The articles in this newsletter reflect the range of programme activities carried out by ICCROM during 2008. These activities take place worldwide in a variety of forms. They involve courses, meetings, seminars and publications on a wide range of topics, as well as technical advisory missions and other forms of support to Member States.

The ICCROM programmes that were recommended by Council and approved by the General Assembly for the 2008-2009 Biennium are as follows:

- Conservation of Collections
- Conservation of Built Heritage
- CollAsia 2010
- Africa 2009
- ATHAR
- Latin America
- Forum

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Cover photograph:
Sir Bernard Feilden lecturing in the historic city of Champaner during the 1987 Bangalore Seminar, Public Works Department, India.
Cultural Heritage and Communication

Mounir Bouchenaki (ICCROM)

The spectacular development of new information and communication technologies at the end of the twentieth and the beginning of the twenty-first centuries has given rise to questions about the place that cultural heritage will occupy in a world in which modern societies are increasingly making use of those technologies. Conventional media have had to adapt to the digital revolution and miniaturization, while the new forms of communication via the Internet and satellite TV, and ever-expanding access to high definition images, are modifying the whole media landscape.

Cultural heritage conservation professionals are faced with establishing the degree to which this metamorphosis in the information and communications media will impact on their work, seeing whether it will improve the dissemination of information about cultural heritage, and, above all, whether it can heighten sensitivity to protecting and enhancing it.

As Lotfi Maherzi emphasized, ‘A number of authors and researchers agree that a new information age is in the process of rapidly replacing the industrial era…in this new phase, science and knowledge are becoming the critical vectors of the so-called “value-added” economy. Global networks are no longer mere pathways for information, but generate new knowledge which has a part to play in the processing of products. This underscores the importance of non-material resources such as software, computer applications, programmes and services: these become the new raw materials and the real wealth of the knowledge-based society.’

One of the first challenges facing ICCROM has been how to adapt its communication tools and make its website easily accessible, and enable it to serve both the community of researchers and conservators working on the protection of cultural heritage and the public at large who are showing an increasing interest in the training of professionals and specialists in this area of activity.

Hundreds of hits are recorded every day, demonstrating the importance of keeping a vibrant channel open between ICCROM and all those who are interested in its work, in every region of the world.

The networking of the library services and the opportunity to gain online access to bibliographic records has given an extra boost to this service. Acknowledged to be one of the world’s best-endowed libraries on every subject dealing with cultural heritage conservation and restoration, its function was enhanced during the 1970s and 1980s by producing abstracts from selected publications. This activity was reinstated twenty years later thanks to funding from the Getty Conservation Institute via Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts (AATA). These abstracts, written in English from conservation literature published in many languages, have been warmly welcomed by students and researchers alike.

The digital dissemination of information on ICCROM and the missions with which it has been tasked is one of today’s challenges. It was with this in mind that, in 2006, we added a new search engine, implemented by Google, which has made it much easier to find items on the ICCROM web site. The free text search includes the web site and associated pdf documents, and there is also an option to search the library catalogue.

Working and informing are an obligation for every institution wishing to develop and ICCROM is no exception to this. Like other governmental and non-governmental organizations, it must provide information on the rationale of its work and its linkage with the concerns of contemporary societies in which there is increasing interest in environmental conservation in general, and the conservation of cultural heritage in particular.

What, then, should ICCROM be doing to develop communication and to put across its messages on its objectives and specific activities? In addition to the technical support provided by digital technology, the mass media are obviously acquiring a leading role in an organisation like ICCROM. More than ten years ago, ICCROM launched a project which had enormous resonance with the general public, especially in Italy, directly appealing to the mass media with the slogan ‘Media Save Art’. Schoolchildren were made aware of the problems of safeguarding cultural heritage, and several journalists were awarded the ‘Media Save Art’ prize for the quality and the impact of their articles on cultural heritage in different parts of the world.

Following this experience, which was lauded at the time by UNESCO, we feel that we should now find ways and means of pursuing

the same communication process, because it can play a crucial role, first in making the largest possible number of people aware of the challenges constantly confronting cultural heritage, and then in urging decision-makers to provide adequate funding for the operations needed to safeguard that heritage.

Since 1995, ICCROM, together with the UNESCO Education Sector and the World Heritage Centre, has produced an education kit for schools entitled World Heritage in Young Hands. Translated into over twenty languages, this kit has since become a valuable tool for handing on knowledge about World Heritage sites. I have seen this for myself at Regional Workshops in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Arab States where I have met teachers with a keen interest in developing the kit.

ICCROM now has to make a similar kind of communication effort to make the conservation and restoration professions better known, and consequently better supported by its governing bodies.

It is true that it is comparatively easy to attract the attention of the public and of the authorities to address threats posed to nature and man as a result of climate change or increased pollution levels. But cultural heritage is no less exposed to risks and to irreversible degradation as a result of disasters caused by mankind. It is precisely to provide assistance for the study of cultural heritage conservation that ICCROM was originally established.

How to disseminate knowledge and appreciation of these programmes and guarantee their international development is a major challenge, and it is here that information and communication technologies can provide a new tool and become an invaluable ally of conservation and restoration experts.

Sir Bernard Melchior Feilden, 1919–2008
A personal memoir

Elected Director of the International Centre for Conservation in 1977, Bernard gave it a new and solid foundation. He invented the new acronym: ICCROM, taking the initials of the Centre and adding Rom(e). He also gave the organization its first flag. He established a career structure for the organization and had ICCROM join the UN Pension Fund and healthcare system. He activated the Council by establishing sub-committees for budget and training. At the same time, he made it clear that it was the Director’s responsibility to direct the organization.

Bernard had an exceptional ability to judge the qualities of people and situations. He was able to focus on one issue at a time, and arrive at a balanced critical judgement. He defined historic architecture as a spatial-environmental whole, which needed to be understood through systematic visual inspection, keeping evidence and opinions distinct. Bernard respected the capacity of engineers to calculate complex structural systems. At the same time he was a realist. Looking at the cracks in an historic bridge, he asked his engineer colleague: “Where are your calculations?” The answer was: “There are no calculations.” To this Bernard commented: “So, we can work as equals.”

Bernard believed in professional and multidisciplinary training. He considered that architects should learn the language of scientists and introduced a small architectural laboratory for the ARC course participants. At the same time, he brought scientists to the field to take part in visual inspections. He also insisted that scientific and technical work should always be based on sound conservation theory.

Sir Bernard Melchior Feilden was above all a great human being and a wonderful man, who cared for everybody and was able to talk to everybody. His slogan was: “Regular inspections and maintenance, please!”

Jukka Jokilehto
Rome, November 2008
25th General Assembly of ICCROM

ICCROM’s 25th General Assembly took place in Rome in November 2007. Eighty-nine Member States attended the three-day event, together with observers from thirty-nine partner institutions. It was held under the Patronage of the President of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, who sent his best wishes to ICCROM on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Agreement between Italy and UNESCO regarding the establishment of ICCROM in Rome.

He stated that: ‘I am delighted to extend my greetings to the organizers of today’s ceremony and to the delegates of the Member States of ICCROM, who are gathered in assembly concurrently with celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Agreement between Italy and UNESCO which enabled ICCROM to establish its headquarters in Italy.’

I would like to express my appreciation for ICCROM’s programmes and activities in the field of the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage through its great commitment to training experts.

Italy, which occupies first place in the world for the number of sites inscribed in the World Heritage List, is honoured to host an organization that plays an essential role in the safeguard and recovery of cultural and artistic traditions in various regions throughout the world.’

New Council Members

The General Assembly elected the following twelve new members to serve on ICCROM’s Council for the period 2007–11:

- Yahaya AHMAD (Malaysia)
- Corazon S. ALVINA (Philippines)
- Jeanne INCH (Canada)
- Raanan KISLEY (Israel)
- Elena KORKA (Greece)
- Tommi LINDH (Finland)
- Blanca NIÑO NORTON (Guatemala)
- Isabelle PALLOT-FROSSARD (France)
- Luiz SOUZA (Brazil)
- Marcelle TAKLA (Egypt)
- Satoshi YAMATO (Japan)
- Zhou LU (China)

2007 ICCROM Award

Professor Katsuhiko Masuda was named as the recipient of the 2007 ICCROM Award. Professor Masuda has a long association with ICCROM, initially as a participant on the ICCROM Mural Paintings Course (MPC76), and latterly as a key figure in the establishment and success of ICCROM courses on Japanese paper conservation.

50th Anniversary celebrations

A celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the signature, on 27 April 1957, of the Headquarters Agreement between the Italian Government and UNESCO institutionalising the presence of ICCROM in the Italian territory took place at the Conference Hall of Palazzo Marini, on Thursday 8 November 2007. The vice Prime Minister and Minister of Cultural Activities and Heritage, Francesco Rutelli, the Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO, Mme Françoise Rivièrè, as well as representatives from ICCROM’s Member States attended.

