

# DEVELOPMENT OF ICCROM'S ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION TRAINING IN REFERENCE TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE INITIATIVES

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**ABSTRACT** The 1975 European Architectural Heritage Year (EAHY 1975) was a key moment in the evolution of integrated conservation approaches. However, it was not a lonely event, but rather part of a longer process that started after the Second World War. While the early interventions mostly involved using industrial methods, there was also a growing consciousness of the loss of traditional qualities and identity in the renovated neighbourhoods. This caused efforts in many European countries to develop attitudes and instruments that would favour the recognition and safeguarding of historic areas as heritage. These ideas found fruitful ground in the policies being developed by the Council of Europe (CoE) and UNESCO. Although the 1964 *Venice Charter* still highlighted the conservation of monuments and sites, there were parallel developments aiming at the introduction of legal and planning instruments for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic urban areas. Thus, resulting in resolutions and recommendations of the CoE throughout the second half of the 1960s. Such developments were also reflected in training activities of ICCROM, the *International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property*, partly because it was closely following the international scenery, and partly thanks to the teaching faculty of the architectural courses drawn from the best informed and qualified professionals, in the European and later in other contexts.

## 1. INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has become the period of globalisation, marked by the diffusion of industrial production and trade across the world. It is also marked by the accomplishment of an international network of institutions to negotiate and agree on common interests, already initiated in the previous century. There was increasing attention to the protection and conservation of the built heritage, historic buildings and urban areas, which had suffered seriously during the Second World War. Consequently, the period from 1940s to 1960s characterised by reconstruction and the establishment of an international network of organisations related to heritage. These included UNESCO, the CoE, as well as ICCROM, which was created as an international agency dealing with research, technical cooperation, training and awareness raising. From the 1960s, many of the initiatives of the CoE focused on the needs of the built environment.<sup>1</sup> These were based on initiatives and contributions of experts, such as Ludwig Weiß (Austria) whose report on *The Protection and Enhancement of Groups and Areas of Historical and Artistic Buildings* (1963, see appendix)<sup>2</sup> was considered by the European Conference of Local Authorities in 1964, when drafting the Resolution (44/1964) on *Regional Planning and the Preservation and Development of Ancient Buildings and Historical or Artistic Sites*. Here, it was recommended to organise a European Conference to be held in 1965 in order to classify such heritage and dangers that threatened it, as well as developing strategies and campaigns for its protection. Particular attention was paid to the role of the local authorities in this process. At the same time, various countries had already made legal and administrative initiatives for the protection of the built heritage, including the *centri storici* in Italy,<sup>3</sup>

the *secteurs sauvegardés* in France,<sup>4</sup> and the *conservation areas* in the UK (Town and Country Planning Act 1968; Ministry of Transport, 1963).

In the second half of the 1960s, there was a series of technical resolutions, concerning the *Criteria and Methods of Cataloguing* (19/1966), *Reviving of Monuments* (20/1966), *Principles and Practice of the Active Preservation and Rehabilitation* (11/1968), and *Active Maintenance* (12/1968). In May 1968, there was another resolution (16/1968) concerning the possibility of a European Conference, which was proposed to be organised in 1969 in Belgium. Moreover, in October 1968, the CoE sponsored the 'Symposium E' in Avignon on the *Policy for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of Groups and Areas of Buildings or Historical or Artistic Interest*. It was recommended to the Ministers that: "in a society, the evolution of which has moved so rapidly during the past 25 years, man feels a fundamental and increasing need to find an appropriate environment which is conducive to the development of all his capacities; That to this end, it is fundamental to combine in a single policy the heritage of past civilizations and the achievements of today."

## 2. EARLY TRAINING AT ICCROM

ICCROM, initially called the *Rome Centre*, was founded by UNESCO at its General Conference in New Delhi, in 1956. It was based in Rome, and became functional from March 1959 when the first eight States had ratified their membership. At this time, many countries of the world were faced with the problem of reconstructing and restoring war-damaged historic buildings and towns. Consequently, training of specialists became a priority. This was also recognised as one of the statutory functions of the new organisation: "Assist in training research workers and technicians and in raising the standard of restoration work." In 1962, at the request of Mrs Gertrude Tripp, the representative of Austria at ICCROM Council, it was decided to organize a specialisation course in the conservation of historical monuments in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Rome.<sup>5</sup> This initiative was later sustained by the *Second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments*, hosted by the Italian Government in Venice in May 1964, where ICCROM collaborated with UNESCO.<sup>6</sup> In September 1968 in Pistoia (Italy), a UNESCO expert meeting discussed the training of architects and town planners recognising the importance of ICCROM's training initiatives.<sup>7</sup>

