



# ARQUITECTURA Y PAISAJE

transferencias históricas  
retos contemporáneos

VOLUMEN I

A B A D A E D I T O R E S





**ARQUITECTURA  
Y PAISAJE**  
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**VOLUMEN I**

## LECTURAS

Serie **H.<sup>a</sup> del Arte y de la Arquitectura**

DIRECTORES Juan Miguel HERNÁNDEZ LEÓN y Juan CALATRAVA

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# Vínculos emergentes entre el patrimonio paisajístico alpino y los mega-eventos de los Juegos Olímpicos de Invierno de Milán-Cortina 2026

## *Emerging Links between Alpine Landscape Heritage and Mega-events in the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics*

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### **Abstract**

Los próximos Juegos Olímpicos de Invierno de Milán-Cortina 2026 representan un nuevo enfoque de la organización de los Juegos Olímpicos, ya que serán los primeros en ser compartidos por dos ciudades distintas, separadas por varios cientos de kilómetros. Aunque el expediente de la candidatura reconoce el potencial impacto en el patrimonio, desde la Piazza Duomo de Milán hasta la Arena de Verona, vincula en gran medida las cuestiones patrimoniales a la promoción de la sostenibilidad y los activos turísticos. De este modo, el expediente mantiene una comprensión limitada de los significados y valores del patrimonio local y, sobre todo, del paisaje, que corre el riesgo de reducir este patrimonio a un simple telón de fondo para los Juegos Olímpicos de 2026. Este estudio constituye una investigación inicial sobre los posibles vínculos entre el patrimonio paisajístico alpino y los megaeventos, reflexionando sobre los posibles problemas que pueden surgir en el caso de los Juegos Olímpicos de Invierno de Milán-Cortina 2026, tal y como está previsto en el expediente de candidatura.

*The upcoming Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics represents a new approach to hosting the Olympic Games as it will be the first ever to be shared by two separate cities, several hundreds of kilometres from one another. While the bidding dossier recognizes the potential impact on built heritage, from the Piazza Duomo in Milan to the Arena in Verona, it largely frames heritage issues in relation to promoting sustainability and tourism assets. In this way the dossier maintains a limited understanding of both local and especially landscape heritage meanings and values that risks reducing heritage to becoming a mere backdrop for the 2026 Olympics. This paper represents an initial investigation into the possible links between Alpine landscape heritage and mega-events, reflecting upon the possible issues that may arise in the case of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games as planned in the bidding dossier.*

### **Keywords**

Megaeventos, patrimonio paisajístico, Milán, Cortina, Dolomitas

*Mega-events, landscape heritage, Milan, Cortina, Dolomites*

### Emerging landscape heritage concerns in the Olympic Games

Recent years have confirmed a shift in the bidding and planning of the Olympic Games. The era of massive “giga” mega-events was short lived as cities around the world competed to host ever larger and more expensive mega-events. Cities clearly rejected this approach during the bidding cycles for both the 2022 and 2024 Olympic Games which saw 4 out of 6 candidate cities withdraw their bids-citing primarily the high costs and lack of support from both local citizens and politicians alike<sup>1</sup>. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has responded by taking unprecedented steps in assigning both the 2024 and 2028 Summer Olympic Games simultaneously and in awarding the 2026 Winter Olympic Games to more than one host city-Milan and Cortina, two Italian cities located nearly 400 km from one another. Already the Paris 2024 Olympics have been touted as ushering in this “New era of Games” through an approach that will utilize 95% of event venues that are already existing, or which will be temporary structures removed following the close of the event<sup>2</sup>. Beyond the innovative aspect of having multiple simultaneous host cities, the Milan-Cortina 2026 Games will also be one of the few instances of the Games being hosted in close proximity to a UNESCO Natural World Heritage site with Sochi 2014 being the only other relevant example in recent history. The planning and execution of the 2014 Games has been heavily criticized, in part for construction practices that saw waste improperly disposed of and contamination of water sources<sup>3</sup>. The potential threats that mega-events pose to landscape heritage are therefore quite significant as the construction of new sporting venues, facilities or infrastructure can lead to the destruction and pollution of protected areas as well as impact their continuity and authenticity. On the other hand, such events can help to provide necessary regional infrastructure and access to these areas that benefit local communities while also promoting sites and their outstanding universal values to a global audience. Such issues are neither entirely new to the area as the city of Cortina hosted the Winter Olympic Games already in 1956, just prior to Rome hosting the 1960 Summer Olympic Games. These two mega-events have been seen as a critical moment in re-presenting the entire country to a global audience following WWII.

