

GeM Award – Article from the SPAB Magazine 2019

Our second Gloria e Marco Scholar, architect Federica Martinelli and recent graduate from IUAV University in Venice, completed her scholarship programme in August and returned to Venice laden with books and sketches – plus a brick she worked on under the supervision of Emma Simpson at Hampton Court. She also returns with her mind full of ideas and techniques learned from all the visits and experiences she had and with wonderful memories of all the people she met on her many journeys.

At the start Federica expressed a wish to understand historic roof structures in the UK and she has certainly been able to improve her knowledge in this area through the roofing workshop held with the SPAB Scholars and Fellow Richard Jordan. She worked her own Collyweston slate under the direction of David Ellis, an 82 year old slater who still splits slates by hand. She learned about thatching with Marianne Suhr and worked on the re-roofing of the Low Barn at Goddards. She visited the old airship hanger in Farnborough with Clive Dawson, and the reroofing of Ramsbury Manor in Wiltshire.

Federica also had the opportunity to visit hidden parts of the Roman Wall in the City of London during her week with HE Inspector Jane Sidell; with Nicholas Dutton and his team at The National Trust she visited Cliveden in Maidenhead, Woolbeding house and Gardens, Crossness Pumping Station and William Morris' Red House. She spent time also with Richard Griffiths when she saw a few examples of how former industrial buildings in the UK had been repurposed, another of her expressed interests. She climbed on the imposing scaffolding at Canterbury cathedral with Jonathan Deeming and Nigel Howard from Purcell.

She spent a week with the Lancaster West Residents' association and the group of architects, led by Elpida Andreou, which is managing the Lancaster West Major Refurbishment around the Grenfell Tower for RBKC. Federica has gained some

valuable insight and knowledge of large-scale refurbishments and, at the same time, met with the communities surrounding the Grenfell Tower. We are keen that the Award maintains a link with the area and survivors of the place where Gloria and Marco so tragically lost their young lives.

We are very grateful to all the friends, colleagues and bodies who have so freely given their time and support to the award including Venice in Peril, the Landmark Trust, the National Trust and Historic England. Above all we are hugely indebted for the help of the SPAB and Catharine Bull, the SPAB scholars' programme coordinator. As a result of this and the enthusiasm and adaptability of Federica, we can count her scholarship a great success.

We were absolutely delighted when Cultural Attaché Alberto La Bella announced at Federica's Farewell gathering at the Italian Cultural Institute that the Ambassador, His Excellency Raffaele Trombetta, has agreed to be Patron to the Award.

Federica's experience in Great Britain will certainly inform her future professional career in Italy or wherever her life may take her. As the years pass we hope an Association of GeM Scholars will develop - Federica and Giulia, last year's Scholar, are certainly keen that it should.

We are already starting on the selection of our next GeM scholar for 2020 with the valued help of the IUAV in Venice and the SPAB. On we go!