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# INTEGRATED PROTECTION MODELS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IN DUBROVNIK'S HISTORIC AREA

## MODELI INTEGRALNE ZAŠTITE ARHEOLOŠKOG NASLIJEĐA U DUBROVAČKOJ POVIJESNOJ CJELINI

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION [SUMMARY]

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Date of public defense: 14 July 2021

The dissertation has 464 pages, 10 chapters, 21 illustrations, 193 images, 30 illustration tables, 21 catalog units, 545 footnotes, 170 bibliographic units.

Exemplified by archaeological sites in Dubrovnik, the dissertation examines integrated protection models, i.e. conceptual approaches demonstrating many specialized issues regarding preservation, presentation and revitalization of archaeological heritage within historical urban landscapes. The archaeological heritage of Dubrovnik was addressed as a valuable testimony from the past, relevant not only for scientific research, but having other related benefits as well; such as its contribution to the cultural and educational dimension of the society, its key role in shaping identity and raising awareness about the shared history of smaller and larger communities, and also a resource for development in terms of improving the city.

Doctoral research was grounded in the (unsustainable) current condition of archaeological sites, which remain isolated, separated from their surroundings, or left to decay, despite their implications and significance in reviving the urban history of Dubrovnik. The research problem was identified on two complementary levels, in relation to: 1) the deterioration of archaeological sites, altering the perception of heritage (an irreversible process in terms of historical materials losing their quality); and 2) a lack of planned measures, the isolation of archaeological sites from their urban surroundings (in practice, protection is usually introduced in a point pattern, encompassing the area of individually protected archaeological properties). The goal was to re-examine the theoretical basis for integrated protection, using empirical research of twelve archaeological sites within the historical ensemble of Dubrovnik, while verifying the identified principles against selected reference examples, abroad and on the eastern Adriatic coast.

The research into integrated protection models was built upon relevant examples from reference literature, historical models (until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) and contemporary models (from the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century). In terms of implementation, a model represents a comprehensive and methodological approach to a professional issue, one that can be grasped at the conceptual level, but cannot be directly copied. This is

mainly because archaeological heritage may take a different form each time, while a model is continuously determined by the principles in relation to structural characteristics (identity factors), its constant determinants relevant for design and verification. Based on the particularities of locations and the typological disposition of sites, four conceptual approaches to determining the integrated protection models were identified: archaeological park; archaeological heritage in public use; archaeological heritage in public space; and archaeological heritage within buildings/underground museum floors.

The integrated approach to protection, as a prerequisite for designing the models, comprises the analysis of the investigated archaeological sites' condition, their typological classification and characterization and valorization of heritage with regard to requirements for its protection and preservation. The added assessment of the potential for presentation contributes to professional valorization, seeing that it can highlight the constitutive relationship between archaeological sites and the city, while acknowledging the contribution of each identity factor/characteristic to the formation of a particular spatial/functional unit. The dissertation establishes a direct correlation between valorization and types of interventions on archaeological sites, by systemizing the wide range of values with regard to two main criteria supporting the fundamental requirements for the preservation and improvement of archaeological heritage (social perception, *visibility* and preservation of historical materials).

The comprehensive overview of the preservation and improvement of archaeological heritage, presented through the structure of integrated protection models, was based on an interdisciplinary and participatory planning approach. This took place on two complementary levels, namely: 1) the integrated protection models in relation to the archaeological heritage; and 2) models in relation to the planning approach and the theoretical principles of integrated protection.

At the primary level, the integrated protection models were determined in relation to

the dual classification of archaeological heritage values. The starting point were the consolidation models, examined in relation to characteristic (intrinsic) values and comprising a series of procedures to preserve and improve the readability of historical material, without altering the overall nature of materials and the many meanings they imply (conservation, restoration, reconstruction, *anastylosis* and reburial). This was followed by revitalization models using cultural and social content, with a focus on presenting and improving the investigated archaeological sites. Such procedures were designed to highlight the importance of locations and values derived from the social perception of a site (aesthetic, historical, social values). The established concepts of integrated protection were acknowledged, and the interventions on archaeological heritage were defined at the morphological level, according to the scope and complexity of each procedure.

At the secondary level, the integrated protection models represent a professional response to numerous challenges and a range of events that alter the approach to the preservation and management of archaeological heritage (integration models; participation models; activation models) in a fundamental manner. The achieved integrated approach to protection confirmed the conceptualization of archaeological sites and urban landscape, while considering stakeholder value and the complex social context allowing archaeological heritage to be considered public good.

The conducted research confirmed the identified hypotheses and demonstrated that an integrated approach to protection has the potential to improve the condition of the investigated archaeological sites. The challenges of protecting and managing archaeological heritage stem not only from the properties of particular sites, but also from the wider social and environmental context. Therefore, the presented integrated protection models, examined as a comprehensive approach to protection and management, with evenly represented cultural and social subjects, are a prerequisite for long-term sustainability of archaeological heritage.