

# APPROACHES TO THE CONSERVATION OF TWENTIETH - CENTURY CULTURAL HERITAGE

Madrid - New Delhi  
Document

2017



ICOMOS  
SC  
20C

International  
Scientific  
Committee on  
20th Century  
Heritage

# Approaches to the Conservation of Twentieth - Century Cultural Heritage

**Madrid - New Delhi Document**

**2017**

© ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage

Website: [isc20c.icomos.org](http://isc20c.icomos.org)

Cover image: original artwork created by Maria Gabriela Quin

Graphic Design: Maria Gabriela Quin

ISBN 978-2-918086-63-5

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) works through its International Scientific Committee on Twentieth-Century Heritage (ISC 20C) to promote the identification, conservation and presentation of twentieth-century heritage places.

ICOMOS is an international conservation non-government organisation of conservation professionals, which acts as UNESCO's adviser on cultural heritage and the World Heritage Convention.

# FOREWORD

The sweeping economic, social, technological and political developments of the twentieth century produced unprecedented change. Two world wars, the Cold War that followed, the Great Depression, and decolonisation, together, significantly altered the fabric of society over the course of the twentieth century. Rapid urbanisation and the growth of large cities, accelerated technological and scientific development and the emergence of mass communications and transportation fundamentally changed the way we lived and worked, producing new buildings and structures, unprecedented building types and forms, using experimental materials. Massively changed landscapes were created by industrialisation and mechanised agriculture. And yet, comparatively few of the sites and places created by such tumultuous events have been listed and protected for their heritage values. Thus, too many of the heritage places and sites of the twentieth-century remain at risk. Although appreciation of mid-century modernism is increasing in some regions, the range of buildings, structures, cultural landscapes and industrial sites that are characteristic of the twentieth century are still threatened by a general lack of awareness and recognition. All too often they are pressured by redevelopment, unsympathetic change, or simply by neglect.

Aware of these threats, in 2010 the members of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth-Century Heritage (ISC20C) began to draft a reference text, setting out the approach and the principles that should be applied to managing and interpreting twentieth-century sites and places. The ambitious objective was to provide an international benchmark.

Lively debates ensued amongst members, drawing on their pragmatic experience from all regions of the world. Conferences, meetings and broad consultations were undertaken internationally. The final text: *Approaches to the Conservation of Twentieth-Century Architectural Heritage*, colloquially called the Madrid Document, was presented to the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly in Paris, and distributed in Spanish, French and English for comment and discussion. Between 2011-2014, it was translated into more than a dozen languages including Russian, Italian, Finnish, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Mandarin, Hindi, Basque and Catalan, an indication of the need for and use of such an international guidance document.

After consideration of comments received, a second edition was published in four languages at the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly in Florence, but it was clear that a major revision -and a new title- was necessary to include other heritage typologies of the twentieth century, such as cultural landscapes, industrial sites and urban areas. Collaboration with the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes (ISCCL), the ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH), the International Technical Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) and the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change (ISCES+CC) has successfully resulted in the incorporation of the full breadth of twentieth-century heritage places and sites.

The third version, *Approaches to the Conservation of Twentieth-Century Cultural Heritage*, was endorsed at the 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS in Delhi in December 2017, incorporating the comments and inputs received during the 2014-17 consultation period. Thank you to all those who contributed to this process.

We encourage all who are responsible for the management and celebration of the world's twentieth-century heritage places to make use of *Approaches to The Conservation of Twentieth-Century Cultural Heritage* as the international guideline and benchmark standard for conserving and managing the heritage places and sites of the twentieth century.

Sheridan Burke

President, ICOMOS ISC20C

November, 2017



# AIM OF THE DOCUMENT

The obligation to conserve and manage the heritage places and sites of the twentieth century is as important as our duty to conserve the significant cultural heritage of previous eras.

The cultural heritage of the twentieth century is at risk from a lack of appreciation and care. Much has already been lost and more is in danger. It is a living, evolving heritage and it is essential to understand, conserve, interpret and manage it well for future generations.

Approaches for the Conservation of Twentieth-Century Cultural Heritage, seeks to contribute to the appropriate and respectful management of this important period of cultural heritage. While recognising existing heritage conservation documents<sup>i</sup>, Approaches for the Conservation of Twentieth-Century Cultural Heritage identifies many of the issues specifically involved in the conservation of twentieth-century heritage. It covers the full range of heritage typologies typically recognised as being worthy of conservation including architecture, structures, vernacular and industrial heritage, cultural landscapes including historic parks and gardens, historic urban landscapes, cultural routes and archeological sites.

