



# Seascape 08

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## ROOTS

**Coastal traditions, land use,  
and Mediterranean landscape heritage**

*"Les hommes ne font pas l'histoire autant qu'ils la subissent, surtout celle du très long terme, cette histoire presque immobile où les structures résistent, se plient, mais ne cèdent qu'après de très longs silences."*

Fernand Braudel, *La Méditerranée et le monde méditerranéen à l'époque de Philippe II*, 1949

With this issue, SEASCAPE continues its series dedicated to the territorial drivers of contemporary coasts – those structuring devices that, at varying scales and speeds, have shaped and continue to mold the morphology, identity, and settlement forms of coastal landscapes. This eighth issue turns its gaze toward what precedes and sustains every driver: roots.

Here, the term does not hold a generic metaphorical value. In a technical and disciplinary sense, "root" designates the deep anchoring system through which a territory has built its adaptive capacity over the longue durée – what Braudel called "structure," the semi-permanent reality that survives conjunctures and unconsciously orients subsequent transformations. The roots of a coastal territory are its settlement traditions, its constructive knowledge, its land-use practices, and its archaeological stratifications: not vestiges to be passively conserved, but active matrices from which contemporary design can derive principles, logics, and forms.

The Mediterranean — in the multiplicity of its geographical articulations, from the Maghreb and Levantine shores to the Adriatic, Tyrrhenian, and Iberian coasts—constitutes the primary field of investigation for this issue. Over millennia, Mediterranean coastal communities have developed complex systems of territorial rooting: reclamation of coastal wetlands, agricultural terracing on coastal slopes, hydraulic regulation of river mouths, anthropic modeling of dunes, and the long-term management of brackish lagoons and coastal pine forests. These operations — anonymous, collective, and iterative — constitute forms of territorial design *ante litteram*, based on empirical knowledge finely calibrated to the natural cycles of coastal systems: sedimentary regimes, longshore drift dynamics, and seasonal variations of tides and winds.

Superimposed on this living layer of tradition is a deeper, archaeological dimension: Mediterranean coasts harbor beneath the surface of the soil and sea the remains of settlements, port infrastructures, and systems of production and exchange that document millennia of human rooting in the coastal territory. This submerged or buried stratification is not an inert archive: it defines the geomorphological and topographical preconditions within which contemporary design operates, posing unavoidable questions about the continuity and discontinuity of coastal landscapes over the long term.

In a context of accelerating anthropic and climatic pressures — erosion, subsidence, aridification, flooding — critical rooting in tradition is not a conservative posture: it is the necessary epistemological condition for developing effective, lasting, and territorially grounded design strategies. SEASCAPE invites researchers, designers, and scholars to submit original contributions that articulate a critical reading of the territorial roots of Mediterranean coasts with reflections or proposals for their future design, according to three lines of research.

### **Topic 01 — Geographies of Belonging**

#### **Settlement, Identity, and Rooting in the Mediterranean Coastal Territory**

The first research line investigates Mediterranean settlement traditions as morphological and identity-rooting devices for the coasts. The structure of fishing villages, the hierarchy of landing sites, the distribution of watchtowers, and the articulation of paths connecting the hinterland to the sea are not contingent outcomes: they are the product of long processes of adaptation to the geomorphological and productive conditions of the coastal context, where settlement form and territorial form have co-determined each other over time. The Mediterranean offers an exceptionally rich comparative field: from the rock-cut systems of the Apulian and Sicilian coasts to the Tuscan marine, from North African ribats to Catalan ramblas, from Levantine caravanserais to Adriatic stilt houses.

### **Topic 02 — Archaeologies of Inhabitation**

#### **Constructive Stratifications, Minor Heritage, and Architectural Memory of the Coast**

The second research line addresses the double depth of coastal built heritage: the vertical depth of archaeology and the horizontal depth of minor architectural typology. Beneath the surface of Mediterranean shores lie the remains of ancient port infrastructures, submerged fishing systems, maritime villas, horrea, warehouses, and coastal routes buried by sea-level rise or sediment accumulation. This archaeological stratification is inseparable from the history of the coastal landscape: it defines topographical preconditions, reveals original settlement logics, and documents the long duration of human presence.

### **Topic 03 — Cultures of the Land**

#### **Agrarian Practices, Ecological Knowledge, and Resilience of the Coastal Landscape**

The third research line explores land-use traditions as active practices of ecological rooting and the

construction of both natural and anthropic coastal landscapes. Land reclamation, terracing, extensive aquaculture in fishing lagoons (valli da pesca), salt pan cultivation, the planting of Mediterranean dune scrub, and the hydraulic arrangement of estuaries: these are territorial transformation operations of great technical and ecological complexity. Their landscaping outcomes testify to a capacity for co-evolution with coastal natural cycles — dune dynamics, sediment drift, wetland water balance — that contemporary management systems struggle to match.

### **Submission Guidelines**

Proposals — in Italian or English (mandatory in English for international candidates) — must follow the template downloadable from the website and include:

Title (max 100 characters)

Subtitle (max 150 characters)

Topic (01 /02 /03)

Abstract (max 2500 characters)

2 optional images with captions (copyright-free or with permission).

Abstracts must be sent to [editorial.seascape@gmail.com](mailto:editorial.seascape@gmail.com) with the subject: "Abstract- Seascape 08-Surname".

### **Fees**

Selected articles will be published upon payment of a symbolic fee.

For costs: [www.seascape.it](http://www.seascape.it) >>> Publish with us.

### **Timeline**

Saturday, June 6, 2026\_ Abstract submission deadline

Saturday, June 20, 2026\_ Notification of acceptance (to begin drafting full papers for double-blind peer review)

Saturday, August 8, 2026\_ Full paper submission deadline

### **Information**

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