

“Revitalisation of the Giorgi Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography”

The Final Report to RIKSANTIKVAREN

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The Final Report
On completion of activities carried out within the framework of
The Grant Agreement
Between Georgian National Museum
And
Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage on three parts project for the
“Revitalization of the G. Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography”



TBILISI

MAY, 2012

Background

Reference is made to the meeting between GNM and Riksantikvaren in Tbilisi on November 24, 2010, and earlier correspondence between the two institutions.

Based on the cooperation, "Riksantikvaren" funded the GNM with a grant totalling: USD 55 900.00. (Fifty five thousand nine hundred) - for implementation of the following project activities:

- (C1) Temporary roofing of the "Kartli Darbazi" at OAM;
- (C2) Reconstructing the fence around the OAM territory;
- (C3) Restoration of wooden houses:
 - a) Restoration of the house from Goraberezhoulis in Guria zone OAM;
 - b) Restoration of the house from Nigvziani in Guria zone OAM.
 - c) Workshop on restoration techniques and principles.
- (C4) Workshop on museum management (including full English translation of the newly elaborated Master Plan).

In the proposed report is presented survey of completed activities of the project by foreseen of fulfilled components of the Grant Agreement:

- (C1) Temporary roofing of "Kartli Darbazi" at OAM
- (C2) Reconstructing the fence around the OAM
 - (A – The fence of metal structure and brick wall combined with metal fence)
 - (B – The fence of metal grid)
- (C3) Restoration of wooden houses:
 - a) Restoration of the house from Goraberezhoulis in Guria zone OAM;
 - b) Restoration of the house from Nigvziani in Guria zone OAM.
 - c) Workshop on restoration techniques and principles (The fieldtrip in region).
- (C4) Full English translation of the Master Plan (G. Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography development plan) elaborated by "Georgian House".

(C1) Arranging temporary roofing for "Kartli Darbazi" at OAM

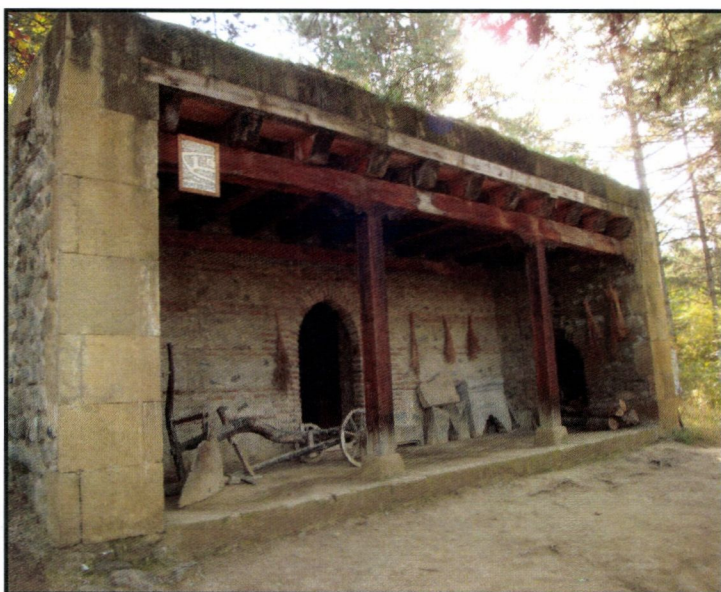
The Georgian traditional house –"Kartlis Darbazi" located at the G. Chitaia Open Air Ethnographic Museum presents the 19th century building moved and exposed at the Museum beginning 70th of 20th century from Teliani village, Kaspi district.

The original roofing of the building was damaged through influence of atmospheric precipitation, on account of what water flowing on the walls and penetration in the house was a big problem for the "Kartlis Darbazi".

Following to technical professionals' consideration, before the feasibility of the building's reconstruction by foreseen all authentic elements, it was advisable to arrange temporary roofing

for the house, in order to stop flowing of atmospheric precipitation through the roofing and walls.

