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

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Heritage and contemporary architecture. The aspect of heritage protection in the Architecture policy documents in Estonia

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

• Abstract (300 words):
Starting from the 1970s European countries have adopted state architecture policies: France (1977), Netherlands (1991), Denmark (1994), Ireland (1996), Finland (1998) etc. Among Post-Soviet countries joined EU in the 1990s, Estonia was the first to adopt Architecture Policy document (2002), Lithuania followed in 2005, Latvia in 2009. The initiators of developing state architecture policies were architects who stood for architectural values and the quality of the newly built environment. The paper investigates to what extent the architecture policy documents have included the concept of heritage. The focus is on previous Post-Soviet countries with their crucial period of transformation from late socialism to liberal market capitalism, like Estonia.
The period of transformation propelled ambivalent attitude towards architectural heritage. National heritage was a part of official memory politics, while the new market-driven commercial architecture, often replacing the old buildings, was seen as the symbol of liberal economy and progressive future. In this confrontation architects often took the side of developers against conservators. Their oppositional mentality was widely seen in the 1990s demolitions, formalistic facadisms and primitive imitations of historical architecture.

Sustainability concept and the need for reducing energy consumption in the building sector have opened new perspectives for both sides: heritage documents have been prescribing much wider cooperation with contemporary architects in need for smarter adaption of historic buildings and milieus with their intangible elements, while EU energy policy is calling architects for much responsible use of existing buildings. There is a solid common platform for reducing opposition between the contemporary architects and conservators.

The context of the research is the elaboration of the architecture policy document in Estonia. In September 2017 the Estonian Presidency Conference on EU Architectural Policies was held in Tallinn. The paper is a part of research financed by the Ministry of Culture of Estonia (2018).

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

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Institutions and positions
From 2012 Professor (Architecture theory and History), Academy of Architecture and Urban Studies, School of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Tallinn University of Technology
2011 - 2014 Tallinn Art Hall, Director
2004 - 2008 Europa Nostra, Member of Council
2000 - 2007 EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture, Expert
1999 - 2005 ICOM-Estonia, Chairperson
1994 - 2006 ICAM (International Confederation of Architectural Museums), MB
1991 - 2010 Estonian Museum of Architecture; Director

Education
1992 Central European University in Prague
1978 - 1982 Academy of Arts, St. Petersburg, Russia

Research areas: History of architecture and urbanism of the 20.-21 centuries,
Architecture theories, Heritage studies and Museology.

More than 200 articles on architecture history, architecture critics.
Heritage research: Expertise on listed heritage objects for architecture bureaus.