

Banska Stiavnica Appeal

on Materials, Techniques and Technologies in the Preservation of the Built Heritage

The International Workshop on Materials, Techniques and Technologies in the Preservation of the Built Heritage was organized in Banska Stiavnica, from May 28 to June 1, 2002, by the National Board for the Preservation of Monuments and Sites, Bratislava, (its Regional Office in Banska Stiavnica), under the auspices and with the financial support of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, and in cooperation with the City of Banska Stiavnica, the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, the Association for Banska Stiavnica '91, the Slovak Mining Museum, Banska Stiavnica, ICOMOS Slovakia, the Slovak National Commission to UNESCO, and with the specific support of the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage, Université Laval, Québec, Canada.

The Workshop was attended by over 40 participants from several European countries. The programme of the Workshop addressed the issues of values, authenticity and integrity of heritage sites, materials, techniques and technologies, with a special concern for lime and timber structures, as well as the appropriate use of cement and concrete. Special attention was given to training of crafts-persons, the existing centers and initiatives. The programme included four on-going worksites in situ, dealing with the topics of the workshop, as well as a study tour to the region.

At the conclusion of the workshop the participants adopted the following appeal:

We, the participants

in the International Workshop on Materials, Techniques and Technologies

in the Preservation of the Built Heritage

held in Banska Stiavnica, Slovakia, from May 28 to June 1, 2002,

Express our appreciation to the organizing agencies and sponsors for the successful running of this event, as well as for the generous hospitality of the City of Banska Stiavnica and its people;

Taking note of the World Heritage Convention which states that it is the duty of each State Party to the Convention to ensure the preservation of the sites that are listed as World Heritage and located on its territory;

Considering that the World Heritage Sites of Slovakia, having been recognized for their outstanding universal value, need to be respected, preserved and made appropriately available for the enjoyment and education of present citizens and future generations;

Recognizing the Venice Charter, 1964, as a necessary reference for the State Party in the development of appropriate policies and guidelines to ensure good preservation of this heritage;

Taking note of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the safeguarding and contemporary role of historic areas, adopted in Nairobi, 1976, which invites each State to adopt, as a matter of urgency, comprehensive and energetic policies for the protection and revitalization of historic areas and their surroundings as part of national, regional or local planning;

Understanding that, according to the Nara Document on Authenticity, 1994, regular maintenance by qualified persons is the most appropriate means by which to ensure the preservation of the original fabric, the authenticity and integrity of the built heritage;

Acknowledging the ICOMOS Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage, 1999, and the need to preserve even the modest but nonetheless interesting domestic architecture as an important part of our common heritage, and especially as it constitutes the ensemble of our historic settlements and towns;

In line with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Education and Training, 1993, which propose a methodological approach to be followed when working on the built heritage and which call for the appropriate education of the public and training of professionals, restorers and artisans involved in this work;

Recognizing that training activities and capacity building form an integral part of the work envisioned under the World Heritage Convention and that knowledge of traditional building techniques and traditional craftsmanship is vital for the continued preservation and conservation of the built heritage;

Reminding that the Slovak National Council adopted on March 20th, 2001, a Declaration for the Cultural Protection that states: *the cultural values created by the past generations are permanently endangered... by the degeneration and extinction of traditional trades and technologies and through the application of technologies which are often not compatible with the essence and character of these values*, and which emphasizes the essential need of education of the young, training of professionals, and raising the awareness of the general public;

Appeal

to the Slovakian Authorities,
the Ministry of Culture, the Authorities of the relevant Regions
the City Administrations, as well as the Universities
to exercise leadership

1. By strengthening and improving the **communication, cooperation and coordination** between the different Ministries, institutions and NGOs that are involved in or concerned with the preservation of the World Heritage Sites of Slovakia;
2. By providing appropriate **guidance** for safeguarding the outstanding universal values of the World Heritage sites of Slovakia, as well as promoting the preparation and