ICCROM Forum 2007: Privatisation and Cultural Heritage

The 2007 ICCROM Forum on Privatisation and Cultural Heritage took place in Catania, Italy between 13 and 15 September 2007. The event was organized by ICCROM in partnership with the Regione Siciliana, the Fondazione Banco di Sicilia and the Italian National Commission for UNESCO. It was attended by fifty Italian and foreign experts. The five sessions of the Forum discussed topics such as: best practice and management of public-private partnerships; issues related to ownership, governance, and standards; incentives for the private sector; and educational and training standards.
New Member States

ICRROM is pleased to announce the adhesion of the following new Member States: Lesotho (1 July 2007); Montenegro (16 September 2007); Bangladesh (18 October 2007); Swaziland (25 October 2007); Trinidad and Tobago (18 November 2007); Monaco (13 December 2007); and Yemen (18 June 2008). Member States of ICRROM now number 126.

Staff News

Mr Ken Kanai has been seconded by the government of Japan to succeed Mr Sadahiko Tanaka as a project manager for the Sites Unit. He comes from the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in Nara where he has experience in both architectural and archaeological conservation.

The year saw the departure of three members of staff: Rosalia Varoli-Piazza, Senior Conservation Adviser, Collections Unit; Ernesto Borelli, Laboratory Coordinator, Sites Unit; and Webber Ndoro, Project Manager, Africa 2009, who left to take up the post of Director, African World Heritage Fund.

Fellows 2007-8

Henry A. DePhillips Jr., Professor of Chemistry at Trinity College, Hartford CT, United States, undertook research on the ‘Analysis of pigment and medium in a sixteenth century Italian cartoon: authentication and attribution study’.

Fernando Diniz Moreira, Adjunct Professor, Federal University of Pernambuco, worked on assessing values and significance in the conservation of modern architecture.

Amra Hadzimuhamedović, an architect from Bosnia and Herzegovina, continued her research on reconstruction of architectural heritage and post-war recovery.

Angeliki Ioakimopoulou, an architect specialising in the conservation of architectural monuments, researched ‘Protective Structures for the Conservation of Archaeological Sites in Greece’.

Ana Labrador, Associate Professor in the Department of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman, collected data on ‘traditional methods of preservation of objects from selected Southeast Asian countries’ and explored how these methods could be better integrated in conservation training.

Hossam Mahdy (Egypt) worked on the compilation of an Arabic glossary for terms of conservation of cultural heritage (with equivalents in English). Dr Mahdy is a freelance architect who has contributed to urban conservation planning for Cairo, Alexandria, Kuwait, Karak (Jordan), Erbil (Iraq), Salalah and Ras al Hadd (Oman).

Jagath Weerasinghe, Professor, Post-graduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, worked on a ‘re-examination of the concept of authenticity in relation to living heritage of South Asia’.

Visiting Researchers


Ioannis Poulios, Greece, worked with the Living Heritage Sites programme to develop an orientation manual on: ‘Living Heritage Approach’. Mr Poulios is completing a PhD at the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London.

Interns 2007-8

Alejandra Del Río Monges, Mexico (Built Heritage Programme and development of a proposal for a long-term programme for cultural heritage conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean).


Olga García Jiménez, Spain (CollAsia 2010 programme: relationship between movable heritage and development of sustainable cultural tourism strategies in that region).

Simon Lambert, Canada (Collections Unit: storage organization and production of didactic materials).

Ahmad Mansour, Egypt (ATHAR programme: aspects of heritage education for professionals and public outreach).

Iolanda Ratti, Italy (Collections Unit: SOIMA project and annotated bibliography on sound and image preservation).

Ona Vileikis Tamayo, Colombia/Lithuania (Sites Unit: World Heritage issues such as the state of conservation, periodic reporting and management plans).
Bagher Ayatolahzadeh Shirazi, 1936–2007, died unexpectedly in Tehran, aged 71. Born in Najaf, he was trained in architecture in Tehran. In the 1960s, he attended one of the first Architectural Conservation courses organized jointly by ICCROM and the Faculty of Architecture of Rome. For several years in the 1970s, Shirazi was responsible for the conservation management of the historic city of Isfahan, and received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for this work. In the early 1980s, he moved to Tehran as director of national conservation services and was involved in the reorganization of its services, becoming the Vice President of the newly-founded Cultural Heritage Organization of Iran. After retirement, he continued to work as a teacher at the University of Tehran where he was much loved.

Heinz Leitner, 1953–2007, a former ICCROM participant (MPC78) and long-time ICCROM collaborator, died after a long illness at the age of 54. Initially trained in Austria, Heinz received a Masters degree in the Conservation of Wall Painting from the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London. Since 1999, he was Professor at the Dresden University of Fine Arts and Head of the Mural Paintings Conservation Laboratory. An outstanding course participant, Heinz had an enormous impact, despite his youth, on generations of ICCROM course participants through his strong involvement over twenty years in courses in Rome, Thailand, and Romania. Further collaborations included his lectures for the courses on Architectural Surfaces Conservation (ASC) held in the 1990s in collaboration with the Österreichische Bundesdenkmalamt in Mauerbach, Austria, and his participation in the GRADO Seminar on graphic documentation systems in mural painting conservation held at ICCROM in 1999.

John Ashurst, 1937–2008, a long-time ICCROM collaborator in the field of conservation of masonry and mortars, died at his home in the United Kingdom, aged 71. Professor Ashurst was an architect who worked for over 20 years in public service, first with the Ancient Monuments Division of the Ministry of Public Building and Works and later as a principal architect for English Heritage, in charge of research, technical advice, and training. After leaving English Heritage, he was appointed Professor of Heritage Conservation at Bournemouth University where he developed a new specialist course on building conservation. From 1991 he worked in private practice. Professor Ashurst was an important influence on many of the conservation professionals who passed through ICCROM over the years. He was a lecturer at ICCROM’s ‘Architectural Conservation Course’ from 1978 to 1993, where he was considered one of the finest teachers and collaborators. He also lectured regularly at the ‘International Course on the Technology of Stone Conservation’ (the Venice Stone Course) from 1983 to 1997. He made a significant contribution to ICCROM’s work over the past thirty years, and he will be greatly missed by ICCROM staff and our extensive network of professionals around the world.

Hernán Crespo Toral, 1937–2008, former Assistant Director-General for Culture at UNESCO, died at his home in Quito, Ecuador, aged 70. Mr Crespo Toral was an important actor in the field of conservation of cultural heritage in Ecuador, Latin America, and internationally. An architect and museologist by training, Mr Crespo Toral worked for 26 years at the Museums of the Central Bank of Ecuador where he served first as Founding Director of the Archaeological Museum and Art Galleries, and later as Director General of Museums. In 1988, he joined UNESCO as Director of the Regional Bureau for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean in Havana, Cuba. In 1995, he moved to UNESCO headquarters in Paris where he was first Director of the Culture Sector (1995–8) and then Assistant Director-General for Culture (1998–2000).

Bihanne Wassink, 1957–2008, paper conservator at the National Archives of Netherlands and an ICCROM course lecturer, died unexpectedly, aged 50, at her home in The Hague, Netherlands. She was educated in paper and book conservation, and had been working since 1981 as a paper conservator at the National Archives of the Netherlands. She was also a conservation advisor for the International Conservation Centre of the National Archives and advisor for disaster management in the National Archives. Bihanne also contributed significantly to a current project of ICCROM, GCI and ICOM, ‘Teamwork for Integrated Emergency Management (TIEM)’ in South East Europe.


ATHAR Programme: Conservation and Management of Heritage sites in the Arab Region, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 27 October-4 December 2008. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with the Government of Sharjah: Sharjah Department of Information and Culture, Sharjah Museums Department, American University of Sharjah, University of Sharjah, with support from the Directorate General of Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sharing Conservation Decisions Course, Rome, Italy, 3-28 November 2008. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with Centro Conservazione e Restauro La Venaria Reale, Italy; INP (Institut National du Patrimoine), France; ISCR (Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro), Italy; OPD (Opificio delle Pietre Dure), Italy.

CollAsia 2010: Buildings: Environments for Collections, Jakarta, Indonesia, 10-28 November. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with Centre Conservazione e Restauro La Venaria Reale, Italy; INP (Institut National du Patrimoine), France; ISCR (Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro), Italy; OPD (Opificio delle Pietre Dure), Italy.

The fiftieth anniversary of ICCROM provides an opportunity to look back at our activities and reflect upon our strategies. If ICCROM was born with four statutory functions: information, advice, research and training, it is certainly this latter which quickly emerged as the most prominent one. A little more than thirty years ago, under the aegis of UNESCO, ICCROM was charged to undertake an analysis of the ‘world needs in the training of conservation specialists’. This study, which covered movable and immovable heritage (excepting libraries and archives) was then discussed in an expert meeting in Rome in April 1976. One result was a closer definition of the role of ICCROM in the field of training, namely ‘to assure and develop pilot or specialized training projects...to keep in touch with the ever-changing experience of teaching and to evolve formulas of methods and didactic materials for their wider use and diffusion’.

