

ICOA853: SIGNIFICANCE OF RECONSTRUCTED BUILT-HERITAGE AFTER WARTIME DESTRUCTION: RESTITUTION OF IDENTITY? NEW ROLE IN THE SUBSEQUENT SOCIETY?

Subtheme 02: The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building Peace and Reconciliation

Session 3: Recreating Ideas of Memory

Location: Silver Oak Hall 1, India Habitat Centre

Time: December 14, 2017, 11:30 – 11:45

Author: Junko Okahashi

Junko Okahashi, with her socio-historic thinking background, is in a constant quest for linkage between pluralistic notions of cultural heritage and the diverse processes of policy development in heritage management. Her viewpoint looks globally at issues and challenges of international cooperation in the field of culture, rooted in her experience of nearly 10 years as programme specialist in the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO, notably as desk officer for Asia and Pacific, then for Africa.

Abstract: In a southern island of Japan stands a prominent example of reconstructed cultural heritage, the Shuri-jo (Shuri Castle). First built in 14th Century by the Ryukyu dynasty of Okinawa, it was a living castle until late 19th Century. However, entirely devastated by heavy bombarding in 1945, its tangible memory could then only be rebuilt through reconstruction. Shuri-jo being highly important for the identity of the people of Okinawa, reconstruction works started as early as the 1950s, emerging from the rubbles of the city of Naha, even under the American occupation. Majority of the works took place in the early 1990s. The historic urban landscape around Shuri-jo was gone in 1945, yet without such context, the new Shuri-jo is again at the heart of the local community. Reconstruction could take place at the right momentum, while the elders could link their memories of the pre-war castle to its new being. Without the reconstruction of this castle complex, it could be said that for them, war period was not over. Those reconstructed monuments could be seen as restituted identity of the place, as a symbol of reconciliation of the war-torn society of Okinawa. Without the reconstructed castle, today having also become a tourist asset, one would find it difficult to visually trace in space the important evidence of local history, rich in its own cultural uniqueness. Shuri-jo, with its strong narrative, illustrates the not-to-be-granted-for age of peace that overcame dark memories of war and loss. It is a case study of an act of reconstruction under “exceptional circumstances” that rose initiative and motivation of the local and national community, enabling release of large-scale means. This case should possibly support the discussion on who decides the future status of cultural heritage after its post-conflict form of devastation, who takes the responsibility, and for whom?

Key words: *identity; conflict; peace; reconciliation*

History of the Shuri Castle

The Shuri Castle stands on a hill overlooking the town of Shuri and the Naha Port, in today's city of Naha, Okinawa Prefecture. The Ryukyu Islands, including the Island of Okinawa, is located in the southernmost region of Japan, in the sub-tropics. Due to this location, the Ryukyu history developed in a unique way, culminating in its emergence as an independent kingdom of its own. The southern archipelago was advantageous in terms of trade with China, the Korean peninsula and Southeast Asia, which brought wealth and prosperity to Ryukyu.

Past excavation efforts revealed that the Shuri Castle was constructed in the middle or end of the 14th century. It continued to flourish as the centre of Ryukyu in terms of politics, diplomacy and culture until 1879. The castle site is separated into inner and outer enclosures in harmony with the natural landform of its location. The castle walls of coral limestone blocks extended 1,080 m in total length. The walls measured from 6 to 15 m in height and approximately 3m in thickness. Watchtowers were annexed at the eastern and the western ends of the walls. Shuri Castle had several castle gates including arched gates with hipped-roof wooden turrets as well as multi-storied castle gates. The state hall of the castle, *Seiden*, is a three-storied palatial building with a hip-and-gable roof. Decoration of the hall represents unique features of the Ryukyu style, which are exemplified by the front eaves of Chinese style gables. The state hall had been repeatedly burned down during the course of history, at least three times, including the fire outbreak in 1709 upon which it was reconstructed in 1715.

