



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

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Preventive Conservation in Villa Reale di Monza: Strategies and Tools for a Long Term Planning

Abstract

The Villa Reale in Monza is an Austrian Imperial residence built in 1780-83, designed by the architect Giuseppe Piermarini, and it is surrounded by a huge park which includes several historic buildings. In the following decades the Villa was completed and enriched under the rule of Napoleon I and of the Savoia dynasty.

The Villa interiors are characterised by decorations executed from the end of 18th to the end of 19th century. It has been abandoned for many decades and in 2014, thanks to a thorough restoration carried out in the frame of a public-private partnership agreement, the central part of the Villa has been permanently opened to the public.

It is an interesting case study under different perspectives: complexity of the conservation issues; preventive and planned conservation approach adopted for the management activities; dedicated information systems for facility and property management; public-private partnership and integration of conservation and promotion.

Keywords

Planned conservation, knowledge management, IT tools, public-private partnership, prevention.

The contribution focuses on the Conservation Plan as a tool for risk assessment in sight of a long term conservation. The tool enables to analyse the interaction of the building, the interiors and the various hazards. The relationships between historic furniture, decorations, collections, and the built structure have a central role in understanding the deterioration mechanisms, as well as in the assessment of risks and in the management of conservation activities.

The adopted tool is a relational database, expressly studied for the implementation of a correct conservation methodology on complex historic buildings. The database has been populated first with a big amount of data coming from the final “as built” reports of the conservation works ended in 2014, then with the report of the general inspection carried out in summer 2016, then reporting every relevant event.

At least in Italian context, this implementation of planned inspections, small repairs, consideration of risk factors in facility management, is quite innovative, and much more interesting as this happens

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Fig. 1
The Villa Reale in Monza,
facade. (© Consorzio Villa
Reale di Monza)



in the frame of a public-private partnership agreement [Moioli *et al.*, 2018].

This action research has been implemented in the frame of two projects: Monza and Brianza Cultural District and JPI Heritage+ project CHANGES (Cultural Heritage Activities: New Goals and Benefits for Economy and Society). Thus the authors had the opportunity to participate in the whole process: since the restoration works to the first monitoring/control activities.

The expected results of this on-going case include the optimisation of data collection, the effectiveness of prevention, the evaluation of costs in a long term perspective, the integration between conservation and public enjoyment.¹

Endnotes

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