



## Closing the Conferences by Honouring two Friends

Today is the last day of the conferences. We want to close them by honouring two great scientists and friends that radically improved our science. In the morning, after the CC invited talk, we have a celebration of Corrado Böhm's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Corrado (left picture) is one of the founding fathers of computer science, with radical contributions to the development of both the theory and the practice of modern programming languages. It is a great pleasure for us to honour him in Rome, where he obtained his first academic position (CNR, 1953) and where he was a professor, since 1974. He is the only Emeritus professor of our department.

In the afternoon, after the ESOP invited talk, we have a tribute to Kohei Honda (right picture). Kohei has recently disappeared (Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012) at the early age of 45. We all remember Kohei for his great enthusiasm, for his lovely kindness, for the curiosity and passion for his subject, as well as for his academic contributions. Indeed, he was one of the initiators and main developers of the theory and practice of session typing, that now is having also industrial applications. The joy for Corrado's celebration and the sadness for Kohei's memorial are the last feelings of a week full of deep scientific contributions, challenging discussions and amusing social events, all framed by the astonishing beauty of the Eternal City. We hope that you'll keep a wonderful memory of ETAPS'13!



## A thematic journey into Rome: Art Nouveau

An aspect of our city that is usually unknown to the tourists is its two Art Nouveau areas. The first one is very close to ETAPS venue and is called *Quartiere Coppedè*,

after Gino Coppedè, the architect that designed it in 1910s–20s. It consists in 45 buildings around Piazza Mincio, its heart. It has been built by merging trends of the Art Nouveau with elements taken from the ancient Rome (classical statues, columns, marble elements,...). The most famous buildings are: the *Fairies's Villas* (via Aterno 4, piazza Mincio 3, via Brenta 7/11), the *Ambassador palaces* (via Tagliamento 8-12, via Brenta 2, piazza



Mincio 1, via Dora 1-2, via Tanaro 5) and the *Spider palace* (piazza Mincio 4). At a walking distance from this area, you can find a beautiful villa, called *Villa Torlonia*, where you can find maybe the masterpiece of Roman Art Nouveau: the *Casina delle Civette* (literally, "Owls' small house"). The name comes from the dozen of owls depicted both within and outside the villa. The project started in 1840 for the noble Torlonia family. The original project underwent several changes; the main ones were done in the 1910s, when the owls and all the Art Nouveau features were added to the original, medieval style, building.



The other Art Nouveau area can be reached by the ETAPS venue via the B-line underground. It is called *Garbatella* and is much more proletarian than its noble brother. It was built from 1920 to mid 1930s by several young architects, by following the ideas of the Garden City movement: an area divided into units and a common garden for every unit.

## Today's program:

### Timetable:

9<sup>00</sup>-10<sup>00</sup>: CC invited talk  
10<sup>00</sup>-10<sup>30</sup>: Bohm fest  
10<sup>30</sup>-11<sup>00</sup>: coffee break  
11<sup>00</sup>-12<sup>30</sup>: parallel sessions  
12<sup>30</sup>-14<sup>00</sup>: lunch  
14<sup>00</sup>-15<sup>00</sup>: ESOP invited talk  
15<sup>00</sup>-16<sup>00</sup>: Tribute to Kohei Honda  
15<sup>15</sup>-16<sup>15</sup>: CC  
16<sup>15</sup>-16<sup>30</sup>: tea break  
16<sup>30</sup>-18<sup>00</sup>: parallel sessions

### Scientific Events:

*Invited talks (Berger, Miller):*  
Aula Magna (campus)  
*Bohm fest & Honda Tribute:*  
Aula Magna (campus)  
CC: room A1  
ESOP: room B2  
FASE: room A2

## Weather forecast:

	9-13	13-17	17-22
Fri			
Sat			
Sun			



## *An interview with Krzysztof Czarnecki*

The first plenary talk of yesterday was given by the FASE invited speaker, Krzysztof Czarnecki. He reported his interesting experiences on Variability in Software, describing the state of the art and pointing future directions. We had a pleasant conversation with him after his talk, and we report here some extracts.



### ***Do you think current programming language features are adequate for supporting software variability?***

There is actually quite a bit of work on programming languages mechanisms to support variability, to support features. It's very much related with this feature driven software development. A number of techniques have been developed, for example going back to feature composition. The problem is that innovation is very hard to

transfer into practice. Probably changing programming languages is one of the most difficult things to do. So I would say there is enough of ideas, but it's very hard to test them in practice... you would have to wait until some company says ok! CaesarJ, for example, is a tool that has lots of very advanced features that are perfect for this type of work.

### ***In particular, can you name any language feature that you believe should emerge?***

Things like mixing layers; they exist and they would be very useful, but again it's very hard to introduce them in practice because of this reluctance to change languages.

### ***Do you think that correct-by-construction software synthesis will become widely adopted in the years to come?***

Reducing the verification: that's the key part, and in a certain sense, when I think about qualification of tools it's sort of going in the direction where the authority says this tool is qualified meaning that we don't have to do such extensive testing at the code level because we know that the code generator does a good job. Now, I think there is still more work to be done to actually ensure that, and that's going to be great, but the mistakes mostly will come in with inadequate specifications, with models that fail to reflect what's the real world. That's a problem we cannot solve. So I think: yes, in a certain sense with tool qualification that already goes in that direction, but it's not going to solve all of our problems.

### ***In your talk you mentioned Linux as an example of variability intensive system, and of the balance***

### ***between adding and removing features from one release to the next. Can we identify a trend in software technology towards increasing or reducing complexity?***

It very much depends on who is the target audience. So, in the case of something like the operating system, the end user is not a target audience, that's why this feature model is so complicated, because it actually has to reflect a lot of technical choices, and it's a perfect match for that. But when it comes to user sight software... we actually did a study looking at different ecosystems (looking at Android, Eclipse, Linux and Debian), and what that has shown is that the key is the ease for adding features, say, to your phone: you don't have to make complicated selections, no hierarchy, there is a manifest based approach, you have an installer that tries to do most of the job for you, and any type of dependency is resolved at run-time rather than statically. So, it very much depends on the target audience.

## ***Orna Grumberg***

The second unified talk of yesterday was the TACAS invited speaker, Orna Grumberg, presenting her approach to SAT-based model checking. We have tried to arrange an interview with her, but we've not been able to coordinate in time for having her answers to appear in this issue of the ETAPS daily. We hope to have the possibility of inserting an interview with her in later issues.



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## ***And the winner is...***

The EAPLS 2012 PhD Award goes to Delphine Demange for her thesis on "Semantic Foundations of Intermediate Program Representations" carried out at ENS Cachan - Brittany Extension and the Celtique team at IRISA / INRIA Rennes and supervised by David Pichardie and Thomas Jensen. The thesis was lauded for its innovation, impact and writing, and for its combination of theory and practice.