Although the 1715 state hall still remained at the beginning of the Meiji Period, due to the abolishment of the Shō Dynasty by the Meiji Government in 1879, the castle lost its livelihood and started to dilapidate. After the Ancient Shrines and Temples Preservation Law was established in 1897, architects of conscience enabled the *Seiden* to be interpreted as the worshipping hall of a newly-built Okinawa Shrine, so that those main parts of the castle could be under protection of the Law. Later, in 1929, the above-mentioned Law became the National Treasures Preservation Law (in force until 1950), under which the Shuri Castle could be designated and protected as National Treasure. This series of protection efforts and restorations could allow the castle to remain standing until 1945.

During the Battle of Okinawa from March to June 1945, the location of the Shuri Castle complex up on the hill was identified as an underground bunker site of 2 km in length, which became the commander's base of the Japanese Army. Due to naval gunfire described as the 'iron storm', the destiny of the castle was to entirely disappear from earth. Okinawa suffered a severe damage from the World War II, in which many lives were ruthlessly lost, including the civilians. The war also destroyed the entire historic urban landscape of the town of Shuri around the castle complex, as well as cultural properties such as treasured objects and archival documentation. After the war, in 1950, the site of the former Shuri Castle became the campus of Ryukyu University. Visible remains of the castle were hardly left other than the land surface and some underground foundations. In the meanwhile, Okinawa was under the control of the United States of America for 26 years from 1945, until it was reverted to Japan in May 1972.

In March 1972, the 'Shuri Castle Remains' was designated as a 'Historic Site' within the Japanese national inventory system under the current Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (in force from 1950). According to the Agency of Cultural Affairs of Japan, what is protected for the category of 'Historic Site' is basically the land surface, which may also include archaeology. Surface of 4.5 ha which

corresponded to the former area of the Shuri Castle complex was designated as ‘Historic Site’, while it was still being used as the campus site of Ryukyu University.

Reconstruction Project of the Shuri Castle

In 1958, the people of Okinawa started a reconstruction project of the destroyed Shurei Gate, the outer Gate of the Shuri Castle where missions from China to the Ryukyu kings used to be welcomed with the highest courtesy. This work was carried out while Okinawa was still under the American occupation. Without reconstruction of the vestiges of the Shuri Castle, the ‘post-war period’ of Okinawa would not end within the minds of the local people.

After the relocation of the Ryukyu University campus from 1977 was completed in 1984, during three years from 1989 to 1992, the Japanese Ministry of Construction and the Okinawa Development Agency conducted major reconstruction works of the state hall of the Shuri Castle, in cooperation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Okinawa Prefectural Government. Almost 45 years after destruction, this core part of the castle was to reappear on earth.

Prior to the interventions, records of the past condition such as photographs and scale drawings of the hall, made at the time of National Treasure designation and subsequent restoration at the beginning of the show a period in the 1920s, were collected and analyzed. Archaeological excavations were also carried out in order to achieve a high degree of accuracy in the building works. As a result of those excavations, the underground remains of the state hall revealed evidence of four phases of reconstruction on the foundation platform for purposes of enlargement or remodelling. Under the reconstructed state hall, archaeology of underground remains, such as foundations, are strictly protected.

Fig.1 – Chronological overview of the status of the Shuri Castle Complex site ¹

1945	Destruction of the Shuri Castle during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II. Okinawa is occupied by the Government of the U.S.A.
1950	Ryukyu University built on the Shuri Castle remains site
1958	Completion of the reconstruction of the Shuri Gate
1972	The Reversion of Okinawa to Japan. Indication on the reconstruction of war-damaged cultural properties within the first Okinawa Revitalization Development Plan
1973	Okinawa Prefecture starts reconstruction works of the Castle Walls. Establishment of a civil society group ‘Association to promote reconstruction of the Shuri Castle’.
1977	Starting of the relocation of the Ryukyu University campus
1978	A Park project is established with the Urban Parks and Greenbelt Plan of the Naha City Masterplan.
1982	Okinawa Prefecture announces the use of site after Ryukyu University. Within the second Okinawa Revitalization Development Plan, the Shuri Castle site has been identified as a Park site, to revive the historic and cultural context. Naha City starts urban research based on its Shuri Kinjo District Historic Environment Improvement Plan.
1984	Okinawa Prefecture establishes the Shuri Castle Park Masterplan. Liberal Democratic Party (ruling political party)’s Committee on the Okinawa War-damaged Cultural Properties’ Reconstruction announces its Pilot Plan on the Shuri Castle Park including the Reconstruction of the Shuri Castle. End of relocation of the Ryukyu University campus.
1985	Research costs prior to the reconstruction of the state hall of the Shuri Castle are calculated and approved within the National Budget.
1986	Cabinet of the Prime Minister approves development of the site as National Okinawa Memorial Park Shuri Castle District. Area surrounding the National Park area is to be managed as Prefectural Park (to be incorporated within the Urban Planning decision in February 1987). The Park surface is approximately 18 ha as a whole, of which 5 ha inside the (reconstructed) castle walls managed by the national authorities and the remaining buffer parts within management of the Prefecture.