Training at ICCROM is a means to an end: it is one of the ways in which the organization assists Member States in caring for and conserving their cultural heritage. This has meant that the consolidation of specific courses is not an aim in itself, and the development of the different training activities has been strongly guided by the realities of the heritage field in the Member States over the past fifty years. This flexibility has been a strength, allowing for a great variety in training initiatives. These have included recurrent courses, the most well-known of which were the courses on Architectural Conservation (ARC), Conservation of Mural Paintings (MPC) and the Scientific Principles of Conservation (SPC), organized annually in Roman springtime.

An often overlooked dimension of these seminal courses is that they took place simultaneously. This meant that, counting all the participants, lecturers and other members of course teams, there were easily one hundred professionals from all over the world milling around the ICCROM premises. This offered opportunities for both formal and informal dialogue between those from different areas of specialization - encounters that were not necessarily common in the daily working contexts.

New activities do not appear out of nowhere. The courses that have been organized throughout the history of ICCROM are more intimately linked than would appear by just looking at the list of activity titles. Names given to activities may reflect a shift in focus or point of view, but inside these activities many elements of previous courses are harvested and included within a new configuration.

Forging interdisciplinary links has remained a constant emphasis in ICCROM’s training activities, becoming more systematically introduced within the programmes as the different professional profiles within the heritage field become more and more specialized.

It is understandable that most participants come to the courses looking forward to meeting the international professional world and to discussing the latest trends in conservation. In fact, the strong input from the participants themselves in providing and shaping the contents of the activity, and the process of learning from each other, are often among the most cherished results of the entire experience. Nobody knows everything, and everybody knows something; confronting current conservation issues during the courses requires and is enriched by the contribution of everybody. Over the years the didactic approach has moved from linear transmission of information to the joint process of building knowledge.

While the importance of the courses organized in Rome has always been recognized, in the 1980s the Governing Bodies of ICCROM voiced increasing encouragement to take the training activities out of Rome, and reach out to the regions and their realities. Since its creation, ICCROM had been involved in setting up and implementing courses in different parts of the world, but at this time more visible and structured regional programmes started to take shape. While the courses in Rome and the regional programmes both have their place within the gamut of ICCROM’s activities, we should not forget the many other international training activities that have taken place in different parts of the world. Heritage institutions in Japan, Austria, Norway, Brazil, Romania, to name just a few recent ones, have all hosted international training activities.

Contrary to a commonly-held opinion, ICCROM does not have a set of courses in a drawer, ready to be implemented. The
development of any of the training activities is a complex, challenging and exciting process, catalyzed and fuelled by perceived needs and identified opportunities. The importance of individual professionals and institutions worldwide as core partners in giving shape and content to training activities cannot be stressed enough. Great input of funds, people, time and spaces are involved in organizing courses. This tradition of collaboration not only makes ICCROM training activities possible in the first place, but also ensures that the training activities have a direct link to the realities of the professional community, and of institutions large and small operating in the heritage field in the Member States. It is worth noting that this idea of networking has been present from the founding moments of ICCROM – well before the term was coined.

This deep-rooted principle of working together makes it sometimes difficult to say where ICCROM begins and where it ends. What is certain is that it is larger than the house at the corner of Via di San Michele.

Training of trainers has been a constant concern from early days of ICCROM. While the change propelled by individual participants in their institutions and countries has often been considerable, ICCROM has always been aware that the actual number of course participants in the different courses could never satisfy all the training needs. Therefore the multiplying role of the participants following the courses is of vital importance.

It would be simplistic to assume that the participants would – or, indeed, should – deliver the course they just attended upon their return to their colleagues. The aim is to provide the participants with tools that will assist in the development of their own professional profile as trainers and educators.

ICCROM is also very proud that many colleagues have grown into respected teachers of worldwide repute also thanks to their involvement in ICCROM’s activities. The importance of this worldwide pool of committed teachers is great. The field of conservation is small when compared to many other sectors. At the same time it is so complex that no Member State can claim self-sufficiency in resource people for training activities in every area of expertise.

There are several strategies through which ICCROM contributes to the development of conservation education in the Member States. In addition to an advisory function in many national and international meetings and working groups on the theme, the ICCROM courses themselves engage with the wider educational aims and needs in the Member States. The selection process of any course is always on the look-out for colleagues who are already involved in training activities; participants are reminded during the courses that they are not there only for their own edification but as members of different types of groups of professionals; and special courses and course modules on communication and didactic skills have been developed over the years. The new ideas and skills gained during the training find many outlets in the home countries of the participants.

ICCROM is an organization committed to building knowledge and reinforcing processes of learning through all of its activities. The strength of the heritage field in the Member States depends most of all upon the committed and dedicated professional community working within it. It is the mandate and privilege of ICCROM to work for and with this community. ICCROM is a joint effort and a reflected image of its Member States: the training activities are occasions where this reflection is clearest of all.
An Integrated Approach to Conservation and Management of Heritage
Gamini Wijesuriya (ICCROM)

Anuradhapura: an early example of integrated conservation

Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka is one of the great cities of the ancient world and was the capital of the country from about the 6th century BC to the 11th century AD. It is a World Heritage site. The remains are spread over some 15 square miles, but unlike many cities of the past, Anuradhapura is very much alive today as one of the most sacred sites to the Buddhists where millions of people gather on festival days.

The archaeological ruins are managed by the Department of Archaeology through the Antiquities Act, but most of the land resources and infrastructure belongs to Buddhist communities, government agencies and the municipal council and are controlled through various pieces of legislation.

In 1949, the government tasked the Town and Country Planning Department to work with the Department of Archaeology, the municipal government, all government agencies in charge of land resources and infrastructure, and the Buddhist community to develop the Sacred Area Planning Scheme and a new institution to manage it. This is one of the earliest attempts of the application of an integrated approach to the conservation and management of a large heritage site. The allocation of resources was far greater than if the site had been managed solely by the Department of Archaeology.

Integrated conservation is currently a popular topic in the conservation domain. At its simplest this entails working together in a combined effort. For the practice of conservation and management of heritage, which conventionally follows a sectoral approach, it is working beyond professional boundaries with all groups that have an impact on heritage in order to achieve the best results. The process can vary from a simple effort to integrate scientific methods and tools for better understanding of the behaviour of materials and the processes of decay, to working with legislative bodies, agencies, and communities on the management of a historic city. It also involves working in an integrated fashion within an organization.

The term ‘integrated conservation’ received its official status with the Declaration of Amsterdam (although the practice existed long before) by the Congress of European Architectural Heritage in 1975. It began as an effort to expand the definition of architectural heritage to include ‘not only individual buildings of exceptional quality and their surroundings, but also all areas of towns or villages of historic or cultural interest’ and to seek support for their conservation within urban and regional planning activities. Its applicability now extends to the conservation and management of cultural heritage in general. An integrated approach is widely used in the natural heritage conservation sector.

Why is an integrated approach needed?
Conservation decision-making has become a complex process, due to an increase in those factors and issues which affect the monuments and sites. These are often case dependent and vary considerably, but disregarding any of them can have negative affects on heritage. Heritage is inextricably linked to community and land resources. But both of these are essential components of the development process and are controlled by agencies whose remit is not necessarily heritage conservation.

Any decision made by conservation communities independent of these other bodies can fail or have negative effects: this compels those communities to look beyond the conventional limits of collaboration.

A way must be found to reflect conservation concerns within the broader domain of development, for their protection and to demonstrate that heritage is not merely a passive recipient of resources but a major contributor to sustainable development. This can only be achieved through broader consultation and coordination. An integrated approach can facilitate consultation and coordination with community groups and agencies. Understanding the views of all who have an impact on heritage at an early stage will enhance the inclusiveness of the decision-making process.

This approach will often also accrue benefits to the heritage sector itself. There are many examples where the legislation of other agencies has helped to protect large heritage sites and has resulted in an allocation of human and financial resources for conservation. There are many examples, too, where early consultation and coordination with other agencies has resulted in better protection. Improving communication between the sectors and sharing knowledge are other important advantages.

Mitchell and Hollick (1993) provide a working definition of an integrated approach which embraces three elements: a process, a product, and a philosophy. As a process, it ‘facilitates coordination between agencies, local governments, community groups’. The conservation community should be aware of the potential implications of activities by other groups for what they intend to protect, and proactively engage in consultation and coordination from the start. If such a mandate does not exist within the current regimes, they should seek changes to administrative or regulatory procedures to achieve this.

As a product, an integrated approach facilitates the development of complementary regulatory instruments. Although the emphasis of an integrated approach is on the process, this inevitably facilitates the development of complementary or totally new regulatory instruments as products which would benefit the protection of heritage in the long term.

