La sauvegarde et l'utilisation des monuments anciens

Dans le monde entier, les gens souhaitent occuper leurs vacances et leurs fins de semaine à des voyages touristiques. La majorité des touristes se repose tout en apprenant à connaître les autres peuples, leur culture et leur mode de vie. Grande est l’influence des visiteurs dans les musées, les sites et les monuments.

En URSS, des monuments et des musées tels que le Palais des Armures du Kremlin, le Palais Ostankino, le Palais de Paul dans les environs de Leningrad et bien d’autres musées sont obligés de limiter le nombre de leurs visiteurs. Il existe, en effet, un grave danger d’emprise de certains monuments qui ont été conservés durant des siècles mais dont les structures et les matériaux n’ont jamais été prêts pour de telles afflctions. Beaucoup sont considérablement endommagés, certaines de leurs parties peuvent même être détériorées. Ceci concerne surtout les éléments de bois : escaliers, portails, etc.

Pour répartir plus judicieusement les visiteurs désirant voir les musées et les sites, on réalise en URSS la restauration de certains monuments d’intérêt historique et architectural qui n’avaient pas été inclus auparavant dans les itinéraires touristiques parce qu’ils étaient peu connus du grand public. Ce programme de restauration, élaboré comme un programme complexe, doit satisfaire tous les besoins des touristes : sport, chasse, culture, et leur assurer un séjour confortable.

Les projets d’aménagement et d’équipement touristique sont élaborés par un département de l’Institut des projets de bâtiments à usage commercial ou touristique. L’équipe responsable d’un projet réunit des spécialistes des différentes professions concernées : architectes-restaurateurs, architectes-urbanistes, ingénieurs, économistes, historiens, critiques d’art, archéologues, etc.

Le système établi soviétique et, en premier lieu, l’absence de propriété privée des terres et des biens immobiliers contribuent au succès dans ce domaine : les monuments sont la propriété de l’État, l’économie nationale est planifiée, l’État peut financer une partie des travaux, les organisations syndicales et sociales s’intéressent à ces programmes et apportent leur soutien moral et leur aide matérielle.

Ces particularités de la vie politique, économique et culturelle en Union Soviétique, les structures étagées et sociales, ont donné la possibilité de résoudre les problèmes de restauration des monuments et des villes anciennes grâce à la création de musées de plein air, regroupant une multitude d’éléments historiques, architecturaux et naturels, situés dans leur cadre original, reliés par un système de routes, disposant de services communs, et regroupés selon des critères scientifiques afin de présenter la vie passée et actuelle de cette région de l’Union Soviétique.


La même route conduit aux sites monumetaux ombragés de Palunks et de Mstora.

Le programme de restauration et d’aménagement de ces sites pour les voyages culturels aPeople the world over enjoy spending their holidays and weekends travelling, and most tourists combine rest with the pleasure of getting to know the landscape, ways of living and culture of other countries. So that the numbers of visitors to museums, places of interest and architectural monuments tend to be enormous.

In the USSR such buildings and museums as the Arms and Armour Palace in the Kremlin, the Ostankino Palace, the Paul Palace outside Leningrad and a great many others are now obliged to restrict their number of visitors. For there is a grave risk of serious damage to buildings centuries old whose materials and fabric were never intended to stand up so much longer, and parts of them could be actually destroyed - particularly any wooden features such as staircases, flooring, etc.

An attempt is being made in the USSR to achieve a better geographical distribution of the visitors who are anxious to see museums and places of interest, and work is in progress on a programme for restoring those monuments of historical or cultural value which were not previously included in the itineraries because the vast majority of tourists had scarcely heard of them. This restoration programme is comprehensive in character and is designed to cater for all tourist requirements, including sport and hunting as well as cultural pursuits, while at the same time providing comfortable accommodation.

The complex projects demanded by the tourist industry are prepared by one of the departments of the Institute for the Design of Commercial and Tourist Premises. The group in charge of any given project will be composed of experts in the various professional fields concerned - architects, restorers, town-planners, engineers, economists, art critics and archaeologists. Success is facilitated by the Soviet system of government, and above all by the absence of private ownership of land and real estate; monuments are national property, the work involved may be financed by the State, and trades-unions and other associations will be interested in the schemes and offer moral and material assistance.

