

Editorial

This edition of **Connecting** considers preventive conservation and maintenance from three perspectives - as an approach, as a management tool, and as social involvement - and takes into consideration the way our programme deals with this complex but necessary process.

Preventive conservation involves applying specific methods to reduce the risk of damage and deterioration to a structure, a cluster, or to movable objects, and in the long term, it is cheaper and ethically preferable because it preserves the historic and artistic integrity of the object. It therefore requires a thorough understanding of the care that needs to be given to the subject in question and is therefore highly specialised. Regular maintenance is the key to successful prevention and requires a strategic management plan. We will therefore introduce to you the much-awarded *Monumentenwacht* as a model which a number of countries are planning to follow. Our forthcoming workshop will also introduce a model of preventive conservation management from a Mediterranean partner country, *Ghardaia*, in Algeria.

Social involvement in cultural heritage conservation is presented through two of our projects, *Montada* and *Remeé*, and they both reflect how this involvement is a two way process which benefits both preventive conservation and the construction of civil society.

Finally, this issue confronts us with a tough reality: how to put preventive conservation and maintenance into effect in situations where legislation and regulatory processes are not in place and the level of awareness is prohibitive. We do not pretend to have all the answers but we will certainly address the issue up front and propose some guidelines.

Christiane Dabdoub Nasser
Team Leader, Regional Monitoring and Support Unit (RMSU)

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Chefchaouen, Morocco - C. Graz 2006

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Preventive conservation, a practice worth maintaining...

By CHRISTOPHE GRAZ, PROJECT MANAGER, REGIONAL MONITORING AND SUPPORT UNIT (RMSU)

Conservation involves the totality of measures and actions undertaken to extend the life of a cultural asset. In the same way prevention includes all measures put in place to anticipate eventual problems that could damage these assets. Unlike conventional conservation, which is remedial and tackles the effects of degradation, preventive conservation contributes to perpetuate the life of heritage by tackling the causes and therefore pre-empting any possible degradation. There are many advantages and benefits to the practice of regular maintenance of heritage.

Firstly, it is a question of cost, and these examples are quite suggestive: a clogged drainpipe, a displaced tile or the stripping of a coating can be easily and cheaply tackled if identified and treated in time. If neglected, they could cause water infiltrations and induce structural damages – in the walls, floors or framework – which would involve costlier and more complicated interventions.

Secondly, regular maintenance contributes to better conserve original materials and preserve more of the “patina” and details, which are often irreplaceable. We all unconsciously practice preventive conservation through domestic work, repairing defective joints or adding a fresh coat of paint. In the same way, and most times unwittingly, we destroy irreparably our heritage through inappropriate measures, use of incompatible materials, and unintentional interference in flows and contact points... etc. From this perspective, regular maintenance should come with an effort toward technical awareness in order to better understand the causes and processes of degradation and the rules with which to confront it.

Finally, maintenance is an action and a participation that naturally develop some kind of appropriation of heritage by the user. It is an action and sponsorship role, and both have practically disappeared in the North, and are disappearing around the shores of the Mediterranean basin.

And yet some traditional practices have survived in the South – Touiza or the Waqf are examples – and a number of tools and mechanisms have surfaced and been disseminated in Europe during the last fifteen years: *Monumentenwacht*, Maintenance services, Rehabilitation guidelines, Awareness forms, and so on. These initiatives are worth exploring and crossing in order to put forward solutions, directions and tools ■



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EUROMED HERITAGE 4 NEWS



LEGAL WORKSHOP 1, PARIS, FRANCE - RMSU 2009



EH 4 PRESENTATION, AMMAN - RMSU 2009



TRAINING WORKSHOP, LEBANON - FOUNDATIONS 2009

RMSU'S UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

This coming term will witness the implementation of many of our activities in support of projects partners. In our first edition of **Connecting**, we have introduced one thematic workshop on "Maintenance and Preventive Conservation", and another one on "Circulation of Objects and Illicit Traffic Regulation". In this edition, we will introduce more of these activities, which have been developed in function of projects' needs and in order to help partners better achieve the EH 4 programme objectives.

We would like to draw our readers' attention to the fact that from each of these activities, we will produce a document of "recommendations", which will be circulated for dissemination among authorities, partners and through the website.

Technical consultancies: a tailored approach to strengthen institutional and legislative frameworks

As a part of its innovative approach to institutional and legislative strengthening, RMSU provides a technical consultancy service directed to authorities in Mediterranean Partner countries. This external consultation with international expertise is available upon official request and can be submitted to RMSU through the EU Delegations in Partner countries.

