Preventive Conservation in Monza Royal Villa: strategies and tools for a long term planning

Fig. 1

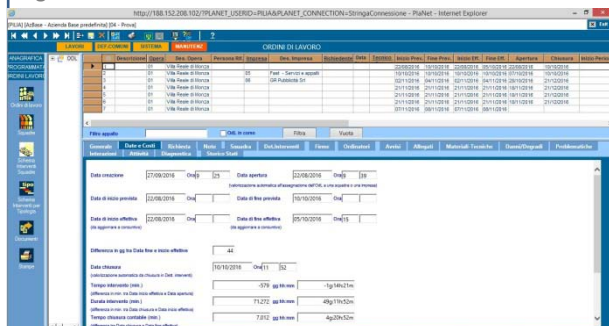Fig. 2

Fig. 1. Inspections carried out according to the Conservation Plan

Fig. 2. A screenshot of the Conservation Plan

S. DELLA TORRE (ed.), *La conservazione programmata del patrimonio storico- architettonico*, Guerini, 2003

The Royal Villa in Monza is an Austrian Imperial residence built in 1780-83, designed by the architect Giuseppe Piermarini, and it is surrounded by a huge park which includes several historic buildings. In following decades the Villa was completed end enriched under the rule of Napoleon I and of the Savoia dynasty.

The Villa is a relevant example of Neoclassicism style and its interiors are characterized by decorations carried out from the end of XVIII to the end of XIX century. It has been abandoned for many decades and in 2014 thanks to the last restoration the Villa has been opened permanently.

It is an interesting case study under different points of view: complexity of the conservation issues; preventive and planned conservation approach adopted for the management activities; dedicated information systems for facility and property management; private-public partnership and integration of conservation and valorisation.

The contribution focuses on the drawing up of the Conservation Plan as a tool for a long term conservation, including risk assessment, based on the analysis of the interaction of the building, the interiors and the various hazards. The topic of relationships between historic furniture, decorations, collections, and the building has a central role in the understanding of deterioration mechanisms, and in the evaluation of risk assessment and in the management of conservation activities. The aim is to demonstrate that it is useful for the management of the relational nexus among environment, conservation conditions of the building and interior decorations and collections.

The tool adopted is a relational database, expressly studied for the implementation to complex historic buildings of a correct conservation methodology. The database has been populated first with a lot of data coming from the as built reports of the conservation works ended in 2014, then with the report of the general inspections carried out in summer 2016.

At least in Italian context, this implementation of planned inspections, small repairs, risk factors considered in facility managament, is quite innovative.

This action research has been implemented in the frame of two projects: Monza and Brianza Cultural District and JPI Heritage Plus project CHANGES (Cultural heritage Activities: New Goals and benefits for Economy and Society). Thus it has been possible for the authors to participate in the whole process: since the restoration works to the first monitoring/control activities.

The expected results of this ongoing case are: optimization of data collection, effectiveness of prevention and evaluation of costs in a long term perspective, integration between conservation and public fruition.