



Architectural Design in Historical Context – Design studio



Erasmus+

Theoretical background of architectural heritage preservation (part 1)

The development of the approach to heritage preservation

(brief review of the international charters, guidelines, recommendations of the last century)

what is heritage...

what is the heritage preservation...

how to deal with historic architecture....

the 20th century perspective...

Recommendations of the Madrid Conference (1904)
Sixth International Congress of Architects

http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications_resources/research_resources/charters/charter01.html

Full Bibliographic Information:

The Architectural Journal
Being the Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Vol. XI. Third Series, 1904. pp. 343-346.

- These brief Recommendations constitute an **early attempt to set down principles of architectural conservation.**
- The recommendations emphasize the **importance of minimal intervention** in dealing with ruined structures and of finding a **functional use for historic buildings.**
- The document sets forth the **principle of unity of style**, which encourages restoration according to a single stylistic expression.

Recommendations of the Madrid Conference (1904)

The Subject II was discussed in the conference "**The Preservation and Restoration of Architectural Monuments.**"

A paper by M. Coquet (Belgium) was taken as the base for the following resolutions, that were adopted:

1. Monuments may be divided into two classes, **dead monuments**, i.e. those belonging to a past civilisation or serving obsolete purposes, and *living monuments*, i.e. those which continue to serve the purposes for which they were originally intended.
2. Dead monuments should be preserved only by such strengthening as is indispensable in order to prevent their falling into ruin; for the importance of such a monument consists in its historical and technical value, which disappears with the monument itself.
3. **Living monuments** ought to be *restored* so that they may continue to be of use, for in architecture utility is one of the bases of beauty.
4. Such restoration should be effected in the original style of the monument, so that it may preserve its unity, unity of style being also one of the bases of beauty in architecture, and primitive geometrical forms being perfectly reproducible. Portions executed in a different style from that of the whole should be respected, if this style has intrinsic merit and does not destroy the aesthetic balance of the monument.
5. The preservation and restoration of monuments should be entrusted only to architects "diplômés par le Gouvernemnet," or specially authorised and acting under the artistic, archaeological, and technical control of the State.
6. A society for the preservation of historical and artistic monuments should be established in every country. They might be grouped for common effort and collaborate in the compilation of a general inventory of national and local treasures.

Carta Di Atene (1931), The Athens Charter for the Restoration of Historic Monuments - 1931. Advisory Council for Antiquities and Fine Arts,

<https://www.icomos.org/en/167-the-athens-charter-for-the-restoration-of-historic-monuments>

The principles set forth in the *Carta del Restauro* reflect Italian conservation theory and practice. They were established by the Advisory Council for Antiquities and Fine Arts in 1931 to guide restoration work carried out by private and public agencies in Italy. This document and Italian restoration theory were major sources of ideas expressed in the Venice Charter.

General Conclusions of the Athens Conference (1931)

First International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments

These Conclusions were drafted at the end of a conference on the restoration of historic monuments and buildings held in Athens in 1931. This document introduced important conservation concepts and principles:

- the idea of a common world heritage;
- the importance of the setting of monuments; and
- the principle of integration of new materials.

The Conclusions were ahead of their time in calling for the reburial of archaeological remains when conservation cannot be guaranteed.

Charter of Athens (1933)

IV International Congress for Modern Architecture, CIAM 4

<https://modernistarchitecture.wordpress.com/2010/11/03/ciam's-“the-athens-charter”-1933/>

This document was produced as a result of the IV International Congress of Modern Architecture which took as its theme "the functional city" and focused on urbanism and the importance of planning in urban development schemes. The document includes urban ensembles in the definition of the built heritage and emphasizes the spiritual, cultural and economic value of the architectural heritage. It includes a recommendation calling for the destruction of urban slums and creation of "verdant areas" in their place, denying any potential heritage value of such areas. It condemns the use of pastiche for new construction in historic areas.

Full Bibliographic Information:

Congress Internationaux d'Architecture moderne (CIAM), La Charte d'Athenes or The Athens Charter, 1933. Trans J.Tyrwhitt. Paris, France: The Library of the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, 1946.

