

# REMARKS ON THE RESTORATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS IN ROMANIA

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**Keywords:** archaeology of architecture, restoration, training specialists, responsible authorities, legislative principles

**Abstract:** An overview of the situation of Romania's historical and archaeological heritage is not susceptible to satisfy any of our fellow countrymen. The built heritage is not protected, although a minority of specialists is constantly bringing to public attention the increasing, ever more diversified danger, in spite the existing legal levers.

**Cuvinte cheie:** arheologie a arhitecturii, restaurare, pregătirea specialităților, autorități responsabile, principii legislative

**Rezumat:** Bilanțul asupra situației în care se află patrimoniul istoric și arheologic al României nu este de natură să satisfacă pe cineva în țară. Patrimoniul construit nu este ocrotit, deși o minoritate de specialiști fac în permanență atentă societatea de primejdia ce este tot mai acută și îmbracă diferite forme, în pofida pârghiilor legislative existente. Absența unui învățământ de specialitate în arheologie, mai bine de cinci decenii, și neglijarea specializării arhitecților încă din facultate pentru arheologia arhitecturii își pune amprenta asupra modului în care se fac lucrările de conservare și punere în valoare a monumentelor, a celor de epocă romană discutate aici. Cei care au făcut studii aprofundate de arheologie a arhitecturii nu au fost utilizați și nu au putut crea școală. Lipsa de colaborare între arhitecți și arheologi și ignorarea principiilor europene de cercetare și restaurare, au creat exemple de refaceri și reconstrucții discutabile. La Adamclisi, nu s-au folosit datele privind tehnica de construcție și planimetrie în consolidarea-refacerea edificiilor de la sud de *via principalis*. La Bivolari și Jidava carențele în cercetarea arheologică a celor două fortificații romane și-au pus amprenta asupra calității proiectelor de reconstrucție, în cazul de la Jidava, nerespectat la punerea lui în operă. Proiectul de refacere a porții castrului de la Porolissum nu a făcut obiectul unei unui studiu publicat, astfel că nu se poate ști cât și ce se poate reproșa arheologului, proiectantului sau executantului. Cercetările arheologice din Piața Unirii de la Cluj-Napoca s-au soldat cu un proiect prin care o parte dintr-un *atrium* al edificiului descoperit s-a pus într-un «sarcofag» cu sticlă, absolut fără impact asupra celor ce intră în piața pavată și împânzită cu alte «tentații comerciale»... Autoritățile de la Alba Iulia au realizat importanța „economică” a patrimoniului construit, păstrat. Faptul nu s-a concretizat într-o politică de protejare a siturilor arheologice de importanță deosebită, ci în punerea în valoare a unui „Traseu al celor trei fortificații”. Scopul dezvoltării turismului a stat la baza restaurării porții castrului legiunii XIII Gemina, ca parte a traseului amintit. Din păcate, rezultatul nu este câtuși de puțin cel ce s-ar fi căzut să fie, căci cercetarea stratigrafică și de parament a porții și incintei care s-au folosit până la construirea cetății Vauban nu a adus acele date care să fi permis ca proiectul de reconstrucție să recupereze totalitatea elementelor definitorii pentru fazele fortificației, pe parcursul timpului. Proiectul de reconstrucție a plecat de la îndepărtarea «adăgirilor» neromane și se poate bucura doar de calificativul de bun comercial. Aspectul porții refăcute este agresat nu numai de modul defectuos de proiectare și punere în operă, dar și de „accesoriile” menite să facă turiștilor un acces mai plăcut: pavajul „aleii” din plăci lucioase, balustradele de lemn, toate nu fac decât să demonstreze lipsa de profesionalism a anonimului proiectant. Sper ca semnalarea deficiențelor (în cercetarea corectă și completă, în proiectarea fără colaborarea dintre cei de specialitate și mai cu seamă absența unei pregătiri de specialitate a unui număr suficient de arheologi și arhitecți) și să fie un punct de plecare pentru crearea unei politici pe termen mediu și lung care să ne pună ca țară în rândul „puterilor” științifice ale Europei, și prin contribuția coordonată să reușim să sporim interesul autorităților și ale publicului larg pentru întreg patrimoniul nostru construit, fie el antic sau mai recent. Să ne dorim ca în cele din urmă convențiile și recomandările UNESCO și ale Consiliului Europei privind patrimoniul imobil și cel arheologic, să contribuie la structurarea unui sistem coerent implicând colaborarea interdisciplinară între institutele de cercetare, unitățile de învățământ de toate gradele, dar mai cu seama a celui universitar, precum și cu mijloacele de informare pentru marele public.

