

WILLIAM A. EDEN
THE TRAINING OF ARCHITECTS FOR
THE CARE OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS.

In England there has not, until recently, been any systematic training of architects for the care of historical monuments. Such work has always been considered to be within the competence of the general architectural practitioner. However the increase of public interest in the preservation of historic buildings and ancient monuments, reflected in recent legislation, combined with revolutionary changes in architectural ideas and in building techniques, affecting the normal training of architects, has created a situation in which the establishment of such a course of training at the Institute of Archaeology of the University of London was thought to be expedient.

The course was started in 1961 on the assumption that certain specialized knowledge and experience is essential to an architect who is charged with the care of historical monuments. The training, which is post-graduate, therefore combines academic and practical work. The period of training covers two years.

The academic side of the curriculum is based on the assumption that an architect should be able to make himself the chief authority on all aspects, historical, structural and architectural, of the buildings committed to his charge. It involves (a) a rigorous course in the history of architecture in England based on first-hand knowledge of actual buildings; (b) training in the use of historical documents for establishing the cardinal facts about the history of buildings; (c) systematic instruction in the lecture room and on the job in the diagnosis and treatment of structural faults in buildings; (d) instruction in the law relating to historic buildings and ancient monuments, and (e) a course in the theory of architecture based on the study of selected texts from Vitruvius to Viollet le Duc. This last subject is included as a means to the understanding of the architectural ideas of the past, and thus to a cultivation of judgement concerning the things to be preserved.

The practical side of the curriculum involves systematic training in offices concerned with the conservation of historical monuments. So far students have been accommodated in the Ancient Monuments Branch of the Ministry of Public Building and Works and in the London County Council's Historic Buildings Section. The aim is that the student should carry through to completion (under supervision, of course) at least one small job, involving survey, report, contract drawings and specification, during the period of his training.

The course is so far in its infancy, but already certain questions are beginning to require an answer. The most important of these, arising from recent developments in architectural training in England, concern (a) the stage in an architect's training at which specialization on historical monuments becomes desirable and

(b) whether it may be expedient to establish a separate professional organization for Surveyors of Historical Monuments, the title "architect" being in England limited by statute to persons who have followed and completed the normal statutory training.

I should welcome discussion on these points, as well as on the contents of the course I have described.

WILLIAM A. EDEN
FORMATION D'ARCHITECTES POUR LA CONSERVATION
DES MONUMENTS HISTORIQUES.
RÉSUMÉ.

En Angleterre il n'y avait pas, jusqu'à ces temps derniers, de perfectionnement systématique des Architectes, dans le but d'apporter des soins particuliers aux Monuments historiques.

Cependant, l'augmentation de l'intérêt porté par le public à la préservation des édifices historiques et des anciens monuments, associée au changement révolutionnaire d'idées en matière d'architecture, a créé une situation telle qu'on a pensé qu'il était nécessaire d'instituer un cours de perfectionnement à l'Institut d'archéologie de l'Université de Londres.

Ce cours a commencé en 1961. Le perfectionnement à l'issue duquel un diplôme est délivré allie le travail académique au travail pratique. La période de spécialisation est de deux ans.

Le côté académique du curriculum comprend: a) un sérieux cours d'histoire de l'architecture en Angleterre basé tout d'abord sur la connaissance des édifices actuels; b) un cours de perfectionnement pour l'utilisation des documents historiques qui permettent d'établir les faits cardinaux de l'histoire des édifices; c) une instruction systématique au cours des leçons et sur place sur le diagnostic et le traitement des imperfections de structure des édifices; d) un cours sur la législation relative aux édifices historiques et aux anciens monuments; e) un cours sur la théorie de l'architecture basé sur l'étude de textes sélectionnés de Vitruvius à Viollet le Duc.

Le côté pratique du curriculum comprend le perfectionnement systématique dans les bureaux qui s'occupent de la conservation des monuments historiques.

Jusqu'à ce jour, les étudiants ont été hébergés dans une annexe du Ministère des Edifices et Travaux publics et à la Section du Conseil des Monuments historiques de la ville de Londres.

Le but est que l'étudiant puisse, durant sa période de perfectionnement, mener à bien jusqu'au bout (sous contrôle naturellement) au moins un petit travail comprenant: examen, compte-rendu, soumission, dessins et descriptions détaillés.