It has been possible, under these political, economic and cultural conditions and with the aid of State and community bodies, to solve the problem of restoring monuments and ancient towns by creating "open-air" museums. These contain a whole multitude of structures of historical, architectural and national interest standing in their original surroundings and lit up by a common network of roads and public services; they have been so re-arranged in obedience to a scientific criterion as to present a picture of the past and present life of the region of the USSR to which they belong.

The tourist itinerary including the ancient Russian towns in the north-east of Moscow such as Zagorsk, Porevsk-Zalesky, Rostov-Veliki, Yaroslavl, Kostroma, Ivanovo, Souzdal, Vladimir and Vladimir was one of the earliest to be worked out. The total distance to be covered by road and railway to complete the circuit is about 2000 kilometres, though there are also air services between the towns. The trip can include the whole itinerary and last fourteen days, but it is also possible to choose a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 7-day excursion. The advantage of the complete tour is its diversity, which leaves the sightseer with such unforgettable impressions; it takes him to architectural monuments covering the whole period from the 12th century to the present day and representing all schools and all trends in Russian architecture. The buildings contain remarkable 12th-century frescoes, 14th-century paintings from the brush of Andre Rublev and his disciples, works of the 16th century, and above all some outstanding specimens of the Yaroslavl School of Kostroma dating from the 17th and 18th centuries; the museums house collections of ancient Russian painting and craftsmanship. The same itinerary includes the world-famous sites of Pskov and Mstora.

The programme combining restoration with the creation of adequate facilities for travel of a
commence avec l'élaboration du projet de restauration de Souzdal. Le plan général de la ville, qui a été conçu par le "Giprogro" (Institut Moscovite d'Urbanisme), a entraîné des divers architectes dirigés par Monsieur A. Orlov, a été élaboré par le "Giprogor" qui a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec les architectes. Les travaux de restauration ont été effectués par les ateliers de Vladimir dirigés par l'architecte I. A. Stoletov.

Grâce à la mise en œuvre de ce projet, la ville de Souzdal est devenue une ville touristique, où le paysage qui l'environne est conservé et les contraintes industrielles imperatives qui concernent les maisons et les habitants de la ville et les touristes sont respectées. Les chambres collectives, centre électrique, boulangerie industrielle, usine de boissons non alcoolisées, dépôts ont été interdits. Le nombre de commerces et de magasins d'alimentation a été considérablement augmenté, ainsi que le nombre de logements. Les bâtiments anciens du monastère de l'Intercession ont été rénovés en hôtel. Un autre hôtel est construit dans la banlieue de la ville et est relié à elle par une route nouvelle, d'où l'on découvre la magnifique panorama de la ville.

Il faut noter, d'autre part, les travaux de restauration et le développement du réseau de musées dans des bâtiments historiques restaurés. Souzdal conserve encore six monastères et 34 églises paroissiales. Dans le Kremlin entouré de glacis, se trouvent une cathédrale des XIIe et XVIIe siècles, le palais épiscopal et le clocher, avec un horloge, qui est relié par un passage au palais. La restauration de cet ensemble est grandement terminée et on l'utilise comme musée de peinture ancienne et d'arts appliqués.

I. Zagorski. Vue de Sud-Ouest de l'ensemble architectural des XVe-XVIIIe siècles.

I. Zagorski. Vue de main architectural ensemble of the 16th-18th centuries from south-west.

Le projet a été effectué systématiquement, et le town de Souzdal a acquis la grande importance de place pour recevoir les visites et les visiteurs, préservant son surprenant caractère de la ville. Les immeubles industriels ont été rénovés, avec l'exception des maisons et des dépendances qui sont nécessaires pour assurer la vie des habitants de la ville et des touristes. Les chambres collectives, centre électrique, boulangerie industrielle, usine de boissons non alcoolisées, dépôts ont été interdits. Le nombre de commerces et de magasins d'alimentation a été considérablement augmenté, ainsi que le nombre de logements. Les bâtiments anciens du monastère de l'Intercession ont été rénovés en hôtel. Un autre hôtel est construit dans la banlieue de la ville et est relié à elle par une route nouvelle, d'où l'on découvre la magnifique panorama de la ville.

