Abstract

Reflecting worldwide tendencies that propose to reuse natural and material resources as a fundamental principle to improve quality of life in contemporary cities, the demand for restoring ancient and modern buildings has substantially increased over the last several years in Brazil. But, after all, what does it mean to prepare projects to restore historical buildings? The aim of this article is to reflect about some aspects of national restoration practices on buildings with historical and cultural interest, evaluating issues related to project management and restoration project done on the Agriculture Palace, designed by Oscar Niemeyer in São Paulo in the 1950s. Integrated to the monumental site of Ibirapuera Park, the building is today protected by the heritage preservation offices. The recently completed restoration enabled important evaluations about the most frequent types of operational deadlocks that often occur among the agents involved — architects, heritage preservation offices, the State, companies responsible for the restoration and management companies —, which, beyond professional and academic differences, usually depend on central evaluations about the nature and scope of the intervention. The aim of this article is not to exhaust the subject, but to reflect on the modify detectable gaps between the application of the fundamental concepts of architectural restoration and operational management of civil engineering works in buildings which had been officially awarded a historical and cultural value. Our expectation is to contribute to a better alignment among the different agents involved in this type of intervention with the purpose of facilitating cooperation in an endeavour to improve the quality of restoration projects of Brazilian cultural and architectural heritage.

Keywords

KEYWORDS, Authenticity, São Paulo Agriculture Palace, Historical heritage, Restoration project.