



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES (ICOMOS)
VIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OCT 7-15 1987, WASHINGTON, D.C

"OLD CULTURES IN NEW WORLDS"

A MONUMENT OF DUAL PARENTAGE - THE PRESERVATION OF
THE HISTORIC CITY CENTRE OF GALLE, SRI LANKA.

ASHLEY DE VOS - ARCHITECT/ CONSERVATOR. (SRI LANKA)

The monument under study is located in the Southern province in the city of Galle, 72 miles South of Colombo, the capital city of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. It is 80.25° East and 6° North of the Equator. The Fortified city is located on a promontory of land which slopes gently Southwards to the sea. This landmass is separated from the mainland by an esplanade, which stands on a filled up marsh.

The strategic location of Galle in relation to the main sea routes gave it prominence over other ports in Lanka. Not only was it a good natural harbour, but it also afforded an inner harbour protected by a small projecting peninsula on which was located a small settlement. The earliest recorded history of this town dates back to 545 A.D., where Cosmo Indicopleustes makes first reference to Galle in his chronicles. The earliest foreign visitor who recorded his visit, was Ibn Batuta, the famous arab navigator and traveller who is reported to have touched at Galle in the year 1344 A.D. Ceylon's famous trade commodities also attracted other interested parties. By the fourteenth century, Galle was the Island's chief port of call.

The Portuguese discovered Galle by chance in 1505. Even though they used the port for trade, they did not establish any fortification. In 1588 however, when the King of Sitawaka laid siege on the Portuguese in Colombo in an attempt to control their territorial ambitions, the Portuguese withdrew along the south west coast and fortified Galle. This fortification consisted of a wall and three bastions on the landside while the seaward side had a palisade. Characteristically, the Portuguese named their bastions after their saints, San Lago (St James) on the Eastern side near the bay, Conceycao (Immaculate conception) near the present clock tower, Santa Antonio on the west facing the sea. There was no gate, the only entrance being across the drawbridge over a shallow moat and over the wall. This design is characteristic of Portuguese forts in coastal areas. The Portuguese were the Masters of the Sea and therefore fortified only against the enemy from the land. Unfortunately very little is known of the Portuguese Fort of Galle as most of the records were burnt by Van Tol, Secretary to Gerrit de Meere, Governor of Colombo. A drawing made by Philip Baldaeus soon after the Dutch occupation shows the Portuguese defences on this landside.

Soon after the capture of the Fort by the Dutch in 1640, they set about rebuilding the ramparts and the fortifications. While the Portuguese could afford to be complacent about the seaward frontier the Dutch could not. The Indian ocean was by this time, full of competing European Nations, British, French, Danish, Spanish and Portuguese. For this reason there is no example of a Dutch coastal fortress with weak seaside defences. Their forts were thus not mere fortifications against a land enemy, but also defences of the harbours themselves. The security of their forts depended largely on their ability to hold the harbours. By 1669 most of the town, about 90 acres in extent had been laid out on a grid-iron pattern similar to those of the fortified cities of Europe. The tall and wide defences formed a protective barrier for the town within it. The protected area accommodated all sectors of the population who were loyal to the Dutch. By 1729 the sea defences following the irregular coastline were completed.

The Dutch also built an intricate sewerage system. The cleaning out of these sewers was by a system of flushing using sea water. A windmill which was located on the Bastion Triton raised the sea water which was used to flush out the sewer which emptied through its outlets into the sea. Within the fort were wide treelined streets, on either side of which, were spacious houses. These streets were either covered with earth or grass. The yellow flowered 'suriya' was the most commonly used tree for landscaping. The Church occupied a prominent site and was visible from all parts of the fort.

The entrance to the fort was through a gate punched through the V O C warehouses by the harbour. Above the gate on the outside is the date 1669, an indication of completion of stage 1. The inner wall of the entrance is adorned with the company's coat of arms, surmounted by the cockerel of Galle and is dated 1683. The original gate was narrower than the one which exists today.

On the 23rd February 1796, a week after the signing of the capitulation of Colombo, the fort was handed over to the British who installed their court of arms on the outside above the entrance gate. The British continued to use the fort as the administrative centre for the south. Many new buildings were introduced. The moat was filled in and a new gate was cut through the wall between Moon and Sun bastions. Around 1880, a new lighthouse was added to Utrecht bastion and a clock tower to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria was erected in close proximity to the Moon bastion in 1883. The fort continues to function as an administrative centre even to this day.

