

Contextualized Digital Heritage Workshop - Lodz

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The Contextualized Digital Heritage Workshop - Lodz continues the path started by two successful workshops held during the eCAADe (Oulu, Finland) and CAADRIA (Suzhou, China) conferences. This workshop aims at creating a space to allow scholars to discuss, share and apply their skills and knowledge in a digital heritage experiment contextualized in Lodz, Poland. The city has a rich industrial heritage. Hence, this event will allow participants to explore an architectural heritage that was not investigated during the previous two workshops which were focused on different kind of heritage. Digital technologies together with multidisciplinary approaches allow to study and analyse tangible and intangible features of architectural heritage in alternative and innovative ways. The workshop will build upon the experiences and reflections elaborated during and after the previous two events.

Keywords: Digital heritage, Context, Industrial heritage, Digital technologies, Workshop

INTRODUCTION

Lodz is a city with a rich industrial history, for this reason, the workshop will focus on its industrial heritage. The workshop will provide a variety of activities: on-site visits, demonstrations, plenary sessions, breakout discussions and practical exercises. Hence, the whole event will balance theoretical discussions and hands-on activities. This workshop aims to create a space to allow scholars to discuss, share and apply their skills and knowledge in a digital heritage experiment contextualized in Lodz. An industrial heritage site in Lodz will be selected as a case study. Participants will be asked to test and speculate on the main point: how (and which) digital technologies can support the documentation, analysis and dissemination (in particular for touristic purposes) of informa-

tion of the selected industrial heritage site that has strong historical and cultural values. It is planned to involve the latest tools and technologies during the workshop.

BACKGROUND

One of the main points that characterizes built heritage compared to contemporary constructions is the strong connection with a specific physical and cultural context. For this reason, the main idea that underlies this workshop is linked with a contextualized practical exercise (Di Mascio et al 2016). This workshop continues the paths started by two successful workshops held during the previous eCAADe (Oulu, Finland) and CAADRIA conferences (Suzhou, China). The event will be split into two days (Figure 2).

Built heritage represents a precious material and cultural resource to be studied and preserved for present and future generations. However, despite its recognized importance, it is increasingly at risk from: conflicts, pollution, lack of maintenance and consequent abandonment. Advances in digital technologies open up alternative and new possibilities in the documentation, study, analysis, communication and dissemination of tangible and intangible features of built heritage.

WORKSHOP THEME

The Contextualized Digital Heritage Workshop in Lodz will focus on an historic site with rich and diverse past. It is located at the outskirts of the city centre in the valley of a small river. In Medieval and Early Modern times this river became an important source of power for several mills. One of them was owned by mayors of Lodz, which despite the civic rights remained nothing but the small agricultural township with population of 700. In the early 1820s the town was designated the government of the Kingdom of Poland as the location of textile production. The flour mills were being replaced with cotton factories (Kepczynska-Walczak and Walczak 2006). The very first of them was built on the site of the former mayors' mill. The industrial production was halted with the death of Christian Wendisch, a new factory master. Then the premises were changing ownership a few times. Finally they were acquired by Karl Scheibler, who decided to establish an agricultural estate here. The farm was expected to support one of the largest cotton enterprises in Europe (Walczak 2001). On the topical site a new manager's residence was built. At present the building is used as a scouts yacht storage and workshop.

From the brief history outlined above, it is clear the site had been place of numerous building activities. The archaeological research was launched by Zbigniew Rybacki in 2011. The excavation continued over a few following years. As a result, the relics of Medieval mill as well as of the early 19th century textile manufacture had been unearthed and docu-

mented by the archaeologist team. The layers of history resemble the architectural palimpsest. The site is, therefore, an excellent example of a time capsule, which needs to be read, interpreted and told to the contemporary audience.

