The emblematic ‘pagoda’ building of Laboratorios JORBA in Madrid was built in 1967 but demolished in 1999. The slow strengthening of planning control to protect industrial architecture against real estate pressures in the Spanish capital is examined on page 7.

Just when we were about to emerge from the frustration and misery of CoVid 19 into a world of hope and recovery, we have been struck by aggression and trauma. This time, it is not a disease of uncertain origin but a war brought about by an unprovoked invasion of an independent country.

The enormous tragedy unfolding in Ukraine is deeply upsetting, particularly for those of us with an involvement in international industrial heritage. On behalf of the TICCIH Board, I would therefore like to take this opportunity to extend our sympathy to all our Ukrainian friends who have been affected by the war in recent weeks, and to offer our support to you in the future.

Any readers who are engaging with social media channels will have picked up the extent to which Ukrainian industrial heritage has already been severely damaged in the war. My own organisation, Historic Environment Scotland, has historically been involved in the Blue Shield programme, which is supported by the Hague Convention and is designed to protect the built heritage in times of conflict.

Unfortunately, and perhaps inevitably, industrial heritage often has strategic value that renders it especially vulnerable in times of war. So it is unsurprising that some especially important and visible Ukrainian industrial heritage has already fallen victim to Russian missile and artillery attacks, such as in Mariupol.

As President of TICCIH, I have no hesitation in offering heartfelt support to our friends in Ukraine and hope that, alongside our partners in Europe (notably ERIH and Europa Nostra) we will be able to help the post-war healing process.
In this respect, I think it is vital to remember that the recent evolution of TICCIH has also depended upon our friends in Russia, many of whom have been left isolated, vulnerable and deeply embarrassed by the actions of their government. I am not sure if it helps with their personal discomfort, but I confess to being profoundly upset and embarrassed by my own country’s complicity in the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003, and the terrible consequences with which we are still living today, such as the ‘War on Terror’. I take great heart from news that Scottish universities are working to support not only Ukrainian students who have been trapped by the consequences of the current conflict, but also Russian students who are helpless in these difficult circumstances. With this in mind, I hope that readers of the Bulletin, and members of TICCIH more generally, will engage with and support both our Ukrainian and Russian friends and all work towards the evolution of a better world for everyone.
burgh's industrial history is really something to behold. Not just for the scope of the sites, but for what it means for the working class. All the major aspects of steel production were here. Mining, railroads, furnaces, fabricators and river transportation…The once enormous Homestead Steel Works is now a shopping complex. A few smoke stacks and a large gantry crane remain. When I go there, I appreciate their significance. Yet, I worry that some day its importance will be lost…Robotics, medicine, computer science, and banking are putting my beloved city on the map once more. But every blue collar person should know and appreciate what happened here. Industrial history may not mean much to anyone who doesn’t work with steel, but what the workers in that industry did for their families, communities, and this country is something that should be preserved. Industrial redevelopment for education and tourism represents a monumental effort across disciplines. From historic preservation and artistic enrichment to the green reuse of existing structures, citizens are able to fill the voids left by industries lost. Federal, state, and private input in former steel towns are keystone to success. Steel thus represents the triumph of western Pennsylvania—past, present, and future.

IRAN

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY MUSEUMS IN IRAN

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In 2020, TICCIH published its thematic study on oil heritage, the first global assessment of the heritage of petroleum production and the oil industry, and of the places, structures, sites, and landscapes that might be conserved for their historical, technical, social, or architectural attributes. In many cases, the petroleum production sites and historical infrastructures, situated in corrosive and fragile landscapes, are costly to conserve, challenging to re-use, and pre-function considering their contribution to climate change. TICCIH also included the proposals for criteria to evaluate this heritage and priorities for conserving the most important sites, ensembles, and landscapes, from regional inventories up to World Heritage sites. In this report, the heritage of the petroleum industry is defined as ‘the most significant fixed, tangible evidence for the discovery, exploitation, production, and consumption of petroleum products and their impact on human and natural landscapes’. While the importance of the historical evidence for the oil industry as a tangible cultural heritage is self-evident, it is also challenging to define an integrated and holistic strategy from a conversation point of view. For achieving holistic and methodological re-use strategies, it is required to reconsider various factors such as national policies and economic systems.