The Historic City Centre of Galle, complete with fourteen bastions is unique and is still the best preserved, fortified city of the Colonial period in South and South-east Asia. The great Church with its Baroque facade was the first Protestant place of worship to be built in Sri Lanka. The usual double scroll mouldings on the Gables, betray elements of indigenous influence. Many of these buildings even though belonging to a Colonial period were built by local craftsmen who adopted their technology to suit the requirements of the Colonial masters. The Colonial Master Craftsman or Baas used the locally available expertise in the form of masons and craftsmen, institutionalised them and used them in his building projects. This Colonial input generated new architectural features like large windows and doors, again Western Concepts, where sun penetration was related to the piece of sky brought into a space. Gables and fanlights were also introduced. To carry the larger roof loads, thicker walls were constructed and the original timber shafts were replaced with masonry columns. The fact that they were all built by local craftsmen is demonstrated by the proportions of these buildings, in terms of length, width and height and is similar to the system of measurement used in the villages even to this day. Many door jambs carry mouldings based on the stone mouldings of the Anuradhapura period (3-10 A.D). These buildings of Dual Parentage were neither Portuguese, Dutch nor British, but totally Sri Lankan and as important links in the Sri Lankan chain of evolution should be preserved.

The project proposed for Galle attempts to encourage and create an appreciation for the value of this patrimony. The strategy will have two approaches one to cover the residential buildings that constitute about 50% of the total building stock and another to cover the buildings occupied by Public, Semi-public and Private Organizations.

A Historic City Centre could be preserved either as a dead or a living monument. Dead monuments are preserved and converted into museums and exist in a totally artificial way. Living monuments, on the other hand permit the residents to live a contemporary life style while preserving the atmosphere, the scale and the street-scape of the original monument.

It is therefore proposed that the preservation of the Historic city centre of Galle, be considered in the context of a living monument, while conserving and maintaining the physical fabric of the city and environment.

The Historic Architectural Fabric of this fortified city is divisible into a number of categories, namely: (a) Ramparts. (b) Residential Buildings. (c) Public & Private Institutional, Utility and Religious Buildings. (d) Open spaces, landscaping and Roads. (e) Drainage system. (f) Essential Services.

a) The Ramparts the most visual part of the monument were declared a protected monument under the Antiquities Ordinance No. 9 of 1940 section 33. Excavations carried out on Moon Bastion have revealed features and details of gun turrets, terracing, paving etc. that were not known to exist previously.

The excavation, documentation and conservation of approximately a two mile length of rampart walls and related ancillary structures like powder magazine, etc, is being undertaken by the Department of Archaeology as an on-going project, under the long term proposals for the conservation of the Fort.

An unique feature of this fortress wall is that many parts carry evidence of a complete range of European Colonial Fortifications, dating from the Portuguese, Dutch, British and including Second World War pill-boxes especially in the environs of the Zwart Bastion. These features must be presented to the visitor after careful documentation, restoration, together with the introduction of original or replicas of guns and gun carriages.

The eradication of the parasitic plants growing on the rampart wall and the careful pointing of the wall surface will be undertaken as a priority by the Department. The rock outcrop called the Point De Galle group and made up of crystalline wollastonite, located within the walls of the Fort is regarded as an important landmark on the international sea-route and as such is indicated in the Maritime Maps. Extra care will be taken to ensure that it is protected.

b) Residential Buildings that make upto 50% of the Building stock within the Fort, were built on narrow plots of land which were sited perpendicular to the street. The commercial value of street frontage in Urban spaces was a major factor in this decision. The buildings in front were related to the streets via open colonnaded verandahs while the habitable spaces at the rear, had access to strategically located courtyards. Good ventilation and privacy for the occupants was assured by these open courtyards that were located within. Access to the rear sections of the dwelling for servants, animals and conservancy purposes were either along the rear access lanes or through arched passages placed adjacent to the houses.

