
EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR 1975



A Future for Our Past

Final Resolutions

LAUNCHING CONFERENCE
ZÜRICH, 4 - 7 JULY 1973



EUROPEAN
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE YEAR
1975



A Future for Our Past

The Zurich Conference (4-7 July 1973) was the starting point for a Europe-wide campaign which will lead up to European Architectural Heritage Year in 1975.

Organised by the Swiss federal authorities, under the auspices of the Council of Europe and in conjunction with Europa Nostra, it was presided over by Mr. Duncan Sandys, Chairman of the International Organising Committee for the European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 and President of Europa Nostra.

The Conference was attended by some 300 delegates - conservationists, architects, landscape designers, town planners, representatives of local authorities, journalists, parliamentarians and government officials. The participants originated from:

- 28 European countries:

16 of the 17 member countries of the Council of Europe:

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom;

and 12 non-member countries:

Vatican, Spain, Portugal, Greece, San Marino, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Poland, Rumania, Finland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia;

and 3 non-European countries:

United States, Lebanon, Israel.

At the inaugural sitting speeches were made by the following personalities:

- Prof. Hans P. Künzi, Chairman of the Council of State of the Canton of Zurich;
- Mr. Lujo Tonic-Sorinj, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- Mr. Hans Peter Tschudi, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of the Interior;
- Mr. René Maheu, Director General of UNESCO;
- Mr. Giovanni Berzani, Vice-President of the European Parliament;

- Mr. Giancarlo Piombino, President of the European Conference of Local Authorities;
- Mr. Duncan Sandys, Chairman of the Conference.

After the first plenary sitting the activities of the Conference continued within the following three Committees:

<u>Committee I</u>	:	<u>Legislation and administrative practice</u>
Chairman	:	Mrs. M.E. Klee (Federal Republic of Germany) Councillor in the Ministry for Cultural Affairs of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz
Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. Ariste Rollier (Switzerland) President of the Swiss League for Protection of the National Heritage (Schweizer Heimatschutz)
Rapporteur	:	Mr. C. Pirlot (Belgium) Administrative Director in the General Directorate of Arts and Cultural Affairs
		Legislation on the integrated protection of conservation areas of cultural interest
<u>Committee II</u>	:	<u>Conservation, restoration and urban renewal</u>
Chairman	:	Prof. Alfred A. Schmid (Switzerland) President of the Federal Commission on Historic Monuments
Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. Robin R. Fedden (United Kingdom) Secretary General of the National Trust
Rapporteur	:	Mr. Michel Parent (France) Inspector General in the Ministry for Cultural Affairs
		(a) Economic, social and financial problems
Rapporteur	:	Prof. Conrad A. Beerli (Switzerland) of the Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne and of the School of Architecture of the University of Geneva
		(b) Operational problems
<u>Committee III</u>	:	<u>Action to promote public interest</u>
Chairman	:	Mr. Giorgio Bassani (Italy) President of Italia Nostra
Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. Ove Nissen (Denmark) Royal Ministry for Cultural Affairs

Rapporteur

: Mr. Bernard Anglade (France)
Director General of Marketsoft

- (a) Definition of types of action suited to different target publics with special reference to problems, methods and techniques pertaining respectively to the group media and the mass-media

Rapporteur

: Mr. Michael McAvoy (United Kingdom)
Planned Public Relations Ltd.

- (b) Presentation of techniques and programme elements suitable for adoption by national committees

After these Committees had completed their work, a plenary closing sitting was held at which Mr. Giuseppe Vedovato, President of the Consultative Assembly and Mr. Heinz Laube, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, were among the speakers. On that occasion, the Conference adopted the following resolutions which are reproduced in this document:

- General resolution
- Resolution No. 1 : Legislation on the integrated protection of conservation areas of cultural interest
- Resolution No. 2 : Conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of old districts
- Resolution No. 3 : Promotion of public interest
- Appendix I : Appeal to local authorities
- Appendix II : Privately owned buildings of public interest