As inhabitants of this land we need (or should be aware that we need) to know the evolution of our predecessors' environment. Preserving and acknowledging the archaeological heritage we shall be richer both from a material and spiritual point of view, especially if we valorise this heritage.

An overview of the situation of Romania's historical and archaeological heritage is not susceptible to satisfy any of our fellow countrymen.<sup>1</sup> The built heritage is not protected, although a minority of specialists is constantly bringing to public attention the increasing, ever more diversified danger, in spite the existing legal levers.

We reap, today, the fruits of the lack of a higher education system adapted to the international scientific evolution and to the development needs of our country, according to a mid- and long-term strategy.

Archaeology was (if not still is) regarded simply as *ancilla historiae*, notwithstanding its development into a full-fledged science, with specific objectives, methods and necessities, derived from the variety of sites and monuments ranging from prehistoric to medieval times at least.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Report of the Presidential Commission 2009.

Specializing in archaeology, as much as it existed, was achieved by working on archaeological sites and everyone got to 'steal' the profession according to the experiences they had. The students' society for archaeology, with direct participation of university professors, came to supplement the scarce theoretical training and the work on archaeological sites.

This preamble was meant to clarify why I allow myself to discuss problems regarding the conservation and the restoration of certain architecture monuments, researched and used for educational and touristic purposes.

At the students' society for ancient history, I was asked to present Dinu Theodorescu's article, "L'édifice romano-bizantin de Callatis".<sup>2</sup> Dinu Theodorescu's study, among the first to present the excavation of an ancient monument in all its complexity, with plans, profiles, and details of excavated contexts, gave me the opportunity to get acquainted with the needful parameters for the research and publication of an ancient architectural monument. It was not by chance thus, that getting to Adamclisi and being offered the opportunity to study the fortified enclosure and the buildings located in the south vicinity of the East Gate, I started to scrutinize all aspects of plan, building technique, changes occurred during the lifespan of the respective buildings.

The excavations within the enclosure, south of *via principalis*, uncovered a complex edifice with a first phase dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD and a few smaller edifices built against the enclosure wall sometime during the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. In addition to the stratigraphic observations, I recorded the evolution in plan and the functional changes occurred in time (Fig. 1).

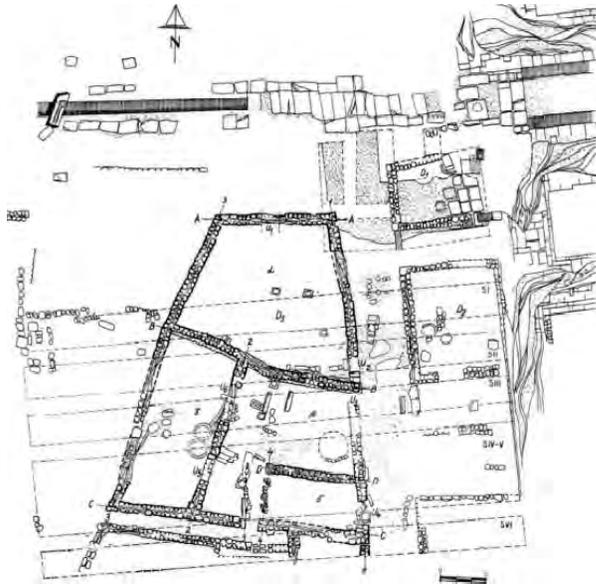


Fig. 1. Tropaeum Traiani, plan of the area south of *via principalis*: East Gate (after Tropaeum Traiani, I, 1979).

Under normal circumstances, all these recordings, of much wider scope and detail than those selected for publication in the volume *Tropaeum Traiani*,<sup>3</sup> should have been the base for a study meant to inform the reconstruction-consolidation project which has become a reality lately (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Tropaeum Traiani, area south of *via principalis*: East Gate during excavations.

The construction technique, at least at private edifices and starting as early as the 4<sup>th</sup> century, if not earlier, was a variety of *opus incertum* with roughly-hewn stone bonded with clay. Blocks varied in size were laid in courses and, where necessary, tiles, bricks or stone slabs were introduced for levelling. Particular to the investigated structures, with 0.65 - 0.75 m wide walls, was the use of an 'emplecton' made of rubble and clay between the two wall faces made of blocks.

<sup>2</sup> Theodorescu 1963.

<sup>3</sup> Tropaeum Traiani 1979.

