

Architectural Conservation in Albania and in other Countries of Europe

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1. ABSTRACT

This paper is intended to provide a theoretical overview and analysis of the history and development philosophies in our country compared to other European countries, in relation to the conservation of historic buildings, monuments and architectural sites. The study will be based on some examples with significant role in the history of European and Albanian conservation. Principles and ideas on architectural conservation in Europe have begun in ancient times, but the basic fundamentals are cast during the early 19th century. During this period have developed traditional approach to the treatment of historical monuments, which has to do with Romantic Restoration especially in Italy, the Conservation Movement which is based on material authenticity and documentary value of the monument, and Conservation modern theory. In our country the conservation of architectural monuments is later in comparison with European countries. Especially the evaluation of architectural heritage had a rapid increase in 1965 because of care that was shown for these values and to prepare scholar-restorer framework. Research, selection, documentation, study, restoration, and publications related to these activities, brought up the field of cultural heritage to modern methodology. But of course can not affirm that the recognition and appreciation of cultural heritage can be considered closed. This field is a continuing process, which goes in parallel with human life. It should be emphasized that the experience and the Italian school of restoration and conservation became Albanian leadership to the essential concepts and restoration. The main purpose is to present the basic steps of architectural heritage conservation in our country, as conservation principles have evolved and the philosophies which have influenced European Albanian conservation.

2. CONSERVATION IN EUROPE

Initial efforts on the conservation of buildings and ancient buildings have appeared before the Renaissance. Renaissance can be seen as the moment of new awareness to: endanger the cultural values of the destruction of ancient monuments, large values of these monuments as heritage of the past. In fact, even in antiquity, special efforts have been made on the protection, conservation and restoration of monuments. But the term "monument" in the ancient world was related to political and moral issues: monuments serve as reminders of the power of government. Translate text or webpage

Fillimi i shekullit të XX, solli një frymë të re ku Shqipëria u fut në një periudhë ku kerkonte rivlerësimin e arritjeve të ndryshme. Realizimit urbanistik të qyteteve shqiptare të shekullit XV-XIX i perkasin krijimet popullore, duke i kushtuar vëmendje autoresive së mjeshtrit popullor. Pra urbanistika e qyteteve shqiptare deri rreth shek XVI, ka patur kritere udhëheqëse të arritura prej përvijës dhe të zbatuara në mënyrë empirike. Elemente me shumë rendesi dhe që duhen përmendur janë: zonimi funksional, rrjeti rrugor, bashkëpunimi ndërtim-hapsirë urbane, lartësia e kateve, ornamentet etj. Për këto qytete të dhenat baze i gjejme në deshmite egzistuese të këtyre qendrave, të cilat ruajne trashëgiminë e shek XVII dhe më vonë. Venia në mbrojtje të qendrave historike të Beratit, Gjirokastrës dhe më vonë të Korçës, Shkodrës, Vlores, dhe Elbasanit, ruajtja vlerat me të rendesishme tradicionale të qyteteve të së kaluarës. qyteti shqiptar i mesjetës së vonë, me tipare të përbashkëta mbare shqiptare, mund të lasifikohen në baze të dy kritereve. Kriteri i parë lidhet me lidhjen e qendres së banuar pra qytetit me fortifikimin. Në fakt egzistenca e fortifikimit ka ndikuar drejtpërdrejt mbi karakterin dhe tiparet urbanistike të qendres së banimit. Kriteri i dytë gjithashtu në lidhje të ngushtë me tiparet urbanistike, lidhet me llojin e truallit mbi të cilin ngrihet qendra e banuar, prandaj mund të dallojme qendra të banuara të ngritura mbi truall të aksidentuar dhe qendra të ngritura në truall të rrafshet. During the middle ages the use of constructive and aesthetic elements of ancient monuments for the construction of new buildings, became increasing widespread vandalism especially Jokilehto, J (1986) *The History of Architectural Conservation*, pp24, 26 against pagan temples and public buildings: the Arch of Constantine. ¹ But these thefts were more limited when it came to the ancient buildings built for the pleasure of the public. Thodoric Great, King of Italy raised some laws in Roma. He was very interested in maintaining the architectural buildings, stating that: the restoration of ancient buildings has the same value with the construction of a