All buildings and the unique environment of the Fort are protected by a declaration made by the Hon. Minister of Cultural Affairs in 1971, under the Antiquities Ordinance No.9 of 1940, subsidiary legislation, Section 27. However, the whole of this building stock is exposed to human mutilation, mainly forced upon by lack of maintenance, unauthorised re-building of the Architectural fabric and changing of the facades. The inner portions and courtyards of most buildings have remained in their original condition due to its practicality to life in the tropics. In the conservation/restoration of this monument, the ultimate preservation of the street-scape is of utmost importance. Hence, it would be necessary to educate the residents in the value of this patrimony. A technique will be evolved to advice them on the correct methodology for intervention. It is imperative that the domestic scale of the structures be maintained and no high rise structures or larger buildings be permitted. Any new infill will be in harmony with the historic fabric and any additions to the existing building stock by way of facilities and services or change of use will be approved and monitored by the Department of Archaeology, the Urban Development Authority (UDA) and the Municipal Council.

The communication centre proposed in the V O C warehouse will co-ordinate and advice all such activity. Any suggestions for a change of use will be in sympathy with the typology of the structures. As maintenance and resortation of the old building fabric is expensive, it is recommended that a tax incentive package be introduced, covering the conservation/restoration of the individual buildings. Recommendations by international bodies like ICOMOS already exist for such action.

c) The fort contains two hundred and eighty seven Institutional and Religious Buildings. Many of the Public Institutions are a hand down from the Colonial Period and have no relationship to the existing development patterns for Galle. The shifting of this sector will have to be examined under a long term programme and suitable uses must be found for the buildings left behind.

In the short term, many of these institutions occupy important buildings and the conservation and restoration, of this building stock will be incorporated in to their annual maintenance budget. All these works and the colour schemes will be monitored and executed in consultation with the Department of Archeology and the UDA. The Department of Buildings, who presently handle most of the maintenance with regard to government buildings, will not be permitted to commence any work without the prior approval.

The areas presently used by the Buildings Department, Highways Department and the Electricity Board as open-air storage will be declared as unsuitable for the purpose and they will be requested to find alternate accommodation outside the Fort. All temporary structures will be demolished and the area landscaped. The Department

of Highways will made to clear the Moon Bastion of the empty tar barrels dumped into the powder magazine below the surface. The magazine will then be cleaned, and restored by the Archeaological Department.

The expansion of schools and religious buildings like Churches, temples and Mosques will be limited to the present boundaries and scale. A recent and disastrous experience was the total destruction of Abeygunawardena Walauwa, one of the most magnificent of the older buildings and its replacement with a standard two storey school building. Any change of use will be carefully examined and considered within the broader framework of the preservation plan.

d) Open spaces, landscapng and Roads: A major feature of this fortified city is the visual expanse of space immediately behind the rampart wall. This environment will be maintained at all cost. There has been a proposal to demarcate and allocate, particular sections of the open spaces for use by various organizations. This is thought to be a dangerous trend and will be discouraged lest it sets off a precedence. The present move to re-locate the cricket stadium elsewhere is applauded. All playground activities presently within the Fort will be moved to the esplanade. All open areas within will be maintained for the enjoyment of all and no structures, temporary or otherwise will be permitted on them.

The open area outside the court complex will be relevelled and laid out with proper drainage, etc. The tennis courts within the walls may be permitted to continue, subject to substantial improvements in colour and fabric to the pavillions be agreed upon. The children's playground at the esplanade entrance will also be examined. All street furniture will be carefully designed and discreetly located.

All landscaping to be implemented on a staged basis, after carefully considering surface drainage. A nursery will be immediately established in order that the trees get accustomed to this harsh environment. All roads to be examined, to establish original surface material. The stone lined drains, especially in the area of the entrance gate to be reset to the proper levels. The road system will not be expanded but maintained at the present level.

e) An unique feature of the fortified city is the Drainage System introduced by the Dutch. A preliminary survey conducted recently has established that the system is still in working order except for routine cleaning, and the erection of the windmill required to lift water for flushing out the drains. On completion the sewer will be re-constructed and made to function as efficiently as in the past. Velson, a Dutch city with a twinning arrangment with Galle, is investigating the possibility of presenting a windmill of the original type, as part of this rehabilitation. The implementation of this scheme, will be co-ordinated by the Department of Archaeology, the UDA, the Department of Highways, the Municipal Council, the Harbour Authority and the water Resources & Drainage Board.

f) Electricity, Telephones, Television, etc. are essential for modern society. However, in a Historic Area, the untidy trailing of wires, badly placed distribution posts and the presence of a sea of television antenna could have a disastrous effect on the environment. It is proposed that all services be carried in an underground duct, to be brought up as and when required for the servicing of the houses. The use of a community ariel will remove the necessity for the introduction of a ariel per unit and the elimination of the overhead distribution system of wires for electricity and telephones will allow the tree planting campaign to progress unhampered.