When funds were made available for the necessary consolidation work, the project was drawn without the consultation of the archaeologist, although I would have presented all the objective data. Unfortunately, not even data published in the above-mentioned volume was considered. No wonder that the project resulted in ‘closing’ wall openings between rooms, although the masonry of larger blocks indicated those entrances and the threshold height had been recorded. I even found that the walls were not rebuilt following the specific courses. They became a ‘random game’ of blocks (Fig. 3). No attention was paid to the fact that the buildings set against the enclosure wall had, at a certain moment, some kind of porticoes in front of them. All the elements meant to show the increasing density in the final inhabiting phases of the city, as a result of poor defence of the Empire’s frontiers, were ignored.



Fig. 3. Tropaeum Traiani, the ‘consolidation’ of the walls.

For the restoration project of the East Gate I provided, at architect A. Sion’s request, photographs, plans and cross-sections, as well as the published study.<sup>4</sup> I have never learned how did the project go through, given that the gate had been partially reconstructed in the 1970’s, with the archaeological excavations not completed and with no reference to previously available research data (Fig. 4).

It is the place to mention the shortcomings of our system of higher education

in architecture, where no specialised training is provided for an adequate development of ‘archaeology of architecture’.<sup>5</sup> Dinu Theodorescu who, to my knowledge, dealt with the archaeology of architecture, was forced to leave and pursue his research elsewhere, in France and Italy. Our specialists have trained but by their own efforts and had to struggle to convince archaeologists of the need for architectural research at Greek and Roman sites. Hardly did the resident architect of the



Fig. 4. Tropaeum Traiani, East Gate: Tower T1 reconstructed during the 1970’s.

Institute of Archaeology get recognized as a proper researcher, and was in a position to do more than just the architecture recordings of the excavations. The situation of the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology is a fortunate one, as none of the other institutes in the country felt the need to train architects specialised

<sup>4</sup> Bogdan-Cătănicu 1992.

<sup>5</sup> Term from the Italian literature of the field.

in Dacian or Roman architecture, whose research could underpin the study of the excavated monuments and inform their conservation and preservation, or reconstruction.

Dinu Antonescu, returning to the country after specialization in Italy, did not enjoy an institutional support to allow him to conclude his research, and he ended up working for his studies on Dacian architecture in his own spare time. These studies have been largely ignored ever since, prevented from becoming a starting point for further archaeological and architectural research. It is no wonder, then, that the 'protection' and conservation of the monuments of Grădiştea Muncelului - *Sarmizegetusa Regia* - have been commissioned to the County Design Institute of Deva. Consequently, original construction pieces (piled away on the premises) have been replaced by concrete replicas. It is no wonder, too, that there are no plans, no exact and complete surveys, and no proper investigations and recordings regarding the walling and the changes taken place in those areas where the sources mention dismantling and rebuilding operations. Yet 'theories' are made regarding *castra* with walls 3 m wide,<sup>6</sup> ignoring the extended phase of the Dacian fortress, probably built after the *foedus* with Domitian. As this is a UNESCO site, extensive publication of the research and the drawing of a preservation and enhancement plan are imperatives. Hopefully in the future no projects will be drawn without complete archaeological documentation and without the professionalism required by such monuments, unique in Europe.

Roman fortifications raised an early interest<sup>7</sup> in our area too, and for a long time they have been the only subjects of investigations into the Roman world, continuing to have a dominant character to this day. I shall not dwell upon the faults of their research here. It is a relevant fact, though, that their incomplete publication, with erroneous understandings of discovered contexts, has serious repercussions on the way conservation projects are drawn and, where the case may be, on the way reconstructions are carried out.

At Bivolari, the curtain wall and the gate were partly reconstructed. The architect and the builder were keen to do a good job but, unfortunately, they were not aware that the excavations revealed the existence of a *fossa*,<sup>8</sup> visible on the profile of the trench dug across the fortification elements and not understood by those responsible for the excavation of the respective profile. As a result, the height of the wall came to be decided at the architect's choice and not by the application of the ancient principle according to which a pike thrown from the top of the wall must reach the bottom of the ditch (Fig. 5a –b).