Short-term technical missions will be planned with the objective of tackling specific institutional or legislative issues complementary to those tackled in the workshops and regional action. It includes adapting regulations and conforming them

to international norms and standards; definition of the linkages between tangible and intangible heritage, and cultural and natural heritage; developing the organisational structures of administrations and technical services; developing methodologies adapted to specific projects, etc... Requests can be introduced by one partner country for consultancy within a national framework, or two or more countries for advice within a regional one. Priority will be given to collective requests.

Implementation of this activity will run between October 2009 and July 2011 ■

For more information:

<http://www.euromedheritage.net/intern.cfm?menuID=8&submenuID=28>

Legal Seminar: Circulation of objects and illicit traffic regulation (9-11 November 2009, Beirut, Lebanon)

This seminar will focus on the management of movable objects from the standpoint of property rights, intellectual rights, etc., and on various aspects of preventive conservation and the fight against illicit traffic. The main objective is to identify problems related to the state of regulations and legislation in the management of collections as well as their circulation, and the role of authorities and institutions in charge of these collections, including ministries, security services, museums, etc.

A discussion of the existing situation in light of new developments in the field and of good practice will provide the basis for a list of recommendations for the participants, who will be invited to ratify international conventions and develop their legislation and services accordingly ■

Training Workshop: Communication without mega budgets and exploitation of results (30 Nov.-3 Dec. 2009, Madrid, Spain)

What is an interesting story? How can I tell it and to whom? How can I make it "stick"?

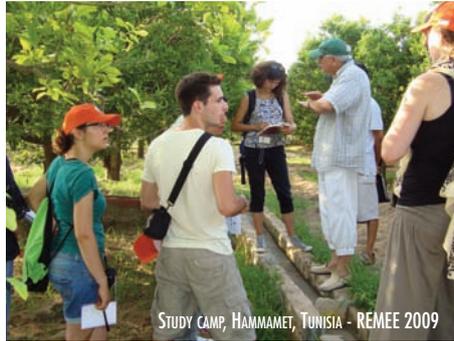
Communication and dissemination are at the core of a successful project and will guarantee its outreach action and sustainability in terms of exploitation of results and continued existence of the project itself beyond its lifetime. Organised in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (WTO), this training will combine principles in good communication (without mega budgets) with definition of possibilities/opportunities for commercialisation of outputs or for awareness and appropriation at various levels of user groups. It will tackle issues such as the production of audiovisual material, printed material, press releases, and websites; the production of "good stories" based on how to rethink one's own project to bring out the most media friendly aspects; potentials of commercialisation using the possibility of printing on demand, multi-media formats; and capturing Intellectual Property in format that would allow their production in a variety of combinations ■

Legal Seminar: Planning regulations and urban rehabilitation (8-9 December 2009, Rabat, Morocco)

Mainly targeting technicians and specialists in the field selected by their respective authorities, this seminar will tackle issues related to norms from the perspective of legislation, organisational structures, and conservation and urban rehabilitation relative to the development



CULTURAL TRIP, LEBANON - FOUNDATIONS 2009



STUDY CAMP, HAMMAMET, TUNISIA - REMEE 2009



WORKSITE, HAMMAMET, TUNISIA - REMEE 2009

of historic cores. It will examine legislative frameworks and processes of decision making and public involvement, and will look into implementation processes, rehabilitation methods and funding mechanisms.

The main objective is to identify problems related to the state of regulations and legislation, and the role of authorities in charge of conservation and rehabilitation and their interaction with the local public. Special attention will be given to good practice in the Euro-Med region and will guide the drafting of the workshop conclusions ■

EH4 PROJECTS ACTIVITIES

Youth involved in discovering and promoting cultural heritage in Jordan and Lebanon

Last August the “Foundations for a strong future” project organised activities of awareness and appropriation directed to youth in Lebanon and Jordan.

72 youths from six regions in Lebanon participated in a trip to discover important cultural heritage sites in Mount Lebanon; they learnt about the history and traditions of their country, prepared and shared traditional food with villagers, and enjoyed recreational activities. The trip included the visit of historical sites such as Deir El Kamar, Beit El Dinn palace, Moussa castle, Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve.

149 youths from both Jordan and Lebanon participated in a training workshop on the production of multimedia projects to promote cultural heritage in their countries. Training included intensive

classes covering scriptwriting, audio, photography, and media print ■

For more information about the project:

http://www.euromedheritage.net/euroshared/doc/FOUNDATIONS_en.pdf

Enhancement of the water heritage in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria

During July and August the REMEE project organised study camps and restoration worksites especially targeting local and European youth. The camp held in Hammamet helped to formulate proposals for a management and museum plan for the development of an educational garden and a model orchard to be implemented in the park of Hammamet Cultural Centre. The resulting work site has led to the promotion of the future garden and helped initiate the development of the future model orchard. A participatory workshop held in Marrakech involved the restoration of the Bab Doukkala fountain located in the heart of the Medina. The intervention focused on the cleaning of the fountain and its vicinity, and restoration of the plastering and the pond. The work camp held in the Algerian region of Tipaza focused on the restoration and preservation of a Roman villa in the archaeological park of Cherchell. The villa will be one of the main stations in a future cultural route ■

