

methods and materials /mostly clay-bricks/ at that time. One example of their architecture is the crypt at Ripon. But the Norman period was the most important one for the creation of the English cathedrals and had a strong influence on the following building periods. When the Normans settled in England the country had already been Christian for 400 years and the Anglo-Saxon period was in a decline. They were the greatest builders of their time not only in Normandy and England, but in Pulia and Sicily too. The buildings became much lighter, the decoration richer and the masonry better.

Unfortunately, it is not easy to obtain an accurate picture of the Norman cathedral owing to fires, faulty building methods and changing needs. During the Gothic period many Norman churches were ruined and later repaired. Their Norman look vanished forever together with their original carved and painted decorations. Surviving evidence has been blurred by later modifications and restorations. The documentation about it, mostly in Latin, is extremely incomplete and is found in the libraries as far away as Copenhagen, Rome or New York.

The cathedral in Durham is an incomparable masterpiece of Romanesque architecture not only in England. The preservation of the original Norman building is unusually complete. Durham was stone-vaulted from the outset. Its construction took 40 years with every part of the nave and transept vaulted. It was a prodigious achievement at that time and its vaults are the earliest high-level ribbed vaults in Europe. But the oldest example is St. Albans and other Norman works can be still seen in another famous English cathedral Winchester.

The nave of the typical English cathedral has often an immense length. It provides a place for plenty of altarpieces. In these cathedrals one usually finds a rood screen and a pulpitum too. Their functions were entirely different.

The rood screen was a development of the rood beam. Its purpose was to support the Great Rod or Crucifix, which was flanked by figures of the Virgin Mary and St. John. The rood screen was one of the most conspicuous objects of every medieval church interior. It was pierced of two doorways - used for processions to the either side of the altar, which was placed centrally against the

western facade. The screen was mostly of wood, St. Albans is the only cathedral where the rood screen in which it is still preserved.

The pulpitum was also a transverse screen. Its purpose was quite different, with no specifically religious significance. It was a solid massive erection several feet thick, nearly always of stone, pierced by a central opening with doors. All the English cathedrals, whether

monastic or secular, originally once had their pulpitum. The pulpitum aided to conduct services. It is possible to compare it to an iconostasis of the churches of the Greek Orthodox faith.

On the Continent the east end of the cathedral was usually apsidal. The apse was surrounded by a processional path known as the ambulatory. There it was a custom to add a series of projecting chapels for the location of secondary altars. The English cathedrals have mostly flat east ends. The ambulatory is seldom seen.

The English cathedrals are buildings characterized by great divergencies of style. If the stylistic variation is a typical mark for the English cathedrals, the French cathedrals, for example, are characterized by their stylistic purity.

At the conclusion it is possible to say, that the most distinctive characteristic of the English cathedrals are

- the long nave
- the flat east end
- the towers and spires.

The book about the English cathedrals gave me the clear idea, how I will present the topic of my thesis – the Spis belfries. I was interesting in the methodology of the English cathedrals in the book. I want to use the similar process of the presentation of the Spis belfries in my work. The basic aim of my thesis is to create their historical and building evolution. The important point of my work is the history of whole Spis history. It can be helpfull for understanding all professional problems, which I met during my study of the topic with. The written part of my work will be supported by pictures and plans. The most important part of the thesis will be hypothetic reconstruction of the Spis belfries at the different historical periods.

I hope my thesis about the Spis belfries will bring some usefull progress of understanding their evolution and importance according to the history of whole Spis region.

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Restoration of Mansions

I am a graduate student at the Monument Preservation and Historic Site Design Department, Faculty of Architecture. I graduated in 1996. Presently I am preparing my thesis. The topic of the thesis is „The Restoration of Mansions“ and my tutor is Mr. Hlinický.

The objective of this thesis is evaluation of principles and methods for the mansion restoration from several points of view. One of the most essential is the aspect of the functional usage. The next essential points of

view are structural interventions to those buildings (to the interior, exterior and lay-out, as well as to close surroundings). The next aspect is the engineering condition of the mansions. Then it is the preservation of the surroundings. Important point of view is also the knowledge of the mansions. It can be acquired primarily by research and survey. The last one is the field of legal ownership rights. These are the most important aspects for the unbiased evaluation of the principles and methods, applicable for the mansion restoration.

I will further explain my thesis structure.

The thesis consists of four basic successive parts.

In Part One I want to concentrate on contemporary conditions of the mansions in Slovakia and collect information about the mansion engineering status. The next point of interest is their functional usage and legal ownership rights. I will pay attention to collecting information on archaeological research, structural and historical research and other survey activities and also their identified cultural and historical values. I will also collect information about structural interventions to these buildings, implemented in the previous restorations, as well as information on the condition of close surroundings.

In Part Two I want to analyse and interpret the collected information and data about the conditions of the mansions in Slovakia. This part will also be devoted to the assessment of the ways applied in the Slovak mansion restoration, strong and weak points of this process. It will be a confrontation of ways, procedures and methods of the Slovak mansion restoration and those used abroad.