Another example of how not to do reconstruction is that of Jidava, Câmpulung, where in lack of an appropriate publication of the research,<sup>9</sup> the two architects made their own observations and drew the project. We consider the reconstruction premature precisely because, lacking a detailed publication, with site notes,

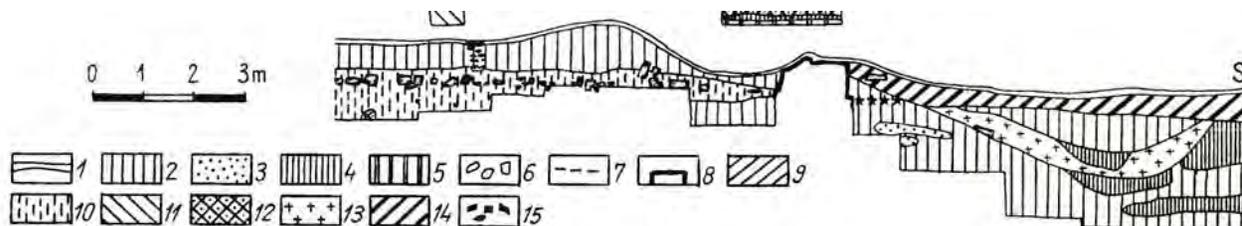


Fig. 5. a The *Castellum* of Bivolari (Arutela ?): the profile which makes the *fossa* visible.

<sup>6</sup> Diaconescu 1997, p. 18-19; Ştefan 2005, pp. 323-343, fig. 177.

<sup>7</sup> The results of Gr. Tocilescu's excavations on the valley of River Olt and in Wallachia are still manuscripts preserved at the Romanian Academy; some plans and drawings were lost or given away upon his death.

<sup>8</sup> Bogdan-Cătăniciu 1981, p. 29 and fig. 49.

<sup>9</sup> The long expected publication of a final study was partially fulfilled with the publication in the issue for 1995 of the magazine *Argesis* of a more complete report and of several profiles of the trenches made outside the walls. The information published there indicates an abandon of the initial phase, over the berm and partially the filled *fossa* of which the wall was built, or at least the (Fig. 1-section O) tower wall, which collapsed as a result of the settling of the ditch filling. The way the profile is drawn, we are tempted to believe that this part of the wall is not built simultaneously with the curtain wall, which stands vertical. This would suggest the addition of intermediate towers to the curtain, in a new phase.



Fig. 5. b The *Castellum* of Bivolari, reconstruction.

profiles, cross-sections etc, there is no way to appreciate how much and which parts of the original monument were altered by the reconstruction on top of the ancient monument. The project was presented in 1994 by the two authors, architects Alexandru and Maria Muțescu, who collaborated with engineers Eugenia Dumitrache and Ana-Maria Marinescu (Fig. 6 a 1-2).<sup>10</sup>

The project had received its final form in 1986, after a discussion with archaeologists who gave estimates of height for the wall, the towers, the platforms, for the dimensions of battlements etc. It was decided not to use moulded elements for the cornices,

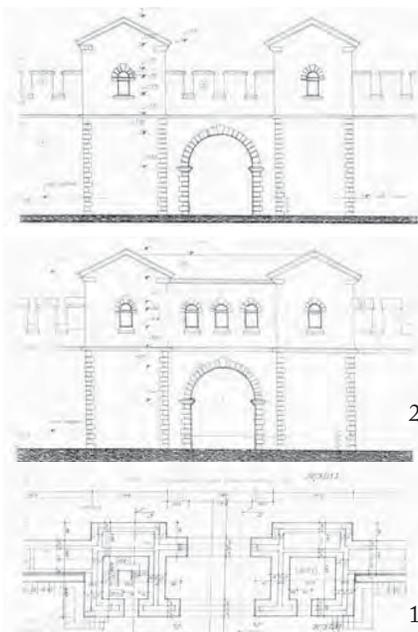


Fig. 6. a The *Castrum* of Jidava, *porta praetoria*: 1. plan, 2. reconstruction variants (after Alexandru and Maria Muțescu).

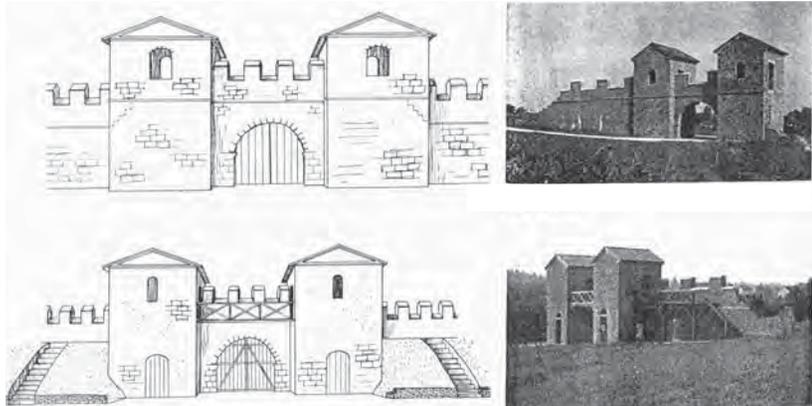


Fig. 6. b The *Castrum* of Jidava: the gate, reconstruction drawings (after C.C. Petolescu and T. Cioflan) and present state.