Working together and developing new regulatory instruments are not the easiest tasks for a conservation community which is often more familiar with fragmented, isolated, speciality-driven working environments. Conservation professionals have spent many years working in their own domains to protect heritage, with little concern for what happens in the vicinity of a site, let alone for others affected by their decisions. In this respect, the importance of the philosophical aspect of an integrated approach must be stressed: ‘an integrated approach should result in a shift of organizational cultures and participants’ attitudes towards acceptance and pursuit of cooperative approaches’.

Reference
A New Headquarters’ Building for ICCROM

Maria Teresa Jaquinta (ICCROM) and Paola Degni (MiBAC)

On 27 April 1957, UNESCO signed an agreement with the Italian Government to set up the headquarters of a new organization (now known as ICCROM) in Rome. Italy’s offer to host the organization included the provision of suitable premises, located in the same building or in the immediate proximity of the office of the Istituto Centrale per il Restauro, in order to ensure an efficient collaborative relationship with this important institution.

First premises: Via Cavour

In 1959, ICCROM settled in an apartment building on Via Cavour, close to the headquarters of the Istituto Centrale per il Restauro, as prescribed in the Headquarters’ Agreement, which at that time were in Piazza San Francesco di Paola.

Moving to San Michele

In 1970, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aldo Moro, allocated space to ICCROM in the former Complesso Monumentale del San Michele, noting the growing wealth of support and interest that the above-mentioned ‘International Centre’ is gathering as its activities expand calls for adequate premises with extreme urgency.

The construction of the San Michele complex began at the end of the seventeenth century, but was only completed some 150 years later after many vicissitudes. The fragmentary development of the different parts of San Michele contrasts with the formal and homogeneous front along the Lungotevere a Ripa Grande. The earliest part, built between 1686 and 1689, included a building with two low wings around the Cortile dei Ragazzi, whose name derives from the original function of the building, intended for the internment and rehabilitation of young orphans. Subsequent additions included: a woollen factory (1693), a refectory for young men (1701), and a house for old men and women (1708).

Successively were built new buildings on the Piazza di Porta Portese (1706-1712), including the customs barracks and behind them, in 1734, a prison for women was built based on a project of Ferdinando Fuga.

In 1796, the complex was completed by Nicola Forti with the construction of the Accademia delle Zitelle. Between 1831 and 1834, Luigi Poletti built two lower wings in the area between the men’s prison and the river Tiber for marble and metals workshops, which would have also been used for the decoration of the Chiesa Grande.

The complex was acquired by the State in the early 1970s as premises for the Direzione Generale delle Antichità e Belle Arti, Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione. It currently houses various offices of the Ministry, including the Direzione Generale per i Beni Archeologici, the Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione (ICCD), the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (ISCR, formerly ICR). ICCROM’s headquarters have been located at the northern end of the complex in the Cortile del Porto from 1973 to the present day.

Convent of San Francesco di Ripa

Soon ICCROM will be on the move again, relocating a mere 200 m down the road to part of the Convent of San Francesco a Ripa, still in the heart of historic Rome. This complex was originally a Benedictine convent and includes a church dedicated to Saint Biagio and a hostel and hospital for the pilgrims who disembarked in the nearby port of Ripa Grande. Saint Francis of Assisi stayed here during his visit to Rome, and in 1229 Pope Gregory IX reassigned the buildings to the first Franciscan community in Rome.

The needs of the hostel-hospital and the religious community led to expansion of the complex, including a rectangular cloister next to the church (fifteenth century); an infirmary and dormitory (sixteenth century), and a major reconstruction of the church itself (seventeenth century). In 1811 the complex was occupied by French troops and the religious community was moved out. It was occupied again in 1849 by the Garibaldini and then, in 1873, expropriated by the State and handed over to the military. The complex subsequently fell into disuse, but in 1977 was assigned to the Ministero per i Beni Culturali ed Ambientali and then to the Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali ed Ambientali del Lazio. Conservation work started in 1979 and in 2000 one wing of the infirmary was finished and became the headquarters of the Centro Operativo del Comando Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Culturale.

The part of the complex that will house ICCROM headquarters faces onto the Piazza Porta Portese. The rehabilitation project is in its preliminary phase and is expected to be functional within two years.
Training on Archaeological Conservation in Southeast Europe: an Approach to the Preliminary Condition Assessment
Valerie Magar (ICCROM) and Corrado Pedelli

Since 2004, yearly courses have been organized on archaeological conservation aimed at young conservation professionals from Southeast Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia). The participants’ profiles have included archaeologists, architects, and conservators.

During these courses, the existence of similar problems within the region in the field of archaeological conservation has become apparent, confirming also the need for long-term training activities to improve the capacity of young conservation professionals and their networking possibilities. These, therefore, have been the two main goals of the training activities organized by ICCROM. The objectives have also included:

• to propose methodological approaches for the conservation and management of archaeological heritage;
• to encourage critical thinking and the ability to pursue deeper lines of inquiry for conservation and management of archaeological heritage; and,
• to encourage communication and networking between conservation professionals in the region.

This short article focuses on the approach to a preliminary condition assessment and survey for archaeological structures or objects used in the courses. The aim has been to provide repeatable and shareable principles and methodologies, as well as practical, low-cost tools in the field of problem solving applied to conservation. These are used within the context of a preliminary investigation, focusing on a visual direct examination of archaeological sites, structural ruins or objects, and an initial analysis of their state of conservation and their vulnerability. This approach is conceived as a prior step to the scientific and instrumental diagnostic phase and the conservation plan.

System approach

The initial requisite for the diagnosis and survey is the consideration of archaeological context as a whole. Landscapes, archaeological sites and the finds within them, people, climate, temporary storage areas, events and conservation treatments are conceived as entities of a large, complex and dynamic system. A clear understanding of this system is a fundamental step to propose informed decisions for its future conservation and management.

During the courses, case studies within archaeological sites are used to teach and discuss the condition assessment. Participants are guided through a series of exercises. The first step consists of decomposing the archaeological system they have been assigned; the logical idea behind this exercise is that by reducing complex systems (structures or objects) into smaller components, it is easier to understand the smaller parts first, and then slowly evolve into a larger picture. For this exercise, participants are requested to describe and observe the various components of their system using only their senses and naked eyes. An important element in this analysis is to also request participants not to use any implicit knowledge, in order to avoid any possible assumptions that may lead to false reasoning. The idea is to focus on a description as objective as possible of what is clearly visible, both of the materials and their effects of decay (or alteration), with no conjectures on the possible causes at this stage.

Not using any implicit knowledge in the early stage allows considering alteration and decay effects (weathering effects) not only as negative elements, but also as indicators of the current state of conservation and of the vulnerability of the element, as markers of past events, or alternatively as potentially

Visualization of wall at Sirmium, Serbia. Top: location of cavities in blue; bottom: areas with detachments in yellow
beneficial elements for the conservation planning.

Object-Oriented Analysis

This type of approach is derived from standard methodologies used in Information Technology and cognitive sciences, and is known as Object-Oriented Analysis (OOA). The procedure, as mentioned above, consists of ‘decomposing’ on paper the system in question, and then ‘remodelling’ it in a logical and hierarchical way, which facilitates its understanding and preliminary analysis.

The OOA then consists of identifying the attributes and behaviour of each of the components or entities of the system, and identifying relationships between the entities. With this approach, both the original materials, and their effects of alteration and decay are located and rated.

By using a variety of different modelling possibilities, the system can be graphically represented and discussed by participants. The interest of the method is that, by using a combination of graphic elements coupled to a common basic standard language, a similar understanding can be achieved for professionals with different backgrounds, and discussion is possible even if those professionals may have potentially different goals, but wish to work in an interdisciplinary manner.

In order to achieve that standard language, participants are requested to confront and compare various existing international glossaries and classification schemes used for condition assessments and surveys. This exercise has a two-fold aim. On one hand, it seeks a critical reasoning from the participants on the logic and classification system used behind each of those glossaries. For the purpose of each course, participants are required to develop a classification system of weathering effects for their case studies. On the other hand, the idea is to get familiarized with the condition assessment terms, especially because the course is held in English. A multilingual glossary for Southeast Europe is progressively being developed.

The final step in the process of the analysis, based on the previously gathered information, consists of developing hypotheses for the alteration and decay processes in the case studies. This process is supported using another modelling technique (an Ishikawa or cause-effect diagram), which enables us to identify the most relevant alteration and decay factors and link them to a main cause.

The method allows for a progressive building of the hypothesis for the causes, based on sound, visible data. The making of the diagram allows an open discussion and brainstorming between the team members.

By the end of the process, participants are able to present and discuss the preliminary diagnostic for all case studies, in a clear and concise manner. The documents produced at this time represent useful tools to continue with deeper condition assessments, offering clear information which may be shared with many other professionals, including conservation scientists, managers, or stake holders.