This document is intended for use by all those involved in heritage conservation and management processes that may impact twentieth-century heritage places and sites.

Explanatory notes are incorporated where necessary and a glossary of terms completes the document.

## DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### **Article 1: Identify and assess cultural significance.**

#### *1.1 Use accepted heritage identification and assessment criteria.*

The identification and assessment of the significance of twentieth-century cultural heritage should use accepted heritage criteria. The cultural heritage of this particular century (including all of its elements) is a physical record of its time, location and use. Its cultural significance may rest in its tangible attributes, including physical location, views, design (for example, form and spatial relationships; colour schemes and cultural plantings; construction systems, fabric, technical equipment, as well as aesthetic qualities). Significance may also lie in use, historic, social, scientific or spiritual associations, or evidence of creative genius and/or in its intangible values.

#### *1.2 Identify and assess the significance of individual buildings, groups of structures and cultural and historic urban landscapes.*

To understand the heritage of the twentieth century it is important to identify and assess all its elements, groups of related or connected places or associated cultural and historic urban landscapes, including the interrelationships between people, the environment and the site or place that contribute to its significance.

### *1.3 Identify and assess the significance of interiors, fittings, associated furniture and art works, collections, equipment and industrial machinery.*

To understand significance, it is also necessary to identify and assess interiors, fittings and associated furniture, art works, collections, and equipment and machinery associated with industrial sites and cultural landscapes.

### *1.4 Recognise and respect structural innovation, forms, construction techniques and building materials.*

The twentieth century was characterised by the introduction of innovative forms, structural solutions, building materials and construction techniques and these should be identified and their significance assessed.

### *1.5 Identify and assess the importance of setting.*

To understand the contribution of context to the significance of a heritage place or site, its setting<sup>ii</sup> should be identified and assessed. Setting includes not only the physical/tangible environment, but also the relationships and interaction (such as visual, ecological, historic, spatial) between the place or site and its setting. Heritage places may be part of a complex system where the relationships extend beyond the boundaries of individual sites or places.

### *1.6 Identify and assess significant planning concepts and infrastructure.*

For urban settlements, industrial sites and historic urban landscapes, the different planning concepts, methods and ideas relevant for each development period (including the underlying functional infrastructure that facilitated these, such as power, water and sewerage) should be identified and their significance acknowledged, managed and conserved.

### *1.7 Proactively develop inventories of the heritage of the twentieth century.*

The heritage of the twentieth century needs to be proactively identified and assessed through systematic surveys and inventories informed by thorough research and studies by multidisciplinary teams. Surveys and inventories should provide the basis for protective conservation and management measures, including heritage impact assessment developed by the responsible parties, including planning and heritage authorities.

### *1.8 Use comparative analysis to establish cultural significance.*

When assessing the significance of the heritage of the twentieth century, comparative heritage places or sites should be identified and assessed to be able to analyse and understand relative significance.

# IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION PLANNING PROCESSES

## Article 2: Apply appropriate conservation planning and management methodology.

### *2.1: Maintain integrity by understanding significance before any intervention.*

The integrity of the cultural heritage places of the twentieth century should not be impacted by unsympathetic change or interventions. Adequate research, documentation and analysis of the history and significance of a place or site is needed to avoid, minimise and mitigate potential adverse impacts.

Understanding how cultural significance is manifest in the heritage of the twentieth century requires an assessment of how different attributes, elements and values contribute to that significance. This is an essential prerequisite to making appropriate decisions about its care, interpretation and the conservation of its authenticity and integrity. Places and sites evolve over time and later alterations may have cultural significance. Different conservation approaches and methods may be necessary across a heritage place or individual site.

### *2.2: Maximise the potential to gather information from primary sources.*

The twentieth century produced extensive records, made possible by technological advancements. It is important to use these sources when gathering information about a place or site, to inform assessments of significance.

In some instances, the original designer, builder, planner, client or others from the community closely associated with a place's creation may be able to provide primary information. Their input should always be sought, where relevant. Oral histories should be undertaken whilst it is possible to capture this information. This information should inform the understanding of significance however, a cautionary approach is needed when integrating the creators' views. Care should be taken when assessing original design intent in relation to the as-found physical place, to ensure that all values that contribute to significance are considered.

