mass construction, traditional skills and techniques are becoming rare. To preserve our architectural heritage, it's important that these skills continue to be passed down through generations.

European Heritage Days provide a chance to look beyond the finished buildings and appreciate the art and craft involved in their creation. By uncovering these stories and showcasing traditional craftspeople at work, we can inspire younger generations to take up these important skills. Although these traditional skills are in short supply, they are essential for the conservation of our built heritage.



Why do European cities blend different architectural styles?

Across Europe and the world, architectural heritage reflects historical connections formed over centuries through colonization, peace treaties, trade, and the exchange of ideas. The buildings in our cities, from shopping streets to suburban homes, often remind us of how interconnected we are.

For example, classical Greek columns are common in public buildings throughout Europe. Gothic architecture, seen in Europe's great cathedrals, was adapted in the 19th century for churches and universities. The ornate Baroque style is found not only in Europe but was also exported to places like South America and East Asia.

European architecture often mixes different styles, reflecting broader historical trends in literature, art, and international travel. This creative blending, along with revivals and adaptations of older styles, has resulted in the diverse architectural heritage we see today. It's common to find buildings in European towns and cities that display features from various places and periods. Yet, Europe also has many examples of distinct local architectural styles that reflect specific cultural identities.

Highlighting the rich variety of architectural styles in Europe, whether in a building, a street, or even a single architectural feature, provides a great opportunity to share stories of past travels and cultural exchanges.



How do buildings become heritage sites of the future?

All the buildings and monuments we now consider heritage were once new constructions. They have survived over time and now enrich our environment. It's important to think about which contemporary buildings might one day be recognized as heritage. This means considering their architectural qualities and how they stand out in terms of design, beauty, function, and use of materials, as well as how well they blend into their surroundings, whether urban or rural.

Faced with challenges and threats presented by a changing climate, it is becoming increasingly important to invest in the protection of historic buildings which were not designed to withstand increasingly volatile weather and environmental conditions. We can also learn sustainable building practices from historic construction techniques which emerged from and designed *into* local ecological systems.

As a means of promoting environmental sustainability, the [European Green Deal](#) presents the EU's main new growth strategy to transition the EU economy to a sustainable economic model. It aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a cleaner environment, more affordable energy, smarter transport, new jobs and an overall better



quality of life. The [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative is a creative and interdisciplinary movement that connects the [European Green Deal](#) to our living spaces. This platform, highlighting experimentation and connection, science and technology and the world of art and culture, seeks innovative solutions and opportunities to improve quality of life. By focusing on buildings that could become future heritage sites with such priorities in mind, we can explore the ongoing trends in architecture and how the rich diversity of European heritage continues to inspire new designs. This offers a great opportunity to discuss our future needs.



The power of public awareness in safeguarding Europe's architectural legacy

The focus on Architectural Heritage in 2025 aligns with important anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of the European Charter of Architectural Heritage (1975) and the 40th anniversary of the Council of Europe [Convention for the Protection of Architectural Heritage](#) (The Granada Convention) (1985). These, along with the 2005 Faro Convention, emphasize that architectural heritage is a key part of Europe's shared history and local communities' identities. Protecting and conserving this heritage is essential.

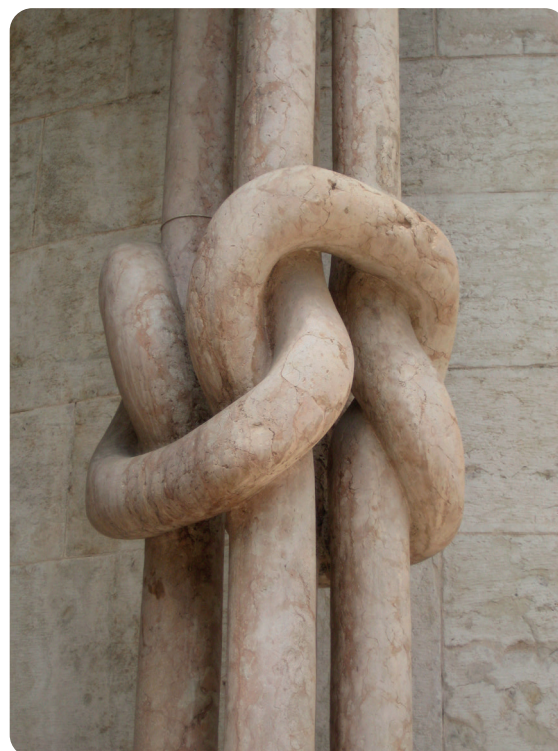
Most countries have planning systems to protect significant heritage buildings, especially those with national or international importance. However, protecting historic buildings is often challenging, particularly in cities where development pressures are high and public funding is limited. It's even harder to protect buildings with local significance in the face of these pressures.

