

# **DAL RESTAURO PREVENTIVO DI CESARE BRANDI AL CODICE DEI BENI CULTURALI: MEZZO SECOLO DI RIFLESSIONI SULLA CONSERVAZIONE**

STEFANO GIZZI

Icomos Italia  
gizzi.stefano.arch@gmail.com

## **Abstract.**

At the dawn of the Theory of Restoration, Cesare Brandi already understood Restoration as a preventive action, aimed more at maintenance than at a transformative intervention on the architectural or archaeological asset, almost in the Anglo-Saxon sense of preservation.

It is well known, then, that Giovanni Urbani widened the discourse to programmed maintenance, "to slow down the speed of deterioration processes as much as possible, intervening at the same time and if necessary with maintenance treatments appropriate to the various types of materials", which then found an attempted application in regions such as Umbria and Lazio, as well as in Basilicata and Campania after the 1980 earthquake.

How much of these experiences and reflections has the codification within the Ministry of Cultural Heritage gathered?

The "Codice dei Beni Culturali e del Paesaggio", issued in 2004, perhaps gives too limited an understanding of the term maintenance, distinguishing it, strangely enough, from prevention.

We therefore wish to verify whether it is not more useful today, twenty years after the first drafting of the "Codice", to recompose the actions of prevention and maintenance in a unitary perspective, critically retracing the salient and also lesser known phases of the cultural debate from which these definitions originated.

**Keywords:** Brandi's Theory of Restoration, prevention, programmed maintenance, conservation of authenticity.