Before starting practical works proper technical documentation has been prepared including architectural and structural parts, subsequently, according to local legislation was organized tender for constructing the temporary roofing. Because of the tender was not successful for several times the donor was asked for permission to allocate funds from another activity of the project (where we had reduction of prices while tender process), eventually, practical works have been started and were completed for the end of June. As result, the house is carried out from further effecting of atmospheric precipitation. Should be underlined that functionally, as exposition, the “Kartlis Darbazi” is not be closed and visitors are welcomed to visit the house as it happened before arranging the roofing.



(C2) Reconstructing the fence around the OAM

Following to the funding terms of the activity foreseen by the agreement the works have been sorted by type of fences, -

- Reconstruction the fence combined with metal structure and brick wall, together with the fence with metal structure,
- Reconstruction the fence of metal grid

(A – the fence combined with metal structure and brick wall, together with the fence with just metal structure,)

The museum has been enclosed with such type of fence in 70th of the past century, part of which was damaged and destroyed in due course. Some sections (with brick walls) of the fence is nearby to the highway what could be considered one of the reasons (auto crashes) of its damage, besides through flowing atmospheric precipitation the metal fence foundations where ruined, and some sections of metal construction were diminished.

After preparation of proper technical documentation and passing through tender procedures the reconstruction works have been started. They included:

- Reconstruction of concrete foundations by necessity as along to the highway as in hardly accessible sections.
- Rehabilitation of brick walls
- Welding of diminished sections as along to the highway as in hardly accessible sections.
- Treatment of reconstructing fence with corrosion preventing material.

BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION:

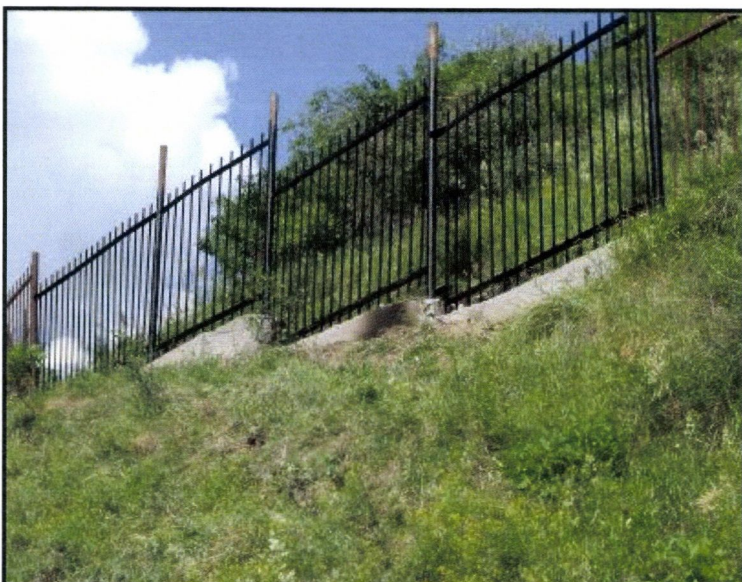
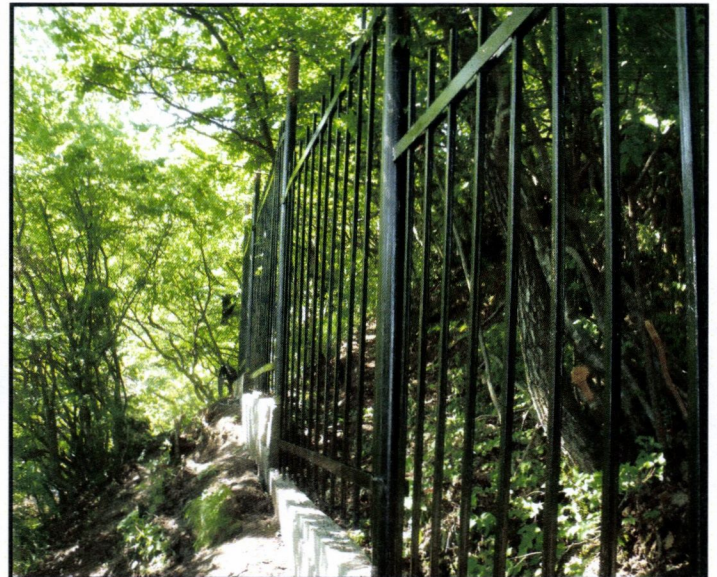




RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS:



AFTER RECONSTRUCTION:



(B – The fence of metal grid – “Rabitz” fence)

Several sections of the grid-based fence enclosed around big part of the museum were damaged and most of such type fence has been diminished in due course. Subsequently the Museum’s territory was opened for animals and people who used to use it as short road to several directions.

