ELEVEN YEARS OF VALLETTA PRINCIPLES: EVOLUTION AND PRACTICE OF URBAN HERITAGE GOVERNANCE

THE HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE APPROACH AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE URBAN HERITAGE GOVERNANCE

THE COMMUNICATION FORM FOR SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE PRESERVATION-CONSERVATION

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• The management of historic cities is not only about preserving the living environment, but also about the people who use it;

• Anthropology recognizes that communication is the essence of culture and, in fact, the very essence of life itself;

• Culture consists of webs of concepts that people weave around themselves

• Communication - language, art, music, dance, text, movie, sound recording and software - are the tools people use to explain, reproduce, preserve and transform these value webs
In media theory, belonging to one of the cultures means seeing and knowing the world, communicating with it in such a way as to renew that culture day by day.
Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.” Faro convention, 2005

This explanation stresses participation of society in conservation of heritage, shared responsibility and the value of partnership, arguing that heritage must be conserved in the name of society, and not a small group of experts.

“A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Local communities</th>
<th>Experts, individual enthusiasts</th>
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Conservation of cultural heritage
Holy Grail or cultural heritage

Bringing society together with the cultural heritage
Previous discourse -> protect heritage by isolating it from the people; the value of the heritage is determined by its authenticity and permanence through time

Existing discourse -> the necessity to fully integrate the cultural heritage in the local society; the value of the heritage is increased by using it
NEEDS AND VALUE CHANGES

- Material
  - Primary
    - Physical survival
    - Safety
  - Post-material
    - Self-realization
    - Intellectual
      - Cultural heritage preservation
    - Aesthetic
REGULAR WORKSHOPS OF HISTORIC WINDOW RESTORATION

• The residents of the buildings, with their manual labour, time, attitude

• +

• municipal support - financial, documentational and demonstration and supervision of the work of a restorer / consultant

• =

• gain access to historical evidence through their conservation activities
• Every year more and more historic windows are renewed and residents learn about maintenance of buildings, accepting it as a useful tool for living in a historic environment.

• Window restoration activities are a reason for communicating heritage with professionals and enthusiasts as well as neighbors and other residents of the historic center.

• It is an opportunity to understand the living in the historic center, also for newcomers - fostering belonging to the environment and its values.
KULDIKA: GOLDINGEN IN COURLAND
The special character of the old town is formed by more than 400 historic buildings, 60% of which are wooden buildings built in the 17th - 19th centuries. The inhabitants of these buildings live for several generations there, but the Soviet-era ideology and the resulting joint ownership have led to a change in attitudes.

**People have come to realize** that museums, churches and castles are a valuable cultural heritage, but less so that the building they live in from birth is just as valuable a cultural heritage that also needs to be treated with care.
FROM 2010 – START
IN 2022 – 35 HOUSES

Ikgadējā logu akcija Kuldīgas vecpilsētas iedzīvotājiem šogad pulcē plašu dalībnieku loku, pieteikušās jau 35 mājsaimniecības.
OTHER WAYS OF COMMUNICATION

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4jnmVunDas

Educational activities for adults – town game

PARTICULAR EVENTS FOR THE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS
THE RESULTS OF THIS PRACTICE (1)

can be seen not only in the restored historic buildings, their details, improved knowledge and renewable practices (after a break of 60 years), but also have influenced the preservation of the heritage in the region, the practice has been taken over in the Baltics and even Finland, Norway.

Kalle Saarinen, Director of Rauma Renovation Center: “Kuldīga’s old houses allow to discover essential knowledge about historical craft methods and traditional materials. Thus, these houses can be considered as an open lexicon for learning. When performing restoration works in the old town of Kuldiga, it is important not to forget to take care of the soul of the town.”

Eivind Falk, Director of the Norwegian Craft Development Organization: “When visiting Kuldiga, we are very inspired and filled with useful knowledge and creative inspiration. Kuldiga is a truly important town in the whole Baltic Sea basin. I think the town has a huge potential to become a craft training and research center for the whole region.”
• Appropriate forms of communication based on local values can be found in heritage conservation practices that promote and sustain living evidence of tangible and intangible heritage while addressing community-wide challenges or needs. This form of communication has also been recognized internationally.
• Such a communication practice through maintenance is a participation in direct sense - maintaining the heritage - the buildings and their parts do not require extensive restoration or alteration work that can reduce the value of the original essence. Also, the participation of the municipality in the maintenance of the joint heritage, which is recognized as a common value.
THE MAIN CHALLENGES

• The particular skills of traditional crafts that are necessary for the maintenance of cultural heritage sites are disappearing because the new construction methods and materials used are completely different. The number of qualified crafts persons is reducing and therefore also the knowledge is disappearing. The number of restoration specialists is also limited.