Today, many museums, memorials, and other historical establishments commemorate the oil industry’s contributions to the world’s cultural and societal landscapes. In many cases, studying documentation and company archives is the best way to conserve the industry’s history. Bringing together the refinery technology and culture, there are nearly 200 museums that exhibit oil and gas machinery and relics. In Iran, starting from January 2014, arrangements began to establish the national Petroleum Museums and document center of the oil industry set up by the direct order of the Iranian Minister of Petroleum Bijan Namdar Zangane and under the supervision of Akbar Nematollahi to collect, safeguard and display the old oil industry equipment.

Iran’s Petroleum Museums and Document Center offer insight into the nation’s energy heritage, which began in 1901 when British speculator William D’Arcy received a concession from Iran to explore and develop southern Iran’s oil resources which led to the formation of the London-based Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC). It tries to collect and display the old oil industry equipment and archival documents and protect and pass the tangible and intangible oil heritages to the next generations.
The launch of Iran’s petroleum industry museums started in Abadan, including an old refinery and gas station. The oldest filling station in Iran has been turned into a museum in Abadan and the oldest national technical training school dedicated to Iranian oil workers in Abadan. In Tehran, the 1934 Davazeh Dowlat filling station was opened. Cranes are being preserved in some parts of Abadan’s old ports with heavy machinery, such as Evan (literally meaning monster) and Gogerd (literally meaning sulfur). There is also an exhibition about the reconstruction process of the refineries after the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). The plan includes the inauguration of the oil museum in other major OPCs, such as Masjed Suleiman (located in the southwestern province of Khuzestan as the oil industry’s birthplace in Iran) with the oldest oil recovery site in the country. The first thermal power generation plant in Iran, known as Tombi Power Plant (launched in September 1908 and still operational in electricity distribution) is defined as one of the pilot museum sites in the Masjed Suleiman Petroleum Museum scheme. Based on the editorial report published by the Iran Petroleum Museums and Documents center, ‘The history of Masjed Suleiman electricity and Tombi Power Plant is directly related to oil eruption from the first well. In 1911, the first oil barrel was pumped from Well No. 1 of Masjed Suleiman. The flow started to the Abadan oil refinery through a pump house in Tombi. Given its oil and gas riches, Masjed Suleiman has always been a focal point that rapidly grew after the oil discovery and oil urbanization. The first station for pumping the crude oil from Masjed Suleiman to Abadan was built in 1909, and similar stations started operating in Malasani, Kut Abdullah, and Darkhovin, respectively. Darkhovin station is being operated with a power generator to meet its internal needs.’

The plans for two other oil museums in Kermanshah (the west part of Iran) and Tehran aim to offer insight into the nation’s long oil heritage. In Kermanshah, the last tin factory is planned to be transformed into the Petroleum Museum. The structure is to be erected at the Tin Factory of Kermanshah Refinery. Given the factory’s long history of over a century and its role in distributing petroleum products throughout the country, the museum is designed to exhibit a rich and diverse collection of items belonging to various periods of the factory’s operation. Most of the showcased items will be placed in the museum focusing on the industry in Iran’s western regions. Tehran-based Museum of Oil Industry Technology introduces the nature and importance of oil, gas, and petrochemicals in various areas of human life and the technologies used. Unlike other oil museums in other parts of the country, this museum does not have buildings, facilities, and content, so a particular building will be designed for the Tehran Oil Museum. It is expected to take four to five years to set up. The Treasury of relics and the Archives section of Iran’s Oil Industry Museum aims to identify, gather, categorize, organize, retrieve, repair, preserve, and keep oil industry documents to provide a comprehensive resource for the oil industry’s researchers and the general public.

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