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le premier manuscrit, cependant, a été irrévérencieusement utilisé, et son contenu a été modifié de manière significative. Le texte a été modifié de manière significative. Le texte a été modifié de manière significative.
La cathédrale, les fragments de fresques et de sculptures ainsi que les collections d’objets faits pour l’empereur de Russie, forment une grande valeur artistique et culturelle, qui s’est constituée en plus de sept siècles.

Le monastère-forteresse Saint-Euthymius, après sa restauration, la seconde place par sa valeur historique et artistique. Construit aux XVIème et XVIIème siècles, il a été visiblement remanié au XIXème et au début du XXème siècle, que l’on ait de plus en plus l’utiliser comme un lieu d’occupation. Les recherches et la restauration artistique effectuées par les spécialistes de l’atelier de Vladimir ont amené à renouer avec ce premier projet et à utiliser l’ensemble du monastère comme un musée. Ce n’est pas le premier cas, au cours de travaux de restauration et grâce à eux, des chefs d’œuvre que l’on croyait perdus retrouvent une seconde vie. L’histoire de l’architecte russe s’enrichit ainsi de données scientifiques nouvelles qui apportent des corrections aux notions que nous en avions auparavant.

La transformation de Sourdal en centre touristique a donné naissance à un autre musée, de plein air, consacré à l’architecture de bois. Dans le Vieux-Orsk, on a commencé à mettre en place des structures en bois avec des éléments traditionnels de la région, tels que les maisons en bois massif ou les cabanes en bois clair. Ces structures sont destinées à accueillir des projets de restauration et de conservation de la culture traditionnelle.

On a d’abord amené à Sourdal une église en bois que l’on a remontée à l’emplacement d’une église qui avait disparu. La deuxième phase a été construite à partir du XIXème siècle, à côté des maisons et des bâtiments périphériques, notamment de l’église et de la cathédrale. Le centre historique est également en cours de restauration et de conservation, et de nouveaux projets sont en cours.

Rostov-Vetliki est la ville la plus éloignée de la région, mais il a une histoire intéressante. C’est la ville la plus ancienne de la région, construite au début du XIXème siècle. Elle est liée à l’histoire de la Russie, car elle a été un centre important de commerce et de transport.


bâtiment sont aménagés une salle de banquet et
un dancing. Les bâtiments des prêtres, les const-
ructions jouxtant la "Tour de la supplique" et
la "Maison sur les caves" sont aménagés en
hôtels.

Cet ensemble est organisé par les groupes-
dements de jeunes pour y organiser des rencontres
professionnelles, des symposiums et pour les loisi-
res. La situation géographique de Rostov en fait
le point de départ pour d'intéressantes excursions
d'une journée, permettant de visiter des monum-
ments historiques, des chantiers industriels mo-
dernes. Non loin de Rostov se trouvent, en effet,
Yaroslavl, Ouglitch, Pereslawl-Zalessky, Kostro-
ma et d'autres sites.

A Guiprogne (Moscou) a été terminé le projet
d'aménagement de Zagorsk. Avant la révolution,
la "Laure-Saint-Serge", important centre reli-
gieux de la vieille Russie, qui attirait un grand
nombre de pèlerins en est surtout, constituant
l'élément principal de la silhouette de la petite
cité de Zagorsk. Ce facteur jouait un grand rôle
dans la vie économique de la cité.

Aujourd'hui, Zagorsk est une des importantes
villes industrielles de la région de Moscou; elle
garde malgré tout ses fonctions religieuses, bien
moins considérables cependant qu'avant la révo-
lation. Enfin, la ville suscite un afflux sans cesse
croissant de touristes car la Laure, vieille de
presque 600 ans, est devenue un ensemble d'une

the bishop's palace was the first step in the
implementation of this programme.

One of the new museums contains a very fine
collection of ancient Russian paintings, carved
miniatures and embroideries. The tourist itine-
rary also includes the Palaces of the Metropoli-
tans of Rostov, the walled enclosure with its to-
wers, and three 17th-century cathedrals whose
inside walls are covered with frescoes.