An overall street security lighting system and a system to flood light the ramparts is proposed. The security lights will be based on period designs and flourescent types will be avoided. The use of Neon lights for display within the Fort will be prohibited. The floodlighting for the ramparts will be placed on the terraces to create an uniform ambience.

During the Colonial occupation, most of the traffic was of a pedestrain nature, except, for the occasional horse carriage and bullock cart. The arrival of the later mechanical vehicles during the British occupation, led to the enlarging of the harbour gate and the introduction of an additional entrance opposite the esplanade. The roads and the buildings within were not designed for the parking of vehicles nor for the volume of traffic presently resident in Fort.

Two solutions are possible. One would be to permit the parking of vehicles on the roads and encourage congestion or to resort to the more drastic one, which would be to pedestrianise the street. The solution recommended is a compromise of the two which is, the provision of a series of centralised parking facilities located at strategic points. Some of the vacant blocks will be walled-up, accessed through arched entrances and the spaces within the walls divided into a car park per residence. The administration of this car park will be left to the direct user. The parking of lorries and other large vehicles within the walls of the Fort will be discouraged.

The development proposals will respect the historical periods and be in harmony with the environment. All buildings being preserved will be assigned uses compatible with their typology and internal spaces while maintaining the highest standards in conservation/restoration principles. Finally, the preservation effort can only be successful by combining the collective energies of the Department of Archaeology, UDA, the Galle Municipal Council and the residents of the Fort to produce a well balanced conservation plan.

This plan will be examined under two considerations:-

a) Short Term, (b) Long Term, but the implementation of both will run concurrently.

The Short Term programme will be geared to creating maximum visual impact for the residents and the casual visitor in the shortest possible time. Under this heading the following will be considered:

1) The declaration of the Fort and immediate environment, including the water front along Marine Drive as a protected monument under the UDA Regulations.

2) The production of a booklet, to include maps and other details of the plan.

3) The removal of all temporary structures and the shifting of the storage yards of the Department of Highways, the Electricity Board and the Department of Buildings to more appropriate sites outside the Fort.

4) The restoration and re-fixing in position of the old timber gate at the original harbour entrance.

5) The restoration of the powder magazine below the lighthouse. This building is on the verge of collapse.

6) The demolition of the brick wall enclosing the esplanade and thereby re-establishing visual contact between the Fort and the mainland. The character of the existing pavillion to be altered to be more sympathetic with the environment.

7) The identification of a building for conservation/restoration and its implementation to serve as an example of what is possible within such a programme. The interiors of this building will be refurbished in an authentic manner, incorporating period furniture, etc.

8) A complete land use survey will be undertaken to include the identification of land ownership within the Fort.

9) The restoration of the facades and the landscaping of Queen's street and the vistas towards Zwart Bastion and the Post Office complete with grass areas and the planting of trees, etc.

10) The fixing of name boards/labels on all important buildings/bastions, etc. These in turn to be identified on a map of the Fort.

11) The establishment of the V O C warehouse as the Secretariat and Exhibition Centre, for the Galle project. It is proposed to communicate and advise the residents on the economic benefit of maintaining this patrimony and the correct methodology for Conservation through this centre.

12) All masonry columns on the verge of collapse to be repaired and the Fort cleaned of all debris. Areas to be levelled and returfed.

13) The war memorial to be re-introduced in its original location.

14) The inauguration of the annual festival of Galle. It is proposed to conduct a Festival of Galle in the last week of December 1987 and the first week of 1988.

a) Music and Dance festival, (b) Aquatic and ground sports festival, (c) Art and Crafts festival, (d) Food & Beverage festival, (e) Drama and Theatre festival, (f) New Year Welcome on the Fort Walls, etc

15) All public, private and residential buildings to have their facades repaired and painted before the festival.

16) The awarding of the prize for the best maintained house/building and interior by his Excellency, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

17) The issue of a commemorative stamp to mark the inauguration of the Galle project.

18) The election of the Historic City Centre of Galle to the world Heritage List.

