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**UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN**

**RAYMOND LEMAIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION**  
Master of Science in Conservation of Monuments and Sites

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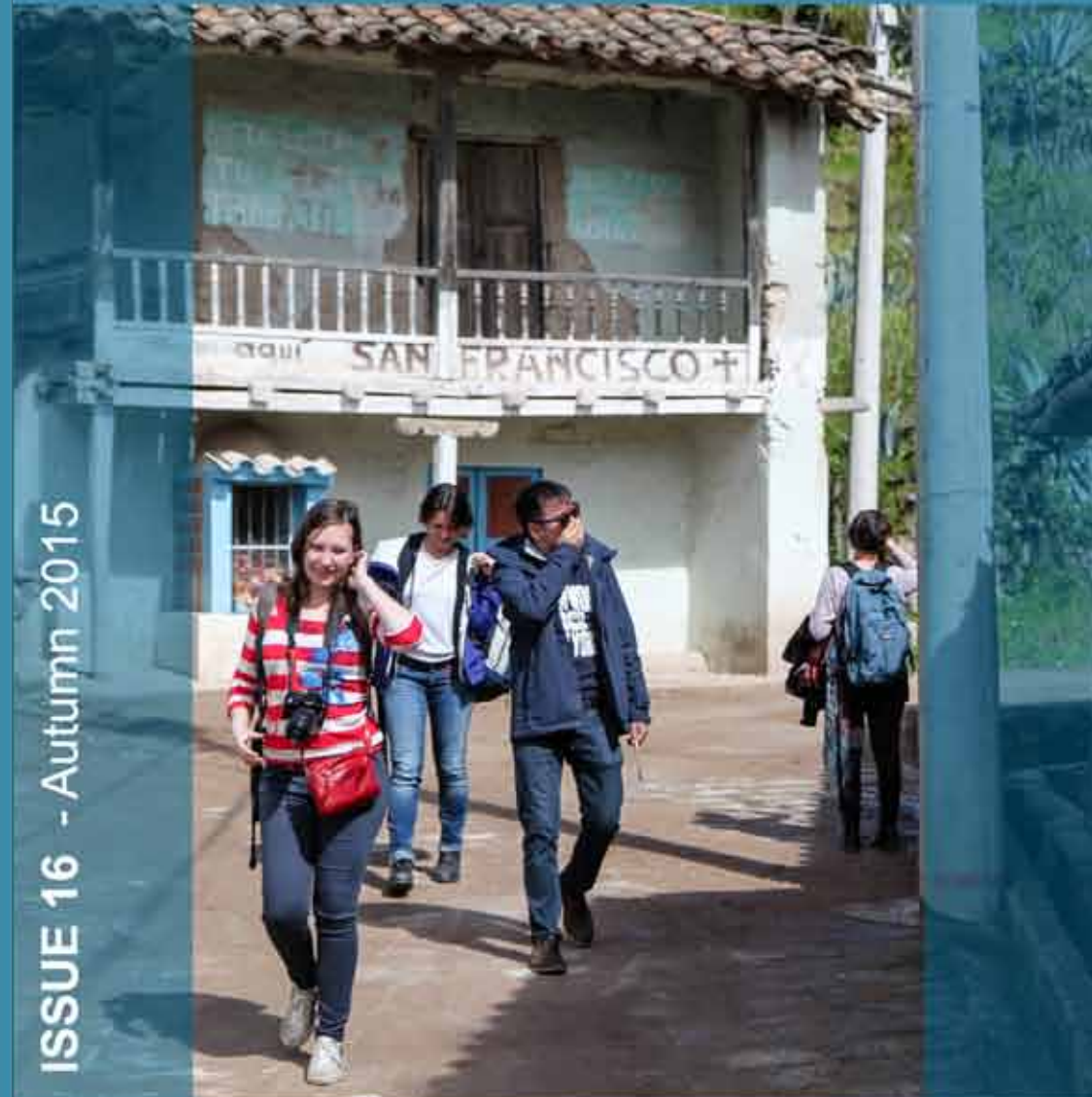
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Cover: Students during their visit to the village Oña (Ecuador).  
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Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation  
**RLICC NEWSLETTER**

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Arial view of the new cathedral in the historic city center of Cuenca (Ecuador)  
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Students of the Master of Science in Conservation of Monuments and Sites during the Adobe workshop in Susudel (Ecuador) under the approving eye of Prof. Luc Verpoest and Prof. Fausto Cardoso. © Pieter-Jan Debuyst, 2015



# Editorial

**By Prof. dr. ir. arch. Koen Van Balen, Director of the Raymond Lemaire International Center for Conservation**

Major events today pose new challenges to us as citizens and as professionals. Some seem far away from our daily personal life or professional concerns. What about the massive migrations going on from various continent to Europe or within Europe? One of the pressures that initiate those migrations come from imposing regimes that disregards tolerance and diversity. They can't live with a the idea that societies are constructions based on diverse rich historical and continuously evolving cultures. Their leaders justify imposed rules and acts of destruction with so called religious rules resulting into a society based on intolerance, unilateral discrimination of women and of people with divergent (religious) opinions. They wipe out heritage as to create uniform, unilaterally constructed images of reality, in an attempt to justify intolerance by "what has always been" and was given by "a god". In short it seems that the transcendence of heritage with its socio-economic, cultural and historical layers is an obstacle while at the same time attempts are made to create a new "heritage" that is justified by beliefs and interpretation of "ancient" (religious) writings. Rewording today's events this way, it looks similar to what we have experienced in our European history. Not only do we remember a similar approach that was used in Europe in the first half of the 20th Century when the Nazi regime selected heritage and disregarded other to create the justification for an inhuman totalitarian society. In a different way in our own professional world we also have seen difficulties in facing diversity, in "editing" layers in conservation even more recently. We faced difficulties to understand that the survival and the potential inheritance of culture is through continuously invigorating it and giving it place in society without too much discrimination and selection.

Media often depicts migrations as threats for the residents and for established societies. Without underestimating the multiple pressures such migrations cause for migrants and hosts, do we sufficiently reflect on how history and evolution is based on the input generated by migrants and how our heritage and culture benefitted from such influx in history? Migrants bring with them a wealth of knowledge and culture that can help improve our society and make it more resilient and tolerant. Considering the heart-broken fact that most of them have fled places that are dear to them, places that are points of reference in their life and are anchoring points for their communities, do we not have the obligation to empower these people to rightfully regain and embrace that heritage when they are able to return? Are we therefore not become custodians together with them of their heritage so they once will be able to regain dignity and pride after a –hopefully- short, nevertheless shaming episode in history. We are happy to hear our University has decided to join forces to accommodate some of those migrants. We hope that this human gesture will also help our university community to reflect on how we can jointly share and strengthen our knowledge and culture to spread a new but colourful inkblot to inundate the black spots of intolerance and ignorance. A beautiful effort in that respect has seen daylight just some days ago.

Mr. Abdel Kader Haidara, Director of Mamma Haidara's Library in Timbuktu opened the international conference "What do we lose when we lose a library?" on 9 September 2015 in Leuven. He was responsible for a rescue operation started in 2012, when violent conflict erupted in Northern Mali and the majority of the Timbuktu manuscripts were removed from the threat of extremist groups and brought to the capital of Mali, Bamako. While saved from the dangers of violent conflict and radical agendas, the manuscripts now face new threats: the humid climate in Bamako and lack of conservation facilities that result in physical deterioration. Our University has given a helping hand with preserving some of those manuscripts and contributing to a crowd sourcing initiative that aims at safeguarding this collection and hopefully resulting in the return of the books to Bamako ([kuleuvencongres.be/libconf2015/website/support-timbuktu-library](http://kuleuvencongres.be/libconf2015/website/support-timbuktu-library)). The conference itself was organised to commemorate the fire of the Leuven University Library in 1914 which resulted into a huge loss of valuable manuscripts and into one of the first international solidarity actions that helped creating a new library at the Leuven University after World War I.

The newsletter of Autumn 2015 reports on some additional contributions to these colourful inkblots. The publication of the contribution of the Thematic Week in 2014 "Community Involvement in Heritage" has generated many positive comments and helps clarifying the interrelationship between heritage and societies. The thematic week of 2015 on "Heritage Counts" has opened the debate even wider, linking heritage to sustainable development. This is also the core of the outcome of the Europa Nostra lead project "Cultural Heritage counts for Europe" that has been presented in Oslo in June. RLICC researchers have given a vital scientific contribution to the report and came up with a concept to easily communicate on the role of heritage into sustainable development, using the "upstream perspective".

Two alumnae of the Centre have presented their PhD research recently. Dr. Claudine Houbart's research studied the role of Raymond Lemaire as an urban planner and dr. Sorna Khakzad's research dealt with the management of cultural heritage at the interface between land and sea.

New research projects are starting up in the framework of the PRECOM3OS UNESCO chair. Engineer Architect Nathalie Van Roy has obtained a research grant from Flemish Institute of Technology (IWT) to study the guarding and monitoring of quality of preservation and maintenance of historic buildings. The CHANGES project, financed through the Joint Program Initiative Cultural Heritage is studying Cultural Heritage Management from the perspective of planned preventive conservation. We are also happy to announce that Janssen Pharmaceutica will support the PRECOMOS UNESCO chair at least for one additional year.

Again RLICC staff has been globe-trotting to share experiences in the heritage field. The recent study trip of the first-years' students could also have been put under this heading as fifteen students and three staff members went to Ecuador and collaborated in Cuenca with our colleagues at the University of Cuenca. Incoming globe-trotting is also evidenced by

the stay of two colleagues from Santiago de Cuba (University de Oriente) who came within the exchange made possible through the VLIR-UOS program.

Reports on some of the master thesis presented recently and on the internship show the variety of topics and experiences our students have grasped during their studies. The summaries of the "integrated project work" show again the result of interdisciplinary learning and hard collaboration which is core of our program. Sometimes such results have a major long-term impact. In previous academic year the "Citroen Garage in Brussels" was one of the IPW's on which two groups of students worked. The report of this project work is now used as a solid piece of documentation for the competition launched by the Brussels region administration seeking for a project for the site.

We wish you an enjoyable reading of the newsletter, but not without asking you to save the date of September 12th 2016 in your agenda. That day we will start celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Centre with a special event on Monday focussing on contributions from our alumnae. The festivities will be followed by an international conference on Structural Analysis of Historic Constructions (SAHC 2016). Please consult the websites and follow-up your email messages. (Please do not hesitate to send your up-to-date email address to [rlicc@asro.kuleuven.be](mailto:rlicc@asro.kuleuven.be))



## 2015 Thematic Week

Heritage Counts

By Aziliz Vandesande, PhD Researcher RLICC



2015 Thematic Week © RLICC

February 3rd - 6th, the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation organized the 3rd edition of the Thematic Week, a yearly international conference in Leuven. This edition of the Thematic Week grew out of the valorisation actions implemented within the Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe project, funded by the EU Culture Programme (2007-2013), in which the RLICC is one of the main research partners. More information on the project can be found in the globetrotting section of this newsletter. This event brought together academics, researchers and heritage professionals to discuss cultural heritage from different perspectives. The rich 4-day agenda included more than 30 presentations dealing with the economic, social, environmental and cultural impacts of built cultural heritage.

This idea of built heritage as a “capital of irreplaceable cultural, social and economic

value” was already present in the European Charter of the Architectural Heritage, adopted by the Council of Europe in 1975. Today, the discourse is receiving increasingly more attention on the research agenda. Some argue that, although heritage is always valued highly, the current interest in the impact of heritage is caused by the democratization of heritage and the increased importance of heritage in today’s society. Others argue that a universal scarcity of funds for heritage management and conservation is becoming increasingly pertinent.

The conference aim was to provide an international overview of discourse, strategies and case studies to highlight potentialities, gained advantages and difficulties encountered in the different steps in making heritage count.

### Opening day

The opening day of the conference was

co-organized with Europa Nostra, project leader of the Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe project and specifically aimed at reflecting on the EU policy vision and agenda for cultural heritage, today and future development paths.

The organising committee was very pleased to welcome Rik Torfs, Rector of the KU Leuven, for the opening address of the conference. He initiated his welcome speech by addressing the legacy of Raymond Lemaire in the heritage and research field, as well as his contribution to the overall experience of the built environment of the Leuven béguinage, among other through the efforts of the RLICC. Further, Torfs stated that cultural heritage indeed brings people together and is an important economic factor. But mostly, he stressed that heritage also has a different role to play, in each of our lives, through a sense of tradition. Tradition as a common ground, that allows you to look forward without fear. As such, heritage goes beyond being a mere social and economic impact factor for our humanity but provides us with a basis to be courageous and tackle the future, he concluded.

Following, to set the context, the Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe project was presented by Koen Van Balen, Director of the RLICC and Jacek Purchla, Director of the International Cultural Centre in Poland. Two case studies were also presented: “The Living Cabanyal Archive” by Elida Maiques, Member of the Cabanyal team, Valencia (Spain) - winner of a EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award 2013 (category Education, Training and Awareness-Raising), and “The Westergasfabriek” by Liselore van der Heijden, Deputy Director, Amsterdam (the Netherlands) - winner of an EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award

2010 (category Conservation).

To make a direct link with the EU policy agenda, a panel discussion was organized. The panel was moderated by the Secretary General of Europa Nostra, Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic. In her introduction speech she stressed the importance of translating the Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe findings into strategic messages and policy recommendations, specifically into EU institutions but also for different policy levels and stakeholders that manage heritage on a day-to-day basis. The actual panel discussion was initiated by Mircea Diaconu, MEP, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education and Rapporteur on the EC Communication on Cultural Heritage, highlighted the need for policy makers to have better access to information about the impact of cultural heritage in Europe, the need to mainstream cultural heritage, to create a platform for best practice and to ensure the preservation of knowledge by continuing to collect existing evidence on the multiple benefits of cultural heritage. Following, Kate Pugh, Chief



Discussion panel moderated by Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic with representatives from the European Parliament and Commission © RLICC

Executive of The Heritage Alliance (UK) and Gábor Soós, Head of Division of World Heritage and International Cooperation at the Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management (Hungary) spoke of the importance of the Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe research results. Further, Xavier Prats Monné, Director-General of the European Commission for Education and Culture, elaborated on new funding opportunities and programmes such as Creative Europe, Horizon2020, Erasmus+ and the EU's structural funds that can stimulate the whole cycle of heritage preservation. In this context, the DG EAC promotes high standards and high-quality skills in conservation practice through the European Heritage Awards run in partnership with Europa Nostra. Next to qualitative preservation, the European Commission just started work with Member States on improving the governance of heritage policies. Thereby Xavier Prats Monné specified that good governance can contribute to a virtuous cycle of economic growth and social progress. He brought this different aspects together by pointing to a crucial point in today's Cultural heritage field. More specific, he stated that heritage "is the soul of our cities and countryside and

also the source of the sense of belonging and identity for our communities and citizens. But we all know too well that there are still too many people who are indifferent to cultural heritage, or who are simply not sufficiently aware of its value. This is a real challenge. Europe's citizens are so used to the surrounding historic urban and rural environment often forgetting that heritage needs a lot of care. [...] Public and private actors, local communities and stakeholders must all be active in managing and maintaining heritage."

Finally, to allow some reflection on the overall positive, but very loaded panel discussion, a select guided tour was organised to a local company that puts the theory into practice. De Hoorn was founded in 1923 and is the original cradle of Stella Artois brewery. The historically protected building owes its special character to the historic brewery hall and his unique building construction. A few years ago De Hoorn was bought by seven enthusiastic inhabitants of Leuven with the aim to make an innovative meeting place. Today, De Hoorn a vibrant place that hosts creative businesses and triggers social economy. Moreover, De Hoorn is an outspoken sustainable project. Not only through the reuse of the old buildings and

the location, but also by the energy efficient approach. Extra attention was paid to the insulation of the building and there was an innovative hybrid ventilation system for which De Hoorn received an EFRO-grant.

#### International conference on the economic, social, environmental and cultural impact of heritage

The following days of the conference were dedicated to international research and professional activities that deal with the economic, social, environmental and cultural impacts of built cultural heritage. Built heritage in this context was understood as cultural heritage assets that are ingrained in the very fabric the historic urban and rural environment and need which to be protected and managed for future generations. As such, the conference considered an all-inclusive historic environment where cultural heritage assets, experiences of intangible cultural heritage, living traditional knowledge and skills are not to be seen as separate things.