¹ Based on information from the «2007 Project Summary of the National Okinawa Memorial Park» and other sources.

1987	Okinawa General Bureau of national government establishes the National Okinawa Memorial Park Shuri Castle District Masterplan
1988	Architectural design of the Shuri Castle state hall is completed.
1989	Starting of the works at the Shuri Castle state hall.
1992	Completion of the reconstruction works of the Shuri Castle state hall. November: partial (1.7ha) opening of the Shuri Castle Park to the public, including a number of reconstructed buildings and gates.
1997	December: completion of the reconstruction of the sacred <i>utaki</i> within the castle complex. 10 million visitors entered the Shuri Castle Park since its opening.
2000	Further completion of the reconstruction of more buildings, objects and gates of the castle complex. 22 July: Banquet Dinner of the Kyushu Okinawa G7 Summit is held at the site. 2 December: the Shuri Castle Remains has been inscribed as part of the Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu on the World Heritage List.
2001	Completion of the reconstruction works of the castle walls
2002	November: 20 million visitors entered the Shuri Castle Park since its opening
2013	March: 44.7 million visitors entered the Shuri Castle Park since its opening

The reconstruction project decided that the *Seiden* should be designed based on how it used to look like in 18th Century after reconstruction in 1715. The key to the quality of designing was the quality of the studies and analysis of available documentation, since no physical built structure of the hall existed above the ground after the war. In order to clarify the general image of the lost architecture, historians and engineers made sincere efforts in putting the pieces of knowledge puzzles together from archives. Newspaper agencies cooperated to call for archival material, which resulted in finding more sources on mainland Japan, where old photos survived the war better than in Okinawa. Nevertheless, initially gathered fragments of information were mainly those of the 20th Century onwards, and specification could not be made yet on the interior of the state hall building during the time it actually functioned as part of the royal court.

However, two important sets of historic documents allowed the project team to move forward in undertaking accurate designing, to reach integrity with the past form. One day, a team member found² the «*Sunpo-ki*», record and drawings from the restoration works of the *Seiden* in 1768, being mentioned in the «Heritage Treasures of the Okinawa Culture» by Yoshitaro Kamakura, traditional dyeing artist of the 20th Century, specialist in Okinawa culture. The historian Kurayoshi Takara then found that an extensive amount of sketches and notes on the castle collected by Kamakura had been donated to the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, so that the team could study them closely. The «*Sunpo-ki*» had been kept by Kamakura in Tokyo during the war, and fortunately survived air raids on mainland Japan. From this document, the number and size of the pillars of the state hall, number of roof tiles and staircases could be understood, thanks to the administrators and illustrators of the 18th Century who had accurately kept record. The layout of the interior of the state hall as well as the position of the throne could also be detailed. Another critical historic document was the «*Shôke-monjo*», record of the last major repair works by the Shô dynasty while the castle still functioned for the Ryukyu Kingdom. This piece of archive belonged to the Shô family, descendants of the Shô dynasty, and the project team was allowed to access it with respect, upon restrictions, in a closed environment. Led by Takara to decipher the document, they found information on the types, sizes, methods of procurement and management of timber material. It even gave details of the banquet menu upon celebrating the completion of the repair works. Lively image of the Shuri Castle of the past could be understood from the above-mentioned archives, in addition to pieces of more recent old photos and other fragmentary information. Based on the documents, designing works took three whole years from 1986 to 1989, which left more than 100 pieces of hand-drawn plans even just for the state hall, including its basic design, preliminary design and final design.