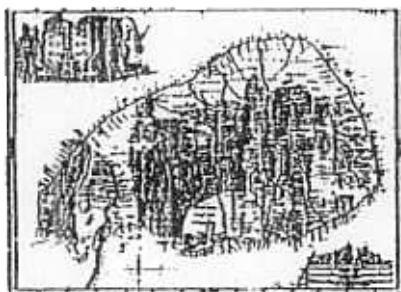
b) The Long Term proposals will be undertaken over an extended period of time. A two stage programme of a five year duration per stage is proposed.

1) The complete documentation of the buildings in the Fort to be undertaken and this information will be set into the Masterplan. 2) The implementation of the Maritime Museum project, in accordance with the proposal already with the Director National Museum. The old Pier and wharf building will be used for the display of aquatic craft. All other structures along the harbour will be removed and the area landscaped. 3. The documentation and the conservation of the Rampart wall and bastions by the Department of Archaeology. 4) The remaining government departments to utilise their annual budgets to conserve their buildings. All work to be in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology. 5) The rehabilitation of the sewer system, and the installation of the Velson windmill. 6) The restoration of all roads within the Fort after careful examination of the original surfaces. 7) The landscaping of the approach road and the sea frontage from Gintota bridge to Unawatuna. 8) The conservation and restoration of the buildings within the Fort. The preservation of the street-scape and advise on the modifications required for the residents to live a contemporary life within a historic environment. 9) The implementation of the overall landscape proposal for the Fort. 10) The formation of an Association for establishing and ensuring the continuation of the Festival of Galle 11) The vesting of the Government buildings falling vacant with the Department of Archaeology for conservation/restoration. 12) The establishing of a museum for Historic Artifacts. 13) The establishing of an atelier for the manufacture of reproduction furniture for local consumption and for export. 14) The establishing of a restoration workshop for the maintenance of the National Museum collections. 15) The establishing of a of a Craft Centre and Handicraft Workshop 16) The establishing of a workshop/shipyard for the manufacture and repair of wooden hulls. 17) The establishing of a Regional Museum for Galle. 18) The installation of Security street lighting, flood lights, underground cables, etc. 19) The installation of underground cable ducting for telephones, community T.V ariels etc. 20) Maintenance of Fort and environment.

The successful implementation of the programmes will require the complete co-operation of all users and residents of the Fort. The final methodology would require a series of investigations and studies to be undertaken prior to implementation. The cost of which is included in each of the budgets of the cost Plan. Many of the items listed under the Short and Long Term programmes have already commenced at site. The National Museums Department has inaugurated the Regional Museum for Galle, in a restored building and the Department of Archaeology has commenced on the excavation and conservation of the bastions and the rampart wall on a long term. The entrance has also been repaired by them. The V.O.C warehouse has been vested with the Department of Archaeology and action has been taken to hold the festival of Galle at the end of 1987. Necessary documentation has been forwarded to the World Heritage Committee for the Nomination of the Historic City Centre of Galle to the World Heritage list and the Town of Velson in the Netherlands, has declared its interest in the sewerage project. Meanwhile, some discussion has taken place, with an interested party in Holland on the establishing of an Atelier for the manufacture of reproduction furniture for export.

The overall budget for the project is estimated to cost in the region of Rupees Four Hundred and Five Million, distributed over a ten year development period, of which Rupees Three Hundred Million has been allocated for the conservation/restoration of the residential units. The conservation of this building stock will be undertaken by the residents and a Development Trust.

The balance Rupees One hundred and five million or the annual budget of Rupees ten and a half million will be met from funds generated by the District Development Budget, Votes of the various Departments, Sponsorship programmes and Direct funding from abroad.



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A MONUMENT OF DUAL PARENTAGE - THE PRESERVATION OF
THE HISTORIC CITY CENTRE OF GALLE, SRI LANKA.

ASHLEY DE VOS ARCHITECT/CONSERVATOR. (SRI LANKA)



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The Historic City Centre of Galle, Complete with fourteen bastions is unique and is still the best preserved, fortified city of the colonial period in South and South-East Asia. It will be preserved as a living monument, permitting the residents to live a contemporary life style while preserving the atmosphere, the scale and the Street-Scapes of the original monument. The Historic Architectural Fabric of this fortified city is divisible into a number of categories, namely.

a) The Rampart Walls are unique in that they carry evidence of a complete range of European Colonial Fortifications, dating from the Portuguese, Dutch, British, and including Second World War Pill-Boxes. These will be presented to the visitor after careful documentation and restoration.

b) Residential Buildings make up to 50% of the Building Stock within the Fort. In the Conservation/Restoration of this monument, the ultimate preservation of the Street-Scape is of utmost importance. Hence, it would be necessary to educate the residents in the value of this patrimony. A technique will be evolved to advise them on the correct methodology for intervention. As maintenance and restoration of the old building fabric is expensive, a tax incentive package will be introduced.