Raising public awareness is vital to overcoming these challenges. European Heritage Days play an important role in educating people about the value of architectural heritage and the difficulties in preserving it.

All old buildings need ongoing maintenance, management, and varying degrees of conservation. The main reasons for losing architectural heritage are often limited resources, unclear ownership, and a shortage of conservation skills. But underlying all these issues is a lack of public awareness about what these buildings mean to their communities.

There are many successful examples across Europe where communities, volunteers, and enthusiasts have come together to save and conserve heritage buildings. However, many buildings and monuments still need protection and conservation. European Heritage Days are an ideal time to raise awareness about the need to protect these buildings for the benefit of the community.

It's important to address the problems facing heritage buildings, but it's equally important to showcase successful examples of buildings that have been saved and repurposed. Making old buildings functional again is key to protecting their heritage. Adaptive reuse can create new opportunities for businesses, housing, and community spaces. Highlighting these success stories during European Heritage Days can inspire local communities, policymakers, and planners.



What is the role of Council of Europe Conventions in heritage protection?

The Council of Europe has recognized the importance of architectural heritage through various Conventions and Recommendations over the years. Some of the most important are:

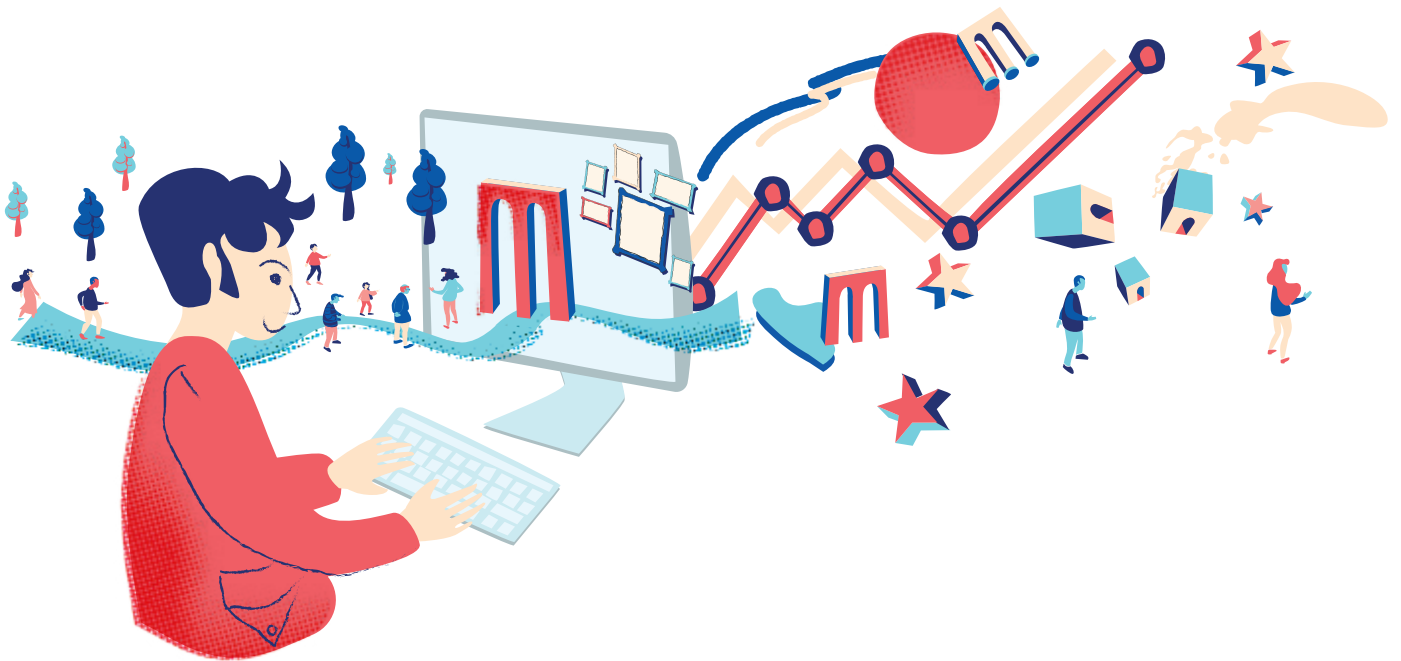
The Granada Convention (1985): This Convention urged countries and regional authorities to create laws and policies to protect, conserve, and enhance Europe's monuments, buildings, and sites. It emphasized the importance of integrating architectural heritage into town and country planning to improve the quality of life in both urban and rural areas. The Convention also highlighted the need to preserve and develop traditional skills and materials used in construction.