### *2.3: Use a planning methodology that assesses cultural significance and provides policies to retain and respect it, prior to commencing work.*

The methodology used to assess the significance of the heritage of the twentieth century should follow a culturally appropriate conservation planning approach. This will include comprehensive historical research and significance assessment to develop policies which will conserve, manage and interpret that identified cultural significance. It is essential that such

assessments are completed before works start, to ensure that specific conservation policies are provided to guide development and change. A Conservation Plan/Management Plan should be prepared. Regional heritage charters and site-specific conservation declarations may be relevant.

iii

#### *2.4: Establish limits of acceptable change.*

For every development or conservation action, clear policies and guidelines should be established before starting any intervention, so as to define the acceptable limits of change. A conservation plan/management plan should define the significant parts of the heritage place or site, vulnerabilities affecting it, the areas where interventions are possible, the optimum usage of the site and the conservation measures to be taken. It should consider the specific principles (such as architectural, planning, structural and so on) and technologies used in the twentieth century.

#### *2.5: Use interdisciplinary expertise.*

Conservation planning and management for twentieth-century places requires an interdisciplinary approach, considering all attributes and values of cultural significance. Specialists in modern conservation technology and material sciences may be required to undertake specific research due to the use and proliferation of non--traditional materials and construction methods in twentieth-century heritage. Specialists with expertise in the specific typology under consideration such as industrial heritage, cultural and historic urban landscapes, and so on should be involved in the conservation process.

#### *2.6: Plan for maintenance and ongoing management.*

It is important to plan for regular preventive care and maintenance in the ongoing management of all cultural-heritage places and sites. Continual and appropriate maintenance and periodic inspection are consistently the best conservation action for any heritage place or site and reduce long-term repair costs. A maintenance plan will assist this process. Cultural and historic urban landscapes will require management plans to manage the processes of continual evolution and change to sustain significance.

Emergency stabilisation work may also be required and assessment and subsequent work should be carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced professionals and implemented in a way that minimises impact on significance.

#### *2.7: Identify responsible parties for conservation action.*

It is important to identify the parties who are responsible and accountable for conservation actions for the cultural heritage of the twentieth century. These may include, but not be limited to, owners, asset managers, heritage authorities, communities, public authorities, local governments, city planning departments and occupants.

#### *2.8: Archive records and documentation.*

When making changes to twentieth-century heritage places or sites it is important to produce records of those changes for public archiving. Recording techniques may include mapping, photography, measured drawings, oral histories, laser scanning, 3D modelling and sampling, and recording processes used on industrial heritage sites for industrial machinery, depending on the circumstances. Archival research is an important part of the conservation planning process. Owners should be encouraged to retain archives and make these available for conservation.

For every intervention, the particularities of the individual place or site and the measures taken should be documented appropriately. The documentation must record the state before, during and after the intervention. Such documentation should be kept in a secure location and in up-to-date replicable media. It will assist the presentation and interpretation of the place or site, thereby enhancing its understanding and enjoyment by users and visitors. Information acquired in the investigation of cultural heritage, as well as other inventories and documentation, should be made accessible to interested persons.

# RESEARCH MODERN MATERIALITY AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

## **Article 3: Research the technical and planning aspects of twentieth-century cultural heritage.**

*3.1: Research and develop specific repair methods appropriate to the unique building materials and construction techniques of the twentieth century.*

Twentieth-century building materials and construction techniques may often differ from traditional materials and methods of the past. There is a need to research and develop specific repair methods appropriate to unique types of construction. Some characteristics of twentieth-century heritage, especially places or sites created after the middle of the century, may present specific conservation challenges, due to the use of new or experimental materials and construction methods, or simply due to a lack of specific professional experience in its repair. Original/significant materials or details should be recorded if they have to be removed, and representative samples should be stored.

Before any intervention, these materials should be carefully analysed and any visible and non-visible damage identified and understood. Some experimental materials may have a shorter life span than traditional materials and need to be carefully analysed. Investigations into the condition and deterioration of materials should be undertaken by suitably qualified professionals using non-destructive and carefully considered non-invasive methods. Limit destructive analysis to the absolute minimum. Careful investigation into the aging of materials of the twentieth century may be required.