*Jokilehto, J (1986) *The History of Architectural Conservation*, pp24, 26

new building. During the fifteenth century a number of measures were taken on the protection of ancient buildings. Various projects, more reconstruction and adaptation, affected some of the ancient monuments with the voice as St. Angelo Castel, St. Peter, one of the major basilicas of Rome but in a very poor condition, the church of Santo Stefano Rotondo, which was one of the affected buildings at this time; St. Marco Church of Rome. You can say that although the church of St. Marco and the Basilica of St. Peter were almost completely renovated, respect for the old original buildings appeared. In this period was a cultural solution to preserve something of the original buildings. But still can not talk about conservation and restoration of authentic, though we begin to distinguish its roots. Reconstructions and renovations to the ancient monuments also appear on XVI and XVII century, to such monuments as the Pantheon, which suffered more barbaric strokes. For the architects of the Renaissance, Pantheon represent perfect form in architecture. Multiple touch Colosseum also suffered, for which over the years many revitalization projects were proposed. Meanwhile around the seventeenth century, vandalism to ancient monuments activity appeared also in other European countries like England, France and Greece. Monastery of Durham in England suffered more devastating and robbers blow, but nevertheless survived in comparison with some other churches that were totally destroyed. This barbaric activity waned until found the ruins and the remains of monuments and evaluated for their scenic and sublim values.

