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1st quarter, 2015

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[www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org)



The ruined 'Stalin' textile complex Kombinat in Albania, as featured in the fascinating 'urbex' project *Totally Lost - A Photographic and Video Exploration of Abandoned European Totalitarian Architecture*, [www.totallylost.eu](http://www.totallylost.eu) and discussed in *Albania and the industrial experience* (see review page 23). Some 700 people are believed to live in the abandoned site.

Photo: Nicola Avanzinelli

## Opinion

### Contemporary ruins: a contradiction in terms

#### **Dr. Zoltán Somhegyi**

**Assistant Professor, College of Fine Arts and Design, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates**

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)

June 3-7: 5th International Congress on Construction History, Chicago, Ill. Info: <http://5icch.org>.

July 24-28: Australia - Railway Heritage Conference, Ipswich, Queensland 24-28 July, 2015

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

Sept. 5-14: 16th International TICCIH Congress, “Industrial Heritage in the 21st Century, New Challenges”, Lille, France. Info: <http://ticcih-2015.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en>

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

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#### TICCIH

President: Professor Patrick Martin, Professor of Archaeology Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49931, USA  
e: [pemartin@mtu.edu](mailto:pemartin@mtu.edu), t: +1 906-487-2070

Secretary: Dr. Stephen Hughes  
e: [secretary@ticcih.org](mailto:secretary@ticcih.org), t: +44 1970 621215

Editor: Articles and news of recent and future events should be sent to the Editor, James Douet, C. Girona, 173, 5 3, Barcelona 08037, Spain, e: [editor@ticcih.org](mailto:editor@ticcih.org)

Bulletin layout & design: Don Durfee e: [ticcih@mtu.edu](mailto:ticcih@mtu.edu)  
TICCIH Membership: Don Durfee e: [ticcih@mtu.edu](mailto:ticcih@mtu.edu)  
TICCIH Website: Don Durfee e: [ticcih@mtu.edu](mailto:ticcih@mtu.edu)

**TICCIH** is the world organization for industrial archaeology promoting conservation, research, recording and education in all aspects of industrial heritage. It holds a triennial conference and organises interim conferences on particular themes. Individual membership is \$30 (USD), corporate membership \$65, and student membership. \$15

There is an online membership form on [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org)

The **TICCIH Bulletin** welcomes news, comment and (short-ish) 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.

Back issues can be downloaded as a pdf file from the **TICCIH** web site, [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org).

ISSN: 1605-6647