



International Course on Stone Conservation SC13

SESSION: Types of intervention: Marrying theory with practice

INSTRUCTOR: Gionata Rizzi

TIME: Tuesday, 16th April/ 9:30 – 11:00 (1.5 hours)

SESSION OUTLINE

ABSTRACT

This session is meant to show how the different values involved in stone conservation are often contradictory and how a final decision is hardly "neutral". In this respect, marrying theory and practice is a difficult task, one which requires a solid understanding of deterioration mechanisms and their effects upon specific stone types; as well as a more nuanced grasp of the multiple values of aesthetics, history and use. In conservation and repair, one is repeatedly confronted by such questions as: To what extent should a repair be visible? How much reconstruction is acceptable in order to achieve good consolidation? Is cleaning desirable and if so, to what degree? In response, one might wonder -do the answers to these questions depend upon the context or on the type of stone?

In the second part of the lecture a summary of the different categories of intervention will be presented through cases from different parts of the world.

OBJECTIVES

To develop an awareness of theoretical and technical contradictions inherent in stone conservation, and typical controversial issues related to the various types of intervention.


CONTENT OUTLINE

- Values involved in stone conservation.
- The difficult task of balancing and integrating theory with practice.
- The built-in contradictions of field-work:
 - Is it desirable to reconstruct a missing cornice?
 - Is it desirable to 'complete' missing plaster?
 - Is it desirable to replace a deteriorated stone?
- Examples of cleaning, consolidation, surface protection, structural repair, replacement, anastylosis, reconstruction and more.

READINGS

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online

-  Rizzi, Gionata. 1996. Stone preservation and architectural conservation: Two different perspectives? In *Proceedings of the 8th International Congress on Deterioration and Conservation of Stone: Berlin, 30. Sept.-4. Oct. 1996.* ed. Josef Riederer. Vol. 2. 879-84. Berlin, Germany: Möller Druck und Verlag

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