One of the buildings, the "Red Palace", had
its upper storey removed in the middle of the
19th century, and it has now been restored as
originally designed and made into a hotel to
sleep 86 guests, with a restaurant to seat 200, a
banquet hall and a ballroom. The priests' quar-
ters, the buildings next to the "Tower of Suppli-
cation" and the "Cellars House" have all like-
wise become hotels.

This whole group of buildings is used by youth
organizations for events bringing together mem-
bers of given professions, symposiums and rec-
reational activities. With so convenient a location
it is possible to arrange interesting one-day
excursions to visit monuments of historical or
cultural interest, or modern industrial construc-
tion sites. Rostov is not far from Yaroslavl,
Uglich, Pereslawl-Zalessky, Kostroma and other
places of interest.


A scheme completed by the "Giprogro" in March Accelerates the renovation of Zagorsk. Before the Revolutionary period, the "Laurus" (monastery), an important religious center in the Rus' region, was a popular refuge of the Russian nobility and was the outstanding feature on the skyline of this small town; in fact, it is one of the landmarks of the population with its livelihood. Today one of the most important industrial towns of the Moscow region, Zagorsk still retains some of the old features, if on a far smaller scale than before the Revolution. But it attracts ever-growing numbers of tourists, and in almost 600 years of existence the Laura has acquired an unsurpassed artistic value and a part of it houses the museum of unique Russian paintings and works of decorative art as well as the museum of traditional arts and crafts.

The scientific and artistic value of the Laura has been yet further enhanced as a result of the restoration work successfully carried out on both the buildings and the paintings they contain, particularly after the Second World War. The planners have been faced with an interesting problem: their task has been to provide normal living conditions for a local population ten times the size of the original one, to choose the most suitable site for the new artistic and cultural centre, to ensure that it blend well with the existing structures of the Laura and to avoid blocking the view of the town as a whole and of these buildings in particular. In addition to which the town's numerous visitors needed to be comfortably accommodated during their stay.

The best arrangement in this instance would be to have the tourist spend only one day in Zagorsk. The town is 70 kilometres from Moscow and 68 from Pereslavl-Zalessky, where it is more logical to have accommodation areas, each designed in accordance with a given interior idea. These towns contain 15th- to 17th-century monu-
ments with excellently preserved frescoes from the brush of the famous Russian icon-painter Dionysios. Many of the buildings stand in an unusual setting: on dramatic islands in the river, over meadows, romantic lakes and shadowy forests. An area liable to prove particularly interesting is the area of the former Kardop, now under the control of an archaeological and artistic society. This is a defensible proposition for monuments and their ancient settings, as well as for allowing new and old more satisfactorily so that ancient buildings may correctly serve present-day purposes.

Several propositions for the principle that ancient towns must serve the people of today and cannot remain mere lifeless museums.

We already possess, therefore, the methods to be adopted in our preliminary work on the gene-
ral plans and in determining the architectural, historical and artistic value of the buildings requiring for their protection. The practical side of monuments and the technical problems connected with such practical use is a difficult but not impossible task to go into.

It is difficult in most instances to adapt the refectories of monasteries and the banquet halls of palaces, which are already overcrowded, into premises where two or three people can be fitted into the space available, or can only do so after extensive interior alterations. It is fre-
quently difficult, too, to turn ancient palaces into hotels, for very often their rooms measure as much as 60 to 80 square metres. This means either putting several beds in each room, or else building partitions and completely depriving a place of its charm, which, at the same time makes difficult for insufficient daylight. Other problems are the need to fit in toilet accommodation, the dampness of old buildings, the narrowness of the staircases between their upper floors and so on.

In Suzdal and Rostov-Veliki these problems have been fairly satisfactorily solved. A study of the problem as a whole has resulted in the adoption of the principle that an ancient building may be adapted to serve a new purpose only if, on proper examination, it is found capable of meeting the technical requirements of its new function. But though pride, with this criterion is not valid in every case. Fundamental changes are now occurring in the life of our cities which affect both old buildings and other features, and are creating new conditions which it is impossible to overlook.

