Summaries in English

Orientation plan for the historic centre of Bellinzona 141

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For the regional plan: Prof. Guido Colombo, Milan
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The assignment to work out a preservation plan for the old centre of Bellinzona was given by the Canton of the Ticino and the City of Bellinzona in 1962, after a number of building projects threatened the heart of the fortified medieval town. A decree of the Cantonal Government extended the protective laws dating from 1926, which applied to the castles and their environs, to cover the city wall and the adjoining streets.
In connection with the new express highway N2, a street plan and a general orientation plan of the Bellinzona region were drawn up under the direction of Prof. Colombo. The role to be played within the scope of this over-all plan by the old centre of Bellinzona must now be redefined. The aims of the plan for the historic centre are as follows:
1. The old buildings and monuments are to be registered and described; their evaluation will proceed in accordance with their artistic status and their function in the skyline of the city.
2. Fundamental decisions have had to be made on the extension of the area to be preserved and on those districts which can be radically renovated.
3. An effective street system should be proposed, which provides sufficient access for vehicles to the historic centre and at the same time returns it to the pedestrian.
4. What is worth preserving and what can no longer be salvaged have had to be separated individually in such a way that the centre serves several different functions.

Urbino – Development and Preservation 150

Author of plan: Prof. Giancarlo De Carlo, Milan

De Carlo has published his Urbino plan in a comprehensive volume (Marsilio Editore, Padua 1966). Underlying the plan is the awareness that the preservation of an historic town also signifies development, that development can lead both to impoverishment and to destruction. The instruments with which development can be turned into preservation are political in nature – it is a process of becoming aware and of making principles stick.

Renovation plan for Regensburg 154

Author of plan: Town-planning Seminar of the Regensburg Foundation of the Cultural Association within the National Federation of German Industry, Cologne, under the direction of Dr. Werner Hebebrand†, from December 1, 1966, City Architect, ret., Walter Schmidt
Director of Seminar: Peter von Rohr

Regensburg, owing to its slight economic development, has retained many profane Romanesque and Gothic monuments which to this day give the town its characteristic stamp. The economic transformations of modern times have caused the original population to move into the outlying districts, with the old town being left to poorer immigrants. At the present time, the central residential districts have reached such a point of decay that decisions have to be made concerning the future. Several alternatives are available; what they all have in common is the realization that the old town must be regenerated but that economic forces can also destroy the old town. Just recently the foundation of the University of Regensburg introduced a new factor, and this will be incorporated in the preservation scheme.

Monument protection as a mission for our time 157

by Karl Keller

In contrast to the autocratic monument restoration policy of the school of Viollet-le-Duc, modern monument protection is concerned to develop a scientific renovation method as independent as possible of stylistic deviations. A restoration ought to be preceded by an exact determination of the original state of the given building.

The confrontation with historicism in theory and practice 159

by Othmar Birkner

The buildings of the recent past, those dating from the second half of the 19th century, confront the preserver of historic monuments with the most difficult problems. These buildings often represent a significant proportion of all the buildings in a city. Their owners want to use them and restore them, but have no interest in the costly restoration of the decorations. Nevertheless, the proportion of the buildings and the atmosphere created by them in the districts where they stand are often determined to a great extent precisely by these decorations. Often enough, these decorations are also in bad condition, especially on account of the frequent use of easily weathered sandstone. Is it then a practical proposition to restore the buildings to their original state? The author calls for an objective attitude towards the style of the 19th century and offers practical examples of how to proceed with façades dating from that period.

Restoration of the Church of San Martino near Mendrisio TI 161

by Virgilio Gilardoni and Guido Borella

The restoration of this Romanesque church with Baroque choir by the architect Guido Borella, Lugano, led to the important discovery of the foundation masonry of an apse dating from Late Early Christian times, of two Romanesque twin apses and a large Romanesque apse, corresponding to three successive extensions of the church. These foundation walls are now accessible beneath a reinforced concrete slab.

Restoration of the former Commandery of the 164
Order of St. John, Münchenbuchsee BE

by Hermann von Fischer

At the Reformation the abbey church of the Commandery of the Order of St. John at Münchenbuchsee was secularized and the house of the Order was employed as the High Bailiff's Castle. In the 17th century a new Bailiff's Castle was erected. At the present time the group of buildings, with newer structures added, accommodates a school for hindered pupils. In the restoration an endeavour was made to restore to individual Gothic and Baroque rooms their old character.

Restoration of the Abbey Church of Bellelay BE 167

by Alban Gerster

The Abbey Church of Bellelay was established in the year 1136. Between 1708 and 1714 a new church was built by the architect Franz Beer. In 1797 it was secularized and the interior fittings scattered. Up to the renovation, from 1957 to 1959, by the architect Alban Gerster, Laufen, the church served as a warehouse, during which time all still utilizable materials were ripped out and the stuccowork damaged. The restoration of the interior, which now serves as an exhibition hall and concert room, required supplementing the heavily damaged stuccowork.

Renovation of the 'Zur Kantorei' Restaurant on the 170
Neumarkt Square in Zurich

1967. Architect: Wolfgang Behles BSA, Zurich

The restaurant is located on the ground floor of a house dating from the Middle Ages, the upper floors of which are furnished with adventitious classicistic decoration. The restaurant itself, inside and out, was decorated in Late Victorian style. The architect decided to leave this dichotomy undisturbed and to renovate the restaurant only on the inside.

Restoration of the Cathedral of St. Gall 174

by Joseph Grünenfelder

The greatest monument preservation enterprise in Switzerland was the restoration, concluded in the autumn of 1967, of the Cathedral of St. Gall. This church was erected between 1755 and 1767 under the architects Peter Thumb and Johann Michael Beer as a Benedictine abbey church. At the outset the main emphasis was the physical security of the Baroque edifice. Owing to the thrust of the wide-spanned brick vaulting, a prestressed concrete skeleton was incorporated; a strutting ring encloses the great rotunda, and two cables anchored to the towers run over the lateral aisles to the west end of the church. The interior renovation restored to the architectural elements, stuccowork, ceiling paintings, confessionals, choir and choir screen their original colours, which had been altered in 1867/68.

Restoration of the Idda Chapel in Fischingen TG 181

by Albert Knoepfli

The Idda Chapel in Fischingen was erected by the Jesuit Father Christian Huber, starting in 1704, as a rebuilding of the Pardon Chapel adjoining the abbey church. The decoration is the work of the young Dominikus Zimmermann, the later architect of the 'Wies' church. At the renovation of 1883–1887 the original colours were altered and the ceiling paintings redone. The restoration of 1962–1968 consolidated the structure from a technical standpoint and restored its original colour scheme.