Soon, training became the most important function for the young organisation. This was supported in the 1960s and 1970s by the development of a consistent modern theory of conservation, and the first international guidelines regarding the identification and recognition of heritage resources. All these could be taken note in the emerging initiatives of training conservation professionals. It was noted that most schools of architecture dealt with new buildings. However, there existed some initiatives for comprehensive courses of specialisation, including those in Paris, Ankara, Rome and New York.<sup>8</sup> In a *Project for the long-term development of the Centre's activities should its income be increased* (December 1966) the ICCROM General Assembly was informed about a general survey that had been conducted in terms of training needs. It confirmed that the need for specialists in conservation was urgent in all domains and nearly in every country.

Organising training programmes in an innovative subject such as architectural and urban conservation was not simple. There was lack of available resources, such as publications and technical reports. Therefore, one of the first issues for ICCROM was to identify and contact specialised institutions and, due to its limited funds, ask for such donations in order to build up a library. Secondly, it was necessary to establish premises where the courses could take place.<sup>9</sup> This also included the development of a specialised research-training laboratory. Another question was funding. Through its contacts with international and national institutions, ICCROM was able to assist researchers and course participants to obtain scholarships. From 1962, when ICCROM started collaborating with the University of Rome, international lecturers and foreign students were already invited. In the Academic Year 1965–1966, the first course on

the conservation of monuments took place at ICCROM. The programme was based on the earlier university lecture programme, but now organised as a full-time course. The teaching faculty was invited from specialised national institutions, as well as involving experts with international experience. Prominent Italian advisers and lecturers included Piero Gazzola, the founding President of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), G. De Angelis d'Ossat, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Rome, and Cesare Brandi and Pasquale Rotondi, Directors of the *Central Institute of Restoration* (ICR) of Italy. Other lecturers came from countries such as Austria, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Poland, Romania and United Kingdom. From 1965 to 1969, the courses were attended by 140 participants from 47 countries, who were already professionals and later often occupied key positions in their country.

The first conservation training of Iran was initiated in Isfahan in the 1970s. Here too, there was already a solid group of professionals trained at ICCROM, including Bagher Shirazi, the chief conservator of Isfahan, one of the most important historic cities of the world. The importance of urban conservation here was also stressed in a special issue of *The Architectural Review*, May 1976, dedicated to Isfahan. In the introduction, the editors Sherban Cantacuzino and Kenneth Browne note: "We believe that there is no better example than Isfahan to illustrate the traditional qualities which are still there in plenty, as well as the external threats which are now menacing the city with destruction" (Cantacuzino and Browne 1976, 255). Tomislav Marasovic (Yugoslavia, 1966), also assistant to ICCROM courses, was leading expert in the conservation of the historic town of Split, and co-founder of post-graduate training in Yugoslavia. Salvador Diaz-Berrio (Mexico, 1967) an influential figure in Mexico, was one of the first teachers of the theory of restoration and urban conservation in his country, and he also founded the post-graduate courses of UNESCO and the *Organization of American States* (OAS). Roland Silva (Sri Lanka, 1967) was the leading figure in his country, establishing the *Cultural Triangle Project*, and contributing to training. Of the Italians, Gaetano Miarelli-Mariani (1961) and Giovanni Carbonara (1968) were professors and directors of the University of Rome School of Conservation. Many of the course participants remained in contact with ICCROM also later, as teachers and/or as ICCROM Council Members, creating links between ICCROM and their institutions thus mutually updating information regarding the evolving policies and methodologies.

In 1975, in the *Scheme for Future Development over the Next Ten to Fifteen Years*, the Director of ICCROM, Paul Philippot, defined its specificity in the following words: "The Centre's originality therefore must not be sought for so much in a particular branch of conservation but on the contrary in its unique possibility of linking the different sectors of activity defined in its Statutes, commencing with a clear concept of the methodology of conservation, and thus giving the example of an interdisciplinary integration which is necessary for a modern approach but is, however, often lacking in practice" (Philippot 1975).

