



## ISCEAH International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage

### Theme 1: In use

#### Introduction

The ISCEAH Sub-committee on In-Use wishes to guide communities around the world in preserving, conserving and rehabilitating historic earthen resources worldwide.

#### Objectives

The Sub-committee seeks to guide through a comprehensive illustrated document that can be easily disseminated. The document will assemble an illustrated glossary of terminology as well as a methodology for approaching work on a historic resource, including documentation and evaluation, assessment of best treatment/levels of intervention, and assessment of attainable and sustainable results. The document will specifically discuss evaluating and identifying appropriate adaptive reuses for a resource. The document will also use community case studies from around the world as illustrative examples.

#### Results

##### Introduction

The guidance document has the working title of *Thinking About Historic Resources: Guidance for Identification, Documentation, Evaluation, Treatment, and Management*. The proposed contents of this document were developed through an extensive evaluation of existing guidance documents from around the world. ICOMOS charters, and UNESCO and ICCROM recommendations, such as the Venice Charter, Nara Document, and Riga Charter were referenced to identify major international themes. The way in which different countries translated these universal themes into policies, principles, and standards was explored through an evaluation of the national guidance documents of the United States, China, and the United Kingdom. Country-specific evaluations were further supplemented by specific practical and technical recommendations from site-specific documents, such as the *Kasbah Taourirt* plan.

Following this in-depth investigation – from the broadest context to the most specific – the Sub-committee identified the terms, concepts, methodologies, technologies, and case studies that are necessary to address the needs of those working on historic resources. This information will be arranged in a logical manner that allows the reader to first gain a basic understanding of cultural heritage preservation concepts and terminology and then continue on to an evaluation of his or her specific resource. *Thinking About Historic Resources* will guide the reader through the steps of addressing a cultural resource in order and will attempt to provide guidance for most major considerations and treatment options; where guidance cannot be given, resources are suggested for further research.



### Visual Glossary

The inclusion of a glossary is crucial in a document which may be used by cultural heritage professionals and laymen from differing countries and educational backgrounds and who speak different languages. The Sub-committee in prior meetings determined that a visual glossary – one which supplements textual definitions with photographs, diagrams, and other graphics – will be especially useful in creating a comprehensible guide.

### Extended discussions of conceptual issues

In addition to the visual glossary, *Thinking About Historic Resources* will contain longer discussions of more complex or conceptual terms such as authenticity, significance, condition versus integrity, and the concept of minimal intervention. These terms, which are so critical to the understanding and practice of cultural heritage work and so ingrained into the minds of heritage professionals, must be thoroughly and clearly explored for the benefit of the layman or new professional.

### Methodologies

*Thinking About Historic Resources* will guide the reader through five stages of interaction with their historic resource: identification, recordation and documentation, evaluation, treatment, and management. Within each of these stages, the document will address more specific methodologies. What is a survey and when might different survey types be applicable? What is the best way to document a particular resource? What tasks should be performed by a specialist and which can a generalist undertake?

The document will also include information on technical topics such as cleaning historic earthen architecture, materials testing, and documentary technologies. When should a building be tested for the presence of lead? Is pressure washing appropriate and, if so, how should it be done? What is a Building Information Model and why might one be helpful?

The Sub-committee acknowledges that it is not possible to cover every possible methodological and technological question and that the field is always evolving. In the interest of providing the most complete guidance, however, the Sub-committee will provide a robust appendix of recommended resources for further research and study.

### Case studies

Case studies will be utilized throughout the document to illustrate specific methodological and technological concepts, potential challenges, successes, and failures. The ‘story’ of each case study will be supplemented by definitions and discussions of major concepts.

### Calendar of Activities

Due to the distinct topics several committee members will be able to each write their sections autonomously for assemblage into one document. Currently the following sections have been identified.



Chapter	Section	Year
1. Introduction	1.A Visual glossary <i>This section will define the terminology not only for this guidance document but for the field in general. To include such words/concepts as terms for the spectrum of intervention in different countries, technical terminology, acronyms, etc. Photographs and/or diagrams to accompany definitions, as appropriate.</i>	2018-2019
	1.B International guidance documents <i>This section will introduce the reader to existing international guidance frameworks.</i>	2018-2019
2. Methodology	2.A Introduction <i>This section will introduce the reader to the general methodology of approaching a historic resource from initial identification through ongoing management. Each of these steps will constitute its own section in the document.</i> <i>Identify → document → evaluate → treat → manage</i>	2018-2019
2.B Identify	<i>This section will guide the reader through different aspects of identifying a historic resource (example topics outlined below). For each topic, existing standards/guidelines and applicable technologies will be explained, a basic methodology outlined, and resources given for further research.</i>	2018-2019
	2.B.1 Site history/historic context	
	2.B.2 Site boundaries	
2.C Document	2.B.3 Existing conditions	2018-2019
	<i>This section will guide the reader through different aspects of documenting a historic resource (example topics outlined below). For each topic, existing standards/guidelines and applicable technologies will be explained, a basic methodology outlined, and resources given for further research. Case study examples could be particularly constructive.</i>	
	2.C.1 Surveys	
	2.C.2 Graphical documentation	
	2.C.3 Narrative documentation	
2.D Evaluate	2.C.4 Documentation Repositories	2018-2019
	<i>This section will guide the reader through different aspects of evaluating the significance and integrity of a historic resource, beginning with a conceptual discussion of what significance and integrity are and ending with a discussion on how to come to a final conclusion about a resource's eligibility for listing, protection, etc.</i>	2018-2019
	2.D.1 Significance/ integrity	
2.E Treat	Examples from case studies, pointing out benefits/uses/limitations/ drawbacks of each.	2018-2019
	<i>This section will introduce the reader to treatment philosophies and technologies. Since treatment is so</i>	



	<i>resource-specific, the science is constantly evolving, and on-site treatment can be somewhat improvised, this section may benefit more from case study examples than prescriptive methodologies.</i>	
	2.E.1 Treatment levels	2019-2020
	2.E.2 Standards/ guidelines	
3. Manage	<i>This section will guide the reader through different aspects of managing a historic resource after treatment is complete. The importance of continued management may be best conveyed through case study examples of successful and unsuccessful management planning.</i>	
	3.A Ongoing management planning	2020
	3.B Record of treatment	
	3.C Periodic re-evaluation	
4. Technologies	<i>Discuss relevant treatment technologies and provide resources for further research.</i>	
	4.A Cleaning historic architecture	2020
	4.B Repairing historic earthen architecture	
	4.C Materials testing	
	4.D Documentation technologies	