

"Conservation and Revitalisation of historically valuable city-cores in West-Germany at the end of the 20th century"

Two slides of the German imperial city FRANKFURT, 1940 and 1980, show the developmental leap in a new age, which has completely changed (internationalized) the face of the city. In contrast, the Fifth General Assembly of ICOMOS in 1978 plainly showed: People long for individual living-environment, with which they can all identify. They are looking for a home with human dimensions. Carefully preserved, living quarters of historical value document this human longing.

The first signature of the city is its ground-plan. The original core of MÜNSTER (West-Germany) is the "Dom-Immunität" (Cathedral with surrounding territory). The markets which developed around the outside, curved Streets with their small deep house plots, the ring, which is still visible today and shows the former fortification zone : This typical structure of the city remained essentially preserved up to this day. Although many buildings were destroyed during the last war and a lot of works of historical and cultural value were damaged and had to be restored, the old city has remained the real center through preservation of proportions and character and use of local materials.

Public and private monuments, which put their stamp on the city are suffering from the aggravations of the polluted air which has ten times the strength of normal erosion. There is still no conservation material for stone anywhere in the world. Valuable outdoor sculpture is brought inside the museums and replaced by copies.

Adequate usage of historically valuable sites is vital: Former Hanseatic-Houses in the town LEMGO form the inner city today, whereas in the neighbouring streets the former farmhouses became houses for families. In the town of LÜBECK three large buildings in "Petersgrube" street were transformed into a music college and thusly again contributing to the life of the city.

(Wildeman)

In the town of MÜNSTER, the citizens rebuilt their main market "Prinzipalmarkt" after the war's destruction just as they had known and loved it in former times. In the town of KEMPEN the city bought back the private lots which comprised the former fortification site and created a park area as recreation zone for mothers with baby prams and for old people.

As a continuation of the mercantile tradition many cities combine new passages with old trading roads and small, dark narrow streets into lighted ways for commercial use today.

After devastating penetration of vehicular traffic into the narrow, historic hearts of the towns in Europe, man on foot is again the primary consideration. The street and its space were the communication place for inhabitants since time immemorial. While we the people in 1987 need the automobile for many purposes, one tries through use of electric motors (like on the Isle of HELGOLAND), underground garages and minimized traffic to increase transportation as well as safety.

Historically worthy sites should not be pushed like islands into deadly isolation, but rather be integrated full of life into town development. An old city was and is an entire organism, whose limbs are vital among and for each other.

New buildings, if necessary, should become masterly achievements of independent adaptation. Previously, the effect of a new Building on the historical structure, the proportions, the function of the old quarters, the compatibility to neighbouring monuments must be examined

The readability of the historical statement of connected monuments, the structure of lots and the proportions of the street spaces should not be unnecessarily destroyed. New buildings, as in the towns of MÜNSTER, LEMGO and STROMBERG, can enrich the old town scene, if through arrangement or knowledgeable opposition between individual uniqueness and adaptation of the proportional order in its entirety a harmonious equilibrium remains evident.

(Wildeman)

After a century of endless serial-fabrication and functional uniformity there is a global return to handwork and attention to detail. Over-dimensional building giants strengthen the longing of many inhabitants for a more human living area, which is based on man as the measure. The valued term "Heimat" is awoken again. Individual homes and streets and an environment with which one can identify are growing in demand. The fulfillment of these wishes contrast with the dying out of craftsmen. Therefore, the Federal Republic of Germany has established new institutes in FULDA, RAESFELD and DETMOLD, where old crafts are being revitalized as in the PKZ in WARSAW, Poland.

Architects and city planners develop their suggestions from an analysis of the historical configuration values of the city in question. Thus is the continuity of the historical development reached.

Aerial views of many old cities (the towns LÜBECK, NÜRNBERG, RIETBERG, BLOMBERG and FREUDENSTADT for example) show the successful endeavor in the newly begun age of micro-electronics and computers in integrating with vitality, the unregenerative values of our building-culture heritage through the passing on of historical continuity for the future art of building cities.

Wildeman

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in West-Germany (FRG) at the end of the 20th century"

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The first signatur of the city is its ground-plan. The original core of MÜNSTER (West-Germany) is the "Dom-Immunität" (Cathedral with surrounding territory). The markets, which developed arround the outside with their small deep houseplots, extending to the former citywall, are still structurally evident today. Monuments, which put their stamp on the city, are eroding with increasing speed, as there is still no conservation-material for stone anywhere in the world.

Adaquate usage of historicly valuable sites is essential: former Hanseatic-Houses in LEMGO form the city today; farm houses changed to living quarters. In LÜBECK, three buildings in "Petersgrube" street were transformed into a college for music.

After devastating penetration of vehicular traffic into the narrow, historic hearts of the towns in Europe, man on foot is again the primary consideration. The street and its space were the communication place for inhabitants since time immemorial.

Historic worthy sites should not be pushed like islands into deadly isolation, but rather be integrated full of life into town development. New buildings, if necessary, can be arranged by taking into consideration historical dimensions, proportions and types of material.

After a century of endless serial-fabrication and functional uniformity there is a global return to handwork and attention to detail. Just at the beginning of the micro-electronic and computer age, our heritage of monuments and sites - based on man as the measure - gains in worth and esteem. We see our duty in ingrating these unregenerative values in reasonable continuity with liveliness also in the future cultural picture of the town.