Budapest CIVVIH scientific meeting 2013 – abstracts of the short presentations

Workshop A:

The introduction of modern infrastructure and new buildings within historic urban landscapes – examples of successful contemporary interventions

President: Samir Abdulac

Samir Abdulac: Strasbourg: Réorganisation des déplacement urbains, tramway et priorité aux piétons


La municipalité a souhaité repenser entièrement la mobilité en cœur de ville pour induire des comportements nouveaux et durables : réorganisation des déplacements urbains autour d’un tramway, des déplacements en mode doux et de l’élaboration d’un Plan de Déplacement Urbain.

Aujourd’hui, le tramway connaît un franc succès de fréquentation, le nombre de voitures entrant chaque jour en centre-ville a notablement baissé, les piétons et les cyclistes se sont réapproprié l’espace public. En termes de cadre de vie, le projet a permis de diminuer la pollution et de maintenir une population résidente. Au-delà, la réalisation de ce projet a amélioré l’accessibilité du centre-ville, renforcé les liens périphérie/centre et, de ce fait, redynamisé et modernisé le commerce de centre-ville. Les effets de l’opération dépassent en outre le seul cadre du territoire communal puisque le Plan de Déplacement Urbain a été mis en place sur l’ensemble du territoire de la Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg.

Alvaro Gomez Ferrer Bayo: Urban renovation in old industrial architectures

Many historical areas also contain industries that once occupied certain vacant spaces in the close surroundings of the city. Transformation of some of these obsolete industries into buildings that house Clean Information Technology activities is one main challenge we face today in order to maintain the mixed uses in historical centres. Maintaining these architectures helps introduce more variety and vitality into the urban fabric. These industrial buildings can also be used to serve as recreational facilities, cultural venues, etc.

If new architectures must take position in the places of old industrial architectures, these shall have to established their own intervention rules as regards to existing buildings, at the same time they make use of all their creativity and respect for the environment.

Functional transformations have the same as for architectural interventions, a set limits and prohibitions aimed to preserving as much as possible the legacy of the past. May of these limits are explicit in the planning process via restrictive regulations, which can be general for the whole historical centre, or specific to certain buildings, assigning them certain incompatibilities as regards to their use.

The current trend is to be restrictive without noticing that these trends may have a negative effect. I believe it much more interesting to treat the possibility of functional change as a stimulus.

I will try to explain the situation, presented in a meeting in Lodz 2004 of the transformation of an industrial
area. The economic problems have made that the process took a very slow rhythm and today almost ten years later we have finished only the rehabilitation of three warehouses. I think that we must not be discouraged if the results are good and contributes to the renovation of a degraded part of the city.


A new construction project on the historic Public Square in Cleveland, Ohio, (USA) is considered successful despite design elements that are out of conformance with the Venice and Washington Charters. The project was built in 1989 and was then known as the Society Center. Now known as Key Center, the portion fronting Public Square is essentially two towers, one constructed in 1889 with 10 stories, the other completed in 1991 with 57 stories. When each of these towers was constructed, each was the tallest building between New York and Chicago.

How could two buildings constructed over 100 years apart successfully be combined to become one “center”? Certain design approaches were employed to respect the older building. The City of Cleveland values its heritage and is considered an American Legacy City – one which helped build the nation during the rise of American industry. Yet now it struggles with a decreasing population, aged infrastructure, a struggling public school system and systemic poverty. The completion of this project brought much needed jobs and economic development into the city. The project cost $400 million, ensuring the continued operation of a major bank in Cleveland. The issue of economic necessity routinely trumps heritage in a struggling American Legacy city.