² (Kuniken 2010:127).

The reconstruction team made all kinds of experiments and simulations in order to accurately revitalize the spatial significance of the castle to its 18th Century state. They found out that the state hall's vivid scarlet colour was the result of 30 layers of coating, lacquering and varnishing. The academically justified quality works of the reconstruction were based on the basic concept not to reconstruct anything based on conjecture. Exact colours were researched for various elements of the buildings, and construction methods of timber were experimented based on information from the available documents. On the other hand, it is to be also noted that according to the engineers of the project, local elders' testimonies from before the war equally became useful for the reconstruction of the castle. There had been elders who once used to be boys that played, climbed and ran around in the castle site, thus had the vivid sense of the place from personal memories and experiences.

25 years after the first opening of the Shuri Castle Park to the public, as of 2017, the amount of reconstructed elements of the castle complex have increased, much further beyond the Shurei Gate and the *Seiden*. The research and reconstruction works still continue today, extending the project to the former living areas of women of the royal court at the back of the state hall, as well as the residence of the crown princess of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Once the living areas of the royals are reconstructed in the future, together with the already reconstructed administrative area including the *Seiden*, as well the sacred ritual area of *Kyo-no-uchi*, the Shuri Castle complex at its reconstructed state would see its contextual integrity, in which the public might better understand the significance of the castle complex as a whole. Further to the research on the architecture of the past, active use of the reconstructed space for exhibitions, cultural events or traditional performances has been managed until this day, which enhances the memory of not only the tangible but also the intangible cultural heritage.

Authenticity of the Shuri Castle

Shuri Castle Remains was inscribed on the World Heritage List in December 2000 as part of a serial nomination composed of 9 sites and monuments, named the Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu. In the World Heritage nomination dossier, the 1989-1992 intervention is being described as 'restoration'. With regards to authenticity, it is justified that in Japan the authenticity of the form/design and materials/ substance of each part of the property remains at a high level, as they have been 'rehabilitated and restored' under strict rules for more than one hundred years. Authenticity of location/ setting is justified that none of the component parts of the property has been moved from its original location and that traces of buildings from archaeological excavations are preserved underground. Then, it mentions the state hall of the Shuri Castle, that it was 'restored'. The terminology '*fukugen*' in Japanese can be translated as either 'reconstruction' or 'restoration', depending on how one defines the range of intervention meant by the word 'restoration'. It describes the reconstructed hall as 'exact replica' of the lost structure, which is now a monument symbolizing the pride of the Ryukyu people. With respect to craftsmen's skill, it is justified that a high level and homogeneous authenticity is properly maintained and that their traditional techniques are applied to all projects for restoration, rehabilitation and preservation on an extensive scale. It further justifies authenticity as the following: «at the Shuri-jô site, for instance, the state hall, which was lost during the war, has been reproduced precisely at the original location based upon scale drawings and photographs of the hall, cross-checked with the results of investigative excavations. This restoration is a result of the devoted efforts of the national government of Japan, which decidedly tackled the project in the belief that to rebuild the state hall of Shuri-jô -- i.e. to produce an exact full-scale replica -- was a flagship project necessary for Okinawa Prefecture to recover from the aftermath of great hardship it had suffered during World War II»³.

³ (Agency for Cultural Affairs. 1999:8).

Observations can be made on the above text of the nomination that the Japanese authorities carefully selected terminology such as ‘precise reproduction’, ‘restoration’ or ‘full-scale replica’, in order not to stimulate debates among international community of cultural heritage specialists, avoiding the word ‘reconstruction’. Nevertheless, what took place at Shuri Castle state hall was indeed a reconstruction project, upon an utmost level of detailed research, to be precise and honest to what used to actually stand in the same location. In reality, detailed documentation work and archaeological excavation held prior to this reconstruction project should be able to justify the exceptional case of acceptable reconstruction, in line with the principles set out in the international standard documents: «in relation to authenticity, the reconstruction of archaeological remains or historic buildings or districts is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances. Reconstruction is acceptable only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation and to no extent on conjecture»⁴. ICOMOS Evaluation of 1999 in reaction to the above nomination mentions that the level of authenticity is high. Having achieved the justification and approval of authenticity in this World Heritage nomination with reconstructed parts within the boundary, this may thus become a clear case-study in the identification of an ‘exceptional case’ of acceptable reconstruction models.