For more information about the project:

http://www.euromedheritage.net/euroshared/doc/REMEM_EN.pdf

A step toward the preservation and valorisation of Euro-Mediterranean audiovisual heritage: first “Med-Mem” training in digitisation

Organised by RAI in Turin, Italy, on 21 July 2009, this training on “Digitisation”

involved a presentation of a digital station and its installation and training in its use and the use of the software adapted by the project Med-Mem. It was the first in a series of trainings that will allow technicians and archive managers among partners – COPEAM, EPTV, INA, JRTV, RAI, SNRT – to digitise their collections and regularly nourish the Mem-Med website. It took into consideration the needs of each partner, which will allow Med-Mem to further adapt the software in the coming months ■

For more information about the project:

http://www.euromedheritage.net/euroshared/doc/MEDMEM_en.pdf

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OUR FEATURE OF CHOICE

Monument Watch, a monitoring and maintenance system for cultural (built) heritage in the Flemish region (Belgium)

By LUC VERPOEST, ANOUK STULENS, AND
VEERLE MEUL

Monument Watch prescribes an integral approach, stimulating the conservation of the structural condition of the building or boat as well as of the interior and movable heritage.

Monument Watch in the Netherlands exists since 1973. Monument Watch Flanders, the “umbrella” organisations, strictly non-profit and established under private law, was founded in 1991. In 1992, 5 provincial organisations — each with one team — were operational, increasing to 10 teams in 1995. At present 31 architectural inspectors, 9 interior inspectors and 2 inspectors of Maritime heritage are operational. The Flemish organisation draws largely on the Dutch experiences, in both concept and functionality, but it has gone its own way and is now in constant development. Today, Monument Watch has a subscription for approximately 5300 objects: 40% private ownership, 31% ownership by local authorities, and 29% from church administrations.

Concept

Monument Watch operates simultaneously on two levels: through immediate action on specific buildings (the short term); through awareness to create change in mentality with regards to the conservation of cultural heritage (medium or long term). The notion “from knowledge comes care” is successfully implemented, on the one hand

by inspections, on the other by workshops, seminars and publications. Its central concept is based on the old adage “prevention is better than cure”. The basic assumption is that, with the exception of disasters (such as fire, earthquakes, war, ...) monuments decay gradually and that, very often, major damage is the result of minor damage that hasn’t been taken care of in due time. Regular attention and maintenance can slow down the process of decay (or -in some specific cases - even partially prevent it).

In Flanders, **Monument Watch does not limit its action to listed monuments.** It is generally accepted that, while only 10 000 buildings have up to now been listed, a total of between 30 000 to 40 000 are worth listing. Monument Watch offers its services to all (historically) valuable buildings within the Flemish Region, both listed and unlisted. To date, approximately 40% of the buildings that have been submitted for inspection are not listed (yet).

Regular maintenance requires constant up-to-date knowledge of the condition of the building and its needs, and Monument Watch offers services as an independent advisory body to owners and administrators of buildings, who usually are not qualified. It has a permanent staff of carefully recruited staff, including architects and interior specialists, and since 2008 a specialised team for Maritime heritage, adequately equipped and constantly trained teams.

On invitation, the team visits the object of inspection and makes a thorough survey. An inspection of the building from attic to cellar, in and out, with special attention to places that are less accessible but at the same time sensitive to decay (roofs, gutters...) is carried out. The interior specialist inspects wall and floor coverings, ceilings, furniture, paintings, sculpture, textiles and metal objects. The boat specialist applies the same methodology for the structural analysis of a historic boat. The survey results in a complete status report of the object, together with indications concerning measures to be carried out in the immediate future or to be planned in the medium term... Thus, the



INSPECTION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ANTWERP, MONUMENTENWACHT 2009

owner or administrator, informed in due time, can turn to an architect, a contractor and/or (art)conservator of his own choice. As a general principle these surveys will be carried out every two or three years.

This **proactive approach** has helped attract membership of approximately 5300 buildings. Since the start of the operation, 43 specialized “monument watchers” have carried out almost 12 000 architectural inspections and 1 100 interior inspections. The **voluntary nature of membership** is of the upmost importance, starting from the personal engagement of the owner and thus guaranteeing a commitment to regular and adequate maintenance of the object in question.

Raise awareness

Parallel to its immediate – in the field – action, Monument Watch tries to **encourage a fundamental change in mentality**: from a purely curative approach towards a more preventive one. To this purpose Monument Watch establishes relationships with the authorities concerned and their administrations, as well as with scientific institutions or research centres that deal with architectural conservation. It participates in a number of initiatives designed to promote (socially supported) conservation and the regular maintenance of cultural heritage. For its members, it publishes several topical informative brochures each year and organises or participates in seminars.