*3.2: Research and develop appropriate responses to the new planning approaches developed in the twentieth century.*

The twentieth century saw the development of many new and experimental forms of urban living and city design. Conservation policies and development guidelines should be targeted to conserve these specific planning schemes or approaches for cultural and historic urban landscapes to sustain their significance.

## **Article 4: Develop policies to conserve significance.**

*4.1 Develop conservation policies informed by research to conserve and sustain the cultural significance of the place and use the policies to guide decision making when managing change.*

# MANAGE CHANGE TO SUSTAIN CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

## Article 5: Acknowledge and manage pressures for change, which are constant.

*5.1: Whether as a result of human intervention, or environmental conditions, managing change is an essential part of the conservation process to maintain cultural significance, authenticity and integrity.*

In some instances, change may be necessary to sustain a heritage place or site. Individual interventions and cumulative change can adversely impact cultural significance. Where change is necessary, impacts on the integrity and authenticity of the place must be assessed and monitored.

## Article 6: Manage change sensitively.

*6.1: Adopt a cautious approach to change.*

In some instances, change may be necessary to sustain a heritage place or site. Individual interventions and cumulative change can adversely impact cultural significance. Where change is necessary, impacts on the integrity and authenticity of the place must be assessed and monitored.

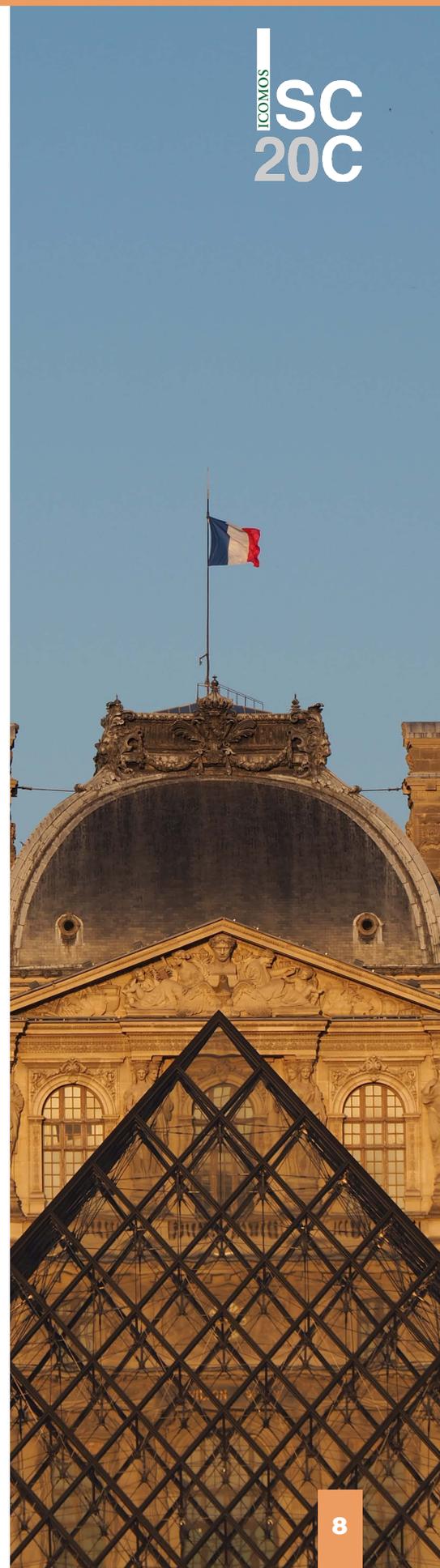
Do only as much as is necessary and as little as possible. Any intervention should be cautious. The extent and depth of change should be minimised. Use only proven methods of repair and avoid treatments that may cause damage to historic fabric, and cultural significance; repairs should be undertaken using the least invasive means possible. Changes should be as reversible as possible.

Discrete interventions can be introduced that improve the performance and functionality of a site or place on condition that its cultural significance is not adversely impacted. When change of use is under consideration, care must be taken to find an appropriate reuse that conserves the cultural significance.

*6.2: Assess the heritage impacts of proposed changes against the conservation policies prior to works commencing and aim to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts.*

The cultural significance of a place needs to be defined and understood, so that any proposals for change minimize or avoid adverse impacts. Different elements, attributes and values may have variable tolerances for change, and this need to be assessed and understood before developing proposals for adaptation or change so that the cultural significance of the place is managed and conserved.

