

**Session Track:** Craftsmanship

**Session Code:** CS13a

**Paper:** Arquitectura medieval valenciana y de la piedra seca: proyecto de restauración de la ermita de San Bertomeu

**Presented by**

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Ignasi Garcia, Covadonga Pascual, Alex Díaz, Lorenzo Capucci, Ivana Revert\*\*\* waiting to hear if all are speaking

**Speaker(s) Biography**

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**Abstract**

La arquitectura gótica valenciana apareció en el segundo cuarto de siglo XIII, tras la colonización del territorio musulmán. Tanto la técnica constructiva como las disposiciones arquitectónicas eran ya utilizadas por las culturas mediterráneas en la Antigüedad.

Las características propias del gótico valenciano pueden apreciarse también en las arquitecturas góticas de otras zonas del mediterráneo debido a la expansión cristiana. La Lonja y la Catedral de Valencia, son dos de los ejemplos más importantes de este estilo.

En este marco, encontramos la ermita de San Bertomeu en Vistabella, obra del siglo XIV, situada a 1100 metros de altitud, en el trazado europeo de la vía de gran recorrido GR-7 a su paso por el interior de la provincia de Castellón. Completan el conjunto arquitectónico una antigua hospedería y unas caballerizas del siglo XVIII. Algunas de las piedras que construyen estos edificios pertenecen al castillo musulmán que se levanta a pocos metros sobre ellos.

Se trata de una iglesia originalmente gótica, orientada en la dirección sur-norte y caracterizada por ser de nave única, con tres arcos apuntados diafragma, de contrafuertes interiores, que dividen la nave en cuatro vanos. Sobre estos arcos se apoya la techumbre a dos aguas, de madera policroma y teja árabe.

Tanto los arcos, de aristas aboceladas, como las cuatro esquinas de la nave y la portada de aguda ojiva son de sillería, de característica labra gótica.

El edificio, por tanto, corresponde a la tipología constructiva de nave de arcos diafragma con techumbre de madera, característico y representativo de la arquitectura medieval valenciana.

Además, esta ermita recoge la tradición constructiva de piedra seca, que es la que cuenta con más tradición en la arquitectura histórica de la península ibérica. Aún hoy en muchas zonas rurales todavía se pueden observar bancales, casas, pozos o refugios construidos por maestros paredadores que mantienen viva esta técnica.

Tal como se extrae de la Declaración de Torroella de Montgrí del IIº Encuentro de preservación del patrimonio de la piedra en seco de 24 de octubre del 2004:

"La importancia de la cultura de la piedra seca, radica por un lado en haber generado y modelado uno de los paisajes más frecuentes, espectaculares y significativos del Mediterráneo, y por otro, en constituir la expresión eminente de la simbiosis entre la naturaleza y el hombre. Además, estas técnicas han permitido y permiten habilitar los territorios con el máximo de eficiencia, con respeto por el medio ambiente y de forma sostenible".

De los apartados anteriores se deduce el valor histórico-artístico de la ermita y su entorno. Por ello, al plantearnos qué criterios deben regir nuestra intervención en la ermita de San Bertomeu de Vistabella, detectamos que debemos dar respuesta a las necesidades fundamentales del edificio que surgen del deseo de conservarlo a lo largo del tiempo y de su transmisión a generaciones futuras, de mantener su carácter representativo, cultural y de lugar emblemático.

Cabe entender pues el proyecto de restauración de la ermita de San Bertomeu como parte de un conjunto mayor, de gran importancia histórica, en la que se incluiría ésta como representante de la arquitectura medieval valenciana y la arquitectura de piedra seca como eje vertebrador en la tradición arquitectónica de este territorio de la Península Ibérica y del Mediterráneo.

**Session Track:** Craftsmanship

**Session Code:** CS13b

**Paper:** Intervention in the Monumental Set of San Juan del Hospital in Valencia, Spain

**Presented by**

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**Speaker(s) Biography**

John Addison is a Chartered Civil Engineer who has specialised in structural design and analysis of buildings for 36 years with 25 of these in old buildings and ancient ruins in the UK and Ireland is regarded as one of the most respected Preservation Engineers in Scotland and has been involved in numerous very prestigious preservation projects including Rosslyn Chapel, Hopetoun House, Palace of Holyroodhouse. He is working mainly as a “support act” to Architects and Surveyors and found that key decisions always came back to the Engineer and that it was vital to work very closely with the stonemasons on site. He built up an interest in philosophy, methodology and rapport with site teams which has influenced his decision to provide “one-stop” service for such projects when it is appropriate.

He graduated with First Class Honours in Engineering Science from the University of Aberdeen in 1970 with distinction in Mathematics and Design (BSc(Eng) Hons, CEng, MICE).

He entered the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1975 as a Chartered Engineer and is now a Technical Director of Mott MacDonald.

He is also an affiliate of the Royal Institution of Architects in Scotland and a member of its Conservation Committee

He has given lectures on Preservation in the UK, Ireland and the USA including APTI, often with Krystyna Pytasz. With Krystyna, he has developed some new techniques in this field in the use of lime concrete and clay mortars.