Financing, economic impact and relationships with the established actors

Approximately 10 % of Monument Watch income is generated through subscription and inspection fees. The individual owner or administrator pays for services rendered below the real cost: an annual subscription fee of 40 euro per object plus inspection fees of 26,18 euro (incl. VAT) per person per consultation hour. The remaining funds are raised through subsidies from both the provincial (53%) and Flemish authorities (37%).



COMMUNICATION ON THE SPOT BY AN INTERIOR INSPECTOR, MONUMENTENWACHT 2009

Monument Watch has made considerable efforts to show to both architects and building contractors that it is not a competitor. What Monument Watch does simply wasn't done before. Since, through the status reports, the attention of the owner or administrator is drawn to the needs, Monument Watch actually generates work.

However, it is not obvious to calculate the actual benefits of its action. Internal statistics show a gradual improvement of the condition of the subscribed objects. In addition, 46% of the maintenance grants of the Flemish Community have been attributed based on a status report of Monument Watch. More and more frequently, restoration architects call upon the services of Monument Watch as a supplementary instrument in establishing the scope of work to be carried out. Monument Watch is therefore confident that before long it will see the emergence of a genuine "maintenance market" for historic buildings. For now, **the problem is finding a building contractor sufficiently qualified, who is ready/willing/able to carry out (rather modest?) maintenance work.**

An additional service which Monument Watch is developing is to provide tailored Maintenance plan with cost calculation. This instrument is the key for long-term maintenance and can be used by the owner and the contractor to determine a maintenance contract.

The Flemish government has the intention of using the latter to award a new grant system.

Condition surveys and status reports

In conservation and maintenance planning, the reports of Monument Watch are crucial documents, but the list of strategies is often overwhelming. Usually, there are not enough local resources (financial, staff, ...) to deal with them all at once. Also, a condition survey does not always allow sharp prioritising of conservation strategies. Indeed, the actual state of an object is not always immediately related to the urgency

of response. For instance, a statue which is broken into pieces: from the perspective of preventive conservation, an intervention may not be urgent. On the other hand, the bad condition of a small flake of paint could call for immediate action to prevent further damage. Similarly, environmental data does not immediately allow prioritising. How worrying are the quantified data? And what is most urgent: install UV-screens on windows, climate control, pest management or fire detection?

Maintenance and conservation planning cannot happen effectively without reasoned prioritisation. From the perspective of preventive conservation, this should be based on the notion of risk for loss of heritage (not only on the actual state). An application of the principles of Cultural Heritage Risk Management (as developed by ICC-CCI, ICCROM, ICN and CMN) can facilitate expressing magnitudes of future risks. Monument Watch considers introducing a priority ranking based on four parameters. Firstly, the effect of consequential damage of defects and of the agents of deterioration on heritage will be evaluated. Secondly, a health and safety indicator will be introduced: are people, inhabitants and users at risk when maintenance and actions are deferred? Thirdly, the frequency or speed of development of the expected future loss is graded. (Is it stable or not? How fast or how often will further loss happen?). A fourth parameter is the heritage significance of the affected heritage element. What is its relative importance to the significance of the whole ensemble? One usually wants a paint flake on a Rubens painting to provoke a faster response than the same flaking on a lesser valued painting. In the past, this was occasionally and implicitly incorporated in the condition scores by the assessors, making those ambiguous. Currently, Monument Watch wants to make this value assessment explicit by introducing a sliding scale of relative importance as a priority parameter. It is a (small) step towards values-based conservation decision making.

In 2007, Monument Watch started a pilot project to build a database (MAKSin) for recording all the assessment information from interior inspections, with the aim to

reduce the recording and reporting time of the assessors; diversify input (recording) and output (reporting); enable tailored and diversified reporting (related to target group); make assessment data of all 5200 member buildings uniform and searchable for research; and improve its methodology by merging condition and damage assessment with environmental monitoring and risk assessment.

This database will serve the application of risk and values-based prioritising of the recommendations. Local care, maintenance and conservation strategies will focus more on the management of change of heritage significance. And scarce resources can be allocated primarily to what is at greatest risk and most valued ■

For more information:
www.monumentenwacht.be

A TALK WITH... REMEE Rediscovering water heritage and the Mediterranean landscape



MONIEUX, FRANCE - APARE 2007



MARRAKECH, MAROC, FONTAINE BAB DOUKKALA - M. GUARY 2009



VAUCLUSE, FRANCE, TERRASSES OLIVIERS - APARE 2003

For centuries, an entire landscape has been harmoniously shaped around the water heritage of the Mediterranean and where human activity, based on practices and traditional knowledge, developed in equilibrium with nature. All this may now disappear with serious consequences for the environment and the communities in the region. However, a mobilising action is possible: *Matthieu Guary*, head of international actions at APARE and project Coordinator of *REMEE – rediscovering together the water heritage in the Mediterranean region* – brings us concrete actions for the maintenance and enhancement of this heritage, and this unique blessing, water.

