The Getty Conservation Institute

PUCP

Conserving and Retrofitting the Church of Kuño Tambo, Near Cusco, Peru

Under its Seismic Retrofitting Project (SRP), the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is developing sensitive seismic retrofitting solutions for historic earthen buildings in South America. Using four Peruvian historic earthen buildings representing typologies across Latin America, the GCI — in collaboration with the Ministerio de Cultura del Perú, the Escuela de Ciencias e Ingeniería of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), and the University of Minho — is designing, testing, and implementing seismic retrofitting techniques and maintenance programs with locally available materials that will improve the structural performance and safety of earthen buildings while minimizing loss of historic fabric. The Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Bath and the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at University College London have been also SRP partners from 2010 to 2012 and from 2013 to 2014 respectively.

One of the four SRP prototype buildings is the Church of Santiago Apóstol of Kuño Tambo. This seventeen century church, is the most prominent building in the Comunidad Campesina Kuño Tambo, a remote village of 500 inhabitants located southeast of the city of Cusco. Owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cusco, the church has been in continuous use as a place of worship since its construction and, remarkably, retains much of its original configuration and materials. The interior of the church is decorated with beautiful wall paintings typical of the period.

In September 2016, the Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura-Cusco (DDC-C), a regional brunch of the Ministerio de Cultura del Perú, started the implementation phase of the church retrofitted proposal developed by the SRP partners and GCI consultants. Since then, a series of in-situ workshops have been developed to disseminate the implemented retrofitted techniques, using the church as a model project. This visit will allow a certain number of participants to visit the construction site and learn the methodology behind its retrofitted design.

Itinerary:

- Departure from Cusco in air-conditioned coach.
- Arrival to Kuño Tambo and welcome from the community.
- Technical visit and presentations of the retrofitting proposal and conservation work.
- Traditional Andean lunch
- Visit to the project house
- Departure from Kuño Tambo
- Arrival to Cusco.

SRP partners and GCI consultants will provide information about the methodology used for the retrofitting of the site. Resident architects from the DDC-C will present the work already performed on site. As part of the SRP, the GCI has also built a project house using traditional building techniques. The visit will be an opportunity to visit the project house as well.

For more information about the SRP and related publications, visit:
http://www.getty.edu/conservation/our_projects/field_projects/seismic/index.html