



REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

OWHC North-West Europe

Quedlinburg 13th-14th November 2014



Crisis as Opportunity for World Heritage Cities - Resilience



Organisation des villes du patrimoine mondial
Organization of World Heritage Cities
Organización de las Ciudades del Patrimonio Mundial
Organização das Cidades do Património Mundial
منظمة مدن التراث العالمي



Wednesday, 12th November 2014

Arrival of Participants in Quedlinburg/Germany

- 19.30 Meeting in the Lobby of Wyndham Garden Hotel**
pick-up through the Quedlinburg Night-Watchman and walk to dinner location
- 20.00 Dinner at the restaurant „Romatikhotel Am Brühl“, Billungstrasse 11**
(late arrivals please feel free to walk there and join the group;
beverages at your own expenses)

Thursday, 13th November 2014

Conference Venue: Wyndham Garden Hotel Quedlinburg

9.00 - 9.30 Registration

CONFERENCE OPENING

- 9.30 - 11.00 Welcome addresses**
Dr Eberhard Brecht, Mayor of Quedlinburg
Mr Joachim Wolbergs, Mayor of Regensburg
- Programme Introduction**
Mr Matthias Ripp, OWHC Regional Coordinator, Regensburg
- News from the General Secretariat - On the Way to Arequipa**
Mr Denis Ricard, OWHC Secretary General
Mrs Lee Minaidis, OWHC Deputy Secretary General

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee Break and Networking

CITY PRESENTATION - WELCOME TO QUEDLINBURG

Chair: Monika Göttler, Regional Secretariat OWHC

- 11.30 - 12.15 20 Years of World Heritage /Management Plan**
Dr Eberhard Brecht, Mayor of Quedlinburg
- 12.15 - 13.00 Restoration of historical buildings in a sustainable and energy sufficient way as part of an International Youth Project**
Ms Claudia Christina Hennrich,
Director of the German Framework Centre, Quedlinburg



Thursday, 13th November 2014

Conference Venue: Wyndham Garden Hotel Quedlinburg

13.00 - 14.00 **Buffet Lunch at the Wyndham Garden Hotel**

CRISIS AS OPPORTUNITY FOR WORLD HERITAGE CITIES - RESILIENCE

Chair: Monika Göttler, Regional Secretariat OWHC

14.00 - 14.30 **On Heritage and Resilience**
Mr Matthias Ripp, World Heritage Coordinator, Regensburg

14.30 - 15.00 **Resilience in Beemster - Polder**
Mr Han Hefting, City of Beemster

15.00 - 15.30 **Resilience in Contemporary Need for Communication & Networking of Historic Knowledge of the World Heritage Towns**
Mr Gediminas Rutkauskas, Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency

15.30 - 16.00 **Coffee Break**

16.00 - 16.30 **Building on Bamberg's gardening tradition to foster the resilience of the World Heritage site "Town of Bamberg"**
Ms Patricia Alberth, Zentrum Welterbe Bamberg

16.30 - 17.00 **Resilience & Reconstruction - Warsaw's Case**
Ms Anna Zasadzińska, World Heritage Management Warsaw

DELEGATES MEETING REGIONAL SECRETARIAT NORTHWEST EUROPE

17.30 - 19.00 **Status Report on the Working Programme of the Secretariat**
Mr Matthias Ripp, Ms Monika Göttler, OWHC Regional Secretariat, Regensburg

20.00 **Evening Reception with Dinner**
Hotel Wyndham Garden, Ballroom

Friday, 14th November 2014

Conference Venue: Wyndham Garden Hotel Quedlinburg

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE AS FACTOR FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Monika Göttler/Matthias Ripp, Regional Secretariat OWHC

9.00 - 10.00 **Enhancing the UNESCO World Heritage label for Sustainable Urban Development - Case Studies of Peripheral and Metropolitan Cities in Europe**
Dr Carola Neugebauer, Junior Professor, RWTH University, Aachen

10.00 - 10.30 **Presentation of the HerMan Project**
Mr Matthias Ripp, World Heritage Coordination, Regensburg

