Institute for the Conservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage - ICVBC Course 3d

Course Director: Marco Realini

Masters' Degree required: Physics, Geology, Chemistry, Cultural Heritage Preservation Sciences, Architecture (with specialization in Restoration, History of Urban planning), Archeology, Ancient Sciences Literary-Philological and historical- artistic, Historic Sciences

The course organised by the Institute for the Conservation and Valorisation of Cultural Heritage –ICVBC aims to offer to the participants a knowledge integrating the scientific and humanistic approach relative to the conservation of both monuments and historic cities. In this sense, the organisation and management of a diagnostic laboratory will play a central role in the participants' training. The ICVBC proposal is articulated in two parts, comprising several units aiming to offer an in-depth knowledge, both on a theoretical and practical level, of the multiple aspects regarding the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage. More specifically, the theoretical part will be based in Florence and will comprise lectures offered to all the participants in Florence. During the practical part of the course, participants will be subdivided in the three different seats of ICVBC located in Florence, Milan and Rome, where each participant will further develop the subjects proposed in the theoretical part through laboratory activities and field work, closely related to the Institute's activity in selected case studies.

The THEORETICAL PART, for a total of 120 hours, is articulated in the following units:

Unit 1. Materials and techniques (18 hours)
- natural stone materials: identification, provenance, quarries, working techniques, tools, reuse;
- artificial stone materials (mortars, ceramic materials) glasses and metals: components, raw materials, working techniques, tools;
- Italian and European standards.

Unit 2. Decay of materials (18 hours)
- Definition of decay phenomena, study of decay mechanisms and of the effects related to different environmental conditions and locations (archaeological site, urban area, indoor, outdoor);
- Italian and European standards.

Unit 3. Diagnostic (18 hours)
- Non invasive and invasive techniques: first principles of the main analytical techniques;
- Sampling: best practices according to the nature of the hand fact and to the diagnostic plan.

Unit 4. Conservation (24 hours)
- Products and methods used for biodeterioration control, cleaning, consolidation and protection. Chemical classes, working principles, application methodologies, performance evaluation.
- Italian and European standards

Unit 5. Preventive and planned maintenance (12 hours)
- Monitoring of surfaces. Protocols to evaluate the evolution of decay and the efficacy and the durability of the conservative products;
- Inspecting activity and maintenance project.

Unit 6. History of Architecture and of the Mediterranean city (20 hours)
- Urban History in the Euro-Mediterranean context: analysis of the fundamental disciplinary principles and of the cultural and political processes that have characterised the history of the Mediterranean city in modern times.

- History of Art and Architecture (medieval and modern): presentation of the major artistic and cultural expressions in the Euro-Mediterranean context during the period in question, with particular reference to stone buildings, their building techniques and materials, the circulation of knowledge and experts and the transmission of know-how which is at the basis of a common artistic and technological culture in the Mediterranean area.

Unit 7. Conservation and Valorisation of historic centres (10 hours)

- Conservation of historic urban centres and of their place identity: analysis of the present European urban policies relative to tourism and presentation of the ICVBC protocols for monitoring tourist impact in historic centres and in UNESCO sites (method PreservingPlaces).

The PRACTICAL PART, for a total of 600 hours, comprises the units:

Unit 8. Laboratory Activities

- Realisation of diagnostic campaigns developing specific analytical protocols employing the diagnostic techniques and knowledge acquired during the theoretical part of the course.

Unit 9. Field Activity

- Monitoring the state of conservation and of the treatments' proposed in the pilot case study areas of the Institute ;
- Itinerary visits in the historic city and UNESCO site in order to have a first hand experience of the issues proposed by the course relative to the city's history and conservation of monuments, archaeological sites and of the historic centre as such.

Unit 10. Activity relative to the monitoring of tourist impact with the PreservingPlaces method (seat of Rome).

- The activity aims to convey the specific know how relative to the above mentioned monitoring system regarding tourist impact and the quality of life in historic centres and UNESCO sites. It regards the use and management of appropriate techniques for cataloguing and managing the data collected. More specifically the field work will be a survey comprising the collection of different kinds of data regarding the built heritage and urban context (such as administrative information, photographic material, use of public space, state of conservation, samples of the buildings' plaster, etc) and their implementation in an appropriate digital databank.

For more info please visit: http://www.icvbc.cnr.it