TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S): AN INTERPLAY OF DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Theory in practice: digital documentation and analysis in developing sustainable restoration approaches for existing architectural heritage. The study case of Raksila wooden neighborhood in Oulu, Finland.

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
This contribution wants to address the obvious need to rewrite some central restoration guidelines still prevailing, in spite of the recent technological advancements provided by new and radical documentation technologies. Traces of the past, old buildings, traditional constructions cannot be ignored and segregated in the process of urban development. On the contrary, they should be the starting point for new coherent, sustainable and harmonious development. Nowadays architects and urban planners have much better chances to rely on the contribution of new technologies and to enhance their work by using digital systems.
During the last ten years in fact, technology has literally revolutionized the approach of technicians, transforming also theoretical analysis and investigation in something dynamic and sensibly more practical. Within digital database, it is possible to link different levels of information putting them in mutual relation helping the elaboration of new significant considerations. Since Camillo Boito’s Prima Carta del Restauro (1883) up to more recent international declarations such as Venice Charter (1964) and Nara document (1994), the verification of authenticity, has never before been as easy as it is with current technology, such as laser-scanning. In this context, the digital survey and the research sector of the representation have better chances for restoration, renovation and for transforming the theoretical analysis and evaluation into totally new level of knowledge, directly connected to the practice and action.

The contribution describes these themes by presenting the research carried out in Raksila neighborhood, Oulu (Finland) by the team of the “Department of History of Architecture and Restoration Studies”. Investigations, inventory catalogues and digital 3D laser scanner survey are needed for understanding the development of architecture, neighborhood or city, as well as new interpretation of restoration theories. When theory serves practice better, it helps also maintaining the genius loci, the spirit of the place in the townscape.

• Author Biography (200 words each):

Sara Porzilli is Architect and European Ph.D. graduated at the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence, Italy. Her specialization is laser scanner survey and digital system for the documentation and representation of the environment and architecture.

Now she is having a Post Doctoral Researcher Position with a Marie S. Curie Fellowship at the School of Architecture of the University of Oulu (Supervisor: Prof. Anna-Maija Ylimaula, email: ylimaula@oulu.fi). Duration of the contract: 24 months. Title of her research project: “Preserving Wooden Heritage. Methods for monitoring wooden structures: 3D laser scanner survey and application of BIM systems on point cloud models”.

Since 2009 she collaborates continuously in the academic field, supporting the teaching activities at the Department of Architecture in Florence first, and at the “Department of History of Architecture and Restoration Studies” in Oulu now. Thanks to fellowships, teaching assignments and specific project funding she took part in significant laser scanner survey projects as: the Pogost Complex on Kizhi Island (Russia), Masada Fortress (Israel), Uffizi Museum in Florence (Italy), Nativity Church in Bethlehem (Palestine), Alvar Aalto sauna and buildings (Finland).