Claus-Peter Echter: Historic urban landscapes: Challenges and criteria of intervention to manage change

Historic landscapes must confront a number of changes: These changes affect the natural, human, tangible and intangible elements of the town: climate change and natural disasters, the introduction of contemporary architectural elements, the transformation of the historic space according to the modern requirements, the need for functional and spatial renewal, the loss and/or substitution of traditional uses and functions, such as the specific way of life of a local community, the subsequent loss of identity and character for these places, the gentrification process arising from rent increase and the deterioration of historic quarters. At present changes are increasingly influenced by external powers, that seldom take inhabitants needs into account. Because of the generalized trend for commercialization historic towns are urged to elaborate new policies with a view to become increasingly attractive in order to cope with global competition.

In defining the criteria of intervention to manage change in the best way the Valetta Principles point out among others (such as consistency, balance, quality, compatibility) two factors taking part to change vulnerability: quantity and time. Many little changes could produce great transformations while the speed of change defines the strength of the impact. Changes carried out too fast can have negative effects on the integrity of tangible and intangible values which characterize the historic landscape.

The introduction of new functions could determine negative effects such as increasing traffic and congestion which are not sustainable to urban living. Any intervention in historic towns and urban areas must aim to improve the quality of life of the local residents and the quality of natural environment. This implicates actions in harmony to the capacity of urban systems for original inhabitants as well as for those who arrive (either to reside or to use the historic town). The introduction of new activities should not compromise the survival of traditional activities useful for daily life of inhabitants.

When it is necessary to construct new buildings or adapt existing ones, a high quality must be achieved, which corresponds to the historical situation, new elements should not compete with the monument and sites. Important aspects of the impact of the historic environment are: topography, landscape and urban situation, vegetation and open spaces, relations of the individual elements to each other and to the monument, construction and materials, volumes and spaces, proportions, roof landscape, view connections and lines of sight, silhouettes, uses.

Pavel Gregor: Retaining Authenticity in Historic Cities and Urban Areas, case study Trnava-Slovakia
Historical town of Trnava, established in 1238, is one of the oldest historical towns in Slovakia. Because its historical structures were not protected by the law until 1987, many of historical buildings were destroyed. After 1989 the municipality had developed a new master – regulative plan. The main goal was to reflect new social and economical relationships same as protecting historical cultural treasures. It also addresses the possibility of reconstructing demolished quarters of the city in a manner which would retain its loosen authenticity.

Based on analysis of 320 buildings along with the town’s wall and fortification system were developed regulations for preserving and restoring the cultural and historical sites of the town’s historical center. The most important contribution of this work was that it deals not only with existing structure but same with lost ones and intangible heritage of historical town Trnava. Since 1995 there have been renovated several urban areas with architectural rehabilitation and presenting all important footprints forming its history and identity, both as new architectural intervention reflected new contemporary function.

Song Inho: **Reconstruction and Representation of Seoul City Wall**

Seoul City Wall encloses the urban heart of metropolis of Seoul, urban heritage that was built in 1397. Namsan mountain area was excavated recently. It revealed historic evidences that identify the times of construction and fluctuation for the past 600-years. With the viewpoint of Historic urban landscape, creative intervention should be done on the site. While conserving the historic layers of Seoul City Wall, it is necessary to make an integrated management plan that represents its identity.

Agnieszka Kiera: **Urban identity and design code as a tool of creative conservation and revalorization of Historic Cities**

This short presentation asserts that heritage conservation based on the philosophy and standards of both, Athens and Burra Charters is no longer sufficient to ensure a viable future for urban heritage or creativity of design and quality of both, architecture and evolving urban landscapes, in the rapidly urbanized and globalised world. While organizations such as ICOMOS strive to produce various principles and standards for new development in historic cities, they are usually too generic and general to ensure that new development protects character and adds value to the existing historic landscapes. So while heritage continues to represent an essential aspect of human condition and continuity associated with a particular society and its culture, the current approach and methods of conservation and increasing urbanisation of existing cities worldwide fail to include sustainability of local heritage as a core component of urban development.

In Australia, heritage conservation is still dealt with as separate from town planning. Thus its role as a determining factor in the resilience and capacity of historic cities to endure is largely underestimated and unmanaged. The pressure of globalization creates the increasingly generic cities yet some historic cities successfully experiment with means to manage change through both, protection of urban heritage and its harmonious redevelopment.

