

Earthen architecture and heritage in Algeria and the Mediterranean basin.

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Abstract.

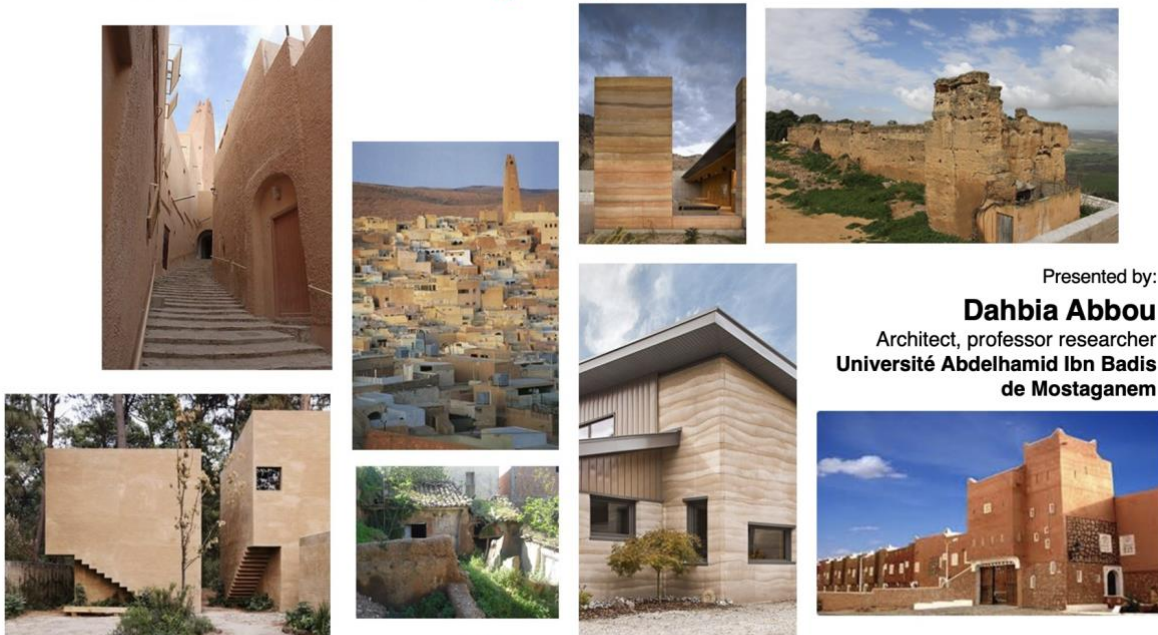
If more than a third of the inhabitants of our planet live in an earthen house, i.e more than two billion people in 150 countries, the Mediterranean basin is not an exception with its intensive architectural heritage from north to south.

In this communication, we will present the earthen architecture, how and where it is made and the different technics (adobe, rammed earth...) of its construction. We will also explore some famous heritage sites, listed by Unesco as World Heritage.

Then, we will present the earthen heritage of Algeria. The best-known earthen architectural remains in Algeria, are the hundreds of historical centers around oases, commonly called "ksour", which are built completely or partially with earth, a local material used by excellence. But earthen architecture does not exist only in the south of Algeria, but several villages in Kabylie and Aures are built with earth, traces of these buildings are still visible nowadays. The recognition and the preservation of these villages are as important as for ksour in the south.

Finally, we will explore the modernity in earthen architecture, and how revolutionary we can go with its techniques.

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