

ICOMOS/ CIVVIH International Symposium on “The role of integrated conservation of cultural heritage for a creative, resilient and sustainable city” (Naples, Italy, 3-5 September 2012)

Sub-topic 3: The integrated conservation of the historical cities' core and their urban historic landscape

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REMARKABLE SITES AS A RUSSIAN ANSWER TO THE WIDE HISTORIC URBAN
LANDSCAPES' INTRODUCTION INTO THE CONSERVATION PRACTICE

A b s t r a c t

For all of us the nearest future of historic towns and urban landscapes conservation's theory and practice has to be going under two brand new UNESCO and ICOMOS guiding documents: the first one – The Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape; the second one – The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas. The many professionals have some thoughts upon possible advantages and may be even threats of that.

But in Russia there was some equivalent of the “Historic Urban Landscape” definition for the field of territorial urban heritage's conservation appeared. That was again some equivalent in Russian to the very famous in conservation and many other fields of activity over-the-world term of “Site”. The meaning of this term in the direct translation to Russian is “*myesto*”, what also means “place” – both of that are rather far from the meanings are understanding in the field of heritage subjects' conservation.

Thus, some translator to Russian had invented (that was yet in very old time – say, in 1970-s or even earlier) new words construction of “*dostoprimechatelnoye mesto*” (!!!??), what could be translate back may be better of any other as “remarkable site”/

Now, some decades after, this terminology monster is the sustainable part of our professional heritage, which already couldn't be ignored. Yet more because in the end of 1990-s - beginning of 2000-s we made in our new heritage conservation's legislation the calking from the World Heritage Convention of 1972 in the sense of protected subjects of heritage possible types – namely: monuments, ensembles (groups of buildings) and sites. And again the term of “site” had its translation in the Federal Law on Cultural Heritage's Subjects of 2002 as “remarkable sites”.

This definition even now – 10 years after the new legislation was approved, remains some novice in our conservation activity comparatively with more old and habitual monuments and ensembles, and brought many difficulties and dispute on its practical implementation.

Anyway it has opened for our country the new important possibility of conservation activity in the field of territorial and urban heritage, which now may be have to became the activity of historic urban landscapes' conservation.

We'll try do demonstrate hereafter as we began to do that on the cases of some Russian historic cities and towns, mostly big ones, such as: St. Petersburg, Yaroslavl, Derbent, Suzdal (all – World Heritage Sites), Nizhny Novgorod, etc.

Curriculum Vitae:

Vladimir Krogus, born. 1935, Moscow, Russia, Architect (1959), Cand.Arch. (1973) Dep. Dir. Institute on Reconstruction of Historic Towns (INRECON, Moscow, from 1988), Lecturer in the Academy of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture of Iliya Glazunov, attested expert on heritage conservation under the Russian Ministry of Culture, ICOMOS/Russia and ICOMOS/CIVVIH from 1995.