Summaries

Interdisciplinary collaboration, research, knowledge sharing and our common future in the preservation of historic interiors

By Rikke Bjarnhof

The preservation of historic interiors is carried out in collaboration between many related professions. The best solutions of combining historical context with modern function in the preservation of buildings and their contents are achieved through multidisciplinarity. Respect for professional recommendations and mutual understanding can improve collaboration and optimize decision making. The field of buildings-related conservation is constantly under development. Advances include new technology, methods of analysis, research and advances in treatment methodology. Sharing of new scientific results and empirical knowledge with colleagues, partners, and the new generation of students within building preservation is of greatest importance to promote, implement, and maintain high standards.Creating multidisciplinary networking can develop the mutual understanding necessary to achieve these goals. An accessible data bank including relevant information about particular buildings would be an advantage for all participants caring for our common cultural heritage, giving a broader, more qualified and better basis for decision making.

Building archaeology in education and practice of the architectural profession

By Lars Nicolai Bock

This article discusses how building archaeology relates to the architectural profession and the education of architects – mostly in a Danish context. The text is based on the authors experience as an assistant professor at the Aarhus School of Architecture as well as from his professional life.

Building archaeology is a discipline practiced by a number of professions, most of these academic. One can speak of a situation where professional roles and their relation to field objects are rather unclear and need to be discussed. The different professions – that is for instance architects, archeologists, historians, art historians, conservators etc. – deal with objects that are different and alike. This situation calls for clarification and cooperation. The goal for a discussion could be an optimized education, practice and use and of the different professions and a more intense interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary use of the many special competencies.

In Denmark, traditions coming from the academy of art have had a strong influence on the education of architects. This tradition, to a certain degree, rules out the more research-minded approach to for instance conservation and preservation. In the field of

conservation and preservation there is a very strong need for knowledge as background for architectural projects. Knowledge about a historic building and its different periods is the background and prerequisite for defining both values and cultural significance. An architectural project that is not based on conscious and transparent valuation of the object – both as a whole and in details – will often loose the historic and architectural significance of the building. There is an increasing need for optimized skills, more knowledge as well in the field of research as in the field of design dealing with historic structures. There is a need for better educations, cooperation, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary practice in the series of professions that deals with building archeology, conservation and preservation of historic buildings in the future.

New Light on Moesgårds main Building

By Torsten Hinge

The Manor House of Moesgård has been housing Moesgård Museum for the latest 50 years. When the main building and the appurtenant curved wings were restored in the 1960's it turned out that large amounts of reused timber in the main building originated from an earlier Renaissance building. It might be the main building at the Barony of Vilhelmsborg since written sources indicate that this building was demolished shortly before the erection of the Manor House of Moesgård in the years 1776-78.

The written sources also mention that the owner, Christian Frederik Baron Güldencrone, left the responsibility for the construction of a modern home to architect C.J. Zuber. However, the architect leaves the building work before it is finished and from the architectonic expression it is sensed that the curved wings must have been built by another architect. Later examinations have shown that the northern wing and parts of the main building are finished under the leadership of a local builder by the name of Anders Kruse.

The latest restoration of the buildings was carried out in the years 2008-2009. The old coats of whitewash were then removed from the facades and the roofs were renewed. In this connection a building archaeological survey was made in order to examine to what extent reused materials have been used, and to examine whether any traces could show how and when the buildings and the wings were erected.

The results of this survey show first of all that the curved wings are not built together with the main building, but they are closely attached to the gable walls without bond. Apart from significant variations in the construction methods, traces in the buildings show that the southern curved wing must have been built somewhat later than the northern curved wing and that the southern wing probably has been erected without technical guidance.

The tower additions on the gable walls of the main building are also attachments made during the construction of the main building. Inner traces from the staircases of the main building suggest – together with a sporadic bond – that these towers are add on buildings as well.

The survey shows that much more reused materials have been applied in the main building than previously assumed. In return no reused materials have been located in the curved wings.

Most surprisingly, it turned out that the final accommodation of the main building did not take place until many years after the erection of the build-

ing. This goes for the ceiling, panels and stoves of the first floor. It looks as if the main building was originally intended to be a summer home for the baron and his family!

Brick masonry, its documentation and dating

By Jens Christian Holst

Brick masonry is a specific category of architectural tradition Northern Germany and the Scandinavian countries have in common. It demands specific performances of documentation, dating and interpretation. The article deals with those contributions, a building archaeologist her- or himself might perform, and those better done by an expert. It is a rough sketch only, written from an empirical point of view, illustrated by a few examples.

