

Editorial

Leipzig's "denkmal" trade fair considers itself as Europe's leading trade fair for conservation, restoration and old building renovation. Since its foundation in 1994, it has increasingly played a key role for the German National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) regarding cross-border exchange in the fields of monument conservation and World Heritage management. Every two years, the diverse profile of exhibitors and providers and the international spectrum of visitors and foreign representatives offer ICOMOS Germany a unique thematic framework and context for holding international seminars and conferences on conservation concerns and current challenges of monument conservation. Starting with the conference documentation *Konservierung der Moderne?/Conservation of Modern Architecture?*, which appeared in 1998 as vol. XXIV, to the latest volume on archaeological monuments *Vom Ende her denken?! Archäologie, Denkmalpflege, Planen und Bauen* (vol. LXI), one gets an idea of the range of topics to which the Leipzig trade fair "denkmal" has provided a platform and also a cross-border echo chamber for contemporary monument debates in Europe over the past decades.

The initiative taken by the European Parliament in 2015 at the suggestion of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs in Germany and neighbouring ministries of culture to prepare a Europe-wide theme year on monument protection and conservation resulted in the plan of the European Commission in 2016 and the decision of the European Council in 2017 to implement a European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) in 2018. The ICOMOS National Committees of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russian Federation took the opportunity of the Leipzig "denkmal" fair, scheduled for the autumn of the EYCH 2018, to launch a bi-national cooperation project and to invite experts from neighbouring European countries. With the support of the Moscow City Government and the Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and the Media, it was possible to prepare an international and interdisciplinary conference that was not only meant to cross the political borders of the European Union but also the usual time and genre borders in monument conservation and that was intended to focus in particular on the heritage of the recent past and on the contemporary history of the 20th century.

In accordance with the motto *Sharing Heritage* of the European Cultural Heritage Year 2018, ICOMOS Russia and ICOMOS Germany as well as partner organisations prepared an international conference on model projects of 20th century heritage conservation. The meeting was scheduled as part

of the "denkmal – Trade Fair for Conservation, Restoration and Old Building Renovation" and of the "MUTEC – International Trade Fair for Museum and Exhibition Technology" in Leipzig (7–10 November 2018). The joint letter of intent and cooperation signed at the conference by the Presidents of ICOMOS Russia and ICOMOS Germany in the presence of representatives of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee "Shared Built Heritage" also documents the intention to intensify the cross-border cooperation of both countries in the field of heritage.

Monuments and memorials of the more recent past represent and reflect a vital part of our common history and identity in Europe. On the occasion of the trade fairs denkmal and MUTEC the international conference presented, compared and discussed successful measures of conservation, restoration and revitalisation of monuments and sites from the 20th century. The conference and the proceedings were intended to provide an interim balance of the achievements to preserve threatened young heritage and to promote international cooperation in conserving recent tangible heritage for future generations in Europe. At the hub of the Leipzig Trade Fair, special attention was given to heritage dialogue and conservation partnership between Eastern and Western Europe.

In each thematic block, two co-presentations from Western and Eastern Europe supplemented the German and Russian contributions to the topic. The five main topics of the conference covered a wide range of heritage topics, using successfully implemented model projects as examples. Responsibilities of archaeological monument conservation and contemporary archaeology were the first topics, followed by the heritage of modern civil engineering and garden monument conservation. The conference was concluded with a section on the conservation and retrofitting of the architectural heritage of post-war modernism and one on the restoration of works of art that are part of post-1945 architectural monuments.

Topics ranged from the built and green heritage to memorial sites and places of remembrance, including the legacy of civil engineering and archaeological sites of contemporary history. The conference offered contributions from professionals in the fields of architecture and landscape planning, restoration and structural engineering, as well as art history and archaeology. The choice of selected cultural heritage sites and model projects of conservation and restoration presented in Leipzig was meant to illustrate the guiding idea of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, representing multi-nationally "shared heritage" or "sharing heritage" through transboundary communication and

networking. Papers proposed could provide comparative regional or typological surveys of recently realised works of conservation and restoration in Europe as well as individual in-depth studies (best-practice case studies) of model projects.

As the organisers of the conference and editors of this publication, ICOMOS Germany and ICOMOS Russia would like to thank all speakers and the participating authors and lenders of images for providing text and image material free of charge. We also wish to thank the conference moderators for their committed cooperation. We are grateful to John Ziesemer, who was responsible for the translation and

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