



# CONSERVATION STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

The conservation architect should use the following guidelines together with the code in the pursuit of ethical practice.

## Documentation and Research

**Comprehensive Research:** Conduct comprehensive research before any intervention to understand the building's history, materials and construction techniques.

**Documentation:** The conservation architect has an obligation to produce and maintain accurate, complete, and permanent records of examination, sampling, scientific investigation, and treatment. When appropriate, the records should be both written and pictorial. The kind and extent of documentation may vary according to the circumstances, the nature of the building. The purposes of such documentation are:

**Documentation of Examination:** Before any intervention, the conservation architect should carry out a thorough examination of the cultural property and create appropriate records. These records and the reports derived from them must identify the cultural property and include the date of examination and the name of the examiner. They also should include, as appropriate, a description of structure, materials, condition, and pertinent history.

**Conservation Project Plan:** Following examination, the conservation architect should prepare a plan describing the course of the project. This plan should also include the justification for and the objectives of treatment, alternative approaches, if feasible, and the potential risks. When appropriate, this plan should be submitted as a proposal to the owner, custodian, or authorized agent.

**Documentation of the conservation project:** During the project, the conservation architect should maintain dated documentation that includes a record or description of techniques or procedures involved, materials used and their composition, the nature and extent of all alterations, and any additional information revealed or otherwise ascertained. A report



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prepared from these records should summarize this information and provide, as necessary, recommendations for subsequent care.

**Preservation of Documentation:** Documentation is an invaluable part of the history of cultural property and should be produced and maintained in as permanent a manner as practicable. Copies of reports of examination and treatment must be given to the owner, custodian, or authorized agent, who should be advised of the importance of maintaining these materials with the cultural property. Documentation is also an important part of the profession's body of knowledge. The conservation Perit should strive to preserve these records and give other professionals appropriate access to them, when access does not contravene agreements regarding confidentiality.

## **Preservation of the Heritage Value**

Conservation architect must declare a statement of intent declaring the set of tangible and intangible values that are going to be prioritized with a clear academic reference to Authenticity, Integrity and Cultural Significance.

## **Conservation Principles**

Conservation architect must declare the academic conservation principles adopted for a proposed intervention. The Code encourages these main interdependent approaches;

**Clarity respecting the passage of time:** Following point 1, the valued element of a cultural property shall be adequately preserved and exposed, whilst new interventions shall be clearly legible and visually perceived as subsidiary.

**Minimal Intervention:** Adopt a conservative approach that involves the least amount of intervention necessary to preserve the structure. New interventions shall follow this principle in form and aesthetic.



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**Reversibility:** Ensure that interventions are reversible, allowing future generations to undo changes if better methods or technologies become available.

**Preventive Conservation:** The conservation architect should recognise the critical importance of preventive conservation as the most effective means of promoting the long-term preservation of cultural property. The conservation Perit should provide guidelines for continuing use and reuse of the cultural property.

## **Balancing Tradition and Innovation**

**Harmonious Integration:** Ensure that any new additions or alterations are harmonious with the existing structure, respecting its historical context while meeting contemporary needs.

**Innovative Solutions:** Embrace innovative solutions that meet modern standards without compromising historical values.

**Suitability:** The conservation architect should perform within a continuum of care and will rarely be the last entrusted with the conservation of a cultural property. The conservation architect should only recommend or undertake treatment that is judged suitable to the preservation of the aesthetic, conceptual, and physical characteristics of the cultural property.

**Materials and Methods:** The conservation Perit is responsible for choosing materials and methods appropriate to the objectives of each specific treatment and consistent with currently accepted practice. The advantages of the materials and methods chosen must be balanced against their potential adverse effects on future examination, scientific investigation, treatment, and function.

**Compensation for Loss:** Any intervention to compensate for loss should be documented in treatment records and reports and should be detectable by common examination methods. Such compensation should be reversible and should not falsely modify the



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known aesthetic, conceptual, and physical characteristics of the cultural property, especially by removing or obscuring original material.

## **Cultural Sensitivity**

**Respect for Cultural Significance:** Recognise and respect the cultural significance of heritage properties, ensuring that conservation practices honour the traditions and values of associated communities.

**Inclusive Practices:** Engage with local communities and stakeholders in the conservation process, incorporating their knowledge and perspectives.

## **Transparency and Accountability**

**Open communication:** Maintain clear and open communication with stakeholders, clients, communities and regulatory bodies

**Ethical Decision Making:** Making decisions based on ethical considerations, balancing the needs of the building, the environment and the community.

**Justification:** Careful examination of cultural property forms the basis for all future action by the conservation architect. Before undertaking any examination or tests that may cause change to cultural property, the conservation professional should establish the necessity for such procedures.

**Sampling and Testing:** Prior consent must be obtained from the owner, custodian, or agent before any material is removed from a cultural property. Only the minimum required should be removed, and a record of removal must be made. When appropriate, the material removed should be retained.

**Interpretation:** Declarations of age, origin, or authenticity should be made only when based on sound evidence.



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Scientific Investigation: The conservation architect should follow accepted scientific standards and research protocols.