To consider these emerging issues, this paper examines the various strains in the literature, from the initial investigations linking mega-events and cultural heritage to a review of the literature on landscape heritage and Alpine landscape heritage specifically to highlight the issues that mega-events like the Olympics must take into consideration. The authors then review relevant recent international documents such as the Agenda 2020<sup>4</sup>, IOC

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<sup>1</sup> Zachary Mark Jones and Davide Ponzini “Mega-events and the Preservation of Urban Heritage: Literature Gaps, Potential Overlaps and a Call for further Research”, *Journal of Planning Literature* 33, no. 4 (2018): 433-450.

<sup>2</sup> Paris 2024. *Paris 2024 Presents an Optimised Olympic Games Venue Concept*. <https://medias.paris2024.org> (2018)

<sup>3</sup> Alexandra L. Sobol, “No Medals for Sochi: Why the Environment Earned Last Place at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, and How Host Cities Can Score a Green Medal in the Future”, *Villanova Environmental Law Journal* 26, no. 1 (2015): 169-192.

<sup>4</sup> IOC, *Olympic Agenda 2020: 20+ 20 Recommendations*. International Olympic Committee (2014).

Sustainability Report<sup>5</sup> to demonstrate the need for further landscape heritage planning and policy. The reflections consider how these aspects are relevant to the case of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Games as well as the ongoing changes introduced by COVID-19 on living trends and the organization of mega-events more broadly and how the bidding and planning of future mega-events can and should consider landscape heritage early in the process.

**Creating a space for landscape heritage in the literature on mega-events. *The existing mega-event and heritage nexus in research***

Only in recent years have researchers come to recognize the overlap between heritage and mega-events. Gammon et al. considered the potential for Olympic sites and venues to themselves come to be recognized as heritage over time as part of the potential legacy of the event<sup>6</sup>. Jones and Ponzini found in their literature review many points of contact between the existing and largely separate research into built heritage and mega-events<sup>7</sup>. They found that both fields have increasingly come to be valued for their perceived positive secondary effects of increasing local attractiveness and tourism while intended to deliver long-term economic benefits. With this alignment there exists the potential for mega-events and heritage to be more closely linked in terms of strategic visions and plans<sup>8</sup>. Towards this end Ponzini et al. conducted a set of case studies of small to large heritage-rich cities across Europe hosting cultural mega-events to uncover the varying existing interactions, particularly focusing on the potential opportunities and threats<sup>9</sup>. These works have focused primarily on built heritage with some initial investigation into intangible heritage. The potential range of effects identified vary from significant physical transformations and restoration of heritage sites or entire urban areas to developing new heritage narratives that address challenging or dissonant heritage previously overlooked. This research also found that the long-term organization and planning of cultural mega-events presents opportunities to include a range of heritage stakeholders along with local communities to contribute to these processes through bottom-up initiatives that led to discovering or promoting heritage spaces and narratives beyond the mainstream, touristic ones<sup>10</sup>.

The findings from past research have clearly demonstrated the need to study the intersection between mega-events and heritage; however, until now research has yet to consider the other forms of heritage, including landscape heritage. This lack of

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<sup>5</sup> IOC, *Sustainability Essentials: A series of Practical Guides for the Olympic Movement*. International Olympic Committee (2016).