Preliminary results with the method

The use of this method as one possible preliminary approach to condition assessment, and to the understanding of alteration and decay phenomena, has been challenging, but the results obtained so far have been interesting and encouraging. By the end of the course, participants are able to confront complex conservation situations within archaeological sites. The logical decomposition process allows smaller parts of each system to be analyzed and discussed, after which the wider picture can be built. The emphasis on the use of the most objective possible interpretation and description also enables an easier communication between participants, by clearly describing what the problem is, and without introducing assumptions or preconceptions, which could lead to wrong conclusions and inadequate conservation or management proposals. This is particularly important to encourage peer discussion and peer training, in a region still lacking formal training in archaeological conservation.

Corrado Pedelì is a conservator-restorer specializing in condition assessments and emergency treatments for archaeological sites. He is the co-author (with Stefano Pulga) of ‘Pratiche conservative sullo scavo archeologico’ and a regular teacher on ICCROM courses.

Example of an Ishikawa diagram
Our Future Together

ICCROM history in the making...

ICCROM is celebrating its 50th anniversary by collecting information on its own history and on the development of conservation as a discipline. The published results will be a reflection on the development of cultural heritage preservation as seen through ICCROM's eyes, highlighting changes in perception and attitudes of people, associations and institutions.

The ICCROM courses introduced a language and a system of communication and they were also interdisciplinary and intercultural (Sir Bernard Feilden)

Training has a snowball effect, with time it will grow and develop (M. Koller)

...both the participants and the lecturers learned...
...Join us in building our history
Send us information, images, letters, personal memories that may help in assembling the story of ICCROM - not only on official matters but also behind-the-scenes. Please send contributions to: iccrom_history@iccrom.org
ICCROM’s ATHAR programme (Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab Region) has recently expanded its geographic scope beyond Syria, Lebanon and Jordan to benefit all the Arab Member States. Another recent milestone was the signing in early 2008 of a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Sharjah, UAE. In addition to the regular activities of the programme, several special projects have been undertaken. Such projects provide opportunities to develop the professional skills of those working in the region and allow participants in previous ATHAR activities to implement conservation approaches at actual heritage sites. Some of these projects are also implemented because they have been requested by sister organizations such as UNESCO and the European Union. These have focused on pressing training needs in conflict areas, and have emphasized the development of conservation approaches particular to the Arab region. During the last year activities on sites of international significance have benefited cultural heritage places such as Bosra, Samarra, Erbil and Jerusalem.

SHAMS Project, Bosra, Syria

Under the SHAMS Project (Sustainable Human Activities in Mediterranean Urban Systems) ATHAR is helping to draw up a sustainable strategy integrating the cultural, tourist and socio-economic development of historical and cultural heritage at Bosra. Under a pilot project, technical advice is being provided for the restoration of a courtyard complex of extended family houses to be used for local benefit and attraction of eco-tourism. Former course participants are playing key roles in this work, illustrating the post-course impacts and successes of the programme’s capacity building efforts.

Conservation of mural paintings, Byblos

During the first core regional course, participants carried out condition assessment studies on the twelfth century mural paintings of the Church of Behdaidat, Byblos. A first campaign was then carried out to conserve the paintings. The team, led by Isabelle Skaf and Giorgio Capriotti, also included two former course participants (Badr Gedeon and Ghada Salem).

Conservation training, Iraq

At the request of the UNESCO-Iraq Office in Amman, a three-week training course was organized in Istanbul for twelve Iraqi conservation professionals. The main objectives of the course were: to introduce the latest conservation methods and to enable participants to acquire knowledge of documentation, follow-up and monitoring of works related to conservation planning as applied to conservation projects in Iraq; and to provide guidance related to ongoing conservation projects in Samarra and Erbil. Participants gained skills to follow up, supervise, and monitor current conservation projects in Iraq, particularly at the Al-Askari Shrine, Samarra and Erbil Citadel. It is expected that participants will also assist in the training of technicians and workers at these sites in future.

Institute for the Preservation of Architectural Heritage, Jerusalem

The Institute for the Preservation of Architectural Heritage is intended to be a technical platform for the professional training of practitioners of architectural conservation in Jerusalem. It is being established by the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalisation Programme, Welfare Association, Jerusalem, with European Union funding and in partnership with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. ICCROM is involving course participants in curriculum development and the supervision of trainers. To date, an assessment of training needs has been completed, the methodology for a modular programme developed, and the curriculum established for a pilot course in 2008.

Since its inception, the ATHAR programme has undertaken a wide range of activities to support the role of heritage institutions in the region. As illustrated above, special projects form essential part of its activities, and provide important indicators to measure the impact of the programme throughout its implementation.
One Day Workshop for Children and Conservation

Mojdeh Momenzadeh (Research Center for Conservation of Cultural Relics, Iran)

In the last few years, the Iranian Research Centre for Conservation of Cultural Relics (RCCCR), tasked with the preservation of cultural heritage, has defined and implemented projects to increase awareness about the fragility of cultural heritage and the need to preserve it, particularly aimed at youth. The initial concepts and ideas were derived from successful ICCROM projects such as the 'Media Save Art' campaign (1991), and publications like The Press and the Safeguard of Heritage (1999) and Youth and the Safeguard of Heritage (2000).

The most recent initiative was a one-day workshop for children on the occasion of the International Day of Cultural Heritage (May 2007). It was organized with the following objectives:

- to introduce children to cultural heritage and its fragility, and to the concept and importance of conservation;
- to emphasize their role in the safeguarding of cultural heritage;
- to build a basic understanding of the key factors and simple forms of deterioration of cultural heritage;
- to generate greater appreciation among teachers and mentors of the importance of education of cultural heritage; and
- to popularize the motto ‘Cultural heritage without children: Never! With children: Forever!’

Thirty-three elementary students, their teachers and some parents participated in this workshop. Although the date of the workshop was close to the final school examinations, thanks to the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and its offices throughout the twenty districts of Tehran province, the schools responded positively and became very involved.

We used a very simple language and basic computer slide show to explain and familiarize children with the workshop topics. The entire session was very interactive. It was encouraging to note that the general knowledge of the children was well beyond our expectation. This was clearly evident from their keen questions and well informed answers during discussions.

Paper, textile and pottery objects were used as examples as such objects are common heirlooms among Iranian families. We also prepared simple notes on how these objects were created and the most common signs of damage. The children used these notes, their imagination and inventiveness to extract the necessary information from the objects, familiarize themselves with the ideas of authenticity and integrity, and then conduct basic techniques of conservation, using simple methods and tools. The children were also shown how to look after similar objects at home and asked to write stories about the objects they have at home. The stories collected will be used in planning further activities.

Parallel to the workshop, a special presentation was conducted for teachers and parents. They were very pleased with this initiative and requested that such programmes be carried out regularly in schools. To finish the day on a high note, certificates and gifts were handed out to all participating children.

The principal success of the workshop for us was to discover how easy it is to generate interest in young minds about heritage and conservation in a short time. We were pleasantly surprised by the interest shown by the children, as some of their comments revealed:

‘It was a fantastic day for me; I have my great-grandmother’s scarf. It is lovely and I will try to maintain it in a good way. Someday I want to give it to my daughter.’

‘I will give all of my classmates a copy of my guidelines. We will shout tomorrow morning in the [assembly] queue “Cultural heritage without children: Never! With children: Forever!”’

‘I am very happy. I would like to be a cultural heritage conservator when I grow up.’
UNESCO-ICCROM Storage Task Force

Ivan Berger, Deputy Head of Conservation Workshop, Methodical Centre of Conservation, Technical Museum in Brno, Czech Republic

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Aleksandra Đukić Nikolić, Conservator, Diana Department for Preventive Conservation, National Museum in Belgrade, Serbia

Andrick Francisco, Consultant for Collection Management, Lopez Memorial Museum, Philippines

Martina Griesser-Sternscheg, Head, Department for Object Conservation, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria

Kamal Jain, Professor and Head, Department of Conservation, National Museum Institute, India

Rosanna Kuon, Director in Charge, Museum of Italian Art, Lima, Peru

Mohdeh Memenzadeh, Conservator and Head, Department of International Affairs and World Heritage, Research Centre for Conservation of Cultural Relics, Teheran, Iran

Maria del Pilar Salas, Coordinator, Fine Arts and Cultural Heritage, Sub-Secretary of Culture of the Province of Corrientes, Argentina

In the last twenty-five years, the number of museums and the size of collections have been growing rapidly while resources have been spread more and more thinly. For many museums, the situation is overwhelming, especially for those in countries which have no access to networks of resources and expertise.

In autumn 2006, ICCROM and the Museum Section of the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage held discussions about how to address preventive conservation needs in countries and institutions with lesser resources. Both organizations agreed to pool their know-how, experience and networks to work on this issue and in 2007 inaugurated a three-year ‘Partnership for the Preventive Conservation of Endangered Museum Collections in Developing Countries’.

