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Introduction

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation, dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage. A network of experts benefits from the interdisciplinary exchange of its members. ICOMOS is the Advisory Body of UNESCO for cultural World Heritage.

Annually the Europe Regional Group meets and promotes an international scientific symposium, this year dedicated to the theme "Contemporary interventions in cultural heritage: theory and practice".

The rehabilitation of the built heritage has become the central activity in the construction sector in Portugal. The recent pressure from tourism and speculation has accelerated this phenomenon, principally in historic centres, in classified and protected areas; however, not always with respect for the authenticity and integrity of existing built cultural heritage. Challenges arise in reconciling the preservation of heritage values with contemporary demands.

This problem is common in all Europe and has received special attention from ICOMOS, leading to several actions, aimed to improve the quality of the interventions. In 2018, the ICOMOS Europe Group was instrumental in the European Commission's project 'Cherishing Heritage: developing quality principles for cultural heritage in Europe', organising two workshops in Paris and Venice, and contributing with a strategic reference document. ICOMOS-France has launched a reflection on the implementation of the Charter of Venice involving all the European National Committees, and a debate at a conference organised in Paris.

It is a goal of the symposium to publicise these actions and to extend the reflection, through a critical assessment of the situation, from an international perspective. In particular, it is intended to question the relationship between theory and practice, in different dimensions: in teaching, in legislation, in management, in planning, in design and in rehabilitation work. Experts from various European countries will come forward to present their vision on the main problems they face today, the good and bad practices, contributing to a joint reflection and approach to a state-of-the-art in Europe, on contemporary interventions in cultural heritage.

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Historic school buildings adaptation to contemporary education

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Adaptive Reuse, School Architecture, Cultural Values, Conservation Impact, Change

Abstract

The rehabilitation of the education-built heritage has become a current topic when discussing the impact of interventions in the adaptation to contemporary use needs. In Portugal the Schools Modernisation Programme (SMP) offered an opportunity for historic schools, located in the historic cores of the most important cities, to gain new learning environments.

However, it is questioned if the authenticity and integrity of existing built cultural heritage is preserved when answering to challenges such as safety and security, ITC and comfort. Which were the guiding principles for architects in these interventions? This presentation will address the topic from an architecture conservation practitioner and a cultural values researcher perspective, aiming to reflect and discuss the design process and its outputs, framed by international experiences that have been taking place since the beginning of the 21st century.



Figure 1. The first purposely designed building for secondary education in Portugal: Liceu Passos Manuel (Lisbon, Portugal) after the rehabilitation intervention [2007.2011] (vmsa architects archive, 2011)

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