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## About us

Lately in Italy, the interest in lime has greatly increased.

The gradual rediscovering, after a long period of oblivion, of the characteristics of this precious material used in historical buildings, is attracting the attention of a more and more increasing public.

It's just in this context of renewed interest that Italian Lime Forum Association was born. It is a meeting place for all those people who study, produce and use lime in architecture and restoration.

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## How we work

The Forum promotes the development of experience and knowledge of the use of lime in building and repairing historical, artistic and monumental buildings.

It does it through:

- exchanging, comparing and spreading news and information about the world of lime;
  - organizing congresses, seminars, meetings and courses;
  - promoting the scientific research and the practical use on lime, mortars or lime paints;
  - supporting the development of appropriate techniques, at industrial and artisanal level, for the production of air and natural hydraulic limes;
  - organizing meetings among the Association members who wish to share experiences and knowledge on the topic.
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## Information and Contacts

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## Links

On our webpage – [www.forumcalce.it](http://www.forumcalce.it) – everybody can find all the information about our activities.



**FORUM ITALIANO CALCE**  
Scopri il mondo della calce in architettura e nel restauro insieme a noi



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## What is lime?

The Lime, obtained by cooking the lime stones at different degrees of purity, is the oldest and appreciate binder used by man for building, decorating and protecting structures.

Builders have been using lime – mixed with sand or other aggregates – since ancient times; that's the reason why, up to now, several archaeological remains, which still keep well, testify the value and durability of it. From age to age, the lime dispersed in the water has represented the most efficient system of whitewashing architectural surfaces.

Combined with coloured clay and mineral pigments, the lime has become reference material for colourings, wall decorations and frescoes.

Using lime today means to acknowledge its features as unique and irreplaceable in restoration, traditional building and, last but not least, anytime the modern materials show their limits.

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## Lime in architecture

The lime represents the very art of building. It is used for building, mortars, stucco-works, renders and plasters, concretes for foundations, rubble masonry.

The lime is a versatile binder, which can be used in architectural finishes, stuccoes, marmorinos, paintings and frescoes.

Its full compatibility with all the building materials such as stone, bricks, wood, clay and, last but not least, cement, together with its qualities of transpiration, salubrity, aesthetic value, makes it the most used and fit binder in every age and civilization.

The lime is very current and, when it's possible, it is better to prefer it to other materials, especially while building works of traditional architecture, in the biobuilding and for the proper recovery of pre-existing buildings.

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## Lime in restoration

As regards recovery and restoration of ancient works, the use of binders which are not similar to the pre-existing materials, is one of the most important risk factors for the preservation of our historical and architectural heritage.

Making indiscriminate use of cement-type binders for the formulation of mortars, bedding mortars, stuccoes and plasters – taking the advantage of their low compatibility with the old substrates – is one of the main causes for the deterioration of historical and monumental buildings.

This wrong use, in fact, has provoked damages similar to the ones caused by pollution or scarce maintenance.

Aware of all this, it is possible to say that using lime in restoration is not only a logical consequence of a process of substitution and integration of a pre-existing material, but it's also the conscious choice of a material which is very compatible with most of the architectonic works made by man since antiquity till the early twentieth century.