I will demonstrate the results and benefits of a model based on the above that has been successfully applied in Fremantle, Western Australia. It involves establishment and adoption of the city specific guide (Local Identity and Design Code) as a planning tool to ensure compatibility of new infill development with the existing urban landscape. In Fremantle the Code has been effectively applied to both, promoting conservation of urban heritage and ensuring its enhancement through creativity in designing new development. In this model the strategic town planning and development controls are legislated to proactively use local identity of a city as a reference for new development that is city specific. The Code encourages sustainable development of architectural and urban quality by providing tools to all kinds of city builders thus ensuring a continuous refinement of the city towards achievement of both, a harmonious urban ‘whole’ and a quality life for its inhabitants.

Saleh Lamei: **Authenticity and integrity in at-Turaif Area, Historic Ad-Dir‘iyyah**

The World Heritage Committee meeting in Brasilia 2010 has inscribed at-Turaif area on the UNESCO World
Heritage List. The site is an urban architectural monument extending over some 29 hectares. Ad-Dir'iyyah became at the end of the 18th century, a powerful centre under the rule of the House of Sa'ud, who developed it with imposing palaces built in a distinctive and confident style. The property includes the remains of many palaces and an urban ensemble built on the edge of the ad-Dir'iyyah oasis. It is an outstanding example of traditional human settlement developed in a desert environment.

Venice Charter and the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage Adopted by the General Conference at its seventeenth session Paris, 16 November 1972 UNESCO Feb.1997 ICOMOS must be respected.

Many important values were neglected. We have regulations and the objective of restoration is to respect the site authenticity as well as to highlight the historical, architectural, archaeological and aesthetic values of the site and not to rest on decisions undertaken by individuals in charge of the work.

Eleni Maistrou: Modern infrastructure and new buildings within Historic Landscapes. Some notes and questions.

The most important problems arriving from the introduction of modern infrastructure and new buildings within historic landscapes, as well as the basic criteria of intervention are mentioned in the Nairobi convention, in the Washington charter as well as in Valetta principles and in the notes drafted by Claus Peter Echter.

The loss of traditional uses and traditional life of the local community leading to the loss of identity and character, the lack of social infrastructure, as well as the interventions that do not respect the scale of the site, are the main problems. “Quantity and Time” are the basic factors that should take into account any change in the historic landscapes.

But the above principles are not enough to lead to a successful integration of the contemporary architecture in the historic landscape. On the side the different groups of specialists and the population have different criteria considering “successful contemporary interventions”.

An important problem is also created by the contemporary buildings carried out of the traditional built area of the historic settlements. The contemporary excessive expansion of these settlements is the mayor factor of the deterioration of the historic landscape in Greece.

I will comment and illustrate the above points, in order to open a discussion that could conclude in some more precise guidelines for an effective preservation of the historic landscapes.

Gergely Nagy: Regulations and society in Wekerle Garden City

An exemplary garden city was built between 1908 and 1926 by the state. According to records there were 1.091 apartment buildings on the estate with 4.753 flats. Quiet, modern homes were provided here for 20.000 people. The families who settled felt themselves at home on this estate soon.

The estate originally built on the edge of Budapest but it is now part of the capital. This section of the city, which since its construction has been part of the administrative region of Kispest, has never really been linked with the surrounding settlements. When Greater Budapest was formed in 1949, Kispest was joined to the capital, and the Wekerle estate along with it. Originally the Ministry of Finance was responsible for the life of Wekerle what was controlled by board of trustee. This organization was responsible for the order and for the whole life of the GC.