In what context was REMEE's project conceived, and what needs does it intend to meet?

From the experience we gained in the preservation of dry stone heritage related to water management and environmental education, we realised that working on water heritage means working on problems related to the management of both the resource and the ecology. Water management is a crucial issue but not easy to tackle, especially when it is presented in demoralising terms of endangerment and the pressure of shortages. However, through the perspective of heritage conservation this issue becomes more understandable, and enables an easier mobilisation of civil society and youth in particular, for example through educational programmes which allow to link water heritage to good practices in management and environmental education.

On what type of heritage assets do you focus your actions and in what country?

We will work mainly on the vernacular heritage rather than on the

monumental heritage, which is more dramatic, such as aqueducts and ancient Roman baths and gardens that we can find in Granada or in Marrakesh. This heritage is strongly present in the Mediterranean region, and is linked to ancestral and local customs and the control of water in urban areas – steam-baths, fountains – and rural areas – irrigation canals, wells, cisterns, fogaras, etc. Our work takes place in France, Greece, southern Turkey, but especially in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

What is the current situation of the water heritage in the Mediterranean area?

In the north the risk of its disappearance is imminent, with the notable exception of landscapes with cultivated terraces, which mainly hold the water in arid lands and block erosion. In the south this heritage is still operative but the modernisation of agriculture in rural areas and the changing lifestyles in urban areas – such as the development of water supply in apartments, although an improvement, it has led up to the disappearance of collective uses and fountains – puts it at risk too. REMEE will enhance community

practices related to water and forestall the complete loss of the memory associated with water management techniques and irrigation tailored to a particular terrain, systems of flood prevention, etc.

How will REMEE contribute to the establishment of an effective strategy for preventive conservation?

I can give you an example. We are currently developing in Marrakesh a restoration project of a fountain, with the help of local craftsmen to enable them to change practices that are not appropriate for the proper management of water resources or dangerous to the use of the fountain: this will contribute to a better conservation of the fountain over time. We will educate the local community (users, hammam owners, the municipality) on how to reconcile conservation with the modernisation of the hydraulic system of this heritage, and involve it in the process of developing eco-labels that would guarantee the appropriate conditions for maintaining a symbol of the Medina of Marrakesh whilst at the same time contributing to a better management of water resources and the reduction of waste. It is important to associate heritage to domestic or agricultural uses, and to educate users of this heritage and help them discover the links between heritage conservation and renovating its function.

What type of awareness campaign are you planning?

First, we are planning for a transnational educational programme, targeting young people between ages 10 and 16 and that can mobilise at least a hundred youth from each of the eight areas in which we work: the theme is the rediscovery of water heritage and of its links with the development of the territory through history. The activity will be implemented mainly in schools but also in cooperation with youth centres, cultural centres and local associations. Second, we will organise participatory activities such as meetings and public surveys targeting communities, which we have already started. In the four pilot areas (Hammamet, Marrakesh, Tamseloh, Tipaza), we have planned high visibility actions aimed at local communities and tourists: the creation of an eco-museum of the "orange orchards" of Hammamet will help enhance the history of agricultural and arboriculture in the region, its landscape and heritage, as well as a garden designed to highlight good practices in water management related to the traditional culture of the orange trees. We will also organise exhibitions, educational trails and an anthology of stories and traditions about water practices in the region of Tipaza. Finally, a touring exhibition will present the results of the project: in Corsica it will be incorporated into the creation of a Maison Régionale de l'Eau, a regional centre dedicated to the traditional use of water. Meanwhile we organise voluntary work camps mobilising local communities to help put into practice what is learned during these activities.

What do you wish to achieve by the end of the project?

That all partners in the project understand the stakes of mobilisation: community involvement in the development of

heritage is not only possible and consistent with carrying on living on one's own territory, but also necessary in order to realise concrete and useful actions. The valorisation of water heritage can lead to a rediscovery of the territory and, in the future, to a development of sustainable rural and ecological tourism that would contribute to the economic wealth of communities, through developing an appropriate infrastructure that counters the trend of mass tourism with its large hotel structures, often favoured by governments in Tunisia and Morocco. Finally, we would like to broaden our scope of action to new regions and new countries to capture the attention of Mediterranean citizens, making them aware that the preservation of the water heritage of the Mediterranean area may be linked to safeguarding water resources in the region ■

Interviewed by: Giuliano Salis

For more information about the project:

http://www.euromedheritage.net/euroshared/doc/REMEE_EN.pdf



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A TALK WITH... MONTADA

Participation, a powerful tool for conservation of traditional Mediterranean architecture



KAIROUAN, TUNISIA - X. CASANOVAS 2007



GHARDAIA, ALGERIA, MARKET SQUARE - X. CASANOVAS 2008

Traditional houses make the charm of historic centres and contribute to the unfolding of social activities within the communities. Increased awareness of this heritage and the involvement of people in its management are essential tools for preventive conservation.