*6.3: The application of standard building and regulatory codes requires flexible and innovative approaches to ensure appropriate heritage conservation solutions.*



The application of standardised legal and building codes (e.g. accessibility requirements, health and safety code requirements, fire-safety requirements, seismic retrofitting, landscape requirements, traffic management and measures to improve energy efficiency) may need to be flexibly adapted to conserve cultural significance. Thorough analysis and negotiation with the relevant authorities and experts should aim to avoid or minimise any adverse heritage impact. Each case should be judged on its individual merits.<sup>iv</sup>

## **Article 7: Ensure a respectful approach to additions and interventions.**

### *7.1: Additions need to respect the cultural significance of the heritage place or site.*

In some cases, an intervention (such as a new addition to a building or garden, a new infill building in an urban area and so on) may be needed to ensure the sustainability of the place or site. After careful analysis, new additions should be designed to respect the scale, siting, composition, proportion, structure, landscape, materials, texture and colour of the place or site. Additions should be discernible as new, identifiable upon close inspection, but work in harmony with the existing; complementing not competing, interpreting not imitating.

### *7.2: New interventions should be designed to take into account the existing character, scale, form, siting, landscape, materials, colour, patina and detailing.*

Careful analysis of previous plantings, buildings and sympathetic interpretation of their design may assist in providing appropriate design solutions. However, designing in context does not mean imitation.

## **Article 8: Recognise when use contributes to significance and manage accordingly.**

Where a functional use contributes to the significance of a place or site, conservation should aim to sustain that use where possible. Where a new use is introduced as a means of sustaining the place, and where the previous use or functions contribute to cultural significance this should be clearly interpreted.

## **Article 9: Respect the authenticity and integrity of the place or site.**

### *9.1: Interventions should enhance and sustain cultural significance.*

Significant elements must be repaired or restored, rather than reconstructed. Stabilising, consolidating and repairing significant elements is preferable to replacing them. Wherever possible, replacement materials should be matched like for like, but marked or dated to distinguish them as new.

Reconstruction of entirely lost heritage places or of their important elements is not an action of conservation and is not recommended. However, limited reconstruction, if supported by documentation, may contribute to the integrity and/or understanding of a cultural heritage place or site.

### *9.2: Respect the value of significant layers of change and the patina of age.*

The cultural significance of a place or site as historic testimony is principally based on its original or significant material attributes and/or its intangible values, which define its authenticity. However, the cultural significance of an original heritage place or site, or later interventions, additions, landscape elements or new elements, does not depend on their age alone. Later changes that have acquired their own cultural significance should be recognised and respected when making conservation or development decisions.

Age should be discernible through all the interventions and changes that have occurred over time, and evident in their patina. This principle is important for the majority of materials used in the twentieth century.

Contents, fixtures, fittings, machinery, equipment, artwork, plantings or landscape elements that contribute to cultural significance should always be retained on the heritage site where possible.<sup>v</sup>

## MANAGE CHANGE TO SUSTAIN CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### Article 10: Give consideration to environmental sustainability.

*10.1: Care must be taken to achieve an appropriate balance between environmental sustainability and the introduction of energy efficiency measures with the conservation of cultural significance.*

Pressure for twentieth-century cultural heritage to become more energy efficient will increase over time and heritage buildings and places should function as efficiently as possible. However, cultural significance (including function and use) should not be adversely impacted by energy conservation measures, wherever possible.

Conservation should take into account contemporary approaches to environmental sustainability<sup>vi</sup>. Interventions to a cultural heritage place or site should be executed with sustainable methods and products to support its conservation and development and ongoing management. To achieve a practical and balanced solution, consultation with all parties is needed to ensure sustainability of the place or site. All possible options in terms of intervening, managing and interpreting the cultural significance of the heritage place and its wider setting must be retained for future generations.

Understanding an existing building's energy performance is an essential first step in planning an energy retrofit. Research specific technical methods, systems and materials to identify appropriate retrofit solutions. Where original materials have failed, explore the potential to replace or repair materials with more energy efficient alternatives, where this will not adversely impact cultural significance.

The impact of renewable energy systems such as wind turbines, solar panels and water capture systems on cultural and historic urban landscapes should be assessed and avoided, minimised or mitigated.