But we can use the translated document entitled TCIAM's "The Athens Charter" (1933), Translated from the French by Anthony Eardley. From Le Corbusier's *The Athens Charter*. (Grossman. New York, NY: 1973). <https://modernistarchitecture.wordpress.com/2010/11/03/ciam's-“the-athens-charter”-1933/>

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E. Legacy of History

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

65. Fine architecture, whether individual buildings or groups of buildings, should be protected from demolition.

66. **The grounds for the preservation of buildings should be that they express an earlier culture and that their retention is in the public interest.**

67. But their **preservation should no [sic] entail that people are obliged to live in unsalubrius [sic] conditions.**

68. If their **present location obstructs development**, radical measures may be called for, such as altering major circulation routes or even shifting existing central districts - something usually considered impossible.

69. The **demolition of slums surrounding historic monuments provides an opportunity to create new open spaces.**

70. The **re-use of past styles of building for new structures in historic areas under the pretext of assthetics [sic] has disastrous consequences.** The continuance or the introduction of such habits in any form should not be tolerated.

The Venice Charter: International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (1964)

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Buildings

[https://www.google.it/url?](https://www.google.it/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiVIKPr3M7fAhWIXSwKHfhzAboQFjAAegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.icomos.org%2Fcharters%2Fvenice_e.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3xNT2dkhl89dvJYKp9sVHQ)

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The Venice Charter codifies **internationally accepted standards of conservation practice relating to architecture and sites**. It sets forth principles of conservation based on the concept of **authenticity** and the importance of **maintaining the historical and physical context** of a site or building.

The Venice Charter continues to be the most influential international conservation document. The Venice Charter states that monuments are **to be conserved not only as works of art but also as historical evidence**. It also sets down the principles of preservation, which relate to **restoration of buildings with work from different periods**.

Norms of Quito: Final Report of the Meeting on the Preservation and Utilization of Monuments and Sites of Artistic and Historical Value (1967)

ICOMOS, <https://www.icomos.org/en/charters-and-texts/179-articles-en-francais/ressources/charters-and-standards/168-the-norms-of-quito>

This document recognizes the abundance of monuments and sites that make up the cultural heritage of the Americas and addresses important conservation issues, such as:

- environmental impact of accelerated development,
- **preserving historic districts and integrating them into urban areas,**
- **reconciling the conflicting demands of urban growth and environmental protection,**
- the **economic value of heritage,** and
- **cultural tourism.**

The document calls for **enhancing the utility and value of the cultural heritage.** It includes recommendations for action at the national and regional levels. It also proposes technical and legal measures to preserve monuments and sites, including establishing protective zones and tax exemptions for privately restored historic buildings.

Concern for the cultural heritage is raised in the context of development and urban growth issues facing many Latin American countries and of the already considerable degradation.

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

UNESCO, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>
<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-562-4.pdf>

The World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972 by the General Conference of UNESCO. It promotes an international perspective on cultural heritage by inviting member states to submit an inventory of properties forming its national cultural and natural heritage to be included in a list of World Heritage sites.

The convention encourages national efforts at protecting cultural and natural heritage and promotes international recognition and cooperation in safeguarding the heritage of the world.

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention were issued in 1988. They **outline the criteria** to be met by sites on the World Heritage List.
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

Recommendation Concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), UNESCO, http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13087&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

The Recommendation calls for States to formulate, develop, and apply policies for the protection, conservation, and presentation of their cultural and natural heritage. It stresses the responsibility of states to protect their heritage for their own citizens and for all humanity.

The document recommends increased financial resources for the safeguarding and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage and suggests scientific and technical, administrative, legal, financial, education, and public involvement measures to be taken.

Finally, the document recommends areas for international cooperation to help safeguard the cultural heritage.

Recommendation Concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), UNESCO, http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13087&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

[URL ID=13087&URL DO=DO TOPIC&URL SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13087&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

III. General principles

4. The cultural and natural heritage represents wealth, the protection, conservation and presentation of which impose responsibilities on the States in whose territory it is situated, both vis-a-vis their own nationals and vis-a-vis the international community as a whole; Member States should take such action as may be necessary to meet these responsibilities.
5. The **cultural or natural heritage should be considered in its entirety as a homogeneous whole, comprising not only works of great intrinsic value, but also more modest items that have, with the passage of time, acquired cultural or natural value.**
6. None of these works and **none of these items should**, as a general rule, **be dissociated from its environment.**
7. As the ultimate purpose of protecting, conserving and presenting the cultural and natural heritage is the development of man, Member States should, as far as possible, direct their work in this field-in such a way that the cultural and natural heritage may no longer-be regarded as a check on national development but as a determining factor in such development.
8. The **protection, conservation and effective presentation** of the cultural and natural heritage should be considered as one of the **essential aspects of regional development plans**, and planning in general, at the national, regional or local level.
9. An active policy for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage and for giving it a place in community life should be developed. Member States should arrange for concerted action by all the public and private services concerned, with a view to drawing up and applying such a policy. Preventive and corrective measures relating to the cultural and natural heritage should be supplemented by others, designed **to give each of the components of this heritage a function which will make it a part of the nation's social, economic, scientific and cultural life for the present and future, compatible with the cultural or natural character of the item** in question. Action for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage should take advantage of scientific and technical advances in all branches of study involved in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural or natural heritage.
10. Increasingly significant financial resources should, as far as possible, be made available by the public authorities for the safeguarding and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage.
11. The general public of the area should be associated with the measures to be taken for protection and conservation and should be called on for suggestions and help, with particular reference to regard for and surveillance of the cultural and natural heritage. Consideration might also be given to the possibility of financial support from the private sector.