10.30 - 10.45 **Coffee Break**

10.45 - 11.45 **Kaleidoscope - Our Heritage Cities in a Pecha Kucha**

- Steffi Behrendt, Stralsund
“The renaissance of a quarter: about the revitalisation of the town hall square in Stralsund”
- Tony Crouch, Bath
“Hot Bath! - News form the Spa city”
- Helma Bokhove, Amsterdam
“Amsterdam Canal Ring”
- Alexander Würfl, Salzburg
“Heritage in Salzburg”
- Zabeth Teelucksingh and Sylvie Gallier Howard, Philadelphia
“Philadelphia - a city of ideas”
- Regina Wiala-Zimm, Vienna
“Modern Lifestyle and History - a movie of Vienna”

Closure of Conference

11.45 - 12.00 **Group Photo**

12.00 - 13.15 **City tour of Quedlinburg**
Excursions on the tracks of Heritage and History

13.15 **Lunch**
Restaurant M7, Markt 7 Quedlinburg

Departure of Participants

Conference Report



Thursday 12nd November 2014

Welcoming dinner

At the first evening, a welcoming dinner was organised for all guests. From Wyndham Garden Hotel, venue of the conference, the Quedlinburg Night Watchman collected the guests and led the way through the narrow alleys of the old city and the city garden to reach the dining location at Romantikhôtel am Brühl. More than just showing our guests the right way in the dark, the Night Watchman also shared the history and folklore of Quedlinburg as well as some little known facts of daily lives during medieval times.

Dr. Eberhard Brecht, Lord Mayor of Quedlinburg, and Mr Denis Ricard, Secretary General of OWHC, gave a brief welcoming speech before the dinner began.



Friday 13th November 2014

Conference Opening

OWHC



Mrs Lee Minaidis introduced OWHC's coming event (© Kenny Choi)

On the first day of the conference, Dr. Eberhard Brecht, Lord Mayor of Quedlinburg, and Mr Joachim Wolbergs, Mayor of Regensburg, presented their greetings as the host and the organizer for this conference respectively. Mr Matthias Ripp, the coordinator of OWHC regional secretariat for Northwestern Europe, then went through the two

days run-down of the conference.

Mr Denis Ricard and Mrs Lee Minaidis, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of OWHC respectively, introduced a major event planned in November 2015: the OWHC World Congress in Arequipa. Under the main theme "World Heritage cities, resilient cities", four sub-themes will be focused on:

1. Assessing vulnerabilities and understanding urban resilience;
2. Enhancing urban resilience through governance structures and civil society engagement;
3. Tools and mechanisms to achieve urban resilience;
4. enhancing urban resilience through learning and knowledge-sharing.

[Read here the presentation by Mrs Lee "On the way to Arequipa"](#)

City Presentation

Quedlinburg



Dr. Eberhard Brecht, Lord Mayor of Quedlinburg, greeted the participants and introduced the heritage management of Quedlinburg conservation area. (© Stadt Quedlinburg)

After a short coffee break, Dr. Eberhard Brecht brought the attention back to Quedlinburg on its 20th Anniversary of being recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He presented the relevant conservation strategies and their development throughout the past two decades in accordance with the heritage management plan. With respect to

the history and urban structure of Quedlinburg city, specific zoning system and water management strategies have been implemented.

To enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of conservation tasks, an electronic database has been used to indicate the conditions of most buildings and areas within the conservation area. Looking into the years ahead, there are still more improvements and new tourism measures to be expected.

[Learn more about Quedlinburg's management plan](#)

Ms Claudia Christina Hennrich is the director of the German Framework Centre in Quedlinburg. With her rich experience in conserving half-timber construction, she introduced two renovation projects in Halberstadt and Osterwieck, both of them not far away from Quedlinburg. The renovation work in the Centre is supported through an international youth project with people from foreign countries coming to Quedlinburg for up to one year. The young people are learning about the special renovation techniques required and with their special training work together in restoration and preservation projects.

