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Sub-theme 2

Special training for architects in the field of monument  
preservation

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Participation in the intellectual and cultural activities of society is a fundamental right of man. These activities include the conservation and protection of the cultural heritage, its scientific investigation and social development. In this process architectural monuments and urban development play an important part. They largely determine the cultural-historical values of the man-made environment and are part of the cultural riches of the whole of mankind, of the "Old Cultures" of peoples.

Architectural monuments and sites are an important factor for defining cultural identity and therefore of great significance for the further development of the "New World", for each form of building in our time is a kind of "continued building".<sup>1)</sup>

The countenance of towns and cities is not only marked by newly built edifices but is a synthesis of the architectural heritage of past generations and of the creative activity of modern architects. This makes it necessary for all architects to profit from the architectural heritage with a view to the requirements of the present time and to integrate it into their work.

The preservation of architectural monuments as well as the construction of new and the maintenance of old buildings in

the GDR is regarded as an important part of the architectural design of the environment. The conservation of monuments on the one hand is characterized by special methodological questions as regards the preparation and implementation of construction measures, but on the other hand must always be understood as a partial aspect of the architect's task who does his work in the interest of society.

It has proved to be of advantage in the GDR not to train architects before finishing their studies for the specific tasks of the conservation of monuments on the basis of adequate professional specialization.

In this connection postgraduate studies are of particular importance. After having gained professional experience for at least three years, trainees can acquire theoretical knowledge on the conservation of monuments. This form of training is practised at the Dresden Technical University in a two-year course conducted by Prof Dr Kurt Milde. The subject of training is geared towards the requirements of the overall process of monument conservation.

This specialized training, in which graduates of other disciplines, who are working in the field of monument conservation, can also participate, is linked with other forms of training (university studies and measures of further training within the framework of the Institut für Denkmalpflege, the Kulturakademie and institutions specialized in the conservation of monuments) and enables us to say that the training system in the GDR has a kind of a model character.

In accordance with the structure of monument conservation in the GDR, there are diversified training courses which are carried out not only on the level of theoretical scientific work and practical work, but also on the level of social forces and organizations. The great variety of activities

of the latter permits in all parts of the GDR a broad-based conservation of monuments, which is geared to the preservation and development of cultural identity.

The university study of the subject of architecture which is taught at three training centres of the GDR, the College of Architecture and Building, Weimar, the Dresden Technical University and the Arts College, Berlin, offers special courses of lectures on the conservation of monuments.

At the Dresden Technical University practical work concerning the architectural heritage starts in the second half of the second year with taking stock of historical buildings, later followed by a scientific study of an appropriate historical building. During the last three terms the student can freely choose whether he will continue to work on a subject of monument conservation.

This includes a seminar work, special seminars on the conservation of monuments, lectures on the preservation of the stock of buildings, practical training in an institution specialized in the conservation of monuments, a final design and a diploma work on a subject concerning the conservation of monuments.

In each training programme for architects specialization in monument conservation encourages ways of thinking and behaviour, thereby laying the basis for a future professional choice of the student.

Moreover the insight into the non-physical values of the historical form also promotes understanding of the great variety of cultural phenomena and cultural relations between the peoples in the past and present and in this way contributes to respect for the peaceful life of people and to the readiness to work for peace.

1) Kurt Milde:

Denkmalpflege in der Architekturausbildung

(Monument conservation in the training of architects)

Scientific colloquy of the 7th ICOMOS General Assembly  
held in Rostock and Dresden in 1984

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Summary

Training of architects in the field of monument conservation

Participation in the intellectual and cultural life of society is a fundamental right of man.

This includes the preservation and protection, the intellectual development and increased use by society of the multiple heritage of mankind, of the "Old Cultures", an important factor for the determination of cultural identity and thus of great significance for the further development of the "New World". In accordance with the increasing attention being paid to architectural monuments and sites it is necessary to step up activities for the conservation of monuments. They require both well-founded theoretical bases and a sufficient number of qualified experts. Thus the question concerning the training of specialists in the field of monument conservation is becoming decisive for the future existence of architectural monuments and sites.

In the GDR the conservation of monuments is considered as a social cultural concern in the spirit of the Declaration of Rostock and Dresden adopted by the 7th ICOMOS General Assembly.

The training of architects is of a complex character and is aimed at imparting to architects a broad basic knowledge enabling them to cooperate with specialists. Through various study activities their knowledge of the conservation of monuments is deepened. The knowledge needed for special work in this field can be acquired in postgraduate studies which the Dresden Technical Universities has been offering since 1982. A lot of positive experience has been made with this form of study which ends with a diploma.