This focuses on four key objectives:

• ensuring reliable documentation of collections;

• creating the best conditions for preservation and use of collections in storage;

• integrating emergency management in museums; and

• assessing risks and deterioration for effective preservation strategies.

The target institutions are small/medium museums with limited resources and containing less than 10,000 collection items.

Activities carried out in 2007 dealt with two critical topics: documentation and museum storage. In many museums in the world, documentation of collections is still poorly organized, inconsistent and in some cases even non-existent. This is a significant threat, as poorly inventoried collections can disappear and fall in disuse.

The objective here is to provide smaller museums from developing countries with the necessary skills and tools to analyse their current documentation systems and to guide them through a user-friendly method for computerized documentation systems for their collections.

As a first step, a survey was undertaken of the various documentation systems and initiatives that have taken place in museums over the last twenty years. It focused on a sample from sub-Saharan Africa (fourteen national museums in eleven different countries) and was carried out in partnership with the École du Patrimoine Africain (EPA).

A subsequent evaluation and planning workshop discussed results and actions for the project development. Both the study and the workshop highlighted the poor results of attempts by various organizations and donor countries to implant computerized documentation systems in museums with limited resources. Ninety percent of the museums in the survey which had attempted computerization had failed. The reasons for this were several: lack of updated and organized documentation systems; complex initial situations with incomplete inventories and catalogues, stacks of objects, mobility or lack of staff, lack of interest and support from the museum hierarchy and of follow-up and assistance during the implementation of the documentation system.

As a result, UNESCO and ICCROM decided as a priority to develop a simple approach that stresses the importance of performing those tasks which are the basis for any museum documentation system, manual or computerized (such as ensuring that all collections items are numbered, registered in a bound accession register, and have a location system).

The results of the survey are now being shared with other regions, notably Latin America and Asia. Initial feedback suggests that these regions have similar experiences to Africa. Collaboration with organizations dedicated to the documentation of museum collections is also being explored to develop and disseminate basic documentation advice, taking into account existing resources and local approaches and attitudes. The intention is to make a guide available, possibly on-line, in French, English and Spanish.

A second major concern of the UNESCO-ICCROM partnership is preventive conservation of collections in storage. Although museum storage is the heart of the museum, in many cases little attention is paid to collections in storage, which become an inactive resource for the museum.

Such collections remain most of the time out of sight and sometimes out of mind. Yet they can be exposed to significant and increasing risks of damage, including poor tracking of objects, thefts or loss of objects, damaged objects due to overcrowding, inappropriate supports or fixtures, and absence of environment monitoring and/or control. In order to maintain their role as centres of knowledge and research, a central challenge for museums is to implement strategies for the effective care, management and tracking of collections in storage.
The objective here is to build museums’ capacity to re-organize the storage of their collections in order to guarantee their conservation and use by the community and to share the competencies acquired with other museums in their country or region.

The project began with the design of an assessment tool for museum storage based on a review of questionnaires and checklists from published sources and from unpublished course materials. The tool, in the form of a check-list with multiple choice answers, allows non-specialized museum staff to score the current state of the collections in storage, and identify if and where improvements are needed. It is also a simple but efficient communication tool to raise the attention of museum directors and convince them to take action. As a follow-up, in January 2008, UNESCO and ICCROM invited a group of professionals experienced in storage re-organization and training for a one-week workshop in Rome to discuss and refine a common methodology to guide staff of smaller museums in the re-organization of their collections in storage. Participants included twelve professionals from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, who were thus able to offer a variety of views and experiences. In addition to refining a common methodology, the workshop also revised existing tools to explain or guide the process of storage re-organization. A collection of 315 images and visual aids was compiled as well as a bibliography of print and on-line resources.

Following the workshop, these experts committed themselves to continue collaborating with UNESCO and ICCROM over the next two years to develop further the methodology and the related tools. The ICCROM-UNESCO Storage Task Force was created, with three working teams addressing the following topics:

- further refinement of the proposed methodology, in particular reviewing and including missing steps or activities, and developing short explanations for each step or activity;
- development of a step-by-step approach to estimate space for collections that could be applied to a variety of collections and storage; and
- completion of the current list of bibliographic resources compiled by the project, and identification of resources that are missing and should be developed.

Furthermore, two pilot projects were identified to test and refine the proposed methodology, one at the Museo Histórico Provincial de Corrientes, Argentina, and a second at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Isfahan, Iran. Both museums will serve as case studies and will benefit from the advice and support of the task force. The pilot projects were launched in May 2008, following a meeting with the respective museums staff to present and explain the first phase of the methodology, assign responsibilities, start fund-raising, and identify existing and missing information. The museums filled out the revised user-friendly assessment tool for museum storage to score the current situation, to test and assess the tool, and to suggest changes. They are currently completing the first phase, namely establishing a condition report of their museum storage.

In early 2009, an evaluation meeting of the Storage Task Force will evaluate the results of the pilot projects and of the working teams.

Although the three-year UNESCO-ICCROM partnership was originally tailored for endangered collections in less developed countries, current feedback suggests it is relevant to museums worldwide. Smaller institutions continue to struggle with poor resources and limited access to expert advice. Although the available literature has increased and a fair amount is today accessible on the Internet, proposed methodologies and tools do not respond adequately to the needs of smaller institutions which are often faced with situations which have accumulated and worsened over time. Actions taken by ICCROM and UNESCO, combined with consultation and sample surveys, demonstrated the need to motivate and build capacity of those smaller institutions in improving the conditions and use of their collections. This is what we aim to achieve in the next two years.
Safeguarding Sounds and Images

Aparna Tandon (ICCROM)

ICCROM will turn fifty next year. At the heart of its institutional memory is the digital copy of a 1956 film recording of the proceedings of the UNESCO general conference held at New Delhi, India in that year. The historic decision to found ICCROM was taken at this general conference. The organization was fortunate to acquire a digital preservation master of this important recording from UNESCO. However, its sound and image collection is at high risk. 40% of the records in this collection are not readable as the required play-back equipment is obsolete.

Having become complementary to the written word, sound and image records are now found in diverse cultural institutions that are not specialized audiovisual archives. As documents of the world’s memory and intangible heritage, they are of immense value. Yet, in the current phase of transition from analogue to digital media, many institutions including ICCROM are struggling to ensure long-term access to and preservation of their audiovisual collections.

Conservation of audiovisual materials is complex and requires specialized guidance, skills and infrastructure. As analogue audiovisual materials are sensitive to temperature and relative humidity changes, they require strict storage conditions to extend their useful life. Meeting these requirements is a great challenge for all institutions caring for these materials as energy costs escalate and cold storage is increasingly seen as not being environmentally sound.

To promote the conservation of endangered sound and image collections within national cultural heritage institutions of its Member States, ICCROM introduced the collaborative SOIMA (Safeguarding Sound and Image Collections) programme in 2006. The first major activity of the SOIMA programme was a month-long international course, SOIMA 2007: Safeguarding Sound and Image Collections.

Professionals from twenty-five institutions representing twenty-two countries came together in this first course to pool their knowledge and experience. A major component of the course focused on incorporating structural programmes for digital preservation in non-specialist institutions. Course activities ranged from lectures and group discussions to hands-on exercises and study visits that highlighted both palliative and preservative measures to be taken to safeguard audiovisual records.

A limited access website set up for the course continues to serve as an information and exchange platform for the network of professionals. Tangible outcomes of the training also include the conception of several national projects following up on course ideas. For example, Vivian Spoliansky from Argentina and Emma Rey from the Philippines are designing introductory university level courses in their respective countries. Similarly, participants from Brazil, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Vanuatu are developing risk management strategies in their respective institutions.

For wider dissemination, the valuable experience of the SOIMA community will be collected and synthesized through a web-based publication. It will differ from existing literature in that it will not be a ‘best practices’ publication, but will rather offer innovative working solutions for managing and preserving AV collections that respect existing resources and institutional frameworks.

SOIMA 2007: Views from participants

Elena Gudushauri, Curator of the Photo Archive, Georgian National Museum, Georgia

It’s been almost a year since I’ve participated in SOIMA 2007. This course was very informative and helpful for my professional activity. It changed my way of thinking regarding audio and image preservation issues. I can now identify needs and problems, make decisions and set priorities. I feel more confident in this field because I know now what information I need and where to find it. If I have questions, I know where to find answers.

