



**The President of the Government of Extremadura
The Minister of Culture of the Government of Spain
The President of the European Council**

We have been publishing the journal *pedras con raíces. La revista de nuestra arquitectura vernácula* (stones with roots. The magazine about our vernacular architecture) on a quarterly basis for the last eight years, having published 32 issues up to the present. However, the journal is now in danger, for Extremadura regional institutions have cancelled their journal subscriptions, and it is not the recipient of any type of support or grant – public or private for the present year.

At the beginning, *Piedras con raíces* was a journal for the spreading, study and appreciation of Extremadura architectural vernacular heritage from a multidisciplinary approach. However, its scope has nowadays reached a European dimension, for it now publishes studies and essays about the typologies of vernacular architecture from other parts of the world. Therefore, its contributions from researchers and specialists and its prestigious expertise is not limited to the Autonomous Community of Extremadura and Spain, but extends to various European countries.

Piedras con raíces has contributed to the debate about the development of the concept of Cultural Heritage, which has undergone a dramatic volte-face. From the limited vision that acknowledged the value of specific sculptures, monuments or paintings – historic-artistic heritage or from erudite collections, the concept of Cultural Heritage has evolved to its present dimension, in which it is viewed as an identity indicator and as the core of economic as well as social and cultural development. It therefore constitutes a global heritage for humanity, in which we can overcome the ideological framework of conservationism and move onto another one related to heritage development.

Piedras con raíces has proved to be a useful tool for spreading the values of vernacular architectural heritage, coordinating researchers of this heritage and for bringing together the studies from different parts of the world. As the Letter of Architectural Vernacular Heritage from ICOMOS points out, *'...it is the essential expression of a community's identity, its relation to the land and, and the same time, an expression of the world's cultural diversity'*.

We consider that *pedras con raíces* has become one of the main scientific reference points at a European level in the field of cultural heritage, and more importantly, regarding traditional architecture.

In accordance with the reasons set above

The *Asociación por la Arquitectura Rural Tradicional de Extremadura*, ARTE (Association for traditional rural architecture from Extremadura) and the journal's editorial board consider that *pedras con raíces* should not disappear, and it should be supported by public institutions in order to avoid such a loss.

In this respect, we REQUEST any type of support or an economic grant from the President of the Government of Extremadura, the Minister of Culture and the President of the European Council, in order to be able to continue publishing the journal ***pedras con raíces***.

Cáceres, 20th of February 2011

Asociación por la Arquitectura Rural Tradicional de Extremadura ARTE (Association for traditional rural architecture from Extremadura)
Editorial board of the journal ***pedras con raíces***