In the case of such towns as Volodga, Kirillov, Ferapontov, Goritsy, and possibly Belozersk, in the European part of southern Russia, research is in progress as a part of projects to outline programmes and more detailed projects covering the city of ancient buildings, and the construction of new areas, each designed in accordance with a given interior idea. These towns contain 15th- to 17th-century monu-
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Il est prévu de réaliser ce projet en dix ans. Certains travaux ont déjà été menés à bien avec succès. On porte une attention particulière à l'église de la Transfiguration et à l'église de L'Intercession, perles de l'architecture ancienne russe, situées dans le cimetière de Kiji ; il faut les protéger de la décomposition et des risques d'incendie.

Les méthodes de conservation de l'aspect des villes anciennes, les affectionnements nouvelles des monuments à des fins usuelles, si on ne peut pas les utiliser comme musées ont été trouvées et utilisées avec succès.

Il est plus difficile de résoudre le problème de la conservation de l'aspect de la campagne. C'est une tâche d'actualité en U.R.S.S., où l'on est en présence d'un processus intense de transformation de la campagne sur de nouvelles bases économiques et sociales. Plusieurs régions rurales et leurs villages sont désertés, tandis que d'autres, au contraire, ont de plus en plus d'habitants et leurs villages se transforment en bourgs, suivant des principes de planification et d'aménagement, et avec certains types de construction. La solution de ce problème par la création d'ensembles artificiels, sous forme de musées de plein air, ne satisfait pas tout le monde. Aujourd'hui, on propose de créer quelques réserves conservant leur milieu historique et naturel authentique. Cette proposition est très attrayante, mais sommes-nous sûrs de trouver parmi la population locale assez de volontaires qui seront d'accord pour garder leur mode de vie traditionnel ? Peut-on assurer une parfaite conservation des constructions de bois au delà de 70 ou 100 ans ? Est-il possible, du point de vue économique, de subventionner les dépenses — inévitablement plus grandes — qui seront nécessaires pour assurer le confort des habitants qui vivront dans ces réserves ? Ceci et bien d'autres problèmes doivent recevoir une réponse théorique immédiate et faire l'objet d'expériences.

Pour l'habitant d'une ville industrielle moderne, il est toujours séduisant de se plonger dans l'ambiance d'une paisible campagne patriarcale. Pour-tre le bref séjour dans de telles réserves, où l'on jouira de moins de confort, ne ternira pas leur renommée, car d'autres avantages viendront pallier à ces inconvénients ? Mais ceci n'est encore qu'une hypothèse, sur laquelle il faudra travailler.

Y. IVANOV

"Giprogot" in Moscow. This scheme was submitted for final approval in 1973. It is planned to complete the whole programme within a ten-year time-limit. Some work has already been successfully carried out, and special measures are being taken to protect the churches of the Transfiguration and the Intercession — the two gems of ancient Russian architecture in the Kiji cemetery — against damage by either damp or fire.

On the whole, attempts to find and apply methods for preserving the appearance of our ancient towns, and for putting monuments to practical use where they cannot serve as museums, are proving fairly successful. The problem of preserving the appearance of our countryside is more difficult to solve. This is a very immediate problem in the USSR, where we are faced with far-reaching transformation processes designed to adapt our rural areas to suit new economic and social requirements. Villages and entire areas are being abandoned while others are growing increasingly populous, and systematically-planned country towns are emerging, each with its own type of buildings and particular street-design.

Not everyone is satisfied with the idea of solving the problem by creating an artificial unit in the form of an open-air museum, and today there are proposals for a certain number of on-the-spot conservation areas within existing historic and natural settings. The idea is most attractive; but are we sure of finding enough volunteers among the local population who will be prepared to continue their traditional way of life? Can we provide for perfect conservation of our existent wooden buildings, for 70 or 100 years to come? Will it be possible, economically speaking, to subsidize the population which has stayed behind and which will inevitably have to spend more than people elsewhere on its material comfort? These questions, and many more, need immediate study on the theoretical as well as the experimental level.

Anyone living in a modern industrial town will always feel the lure of the peaceful countryside of his ancestors. Perhaps the reputation of such places will not be damaged by the relative lack of comfort if the stay is short, since other advantages will be there to compensate for it? But this is no more than a hypothesis on which we must now set to work.

Y. IVANOV