



APPROVED FRAMEWORK FOR THE CHAPTER OF CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS

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DEFINITION OF A CONSERVATION ARCHITECT

Architectural conservation is the multidisciplinary process of understanding, protecting, and managing cultural assets to prolong their physical life and sustain their cultural significance for future generations. The process can include the introduction of a new, compatible function to a historic structure that ensures its long-term viability while preserving its cultural significance and structural integrity.

Thus, a Conservation Architect can be defined as:

An architect responsible for the integrated conservation of a site or building of cultural significance and the safeguarding of any other associated cultural assets, through understanding and sensitive interventions, such that its legacy as a reflection of the country's identity and history is preserved for future generations.

Therefore, the conservation architect is a perit who:

- Specialises in conservation processes, including preservation, restoration, maintenance and rehabilitation;
- Is able to distinguish between different interventions, and decide on the appropriate treatment of built heritage, in order to slow down or mitigate deterioration processes;
- Is fluent in international charters, documents, guidance and best practices, and is able to successfully interpret and adapt them to their architectural interventions, safeguarding the cultural significance of built heritage;
- Ensures that the character of built heritage and its setting are preserved through appropriate assessments and appraisals;
- Ensures that the uses proposed for a building or site are compatible with its cultural significance;
- Is committed to the sensitive regeneration of the urban fabric in its totality, respecting the existing context (streetscapes, proportions and material) in the design of new buildings and the extensions or alterations of existing buildings;



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- Prioritises the social value of a locality, promoting a regeneration that does not come at the cost of gentrification;
- Engages with the community and is open to feedback regarding proposed rehabilitation of historical sites, ensuring that the cultural asset will be enjoyed by the local community and serves the local needs for social growth;
- Is able to understand and appreciate the local traditional construction techniques and methodologies as an intrinsic element of the built heritage; and
- Carries out prior research, or commission such research, both from primary and secondary sources before carrying any interventions.

Furthermore, a conservation architect, shall possess:

- an in-depth knowledge of the architectural periods and styles;
- the ability to source the right materials from suppliers and collaborate with other professionals within the architectural and conservation fields;
- the knowledge to take the best informed approach when dealing with heritage buildings undergoing deterioration;
- techniques in documentation and ability to maintain or re-gain structural integrity of a historic building which plays a crucial role in the execution of a successful, long-lasting conservation project without any damage to the existing fabric;
- the ability to lead other professions and trades involved in the conservation project in respecting the site and its values; and
- the ability to make informed decisions in order to determine compatible uses for a historical building. (Such uses shall not jeopardize its intrinsic value).

End of Section