Reconstruction of monuments and historic sites has certain clear effects on the public to better understand and interpret the cultural significance of the place. From the point of view of cultural heritage conservation, cautious approach towards reconstruction has been the guiding international principle until now; the theory of cultural heritage conservation has rightly denied lack of evidence, forgery or deprivation of any alternative way of interpretation. This discussion has been closely connected to the discourse on the definition of authenticity. However, when hardly any physical evidence remains, the site would have little power to exert expressive significance. Is not it a vocation for cultural heritage specialists, to make a wider public feel and appreciate significance of a place? In exceptional circumstances, and on conditions that the physical intervention works are based on detailed documentation and does not damage the existing assets such as building foundations, in other words reversible, it does seem wrong to the present author that reconstruction becomes an approved option. In order to optimize heritage values in conservation management, and in order to give heritage a sustainable role and function within a contemporary living community, the barrier of cautiousness towards reconstruction may need to be reviewed, freed from ‘generalization’ of reconstruction acts as a whole, upon studying exceptional cases of quality works.

Significance of the Reconstructed Castle for the people

In 1992, 20 years after the Reversion of Okinawa from foreign occupation, the partially reconstructed Shuri Castle complex was opened for the first time to the public as a Park. Local people as well as visitors from far now appreciate the place for cultural tourism, as a place of intellectual and recreational leisure.

Before destruction at World War II, the urban context of Shuri around the castle complex had retained the atmosphere of the Ryukyu Kingdom. It was a comparable place to Kyoto or Nara, as capital of the royal court. The culture and spirit had existed in the built urban space with rows of coral stone enclosures around low-rise houses, within which thick greenery was planted against sea wind. Among the green one would glimpse the red colour of roof-tiles here and there. The elders remembered the landscape as extremely beautiful, harmonious and peaceful. The historic urban landscape of Shuri however became victim of thorough bombing and naval gunfire. When the survived habitants of Shuri came back from evacuation after the war, the once beautiful town serving the royal court was reduced to rubbles, with hardly any trace of roads other than military tracks. Okinawa under the occupation underwent fast development, when the American military base was established and cities were equipped, but the traditional Ryukyu style rows of houses roofed with red tiles were replaced with white concrete blocks,

⁴Paragraph 86 of the «Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention» (2016)

no longer transmitting the atmosphere of the Ryukyu Kingdom. When the Ryukyu University campus was built on the Shuri Castle site in 1950, the reconstruction of the Castle had seemed hopeless. History and traditional culture of Okinawa had seemed to be forgotten from the minds of the Japanese.

However, soon after the Reversion of Okinawa to Japan on 15 May 1972, a civil movement started around Shuri, by the elders who held memories of Okinawa before the war. To them, it seemed the moment to vocalize their desires for the Shuri Castle to be reconstructed. In July 1973, the 'Association to promote reconstruction of the Shuri Castle' was established. The desperate state of conservation of the Shuri Castle raised concerns of the conscientious elders that the future generations would not be able to maintain their Okinawa identity. Sense of vocation arose among them that they should explain and transmit whatever knowledge and memory they had of the standing image of the Shuri Castle, while they were still in good health, before late. Although this Association was a civil society group, it was not merely of a grassroot level. The then Governor of the Okinawa Prefecture was a central figure of the group. Civil movement to promote the reconstruction of the Shuri Castle expanded all over Okinawa, while the biggest challenge was the budgetary issue. The necessary costs for the reconstruction project were not affordable for the Okinawa Prefecture. The members of the Association frequented the mainland, and made appeals to the national government agencies as well as politicians. Against their efforts, the Agency of Cultural Affairs could not react positively, since their position was to preserve what remained, and reconstruction of whatever lost was not under its priority mandate. The Ministry of Finance could not place a castle reconstruction project at stake as a priority action. Eventually, in later years, the voices of the civil movement started to be heard more realistically, when an idea arose to develop the site as a Park, utilizing a top-down national budget other than the limited financial provisions for cultural properties administration. The Association went through hard time of negotiation, nevertheless, motivation for continuation was rooted their minds, that the 'post-war period of Okinawa would never end without reconstructing the Shuri Castle'.

