Teaching Conservation/Restoration of the Architectural Heritage: Goals, Contents and Methods
Genoa 18-20 October 2007

Host: Faculty of Architecture
University of Genoa
Stradone di S. Agostino, 37 - 16123 Genova (ITALY)

The workshop constitutes a further initiative and a new start of the Thematic Sub-Network on Conservation within the EAAE and ENHSA. Previous activities within this framework have been held, in 2004 and 2006 in Leuven, coordinated by Herman Neuckermans and their results have been published in the EAAE “Transactions on Architectural Education” no 21 and 31. This new workshop will take place at the School of Architecture in Genoa, Italy, on October 18 to 20, 2007, organized by Stefano F. Musso. The main objective of the workshop is to bring together educators in conservation, in the widest sense of the word for the moment, from various European schools of architecture so that:

- they can investigate together the similarities and differences in the contents and pedagogy of teaching within the field of conservation/restoration of architectural heritage;
- they can examine the ways in which the teaching of conservation/restoration fits into the curricula of different schools, with regard to timing, teaching hours and breadth of studies on the subject;
- they can critically compare educational objectives and strategies implemented by the schools in relation to conservation/restoration teaching;
- they can exchange ideas and thoughts on new teaching methods and discuss the rationale encompassing the teaching of conservation/restoration in the education of an architect.

In order for the workshop to meet these objectives, it focuses on dialogue and debate rather than on paper presentations, even though papers can be submitted and will be published according to

1 EAAE Transaction on Architectural Education” n. 21

EAAE Transaction on Architectural Education” n. 31
the recommendations attached to this document. The workshop is therefore organized around four sections devoted to specific questions, as they are described below. Two invited guests will start every section with brief presentations of its questions and a synthesis of the answers that each participant will have provided when sending the posters, which present his/her school. The rest of the time is left for free discussion. A parallel exhibition of the posters will be organised during the workshop to provide information and reference points during the discussions. Each participant, in addition to the posters, can submit a paper about one or more topics in .doc or .pdf format, not exceeding 20,000 characters and 10 pages in A4 format. Papers can contain B/W or Colour Images in .JPG format and 300 DPI, which should be included in the allowed number of pages. The final outcome of the workshop will be a publication, which will include all the papers that have been submitted as well as the conclusions of the event. This outcome will be distributed to all European schools of architecture.

Programme

The workshop will consist of four sections, each of which will discuss a particular question to identify the differences and similarities of the contents of conservation/restoration teaching in different schools all around Europe.

The questions are the following:

Section 1. What is thought about conservation/restoration and why?
Thursday afternoon, 18 October 2007 - 3 to 7 p.m.

This section will deal with the contents of teaching within the wide field of conservation of our architectural heritage. In this perspective, the first task could be an attempt to clarify the boundaries and the limits of what we intend for "heritage", but also the interpretations we have of ideas, concepts and activities like, for instance, those identified by the words: preservation, conservation, restoration, etc. Other related questions are: what do we teach in this field at a school of architecture? Which themes do we choose? What are the priorities we set about them? Which are the theoretical and technical principles that rule the organization of conservation/restoration subjects? Which are our educational objectives when we design and manage these school matters? In summary: the discussion deals mainly with what we teach and why we teach it.

Section 2. How do we teach conservation/restoration?
Friday morning, 19 October 2007 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This section deals with one of the most important issues in the teaching of conservation/restoration: its pedagogy, where this word means not only the teaching methods in terms of knowledge transfer, but also their synergy with other subjects that are part of the curricula. The emphasis must be set both on theoretical and studio design teaching. Could the care and restoration of our heritage, within the different interpretations and definitions we propose for it, be taught in a design studio? What is the role of other subjects in our teaching activities? Which are the theoretical and technical principles that rule the organization of conservation/restoration subjects? Which are our educational objectives when we design and manage these school matters? In summary: the discussion deals mainly with what we teach and why we teach it.

Section 3. How do we test our conservation/restoration education?
Saturday afternoon, 20 October 2007 - 5 to 8 p.m.

This section will deal with the results of our teaching activities and how we evaluate them. This involves testing the teaching methods used as well as their impact on the students. Other related questions are: what are the methods we use to assess our students? How do we evaluate their performance? Which are the criteria we use to measure the success of our teaching activities? In summary: the discussion deals mainly with how we test what we teach.