### 3. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 1970S

In the first part of the 1970s, the CoE initiated a series of pilot projects, i.e. international conferences and symposia in various European countries introducing diverse case studies. In 1972, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (Resolution 532/1972) finally decided to give its "full support to the campaign of information and education culminating in the European Architectural Heritage Year of 1975, initiated by the Committee of Ministers." In 1974, the Parliamentary Assembly further recommended (Recommendation 747/1974) that the Committee of Ministers give assurances, before the start of the European Architectural Heritage Year of 1975 (EAHY 1975): "that the conservation of Europe's architectural heritage will continue to be accorded a permanent place in the Work Programme of the Council of Europe." While the focus in these conferences was mainly on the responsibility of local authorities, the social, economic and legal problems of implementation, the question of training of technicians was also included. For example in the conference of Bologna (Italy, 1974), Cevat Erder<sup>10</sup> stressed the need of training specialists and technicians, architects, surveyors, engineers, archaeologists, art historians, town planners,

and scientists, in interdisciplinary programmes. He stressed the need to make the conservation profession attractive, offering a year-round employment for qualified specialists (Erder 1974).

As noted above, the preparation of the EAHY 1975 was a long process, and ICCROM was part of this process. This was because already in the 1960s ICCROM staff had been attending several conferences and meetings. For example, in 1968, the CoE Conference of Avignon was attended by Italo Carlo Angle, the Secretary General of ICCROM. The conference discussed urban conservation and declared that it was of “fundamental importance of providing specialised training for persons responsible for the active preservation of groups and areas of buildings of historical or artistic interest.” The conference specifically drew attention to the international courses already organised by ICCROM, encouraging professionals of the Member States to apply to such courses. ICCROM was also represented in other preparatory meetings, including Zurich in 1973 and Bologna in 1974, where urban conservation policies were discussed in order to be expressed in the 1975 Conference documents. The → 1975 *European Charter of the Architectural Heritage* (see appendix) noted:

(5) *“The architectural heritage has an important part to play in education. The architectural heritage provides a wealth of material for explaining and comparing forms and styles and their applications. Today when visual appreciation and first-hand experience play a decisive role in education, it is essential to keep alive the evidence of different periods and their achievements. The survival of this evidence will be assured only if the need to protect it is understood by the greatest number, particularly by the younger generation who will be its future guardians. ...”*

(8) *“There are today too few architects, technicians of all kinds, specialized firms and skilled craftsmen to respond to all the needs of restoration. It is necessary to develop training facilities and increase prospects of employment for the relevant managerial, technical and manual skills. The building industry should be urged to adapt itself to these needs. Traditional crafts should be fostered rather than allowed to die out.”*

Many of the case studies chosen for the 1975 EAHY were discussed at ICCROM courses by visiting lecturers, including the historic city of Bath in UK presented by Roy Worskett, the city architect. In addition to the lectures, the ICCROM courses also included guided visits and study tours, as well as actual field work. Inspired by the CoE Avignon Conference in 1968, the course participants were invited to undertake professional field surveys of historic urban areas. In 1969, they studied the historic Medina of Sfax in Tunisia and the historic centre of Iesi in Italy. In 1970, the course studied parts of the historic centre of Rome, in 1971 the walled city of Capua, near Naples, in 1972 the historic town of Tivoli near Rome, and in 1974 Trogir in Yugoslavia. In each case, the analyses were brought to the attention of the responsible authorities for integration in their urban master plans. In the case of Capua the results of the work were edited and published by ICCROM, and already well reflect the concepts of ‘integrated conservation.’ The Director of ICCROM, Paul Philippot wrote in the introduction:

*“It is now generally recognized that no efficient safeguard of monuments or historic centres can be adequately achieved as long as each building is treated as an isolated object. Fighting natural degradation will have little effect indeed as long as no action is taken at the level of the cause of decay and these are, in the first place, cultural, economic and social. Architectural conservation, therefore, has now to be approached within the larger ambit of town planning; and keeping in mind that all attempts at saving old buildings are bound to remain platonic as long as an adequate social and economical action cannot be undertaken to ensure them a convenient function and significance within the living context of the town. This requires, on the one hand, due acknowledgement of the specific values of the buildings as cultural factors in modern life, which implies a political will to safeguard them, and, on the other hand, a method of study of the urban structure. This method should assess the values of that which should be preserved, in such a way that the archaeological, historical and aesthetic aspects of individual buildings or complexes of buildings are systematically connected with the actual social, cultural and economic life of the town and its region as well as with the planning of their future development”* (Brock 1973, 6).

