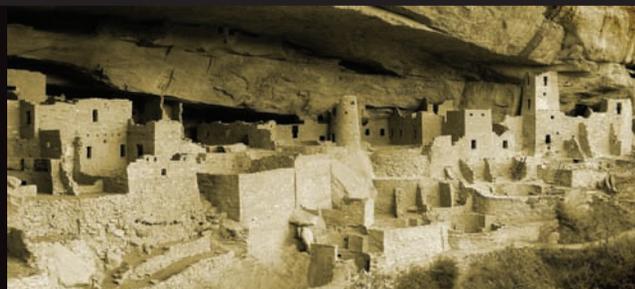


# Architectural Conservation

in Europe and the Americas



John H. Stubbs • Emily G. Makaš

*Foreword by Mounir Bouchenaki*

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NATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND PRACTICE

**John H. Stubbs and Emily G. Makaš**

**Foreword by Mounir Bouchenaki**

*With a contribution of images from the photo archive  
of the World Monuments Fund*



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# Contents

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*Foreword* *xiii*

*Preface* *xv*

Being Modern: The Currency of Conservation  
*Frank Matero*

*Acknowledgments* *xxi*

## **PART I: Europe**

---

**1**

Introduction

### **SECTION 1. WESTERN EUROPE 9**

#### ***Chapter 1: Italy 13***

- Early Organized Conservation Efforts 13
- Key Twentieth-Century Theorists and Methods 16
  - Museums and Architectural Conservation 19
  - Sheltering Ruins on Sicily and Beyond 24
- Conservation Legislation and Education 25
  - Saving Venice 28
- Recent Accomplishments and Challenges 30
  - Conserving Italy's Historic Rural Towns 34
- Italian Conservation Abroad 36

#### ***Chapter 2: France 41***

- Centralized Legislation and Incentives 41
- An Influential Concept: *Les Secteurs Sauvegardés* 43
  - Urban Conservation and Sustainability  
*Dennis Rodwell* 45
- Recent Conservation Successes 47

#### ***Chapter 3: United Kingdom 59***

- Legislation and Listing 59
  - Garden and Landscape Conservation in the United Kingdom 62
- Private, Not-for-Profit Advocacy Groups 65
- Contemporary Foci 68
  - Conserving Britain's Industrial Heritage  
*Dennis Rodwell* 72
  - Conserving Fine Architectural Interiors  
*Lisa Ackerman* 74
- British Conservation Leadership 76

**Chapter 4: Ireland 85**

- Conservation Legislation and Institutions 85
- Active Non-governmental Heritage Organizations 87

**Chapter 5: Spain and Portugal 93**

- Spanish Conservation Policies and Decentralized Structure 94
  - Paradores and Pousadas 95
- Portuguese Conservation Policies 96
- International and Private Participation and Recent Representative Projects 98
  - Architectural Conservation Education at European Universities 101
- Spanish and Portuguese Conservation Assistance to Former Colonies 106
- Current Issues and Challenges 108

**Chapter 6: Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands 113**

- Early Conservation Debates in Belgium and the Netherlands 113
- Legislation and Administration in Belgium 120
- Legislation and Administration in the Netherlands 122
- Architectural Conservation in Luxembourg 124
- Contemporary Conservation and the Role of Nongovernmental Organizations 125
  - Architectural and Social Preservation in Amsterdam 127

**Chapter 7: Switzerland and Liechtenstein 137**

- Switzerland 137
- Liechtenstein 140

**SECTION 2. NORTHERN EUROPE 143**

**Chapter 8: Sweden 147**

- Legislation and State-Organization of Heritage Protection 147
  - Skansen and the Open-Air Museum Tradition 149
- NGOs, International Involvement, and Current Challenges 152

**Chapter 9: Finland 159**

- Early Legislation and Conservation Efforts 159
- Contemporary Heritage Framework and State Activities 160
- Conserving Modern Heritage in Finland 162

**Chapter 10: Norway 167**

- Legislation and State Conservation Institutions 167
- Current Challenges and Successes 168
  - Conserving Wooden Structures in the Nordic Countries 172

<b><i>Chapter 11: Denmark, Iceland, and Greenland</i></b>	<b>177</b>
Early Danish Conservation Efforts	177
Heritage Legislation and Administration in the Twentieth Century	178
Contemporary Conservation Participants and Successes in Denmark	181
Iceland and Greenland	183
<b><i>Chapter 12: The Baltic States</i></b>	<b>189</b>
Shared Contemporary Challenges	189
Lithuania	191
Latvia	194
Estonia	198
<b>SECTION 3. CENTRAL EUROPE</b>	<b>205</b>
<b><i>Chapter 13: Germany</i></b>	<b>209</b>
Post-World War II Debates	209
The East German Conservation Approach	210
The West German Conservation Approach	212
Unified Conservation Efforts and Current Challenges	214
Applied Conservation Science and Technology in Europe	218
Symbolic Heritage in a New Germany	220
The Berlin Stadtschloss: Emblem of Germany's Reconstruction Debates	222
<b><i>Chapter 14: Austria</i></b>	<b>229</b>
Long-standing Legal and Administrative Structures	229
Urban Conservation in Austria	231
Other Recent Challenges and Developments	233
<b><i>Chapter 15: Hungary</i></b>	<b>237</b>
Legislation and Government Framework	237
Sensitive Conservation Approaches	239
Additional Key Projects and Successes	241
<b><i>Chapter 16: Czech Republic and Slovakia</i></b>	<b>245</b>
Architectural Conservation in Czechoslovakia	245
Czech Republic	246
Slovakia	251
Conserving Jewish Heritage in Central Europe	255
<b><i>Chapter 17: Poland</i></b>	<b>259</b>
Heritage Protection in Partitioned and Second Republic Poland	259
Comprehensive Communist-era Conservation Activities	260
The Rebuilding of Warsaw	262
Contemporary Issues and Challenges	266

