

THE BUILT HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRAINING CENTRE, BANFFY CASTLE, BONȚIDA

David BAXTER,

The International Built Heritage Conservation Training Centre (BHCT Centre) at Banffy Castle, Bonțida is jointly run by the Transylvania Trust and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (UK). The Centre promotes a policy of Minimal Intervention in dealing with the repair of historic buildings, combined with a strategy of Compatibility in techniques and materials, and the use of local resources.

The Centre provides teaching modules, each of two weeks duration, which offer a theoretical and practical understanding of the care of the historic environment. Its principal emphasis is to offer a direct hands-on learning experience for its students. This is achieved through practical workshops in the crafts of Rendering, Masonry Consolidation, Car-

penry and Stonemasonry, within which students undertake practical restoration projects directly on the castle buildings.

The courses provided are available to craftsmen who are already within the building industry, who seek to either specialize or widen their personal skills, and also to university students, mainly in the fields of Architecture and Structural Engineering. This has enabled students of those courses to undertake their vocational training through the BHCT Centre. The courses have attracted over 900 students so far from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Czech Republic, France, Estonia, Sweden, Belgium, Brazil, Australia, the USA and UK.

Contact us through our web site at: www.heritagetraining-banffycastle.org