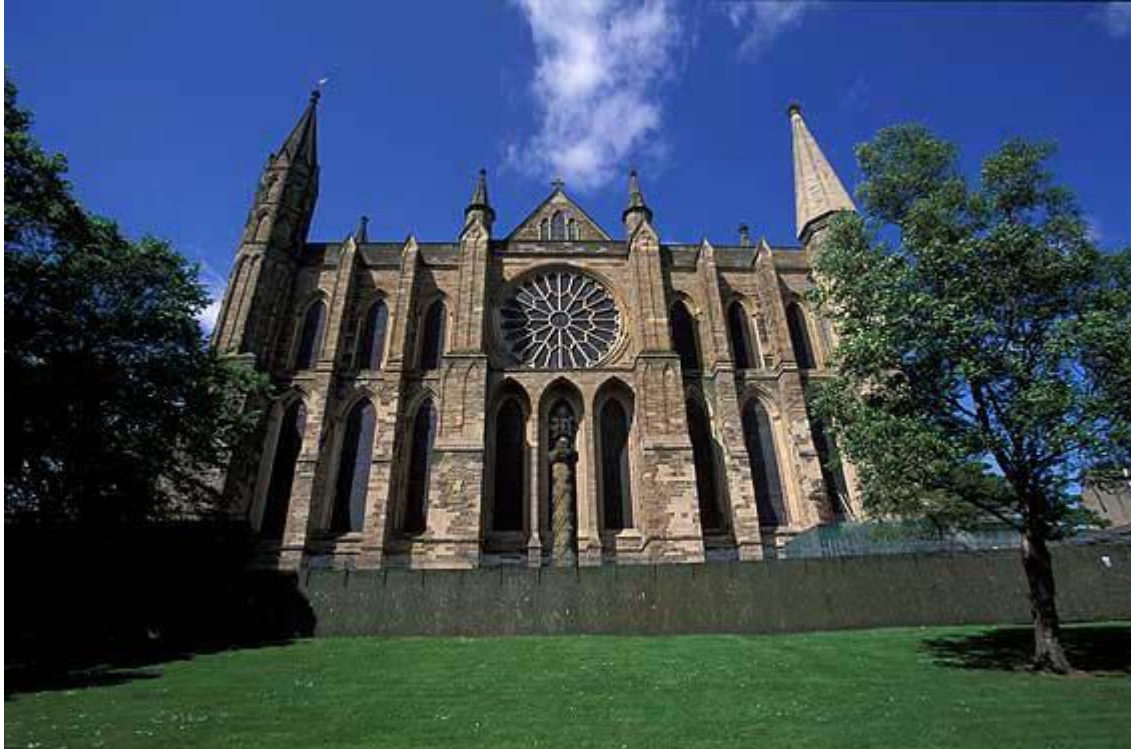


Fig. 1: Durham Cathedral England

Meanwhile during the 18th century, full discussions were held regarding the conservation and restoration. In Italy during the reign of Pope Pius VI, during the getting and setting an obelisk in the square Montecitorio, radical changes were made in conservation habits. The concept was based on respect for the original. Following this concept it was decided that the missing hieroglyphic of the obelisk will not be touched, can be cleaned of all the obelisk, but without touching hieroglyphics.² Missing parts can be added without adding decorations that forged which will lead to fewer major misconception of the Egyptian mystery. This change associated with the restoration, was a sign of maturity of the concept of authenticity. Restoration of the obelisk in the square of Montecitorio in Rome can be considered the first enterprise in a public monument in which the added part differs clearly from the original. This concept was felt more in Rome, early 19th century. Later they spread further to other countries, and soon became the basic principles in the treatment of damaged monuments. Meanwhile in France during the years 1790, following the French Revolution, monuments like Notre-Dame in Paris, suffered many robberies. As a result of these severe destruction of ancient monuments, was signed the decree of 1792, "On control and conservation of objects that have special interest for their particular artistic qualities" adopted by the Commission of Historic Monuments. In this way threw the first steps on conservation and documentation of historic monuments and their protection methods. According to new concepts, objects and ancient monuments should be left in their original place, and can be moved only in extreme cases for their conservation. 19th century, stands for values, part influenced by the development of new concepts and theories on art and part influenced by the loss of artistic works. In Rome many personalities in the field of conservation and restoration, worked more on the theoretical

² Jokilehto, J (1986) *The History of Architectural Conservation*, pp103

foundations of legal practice on the protection of monuments and works of art. They were considered the honor of Rome, giving a unique position in Europe. Among the many prominent personalities in Italy mention Antonio Canova and Carlo Fea.³ They influenced the concepts of conservation, legislation and executive practice by minimizing restoring and preserving the historical authenticity of monuments. One of the most successful cases of conservation and restoration project is the Arch of Titus. Arch of Titus during the Middle Ages lost a large portion of the material, thus leaving only a small proportion of survivors from the original structure. Artistic qualities of basoreliev on its surface, attracted more attention, so it was proposed a construction project. The project proposed the reconstruction the lacked part of the arc, but the added part will be distinguished from the original part.(Fig 2) During implementation, the new part added was left clean without decoration so that visitors do not have doubts between what is authentic and what is built just to give an idea of the whole. This was the first practice in Italy during which laid the basic principle for the modern conservation and the preservation of authenticity.



Fig. 2: Arch of Titus. Rome

Meanwhile in Greece more excavations were conducted in Acropolis. After several battles the country was in chaos. Erechteion Temple was almost a ruin. Even the temple of Nikes had much damage, being dissolved in blocks scattered throughout. During the first project of restoration of the temple, all fragments were collected by rebuilding the temple. During this reconstruction were used almost all the original elements. However, during the works many original stone was damaged. After reconstruction was first noticed many errors that had to do with setting not in its place each stone. Therefore it was proposed another reconstruction anastiloz from the beginning, from Orlando. The temple itself was reconstructed by finding the exact position of each element before we pass "last anastilos". Lost parts were replaced with marble. Anastiloza the second temple of Nikes was completed in 1940, exposing the temple to the public again. This temple, like the Arch of Titus in Italy, became a symbol of modern restoration. Conservation of large cathedrals and their restoration, have a played a key role in developing an important concept of conservation in England during the 18th and 19th century. The best example of my own at the same time discussing is the cathedral of Durham. The restoration of this cathedral of "destroyer" Wyatt, was very discussed. By following this monument became an example of conservation and restoration. Meanwhile the German cities spread the spirit of conservation of ancient monuments, especially the cathedral. Magdeburg Cathedral, the first Gothic buildings in Germany, suffered more damage from the French troops. During conservation efforts established a special care for preservation and restoration of ornaments. French Revolution became a key moment for the development of changes in cultural property conservation. Conservation and restoration projects were spread more in France. Conservation of the Church La Medeleine undertaken by Viollet Le Duc, considered the most important restorer of time. Le Medeleine Church occupies an important place in the history of French architecture. For its historical values entered in the list of World Heritage of UNESCO. Majority of interventions in this church were recostruction.

During the nineteenth century we have a development of Conservation theories in Europe. In France the development of theories appeared in conservation efforts of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. During the works

³ Jokilehto, J (1986) *The History of Architectural Conservation* , pp222

Viollete Le Duc concluded that it was fair to remove the subsequent allowances and repatriation earlier situation. He was the pioneer of stylistic restoration. According to him, maintenance is the best way to conserve and restoration historic buildings is always a necessity to which an intelligent maintenance should contain. Viollete Le Duc opened the doors for restoration to act in the position of a creative original architect, a concept which also spread to other countries. Restoring the building in which conditions that may not have ever existed before, was something not right.