The situation was indeed unacceptable for the museum’s normal functioning.

As result of the organized tender the damaged sections of the fence have been reconstructed. Part of the fence sections was equipped with new fixing pipes with concrete foundations.

BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION:



AFTER RECONSTRUCTION:

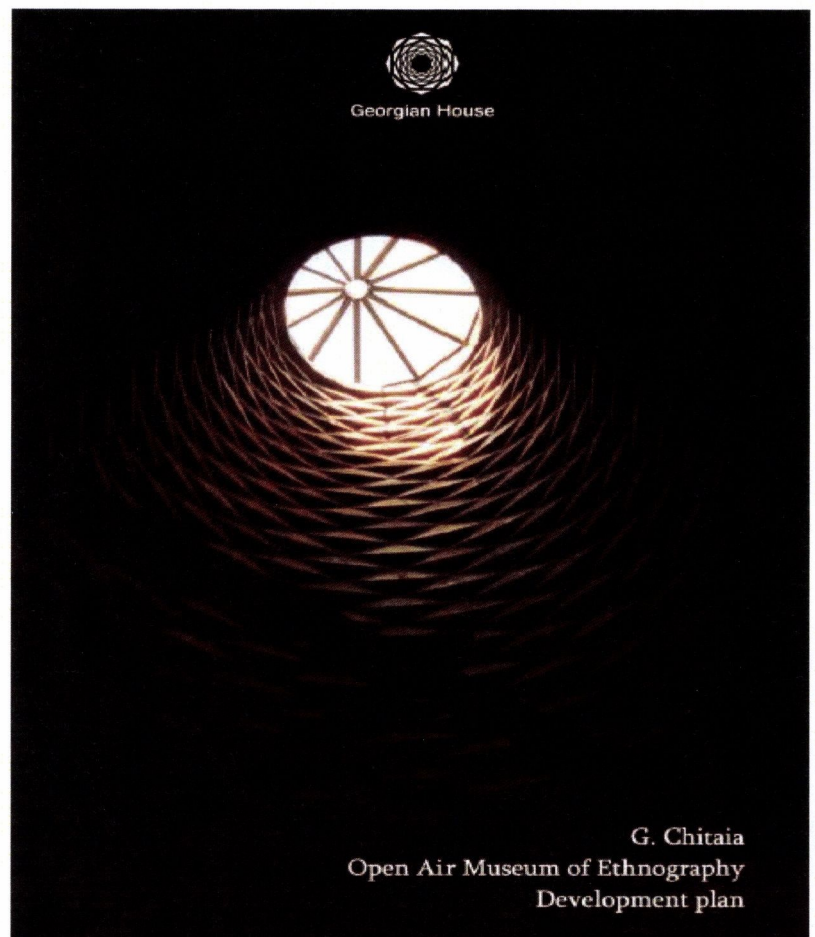




Thus, at present all the museum's territory is enclosed with fences.

(C4) Full English translation of the Master Plan (G. Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography development plan) elaborated by the "Georgian House".

Following to the agreement G. Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography development plan is fully translated. An electronic version was sent to the "Riksantikvaren" and to the "Georgian House" as well, if needed the "Riksantikvaren" will be provided with printed version of the translated document as well.



The field trip

In June 2011 joint expedition in Georgia's regions Racha and Lechkhumi was organized in order to find traditional carpenters with special knowledge of timber treating technique. From the GNM the trip was accompanied by Mr. Anzor Gogiashvili – one of the most experienced



professionals of the museum in this field, whereas Norwegian side for the field trip was presented by Mr. Eivind Falk and Hans Marumsrud.

