

UP-TO-DATE TRAINING IN MONUMENTS PRESERVATION

by

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A characteristic development featuring our age is scientific-technical revolution, a basic factor of the actual section of our economical-social and scientific life. A universal phenomenon throughout the world, prevailing in recent international research activity, its practical realization is involved in research and education of all disciplines — from philosophy through natural sciences to engineering. Obviously architecture, synthesizing scientific and industrial achievements from several disciplines, is basically interested. The speciality of monuments preservation, utilizing achievements of both archaeology and arts history belonging to social sciences, or in a wider sense, to historical sciences, those of natural sciences and engineering can only cope with actual requirements if this spontaneous dependence becomes conscious and the actual engineering backwardness is replaced by demanding research based on recent results of marginal disciplines. I feel many are of the view — reflected by ICOMOS activity — that the older the building exposed to the actual, increasingly aggressive environment, the more up-to-date technique is needed to its conservation, perpetuation. Besides, international and Hungarian achievements, in general, theoretical, legal, research and design methodology problems of monuments preservation are noticed, in final account, on well-kept monuments, but are worthless if the most valuable monuments are let to deteriorate a few years after being restored. These considerations have led to the development based first on individual research, later on technical-scientific research work done at the Section of Monuments Preservation of this Institute, several methods — some patented since — resulting in the official acceptance of the Section of Monuments Preservation of the Institute of History and Theory of Architecture as the technical-scientific basis of Hungarian monuments preservation. This fact is seen by the elevated research niveau and by the recent establishment of a special laboratory. Because of this unusual organization, the enormous material and mental capacities of over hundred departments of the Technical University, Budapest, and the guidance of an architect specialized in monuments preservation, are made available to Hungarian monuments preservation, and in particular, to the National Monuments Inspectorate.

All this affected, of course, ideas on the training in monuments preservation. For the first time in the history of Hungarian higher education, training in monuments preservation has been made an obligatory subject. (During previous decades, it was a facultative subject.) Two special curricula have been developed for branch "C" of Town Planning in weekly one lesson, and for branch "B" of Design in two lessons a week. The principles quoted prevail especially in the curriculum for branch "B" in an attempt to make up curricular and inherent deficiencies in the education of reconstruction and maintenance of existing buildings. Thus, in addition to general theoretical bases of the history of monuments preservation (object and goal of the activity, concept of monuments etc.), scientific research and documentation, legal-official procedures, reconstruction of historical towns and popular monuments, possibly deep-going knowledge is offered in our building diagnostic test method previous to reconstruction, and in new technical problems of conservation. A special consideration is due to damp-proofing, therapy of an "endemic" of Hungarian monuments preservation (and in general, of our old buildings), as well as in surface protection, ruin wall conservation, new-type renderings, paints and invisible protective coats. Theoretical lectures are complemented by laboratory demonstrations and site visits.

The latter are laid much stress on in the post-graduate engineering courses in specialist training of monuments preservation, two-year courses with periodical conferences sponsored by the Technical University, Budapest, and by the Eötvös Loránd University, a unique interdisciplinary training delivered at this University, under the guidance of the Section of Monuments Preservation of this Institute, the common sponsorship being responsible for the programs and curricula and for the appointment of lecturers.

The course program is seen in the enclosed table. As concerns its purport, compared to similar courses (Italian, British, American and Polish post-graduate engineering courses in monuments preservation) more stress is laid — in conformity with quoted principles — on actual monuments preservation by up-to-date methods. This knowledge can be divided in two groups: partly, diagnostic tests in the scope of investigations previous to reconstruction (such as lectures on historical materials and structures, on new methods of dating), partly existing methods of conservation. Laboratory exercises are spent to making students acquainted with testing instruments and methods, possibilities in different problems of monuments preservation. Real historical building materials and recent protective coats are presented. Just as in research, significant assistance in education is given us by co-operating departments of this University.

SPECIALIST ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN MONUMENTS PRESERVATION

Study Program for the Courses Beginning in 1976

Course "A"
 For graduates from the Technical University, Budapest

Course "B"
 For graduates from the Eötvös Loránd University

Subjects	Weekly number of lessons (theor. + exer.) Requirements at the semester end: v = examination; g = exercise mark; a = signature				Total number of lessons	Number of lessons in theory	Number of lessons in exercises
	1st year		2nd year				
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	in the subject throughout the		
	semester				courses		
1. History of Hungarian Architecture	20 v	20 v	20 v	10 a	70	70	—
2. Theory and Practice of Monuments Preservation	20 v	20 v	20 v	10 a	70	70	—
3. Building Materials in Historical Ages, and Up-to-date Conservation Methods	20 a	"B": g 20 v	"A": g 10 a	10 v	60	40	20
4. Design Methods and Structures in Historical Ages	20 "A": v "B": a	20 "A": g "B": b	—	—	40	40	—
5. History and Preservation of Fine and Applied Arts Creations, and of Monumental Complexes	20 a	20 v	20 v	—	60	60	—
6. Ethnography, Vernacular Monuments	—	—	10 a	20 v	30	30	—
7. Preservation of Historical Gardens	—	—	10 a	10 v	20	20	—
8. Aesthetics of Monuments and Surroundings	—	—	20 v	—	20	20	—
9. Reconstruction of Historical Towns	—	—	—	20 v	20	20	—
10. Practice and Theoretical Methodology of Monumental Explorations	—	—	—	20 v	20	20	—
<i>Mandatory for Course "A":</i>							
Fundamentals of Museology and Underlying Sciences	20 v	—	—	—	20	20	—
Sources and Auxiliary Sciences of History	—	20 v	10 v	—	30	30	—
Design of Monumental Reconstructions	—	—	—	20 a	20	20	—
<i>Mandatory for Course "B":</i>							
Fundamentals of Construction	20 v	20 v	10 a	—	50	50	—
Fundamentals of Building Operations	—	—	—	20 a	20	20	—
Total:	120	120	120	120			
Number of examinations:	"A": 4, "B": 5	5	"A": 5, "B": 4	5			
Number of exercise marks:	—	1	—	—			
Number of signatures:	"A": 2, "B": 1	1	"A": 3, "B": 4	3			

State examination subjects in course "A":

1. Theory and Practice of Monuments Preservation
2. Building Materials in Historical Ages, and Up-to-date Conservation Methods
3. History Sources and Auxiliary Sciences

State examination subjects in course "B":

1. Theory and Practice of Monuments Preservation
2. Building Materials in Historical Ages, and Up-to-date Conservation Methods
3. Fundamentals of Construction

Number of study weeks is settled in yearly instructions issued by the Rector
 Budapest, November 4th, 1975

Submitted by:
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Rector