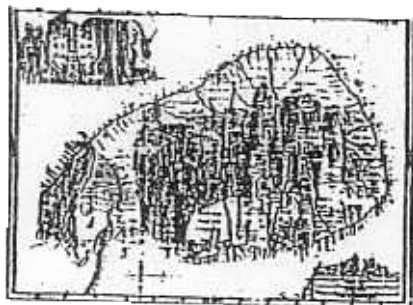
c) Institutional and Religious Buildings, All change of use will be examined and considered within the broader framework of the preservation plan. Any expansion will be limited to the present boundaries and scale.

d) Open Spaces, Landscaping & Roads - A major feature of this fortified city is the visual expanse of space immediately behind the rampart wall. This will be maintained at all cost. The original tree types will be reintroduced.

e) The unique Drainage System will be cleaned out and repaired and the windmill required to lift water to flush out the drains will be reintroduced.

f) All Essential Services will be carried in special underground ducts to minimise visual pollution. Street lighting will be based on period models.

The Presentation of the Historic City Centre of Galle will be considered under Short Term(two years) and Long Term(ten years) programmes, but the implementation will be run concurrently. Many of the programmes have already commenced and it is hoped to complete and present the monument on schedule.



GALLE
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CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET SITES (ICOMOS)
VIII ASSEMBLEE GENERALE, OCT. 7 - 15 1987, WASHINGTON D.C.

"ANCIENNES CIVILISATIONS DANS LE MONDE MODERNE."

MONUMENT DE MULTIPLE ORIGINE. PRESERVATION DE GALLE,
CITE HISTORIQUE, SRI LANKA.

ASHLEY DE VOS - ARCHITECTE / CONSERVATEUR. (SRI LANKA)

Galle, cité historique de quatorze bastions est unique et dans le meilleur état de préservation des cités fortifiées de l'époque coloniale en Asie du Sud et du Sud-Est. Monument historique, la cité sera préservée. Ses citoyens pourront y mener une vie normale tout en conservant l'ambiance, l'échelle, et les rues du monument original. L'architecture historique de cette forteresse pourra être divisée en un certain nombre de catégories.

a) Les remparts sont uniques. Ils montrent des échantillons divers de fortifications Européennes et Coloniales. Ceux-ci datent des époques Portugaises, Hollandaises et Britanniques. Il y a même des réduits de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale. Une fois restaurées et qu'une documentation en aura été faite, ils seront ouverts au public.

b) Immeubles résidentiels. 50% des immeubles dans la forteresse sont des immeubles résidentiels. Dans la conservation et restauration de ce monument, la préservation des rues est de première importance. Il faudrait donc éduquer les habitants sur la valeur de ce patrimoine. Une technique sera évoluée pour les conseiller sur les meilleures méthodes à suivre. On fera tout pour l'entretien et la restauration des anciens immeubles, ce qui coûtera très cher.

c) Immeubles institutionnels et religieux. Tout changement sera étudié dans le cadre du plan pour la préservation de ces monuments. Tout développement sera dans le cadre des limites et à l'échelle adéquate.

d) Espaces ouverts, architecture de paysage, et routes. Une des caractéristiques les plus importantes de cette forteresse est l'étendue du terrain derrière les remparts, qui sera entretenu coûte que coûte. Les arbres qui y poussaient autrefois, y seront plantés.

e) Le système d'écoulement des eaux sera nettoyé et réparé. Un moulin à vent servant à nettoyer les caniveaux sera construit.

f) Les services essentiels seront maintenus dans des conduites souterraines spécialement construits pour limiter la pollution. Les routes seront éclairées comme elles l'étaient à l'époque coloniale.

Des programmes à court terme (deux ans) et de long terme (dix ans) seront considérés pour la préservation de la forteresse de Galle. Mais les travaux se feront simultanément. Plusieurs programmes ont déjà commencé et le monument sera prêt et ouvert au public en temps voulu.