



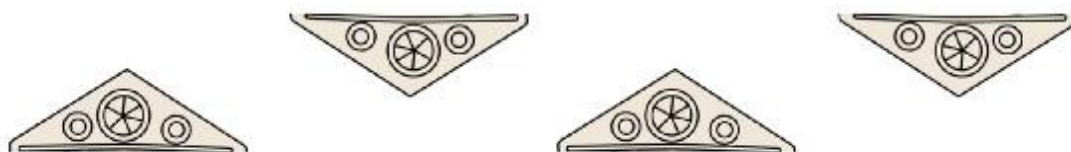
CLINK: CULTURAL HERITAGE LINKING
DIVERSITIES IN EUROPE

Mapping of the industrial heritage of Sisak, Croatia – Potentials of Local Development

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1. Mapping of the industrial heritage sites in Sisak, Croatia

Sisak is an important industrial center of 20th century Croatia since many different industrial facilities operated there. Because of that, the city of Sisak's identity is significantly marked by industry. A large number of buildings which are now part of the industrial heritage are unused and do not have an adequate function. The issue of using industrial heritage to improve and promote individual areas is common worldwide, especially in countries undergoing an intense deindustrialisation and transformation process.¹

The aim of this presentation is to point to the possibilities regarding the use of the existing industrial heritage buildings and their adaptive reuse.

In Sisak there are identified 35 locations of industrial heritage, which are mapped on tourist map of Town Sisak. (Photo 1²).



Photo 1. Tourist map of Industrial heritage of Town Sisak, Croatia

¹ Čakširan Vlatko, Uvod, *Novi život industrijske baštine – Interijeri, krajolici, perspektive*, (eng.) *Introduction, New life of Industrial heritage – Interior design, landscape, perspectives* (Predavanje. Gradski muzej Sisak. 29. rujna 2017. eng. Lecture. Sisak City Museum, 29 September 2017)

² *Industrijska baština grada Siska*, (eng.) *Map of Industrial heritage of Sisak*, Gradski muzej Sisak: Maximativa Sisak, 2011.

On the other side of the map, there are basic information about all sites of industrial heritage in Sisak: name, original purpose of the site, date of construction, is the site currently active – if yes, then is explained today's purpose of it. (Photo 2³). This map was published in 2011, and in that time was the first map of Industrial heritage sites in Croatia.



Photo 2. Basic information about sites of Industrial heritage of Sisak, Croatia

2. The Dutch House, Industrial Heritage Information Centre

The project titled „the Industrial Heritage Information Centre – the Dutch House“ is an integrated development program based on the restoration of cultural heritage which provides for the restoration and enhancement of cultural heritage management in order to contribute to sustainable development at the local and regional levels. It is also a project aimed at the improvement of public tourist infrastructure in the city of Sisak as to give value to the rich industrial heritage of the city for cultural, tourist and development purposes.

The renovation and refurbishment of the “Dutch House” building, a cultural heritage property, as the presentation centre of the industrial heritage of Sisak and the Sisak-Moslavina County, transformed this building, unused until renovation, into a modern multimedia centre. Its reconstruction marked the beginning of the transformation of the city centre and signified the change in the perception of Sisak as a “dirty industrial city” and a transit tourist site, turning it to an attractive and interesting cultural and tourist destination.⁴

³ *Industrijska baština grada Siska (eng.) Map of Industrial heritage of Sisak*, Gradski muzej Sisak: Maximativa Sisak, 2011.

⁴ Katančević Julije, *Holandska kuća, Novi život industrijske baštine – Interijeri, krajolici, perspektive, (eng.) The Dutch House, New life of Industrial heritage – Interior design, landscape, perspectives (Predavanje. Gradski muzej Sisak. 29. rujna 2017., eng. Lecture. Sisak City Museum, 29 September 2017)*

The project encompasses focused investments in cultural heritage, i.e. investments directly related to cultural heritage, which have been recognized in the strategic documents of the Sisak-Moslavina County and the City of Sisak.



Photo 3. The Dutch House before reconstruction

The building now hosts a multimedia exhibition of industrial heritage, an exhibition space of the Striegl Gallery, an exhibition of the Kraker Collection, a multifunctional hall and multimedia space with a 3D projection space. A new 400m² building was constructed behind it as a service and communication space. Project implementation duration was 24 months and the applicant is the City of Sisak. Partners in the project include Sisak projekti d.o.o., Sisak Tourist Board, Sisak Municipal Museum, Striegl Town Gallery and Sisak Port Authority. Grand opening of the Dutch House was in December 2019. Overall eligible costs amount to HRK 26.200.815,76 of which HRK 19.986.436,54 are EU grants.



Photo 4. The Dutch House after renovation

3. Adaptive reuse of the Brickyard pit site as an education, sports and recreation area

“Ciglarska Graba”, eng. “Brickyard pit” is known among the people of Sisak also as “Radonjina Graba” or “Herbsova Graba”. It was an economic area for the exploitation of clay which stood at that location from the beginning of the 20th century to 1960s – Josip Engel, Vilko Beck, Mijo Popović and “Odra” Brickyards. After clay exploitation was abandoned, the area became a part of the “Radonja” and “Herbos” chemical industry complex which was used for cooling chemical warehouse.



Photo 5. “Brickyard pit” before renovation

“Brickyard pit” covers the area of approx. 12 ha in the town centre. The City of Sisak wishes to perform adaptive reuse and turn the abandoned clay ditch into a lake with useful education, sports and recreation facilities, without too many interventions into the natural surroundings, minimal modifications to the area and with a high level of environmental protection. The works completed up until now include a pedestrian-cycling track around the lake with lighting, skate park, playground, observatories, gazebos and grill stations and multi-purpose building (“a fishing house”), catering facility, active zone with training equipment, etc.⁵

The aim of the project is to turn the “Brickyard pit” into an area which would enable the citizens of Sisak to spend time in the nature and enjoy various types of recreation and relaxation such as walking, barbecuing, fishing, etc.

