

3rd Mutual Heritage Training Course, Rabat, Morocco

Definition of Urban Cultural Heritage / Valorising 19th and 20th Century Mediterranean Architectural Heritage

by **Luc Verpoest, Professor of RLICC**

From 18 to 23 November 2009 Luc Verpoest attended as “formateur” the 3rd Mutual Heritage Training Course in Rabat, the capital of Morocco. The Mutual Heritage Project is co-funded by the European Union (EUROMED HERITAGE IV) and focuses on 19th and 20th-century architecture in the Mediterranean area which resulted from the mutual interaction of different cultures. Project partners are: CITERES / Centre Interdisciplinaire Cités, Territoires, Environnement et Sociétés (Université de Tours, France), Casamémoire (Casablanca, Morocco), ENA / Ecole Nationale d’Architecture (Rabat, Morocco), ASM / Association de la Sauvegarde de la Medina (Tunis, Tunisia), Riwaq (Palestinian Territories) and OIKOS (Italy), Patrimoines Partagés (France).



Modern architecture in Rabat,
photo by Luc Verpoest

The 3rd training course was hosted by the Ecole Nationale d’Architecture in Rabat. The main objective of the Rabat training session was to provide urban planners and professionals in the field of conservation with theoretical concepts and practical tools for a better definition of urban cultural heritage, more particularly the late 19th and 20th-century colonial and post-colonial modern architecture. In addition to a series of specialist lectures, such as a seminar by Luc Verpoest on the concept and use of the DOCOMOMO Register Fiches, inventory sessions were organised on site as to the identification of valuable 20th-century buildings in the city centre of Rabat. As part of the Mutual Heritage programme executive director Romeo Carabelli published a report with the title *Recent Architectural Inheritance in the Mediterranean. Temporalities and Territories* (Tours, 2009).



Silk Road Cultural Heritage
Resource Information System

Development of an Information System in view of the nomination of the Silk Road (Central Asia) Serial World Heritage Site

by **Ona Vileikis, PhD student**

The **Silk Road** Cultural Heritage Resource Information System (CHRIS) initiative involves for the time being five Central Asian countries – the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – in collaboration with China, a Belgian consortium supported by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and headed by Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC), K.U.Leuven, and the Japanese Funds-in-Trust project at UNESCO, aiming at supporting the finalisation of the joint nomination dossier within the Framework of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination.

The Silk Road CHRIS project will develop an Information System to provide the platform to support the management, monitoring, reporting, documentation, promotion and presentation of these heritage

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properties, as well as to contribute to their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Moreover, it will help the state parties, partners, stakeholders and heritage site managers involved, to share and exchange information from multiple sources and formats using up-to-date international compatible standards.

Its **main objectives** are:

- Design and deployment of an Information System capable of providing support for the preparation of World Heritage Nomination of properties located in Central Asia, specifically for the preparation of transnational proposals for those countries under represented on the UNESCO World Heritage List;
- Developing capacities in the Central Asian countries in the monitoring and preventive conservation to improve the preparation of periodic reporting. Supported by the PRECOMOS network and UNESCO Chair;
- Coordination of the regional workshops, UNESCO and the category II Centres and collaboration with the focal points.

Furthermore, the information system will be integrated and web-based to enable full use of its capacities from any location in

the Central Asian countries; it will be designed and implemented using advanced open source software.

In the application of information technology for Cultural Heritage and Digital Technology, the Silk Road CHRIS will contribute to bridging the gap between technology and heritage decision makers. It could be an example of cultural co-operation networks, and could demonstrate the potentials of an improved heritage documentation system.

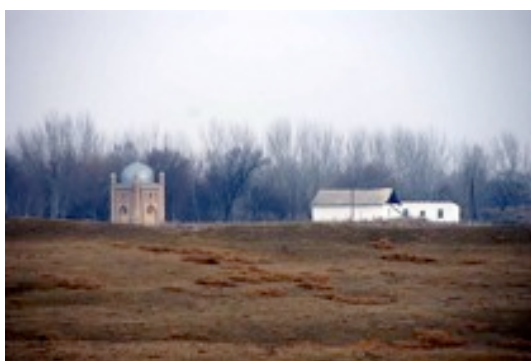
Expected Results

- Information System for the Silk Road fed by the five Central Asian countries,
- Development of Manuals and Guidelines to refine the Operational Guidelines for Serial World Heritage Sites (documentation, monitoring and periodic reporting),
- Academic Research,
- Comparative study of built heritage for sites to be included on the tentative list, and
- Overall study: geographical terrain, archaeological sites.

For contact details and regular updates please check:

<http://www.silkroad-infosystem.org>

Upper left and upper right
Mission to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, January 2010
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Bottom left and bottom right
Mission to Kazakhstan
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