One of the largest and most important projects of the Georgian National Museum is the building of the Conservation Centre which will include conservation and restoration laboratories and storages for different types of material. I am currently working on a plan for an archival material conservation laboratory, and have also planned the relocation of the glass-plate negative collection due to the building works. I have also been requested to review together with colleagues a project of the Ministry of Justice (Preservation and Safeguarding Conditions of the National Archival Fund Documentation). From my own experience, I must say that there is a real need in the world of sound and image preservation for courses such as SOIMA 2007 and I would like to thank the organizers and lecturers for the hard and really useful work they have done.
Almost one year now after SOIMA 2007, the general approach towards audiovisual material preservation has greatly improved at my institution. There are now deliberate projects in place to try and better the life span of the small audiovisual collection of VHS tapes in our custody. One of the immediate projects is to move the VHS tapes from the current storage room with poor Relative Humidity (RH) readings to a much more suitable room with recommended RH readings. The other project will involve migration of analogue video contents from VHS carriers to DVDs for the purpose of access in case of technological playback changes. We are not necessarily going to carry out digitization of these analogue video materials. It is expensive and the institution cannot afford the cost at the moment.

This positive approach towards audiovisual materials in our possession is a direct result of the knowledge and skills acquired during the SOIMA 2007 course. The course was beneficial not only to me but also to my colleagues involved in audiovisual materials at Livingstone Museum, Zambia. Now we all speak the same language of a better life span for audiovisual materials.

Mercy Mashingaidze, Audiovisual Archivist, National Archives of Zimbabwe

The SOIMA course had a positive impact on my professional life as an archivist. I graduated from university with a degree in History and Development Studies and lacked formal training in safeguarding sound and image collections. Although I was learning through experience, it goes without saying that theory is the greatest foundation to all practice. The course managed to equip me with the professional methods of audiovisual archiving and it boosted my confidence in this field - something that my institution greatly appreciates. Before the course I had so many doubts, and did not understand why certain measures in preserving sound and image collections were taken, something SOIMA managed to clarify for me.

My institution benefited as after the course I can now handle preservation matters according to international standards. A good example of the institutional benefit is what happened in March of this year when my department was affected by a water disaster which occurred when one of the staff members forgot to close a tap on a Friday. The water started flowing towards the offices and storerooms and affected 200 magnetic audio tape cassettes, two film reels and some splicing film adhesives. Thanks to the theoretical and practical knowledge on disaster response acquired from SOIMA we were able to cope with the disaster.

I used the ‘Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel’ and the documentation provided during the course and these came in handy. The disaster response exercise we did in Rio de Janeiro came fresh to my mind as I led the response and recovery exercise. With the help of my colleague, I managed to save all the materials that had been affected by the water. We then made recommendations to management which included the formulation of a disaster plan, training for all staff on disaster response and recovery, and a risk assessment exercise.

Overall, I can say my institution gained a lot, as I have also shared the knowledge I acquired on the course with my colleagues in the Audiovisual department.

Rubens Ribeiro Gonçalves da Silva, Vice-director, Instituto de Ciência da Informação, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil

The experience of attending the SOIMA course was a great opportunity to be among lecturers and professionals from different countries, with different economies, improving and sharing their knowledge. The knowledge has helped me to propose improvements to the teaching of archival science to undergraduate. We have subsequently organized a one-day ‘visual workshop’, to show the students what I saw and learnt during the SOIMA course. We have also made changes in the ‘Documents Conservation and Restoration’ discipline profile and started a short introductory discipline (34 hours) about safeguarding sound and moving images collections to ten Masters students in Information Science, with different and interesting professional profiles.

In June, the Information Science Institute of Federal University of Bahia held the ‘VIII CINFORM – National Meeting on Information Learning and Research’ in the city of Salvador. Sound and moving images materials were the subject of two important panels which included three SOIMA participants. In fact, it is a result of the SOIMA experience!
Archaeology

The earliest conservation interventions carried out on the Temple of Quetzalcóatl in Mexico are, paradoxically, a deterioration factor threatening its survival. Inappropriate use of cement and resins caused salt crystallization, cracks, fractures and slippage in the stones. The author undertook this research project, involving a review of past interventions along with sampling and petrographic analysis of the rocks, in order to present considerations for conserving the western façade of the temple.

This book records the two-decade rehabilitation of the magnificent Buddhist site of Chandi Borobudur, located in Central Java. This terraced temple is constructed from blocks of volcanic rock, with sections dating as early as 800 AD. Rediscovered in the early nineteenth century, by the mid-twentieth century the monument was showing such alarming signs of decay that a UNESCO restoration and reconstruction project was initiated in the 1970s. The book presents the temple's history, provides details on the UNESCO project as well as earlier conservation efforts, and cites Borobudur's recognition as a World Heritage Site in 1991.

Citing case studies from the United States, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Egypt and the United Kingdom, this book delves into the ethics surrounding human remains in archaeological and museum environments, and how their treatment must differ from that of other collections. Issues addressed include ownership and stakeholders, indigenous rights, repatriation and reburial, and associated grave objects. Also addressed are appropriate handling and conservation, storage, transport and display, policy issues, examination and analysis, and certain health hazards in working with human remains.

Architectural conservation

The sixteenth century Monastery of Yuste, site of the monastic reclusion and death of Carlos I of Spain, also known as the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, was the subject of a careful restoration project between 1999 and 2002, funded jointly by the Fundación Caja Madrid and the Fundación Hispania Nostra. The restoration uncovered a wealth of information on the construction, history and evolution of this complex of historic buildings. The first part of the book relates building details and biographical aspects of the life of Carlos V at the monastery, while the second section focuses on the restoration interventions and the identification of traditional techniques and materials, including carpentry and masonry, lime work and tinted stucco.

Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB), an international relief organisation based in Stockholm, Sweden with a mission to preserve endangered cultural monuments, has been widely active in the Balkans. Among many other projects it has joined forces with the Packard Humanities Institute to restore the war-damaged Hadum Mosque in Gjakova, Kosovo. This bilingual publication (English and Albanian) details the restoration project, including the mosque's history and description, the survey and documentation phase, and the project implementation, including interventions to the minaret, the portico and the lead-sheeted Ottoman dome.

The Danish Institute in Damascus, together with Syrian colleagues, began a restoration project in 1997 on the Bayt al-'Aqqad, a historic house in old Damascus now protected under the UNESCO World Heritage programme. The highly successful project both restored this magnificent house and uncovered details of its long history that dates back to the Roman period, along with examples of the most important periods in the architectural history of Damascus.


These proceedings of an ICOMOS-India seminar discuss brick-built monuments of Northeast India, with special reference to Manipur. Articles present information on the land, people, traditions, customs, art and architecture of the region, and also address the difficulties facing the conservation of terracotta in that moisture-affected region.

The significance of the Kangla Fort, the role of the Mera Houchongba festival, conservation methodology in Manipur, the conservation and restoration of Shree Shree Govindaji Temple (including extensive photographic documentation of the project), the Sana Konung or Royal Palace, and the conservation of brick heritage buildings and temples in the region are discussed.

Architecture and documentation


This inventory of buildings designed by Oscar Niemeyer and constructed over a period of seventeen years in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais is an opportunity to situate them in the history of modernist architecture and to understand their architectural plans and construction materials. Extensive documentation and meticulous research characterize this extremely informative work, which highlights iconic buildings such as the Church of Saint Francis and the Yacht Club in Pampulha, and the Niemeyer building in Belo Horizonte.

El concepto de espacio en la arquitectura palatina andalusí: un análisis perceptivo a través de la infografía, Almagro Vidal, Ana, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). Madrid, Spain, Madrid: CSIC, 2008; 372 pp., 24 cm. ISBN 84-0008-630-9

Computer graphics have proven a useful way to study and analyze built heritage which could otherwise be difficult to assess in situ due to problems with its conservation state. Through examples from the Madinat al-Zahra of the tenth century to the Nazari palaces of Granada from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, this research project presents a coherent discourse on the perception-based analysis of the special character of the above-mentioned reconstructed architecture, investigating original aspects and spatial characteristics that are the starting point and necessary reference of later architectural creations.

Historic interiors

La Galerie des Glaces: histoire et restauration, Albanel, Christine; Arizzoli-Clémentel, Pierre; Coppey, Pierre; et alii, Dijon: Editions Faton, 2007; 418 pp., 31 cm. ISBN 2-87844-087-0

The Galerie des Glaces (Mirror Hall), located in the Palace of Versailles, owes its name to the 357 mirrors that decorate its seventeen arcades. The hall, built by Jule Hardouin-Mansart between 1678 and 1684, features an artistic decor designed by Charles Le Brun, in which large paintings evoke glorious episodes from the first eighteen years of Louis XIV’s reign, set off by sculpted mouldings decorated with magnificent allegoric trophies in gilded stucco. Thanks to the private patronage of the Vinci group, this unique ensemble recovered its coherence and readability at the end of a four-year restoration campaign (2003-7), during which it was thoroughly studied and documented photographically. The results are presented in this richly illustrated book, which also discusses the original seventeenth-century techniques that came to light in the course of the project.
The Grüne Gewölbe, or Green Vault, is an exceptional eighteenth-century Schatzkammer or treasure house, located in Dresden Palace. Its world-famous collection of precious objects gathered by Augustus the Strong, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, represents one of the largest museum collections dating from the German Baroque, and has fascinated visitors throughout its 280 year history. Severely damaged and in parts destroyed during the Second World War, the monument has recently undergone a reconstruction and restoration project that was completed in 2006. Architects, engineers, craftsmen and restorers describe, in individual contributions to the book text, how they worked together to revive the splendor of this historic space as it was in the year 1733.