From a more technical approach, it was demonstrated how old buildings and therefore the city structure of a medieval city could be preserved, keeping a historical city sustainable for all forms of users.

Crisis as opportunity for world heritage cities— Resilience

Resilience

In the afternoon section, the focus of the conference turned to resilience of world heritage cities. Mr Matthias Ripp from Regensburg made an introduction to heritage and resilience. He stressed on cities' abilities not just to survive, but to adapt to changes and sustain stress and adverse situations, while keeping their momentum to develop and grow. In this case, crisis is turned into opportunities for the cities.

Originally a term used in psychology, resilience has been used in biology, sociology and ethnology. Nowadays, it appears more often in architecture and conservation. A lot of old constructions possessed the features of enabling themselves or for the sake of urban planning to be resilient. Design— construction, planning, use and materiality are the four main areas from which resilience could be ap-

plied to historical cities. Old castles, medieval households or churches have left us not only beautiful facade and ornaments; some of their structure provides a readily available solution for energy efficiency. It reminds us that the constructions should be flexible and can be adapted to later change according to urban planning needs or a change of usage. In historical cities the old town centre often sustained a variety of functions for different people, who identified themselves with the place. This has been made possible by high quality architecture that can facilitate different uses. Therefore to preserve a historical city means in most cases preserving the multiple usage of the city, thereby the dynamics that is generated.

For the planning process, the widest possible range of stakeholders has to be involved. As a building could be adapted to other uses, permanent or temporary, various group of people should be consulted. The best solution for adaptive reuse is produced through involvement of all participants; while they are reminded that an age-old structure should also not be sacrificed for short term goal, ultimately they should continue living in the future. Local government, parliament, NGOs and the civil society should take up different tasks and cooperate with each other to efficiently administer and manage the sustainability of a place.

Building material played another defining role. As old constructions wear off, they have to be repaired. Using traditional material should preserve the authenticity of its structure and appearance. It is best if the building material in need can be accessed locally. In addition, local craftsmanship or traditional methods of construction should be deployed. As a result, buildings could be repaired without sacrificing those parts that are intact. Only what has decayed receives the right treatment.

[Read the whole presentation "On Heritage and Resilience" here.](#)

Beemster

Mr Han Hefting from Beemster drew our attention to Beemster Polder, an area with outstanding landscape planning and excellent conservation practice near Amsterdam. As 60% of the population in the Netherlands live below sea level, peoples' daily lives are inseparable with the water around them. While innovative methods are devised to prevent flooding; it is also important to know how to make use of this natural resource for urban planning and local economic development. Beemster also processed rich historical elements inherited from Renaissance time. The chequered formation of streets, old churches and farms have been well preserved amid works on water-

ways improvement and flood preventive measures. The conservation of Beemster showcases the interaction between human lives and the natural surroundings. Through creative planning and implementation the harmony between man and nature is achieved, reflected from the cultural landscape that was created.

Cheese is a local staple. Thanks to the clean and ready-at-hand natural resources, the production of Beemster cheese benefits from the water and animal nearby, which provide vital ingredients for it. It happens that on the same day as this presentation was made a new cheese factory in Beemster was opened in the presence of the royal family members of the Netherlands.

[Read the complete presentation "Resilient Beemster" here.](#)



Resilience of Beemster's heritage. (© Kenny Choi)

Vilnius

The next presentation brought the guests to Vilnius, whose historical old town earned a UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1994. Mr Gedeminas Rutkauskas from the Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency stressed on intangible values of historical cities. The cultural, social and political values embedded in a city fill it with memory and shape its development. Historical knowledge and experience, according to him, is more vital than technology and methods of preserving the physical structure. Instead of seeing just one building object or a complex, an integrated approach on management of urban sites as well as cultural landscape is very essential. Therefore it is critical to communicate and integrate with one another in our conservation process, which could finally lead to an integral plan to achieve resilience. Common positive driving factors facilitated by communication and knowledge exchange equip

us cities with preventive measures to tackle crisis and go through it with a favourable outcome.