“although moulded pieces were discovered, which are stored in the museum.” Upon reconstruction, other “changes” were performed “without consulting the authors of the project.”<sup>11</sup> Having but a few elements of the plan, we can only regret now that the near-complete excavation of a camp came with no exact measurements in order to infer which was the unit of measurement, which was the module at least for the final construction phase. The solutions employed for the elevations are only approximate and less supported from the scientific point of view, although the architects tried hard to do a correct job. We have to note that the purpose of the reconstruction was especially to support tourism, as a ‘curiosity’ (Fig. 6 b).

<sup>10</sup> Muțescu, Muțescu 1994, pp. 106-111, figs. 106-109.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 109.

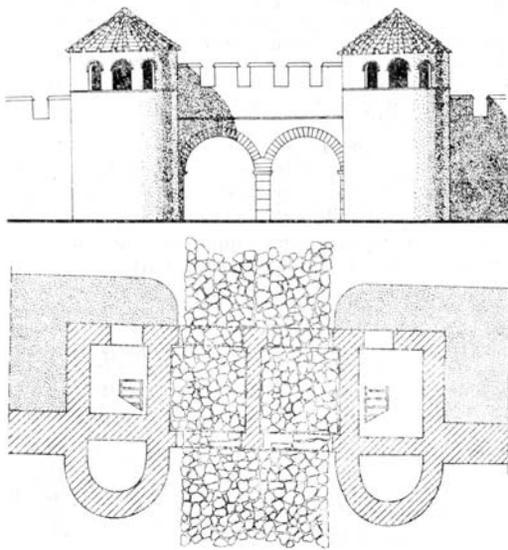


Fig. 7. Porolissum, *Porta praetoria* (after N. Gudea).

architecture particularly was sporadic. Neither was the archaeologist able to offer high quality expertise. Therefore an error on the use of *tegulae* went unnoticed: they were laid and connected in a manner which would have let water leak inside the building. Coming back to the reconstructed gate, we have to underline that it had been investigated successively by several archaeologists, but only two published their results, Endre Tóth<sup>12</sup> and Nicolae Gudea.<sup>13</sup> Especially when there are divergences of opinion such as those of the various archaeologists who excavated the *castrum* of Pomăt, there should have been a thorough discussion on the most accurate understanding of the objective data, to precede and underlie a reconstruction project. We have no written account regarding the way in which the layout for the reconstruction of the gate, as we see it now, has been adopted. There is one version for the graphical reconstruction of the *Praetoria Gate*<sup>14</sup> (Fig. 7), which does not resemble the one actually built. The gate had been built on the slope of a high plateau and had to adapt to the ground which had not been levelled in the space within the interior court, where the road pavement is preserved. Surprisingly, the reconstructed gateway allows for horseback access, while in the camp one can enter on foot solely, since the vault is horizontal, not minding the slope of the road. We may notice too that the tower walls are not vertical, but sloping from base to roof, which gives them a medieval appearance (Fig. 8). We may only presume that the reconstruction was carried out with no specialized supervision, and with no knowledge, be it superficial, of the examples of Roman gates preserved altogether. The reconstruction will make it impossible to resume archaeological investigations in the future.

Much more recently, the open area of Unirii Square of Cluj-Napoca was the place of investigations into Roman Napoca. The excavations were not published, not even in the annual archaeological chronicles. An edifice of fairly large dimensions has been uncovered, in an exceptionally good state of preservation, considering



Fig. 8. Porolissum: *Porta praetoria*, reconstruction

<sup>12</sup> Tóth 1978.

<sup>13</sup> Gudea 1988; Gudea 1997.

<sup>14</sup> Gudea 1986, pp. 44-45, fig. VII.



Fig. 9. Napoca, Roman building with *atrium*.



Fig. 10. Napoca, Roman building. Brick wall collapsed on the stone pavement.

the interventions occurred during the centuries (Fig. 9). The excavation recovered even the image of a brick wall in elevation,<sup>15</sup> which had collapsed on the stone pavement (Fig. 10).

Initially, the walls were heightened in stone masonry up to the present street level, with no project at all, despite the proof that the elevations were built of brick, on a stone base. Further excavations uncovered an *atrium* with column bases and shafts *in situ*. All of these were the observations which could be made by any passerby in the area of the excavations. Who decided that everything should be backfilled and a sort of showcase be designed to exhibit something of the pavement of that court, and how was this

decision made? It is all a sample of how one should not act with the remains of a Roman town (Fig. 11 a). The passers-by are not merely tempted to see what is below the glass of the ‘sarcophagus’, as they are presented with a line of benches which put them with the back against that which is, from the designers’ point of view, ‘emphasised’ (Fig. 11 b).