In total 34 speakers from 21 countries presented their experiences on how heritage has an impact in our society. This variety of information was structured according to 4 thematic sessions. The 1st session dealt with "Framing the paradigm 'heritage counts'" and was introduced by Ana Pereira Roders (Portugal) who spoke about the impact of heritage conservation in urban Europe. The keynote speaker for the 2nd session, the impact of cultural heritage on a national level, was Christer Gustafsson (Sweden) who dealt with cultural heritage management 3.0 and integrated conservation in the age of smart specialisation strategies. The next thematic session dealt with the impact of cultural heritage in cities and (city-) regions and was opened by a RLICC guest Professor, Christian Ost (Belgium). More specifically,

he addressed the topic of risk assessment of cultural heritage in historic cities in the context of economic development and poverty alleviation. The final session, the impact of individual heritage buildings and sites, contained mostly case studies and was led by Stefano Della Torre (Italy) who discussed the multifaceted heritage and care impact. The complete programme can be consulted through: [http://www.encatc.org/culturalheritagecountsforeurope/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/RLICC\\_Program\\_TW\\_Heritage\\_Counts\\_2015.pdf](http://www.encatc.org/culturalheritagecountsforeurope/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/RLICC_Program_TW_Heritage_Counts_2015.pdf)

#### 2014 Thematic Week book launch

The 2015 thematic week served as the perfect opportunity to launch the RLICC book series' 1st edition. The series is entitled "Reflections on Cultural Heritage Theories and Practices. A series by the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation", and aims to provide insight on international research dedicated to relevant topics in the built heritage field. To ensure academic integrity of the content, each book will receive a Guaranteed Peer Reviewed Content (GPRC) label. This entails that every contribution before its publication was assessed in a verifiable peer-review process with double feedback reports by scientists who are experts in the relevant discipline. The peer-review is - carried out the editorial board, a fixed reading panel and by external referees.

The first volume is entitled "community involvement in heritage" and reports on the lectures and fruitful debates dedicated to this theme during the 2014 Thematic Week. The 2014 international conference aimed at defining an integral and holistic approach towards community participation. Focusing traditionally on the conservation of the historic urban environment and immovable



*Brouwzaal and logo De Hoorn © Boondoggle.be (left) and Vaartkom.be (right)*



heritage, the RLICC took the opportunity to involve both the intangible and movable heritage fields which have a more apparent relation with community participation in managing heritage. The contributions by different international authors, including theoretical reflections, policy / discourse analyses and practical case studies, show that a balanced approach is needed. They evidence that more research is required on the success and on failure factors associated with community participation in heritage preservation and management projects. It appears that taking full advantage of public participation requires considering heritage as an economic, social and intellectual resource for local communities. These added

benefits can enhance the value a community attributes to heritage and encourages them to maintain it.

To purchase this volume or consult the complete table of contents, please visit the publisher's website: <http://www.maklu.be/> (ISBN: 9789044132632).

#### Release 2015 Thematic Week volume

The next volume in the the RLICC book series is on its way and will report on the 2015 Thematic Week findings. 25 speakers of the conference who successfully passed the peer-review process and other invited experts will contribute to this volume. The central message is that acknowledging heritage in the context of sustainable development

makes it even more obvious that a rhetoric only based on economy undermines the cultural, social and intellectual rationale for heritage management and research. In response, this publication very straightforwardly reflects on heritage impact by providing research, case studies and reflections that can serve as baseline records, guidance - and hopefully inspiration. The volume consists of three main parts: "Framing the paradigm", "Impact assessments: research, methods and practice" and "Linking management, conservation and sustainable development". The release date of the publication will be announced soon!



Cover of the publication following the 2014 Thematic Week © RLICC

## After the jury: Citroën Garage Brussels

In Brussels, Belgium

By Natalie Dillon and Thomas Stroobants, alumni RLICC

After the jury: Citroën Garage Brussels  
On Tuesday the 3rd of February, our IPW3 group of the RLICC class of 2013-2014 had the opportunity to participate in the event "Citroëngarage: Het museum voorbij".

The Citroën Garage was the subject of a major debate in Brussels' affairs in the past 10 months. Since the proposal from the government of the Brussels region was announced to turn the garage into a Museum of Modern Art the public's interest in the building, which today is still functioning today as a private garage, was completely renewed. The site is to this day still privately owned and not listed as a monument, which increased the concern of the (heritage) community. The possibility of demolition in the future development of the site is high, since it is located in a very real-estate-lucrative canal zone in Brussels. Under the initiative of the Brussels' parliament parties Groen and Ecolo a debate was organized to discuss the further future of the Citroën Garage, beyond the discussion for a function as a museum or

not. The organizers gathered architects, urban planners and scholars to present their views on the future of the Citroën Garage, thus opening the way for a public discussion over the fate and (new) identity of this important landmark for the city of Brussels. Our group was invited to share the outcome of our IPW3 research.

The event was hosted in the café of the Kaaithater in Brussels, right next to the Garage, bringing all interested parties to the hot spot of the debate.

Our group had the honor to open the evening. In 30 minutes time the Garage was introduced to some 200 Bruxellois, students, professionals, politicians and scholars. Starting from the garage's conception in the 30's, we highlighted the vision of its creation and the importance of the composition and structure as an innovation of its time. The 80 years of the Garage's existence were shown through the architectural transformations in the building and the changes of its immediate surroundings. Our contribution was



Picture during the presentation © Arnaud Verstraete/ Twitter



Picture of the model © Rob Smeets

concluded with an extensive analysis of the values of the Citroën garage, the keystone of our research.

In addition to the presentation, our group exhibited two large-scale models of the Garage. The first model showed the original form of the building as it was realised in 1934, and the second one represented all its later transformations. The models, which were made for the final jury of our IPW3 course, stressed the true size and complexity of the site that remain mostly unknown to the public

The program of the evening included the presentation of Joachim Declerck (Architecture Workroom Brussels), Isabelle Pauthier (ARAU), Nicolas Hemeleers (urban planner), Leon Smets (museum expert) and Freek Persyn (51N4E).

The event had a very positive outcome. For the first time the debate was extended further than the press and different experts gave new insights. The public had the chance to express their thoughts and interact with the speakers. Also the base for further discussions, workshops and research

for the garage's future were set. In order to organize these actions, the involved experts, scholars and citizens' movements have agreed to form a common platform for the promotion of the Citroën Garage in order to ensure its preservation as an important landmark and monument in Brussels.

For the group this evening was a great experience to meet new people and defend the project we researched intensively during and after IPW3. It was also a confirmation of our effort to keep giving presentations about the Citroën Garage in the months after the jury presentation. This networking has been an intensive job, together with repairing our first model, and completing a second one. We have the feeling we gave weight to the debate, and slowly minds are beginning to turn towards preservation of the Garage. The idea that our contribution had an impact on its fate is certainly motivating and we will keep inspiring people for the preservation of the entire building.

## Religious Heritage Conservation: Education and Management

ALTERheritage meeting in Leuven, 15-16 June 2015

**By Thomas Coomans, professor RLICC and Jan Jaspers, director religious immovable heritage, CRKC**

The increasing issue of adaptive use of churches is becoming one of Europe's most important heritage challenges. Countries such as The Netherlands and the United Kingdom have developed a certain experience in the field since three decades. Other countries, however, are recently experiencing the issue and are starting reflection. These last month, I gave lectures at conferences in Italy and Wallonia, and co-authored several publications in Canada and Belgium.

In Italy, the first international conference Patrimonio Architettonico Religioso. Nuove Funzioni e Processi di Trasformazione took place in Turin on 11-12 December 2014. Co-organised by the department of architecture and design of Politecnico

di Torino (Prof. Carla Bartolozzi) and the Ufficio Nazionale per I beni culturali ecclesiastici, about 30 lectures, most from Italy, shown the richness and the diversity of religious heritage in Italy. Beside the dominating and outstanding Catholic heritage, very interesting papers presented the Italian Jewish heritage as well as the heritage of the Waldensian communities in the region of Piemonte. The conference was organised in three parts: 1. history and legislation, 2. survey and management of movable and immovable religious heritage, 3. studies and projects for the restoration and valorisation of religious heritage. On 29 November 2014, the Comité d'histoire The last ALTERheritage meeting was co-organised by the Raymond Lemaire



ALTERheritage group in Leuven © Aziliz Vandesande





*ALTERheritage group visiting the Park abbey © Thomas Coomans*

International Centre for Conservation, together with its two 'silent partners', the Centre for Religious Art and Culture (CRKC) and KADOC Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society. Educational and management aspects of religious heritage conservation were the focus of the meeting.

On 15 June, RLICC organised at the Arenberg Castle a conference on educational and management aspects of conservation. RLICC's international and interdisciplinary advanced master programme includes conservation of religious heritage, management and preventive conservation of heritage. Prof. Koen Van Balen, holder of the UNESCO Chair on Preventive Conservation, Monitoring and Maintenance welcomed the audience composed of twenty ALTERheritage partners and about forty students and alumni. Prof. Thomas Coomans presented five complementary keys for understanding religious built heritage (construction, style, iconography,

use, meaning). Prof. Sven Sterken focused on the specific issue of heritagising post war churches. Two RLICC students, Eva Weyns and Valérie Vermandel, explained how courses, projects, internships, and contribution to ALTERheritage developed their skills and knowledge on religious heritage. Aziliz Vandesande, PhD student at RLICC, introduced to educating on preventive conservation. Zeljka Knezevic, head of Leuven university's Monument Division, explained how the university uses and manages its 140 listed historic buildings, especially the former religious buildings, which include the Great Beguinage, the library of Sciences in a former monastery of Celestines, KADOC in a former Franciscan convent, the Dutch college, etc. Jan Jaspers and Dimitri Strevens from CRKC explained the integrated heritage policy and the tools developed by the Flemish Region for the management of parish churches in Flanders (see further). Martine Van den Bergen presented "Open

Churches", a NGO valorising the heritage of more than 300 churches in Belgium, including education programs for the broad public. This stimulating conference concluded with stressing the essential role of Academia in defining methodologies, transmitting expertise on heritage prevention and management, educating the actors of tomorrow, and contributing to the indispensable change of mentalities about religious heritage in a double bottom-up end top-down dynamic.

ALTERheritage visited also the Historic abbey of Park and was introduced to the 'parish churches plan'. In 2012-13, CRKC collected basic information about the 1786 Catholic parishes in Flanders: historical and heritage data and descriptions, urban and social context of the building, actual and future use of the church for worship, present other uses, and possibilities to organize a secondary or new use (online databank: [www.crkc.be](http://www.crkc.be)). Redundancy of Catholic parish churches is a recent social and political issue in Belgium. After a series of conferences with all parties involved—Catholic church, municipalities, governmental agencies of internal affairs and heritage—the Flemish government invited in 2011 the Catholic Church and the municipalities to establish

a plan for the future use of parish churches for each of the Flemish towns. The Centre for Religious Art and Culture (CRKC) was asked to assist parishes and municipalities in this planning process by providing basic information, designing road maps for the planning process, and giving information about good practices for extended or new uses of churches.

After the conference, the ALTERheritage partners visited several religious heritage sites in Leuven: the gothic collegiate church of St Peter (its belfry tower is World Heritage, 1999), the Great Beguinage and its church (World Heritage, 1998), the Romanesque St Lambert Chapel, the baroque church of St Michael, the pilgrimage church of St Antony and the tomb of saint Father Damien, the Irish College, and the University library of Sciences (former convent of Celestines). The meeting ended with a visit of KADOC Documentation and Research Center on Religion, Culture and Society. The ALTERheritage group also was welcomed on the City Hall of Leuven by Sir Dirk

## Leuven, source of knowledge

February 2015-June 2015, Leuven

**Luis Enrique Bello Caballero, Architect/Researcher from the Universidad de Oriente, Cuba**



*Luis (left) with colleagues and professors from the KU Leuven © Reinout Klaarenbeek*

In order to launch and support a PhD research project on information management of heritage sites in Eastern Cuba, a research visit at the RLICC was set up within context of the VLIR-UOS funded Institutional Cooperation Project “The Universidad de Oriente supporting the sustainable development in the eastern region of Cuba”, between the Council of Flemish Universities in Belgium and the Universidad de Oriente in Santiago de Cuba.

Several actions were planned under the guidance of Prof. Koen Van Balen aimed at gaining a general understanding on up to date heritage conservation and management methodologies, trends and theories. The first action was to participate in the yearly organized Thematic Week, hosted by the

RLICC. The central subject of the meeting was the economic, social, environmental and cultural impact of immovable heritage. The event gathered specialists, heritage conservators and researchers mostly from Europe, but also from Asia and Latin America. The auditorium located nearby Castle Arenberg resulted in the common space where professionals from diverse backgrounds, contexts and cultures shared their experiences on the field. All contributions, discussions, questions, panels and debates were very nutritive and useful to immediately open and develop the premature ideas of the proposed PhD research project. It is possible to say that a hurricane of new ideas impacted the newborn project.

Moreover, the involvement in three of

the courses within the Master Program on Conservation of Monuments and Sites (MCMS) represented a significant theoretical, practical and methodological training in order to pursue the main objective of the stay in Leuven. These three courses were Building Materials and Conservation Techniques; Conservation Policies and Conservation of Urban Sites and Landscapes: History, Theory and Practice. The staff of professors, coming from different backgrounds and countries clearly showed common problematics related to cultural heritage conservation and how this activity inevitably needs an interdisciplinary approach.

A unique experience was the possibility to participate and contribute in the Integral Project Work 3 within the MCMS. This involvement allowed sharing opinions



*Survey with laser scanner in a medieval staircase © Afroditi Nerologou*

and ideas with the group of students from Belgium, Greece, Cyprus, South Korea, Canada, France and Turkey. Specifically, the integration in the IPW 3 was with the “tri-continental” team that worked in Sint-Jans Gildenhuis, a presumably 16th Century building in the city of Mechelen (Frederik de Merodestraat 56). The members of this team were Afroditi Nerologou, Architect from Greece; Helena ten Berge, Historian from Belgium; Myonghwan Ko, Architect from South Korea and Fırat Şeker, Architectural Historian from Turkey.

The contribution particularly consisted in the survey of the ancient wood roof structure together with a Gothic staircase, as well as one room containing decorative stucco panels. Due to the complexity of the spaces and the need of an accurate and detailed documentation in the most ancient part of the building the survey was performed using the laser scanner technology, under the instructions of drs. Maarten Bassier. Three different approaches were used in order to properly operate the equipment and obtain the desired information in each of the spaces. In the case of the roof, the procedure was based on scanning from different positions using targets; the staircase was surveyed from different points and later on, in software edition the scans were merged together; and finally, for the room, the method consisted in an image scanning from one point that allowed to obtain 3D accurate data of the space including information about color and textures. The data obtained from the survey supported the study of the conditions, real dimensions and structure of the building; also, the use of modern techniques saved on-site time in order to gain more desktop analysis with the detailed and accurate data collection.

During this period of five months the “free time” was “spent” performing research tasks

at the researchers' office in the RLICC in order to direct a more objective and defined PhD project. Undoubtedly, this was a great opportunity to share and constantly receive feedbacks from experienced professors, and find inspiration from fellows colleagues, starting with the never stopping engine Aziliz Vandesande, PhD researcher from Belgium; Dr. Sorna Kazkhad from Iran, who successfully defended her PhD Thesis on the so passionate theme of underwater heritage; Reinout Klaarenbeek from the Netherlands; Clara Thys from Belgium, and the so charismatic Ecuadorian colleagues Mary Sigüencia and Olga Zalamea, whose advices and support meant a significant contribution for the PhD project.

After an intense work and study, the PhD research project was presented and approved by the Pre-Doctoral Examination Committee, formed by professors Dr. Patrick Willems, Chairman; Dr. Luc Verpoest; Dr. Christian Ost; Dr. Thérèse Stenberghen and Dr. Koen Van Balen; in the examination also participated as attendant Dr. María Muñoz from Universidad de

Oriente, Cuba. The committee not only approved the project, but also encouraged and offered their support to the upcoming research. It is necessary to mention that significant outcomes were conceived in order to promote and support the launched research project. Foremost, the collaboration between the KU Leuven, the Universidad de Cuenca in Ecuador and the Universidad de Oriente in Cuba resulted in the North-South-South project "Latin-American axe on preventive conservation of built heritage".

To find the proper words in a foreign language in order to expose feelings and experiences becomes a very hard task, so it is really difficult to express all the gratitude to the entire RLICC staff for their support and this possibility of a progressive and constant learning in all aspects. article is to contribute with a baseline for the study of the binomial Development and Cultural Heritage, exploring the relevant moments on the evolution of these notions, as one of the most memorable of my life.



