

REHABILITATION, DISTURBANCE, OPPRESSION

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The argument

Rehabilitation of historic settlements, for whom, why and how?

Rehabilitation or activation?

Rehabilitation, that is museum?

but what does a museum mean? How many, where, for whom?

Remarks of an architect who is not a member of ICOMOS and is interested in knowing for whom is the rehabilitation worked out, where do the inhabitants of an historic settlement go, and how they are transformed.

S u m m a r y

What does exactly happen to the inhabitants of an historic settlement or an historic neighbourhood which is going to be preserved, or to be rehabilitated etc.?

1. The settlement is n o t inhabited:

The population that will settle there, must have a complete social structure and efficiency. For example, it cannot be a population composed of waiters, tourist shops' servants or actors who play parts of the past.

2. The settlement i s inhabited:

2.1. The population will be removed: Where - and how - will it go? That is, will the established human relations be preserved, or will they be broken and replaced by others? Which ones and why? Are they going to be carefully studied? Are they going to be the proper ones? Using what right will t h e y remove the inhabitants and reconstruct their social relations and behaviour?

2.2. The population will n o t be removed: Will the networks of social relations be preserved, and generally, will it happen the same to their social structure and activities? If it will not, then which are the new networks and why?

These are the transformations - from small disturbances up to complete destruction - of the population that inhabits the settlement. Moreover, disturbances will be caused to the environment of the settlement:

The rehabilitation of the settlement will change its structure and activities. What effect will these changes make to the city or the region where the settlement belongs?

The priority belongs to the inhabitants of the historic settlement or neighbourhood. There can't be any rehabilitation under generalized "impersonal" processes and decisions concerning the fate of the inhabitants.

Any rehabilitation or conservation etc. which doesn't take place under the above mentioned priorities, becomes oppression.