A prominent example is the World Heritage Research, Information and Communication Centre in Vilnius, dedicated to sustainable development and resilience of a historical city. It provides a platform to connect conservation practitioners, experts, residents, and working groups from different cities. It focuses on thematic research and comparative analysis, monitoring and research of physical condition of historical structures, and building links with other world heritage cities by locating their common goals, needs, and interests. This research, information and communication centre could be an effective instrument in consolidating partnership and regional cooperation among historical cities. In other words, a more holistic approach that involves communication among cities with different characters and challenges would result in better methods to achieve resilience for cities in case of conflicts, abrupt changes and other difficulties.

[The complete presentation on "Resilience in need of communication and networking" is to be found here.](#)

Bamberg

Bamberg city gives an inspiring example that a historical city is not only about centuries-old buildings, market place and dominant churches; green areas also play an essential role in creating a liveable and pleasant environment that add values to the historical and aesthetic parts of the city. Mrs Patricia Alberth from the Zentrum Welterbe Bamberg described the gardens and their positive impact together with the historical city, which has been enlisted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993.



Ms Patricia Alberth with the topic gardening tradition in Bamberg. (© Kenny Choi)

In the gardening quarter of Bamberg a wide range of people are engaged in order to keep the gardening tradition

sustainable. The Gärtnertag and guided tours in the garden quarter remind tourists the importance of the gardens. Fresh vegetables and specialities are enjoyed by the local people as these food productions are provided by local restaurants or are sold in local food markets. The tight relationship between Bamberg's traditional gardens and the city's economy is reflected by unique culinary offers in beer gardens, cafes, groceries and other catering companies. As these gardens are constantly productive, they are being kept in good care by local people. This carves a healthy and relaxing cultural landscape for the historical city. The Bamberg gardens become an inseparable constituent of the world heritage status. And in 2013 they are preliminary chosen to be included in the list of UNESCO immaterial cultural heritage.

[Mrs Alberth's presentation is to be found here.](#)

Warsaw

Warsaw city provides a rather extreme example of resilience in an urban context. The reconstruction process demonstrates a special definition of resilience. During World War II more than 85 % of the historical city fabric was devastated. One would ask if the city could really be resilient in the face of such large-scale destruction. In this case the reconstruction of Warsaw shows its ability to withstand damages and adapt to change, propping herself up and achieving its past beauty again. The most valuable instruments that benefits the reconstruction was old archival documents. They were very reliable and readily available when they are called upon after the destruction. In light of their assistance, the city was successfully recreated to its 18th century appearance. A Warsaw Reconstruction Office was set up between 1945 and 1951 in order to facilitate the building process. The importance of this office was highlighted by its inclusion in 2011 into UNESCO Memory of the World registry.

While the guidance granted by the documents was reliable, not every single detail remained the same as before. The reconstruction of some buildings was deliberately avoided in order to protect the city panorama and the view of the city wall. On one hand the urban layout was retained; on the other hand more public spaces were created for the residents. With help from eminent artists, many facades are repainted with traditional techniques. They definitely contribute to the authenticity of the old city. Therefore with the determination and support of the citizens of Warsaw, the old city was reborn from fire and ashes. Resilience takes places not only in the building fabric; but can also be found in the local people and utiliza-

tion of valuable documents.

[Learn about the special case of Warsaw as resilient city.](#)



Friday 14th November 2014

UNESCO World Heritage as factor for sustainable urban development

UNESCO World Heritage Label

On the second day a presentation given by Dr. Carola Neugebauer from RWTH University Aachen brings the discussion to the UNESCO world heritage label. As many cities are enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, it is interesting to know if this big label brings any prominent impact. Due to different social-economic situation, demography, physical condition and connectivity of heritage cities, their UNESCO World heritage status might

bring about various degrees of impact. By studying Wismar, Stralsund and Saint Petersburg, three world heritage historical cities, the result points to different potential of their UNESCO label as well as their relationship with local activities and urban development.



