



# URBAN RENEWAL – SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING STUDY TOUR AND DESIGN STUDIO



Erasmus+

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## **HISTORIC RUINS *VERSUS* CONTEMPORARY RUINS**

### **RECONSTRUCTION PART II**

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**Notion of „ruin“ is used to all historic buildings which are destroyed, incomplete, useless.**





## **Factors/criteria differentiating ruins:**

- **period of destruction**
- **cause of destruction**
- **information regarding original building**
- **type of building**
- **technical condition /state of destruction and completeness/**
- **period of creation**

## **Features differentiating „contemporary ruins“ and „historic ruins“**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Contemporary ruin</b>	<b>Historic ruin</b>
<b>Period od destruction</b>	In memory of living generations ruin was recalled as an object	The historic object has been ruined beyond the memory of living generations
<b>Cause of destruction</b>	Exceptional circumstances /war, fire, flood, earthquake/	Longstanding, natural process /could be preceded by the violent circumstances/
<b>Information regarding original building</b>	Object is documented	Documentation is not sufficient
<b>Type of building</b>	Not important /mainly public buildings/	Mainly military and religious building
<b>Technical condition /state of destruction and completeness/</b>	Various fragments of building still exist /walls, stairs, roofs, architectural details, etc/	Only fragments of main walls still exist
<b>Period of creation</b>	Not important	Century at least /mainly medieval monuments/

**In case of „contemporary ruins“  
state of destruction is temporary  
state, unnatural state.**

**The natural state is the complete  
building.**

**Especially, if there is detailed  
information regarding original form  
of the building before its  
destruction.**

**In case of „historic ruins“ state of destruction is durable, natural state. Unnatural state will be the complete (rebuild) object.**

**Especially, if there is no detailed information regarding original form of the building before its destruction.**

**„Contemporary ruin“ could be  
rebuild/reconstructed.**

**„Historic ruin“ should be  
protected as a ruin.**

**Why ruins are not  
accepted?**

## Negative characteristic of historic ruins

Feature analyzed	Characteristic	
<p><b>Completeness/integrity of the object /as a building with specific rules of creation and constituent elements/</b></p>	<p><b>– ruin is an incomplete object</b></p>	
<p><b>Technical condition of an object /as a construction with a specific technical condition/</b></p>	<p><b>– ruin is in the process of destruction</b></p>	
<p><b>The functionality of the building /as a building capable of performing certain utility functions/</b></p>	<p><b>– ruin is very functionally limited /cannot fulfill many utility functions/</b></p>	
<p><b>Readability and communication of the object /as an object realizing the message/communication/symbolism/</b></p>	<p><b>– the ruin is unreadable, incomprehensible, incomplete</b></p>	

**Each concept of dealing with ruin is aimed at reducing or even completely eliminating its negative features.**

**The historic ruin conservation program must take into account two opposing goals – protecting the form of the ruin while neutralizing/compensating for the negative traits that are characterized by the ruin.**

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## Negative characteristic of historic ruins

Feature analyzed	Characteristic	Action
Completeness/integrity of the object /as a building with specific rules of creation and constituent elements/	– ruin is an incomplete object	- to clarify the completeness of the object with other forms /non-building/
Technical condition of an object /as a construction with a specific technical condition/	– ruin is in the process of destruction	- to stop the process of destruction /the standard of so-called permanent ruin/
The functionality of the building /as a building capable of performing certain utility functions/	– ruin is very functionally limited /cannot fulfill many utility functions/	- introduce many complementary functions, lack of direct volume-based functions
Readability and communication of the object /as an object realizing the message/communication/symbolism/	– the ruin is unreadable, incomprehensible, incomplete	- to clarify/interpret/present transmission of the object by many non-building forms

**The protection program should include the maintenance of the ruins (conservatory/technical protection of the building structure) and a number of supporting activities (management and use).**

# Terminology

**The key features of the heritage objects perceived as material carriers of values are authenticity and integrity.**

## Activities concerning destroyed objects

Term	Characteristics	Examples
<b>Anastylosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-re-composition of authentic fragments of historic object</li> <li>-minor contemporary additions resulting from static conditions</li> </ul>	Ancient objects built from large stone elements
<b>Restitution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-rebuilding of historic buildings with use of many dispersed (original) elements</li> <li>-contemporary fabric dominates over the historic one; historic form is only partly re-created</li> </ul>	Royal Castle Warszawa
<b>Rebuilding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-re-creation of recently destroyed object in exceptional circumstances</li> <li>-historical form is re-created based on reliable documentation</li> </ul>	Frauenkirche Drezden
<b>Reconstruction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-re-creation of object destroyed in far past</li> <li>-the form of re-created object is hypothetical /lack of information/</li> </ul>	Reconstruction of medieval ruins



## Anastylosis





## Restitution





## Rebuilding





## Reconstruction



## **Reconstruction and World Heritage List**

**Firstly, is it acceptable to inscribe on WHL the rebuilt properties?**

**Secondly, is it acceptable to rebuild the properties inscribed on WHL (which have been destroyed after inscription)**



**WARSZAWA**  
/rebuilt and instribed/



**MOSTAR**  
**/instituted and rebuilt/**

**HIROSZIM**

**/not rebuilt and inscribed/**



**Reconstruction can be considered as an acceptable way of dealing with a destroyed monument /determined by the characteristics of the object, the circumstances of the destruction, and the technical way of rebuilding/**

**The key factor for reconstruction should be the analysis of the values of which the reconstructed object will be the carrier - it is necessary to make such an analysis.**





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