During the socialism this organization must to be disappeared, but at the end of the 80'ies this organization was reorganized by civics as an NGO. One of the most important section of this is the Club of Architects. The Trustee is the instructive partner of the local government. The Club of Architects take part in every development. The short presentation speaks about how is it in practice.
Vlastislav Ouroda: The care of South-Bohemian urban heritage in the last 20 years (impact of socio-economical changes after 1989)

The presentation is focused on the regional urban heritage in a relatively sparsely populated area in central Europe. It is based of three types of smaller sites: Regional capital, world heritage town and typical local town. The care of Czech urban heritage has long tradition. However real possibilities of protection were limited under the communist government. The new possibilities and threaties came after essential political changes in 1989. Some urban structures were in particular cases under a strong economic pressure. On the other side, there is no seriously damaged protected historical urban structure in the region. The results of this process are presented as a particular example in the discussion of the perspectives of historic towns within the context of the modern changing reality.

Christopher Pound: Urban authenticity is a dynamic concept

Twenty five years ago the City of Bath was inscribed on the World Heritage List primarily for archaeology and its 18th Century buildings. Values have changed. There are other complex values for the City as a Spa resort and these are related to medicine, a place of healing, contribution to the Enlightenment, and as a nascent tourist destination and as a Therapeutic Landscape. The City has managed the Hotsprings as a healing spa and responded to sequences of changes over 2000 years. It continues to respond to new challenges. However, identifying authenticity in such an urban palimpsest is problematic. Authenticity of heritage places was set out in the Venice Charter some fifty years ago. Now the HUL initiative encourages a revaluation of heritage places. This process can reveal important values hitherto neglected and many of these are intangible values that make the city memorable.

Olga Sevan: The historic wooden city Irkutsk in Siberian Russia: the old and new architecture

I 'll talk about the big wooden historic city of Irkutsk in Siberia. There is a 18th-century town planning, more than 700 wooden apartment buildings with unique decoration, construction, etc. In the past 5 years interesting new restoration and reconstruction project of one of the main block ("Quarter N 130") of the city was made by architects. I will show some of the general plan of the city, and this project, the various embodiments of old and new architecture, part of new reconstruction of this Quarter which started very active today part of the historic part of the city for residents and tourists.

Vjekoslava Samkovic Simcic: Pocitelj – Protection of its authenticity

Počitelj is among the most important cultural and historic sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Revitalization project and the Master plan ensure the preservation of its authenticity in functional, structural and environmental aspects.
- The authenticity of the functional aspect will be preserved through keeping the settlement as a living organism that is populated with autochthonous inhabitants, which will keep their original activities.
- The authenticity of the structural aspect will be preserved by archaeological and scientific researches and expert conservation and restoration works on the old structures. A new purpose will be given to valuable spaces and buildings, whose original function was overcome. In these contemporary transformations, all new constructions need to be carefully selected and harmoniously integrated with the old structures.
- The authenticity of the specific landscape will be preserved by prohibiting any construction on the steep banks of the Neretva river, both upstream and downstream of the settlement.

Josef Stúlč: The yearly competition of the Association for the Old Prague for the best and most contextual new building in Historical Surrounding

Recently a flood of new constructions of diverse purpose and architectural quality is endangering the
integrity of historic cores of Czech cities. Frequent is the lack of any regard to the qualities and character of the neighbourhood the now building are to be situated. To sensitize both the designing architects and the general public the Association for the Old Prague organizes annually an unofficial and informal but highly inspiring competition. Reputed experts (the Club members) are ex post evaluating the quality as well the context of newly constructed buildings. The competition is rather popular. The works of reputed as well young architects are the subject of evaluation. My contribution presents in quick succession the buildings that won in the course of the last 10 years.

Workshop B:

The impacts of tourism and how historic cities and towns can retain inhabitants in the face of tourism pressures

President: Teresa Colletta

Nur Akin: The impacts of tourism in the historic part of Antalya

Antalya is an important touristic town of the Mediterranean shore. Due to this favorable location and its port, it was always important throughout centuries. Its historic core developed in the city walls lays out all of the characteristics of a traditional settlement. Organic urban texture composed of narrow roads and dead end streets bordered by wooden imposing or modest houses with their courtyards or gardens are very characteristic.