Besides, following to the Reksantikvaren's request an expedition was accompanied by Mrs. Manana Tevzadze. The trip was sufficiently successful and its results might be useful as for the Norwegian partners as for the GNM. (f.e. as the OAM suffers with lack of carpenters it might be reasonable to attract some of found crafts for the museum.)



Full restoration of the two cooking exhibition houses from villages Nigvziani and Goraberejouli in Guria zone of the OAM (C3 a,b)

Implementation of the project continued with starting practical works of the C3 (a,b) activity, implying full restoration of the cooking exhibition houses from vill. Nigvziani and Goraberejouli located in the Guria region zone of the Open Air Museum.

Brief description of the house from Nigvziani, 1850s.

“Samzadi” house (Outhouse kitchen) was moved to the Museum from v. Nigvziani, Lanchkhuti district (Guria region) in 1969. It is a single-storey structure, with an open gallery on the shed side and earthen floor with a hearth in the middle, with an “Ojinjali” (wooden frame for pots) above it. It has no ceiling. Through the back door one enters the cow-shed, leading to the yard. The two sided roofing of the house is roofed by sedge.



Archival photos (“Nigvziani” 1969)

On the basis of study and research of the house it was established that the building was in disastrous condition and needed urgent restoration and reestablishing works.

The structure and walls of the house were deformed so that they could collapse at any time. The roofing was entirely rotten, through which the building was effected by atmospheric precipitations. The sedge cover was thoroughly damaged too. Situation gradually was worsening.



The Nigvziani House before reconstruction

Besides, on some sections of the house fungous damages, mould and worms were designated.



Example of the bio-deteriorated boards

Furthermore of the risk of collapsing the buildings stipulated with very bad condition of the houses there was another problematic issue for the Museum, -location of the houses was exhibition area of the OAM, which was perturbing for the Museum and it was crucial to start restoration process as soon as possible.

Thusly, the buildings were dismantled and the authentic timber were divided in three category:

1. The timber with better condition, which could have been used again during restoration process.
2. The timber which needed special actions of restoration before reusing again.
3. The timber which was in critical condition and was not reusable again and should have been changed with new timber.



Usable and restorable authentic timber of the Nigvziani house



Sample of unusable authentic timber of the Nigvziani house

Following the technical specifications prepared by architects new timber was purchased to replace authentic unusable and lost timber for both of the houses.

Should be underlined that restoration has been implemented in accordance with the architectural projects made by the GNM architects, which was prepared in frames of the joint project with UNESCO, and implied following types of works:

- Full dismantling of the damaged buildings
- Arranging stone foundation by foreseen of replacing cracked stone with new material.
- Full replacing of all holder wooden logs, pillars and griddles.
- Restoration of the doors (by foreseen of replacing lost or damaged details of wooden and metal sections).
- Restoration of walls (by foreseen of replacing lost or damaged wooden sections).
- Restoring of the balconies (by foreseen of replacing lost or damaged wooden sections).
- Full replacing of the roofs (including the sedges).

Should be pointed out that following to distinct recommendation of the “Riksantikvaren” that restoration of houses should have been carried out by respective staff of the Museum and not by invited carpenters, as the aim of this particular activity of the project was to develop necessary skills of carpenters together while restoring the houses. Proceeding from this Museum refused to hire external carpenters and concentrated on Museum carpenters. Furthermore, as recommended by the partner, the GNM hired for permanent work former OAM carpenter Vano Jajanidze, who has been in Norway on practical workshops and was actively involved in implementation of the activity.

Since the beginning of restoration works it has been monitored by the GNM architects Giorgi Chepkhodze, (author of the architectural project of the Nigvziani house), and Lasha Adikashvili (author of the architectural project of the Goraberejouli house) through permanent visits on site. Such type of cooperation between the carpenters and architects could be considered as very good experience for Open Air Museum in further restoration activities as it is positively reflected on the final results of the works and its deadlines.