<sup>6</sup> Sean Gammon, Gregory Ramshaw and Emma Waterton, “Examining the Olympics: Heritage, Identity and Performance” *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 19, no. 2 (2013): 119-124.

<sup>7</sup> Jones and Ponzini, “Mega-events and the Preservation of Urban Heritage...”

<sup>8</sup> Zachary Mark Jones, “Policy and Practice Integrating Cultural Events and City Agendas: Examples from Italian/UK practice”, *Town Planning Review* 90, no. 6 (2019): 587-599.

<sup>9</sup> Davide Ponzini et al., eds., *Mega-events and Heritage: The experience of Five European Cities* (Krakow: International Cultural Centre, 2020).

<sup>10</sup> Evanthia Dova et al., “Pafos 2017 European Capital of Culture”, in *Mega-events and Heritage...*; Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga et al., “Wroclaw 2016 European Capital of Culture”, in *Mega-events and heritage...*

consideration in part derives from the nature of most mega-events that tend to be concentrated within or near urban areas. However, emerging mega-event trends suggest that there will be increasing possibilities for mega-events to take place at wider regional and territorial scales than previously witnessed<sup>11</sup>. Plans for the Paris 2024 Olympics highlight the diffusion of events across the historic city centre while incorporating sites such as the Palace of Versailles, Eiffel Tower and Grand Palais as venues and backdrops for events, introducing entirely new uses to these heritage sites. Meanwhile, the Milan-Cortina 2026 Games will see the events spread out across a vast territory, introducing the Olympics to landscape heritage settings like never before. Though only time will tell if such approaches become the norm, already other host regions are following suit with a collective bid for the Ruhr Region in Germany under development for the 2032 Olympic Games. This region has in fact already hosted a territorial spread mega-event as the city of Essen hosted the 2010 European Capital of Culture on behalf of the entire Ruhr with cultural events and activities diffused<sup>12</sup>. This former approach heavily relied upon the area’s industrial heritage which is deeply embedded within the landscape and exemplified by the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen World Heritage Site. A potential future Olympic Games might similarly relate and connect to this important territorial heritage. While there remains much uncertainty about the future of mega-events, generally speaking, but also in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, these recent advancements demonstrate a clear shift in the designs and implementations of sport mega-events like the Olympics. As the existing literature has not yet addressed the intersection of landscape heritage and mega-events like the Olympic Games, this article will take a first step in discussing these issues that might emerge in the coming years.

### ***The challenges of alpine landscape heritage in a rapidly changing context: an overview***

In the last thirty years, international debates, charters, and principles have discussed the concept of landscape as heritage. A key acceleration occurred with the drafting of the European Landscape Convention<sup>13</sup> (2000) that encompassed the safeguarding of all landscapes, not limited only to the “outstanding” ones and acknowledges the importance of perception and the active role of communities in protecting “ordinary” landscapes. This formal recognition goes beyond the perception of landscapes as mere scenery of human activities. Since then, other documents have addressed and incorporated a wider acceptance of meanings and features of landscapes<sup>14</sup>.

As for the definition of landscape, the concept of mountain territories has been debated over time, overcoming the mere altimetric definition to embrace a renovated interpretation

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<sup>11</sup> Zachary Mark Jones, *Cultural Mega-Events: Opportunities and Risks for Heritage Cities* (London: Routledge, 2020).

<sup>12</sup> ICG Culturplan, *A Metropolis in the Making: Evaluation of the European Capital of Culture RUHR.2010* (2011).

<sup>13</sup> Council of Europe, *European Landscape Convention: European Treaty Series*, no. 176, Florence (2000).