The Faro Convention (2005): This influential Convention took a broad view of heritage, emphasizing its value to society. It highlighted how heritage can improve quality of life, contribute to social and cultural development, and support environmental and economic well-being. The Faro Convention also stressed the importance of communicating the value of heritage and using it as a source of knowledge and education.

The Nicosia Convention (2017): This Convention focuses on preventing the destruction of cultural property and the illegal trafficking of heritage objects. While it mainly addresses moveable heritage, it is also relevant to architectural heritage, as buildings and monuments can be vulnerable to illegal activities. The Nicosia Convention plays a crucial role in protecting and understanding the significance of Europe's architectural heritage.

These Conventions by the Council of Europe help ensure that architectural heritage is protected, understood, and valued across Europe.





Architecture and European Policies

Through various policies and funding initiatives, including the [Creative Europe](#) programme, the European Union is developing a people-centered approach to a sustainable built environment, highlighting architecture's role in enhancing citizens' quality of life.

The [EU Work Plan for Culture \(2023-2026\)](#) emphasizes the importance of quality built environments in furthering cultural cooperation.

Creative Europe provides substantial support for architecture through a variety of initiatives, including:

- ▶ **The EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture**, which recognizes excellence in architecture ([Mies van der Rohe Award](#)) and young talent.
- ▶ **Creative Europe Networks and Platforms:** [Architect's Council of Europe \(ACE\)](#) – [LINA European Architecture Platform](#)
- ▶ **European Cooperation Projects:** [Rebuilding to Last \(2022-2024\)](#) – [Future DiverCities \(2022-2026\)](#) – [ARCH-E \(2023-2026\)](#)

Creative Europe also addresses challenges in the architecture sector through capacity-building, promotion of [Baukultur](#), peer learning, and audience engagement to spread principles of high-quality contemporary architecture.



Event Ideas

Below are listed a range of ideas and suggestions for inspiration in organising European Heritage Days on the theme of Architectural Heritage. Many of these connect with previous themes such as Routes, Networks and Connections, Living Heritage and Sustainable Heritage, so revisiting the brochures for those themes will offer further inspiration.

- 1. Celebrating Council of Europe Conventions relating to Architectural Heritage.** To mark the 40th Anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe – the Granada Convention – and also the 20th Anniversary of the Faro Convention, host an Architecture Festival that assembles different stakeholders – policy-makers, heritage managers, architects, academics and communities to reflect on the success of the Conventions and discuss the future challenges facing architectural heritage. This could involve exhibitions to mark the past 40 years and also a conference / seminars to generate new ideas and perspectives on the protection of architectural heritage.
- 2.** Are you an organiser of a project involving European cultural heritage, with a mission to share your experience with the rest of Europe? Do you have an idea for a new project to further develop your story? If you organise an EHD event, you will be eligible to take part in the next edition of our **Call for European Heritage Days Stories**. We particularly encourage applications from projects based on the upcoming theme.
- 3.** Take part in the next edition of the **Young European Heritage Makers** initiative, which invites young people to explore their cultural surroundings and find their story of Europe. Encourage young people to tell their story of heritage through a photo or a video and share it with the rest of Europe on our website as part of the next edition.
- 4.** Host an event showcasing Europe's diverse architectural heritage through the **Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe**. Offer guided tours, exhibitions, and workshops that explore routes like Transromanica, the European Cemeteries Route, and the ATRIUM route. Encourage participants to propose new local routes based on regional architecture,

fostering connections between local heritage and European cultural networks. This event highlights the architectural links across Europe and promotes creative partnerships for future cultural routes.

