

ICOMOS Summer School 2022 – Heritage in the Shadow of Conflict

Ukraine and the European Context

Post-war recovery, the reconstruction of Ukraine

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"The sounds of bombing woke me up at 5 am on February 24, and at that moment I realized that something terrible had happened. I was forced to quickly pack up my things and flee from Kharkiv, the city where I spent the last 5 years studying at the Faculty of Architecture. I had to leave the city that became my hometown, the city where I worked with historic buildings, the history of which I studied, the drawings of which I made. I was forced to leave Kharkiv and then the country.

Now I am in Slovenia because I have chosen the path of development for the future of my country. I was invited to continue my studies at the Faculty of Architecture of the Ljubljana University.

Every time I lack strength, I think that I need to gain experience, to study in order to rebuild my hometown in the future. When I left Ukraine, I thought I had nothing left, but that was not true. The Ukrainian language, thirst for life and confidence in victory have always been and will be with me". - **by Veronika Bachuk from Kharkiv**

"My day started as a usual day of a usual parent anywhere on the planet. While still half asleep I reached my cell phone to check the time not to miss the moment to get my kids to the kindergarten. The message on Viber group from the kindergarten said: "Dear parents: Due to unstable situation in our country, the threat of attack and the absence of a bomb shelter in the kindergarten, we will not be working today".

My friends and colleagues were inviting me to Germany, England, Estonia, Poland, Italy... I decided to stay in Ukraine.

As for now, I am working at the World Monument Fund as a Ukrainian Heritage Crisis Specialist. Everyone in Ukraine has their own battlefield and struggle. Mine is helping to maintain the connection between people and the places they love and cherish to assure the continuity of our identity and history. We are partnering with professionals and organizations in the field to coordinate responses, share critical information, and, most importantly, offer support to Ukrainian colleagues facing unprecedented professional and personal challenges.

We are looking ahead to the moment when WMF can begin to contribute to the long process of recovery that will necessarily follow the end of the war. This will be a moment to pick up the pieces and restore our country's national and local heritage, the symbols of our history and our identity. - **by Kateryna Goncharova from Kyiv**

What to do if you want to
preserve a heritage site in the
situation of ongoing war?

Why is it important?

- Having monument back may take long time
- Some steps are feasible at any occasion
- When it is safe to do so, a comprehensive strategy can be designed and implementation of a project can begin
- It brings people back
- Has a therapeutical effect on a local community
- Provides continuity of heritage value, serve as a symbol of resilience
- Connects people and places they love and cherish
- Foster a wellbeing

Turning point:

On June 24 Ukraine was granted
a EU Candidate Status

When thinking about Ukraine's reconstruction, we should consider **the political aspect of this reconstruction.**

How would the political end of the war reshape the reconstruction of Ukrainian heritage? How will Ukraine be rebuilt? Would Ukrainians want to add something when rebuilding a monument to remember (MEMORY/Collective memory) and thus reinforce their Ukrainian identity? How would the relationship between the EU and Ukraine shape this reconstruction of heritage? Would the integration into the EU have an impact on the reconstruction of the country, and thus its identity? What could be the consequence on the reconstruction of Ukraine if Russia “wins”?

RECONSTRUCTION IS ALSO A NARRATIVE.

With the assistance from the international and EU organizations Ukraine will be able to write a new chapter of its history, carved in stones of reconstructed buildings.

Practical guide: restoring

Safety first

1

Make sure that you and your family members, peers are SAFE

2

Make sure that it is safe to approach and conduct a research of a building on site

3

Connect with local military administration for updated security situation

Resources: YOU!

- Make sure that you took care of yourself and your close ones
- Make sure that your basic needs (safety, food, clean water, sleep, rest etc.) are covered

STEP 1.

- Damage assessment!
- As a result you have an understanding and a legal document that will serve as a starting point for further actions.

STEP 2.

- Define what exactly you want to do with the monument?
- It can be made through communication process with local community and key stakeholders
- And it defines legal procedures and draw a circle of pottental allyes

How to prevent
unsolicited
development?

- Advocacy!

Resources:

think globaly, act localy

- People in the area can provide materials, professional expertese and invest time in the project. Partner up with local government for advocacy, local business for materials etc.
- International community can provide methodological support, funding and advocacy to promote your efforts.
- ICOMOS, ICOR can provide legal framework for papers you may want to design to request funds
- Network of european volunteers could be willing to help

What could
it be?

- Urgent stabilization
- Conservation
- Restoration
- Reconstruction
- Promotion

Different projects require different sets of donors, partners, funds, procedures...

You may need an agency for fundraising or a group of volunteers for promotion of a project

STEP 3.



Design a project with professionals

Have all legal approval documents to implement a project

Please, keep in mind that any preservation project works best if coordinated with the strategy of urban renovation for post-war recovery stage

STEP 4.

- Implementation of a project
- Work with urban local donors, private investors, but control the process, the quality of materials and work

Rehabilitation of a monument,
damaged by war, is like a
"hug" to a community with
PTSD"

Thank you for your attention!
