



Excursion Report
Transylvania - Romania, July 2018

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Study tour report
12th of July, 2018 - Dealu Frumos

The church.

The 12th of July we fully spent in Dealu Frumos and it gave some very interesting insights about the restoration of fortified churches but also daily life in the village. The architect, Liviu Gli-gor, in charge of the restoration of the fortified church in Dealu Frumos guided us through the church and up to the tower where he described the restoration of the wooden construction, how to deal with different damages and problems which occurred during the restoration in terms of finding the right partners, compromises and craftsmen but also in finding the right materials.



Timber Construction of the church tower

The village.

The time spent exploring the village in the afternoon was revealing as well, as we fully get to see the visual impact of the fortified church within the village. It's very dominating in terms of height and size while also being the center of the village where all streets are concentrating and leading to the church straight and directly. Besides the church it was good to see the village off the fortified church. How people live, how they use public spaces, which public interventions and offers there are in the village.



Public space in Dealu Frumos

The people.

Afterwards we had the opportunity to talk to one of the women which helped with all the preparations and arrangements in our base in Dealu Frumos. She invited us to her home where we sat down with her and had some excellent homemade cherry liqueur. She told us how she and her husband came here some years ago and started a small agriculture from which they are able to live, which is quite rare as most people here only grow for their personal need. She also told us about donations from a charitable society of saxons living in germany with which school books, clothes and also bicycles are bought, as well as electricity installations are implemented. To receive the donations children need to attend school. Overall there are 58 children in the village, there is a kindergarten and a school for the first four years, for following gra



Residents in a small side road

des children have to attend school in another village. She mentioned that the relationship between the different ethnic population groups in the village is quite good. As she says the public streets and spaces are ok, people sit in front of the houses in the afternoon and evening chatting with each other. There is life in the streets. Designing public spaces is not the highest priority, because water supply and waste water sanitation is more important to be financed, because many of the houses and families still do not have these possibilities. An initiative two years ago made it possible that many houses were attached to the water supply system. But it only worked for a short period and since then there is no drinking water and a law suit between the local government and the company which installed the water supplies.



Garden of the workshop base

Experience report - Hands on workshop
16th - 20th of July, 2018 - Daia/Denndorf

The „Stiftung Kirchenburgen“ (Fundatia Biserici Fortificate) gave us the possibility to take part in the restoration process of the fortified church in Daia. Five days we learned traditional carpenter techniques and tried to apply them on an object which is part of the fortified church ensemble.

On Monday morning a group consisting of architecture students, architects, landscape architects, carpenters, conservators, interested people as well as people which are currently involved in restoration processes at their homes came together in the fortified church of Daia. Before we started working on the site, our tutors Sebastian and Christian, both carpenters who moved from Germany to Romania years ago, told us some basics about the usual and varying restoration processes in projects they were involved. Along with historical facts and



Reconstructing the barn

stories we got a feeling of what would expect us in the upcoming days. While originally it was planned to restore a barn next to the church by replacing damaged elements, plans changed when this barn collapsed one week before our arrival. On the site of the barn there were now just loose tiles and bricks piling between the crushed wooden construction. As a first task we split up in teams and tried to reconstruct the building by measuring all constructive parts and drawing sketches of the former shed. After we discussed the results and checking all evidence again we started by cleaning the site and collecting all intact tiles, bricks and usable wooden parts.

On the following days we analyzed the broken posts and beams and how to repair them by patching with new wooden beams. We learned



Cleaning the site

all about timber joints in another unit, planning to use dovetail connections and lap joints (Gerberstoß) among some others as these were the ones also used before. The analysis also contained the search for damages by water and insects to remove those parts. After a lot of measuring and trial and error to find the ideal cut lines to save as much original material as possible we started sawing, cutting and chopping the wooden beams to receive some traditional carpenter joints. There were some complications and unexpected damages and it took us a lot of time to produce all the joints as well as a lot of treenails necessary for holding them together. Working with all the tools such as chisel, crowbar, mortise ax, japanese saw, and carpenters square was challenging and exhausting at first but even more amazing once the right technique was found.



Creating timber joints

At the end of the five days the construction was not erected but ready for it. As a last step we lifted the heaviest beam up on the wall and prepared everything for the following week, where some of this week's team were joined by some new team members to continue with the restoration of the barn.



Placing the beam