Thusly, after tender procedures and purchasing materials practical works on restoration has been started with works on Nigvziani house. First phase of the works started with establishing foundation and arranging wooden carcass together with cliff boulders.

Restoring the Nigyziani house (Photos):



After the foundation was established arranging the holder structures and wooden boards has been started.

It shall be highlighted that as the exposition houses are originals and not copies, architects, ethnographers and carpenters were trying to use old authentic materials as much as possible if they were not rotten. Such material was basically wall boards, respectively reused authentic material was that wall boards. In case if those boards had small rotten parts, carpenter-restorer was restoring them through “prosthesis”.



Mixing authentic and new timber on Nigvziani house



Nigvziani House before starting the roofing works

One of the most important phases during restoration process was roofing arrangement for the houses. As mentioned, they were thoroughly put out of action. Trusses, lathes and main wooden logs were entirely replaced with new timber. The sedge was replaced as well.

Should be pointed out that carpenters and workers lifted heavy wooden logs on the top of the buildings not by crane but according to traditional way of holding such type of work, which implies placing big logs on the roofing using ropes and levers.



Using traditional way of lifting and mounting wooden logs



Traditional method of placing heavy logs above the building

Hewing new trusses for the roofing



Structure of the renovated roofing from interior side



Boarding the ceiling of the balcony of "Nigvziani"

by the carpenters: Tamaz Gordiashvili and Vano Jajanidze

Forging steel details for houses

The GNM steel restorer (black smith) Irakli Bakradze was involved in restoration activities in order to forge and/or restore steel locks and handles of the houses using traditional technique. After proper consultations with carpenter and architect he restored damaged steel details and forged lost or broken ones again following to Georgian tradition of steel forging.



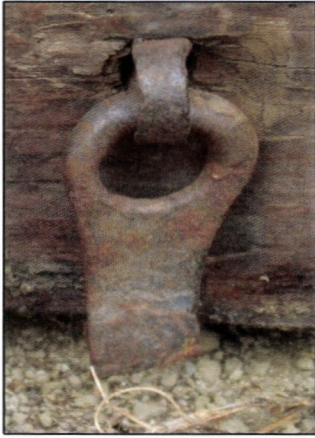
Consultations with carpenter and architect regarding technical details of steel elements



Before restoring



After Restoring



The broken lock



Newly forged lock

New steel details were forged for the doors as well with proper nails on bases of an old one:



An old door steel detail



Newly forged detail



New steel details for the gate of the balcony

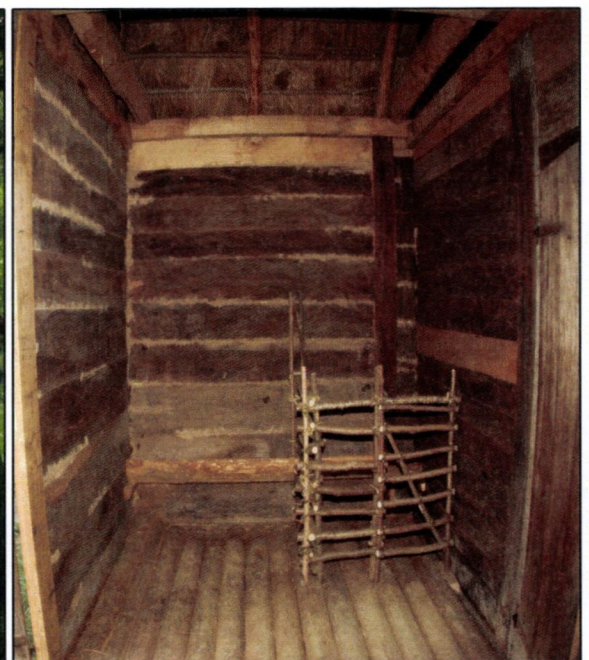


Working at the OAM Smithy

During restoration process, when treating important elements or ornaments by the carpenters, the notes have been taken by the OAM's ethnographer Anzor Gogiashvili about used technique and traditional way of treating timber. These records (together with the materials collected in earlier and last stages of the project) are meant to be integrated in the "Timber Conservation Manual" that is going to be issued in frames of the joint project with UNESCO. The document will reflect the information about traditional timber craftsmen and their knowledge of unique technique in Georgia. It will be prepared by joint efforts of the Georgian as Norwegian professionals.

