

## „Conservation and Revitalization of the Benedek Manor House from the City of Gheorgheni”

– *On a good way towards an authentic, traditional spot* –

At the B. cat. monument changes towards a traditional, authentic spot are getting more and more tangible, day after day. The contractor has been getting on in quite a good rythm in January and February too – chosing to work on problems which can be solved during the winter as well.

According to the monthly report of the site supervisor, once the planking of the Western facade consolidated, then the loft could be cleaned. Work is over upthere: the under-injection of the original plaster on the Eastern facade took place, two chimneys were strenghtened, the one built later, was demolished; the improvised, damaged consolidations of the roof from the ‘90s have been changed; the beams of the slab have been recovered by doubling/changing – so the structure got back its original logic; the old, damaged slats have been changed into new, traditional ones, keeping the shape and the dimensions of the roof; the dormers were rebuilt with anti-bird net, so



that the consolidation of the Western frontage and the cleaning were the last two rows on the to do list. Passers-by can already admire many details of the old-new image of the manor house.

Now, the recovery goes on breezily on the groundfloor.

Damages provoked by smoke have been cleaned down with a special solution from the surface of the wooden ceiling. The joists that must have been changed match among the old pieces perfectly. Each and every new wooden piece had got, according to the requirements, a special treatment against fungi, fire, etc.

In January, the electric wiring has been changed – in protection tubes, naturally, then the recovery of the wooden floor and the replacement of the damaged pieces took place as well.

The recovery of beams on the groundfloor, with a layer of ballast underneath, allows a natural ventilation.

In order to find a solution to not-proper depth of foundation, the soil has been cleaned away, and then a layer of thermal, and one of hidro-insulation was introduced – according to the plans.

The soles of the exterior walls have been changed, with a layer of hidro-insulation beneath.

Now, it takes huge efforts to realize a proper drain-system along the foundation. Another sisyphian work was to clear down the several layers of oil-colours from the window- and doorcase. It took e.g.



one whole week for a worker to remove the oil-colour from the oldest, original door.

To get back to the original structure, the door has been knocked down from the Eastern facade, at present, here is spot for a window instead.

In the house, in the rooms used for exhibitions, ethnographic workshops recovery of the plasters continues. At this point, unexpected news has shown up: **the original wall dyeing has been found.** Restorers are now working on the conservation of these valuable parts. In our next newsletter we are going to tell more about the topic.

If the weather keeps at springlike temperatures, the conservation of the Eastern facade – probably the most valuable part of the manor house – can start. The reconstruction of the porch and the external dyeing needs more stable and warmer weather conditions as well.

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