- 5. Discover the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals!** You might find some goals, particularly Goal 11 - especially target 11.4, - relevant to your activities. Organise an event that demonstrates how your work contributes to the achievement of the UN SDG Agenda. Find out [how Culture can help fill the implementation gaps in the achievement of the 17 SDGs](#).
- 6. Organise community-led walks around villages, towns and cities** that allow local people to discuss what architecture they like and what they don't like!
- 7. Develop a programme that features famous, or maybe infamous, events that have taken place in local buildings** – perhaps hosting an important figure of history or celebrity, or where an important meeting took place. Where possible allow access to rooms and areas not normally open to the public.
- 8. Organise a mini-film festival** that brings together old films and television programmes that feature the built environment of a city or region to explore the changes and the continuities of featured buildings and streets.
- 9. Invite local architectural practices to deliver public talks** and take part in discussions regarding how they work, generate new ideas and shape the way that towns and cities look.
- 10. Involve local architectural practices** that specialise in heritage conservation to create an 'on-site event' so that they can share their work with the wider community.
- 11. Devise a photographic competition** – maybe with a local photographic society or school / university – to capture the architectural features that are lesser known by the public and display through an exhibition.
- 12. The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.** Hold a community on-line vote to see what are the most liked buildings in the town or city and ask the reasons why. At the same time, this could be focus on the most disliked buildings. The results of the vote can be publicised and form the basis for a public discussion panel where ideas of improvement can be gathered.

13. Organise town and city tours that focus only on architectural features on the upper floors of buildings – ‘aching neck tours’! Many interesting architectural features occur above the ‘eye-line’ and are often missed.

14. Create a map of interesting old buildings that are no longer in use, are derelict, or abandoned and organise a competition amongst schools, colleges, universities, the local community for who can come up with the most innovative way of re-using the building and so preserving it. Maybe a local architectural firm may offer a small prize for the best ideas and the results be put on public display.

15. What lies below our feet? Remarkable architecture isn’t only to be found above ground - there are all kinds of secret subterranean histories to be explored. Does your city have underground travel networks, or buildings designed to offer shelter or hiding places? What are their stories, and can these places be opened to the public?

16. Archaeological Dig Open Days: Visitors can be invited to join archaeologists at excavation sites at locally significant sites, participating in real archaeological digs and learning about the buildings that occupied the site.

17. Where physical visits aren’t possible, establish a web-platform where the public can send their photographs and personal stories that relate to their encounters with local buildings – maybe where they previously worked or shopped or met their partner.

18. Work with local musicians and theatre performers to organise performances in heritage buildings not usually used as a venue. If possible, and where it is safe, such performances could take place in heritage buildings that need to be restored and activities can help raise awareness and funds.

19. Similarly, if the building has hosted a significant historical event, **organise a re-enactment** of what happened there with a local theatre group.

20. Roof top and sky-line tours. If it is possible to ascend the higher buildings of a town or city, views across the roof-tops can reveal a different perspective on the heritage of a place.

21. Develop a game for children that allows them to explore and find some of the small details that garnish our architectural heritage. This maybe a small carving of an animal on a buildings’ frontage or a small motif in some stained glass.



- 22. Organise special street open days.** Working with streets and neighbourhoods, showcase very localised architectural heritage by organising street open-days so residents can show-off the architectural features that are meaningful for them.
- 23. Encourage local schools and colleges to write their own architectural guides** to their town or city, featuring their favourite old buildings.
- 24. Bring together different religious buildings from different faiths** to organise tours that allow visitors see how architecture reflects the liturgy and rituals.
- 25. Devise an architectural treasure hunt** in which young and older visitors are given clues to seek out special and 'hidden' features.
- 26. Work with local university and college architecture students** to use heritage buildings as inspiration for their new designs and exhibit them in the same buildings.
- 27. Hold an exhibition of historical architectural drawings and plans** that tell the stories of how buildings came into existence. Museums, libraries and city halls often hold archives of architectural drawings, designs and plans and these can feature in exhibitions that help communities understand how their town or city came into existence.
- 28. Develop a tour of the modern buildings of the town** and organise a public debate as to which ones could be the architectural heritage of the future.
- 29. Work with migrant and diasporic communities** to understand how they value the architectural heritage of a town or city and explore how their heritage may intersect with yours.
- 30. Collaborate with local heritage protection societies** to raise awareness of the most vulnerable architectural heritage and to highlight the reasons as to why they should be conserved.
- 31. Develop tours that look at the architecture and development of the suburbs.** Frequently suburban architecture is overlooked and yet many suburbs exhibit distinct architectural styles.
- 32. Organise cemetery tours that combine the architecture of graves and monuments.** Many different architectural styles are replicated on the smaller scale in cemeteries. Tours can combine the architectural diversity with stories of who is buried there.
- 33. Create maps of 'forgotten buildings'** that can be used to draw attention to their need for better protection and restoration.
- 34. Work with local geologists / University geology departments** to create 'family trees' of heritage buildings tracing origins of the stones and materials back to where they were quarried or mined. If possible organise tours of these source quarries, stone-yards or brick makers.
- 35. Organise live video heritage walks** featuring chosen architectural heritage where the guide and participants use their mobile phones to share their buildings with their twin-towns or sister-cities.
- 36. Develop relationships with local crafts people** whose skills were and are important to the built environment and organise talks or demonstrations that feature the continuities of traditional skills.
- 37. Produce information for visitors that show the influence of international architects** and organise an online discussion with other countries who share buildings by the same architect.
- 38. Devise specific tours that highlight the way that architectural styles have 'travelled'** and have influenced the heritage of your town. Many countries across Europe share common architectural features and styles, though with small distinctive differences. Identifying these and profiling these can make an interesting virtual tour.
- 39. Curate small exhibitions and tours of niche architectural features** – for example – the most interesting doors or windows.
- 40. Hold an open day so that communities can watch a historic building being restored** - with permissions and with health and safety in mind.
- 41. Organise a tour in a historic urban centre,** highlighting some of the ways in which sustainability and architectural heritage relate to one another, and discuss the ways the town might be developed in a way that protects its identity while also making it suitable for today's needs.