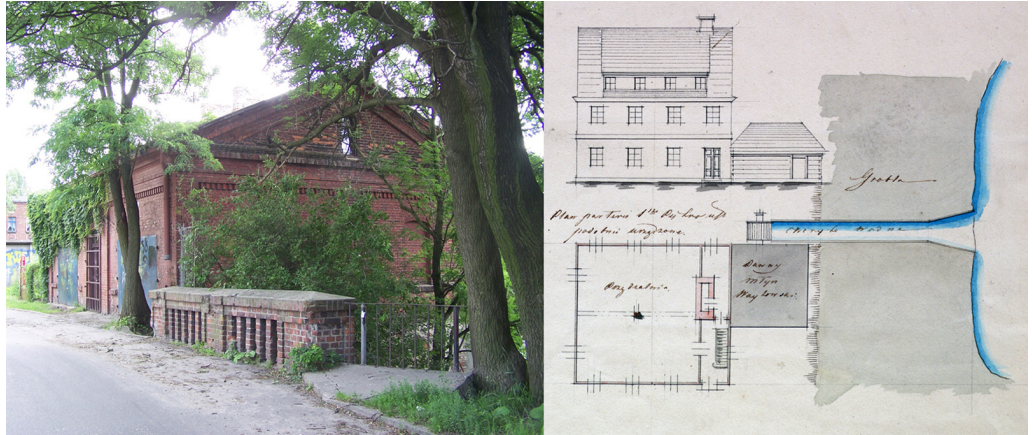
The concepts of space and time may affect unconsciously one's attitude towards a particular urban structure. They may become subject of a research. They may also become a tool for an architect and urban planner. Traditionally, the concept of space is considered a passive entity, while time is considered a separate and active entity. Space should not be disconnected from time, because space is a dynamic entity related to time. What is more, space is the physical support of the way people live in time. Therefore, some researchers considered towns as four-dimensional structures. In this respect, architecture - and built heritage in particular - may be understood in terms of storytelling. The dialectic between a changing materiality and changing meanings constitute a reinterpretation process.

The aim of the workshop participants will be therefore to focus on the visual representation of buildings existing previously and currently in the topical location (Figure 1). The challenge will be to focus on both spatial and temporal issues which are crucial for heritage interpretation. The outcomes of the recent research in this topic reveals that it is possible to deploy various tools and techniques (both simple and advanced) to visualize the history of a heritage site. This subject has been recently discussed and some papers were published in the proceedings of eCAADe and EAEA conferences (Kepczynska-Walczak 2015, Maver 2017).

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

During the first day, the selected industrial heritage site will be presented with the support of a member of the local organizing committee. An archaeological researcher will also be invited to provide further information about the rich history of the place. After the presentations, there will be an on-site visit to have a direct experience of the historical site and

Figure 1
Contemporary
appearance of the
site (left) and the
19th-century
drawing of
currently
nonexistent
buildings (right).



collect information (such as notes, sketches, pictures, videos) useful for the practical exercises. During the afternoon and the morning of the day after, there will be demonstrations of digital technologies, on-site and in the workshop venue. The demonstrations will be accompanied by short practical exercises that will engage the participants. During the second day, participants will work in groups to elaborate their speculations using their specific knowledge and approaches. During the rest of the day, participants will present their ideas and receive feedback and questions from other scholars. A final discussion led by the workshop organizers will attempt to synthesize the key points touched during the event and to identify themes and issues for future research and collaboration, and to develop concrete actions to progress future work in this area (e.g. developing networks, future workshops). The outcomes will be presented on the last day of the conference.

SKILLS ACQUIRED BY PARTICIPANTS

The event will represent an important occasion where participants will be able to share their expertise, collaborate and learn from each other during a contextualized digital heritage exercise in Lodz. Participants will learn information about a selected in-

dustrial heritage, and will be engaged in brainstorming sessions. The site visit will allow participants to have a direct experience of the architectural heritage, and collect information using various media. Dealing with an architectural heritage pertaining to a specific cultural context will trigger participants reflections about tangible and intangible features that can be studied using digital technologies, and which digital tools and methodologies should be applied in the process. Demonstrations of selected digital technologies will let participants to experience and learn tools and methods that can be applied in other contexts. The workshop will also constitute an important moment for networking, discuss about potential collaborations and future events.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

A PowerPoint presentation will be prepared to show the final results and findings achieved by the participants. The presentation will be shown during the main conference. Networking and plans for future collaborations and events will also be part of the expected outcomes.

Timetable – Day One		Timetable – Day Two	
09:00-09:30	Welcome by organizer(s) & introductions	09:30-10:30	Demonstration of a digital technology/tool and brainstorming session
09:30-10:30	Description of the workshop's organization and presentations of the case study	10:30-11:00	Coffee break
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	11:00-12:30	Workshop
11:00-12:30	On-site visit	12:30-14:00	Workshop lunch
12:30-14:00	Workshop Lunch	14:00-15:30	Workshop
14:00-15:30	On-site visit (demonstration of a digital technology)	15:30-16:00	Coffee break
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	16:00-16:45	Round table discussions about the presentations
16:00-17:00	Practical exercise with a digital tool	16:45-17:30	Final discussions, future plans and closing remarks
19:00	Workshop dinner/ drinks	19:00	Workshop dinner/ drinks

Figure 2
Workshop's
programme

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