Dr. Carola Neugebauer presented her research findings on World Heritage Status. (© Kenny Cho)

It is shown that the World Heritage label has more impact on tourism and real estate industry than on the building sector and engineering research and development. In terms of attracting employees, the label also does not affect much. The result reveals that this label has not been used to its full potential for sustainable development. It

lacks the plan or management of exploiting this heritage symbol. Therefore a more integrative and participative approach is needed if things are to be improved.

It is also revealed the UNESCO world heritage label means more to peripheral cities than metropolitan areas. Only when more local actors with authority support it, the variety of potential can be unfolded and has its impact performed on historical cities.

[Read about the content of the keynote speech of Mrs Neugebauer here.](#)

Herman Project

A side track from OWHC to another successful project that aimed at management of cultural and urban heritage was presented by Mr Matthias Ripp from Regensburg. A short comprehensive report was given as the projects would come to the end in December 2014. Nine different cities in central Europe are involved in the programme. A number of challenges were addressed with respect to the methods and working process to achieve the original objectives. There are five main topics, from which five work packages have been developed, namely management of projects, communication and knowledge transfer, testing of management strategies, innovative service and functions and improvement of management capacities. Under this framework, member cities have taken up pilot actions to explore new ways of interpretation and utilisation of their cultural heritage. As a key partner of the project, Regensburg has also fulfilled the aim by organising a number of activities in the city. The final conference of Herman was scheduled on 26th to 28th November 2014.

[Learn more about Herman Project](#)



Mr. Matthias Ripp gave a short report on Herman Project. (© Kenny Choi)

Pecha Kucha

In our Pecha Kucha section, a number of member cities of OWHC presented the history and unique characters of their historical set up. Their diverse background and urban condition allow them to have different conservation strategies. Each of them are worthy of notice; they set example to other historical cities sharing similar challenges or conservation issues.

Stralsund

In northern Germany we have witnessed another example of urban resilience in Stralsund with the redevelopment of Quarter 17, which is an essential tangible element of the world heritage site. Together with the old town square the main pedestrian and shopping zone have been revitalised. In order to preserve the urban fabric and the outlook of the old city, heights of the buildings and their facades were regulated and kept close to the authenticity of the old town.

An architectural advisory board was set up to tackle different challenges and to implement the best strategies for this daunting task. At first archaeological surveys and excavations were conducted, from which medieval relics and living quarters were found from 32 meters underground. Other findings include earth ware, toys and military tools, dated from the time when Stralsund was an important Hanseatic city to the modern age. Exhibitions were made to show the public the history and the economic and geographical importance of this square. Public consultations were held to gather innovative ideas and feedbacks from local citizens for the whole revitalization process.

In just two years, the whole complex was renovated and opened to the public. Consisting thirty living apartments, dozens of shops, office area and recreational facilities, the Quarter 17 has drawn a new chapter to the history of Stralsund's development.

[Pecha Kucha Stralsund](#)

Amsterdam

The city of Amsterdam is unique for its canal rings, which date back to 17th century. The canal rings form a special urban landscape for Amsterdam. They indicated the economic success from the past up to nowadays. These canals are obviously attractions to tourists; yet they are also

inseparable with locals' daily lives. Contributing together with the canal rings to the city's medieval townscape and unique tradition is the wonder hydraulic engineering, trees and gardens, as well as other intangible values. As Amsterdam is under sea level, water management has always been on the agenda of urban

development. Excellent water management construction and the corresponding software allow people to build

house and use the canals through out hundreds of years. The city centre are assigned different use in order to satisfy different needs. This also explain Amsterdam's history as one of the most eminent merchandising and trading metropolitan.

[Pecha Kucha Amsterdam](#)



The Canal Ring in Amsterdam presented by Helma Bokhove. (© Kenny Choi)

Bath

As the name already suggested Bath in the United Kingdom is well known for her Roman baths. But other than ancient construction, old streets and bathing facilities, there are much more that Bath can provide. The 130 Roman Curses, made of lead, used as prayers to Goddess Minerva, were enlisted into UNESCO Memory of the World.

