

8th International Conference on History and Culture in North Eastern Europe

8th International Conference on History and Culture in North Eastern Europe:
Between Reconstruction and Modernization: Public Debates about Historic City Centers in the 20th and 21st Centuries

The conference will address and compare public debates about historic city centers the Baltic Sea region in the 20th and 21st centuries.

In particular, the destructions caused by World War II in Europe have led to intense professional and public debates on how to interpret the results of those devastations as well as on guidelines for the reconstruction of historic city centers. These debates often became long-lasting discourses to date and have even gained intensity in recent years, not least due to the fact that solutions from the first phase of reconstruction after 1945 are now increasingly questioned. Those concepts are generally speaking marked by a tension between conservation and renewal. Whereas in the first decades after 1945 modernizing solutions prevailed, one may state that during the past 30 years concepts of a historicizing appropriation have become increasingly important.

The conference will discuss social, aesthetic and political foundations and implications of these developments from 1945 to the recent past with regard to examples from the Baltic Sea region.

It consists of four sections:

- Legacies and appropriations. Public debates on historic city centers
- Modern redesigns of historic city centers
- Reconstructions and the return of historic topographies
- (Re-)constructing nations

The conference is directed to experts in the fields of urban history: (architecture and art) historians as well as experts in cultural and social studies.

Date: September 15-18, 2011

Venue: Tallinn City Archive, Tolli tn. 6, 10133 Tallinn, Estonia

Program:

Thursday, 9/15/2011

13.00-13.15: Addresses of Welcome

Küllo Arjakas, Jörg Hackmann, Christian Pletzing, Robert Schweitzer

13.15-13.30: Introduction Jörg Hackmann, Szczecin

Session 1: Historic City Centers between Reconstruction and Modernization

13.30-14.00: Castles in the Sand: The Politics of Architecture at the Heart of Berlin John Maciuika, New York

14.00-14.30: Mahnmal, Autotrassse und späte Nostalgie: Die Ruine der St. Nikolaikirche in Hamburg und ihre Nachbarstraßen im Wiederaufbau 1943 - 1990 Georg Wagner-Kyora, Berlin

14.30-15.00: Historic and Modern City in Tallinn Epp Lankots, Tallinn

15.00-16.00: Discussion

17.00-19.00: Public Keynote Lecture at the Old Town Hall: Reflections on Reconstruction and Modernization in Central and Eastern Europe Małgorzata Omilanowska, Gdańsk

Friday, 9/16/2011

Session 2: Legacies and Appropriations. Public Debates on Historic City Centers

9.00-9.20: Vilnius als symbolische Hauptstadt von vier Nationen: Ewige litauische Hauptstadt, Hauptstadt der Kresy, Jerusalem des Nordens und weißrussisches Mekka Alvydas Nikžentaitis, Vilnius

9.20-9.40: Wrocław's Multiplying Narratives. The Cultural Appropriation of Urban Spaces after the End of Polonocentrism Gregor Thum, Seattle

9.40-10.00: Discussion

10.30-10.50: Reconstruction, Modernization or Lacuna? Conflicts of Memory, Planning and Re-Establishment in Tallinn Riin Alatalu, Tallinn

10.50-11.10: St. Petersburg Architectural Legacy: Challenges and Opportunities Ljubov' Kudrjavceva, St. Petersburg

11.10-11.30: Vyborg: A Finnish Perspective Petri Neuvonen, Helsinki

11.30-12.30: Discussion

Session 3: Modern Redesigns of Historic City Centers

14.30-14.50: Die "Gesundung der Altstadt". Ein Programm zur Restrukturierung der "Gauhauptstadt" Stettin Katja Bernhardt, Berlin

14.50-15.10: Piotr Zarembas Vision vom Wiederaufbau Stettins Szymon Piotr Kubiak, Szczecin

15.10-15.30: Die Abgrenzung des "historischen Zentrums" in Riga Eric Le Bourhis, Paris

16.00-16.20: Narva

Andres Toode, Narva

16.20-16.40: The Value of Urban Heritage. Public Debate, Assessment Criteria and Redevelopment of Cultural Property in Stockholm Håkan Forsell, Stockholm

16.40-17.30: Discussion

Session 4: Reconstructions and the Return of Historic Topographies

17.30-17.50: Warschau

Jerzy Kochanowski, Warszawa

17.50-18.10: Gdansk

Jacek Friedrich, Gdańsk

18.10-18.30: Discussion

Saturday, 9/17/2011

Session 4: Reconstructions and the Return of Historic Topographies (continued)

9.00-9.20: The Lower Castle in Vilnius

Alfredas Bumblauskas / Salvijus Kulevičius, Vilnius

9.20-9.40: Kaliningrad

Bert Hoppe

9.40-10.00: Das Gründerviertel in Lübeck Manfred Finke, Lübeck

10.00-10.30: Discussion

Session 5: (Re)-Constructing Nations

11.00-11.30: Nationalism and Reconstruction in Dictatorships: Franco's Spain and Socialist Poland in Comparison (1939/1945-1956) José Faraldo / Carolina Rodriguez-Lopez, Madrid

11.30-12.00: Geschichte bauen. Rekonstruktion und Nationsbildung im 19.-21. Jahrhundert Arnold Bartetzky, Leipzig

12.00-12.30: Discussion

14.30-16.30: Concluding Discussion

Statements:

Mart Kalm, Tallinn

Marc Schalenberg, Berlin