Xavier Casanovas, Professor at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and Coordinator of the Montada project – Forum for the promotion of traditional architecture in the Maghreb, tells us how...

Montada represents a new step in a journey started before: could you tell us more?

Montada falls in the wake of other projects realized in previous phases of Euromed Heritage. After the identification and classification of traditional Mediterranean architecture and construction techniques associated to it (Corpus and Corpus Levant - EH I), we developed an integrated method of conservation, including the development of tools and techniques for conservation and rehabilitation (Rehabimed - EH III). The current project will now proceed to the creation of a participatory model for heritage management and its promotion as a factor for local development, and putting in place a public awareness campaign that aims towards the appropriation of their heritage by the populations.

What is the current situation of traditional architecture in the region?

Traditional architecture involves inhabited houses as opposed to monumental heritage, and as such, is at risk of disappearing, especially in southern countries. Indeed, it is not protected by specific legislation and there are no specific measures to support

people undertake its rehabilitation or its maintenance and conservation. When a home becomes uninhabitable, the general policy adopted by the authorities is to leave the house to collapse and move its inhabitants into new buildings built on the outskirts of cities. This is, moreover, what people prefer, since they associate these assets with decay and poverty. Raising the consciousness of decision makers and the populations to the cultural value of this heritage and its great economic potential is therefore urgent.

What other phenomena are behind people's distancing and lack of interest in this heritage?

People who currently live in historic houses are generally not their original inhabitants: they come from the countryside with a culture and practices different from those of the city – outdoor living, living in close contact with animals, etc. As result, these people have a weak attachment to the heritage in which they live. We are also witnessing the phenomenon of gentrification: a population with higher financial means returning to inhabit the historic centres where one finds architectural elements that cannot be found elsewhere, and carrying out renovations that are sometimes spectacular, as in the case of Marrakech. The direct consequence

is an increased standard of living and general hike in prices, which forces people with lower incomes to move elsewhere.

In which areas is the project implemented?

We aim particularly at six cities of the Maghreb, which represent as many situations: Salé and Marrakech in Morocco, Dellys and Ghardaia in Algeria, Kairouan and Sousse in Tunisia. We can encounter there a variety of situations resulting from pressures due to tourism development, or the collapse and abandonment of a large number of down-town houses because of an earthquake, or examples of appropriate measures for conservation as in the M'Zab Valley (Algeria). This diversity allows us to obtain the information necessary to draw generalisations and transfer the experience to other cities in the countries in question, or in other Mediterranean countries.

People's participation in the conservation process is at the heart of your approach: what are the actions you will achieve and by what means?

In each city we will create a local forum called "The city, a living heritage": it involves a working team which will be responsible for the stimulation of a public debate and the elaboration and management of activities, and which will ensure safeguarding their sustainability. The forum consists of local partners and representatives of local and national administrations, and it will get the technical and scientific support from EIDEM, a multidisciplinary team of international experts in the field of heritage, handicrafts, tourism, mediation and cultural activities. We are considering specific actions, such as meetings and public debates involving neighbourhood and shopkeepers associations, or public surveys, etc., which should allow us to determine the perception and opinion that people have about their heritage. In parallel, an integrated process of rehabilitation will be implemented: EIDEM will analyse the collected information and will formulate guidance and technical advice, which it will submit to local and national bodies, which will carry out urban interventions immediately or in the future. Based on the needs identified in each city, we will organise specific awareness activities, and training in rehabilitation, various craftsmanship, cultural tourism and its promotion, and the creation of cultural activities, etc. These target current and future professionals. This approach will allow us to capitalise to the maximum on the knowledge gained and allow appropriate actors to transmit it in a stronger and more sustainable manner.

What other activities, including awareness, will you implement?

We are planning urban cultural initiatives such as theme parties, heritage routes, itineraries, as well as conferences or public meetings. In Sousse, for example, there was the tradition of making soap from the oil produced in the region. We could well imagine creating an itinerary of artisans, explaining their work and technique, and identify artisans still active and disseminate their activity, and hold a fair based on this tradition and link it to the

"Soap Days of Sousse"... The purpose of these activities is to educate people who do not always realise that their city has an important asset to protect and enhance, and from which they can benefit, both culturally and economically. We have also planned for educational activities in at least four schools per city, where we will create an educational tool involving children, parents and teachers from other schools. The result of all these activities implemented through the project will be presented in national meetings and at an international conference, which will increase their impact, dissemination and sustainability.

