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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Post-occupancy evaluation of a restored industrial building: A contemporary art and design gallery in Mexico



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Abstract

This paper presents the results obtained from a post-occupancy evaluation (POE) study conducted in an old fabric building called “*La Violeta*”. This structure has been recently converted into a contemporary art gallery. *La Violeta* is located in Puebla City, Mexico. The building dates from the beginning of the 19th century; it was built and used as a textile factory until the first decades of the 20th century. This POE study aims to assess the new use of the building from the users' point of view. Methodology involves historical research of the building, analysis of the conversion strategy, walkthrough investigation, and a user survey. Questions regarding the re-utilization strategy used in the building and its current use are included in the survey, such as “How do people perceive the space regarding its functionality, accessibility, and comfort?” Although the re-utilization process destroyed several historic elements, the re-use of old industrial spaces that otherwise would be obsolete and disused seems pertinent. Developing small renovation projects as part of an integral and wider project seems feasible. Users perceive the building as comfortable but not properly advertised as an art gallery, and its location is difficult to find. © 2015 The Authors. Production and hosting by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

The main aim of this paper is to analyze the results from a post-occupancy evaluation (POE) study of a restored industrial space: a former textile factory converted into a contemporary art and design gallery. The building is located in the city of Puebla, Mexico. The importance of preserving

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Figure 1 Paseo de San Francisco area and the Art Gallery, Puebla, Mexico.

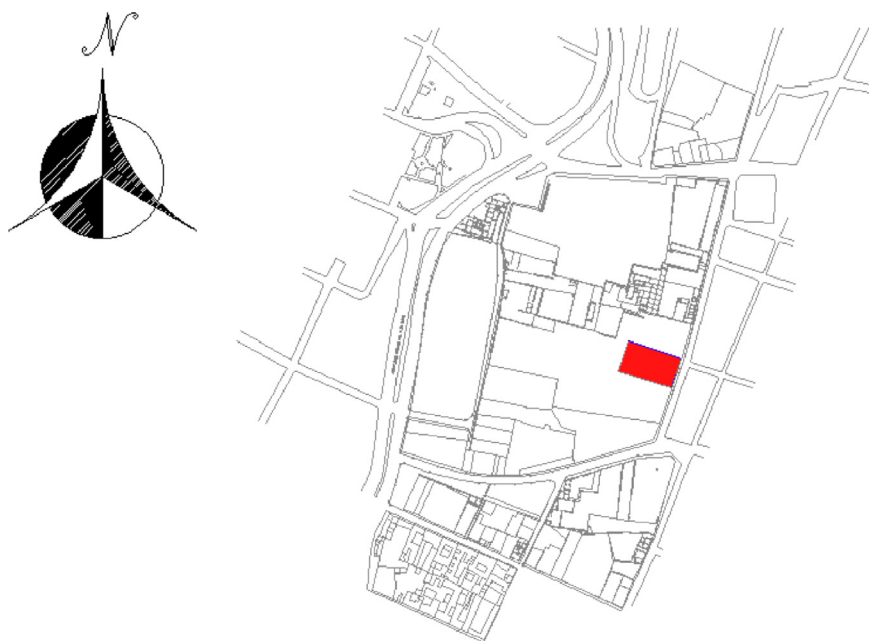


Figure 2 Location of the Art Gallery within the Convention Centre Area.

industrial spaces, in this case a textile factory, is discussed in relation to its new use. The research questions are as follows: (1) How convenient is it to provide a new use for an old and abandoned building? (2) Is the building appropriate and comfortable for its current use? (Figures 1 and 2).

This paper addresses the principles of the 1987 Declaration of Puebla City as a World Heritage City and the connotation of the conservation of the industrial space with

the *Angelopolis* mega project and its relationship with the *contemporary art and design gallery in Puebla, Mexico*. This document is structured with the following sections: historical background of the building and the area, analysis of the concept of Industrial Heritage, research methodology, analysis of the conversion of “La Violeta” textile factory into an art gallery, description of the building, and the results of the POE of a converted industrial space into a

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