⁵ Dumančić Tomislav, Ciglarska Graba, *Novi život industrijske baštine – Interijeri, krajolici, perspektive*, (eng.) *Adaptive reuse of the Brickyard pit site New life of Industrial heritage – Interior design, landscape, perspectives* (Predavanje. Gradski muzej Sisak. 29. rujna 2017., eng. *Lecture. Sisak City Museum, 29 September 2017*)



Photo 6. “Brickyard pit” after renovation

4. Adaptive reuse of an industrial real estate into an entrepreneurial support and educational institution based on the example of the former Metallurgical Institute of the Sisak Ironworks

The Applied Ceramics d.o.o. Company for manufacturing in the semiconductor industry was established in Sisak in 2005 as a subsidiary of the American company Applied Ceramics INC, founded by Matt Darko Sertić, an entrepreneur from the Silicon Valley, originally from Sisak. The purchase of the real estate in 2006 in the industrial area of the former Sisak Ironworks for the production and processing of special materials for the semiconductor industry also included an abandoned business building of the former Central Laboratory of the Metallurgical Institute of the Sisak Ironworks (hereinafter: the “Institute”), envisioned for future development and expansion of the Applied Ceramics company.

The Institute’s large building, consisting of 7 floors, each covering around 800 m², was built in the period between 1964 and 1968 to fulfil the needs of the research and science institute in the field of black metallurgy, and it accommodated modern equipped laboratories, management, equipment and installations necessary for performing scientific work and testing. Throughout the decades the Institute was transformed into one of the largest black metallurgy institute with the best technical and human resources in this part of Europe. From the period of the Croatian War of Independence and through the transition period of the Sisak Ironworks from the 1990s, the Institute’s business activity experienced a sudden drop, and when it was purchased by Applied Ceramics in 2006, there was no business activity there.

The Applied Ceramics Company, which has grown from 12 employees (in 2006) to over 125 employees (in 2018) thanks to the transfer of technology, capital and knowledge from the Silicon Valley, and which exports 100% of its products, is also an example of a socially responsible company focused on the community surrounding it. The complete production process of the Applied Ceramics Company is carried out in the building of the so-called Institute annex, which was completely reconstructed and adapted to the needs of the production of special materials, and the Institute building remained unused until 2011. In 2011, Matt Darko Sertić, the owner and founder of Applied Ceramics, came up with a vision to develop the Kul IN Culinary Institute in Sisak on the ground floor of the Institute building and had an idea to establish a private school for culinary skills and management which would provide the best professional culinary education. In 2012, Applied Ceramics completely adapted and equipped the 800m² ground floor of the Institute for the needs of the Kul IN Culinary Institute, which has

since then become the central location in Croatia for training professional chefs from all over the world and has so far trained over 500 students. In 2013, the project team of Applied Ceramics came up with the idea of launching the first private entrepreneurial incubator in the Republic of Croatia, called PISAK, in the business space on the first floor of the Institute. That space has 800 m² in which they have 16 flexible modules/offices.

It must be emphasised that the adaptive reuse of the industrial real estate of the Institute and entrepreneurial support and educational institution is an essential element in the local economic development of the city of Sisak.⁶



Photo 7. Metallurgical Institute of the Sisak Ironworks before and after renovation

⁶Kosina Milutinović Krunoslava, Razvojni institut Željezare, *Novi život industrijske baštine – Interijeri, krajolici, perspektive* (eng. *Ironworks Development Institute, New life of Industrial heritage – Interior design, landscape, perspectives* (Predavanje. Gradski muzej Sisak. 29. rujna 2017., eng. *Lecture. Sisak City Museum, 29 September 2017*))

5. Contribution of the ideas and final observation

In this research was shown examples⁷ of an repurposed some industrial heritage sites in Sisak, Croatia; adaptive reuse of the premises of the former Sisak Ironworks Development Institute now used by the Applied Ceramics plant, Culinary Institute (KULIN) and the Business Incubator (PISAK), The Dutch House and Brickyard pit. All these examples point to the great possibilities behind industrial heritage which was given a new meaning in the Sisak city structure.

Projects did not circumvent identity as a key link between the heritage and contemporary times, on the contrary, they used it and added new value to it. This is how industrial heritage can be turned into a new resource, just as these buildings once served as economic resources.

Also, we need to point out that industrial heritage reused in this way can become new tourist attraction, in this case The Dutch House became that among other things.

⁷ See more examples: Miletić-Čakširan Ivana, Čakširan Vlatko, „Zaštita industrijske baštine grada Siska na primjerima Tvorničkog kompleksa Segestice, zgrade Munjare i Starog mosta“, (eng.) *“The protection of the Industrial heritage of the city of Sisak on examples of the factory complex of Segestica, the Munjara building and Old Bridge”*, *Godišnjak zaštite spomenika kulture Hrvatske* br. 35, 2011, 143-155

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- Miletić-Čakširan Ivana, Čakširan Vlatko, „Zaštita industrijske baštine grada Siska na primjerima Tvorničkog kompleksa Segestice, zgrade Munjare i Starog mosta“, (eng.) *“The protection of the Industrial heritage of the city of Sisak on examples of the factory complex of Segestica, the Munjara building and Old Bridge”*, *Godišnjak zaštite spomenika kulture Hrvatske* br. 35, 2011, 143-155.
- Industrijska baština grada Siska, (eng.) *Map of Industrial heritage of Sisak*, Gradski muzej Sisak: Maximativa Sisak, 2011.