

8. Underground Heritage Prehistory to 20th century. Management and valorisation

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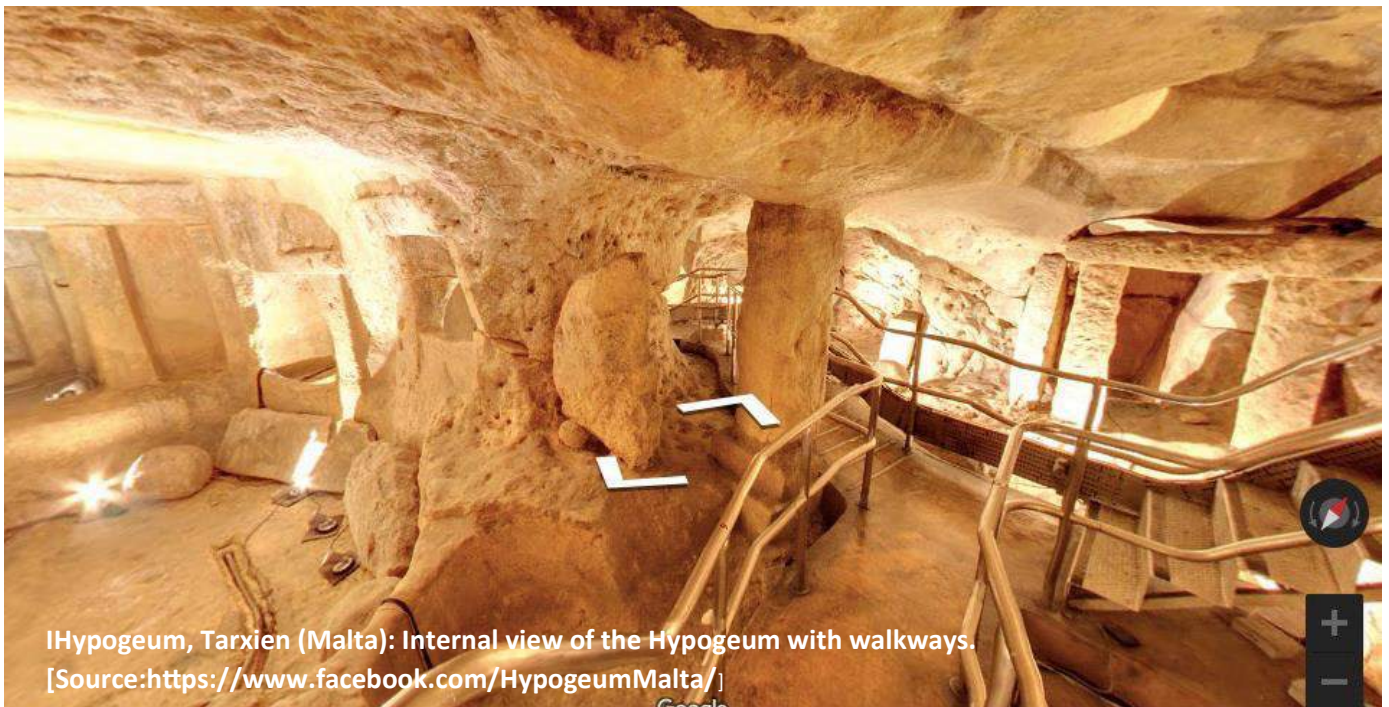


The presentation dealt with the evolution of conservation in the 20th century and how the vision of conservation was developed in such a way that both values and society are more intrinsic to the way conservation decisions are taken.

The definition of what was considered worth preserving in the beginning of the 20th century was the individual monument. Over the 20th century this definition morphed into considering cultural heritage not only as tangible heritage but intangible heritage were incorporated in what was considered worth conservation to be passed on to future generations. This wider definition of what is to be conserved is also mirrored in the way the definition of authenticity changed in the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. Authenticity in the end of the 20th century was no longer only linked to material authenticity but included also the authenticity of the experience of space and form which is the result of the Asian influence on how authenticity is defined.

The presentation leads to the need of a statement of significance which is customary carried out to help in the decision making process.

The case studies are typical examples of the varied underground heritage which exists in Malta – from prehistory to the 20th century.



Hypogeum, Tarxien (Malta): Internal view of the Hypogeum with walkways.
[Source: <https://www.facebook.com/HypogeumMalta/>]