GENERAL RESOLUTION

1. This Conference, convened by the Council of Europe at Zurich from 4 to 7 July 1973, and attended by some 300 delegates from 28 European countries, representing governments, local authorities, independent organisations and professional institutes;
2. Recognising that Europe's irreplaceable architectural treasures are the common heritage of all her peoples, irrespective of national frontiers and ideological differences;
3. Observing with profound concern the progressive decay or demolition of ancient buildings and the destruction of the unique character of historic towns and villages;
4. Welcomes the decision of the Council of Europe to proclaim 1975 as EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR and pledges its whole-hearted support for the campaign, which has been launched under the slogan "A Future for Our Past", with the following objectives:
 - (a) to awaken the interest and pride of the European peoples in their common architectural heritage;
 - (b) to draw attention to the grave dangers which threaten it;
 - (c) to secure the action required for its conservation, not merely for the sake of its historic significance, but also for its contribution to the enrichment of the quality of life.
5. Greatly appreciates the support and encouragement which is being given to the campaign by UNESCO, the European Communities, OECD and ICOMOS.

GOVERNMENTS

6. The Conference invites governments and parliaments to review the legislative powers and administrative practice in their respective countries, with a view to increasing the protection afforded to the architectural heritage; and to arrange for a fuller exchange of information between countries so that each may benefit from the experience of others. In particular, more effective measures are required:
 - (a) to protect not only individual buildings of outstanding distinction, but also groups of buildings and areas of historic interest and to assure them a living role in contemporary society; and
 - (b) to conserve the special character of old towns and villages and to improve their appearance.
7. The Conference calls upon European governments by all available means to support the campaign and to provide substantial funds to enable national committees and Europa Nostra to carry out effectively the responsibilities assigned to them.

8. It likewise asks governments to use their influence to promote active co-operation of all sections of the community, and, in particular, of local authorities who have an especially important role to play.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

9. The Conference urges the Council of Europe fully to support the activities of the Committee on Monuments and Sites - notably in carrying out and exploiting the European programme of pilot projects initiated by it.

10. It also asks the Committee of Ministers of the Council to provide the necessary finance for the activities of the International Organising Committee of the Year, including in particular for the preparation and organisation of the final Congress in Amsterdam in 1975.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

11. While the broad lines of the campaign will be planned at the international and national levels, its success will largely depend upon local initiatives.

12. The Conference therefore addresses a special appeal to every local authority to take positive steps to interest its citizens in the objectives of the campaign and to make its own practical contribution, by undertaking one or more specific projects of conservation or improvement (Appendix I). It asks every local authority to ensure that the responsibility for safeguarding the cultural heritage becomes an integral part of overall community planning and development.

13. The Conference warmly approves the decision of the Council of European Municipalities and the International Union of Local Authorities to initiate competitions among local authorities for such projects. It requests national committees and the International Organising Committee of the campaign to assist in the organising and judging of these competitions.

EUROPA NOSTRA

14. The Conference expresses its thanks to Europa Nostra for the valuable part which it and its member organisations have played in the launching of the campaign. It asks national committees:

- (a) to make the fullest use of the photographic exhibition produced by Europa Nostra; and
- (b) to provide Europa Nostra regularly with news about the progress of the campaign in their respective countries for inclusion in the information bulletin which it has been asked to produce.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

15. The Conference expresses its warm thanks to those industrial and commercial companies which are actively supporting the European Architectural Heritage Campaign, financially or in other ways, and expresses the hope that many other companies will assist in a similar manner at the international, national and local levels.

THANKS

16. The Conference expresses its warm thanks to the Swiss Government for having invited it to convene in Zurich and to the Government of the Canton of Zurich, the Council of the City of Zurich, and the Schweizer Heimatschutz, for their generous hospitality and their invaluable assistance in the organisation of the Conference.

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17. Finally, the Conference emphasises the high importance of this campaign, and is confident that, if it is pursued with vigour and determination, it will be possible, between now and 1975, to lay firm foundations for continuing action, which will preserve Europe's priceless architectural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

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18. The Conference, at its closing plenary sitting, also adopted the following specific resolutions presented by its three sessional Committees.





