

***“ Quality of Public Space in World Heritage
Cities - Opportunities and Threats”***

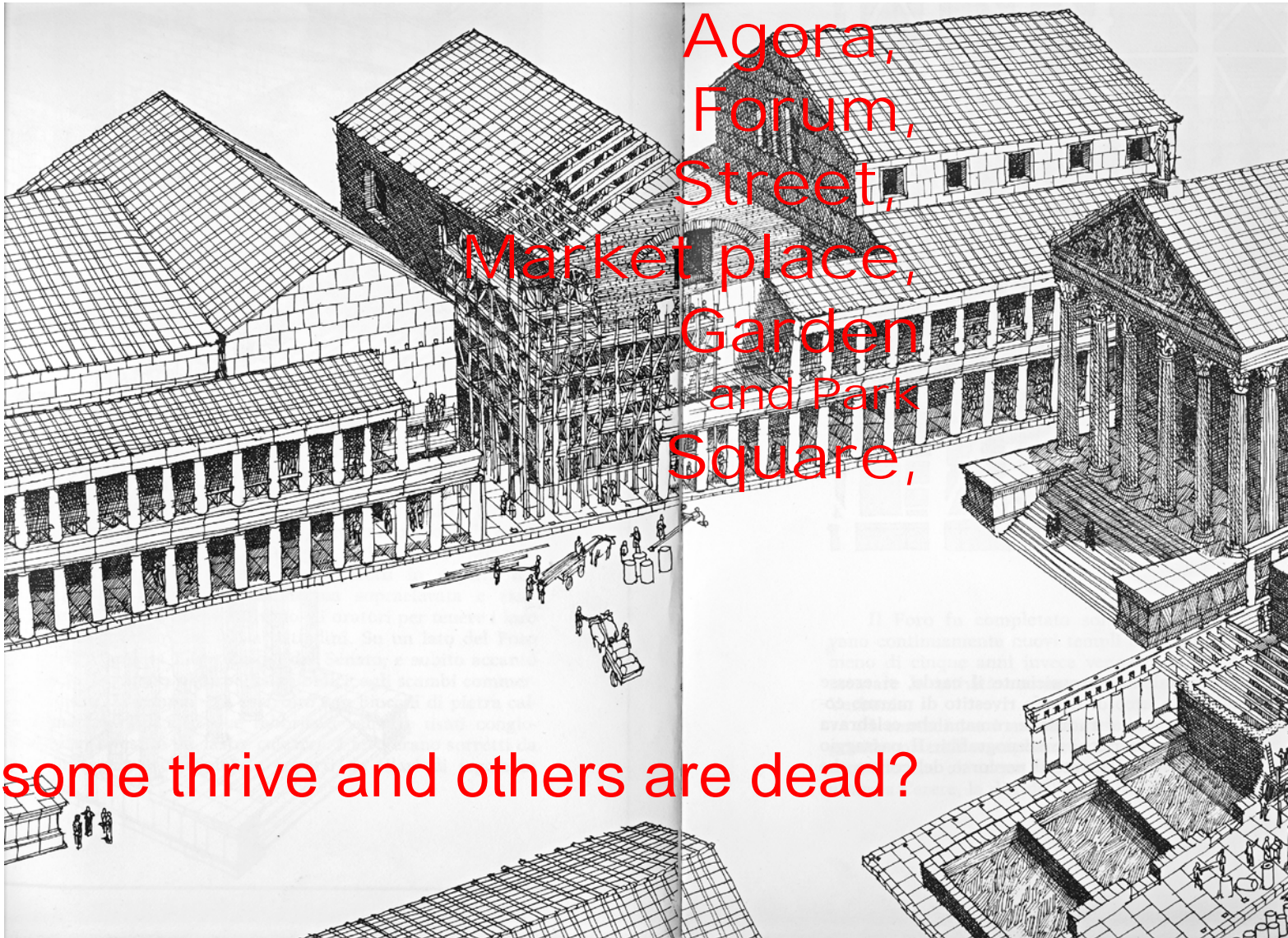
***Life and death of a historic City Square:
The case of Bardejov***

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ICOMOS - CIVVIH Sub Committee for Central and Eastern Europe

