



Scientific conference

Historic ruins II
– protection, use, management

14-15 September 2020, Lublin, Poland

Venue: Lublin University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture

The conference will be implemented also as webinar – the speakers and the attendees can participate in the conference online via internet.

The conference is co-funded by the INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE Programme within project CE902RUINS

1. Topic of the conference

The topic of the conference is the protection, use and management of historic ruins. This difficult subject has always been present in the reflection on monuments protection. The concepts of treating historic ruins were different, but the dilemma faced by conservators always looks similar. Is a ruined historic object

- destruct shaped by the passage of time and various events, should be treated as a historical document (carrier of information) and thus protected in this form, or can it be supplemented, reconstructed, rebuilt?

The 200-year history of monuments preservation shows that there is no universal answer to the question of how to deal with the historic ruin. This answer depends on circumstances such as the period of destruction of the monument, the cause of this destruction, information about its original form, the conditions of modern reconstruction. In general, the differences in those circumstances can be reduced to a distinction between the so-called “historic ruins” and “contemporary ruins”. In the case of historic ruin, the process of destruction took place beyond the memory of living generations, this process was long-lasting and information about the original form of the object is limited and uncertain. In the case of the contemporary ruin, the process of destruction took place in the memory of living generations (the object is remembered in the form before destruction), the process of destruction was violent (fire, war, flood, earthquake), there is also information available allowing for a reliable rebuilding of the historic form. Significant differences between these types of ruins mean that historical ruins should be protected as ruins, while contemporary ruins can be reconstructed, rebuilt.



However, the viewpoint of the heritage specialists is confronted and verified by the expectations and needs of society. In the case of historic ruins, this means ideas and projects for their reconstruction. Many managers, however, are still not aware of the value of ruins, the ideas and resources for their maintenance and use. Therefore, the duty of conservation specialists is to develop principles for the protection of historic ruins and patterns of contemporary utilisation, use and management of the so-called permanent ruins.

Most of all, the owners and managers decide about the way of dealing with historic ruins. Therefore, they need to be provided with comprehensive information on the importance of ruins, forms of their protection, management methods and opportunities for their utilisation. Collecting this information should be based on analysis of the best examples of contemporary protection and management of historic ruins. Discussion and examples of ruins' management should be of international character, as the problems of protection and management of ruins are similar in many countries.

2. Objectives and thematic scope of the conference

The aim of the conference is to make a broad review of the problems related to the protection, conservation, use and management of historic ruins.

The key assumption of the conference is comprehensive discussing the contemporary principles and forms of maintaining historic ruins in the historical, theoretical and practical aspects.

The conference also aims to present and critically analyse the most interesting examples of contemporary protection, management and use of historic ruins.

The results of RUINS project and the experience gained during project implementation will also be presented during the conference.

Three thematic sessions are planned within the conference:

1. Technical and conservation issues of the protection of ruins.

The topic of the "Protection" session are theoretical, conservation, technical and design issues related to the maintenance of the ruins. The speeches should refer to the principles and forms of maintaining the ruins from the point of view of architectural, conservation and landscape conceptions. The speeches regarding technical problems – methods and technologies – protection of crenelation and faces of walls, structural reinforcements, protection against water and moisture are also expected. The papers making a critical analysis of positive and negative examples of the protection of historic ruins are particularly welcomed.

2. Development of ruins for modern utility functions

The topic of the "Development" session is the critical presentation of the examples and forms of contemporary development, use and display of historic ruins. The speeches are expected to present various forms and aspects of



contemporary use of historic ruins – tourism, cultural events, exhibitions, commercial use, museum functions, etc. The presentations of the forms of utilisation that use and adapt themselves to the historical character of the ruin without interfering excessively with the historical substance and form are particularly welcomed.

3. Management of historic ruins

The topic of „Management” session is presentation of issues related to the management of ruins – i.a. form of ownership, organisation, financing, tourist traffic, organisation of events, promotion, education. The papers presenting the models and forms of ruins’ management that include all the aspects of such activities are expected. The papers presenting the modern best practice in historic ruins management are particularly welcomed.

We invite conservators, art and culture historians, employees of conservation services, specialists in the protection of cultural property, designers, representatives of local governments, university employees, owners and users connected with the protection, management and use of historic ruins to participate in the conference.

3. Organisational information

Abstracts of the proposed papers should be sent by **August 25, 2020**, to the address: ruins@pollub.pl

Abstracts should not exceed two pages of the text (the form of separate points will help the reviewers to capture the concept of speeches).

The authors of the conference speeches are asked to indicate the session in which the paper should be presented (Protection, Use, Management).

The selection of papers to be presented at the conference will be made by reviewers appointed by the Organising Committee. The authors of the papers will be informed about the decision of the reviewers until **September 1, 2020**.

The conference materials will be published in peer-reviewed periodical “Protection of Cultural Heritage” (in the issue 2/2020).

For organisational info please send e-mail to: ruins@pollub.pl

We invite you to submit proposals for conference presentations.

We invite you to participate in the conference.

On behalf of the Organisational Committee,
Bogusław Szmygin