In Part Three I want to define basic problems of the mansion restoration. These problems will result from analysis and evaluation of the factors that determine or/and limit this type of restoration, such as: the functional usage, the presentation of the cultural and historical values, the claims of the mansion owners, the funding needs for the restoration, and the preservation level of the mansions and the site.

In Part Four I want to evaluate the cardinal issues. The outcome of this part, as well as of the whole thesis, will be defining the principles and ideas that will indicate optimal ways for the mansion restoration. The defined principles and ideas must take into account factors that determine or/and limit this kind of restoration and unique features of these historical buildings that also influence the restoration process.

Before I start to analyse the published papers in detail, I would like to point out a linguistic problem related to the term „castle“. Under the common term „castles“ there are understood in some countries: mansions or manor houses, as well as all sorts of fortifications, palaces and castles. One of the examples of the term „castle“ is its

generic application for all the above mentioned buildings in Slovenia.

The book I chose as my resource material is a summary of papers presented on the 1996 Tusnad Symposium. The Symposium dealt with theory and practice of the monument rehabilitation. It focused on the fate of the mansions, manor houses and castles in Central and Eastern Europe.

This publication includes many papers from Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, Great Britain and Yugoslavia. The most papers are devoted to the fate of the mansions and castles, their history, usage and condition in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia over the past sixty years. Other papers concentrate on research and survey of these buildings, as well as their restoration and adaptation for their adequate functional usage. Several papers refer to the heritage protection and its problems in some countries. Some papers inform about interesting projects, connected with the preservation of the cultural heritage.

In this publication we can find also other information, related to: the archives research of the mansion documentation, condition of the close surrounding of the mansions, as well as possibilities of a suitable functional usage of the mansions today, or work of the National Trust in the North Wales.

A special problem, described in the papers, are the contemporary conditions of the original structures, constructions, and the reasons for those conditions, as well as structural restoration. One of the papers tries to answer the question: „What is better?“ Mansions without any usage and with original structures and elements, yet abandoned, or mansions not abandoned but misused. In some papers there are comments about foundations for saving the mansions and castles. On the other hand, also references about endangered and ruined buildings can be found.

The fate of the mansions in Slovakia after the World War II, like in other post-totalitarian countries, has not been very lucky, because the mansions lost their original owners and usage.

Among the mansions and castles that survived the war only those could be protected that have altered their usage before the war. They were used either as museums or summer residences for high officials. For example: the mansion in Topoľčianky was the summer residence of the Czechoslovak President. These special mansions and castles were protected up to a point even during the war. Almost 255 mansions were damaged during the war, others, about 450, were looted when the war was over.

Although as early as 1945 the Government pronounced its intention to save the castles and mansions, it didn't succeed in doing so. Only a part of furniture that was

transferred to regional museums has been rescued. Mansions became a state property and their new administrators were agricultural state enterprises in most cases. They treated them the way they wanted. The ways the mansions were used in Slovakia after the World War II can be classified as follows: museums, art galleries, other cultural institutions (cinemas, culture houses) schools, social institutions (asylums for elderly, orphanages) emergency lodgings, headquarters of agricultural enterprises, storage houses, granaries, stables, garages, etc.

During that period not only mansions were damaged, but also their surroundings. We cannot see them only as separate buildings without their surroundings. In cases when the surroundings have kept their authenticity and remained well preserved in a sustainable environment, the value of the preserved buildings is higher.

There are more problems with the surroundings of the mansions, if they are not located in preserved areas. There are different conditions in big and rich settlements compared to small and poor ones. The urban planning documentation of all degrees of the socialist era had no respect for the preservation of the mansion sites with the exception of protected territories. The economical and social targets were given higher priority than the monument preservation.

In some settlements agricultural buildings have been built near the mansions or inside a garden or park that once surrounded the buildings. For example, on the site of the Šaca mansion a big farm has been established. A portion of the Nitrianska Blatnica mansion site has also been transformed into a farm.

In some cases all the original surroundings of the mansion have been damaged, for example in the renaissance Bošany mansion, where high-rise housing has been built in its neighbourhood.

Original fencing was sometimes destroyed or removed and new fences are often unsuitable for the historical architecture. This is the case of the Šimonovany mansion or the classicist one in Bošany.

Other problem is the destroying of the original service buildings that in many cases have been situated near the mansions. Their removal means a substantial disruption of their surroundings.

In some mansion parks new buildings have been built with no architectural value. For example garages, storage facilities, etc.

Another problem is the unsuitable replacement of the surfaces of the mansion areas. The old pavement or original surface of the paths had been removed and replaced by asphalt.

The owners, as well as administrators, did not have experts nor enough means for the care of the parks and

gardens. This is why some owners have tried to sell the mansion along with the park.