<sup>14</sup> ICOMOS, “The Florence Declaration on Heritage and Landscape as Human Values.” (2015); ICOMOS-IFLA, *Principles Concerning Rural Landscapes as Heritage* (2017).

of complex and multifaceted areas, challenging the dualistic perception of mountain regions mainly as travelling destination or as marginal areas<sup>15</sup> and therefore questioning also how safeguard processes and interventions are defined<sup>16</sup>. Yet, the landscape of the alps is still addressed as the main resource for tourism of the region<sup>17</sup>. Scholars and associations have pointed out the importance of a sustainable management of alpine areas in relation to winter sports and seasonal tourism, in terms of contrasting the loss of permanent residents, their wellbeing<sup>18</sup> and environmental issues related to the impact of climate change<sup>19</sup>. Literature indicates how much the exploiting of these territories for tourism purposes has concurred to soil consumption related to the phenomena of second homes<sup>20</sup>, while yet still losing the majority of permanent residents over time. Additionally, traditional buildings have been progressively abandoned for being unsuitable for short term stays and require specific maintenance. The edificatory boom started in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has profoundly altered the historical landscape of the Italian alps, particularly in certain regions<sup>21</sup>. More recently, characteristic local constructions underwent substantial interventions, often transforming significantly not only the external appearance, but also the structure of edifices<sup>22</sup>. Furthermore, many infrastructures related to winter sports and tourism ultimately go unused, negatively impacting the landscape while not even in operation<sup>23</sup>.

While recognized as an exceptional basin of diversified natural and cultural heritage and resources, the mountain regions face at the same time structural problems that might harm its conservation<sup>24</sup>. Beyond the recognition of the Alpine region as wealthy, documents note

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<sup>15</sup> Mauro Varotto, *Montagne di mezzo: una nuova geografia* (Torino: Giulio Einaudi Editore, 2020).

<sup>16</sup> Michael Jakob, “Il paesaggio alpino in quanto oggetto patrimoniale” *ARCHALP*, no. 2 (2019): 34-41.

<sup>17</sup> CIPRA “Documento di posizione della CIPRA: Transizione nel turismo invernale”, in CIPRA, February 2, 2017, accessed March 30, 2021, <https://www.cipra.org/>.

<sup>18</sup> CIPRA “Documento di posizione della CIPRA: Transizione nel turismo invernale”.

<sup>19</sup> Frida Rosenberg, “La Fine Dello Sci”, *Domus*, May 7, 2019, accessed 21 April 2021. <https://www.domusweb.it/>

<sup>20</sup> CIPRA, *Seconde case: una sfida da affrontare*, CIPRAINFO, no. 87 (2008); Legambiente, *Carovana delle Alpi, Dossier-Cemento d’alta quota: seconde case, cemento vs turismo di qualità* (2009).

<sup>21</sup> Giacomo Menini “Valtellina e Valchiavenna. Ricorrenze e discontinuità per un’architettura in cerca di identità” *ARCHALP*, no. 1 (2018): 119-126.

<sup>22</sup> Benedetta Silva, “Condizioni, destino e potenzialità dell’edilizia storica delle Aree Interne nell’Alto Oltrepò Pavese, Alta Valle Brembana e Alto Lario Occidentale” (PhD thesis, Doctorate in Preservation of Architectural Heritage, Politecnico di Milano, 2021).

<sup>23</sup> CIPRA “Documento di posizione della CIPRA...”; IUAV, *Fondazione Dolomiti UNESCO, Schede di catalogazione delle strutture obsolete* (2018).

