

Degradation (Decay) of Patrimony Buildings. Types And Causes

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- ▶ Date of submission: (29.09.2008)
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Summary

Monumental buildings are of invaluable worth to humanity's patrimony worldwide, representing the ever-living testimonials of time-honoured traditions and creative genius of all nations. Many of them have become famous for their age, their architectural value or because they are symbols of some historical events. They have been studied by historians and specialists, becoming the object of integrated theories on their value and definition.

Many specialists agree that the historical and monumental value of some buildings surpasses by far their architectural or artistic value. In some cases, the preservation of the traces of certain civilisations was erroneously considered a priority, in the detriment of valuable national cultural monuments. Ever since Antiquity, monumental buildings have been erected for various reasons, but an all-comprehensive definition, to cover all aspects, has not yet been found for them.



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The amplitude, the grandeur of the composition, the perfection of volumetry and form, the richness of ornamentation, all of these have been important elements taken into consideration for a definition of monumental buildings.

From the point of view of the restoration methodology, it is very important to know the causes that determined the degradation of such buildings, their partial or total decay, up to total destruction in some cases, or the modification of their aspect, in order to diagnose the state of a building in terms of resistivity, of the plastic modifications that it has suffered over the ages, as well as to establish the best measures of prevention of further decay and even direct interventions aiming to stop the destructive processes. The character of the intervention on a monumental building, the types of the restoration works to be carried out, the specifics of the case are all mostly determined by the specific causes that induced the degradations in first place. The general principles of consolidation and restoration of monumental buildings are to be found in all speciality books, but sometimes scattered in ambiguous manner and sometimes contradictory.

The rehabilitation of patrimony buildings demands a thorough diagnose of the degradations suffered, their amplitude, the possibilities of intervention, but also the causes that induced them.

In the present paper I try to synthetize and qualify the various types of degradation in brick structures, in order to bring my contribution to the perservation of the invaluable heritage of the past. The synthesis of the various defects and degradation causes which I present in my paper is up-to-date and thorough and presents great interest for the construction entrepreneurs and many artists that are preoccupied by this area of expertise.

The decisions regarding intervention on patrimony buildings depend mainly on the types and the amplitude of the defects, considered in close relation to the causes that induced them, all these aspects leading to judicious decisions from both the technical and the economic points of view.

KEYWORDS: walls, stone, consolidation, preservation, restoration.

