THE CIPA "O. Wagner Pavilion" TEST

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ABSTRACT:

World-wide, only a small percentage of the buildings of cultural interest are documented, but many images are taken by architects, historians or others, who are interested in Architectural Photography or just in souvenir photography. There is a great potential for such imagery taken by accident, and it would be advantageous to use this resource in addition to professional photogrammetric imagery for the restitution of the world's heritage.

The aim of this CIPA initiative is twofold: First, To check the current state-of-the-art in Architectural Photogrammetry. Second, to develop a network of photogrammetric institutes with proven expertise in Architectural Photogrammetry.

The test object chosen is one of the Otto Wagner's Stadtbahn Station buildings on the Karlsplatz in Vienna, Austria. The building has been properly surveyed and photographed with different cameras. The photographs have been measured by different measuring devices (analytical plotters, small analytical systems, digitizers, automatic measurements on digital images) and the data processed by different software packages. In total sixteen photogrammetric Institutes from ten European countries have participated to this campaign.

In all cases the obtained accuracies were in the order of one to two cm, in the worse cases. Conclusions were drawn concerning: pre- vs. self-calibration, semi- vs. non-metric photography, medium vs. small format, normal vs. general case, minimum vs. rich control, different control distributions, different measuring devices, simple vs. rigid restitution, different adjustment software, different vs. same persons' repetitions. Each participant could clarify these questions for himself and collect experience. The official nomination of the successful participating institutes by CIPA to ICOMOS and UNESCO as centers of excellence for Architectural Photogrammetry is pending.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG:


1. MOTIVATION

We are responsible for protecting the natural and built environment and its moral, social, natural and cultural meaning. Wars, earthquakes, floods, fire, storms, and other natural disasters take a heavy toll each year. Decay, questionable attempts at modernization, and the demolition of buildings to gain space for traffic and housing also removes traces of the past.

Several international agreements address the situation:
- The International Restoration Charter (Venice, 1964) of the 2nd Congress of Architects and Specialists of Historic Buildings, for the Protection of the World Heritage as well as the National Heritage of Important Buildings and Local Sites (It followed the creation of ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites in 1965).
- The UNESCO Convention (Paris, 1972) for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

More than a technique, Photogrammetry is a useful, basic tool for the planning, construction, reconstruction and revitalization of architecture. It is also a good means for preserving knowledge about architecture for future generations in case of decay or destruction. Therefore, Photogrammetric Recording of our Cultural Heritage is a necessary civil defense against its extinction.

It is known that until today only a small part of the existing buildings has been properly documented by photogrammetry, and many of these documented buildings have been restored or altered in the meantime, without keeping their records up-to-date. Worldwide there exists an urgent and tremendous demand for Architectural Photogrammetry, which is the only means for fast, complete and visual documentation of architecture.

CIPA agreed that the production of photogrammetric documentation is needed besides the few professional high-quality work currently performed. In the opinion of CIPA, this work should be assisted not only by photogrammetrists, but also by the many practitioners in different disciplines, who already do architectural photography. In order for these people to be able to offer help, they need to be properly trained in minimum control requirements, planning and execution of the photography, camera requirements, collection of documentation information, etc.

The aim of this CIPA initiative is therefore in general twofold: First, To check the current state-of-the-art in Architectural Photogrammetry, especially regarding the necessary minimum control requirements, the use of semi- and non-metric cameras, and the use of new technology (camcorders, CCD-cameras, digital photogrammetric techniques). Second, to develop a network of photogrammetric institutes with proven expertise in Architectural Photogrammetry, able to perform photogrammetric restorations, offer training to non-specialists and cooperate and assist others whenever more experts are needed for local or regional tasks.

Regarding the first aim the scope of the test was to draw conclusions on:
- prec- vs. self-calibration
- semi- vs. non-metric photography
- medium vs. small format
- normal vs. general case
- minimum vs. rich control
- different control distributions
- different measuring devices
- simple vs. rigid restitution
- different adjustment software
- different vs. same persons' repetitions

The main aim was to test whether the results reached are good enough for emergency cases, and if architecture may be reconstructed from plans restituted from amateur photography or freely oriented semimetric cameras.

Regarding the second aim the setup was as follows: Each partner is responsible for a defined national region. As soon as another institute proves expertise in Architectural Photogrammetry, it is added to the list of the partners. As soon as a region has been trained by its center, the region or country would be represented as a whole. This way the non-photogrammetrists could be trained to help speed up the process of metric photographic recording of monuments and sites. The professional photogrammetrists could then be concentrated on the more complicated projects, where immediate restitution is required.