Luis (center) with fellow researchers at the RLICC, Castle Arenberg © Aziliz Vandesande

## Raymond M. Lemaire and the conservation of the ancient city

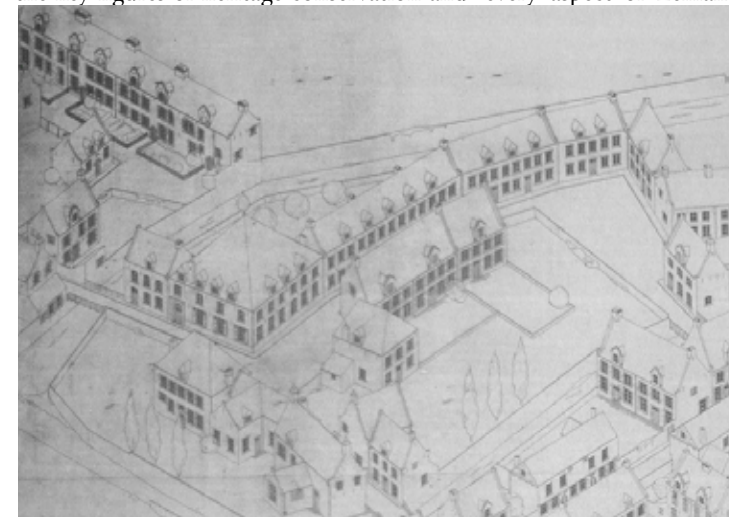
PhD research and defense

**Claudine Houbart, RLICC alumna**

When I studied at the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation between 2000 and 2002, I soon developed a particular interest in the theoretical issues of conservation, including conservation history and philosophy. So when one year after graduating, I decided to embark on a PhD, in parallel with my new appointment as a lecturer at the Lambert Lombard Architecture Institute in Liège (today Faculty of architecture of the University of Liège), I accepted with enthusiasm Prof. Luc Verpoest's proposition : working on conservation recent history in Belgium, starting from the archive of Raymond M. Lemaire, handed over to KU Leuven after he became professor emeritus in 1991. During my studies at the Centre, I had understood that he was unanimously regarded as one of the key figures of heritage conservation and

restoration in the second half of the twentieth century. For me and the other students, his name was associated with such important events as the writing of the Venice charter or the Nara document, the foundation of ICOMOS and UNESCO missions from Athens to Borobudur and Jerusalem. But his Belgian projects were something that we didn't really discuss, with the exceptions of the famous Great beguinage of Leuven and the Heverlee chapel that we had visited at the very beginning of our training, and I was curious about this local aspect of his life and work.

When in 2004 I discovered the archive, kept in the attic of the KULeuven central library and still in the process of being ordered, I had the impression of entering a gold mine. Tens of boxes and hundreds of plans addressed every aspect of Lemaire's career : churches



Perspective of the Great Beguinage of Leuven project © KULeuven, Lemaire archive

conservation in the postwar period, urbanism, Unesco missions, conferences, lectures, expert assessments, ICOMOS, Council of Europe, and many other fascinating topics. But even if I had the chance to be allowed to work on the spot, in the middle of



*Photographic montage showing the project of a new building block in front of Brussels cathedral, ca 1979*  
© KULeuven, Lemaire archive

my research material, I soon got lost and understood that I had to make a drastic choice amongst Lemaire's activities, even at the scale of Belgium. It took me two or three years – working part-time of course – to define the subject of my PhD. After opening almost every box and following some false tracks, I finally came to the idea that urban renovation – that Lemaire himself called rehabilitation – had been one of his primary areas of interest. Besides the Great beguinage of Leuven, which was well-known but never studied in depth, Lemaire had worked on many projects – most of the time not or only partially realised – all over Belgium. In parallel, in the international context, he had taken part in the reflections leading to the

concept of integrated conservation as well as in the drafting of important documents such as the Nairobi declaration (UNESCO) or the Washington charter (ICOMOS). That would be my topic : Lemaire's contribution to the conservation of historic cities, starting from a series of Belgian case studies, in the light of the reflections carried out in the international context.

This short paper doesn't leave much room for detailed developments of methodological issues. Let's just mention that I had to adapt my research to the amount and nature of the sources about each case study. For example, as to the Great beguinage, the archive contained hundreds of plans and thousands of photographs, but almost no written

records of what had been actually done and, what was an even more crucial question, the reasons why it had been done. In consequence, I had to reconstruct the project from the available graphic and iconographic material. For the Brussels case studies on which I choose to concentrate in parallel to the beguinage project, Lemaire's archive was incomplete, leading me to pursue further investigations in the Brussels city archive. In this case, a micro-historical approach was necessary in order to single out Lemaire's action and thought from the ones of the many protagonists involved in the projects. What were the major outcomes of this research? Besides bringing to light a series of unknown projects conceived by Raymond M. Lemaire, it also demonstrated that in his work and thought, rehabilitation and urbanism were nothing but two sides of a same coin, feeding each other in theory and practice through a reflexive process. Looking back at Lemaire's training years during and after the second world war and discovering the progressive broadening of his areas of interest and expertise from history of architecture to monuments conservation, rehabilitation and urbanism allowed me to see Lemaire as an update of the "integral architect", an essential concept formulated by Gustavo Giovannoni at the beginning of the twentieth century. Besides this, the research also allowed me to shed light on interesting issues such as the relations of Raymond M. Lemaire with his uncle, canon Raymond A.G. Lemaire, the sources and the drafting of the Venice charter and its revision process initiated by Lemaire and Gazzola in the early 1970's, or the emergence of the concept of integrated conservation.

Concentrating on a very important but fragmentary aspect of Raymond M. Lemaire's work, this PhD is only a first

step towards a full understanding of his contribution to conservation theory and practice in the second half of the twentieth century, but also, I believe, to the emergence of the postmodern movement in architecture and urbanism in the late sixties. Many boxes and plans are still awaiting researchers in the archive, ready to take them for a sort of initiatory trip such as the one I was so lucky to experience : diving into this rich testimony of recent conservation history didn't only broaden my historical knowledge but also fed, in a very concrete and convincing way, my understanding of today's conservation problems and issues.



*Portrait of Lemaire (R.M. Lemaire with the Prince of Liège (former King Albert II) around 1970*  
© KULeuven, Lemaire archive

## An Integrative Approach in Management of Coastal Cultural Heritage

RLICC alumna presents her doctoral dissertation

By Dr. Sorna Khakzad, alumna RLICC

The 17th June 2015 was a memorable day for me. As a student to the RLICC since 2006, this was the day that I celebrated my long journey of learning, new experiences and expanding my professional network through the wonderful opportunities that RLICC offered me during these nine years. I started my Ph.D. in 2008, immediately after finishing my master's degree in Conservation of Monuments and Historic Sites, in the area of coastal and underwater archaeology. My research was an independent research, since there was no other projected going on on this topic at our center. However, through collaboration with Flemish Heritage Agency and other partners, I had the chance to work with an interdisciplinary group on an ISBO project: SeArch (Archaeological Heritage in the North Sea).

My dissertation titled: An Integrative Approach in Management of Coastal Cultural Heritage. Following the research

in my master's thesis, several fieldwork and project experiences during my Ph.D. research, as well as attending several Ph.D. courses on management of coastal resources at East Carolina University, being a think tank member of a European project (SPLASHCOST), attending several workshops and conference focusing on underwater and coastal issues, I came to the conclusion that, in some respects, underwater and coastal cultural heritage, in comparison with terrestrial heritage in coastal areas, is not well defined and its values have not been integrated into holistic coastal management plans. Some issues must be addressed which are over-looked in respect to long term management of coastal areas in order to extract as much information as possible out of coastal cultural heritage, to link the ongoing life with the values of this heritage, and to safeguard and sustain this heritage for the future generations. In addition, separation of legal frameworks



The chair is presenting the jury decision © Aziliz Vandesande



Sorna during her presentation © Aziliz Vandesande

and management strategies for heritage on-land and underwater in the coastal areas has negatively affected the protection of coastal cultural heritage.

In brief my research highlights the values of coastal and underwater cultural heritage as a resource in holistic management plans. The focus of my dissertation has been on management of cultural coastlines and the transitional area between the sea and land. These areas consist of the shorelines, tidal zones, foreshore, and sometimes in deeper water in near-shore are either of value for their temporal connection or physical connection between the land and sea. Since many of these areas are populated and/or are under development, the management of these locations involves several factors which are directly related to people and communities who live along the shore. These factors include socioeconomic aspects of the coastal areas, natural changes observed in climate change and sea level fluctuation and their impact on people and their environment, as well as the laws

which regulate the cultural heritage on-land and underwater. The results have been an integrative evaluation method and a guideline for delineating coastal cultural areas. The method and tool were examined through the case of Ostend in Belgium. The experience and knowledge that I got through this research helped me to develop new skills in the field of underwater archaeology, and also management of underwater and coastal cultural heritage. I had the chance to work in an interdisciplinary way with experts from different fields such as economy, geology, ecology, law and social sciences. I benefited from a doctoral committee that was also comprises of professors from different fields. Although it was a challenge to satisfy all their points of view and address all their comments, and we had hard debates on many issues, in the end the whole process made me more understanding towards interdisciplinary work, as well as being a better researcher.

Following earning my doctoral degree at KU Leuven, I pursue my research at East Carolina University, where I completed doctoral courses in Coastal Resources Management Program. Presently I have the opportunity to work on a couple of research topics such as the role of maritime cultural heritage in the coastal communities' wellbeing, and coastal cultural tourism development, and aiming at earn my second Ph.D. I am also a research fellow to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), conducting research on the assessment of Native Americans maritime heritage. I am still very much interested in architecture and terrestrial cultural heritage and time

to time I take the opportunity to join such projects. As the next one will be in Nepal to help with reconstruction of houses after the earthquake and working on promoting cultural resources for the benefit of people.



*The defense day was celebrated with a reception and a delightful dinner with my doctoral committee and my mother. © Sorna Khakzad*

## In memoriam Dirk Van Eycken

By Savina Moens, RLIICC alumni

Dearest Dirk,  
– Best friend and study companion.

Thirty years ago - October 1985 - a new academic year begins in Leuven. At the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, a new generation of young architects and art historians arrive from Belgium, different European countries, and even further afield, Algeria and China.

You came from Antwerp, and had studied architecture at Sint-Lukas in Ghent and had already taken a first degree in conservation of monuments in Antwerp. You were indeed, a dedicated architect, with a heartfelt interest in the heritage left to us by the masters of previous generations, in particular the buildings of the XVIIIth, and beginning of the XIXth centuries. You and I had this passion in common from the start, and it was wonderful to share it with you ...

For most of us, the year at the 'Centre' was a very agreeable and highly instructive closing of our academic training. There were innumerable slide presentations by tutors whom we fondly remember – Raymond Lemaire, Boiret, Horler, Cuenca ..., – many practical exercises led by Lukas Van Herck, visits to construction sites, and, to end the year in style, a tour of discovery in Germany, which we enjoyed far more than we probably admitted. Then, we were sent out to start our professional careers.

Dirk, as an 'old school' architect – that is how you defined yourself sometimes – you would carefully apply the principles Raymond Lemaire had entrusted to us. Big or small projects made no difference to you, but you clearly preferred restoration and renovation. Clients could count on your loyalty and, above all, your integrity. That is quite some achievement !

Your work, your remarkable legacy, is imbued with subtle and personal details, integrated with creative design. Dream and action harmoniously combine, perfectly balanced as Yin and Yang. It is a personal signature in your work.

Meanwhile, you were a committed member of ICOMOS Vlaanderen-Brussel, an active member of the Order of Architects, the Koninklijke Vereniging van Historische Woonsteden en Tuinen in Belgium, the University Foundation ... You delighted in culture in general: as true friend of our national opera house, De Munt, you did not arrive at the premiere without having attended the dress rehearsal as well ! And did you ever count the evenings we enjoyed in Bozar, the Brussels fine arts centre, or Antwerp's concert hall, DeSingel ?

Also, as a friend of Wiels modern art museum in Brussels, you showed that the



saw. That single word, pronounced as only you could, expressed a most personal view and meant much more than architectural excellence.

As the years went by - we knew each other for nearly 30 years - I used to delight in hearing your wise reaction to situations. When you crossed your arms, and inclined your head a little to the side – as in the photograph of you in front of the portrait of Marie-Antoinette – I knew that famous word would come : “schoon”... and all was said. Just as decisively, you could also utter loudly, “zeg!” (sèg!), in an Antwerp accent with a firm nod of the head : time for action, enough talking, let’s organize that trip, register for that conference, buy tickets for the concert, enter this abandoned restaurant ...

past was not your only interest. I remember your insightful commentary on Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker’s performance there. And, of course, that spontaneous dance party afterwards. You loved it !

That was mid-May of this year; who could have imagined that we would lose you so soon afterwards ?

Dancing.... Well, if sports were not the secret of your youthful shape and looks, maybe dancing was ... as a nobleman in the castle of Hingene, at the Russian ball in the Concert Noble and the last two years, at the Duchess of Richmond’s Ball in Brussels ... you were impatient for dinner to end and the dancing to begin !

Visiting a city, castle, or monument with you was always very special. Your attention went far beyond the stones, the design, the furniture ... You said “schoon” (beautiful) when you were pleased with what you

Where are you now, Dirk ? How I wish that I could believe you still keep an eye on us. I don’t know how you did it, but you kept us together, our little class of 1985, plus many other soulmates and friends.

22 June 2015 – Out of the blue came that insane, dreadful message. At first, I couldn’t believe it. I felt sure that you had only left for a while, that you would return soon ...

Dearest Dirk, may all be well with you...  
If you can, please keep a watchful eye on us.

And what I want to say most of all is : thank you !

## Historic town development and heritage protection

A seminar in Gdańsk (Poland)

**Prof. Koen Van Balen, Director RLICC**



*Gdansk © Koen Van Balen*

On 18 March 2015 Prof. K. Van Balen represented RLICC at the Seminar on town development and heritage protection at the Wielka Zbrojownia, Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk (Poland). The seminar was organised in the framework of Flanders week in Gdansk 14-21/03/2015 and RLICC was part of the delegation of the City of Mechelen. The event was co-organised by Flemish Building Confederation, the City of Ghent and the City of Mechelen in collaboration with the Flemish Government.

The seminar was organised in four round tables 1/ The reuse of heritage as part of town development; 2/ Socio economic impact of town development and heritage protection; 3/ Combining the reuse of heritage

protected buildings with sustainable energy use; and 4/ Developing modern liveable city centres with respect for historic heritage and attention for green public spaces.

RLICC’s contribution was part of round table 2 which also included the presentation of a research for smart city model in Gdańsk and Glasgow by PhD DSc Arch Joanna Bach Glowinska (Senior Specialist in Planning, Gdańsk Development Agency and Assistant Professor, University of Technology of Gdańsk and Research Fellow, Glasgow School of Art). The approach of the city administration from the City of Ghent in one of its neighbourhoods was presented by Ms Iris Van den Abbeel (Program director Urban Renewal Service, City of Ghent) and was entitled “Bridges towards Rabot:

an integrated approach of urban renewal in the 19th century”. The search for effective collaborative schemes for stakeholders at various levels which induces understanding of responsibility and availability of financial resources were addressed in the contribution of Mr Marc Dillen (Director general Flemish Building Confederation): “Ten principles for a sound PPP procurement, applied to town development” and from Ms Joanna Piasek (Head Public Sector BNP Paribas): “Alternative financing sources of projects related to town development. The outcome of the thesis of Clara Thys (Thys, C., 2014. The socio-economic impact of immovable heritage in Mechelen. Master thesis. RLICC/KU Leuven) and of Emma Schilz (Schilz, E., 2014. Heritage as a raw material. Master thesis. RLICC/ KU Leuven) were presented. Both students studied in 2013-2014 the socio-economic impacts of the immovable heritage in Mechelen. The results of their work became part of the report of Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe as one of the studies at the micro-level. The objective of both thesis aimed at assessing the socio-economic impacts of

immovable heritage in Mechelen, a city in the South of the province of Antwerp in Belgium, halfway between Antwerp and Brussels. The method chosen for this assessment is an impact analysis based on indicators. The impacts were categorized as manifesting themselves in four dimensions, based on the Hangzhou Declaration of 2013: the economic, cultural, social and ecological dimensions. The methodology had previously been developed in the Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe project (see previous newsletter). The four dimensions were subdivided into subdomains for which possible impact of immovable heritage could be defined. The subdomains were defined through research of the literature world-wide. Divided over the subdomains, 37 indicators were discussed, based on available statistical data, on evidences collected from stakeholder through consultations and surveys. They included also input from inhabitants of Mechelen. One of the questionnaires focused on obtaining information on the citizens’ awareness and perspective regarding the meaning, role and impact immovable heritage in the city.