There is a World Heritage Interpretation Centre that provides more information on the history and heritage value of this city. As the 3rd management plan, aimed for 2016 to 2022, is now in production, a number of improvements are planned in the city, so that Bath could be conserved sustainably while the living standard of local people could be heightened. The Bath Abbey and the Cleveland Pool will be improved. The Bath Rugby club would also be expanded; this would however post a challenge to the conservation process as there could be negative impacts to the views to the city.

The Great Western Railway main line in Bath would take on modernization by using power supply from electricity instead of diesel. This ensures a healthy environment to the historical city. Bridges along the railway will be modified too. The World heritage site steering group, Bath & Northeast Somerset Council and Bath Preservation Trust have worked together on more than 30 projects, financed by World Heritage Enhancement Fund. More projects are to be executed.

[Pecha Kucha Bath](#)

Philadelphia

At first sight Philadelphia might not seem as old as other European ancient or medieval cities; yet it plays a critical role to the history of the United States of America. The conservation work of the city also sets up good examples for others as reference. Philadelphia inherits rich colonial history. A lot of buildings from the colonial-period are very well preserved and are still in use today. The role it played in the foundation of the USA is reflected by it being an enlightenment city of freedom and popular sovereignty. Later it transformed itself from an industrial city to a post-industrial metropolitan, making successful urban development while keeping in mind to protect its heritage. A lot of old buildings have been adapted into modern use, demonstrating a good balance of development and conservation.



Sylvie Gallier Howard presented cultural heritage of Philadelphia. (© Kenny Choi)

Recently a lot of activities and events were aimed at forging Philadelphia as a world heritage city. Its participation in OWHC marks another cornerstone for the development of the cultural and historical value of this amazing city.

[Pecha Kucha Philadelphia](#)

Salzburg

Since 1997 the old town of the Austrian city of Salzburg was nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is shown in the presentation how some old constructions were kept for centuries, undertaking renovation from time to time, such as those on Getreidegasse, Burgerspitalgasse, Müllnerhauptstraße and Bärchengäßchen.

The preservation of the old town was supervised by an expert commission. To preserve its authenticity and the physical glory, windows, facades, buildings' interior and arcades are constantly restored. The use of old buildings for modern use creates living space and, most importantly, keeps the building alive. Added to the nice old city of Salzburg is its intangible value. The tradition of music, the fame of Mozart and the Festspiel are counted as the biggest among others. Together with the old city structure, they create a high living standard and glamour admired by tourists.

The idea of resilience is again relevant to the sustainability of Salzburg. While keeping its glorious historical part, the city does not ignore constructing modern buildings to satisfy special purpose or specific stakeholders. Yet sometimes new construction in an historical city could easily induce criticism. The project UNI-Park Nonntal and the development of Rehrplatz are two examples. With respect to environmental impact, in 2002 and 2013, the city faced serious flooding that threatened the existence of the city landscape and revealed the vulnerability of old town structure. Huge amount of money and effort had to be spent afterwards for restorations. These examples clearly betray the need for intricate balance between conservation, development and the ability to face and survive through adversity.

[Pecha Kucha Salzburg](#)



Delegates Meeting and city tour

On the first day, while the delegates meeting was carried out, a guided tour through the old city Quedlinburg and Castle hill was organised for other participants. Mr. Trosten Schmelz from Quedlinburg city administration shared the history and characteristic of the half-timbered constructions of Quedlinburg. The conservation process and challenges of keeping the city's outlook and structure as it was in medieval time were also made known to the guests. It was inspiring and eye opening to observe a city as an sample after the many presentations on conservation theories and examples of resilience from other heritage cities. After other presentations on the second day of the conference, another one-hour city tour given as a further learning process for every participant was conducted as a concluding event for the conference before lunch service was provided at the market place of the old town centre.



St. Nikolai Church and the church courtyard (© Kenny Choi)



Top: Viewing a half-timbered building in its renovation process

Middle: Mr Trosten Schmelz explains the characters of Quedlinburg's half-timbered houses

Bottom: walking along the Schuhhof