Section 4. How do we connect teaching to practice?
Sunday morning, 21 October 2007 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This section will deal with the practical aspects of conservation/restoration, such as the real-life projects that students work on. This involves identifying the connections between theory and practice. Other related questions are: what are the practical projects that students work on? How do we prepare our students for the real world? Which are the practical skills that we teach? In summary: the discussion deals mainly with how we connect theory to practice.
materials technology and sciences, or of chemistry, physics and so on? Is our teaching activity mainly intended to create competences and abilities “to know”, “to understand” and “to judge” (analysis, diagnosis, etc.) or “to do” (intervention), etc.?

Section 3. Who teaches conservation/restoration?
Friday afternoon, 19 October 2007 - 3 to 7 p.m.

This section would investigate to discover who teaches the subjects we are dealing with in our schools of architecture. What should be the teacher's background in this field, in order to enable her/him to reach the objectives of her/his job? What kind of experience should she/he have? What is the situation of schools of architecture today in relation to these themes and issues? How do colleagues teaching different subjects collaborate on developing the teaching and formative activity in the complex field of conservation/restoration?

Section 4. When and to what extent do we teach conservation/restoration?
Saturday morning, 20 October 2007 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This section will discuss the distribution of teaching in the duration and organization of the curricula to become an architect. How does this distribution occur? In what year and in which kind of curriculum should the themes related to conservation and restoration be introduced and to what extent? How far should these subjects go in a school of architecture? How will different subjects in this complex thematic field be prioritized? How will our teaching be related to the teaching of other subjects in architectural education?

Closing Section. Perspectives and expected reforms.
Saturday afternoon, 20 October 2007 - 3 to 5:30 p.m.

This section will attempt to make a synthesis of all the previous sections, in order to draw some conclusions about the directions in which schools of architecture can move, the emerging models applied in the pedagogy of the subjects related to conservation/restoration, or a way of mapping these models. In the context of this discussion, the sub-network of conservation teachers will as well discuss its future activities.

Social activity and visit to the Historical Centre of Genoa
Sunday, 21 October 2007
Guidelines for Poster and Papers Presentation

For the posters: the texts of the posters should have a concise form, describing the answers that the schools give to the four questions of the workshop. For comparability to be possible, we kindly ask you to present your answers in distinct areas of the poster. Our intention, in any case, is not to define strict guidelines for its layout, but to ensure a basic uniformity useful to ensure their legibility and publication. Every school will describe their teaching of conservation/restoration on two ISO A1 (22.4 x 33.1 inches / 594 x 841 mm) posters as maximum, in portrait format. Each of them must include the name of the school and the country of origin, in block capitals. It would be convenient if the answers to the questions follow the sequence that has already been allocated in the programme of the workshop for the discussions.

A sample of this sequence is the following:

1) What and why. What are the contents of conservation/restoration teaching in your school, and what are the educational objectives that drive this choice?

2) How. What are the educational methods and pedagogic strategies implemented in your school for the teaching of conservation/restoration? How is that related to studio teaching?

3) Who. What are the qualifications of your school’s staff (permanent and not) that teaches conservation/restoration?

4) When and to what extent. What are the teaching hours of conservation/restoration in your school. What is the depth into which the teaching of conservation/ restoration delves?

Perspectives and expected reforms. What is your school’s mission statement about the teaching of conservation/restoration?

We kindly ask you to include in your presentations some students’ work samples through which one could get a good idea of the contents of the subjects you are describing.

You are kindly requested to either send the posters by e-mail, in PDF format (in this case we will print them), not later than September 15, or to bring them, already printed, to the workshop venue, in the morning of October 18.

For the papers: each participant can send her/his paper, about one or more topics, in .doc or .pdf format, not exceeding 20,000 characters and 10 pages in A4 format. Papers can contain B/W or colour images, in .JPG format and 300 DPI, which should be included in the allowed number of pages. We would be most grateful if you could e-mail them not later than September 15th 2007, so that the session chairpersons will have time to prepare and organize the debate.

Please, send all the materials (posters and papers) to: Arch. Luisa De Marco at the following e-mail address: conservation07@arch.unige.it - not later than September 15, 2007