Meanwhile in England conservation theories continued to evolve by creating two major groups. The first group was against the restoration of monuments with representatives of John Ruskin and the second group that was pro restoration by Sir George Gilbert Scott representative. Scott insisted that conservation should be the key to restoration. The greatest danger in restoration is to make more and the great difficulty is knowing when to stop. Good documentation and archeological evidence justify restoration. Ruskin believed that the restoration was the greatest destruction that a building can suffer. The work that was done once by an artist can not be repeated. Ruskin's influence is spreading more, and more professionals began to devote attention. While in Italy was developing a spirit opposite to that of Ruskin. We can talk about philosophy Restoration. During this period, popular figures appear in the field of conservation as Camillo Boito.⁴ In 1893 he presented a card in the third Congress of Engineers and Architects. According to him, monument was not only the original structure, but the later additions as historical documents too. Profoundly critical of principles restoration of Viollet le Duc and John Ruskin. He sees Restoration as risk of injury of authenticity materials, therefore suggests documenting before restoration. With these principles Boito laid the foundation of modern conservation in Italy, principles which were consolidated by Gustavo Giovannoni.⁵ Gustavo Giovannoni figure takes a special significances in 1931 after he presented the principles on conservation and restoration of ancient monuments in Athens International Congress, contributed profoundly to the Charter of Athens. First World War brought disastrous consequences to the monuments in many European countries. These damages and risks influenced in the meeting of many professionals to discuss the maintenance and restoration of monuments. In October 1930 organized an International Conference on the Scientific study of methods for the conservation of works of art. At this meeting it was understood the need for another meeting to talk about architectural monuments, the conference known as the Athens Charter. In this they discussed about very important issues on conservation, positive and negative sides of the restoration. This card marks the end of development stage by abandoned concepts of restoration stylistic and to promote the conservation of authenticity of the historic monuments. This policy was first recognized at the international level and marks the beginning of the establishment of international rules on conservation of the world heritage. Destructions of World War II brought the need for unification of different countries. In 1949, UNESCO created the International Committee of Monument. Many important issues were discussed on legislative issues, establishment of a fund for conservation of monuments. In 1964 in Venice, held a conference for the restoration of historical monuments. otherwise this conference recognized as Venice Charter, which became the basic document of conservation theories. In this key document emphasized the need to respect and maintenance of the authenticity of historical monuments. These principles make up the theory of conservation, on which debate lasted more than a century and often with separate opinions.

3. CONSERVATION IN ALBANIA

In Albania, just as in other Balkan countries, evaluation and conservation of buildings with unique historical and architectural value, belonging to the period after World War II. In the field of popular architecture, our country was among the first on efforts towards conservation of cultural and historical evidences with high degree of authenticity.⁶ However, it should be mentioned that the conservation of monuments, historical cultural evidence, is a late event compared with other European countries. Regarding the concept of "Monument" and the definition of criteria relates more to century XX, but the intuitive concept of people about the value of architectural heritage of the past appear much earlier. Parallel have been present injury of such buildings by human hand and caused wars. During these centuries, the rest of Europe, the principles and basis for modern conservation, were cast and evolved in the century by century, from country to country and

⁴ Casiello, S (1996) *La Cultura del Restauro*, pp159

⁵ Casiello, S (1996) *La Cultura del Restauro*, pp269

⁶ Riza, E (2000) *Qyteti dhe Banesa Qytetare Shqiptare Shek.XV-XIX*, pp438

from one meeting to another. The Albanian conservation practices, assessment, restoration and basis of selection criteria is based on the Italian school.⁷ Theories and concepts of Italian professionals on conservation of architectural monuments, laying directly influenced the basic principles, especially when it came to restoration of buildings of special values and unique historical, architectural and cultural heritage. Albania after World War II came to realize the unique values of its popular buildings. The protection of these monuments has natural origins, but in order for it to be effective, should be followed by a number of other serious events and more demanding.

