



Conference

“Medieval and modern castles – limits and forms of protection in the 21st century”

Organizers:

Malbork Castle Museum
Polish National Committee of ICOMOS

Honorary patronage:
General Conservator of Monuments

The conference is carried out as part of the project „Reconstruction of the monumental household buildings on the Malbork Castle Outer Bailey along with their adaptation to cultural and educational functions”, financed by the Culture Program under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area for 2014-2021 and the state budget, implemented by the Malbork Castle Museum.

1. THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

Year 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the entry of the Teutonic Knights castle in Malbork on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Malbork castle complex - „a monument of conservation as such”, as we read in the declaration of exceptional universal value, has been under conservation care for over 200 years. During this time, it has often become the subject of conservation activities. These activities made it possible to check the methods of research and conservation of monuments and allowed for the generations of conservators to gain professional experience. Following this history, it is easy to notice that not only the conservation theory, but also the changing technological possibilities, functional requirements and expectations socially influenced the scope of intervention in the monument. Nowadays, new challenges appear, which still leave questions about the acceptable scope of activity of conservators as well as architects and the manager of a historic building. Most of the owners and managers of castles, which are currently deprived of their original function, face similar problems. They concern both the conservation itself and the adaptation of the monument to new tasks. The theoretical assumptions of the principles of carrying out works in a historic building are faced with local conditions, technical possibilities or the specific natural environment of a given establishment. Nowadays, in addition to the conservation problems that have been observed in castles for many years, more and more we can observe the impact of global climate changes on the state of preservation of the monument. Earlier conservation interventions can also determine the further manner of carrying out the works. Medieval and modern castles have changed their original function many times over the course of history. Functional changes are always associated with certain changes in the historic structure, even though the contemporary keep-

ers of these objects try to make them interfere with the historical architecture as little as possible. However, the changing legal and social conditions set higher and higher requirements in terms of the safety of use of facilities, as well as the comfort of its users. In the development of the castle, finding a solution that considers social expectations and the protection of historic values is always a challenge.

2. OBJECTIVES AND THEMATIC SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the conference „Medieval and modern castles - limits and forms of protection in the 21st century” is to exchange experiences in the field of development and maintenance of historic castle complexes and an attempt to define the theoretical limits of interventions related to the contemporary use of these historical buildings. The comparison of various solutions may be an inspiration for the owners of castle complexes, and at the same time will allow specialists from various fields related to the protection of monuments to become aware of the scale of problems occurring in such facilities.

The issues discussed during the conference will be divided into three sessions.

- 1. Construction and conservation activities.** History and examples of conservation, restoration and construction works undertaken in medieval and modern castles. Changes in the methods and techniques of work in the historic castle premises.
- 2. Modernization activities.** Technical and functional needs for modernization works. Examples of modernization works in castles.
- 3. Activities of a functional nature.** Possibilities of adaptation of castle complexes to modern functions. Public functions of a monument and the requirements of legal regulations in the field of building safety. Social needs related to the sharing of monuments. Limits of adaptation activities.

We especially invite owners, administrators, and users of medieval and modern castle complexes, who deal with the current maintenance of these buildings and adapting them to modern functions, to participate in the conference and submit their presentations. We hope you will want to share your experiences with solving all kinds of problems with us. We also invite a wide group of specialists and employees professionally related to the problems of monument protection, interested in the subject of the protection of historic castles.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Abstracts of papers should be sent by **May 30, 2022** to the following address: sekretariat@zamek.malbork.pl Abstracts should not exceed two pages of text (the form of separate points will make it easier for the reviewers to grasp the concept of the speeches). The authors of the conference speeches are asked to indicate the session in which the paper is to be presented (session 1, 2, 3).

The conference will be conducted in Polish and English. The conference will be translated simultaneously.

Papers to be presented at the conference will be selected by the Conference Scientific Committee. Authors of papers will be informed about the reviewers' decision by **June 30, 2022**. It is planned to publish the conference materials, after the reviewers' assessment.

Information about the conference will be available on the website of the Castle Museum in Malbork: <https://zamek.malbork.pl/> and <http://eagrants.zamek.malbork.pl/> and [PKN ICOMOS: http://www.icomos-poland.org / pl /](http://www.icomos-poland.org/pl/)

We invite you to submit proposals for conference presentations. We invite you to participate in the conference.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee of the Conference
dr hab. Janusz Trupinda - Director of the Malbork Castle Museum

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