

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF MEMORIAL MUSEUMS IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF PUBLIC CRIMES - ICMEMO

REPORT OF THE 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FORM-ARCHITECTURE-MEMORY

Location: Munich and Flossenbürg, Germany, November 8 - November 11, 2015.

Participants and speakers from over 20 countries gathered in Munich and Flossenbürg to discuss the Form-Architecture-Memory themes.

Programme, November 8

Field visits:

Dachau Memorial Site.

Dachau was the first concentration camp set up in the Third Reich. This camp served as a model for all later concentration camps and as a "school of violence" for SS men. Between 1996 and 2003 a new exhibition on the history of the Dachau concentration camp was created, following the leitmotif of the "Path of the Prisoners".

Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism.

This Centre of learning and remembrance was opened to the public on 1 May 2015. It is located in the Brienner Strasse, on a site once previously occupied by the NSDAP headquarters. The permanent exhibition in German and English, extending over several floors, forms the centrepiece of the Centre. There is also a series of special exhibitions. In addition, one entire floor houses a Learning Centre where visitors can study Nazi history in greater depth.

Munich Olympic Park

On September 5, 1972 the 20th Olympic Games, the "Happy Games" in Munich were interrupted by a terrorist attack against the Israeli Olympic Team. The Munich Massacre ended a day later leaving 11 Israeli sportsmen and a German police officer murdered. The State of Bavaria, the City of Munich and other partners including the International Olympic Committee are planning a new memorial commemorating the victims of 1972. The tour visited the existing monuments of 1973 and 1998 and a presentation of the planned place of remembrance.

Conference Opening at the Jewish Museum , Munich

Welcome speeches by: Bernhard Purin, Director, Jewish Museum; Werner Karg, Bavarian State Ministry for Culture, Education and Science; Dr Hans-Georg Kueppers, Head of

Department of Culture of the City of Munich; Dr. Michael Henker, President, ICOM Germany;
Karen S. Franklin, Chair IC MEMO

*Designing Memories, Keynote lecture by Philip Norman Peterson, architect (Team Holzer/Kobler-Architekturen, Zurich, Berlin) **

This keynote lecture reflected on the challenge of how, as an architect and designer, to communicate the unimaginable. In the past years institutions and initiatives, governmental and non-profit organisations have increasingly approached architects and artists to design new types of spaces with an inherent connection to memory, memorial and remembrance.

Using a number of constructions and exhibitions, Philip Peterson illustrated the topics that arose. Spatial and narrative aspects inherent to the design process are helpful and necessary for the transportation and communication of themes dealing with remembrance and memory. A memorial or place of memory should include space for emptiness, space for retreat or withdrawal, space for consideration and dismay. An atmosphere should be created in which arising and reactive moods and sentiments can develop. In this context the architecture is to alter and guide the visitor's perspective and the curator's point of view by transforming and redefining space. Visitors should be moved by an image that triggers their emotions and their thoughts. The curatorial concept should be transformed into a spatial narration that looks beyond the initial instructions and other forms of indoctrination.

*) Full text or power point available through ICMEMO-website.

Monday, November 9, Jewish Museum: Panel Sessions

Panel 1: The Social Relevance of Memorial Museums,

Moderator: Julie Higashi, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan

*Deconstructing the museum's task of representing and advocating for memory and Human Rights. Developing social change through activism, by Carla Prat Perxachs, Museo Memoria y Tolerancia, Ciudad de Mexico **

Carla Prat reflected on how the museum seeks to engage the visitors in the memory work of historical events through heritage, and she addressed the present and the future in a country with serious problems with violence and lack of justice. Moreover, she discussed seeking to use the museum as a space to promote greater individual responsibility, human rights but also to mobilize communities into taking action.

The Museum of Maidan: ideals and reality of civil society in Ukraine by Kateryna Chuyeva, (ICOM Young Professionals Grantee), Kiev, Ukraine

*World War II in Museums, Memory and Representation by Erik Somers, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

Worldwide there are various war and resistance and memorial museums and remembrance or memorial centres. Each has its own character, with varied presentations and diverse themes, differing per location. In many of these museums the history of the Second World War is the central theme. It's a history with a global impact with a meaningful reflecting on the present time. It makes that it is a history of today. Over the years; the approach to the past, the substantive focus, and the representation – the performance, so to say - have been subject to change. These shifts can generally be connected with the history of the memory of the war, which in turn can take many forms and is constantly subject to change. In a sense, one could argue that the dynamics of the memory determines - which meaning is given to the history of the Second World War, - the available knowledge of the past, - and the questions that are asked.

Panel 2: Public Commemoration, Memorial Museums and their Influence on Urban Development

Moderator: Iratxe Momoitio Astorkia, Director of the Peace Museum Gernika, Spain

Remembering the Siege of Sarajevo in the City's Museums by Emily Gunzburger Makas, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, USA

*Processes of Commemoration in the City of Volgograd during the Soviet and the Post-Soviet Period by Alexander Tsygankow, University of Volgograd, Russia**

While society has changed from Soviet to Post-Soviet times the process of commemoration in Volgograd still focusses mainly on the Battle of Stalingrad.

