

RESTORATION OF AN ANCIENT MONUMENT

"THE KOUTRAFAS WATERMILL" by

A L E X I S A V G O U S T I S

and

L O U I S T S I A K K I R O S

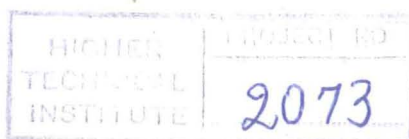
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A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

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Introduction

Restoration is an absolute necessity nowadays, imposed by the signs of times. With the Cyprus economical miracle and prosperity, people have deserted their old houses, and built other ones or have demolished them to develop their land. This has caused a great loss to our Architectural Heritage. The few specimens left standing, have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. People have realised the loss of our Architectural Heritage, and felt the need of restoring and preserving historical buildings and traditional neighbourhoods which are regarded as monuments and carriers of our cultural and national substance and not as useless constructions. Major priority for restoration, have buildings, which are linked with the history, culture and civilization of a country.

The Department of Antiquities and the Town Planning Department, declare significant old buildings into monuments and are responsible at most of the times for their restoration and preservation. Restorations are undertaken from the private sector, as well, but at a smaller proportion.

This project deals with the restoration of a monument, declared as such, by the Department of Antiquities. This monument is a watermill situated near Koutrafas village in the District of Nicosia. In this project, a thorough analysis of the elements of the mill is made, the degree of deterioration is established, and the measures and means of restoration are defined. This project shows the significance of the watermill and hence historical edifices, and the need for their restoration. By restoring historical buildings, it is made sure that our Architectural Heritage will pass on to the generations to come as a living, organic part of our history and civilization.

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