

capables d'obtenir un résultat. Cependant, de tels buts ne peuvent être atteints que si les collectivités locales prennent la décision d'encourager l'initiative privée, c'est un exemple que bien des municipalités devraient suivre.

(D'après les indications fournies par le BUNDESDENMALAMT (Service Fédéral des Monuments Historiques, Vienne) et par le Doz.Dr.Hary KÜHNEL, Directeur des Archives de Krems)

A. R o m a n (Hungary)

REVIVAL OF AN HISTORIC SMALL TOWN - KÖSZEG

In Hungary at present 84 settlements are classified as towns. These are spread evenly over the whole country. Fourteen of them have got historic parts, mostly at their centres, which are protected as conservation areas. The 14 towns containing listed conservation areas are generally to be found in the northern and western regions, for the middle of the country was, during the 16th and 17th centuries, annexed by the Ottoman Empire and the wars of reconquest resulted in the nearly total destruction of the medieval cities of the area.

The modern wave of urbanization reached our country fairly late, so that Hungarian towns are still relatively small. 68 of the 84 towns have less than 50 000 inhabitants, and nine of the historic towns fall into this category, namely: Sopron, Köszeg, Papa, Veszprem, Esztergom, Szentendre, Vac, Eger and Sarospatak. The limited length of this report does not allow me to deal with the restoration and rehabilitation to modern standards of each town mentioned, so I have to ask your consent for choosing one of them and basing my remarks on a detailed examination of it.

Köszeg is situated near the Hungarian-Austrian border, surrounded by picturesque landscape in the foothills of the Alps. In 1970 it had a population of 10 238 inhabitants, which serves to indicate the relatively small scale of Hungarian towns.

The town is first mentioned in a Charter of 1248, but it is known that in the 11th century Köszeg already had an urban character. In 1328 Köszeg was given the status of royal city. The still existing city walls were built from the middle of 14th century onwards. During the Middle Ages as a border-town it belonged by turns both to Hungary and Austria. There is no doubt that even today the town preserves many Austrian or Germanic features.

In 1532 the Turkish Sultan Soliman marched against Vienna with an army of about 80 000 soldiers. The fortress of Köszeg, defended by 1 000 soldiers under the leadership of N. Yurishich held up

their advance for 25 days and after lifting the unsuccessful siege the Turks turned back, instead of storming Vienna. In the memory of the heroic garrison the magistrate ordered the bells of the town to be rung daily at 11 o'clock and this tradition still lives on today.

There are few events in more recent history to mention. By the 18th century the town had spread beyond its walls, and new quarters were built outside. Strangely enough, Kőszeg was at this time one of the largest towns in Hungary and with its 3 200 inhabitants it surpassed for instance the present capital city, Pest. The Nagykanizsa-Szombathely-Vienna railway line, built in 1860, by-passed Kőszeg, so that the town lost the chance of being industrialized. During the next hundred years its population settled at around 10 000, whilst that of the neighbouring city of Szombathely increased by 500 %. This is the main reason for the survival of the historical centre and of many individual historical monuments in their original form. Thus, one of the smallest towns in Hungary is one of the richest from the point of view of its architectural heritage. Fortunately World War II also spared Kőszeg.

The main task which faced the monuments service was the restoration of the old fortified castle. It is a 13th century castle with a facade dating from the 17-18th centuries, and the last restoration started in 1955, when the building was returned to civic use. Beautiful gothic and renaissance details were uncovered up to 1963, when the works ended and the whole castle was found a suitable use. One wing of it was occupied by a museum and a club, the other by a spacious theatre. In the vaulted cellars a pleasant café found adequate accommodation. The buildings of the castle's outer court-yard have been converted into a tourist hotel and public baths.

The restoration of one significant, large historical monument may give a stimulus to the revival of a whole city area, but can not replace a comprehensive restoration programme. Of no less importance is the restoration, and, if necessary, adaptation to new uses of the whole building stock of the historic town. This principle is of particular relevance to Kőszeg because it has retained its historic architectural character nearly undisturbed. It is an ensemble of the highest quality composed of individual houses of secondary importance perhaps (although some are undoubtedly very fine by Hungarian standards).

We are making efforts in our conservation policy to preserve the character of the city centre, i.e. it should remain a residential area. The historic ensemble in Kőszeg never became a slum and our goal is to make it a privilege to live in the central area. This aim is to be realized by the modernization of the whole housing stock as part of the restoration programme.