<sup>24</sup> EUSALP “Origin of the Strategy” document lists the main criticalities as follows: “[...] the increasing environmental burdens along the transport corridors, farm abandonment, depopulation and ageing trends and the natural hazards problematic. To respond to those challenges, specific integrated and land use management measures are required to the whole area, especially with regard to managing the impact of tourism activities (tourism is a key-sector only in selected areas in the

the significant differences and discrepancies that occur within its territories<sup>25</sup>. Thus, a contraposition rises between “margins” and “centres”: the first struggle with difficult access to basic services, while benefit only limitedly of tourism-related economy more focussed on poles<sup>26</sup>. To tackle the main challenges developing in this context, in 1991 the Alpine Convention was ratified: a cross-national cooperation document that identifies and addresses the main lines of intervention to achieve a durable and sustainable development of the region. For each of the priorities identified in the Convention detailed protocols were structured; part of the protocols stresses the importance of suitable and specific planning policies, along with resources management and communities’ engagement (“Conservation of Nature” and “Spatial planning”). As indicated in the Convention, in the years research programs have been structured on the European level specifically for the alpine macro-region.

The outcomes of such initiatives return projects facing the most diverse contemporary criticalities that alpine heritage faces: guidelines for the energy efficiency and sustainable development of widespread traditional architecture<sup>27</sup>; tools dedicated to mitigating the risks related to natural hazards and climate change<sup>28</sup>; models to reinforce inclusion, awareness and education of alpine region heritage in younger generations<sup>29</sup>. Nevertheless, in 2015, the European Commission set an action plan for the Alpine macro-region: while heritage is not among the main priorities and pillars fostered by the action plan, it is referenced as one of the leading triggers to foster the achievement on focal objectives<sup>30</sup>; furthermore, the listing (or the candidacy) of alpine sites as UNESCO properties is set as target and indicator to improve the valorisation of heritage. Overall, consideration for landscape heritage has expanded drastically in recent years with many ongoing projects in effect to not only protect but also revitalize and regenerate the Alpine macro-region facing ongoing challenges and difficulties. In this way there are many potential links between these aims and the presence of the Olympic Games which can be taken into consideration throughout the planning and implementation phases.

### ***Locating heritage values within international Olympic documents***

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Alpine Space (very concentrated) and it’s too a potential source of conflicts), the crossing of major transport corridors, or the intensive urbanization processes in certain areas (peri-urban, for instance).” Eusalp, “Origin of the Strategy”, in EUSALP-EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, accessed March 3, 2021, <https://www.alpine-region.eu/>.

<sup>25</sup> EUSALP, “Origin of the Strategy”.

<sup>26</sup> Legambiente, Carovana delle Alpi, Dossier-Cemento d’alta quota...

<sup>27</sup> Interreg Alpine Space, ATLAS, accessed March 8, 2021, <https://www.alpine-space.eu/>.

<sup>28</sup> Interreg Alpine Space, CHEERS, accessed March 8, 2021, <https://www.alpine-space.eu/>.

<sup>29</sup> Interreg Alpine Space, YOURALPS, accessed March 8, 2021, <https://www.alpine-space.eu/>.

<sup>30</sup> Action 6-*To Preserve and Valorise Natural Resources, Including Water and Cultural Resources*. European Commission “Commission staff working document action plan accompanying the document communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European economic and social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region”, July 28, 2015, Brussels.



One of the most important updates to the bidding process for cities to host the Olympic Games is the IOC Agenda 2020<sup>31</sup> which introduced several changes into the process of candidate cities bidding to host the Games. While the document does not make any explicit references to heritage or related issues, some of the newly promoted approaches do indeed open possibilities for a range of heritage sites to become more interconnected with the activities of the Olympics. In particular, the first and second recommendations encourage the use of existing and temporary facilities along with spreading events beyond a single host city, as part of increasing the Games' sustainability. Without the strict need to rely on the construction of new venues within an exact area, host cities can be far more creative in their arrangement of the Games, utilizing even heritage structures, spaces or landscapes. Both the plans for the 2024 Paris and 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympic Games, the first to take advantage of the Agenda 2020 precepts, demonstrate the potential involvement of heritage in the organization of these mega-events. Yet the Agenda 2020 itself entirely overlooks this possibility and did not anticipate the potential complications, risks or even benefits of including heritage within event plans.