- adoption of specific guidelines for the conservation, restoration and maintenance of individual historic buildings and areas, and archaeological vestiges, with due respect of their values, their historic condition, their composition, and the materials and techniques used in their construction;
3. By supporting efforts that contribute to raising the quality of preservation and the building-up of **knowledge** in the conservation practice, as well as by facilitating the transfer of this knowledge through educational activities addressing the needs of the conservation professionals, art restorers, crafts-persons, and others involved in the process;
 4. By promoting the value of good **craftsmanship** and educating the young generation in the practice of crafts, also using the public media for the purpose;
 5. By designing and implementing **training strategies** that address the needs of individuals, professionals, contractors, builders and artisans, increasing their knowledge and skills in the conservation of the built heritage, including capacity building in project and business management, as well as communication skills;
 6. By encouraging collaboration between the **training centers** in different countries, and the organization of joint projects, exchange of knowledge and experiences, while respecting the traditions and peculiarities of each place;
 7. By encouraging and sustaining the production and certification of **materials** suitable for the conservation of the built heritage;
 8. By searching for necessary funding and other resources required for the establishment of a **training-education center**, possibly in Banska Stiavnica, to provide training with appropriate certification for mid-level crafts-persons and technicians, to meet the emerging needs in historic areas by organizing refresher courses (lifelong learning) for professional upgrading; as well as to inform and advise property owners;
 9. By encouraging and advising property owners to request the support of **qualified crafts-persons and skilled technicians**, seeking the advice and coordination of a competent conservation architect, when undertaking restoration work on heritage properties;
 10. By building a **documentation and information center** designed to support training activities by means of setting up archives of historic building material, by recuperating and exhibiting physical examples of traditional techniques, by creating information databases for reference purposes, thus facilitating the dissemination of information and the education of the public;
 11. By giving special attention to the **monitoring** of the condition of heritage sites, and the effectiveness of measures that have been taken;
 12. By introducing **legislation** that will enforce the necessity for contractors (firms as well as individuals) to demonstrate the required standard and level of knowledge and capacity when undertaking projects in the field of heritage conservation;
 13. By ensuring that the legal framework and relevant building norms and standards support the implementation of good conservation practice;

and more specifically,
for the preservation of the World Heritage City of Banska Stiavnica,
RECOMMEND that

1. A continuous and constructive **dialogue** be facilitated between the responsible authorities and the citizens of Banska Stiavnica, involving especially the population living in the World Heritage area of the town;
2. A close **collaboration** be sustained and reinforced between the relevant departments of the Municipality and the State Office of Heritage Conservation;
3. A special attention be given to the respect of the historic **character and the patina of age** of the heritage buildings and structures, reflecting the outstanding universal value of the city; repair should be preferred to reconstruction; in-situ repair should be preferred to dismantling and reassembling; the original configuration, materials, and assembling method should be a primary concern;
4. The appropriate use of **traditional building materials and techniques** in the restoration, repair and maintenance of the historic structures be considered as a priority, and that the use of modern materials and structures, especially concrete and steel be minimal and compatible with the historic integrity of the place,
5. **Adequate equipment** be established and made use of, under the supervision of competent specialists, for the analysis and testing required for planning conservation interventions;
6. Appropriate **management plans and guidelines** for the conservation and good use of heritage properties be prepared and implemented as a matter of priority;
7. Appropriate **facilities** be provided in Banska Stiavnica for the organization of educational and training activities, as well as for supporting the collection and dissemination of information on traditional materials and technologies;
8. **Incentives** be offered to stimulate good maintenance, conservation, and rehabilitation of historic properties;
9. A **fund** be created to support emergency work;
10. A series of **follow-up actions** be undertaken, at the national level, aiming at the dissemination and implementation of these recommendations;

Bearing in mind that good conservation will contribute, not only to the preservation of the cultural heritage, but also to the development of the quality of life of the citizens, the promotion of sustainable tourism, and the improvement of the economic situation of Banska Stiavnica and its region.

Approved, May 31st, 2002