



PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS AND HISTORIC TOWNS



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PARADIGM SHIFT IN HERITAGE PROTECTION

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**Is the paradigm of
cultural heritage
protection shifting?**

- **clearly formulate the Traditional Paradigm that prevailed until now**
- **describe conditions and needs that characterize contemporary situation**
- **formulate a New Paradigm that would respond to those needs and conditions**

PART I

The traditional conservation paradigm

In that case we should describe and synthesize the fundamental elements that make up the paradigm by the means of analyzing conservation theory and practice.

Elements that make up the paradigm of heritage protection

discipline's subject

/definition of a monument/

discipline's aim

/aims of conservator's actions/

discipline's methodology

/methods of conservator's actions/

- **Universal concept of the monument**
- **Monuments are equally valuable**
- **Monuments are isolated objects**
- **Supreme value of a monument is its authentic form and substance**
- **Conservation rules are universal**
- **Conservation is an independent discipline**
- **Monuments and their protection are in the sphere of culture /not economy/**

Elements of heritage preservation paradigm in 20th century /traditional/

Element of discipline's paradigm	Traditional paradigm /20th century/	Contemporary paradigm /21st century/
Object	Historical monument; isolated (architectural) object; piece of art and a historical document; artistic, historical and documental value	
Aims	Complete protection of objects value (through protection of monument's substance and form)	
Methods	Treatment that slightly transform monuments; conservation, restoration, anastylosis (Venice Charter) – preservation of substance and form of monument	

PART II

**Conditions determining
contemporary heritage
protection.**

- **Very intensive and radical reshape in cultural environment, on a scale previously unknown.**
- **Emancipation of numerous social, ethnical, cultural groups worldwide.**
- **Recognition of equal value of all cultures and types of heritage**
- **Development of different forms of utilization of heritage as facility for economical growth or means of creating and strengthen identity**
- **Development of mass tourism and utilization of heritage as a very important factor in this process**
- **Common acceptance for liberal doctrine – decrease in states influence on many affairs**
- **Development of democracy and self-government**
- **Common commercialization in use of heritage**
- **Common adaptation of patterns and esthetics of mass culture**

Monument (heritage) is an cultural product (not piece of art) that belong to the present (as far as its utilization and treatment), assessed according to various value systems.

According to the new, more broad meaning of heritage, new aims and methods of conservation should be formulated.

The new definition of heritage has been created, but the aims and methods remain the old.

PART III

**Contemporary heritage
paradigm – perspectives
for development.**

**We have to accept the fact,
that a large portion of
heritage has to be
modified; transformations
are necessary and
unavoidable.**

The foundation that all monuments are equally valuable and the universalism of rules in heritage protection will become not valid.

Conservators gather information about monuments and describe them, but do not reach the level of analysis and synthesis.

**Each monument has to
be evaluated separately.**

**Scope and means of
action will result from
the assumed aims
(values).**

Elements of heritage preservation paradigm in 21st century /contemporary/

Element of discipline's paradigm	Traditional paradigm /20th century/	Contemporary paradigm /21st century/
Object	Historical monument; isolated (architectural) object; piece of art and a historical document; artistic, historical and documental value	Heritage; objects, sites and areas (historical towns, cultural landscapes, vernacular architecture, etc)
Aims	Complete protection of objects value (through protection of monument's substance and form)	Protection of selected features (values) of heritage; (only most valuable objects are protected as a whole)
Methods	Treatment that slightly transform monuments; conservation, restoration, anastylosis (Venice Charter) – preservation of substance and form of monument	A whole scope of various actions is allowed, depending on the character of the value, chosen to be protected (substance and form protected only in the most valuable sites)

CONCLUSIONS:

The most historical monuments (heritage) require radical interventions (not only conservation); these interventions mean the necessity of selection of heritage values – some of which will be lost in the process of protection. A new conservation paradigm (doctrine) must describe procedures and patterns during all phases of protection.

CONCLUSIONS:

The traditional paradigm was coherent in all three elements (object, aims, methods) so it was possible to codify it.

The reason for the current crisis in the heritage protection is the lack of coherence between the elements (new object but old methods); no new paradigm has been formulated; conservation practice lacks theoretical support.

CONCLUSIONS:

A new conservation doctrine (broad definition of heritage) cannot be codified; the new paradigm will shift from conservation principles to analysis of values (protection achieved by different means); the description of heritage must go beyond collecting information – it is necessary to evaluate monuments; objects are not equally valuable and there is no universalism of conservation principles and methods.



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