

ITALY

Crespi d'Adda

Brief description

Crespi d'Adda in Capriate San Gervasio in Lombardy is an outstanding example of the 19th- and early 20th-century 'company towns' built in Europe and North America by enlightened industrialists to meet the workers' needs. The site is still remarkably intact and is partly used for industrial purposes, although changing economic and social conditions now threaten its survival.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription

1995

Agency responsible for site management

- Municipality of Capriate San Gervasio
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria

C (iv), (v)

Justification provided by the State Party

We believe the company-town of Crespi d'Adda could enter the World Heritage List for the following reasons: a) It is a rare example of company-town both because of the privileged position it has and because its urban and architectural structure is unaltered. b) It witnesses a crucial period of the evolution of our society: the industrial revolution. Company-towns weren't only peculiar because of their urban structure but also, and mainly, because they reflected an idea of precise society and precise economic growth. There was a determined hierarchy, precise roles and planned economic relationships. They are therefore the result of the

liberal theories of English economists of the 19th century and of what has been called "paternalist capitalism".

The peculiarity of Crespi is, together with its uniqueness, its perfect state of preservation. Together with the company-town of Noisiel-sur-Marne (France) it is the only company-town which has an unaltered urban structure. All the other Italian company-towns (Leumann in Turin and Rossi in Schio) and European company-towns (New Lanark in Great Britain and company-town Krupp in Germany) have undergone great changes because they were located near big cities which, while expanding changed their structure, and because the owners of the towns modified them in order to adapt them to the different, needs of our century. Crespi is located in an excellent position which has prevented the construction of new buildings and (thanks to its previous owner and to the Municipality) architectural changes.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Qualities: Crespi d'Adda is an exceptionally well preserved example of a European "Company town" of the late 19th/early 20th century. It is outstanding for its completeness, for the minimal level of change that it has undergone over the past 120 years, and, in particular, for the high quality of its layout and its architecture.

Recommendation: That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iv) and (v).

Crespi d'Adda is an outstanding example of the 19th and early 20th century phenomenon of the "Company town" in Europe and North America, which was an expression of the prevailing philosophy of enlightened industrialists towards their employees. It survives remarkably intact, and part is still in industrial use, though changing economic and social conditions inevitably pose a threat to its continued survival.

Committee Decision

Bureau (July 1995): The Bureau decided to defer the examination of this nomination to await the soonest possible outcome of a comparative study of "company towns" in Europe and North America, prepared by TICCIH on behalf of ICOMOS.

Session (1995): The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iv) and (v), considering that it is an exceptional example of a working village of Europe and North America, dating back to the 19th and

20th centuries, and reflecting the predominant philosophy of enlightened industrialists with respect to their employees. Although the evolution of economic and social conditions constituted an inevitable threat to the survival of Crespi d'Adda, its integrity is remarkable and it has partly conserved its industrial activity. It also congratulated the Italian authorities for the coherence of its conservation programme which had preserved the architectural and social qualities of this property.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Change proposed by State Party for the UNESCO's official description

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- No buffer zone has been defined; on the area the Natural Park Adda North falls back. To that the normative forecasts of the Town Planning of protection join acclimatize them regional and national they constitute adapted protection

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- There has been no programme of conservation specifically based on the cultural and historical significance of Crespi d'Adda. A consistent approach covering the entire complex of industrial, public, and private buildings was maintained so long as it was in the ownership of a single entity (the "company"). Since that time, the private buildings, being in individual ownership, have been well maintained, but there has been some deterioration in the state of the public buildings. These are now the subject of restoration projects, in particular the school, where there is a plan in active preparation for its re-use as a centre incorporating a museum, library, and meeting centre. So far as the industrial buildings are concerned, only part of the extensive complex is currently in use. As a result some areas are progressively deteriorating. Part of the regeneration project involves their rehabilitation and use for interpreting the town's industrial past. More serious is the condition of the small hydroelectric power station, which is an excellent example of early 20th century Art Nouveau architecture. Its technical equipment is still in situ and plans are being prepared for its rehabilitation as an industrial heritage museum.

A remarkable degree of authenticity has been

preserved at Crespi d'Adda. All the original elements – public, private, and industrial – survive intact: none has been demolished or substantially modified. There are some more recent constructions ancillaries to the dwelling houses which are out of keeping with the overall appearance of the town; these will be removed when the Municipal Plan comes into full effect

- The Village of Crespi d'Adda draws the own origin from the handicraft and industrial truth of the region. In spite of the closing of the factory, the site remains which meaningful example of archaeology manufacturer. Currently the Village maintains tourist vocation residential and tourist
- Every intervention on the Village must consider the present social truth on the territory: various from how much the Village is believed still are inhabited. Essential for this the "shared planning" with the citizens. It is emphasized that the requirements represented from the citizens are sometimes new and various from those to which forehead has been made the age of the construction of the Village

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- The Detailed Plan approved by the Municipal Council with act no 9, 5/04/2004. This Plan regulates decisions about methods of intervention on the environment and architectural heritage, on the basis of historical studies and analysis
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions taken/proposed:

- Active safeguarding of site. It is necessary a better knowledge of the traditional activities of the site. For this purpose there are in progress some studies concerning the cataloguing of constructive typologies, of the maintenance environmental techniques and production techniques