He works closely with other specialists in this unique field ie the Scottish Lime Centre, Virginia Limeworks, Historic Scotland. (He advised Historic Scotland at the Castle Tioram Public Inquiry), Preservationists and many other specialists.

Krystyna Pytasz is an Engineer Architect. She has been working with John Addison for nine years and with him she joined Mott McDonald in February 2006 to develop preservation engineering discipline in this worldwide consultancy group.

She is a graduate of the Technical University of Gdansk (Poland) with Degree in Engineering and Architecture and Master Degree in Conservation from the University of York (UK). For over five years,

she was the Principal in charge of the Department of Conservation at the Castle Museum in Malbork (Poland) (a World Heritage Site).

This experience has equipped her well to tackle and develop John's earlier work to bring a holistic and efficient approach to historic preservation, and particularly "ruin", projects. Since she joined John Addison, she was involved in many important such projects in the UK and Ireland

She assists John with his lectures and co-authored papers for presentation at APTI Conferences at Portland and Galveston (US). Recently she gave a lecture on her approach to the technical, philosophical and archaeological issues at Invergarry Castle during the Archaeology Week 2006.

Like John, she is very experienced in traditional buildings and ruins, their characteristic defects, their analysis, repair methods and conservation approaches, and requirements of heritage organisations.

### **Abstract**

The Authors live and work in the "Old World" of Scotland and are involved with the efforts of the few in Scotland who are trying to minimise the loss of our old buildings.

The pressures from extensive redevelopment and progressive modernisation has been conspiring for many years with the downskilling of craft labour and professionals in the world of preservation. The increasing scarcity of original materials for use in preservation is worsened by the desire of commercial Architects and Builders to use them as cladding in modern buildings.

There is little incentive from Government with a very poor level of funding combined with significant extra taxation on preservation, whereas "new build" is relatively tax free. The threats are not all related to the Scottish weather!

Although many people living in the "New World" might assume that over here we are preserving the old ways, the influences from American way of life are very strong. People continue to move around exploiting investment opportunities in property and residents of old buildings no longer wish to live in the same way as before.

This Paper will cover some aspects of what is happening to our historic buildings from humble dwellings to Castles and Stately homes as attitudes and lifestyles have adapted with the modern world

In the West of Scotland, we are witnessing the final death throes of the ancient stone/thatch "blackhouses" where many ancestors of America started from. In the East the effect of North Sea Oil has been a large repopulation of some areas but destruction of its heritage

At the same time, we see Medieval Castles being restored and reoccupied. We see disused old farm steadings becoming valuable houses, and historic churches going to Casinos !

Sadly, we also see one Grade A Historic Building a month going up in flames. ( We got involved in the Great Fire of Edinburgh where politics, allowed a viable facade restoration to die.)

We see a huge rise in the use of industrialised wood frame houses with our old stone sliced up to clad them.

And poor design.

We built concrete houses in the 60's but are now getting rid of them.

Brickwork is vanishing except as cladding.

We see old Rosslyn Chapel buckle under the invasion of thousands of extra visitors all caused by a book and a film made in America

But we are now building with Clay and Lime again- in serious Architecture

Our strict new energy saving regulations might threaten the future of much of our built heritage if not handled carefully.

Who would have thought Old World Bonnie Scotland could make all these changes?

To illustrate some of the efforts being made in Preservation, the Paper covers our involvement in five buildings which used early construction techniques on timber, stone and clay in an environment of social, political and climate change.

\* an intact clay walled, thatched roof old Schoolhouse, in Scotland threatened because it cannot be reoccupied without modernisation.

\* a ruinous stone walled, turfed roof bothy with a pegged jointed wood framed roof structure In Scotland. The "last of it's kind"

\* a Castle -how it has survived despite rising water tables and use as a visitor centre.

**Session Track:** Craftsmanship

**Session Code:** CS13c

**Paper:** Old World Technologies—Their Loss and Revival

**Presented by**

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**Speaker(s) Biography**

**Abstract**

The work we submit describes the intervention realized in a baroque monument in order to recover and to put in value the architectural space.

The operation is located in the monumental set of San Juan del Hospital in Valencia; Gothic church constructed at the beginning of the XIVth century, after the reconquest of the city to the Arabs by the king Jaime I de Aragon.

In the XVIIth century a baroque chapel dedicated to Sta. Barbara is constructed next to the Gothic nave, by the architect Juan Bautista Pérez Castiel. After three centuries the restoration of the chapel is undertaken, due to the deterioration on the texture of walls, paintings and “esgrafiados”.

The previous studies to specify the level of intervention were realized to prepare the restoration project.

These studies attended to the following terms:

- Structural Analysis with numerical methods to determine the structural stability of the dome and the arches of the chapel.
- Analysis of the pathologies observed on brick masonry exterior walls and the building covering.
- Study of the interior treatments in the skill of “esgrafiado”, paintings and marble pieces.

The analysis of the intervention is completed with the corresponding historical and archaeological studies, what it constitutes a work of a multidisciplinary team.