

QUANDO L'AZIONE DELL'ACQUA SI TRASFORMA DA PERICOLOSO FATTORE DI DEGRADO A STRUMENTO DI DISTRUZIONE: LO *TSUNAMI* DEL MARZO 2011 E I DANNI AL PATRIMONIO CULTURALE DEL GIAPPONE

FEDERICA GOTTA

Ph. D. Architect, Specialized in Cultural Heritage and Landscape
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Post-Doctoral Fellow
Hosei University, Graduate School of Engineering and Design, Tokyo
MiBACT, SABAP per la Città Metropolitana di Bari
E-mail: federica.gotta@beniculturali.it; federicagotta@gmail.com

Abstract. In Japan, the tangible cultural heritage consists mainly of perishable materials, such as wood, paper, tatch, etc., being highly vulnerable to the action of water. The intrinsic perishability of traditional materials is amplified by atmospheric conditions which, already unfavorable for conservation under ordinary conditions, characterized by high humidity and heavy rainfall, become merciless due to the recent climate changes, with increasingly frequent and devastating typhoons. To Complete the vulnerability-scheme of the Japanese cultural heritage and its people, contribute the geo-morphological characteristics of the territory and the related natural disasters: the *Tsunami* represents, in fact, the maximum expression of the destructive power of water.

In 2011, The *Tsunami* seriously damaged Japan's cultural heritage. It was necessary to develop experimental protocols for the recovery of materials, which remained for months under the action of sea water or contaminating factors. The quickly reconstruction of towns on the hills, where were the prehistoric sites of the *Jōmon* and *Yayoi* Era stood, also needs extensive preventive archeology campaigns. The emergency measures, aimed at solving the contingent problems, in turn generate new ones: such as the adaptation to the necessary thermo-hygrometric conditions of the temporary deposits obtained in schools; the completion of the restorations; but above all the management of the alterations of the coastal landscape, completely uninhabited and marked by high dams.

The paper reviews the damages suffered by the Japanese Cultural Heritage as a result of the 2011 *Tsunami*, the conservative choices during the emergency period and those, no less problematic, to be addressed in the medium and long term, through the analysis of emblematic cases- study.

Keywords: *Japan, Tsunami, Cultural Heritage, destruction, restoration*