RESOLUTION NO. 1

LEGISLATION ON THE INTEGRATED PROTECTION
OF CONSERVATION AREAS OF CULTURAL INTEREST

The arrangements described below might serve as guidance for member States wishing to assure the protection of conservation areas of cultural interest, either by supplementing their legislation on the protection of monuments and sites or by enacting fresh legislation devoted specifically to the protection of such areas.

1. Definition of conservation areas of historical or cultural interest

The Committee hopes that all European countries will make a point of adopting uniform terminology to designate areas forming part of the architectural heritage. It suggests the expression "conservation areas of cultural interest".

These conservation areas should comply with the following general criteria:

- (1) They should be coherent;
- (2) They should be of historical, archaeological, artistic, characteristic or picturesque interest;
- (3) They should be sufficiently compact to be susceptible, together with their surrounds, of precise geographical demarcation.

2. Definition of protection

The objectives of protection should include the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the architectural heritage, and also the rehabilitation of dilapidated areas and their integration in contemporary society.

3. Inventory

In the countries without an inventory, a list of areas of cultural interest worthy of protection should be drawn up as soon as possible, so that all European States have available such an inventory before the end of 1975.

Their perimeters should be provisionally demarcated. Within those perimeters, the following conservation measures are recommended:

- (1) The unauthorised destruction or conversion of a building should be prohibited;
- (2) The authorities responsible for town and country planning must integrate these conservation areas in their general planning strategies.

4. Designation and demarcation of conservation areas

The competent authorities of each State should, after the necessary technical surveys, fix the exact boundaries of the conservation areas of cultural interest to be studied with a view to determining the provisions of the preservation and rehabilitation plan.

Such demarcation must be the result of co-operation between local communities, authorities responsible for town and country planning and authorities responsible for protection of the cultural heritage, in consultation with private associations concerned with preservation of the architectural heritage.

5. Establishment of protection programmes

This co-operation should continue not only throughout the preparation of the preservation and rehabilitation plan but should also encourage the aforesaid authorities to concert their efforts permanently.

Before they are approved, the protection programmes should, if necessary, be submitted to consultative bodies for their opinion. These bodies could be set up at national or regional level and should be made up of highly qualified experts in matters of architectural heritage and town and country planning.

States should be able to take the place of local authorities when the latter are not in a position to carry through the operations required for protecting a conservation area in their territory.

6. Work

The establishment of major conservation, restoration and rehabilitation projects should be reserved to specialists. Likewise, the execution of all work should be carried out by experienced technicians.

7. Financing

The general principle might be that public funds should be used when the obligations laid upon private individuals entail expenditure exceeding their normal responsibilities.

Aid to private individuals might take the form of grants, low-interest loans or tax relief.

Private owners should be encouraged to maintain their houses by all appropriate means with the help of investment.

Governments which grant tax relief for new building should be asked to offer the same relief for the restoration and rehabilitation of buildings in conservation areas of cultural interest.

The problems raised by the financing of conservation, restoration and rehabilitation work are so complex that the Committee would wish them to be the subject of a special symposium.

Governments should be invited to set up national funds on the occasion of the European Architectural Heritage Year: these funds should be fed by nationwide appeals and by public grants taking into account the result of the contributions obtained.

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The Committee on Legislation and Administrative Practice, having received a proposal for the study of a special statute for privately owned buildings of public interest, gives a favourable opinion as the principle and expresses its wish that the appropriate institutions of the Council of Europe should examine the text (Appendix II).



RESOLUTION NO. 2

CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND
REHABILITATION OF OLD DISTRICTS

I.

The Conference notes that the 19th century became aware of the cultural value of historic monuments just when they were most threatened and that it has bequeathed to us a duty to transmit them in our turn to future generations.

It is now clear that the towns themselves, taken as a whole, constitute an essential contribution to human civilisation, particularly in Europe, at the very moment when, already seriously jeopardised, they are in danger of being irremediably destroyed through a phenomenon of uncontrolled acceleration of economic and technical mechanisms. The risk is the same for towns, villages and isolated monuments, as well as for groups or individual examples of local architecture which contribute to the beauty and character of landscapes and rural areas.