2. THE TEST MATERIAL

The test object chosen is one of the Otto Wagner's Stadtbahn Station buildings on the Karlsplatz in Vienna, Austria. Its dimensions are 15x8x10m².

![Figure 1. "O. Wagner Pavillion" test object as appears in an Austrian stamp issued in 1991, on the occasion of the 150th birthday of O. Wagner.](image-url)
A 6-station surveying network has been established around the building and the polar coordinates of 44 (partly natural but well defined points, see examples of sketches, partly targetted by black stickers, 2cm diameter, circular) control points have been measured. After the adjustment of the surveying measurements, the local cartesian coordinates of the control points have been determined with an rms values of 2mm. These points cover all four exterior facades.

Figure 2. Sample figure of the control points used in the test.

Subsequently the object was photographically covered. During this campaign the following cameras have been used:
- Rollei 6006
- Hasselblad 500 EL/M
- Leica Elcovision
- Nikon FE2
- Pentax PAMS 645P
- Pentax ME-Super
- Canon AE1
- Contax RTS III
- JVC-S77 camcorder

totaling to more than 100 photographs. The scale of the images range from 1:200 to 1:400 for the medium format cameras and from 1:500 to 1:800 for the small format cameras.

Figure 3. Sample figure of the photo configuration.

The photographs have been measured by different measuring devices (analytical plotters, small analytical systems, digitizers, automatic measurements on digital images) and the data processed by different software packages.

3. THE PARTICIPANTS

A network of 26 University Institutes of Photogrammetry in 16 mainly European countries has been formed. 12 Universities have been working together on a project known as “Engineering Photogrammetry of CEI (Central European Initiative)” since 1991. The remaining 14 Universities joined the group in 1992, at the request of CIPA. From those participants 16 Institutes have completed their contribution to the test, according to the following table.

Three Pilot Centers have undertaken the job for administration of the test. More specifically, TUV (Vienna, Austria) is administrating the whole project, took the most of the photography and performed the surveying of the monument. AUT (Thessaloniki, Greece) undertook the analysis of the numerical results, and the statistics of compatibility of the different solutions. GRA (Granada, Spain) performed the analysis of the graphical presentations from the photogrammetric restitution.

The participants were free to select the method and the instruments as available.

4. DATA PROCESSING

The participants work resulted in a total of 107 different solutions, using either semi- or non-metric camera, medium or small format, measuring devices of different accuracies, and minimum or maximum control.

In order for all these solutions to be able to compare to each other the following strategy has been followed:

4.1 Transformation to a common frame

The minimum constrained solutions obtained so far have been transferred to the same reference frame which provides the minimum norm and it is defined by the free-network adjustment. The transformation of the minimum constrained solution to a free-network solution requires an S-(Helmert) transformation. The points kept fixed (base points) during this transformation are the same for all participants. The coordinates and the respective covariance matrix are then transferred to their free-network respectives.

4.2 Accuracy assessment

In order to assess the accuracy of the adjusted coordinates we computed a number of criteria, ranging from local criteria to global criteria. It should be pointed out that all these are accuracy criteria since they refer to the actually known (from surveying measurements) object coordinates of the withheld from the adjustment check points.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Photography</th>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Software</th>
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<td>PHOX DLT (own)</td>
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<td>Rollei, Hasselblad scanned images JVC GR-S77</td>
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<td>Digital Photogr. Station</td>
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**Contribution**

1. comparison of pre- vs. self-calibration
2. comparison of semi- vs. non-metric photography
3. comparison of medium vs. small format
4. comparison of normal vs. general case
5. comparison of minimum vs. rich control
6. comparison of different control distributions
7. comparison of different measuring devices
8. comparison of simple vs. rigid restitution
9. comparison of different adjustment software
10. comparison of repetitions
11. development of training material
12. development of software / Information Systems
13. graphical presentation
5. THE RESULTS

5.1 Concerning adjustment software

- 81% participants have used bundle adjustment software.
- 19% participants have used DLT software.
- 25% participants have used own software.
- Many of the programs do not make available to the user (either partly or fully) covariance information.

5.2 Concerning pre- and self-calibration

- 48% solutions used pre-calibration.
- 52% solutions used self-calibration.
- In all cases the obtained accuracies are better than 1cm.
- In the majority of the cases self-calibration gave better results.
- In some cases (20%) self-calibration gave worst results, which means that it has not been handled correctly.

