Monumentenwacht Noord-Brabant (Netherlands)

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The Monumentenwacht concept

Historic background - after WWII:
Large scale restorations → premature failures
- Government

⇒ 1973: founding of MW – Provincial level
⇒ 1970s-1980s:
⇒ interventions → preservation
Mission statement

Founding document, article 2 (1973):
*The foundation aims to avoid decay of historic buildings by carrying out preventive measures*
A new concept: preservation at lower costs

- Neglected minor damage → severe damage
- Importance of monitoring
  - *Timely* signaling damage
- Minor repair work done by inspectors
- Iconic monuments → dwellings → new position owner
Timely tackle minor damage

Requirements:

• Periodic monitoring
• Access
• Knowledge
• Practical experience
Inspectors – monumentenwachters

- Experienced craftsmen
- 5 year internal training:
  - courses, practice, rope climbing, first-aid repairs…

No scaffolding!
Main product: Condition Report

Illustrations

Per Element

Quality (colour code)

Description

Advice

NEN 2767
State of conservation of national monuments 2008 – 2013

Source: www.erfgoedmonitor.nl
Grants

National monuments
BRIM (2013) Option for maintenance subsidy
- non housing
  ‘Complex’ application form
  Grant budget limited

No maintenance subsidies
- housing & private owner
  Low interest loan
  Deduction from personal income taxes (up to 80% and threshold)

Municipal monuments
No subsidy
Importance of MW N. Brabant
Failure Mode & Effect Analysis

MW Noord-Brabant special:
- Monitoring only

- Interviews
  - Owner
  - Insurance company
  - Contractor
  - Architect…
40 years MW Noord-Brabant
A successful concept?

• Independent
• ‘Niche’ → no competition
• Integration owner
• Enhancing level conservation
• Evaluating quality of interventions
• Reducing costs
• Creating work for contractors
A successful concept exported:
Conservation quality

ERM “Restoration ladder”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Conservation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Reconstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a. Copy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3b. Imitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3c. Improvement</td>
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<td>4. Consensus / documentation choice</td>
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ERM - Dutch foundation - recognized restoration standard preservation / restoration historic buildings / sites.
Conservation quality
Monumentenwacht Noord Brabant

- Technical condition fabric
- Quality of interventions
- Evaluation: *Inspection manual*
- *Value* kept / enhanced through maintenance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uitstekend</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goed</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redelijk</td>
<td>Reasonably</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matig</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slecht</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zeer slecht</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
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<td>n.v.t.</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
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Enhancement of capacity / skill

Craftsmen trained

People / Community involvement

- Support inspectors > attachment owner
- Contribution to image of a city
- Impact level of conservation on environment
Impact on the market

- Large restorations → maintenance
- Small interventions – many buildings
- Better quality work contractors
- Training (foreign) inspectors
Impact on decision making

Dutch Heritage Care Agency & Provinces
  • statistic data

Policy making - new law Heritage (1 July 2016)
  • owners’ obligations/grants
Monumentenwacht – Province Noord Brabant

Contribution to Change:
Independent - core business
Recognized as institution
Bottom up