- 42. Host storytelling events** where local residents share personal memories related to specific buildings or neighborhoods. These stories can be recorded and archived as part of the community's oral history.
- 43. Architecture and Art Collaboration** - Invite local artists to create artwork inspired by the architecture of the town or city. Host an exhibition showcasing these works alongside the buildings that inspired them.
- 44. Pop-up Exhibits in Unused Space.** Organize temporary exhibits or art installations in vacant or underused historic buildings, bringing attention to these spaces and highlighting their potential for future use.
- 45. Architects in the wild** – so many animals have their own kinds of architecture, and we can learn from how they build their homes. Organise a tour with a local wildlife conservation group to explore nature's builders. Or, go one step further and build a wildlife refuge - our insect populations are under threat as a consequence of changing climate, pollutants, and the destruction of natural habitats. To combat this, we can build homes for insects, to give refuge to beetles, bees, ladybirds and butterflies. An alternative might be birdhouses, or a home for any other special local character.
- 46. Create community gardens** - Allocate space to establishing community gardens or micro farms which schools, groups or neighbourhoods can fully design and manage together. As well as being an excellent educational tool, such a project can reap substantial social, environmental and economic benefits for a community.
- 47. Organise a workshop on building dens and houses from wood in a local woodland.** Some local outdoor activity providers and conservation societies facilitate sessions for children to experiment with building with natural materials in woodland areas. See if there are some available near you, or find a suitable place and design one yourselves!
- 48. Augmented Reality (AR) Tours.** Develop an AR app that allows visitors to see historical buildings as they were in different periods or visualize buildings that no longer exist. This can enhance the touring experience with interactive elements.
- 49. Children's Architecture Workshops.** Run workshops where children can learn about architecture by designing and building models of their favourite buildings. Let them decide what they want public spaces to provide for them. These models can be displayed in a public exhibition.
- 50. Architectural Heritage Audio Guide.** Create a downloadable audio guide that leads users on a narrated walk through the town, focusing on architectural heritage. Include interviews with local historians, architects, and residents.
- 51. Organize a New European Bauhaus Green Design Challenge** inspired by the principles of the New European Bauhaus, which aligns with the goals of the European Green Deal by promoting sustainable, inclusive, and aesthetically pleasing architecture. Participants could be invited to reimagine or redesign a local building, public space, or neighborhood with a focus on energy efficiency, green spaces, and reducing carbon footprints.
- 52. Organize Heritage Craft Market** where local craftspeople who specialize in traditional building techniques, like stone carving or stained glass, can demonstrate their skills and sell their products.
- 53. Nighttime Architecture Walks.** Host guided tours of buildings and streets at night, highlighting how architectural features are illuminated and exploring the different atmospheres that lighting creates.
- 54. Architecture and Photography Masterclass.** Collaborate with professional photographers to offer a masterclass on photographing architectural heritage. Participants can learn techniques and then apply them in a photo walk.
- 55.** We share our buildings with plants and animals of all kinds. Encourage children to become **nature detectives**, giving them an opportunity to learn about the other life we share our homes with. Create a **nature trail** in your town so that they can tick a box as they find them.
- 56. Architectural Conservation Bootcamp.** Offer an intensive workshop on the basics of architectural conservation, where participants can learn hands-on techniques for maintaining and preserving historic buildings.
- 57. Develop Virtual Reality experiences** that allow visitors to explore reconstructions of historical buildings that have been lost or drastically changed over time.

