

## HIGHER EDUCATION ON CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN GREECE. THE CASE OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS.

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Education on Conservation and Restoration as well as vocational training on the same subject consists a basic condition for the safeguarding and enhancement of the cultural heritage for coming generations.

To save the heritage, a wide range of professional categories: architects, engineers, archaeologists, architectural historians, town planners, etc, must obtain through higher education and specialization courses, the necessary skills to carry out relevant responsibilities and be capable of teamwork and cross-disciplinary communication.

At the same time, the role of authorities responsible for legislation, norms and planning is crucial, and the sensitization and appropriate information of residents, is essential.

Consequently, not only specialized professionals but also politicians, administrators, investors, property owners, as well as general public and especially young people and children, need to be subject to a continuing education, in order to acquire the necessary qualifications to promote the heritage conservation. The learning process must cover all levels of education beginning from the general education.

In Greece, general education offers occasionally to young students some opportunities raising awareness on safeguarding heritage. In higher education Technical Universities or Technical Departments, as well as Technological Institutions, comprise in their curriculum the question of restoration and redevelopment of historic buildings as well as the question of upgrading historic entities and public space.

More specifically, there are the following categories of graduate compulsory or optional programs:

- A. Training programs on **Conservation, Restoration, re-use and re-development of historic buildings**. These programs focus either on issues referring to the ideology and the theory of conservation of historic buildings or on issues referring to techniques of restoration compatible with traditional structure techniques, or on functional, social-cultural issues. They also include references on legislation, administration and management.
- B. Training Programs on **Urban and Town planning** which include the parameter of improving public spaces, through functional planning and traffic arrangements, or the parameter of their morphological upgrading. They also cover, among others, issues referring to the redevelopment of upgraded residential areas.

- C. Training programs on **Surveying, and documentation of historic structures and historic entities**. They include historic and structure evaluation, as well as issues of documentation and analysis.

- D. Training Programs on **Environmental and Bioclimatic Design**, which include issues of protection of natural and built environment, to preserve natural energy sources. Old buildings and urban areas are redesigned to be more energy conscious.

All the above programs refer to optional or compulsory semester courses, which combine theoretical knowledge with implementation through design proposals, resolving real problems.

Apart of them, there are two distinctive interdisciplinary Post Graduate Programs in National Technical University of Athens, the first and in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the second, focusing on **CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS**.

The Post Graduate Program in National Technical University of Athens offers two distinctive directions:

- (a) Conservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings and Sites, and
- (b) Conservation of Building Materials.

It is organized by the Department of Architecture in collaboration with the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Rural and Surveying Engineering. A Scientific Committee, constituted by representatives from the collaborating departments, is responsible for the administration and management of the program, the selection of students and the organization of the curriculum.

The following information concerns Direction (a) Conservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings and Sites.

The Program award a Post Graduate Specialization Diploma, to graduates from departments of Architecture, Civil Engineering, Rural and Surveying Engineering as well as Archaeologists and Art Historians, of a Greek University or equivalent University abroad. The minimum duration of studies is 12 months, subdivided in three equal terms. The first two terms include lectures, seminars, tutorials, site visits and exercises. In the third term students carry out an individual dissertation (Number of students accepted 25)

The whole program includes core lectures and seminars, on:

- A) Historical review of Conservation philosophy (The changing conservation aspects, relevant theories in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, the meaning of the heritage, Conventions and Charters, etc)
- B) Analysis and Documentation methodology (Historic structure techniques, recording and surveying methods, evaluation criteria, etc)
- C) Pathology of Monuments and Building Materials (Deterioration causes, environmental impact assessment, etc)
- D) Conservation and Restoration techniques (Planning intervention techniques, Selecting materials strategy, earthquake protection etc.)
- E) Conservation and Planning of Historic towns, Villages, and Sites (Urban conservation and sustainable development, Protecting landscape and natural environment, Regional planning and architectural heritage, New architectural interventions in historic entities, etc)
- F) Legislation and Management (International and Greek legislation and regulations, Public Administration, European Union and cultural heritage)

The program also includes optional lectures, on:

- A) Conservation of classical and Byzantine Monuments.
- B) Archaeological Excavations and Management.
- C) Museologie,
- D) Lighting in monuments, and sites, and
- E) Surveying data methods.

The whole program combines theoretical courses with practical work methods. Apart from the professors of the University, professionals and specialized scientists, participate in the program, and there is a close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, and Municipalities.

Tutorials, essays and design proposals, are carried out by the students, in parallel with the equivalent lectures and a postgraduate dissertation based on research, is carried out concluding to concrete conservation proposals and plans.

Education is closely related with research, on surveying, evaluation and inventory systems of historic structures, on non-destructive techniques of analysis and diagnosis, on methods of rehabilitation from an economic and social perspective, on site management on sustainable development, etc.

According the “Guidelines for education and training in the conservation of monuments, groups of buildings and sites” of ICOMOS (Colombo, Sri Lanka August 1993), the aim of the above-mentioned program, is to educate professionals to:

- Read monuments, groups of buildings or sites and identify their emotional, cultural and use significance, understand their history and technology as well as their setting and environment, define their identity, and interpret the results of this research, for planning their conservation,
- Make reports and give expert advice on maintenance strategies, management and environmental protection policies,
- Be able to work with inhabitants, administrators and planners to resolve conflicts and to develop conservation strategies appropriate to local needs, abilities and resources, and finally,
- Distribute information and raise awareness to politicians, administrators, mayors, town planners, investors, young people, students, as well as general public, to promote the preservation action.

Concluding, I propose to think about forming cross-country educational networks among Universities, as well as among Universities and training centers, which could take place under the help of ICOMOS, as that effort is likely to open new horizons in the field of education on Conservation and Restoration.

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Special professional experience and research work on planning and conservation of historic towns and villages:

Member of:

- The scientific committee and the teaching staff of the interdisciplinary post-graduate programme: “Conservation and Restoration of Historic buildings and sites” in N.T.U.A,
- The Teaching Staff of Architectural Design Laboratory,
- The International Scientific Committee of ÉCOMOS, as well as of the CIVVIH,
- The International Scientific Committee of TICCHI,
- The European Association for Architectural Education