3.1 The legal framework in the field of conservation

Very important place in the field of conservation has legislation for the protection and of monuments. Clearly understood that the creation of strong bases in the legal framework affecting the development of the excellence in the field of conservation. Legal protection in Albania, regards two phases, the first is before the liberation of Albania and the second regards next to the liberation. In Albania until World War II the Law was present in 1889, when Albania was still under the rules of Turkish empire.⁸ It is about the internal Rules Regulating the Royal Museum. Museum, as emerges from the regulation was the institution that dealt with the protection and rule of Cultural Property. Adjacent to the declaration of Independence, the law was enacted in 1912, expanding the area of old buildings included in the term of "antiques". These acts were never placed under implementation in the Albanian lands. After the proclamation of Independence, the first official act is Regulating of the Ministry of Education. Full legal act of this period, is the law "On National Monuments", 1929. This law is borrowed from other states. Here are not taken into account many important issues such as :restoration; to meet the funds needed for their protection; the case study and the procedure declaration of cultural heritage. In fact, until 1945 no list of cultural property was not advertised and not even known which of them was protected by the state. Capitalist states, immediately after the First World War began to turn their eyes from our country. The French Government made an agreement with the Albanian government in 1923, about the archaeological ruins in Albania. another agreement was also with the Italian Government. After the liberation of Albania, the first normative act for Cultural Properties Protection was the law of 1948 "The protection of Cultural Monuments and rare natural objects." Later in 1971 was adopted the decree "On protection of Cultural Monuments and rare natural resources." According to the decree of national assets should be made in defense of the state. We have declared in 1961, City-Museum the city of: Berati; Gjirokastra; Kruja old Bazaar; the old and the underground part of Durres. Announcement of the city museum is more related to urban development, housing conditions, and therefore are creating special regulations for them. While the first list of cultural monuments was declared in 1948, which included 95 items. This list was valid until the creation of another list in 1963. After substantial political changes of the 90s, showed a significant deviation to the protection of cultural property. During this period some serious damage destructive affected historic architectural monuments. In 1994, the National Assembly of the Republic of Albania adopted a law "On Protection of movable and immovable Cultural Property ". This law became the basic framework for the conservation of monuments. It changed during the years 2003, 2006, 2009. Also it was made and the expansion of the scope of cultural heritage, by replacing the term "cultural monuments" to the "cultural heritage", in accordance with modern advanced concepts. In the framework of international conventions concerning the protection of cultural heritage, Albania was included in the protocol and rules on the implementation of the Convention, adopted by UNESCO at Hague Conference, 1954. Since 1990, Albania applied near the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, for inclusion in List of World Heritage the historic centers of Berat, Gjirokastra, archaeological center of Butrint, Selca tombstone, and the Amphitheater of Durres. For a long time this issue was neglected up until the moment that the request to designate the historical center of Gjirokastra like World Heritage. This request was approved at the 29 session of the Congress of the World Heritage, held in Durban in South Africa in 2005. In July 2008 the historic center of Gjirokastra and Berat was declared " World Heritage ".

3.2 Conservation and Restoration during the Twentieth Century

Beginning of the twentieth century brought a new spirit in which Albania entered a period where require reassessment of the different achievements. Urban realizations of the Albanian cities XV-XIX century

⁷ Jokilehto, J (1986) *The History of Architectural Conservation* , pp335

⁸ Papa,M (1975) *Monumentet* , pp139

belong popular creativity, paying attention to the authorship of popular craftsmen.⁹ The urban planning of Albanian cities around XVI century, has been achieved leadership criteria of experience and applied it empirically. More important elements to note are: functional zoning, road network, construction relation urban-space, heights of floors, ornaments, etc. For these cities to find data on the basis of existing evidence of these centers, which preserve the heritage of XVII century and later. mounting protection of historic centers of Berat, and later Gjirokastra, Korca, Shkodra, Vlora and Elbasan, retained most important traditional values cities of the past. Albanian towns of the late Middle Ages, with common features throughout Albanian, can be classified according to two criteria.¹⁰ The first criterion relates to the township connection with fortification. In fact the existence of the fortification has directly influenced the character and features of the centrality of urban housing. The second criterion is also in close connection with urban features, associated with the type of land on which the inhabited center, so you can distinguish urban center built on hilly terrain and centers raised in flat land. In Albanian space, for various reasons still stored values of the past in architectural urban context. Among cases with successful conservation can mention the historic centers of some cities.

