

Technical meeting

PATINA / Aging or retouching?

Problem and advantage of artificial patina in historic interiors.

14 – 16 November 2018 (Wednesday – Friday)

Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg

Potsdam, Germany

It is significant for palace interiors to unify a large variety of materials treated in most different techniques. It is therefore an old and well-known problem, that all those materials age in different ways, and former technical treatments have their impact on how structures and surfaces change. While generally organic materials change more, inorganic materials stay longer in shape, colour and effect. There is a big difference between a natural wooden panel or others treated with oil, varnish, paint or gold.

With methods of preventive conservation, persons in charge try to regulate those influences, which are disturbing the process of natural aging and leading to damages. Despite these techniques, elements of historic interiors may achieve a state of aging or defect making it necessary to consider restoration, renovation or even replacing by copies. This often leads to the key problem of preservation, namely the relationship of honesty of material, visibility of alterations and general impressions. On one hand, all elements of a room might be seen together as the unity of an interior, as well as single interacting objects. What is thus the relationship between an aged painting and its fresh gilt frame, and how does the latter interact with the neighboured untouched ones?

What is the message of a chair in its historic silk covering standing in front of replaced wall covering or vice versa? Does the new addition make the authentic work of art look shabby and filthy? Should therefore, its glaring effect be softened? May the contrast between aged and renewed be useful for education, or shall the aim be a balanced impression?

While commercial interior decorators, art dealers or stage designers are accustomed to work more or less consciously with artificial patina to achieve general effects or perfect retouching, the use of patinating techniques is still rare in palaces.

Purpose of the meeting: Exchange about: where does patina stop and dirt begin? What could the aim of artificial patina be? What techniques do we know for what materials? What is the difference in aging between patinated and untouched surfaces, and what are the risks? Are there historic examples of artificial ageing and how could this be relevant for us?

The technical meeting will be concentrated more on basic and theoretical aspects, but will also touch questions of technical possibilities.

Expected participants: This technical meeting invites all, who are responsible for the appearance of historic interiors and who have to make decisions of treatment. The technical meeting will be concentrated more on basic and theoretical aspects, but will touch questions of technical possibilities, too.

Working languages: English

Date: 14 November 2018 – 16 November 2018 (Wednesday-Friday).

Please note that the technical meeting starts in Potsdam (Wednesday and Thursday) and will end on Friday at Charlottenburg Palace in Berlin. There is a direct bus no. 109 to airport Berlin-Tegel from Charlottenburg Palace (stop Luisenplatz). The trip takes around 15/20 minutes.

Reverse schedule:

In order to make the meeting effective, please respect the schedule shown below.

Before 02 October	Please make your reservation with the hotel and send your registration form to residencesroyales@chateauversailles.fr
02 October	Deadline for application
Before 12 October	Please return the completed questionnaire to technicalmeeting@spsg.de
9 November	Final agenda to be sent out
14 – 16 November	Meeting (14 November starts after lunch/ 16 November ends after lunch)

Practical information

Budget : 14 November dinner and 15 November lunch and dinner, will be covered by SPSG and the Network of European Royal Residences. Travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the participants.

Hotel: Please find below the information about the hotel with preferential rates. If you do not plan to stay in this hotel, please let us know. Rooms have been pre-reserved at the Hotel :

*Arcona Hotel am Havelufer
Zeppelinstraße 136, 14471 Potsdam, Deutschland
E-Mail: reservierung@potsdam.arcona.de
Phone: 0049 331 9815557*

You can benefit from the rates indicated by mentioning "**technical meeting**" (key word) when booking directly via e-mail with the hotel **until October 03, 2018**.

Rates:

Single room: 89 € including breakfast / night

Double room: 109 € including breakfast / night

Contacts:

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