## IX ENCUESTRO INTERNACIONAL CIUDAD HISTÓRICA CIUDAD CONTEMPORÁNEA

Mission to Havana and Santiago in Cuba

**Prof. Koen Van Balen, director RLICC**



Mr. L. Devolder – K. Van Balen – Mr. H. Portocarero © Koen Van Balen



Impact domains of immovable heritage © Clara Thys and Emma Schilz



The 9th International meeting at the Universidad de Oriente in Cuba was dedicated to the 500 anniversary of the establishment of the City of Santiago de Cuba.

The “first international convention of social and environmental sciences” from the same University focussed on the theme “CIUDAD HISTÓRICA CIUDAD CONTEMPORÁNEA” (the historic city, the contemporary city). Within this

context the architecture and urbanisms department of the Construction Faculty, organised the 8th international meeting on “CIUDAD IMAGEN Y MEMORIA “ (City: image and memory) under the auspices of, amongst others, the Forum UNESCO “University and Heritage” from the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia and the VLIR project in which our collaboration with the University is framed.

The office of the “Conservador de la Ciudad de Santiago de Cuba (OCC)” gave an interesting presentation on the heritage in the city and the challenges it’s



preservation and management entail within the particular context of Cuba. Another very interesting contribution dealt with the management of the Archaeological Landscape of the First Coffee Plantations in the South-East of Cuba, which is on the World Heritage List. A thorough analysis showed the diversity of heritage aspects that the site covers, from the physical remains up to the practices that the design and use of those sites embody. In 2012 the devastating hurricane Sandy, caused a lot of damage to the city of Santiago and to some of those coffee plantation sites with their natural environment around them. The repair and restoration of damaged buildings caused an additional challenge to all preservation efforts.

On the way back to Belgium, Prof. K. Van Balen had an interesting exchange

with Mr. Herman Portocarero, European representative in Cuba, and Mr. Luc Devolder, Ambassador Belgian ambassador. They sketched the situation of Cuba in an era in which agreements are being made between Cuba and the United States of America. This opening towards USA will imply challenges in preserving heritage in Havana and other major touristic areas.

During a short visit at the Segundo Cabo Palace in Havana the office del Historiador of Havana showed the almost finished outcome of the EU sponsored project to restore the building and to convert it in Museum.



*Segundo Cabo Palace in Havana © Koen Van Balen*

## Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe

Closing conference and final report

By Aziliz Vandesande, PhD researcher RLICC

Clara Thys, Researcher RLICC



The “Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe” (CHCfE) project was carried out between July 2013 and June 2015 with the support of the European Commission’s Culture Programme. The project was coordinated by Europa Nostra through a Steering Committee composed of all project partners: ENCATC (The European Network on Cultural Management and Cultural Policy Education), Heritage Europe (The European Association of Historic Towns and Regions), The Heritage Alliance from England, The International Cultural Centre in Poland and The Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation as one of the main research partners and responsible for conducting the EU-wide survey and analysis of existing research and case studies on cultural heritage impact assessment. For more information on the project, please check the previous RLICC newsletter editions.

### Closing conference

The CHCFE concluding conference was held on 12 June 2015 at the Aula of Domus Media, University of Oslo in Norway. Organised in the framework of the Europa Nostra Congress 2015, the event gathered

more than 100 distinguished European political figures, heritage experts, academics, researchers, and heritage professionals from across Europe.

The main purpose of this event was to present the project results, key findings and strategic recommendations for tapping into heritage’s full potential. It was also an occasion to hear from key political players, investors and heritage stakeholders about their reactions to the report’s findings and discuss the implications for evidence-based policy making in Europe.

The conference started with speeches by Tibor Navracsics (European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport), Ingvild Stub (State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Maxime Prévot (Vice-President and Minister of Wallonia’s Government, Chairman of the 6th Council of Europe Ministerial Conference for Heritage).

The final project results were presented by representatives of the research consortium, Koen Van Balen and Aziliz Vandesande (RLICC) and Jacek Purchla and Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga (International Cultural Centre), moderated by Kate Pugh from the Heritage Alliance.



Members of the CHCFE consortium with Maxime Prévot, Chairman of the 6th Council of Europe Ministerial Conference for Heritage © ENCATC

The conference also included a panel discussion of the past achievements and future vision of financial mechanism's support to cultural heritage. This panel included Kristin Bakken (Deputy Director, Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway), Guy Clausse (Dean of the European Investment Bank Institute), Sheamus Cassidy (Senior Sector Officer for Cultural Heritage, EEA Funding Mechanism), Gábor Soós (Head of Division, Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management, Hungary), Michel Magnier, (Director for Culture and Creativity, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission) and was moderated by Piet Jaspaert (Europa Nostra) Speeches from European political figures during the conference's opening session, a summary of the conference's main discussion points, PowerPoint presentations from members of the project's consortium can all be retrieved from: <http://www.encatc.org/culturalheritagecountsforeurope/concluding-conference/>

As this event was organised in the framework of the Europa Nostra 2015 Congress, registered participants were also be able to close the day with an evening networking cruise along the Oslo fjord on-board the Christian Radich, a three mast sailing ship built in 1937.

Final report

The "Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe" project was carried out between July 2013 and June 2015 with the support of the European Commission's Culture Programme. The project was coordinated by Europa Nostra through a Steering Committee composed of all project partners: ENCATC (The European Network on Cultural Management and Cultural Policy Education), Heritage Europe (The European Association of Historic Towns and Regions), The Heritage Alliance from England, The International Cultural Centre in Poland and The Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation as one of the main research partners and responsables for conducting the EU-wide



Presentation of final project results by representatives of the research consortium © Clara Thys

survey and analysis of existing research and case studies on cultural heritage impact assessment. This project comprised collecting, analysing and consolidating evidence-based research and case studies from different EU Member States on the impact of cultural heritage on the economy, society, culture and environment. The aim was developing a readily accessible, comprehensible and comparative overview of the value and relevance of cultural heritage as a credible basis for policy recommendations that reflect an integrated and holistic approach towards the increased importance of heritage in today's society. Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe has resulted in an extensive report of nearly 300 pages which gives a snapshot in time of the currently available and accessible data within EU Members States on the wide-ranging impacts of cultural heritage in Europe. It also includes key findings, conclusions and strategic recommendations outlined by the project's Steering Committee. Case studies from Belgium, Poland and laureates of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/

Europa Nostra Awards compliment the report and provide examples of integrated cultural heritage assessments. The full report and executive summary can be accessed through: <http://www.encatc.org/culturalheritagecountsforeurope/outcomes/>



Cover of the full report © CHCFE Consortium

## Chinese Cultural Heritage Issues

Conference at Lund University, 17-18 June 2015

By Cui Jinze, PhD researcher RLICC



*Organizers and speakers of the conference at the Kulturen Museum in Lund, Sweden © Cui Jinze*

Professor Marina Svensson from the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies in Lund University organized a conference on Cultural Heritage in China: Contested Understandings, Images and Practices, at the Kulturen Museum in Lund, Sweden. Twenty scholars and experts from Germany, Sweden, UK, France, China (mainland and Hong Kong), USA and Australia attended and generated instructive discuss. The speakers represented different disciplines and fields including heritage studies, art and architecture, cultural studies, anthropology, Sinology, and media and communication studies. The conference was conducted into five thematic sections: “Intangible Heritage Policies,” “Space,

Heritage and Memories,” “Debates and Contestations,” “Voice and Agency in Local Communities,” and “Visualizing the Cultural Heritage.”

I presented a paper on the issues of the mass recreation of a historical city in north China. My presentation was scheduled under the section of “Debates and Contestations,” and attracted most of the questions during the discussion sections in the following days. The paper focuses on the famous urban renovation project of Datong, Shanxi province, and its public debate. From 2008 to 2013, the mayor of Datong directed the city into a frenzy of stylistic restoration and pseudo-

traditional recreation, and simultaneously developed his own theoretical approach to heritage conservation. The project triggered a national public debate over authenticity and carried out enormous on-going impact on urban conservation in China. The paper attempts to answer three questions: What is the essence of the Datong issue? Can we regard it as heritage after recreation? What further significance can we infer from it? The analysis includes a comparison with two European archetypes for the critical interpretation based on the theoretical frame of the Nara Document on Authenticity.

Lui TAM, conservation planner from Beijing Tsinghua Cultural Heritage Conservation Center who will enroll at the advanced master courses of RLICC later this year, also attended the conference. Her paper focuses on another famous controversial heritage conservation case in

China, the revitalization of Zhizhu Temple in Beijing. This former Tibetan Buddhist temple was used as factory after 1950s and was turned into luxury restaurant and hotel with private and partial-Belgian investment. TAM’s paper discusses the social debates and analyzes the social, historical, and cultural background behind these debates.



*Mass recreation of the major heritage sites and fortification system in the city of Datong © Cui Jinze*

## CHANGES in cultural Heritage Activities: kick-off meeting

By Nathalie Van Roy, PhD researcher



In July, researchers from the Department of Civil Engineering and the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, encountered the four other partners from Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands with whom they collaborate for the European project CHANGES for the kick-off meeting of the project in Milan. CHANGES stands for Changes in cultural Heritage Activities: New Goals and benefits for Economy and Society and is a 2 year project funded within the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a new challenge for Europe HERITAGE PLUS Call.

The main goal of this European collaboration is to demonstrate, based on knowledge, insights and specific cases in the different participating countries, how preventive conservation forms the basis for sustainable development.

The contribution of the researchers at Department of Civil Engineering and the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation consists in an analysis of maintenance practice of historic buildings in Flanders, related to the functioning of Monumentenwacht.

Monumentenwacht, it is an NGO, financed by the provincial governments in Flanders and founded in 1991 with the goal of stimulating maintenance of historic buildings in Flanders. Owners of all historic buildings can become a member and ask the Monumentenwacht for a regular inspection of their building, which results in a clear report that indicates the state of condition of the building and its components, as well as a number of recommendations for maintenance works. See [www.monumentenwacht.be](http://www.monumentenwacht.be)

## International seminar and wood conservation workshop

In Kuldīga, Western Latvia

Aziliz Vandesinde, PhD researcher RLICC

On August 4th-6th the Kuldīga District Council and Coordination Centre for Cultural Projects organised and international seminar on “Development and improvement of educational methods for preservation of cultural heritage”. The main organisers of this event were Dr. Jana Jākobsone (head of the Kuldīga Regional Municipality Construction Department, town architect and chair of the Kuldīga Old Town and Environmental Committee) and Ilze Zarina, (Board leader Coordination Centre for Cultural Projects and member of the Kuldīga District Council). I gladly accepted their invitation to contribute to the seminar, as we had previously met during the 2015 Europa Nostra Congress and shortly exchanged interesting experiences on quality protection, skill building and public participation in managing historic city centers.



*The Alekšupīte River canalled through Kuldīga*  
© Aziliz Vandesinde

### Knowing Kuldīga

Kuldīga is a provincial town in Western Latvia an present a very specific an interesting case in built heritage management. The character of Kuldīga old town is due to the distinctive political, social, and economic policy after WWII that has promoted the preservation of the 13th century authentic town environment with its wooden constructions and the contrasting 20th century outskirts. The natural surroundings of the town are determined by the primeval valley and dolomite riverbed of the Venta, the widest waterfall in Europe.

After a 2.5h drive from Riga through the countryside which testifies of a very centralised rather than provincial national policy, I received a warm welcome to Kuldīga by Ilze Zarina. Upon my late afternoon arrival we immediately visited 2 outstanding examples of local ingenuity in conserving a local parish church and a characteristic residential house with available means –willingness, support and interest from locals and time.

The next morning, a meeting was organised for me with the Kaspars Rasa, director of the Kuldīga Development Agency, his colleagues and Jana Jākobsone. We elaborated on



Jana Jākobsonsone (central) with seminar participants from Sweden, Brazil and Estonia in front of the new Kuldīga District Council © Aziliz Vandesande

mutual understandings and I presented the RLICC's research and experience in value mapping and risk management of historic sites. These efforts were well received as the local development agency is working hard to develop a management plan for Kuldīga and in the future even hopes to further the inscription of Kuldīga Old Town from the State Party's Tentative List to the World Heritage List within the coming years.

After a short lunch with the other participants of the international seminar we moved to the Kuldīga District Council and received an elaborate briefing of their achievements in heritage management in the last years. Both Ilze and Jana gave insights on their unique approach to local craftsman and community cooperation in maintenance within a not always obvious context. Further they elaborated on their laudable experience in establishing training for the maintenance of genuinely everyday heritage, i.e. a collection of over 400

wooden houses, built between the 17th and 19th century. There have been citizens living in the old town for generations, but from the Soviet period a lack of private ownership had created an attitude of indifference towards the maintenance of the buildings. People readily understand that local churches and castles are heritage sites, but it is sometimes less obvious to them that old houses where they lived since birth may be the same, and equally in need of regular care and maintenance. To address this, the Kuldīga Restoration Centre has since 2008 implemented a programme of awareness-raising with regard to the preservation of the old town area. Two main activities have resulted: cultural heritage laboratories and innovative actions for the regular maintenance of windows. In 2013 they received an EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards in the category conservation for their efforts.



Cultural heritage laboratories organised by the Kuldīga Restoration Centre © Europa Nostra

Finally we concluded the day with guided site visits to the Kuldīga restoration centre – a wood conservation workshop, the District museum and the Synagogue.

International seminar

The international seminar was made possible with the support of the municipality, the kulturkapitala fund and the Erasmus+ programme. It took place on Thursday in the Kuldīga District Council and was dedicated to lectures by several experts in the field heritage management and education.

In the morning, several local experts presented their achievements for the audience consisting of locals, civil society, professionals as well as representatives of the national UNESCO office. Agita Pumpure, head of the folk applied arts workshop “Durbe” of Tukums museum, spoke of educational programs set up in the museum and how people got involved in weaving workshops. Krista Jansone, head of the department of Marketing and education in the Kuldīga parish museum, set out how the local community can not only contribute

but also cooperate in preserving cultural heritage. The morning was closed by Ināra Oļena, Head of the Adult Education Centre of Kuldīga Parish, with her experience from the “SMILE” course in Istanbul.

The afternoon was characterised by speakers from different European countries. Next to my own contribution on



Jānis Mertens (Central) of the Kuldīga Restoration Center and Per-Willy Fergestad (left) of the Norwegian Akershus Restoration Centre during the workshop © Aziliz Vandesande

the PRECOM<sup>3</sup>OS UNESCO chair, Ulrika Lindt of the Naas education centre in Sweden presented her experience in organising courses about maintenance and preservation of the houses using traditional methods. Further, Kadri Kallast, heritage expert of the Tartu municipality in Estonia, presented some interesting case studies in local practices. Finally, the seminar was closed by Per-Willy Fergestad, head of the restoration centre of Akershus region in Norway, who introduced his skill in wood conservation workshops.

#### Wood conservation workshop

The latter was elaborated on during the parallel running international wood conservation workshop. During the entire week, conservation works were implemented on 2 wooden buildings on Baznicas street by Nordic-Baltic countries and 5 local craftsman. This workshop was organised by the Kuldīga District Council in partnership with Akershus Restoration Centre in Drobak, Norway and fits within

the “Restoration of Kuldīga Old Town Hall and Improvement of Quality and Accessibility of its Culture Services” project funded by the EEA grant (2014-2016). Project aims to preserve and renew elements of wooden constructions to improve local skills, the quality of the environment and encouraging economic activities.

The final day was concluded by a joint dinner for the seminar lecturers and craftsmen, which provided the opportunity to discuss management and practice insights over a glass of locally brewed Uzavas. In conclusion, Kuldīga proves that the most innovative practices do not always originate from the biggest budgets or within the largest metropolises. Coping with a national policy that is very centralised towards the capital cities of Latvia, this small provincial town has successfully found new management and training models that are exemplary for other historic urban environments. I look forward to future collaboration within context of my PhD research and possible joint project applications.



*Wood conservation workshop on Baznicas street © Aziliz Vandesande*

Ecuador Workshop 2015

## Valuation of Built Heritage and the Historic Urban Environment

**Prof. Luc Verpoest, RLICC**

**Aziliz Vandesande, PhD researcher RLICC**



*Group picture in Ecuador © Pieter-Jan Debuyst*

Fifteen students and three staff members of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation travelled to Ecuador, South America, for the annual study trip. From April 20th to May 1st they stayed in the capital city San Francisco del Quito and the city Santa Ana de los cuatro ríos de Cuenca, both in the middle of the Andes, and in Guayaquil, by the Pacific Ocean. For the students, this study program is an integral part of the first year of their educational program in built heritage preservation at the RLICC. Students, staff and professors of the RLICC are composed of a multidisciplinary group because heritage conservation should be approached multidisciplinary and demands collaboration of a wide variety of experts; art and architectural historians, engineers, architects, archaeologists, structural engineers, interior architects, geographers, cultural sociologists, economists, etc. The group of students is international, which - surmounted by an international teaching

corps - is an ideal training and research context for heritage conservation, a domain that is an increasingly international affair. Heritage conservation attitudes and practices are in part developed and tested within international organizations such as the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). Quito and Cuenca - two cities listed as World Heritage Sites - were therefore a great destination.