*The Didactic Potential of Historic Locations of National Socialist History in Nuremberg by Florian Dierl, Documentation Centre Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the Memorium Nuremberg Trials, Nuremberg, Germany**

Florian Dierl explained how the grounds in Nuremberg are used as a National Historical Landmark and as a location for historical learning, for historical and political education.

Panel 3: Memorials at Historical Sites of Public Violence and Crimes: Recent Experiences

Moderator: Kirsten John-Stucke, Director of the District Museum Wewelsburg, Germany

*The Memorial des Milles in Aix-en-Provence – An Experiment of Reflection by Max Polonovski, French Ministry of Culture, Paris, France**

In 1939 the tiles factory of Les Milles near Aix-en-Provence (France), built in 1882, closed down for commercial reasons. From September 1939 up to June 1940 Austrian and German citizens in France were considered enemy aliens and interned in the factory. Most of them were opponents to the Nazi regime and/or Jews. From July 1940 up to July 1942, Les Milles became a Transit camp for 'unwanted people'. In August 1942 the Vichy government agreed to hand over to the Germans 10,000 Jews. 2,500 men, women, children were interned in Les Milles, then deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau by a French rail transport company under the

control of the French police. After 1945, industrial activity resumed. This history is what gives to the Memorial des Milles its particularity. The memorial consists of three components. A historical overview of France 1933-1940. The factory with the traces left by the inmates. And an analysis and reflection about the human behavior which lead to the worse.

*Women Prison of Les Corts future Memorial by Núria Ricart, University of Barcelona, Spain **

The main goals of the project are: To recover the memory of the women prison of Les Corts in Barcelona. One of the most important prisons in Spain during the Franco dictatorship; closed in 1955, completely disappeared in the late sixties, and gradually forgotten by society during decades. To develop a participatory process linked with the aim of transmission of this memory. Elements of this participatory process are: • Gender and memory issues from contemporary approaches. • Art languages of tribute; and contents in public space. • The local and metropolitan scale of this place of memory. • Expression and explanation of the territorial scope of the prison. • The maintenance and durability of the future artwork • The management of the selection process of the defining monument.

*Turning Sites of Public Crimes into Memorials. Russian examples by Olga Cherkaeva, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow **

Olga Cherkaeva explained the project which includes the construction and reconstruction of monuments and memorial signs to honor the victims of political repressions established in the former USSR (2008). She illustrated this in more detail with three examples of memorial locations.

Panel 4: Current Conditions and Developments of Public Commemoration of Crimes of States

Moderator: Jordi Guixé Coromines, Director of the European Observatory on Memories, University of Barcelona, Spain

New Exhibitions dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by Varsik Sargsyan, Museum of Matenadaran, Yerevan, Armenia

The development of the Memorial and Information Centre at "The Prison of Silence", former Communist political prison in Râmnicu Sărat, Romania by Irina Hasnas Hubbard, The Institute of the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMRE), Bucharest, Romania

"The State Israel vs. Adolf Eichmann" — Permanent Exhibition and Interactive Multimedia Center by Aya Ben-Naftali, Massuah Institute for Holocaust Studies, Kibbutz Tel Itzhak, Israel.

In the evening the conference participants joined and observed the commemoration of the "Kristallnacht" (nationwide anti-Jewish pogrom 1938) in Munich.

Tuesday, November 10

The Conference continued at the Flossenbürg Memorial Site. Participants were welcomed by Joerg Skriebeleit, Director.

Workshop on Flossenbürg themes of Form, Architecture and Memory and the way the memorial was given shape in the after-war period.

Panel 5: New approaches to the commemoration of the Holocaust

Moderator: Daniel Dratwa, Former Curator of the Jewish Museum of Belgium

Far Removed. Austria in Auschwitz. The new Austrian national exhibition at the Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau by Hannes Sulzenbacher, Vienna, Austria

Vilnius Ghetto Library and Paneriai Memorial: Urgent need for a new concept of the Holocaust Museum in Lithuania by Neringa Latvytė-Gustaitienė, Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania

The Gaon Museum hopes to be able to convert the old Jewish Ghetto Library building in Vilnius into a genuine Holocaust Memorial Museum.

IC MEMO Membership Meeting:

Key points: The Committee decided to have the 2017 ICMEMO Conference in Cincinnati, USA. The Chair asked members to present their candidatures for the Board 2016-2019. Kornelis agrees to draft a follow-up to the Gaon Museum initiative.

Wednesday, November 11

Visit to Regensburg, the Document Neupfarrplatz, synagogue excavation, and memorial by Dani Karavan.

Closure of the Conference

ICMEMO wants to express its appreciation to the following co-sponsors of our 2015 IC MEMO Conference: ICOM-Germany; The European Observatory on Memories, University of Barcelona; the Department of Culture of the City of Munich. Host institutions: Jewish Museum Munich, Flossenbürg Memorial Site, and additional support from the District of Weiden, ICOM Young Professionals Grant.
