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Conservation area, or integrated development? The cases of Český Krumlov and Třebíč (Theme 1)

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Conservation area, or integrated development? The cases of Český Krumlov and Třebíč (Theme 1)

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The paper compares the current state of development of two world heritage sites in the Czech Republic, (1) the historic centre of Český Krumlov and (2) the Jewish Quarter in Třebíč. These sites represent pars pro toto two ways of existence of urban heritage in contemporary world. While the extraordinary artistic value of the first one led to its strict conservation and recently to transformation to a hot visitors' spot, the second one was doomed to demolition only a couple of decades ago, and even after its inscription on the List remained rather a part of local life than of international mass tourism. Both sites are treated differently also in terms of municipal policies and contemporary architectural interventions. Yet the lessons do not seem simply mutually transferable; what has been undertaken and achieved in both cases has depended on initial conditions only partially controlled by regional patriots, politicians or preservationists. The paper uses this comparison for a more general debate focused on the issue of historicity and relativity of conservationists' measures.