The study was also made possible by a long-standing collaboration between the University of Cuenca and the KU Leuven. Eight years ago, a VLIR-agreement was established concerning heritage preservation in which the RLICC / KU Leuven embarked with the Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo / Universidad de Cuenca. Project coordinator in Leuven is prof. Koen Van Balen, and in Cuenca prof. Fausto Cardoso. The project also organizes exchanges of students,



*Students with Gabriela Garcia*  
© Aziliz Vandesande

researchers and teachers between the RLICC and the Maestría and Conservación y Gestión del Patrimonio Cultural Edificado, the research and training program in heritage conservation at the University of Cuenca. The cooperation emphasizes the role of “preventive conservation” in the management of World Heritage Cities (World Heritage Preservation Management). Preventive conservation aims to keep the built heritage quality at an optimal level through periodic monitoring (status reporting of buildings), risk analysis (evaluating damage risk) and regularly scheduled maintenance (and, if necessary, minimum intervention). This kind of primary “health” care is cost-effective on

the long terms, can avoid profound restorations and thus the risk of losing of valuable built heritage components. In addition, preventive conservation strengthens public support for conservation by the strong involvement of built heritage owners or managers in the maintenance of their properties and by the economic potential of a



*Visit of the restoration ateliers in the Monastery of San Francisco*  
© Aziliz Vandesande

maintenance market for built heritage. In 1999, the historic center of Cuenca was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and thus declared as Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad. Already in 1978, this was the case for the capital city Quito and for the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean, off the Ecuadorian coast. Quito - the first stop of the RLICC study trip - was originally inhabited by the Seyris and the Incas and was conquered by the Spaniards in 1533. From 1541 Quito was officially a Spanish town with a typical checkerboard pattern of straight streets and squares and rich baroque architecture, a fusion of Spanish, Moorish, Italian, Flemish and local typologies. The history of the city and urban heritage policies were explained by Dora G. Arizaga, director of the Instituto Municipal de Patrimonio of Quito. Architect Edmundo Moreno, an alumnus of the RLICC, guided us with visits to the city: the renovated district of Calle Ronda, the Monastery of San Francisco built by the Flemish Franciscan Jodoco Ricke (1498-1575), and the stunning golden interior of the baroque Iglesia de la Compañía or the church of the Jesuits. Likely fascinating was the visit to a number of renovated and restored historic homes, with particularly well-



*Visit to Ingapirca* © Pieter-Jan Debuyst

developed new architectural interventions, with convincing explanation of the architect José Maria Saez himself. Santa Ana de los Ríos de Cuenca - or the city on four rivers - was founded in 1577 as a Spanish city with the same rigorous checkerboard city map typical for colonial cities. This area of the Andes was originally populated by the Indian Cañari (with Kichwa as a language that is still spoken) who entered the influence sphere of the Incas, and were largely massacred during the Incan civil war between Huascar and Atahualpa. During the Spanish invasion in 1524-1526 the Cañari sided with Camillo against Atahualpa and Pizarro but were then suppressed by the Spanish colonizers. On the way from Quito to Cuenca, a visit to Ingapirca was scheduled, an important archaeological site of the Cañari's and the Incas. Furthermore, a stop was made in Baños, a spa town on the edge of the Andes and the Amazon, with impressive volcanoes in the area (one of them became active after the day our departure from Baños), and a neo-Gothic church from the early twentieth century, built by the Flemish Dominican Thomas Cornelius Halfants (1831-1909).

Cuenca was visited at length, paying attention to the architecture of colonial town houses,



*Visiting historic city centers during the study trip*  
© Pieter-Jan Debuyst

mainly seventeenth-century monasteries and churches (including the old cathedral from 1557-1567), but also to the imposing nineteenth-century architecture of the bourgeois republican

Cuencanos, who became rich by production and export of quinine and toquilla hats (mistakenly called Panama hats, made of toquilla palm leaves). The panorama of Cuenca is strongly influenced by the new cathedral with its majestic domes, which was



© Pieter-Jan Debuyst

erected in 1885 following the design of the German brother Juan Bautista Stiehle, but is still not completed. Also noteworthy is the strong presence of a fairly monumental late-modern architecture from the fifties, including the Palacio Municipal on the main square, between the old and the new cathedral, and the Casa de la Cultura, both designs of architect Gilberto Gatto Sobral. The building of the Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo on the elegant campus of the Universidad de Cuenca, located in the El Egido district on the outskirts of the historic city center, is a compelling example of contemporary architecture from the seventies, after the design of architect Alvaro Malo. That was also the location where the largest workshop portion of the study took place.

The workshop in Cuenca was prepared by Gabriela Garcia Velez and followed-

up in Leuven by Aziliz Vandesande, who both prepare a PhD dissertation related to preventive conservation. The RLICC students were joined by students of the Facultad de Arquitectura to conduct a survey in Cuenca on how the heritage of the World Heritage city of Cuenca is perceived and valued. How historic buildings may or may not contribute to the historical knowledge of the city, the well-being of city residents and the feeling of safety for visitors etc. In particular, the question was raised whether a single valuable historical building can trigger investments, both in terms of housing and commercial activities. Or is it rather the “atmosphere” of a historic setting? In total, 144 questionnaires were completed and statistically processed and analyzed in combination with in-depth interviews with local stakeholders. The results were also referenced with American retirees, a community of about 5,000 people called gringos who spend their old age in Cuenca, who live, invest and develop activities of all types. The results of this workshop were presented by the students and will be processed



Visit to the village of Oña © Pieter-Jan Debuyst



Adobe workshop in Susudel © Pieter-Jan Debuyst

in the ongoing doctoral studies of Gabriella Garcia. For the students of the RLICC it was an effective way to become thoroughly acquainted with the city and its heritage.

During the stay in Cuenca, visits were also scheduled to surrounding places of interest: small towns like Saraguro, Oña (with a welcome by Mayor Germania Ullauri, which also elaborated on the support for the heritage from the twin town ... Bierbeek), and finally Susudel. A few years ago, Fausto Cardoso set up a project in Susudel with the students of the Maestría and Conservación y Gestión del Patrimonio Cultural Edificado concerning the conservation of the local heritage and traditional rural houses. Students took part in repair and conservation efforts, in cooperation with the local population. The construction of this traditional, vernacular architecture requires adobe blocks, handmade and sun-dried blocks of earth. There was also a (active) visit to a company that specializes

in the production of adobe blocks and bricks. The study trip ended with a journey from Cuenca, in the middle of the Andes with ca. 2400m altitude, via the stunning Parque Nacional Cajas with ca. 4450m altitude, to Guayaquil which entail a descent to sea level and the plain with tropical cultures of cocoa, bananas and rice. Guayaquil is a bustling metropolis in full development, with a historic town center, which gradually becomes completely invisible, and is situated on the broad Guayas River, which connects the city with the Pacific Ocean. Only the imposing neo-Gothic cathedral and iguanas in the Parque Seminario of the metropolis seem to resist the development pressure. The very intensive study trip ended with a walk along the Malecón Simón Bolívar - a new promenade along the river - which ended in a tropical storm, turbulent southern May 1st parades, and a refreshing swim.



Integrated Project Work III

# The Poortersloge

## A Reflection Between City and Sea

By **Crystal Hanley (architect, Canada)**, **Sofia Psaltakou (architectural engineer, Greece)**, **Thomas Rigauts (historian, Belgium)** and **Maud Rochez (architectural engineer, Belgium)**

Every tourist who has been on a boat in Bruges will probably be familiar with the silhouette of the Poortersloge. The iconic building stands tall at the end of the Spiegelrei, one of the many waterways that wind through the Flemish city.

Today's tourists are certainly not the first to experience the Poortersloge from the water. For centuries it stood next to the main economic vein that connected the city with the sea. Therefore it is no surprise that during the Middle Ages most commercial



*Thomas, Maud, Crystal and Sofia © IPW3-group*

activity took place in the vicinity of the Poortersloge. As such it became quite important as a meeting place for foreign traders and high-class citizens. Citizens, who had the right to settle within the walls of cities like Bruges, are often known as 'Poorters' in the Low Countries, and it is from them that the name Poortersloge is derived.

Since its medieval origins the building has hosted many functions, including the Academy of Fine Arts and also, most recently, the State Archives. Functions that often instigated considerable transformations of the building volume. When the Poortersloge's different historic layers begin to unravel, the visitor can really learn to appreciate its value within the historic urban fabric of Bruges. Its previous functions and adaptations provide a historical narrative that contributes to its overall value.



*View from the canal © IPW3-group*

The Poortersloge with its central location, physical form and history has always been linked to - and remains inseparable from - its context. The future of the building should be seen within the framework of the city's development. The Poortersloge should remain a public building and should be capable of adapting to the needs of each era in the future.



*Detail of the three tower chambers © IPW3-group*

The Poortersloge represents a palimpsest of architectural styles, materials and craftsmanship, placing it well within the evolution of the city as a whole. Its intensely decorated facades, architectural complexity and emblematic tower contribute to its iconic status.

From a technical point of view the Poortersloge demonstrates a sense of layering, both in its use of materials and its methods of construction. The materials reveal the various evolutions the building has seen and the craftsmanship attests to its past influences.

The historical, urban, architectural and technical assets were interconnected and painted a portrait of the intrinsic value of the Poortersloge as a whole. Together they

helped to define appropriate considerations to the future of the building. The design intention of our proposal of a multi-functional space is deeply connected to each of the wide ranging values that have been assigned to the building.

Given the recent relocation of the state archives, the Poortersloge now sits empty. The monument is a hot topic and has recently generated academic and investment interest. As our study has shown, interdisciplinary approaches are invaluable and the potential for the Poortersloge to bring various stakeholders together could lead to a further elaboration of our project and possibly new insights to additional proposals.



*First sketches made of the Poortersloge © IPW3-group*

Integrated Project Work III

## Mort Subite: from farm over brewery to...

By Pieter-Jan Debuyst (eng. arch., BE), Eva Gutscoven (eng. arch., BE), Georgios Hadjidemetriou (civil eng., CYP) and Julie Hendrickx (language and region studies, BE)

*This article introduces the brewery of Mort Subite, located in Kobbegem (Asse) and one of the few remaining lambic breweries in Belgium. The building has been abandoned for over a decade, making it necessary to think of a suitable new function in order to save the legacy of the family De Keersmaecker, but also to complement the still functioning part of the brewery of Mort Subite, nowadays owned by Heineken Group.*

### Mort Subite: industrial heritage

The brewery of Mort Subite is a local landmark, that is part of the history of Kobbegem and represents a great part of the history of the family De Keersmaecker. Also, the brewer's house and old brewery, owned by mr. André De Keersmaecker, are still part of the image of the functioning brewery of Mort Subite, property of Heineken Group



*The brewery of Mort Subite in Kobbegem © IPW3-group*

since 2008. Therefore, selecting a new programmatic use is not evident because of the complexity of the site: the abandoned heritage building, combining a residential and industrial function, is part of a bigger industrial site.



*Aerial view of site. © bing.com/maps*

### The architecture of the old brewery of Mort Subite: a consequence of the brewing process

The building was constantly subjected to changes as a consequence of the industrial evolution, resulting in a combination of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial architecture, with specific spatial qualities and restrictions. Although the construction is firm and can house functions requiring higher loads, the different rooms, adapted to their respective function, are restricted in size and shape, sometimes limiting possibilities.

### Conservation project

Four conservation projects were proposed, all of which incorporated functions related to the brewery and/or brewing process, since the industrial process contributed heavily to the building's values and assets. The first one completely integrated the heritage building into the industrial site, providing

more space for the functioning brewery. The second entailed a partial integration of the heritage building, but also incorporated functions focussing on regional tourism. The third proposal combined functions for the existing brewery with functions related to local and regional economy. In the fourth proposal culture and heritage were put forward.

Different architectural ideas were suggested for the conservation of the heritage building, such as the removal of the devaluating elements, the reopening of the windows to restore the original rhythm, the reproduction of a new volume on top of the fermentation building and the reintegration of structural elements or industrial machinery. The latter ensures the further existence of the cultural identity by presenting small narratives that refer to the original function of the heritage building.

### Epilogue

Mixing malt, wheat, water and hops will not necessarily make a good lambic or gueuze, nor will bringing together the carried-out analyses result in a qualitative end product. Like lambics need to be mixed and tasted, so is there a need to analyse and test different combinations of functions in order to have the perfect blend. The mentioned proposals are small tastings that point out a possibility. More importantly, all of the different scenarios need to be *fermented*. The fermentation process of lambic beer can range from some months to four years. This is a time frame that unfortunately was not given to develop our proposals. But despite this essential element, we hope we uncovered a *spontane goesting* (Eng: spontaneous appetite) for the future development of this building. We already enjoyed a first taste of it...

Integrated Project Work III

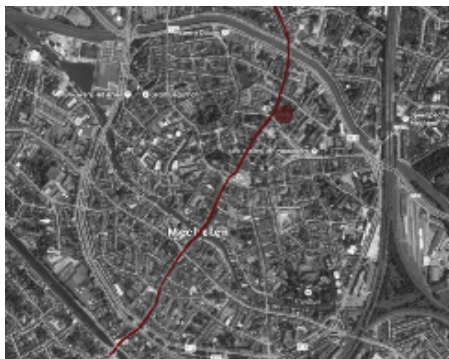
## Sint-Jansgildenhuis, Mechelen

**Afroditi Nerologou, (Architect Engineer, Greece), Helena ten Berge, (Historian, Belgium), Firat Şeker, (Urban Planner, Turkey), Myonghwan Ko, (Architect, South Korea)**

The IPW3 project of the Sint-Jansgildenhuis, situated in the F. de Merodestraat 56 in the city of Mechelen, studied the history, state of conservation and future re-use of a centuries old “family house” of the Magisterial and Religious elite of Mechelen.

A first visit to the Sint-Jansgildenhuis immediately revealed the architectural complexity of the building as such that it could be described as a palimpsest. Because of the many visible historical layers, it was decided to put an important focus on the building archaeology for a proper understanding of the residence.

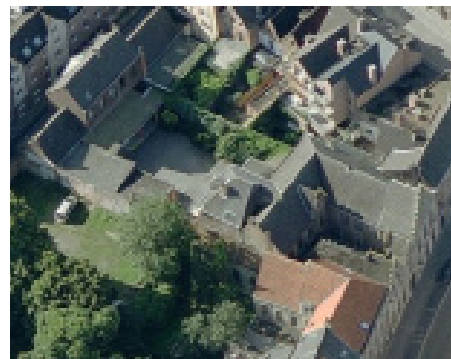
The architectural form of the building was developed over the centuries to the historical building typology of an L shaped building with a frontal courtyard, and large garden in the back. It consists of two floor levels and a spacious attic with a valuable wooden roof structure. One of the most valuable architectural elements of the building is the 16th century spiral staircase.



Street axis and building, © Google Maps, 2015

The oldest archival references of the residence date from the 15th century. Archival research revealed not only a very complete history of ownership of this building but also allowed to understand the important relation between the building's form and the social status of many of its owners. Because who was of noble status lived noble. Furthermore many of the inhabitants seated in the Great Council of Mechelen. Already in 1544, the Sint-Jansgildenhuis was inhabited by the noble families de Masnuy and de Fourneau from Mons who seated in the Great Council of Mechelen, and described as a big house, with frontal courtyard, sale salette and backhouses.

Another important remark is that the parcel was from the 16th century on provided with an exit in the Bergstraat. During the second half of the 17th century the Sint-Jansgildenhuis was inhabited by Amatus de Coriache and his nephew Amatus Ignatius



Bird's eye view, © Bing Maps, 2015



F. de Merodestraat façade © A. Nerologou

de Coriache, who in their function as Vicaris Generalis both belonged to the religious elite of the city.

A detailed analysis of the many architectural remains of mainly on the 18th and 19th century allowed to interrelate several interior styles to the ownership by the families Domis de Semerpont (1731-1771), de Vicq (1771-1782) and Douglas dit Schot (1782-1850). Stucco decorations, rococo and à la Grèque fireplaces, floor patterns, doors and windows were studied and additionally compared to 4 similar residences that were also located in the parish of Sint-Jan. The historical and architectural analysis allowed to define 6 building phases, from the 16th till the 20th century, that explain the construction of the L-shaped volume of the Sint-Jansgildenhuis and more recent densification process of the parcel.