*10.2: Promote and communicate appropriate energy conservation and environmentally sustainable practices for twentieth-century heritage.*

Encourage research into developing appropriate environmentally-sustainable materials, systems and practices for twentieth-century heritage.

Encourage educational and training programs to adopt an integrated approach to conservation of twentieth-century cultural heritage that balances conserving cultural significance with environmental sustainability needs.

# INTERPRET, COMMUNICATE AND BUILD CAPACITY

## Article 11: Promote and celebrate twentieth-century cultural heritage with the wider community.

### *11.1: Communicate cultural significance broadly.*

Engage with key audiences and stakeholders in dialogue that assists in the appreciation and understanding of twentieth-century heritage places and their conservation.

### *11.2: Presentation and interpretation are essential parts of the conservation process.*

Publish and distribute twentieth-century cultural heritage research and conservation/management plans, and promote events and projects wherever possible among the appropriate professions and broader community.

### *11.3: Interpretation is a key conservation action.*

Interpretation is an essential tool in raising public appreciation of twentieth-century heritage places and sites, and plays an important role in documenting change and explaining significance.

### *11.4: Encourage and support professional educational programs to build capacity and skills for twentieth-century heritage conservation.*

Educational and professional training programs in many disciplines need to include the principles of conservation for twentieth-century heritage and address its specific challenges including understanding significance, technical and material challenges and ensuring environmental sustainability.<sup>vii</sup>



# GLOSSARY

**Adaptation** means changing a place or site to suit the existing use or a proposed new use (Burra Charter, 2013).

**Attributes** of a place include its physical location, form, fabric and use, its planning methods, design (including colour schemes), construction systems and technical equipment, as well as its aesthetic qualities.

**Authenticity** is the ability of a heritage place or site to express its cultural significance through its material attributes and intangible values in a truthful and credible manner. It depends on the type of cultural heritage place and its cultural context.

**Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a heritage place or site so as to retain its cultural significance (from the Burra Charter, 2013).

**Conservation management plan** is a document that is used as a framework for managing a place including any future change. It includes identifying the heritage significance of the place, any constraints, how that significance is vulnerable to change, and identifies policies to conserve that significance in the future. In some countries, the term **conservation plan** is also used, although in some cases the scope of the content includes physical conservation issues only. See also **management plan**.

**Cultural landscapes** represent the combined works of nature and of humankind, illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, in response to physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal. There are three categories of cultural landscapes, designed (such as a historic garden), evolving (such as an agrarian landscape or townscape) and associative (where the natural landscape is associated with spiritual or artistic or social values).

**Cultural route** is any route of communication, be it land, water, or some other type, which is physically delimited and is also characterized by having its own specific dynamic and historic functionality to serve a specific and well determined purpose (ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes, 2008).

**Cultural significance** (also shortened to **significance**) means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and/or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the heritage place or site itself, its attributes, its setting, fabric, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Heritage places may have a range of significances for different individuals or groups.

**Elements** of a heritage place or site may include its layout/planning, interiors, fittings, associated furniture and art works; setting and landscapes.

**Environmental sustainability** means retaining and/or enhancing the quality of natural and man-made environments on a long-term basis by taking related factors and processes into account.

**Fabric** means all the physical material of the place including elements, fixtures, contents and objects, natural elements. Fabric may define spaces and views (Burra Charter, 2013).

**Historic garden** means a designed landscape incorporating architectural and horticultural elements and valued for its historic, aesthetic and social meanings.

**Historic urban landscape** is an urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes including the broader urban context and its geographical setting. The context includes the site's topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural features, its built environment, both historic and contemporary, its infrastructures above and below ground, its open spaces and gardens, its land use patterns and spatial organization, perceptions and visual relationships, as well as all other elements of the urban structure. It also includes social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity (UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, 2011).

**Industrial heritage** means sites, structures, complexes, areas and landscapes as well as the related machinery, objects or documents that provide evidence of past or ongoing industrial processes of production, the extraction of raw materials, their transformation into goods and the related energy, water and transport infrastructures (Dublin Principles, 2011).

**Intangible cultural heritage** means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills - as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith - that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage.