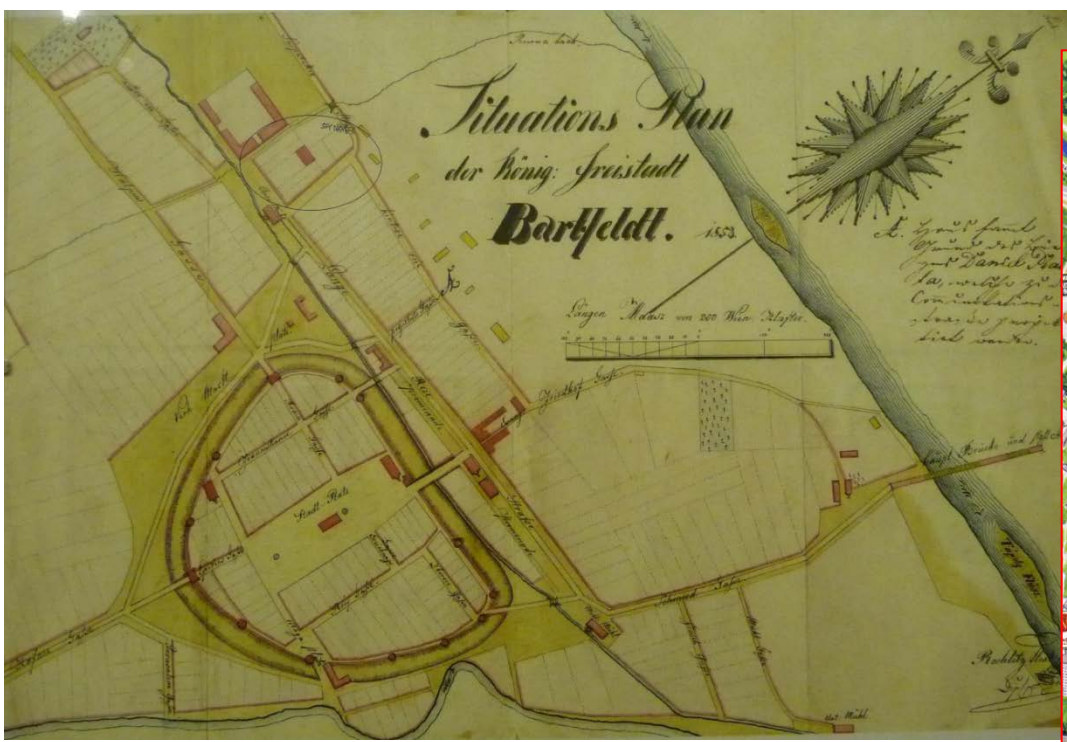
29th of June – 3rd of July, 2016 *Český Krumlov, Czech Republic*

Urban Public Open Spaces



Agora,
Forum,
Street,
Market place,
Garden
and Park
Square,

Why do some thrive and others are dead?

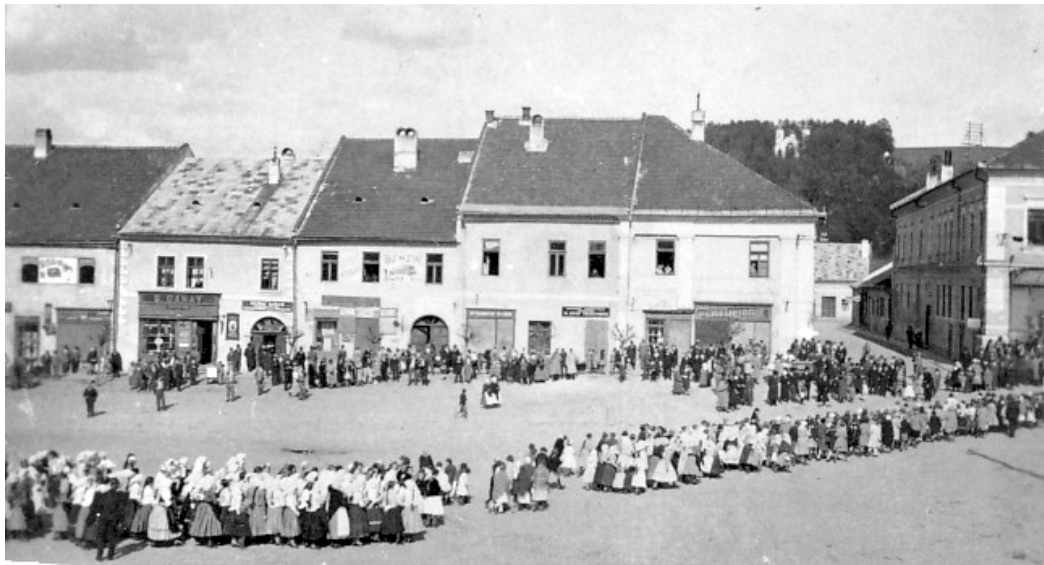


Bardejov in 1853 and today. Once, international trade center and its central square, main market place



80 years ago
living square, market,
parades, shops,
residential houses





Life in the square – in the past



World Heritage site – the square is beautiful,
but “dead”





No residential use of the houses
Businesses suffer
Square is empty
No traffic
Good conservation

Why? Among others:

- New neighborhoods have their new and modern centers.
- Maybe the square is too big on the small town – but therefore, much more has to be done to keep it alive and functional.
- **Could it be that conservation restrictions ‘museified’ the square?**
- No alternative functions replaced the historic markets

Some points to think of:

- Cities are not museums.
- Conservation should not come at the cost of use and life.
- One of the most important values of cities is being alive, serving their citizens and visitors.
- The square should be utilized as much as possible for market, playground, resting and fun site,
- The houses surrounding it should serve commercial as well residential activities

Let us see how can we help our historic cities
and their squares
to remain alive and attractive.

Let us be careful not to 'kill' our monuments out
of love

Thank you !

Giora Solar