Since the end of the 19th century the building lost its residential function and was transformed into a school. Several building dossiers documented these transformations. From 1922 and still today the building was referred to as Sint-Jansgildenhuis as it functioned as community centre for the parish of Sint-Jan. Unfortunately, partial vacancy and lack of maintenance of the building caused heavily deterioration.



Façade from the garden © Myonghwan Ko

To refrain this historical, complex but beautifully ‘puzzled’ building from further deterioration, a new destination and conservation project is crucial.

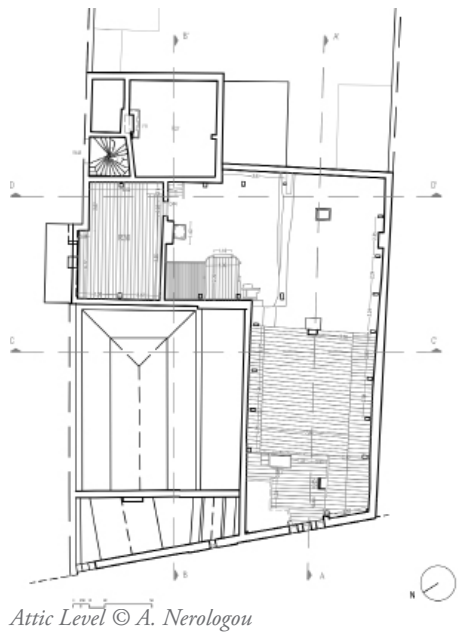
A technical, urban and economical analysis were carried out to define the current state of conservation and to formulate a suitable re-use project for the Sint-Jansgildenhuis. Several causes of natural decay and several water related, pollution and biological damages were defined as well as possible solutions and recommendations proposed.

The Sint-Jansgildenhuis is historically and still today located on one of the main axis of the city and thus very centrally located. This location offered many possibilities for future re-use where the building would integrally relate to its surroundings in the vibrant and liveable city that Mechelen strives to be. The historical valuable remains of the building implement that any future use of the building should incorporate a respectful treatment of these historical elements. A proposal for a future re-use of the building also needed to take into account several parameters: recent changes in ownership and parcel division, accessibility, state of conservation, social-, economical- and environmental values and a possible impact on several stakeholders.

An economical analysis resulted in a co-housing project for elderly people as the proposed re-use project. This not only re-installs the historical residential use of the Sint-Jansgildenhuis by creating up to eight co-housing units and several common spaces, but also it allows to generate new green spaces through a recreation of the historical central courtyard. Furthermore a housing destination particularly contributes to the quality of space of the historical residence, the social demands of the city of Mechelen and the necessary economic investments to develop the project.

This research and analysis of the Sint-Jansgildenhuis can be considered as a detailed analysis and categorization on the building stages and components. In order to be able to formulate a re-use project it was crucial to understand the 'puzzle' as much as possible. Still this research should be considered as a *status quaestionis* or a research

that needs further investigation. By naming our adaptive re-use proposal '*Between courtyard and garden*', living in the *Sint-Jansgildenhuis*' we criticized also the recent developments that led to the division of a historical parcel and the dissolution of the garden. A decision that not only decreased the value of the building but also drastically limited the possibilities of adaptive-reuse projects that could still be carried out on the new defined parcel borders. We hope that this study can contribute to revive the history and importance of the residence that the Sint-Jansgildenhuis once was.



Stucco decorations and à la Grèque fireplace, Orthophoto and outline © A. Nerologou



Section AA' © A. Nerologou

Integrated Project Work III

# The 19th-century remain of the Sint-Pieter hospital, Leuven

By Pierre Jouan (architect, Belgium), Noémie Thomas (architect, France) and Edith Willekens (art scientist, Belgium), first year students



West façade of the 19th-century hospital remains © the IPW 3 group

Without any doubt, residents of Leuven can call to their mind the two towers of the Sint-Pieter hospital, dating from the second half of the 20th century and situated along the Brusselsestraat. Far less known is the remain of the 19th-century hospital, located at the back of the lot. Affected by numerous transformations in order to meet the constantly changing needs for medical care, its original appearance and its history are nowadays almost forgotten. But in fact, this building lies at the basis of the development of the University Hospital of Leuven, which enjoys today international fame. Given the recent moving of this institution to Gasthuisberg, a redevelopment of this particular building and the hospital site on which it is situated, present itself. In this regard, we are convinced that a qualitative conservation project based on a clear vision can become a catalyst for the enhancement of this neighbourhood.

**Analysis**

In the 13th century, the Sint-Elisabeth hospice was the first health care institution to appear along the Brusselsestraat, nearby to the Dijle river and within the city wall. At the beginning of the 19th century, this hospital became occupied by the University of Leuven. Because the building had become inappropriate for contemporary medical care, the Sint-Pieter hospital was built beside between 1838 and 1865. This new hospital was constructed according to the neoclassical design of the provincial architect Alexander Van Arenbergh. It was quadrangular in shape, existing of different wings organized around two courtyards. The design reflects the ongoing search for an appropriate hospital typology at that time, taking new insights into hygiene into account. It shows the transition from the courtyard to pavilion type.



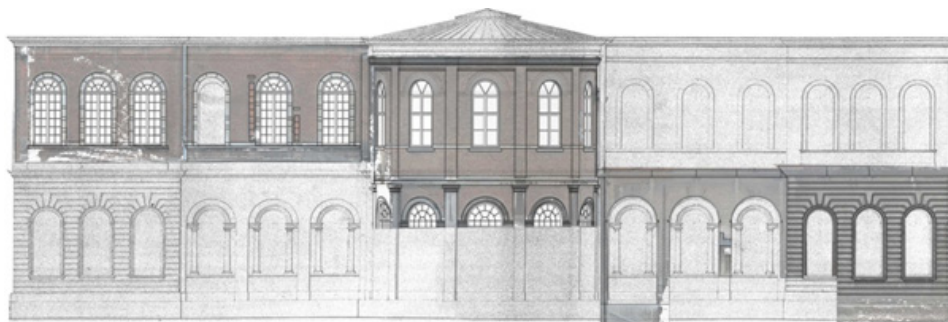
Plan of the first floor of the Sint-Pieter hospital, 1835 © OCMW Archives, Leuven

The Sint-Pieter hospital was well embedded in the urban fabric. The first courtyard opened up towards the street and the building was connected with the Sint-Elisabeth hospital by a bathhouse. As medical science progressed, the hospital has been adapted and extended from the 20th century onwards. In the middle of the century, the hospital building no longer met the needs of modern medicine, so it was gradually demolished and replaced by high-rise. This new hospital project was never finished, giving the site an unorganized appearance. Of the 19th-century hospital only parts of the southern wing remain. The architectural analysis of the building pointed out that half of the façades and the cellar are intact. Also the original structure is still present behind later interventions. Nevertheless, the state of conservation of the hospital remain is critical. The building suffers from a lot of technical issues, most of which are caused by men's actions. The alterations of the building have lead to mechanical damages and cracks that weaken its structural behavior. As for the pathologies, most are caused by water infiltration due to the bad adjustment of the drainage system during adaptation works. As a consequence, this hospital wing is unused today, apart from the chapel and

some offices which will soon be moved.

### **Conservation plan**

In its actual state, almost no architectural and urban qualities of the hospital remain are left. Nevertheless, intangible values and spatial assets are highly present. This is why efforts should be done for its conservation. However, the remain suffers from real estate pressure due to the high ground value. Here only the University of Leuven, as the owner, and the City, as the administrative power, should have the ability to ensure a conservation project which strengthens the values of the old hospital remain. To achieve this it should be cleared from all later additions and attention should be given to its reintegration in an architectural and urban setting, the refurbishment of the building and the search for a new function. These three aspects we scrutinized. As for the building, the wing should be completed in its original state to call back the authentic neoclassical spaces and circulation system. Here the building materials used for the reconstruction should be identical, but distinguishable. With regard to the architectural setting the sequence of courtyards was an important original characteristic to be included in a new design. To link the architectural volume



*South façade of the old hospital wing, showing what remains and what needs to be reconstructed  
© the IPW 3 group*

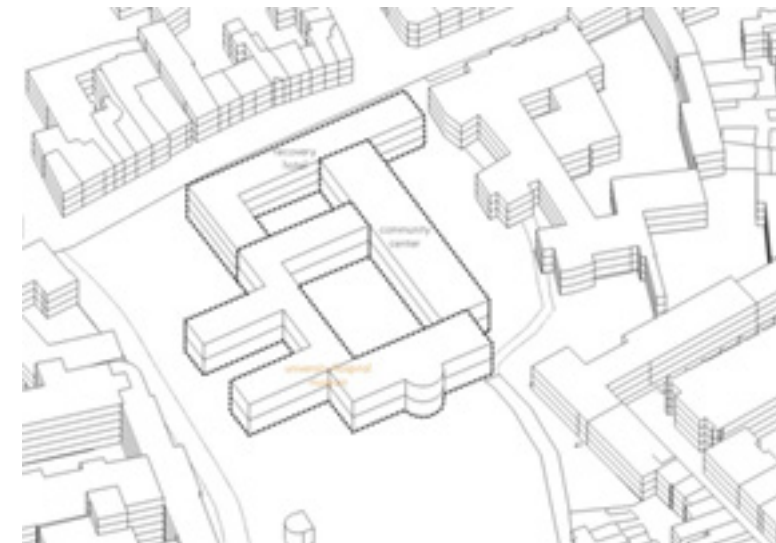
with the urban surroundings a dialogue with the Brusselsestraat, the Dijle river and the former Sint-Elisabeth hospital was looked for. Concerning the new function, we consider a link with health care to be essential.

### **Scenarios**

For a conservation project of the old hospital remain we explored three different scenarios. The first one took into consideration the current master plan of the hospital site, in which it is proposed to construct a theatre hall beside the remain. In this case we suggest to look for a complementary function in the hospital wing. We recommend to house in the building the theatre facilities, such as a bar, repetition rooms and offices. The second scenario proposed a mixed use. Three complementary functions were clustered: the University Hospital Museum (Histaruz), a community centre and a recovery hotel. The hospital wing would be part of the museum. In the third scenario, a single use is put forward, which

is intergenerational housing. In the hospital wing common space could be foreseen for the residents of the complex and the neighbourhood to enhance social cohesion.

In the end, the project with the most potentiality turned out to be the second one, suggesting a mixed use. This can be explained by the fact that the three proposed functions are complementary and satisfy most of the stakeholders. Together they keep the intangible heritage of the hospital alive, generate social cohesion of the city's residents and provide a health caring function. While the first two functions are public oriented, the latter is of private character and can generate the money for the conservation project. By elaborating further on its urban integration, entering into detail in its architectural design and developing the functioning of the program, we believe that this can become a promising project for the enhancement of the heritage as well as of the neighbourhood.



*Axonometric projection of the second scenario mi: plan of the ground floor of the old hospital wing, provided with hospital museum function © the IPW 3 group*

# Internship at Restoration Department – Faculty of Architecture

Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Turkey

by **Tania Ali Soomro – Architect, Pakistan**



*Images Showing the process of treatment of broken parts of the column base with lime mortar*  
© Tania Ali Soomro

“In the Middle Ages the obsolete Roman amphitheatres were converted to new uses; there were no problems of the conservation of past memories as evidence of history and civilization. Utilitarianism and urgency led to total, unscrupulous but extremely forceful reappropriations.” (Andrea Bruno, 1996)

As students of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, we are trained to follow a scientific methodology that will allow us to make well-argued choices when dealing with monuments and sites. An integrated project proposal should always be preceded by a strong value assessment, which can only be the result of an in-depth analysis of building and context.

Ideally, when it comes to reusing historic buildings, new functions are being sought that are in line with the previously identified heritage values. This quest for a perfect match between building and function is a time-consuming process involving a lot of expertise and financial means (CRISIS). Since these preconditions are not continuously at hand, one can wonder whether conservationists shouldn't consider

alternative ways of dealing with our built environment. Personal voices, equally sensitive to programmatic needs of future functions as to heritage values.

My master thesis was a quest for today's “forceful reappropriations”, a reflective exercise structured along five essential steps: Crisis - Confrontation - Change - Continuity - Coherence. Six program-based initiatives were taken as a starting point to find out how innovative professionals outside of the conservation realm are dealing with today's changing use paradigms (CONFRONTATION):

1. Royal Courts of Justice, London (2000-2014)
2. XDGA, Private House, Hoeilaart (2005-2010)
3. Druot / Lacaton & Vassal, Tour Bois-le-Prêtre, Paris (2006-2011)
4. LOCUS, Street Lighting, Cairo (2009-2014)
5. Festivity Hall Atheneum, Antwerp (2014)
6. National Pop-Up Store, Brussels (2014)

This confrontation with six projects, which were not a priori focused on heritage

values, served as a conceptual exercise to reverse our common methodology: an analysis from function to building rather than from building to function. Fourteen emerging use trends (CHANGE) were extracted from the different references and reformulated to a set of qualitative criteria towards more program-based conservation (CONTINUITY):

1. Time-Based: envisioning programmatic functioning for the long-term and the short-term
2. Means-Effective: creating added value through the use of the built environment as a resource or through a minimum of interventions
3. Value-Multiplicative: making sure interventions are more than one solution to one problem
4. Incubated: testing and questioning the built environment through temporary projects



*Images Showing the installation of the tell-tale device on the Taskisla building*  
© Tania Ali Soomro

5. Mixed: inserting a diversity of users and functions as urban empowerment and to anticipate a future functional short circuit

6. Shared: minimizing costs and maximizing social interaction through the sharing of spaces

7. Flexible: anticipating future programmatic and functional changes through less determined design

8. Additive: foreseeing future growth through the creation of more flexible space

9. Reversible: allowing the built environment to start over again

10. Appropriate: accepting users for who they are by allowing them to individualize spaces

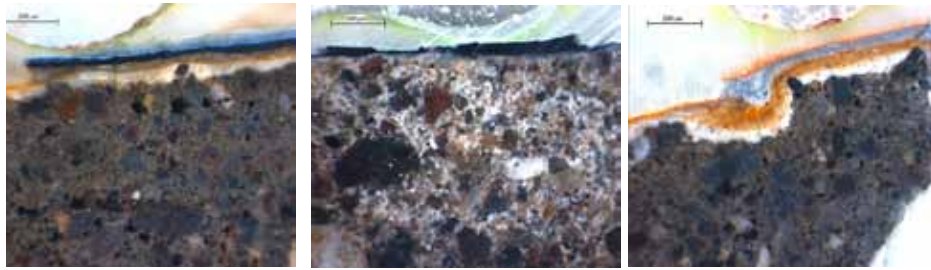
11. Unfinished: realizing that spaces can benefit from less finishing

12. Cross-Fertilized: implementing best practices from other disciplines and vice versa

13. Stakeholder-Engaged: extracting urban needs through stakeholder engagement and through the presentation of flexible project scenarios towards local communities

14. Management-Driven: controlling overall vision in an inspired and efficient way

After the redaction of these criteria, narratives from within the conservation realm (e.g. Andrea Bruno's approach of “designing the existing”) were compared to other forceful references of today (e.g. Jean-Philippe Vassal's approach of the “generosity of the existing”) to show interesting synergies between architectural innovation, and sensitivity towards our remains from the past. Five cultural considerations were further developed as a basis to build overall visions transcending the traditional tension between heritage values and program renewal (COHERENCE): Authorship, Anamnesis, Authenticity, Actualization, and Atmosphere.



*Microscopic Images of the slides © Asst. Prof. Dr. Isil Polat Pekmeci - Restoration Department ITU Turkey*

My thesis was written as a plea to start thinking differently, next to the existing methodologies based on the priority of heritage values. An impetus to take programmatic considerations seriously, as they will always be the motor behind the conservation and renewal of our monuments and sites.

No.1 Dock is a representative site for the Maltese customs, national identity and culture. This group of constructions was

selected as the topic of research because of its singularity, derived from the fact that it is a wonderful example of industrial Colonial Georgian architecture and also by its resilience in time and history.

The site is located in Cospicua (Bormla), a town which forms together with Senglea(L'Isola), Birgu (Vittoriosa) and Kalkara the oldest conurbation in the Maltese islands, known as the Cottonera area. The No.1 Dock is situated in the heart

## Restoration and Consolidation of the S.E. Tower of Aegosthena ancient fortress

Internship in Greece

By Christos Koutsaftis, architect engineer, Greece

The main objective of the choice regarding the placement of the mandatory apprenticeship was my will to work with a monument of the antiquity and to be involved in an anastylosis project, the specific archaeological reconstruction technique where a monument is being restored using the original architectural elements to the greatest degree possible. I had the opportunity to work at the anastylosis project at the fortress of the ancient Greek town of Aigosthena,

65 kilometers northwest of Athens. The monument falls under the jurisdiction of the Third Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture. My duties demanded physical presence to the site so I commuted daily with the rest of the project team.