Berati is one of the most prominent Albanian towns, which has a history that begins in the fourth century. The town originally bore within the city walls and then exit the township outside these walls marks the start of that process in the history of Berat and around the genesis of Albanian city fortification and development of the city open. This city is among the few where life went on without interruption. Except in neighborhoods with distinctive and unique value in good physical condition also find Muslim cult buildings. Among neighborhoods with important mention Lagje Kala, Gorice, Murat Celepias, Lagje Mangalem. The latter is one of the earliest neighborhoods of Berat and urban context means a chaotic design without criteria, but with special value to residential buildings. Typical characteristic of Berat is its underlying distribution which is conditioned by the rugged landscape. The divisions between neighborhoods are highlighted, creating a dexterity and particular. Berati is known for composing, quiet rhythm and prevalent harmony in contrast to the city of Gjirokastra.



Fig. 3: Castel of Berat .

Berati Castle is one of the most valuable monument. It has become object conservation and restoration interventions since 1960, which were in the form of cleaning and maintenance. Interventions in this monument have been in accordance with recognized principles of conservation and restoration. (Fig.3)

⁹ Muka ,A (2007) *Ndertime Tradicionale Fshatare* , pp22

¹⁰ Riza, E (2000) *Qyteti dhe Banesa Qytetare Shqiptare Shek.XV-XIX*, pp80



Fig. 4: Church of the Holy Trinity. Photo Gallery by Alan Grant

This church built in the fortress of Berat. in the first decade of our century church has been deleted without any care a supplement to the original offense. restoration is one of the most successful cases.(Fig.4)

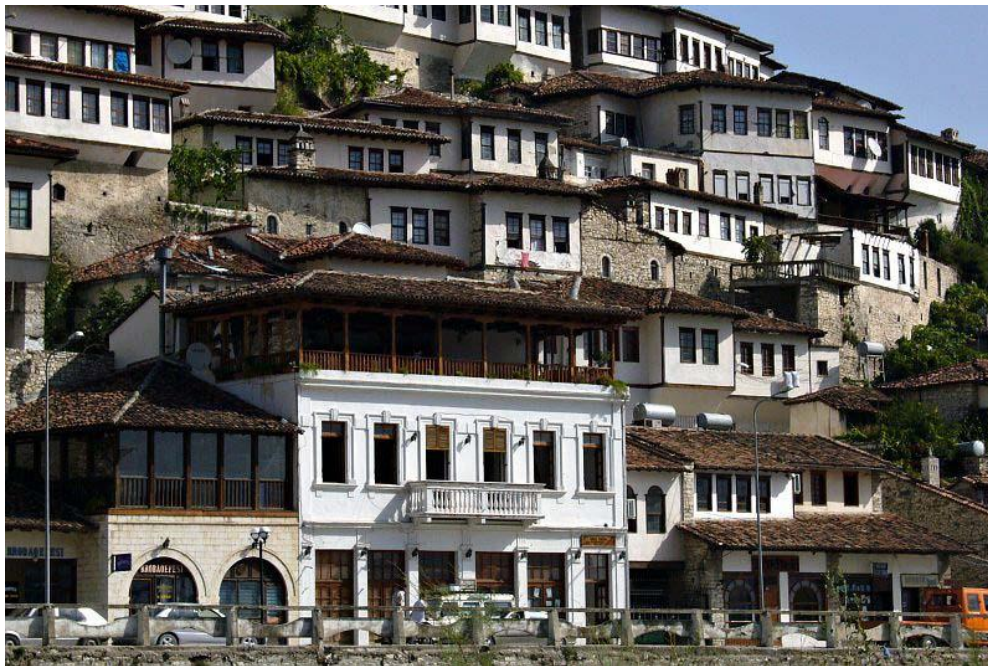


Fig. 5: Houses in Mangalem. Photo Gallery by Alan Grant

Gjirokastra compare with Berat has a later history, concerns the Middle Ages. This city has a clearly separate from the bazaar and populated area. Old bazaar occupies a central position in the site plan of the city. The origins of Gjirokastra has been the castle, which has always remained an important element formulation of urban and city silhouette. In the development of Gjirokastra an important role played fairly rugged terrain. Gjirokastra housing constructions are added to the cult. Assemblies with characteristic and picturesque are those: Pazar I Vjeter; Pllake, which lie north of the castle. Remember the many picturesque neighborhoods as Dunavat, Manal; Varos etc.. Mikrorelievi with a significant variety of Gjirokastra is the main cause of the different characteristics of the neighborhoods of this city. This gives a pronounced dynamism of the city. Gjirokastra sparingly unfolds before the visitor, who should be moving across town in order to see the scenic view.