The fate of the mansions in other East European countries after the World War II has been practically the same as in Slovakia. These mansions lost their original usage and original owners. This situation is closely connected with change of the social and political system in all of the Eastern Europe. Many mansions have been abandoned and began to decay. For example in some cases in Hungary or Romania this process resulted in final destruction. In Slovenia 70% of the castles, mansions and manor houses have been heavily damaged by war operations and fires in the World War II. The mansions in these countries were generally nationalised and then their functional usage was mostly unsuitable. This trend is very similar to the situation in Slovakia.

The reasons for this situation:

In Eastern Europe:

- Damage in war conflicts (WWII)
- Discontinuity of the original functional usage after the WWII, with subsequently unsuitable functional usage + inadequate attention and shortage of funds for the maintenance

In Western Europe:

- Damage in war conflicts (WWII)
- Lack of maintenance funding
- Modernisation of the properties
- Natural disasters

Yet the continuity of the functional usage in Western Europe has never been interrupted to such a degree as was the case in Central and Eastern Europe.

One of the most interesting papers in the above mentioned publication is devoted to the conservation programme for one of the Slovenian castles. This programme is realised by a non-lucrative foundation. The owners enter with a donation of land and buildings (keeping the right for spending holiday in the castle each year) and the state will elaborate the management policy of the foundation. The conservation programme includes several parts. The first part is devoted to the survey and research. The second part is devoted to the synthesis of data and making conclusions. The next part includes a foundation management plan. The last part is focused on the project implementation.

Part one - survey and research

Comprising:

1. Research of archives and documents.
2. Photographic documentation of the present situation (surroundings, exteriors, interiors, details, inventory).
3. 3D terrestrial photogrammetry of the site.
4. Photographic and photogrammetric recording of interiors with additional 3D model processing.

5. Establishment of permanent monitoring of the structural changes and material deformation. Preliminary proof of seismic safety.
6. Survey of surfaces with IR recordings and interpretation of results.
7. Taking down the remains of frescoes in central tower.
8. 3D construction of the historical complex and surroundings.
9. Structural tests of the 3D numeric model
10. Necessary reinforcement of the structures.
11. Taking samples and laboratory analyses.
12. Starting systematic archaeological excavation in the inner court.
13. Cleaning of ruins (on the northern side of the rampart).
14. Moat area research and definition of the late medieval site area.

Part two - synthesis of data and conclusions

Comprising:

1. Definition of architectural phases, evaluation of quality and presentation conception.
2. Decision about elements to be eliminated.
3. Programme of functional entirety by floors and connection in a spatial model.
4. Definition of exacting details for expert restoration treatment.
5. Test model of necessary infrastructure supplements (water, sewage system, gas, electricity, phone, heating, ventilation).
6. Forming of final conditions for carrying out all kinds of works.
7. Establishing future monitoring plan of materials and structural elements.

Part three - plan of control and effective management of the foundation

Comprising:

1. Interactivity of all individual programmes.
2. Necessary personnel formatting qualification and further improvement.
3. Financial operations of the non-lucrative foundation.
4. Public relations.
5. Principles of successful marketing.

Part four - project implementation

Comprising:

1. Conservationist control over the development of the project work.
2. Agreement on the final project.
3. Obtaining building permit, legalisation of permanent conservation control.
4. Execution of works and permanent conservation control.
5. Supplement of conservation principles.
6. Taking over the building.

7. Defining monitoring system and execution of the controls.

8. The foundation begins to work.

After the restoration this castle should be an example of serious functional usage. It will house: a study centre for conservationists with specialised library, ICOMOS National Committee headquarters, small hotel with a restaurant and conference facility, vinoteque of local wines and a centre of regional agricultural offer.

Another interesting feature of the conservation practice in Slovenia is a building condition classification used in the national programme of financial aid to the cultural heritage owners. In the Slovenian system of the cultural heritage protection exists the national financial aid programme for the benefit of the historic property owners. An interesting classification of the building condition is used in this programme. It has six categories. The financial aid is provided according to the category rating of the building.

The first category: it covers castles known by their names in documents, but their exact location cannot be proved.

The second category: it includes castles and other historic buildings and their sites, and although not physically visible, they can be identified in the area (archaeological sites).

The third category: within this category fall the historic ruins with a known history and name.

The fourth category: it includes buildings still partly or wholly covered by roof, yet in a dilapidated condition. It is not clear whether they can be restored.

The fifth category: it comprises the buildings already inhabited but in a bad condition, capable for restoration or adaptation with reasonable costs.

The sixth category: it covers thoroughly preserved historical buildings and structures with adequate function and sustainable management.

An interesting case of the mansion restoration methods used abroad is the mansion in Gödöllő, Hungary. The extensive mansion built in the 18th century for the count Grassalkovich has deteriorated during the last five decades. The government decided to restore the centre core of the mansion as a museum. The other wings will go into tourist use.

The main principle of the restoration was to rehabilitate the original values and beauty and simultaneously equip the mansion with all the comfort and security needed at the turn of the 21st century. An what is more, to hide this infrastructure as much as possible. The architects, designers and restorers had to apply highly advanced technologies to preserve most parts of the original structures and elements.

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