What do you wish to achieve by the end of the project?

Help change public and all stakeholders attitude towards traditional architecture, by making them understand that this heritage can become a tool for sustainable economic development, managed by a system of shared governance. Through the experience we gained with Rehabimed, we realised that people are looking for more involvement, which makes us confident about the results expected with Montada ■

Interviewed by: Giuliano Salis

For more information about the project: http://www.euromedheritage.net/euroshared/doc/MONTADA_en.pdf



FES, MOROCCO - X. CASANOVAS 1990

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A PERSPECTIVE ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

Inventories, tools for preventive conservation

BY JEAN-LOUIS LUXEN, LEGAL EXPERT OF RMSU

The establishment of inventories is the very first step toward a policy of heritage conservation. It is about identifying the cultural properties and to protect and to record their characteristics and values. International standards have been adopted - in particular the index card called "Object ID" - that allow a common method of identification and a communication between the departments responsible for the protection of the heritage, both within the country and internationally. According to the human and material means available, the inventories can start from an elementary basis and improve continuously.

The Paris workshop, organised by RMSU in December 2008*, has clarified the evolution of the inventories according to the extension of the definition of "heritage", to cover, for example, the cultural landscape, the intangible heritage or recent architecture. It has explored new possibilities of communication between the departments and remote consultation that new technologies allow. Furthermore, by recommending the addition of information on each intervention on cultural goods, the workshop has recommended the insertion of the inventories in a broader process of systematic documentation on heritage ("Heritage information"), whether non-movable or movable, tangible or intangible, natural or cultural.

If inventories are a tool for knowledge about heritage, they also contribute to its preventive conservation. It is clear, for example, that inventories are very important for the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural goods. Already, during the recording of the data, the value and the risk of robbery or damage can be highlighted. Moreover, the information available in an inventory, the detailed description of the item and its picture, are essential data to start off a police and customs investigation as per international agreements.

At the stage of inventory taking, one should, as far as possible, indicate risks of any sort that could affect the heritage, in the view of taking appropriate measures. Whenever necessary, eventual interventions in conservation/restoration can be specified beforehand within a timeframe, with the understanding that any intervention be subject to detailed documentation. Such measures allow foreseeing conservation measures and monitoring their implementation.

Works of art or manuscripts displayed or stored in museums will be treated according to directives for their proper preservation, as indicated in their inventories. In the field of archaeology, the identification of sites allows the planning of excavation programmes. As for natural heritage, its study serves as a reference for management planning in the short or long term. Preservation and rehabilitation actions on architectural heritage can be programmed according to urban planning options or regional planning. The promotion of intangible heritage will receive a specific kind of attention. Thus we see that preventive conservation measures should start with inventory taking; it is even more necessary in situations with potential risks of natural disasters, armed conflict or occupation of territories.

In most cases, a large corpus of information is a guarantee for heritage preservation onto itself, and can draw general attention to the precautions necessary for the proper preservation of cultural or natural properties. Archaeological sites are the only exception because they have to be identified before any protective measures can be taken.

In the case of theft or illicit traffic, communication is an absolute priority. Through the new technologies put in place, it presupposes good compatibility of information systems. This issue will be discussed at our next workshop on illicit traffic of cultural goods, next November.

Given the diversity of the categories of heritage, the trend is towards a decentralisation in the upkeep of inventories, in function of specialisations and territorial demarcations (government



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services, universities or research centres, museums, archaeological sites, libraries, etc....). This decentralisation requires strong coordination by the public authorities of each country, coordination which is consistent, as far as possible, with the methodologies and tools of communication advocated by international conventions and recommendations. This harmonisation is part and parcel of the preservation efforts and takes into account the increasing circulation of people and goods.

The resources available for the establishment and regular updating of inventories vary for each country. In any case, the task is endless and beyond the capacity of one particular country. That is why international cooperation, beginning at the regional level, is already a preventive measure all to itself. In the era of globalisation, prevention must also be global. The Mediterranean basin, with its particular physical characteristics and its common history, offers therefore an adequate framework to promote its rich common heritage and its interconnected inventories would serve its preventive conservation and its preservation ■

*For more information:

<http://www.euromedheritage.net/intern.cfm?lng=en&menuID=8>



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BEST PICTURES



ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT - C. GIORDANO 2009



CALANDA, SPAIN - X. CASANOVAS 2009



GENOA, ITALY - G. SALIS 2007



RABAT, MOROCCO - C. GRAZ 2009



SIWA, EGYPT - COSPE 2008



DAMASCUS, SYRIA - C. GRAZ 2009

These pictures are an array of the best images collected within the Euromed Heritage programme to show the richness of the Mediterranean cultural heritage. In the coming months the RMSU will launch a Photography Award contributing to awareness-raising of cultural heritage in the region. The awarded photos will be published on this section as well as on the EH 4 website Photo Gallery: <http://www.euromedheritage.net/intern.cfm?lng=en&menuID=88>

