


Original Research Article

Assessment of architectural heritage conservation based on a space-time continuum

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Abstract

Architectural heritage is a spatial-temporal continuum that was formed in the interaction of man and space in time. The values related to the space and time dimensions of this continuum have led to the formation of the concept of conservation in interaction with the concept of development and change. The process of conservation and development should lead to the continuity of this space-time continuum and its values. Based on this realization, the present study seeks to express the mentality and actuality of the conservation and development of historical architecture in relation to its elements, i.e. Space and time. It also seeks to answer the question "has the process of conservation and development of historical architecture been able to maintain its space-time continuity in time?" For this purpose, a qualitative approach, a logical reasoning method and a library technique are used. According to the findings on the conservation and development chronology, architecture is considered a three-dimensional space to which linear time is attached. Based on this, two general views have been formed regarding the continuum of space and time. The first is the separation of time from space as the product of past time, and the other is the separation of past time from space as the product of the present and the future. In the second view, a space and time continuum is reproduced as many conservation and development processes. The result indicates that the dominance of the linear and objective view on time, the precedence of space over time and the non-entry of time into the essence of phenomena and the separation of time from space have caused the non-continuity of the spatial-temporal continuum in time.

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

Historical architecture is a continuum of three-dimensional space and time, whose distinction and continuity are defined as identity in time. Conservation theorists have had different prescriptive opinions in relation to space and especially time, which forms the spatial-temporal continuum of architecture. The continuum is from the accreditation to the early time by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, the living time by John Ruskin and being in time by Feilden and Jokilehto. Many have considered the change in time and value in the present and future as a necessity to revive the dimension of time in historical architecture. There have been many changes in the approaches, and there remain conflicts on the preservation of identity. Therefore, the present study is conducted with the aim of explaining the continuity or non-continuity of the space-time continuum of historical architecture in the process of conservation and development. It also explores the different opinions regarding the concepts that form the space-time continuum of architecture and the effect of this difference on maintaining the distinction involved in the historical spatial-temporal continuum.

2. Research Methodology

In this article, with the aim of knowing the mental and practical attitudes of historical architecture conservation towards the goals of the spatial-temporal continuum through a critical paradigm and a qualitative approach, first of all, the different views are mentioned on the definition of the two components that form the concept of architecture, namely space and time, and the definition of the spatial-temporal continuum of architecture. Then, by describing the evolution of the concept of conservation in mind and action and applying the method of logical reasoning, the chronology of its existing views regarding the two components of time and space and their continuity in architecture is analyzed.

3. Results and discussion

The analysis of the period from the 18th century to the first half of the 19th century, which is represented by the theories and practical activity of Viollet-le-Duc, shows that, in the conservation and development of historical architecture, the view of time is linear and objective, as believed by Aristotle, and objective space is the product of a historical period and space is protected and developed apart from time, as believed by Hegel. Since the second half of the 19th century and according to the ideas of John Ruskin, the the concept of "in time" is revived. In the opinion of other people, time is considered by adding the current value to historical architecture, but of course in an objective, linear and measurable way. Also, in practice, the three-dimensional space is kept separate from the concept of time; in order to develop, the space without time is linked with the linear and measurable present and future times.

4. Conclusion

The findings are indicative of the two general views of the conservation and development of historical architecture with regard to its structural components (time and space). One is "conservation without development" in which the mentality and actuality of conservation are the

same in relation to time and space, and time is the only factor attached to it during the production of the architectural space. In the second view, the concept of "conservation with development" is formed. From a subjective point of view, time and space are the same in both conservation and development, and space with time is maintained subjectively. In practice, however, the three-dimensional space is a product of conservation before being placed in the development process. In this regard, the space and time continuum is formed with a different and fragmented temporal dimension. Therefore, in both views, according to the linear and objective attitude towards time and considering space and time separately in the formation of architecture as a phenomenon, the historical architecture changes in the past, present and future, and objective and measurable times are allowed to take different forms and space becomes an economic commodity in today's economy-oriented era. By defining architecture as a space-time continuum, the other point of view considers time as its fourth dimension and inseparable from essence. It also considers time subjective, immeasurable and understandable. Through human beings and their experience, it is possible to interpret the "time" dimension of the space-time continuum of historical architecture; it occurs through the experimental interpretations of people related to space and their definition of conservation and development based on that.

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