For the information of those who commissioned, designed, approved and built this useless sample of conservation of the Roman town of Napoca, there is at least one good reference, entitled “Archaeology and the Urban Project, a European Code of Good Practices”,<sup>16</sup> adopted by the Cultural Heritage Committee of the Council of Europe. It is not possible for one to pretend to decide upon the fate of monuments of outstanding value and remain at the information level they had at graduation from university. The project for the refurbishment of Unirii Square and for the ‘enhancement’ of the ruins of a house with *atrium* of Roman Napoca disqualifies all those involved, from commissioner to building contractor. As we live in the age of the Internet, they could have found with no effort at all plenty of examples of enhanced sites, located in the vicinity of or straight under worship places of great value, such as those of Geneva or the World Heritage town of Leon, in Spain.

<sup>15</sup> The fragment was not extracted and preserved as required; instead it was sectioned to allow further excavation below it. The stone pavement on which the fragment had fallen was removed later on, too, in the false idea that the research was supposed to go down to the virgin soil throughout. One can easily find here the ignorance of supreme principles – avoiding the loss of ancient elements preserved along the centuries. See the Valetta Convention, 1992.

<sup>16</sup> Archaeology and the Urban Project 2000. I offered the Romanian translation of this text at one of the meetings of the City Council of Cluj-Napoca, on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005.



Fig. 11. a Cluj-Napoca, the project poster.



Fig. 11. b Cluj-Napoca, the 'archaeological site' in Unirii Square.

Let us remind the reader that the archaeological 'research' conducted in the space between Unirii Square and the National Theatre, on the occasion of the refurbishment of the boulevard, has been carried out in haste and no one aimed to locate the eastern limit of the Roman town, or that the pavement of wood beams of medieval Cluj was neglected (to the point of not even being photographed). I cannot help noticing the lack of interest of those who, holding positions with responsibility on the local level, have not felt responsible for the application of European conventions<sup>17</sup> ratified by the Romanian state, which, according to the Constitution, prevail over national laws, more twisted and more 'permissive'.

"Polus", a large shopping mall was built in *teritorium Napocae*. The archaeological research started only in 2006, after a good part of the area to be built had been excavated by the building contractor.<sup>18</sup> The research was directed to the issuing of the archaeological discharge certificate in view of building the complex. The excavations revealed remains dating back to the Neolithic and down to the pre-feudal times, dispersed all over the area of the commercial complex. These excavations did not enjoy a thorough, complete publication either, but a few things were preserved under glass on the corridors of the mall, or outside in the green areas (rings of stone blocks belonging to a prehistoric necropolis, which have been recently moved 'a bit' to make room for a new annex building).

These examples prove a disregard to the need to preserve without alteration the ancient vestiges, not as a formality devoid of content which is accomplished to provide the appearance that 'we fit into the European world' and that we would respond to the exigencies of European and international legislation, but as a base for our identity, means of education and entertainment for us and for generations to come. This situation points to a lack of participation and a low civic awareness of the inhabitants of the 'model' university centre of Transylvania. It is really sad that the faculty of history and the institutes of archaeology and history, the faculty of architecture, could not generate that creative atmosphere that would bring an extra value to the city by showing the aspects of life in Roman Antiquity.

At *Apulum* the wealth of heritage is very special. After the death of Béla Cserny, for a long time, the research in Alba Iulia was limited to gathering archaeological material and enriching the museums' collections. There is no complete large scale plan to record all excavations and fragments of monuments which were discovered. It is no wonder then, that no one thought it necessary to prevent the contemporary city from growing in the areas where the existence of modern fortifications prevented it until 1919. Building over ancient

<sup>17</sup> *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (revised) (Valletta, 1992), Law no. 150 / 1997, M. Of. 175, 7/29/1997; *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe* (Granada, 1985), Law no. 157 / 1997, M. Of. 274, 10/13/1997; *European Landscape Convention* (Florence, 2000), Law no. 451 / 2002, M.Of. 536, 7/23/2002; *European Cultural Convention* (Paris, 1954), Law no. 77 / 1991, M. Of. 258, 20/12/ 1991.

<sup>18</sup> M. Tripon, *Adevărul de Cluj*, 29 Sept 2006, p. 16; *Idem*, *Adevărul de Cluj*, 30 Sept. 2006/1, p. 16.



