

Historical Study of Materials

This book summarizes up the ancient architectural solutions, which have sunk in the waters of forgetfulness for today. As a result of the big industry during the past 100, 150 years, the architecture, becoming standardized, lost many architectural solutions. Without the application of these methods the authentic restoration of ancient buildings is not possible. Some of the building methods already forgotten by today offer inexpensive and durable alternatives as opposed to the modern materials and techniques. In the heart of our mind there lie hidden the ways and means of ancient architecture, which do influence our way of thinking and taste. The content of certain materials and solutions having reference to given periods of time cannot be denied.

This work is useful for those designing engineers, building engineers and building owners, who want

- to get familiarised with the ancient building materials and technologies,
- to determine the age of old buildings,
- to restore old buildings with the exact period materials and in the original way,
- to achieve the old effects.

The building researches, archive researches and old publications (prescriptions, technological instructions, etc.) serve as a basis of this book. Chronologically it deals with the materials of the 16-20th century, but in case of ancient mortars it even reaches back to the Roman times.

It discusses

- the composition of the one-time building materials,
- the history of the ancient materials and technologies,
- the possibility of the restoration, completion and replacement of the ancient materials.

The book primarily concentrates on the presentation of the old mortars, the plasters, the stucco and the various kinds of painting methods.

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