5.3 Concerning semi- and non-metric photography

- 42% solutions used semi-metric photography.
- 53% solutions used non-metric photography.
- 5% solutions used CCD’s or camcorders.
- Medium format, semi-metric photography gave the best results.
- Small format, non-metric photography gave the less food results, but good enough for architectural emergency purposes.
- Small format, semi-metric performed as good as the medium format, non-metric photography.

5.4 Concerning medium and small format

- 43% solutions used medium format photography.
- 57% solutions used small format photography.
- Medium format performed better than small format.
- There is a strong connection between format and measuring device regarding the achieved accuracy.

5.5 Concerning measuring devices

- 62% solutions used measuring device with precision 1m to 5m.
- 29% solutions used measuring device with precision 5m to 30m.
- 8% solutions used measuring device with precision larger than 30m.
- The role of high-precision measuring device is more profound in semi-metric and medium format than in non-metric and small format.
- The degradation of accuracy when using lower-precision measuring device is very high (up to 100%)
for semi-metric and medium format, whereas negligible for non-metric and small format.

5.6 Concerning control information

- 31% solutions used minimum control information.
- 69% solutions used maximum control information.
- The fluctuation of the results is little when using max. control in contrary to min. control (given measures as distances and defined verticals) solutions.

5.7 Photogrammetric restitution results

Although the main objective of this test has been to evaluate the different programs of bundle adjustments available, as well as to proof the possibility of using amateur cameras for recording with photogrammetry our cultural heritage, it should not be forgotten that the fundamental application of photogrammetry in the field of architecture continues to be that of obtaining graphic records.

Up until the present, only two centers have carried out a graphic plotting of the building presented here. As a comparative element we have at our disposal a plotting previously carried out by the Bundesdenkmalamt using a SMK metric bi-camera from Carl Zeiss Oberkochen and an analogical plotter. In our case we have used the photographs obtained with the Rolleimetric 6006 camera and the ADAM MPS2 stereoplotter. For this instrument an interface for working directly in Autocad have been used. As records of reference, three of the four elevations have been plotted, since the two lateral elevations are practically identical. By joining the elevations we were able to make up a three-dimensional model with which to construct perspectives of the building from different positions and angles.

By comparing the results of the analogical plotting carried out by the Bundesdenkmalamt with the drawings now effected, a similarity may be appreciated both with regard to the precision achieved and with regard to the graphic result. The most remarkable difference can obviously be observed in lighter weight and greater ease in the use of the equipment used at present, particularly with reference to the photographic camera, and above all, the considerable advantages are on the availability of the results in CAD and with three dimensions recording. This whole system provides undeniable advantages, from the simplification of data-taking thanks to the use of light cameras which are easy to transport and to handle as well as to the reduction in control data. At the same time there are possibilities of obtaining a graphic quality similar to that achieved by means of traditional equipment.

Figure 5. Sample graphical output of the photogrammetric restitution.
6. CONCLUSIONS

- Assuming enough (minimum) control, proper pre-calibration or careful self-calibration procedure, adequate results for architectural use are obtained (1cm-2cm) even with small-format non-metric photography.

- The three major factors affecting the accuracy are:
  - **Photoscale (is connected to the format)**
  - **Metric characteristics of the camera**
  - **Measuring device**

  The bigger the photoscale (bigger format) the more information contained in the image can be used by a high-precision device. Conversely, there is no reason in using a high-precision device when the information is not recorded (small format).

  Besides, the resolution of the information and the stability of the camera are two factors that are interrelated. For example, if the highly resolved information (medium format) is not geometrically stable (non-metric) we can not recover the losses by using a high measuring precision.

- Combined (terrestrial + photogrammetric) measurements adjustment did not improve the results considerably.

- Solutions using minimum control information (according to “3x3 rules”) provided almost as accurate results as by using minimum constrained solutions with surveying data.

Concluding this CIPA test we should now proceed with the following tasks of Architectural Photogrammetry:

- Quick and worldwide photogrammetric documentation of the architectural heritage.
- The analytical methods of restitution should be further developed and further propagated.
- Databases are to be developed for national and international cooperation in the various fields of cultural resource management, including information on where photography or plans exist, where subdatabases are not exist and which fields are covered by them (MetaDatabases).
- Digital Photogrammetry and digital image processing are to be further developed.
- Promotion of Photogrammetry among potential users.
- Promotion of activities of National Delegates. Cooperation with other committees and organizations.
- Promotion of cooperation with the military and the local fire brigades.
- Cultivation of macrophotogrammetry. Cadastre of small monuments and museumphotogrammetry.

REFERENCES


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