The Conference concludes that one of the major tasks of our time must be the reconquest of urban space for the benefit of man, starting with the restoration and rehabilitation of old districts.

II.

The Conference considers that a so-called policy of integrated restoration should be understood in accordance with serious methodological criteria taking into account, inter alia:

- (1) Analysis of the general structure of any town which contains an old district;
- (2) The implications of the preservation of the old district for the general planning of such a town.

In particular, the Conference considers that old districts must be preserved from the excesses of motor traffic which degrade the quality of life instead of serving it, and that such districts should not accept programmes which engender traffic or pollution.

Moreover, the rehabilitation of old districts must respect the structure of the urban fabric, but without excluding the contribution of contemporary architecture compatible with it.

III.

Noting that in certain historic cities of Europe, the practical conservation and rehabilitation of the centre can now be based on a scientific study of the urban fabric from the historical, archaeological and architectural points of view, combined with a town planning, economic and sociological study, and that for a number of towns we now possess literature of a new kind which brings expert knowledge of the urban structure within the reach of the responsible local authorities,

The Conference hopes that these achievements will give rise to an exchange of information between the countries concerned and instigate all European countries to carry out similar studies, for example by using the resources of the documentation centre which ICOMOS is now establishing at UNESCO's request.

IV.

Noting that open spaces and historic gardens and parks are included in the concerted planning of the overall organisation of urban and suburban districts,

The Conference considers that such areas must be conserved in the same way as the ancient architectural heritage.

V.

As a general rule, and in the light of certain recent experiments, the Conference considers that a policy for the restoration and rehabilitation of conservation areas should not lead to the eviction of their inhabitants, and hence to social segregation; on the contrary, such a policy should contribute to the installation in such areas of a population diversified both socially and in respect of their activities, and which would be associated with the process of revitalisation.

VI.

Noting that:

- both the creation of new districts in expanding towns
- and the total rebuilding of central districts

involve investment without an immediate return which is borne by the public authorities,

The Conference considers that the infrastructural equipment and rehabilitation of old districts should benefit from the same advantages, in accordance with the general interest.

VII.

Noting that in most European countries preferential financial arrangements are granted for new housing and its surroundings,

The Conference recommends that similar aid be granted for the restoration and rehabilitation of buildings forming part of old districts and their environment.

VIII.

Noting that banks grant preferential loan conditions only for new housing, despite the growing interest in housing in old districts,

The Conference recommends the national committees for European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 to approach the main banks in their respective countries in order to secure terms similar to those granted for new building.





RESOLUTION NO. 3

PROMOTION OF PUBLIC INTEREST

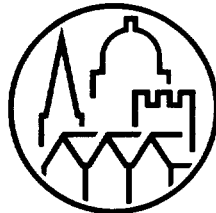
The Committee to promote public interest recommends that the Council of Europe should urge governments to increase their efforts towards public participation in planning and introduce programmes for conservation which will integrate the cultural and historical heritage within their own environment.

Having considered the reports prepared by Mr. Bernard Anglade on "Definition of types of action suited to different target publics, with special reference to problems, methods and techniques pertaining respectively to the group media and the mass-media", and by Mr. Michael McAvoy on "Practical methods and items suitable for adoption by national committees in their programmes":

the Committee agreed the following specific proposals:

1. to request national committees to:
 - (a) create expert sub-committees who will be charged with the responsibility of planning and directing public relations programmes;
 - (b) take steps to enlist the enthusiasm and local knowledge of voluntary groups in the 1975 campaign;
 - (c) designate during the Year special days and weeks to highlight particular aspects of the campaign;
 - (d) send to Strasbourg by the end of 1973 a first list of their country's projects planned for European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 and at six-monthly intervals thereafter;
2. to request the Council of Europe to:
 - (a) ensure a regular information exchange between a central body and national correspondents, eventually leading to the setting up of an information network similar to that of the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation;
 - (b) organise a central record of publications, films, competitions, events, audio-visual, exhibitions, and other projects, planned and produced;
 - (c) recommend to educational authorities to involve schools and universities in the campaign with the ultimate objective of including environmental information in curricula;

- (d) ask international travel and tourist organisations to institute "European Heritage Tours" in 1975 and to co-ordinate programmes of national tourist organisations;
- 3. to request the International Organising Committee to seek opportunities for international projects that will complement the programmes of national committees;
- 4. to recommend that decision-makers such as local authorities, property owners, planners and appropriate professionals and specialists should be closely involved in the information programmes of the campaign.