**Intangible values** may include historic, social, scientific or spiritual associations, or creative genius.

**Integrity** is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of a heritage places or site, its attributes and values. Examining the conditions of integrity therefore requires assessing the extent to which the place or site:

- a. Includes all elements necessary to express its value
- b. Ensures the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance
- c. Suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

**Interpretation** refers to the full range of potential activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of cultural heritage places and sites. These can include print and electronic publications, public lectures, on-site and directly related off-site installations, educational programs, community activities, and ongoing research, training, and evaluation of the interpretation process itself (ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, 2008).

**Intervention** is change or adaptation including alterations of a place's attributes both tangible and intangible.

**Maintenance** means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a heritage place or site, and is to be distinguished from repair.

**Management plan** is a document that, like a **conservation plan**, is used as a framework for managing a place including any future change but may be broader in scope including operational issues. Management plans are commonly used for cultural landscapes where ongoing active management is a primary conservation action.

**Place** is used in this document to describe a geographically defined area of heritage significance. It includes objects, spaces and views, monuments, buildings, structures, archaeological sites, historic urban landscapes, cultural landscapes, cultural routes and industrial sites. It may have tangible and intangible dimensions. See also **site** which is a sub-set of place.

**Presentation** denotes the carefully planned communication of interpretive content through the arrangement of interpretive information, physical access, and interpretive infrastructure at a cultural heritage site. It can be conveyed through a variety of technical means, including, yet not requiring, such elements as informational panels, museum-type displays, formalised walking tours, lectures and guided tours, and multimedia applications and websites (ICOMOS Charter for

the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, 2008).

**Reconstruction** means returning a place to a known earlier state through the introduction of new material.

**Repair** may involve the restoration or reconstruction of existing and/or new fabric to bring an element to a functional state.

**Restoration** means returning a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing elements with the minimal introduction of new material.

**Reversibility** means that an intervention can essentially be undone without causing changes or alterations to the basic historical fabric. In most cases reversibility is not absolute

**Setting** means the immediate and extended environment that is part of, or contributes to, its significance and distinctive character (Xi'an Declaration, 2005).

**Site** is used in this document to mean a defined area of heritage significance. It is a subset of place and includes monuments, archaeology, buildings, structures, spaces and gardens. It may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

# ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup> Relevant ICOMOS, UNESCO and other key organisation's documents and charters include:

- International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter), 1964
- The Florence Charter - Historic Gardens, 1981
- The Washington Charter - Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas, 1987
- The Eindhoven Statement, DOCOMOMO, 1990
- The Nara Document on Authenticity, 1994 and Nara +20, 2014
- Principles for the Analysis, Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage, 2003
- Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, ICOMOS, 2005
- ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes, 2008
- ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, 2008
- The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas, 2011
- ICOMOS / TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes - Dublin Principles, 2011
- Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter, 2013 and associated Guidelines
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO, 2016

<sup>ii</sup> Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, ICOMOS, 2005

<sup>iii</sup> For example, Texto de Mexico 2011 and Moscow Declaration, 2006.

<sup>iv</sup> In certain cases, the materials used for built sites of the twentieth century have a shorter life span than traditional materials. Lack of conservation action and knowledge of appropriate repair methods based on their material characteristics may mean they need more drastic interventions than traditional materials and they could also require additional intervention in the future.

<sup>v</sup> Their removal is unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring their security and preservation. They should be returned where and when circumstances permit.

<sup>vi</sup> United Nations, New Urban Agenda, 2017

<sup>vii</sup> UIA (international Union of Architects) Architectural Education Commission Reflection Group.

# IMAGES

Page 1: Guggenheim Museum New York (1959), Frank Lloyd Wright. Photo: © Joe Dudeck on Unsplash

Page 5: Christ the Redeemer (1931), Paul Landowski. Photo: © Andrea Leopardi on Unsplash

Page 8: Louvre Pyramid (1989), I. M. Pei. Photo: © Rafael Garcin on Unsplash

Page 11: Kaedi Regional Hospital (1992), Fabrizio Carola. Photo: © Alexis Doucet, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

The design of the document was done by Maria Gabriela Quin, master student at Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus (BTU).

The logo features the word 'ICOMOS' written vertically in white on a dark green rectangular background. To the right of this, the letters 'SC' are stacked above '20C', all in a large, bold, dark green sans-serif font.

ICOMOS  
ISC  
20C

To learn more about the work of the ISC20C or how to join as a member, visit  
[isc20c.icomos.org](http://isc20c.icomos.org)