In 1975, UNESCO was involved in the preparation of a new international *Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas*, which was adopted by the General Conference in Nairobi the following year, 1976. Section V of this Recommendation was dedicated to Research, Education and Information. It was recommended to Member States and groups concerned to encourage the systematic study of, and research on: “town-planning aspects of historic areas and their environment; the interconnexions between safeguarding and planning at all levels; methods of conservation applicable to historic areas; the alteration of materials; the application of modern techniques to conservation work; the crafts techniques indispensable for safeguarding” (art. 48). Such training should be developed in cooperation with specialised international agencies, such as ICCROM, ICOMOS, and *International Council of Museums* (ICOM). It was necessary to develop practical training periods, in addition to encouraging schools and universities to introduce different forms of education and awareness raising through various types of media, ranging from books to TV, radio, cinema and travelling exhibitions. Particular refresher courses should also be introduced for teachers, guides and training instructors. In the preparatory phase of the UNESCO Recommendation, ICCROM was invited to participate in the process, and was represented by Luciano Pontuale, one of the principal teachers of ICCROM's architectural conservation course. He was a director at the Italian Ministry of Public Works, and the principal responsible for the preparation and coordination of the Italian participation in the EAHY 1975. The Italian examples for the 1975 Conference included Bologna (Cervellati 1977) and Ferrara (Cesari 1976), both subject to pilot conservation projects. They also were chosen as subject to regular visits by ICCROM's architectural courses.<sup>11</sup>

#### 4. THE IMPACT OF TRAINING

From the 1970s, ICCROM started keeping lists of training programmes in the conservation of cultural heritage. This list contained those programmes that were known to ICCROM, which gave an idea about the distribution of training in various regions. The list below indicates training courses in 1978, 1982 and 1994, showing the increase over time. Most training centres or opportunities were in Europe (57%) and USA and Canada (25%), to lesser degree in Latin America (9%), the Middle East and Asia (8%) and very few in Africa (2%). Some of the European courses, in addition to ICCROM, were also open for international participants (Jokilehto 1995).

Conservation Training listed by ICCROM			
Region	1978	1982	1994
1. Africa (Egypt, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria)	3	6	7
2. Asia (India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey)	13	21	27
3. Oceania (Australia)	3	7	8
4. Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru)	21	25	39
5. USA, Canada	94	121	113
6. Europe (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia)	188	221	259
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>453</b>

In the early years, ICCROM's international training programmes were mainly in-house courses, organised in Rome. However, since the 1970s there were already several courses elsewhere, including the stone conservation course in Venice, the wood conservation in Norway, and the so-called *PREvention in Museums in Africa* (PREMA) courses for museum curators in African countries. In the 1990s, the programmes further developed, and there was an increasing number of training activities in different regions, and the Rome courses became shorter. From the point of view of the EAHY 1975, it is interesting to see the provenance of the participants in the architectural courses. We can see in the table below that about one third were Europeans, not counting the Italians because their participation was based on a special agreement with the University of Rome. One quarter of the participants came from Asia. Nearly another third came from the Americas. A smaller percentage came from the African countries. However, there were special programmes for African countries. For example, in the 1990s, ICCROM organised a special training programme for the Maghreb countries, (ITARC, *Italian Architectural Conservation Course*), and from 1998 another programme was developed concerning Sub-Saharan African countries (Africa 2009).

ICCROM Architectural Conservation Courses, Rome, 1966–1994		
Non-Italian participants by the Region	Tot. 737	%
1. Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda)	43	5.8 %
2. Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kampuchea, Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam)	179	24.3 %
3. Oceania (Australia, New Zealand)	15	2.0 %
4. America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Venezuela)	139	18.9 %
5. USA, Canada	86	11.7 %
6. Europe (Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Croatia, Denmark, DDR, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia) [in addition there were 221 Italian participants]	275	37.3 %

In December 1982, together with UNESCO and ICOMOS, ICCROM hosted an international conference of coordinators of training courses in architectural conservation (Jokilehto 1983).<sup>12</sup> The themes that were discussed included the organisation of permanent courses in areas distant from large training centres, short courses on specific aspects, as well as training of teaching staff and coordination of initiatives at a national and international levels. The conference brought together all the principal initiatives, providing an opportunity for comparison also with reference to the development of focus. It was noted that ICCROM's training model was adaptable to the national requirements of each country. Indeed, a close collaboration had been established with the University of York, where MA conservation courses had been initiated in 1971 under the direction of Derek Linstrum.