In the meantime, a range of other functions have to be introduced into the city centre. For these purposes we are endeavouring to convert historic buildings instead of erecting new ones. In

Urishich Square (the Main Square) three restored buildings have been given new uses: one houses the local archives, another a childrens' health centre and the third a youth club. This solution has many advantages: it has not been necessary to partition rooms with fine vaulting or stucco decoration and it is possible to show the public the interiors, which would be out of question if they were in use as dwellings. Above all, the new uses have brought fresh vitality into an historic area. And we are convinced this is the most important goal in conservation of any group of historic buildings.

Conservation areas must not be museum pieces or isolated enclaves within the urban structure, but integral parts of a living organism.

The restoration of the great bastion of the town walls was rather less successful. The new function chosen, a public wine cellar, was scarcely justified by the poor quality of wines produced around Kőszeg, and for that reason they closed it down - causing distress both to us and the public. The restoration of the town walls is progressing very slowly, because it calls for extensive demolitions of residential property and the housing shortage is at present one of the worst social problems in Hungary.

In the centre of Kőszeg the historic buildings are being preserved, and some new buildings have been put up on empty sites where houses of no interest had been demolished. We have no objection to that, because it has happened outside the most sensitive areas and the new architecture is not out of keeping with the historic environment and provides a visual link between the past and the present.

The main dangers for a historic city are mass housing developments and growing road traffic. Both are unavoidable in the modern context but unless there is correct and effective control of them by the authorities, they can cause serious damage to the character of a historic town. Kőszeg has been fortunate in this respect: the main road connecting Szombathely with Austria by-passed the town centre. There is sufficient parking space on the edge of the central area. Without any particular administrative measures having been taken the town centre is free of motor traffic, except for residents' and service vehicles. New multi-storey housing estates don't spoil the appearance of the town centre, or the general view of the town.

The development of towns in Hungary is governed by regional plans in which Kőszeg is designated as a tourist centre, especially for foreign tourists. This proposal takes into account its wonderful natural surroundings, its wealth of historical monuments and its pleasant climate. The number of Hungarian and foreign visitors to Kőszeg is growing quickly thanks to the rational exploitation of these advantages. The local authorities will have to make a considerable effort to satisfy the demands of tourism because the number of hotel rooms and restaurants both in the town and the surroundings is still very modest. The master plan of the town provides for the necessary increase in capacity and we hope that it will soon be put into effect.

We are happy to offer historic buildings for the purpose of satisfying at least a part of the tourist demand. For instance, there is an old Baroque water mill along the Szombathely road now out of use, which could be used in this way.

The importance of a town depends not only on its size. We believe a small town can make a memorable impression upon its visitors. We consider Kőszeg to be such a town and we are therefore making serious efforts to ensure that our activities as experts in the protection of historic buildings contribute to the enhancement of the town's many beauties and to the optimal use of its architectural resources.

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LA REANIMATION DE TAHULL

I. Introduction

1.1 SITUATION GEOGRAPHIQUE

Tahull est une agglomération de la commune de Barruera, dans la province de Lérida, qui est située dans une haute vallée pyrénéenne, entourée de sommets culminants entre 2 000 et 3 000 mètres.

1.2 HISTORIQUE

Ce territoire a été sans doute peuplé depuis la plus haute antiquité. La présence romaine y est attestée par des vestiges archéologiques. Les églises de la région datent souvent de l'époque romane. En 1515, il y avait 33 maisons à Tahull et 18 seulement en 1708.

A l'heure actuelle, on assiste à un important exode de la population. L'ensemble du Val de Bohi comptait 525 habitants en 1970, dont 130 pour Tahull. Le val de Bohi appartint, aux XI^{ème} et XII^{ème} siècles, au royaume d'Aragon.

1.3 L'ART ROMAN A TAHULL

Le XII^{ème} siècle fut une époque prospère pour la vallée. De nombreuses églises romanes y furent alors construites. A Tahull même, Sta Maria et San Clemente furent consacrées en 1123. Elles avaient été construites sous l'égide de Saint Raymond, futur abbé de Saint Sernin de Toulouse.

1.4 OBJET DE CETTE COMMUNICATION

- a. Constituer un journal des opérations entreprises conjointement par les habitants de la petite agglomération de Tahull et par les techniciens, les administrations et les organismes, ou simplement les sympathisants, pour maintenir, conserver et réanimer ce bourg, au lieu de la détruire en raison de son inadaptation aux conditions de vies actuelles.