

# The 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Region Cultural Heritage Forum

## From Postwar to Postmodern – 20<sup>th</sup> Century Built Cultural Heritage

The 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Region Cultural Heritage Forum in Kiel  
28-30 September, 2016

### Introduction and target audience

The various countries of the Baltic Sea region are linked both by the inland sea and favorable overland connections. The Baltic Sea region is diverse with respect to its shifting landscape and its rich variety of cultures, languages, religions and histories. Over the centuries, contacts through mutual trade and shipping have contributed to this region's long, common history. The geographical position of the Baltic Sea states, forming a region in itself in northern Europe, has also contributed to the area's shared sense of regional identity.

The conference *From Postwar to Postmodern – 20<sup>th</sup> Century Built Cultural Heritage* will be held in Kiel, Germany, in 2016, within the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> *Baltic Sea Region Cultural Heritage Forum*. This conference addresses the historical legacy of postwar twentieth century architecture in the context of the Baltic Sea region and the different values that are ascribed to the architecture of this period through the end of the twentieth century. Of main interest are also the problems of how awareness of the challenges involved in preserving and maintaining postwar twentieth century architecture and cultural heritage can be raised. An equally important challenge is how this can be presented to various decision makers and professionals in the field. The target audience of this conference includes experts from the cultural heritage sector, architects, planners, researchers, municipalities, regional councils, property owners and developers, the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation along with other stakeholders and other related professions.

### Aims, objectives and main themes

The aim of this conference is to raise awareness of the built cultural heritage of the postwar- and postmodern period in the Baltic Sea region. In terms of cultural heritage, the architecture of the modern movement has a brief history. Although trends in twentieth century architecture have been accompanied by a contemporary historiography, with its canon formation, it was not until the last decades of the twentieth century that the environments of the modern movement were considered as part of the cultural heritage.

For various reasons, both the architecture and built heritage of the postwar era, and more recent decades, have not yet fully been considered from the perspective of cultural heritage. Thus, only a few monuments or buildings from this time are currently legally protected. The potential values that are embedded in postwar and postmodern twentieth century architecture are therefore deemed to

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be at risk due to extensive social changes and perhaps also lack of recognition by society in general. The main objectives of this conference will be highlighted in the following three main themes:

- What is the historical legacy of postwar twentieth century planning and architecture? The majority of buildings in the Baltic Sea region derive from the latter part of the twentieth century, and even the effects of municipal planning from the postwar era are still prevalent. The former east-west division of the region from the Cold War period provides an opportunity to discuss and examine the different ideologies that determined municipal planning and the architecture of this time. Today, the legacy of postwar municipal planning and architecture faces great challenges, both socially and economically but also politically. What role does history play in society and which symbolic and political values are ascribed to postwar architecture and buildings in the region? What do these buildings mean to us today and in which perspectives are they important for the region's history?
- How can awareness of existing values in postwar and postmodern twentieth century architecture be raised, and how can this be integrated with contemporary urban planning and sustainable rural development? The condensation and expansion of cities and the depopulation of the rural landscape are ongoing worldwide trends. How shall society today manage these changes and what role does cultural heritage play in this gradual transformation? The existing architecture from this time is considered to be at risk in the face of these ongoing social and political changes. For example, these shifts are expressed in demographic mobility within the region but also in economic growth and changes in social and cultural behavior, that is, changes in lifestyle. Furthermore, there are different opinions regarding what shall be valued and why as the chronological perspective, in terms of cultural heritage, is still considered too short. That is why there is a strong need to investigate and discuss on what ground postwar and postmodern twentieth century architecture, in terms of cultural heritage, can contribute to social, cultural and economic aspects of sustainable development.
- Which strategies are used today in historic preservation, and how can we practically restore buildings from the postwar twentieth century? Which methods are used in cultural assessment and designation? Given the quantity and quality of monuments and buildings from the postwar twentieth century period different methods of preservation, in terms of fabrics and constructions, need to be discussed as do methods of inventory. There is also a need to discuss what legal protection is suitable for this mass of buildings and planned areas. Deeper knowledge of postwar twentieth century architecture and municipal planning in the region can contribute to better understanding the various values that can be ascribed to this period and facilitates, in turn, what is necessary to mediate to decision makers.

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## Organizer

*The Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea states (MG) is a network for the Cultural Heritage sector with representatives from the national heritage agencies in the Baltic Sea states. The MG has since 2003 coordinated regional Cultural Heritage Forums – events that have emphasized on different topics, for instance urban cultural heritage, maritime cultural heritage and enhancement of cultural tourism. The Archaeologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein and the Swedish National Heritage Board (Riksantikvarieämbetet) share the practical preparations for this conference, in close alliance with the MG, which is the overall coordinator and steering group for *The 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Region Cultural Heritage Forum*.*

## Venue for the conference

The conference will be held at Audimax, University of Kiel, on 28-29 September, 2016. In addition, an excursion will be held on 30 September.

## Speakers

Recognized professional and academic speakers will be invited to speak in order to help achieve the goal of this conference – awareness-rising of the postwar- and postmodern built cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea region – and provide both a theoretical and practical base for further discussions. Lectures will be held both in plenum and in smaller parallel sessions. Moderators of the sessions will lead concluding discussions with the speakers. The audience will also be invited to participate in some of these final discussions.

The speakers will address the broad range of questions deriving from the conference's three main themes within the fields of architecture, municipal planning, architectural history, cultural heritage, law and protection, sociology, history, art history, engineering etc.

## Expected results and added value

A summary of the speakers' lectures of this conference will be presented in the report of the *6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Region Cultural Heritage Forum* and distributed during 2017. This conference is expected to result in a first preliminary mapping and evaluation of the postwar- and postmodern architecture from the perspective of the Baltic Sea Region. As such, these results may be understood as being an added value for the region as a whole.