

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OBJECTS AS NEW CENTERS OF ART AND CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITY

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Summary:

Industrial heritage and the issue of new uses for industrial sites are now often viewed from very different perspectives, from the scale of individual buildings or the scale of large areas of brownfields. As yet little explored but increasingly discussed as an absolutely key theme in recent years, however, is the mid-level scale of the cultural landscape. This change of perspective raises new questions about how to preserve and protect industrial heritage in an active, living area.

In an urbanizing world that is increasingly driven by a stressed free market, how does the concept of industrial heritage adaptive reusing relate to contemporary sustainable city and its public space?

How industrial areas can be turned into cultural districts?

This contribution is trying to find the answers for these questions and highlight opportunities in this field in Czech Republic. Some examples of alternative uses of industrial architecture and their potentials for the future development as centers for art and culture are discussed.

Keywords: industrial heritage, adaptive reuse, regeneration, art, culture

Introduction

Adaptive reuse is a construction industry term that usually refers to modifications leading to a change in a building's function. Advocating restoration of existing urban buildings gradually became a widespread and accepted attitude among urban planners. Re-use of buildings has many advantages, not only environmental and economic. Reutilization of derelict industrial areas can have a positive impact on the quality of life in the area.

From the very beginning, culture and the arts have played an essential role in the renewal of decaying urban areas. Arts does not arise in a vacuum. Temporary projects and urban interventions, creating constructions from recycled materials, cooperation with volunteers – this is nowadays a pattern of revitalization of neglected space. In recent years repeatedly proven strategies have been moving closer to the cultural mainstream, they are also initiated by the marketers.

The projects generated by the European Capital of Culture campaign in Pilsen are the typical example of industrial areas adaptive reuse becoming a marketing tool, including political marketing. This programme was developed in the mid-1980s, around the time when the theories of the positive impact of culture and creativity on the economic development of cities emerged. Its goal was to invigorate cultural life in selected cities and at the same time provide massive promotion for them [1].

Several projects of previously abandoned industrial sites that were created by the time and within this event in Pilsen are presented as successfully implemented examples. These are interesting and inspiring spaces whose novel form draws attention not only to themselves but also to the industrial heritage in Czech Republic.

Pilsen as an industrial city had a dominant industry, a symbol identifies with the city's cultural image. The imprint left by the industrial activity on the urban fabric is hard to erase.

Moving Station / The western building of the railway station Pilsen Imperial suburb

The railway station on the line to Domažlice and Cheb, which leads through a deep terrain cut in the area, was built near the Škoda Works parallel with the modernization of the main railway station in Pilsen. The two-storey Secession departure building was built first, in the middle of the cut, west of the bridge. The architect projected the building - on purpose, regarding the construction period during the First World War - in the Czech neo-renaissance style. The facades were decorated with sgraffiti (designed by painter Emil Holub) [2].

The western building has been revived by theatre, dance and exhibition from time to time since 2000 - organized by the civic association Johan.

In 2015 this association leased the space and turned it to the multicultural centre. The facades were restored to their original appearance.



Fig. 1 Moving Station Pilsen (2015)

Before rebuilding of the station theater makers, fine artist, performers, stage designers, dancers and musicians were working in intensive weekend blocks to prepare a non-recurring and non-delegable performances - tightly connected with space and genius loci of the place.

Currently young artist in cooperation with students tried to draw attention to the unused potential of this exceptional industrial spot by using new artistic forms and untraditional theater and dance experience.

DEPO 2015 Creative Zone / Electric Enterprises Depot and Workshops

History of extensive areal Electric Enterprises Depot and Workshops begins in 1869, when sugar refinery of Hugo Jelinek was built on this site.

In 1899 the town set up a power plant for its tram service here, along with a depot for trams. In 1932, to the north of the depot the company of Tomáš Keclík established its main workshops here and built a reinforced concrete hall and two lower sections. In 1952 a two-hall bus garage was added and shelled by design of architect Svatopluk Janke [2].

Since September 2014 the unused workshops and depot had been in the process of renovation by the Pilsen 2015 Company and became as DEPO 2015 Creative Zone a part of the 2015 European City of Culture - Pilsen.

With a built area of 5,400 sq.m. the site's revitalisation was financed by the city, the region, grants, and private sources.

New structural interventions are designed to have minimal impact on the original structure and conform to the hygiene and safety requirements for public use on the site. The aim is to preserve the authentic atmosphere of the vacated space and enable to accommodate various activities by means of reversible adaptations.



Fig. 2 DEPO 2015 Creative zone (2014)

Creative Zone DEPO2015 is a living spaces, where business and culture are innovatively combined to new solution. The Centre for Creative Enterprise connects culture with business and creative industries.

The depot is a place for creative placemaking systematically used as creative incubator full of culture and arts for reviving the city.

A community can use a shared working space, an open workshop to make prototypes or rent a studio or an office.

DEPO2015 is also an open cultural space and it increases the attractiveness of the place for the people who reside, work and create at DEPO2015 as well as the general public.

Pilsen Station Community/ Train station Pilsen-Hospital

The building of the passenger train station was prepared from 1895, when the nearby military hospital was completed. The considerable influence of Art Deco and Cubism shows in the front of the building interiors of the vestibule as well as in the arrangement of the outdoor area. The vestibule has been preserved in almost original condition.

Nowadays Pilsen station Community leased the beautiful building from Czech Railways and turned it slowly to a nice place to meet while retaining all the essential details of the old railway station.

The building is changing to a spot where people can use a shared working space, an open workshop or take a yoga courses. The adoption of a minimalist approach respects the original structure and helps to retain its industrial character.



Fig. 3 Pilsen Station Community (2015)

Conclusion

Heritage is about the relationship that a community constructs with its past.

The care for the conservation and optimal capitalization of the cultural resources indicates a given society's degree of interest and appreciation of its own culture. Cities today face complex challenges but they also offer a setting where people and organisations together can find solutions and opportunities.

Many cities have started to realise that reuse of heritage buildings offers new suitable space for smart city activities and it is an important part of any regeneration programme.

There is great opportunity for industrial sites with their unique aesthetics and creative atmosphere offered by the specific space.

Industrial areas as centers of art and culture in sustainable city are the future for local communities.

Reference

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