Fig. 6: Castel of Gjirokastra. Photo Gallery by Aket Islami

Gjirokastra Castle is one of the most well preserved as the castle of Berat. Interventions prior to 1965 even though well-intentioned have not followed the principles of conservation and restoration. But they have been small. After the 1965 intervention in this castle were: cleaning, maintenance, waterproofing. Very important intervention has been the removal of vegetation, which had damaged masonry. Conservation interventions in the castle have been in full respect of preserving the original materials and their authenticity.(Fig.6)

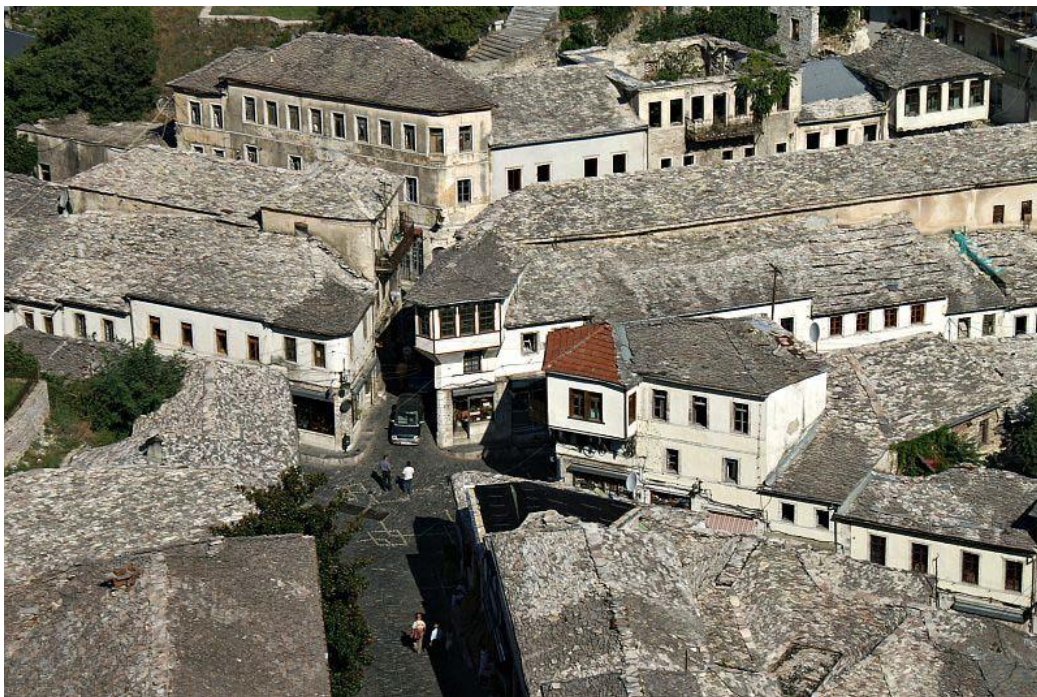


Fig. 7: Qafa e Pazarit. Photo Gallery by Alan Grant

Today bazaar comes as a reconstruction after a devastating fire on the nineteenth century. Reconstruction brought changes in the urban composition. Technical condition of these buildings in terms of masonry in general presented no problems, but part of the external appearance of wooden doors, windows are in damaged condition. In these conditions, restoration measures were taken 1967-1968.(Fig.7)

Even the city of Shkodra was born in rugged terrain. He was one of the city with ancient fortresses of the country. In Shkodra addition to residential neighborhoods, commercial centers, handicraft is an important

component of the city. The extent and placement of the new town area where is even today, clearly emphasized the separation between handicraft-trade area and inhabited area. One of the most characteristic is the Shkodra bazaar, one of the greatest of the later medieval Albanian cities. With the development of city streets were also developed. Urban features and silhouette of Shkodra field are the most typical urban centers built on flat ground.



Fig. 8: Rozafa Castel.