Following the Agenda 2020, the IOC subsequently released the Sustainability Essentials report<sup>32</sup> which does explicitly list several heritage considerations. The document focuses on increasing the sustainability of the day-to-day operations of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and International Federations (IFs), though not explicitly of the dossiers being prepared by candidate cities. Though the document clearly calls for the recognition and protection of natural and built heritage sites, noting specifically the sensitivity of alpine areas, these recommendations are aimed at the national or international level bodies rather than to the event organizers and city decision makers responsible for planning the construction of related venues. The recommendations found in the 2016 report represent a base minimum of a heritage conscientious approach that would make sense to require of candidate cities, especially considering the recent concerns expressed regarding the environmental damage resulting from the 2014 Sochi Winter Games or the loss of traditional hutong neighbourhoods for the 2008 Beijing Summer Games<sup>33</sup>. The report also frames the question of heritage entirely through a lens of sustainability, where the use or inclusion of heritage areas can help to meet larger sustainability goals or promote sustainable tourism. However, if heritage areas continue to play increasingly integral roles in the hosting of the Olympics, recommendations and bidding requirements must go further to deal with more complex issues such as issues of heritage authenticity, definitions, value, uses, etc. The current Contractual Framework<sup>34</sup> for hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in regard to cultural heritage, requires host cities to:

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<sup>31</sup> IOC, *Olympic Agenda...*

<sup>32</sup>IOC, *Sustainability essentials...*

<sup>33</sup> Jim Yardley, "Olympics Imperil Historic Beijing Neighborhood", in *New York Times* (website), July 12, 2006, accessed on February 11, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/>.

<sup>34</sup> IOC, *Contractual Framework for Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games*. International Olympic Committee (2020).

“...take all necessary measures, where necessary in cooperation with Host Country Authorities and other third parties, to ensure that their activities in relation to the organisation of the Games comply with any international agreements, laws and regulations applicable in the Host Country...”<sup>35</sup>.

Though there is a clear recognition of the need to protect heritage sites and areas within these official Olympic documents, they do not go far enough to consider the range of potential benefits threats to heritage and are limited to considerations to direct damage of sites. Of course, such considerations are necessary and legitimate, but they represent only one facet of the impacts that such events can have on heritage spaces and areas. Towards this end, the following section will review the initial plans for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics to anticipate the range of effects that may be observed and subsequently argue for a greater recognition of these issues and the need for stronger recommendations that ensure a greater heritage conscious approach.

### **Advancing landscape heritage values in mega-events: some final remarks**

Considering the issues discussed above, the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympic Games represents a potential turning point for the involvement of UNESCO properties and, more in general, for the widespread heritage of territories. Yet in this regards it is worth mentioning also the legacy of the Cortina 1956 Winter Games as seventy years later the Olympics will return not only to the same venues but will also embrace other areas across Lombardy and Trentino that have already hosted other national and international sporting events. The 1956 dossier describes the intended arrangements for the games and notes the significant number of interventions on the landscape needed to accommodate the event: important excavations and deforestation were necessary to design the ski runs, while newly built facilities were constructed to host the wide range of disciplines involved (e.g. Ice stadium), in accordance with the requirements of the *Fine Art Commission*<sup>36</sup>. Furthermore, the 1956 dossier notes the decision to accommodate visitors in existing hosting facilities, avoiding the construction of a new residential complex<sup>37</sup>. Yet, the two decades following the games observed a construction boom in the territory<sup>38</sup>. The strategy for the upcoming 2026 Games instead will depend on most of the already existing sport structures from the 1956 Olympics and other events. While several new Olympic villages have been planned, one in Livigno is now uncertain and the use of existing hotels are instead being proposed<sup>39</sup>. The Milan-Cortina 2026 games have also been framed in the bid as an opportunity to foster long-term innovation and development of the regions interested by the event, in terms of territorial and social cohesion. Such objectives are set to be reached through local, national and international policies addressing particularly mountain territories, focusing on the

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<sup>35</sup> IOC, *Contractual Framework...*, 15.