In 1982, a dedicated committee was established within the ruling political party, and the issue enlarged beyond concerns of Okinawa, up to a national level. In 1985, research costs were accounted within the national budget for the preparation of the Reconstruction of the Shuri Castle. This was not within the cultural properties administration budget. Officials of the Okinawa Development Agency had gone out of their way to make appeals, so that such unprecedented national budget approval could happen. The purpose was to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Reversion of Okinawa to Japan in 1992, for which the Okinawa Memorial Park would be redeveloped, and for which reconstruction of the Shuri Castle could be put forwards within its overall orientation. The nodal agency was to be the then Ministry of Construction. In this way, the reconstruction plan of the Shuri Castle was materialized in the mid 1980s from unrealistic desires into concrete decision, thanks to the efforts and support of the local and national authorities at their most powerful core. Nevertheless, the very beginning of the process was in the heart of the civil movement of the local people with coherent and determined voices.

What was the significance of the reconstruction of the Shuri Castle for the people? For those who raised voices for it, who lived through the war-torn society, the 'end of the post-war period' was consented, with a peace in mind towards a future where some tangible memory might be transmitted to their grandchildren and beyond, who could not experience the pride and livelihood of a historic urban landscape around the castle hill. In terms of international politics, debates over peace building is a never-ending polemic, specifically in the context of Okinawa, where the peace building or peace keeping discourse in relation to the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the U.S.A. and Japan since 1960 cannot be analysed without touching upon the reality of not only international but also national and local conflicts of interest in political, socio-economic and environmental realms; concerning the American military base. However, culturally speaking, a symbolic 'peace building' had been made through the reconstructed castle, as a pretext to have overcome certain decades of post-war emptiness without illustrative tangible heritage of the Ryukyu history. Here, the present author used the word

'pretext', because peace building is not completed other than being symbolic. At the same time, emphasis should be made that peace building was actually successful 'within the minds' of the people who had sustained the civil movement to fight for transmission of their cultural memory. Reconstruction of the Shuri Castle signified restitution of their identity. A small commemoration monument of the 'Resurrection of the Shuri Castle' was unveiled near the Shurei Gate, in 2009, as the last project of the Association to promote reconstruction of the Shuri Castle.

Another point to articulate is that the richness of the intangible cultural heritage of Ryukyu: techniques; rituals; performances; oral transmission of narratives; language itself; is linked closely with the tangible attributes. The recovery of a built tangible environment provided the opportunity for the revitalization of intangible cultural heritage, both during the process of reconstruction and as one aspect of the consequences. Within the overall vision of the Shuri Castle Park management, intangible cultural heritage is a crucial element for better use of the reconstructed space, in order to enhance, understand and share the culture from the past as a whole.

The identity of the Ryukyu history was revived with a new given function in the subsequent society after the end of the post-war period: tourism, learning and sharing. The reconstructed Shuri Castle may certainly be evaluated as successful being a new touristic destination, in which the story of a kingdom became clearer with visual understanding, and could appeal to visitors of various generations.

Upon interviewing some younger persons from Okinawa⁵, the present author observed that the Shuri Castle is in general considered as a touristic destination, and where they themselves also went at least once with their schools or for a study project. On the other hand, they have been taught by older generations that the castle represents the Okinawa culture. In the recent years, the local people tend to go to the Shuri Castle Park when there is night time illumination on the buildings or revival of traditional events such as the New Year's historic ritual of the royal court. Experiencing a special pleasant time in the specific place brings them more attachment and understanding to the reconstructed site. When children in Okinawa visit the Shuri Castle Park with their schools, they are explained that the castle symbolizes the history of the Ryukyu Kingdom, and they learn that the architecture is influenced by typologies of both Japan and China, since the place flourished as a crossroad of trade between cultures. The reconstruction project is explained repeatedly in the on-site interpretation panels, but the fact that it was reconstructed does not seem to matter much to the visitors including children. If the young generation of Okinawa does not remember from their studies that the castle is a reconstruction, it could be said that the envisaged formation of 'remembrance' in the minds of the future generation is not that of an 'event' which eliminated the castle, but more of the 'legacy', of a longer period of prosperity and cultural pride.

