CITIES OF VESUVIUS

**CONSERVATION, RECONSTRUCTION & TOURISM**

**CONSERVATION vs RESTORATION**

Conservation is distinctively different to restoration. Conservation involves the process of documentation, analysis, cleaning and stabilisation of an object or site to prevent further deterioration. Restoration involves the repair of a damaged object or site and the replacement of missing parts to make it as it was originally. Restoration comes second.

Restoration is linked to tourism. It encapsulates, inspires and exposes the sites to more interest. BUT it must still adhere to a standard of practise to avoid falsifying historical evidence.

CURRENT SITE DIRECTOR - Pietro Giovanni Guzzo

Conservation and reconstruction are inevitably connected to DAMAGE.

1990 = 14% of the site were open. 2004 = 30%

1. Atmospheric pollution
2. Natural influences - rains and flooding
3. Looting
4. Urban planning
5. Inadequate site management
6. Over excavation
7. Tourism

Most damage comes from:

***Poor restoration work***

* Most work has been done over time by local Italian groups with little specialised knowledge of effective techniques. House of Meleager = timber roofing could not support the weight of the tiles. It collapsed.
* House of the Mosaic Atrium also has a steel made roof collapse to the floor, causing more damage than preserving. Steel and concrete bonded to help reinforce ancient walls rusts and expands to cause more damage.
* College of the Augustales layers of glass and fiberglass were installed to create a microclimate that is controlled. However the carbonised wood from the 79AD eruption under the fibreglass/glass was not reinforced and is crumbling.

***Vegetation***

* Ivy weeds have invaded the ruins. 30 different varieties have been identified. Cracks, gaps, on top of walls and bare earth. Algae, fungi also attach to wall surfaces (moisture) so an etimated 1000sq m of damage.
* Laser scanning technology used to monitor the decay of frescoes from algae and fungi

***Tourism***

* ½ million visitors a year. 22, 000 on Easter Monday.
* Guzzo now has access to gate ticket sales to use for site management
* There are no bag checks for large bags onto the site. Although many areas are closed to the public for safety, theft and vandalism is possible due to the large area and lack of guards.
* 1986 a tourist pushed over a stone column in a closed house & in 1993 a woman reportedly smashed her fist on a fresco to take bits of broken plaster. Mosaic tiles are also a favourite.
* Modern graffiti and scratchings are also common forms of damage to structures.
* Unintentional damage occurs, wearing down of the sites grounds from pedestrian traffic. Town pipes and plumbing for example. Tight spaces, swinging backpacks etc.
* Attempts from Guzzo in 2017 to conduct public theater again in Pompeiian main complex. Performances of Greek plays by Aeschylus and Euripides. WHY???

***REVENUE = $20M Euro’s a year and $30M every 5 years from the EU***

*“We have a lot more money than ever before,*

*but it is still too little” - Guzzo*

***Environmental Factors***

* Sunlight and rain has caused all the vibrant colours on art to fade. The most damage has occurred in the last 50 years.
* 1980 earthquake saw structural damage to houses and columns falling.
* 1983, New superintendent stopped all archaeological excavations for international recognition of dire need to conserve. EU respond with $36 million
* World Heritage Listed in
* Salt crystals form on the walls in Herculaneum from drying water. Causing flaking damage to frescoes
* Pigeons love carbonised wood. They peck away and their droppings cause acidic damage = bring in a falcon!
* After a heavy rain flooding in 2010, the House of the Gladiator saw extensive damage from collapsed walls. In 2014, the Temple of Venus also saw a collapsed wall.
* The 2010 damage cause UNESCO and the Italian Government to agree and cooperate with little conflict as possibly over funding the widespread restoration of both P+H.

***Looting***

* Most objects are in museums and in private collections around the word, though the onsite museum was looted in 1975.
* In 1977 thieves cut 14 frescoes from the House of the Gladiators
* 1990 a storeroom was robbed and 250 artefacts were taken; gold, jewellry etc.
* Estimated from 1975-200 that 600 items have been taken from the sites.
* 2003 a replica stone head was even taken - seems to be an INSIDE JOB. Talks of the Italian Mafia - Camorra - seem to have infiltrated the site management teams. Guzzo made a stand and some backlash happened in the 2000s. Two heads removed from plaster casts, a protest from guards locked out 12,000 tourists and a fire set in the House of Iphegenia.

***Herculaneum Conservation Project***

* Report found that in 2000, ⅔ of the site was in danger of collapsing
* 2001 Reopen the sewer system of the ancient town to funnel water to the sea. The ancient system back in operation has saved houses, baths and palaestra from regular flooding.
* Also excavation of cisterns yielded largest deposit of ancient organic material = diet and nutrition.

**Italian and International Efforts**

* In 2012 due to decades of authorities disgruntled feelings towards bureaucracy, cooperation began in the establishment of the *GREAT POMPEII PROJECT*. The EU has pledged
* The project was supposed to run until 2015, but without spending all the funds, the EU threatened to withdraw their commitment. The project has been extended to 2017.

CURRENT - i.e. POST 2010...