

UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE

Heritage/patrimony: from 'patrimonium' [Latin: related to PATER – father] property inherited from one's father or ancestor.

LEARNING TO SEE

I. Outside:

1. Get an all-embracing vision of the monument and the site.

Note:

- size and general appearance
- its location in relation to the site
- first impressions

2. Study the general architecture.

Is it:

- simple, complex, elaborate, ornate, massive, austere-looking...
- vertical, horizontal...?

Now analyze your impressions (what do I feel and why?). Do they correspond to your study of the architecture? Bear in mind that architecture is, and has always been, a means of expressing some kind of power – or the will to get it – political and/or financial...

Make use of your knowledge of the historical context.

3. Detailed study.

Note:

- how the walls are made (bricks, stones etc.)
- the various openings
- the different styles (if any). They will indicate the various periods of construction.
- the elements that attract your attention (what are they? Where are they located?)

II. Inside:

1. Soak up the atmosphere, the soul of the place

Note:

- size and general appearance (light/dark, high/low, open/partitioned etc.)
- first impressions

2. Make a first round and analyze your first impressions

Note:

- the general lay-out
- the different styles

3. Change from a general vision to a more focused one

Note:

- the various parts of the building
- the elements that attract you (what are they? Where are they located?)