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Urban centre; religious use; rural landscape; Adda Nord Regional Park

Management /Administrative Body

- Management under protective legislation; Natural Park of Adda Nord

- In the Plan of provincial coordination, actions for the enhancement of the territory are previewed also for the site
- Site manager with responsibilities added to an existing job; Coordinator needed
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local; Adda Regional Park, Parish, Associations, private citizens
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Integrated promotion of the Site; to support the integrated enhancement, in infra-sectorial and inter-sectorial terms, of the resource "culture" as the base of the local development plans that use the environmental and cultural resources. La complexity of the interventions needs the participation of all the subjects and the involvement of all the stakeholders, from the peripheral state offices to the sub-regional and local agencies, including private subjects. The integrated promotion should be based on: A. Industrial archaeology and culture of the job; B. Cultural "Ecomusei" and parks; C. Archives; D. Knowledge Instruments; E. Intercultural

5. Management Plan

- Management plan under preparation; to be completed and adopted: December 2007
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Municipality of Capriate San Gervazio

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Municipality funds
- Sufficient; not adequate for the protection and conservation of the site
- Further fund are been researching from national, regional and private sources

7. Staffing Levels

- No adequate staff resources to protect, maintain and promote the site

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, visitor management
- Average: management; promotion; interpretation; education

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- From the University, the school of specialization, the Superintendence are available specialized expertise to work in co-operation with the Municipality
- There are training need currently not being met for the management and enhancement of the cultural heritage, for the revival of tourism and to promote awareness of the values of the site among the owners and inhabitants

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 30.000 (supplied statistical survey from the associations that offer guided visits), 2004
- Visitor facilities: a Service Guides assured from cultural Associations presents on the territory is available. The Associations cure the acceptance of the visitors and supply various packages in accordance with the visitors' requirements. Two Associations are located inside the Village of Crespi. They are active over the entire year service bar, and informative point. At present there is only some informative material and the promoting activity of the associations. The lack of economical resources did not consent to realize a visitor centre

10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site; condition surveys; archaeological surveys
- They have been carried up studies and plans for the creation of a documentation centre and a museum area. Has been carried up a feasibility study about the promotion of the site
- The studies represent the starting point for the elaboration of the Management Plan and, in general, of the promotion and enhancement strategies for the site. They are also the base for the training of the guides

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local authorities

- Need for awareness rising: more information and sensitisation for the local community and local entrepreneurs. It's important to explain the link between the revival of tourism and the economic development
- Heritage days
- Web site available: www.villaggiocrespi.it, www.crepidadda.it, www.associazionenema.it.
- There are in program some photograph exhibitions, summer events and meetings. In particular, one about "Crespi d'Adda, resource for the local development" in the occasion of the decennial of the site inscription

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- The following interventions have been executed in the site: Arrangement of the "Carpinata". The cobbled paving shaded by "bersot" of horn-beam and the adjacent paths were arranged and a new lighting system was built; realization of an archaeological documentation centre; in this will be located also the historical archive of Crespi d'Adda legler; the link of the Village of Crespi D'Adda to the irrigation net of the drainage consortium of the media plain of Bergamo; restoration of the path called "from Leonardo to UNESCO"; maintenance of the roof of the stairwell and of the access to the basement of the building "Palazzotto n. 11"; the public illumination system remake; restoration of Via Crespi, Corso Manzoni and pedestrian walk ways between Via Marconi and Via Stalin; re-qualification of pedestrian walk ways between Via Stadium and Via Progresso
- Present state of conservation: Good

Threats and Risks to site

- Specific issues: In general, the landscape is as much more sensible as it preserves traces of recent transformations, or inversely, of the landscape's relative integrity. Subjective aspects, of no less importance, must be taken into consideration, i.e. the role society ascribes to the site involved in relation to associated symbolic values
- Emergency measures taken: Prevention and education; positioning of video cameras for surveillance and patrolling of the local police; sensitization and incentives to arouse interest towards reclamation of buildings

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: Necessity that each intervention of conversion of the site functionality will be subjected to preventive evaluation. A monitoring plan for the site will be included in the future management plan. Since the universal recognized value of the Village of Crespi D' Adda resides in the conservation of its original structure, is necessary that participation for the conversion of the functionalities of the place is subjected to a preventive appraisal rather than to a successive control. A plan for monitoring the site is under construction, together with the Management Plan

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: social; World Heritage status influenced positively international know-ability of the site. The inscription stimulated a better awareness of the importance of the site in the local community. The acknowledgment is of stimulus in order to instil greater knowledge of the importance of the place for the local community that lives daily in the situated one strengthens the will to operate actively for its conservation, valorisation and promotion; increasing of the studies on the site and stimulation of cultural debates about the site; an increment of visitors
- Strengths/Weaknesses of management: lack of touristy offer and scarce enhancement of cultural offer

Future actions:

- Promotion of meetings and cultural events; organisation of cultural meetings and workshops about the value and actuality of Crespi d'Adda, after ten years from inscription. Organisation responsible: Municipality of Capriate San Gervasio. Timeframe: 2005-2006
- Promotion of conventions and cultural events; Elaboration and realization of cultural events egiorate of study on the site in order to reflect on the present time of the value of Crespi to ten years from the inscription in the World Heritage List. Organisation responsible: Municipality of Capriate San Gervasio. Timeframe: 2005-2006