With regards to knowledge sharing, the process of reconstruction already reflected a rich experience from research, with new and vivid findings on the techniques and culture of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Research continues for the on-going reconstruction works as well as in the organization of associated cultural events in the castle. The process of mystery solving will continue, in order that today's generation enrich their understanding of the past even better and deeper. Completion of architectural reconstruction would not necessarily mean completion of the understanding on the significance of the place. Living together with the reconstructed Shuri Castle, the learning and sharing process continues for the people.

Bibliography

⁵In September 2017, a short Interview was made respectively to 5 persons residing in Tokyo, originally from Okinawa, in their 20-30s of age, on the meaning of the Shuri Castle for them, and whether they learned about the reconstruction project while they were at school.

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ICOA853: SIGNIFICATION D'UN PATRIMOINE RECONSTRUIT APRÈS GUERRE: RESTITUTION D'IDENTITÉ? NOUVEAU RÔLE DANS LA SOCIÉTÉ SUIVANTE?

Sous-thème 02: Le rôle du patrimoine culturel dans la construction de la paix et de la réconciliation

Session 3: Recréer des idées de mémoire

Lieu: Silver Oak Hall 1, India Habitat Centre

Date et heure: 14 Décembre, 2017, 11:30 – 11:45

Auteur: Junko Okahashi

Junko Okahashi, avec son mode de pensée lié à son contexte socio-historique, mène une quête constante de lien entre les notions de patrimoine pluraliste et les différents processus de politique de gestion du patrimoine.

Son point de vue prend en compte les problèmes et défis de la coopération internationale dans le domaine de la culture, dont les racines viennent de son expérience d'environ dix ans en tant que spécialiste du programme au sein du secrétariat de la convention du Patrimoine mondial à l'UNESCO, notamment celle de responsable pour l'Asie et le Pacifique puis de l'Afrique.

Résumé: Sur une île du sud du Japon se trouve l'un des exemples de reconstruction du patrimoine culturel le plus important, le Shuri-jo (Château Shuri).

Construit au XIV^e siècle par la dynastie Ryukyu d'Okinawa, le château était habité jusqu'à la fin du XIX. Cependant, entièrement détruit par de lourds bombardements en 1945, ce patrimoine ne pouvait qu'être reconstruit. Shuri-Jo revêtant une grande importance pour l'identité des habitants d'Okinawa les travaux de reconstruction commencèrent dès le début des années 1950 sous l'occupation américaine, émergeant des décombres de la cité de Naha. La majorité des travaux eut lieu au début des années 1990. Le nouveau Shuri-Jo émergea dans un contexte de paysage urbain historique ayant disparu en 1945 et est encore le cœur de la Communauté locale. La reconstruction a pu se faire au bon moment alors que les anciens pouvaient encore faire part de leurs souvenirs d'avant-guerre permettant de faire le lien entre le château et son renouveau. Sans cette reconstruction, on aurait pu dire que la période de la guerre n'était pas terminée. Ces monuments reconstruits peuvent être considérés comme la restitution de l'identité des lieux, symbole de réconciliation de la société d'Okinawa déchirée par la guerre. Sans la reconstruction du château qui est aujourd'hui un lieu touristique, il serait difficile de visualiser les traces de cette période historique importante, riche dans son unicité culturelle. Shuri-Jo, avec son fort récit narratif illustre que la paix n'est jamais garantie qui permet de surmonter les sombres souvenirs et pertes de la guerre. C'est l'étude d'un cas, d'une cité reconstruite dans des circonstances exceptionnelles grâce aux initiatives personnelles des communautés locales et nationale, ce qui a permis de mettre en œuvre des moyens à grande échelle. Ce cas peut servir de base à un débat sur la question de savoir qui peut décider du futur statut d'un bien culturel après une destruction, qui en prend la responsabilité et pour qui ?

Mots clés: identité, conflit, paix, réconciliation