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Environmental Problems for Ruins of the Roman Age

Monuments preservation greatly differs between remnants of European classic architecture. Although the Charter of Venice has some equalizing effect, the practice in different countries show extreme solutions, requiring theoretical clarification helped by a wider and stricter interpretation of environment.

Ruin remnants in space and in time. There are positional and regional history differences between ruins with important superstructures in marginal regions of the Mediterranean, and building remnants found on the north to the Alps. Existence of the former is continuous, they had been determinant — either sound or ruined — for their environment. Archeology, however, has made these latter into new motifs of the entirely transformed environment. «Continuous» ruins are subject to conventional norms of monuments preservation, while often these are considered not obligatory concerning «renascent» ruins.

Renascent ruins emerge accidentally and in different situations, under buildings, between their walls, in public areas of closed settlements, or in undeveloped, free areas. Handling of ruins within settlements is about controlled by actual environmental conditions, but ruins in free areas give rise to a conflict between actual and autochthonous environment.

Outer and inner environments of free archeological areas. Essential aspects are: a) meeting scientific demands; b) modes of maintenance and presentation; c) meeting information and intelligence requirements. Variations are. 1) *The ruin remains unexcavated.* The archeological area is explored indirectly — in photos, etc. Solution is committed to the future. What has to be done is to prevent overbuilding in proportion to the archeological value of the area.

2. *After excavation, ruins are buried again.* The outer environments is only restored seemingly, since movables — pottery, coins, etc. — and valuable «immobilia» — columns, cornices, mosaics, fragments of murals — will be removed.

Science: publications, possibility of undisturbed/verifying/excavations.

Maintenance: automatic protection by the earth layer.

3. *Exposed ruins remain disclosed.* The outer environment and the realized inner environment are in an unprecedented historical — visual relation. Recognition, considerate appreciation of this relation is crucial for the procedure to be followed to be exact.

a) *Remnants are protected externally*, there are two possibilities: either covering all the area /by rope and tarpaulin structures/, or protecting separate objects /by other up-to-date means/. This procedure is expected to preserve the objects in the condition as disclosed. Paradoxically, there is an up-to-date and grandiose fitting to the outer environment, while the inner environment is meant as rigidly exact — but it is hybrid.

Science: publications, possibility of undisturbed subsequent /verifying/ excavations.

Maintenance: ruin conservation, slight completions.

Information, intelligence: indirect means are needed /explicative tables, drawings, tape recorder, etc./. The applied protective constructions may raise more of interest than the historical relics themselves.

B) *Remnants are maintained in themselves.* In spite of the unavoidable split between outer and inner environment, the prevailing atmosphere is autochthonous. The rates of intervention follow the scale:

— ruins are only conserved — there is also anastylosis and indirect anastylosis /e.g. erecting a masonry supporting an engaged column/ — building parts are partially reconstructed — rooms are reconstructed — a building is entirely reconstructed /so-called 1:1 model/ — all of the archeological are is partly or entirely reconstructed.

Science: with an increasing degree of reconstruction, it is ever more difficult to meet scientific demands — first of all, that of subsequent research —, at last, an irreversible condition may arise.

Maintenance, presentation: The same is true for them, but ever harder intervention increases the object's durability. Examples from the beginning of the scale do not violate conventional specifications of monuments preservation, but the latter do, so these are the most debated procedures. As to information and intelligence, these are, however, the most effective: they speak for themselves, while in case of slight interventions, the usual accessory facilities are needed.

4. *Transfer of the object.* A special case is that of object transfer. This method perfectly troubles the genius loci.

In conclusion. The environment is decisive for correctly evaluating and handling ruin remnants. The variety of solutions are due to that the outlined value systems are differently preferred by different cultural spheres or countries.

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Summary

In evaluating monuments preservation for European Roman age building remnants, outer and inner environmental features have to be taken into consideration. Differences between preservation and reconstruction modes are due to that requirements of science and preservation are differently preferred by different cultural spheres and countries.