A P P E N D I X I

APPEAL TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are asked to undertake specific projects of conservation or improvement, in particular:

- (a) the creation of pedestrian precincts and traffic-free areas, the prohibition of motor parking in streets and squares of historic or architectural interest;
- (b) the improvement of amenities by removing ugly outdoor advertisements, which detract from the architecture of distinguished buildings, and the replacement or removal of shop signs which have the same bad effect;
- (c) the restoration of ancient buildings and, where necessary, their adaptation to new uses;
- (d) the reanimation of the old quarters of historic cities, by the introduction of new activities;
- (e) the replacement of obtrusive, excessively large or garish shop signs by others which are better suited to the character of the surroundings;
- (f) the removal of overhead telephone and telegraph wires;
- (g) the elimination of the clutter of television aerials by means of the erection of a single communal aerial, or by some other means;
- (h) the floodlighting of buildings or areas of historic or architectural interest;
- (i) the introduction of more trees, grass and flowers in old cities and villages;
- (j) the improvement of the surroundings of buildings or areas of historic, architectural or archaeological interest by the discreet siting of car parks and tourist amenities, landscaping of various kinds, and other measures to create a more pleasing and dignified setting;
- (k) the introduction of strict control of the demolition of buildings of all kinds in areas of historic or architectural interest;
- (l) the effective control of new construction in ancient cities and villages, with a view to ensuring that the design of new buildings harmonises with the character of the surroundings;
- (m) the repair, painting and cleaning of buildings in old towns and villages.

A P P E N D I X II

PRIVATELY OWNED BUILDINGS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

1. Any owner of a historic house may apply to the appropriate governmental authority to have it officially designated a Privately Owned Building of Public Interest.
2. The criteria for such recognition shall be based on the archaeological, aesthetic or historical value of the building and its contents.
3. The owner must agree to preserve the totally or partially residential character of the building.
4. The owner shall undertake to open his place to the public for a specified period during the tourist season. A reasonable charge for entrance may be made.
5. Such buildings must be properly maintained. Failure to do so at a reasonable standard may result in withdrawal of the status of Privately Owned Building of Public Interest.
6. The building, together with its furniture, grounds and outbuildings, as well as any endowment fund or property specifically assigned to its upkeep shall be regarded as forming an entity. An inventory shall be prepared of all movable and immovable property comprised within this entity.
7. The building shall be totally exempt from income tax, estate duty and all other forms of tax.
8. Any change of ownership, whether by gift, bequest or sale must be notified to the appropriate authorities. Such conveyance shall not affect the status of Privately Owned Building of Public Interest, or the privileges and obligations derived therefrom.
9. If such a building is removed from the register, either at the request of the owner or by the appropriate authority for breach of the statutory conditions, the authority may require repayment of some of the tax benefits granted.

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- Legislation on the integrated protection of conservation areas of cultural interest (C. Pirlot)
- Economic, social and financial problems (M. Parent)
- Operational problems (C.A. Beerli)
- Definition of types of action suited to different target publics, with special reference to problems, methods and techniques pertaining respectively to the group media and the mass-media (B. Anglade)
- Practical methods and items suitable for adoption by national committees in their programmes (M. McAvoy)
- European programme of pilot projects

Reference documents

- Rescue operation: the face of Europe (F. Sorlin)
- Economic and social problems arising from the revival of the cultural and artistic heritage of buildings (J. -P. Pigeat)
- Historic buildings - their care and repair - and the availability and training of planners, architects, contractors and craftsmen (D.W. Insall). To be published shortly.
- Brussels Resolutions
- Venice Charter
- The Split Declaration

All these documents are available on request to the Division for Regional Planning, Monuments and Sites, Council of Europe, 67000 STRASBOURG (France).



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