Resolutions of the Symposium on the Introduction of Contemporary Architecture into Ancient Groups of Buildings (1972), ICOMOS General Assembly <https://www.icomos.org/en/charters-and-texts/180-articles-en-francais/chartes-et-normes/383-resolutions-of-the-symposium-on-the-introduction-of-contemporary-architecture-into-ancient-groups-of-buildings-at-the-3rd-icomos-general-assembly>

Recognizing that, ... the preservation of historic monuments and groups of buildings, ... is feasible only if the latter are made to play an active part in contemporary life,

Considering that groups of buildings of historical interest form a fundamental part of the human environment, that architecture is necessarily the **expression of its age**, that its development is continuous, and that its **past, present and future expression must be treated as a whole**, the harmony of which must be constantly preserved, and that any historical monument or complex of buildings possesses an intrinsic value independently of its initial role and significance which enables it to adapt itself to a changing cultural, social, economic and political context while fully retaining its structure and character.

The Resolutions outline principles for the harmonious introduction of contemporary architecture into groups of ancient buildings:

- The existing fabric of ancient buildings must be the framework for further development and town planning. Contemporary architecture should be **integrated into** groups of ancient buildings and should not affect structural or aesthetic qualities of the ancient setting.
- **Authenticity** is considered the basic criterion; imitations affecting artistic and historical value should be avoided.
- The revitalization of ancient buildings through **new use is encouraged** as long as structural integrity and character are not compromised.

Cultural Heritage Policy International Documents (list by evolution)

Recommendations of the Madrid Conference (1904), http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications_resources/research_resources/charters/charter01.html

Carta Di Atene (1931), The Athens Charter for the Restoration of Historic Monuments - 1931. Advisory **Council for Antiquities and Fine Arts**, <https://www.icomos.org/en/167-the-athens-charter-for-the-restoration-of-historic-monuments>

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Norms of Quito: Final Report of the Meeting on the Preservation and Utilization of Monuments and Sites of Artistic and Historical Value (1967)

ICOMOS, <https://www.icomos.org/en/charters-and-texts/179-articles-en-francais/ressources/charters-and-standards/168-the-norms-of-quito>

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UNESCO, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/> <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-562-4.pdf>

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European Charter of the Architectural Heritage (1975), **Council of Europe**, <https://www.icomos.org/en/charters-and-texts/179-articles-en-francais/ressources/charters-and-standards/170-european-charter-of-the-architectural-heritage>

Declaration of Amsterdam (1975), **Congress on the European Architectural Heritage, Council of Europe**, <https://www.icomos.org/en/charters-and-texts/179-articles-en-francais/ressources/charters-and-standards/169-the-declaration-of-amsterdam>

Appleton Charter for the Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment (1983), **ICOMOS Canada**, <https://www.icomos.org/charters/appleton.pdf>

The Washington Charter: Charter on the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (1987), **ICOMOS General Assembly**, https://www.icomos.org/charters/towns_e.pdf

Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value (1992), **ICOMOS New Zealand**, <http://www.gdrc.org/heritage/icomos-nz.html>

The Nara Document on Authenticity (1994), **ICOMOS Symposia**, <https://www.icomos.org/charters/nara-e.pdf>

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Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society , **Council of Europe, 2005 10 27, Faro**, <https://rm.coe.int/1680083746>

VIENNA MEMORANDUM on “World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture – Managing the Historic Urban Landscape”, 2005, **UNESCO** and World heritage centre, <https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2005/whc05-15ga-inf7e.pdf>

ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites (2008), **ICOMOS**, https://www.icomos.org/charters/interpretation_e.pdf



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