The site occupies an area of around 100 hectares and consists of a fortified acropolis connected to the sea by two fortification walls, enclosing a safe area for the dwellers



*View of the Eastern elevation of the tower © Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs*

during wartime and protecting the port from enemies. The monument is estimated to date from the second half of the 4th century BC.

The anastylosis project is focused on the SE tower of the fortress (fig. 1). Before the great 1981 earthquake, the tower stood 18m high, making it one of the best preserved monuments of its kind in Greece. Previous structural deformations and partial collapse of the original fabric because of the earthquake called for action: careful disassembling of the tower, application of remedial techniques by the conservators on the damaged stones and finally the reconstruction of the structure with the addition of a small percentage of new material. My main duty during my internship was to conduct the documentation of the interventions of the conservators on the stones of the structure.

Together, we developed a fixed layout for the documentation of each stone. The first step of the documentation was the basic outline survey (sc. 1:10) from basic measurements using measuring tape and fixed metallic angles.(fig.2) Following, further elaboration of the survey was achieved by using visual criteria and more detailed measurements at characteristic areas.(fig.3) The level of detail in the drawings was necessitated by the chosen drawing scale. The interventions were of two basic categories: grouting and welding. A sub-category of welding dealt with bigger pieces of stone, where titanium bars were utilized. (fig.4) I was able to watch closely from several key points of the project that I was not directly involved, like the repositioning of several misplaced stones on the structure using manual and ad-lib means under the guidance of the engineers or the filling of a large void in masonry block with

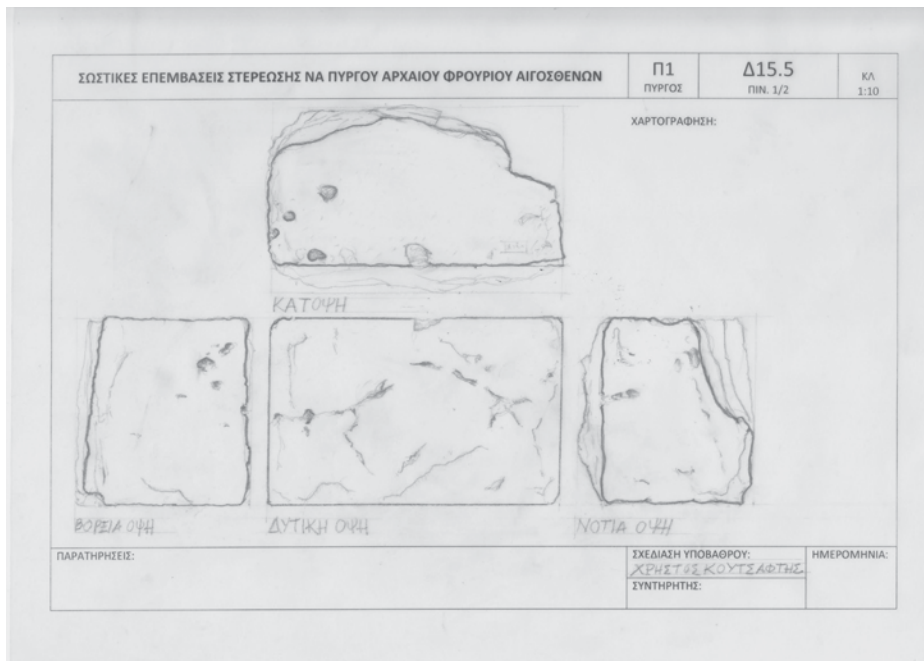


*Example of the documentation, hand drawn by the author © Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs*

artificial stone by the conservators, both very educative experiences. Reflecting back on my apprenticeship, I was able to appreciate how this experience allowed me to gain important knowledge. Not only the know-how of the archaeological documentation of conservators, but also the profound understanding of the ancient Greek building methods, by recognising the tool marks and signs, thanks to the input from experienced colleagues. I am sure I will not ever going to observe ancient Greek buildings as I used to do. On a different level, the understanding

of the way an interdisciplinary working group functions, not only as a productive unit but also as a coexistence of people of different backgrounds and eventually different frames of mind where an extra effort is needed in order to understand each other and be effective, was another major gain.

All in all, I consider this internship a fruitful and productive experience that shaped ideas and directions and will definitely serve as a stepping stone for my journey in the exciting world of Cultural Heritage.



“Tools of the trade”  
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## Building archaeology, Archaeology and Monuments (BAM) in ‘s-Hertogenbosch

Internship in The Netherlands

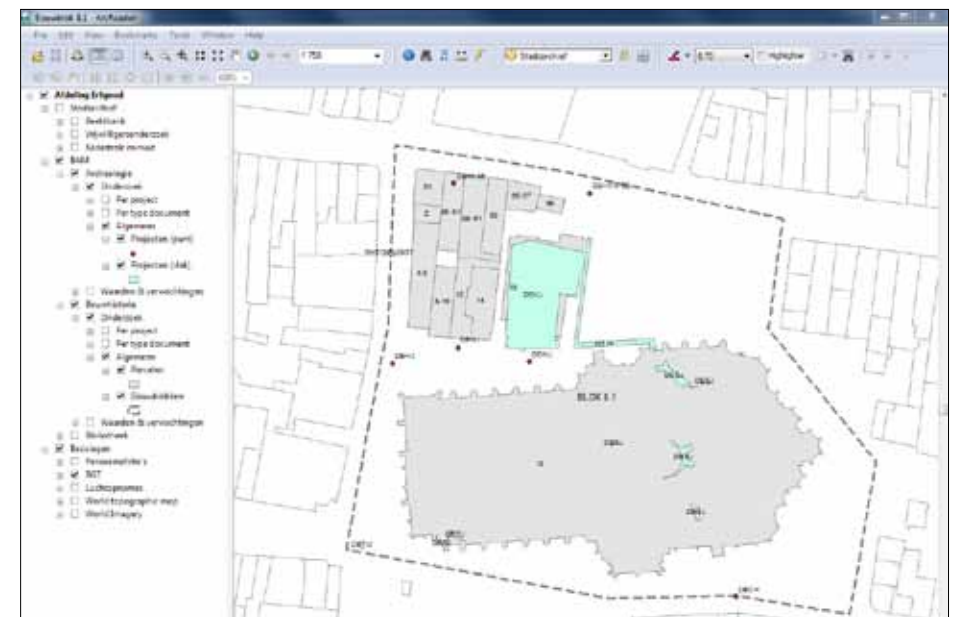
By Kathleen De Ceulaer (engineering architect, Belgium)

In April and May 2015, I had the opportunity to undertake an internship at the Building archaeology, Archaeology and Monuments (BAM) department in the municipality of ‘s-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. The main task of BAM is the research and management of the material history of the city. This involves both the remaining historic buildings and structures, and remains from settlements from the past that have been preserved in the subsoil.

Because of the planned merger of BAM with the City Archive department into one Heritage department, there is a need for more cooperation in terms of accessibility of data. The aim is to have all research data, from

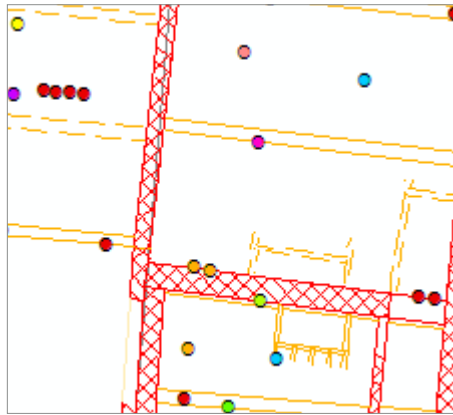
archaeological, building archaeological and archival research, but also from conservation management documents, combined in one easily accessible database. In this way, all researchers from the Heritage department can look up all existing information for a location in the city, also beyond the borders of their own research field.

The primary objective of my stay was to develop a geographic database by making use of GIS technology, as a first pilot study. For one building block in the historic centre of ‘s-Hertogenbosch I linked the existing research data to geographical coordinates, and tested if an easily readable and usable database could be created in this way.



General overview of the geodatabase © Kathleen De Ceulaer





Straat	Torenstraat
Huisnr	4
Perceelnr	-
Arch_Loc	BP fiche 1744.19v
Eig_Nieuw	Goris Janssen
Datum_Akte	1749-02-24
Datum_Vori	1715-02
Akte	R:\7. BOUWBLOKKEN\BLOK_8.1
Eig_Ex_Uno	van Dinsen
Eig_Ex_Ali	(van de Keer)
Eig_Achter	(van Herpen)
Eig_Huidig	Johan van Bousel & Maria van d

Coloured dots indicate where different types of historical structures have been found © Kathleen De Ceulaer

Every item on the map contains metadata; here information from deeds of sale can help to understand building transformations © Kathleen De Ceulaer

The resulted GIS database structures the data in three main categories: Base layers, BAM and City archive. The first category contains layers that can be used as background layer for consulting archaeological, building archaeological or archival research data. For instance you can find aerial views from different time periods.

For the category BAM, a distinction is made between archaeological and building archaeological data. For both classes there's a part for research and a part for values and expectations. The last one contains information from policy documents: protected monuments and archaeological zones, values and expectations, ... Research data can be consulted by searching either by project or either by type of document. This makes it possible to look up all existing information about one particular building, to compare dendrochronological reports for several buildings, to look up pictures for an exact location, to consult archaeological context layers for several excavation trenches, or to compare building survey plans for different buildings.

The last category contains information from archival research done by volunteers. Firstly, it contains georeferenced cadastral maps of 's-Hertogenbosch for different time periods. The oldest cadastral map is vectorised, with metadata linked to the building plots. A second feature is the information gathered from the deeds of sale. Mapping this information can help to understand better the evolution of building plots and the history of its inhabitants.

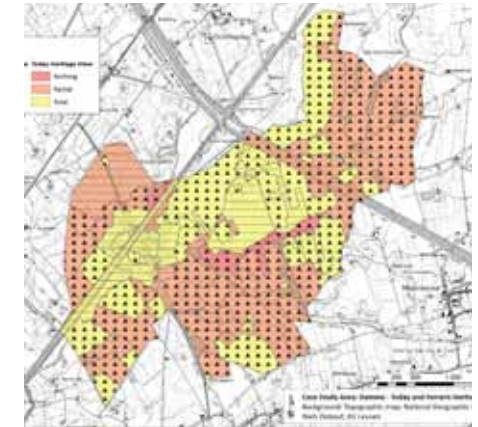
The test study gave a good impression of the possibilities of GIS to geographically structure different types of data in one database in a visually clear way. Personally I learned many things during my time at BAM, from the practical functioning of GIS to inventorying research data, from the functioning of a conservation department, to understanding and interpreting research data. I am indebted to my supervisor Ronald Glaudemans, to give me the opportunity of this internship and to guide me along the way, and to everyone at BAM who shared their knowledge with me and gave me a wonderful time in Den Bosch.

## Characterising the Visual Historic Landscape to Create a View into the Future

Master thesis by Niels Dabaut (Master in Geography, Belgium)  
Promoters: Paul Lievevrouw, Sam Turner and Veerle Van Eetvelde



Damme and its landscape change between the 18th Century and today © Niels Dabaut



As in every country, conservation of heritage is seen in Flanders as identifying archaeological sites, buildings, landmarks or parts of the landscape that are important for society. This means that heritage or heritage objects are considered as a separate legal category rather than a dynamic feature. Even interaction between the different categories of heritage is difficult, which makes an integrated policy and management of heritage and landscape impossible. Because the approach to heritage in Flanders and in many other countries can be seen as an absolute minimum, this dissertation aimed to go beyond it. The basis for the proposed approach is found in the European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2000) and the Faro convention on the value of Cultural Heritage to society (Council of Europe, 2005), guiding the research and policy agendas on landscape and heritage

in Europe. Heritage and landscape are two concepts that are perceived and created by people and both are the results of interactions and changes in the past. The management of both should therefore move from protection and conservation of individual monuments, site or parts of the landscape towards a sustainable and integrated management of change towards the future. Since both concepts seem to nourish each other, they were considered as one concept throughout this dissertation. Although this integrated concept is already part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) approach of English Heritage, this study took the basic principles of HLC one step further. Our expert based view on the historic landscape as heritage starts from the idea that a shift in mindset is needed in both heritage and landscape policy and management. The approach starts from

the basic principles of Historic Landscape Characterisation in England, which tries to represent the time depth of the landscape and to analyse the past within the present and now also includes the context and the visual aspects of the different heritage elements in their historical landscape. This is done starting from the current landscape and then interpreting the changes the landscape has gone through over time. The geo-database (GIS and Access) for case study areas in Damme which was developed in the framework of this dissertation serves as an example of a final product of such study. This database makes it possible, through the concept of time-depth, to visualise and evaluate the landscape changes induced by the interaction between humans and nature. One of the critiques of HLC discussed in the literature review states that HLC only gives a vertical perspective on the landscape. In the approach outlined within this project, the horizontal perspective is therefore added to this conventional approach. Using fieldwork, the landscape is characterised from inside the landscape itself. Photographs taken during the fieldwork enable a survey of the area and a validation of the final outcome. The project shows that landscape character is a combination of elements or patterns of elements identifiable on maps and aerial photographs and observed within the landscape itself. Features that are clearly visible on maps and aerial photographs cannot be seen or interpreted during fieldwork, and vice versa. Thus, the outcome is based on the continuous interaction between field research and desktop-based studies. This interaction makes it possible to characterise the historic landscape and to make it better understandable for practitioners, architects, spatial planners and other heritage and landscape managers. This is why viewed analysis and in-depth

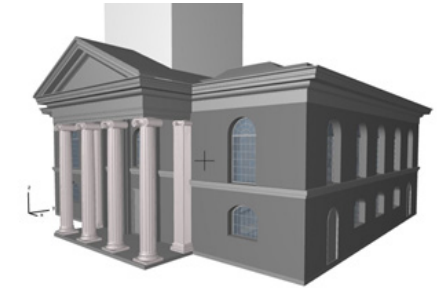
fieldwork should be integrated within the conventional HLC method. These techniques can be used by people that will manage, design or work with(in) our continuously changing landscape. Especially the visual features of the landscape, such as the field boundary material, field boundary markers, views towards landmarks or key buildings, are important for the character of the landscape and make people identify with their landscape. The results show that the underlying patterns that appear by combining both fieldwork and desktop-based study might be closer to the people's appreciation of landscape. This, for the moment expert based, approach on the landscape structure and how this fits in buildings or landmarks is close to the actual questions of participation and inclusion. The database of the characterisation can easily be transformed into an open source database that can be extended with people's perception, feeling or emotion to the different landscapes. Finally, the approach proposed within this study could easily fit within the existing tools for landscape and heritage used in Flanders. The attributes that integrate the visual aspects of landscape should then go beyond the borders of the municipalities. Through this visual landscape cross-border link, it would be easier to connect studies to create an area-wide landscape characterisation as an overarching concept between our changing landscape, our heritage and the future. This is necessary because the limited legal protection and conservation of landscape that is currently in place does not support the idea of landscape and heritage as being 'perceived by people' and being common goods. Change in both landscape and heritage should be possible in order to keep both concepts alive.

## Places of Worship in Dublin (Ireland)

Historic Building Information Modelling as a potential tool for adaptive reuse

**Master thesis by Evelien Dirix (art history, Belgium)**

**Promoters: Prof. Dr. Thomas Coomans, Dr. Maurice Murphy & Charles Duggan**



*South-east view upon the former St. George's church and a south-east view of the 3D model of the former St. George church © E. Dirix*

In an age of continuing secularisation, also a strong religious country like Ireland is faced with a decline in worshippers and empty churches as a consequence. In the Dublin city area, there are thirty former places of worship (i.e. public churches, private chapels and chapels from convents or monasteries) versus forty-nine functioning places of worship. The majority of places of worship got reused during the 1990's (34%). Secondary peaks are to be noticed during the 1980's (13%), the 2000's (16%) and the recent 2010's (11%).

No less than 20% of these former places of worship were converted into offices, mostly after a high impact interference. With some of these conversions from the nineteen-nineties, it is clear that the notion of reversibility was not yet generally known. Other new functions for former places of worship in Dublin that occur are cultural

use (20%), residential use (17%), religious use (14%), catering and accommodation (10%), retail/shop (10%), multifunctional use (3%), public services (3%), and no current function (3%). The second most popular new use is cultural purposes, among other a theatre, a film institute and cinema complex and a museum. The function of 'catering and accommodation' seems one of the most commercially viable options, yet only three such case studies were spotted. Unfortunately, with some these new functions like offices or residences, about 40% of the case studies has lost its public access, which is one of the basic notions of a place of worship.