<sup>36</sup> IOC, Cortina 1956 (1956), 167; 124.

<sup>37</sup> IOC, Cortina..., 267.

<sup>38</sup> Legambiente, Carovana delle Alpi, Dossier-Cemento d'alta quota..., 33.

<sup>39</sup> “No al villaggio olimpico Livigno sistema gli alberghi”, in La Provincia di Sondrio (website), September 8, 2020, accessed on March 15, 2021, <https://www.laprovinciadisondrio.it/>.

critical aspects related to basic services, to contrast depopulation and foster natural and cultural heritage, encompassing also land protection and local traditions<sup>40</sup>.

Yet, local organizations are already arguing the possible harm to landscape and built heritage due to the interventions needed to arrange the venues<sup>41</sup>. It is therefore worth mentioning the involvement of Fondazione Dolomiti UNESCO within the bid dossier, with the precise aim to “*integrate the existing Dolomites Overall Management Strategy (DOMS) in the 2026 Sustainability Programme.*”<sup>42</sup>. Furthermore, the Game Delivery Plan will be subjected to an assessment according to regional laws, so to assess the possible impact of the games on the widespread heritage of the territories involved. In this way the dossier reveals an initial awareness to heritage issues and actors, but further research is required to explore the degree to which the particularities of landscape heritage, especially the sensitivity of the Alpine Region has been fully considered and planned for and how these issues are being addressed in the actual implementation of the Games. The possibility to study the previous 1956 Cortina Olympic Games and learn from the long-term legacy of those Games makes the future case of the 2026 Winter Games even more relevant as a potential turning point in expanding the recognition of landscape heritage within such events. While further study is necessary, this paper highlights some of the emerging issues both in the literature, international standards and in practice to call greater attention to this yet under considered aspect that may come to play an increasingly important role in future global events.

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<sup>40</sup> Milano Cortina 2026: Candidature Dossier/Milano Cortina 2026 Candidate City Olympic Winter Games, (2019), 8.

<sup>41</sup> AlpMedia, “Cortina 2026: sbancamenti al posto dei giochi ‘verdi’ invernali”, in CIPRA (website), September 2, 2020, accessed on March 15, 2021, <https://www.cipra.org/>; Club Alpino Italiano, “Mondiali e Olimpiadi di Cortina, forte preoccupazione del Cai per il grave impatto ambientale dei cantieri”, in Club Alpino Italiano (website), July 17, 2020, accessed on March 15, 2021, <https://www.cai.it/>.

<sup>42</sup> Milano Cortina 2026: Candidature Dossier..., 59.

El paisaje es hoy un tema crucial en el debate arquitectónico, urbanístico, artístico, territorial, político, ecológico y antropológico. En la pregunta sobre qué es un paisaje se entrecruzan muchas de las grandes cuestiones que tienen que ver con la construcción y con la percepción de nuestro entorno, en un momento determinado por una crisis global que convierte a la mirada sobre nuestro hábitat en un asunto marcado por la urgencia. La centralidad del paisaje en la cultura contemporánea es un fenómeno tan reconocido que ha dado lugar a elaboraciones teóricas específicas tendentes a dar cuenta del mismo. Está claro que hoy las cuestiones relacionadas con el paisaje, en su sentido más amplio, constituyen uno de los núcleos conceptuales en los que en mayor medida se entrecruzan naturaleza, cultura, historia y contemporaneidad.

La complejidad y variedad de temas que el paisaje convoca solo puede abordarse desde una mirada transversal y desde la complementariedad de diferentes saberes y disciplinas. Tal fue el objetivo que se propuso el Congreso Internacional *Arquitectura y paisaje: transferencias históricas, retos contemporáneos*, celebrado en Granada del 26 al 28 de enero de 2022, cuyas aportaciones se recogen en el presente volumen.



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