



Preventive
Conservation
in Historic Houses
and Palace
Museums:
Assessment
Methodologies
and Applications

SilvanaEditoriale

Preventive Conservation in Historic Houses and Palace Museums: Assessment Methodologies and Applications

Conference of the National Museum of the Palace of Versailles (EPV), the Association of European Royal Residences (ARRE), and the Research Centre of the Palace of Versailles (CRCV)

In collaboration with the International Committee for Historic House Museums (DEMHIST), held at the National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and Trianon

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Conference Proceedings

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Monumentenwacht Interieur...

Who? What? Why?

Abstract

Monumentenwacht: an ideal partner in support for maintenance of historic buildings and interiors.

Keywords

Preventive, conservation, historic, interiors.

An Breyne

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Belgium has two main regions: a Flemish and a French region. Monumentenwacht only exists in Flanders, not in the French region and Brussels. Each province in Flanders has his own detachment, which is separated in two teams: one for the exterior and one for the interior maintenance. To guide the different provinces, there is Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen.

Monumentenwacht is an organisation that helps each owner or executive of an historical monument, protected or private: partnerships, society and public board or church councils.

When they join Monumentenwacht, they receive multiple maintenance folders to inform and help raising the awareness on the maintenance and repair of historic buildings and their interiors.

The main objective of Monumentenwacht Intérieur is to assist, encourage and support owners and managers of historically valuable heritage. Such as churches, chapels, railway stations, houses, castles, etc.

We provide the following services: inspections, advices and emergency repairs.

On demand by the owner we perform an inspection/survey on the interiors and the objects (fig. 2). This systematic control happens on a regular basis, at least every four years, to examine their state of preservation. The detailed survey/report we impose, includes the condition of the interior, of the objects and the damages. It is a manual with recommendations for better preservation and/or maintenance and conservation. Included we give the owners onderhoudsfiches: maintenance cards who are a particular guideline for the inspected interior or object. I have some examples of such reports as well as some maintenance cards.

Deeds, not only words... We also perform some small urgent works:



Fig. 1
Removing mould on a polychrome thirteenth-century shrine.



Fig. 2
Inspection of a polychrome nineteenth-century sculpture.

we remove dust or mould, we carry out a treatment against bugs in wood or anoxia treatments, we secure paint layers of sculptures and paintings, we properly pack the objects for storage and so on.

On demand we also organise free workshops and symposia, to explain and show how to treat the objects correctly. An example is maintenance of metal, how to storage textile.

We are objective and non-commercial, that makes it possible to achieve the maximum result with a little budget as possible.

We are a partner in conservation and management to maintain their building, the historically valuable interiors and objects, so it's possible to keep them for future generations.

The reliable relationship with our members is very important to achieve our goal. We are a partner for owners and managers of historically valuable heritage in providing them with advice and help for their individual needs.

As I already quoted, not only words but action, with emergency repairs it is possible to avoid an expensive and invasive restoration (fig. 1). For the "big" restoration jobs, ex. a whole interior, we refer to professional restorers or architects.

A stitch in time saves nine.



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