Another issue in such collaboration was that ICCROM participants could also continue for the Master or DPhil degree at York. In Split, conservation training was initiated in 1975 by Tomislav Marasovic, who had already been assistant to the early ICCROM courses. Another international course, which was also based on the ICCROM experience, was organised by Raymond Lemaire in Belgium. It was first at

Bruges and later, moved to Louvain. Since the 1966 floods in Florence and Venice, ICCROM was actively involved in the safeguarding campaigns of Florence and Venice. In the 1970s, in close collaboration with the initiatives of UNESCO and the CoE, ICCROM contributed to the scientific analyses of the many problems of Venice, including those regarding deterioration of stone. Consequently, in 1976, an international training programme was launched in the conservation of stone structures to be held in Venice in the framework of UNESCO initiatives. At the same time, at the invitation of the CoE, ICCROM appointed Bernard M. Feilden, at the time consultant for the Architectural Conservation Course (later Director of ICCROM), as expert to draw up a basic report on the organization of training courses for artisans involved in architectural conservation for the *Pro Venetia Viva Foundation*, on the island of San Servolo, Venice. ICCROM also collaborated in teaching at the courses.

## A WORD TO CONCLUDE

The 1970s can be seen as a critical moment making people at an international level conscious of the threats caused by a galloping globalisation. And, it is this awareness that generated the efforts to counteract such tendencies, proposing to introduce new instruments to favour integrated conservation. In this process, the EAHY 1975 became an important milestone, and has remained a reference also for training of professionals. It emphasised the need to pay attention to the integrated conservation of historic urban areas. It saw the adoption of the → *European Charter of Architectural Heritage* and the → *Amsterdam Declaration* (see appendix). This process was followed by the UNESCO *Recommendation concerning Safeguarding of Historic Areas* in 1976. The 1980s and 1990s focused on scientific aspects of conservation and the management of ever larger heritage areas, such as cultural landscapes. The 2000s have further broadened the spectrum recognising the intangible cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions, reflected in the 2003 and 2005 Conventions by UNESCO. In the ICCROM context, urban conservation was further discussed in programmes more specifically focused on the *Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation* (ITUC) courses that were launched in 1997, ITUC also found regional applications, for example, at the Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife (Brazil).

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- <sup>1</sup> The Council of Europe treaties are generally accessible in the Council of Europe Treaty Office website: <http://www.conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ListeTraites.asp?CM=8&CL=ENG>, accessed December 17, 2014.
- <sup>2</sup> See [http://www.kultura.ejgv.euskadi.net/r46-4874/es/contenidos/informacion/manifiestos\\_patrimonio/es\\_8658/adjuntos/DOC29.pdf](http://www.kultura.ejgv.euskadi.net/r46-4874/es/contenidos/informacion/manifiestos_patrimonio/es_8658/adjuntos/DOC29.pdf), accessed December 17, 2014.
- <sup>3</sup> '*La Carta di Gubbio*', adopted by the Conference for Safeguarding and Rehabilitation of Historic Centres at Gubbio in September 1960. The following year the same participants established ANCSA (*Associazione Nazionale Centri Storico-artistici*).
- <sup>4</sup> Law n. 62-903 of 4 August 1962, *Complétant la législation sur la protection du patrimoine historique et esthétique de la France et tendant à faciliter la restauration immobilière* (Malraux Law).
- <sup>5</sup> H. J. Plenderleith (first Director of ICCROM) was already invited to give lectures at the University in 1962.
- <sup>6</sup> Document 3: 'Resolution concerning the Teaching of Preservation and Restoration of Monuments'. The conference also adopted: 'Motion Concerning Protection and Rehabilitation of Historic Centres' (document 8).
- <sup>7</sup> The resolution is reprinted in Jokilehto 1983, 229 ff.
- <sup>8</sup> In France, the '*architectes en chef*' had been trained since 1875, continuing in Palais de Chaillot from 1970. In Rome conservation courses started in 1958/9. In Ankara, at METU, training of architects started in 1956, including conservation teaching. Columbia University, USA, started preservation courses in 1964.
- <sup>9</sup> The first courses used provisional locations until the Italian authorities were able to offer more permanent premises in the Hospice of San Michele in 1972.
- <sup>10</sup> Cevat Erder (Turkey), was Director of ICCROM from 1982 to 1988.
- <sup>11</sup> Ferrara was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995, and in 1999 its boundary was extended to include the water management systems of the cultural landscape from the walled city area along the Po River to the Adriatic Sea. In collaboration with the chief architect and planner of Ferrara, Carlo Cesari, ICCROM organised a series of field exercises for the architectural courses.
- <sup>12</sup> Participants and observers were from: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, England, France, Hungary, Italy, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, USA, Yugoslavia. Observers also included a representative of the Council of Europe.