MISCELLANEOUS

Our selected quotation

“Everything must be recaptured and relocated in the general framework of history, so that despite the difficulties, the fundamental paradoxes and contradictions, we may respect the unity of history which is also the unity of life” *Fernand Braudel (1902-1985)*

We cannot think of the Mediterranean without thinking of Fernand Braudel and his monumental work on the Mediterranean, and yet he was the one who affirmed that there is no single Mediterranean sea! Through his approach, he drew attention to what happens beyond the boundaries of this “complex” sea and that affect its environment, its social and cultural history, and its events, politics and people.

What's on



International Symposium “Valeurs universelles, valeurs locales ; pour qui, pour quoi un site est-il grand ?”, 15-16 October 2009, France

This conference will give managers of cultural heritage sites from France and abroad the opportunity to discuss for two days the issue of shared values between the sites they manage: values lived by the inhabitants, values consecrated by national and international experts and cultural heritage institutions (UNESCO), and values gauged by the growing number of visitors and tourists. Through concrete accounts from site managers, field actors and inhabitants, and observations of experts, this conference aims to identify the conditions that would establish and sustain a dialogue on the values of major cultural heritage sites.

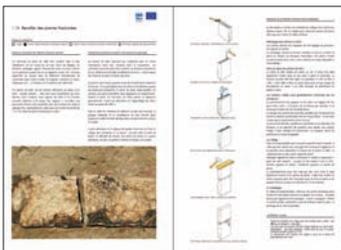
For more information: http://france.icomos.org/fr/news/2009-10/1-actualites_d_icomos/7-colloque_international.htm

Reader's corner

Rehabilitation guidebooks

During Corpus Levant project (Euromed Heritage I), the *Ecole d'Avignon* and the *Col·legi d'Aparelladors i Arquitectes Tècnics de Barcelona* (CAATB) experimented with their Mediterranean partners in the formulation of a model guidebook on maintenance and rehabilitation of traditional architecture “Manuel pour l'entretien et la réhabilitation de l'architecture traditionnelle”. Presented in a simple summary format – a file with A4 sheets printed on both sides with an introduction and awareness booklet to go with it- this guidebook listed the main pathologies identified in the traditional built heritage of Syria and Lebanon: illustrated description of the work, the problem, and the method for mending it, essentially based on traditional know-how and local resources. This model, “invented” with the support of Euromed Heritage, has since been developed and adapted on a local scale, taking into

account the specificities of local architecture, first to the Old City of Jerusalem for UNESCO, and more recently to the historic city of Jeddah (Saudi Arabia). This user-friendly and educational guidebook is essentially a technical tool and was created for basic training of local teams working in rehabilitation of built structures. For more information: <http://www.medecorpus.net/fr/index.jsp?op=40202000>



Our Agenda

RMSU events

- 9-11 November 2009 - Beirut, Lebanon
Legal seminar: Circulation of objects and illicit traffic regulation
- 22-24 November 2009 - Ghardaïa, Algeria
Thematic workshop: Preventive conservation and Maintenance
- 30 Nov.-3 Dec. 2009 - Madrid, Spain
Training workshop: Communication without mega budgets and exploitation of results
- 8-9 December 2009 - Rabat, Morocco
Legal seminar: Planning regulations and urban rehabilitation

International Events

- “Land of contrasts” photo competition
EU Delegation to Egypt
Deadline for applications: 12 October 2009
http://www.engpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id_type=1&id=19326&lang_id=450
- 15-16 October 2009, ICOMOS France
International Symposium “Valeurs universelles, valeurs locales”
<http://www.euromedheritage.net/euroshared/doc/ICOMOS%20France%20colloque.pdf>
- 22-23 October 2009 - Banja Luka, Republic Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Regional Conference: The assessment and the necessity of prioritizing in the protection of cultural and natural heritage
http://www.bihheritageconvention.org/index_en.html
- 3-14 January 2010 - Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
ATHAR-documentation of heritage sites in the Arab Region
Deadline for applications: 5 October 2009
http://www.icrom.org/eng/01train_en/announce_en/2010_01AthorUAE_en.shtml
- 3-21 May 2010 - Tyre, Lebanon
ATHAR-MOSAIKON: conservation and management of mosaics on archaeological sites
Deadline for applications: 30 November 2009
http://www.icrom.org/eng/01train_en/announce_en/2010_05AthorLB_en.shtml

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