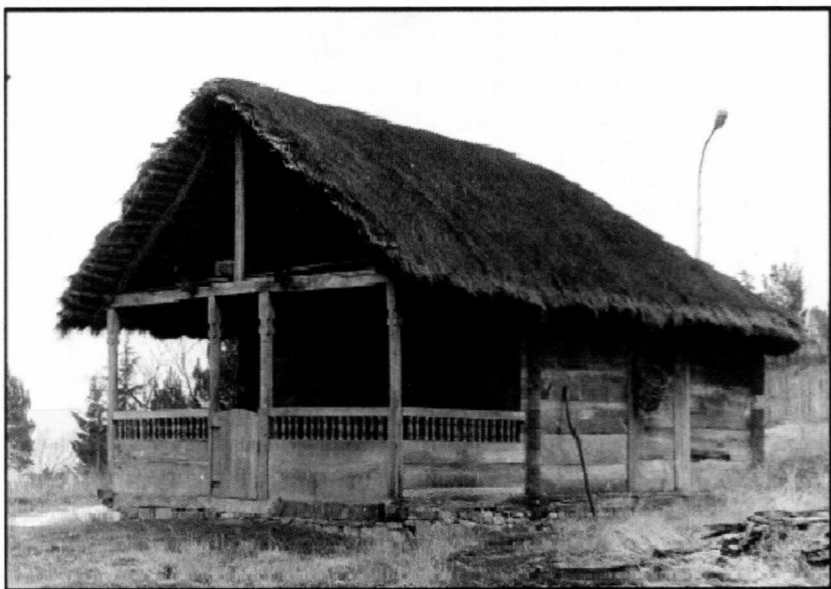


"Nigvziani" cooking House after restoration



Brief description of the cooking house from Goraberejouli,
second half of the 19th cent

“Samzadi” house (Outhouse kitchen) was moved to the Museum from v. Goraberejouli, Lanchkhuti district (Guria region) in 1971. Similar to the Nigvziani house it was used as a kitchen as well. Aboard gallery with balustrades runs round front side of the building. The arched doorway is placed in a square frame and is adorned with banded ornament. It is built of chestnut boards. The three sloped roof was used for sorting cattle feed. The artistic circumscription of the balcony is notable – designing the upper body of the posts with hooks under the corners, and the orderly proportions of the building. The space of the house is not partitioned. The floor is earthen, a hearth (in the centre). It is identical with a typical family house, whose analogues are to be frequently found in the ethnographic life of Western Georgia.

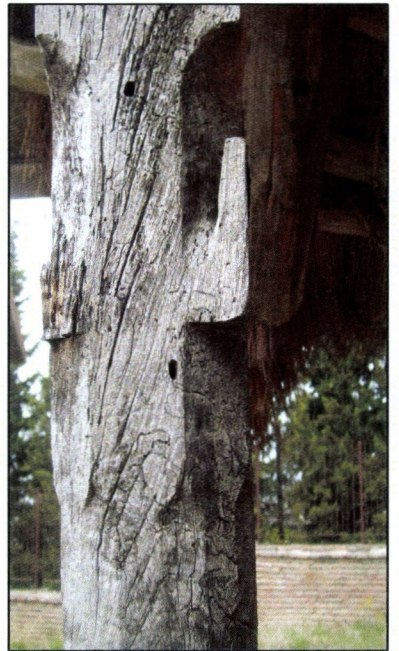


Archival Photo (“Goraberejouli” 1971)

Procedures of preliminary research and study of the building was identical to analytic actions conducted on the Nigvziani house.

It was established that the building was in critical condition and needed urgent restoration and reestablishing works. Similar to Nigvziani’s case structure and walls of the house were deformed so that they could collapse at any time. The roofing was entirely rotten, through which the building was effected by atmospheric precipitations. The sedge cover was thoroughly damaged too..

