

## International Conference

### "Luigi Vanvitelli, the Maestro and his heritage"

MOLE VANVITELLIANA, April 2023

### Call for Papers

The year 2023 marks the 250th anniversary of the death of architect Luigi Vanvitelli, who conceived the majestic design of the Royal Palace of Caserta and the new capital of the Kingdom of Naples, interpreting the dream of King Charles of Bourbon, who wished to represent the prestige of a great monarchy in Europe.

On this occasion, the Royal Palace of Caserta (Museum with Special Autonomy) and the Municipality of Caserta have planned a program of national and international celebrations with a series of events to be held across the country bound to the personal life and art of Luigi Vanvitelli, but above all to sanction his precious heritage and his undisputed role as *Maestro*.

Following the General Manager's Decree no. 41 prot. n. 2827 of 29 March 2022, the various facets of the celebratory project "Luigi Vanvitelli, the *Maestro* and his heritage 1773-2023" were approved.

One of the main activities of the project includes an international call for papers aimed at investigating and bringing to light the artistic personality and genius of Luigi Vanvitelli in its multifaceted aspects, above and beyond current conventional knowledge. In order to enhance the legacy of the Maestro in Italy, the Marche Region intends to support the international conference that will take place at the Mole Vanvitelliana, an emblematic sign of this undisputed genius of the eighteenth century.

#### WHO

Aimed at scholars, the International Conference also includes a specific "Young Researchers" section aimed at mapping current studies and research directions on this significant figure of the eighteenth-century artistic and cultural landscape. This is designed to pay Luigi Vanvitelli the attention he deserves and to reserve a prominent place among the undisputed geniuses of our culture.

#### WHERE

The International Conference will take place at the Mole Vanvitelliana in Ancona.

#### WHEN

The conference will take place in April 2023.

#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Presenters should send an Italian or English drafted abstract of no more than 500 words, accompanied by a short biosketch and five keywords by 12PM, **November 20, 2022** to: [celebrazioni.vanvitelli@reggiadicaserta.it](mailto:celebrazioni.vanvitelli@reggiadicaserta.it) "Abstract for International Conference". Contributions may present both unexplored research areas and previously published cases, as long as they take an innovative approach and / or include unpublished documentation, or propose original and broader interpretative frameworks. Full papers should arrive by February 20, 2023 at the following address [celebrazioni.vanvitelli@reggiadicaserta.it](mailto:celebrazioni.vanvitelli@reggiadicaserta.it) and will be subjected to peer review prior to publication in Conference Proceedings. Individual speakers will be notified of the acceptance of their papers by January 10, 2023 and informed of publishing guidelines.

Presenters may take part onsite or online (designed primarily for non-Italian presenters) and the Organizing Committee will ensure both onsite and online presentations are evenly distributed over the three days.

## TOPICS

Those interested in joining this international conference on Luigi Vanvitelli, the *Maestro* and his heritage may address a variety of topics aimed at portraying the man, the architect, the engineer, the musicologist, the inventor, the father, the devout, or any element that might shed light on the value and range of his heritage. By way of example, topics might include:

1. "And he was astonished that at a young age he worked as an expert, urging him to persevere in his studies". Contributions on the training of Luigi Vanvitelli.
2. Archimede Fidiaco and the culture of antiquity in Luigi Vanvitelli. Studies and new research perspectives.
3. Handsome and practical. The Master and the works of architecture and engineering in Italy.
4. Painter, set designer and "event planner". Luigi Vanvitelli and the works of painting, screenplay and ephemeral apparatuses.
5. "Declaration of the designs of the Royal Palace of Caserta to the Sacred Royal Majesty". Studies on the corpus of drawings by Luigi Vanvitelli, literary and iconographic source.
6. "Money and fame". Luigi Vanvitelli artist moving constantly across the national territory between social status and artistic production.
7. They had "much better effect than in design": the practice of wooden models, the organization of the construction site, the role of the workers, the machines, the teachings of the Master and the role of the "director".
8. "If you propose them, that's enough for me!" The pupils of the Master and the spread of his language in the world between trust and betrayal.
9. Works and contexts in the projects of Luigi Vanvitelli:
  - a) From architectural views to architecture on the outlook. Contributions on the role of landscape in the enterprises of Luigi Vanvitelli;
  - b) The description of the Royal Palace of Caserta in literary sources and notebooks of travellers on the Grand Tour;
  - c) Graphic restorations of Vanvitelli's architectural projects beyond the Royal Palace;
  - d) Hydraulic engineering works and landscape transformation;
  - e) Contributions on Luigi Vanvitelli's unapproved projects;
  - f) Contributions on restoration and renovation works.
10. The Master and his time. Luigi Vanvitelli's relations with other contemporary architects, artists and intellectual circles. The rivalries of Vanvitelli.
11. "There will be a little theatre to do inside the Palace for domestic comedies". Luigi Vanvitelli, theatre and music in the European context of the eighteenth century.
12. The Church of Sant'Elena and the spiritual life of the Master.
13. The portrait of Luigi Vanvitelli in artistic and literary production. Luck and misfortune of the Master and his iconography.

14. "If someone wants to focus on architectural design, they will do well; I would like someone to direct him to the Curia, or be it Law ... one a priest and the other a military man ". Luigi Vanvitelli not just artist but a caring family man.

15. Don Urbano Vanvitelli and the memory of Luigi in Letters.

16. The "Sinister Minister or Most Courteous Subject" Bernardo Tanucci, the personality of the Marquis Fogliani and other influential counsellors of the Court in the relationship with the Master.

17. "Let the Palace, the Throne, and the Bourbon Dynasty hold up until this stone returns to heaven on its own accord". From the laying of the first stone to the furnishing and decoration program of the Royal Palace of Caserta. Contributions on the diffusion of the architectural model of the Royal Palace in Europe.

18. The clients and the Master: Luigi Vanvitelli's partnership with Cardinals, Popes and with King Charles of Bourbon.

## SESSIONS

Presenters should specify which topic their presentation deals with when uploading the abstract. Conference sessions will be organised as follows:

1. Luigi Vanvitelli "MAESTRO";
2. Luigi Vanvitelli "MAN";
3. Luigi Vanvitelli "INVENTOR";
4. WORKS, PLACES AND LANDSCAPES in the heritage of Luigi Vanvitelli

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

[celebrazioni.vanvitelli@reggiadicaserta.it](mailto:celebrazioni.vanvitelli@reggiadicaserta.it)