The first part of Antalya Conservation Plan (1974-84) covered the sea shore buildings, and the traditional texture of the intra-muros followed it. But as the main purpose for the revitalization was touristic, at the end the area lost a lot of its authenticity and also its local characteristic inhabitants. New reconstructions, new copies of old buildings and new users are far away of reflecting the days of yore of the town.

Antoine Bruguerolle: L'étude de secteur sauvegardé d'aigues mortes dont l'un des enjeux est la sur fréquentation touristique avec la maîtrise des flux et de l'économie locale

La cité d’Aigues-Mortes entre patrimoine et tourisme, un difficile équilibre. Le port d’Aigues-Mortes, ville neuve, créée dans les étangs par la volonté de Saint Louis (Louis IX) au milieu du XIIIème siècle, port du roi sur la méditerranée et point de départ pour les croisades. L’enceinte urbaine est conservée dans son dessin rectangulaire de 1,5 km de développé, le site présente plusieurs enjeux patrimoniaux croisés. Les étangs, sites naturels et « terres humides » protégées pour leur qualité environnementale et paysagère et l’enceinte médiévale régulière qui ceinture la vieille ville à la rencontre des canaux. Le monument dans un rapport étroit au site, confronté au développement urbain de la deuxième moitié du XXème siècle et à la pression touristique du littoral languedocien. Ce croisement de problématique fait d’Aigues-Mortes un cas difficile. De la commune dépendent le plan d’urbanisme et les équipements et de l’État la gestion du « monument » la rencontre de ces différents acteurs politiques sur un site exigé a amené l’État à mettre en place de manière concertée plusieurs outils de gestion dont un Grand Site National et un secteur sauvegardé. Cet exposé se propose de faire le point sur les enjeux patrimoniaux et naturels, et à partir des problèmes rencontrés sur les réponses adaptées qui peuvent être proposées.

Teresa Colletta: The “risk” of the mass tourism in the historical cities. Urban Marketing or Cultural Tourism?

The strong increase of the Tourism in the years 2000 is well known. This global phenomenon has caused
and urban change without control: the risk of the mass tourism is really in evidence today in the historical
Cities and especially in the port cities. The risk of an surplus of tourist frequency cause: the occupation of
every public open spaces and urban historical areas, the difficult of the circulation and the parking for the
Big bus, the contemporary architectures built near the monuments and the archaeological sites, in contrast
with the historical and natural landscape, or the violent transformation of the historical architectural heritage,
uncontrolled development and irremediable demolitions. (The case of Takxim Park Gezi in Istanbul).to
Promotes urban marketing. In the last years in connection with the large increase of the maritime traffic of
The cruises and the new style of “cruiserism” - the high boats- we have the increase of tourist frequency in
The historic port cities. (The risk in the Venice port or in Istanbul port or in the Greek islands is well known).
This phenomenon has caused and urban change without control: this risk is really in evidence today with the
loss of the historical urban landscape and the particular genius loci.

The palimpsest urban heritage is certainly a potential and incomparable economic resource for the local
people, but it is necessary a planning of all the touristic activities to promote a correct development to realize
A future sustainable tourism pour the safeguard of the urban values. The question is how to planning the
Impacts of tourism and how historic cities and towns can retain inhabitants in the face of tourism pressures.
The principal aim is to Retain the Authenticity in Historic Cities and Urban Areas.

The aim of this workshop is to put in evidence and to discuss concrete Responses for Threats to Cultural
And Urban Heritage and finding solutions to the problems that historic cities and urban areas are currently
Facing. It is necessary to promote all the opportunity of cultural tourism for the historical towns sustainable
development.

Vladimir Krogius: Cultural Heritage authenticity and tourism in Historic Towns

The usual Nara’s four- or even six-members demands of the authenticity aren’t enough both in sense of:

- the narrowness of the cultural heritage’s understanding only in the interests of our – scholars;
- the absence of its relation to the singularities of historic towns’ authenticities.

