Florence Workshop
(14 – 15 November 2014)

“Shared Built Heritage” reconsidered

Conceptualized by
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In collaboration with
Siegfried RCT Enders (President, ISC SBH)

Joint Workshop of
ICOMOS ISC Shared Built Heritage
ICOMOS ISC Theory & Philosophy of Conservation and Preservation
Chair of Global Art History, Heidelberg University
Institute of Art History, Max-Planck-Institute, Florence

Venue: Casa Zuccari, Via Giuseppe Giusti 44, Max-Planck-Institute (MPI), 50121 Florence, Italy
Time: 14 November 2 – 6 p.m. / 15 November 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

This two-day workshop aims to discuss the challenges, approaches and methods, and the multi-layered value structures involved which are grouped around term that has given a specific ICOMOS Scientific Committee (ISC) its name: “Shared Built Heritage” (SBH). As a result of the workshop, specific recommendations will be formulated, which are to be added to the Committee’s actual Statutes.
Context and Goals

Originally named “Committee on Shared Colonial Architecture and Town Planning” up to the late 1990s, to cover the heritage of former European colonial structures in overseas Non-Europe from the viewpoint of today’s post-colonial and globalized world, the Committee was renamed with its current name through a process of internal debate. As the Committee now defines this in its current statutes, “Shared Built Heritage includes historical urban and rural structures or elements, resulting from multi-cultural and/or colonial influence”. From this larger perspective, inner-European heritage configurations resulting from the violent process of national frontiers changing and forced migration from North- and South America to Asia and Australia were additionally included in the Committee’s agenda.

After the Committee’s impressive series of international meetings around the planet to visit ex-colonial heritage sites from South America to Asia, it is time now to sit down and summarize the insights and to define with new expertise the challenges of, and approaches to, this multi-layered heritage configuration from a more theoretical and methodological point of view.

Placed at the end of ICOMOS International’s General Assembly in Florence (9 – 14 November 2014), this workshop is conceived of as a collaboration between the ICOMOS ISC “Shared Built Heritage” and the ICOMOS ISC “Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration”, together with the Chair of Global Art History of Heidelberg University, and the Max-Planck-Institute of Art History at Florence, as the host of the event.

Programme

Friday, 14 November 2014: 2 – 6 pm

Welcome
Prof. Gerhard Wolf (Director, MPI Florence)
Eva Troelenberg, Brigitte Soelch (Project Leaders, MPI Florence)

Introduction
Michael Falser (Uni Heidelberg), RCT Enders (ISC SBH), Wilfried Lipp (ISC Theory)

PART A Case-studies around pre-defined topics

A.1 “Shared” – “Built” – “Heritage”: Reflections of Difficult Terms

This section re-evaluates the internal development of the Committee as regards terms, definitions, workshops, and meetings; investigates the general issue of heritage “participation” in (inter)national doctrines, charters, and conventions; and discusses the crucial terms “Shared” (inclusive, pluralistic vs colonial, hegemonic, top-down?), “Built” (tangible vs. intangible?), and “Heritage” (who inherits, who is excluded before/during and after the changes of regimes and their ideologies?).

Introduction: ISC SBH – an overview and open questions
RCT Enders (Darmstadt)

On Inheriting – A transcultural approach
Monica Juneja (Heidelberg)
“Shared heritage” – a term in international heritage doctrines?

Michael Falser (Heidelberg)

Shared built heritage from a non-European perspective: The case of Australia

Sue Jackson-Stepeweski (Sydney)

From Cape Town to Wuhan - Shared built heritage at the larger scale

Fabio Todeschini (Cape Town)

A.2 Negotiating Periods of Significance(s)

Not only on the national level, but also on the global level of UNESCO’s World Heritage guidelines, strictly assigned determinations of a so-called period of significance create especially heavy conflicts within “Shared Built Heritage” configurations. Is it the original (colonial) monument as a historic source of architectural history or this monument’s ongoing and dynamic increase in (various?) significance(s) through post-colonial appropriation and contemporary use values which should define protection and preservation guidelines?

The alien’s view on heritage?

Wilfried Lipp (Linz)

Taking roots in unknown soil. The process of heritage-appropriation in German-Polish contact zones

Irmela Spelsberg (Berlin)

Mandapeshwar (India): Heritage of Portuguese Influence? Could religious proselytism produce shared built heritage?

Walter Rossa (Coimbra)

Dealing with baggages of memories in Macao, after the Portuguese administration

Maria José de Freitas (Macao)

Sharing built heritage in Bangalore, virtually

Rachel Lee (Berlin)

Saturday, 15 November 2014: 9 am – 1 pm

A.3 Balancing Stakeholders’ Interests

Especially within “Shared Built Heritage” structures and ensembles after regime/ideology changes, the different interests of local stakeholders, of regional cultural traditions and peculiarities, of national administration and (economic, touristic) exploitation, and finally (short-term) international expertise following globalized heritage doctrines all create a multi-layered and often heavily contested complex. Balancing these different interests is an enormous challenge and requires long experience of cultural and political mediation, such as community hearings to workshops and conferences. Do we need other, more subtle instruments in this specific case?

“Respecting stakeholders’ interests” as a neo-colonial topos in heritage policies?

Experiences from Pakistan

Michael Jansen (Aachen)
When the ‘other’ does not want to speak. The discourse between Jewish and Palestinian heritage elite
Michali Firestone (Israel)

Shifting cultural ethics in shared heritage: from ours in place to that of place
Vassilis Ganiatsas (Athens)

Casablanca or the shared pragmatism
Romeo Carabelli (Tours)

A.4 Building Strategies – Structural Interventions – Short/Long-term Effects

Local knowledge, regional traditions of craftmanship, the user’s site-specific strategies of use and ongoing structural add-on interventions are increasingly acknowledged in internationalist ‘living heritage’ policies, but in reality often clash with museological ‘embalming’ strategies of historic monuments. Additionally, commercialization and ‘heritagization’ processes (especially in declared National Protected Monuments up to the level of World Heritage Sites) often create social segregation on site. Do “Shared Built Heritage” monuments and sites need a specific sensibility and an open-process mentality with regard to structural interventions and long-term effects?

Changing frontiers and structural interventions in border fortifications
Hans Caspary (Mainz)

War, heritage destruction and shared heritage: Israel-Palestine
Giora Solar (Israel)

Sharing Cultural Sustainability of the Built Heritage: Is Kulangsu UNESCO world heritage?
Mei Qing (Shanghai)

Colonial cities: glocal perspectives on the multiple processes of cultural and physical synthesis
Manuel C. Teixeira (Lisbon)

Saturday, 15 November 2014: 3 pm – 6 pm

PART B Recommendations for the Statutes of ISC Shared Built Heritage

In this section, we intend to discuss and summarize the findings of Part A of the workshop, and formulate concrete recommendations regarding the above-listed topics and sub-themes. These recommendations are planned to be added to the existing Statutes of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee “Shared Built Heritage”, and will therefore be placed online. Additionally, the presentations and texts can be placed on the Workshop’s homepage for further discussion.

For information and individual registration: falsar@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de

WORKSHOP HOMEPAGE