Restoration process and procedures of the Goraberejouli house was analogous to above mentioned reconstruction procedures of the Nigvziani house by foreseen of timber and steel details works.



*Goraberejouli
House before
restoration*



As in case of Nigvziani house, the building was fully dismantled, after what appropriate authentic timber was selected for reusing, restoring (“prosthesis”) and dismissing (uselessness) as well.



Applicable and restorable timber of the Goraberejouli house



Useless timber



Selecting usable timber from authentic materials before starting restoration

Photos on restoration of the Goraberejoui house:



Preparations for starting practical works

Preparations at OAM's timber Workshop



Restoration has been started



Finalizing the walls



Placing wooden logs

Roofing and ground works





“Goraberejouli”



Carpenter-restorer:
Tamaz Gordiashvili

Carpenter:
Vano Jajanidze

Ethnographer:
Anzor Gogiashvili



By the end of project implementation some amount remained out of the project budget. Through the written consultations GNM and Riksantikvaren discussed OAM's priorities reflecting possibility of replenishment the OAM's material bank and purchasing necessary equipment for treating timber.

The GNM was very glad to have consent from the Riksantikvaren on purchases of above mentioned materials and technical equipment. As a result, for further technical caring of the OAM's houses and surroundings, five types of traditional tiles and chestnut timber have been purchased in frames of the remained budget of the project. Furthermore, for the purpose of respective treating of timber lathes and tools were purchased for the timber workshop located at the OAM, as for field works (on houses in the OAM territory), that will ease the work for OAM current and future carpenters and apprentices.

Main results of the project:

1. Rare specimen of the Georgian "darbazi" type houses, ("Kartlis Darbazi") has been saved from harmful influence of atmospheric precipitations through arranging reliable temporary roofing above and around the building, so that it is still open for visitors.
2. Two types of fences have been reconstructed around the Museum. All damaged sections and openings were restored around the whole territory of the OAM, even in very impartial and roughed areas.
3. Two exhibition wooden houses have been fully restored. The traditional cooking houses from western Georgia - Guria, have been restored. They are ready for arranging exhibitions and hosting visitors. As result of this activity both of the houses are safeguarded from disappearing, on one hand, and on the other hand, the OAM gained immeasurable important experience of full restoration of wooden houses as action, which might be very encouraging in starting further planning and implementation restoration of other damaged houses of the Museum. Besides of this, number of the traditional wooden houses of the OAM exhibition zone has been increased with two more unites.
4. In frames of the component "workshop on restoration technique and principles" the field trip was organized with participation of Georgian and Norwegian professionals in order to research "traditional bearers" and collect proper information about the carpenters with the unique knowledge of timber treatment. The collected materials will be evaluated by Mr. Hans Marumsrud and Eivind Falk in cooperation with

Georgian professionals in order to find proper way of involvement new traditional carpenters to the Open Air Museum. Besides of this results of the field trip will be meant to be reflected in the “Timber Conservation Manual”, which will be prepared by GNM in nearest future. Following to consultations, Mr. Marumsrud and Mr. Falk together with GNM staff will prepare several chapters for the document.

5. G. Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography development plan has been fully translated in English language in order to let foreign partners of the GNM be in course of needs and problems when holding workshops at OAM or giving proper suggestions in further development stages.

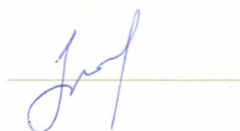
General remarks concerning the Project:

Character and atmosphere of cooperation during all project activities could be described as highly positive, friendly and contributing to further collaboration between the “Riksantikvaren” and the Georgian National Museum.

The excellent communication between the Riksantikvaren and the GNM during implementation of the project tasks including frequent visits of Riksantikvaren’ s representative, Mr. Jorgen Jorgensen, what indeed helped the project flow must be pointed out particularly.

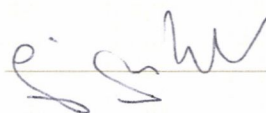
Project Coordinator

Misha Gaprindashvili



General Director of the Georgian National Museum

David Lordkipanidze



Giorgi Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography

