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A MUSEUM & RESTORATION WORKSHOP LVIV, UKRAINE

The Architecture of Reconciliation: Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews-- Multi-Culturalism in Eastern Europe

The overall project goal is to design a new type of museum/workshop where historic wooden building restoration and multi-cultural education for the public are fully integrated. This museum/workshop is called a “Historic Restoration Workshop” and is intended to be a center for the “Restoration and Reconstruction of Monuments of Ukrainian/Jewish/Polish Culture.” Your project is to be located on a prominent site at the Museum of Folk Architecture and Everyday Life on the outskirts of the city of Lviv, Ukraine. The project has received the attention of officials from the City of Lviv, the Ukrainian government and public and private agencies and cultural organizations in the Lviv region.

The specific purpose of the museum-workshop is to re-create and interpret destroyed monuments of Ukrainian culture and the first project of the workshop is to build an 18th century wooden synagogue from the small town of Gwozdziec in central Ukraine. The restoration of this monument is intended to serve both as an initial show-piece and model for the process of historic restoration. The next projects would include the reconstruction of a Ukrainian Orthodox church and a Polish Catholic church which are intended to be placed alongside the restored synagogue in a three-part, permanent exhibition of Ukraine’s multi-cultural heritage.

Your Ukrainian clients for this project are fully committed to the idea that the material act of wooden building restoration can foster a positive learning environment where Ukraine’s historic traditions of multi-cultural integration can be actively interpreted and communicated through the act of historic wooden building restoration. The reconstruction of destroyed religious monuments such as wooden churches and synagogues are thus considered appropriate vehicles for this task of cultural reconciliation.

SITE: The site is located near the entrance to the grounds of the present Museum of Folk Architecture and Everyday Life, Lviv, Ukraine. This prominent entrance location was selected both as a site for a restoration workshop to rebuild historic wooden buildings and as a memorial/reconciliation site to honor Ukraine’s multi-cultural heritage and particularly its former Jewish and Polish communities. The project is also intended to redesign the current entrance/introduction area to the entire museum.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: The architectural program has two primary objectives: 1) a museum/visitor's center for the interpretation and remembrance of the Ukraine’s multi-cultural communities, and 2) a restoration workshop to re-construct full-scale wooden replicas of historic structures from these various communities. The first re-built structure is to be the Gwozdziec Synagogue. The overall project goal is to design a new type of museum/workshop complex where historic wooden building restoration, memorial remembrance, and multi-cultural education for the public are fully integrated.

The restoration workshop is intended to be a national center for the “Restoration and Reconstruction of Monuments of Ukrainian, Jewish, and Polish Culture.” The completed project will be administered by the Museum of Folk Architecture and Everyday Life in cooperation with various Lviv city and Ukrainian national organizations. One important overall purpose of the project is to extend the primarily rural/agrarian focus of the current architectural museum to include the interpretation of small town architecture and daily life.

DESIGN GOALS/PROCESS:

The book, *Resplendent Synagogue*, will be the primary text for the studio and is intended to serve as an introduction to Ukrainian Jewish culture as well as Polish and Ukrainian cultures. Lectures following the chapter organization from *Resplendent Synagogue*, will analyze the art, architecture, and culture of the Ukrainian Jewish community. Lectures will also be given on the relationships between Jewish, Polish, and Ukrainian communities. Students will also be encouraged to study examples of Ukrainian, Polish and Jewish vernacular wooden architecture to understand the material culture and design context for the development of the region’s architecture.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF RECONCILIATION: Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews-- Multi-Culturalism in Eastern Europe

This studio will explore the difficult issues of multi-culturalism, national memory, and memorial architecture in an Eastern European setting. Multi-culturalism is commonly understood as the coexistence of different cultures within a region or country. America has a global reputation as a country where people from different cultures, religions and races have come together and coexisted, although for some Americans, such as African-and Native-Americans, this concept has been less successfully realized.

Yet multi-culturalism is not a new or an American phenomenon. In other parts of the world, such as India and the Middle East, cultures have coexisted for much longer periods, although we may debate the equality or cohesiveness of these relationships between different cultural groups. Today, in the modern world of more or less homogeneous societies created and reinforced within the boundaries of nation-states, multiple cultures remain largely hidden unless they dissolve or explode into ethnic or religious conflicts as have recently occurred in Bosnia and Afghanistan, and now in Iraq and Dalfur. The phenomenon of multi-culturalism is a transnational issue of tremendous subtlety and potential difficulty that architects working in international contexts should certainly attempt to understand.

Your design studio will engage the issue of multi-cultural historical memory in the particular context of Eastern Europe. Your design project will introduce you to a challenging multi-cultural program where three major national/ethnic/religious cultures have previously coexisted-- Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews. Rather than a current setting of conflicting cultures, your project explores the issue of multi-cultural memory in the western Ukraine region because today this region contains a largely homogeneous Ukrainian culture. Previously, however, before WWII, this region, and especially the regional capital of Lviv were widely known as a multi-cultural center with large Ukrainian, Polish and Jewish communities (as well as other minority communities). It is the memory of these previous communities—multi-cultural Ukraine—that your project is intended to honor and recall. If this sounds complicated,

it is probably because you have not studied the complex history of this region, which we will explore together. For a historic parallel, you might imagine being asked to design a Native American museum or cultural center for Milwaukee—how would you create a design to recall Native American culture within American culture today?

As you learn about the complexities of Lviv's three primary cultures, Ukrainian, Polish, and Jewish, you will find that there is no basic symmetry, no easy balance between the histories of these three peoples. Catholic Poles once ruled Orthodox (Christian) Ukrainians and Jews in late-medieval towns like Lviv. Jews were primarily a merchant-trading class of the towns and Ukrainians were primarily the agricultural serfs of the villages who combined to create the basic economy of the pre-modern, late medieval Polish town. All three cultures were slaughtered by the Nazis but it is the Jewish population that that was almost completely annihilated. It is into this caldron of still active cultural complexity that will be developing your design.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Museum/Workshop Entry/Visitor's Center

Lobby--tickets, information, temporary exhibits	2,000 sq ft
Museum store, bookstore	500
Orientation/Lecture Hall	2,000
Snack bar, lunch room	800
Public toilets, staff room, mech. equip. rm.	700
Exterior Porch/Reception	
	6,0006,000 sq ft

Workshop-Restoration Studio

Interior Workshop with visitor viewing area	10,000+
Gwozdziec Synagogue	(2,800)
Tool storage	1,000
Wood storage	3,000
Classroom and library	1,000
Outside work areas	
	15,000 +.....15,000+ sq ft

Interpretive Museum

History of the Jewish Community	2,000
History of the Ukrainian Community	2,000
History of the Polish Community	2,000
Museum storage	1,000
	7,000.....7,000 sq ft

Workshop and Museum Operation

Staff offices, staff lounge, restroom.	1,000
Research and interpretation area	1,000
Mechanical Equipment	2,000
Live-in staff/security apartment	1,000
	5,000.....5,000 sq ft

Total Square Feet.....36,000 + sq ft

Visitors Drop Off and Parking—20 cars and buses

Staff Parking—4 cars

Workshop-Museum loading and delivery