There is the possibility to propose the some chessboard, in which on the one direction would be the
distinctions in understanding of authenticity in relation to the different values of cultural heritage, and on the
second one – the distinctions in the interests to authenticity of different types of users in historic towns.

The first one – different values of cultural heritage:

- scientific and perceptual values – the traditional understanding of authenticity as the proper (real)
  source of new knowledge for investigators or students;
- memorial values – the authenticity of real places, better (but not obligatory) with real material
  remains of events, persons, etc.;
- spiritual values – the authenticity of heritage components are truly equal to the convictions or faiths;
- creativity values – the authenticity of artefacts are giving feelings of art beauty and(or) satisfaction of
  proper (fine) technical or drawing decisions;
- utilitarian values – the authenticity of the regularly used historic environments in the historic building
  or at the places in the urban historic territories.

The second one – different users of historic towns’ cultural heritage:

- the authenticity of historic towns for their investigators or students – the real materials of historic
  remains;
- the authenticity of historic towns for their citizens and commuters - the supporting and conservation
  of traditional ways of living, up to conservation of the spirit of places;
the authenticity of historic towns for their temporary visitors, including tourists or pilgrims – the impression of reality, of the seemed genuine things are demonstrated or even freely interpreted.

David Logan: ‘Saving the goose that laid the golden egg’ – case study, The Rocks, Sydney

Due to its historic ambience and harbour-side location, The Rocks area of Sydney has become a tourist mecca. There is hardly a tourist who visits Sydney without spending at least some time in The Rocks. But the area is also much loved and frequented by the local population and it commands some of the highest retail and commercial rental prices in Australia.

Part of the reason for the success of this precinct is that it is actively managed to attract not only overseas tourists but also local Sydney-siders. While there is always pressure for changes and new development to enhance the visitor experience a concerted effort is also made to retain the authenticity of the place.

This presentation considers some of the ways in which tourism can affect the authenticity of historic areas and measures that can be taken to prevent this from occurring. The loss of inhabitants and liveability is often a precursor to the loss of authenticity. A number of historic cities and towns around the world have taken steps to slow the loss of inhabitants and have introduced incentives to encourage the local population to move back into historic centres.

It is suggested that CIVVIH could initiate a project to gather information on such best practice initiatives and incentives from historic centres around the world. Perhaps CIVVIH could develop best practice guidelines for retaining authenticity in historic urban areas?

Hae Un Rii: How to Overcome the Impact of Tourism Pressures on Historic Villages – Haheo and Yangdong

In the year of 2009, ‘Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong’ was inscribed on the World Heritage list. When two villages were inscribed in Brazilia, it was Sunday morning. Two villages had full of tourists on that day. It was almost disaster. Since then, two villages had unexpected tourism pressures for a while. However, residents in both villages tried to overcome from the negative impact of tourism pressures in different ways. Now they find the way how to deal with tourists who visit their villages. I am going to explain about their own ways.

Zhang Jie: Impacts of Tourism on the World Heritage City of Pingyao, China

Currently cities, towns and villages that have been inscribed on the world heritage list in China mostly are located in less developed regions. World Heritage Statuses have by and large triggered local economies especially tourism developments. Pingyao as a historic city, was listed in 1997. Before the inscription, the city relied on industry as the main source of income complementary to its agriculture’s, which had resulted in serious pollution. Tourism developments accelerated by World Heritage Status has strongly stimulated the economy of the region by attracting investments, increasing incomes of local residents and improving urban infrastructure and living environments in general, and ensured more funds for conservation. On the other side, the heavy dependence on tourism also has brought problems including local residential loss, over commercialization, traffic pressures, erosion of its settings, and the threat to the authenticity of the city. Can tourism be a more constructive force in Chinese heritage towns and villages along with the country’s fast urbanization?

As at 10 September 2013
Claus-Peter Echter