

Strongholds of the World

Interdisciplinary lecture series of the
Marburger Arbeitskreises für europäische Burgenforschung e.V., Germany,
and Aarhus University, research programme “Materials, Culture and Heritage”, Denmark
in 2023

6th meeting:

When: Friday, December 8, 2023
Entry: 12:30 CET. Begin: 13:00 CET
Topic: Bastion Castles in Western Ukraine

Register in advance for this webinar:
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Dr. Olha Tikhonova

Development and typomorphology of bastion castles in Western Ukraine

Discussing the enigmatic phenomenon of bastion castles in Renaissance architecture, their origin poses a separate topic. Despite significant losses throughout the centuries due to warfare, alterations, and so-called restoration efforts, many of these architectural complexes continue to exist across Europe. Particularly remarkable is the prevalence of 17th-century bastion castles in Eastern Galicia (Western Ukraine), with no other region in Europe boasting as many examples of this type. However, there is still a dearth of information on their inception and value in architectural history.

The prevailing notion was that medieval castles in the 17th century became inappropriate for both opulent living and protection against gunpowder weaponry, which led to a division of this architectural structure into two architectural categories: defensive structures like contemporary forts or fortresses with bastion fortifications, and civil constructions such as palaces. Nonetheless, during this period, a hybrid category emerged, melding these two architectural types into a single ensemble, extending the creation of castles into the 17th century. The initial cases of this hybrid type were identified in Italy during the 16th century, primarily built for the Medici family. However, it acquired a distinct typological characteristic a century later in the

Republic of Poland and gained widespread prevalence, particularly in the former territory of Eastern Galicia (Western Ukraine).

This lecture aims to highlight a transfer of knowledge from Italy and France to Ukraine and familiarize the audience with the rich defensive architecture of the bastion castle type that gained its pick of development in Ukraine.

Our speaker

Dr. Olha Tikhonova

She is a Ukrainian scholar in fortification history. Since 2022, Dr. Tikhonova has held an assistant professorship as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie granted fellow at the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, Poland). Dr. Tikhonova is a Scientific expert member of EFFORTS (European Federation of Fortified Sites) and an independent research collaborator member at CIAUD. She is also a reviewer at Nexus Network Journal.

Dr. Tikhonova has a *Ph.D. cum laude* with an International Mention from the Lisbon School of Architecture (Portugal). She received her master's in Rehabilitation of Architectural Sites from Lviv Polytechnic University in Ukraine.

Dr. Tikhonova was awarded several scholarships during her Ph.D. studies, including a research scholarship at the Lisbon School of Architecture in Portugal. These included the INFINITY project, funded by the Erasmus Mundus Programme (09/2014–07/2017); a Research Fellowship Training in Warsaw (Poland), sponsored by East European Summer School (July 2016); and a research fellowship at Technische Universität Wien (Austria), Fakultät für Raumplanung und Architektur, financed by the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria (01/2018–04/2018).

From 2020 to 2022, Dr. Tikhonova worked on the RIACT project in a postdoctoral position at the University of Porto (Portugal). She is extensively published in architectural journals, with related expertise in architectural theory, conservation of architectural monuments, urban analysis, space syntax, and geographic information systems (GIS).