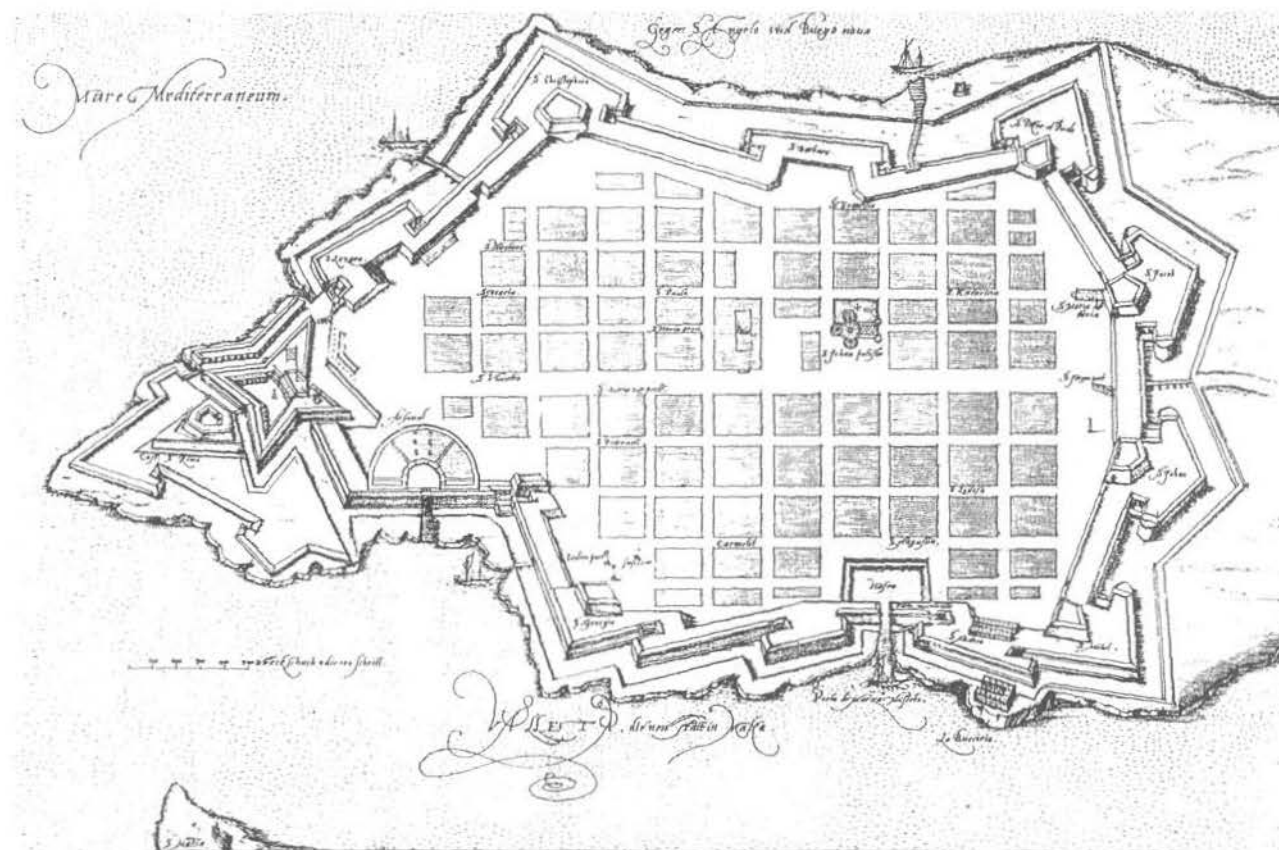


## CONFERENCE

## MALTA BALUARDO D'EUROPA



Project map of Valletta by Daniel Specklin (1589)

An international conference on the theme '*Malta Baluardo d'Europa: disegno militare e fortificazioni a Malta in età moderna*' was held this year at the Castle of Bertinoro, Italy, organised by the Department of Architecture and Planning of the University of Bologna, together with the Works Division of the Ministry for Resources and Infrastructure.

The event attracted a large number of academics and restoration experts on military fortifications from Italy, France, Portugal, England, Switzerland and Malta. The Maltese delegation included Professor Denis De Lucca representing IIBS, who presented a paper on 'Relations between Malta and Italy in the Early Seventeenth Century: the Role of Count Vertova'. Architect Vincent Cassar, Director-General of the Works Division, also attended the conference, and Hermann Bonnici, Research Assistant at IIBS and Senior Architect in the Restoration Unit, presented a paper on the restoration of Maltese fortified works of architecture. Stephen Spiteri, Superintendent of Fortifications, talked about the sixteenth-century fortifications of the Knights of St John in Malta, and Dr Albert Ganado

delivered a lecture on the maps of the Malta fortifications of 1530-1798.

Other participants in the Bertinoro conference included Professors J. Quentin Hughes, Carlo Monti, Giampiero Cuppini, and Teresa Colletta, who together with other distinguished participants highlighted some hitherto unexplored issues concerning the building of the Malta fortifications and their significance in the context of military activity in Baroque Europe. The conference was concluded with the presentation to the University of Bologna of Professor De Lucca's book *Giovanni Battista Vertova: Diplomacy, Warfare, and Military Engineering Practice in Early Seventeenth-Century Malta*, published by Midsea Books on behalf of IIBS.