58. Community Mural Project. Engage the community in creating a large mural that celebrates the architectural heritage of the area. The mural could depict historical events, iconic buildings, or local architectural styles.

59. Create an **interactive digital map of architectural heritage** where users can click on buildings to learn about their history, architectural features, and stories associated with them.

60. Organize **Heritage Cooking Events** in historic kitchens showcasing traditional recipes and the role of these kitchens in the community's history.

61. Green Architecture Tours. Offer tours focused on successful sustainable and eco-friendly architectural practices in the area, showing how modern design can harmonize with traditional heritage.

62. Architectural Poetry Slam. Host a poetry slam where participants write and perform poems inspired by local architecture. This can bring a creative and emotional perspective to the understanding of buildings.

63. Organize mini town-planning and mini-architecture clay modeling classes.

64. Open the doors of historical transportation hubs and sites, such as old train stations, river locks, bridges, ports, and airports, showcasing the growth of transportation networks over time. Highlight the architectural evolution these networks facilitated in your town, and the role these hubs played in connecting communities.



Resources

Potential Local and National Collaborations

State agencies responsible for the protection and conservation of heritage buildings are important partners for European Heritage Days and can provide access to some buildings that are not normally opened to the public and offer insights into their work. However, state agencies do not cover every type of architecture and may focus on buildings that have national significance.

At national level it is useful to build relationships with architectural appreciation and preservation societies that hold great expertise and seek opportunities to promote the value of different architectural periods and styles. They are also important reference points for understanding how architectural heritage is under-threat from development and dis-use.

Many architectural practices now work with the conservation of historic buildings and the adaptation of old buildings so as to provide new uses. The EHDs can provide a valuable showcase for the work of contemporary architects. This extends to the architectural programmes of Universities and Colleges, who students can feature as excellent tour guides as well as developing exhibitions and displays.

The traditions and skills that created the architectural heritage that we enjoy are still very much needed for their on-going conservation. While there are many commercial trades and professions that will not work with heritage, at the local level, traditional stone-masons, brick-layers, glaziers, plasterers and the like may well welcome the opportunity to showcase and apply their skills in the context of architectural heritage.

European Networks of Architectural Interest

Several networks and associations working with architecture and specifically, the different dimensions of architectural heritage, are Europe-wide. Contacting them can reveal local-national members who may be interested in partnering through the EHDS. Examples include:

- ▶ European Association for Architectural Education - <https://www.eaae.be/>
- ▶ Architectural Council of Europe - <https://www.ace-cae.eu/>
- ▶ European Architect's Alliance - <https://www.eaa-eu.com/>
- ▶ European Architecture Student's Assembly - <https://www.easanetwork.org/>
- ▶ The European Council of Interior Architects - <https://ecia.net/>
- ▶ **European Association of Architectural Heritage Restoration Companies** - <https://europeanheritagealliance.eu/members/aeerpa/>
- ▶ European Architectural History Network - <https://eahn.org/>
- ▶ European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisation - <https://www.ecco-eu.org/about-e-c-c-o/>
- ▶ Save Europe's Heritage - <https://www.savebritainsheritage.org/save-europe>

Further Useful European Networks for European Heritage Days

Numerous examples of European and international associations, organisations and networks exist that have interests in architectural heritage. Examples include:

- ▶ Relevant Council of Europe Documents Relating to Cultural Heritage - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/herein-system/council-of-europe>
- ▶ Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (Luxembourg) - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/cultural-routes>
- ▶ Europa Nostra - <https://www.europanostra.org/>
- ▶ European Heritage Label - <https://ehl-bureau.eu/en/>
- ▶ European Walled Towns Association - <https://www.europeanwalledtowns.org/>
- ▶ ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) - <https://www.icomos.org/en>
- ▶ Organisation of World Heritage Cities – <https://www.ovpm.org/>
- ▶ UNESCO Creative Cities Network - <https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/>
- ▶ UNESCO World Heritage Sites - <https://visitworldheritage.com/en/>
- ▶ UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List - <https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists>

We hope that you find some inspiration from these examples for delivering Architecture and Heritage: Windows to the Past, Doors to the Future theme as part of your events programme in 2025.

Feel free to share your practices and projects using #EuropeanHeritageDays and we can share them widely through our social media channels.

Join the Conversation



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<http://europa.eu>

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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