• On the National level, there is a lack of a certification system for architects and building companies working on protected cultural heritage objects which leads to bad quality of implemented conservation and restoration works starting from planning to practical process.

• The financial ability of the residents of old town and owners of the apartments and houses is very limited. They don’t have the finances for the proper maintenance of buildings.
• THIS PROGRAMME IS DIRECTLY THE PRACTICE OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE VALETTA PRINCIPLES AND ITS IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING, WHICH HAS LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT PARTICIPATION HAS GREAT POTENTIAL AND BENEFITS.
Kuldīga Restoration Center The skills and attitude of Latvian craftsmen towards the created are useful for promoting the Circulation economy and reducing consumption. In order to implement practical conservation and restoration, as well as to advise the residents on the preservation and maintenance of old buildings, the Kuldīga Restoration Center has been established in Kuldīga. Visitors can watch the restoration process, learn about traditional building restoration methods, tools and materials. One of the most popular events organized by the center is a regular window maintenance campaign. This is a practical event, within the framework of which the residents of Kuldīga Old Town are offered the opportunity to repair the windows of their own house. The municipality covers the costs of a restorer-consultant, offers the opportunity to use the tools necessary for the work free of charge, covers the costs of linseed oil, putty and linseed oil paint. Residents, in turn, first listen to the explanation of the restorer about the work to be performed and its significance, watch a demonstration and then practically renovate the windows themselves. This method can be applied to preserve the cultural heritage of any small town and to raise public awareness of the role of heritage in society.
Local level

(6) THE KULĪĢA DESIGN CODE from Latvia is an example of how a small town introduced its own quality criteria to protect its unique historical image and craft skills. The code includes design guidelines for buildings and public spaces as well as competence centres and restoration workshops for citizens. Funding has been made available for projects and areas as small as street facing mini-gardens consisting of plant pots.

TOWARDS A SHARED CULTURE OF ARCHITECTURE

INVESTING IN A HIGH-QUALITY LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE

Laws and policies

The case studies fitting into this category offer an insight into the wide range of legislative frameworks that exist and are important in policymaking. This category considers that national, regional and local policies and laws on architecture and spatial quality are the basis for delivering a high-quality built environment. The chosen examples show attractive approaches in constituting and shaping laws or in developing policy to influence good planning, architecture and spatial quality in the field.

- Designated policies and laws can help to establish guiding principles for the work of architects and provide clear definitions of the public interest in scenarios that support high-quality in architecture and the built environment.

New European Bauhaus
beautiful | sustainable | together

Window restoration workshop at the Kuldiga restoration centre
(Kuldiga Design Code), 2019.
Courtesy of Kuldiga Municipality. © Ričards Sotaks
Conservation Programme of Kuldīga Old Town

(LATVIA | LETTONIE)

"What struck the Jury particularly about this project was its power of example in a wider European context. The award recognizes both its awareness-raising aspect among the local community and also its role in establishing training for the restoration and maintenance of an area of genuinely everyday heritage. Obtaining the involvement, not only of local people, but also of academic researchers, architects and craftpeople, and even experts from abroad, all on very limited financial resources, constitutes a model for any European country possessing examples of built heritage in wood."

Since 2008, Kuldīga Restoration Centre has implemented a programme of awareness-raising with respect to the preservation of Kuldīga's old town. Three main activities have ensued: cultural heritage laboratories, action Art Spawns and actions for the regular maintenance of windows. The special character of the old town derives from its collection of over 400 wooden houses, built between the 17th and 19th centuries. These have been lived in by the old town for generations, but from the Soviet period, a lack of private ownership had created an attitude of indifference towards the maintenance of the buildings. People readily understand that museums, churches and castles are heritage sites, but it is sometimes less obvious to them that old houses where they lived since birth may be the same, and equally in need of regular care and maintenance. To address this situation, the Restoration Centre initiated activities where local citizens could actively become involved. Targeted at citizens of the old town – owners of the buildings, craftpeople and architects – all these activities developed a better understanding of the cultural heritage as well as reinforcing local identity.

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Sustainable Renovation of the UNESCO Oldtown of Kuldiga

- To ensure the preservation of the authenticity of Kuldiga's historical heritage for future generations;
- To ensure the heritability of craft traditions and the sustainability of historical craft skills.
- Every resident of Kuldiga can restore **wooden doors** and **wooden windows** to the house with their own hands.
• Thank you for your attention!

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