One of these case studies that is no longer public accessible, is the former St. George's church in the former Georgian Gardiner Estate, north inner city Dublin. The church was constructed in 1801 after a design of

Francis Johnston. The parish ceased to function in 1991. In 1995, the former church building was renamed 'Temple Theatre' and was used for the following eight years as a nightclub. In 2004, the building was sold to property developer Eugene O'Connor. Between September 2005 and December 2008, the church underwent a restoration by Joseph Doyle Architects in four different phases to create office spaces. Important architectural elements and monuments were kept and the spire underwent a full renovation to turn it to its former splendour. Inside, two surplus floor levels were inserted into the original open nave level. The original gallery levels remain untouched but got connected to the added semi-floating first floor. Even higher, a second level was inserted at a distance of only 2,26m between its floor and the original neo-classical stucco ceiling. These levels creating 'a building within a building' were constructed with the aim to reversibility and a planning permission for 25 years. The total works have cost 7.5m euros. The former church building is still for let since the completion of the last restoration phase in 2008.

As urged by English Heritage, a former place of worship should preferably be converted into a transferable function i.e. one that can provide for the community. In this way the building can remain its original public accessibility and can thus be enjoyed by all who wants to visit. Turning a former church into private office spaces however does not cover this presumption. The lack of thoughtfulness with this particular project brings up the reverie whether adaptive reuse has saved the building for our future generations or irreversibly changed its precious values?

A case like the former St. George's church urges the importance of (digital) heritage

documentation. Where traditional documentation techniques give information on a certain level, advanced techniques like Historic Building Information Modelling (HBIM) provides a solution. HBIM expanded about fifteen years ago from the application of Building Information Modelling (BIM). Where BIM focussed upon construction-led design and the research into the life cycle of new buildings, HBIM broadened the application to the area of documentation and conservation of architectural heritage. For this particular case study HBIM was utilised as a time-based representation of historical documents including two 3D-models showing the pre- and post-conversion state of the building. A specific methodology for the analysis of the church was compiled in co-ordination with Dr. Maurice Murphy (Dublin Institute for Technology, Ireland).

With the combination of a set of complete survey data and historic documents, a first approximate model showing the original phase from around 1880 was created in 2D surveys (plans, sections and elevations) and a 3D model. During the process, architectural elements not included into the embedded library were generated based upon the historical sources. One of these examples are the three sided flattened eight-fluted Ionic pilasters. With the function 'complex profiles' a historical correct element could be recreated in 2 and 3D. With this building element, information was added enlarging the knowledge of this particular building and style. On a larger scale, this procedure adds to the global virtual heritage knowledge. HBIM can definitely be used as a tool for the research into adaptive reuse of former places of worship. Further research however has to be conducted into its options by the comparison of further case studies.

## Surveying Hemelsdaele School in Bruges

Heritage Evaluation and Recommendations with a Focus on House de Nieulant

Master thesis by Eva Bouton (Art History, Belgium)

Promoters: Thomas Coomans, Luc Verpoest



*The Hemelsdaele School Complex in Bruges © Bing Maps*

The Hemelsdaele School in Bruges was founded in 1829 by the Ghent Congregation Les Dames de l'Instruction Chrétienne (The Religious of Christian Education) and since 1879 the school has been located in the building block adjoining the Sint-Jansplein, its current location. At the end of the nineteenth century Hemelsdaele evolved into a girls school that focused on the French speaking bourgeoisie from Bruges and surroundings. The contemporary situation of the building complex of Hemelsdaele is a mix of constructions, built by different owners, for different purposes, and additions made by the congregation. Two blocks of the complex were originally built as mansions for private owners and later bought by the sisters of the congregation. The mansion built for the family Serclaes in 1862 (Wapenmakersstraat 14) was acquired by the sisters and put in use for

the school since 1879. The mansion built for the family de Nieulant (Sint-Jansstraat 16), built between 1828 and 1831, was purchased and put in use for the school since 1930. In 1974 the House de Nieulant, located at 16 Sint-Jansstraat, was listed as a monument by Royal Decree. However only the roof and the facades of the building are protected.

The image of Hemelsdaele has been diminished substantially due to the fact that the school has no clear vision. The absence of a clear vision applies both to the appearance of the school as to the building complex itself. This had as a consequence that for the last twenty years there has been a significant decrease in the amount of students enrolled in the school. Due to this decrease in the student numbers the school has been receiving less subsidies from

the government every year and has been having difficulties maintaining its historical buildings for the last decades. Today the building highlights the inefficiency of the current management of the buildings and the current protection policies in place.

The intention of the research was to document and understand the complex in order to make a heritage evaluation and provide recommendations that could contribute to the future preservation of the Hemelsdaele complex. Through historical research it became clear that the complex is a complicated mix of built structures erected throughout different periods and for different purposes.

The largest barriers towards a successful conservation approach for Hemelsdaele are the lack of a long-term vision and an out-dated legal protection framework. The paper reveals that addressing these issues could significantly contribute towards the conservation of the complex. The heritage evaluation proves that the interiors of House de Nieulant are as valuable as the structure that encapsulates them, but these are not currently included in the listing as a monument dating back to 1974. Further research in the protection of the interior should be undertaken. Recommendations have been addressed within the paper, which positively reflect numerous approaches that can be undertaken to ensure the prosperity of the building towards the future.

A preferred solution for the challenges Hemelsdaele is faced with would be to split off one of the buildings of the larger complex. The House de Nieulant can easily function independently of the larger complex, making it an ideal section for the proposed separation. This measure could



*Facade of House de Nieulant in the Sint-Jansstraat*  
© E. Bouton

resolve the challenge of excess space currently experienced, as well as address the lack of financial resources for the maintenance of the complex as a whole. Therefore it is also important that the protection of House de Nieulant would be revised to accommodate its entire portfolio. This approach would be beneficial for Hemelsdaele through the increased efficiency of the use of space, and for a more focused allocation of funds for complex maintenance and improvement.

It has become clear that Hemelsdaele is facing many challenges for the future, but research has shown that the complex of Hemelsdaele is of high value and is deserving of future conservation efforts. Whichever route the school decides to take, the conservation of this valuable complex in the heart of the historic centre of Bruges should be a priority for the enjoyment of generations to come.

## Heritage and the Environment:

Groundwater Mapping, Analysis and Management of the World Heritage Site, Rani ki Vav, India.

**Master thesis by John du Preez (Architect, South Africa)**

**Promoters: Prof. Koen Van Balen, Prof. Mario Santana Quintero**

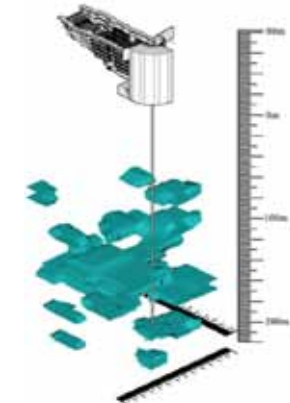
**Prof. Rohit Jigyasu**



*Rani Ki Vav, Patan, India* © John Du Preez

Little research has been undertaken in the relationship between heritage monuments and the natural environments that surround them. Although the larger objective that was envisioned throughout the research was the generation of discourse that might ensue in this regard, the research itself focused more specifically on the relationship between groundwater mapping, analysis and management, and how these factors play a role in relationship to heritage structures. The subject is one that is both multi-disciplinary and largely unexplored to date within the heritage sector, and as such my own interest in new-field research and system development made for an investigation that was both challenging and exciting.

My thesis paper, titled *Heritage and the Environment: Groundwater mapping,*



*Visualisation of groundwater mapping process*  
© John Du Preez

*Analysis and Management of the World Heritage Site, Rani ki Vav, India,* focused on the development of measurement technologies and analysis techniques in order to develop rehabilitation scenarios for the Rani ki Vav, an 11th century stepwell structure located in Patan, India. The Rani ki Vav is a UNESCO World Heritage site as of 2014. For the last several decades the Rani ki Vav has been a dry well-structure. In an area of India that relies heavily on groundwater for human, livestock and agricultural consumption, the focus of the paper was heavily influenced by the relationship of rehabilitation scenarios to contemporary water-provision challenges within the area. This aspect gave the paper a dimension of heritage-based solutions for contemporary environmental sustainability challenges, which also influenced the resulting recommendations.

Initial efforts in the study focused both on literature review as well as technology adaption as it relates to the heritage sector. Documentation on this monument is somewhat limited outside of India, but help from supervisors and others allowed for a thorough investigation into the history of the monument, and its historical function. Selection, adaption, testing, coding and visualisation of the selected electroseismic technique for groundwater mapping also consumed much of the research time of the project, and took place both in Belgium and South Africa. My visit to India allowed not only for a thorough field-survey of the Rani ki Vav site, but selected alternative stepwell site-surveys were also conducted around Ahmedabad. Furthermore, the time spent in India was used to investigate groundwater usage patterns and base-knowledge levels of groundwater management both around the Rani ki Vav site as well as in Ahmedabad, the closest major city.

The results of the survey were interesting and gave emphasis to the challenges faced within the specific area of Gujarat, India. Results indicated water availability at a depth below the Rani ki Vav structure, and rehabilitation scenarios were detailed within the thesis document. It was, however, a conclusion of the paper that rehabilitation efforts not be undertaken at the Rani ki Vav due to the following reasons:

1. The Rani ki Vav is located in an historically significant part of India. However, a shift in contemporary urban centres has left the Rani ki Vav in a remote and less accessible part of the Gujarat area. As such, any rehabilitation scenario would have minimal value from a social or environmental perspective.

2. The Rani ki Vav is valued primarily for its intricate carvings. Although these would not inherently be harmed by a rehabilitation project, the social and functional aspects of the rehabilitation might inadvertently put these carvings at risk.

3. Because of the two factors mentioned above, it became clear that more appropriate stepwell case-studies were available for initial rehabilitation scenarios.

A secondary case-study, the Vadaj Stepwell in Ahmedabad, was undertaken in response to the conclusions made regarding the Rani ki Vav. The Vadaj Stepwell, in the heart of Ahmedabad, is a much smaller, much more functional 18th century stepwell. The survey indicated not only existing and accessible water-supply for the site, but also supporting geological structures for groundwater rehabilitation. The structure, and the surrounding landscape are currently undergoing conservation efforts and the inclusion of a rehabilitation project affords not only the possibility of a functional monument, but also brings small first-step answers to the role that heritage plays within sustainability challenges. The proposed rehabilitation would also address educational exposure to responsible water management strategies and historical approaches to existing challenges, both which are paramount to future provision of water within the area.

The research helped me develop my passion for exploring both solutions based on, and relationships connected to heritage monuments and sites. My time in India resulted in good friendships and exposure to heritage within a different context. Most importantly, the research highlights an aspect of the importance and responsibility of the heritage sector within the challenges of sustainability faced today.

## Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Cuenca: building process and material

Master Thesis by Vele Zhagui Juan Diego (Architect, Ecuador)



*Cathedral of Immaculate Conception; Aerial view © vlr CPM; 2014*

The cathedral of Immaculate Conception of Cuenca is the most important religious building in Cuenca, Azuay and one of the most impressive in Ecuador. This monument is also a symbol of the tenacity of two generations that did not get intimidated by such a big task despite the adversities during almost one century. Today the cathedral is the milestone of the Cuencano identity and is reason of proud of the architecture tradition in Cuenca. Besides the cathedral is reflection of the creativity by a European designer and local craftsmen even though being different could get outstanding outcome. In this context, the master thesis Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Cuenca: Building process and material; is a study of relevant aspects of this religious

building aiming to value and preserve its integrity for future generations.

To understand the context in which the cathedral of Cuenca was built and remains, we have to look into the historic background left by the most important cultures that settled along the valley of the Tomebamba River through the various eras of the region's development. Indeed, the current state of the city is an accumulation of Cañaris, Incas, Hispanic-colonial, republican, French influenced and contemporary culture. All of these knew to amalgamate with previous cultures, using the positive aspects of each one to produce the city that we know today. It is in this context that the cathedral can be seen as the pinnacle of French influence,

with a powerful footprint of the people who constructed the temple. This means the cathedral has two trends: the local and the foreign influence.

The history of the construction of the cathedral of the immaculate of Cuenca dates back to the consecration of the second bishopric in the Royal Audience of Quito through the promulgation of the royal decree in 1779 by King Carlos III. The situation that forced them to build a new cathedral for Cuenca was the confusion that was caused by the lack of an official cathedral, despite the fact that Cuenca already had several churches and the real need was for a sewer system. The construction of the cathedral began in 1886 under the command of the designer Johannes Stiehle until his death in 1899 and

during several times stopped its works due the lack of resources and country issues of the time. This religious building stopped the works in 1967 and it is important to say it is not completed since the two towers are still pending to build, this is cause of debate between the stakeholders about finishing or not the cathedral.

#### Johannes Stiehle and his Work

The designer of the cathedral: Johannes Stiehle worked in many fields related to arts and craft works such as painting, sculpture, carving furniture, architecture and civil engineering. Upon his arrival in Ecuador in 1974, he found vast opportunities to develop his skills, because the Catholic congregation wanted to reestablish its strong influence in the life of the country.



*Construction of the Cathedral of Cuenca (between 1960-1967) © BCE Archive; Cuenca; 2014*



*Rose window; Cathedral of Cuenca © Juan Diego Vele 2014*

fine stones (marbles) are usually found in quarries in “Sayausí” and “Balzay” on the western side of Cuenca. In regards to the lime, this is usually located in “Baños”, where there is an inactive volcano that is rich in lime sources and warm water springs.

Regarding the technical issues, the cathedral of Cuenca is exposed to several actions that produce deformations

Among the productions by Stiehle in Ecuador and South America were various plans for both sacred and secular buildings. Because of his growing popularity in building design and construction, he was also assigned to works of civil engineering such as roads, bridges and more facilities for the activities of the education and assistance to the people of Cuenca and the Austro.

#### Materials and technical aspects of the cathedral of Cuenca

The zone around Cuenca has many quarries containing materials like stone, lime, clay, sand and wood. The construction of the cathedral led to the identification of the sources of these materials, which became the traditional sources of raw materials for Cuenca. For instance, in the northern part of Cuenca, “Sinincay and Racar” are well known for the existence of clay that is suitable to make tiles and fired brick, which the milestone of the aesthetical expression of the religious monument. Also, Cuenca’s Mountain Rivers are rich in pebbles, while the small rivers such as “Tarqui” and “Quebrada de Milchichig” contain sand. The

or damages, but it is settlements that have caused ones of the most visible: the fracture of the main façade along its vertical axis. However, the monitoring of this phenomenon has shown that this crack has stabilized to the point that we can see today. Another concern are the small deformations, which in historic buildings are pretty common after being finished. They are caused by factors such as the seasonal changes of temperature, differential settlements, moisture, tremors, etc. In the cathedral there are such inconvenient despite, being made mainly of brickwork and lime mortar that has more elasticity.

In the same token, since Cuenca is located in a seismic zone, it has many very low intensity tremors that are sometimes imperceptible for humans. So far this has not presented significant damages in the structure of the cathedral. However, the seismic activity is a constant concern for constructions in Cuenca in the case of a high magnitude earthquake.

Value assessment and conservation

The value assessment of the cathedral attempts to integrate the collected information on historical, material, aesthetics and technological features into the scheme of the Nara Grid. Underlining these aspects is important in the value assessment.

The social value of the cathedral relays the fact that it is an integrating element for the very diverse society of Cuenca in that time. Indeed it was the “Minga”, as a ancient Pre-Columbian communitarian work tradition, that made it possible to build according to the plan made by the German priest Johannes Stiehle. This cooperation helped to consolidate the broken “Cuencano” Society.

In spite to the conservation plan, this aims to prevent the slow ongoing process of the deterioration of the cathedral. Besides that, this plan attempts to give the guidelines for the future maintenance of the monument and preventative conservation. To achieve this, the conservation plan is focused on three levels of conservation: the immediate intervention, the management plan and the plan for the preventive conservation. The immediate intervention is focused mainly on the roof, but also on the technical elements such as the foundations, the interaction with the soil and the constant threats, like seismic activity, must be the object

of further studies. Regarding the problems that have delayed the intervention, there is a proposal developed on this conservation plan for achieving a definitive solution to this complex matter. Finally, the plan contemplates preventative conservation as a key issue for the preservation of this religious building.



*Crack on the small dome; Cathedral of Cuenca*  
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