



TEXTILES
SECTION



TICCIH
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

International Expert Meeting (April 23-25, 2020, Berlin)

Cities and Historic Textile Complexes: Typology, Good Practice, and Global Perspectives for Conservation

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April 24, 2020. Venue: Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Mohrenstr. 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany

April 23, 2020: site visit to Forst, Lausitz, Brandenburg with INIK

April 25, 2020: optional guided tour: Deutsches Technikmuseum and Gleisdreieck area in Berlin

The textile sector led industrialisation and urbanisation in Europe. Textile entrepreneurs introduced big mill complexes to urban contexts, applied steam power to spinning and weaving, and established a global trade network of transport, skills, knowledge, and power. Textile industries consequently changed urban spatial structures of many European cities. Mill complexes and their infrastructure (canals for power and transport, railways, warehouses etc) form local parts of a historic urban landscape representing global chains of production. This textile heritage comprises tangible buildings, artefacts with transcultural dimensions, and aspects of intangible living heritage.

Three questions arise for research:

- 1) How to identify, and value the historic urban landscape of the textile industry; does the [TICCIH typology](#)¹ properly cover industrial types as urban spatial structures? What are the historic urban spatial and built forms of textile mills in cities?
- 2) What constitutes good practice in conservation and enhancement when transforming mill complexes, cityscapes and these urban spatial structures? How are the conservation and enhancement of these historic urban spatial structures handled in practice?
- 3) Global, transcultural, and living heritage: What are the relationships between textile heritage sites in Europe and the world; and among the people involved in textile production? How might we critically reflect, conserve, and use the various meanings, knowledge, and global networks embedded in local heritage sites? Might we gain insight into other meanings and values—besides technological and architectural values—of this shared heritage? What do we share when conserving textile heritage sites?

The expert meeting in Berlin will discuss historic mill complexes in towns and cities², aiming to identify an urban industrial typology to describe and value these complexes, and good practice criteria for orientation in conversion

¹ <http://ticcih.org/ticcih-thematic-studies-and-published-reports/>

² While the built history of textiles started as handicrafts and at rural water-powered mills, this meeting focusses on mills in towns and cities, mostly driven by steam power and electricity. Rural landscape complexes and company towns inside and outside cities may be addressed in Łódź in 2021, following the attention given to those landscapes at preliminary meetings in Terrassa, 2001, Euskirchen, 2003, and in Sedan in 2007.



Die Spinnerei, Leipzig



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processes. A typology is understood as an instrument of analysis used in thematic studies by TICCIH and in other classification systems, in inventories and heritage conservation. It focuses on the scales of mill complexes, their spatial composition, the configuration of different building types connected to communities in urban settings.

Call for participation for the meeting with 25-30 persons

The organisers invite researchers and practitioners in textile mill heritage to contribute to the expert meeting. Please send an abstract (not more than 350 words) and short CV to heike.oevermann@gsz.hu-berlin.de to apply to join this meeting. Places are limited so some submitted themes may be suggested as more suitable for the follow-through big meeting in Lodz, Poland, in the Spring of 2021 that will finalise the TICCIH comparative study.

Submission deadline: September 20, 2019

Feedback will be communicated by the end of October 2019.

The meeting charges no fees but travel and accommodation expenses are not covered.

Pre-announcement: TICCIH scientific conference in April 2021, in Łódź, Poland.

There is the opportunity to join the follow-up TICCIH scientific conference which takes part in April 2021, in Łódź, Poland. A publication of the TICCIH comparative study, incorporating much of the knowledge gained at earlier meetings of the Textile special interest group in TICCIH, is projected to then be presented at the TICCIH Congress in Montreal in September 2021.



Kreenholm Cotton Mills, Narva, Estonia; Die Spinnerei in Leipzig, Germany, below
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Die Spinnerei, Leipzig