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Opinion

Contemporary ruins: a contradiction in terms

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How can we differentiate between “classical” and “contemporary” ruins? Can they be in the same (aesthetic) category? Here I am arguing that no, they cannot. But even if they don’t have the same characteristics or qualities as the classical ones, “contemporary ruins” are surprisingly popular, and the interest in them can still be somehow compared to that of Antique ruins.

To understand this better, let’s see the features of classical ruins first. Classical ruins are defined by three criteria: lack of function, absence and time. A classical ruin has to be functionless, not in use neither in its original nor another function or for any kind of practical aim. Absence is also a crucial feature in the case of classical ruins, whose form is constantly shaped by Nature through the ever-growing void that is added to it. And last but not least: time. Classical ruins are by definition old. This great amount of time is needed for Nature, being the key actor of the ruination process, to take the original building in its possession. Nature continuously “eats up” the building, starting with the still almost entire building, until so little has remained, that we cannot imagine anymore the splendour of the original building.
Coming Soon

Conferences and Congresses

2015

May 28- May 31, 2015: Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA) 2015 – Annual Conference, Albany and the Mohawk Region of New York State, USA (Albany, Schenectady, Troy, USA)


August 16-21: ICOHTEC 42nd Symposium, “History of High-Technologies - Call for papers and Their Socio-Cultural Contexts”, Tel Aviv, Israel


BigStuff 2015: the Centre Historique Minier, Leverde, is proposing a session during the 2015 TICCIH Congress

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The TICCIH Bulletin welcomes news, comment and (shortish) articles from anyone who has something they want to say related to our field. The Bulletin is the only international newsletter dedicated to industrial archaeology and the conservation of the heritage of industrialisation. The TICCIH Bulletin is published online to members four times a year.

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