The Sainte Chapelle, on the Île de la Cité in Paris, is famed for the spectacular stained glass of its upper chapel that represents a high point in High Gothic art. The richly illustrated work delves deeply into the history and iconography of this thirteenth century monument and its vicissitudes over time. A final section discusses its glassmaking techniques, historic maintenance practices, medieval and nineteenth century restorations, and more recent interventions to the ensemble of stained glass.

Illicit traffic
Two religious sculptures that had vanished under questionable circumstances from the Dogon country of Mali were found smuggled into the art markets of Paris. After their return to Mali by police action, the sculptures underwent a difficult process of reintegration into their village of origin. This documentary film exposes the complex question of how the erosion of traditional beliefs in African countries, particularly among young people, has created a climate of insecurity for sacred objects that is exploited by a Western market voracious for ethnographic materials.

Legislation
This compendium of selected Brazilian and international legislation enacted from 1937 to 2003, edited by the Brazilian national cultural heritage ministry IPHAN, is intended to clarify the legal instruments used by IPHAN to protect the cultural heritage of Brazil. The book presents laws, decrees, governmental orders, resolutions and international conventions that impact and orient the ministry's work in identifying, documenting, attributing value, registering, promoting, preserving and safeguarding Brazil's cultural heritage, in all its movable or immovable, tangible and intangible aspects.

Commentary on the UNESCO 2003 Convention on the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, Blake, Janet, Institute of Art and Law. Leicester, United Kingdom, Leicester: Institute of Art and Law, 2006; xviii, 180 pp., 24 cm. ISBN 1-903987-09-1
The commentary provides a general introduction to this convention, along with a detailed article-by-article analysis of its provisions. The convention is situated historically, normatively and operationally within the activities of UNESCO, the relevant activities of other intergovernmental bodies, the intellectual property-related work of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the issues posed by the treatment of indigenous heritage and traditional knowledge. The ramifications of the use of the term 'safeguarding' rather than 'protection' are also discussed.

Management
This booklet both presents the rich cultural heritage of Africa and serves as a guide for local government officials to understand the resources and options available to them to protect that heritage. Sections define cultural heritage in its many facets, explain the role of local governments and territorial development in managing heritage, and give abundant examples of important achievements in this domain.

**Mosaics**


This book presents the most recent restoration project on the famed *in situ* mosaics at the Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina, Sicily, visited by half a million visitors yearly. Analyses and interventions not only concerned the mosaics themselves, but also reassessed the protective shelter designed by Franco Minissi in the 1960s. Some thirty-five contributions cover all aspects of the project, which provided a more stable conservation environment for the mosaics and also foresaw the creation of a new shelter incorporating one restored section of Minissi’s original structure.

**Mural paintings**


This richly illustrated bilingual publication (Romanian and English) addresses the problem of aesthetic interpretation posed by substantial alterations to medieval mural paintings in churches located in Northern Moldavia, Romania. Deterioration factors causing these alterations are analyzed in depth, including both chemical factors (alteration of pigments, environmental conditions, biological agents) and human factors (intentional modifications, vandalism and inappropriate restorations); this second class is seen as having by far the most damaging impact. Present-day restoration treatments are extensively detailed. Mural paintings in a series of World Heritage Sites are presented, including the Church of St George in Suceava, the churches of Arbore and Bâlinești, and the monastery churches of Suzovea, Moldovița, Voroneț and Probota.

**Paintings**

L’attenzione alle superfici pittoriche: materiali e metodi per il consolidamento e metodi scientifici per valutarne l’efficacia: atti del convegno, Milano, 10-11 novembre 2006 = The care of painted surfaces: materials and methods for consolidation, and scientific methods to evaluate their effectiveness: proceedings of the conference, Milan, 10-11 November 2006, Centro per lo Studio dei Materiali per il Restauro (CESMAR7).


The third issue of the *CESMAR7* conferences on Colour and Conservation focuses on consolidation issues. Contributions explain in-depth how consolidation works at a physical level, and how paintings decay due to environmental conditions, their own constituent materials, and various kinds of chemical, physical or mechanical stress. New consolidation products such as cyclododecane are presented, along with analytical techniques used to assess condition and verify the results of treatment, including differential scansion calorimetry, infrared spectroscopy, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, and scanning electron microscopy.

Care and handling of thangkas: a guide for caretakers, Hill, Victoria Blyth; Ma, Yin-wah (ed.) Hong Kong: Pressroom Printer and Designer, 2008; 75 pp., 28 cm. No ISBN

Thangkas are a type of sacred Buddhist banner painted on cloth support with a variety of organic pigments; though displayed flat, they are commonly stored rolled, which creates problems for their
conservation. This bilingual manual (English and Tibetan) introduces caretakers of thangka collections to basic conservation procedures, describing techniques for improving the conditions under which thangkas are handled, displayed, and stored, using easily available supplies and inexpensive solutions.


This publication brings together a series of technical and scientific articles based on case studies investigated in the chemical laboratory of the Centro di Fototipografia, Legatoria e Restauro degli Archivi di Stato (CFLR) in Rome, Italy. The investigations cover paper, ink, pigments, parchment, and photographic prints including daguerreotypes, glass plate and colloidal negatives, and salt prints. Issues relating to digital reproduction are also covered.

Theory and history


Spain, with its huge wealth of cultural heritage objects, has been subject to the same dangers such as pillage and illicit traffic that have affected other nations possessing similar riches in movable cultural property. This book fills a gap in the literature by investigating how Spain gradually developed a protection system for its cultural objects, using inventory and legislative tools, from the eighteenth century to the present day.


This work discusses the assessment and appropriation of Algerian heritage that occurred as part of the French colonial enterprise. Scientific and artistic investigations, institutions such as museums and monument registry, and the development of a system and style of representation assisted the colonizing force in exerting control over a foreign territory, yet also led to intense exchanges between France and Algeria, as the history and heritage of each country was unavoidably affected and redefined by the presence of the other.

The books reviewed here may be consulted in the ICCROM Library. The library is located at ICCROM Headquarters in Rome and is open from Monday to Friday, 08.30 – 17.00.

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CHDA - Centre for Heritage Development in Africa, Kenya
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JRC - Joint Research Centre, European Commission
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Justus Liebig University, Germany
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LACMA - Los Angeles County Museum of Art, United States
LaMuseo - Museo di Storia Patriottica, Spain
LaSMA - Laboratorio de Conservación, Mexico
LACV - Laboratoire de Connaissance du Patrimoine, Brazil
LASSCO - London Association of Museums, United Kingdom
Leiden University, Netherlands
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National Archives of the Netherlands, Netherlands
National Board of Antiquities, Finland
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National Museum Complex "ASTRA", Romania
National Museum of Ethnology, Netherlands
National Museum of Indonesia, Indonesia
National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
National Museums of Kenya, Kenya
NHCC - National Heritage Conservation Commission, Zimbabwe
NRCNP - Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Japan
NRCPT - National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Japan
New York University - Moving Image Archiving and Preservation, United States of America
NIKU - Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, Norway
NTRU - Norwegian University for Science and Technology, Norway
OPD – Opificio delle Pietre Dure, Italy
OTRA - Old Town Renewal Agency, Lithuania
OWHC - Organization of World Heritage Cities, Canada
PACT - Papua New Guinea Conservation Trust, Papua New Guinea
PAE - European Commission on Preservation and Access, Norway
PAPC - Promotion and Protection of Cultural Property, Greece
PASS - Protection of Archaeological Monuments and Sites, Turkey
PIM - Patronato de las Instituciones Museísticas de Chile, Chile
PKM – preservation of cultural monuments, Poland
Plakking - The Hague, Netherlands
Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Poland
PPIR - Preservation and Policy Research, United States
PRAIA - Pró-Patrimônio - Instituto Nacional do Patrimônio, Brazil
PRESOS - Preservation of Sacred Monuments, Colombia
PRIN - Progetto di Ricerca Nazionale, Italy
PRIMTEMPO - Prima tempi, Italy
Psion - Psion, United Kingdom
Quartier Latin, France
RavennaArte - Fondazione Parco Archeologico di Classe, Italy
Regional Secretariat of the Organization of World Heritage Cities for Africa and the Middle East, Tunisia
Riksanrkøvren - Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Norway
Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Denmark
SANEOYOCOP - South Asian Network of Young Conservation Professionals, Pakistan
SBAPPE - Soprintendente per i Beni Architettonici e Paesaggistici di Venezia e Laguna, Italy
SEAMEO SPAFA - Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, Thailand
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