## Public Engagement and Education

Public Awareness: Promote public awareness and appreciation of heritage conservation through education and outreach programmes.

Community involvement: Involve the community in the conservation process, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards heritage sites.

## Professional Standards

Competence: Ensure that all conservation work is carried out by professionals with the necessary skills and expertise.

Continuous Learning: Stay informed about advances in the conservation techniques and materials, and ethics through continuous professional development.

Emergency Situations: In an emergency that threatens cultural property, the conservation professional should take all reasonable action to preserve the cultural property, recognising that strict adherence to the Code of Practice may not be possible. Emergency situations can pose serious risks of damage to or loss of cultural property that may warrant immediate intervention on the part of the conservation architect.

## Reflective Practice

Critical Reflection: Regularly reflect on ethical challenges and decisions, learning from each project to improve future practices.

Peer Review: Seek peer review and feedback on conservation projects to ensure that decisions are critically assessed and improved through professional discourse.



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**Sustainable Practices: Energy Efficiency:** Incorporate energy-efficiency solutions that do not compromise the buildings' historical integrity, energy-efficient lighting, and climate control systems that respect the original design and fabric.

**Sustainable Materials:** Use sustainable and locally sourced materials to reduce environmental impact as much as possible

**Functional Adaptation:** where appropriate functionally adapt the building for new uses that ensure its continued relevance and utility, while respecting its historical and architectural significance.

**Sensitive Design:** Ensure that any new additions or changes required for adaptive reuse are designed to be sympathetic to the original structure and do not overshadow or alter its historical character.

**Maintenance Programmes:** Regular Maintenance and follow a regular maintenance schedule to prevent deterioration and address minor issues before they become major problems

## **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

**Adherence to Laws:** Comply with all relevant local, national and international laws and regulations governing heritage conservation.

**Advocacy:** Advocate for policies and regulations that protect and preserve heritage structures.

**Conduct:** Adherence to the Code of Practice is a matter of personal responsibility. The conservation Perit should always be guided by the intent of this document, recognizing that specific circumstances may legitimately affect professional decisions.



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**Disclosure:** In professional relationships, the conservation Perit should share complete and accurate information relating to the efficacy and value of materials and procedures. In seeking and disclosing such information, and that relating to analysis and research, the conservation Perit should recognize the importance of published information that has undergone formal peer review.

**Laws and Regulations:** The conservation architect should be cognizant of laws and regulations that may have a bearing on professional activity. Among these laws and regulations are those concerning occupational health and safety, sacred and religious buildings and archaeological sites.

**Practice:** Regardless of the nature of employment, the conservation Perit should follow appropriate standards for safety, security, contracts, and fees.

**Communication:** Communication between the conservation architect and the owner, custodian, or authorised agent of the cultural property is essential to ensure an agreement that reflects shared decisions and realistic expectations.

**Consent:** The conservation architect should act only with the consent of the owner, custodian, or authorised agent. The owner, custodian, or agent should be informed of any circumstances that necessitate significant deviations from the agreement. When possible, notification should be made before such changes are made.

**Confidentiality:** Except as provided in the Code of Practice, the conservation architect should consider relationships with an owner, custodian, or authorized agent as confidential. Information derived from examination, scientific investigation, or treatment of the cultural property should not be published or otherwise made public without written permission.

**Supervision:** The conservation architect is responsible for work delegated to other professionals, students, interns, volunteers, subordinates, or agents and assignees. Work



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should not be delegated or subcontracted unless the conservation architect can supervise the work directly, can ensure proper supervision, or has sufficient knowledge of the practitioner to be confident of the quality of the work. When appropriate, the owner, custodian, or agent should be informed if such delegation is to occur.

**Education:** Within the limits of knowledge, ability, time, and facilities, the conservation Perit is encouraged to become involved in the education of conservation personnel. The objectives and obligations of the parties shall be agreed upon mutually.

**Consultation:** Since no individual can be expert in every aspect of conservation, it may be appropriate to consult with colleagues or, in some instances, to refer the owner, custodian, or authorized agent to a professional who is more experienced or better equipped to accomplish the required work. If the owner requests a second opinion, this request must be respected.

**Recommendations and References:** The conservation architect should not provide recommendations without direct knowledge of a colleague's competence and experience. Any reference to the work of others must be based on facts and personal knowledge rather than on hearsay.

**Adverse Commentary:** A conservation architect may be required to testify in legal, regulatory, or administrative proceedings concerning allegations of unethical conduct. Testimony concerning such matters should be given at these proceedings or in connection with paragraph 13 of these Guidelines.

**Misconduct:** Allegations of unethical conduct should be reported in writing to the KTP president. All correspondence regarding alleged unethical conduct shall be held in the strictest confidence. Violations of the Code and Guidelines that constitute unethical conduct may result in disciplinary action and/or expulsion from the chapter.



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Conflict of Interest: The conservation architect should avoid situations in which there is a potential for a conflict of interest that may affect the quality of work, lead to the dissemination of false information, or give the appearance of impropriety.

**END**