

	Project sheet
Research project :	Glass Constructions and Architectural Monuments. <i>Transparency and dematerialization in the service of protection, restoration and revaluation of architectural heritage.</i>
Images : 1. Juval Palast Südtirol, ph.2002 2. Lille, Palais deux Beaux Arts, ph.2002 3. Munich, ph. 2007 4. Altes Museum Berlin, ph. 2004	
Keywords :	Restoration, transparency, structural and contextual reversibility
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Time span :	2002 – ongoing
Description :	<p>The complex decision-making about the use of glass in architecture becomes more multifaceted, when glass is chosen for the conservation and restoration of architectural monuments and complexes. In this particular field the main architectural goals derive from the “respect” for the cultural heritage and very often, this necessity for contemporary interventions coexists with the “wish” to leave monuments as they are. Glass constructions are chosen to satisfy objectives which intention is to allow all previous phases of a historical assembly to be seen simultaneously and reconstruct additionally its authentic- or simply theoretical –image, or to materialize annexes that will not interfere with the original character of monuments, as well as handlings that have to be practically invisible. In other words they are “chosen” for restorations when there are opposite demands for interventions and non-interventions, for architecture and non-architecture.</p> <p>Thanks to their contradictory attributes, glass constructions, often happen to be the only issue, which gives perspectives to the continuation of the monuments’ existence according to the contemporary cultural approach. Furthermore they are able to put on the historical structures the “seal of our time” in a way which is structurally and contextually reversible.</p> <p>Reversibility, which is the main condition in almost every official Charta for the protection of the cultural heritage, is supported by transparency. Though transparency is an issue open to discussion and the limits between an immaterial transparent construction and an aggressive monumental one seem to be very fragile.</p> <p>This research project intends to point out these limits, to contribute to the analysis and</p>

Inventory of existing research

	<p>documentation of the data that lead to the choice of glass in reconciliation with monuments, to underline the problematics and the intentions of this choice and examine if and how the objectives are achieved.</p> <p>Through a theoretical approach that examines the restoration theories, the history of glass interventions on monuments, -aiming or not aiming at transparency-, as well as the architectural profile of glass constructions in the past and present, criteria will be indicated for the choice and the evaluation of these particular glass applications, which will be analyzed and documented.</p> <p>Although the rapid development of glass has not allowed architects to gain enough experience yet, examples of its coexistence with the constructive approaches of the past, have given some initial results and have underlined some advantages and disadvantages. Until now the cultural heritage has been “treated” in such a way that often material and immaterial costs could reach any level under the condition that the result responds to the values of the monuments and their character. This has been often a main reason for pioneering solutions that already happen to allow criticism and revisions.</p>
Most important publications :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LEFAKI, Styliani, <i>A new phase in the architecture of glass constructions: The use of glass in the protection and restoration of historic buildings,</i> Glass Proceeding Days 2003 Tampere Finland / the 8th International Conference on Architecture and Automotive Glass/ ed. Jorma Vitkala/publ. G.P.D. Tamglass Ltd. Oy, Finland 2003, p.367-370. - LEFAKI, Styliani, <i>Glass Appeal: The use of glass in the protection and restoration of historic buildings,</i> Southeast Asia Buildings, Sept/Oct 2003, p.38-44 - LEFAKI, Styliani <i>El uso del vidrio en la protección y restauración de edificios históricos-una nueva fase en la arquitectura de construcciones en vidrio,</i> Novoperfil, enero 2004, numero 143,p.51-57 - LEFAKI, Styliani <i>“Glass museums”vs “Transparent museums”</i> ISAAG/International Symposium on the Application of Architectural Glass, Munich October 30-31, 2006/ Conference Proceedings/ Bundeswehr University of Munich, p. 13-21.
Working group :	WG 4. Novel glass assemblies
Category :	other (glass and transparency in restoration)
Sheet compiled on :	[2010/08/09]