Fig. 12. Alba Iulia: buildings sprawling on the Romans' Plateau and in the *glacis* of the Vauban fortress (aerial photo by I. Bogdan Cataniciu, June 2009).



Fig. 13. The *castrum* of Apulum. The wall surface of the tower (as of 2001).

sites, partially researched or not researched at all, continues with renewed intensity after 1990, both on the plateau of the fortress and in Partoș, where the ruins of *canabae* and of *Colonia Aurelia Apulensis* are (Fig. 12).

As part of the enhancement of the “Three Fortifications”, the gates of the Vauban fortress<sup>19</sup> and the South Gate of the Roman camp were restored; the latter was in use in medieval times too, until the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The excavations made by the Unification Museum in Alba Iulia were but superficially published,<sup>20</sup> without stratigraphic observations, there where the most thorough and detailed recordings should have been made, since at least in small surfaces the undisturbed stratigraphic configuration must have been preserved. The gate and the wall of the *castrum*, heightened and reused through the Middle Ages, have been reconstructed as part of the programme of tourist development of the town of Alba Iulia. It is a worthy act, this enhancement of a small segment from the monuments of outstanding value preserved in the ground of Alba Iulia (unfortunately affected, starting with 1990, by a hectic rhythm of real estate development irrespective of restrictions set by Romanian or European law).

Theoretically, we should be facing here an example to follow. But the reconstruction was probably done in haste, given the tourist interest. We do not know who is the author of the reconstruction project, neither who approved it, finally. We do have, though, several observations to make regarding, for instance, the absence of a study of the wall surfaces at the towers and the curtain, a study which should have been done, given the countless transformations that might date back to the Late Roman, post-Roman and medieval times. On a personal photograph taken in November 2001 (Fig. 13) one can deduce interventions to the wall, replacements of large blocks with smaller ones and later the introduction of some embossed blocks. A qualified study of the surfaces would have allowed for conclusions regarding the moments of reconstruction, of heightening and so forth (Fig. 14) of the wall and the gate, using stone of different appearance and possibly

<sup>19</sup> The 2005 strategy of Alba Iulia City Council included the restoration of the gates of the Vauban fortress through the Millennium Project, in partnership with Luxembourg. “The Three Fortresses Trail” was opened on 6 June 2006, accomplished in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme - UNDP and Romania’s Ministry for Culture and Religious Affairs. The project was commissioned to “Grup Corint” SA, the same company which was commissioned the restoration of Gate I and Gate III of the Vauban Fortress (Dorin Timonea, *România Liberă, Ediția Transilvania-Banat*, Tuesday, 6 June 2006).

<sup>20</sup> Moga 1998. The volume is not meant as much to treat the archaeological image of the *castrum* of Apulum. The accent falls, this time too, on epigraphic discoveries and other archaeological items. We are provided with a summary sketch plan of the gate (fig. 7) and three profiles (figs. 5, 6, 8) which, in lack of any precise location indicated on a plan, and completed with incorrect explanations (ex. fig. 8: “*castrum*, excavations 1987, northern side”) cannot be considered the publication of the remarkable results of the excavations.



Fig. 14 The *castrum* of Apulum: the gate towers and the gateway.



Fig. 15. The *castrum* of Apulum: the ancient walls without all the medieval interventions.

of different provenance. We find instead that the walls of the gate towers were heightened above the original part (Fig. 15) with embossed blocks, an inappropriate appearance, since the preserved original walling proves that the *castrum* was built in *opus quadratum*, with plain ashlar.

The access defended by the two rectangular towers typical for the early 2<sup>nd</sup> Cent. AD, was originally made through two vaulted corridors. Unfortunately we have no information of the existence among the discovered blocks, of any of the keystones or voussoirs. Such gates are common at *castra* or towns. I find it convenient to mention the image of the double, vaulted access of Porta Nigra, at Trier in order to support the observation that at the South Gate of the *castrum legionis XIII* only the end-arches, those placed at the face of the wall, were reconstructed (Fig. 16). It is also rather unlikely that the height of the reconstructed



Fig. 16. The *castrum* of Apulum, the tower and the arches of the gate.

vaults - transformed into arches - should have been so large. Of course, there is no information on any element *in situ* to indicate the springing line of the vault, but we may suppose that above the gate there was either a simple platform to connect the towers or a room provided with openings, windows. It is regrettable that the functioning level of later, post-Roman periods was not considered, as it might have contributed to the identification of the heightening and the closing of the gate, as well as of those successive interventions on the curtain wall after the abandon of the gate. Obviously, a thorough investigation of the exterior wall surfaces, much better preserved, might have revealed elements regarding the closing of the windows which were

preserved at the towers. By careful inquire of the photographs taken during the research, one may, however, be able to obtain some hints, with the help of photogrammetry.