Steps of precision and accuracy in graphic resembling of a brick wall are named, what is achieved by them or not, and to which extent the competence of external surveying techniques is needed. Photographic and written documentation are merely quoted, the necessity of stratigraphic analysis is emphasized resulting from feature mapping and to be recorded by age mapping. The age layer model used, scaled into epochs, phases and stages, needs to be harmonized with the results of an archaeologist or a conservator dealing with the same building.

Scientific methods to gain absolute datings out of the building material are shortly discussed. The architectural archaeologist´s own contribution is recognized in compiling chronologies of single and comprehensive material features, of brickmakers` as well as masons` techniques, to narrow down a possible date by comparison. Evaluation of written sources, to which precise dating is the key performance, cannot be discussed here. In the end possibilities occur to visualize historical stages of the architectural development, based on stratigraphic mapping.

Clearing up the many stages of a building´s history until it became the one we know is seen as the main future field for our profession – not to be solved without help from many a friend.

Building documentation in a new perspective

By Nina Ventzel Riis

The article discusses the field of Architectural records and documentations and what efforts should be done to optimize the quality of future documentations. Through the last approximately 300 years we have had the same aim when recording the architectural heritage. We work hard to make the perfect drawing and in recent years digital technology has helped us to reach our goals with more and more details in less time. But who says that the perfect drawing is the only true product of a thorough building inventory? The drawing has many advantages but it cannot contain all possible information. There is a growing interest in the fact that atmosphere is an important part of the architectural heritage, but nevertheless it is never to find in any of our architectural records. Why? Is it because it does not belong in an objective document qua the intangible and, some would say, impossible form it has? Or is it because we have no methods or tools to record these kinds of values? By involving Michel Foucault's view on implementing the diversity in history, the article takes up the fact that the field of documentation needs new methods to reach new knowledge.

Typologies

By Steffen M. Søndergaard

Typologies are needed because they relate the local expression to a greater context and create a general view of the process of evolution. Typologies are therefore needed in establishing the basis of a qualified restoration.

Transverse partitioned plan arrangements

In a number of town gable houses from the 16th century the dwelling fundamentally included two rooms separated by a transverse wall. The residents lived in the rear room with the open fire-place, whereas the front room might have a more out-turned function as a shop or workshop. A best room might be added to the rear room.

Longitudinal partitioned plan arrangements

In (North) Slesvig plan arrangements in town houses existed with a longitudinal partition of the front part of the building: On one side was the long hallway, on the other side the living-room and behind that the kitchen.

A best room composed the rear part of the big buildings and now and then there was a third part of the building.

The big gable houses built in Ribe after the great fire in 1580 were disposed according to this plan arrangement.

Besides longitudinal partitioned plan arrangements – with several and more specialized rooms – gradually displaced transverse partitioned plan arrangements during the 18th century.

In farm-houses in (North) Slesvig a similar development took place from transverse partitioned plan arrangements with few and larger rooms into longitudinal partitioned plan arrangements with several and more specialized rooms. From this development I am trying to explain why the dwelling in about ten houses in Sonderho on the wadden-sea island Fano have been enlarged with about two feet width:

Nearly all houses in Sonderho are placed with the gables in the east and west and the mentioned enlargement is always made in the north side of the house. These houses have had dwelling and stable under the same roof, separated by a hallway, the so-called »frangel« and now appear with two rows of rooms in the dwelling, separated by a longitudinal partition.

The enlargement is documented by added ends of beams and a consequent asymmetrical cross section of the dwelling.

Fire insurance documents inform that all these enlargements were half-timbered, and as the change from half-timbering to brick-building in Sonderho takes place about 1800, these enlargements must have been made earlier. The age of the houses however is unknown.

Referring to the development mentioned above from few and larger rooms in transverse partitioned plan arrangements to several and smaller rooms in longitudinal partitioned plan arrangements in town houses it is my theory, that these houses have undergone a similar change of the dwelling – but the old, narrow houses have had to be enlarged to be able to contain two rows of rooms.

Roof-supporting constructions of timber

Traditional constructions are mainly half-timbering and brick-building. In the western part of (North) Slesvig we find a number of farm-houses that seem

brick-built, but in these houses the top plate with the beams and the weight of the roof is not placed on the outer wall but is supported by wooden posts in every bay or in every second or third bay – wherefore the top plate can be rather big. The outer wall therefore has no supporting function, but is merely a shade.

During the latest 15 years I have registered several of these buildings, and none of these seem to be built later than mid 18th century.

The reason for this construction may be the threat of flood-wawes in this area and the possibility of rescue if the timber-construction remained standing when the walls were swept away by the flood.