



Conservation of the St. Trinitatis
Church in Liepaja, Latvia

Background

The Baroque- style St. Trinitatis Church in Liepaja was completed in 1742. The facade of the church is simple compared to its interior, where marble, gildings and richly ornamented forms can be found. The church also has the world's biggest and oldest mechanic organ still in use. The St. Trinitatis Church in Liepaja plays an important role in the history of the independence of Finland; in 1918, Finnish volunteer "Jager" troops (Jääkärit) took an oath in this church when returning to Finland from a training camp in Germany.

A few words on projects

The objective of the Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects was to start the conservation of the St. Trinitatis Church. The first project was carried out in the years 2002 and 2004. The second project, started in 2004, will end in May 2006. A museum exhibition relating to the projects has been mounted on the basis of the results of the work carried out so far. Coordinated by Seinäjoki Polytechnic, a total of 24 students had the opportunity to do their practical training included in their studies conserving the St. Trinitatis Church.





Conservation, cleaning and documentation

The students have conserved especially the interior of the church. The work done has composed of damage mapping, conservation, documentation, as well as cleaning; among other things, the statues of the Four Apostles and their bases have been cleaned and documented. Moreover, dimensioned drawings also have been made. The conservation and cleaning have been demanding and time-consuming, for, among other things, the fragility of the materials and damage caused by time. As cleaning tools, variety of tools have been used, such as brushes, erasers, cotton sticks and French bread.





Partners involved in the project

In Finland:

Seinäjoki Polytechnic,
Provincial Museum of South Ostrobothnia,
National Board of Antiquities,
Jager Heritage Association of South Ostrobothnia

In Latvia:

Riga Technical University,
City of Liepaja,
St. Trinitatis Church of Latvia

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