We can only deplore that the research on the evolution of the camp gate from the earth phase to the late medieval fortress was but superficial. Our experience at Adamclisi, where research conducted at the East Gate was not just stratigraphic, but also into the structure and construction technique, allowed us to reveal the transformations and understand their role in defending the town along about six centuries. At the *castrum* of Legio XIII Gemina, the 'enhancement' works and the reconstruction of the gate caused the burial of certain information which will remain irrecoverable by any supposed new research scheme, directed to a complete investigation



Fig. 17. The *castrum* of Apulum, general view of the reconstructed gate.

into the archaeology of the monument.

The appearance of the reconstructed gate is affected not only by the deficient design, but by the ‘accessories’ too, meant to offer tourists a more pleasant access: the new shiny-slabs pavement of the ‘alley’, the wooden railings, all do nothing else but prove the lack of professionalism of the anonymous author (Fig. 17).

I wish that those whose contributions were

analysed here did not regard these discussions as personal attacks. I hope that revealing the deficiencies (in the correct and complete research, the design without any collaboration of the specialists and, most of all, the absence of specialised education for a sufficient number of archaeologists and architects) would serve as a starting point for drawing a policy for the medium and long term which would place us, as a country, among the scientific ‘powers’ of Europe, and by the coordinated contribution to succeed in raising the awareness of the authorities and the general public for our whole built heritage, be it ancient or more recent.

It is therefore, propitious the desire of those who wish to use ancient monuments to touristic-cultural ends. It is one of the requirements of international law. Unfortunately, in the decades-long lack of any preoccupation for training quality specialists both in the archaeology of architecture and urban archaeology, as well as the reconstruction - graphical or *in situ* - of monuments, we do not have one single notable example of enhancement of an ancient site.

As I said from the beginning, the system that we developed during the past decades paid no attention to the international evolutions in matters of cultural heritage, or built heritage, in our case. There is a lack of debate on the principles and the actual cases between all those involved in the research, enhancement, administration and management of cultural heritage. The general public was not offered any accessible presentation of the wealth and specificities of archaeological heritage and of the built heritage. In the school curricula it is not considered necessary to introduce training in the understanding and respect of cultural heritage.

By our belonging to the UNESCO structures, all the conventions and recommendations should have been brought to the attention of the competent national authorities within one year, according to article IV.4. of the Constitutive Act. Likewise, the member states should promote the conventions and recommendations to the organisms, target groups, and any other parties interested in the respective problems. It appears that these recommendations have been forgotten in some drawers without having any effect in the structure of a coherent system involving the research institutes, the educational institutions at all levels, but especially at the higher level, and the media for the information of the general public. All these levels of the society should have determined the application the principles of knowledge and protection of cultural heritage as an asset of all and especially, of the future generations.

Over forty years after the Venice Charter and the 2nd International Congress of Restoration held in Venice, in May 1964, we still can and should revisit important contributions to the theory or restoration, gathered in the records of the event, under the title “The Monument for the Man”. Such is the contribution of Giacomo Caputo, *Metodo di scavo e sistemi di restauro*,<sup>21</sup> of great importance for the examples it brings

<sup>21</sup> Caputo 1964.

regarding the research of the monuments of Ptolemaida of Cyrenaica, Leptis Magna and a temple with two phases at Fiesole. He concludes that for a correct restoration one needs an impeccable stratigraphic excavation, recovering architectural *membra* and simultaneously an accurate observation of the preserved monument, in view of extracting all the elements for the *anastylosis*. His experience does also refer to the monuments succeeding in the same place and to the need to preserve them for study and, finally, for tourist access, using all scientific means at hand.

Luigi Crema,<sup>22</sup> the eminent specialist in Roman architecture, agreed that any restoration is to some degree harmful to the monument. I believe I must quote him because he shows exactly what any restoration should become: “[...] il restauro sia definito arte – come è arte l’architettura – appoggiata alla tecnica e vivificata e guidata inoltre dalla conoscenza storica”. The basic principle of any project should be to preserve the maximum possible of what comes from the past, including the string of additions and alterations. We must pay attention that the integration of pieces, as well as reconstructions should harmonize with the ancient work, while revealing very clearly that they are new interventions. Therefore, the wheel being invented such a long time ago, it doesn’t seem unlikely that we used it creatively...

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