Restoration work on this monument, which preserves inside important buildings, are the earliest. These works have affected the surrounding wall of the castle, also the main gate. Later in 1965 were undertaken by cleaner soils and ruins. Other works were made after the 1979 earthquake. The earthquake brought serious damages in the western wall of the church of Shen Stefani. It was repaired in the initial state of withdrawal. Variant of demolition and reconstruction was rejected. (Fig.8)

Even Elbasan city relates closely with fortification. Shek.XVII during the period of greatest development of the country's feudal economy, Elbasan became the main market of Central Albania.

City of Tirana presents the characteristics of the Albanian town of shek.XV-century, with very special features and value of the buildings.

City of Korca takes a really special place in the history of Albanian towns of XV-XIX century. Once there for the first time encountered urban planning called Hipodamit system. This system consists in creating a network of approximately quadratic, which makes the road network while plots the building land. Starting the implementation of urban planning is related to the corner apartment building which in terms of architectural composition marks a new phenomenon of urban housing typology of Albanian shek.XV-XIV.

Considering these values are so special, mirror construction heritage of our people, conservation activity has been forthcoming. As a result of this uninterrupted work of the researchers, on 8 July 2008 the city of Berat and Gjirokastra were registered in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Committee. In the third criterion of reason of signature of these cities museums in UNESCO, expressly states that Berat and Gjirokastra are a remarkable testimony to the diversity of urban societies in the Balkans and lifespan lifestyle that today almost disappeared. The fourth criterion says that both cities are outstanding testimony to various types of urban popular monuments and buildings during the Ottoman period. This achievement is a very important assessment against Albanian conservation work for these two towns which rank among 600 countries in the world that are in UNESCO as a consequence of their universal heritage. Like the European practice of conservation, restoration plays an integral part in this maintenance activity. Principles of Restoration in Europe evolved and changed from century to century. Albanian practice of restoration was influenced directly by the Italian theories of the scientific Restoration. Three basic criteria relate closely Albanian restoration with three subjects: attitude towards various stages of construction, transformed attitude to parts or supplements, attitude to parts degraded. Residential buildings represents a typical case of changes incurred over the years, which might be seen as historical evidence of different generations. Understanding the value of the monument as historical and architectural evidence leads us respect to stages of construction, as contributions to certain times and circumstances of life. This principle is used more in practice for many years working in this genre of monuments restoration. While reconstruction of an object is used only in very

rare cases, after altering affects the authenticity of the work, and applies only when the object is associated with a historic figure. Putting the protection of special ensembles and monuments of the country poses particular problems of these values in today's life. Clash of the new way of living with urban architectural character of centers put in defense, represent the basic problem to be solved. One of the effective ways to solve this problem, is zoning of historic centers, as well as division of monuments popular housing in two categories. Adoption of the monuments of the second category in social life is a solution for the life of the monument. In fact the restoration of the city museum, presents a problem relating to collective life. Gjirokastra case presents a problematic situation. Preservation of this center almost comprehensive, very broken ground, makes it more difficult movement with the vehicle of today. Thus are found depending on the case, some extensions of roads necessary to make possible the passage of traffic. Thanks to a great and systematic work, are restored Gjirokaster and Kruja Bazaar. Restoration of popular housing included in the entirety of the criteria for restoration of monuments of architecture, but represent some particular. However, restoration and conservation experience has successfully faced with these problems.

4. CONCLUSION

The issue of conservation not only our country but also around the world, is still a matter of confrontation of ideas and experiences, to a new culture of conservation and right use of the architectural heritage, seen as the root basic of cultural identity, historical document and irreplaceable limited economic resources . Birth and development of a new culture of conservation is still a reality in the theoretical level. The need for a correct practical architectural heritage conservation, presents a delicate issue in this objective that unites researchers.

Knowing deeply the evolution and the evolution of theories of conservation and finding a more accurate practical and effective course, helps us to take a step in the conservation of today's architectural buildings, which in future will be important historical evidence of our life and our conception. All must be released from our desire to make it impossible to conceive the object as it was in the past, as if it were possible to come in the past.¹¹ But this is impossible because we see the past with today's eyes. If historians and restorers have claim to raised the past, then they cultivate an absurd and meaningless claim, as it means to stay on topic and practices that are not ours, is not the past as we live today. So a correct conservation interventions should be inspired by a restoration, progressive part of conservation practice, which is not conducted under a nostalgic view of the past illusionist or a repetition activities. We must be aware that the past can not return.

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¹¹ Gioeni, L (2008) *Considerazioni Innaturali*, pp51