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*To support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community*

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## TransEuropaExpress 3: Citta` Europa

**CITTÀ  
EUROPA**  
transeuropaexpress<sup>3</sup>

The third edition of **TransEuropaExpress**, the three-day conference, that every year discusses a theme related to the European identity, was held in Rome between the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> February. This year's theme, *Citta` Europa*, sought to identify what qualities define the European urban space and whether one could find a common identity that characterises the entire continent.

Twenty-four delegates, comprising of architects, urban planners, urban sociologists, policy-makers, installation artists, poets, writers, filmmakers and actors and covering the entire spectrum from the European Union, participated in this initiative. The themes discussed were therefore wide and varied, given this unique scenario wherein the same theme could be debated from very different perspectives. Major themes included the city's peripheries, which were looked at from architectural, artistic and sociological repercussions; the success stories of the new Berlin, Swedish eco-communities and new Danish quarters were debated at length, as was the emerging Eastern European countries' physical and psychological rebuilding after years of broken memories due to the communist regime.



The Kamra tal-Periti is affiliated to the International Union of Architects (UIA), the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), the Commonwealth Architects' Association (CAA), Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR) and European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP).

Perit Antoine Zammit, a member of the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti, represented Malta with his paper entitled “**Regulating urban design visions for our cities**”, in the spirit of finding common urban design principles that characterise European cities that could thus form the basis of common urban policies. This paper was well received by the other speakers and the Roman public, present in large numbers for the entire duration of the conference.

The nature of European cities is often varied. There are intricate relationships between a historical city centre at one end and a city’s peripheral development, generally entirely different in nature (industrial areas, single-use suburban areas, or even heavily commercialised areas), at the other. In between lies a transition zone composed of a number of internal pockets and infill developments that at times conflict with the more vernacular building typologies contained within the city centre. The main success of this conference was the realisation that the beauty of Europe lies in its diversity; each country having its own distinct history, culture and therefore identity, with resulting approaches to urban planning and design.

The TransEuropaExpress project was curated by the *Casa delle Letterature dell’Assessorato alle Politiche Culturali* in Rome in collaboration with the *Fondazione Antonio Ratti* in Como, the Italian Representation of the European Commission and the Embassies and Cultural Institutions of the countries of the European Union.

The Kamra tal-Periti would like to thank Mr. Carmel Galea at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Dr. Patrick Cassar at the Embassy of Malta in Rome, for making this participation possible and for taking care of all necessary logistics.