## SECTION 4. EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CAUCASUS 269

### ***Chapter 18: Russia 271***

- Imperial and Revolutionary Conservation Efforts 271
- The Fate of Heritage under Stalin and during World War II 273
- Late-Soviet Policies and Institutions 275
- Current Conservation Challenges in the Russian Federation 277
  - The Battle to Preserve Russia's Avant-Garde Architecture 280
  - The Stabilization of the Church of the Transfiguration at Kizhi Pogost 285
- Recent Russian Conservation Successes 285
- Architectural Conservation in Siberia 289

### ***Chapter 19: Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus 297***

- Ukraine 297
- Moldova 300
- Belarus 302

### ***Chapter 20: The Caucasus 307***

- Armenia 308
  - Architectural Reconstruction in the Caucasus and Beyond 311
- Azerbaijan 312
- Georgia 313

## SECTION 5. SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE 319

### ***Chapter 21: Greece 323***

- The Athenian Acropolis 323
  - The Parthenon/Elgin Marbles Debate 326
- Expanding Conservation Priorities 328
- Current Conservation Framework and Challenges 331

### ***Chapter 22: Turkey 335***

- Hagia Sophia 335
- Conservation Frameworks and Projects in Modern Turkey 338
  - Turkey and Conservation of Ottoman Heritage in Southeastern Europe 341
- Archaeological Site Conservation and Museums in Turkey 342
- Challenges Ahead 345

### ***Chapter 23: Cyprus and Malta 349***

- Architectural Conservation in a Divided Cyprus 349
- Cooperative Cypriot Conservation Projects 353
- Malta 355

### ***Chapter 24: The Former Yugoslavia 361***

- Conservation Policies in the Former Yugoslavia 361

Slovenia 362  
Croatia 365  
Bosnia and Hercegovina 369  
Macedonia 372  
Serbia 376  
Montenegro 379  
Kosovo 381

**Chapter 25: Albania 389**

Early Efforts and Communist-Era Accomplishments and  
Setbacks 389  
Architectural Conservation in Albania Today 390

**Chapter 26: Bulgaria 395**

Late Twentieth-Century Frameworks and Challenges 395  
Recent Successes and Trends 397

**Chapter 27: Romania 403**

Communist-Era Institutions, Key Projects, and Challenges 403  
The Contemporary Conservation Scene 404  
Protecting Transylvania's Saxon Heritage 406

**Conclusion to Part I 413**

**PART II: The Americas**

**415**

Introduction

**SECTION 6. NORTH AMERICA 423**

**Chapter 28: The United States 429**

Private Initiatives, Organizations, and Philanthropists 430  
Early Federal and Municipal Government Efforts 435  
Conserving Historic Engineering Structures: Bridges  
*Eric DeLony* 438  
Emergence of an Historic Preservation System in the 1960s 442  
The National Register of Historic Places of the United States 449  
*Carol D. Shull*  
The Economics and Standards of Historic Preservation 451  
Improving and Enhancing the System 454  
The Defining Role of U.S. Conservation Science and Technology 456  
Preserving a Mosaic of Heritages in the United States and Its  
Territories 462  
New Concerns in the Twenty-First Century 468  
Historic Preservation and Sustainable Development  
*Donovan Rypkema* 473

**Chapter 29: Canada 485**

- Early Conservation Efforts 485
- The Massey Commission and the Historic Sites and Monuments Act 488
- Institution Building in the Second Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century 490
  - The Spirit of Place as Conceived by the First Nations  
*Barbara Ross* 496
- Looking Forward in Canadian Heritage Conservation 498

**SECTION 7. MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN, AND CENTRAL AMERICA 505**

**Chapter 30: Mexico 509**

- A Legacy of Government Legislation and Protection 509
- Twentieth-Century Institutions and Policies 512
- Collaborative Projects 516
  - Conserving Mexico's Churches  
*John Stubbs* 519
- Contemporary Conservation Issues in Mexico 522

**Chapter 31: The Caribbean 529**

- Government Conservation Efforts and National Trusts 530
  - The City Historian's Office and the Conservation of Old Havana 531
- Non-governmental Organizations 536
- Conserving Colonial Cities, Plantations, and Fortresses 539
- Conserving other Caribbean Heritage 542
- Current Challenges and Prospects 545

**Chapter 32: Central America 551**

- Belize 552
- Guatemala 556
- El Salvador 560
- Honduras 563
- Costa Rica 567
- Nicaragua 569
- Panama 572
- Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities in Central America 576

**SECTION 8. SOUTH AMERICA 581**

**Chapter 33: The Non-Iberian Coast 585**

- Guyana 586
- Suriname 589
- French Guiana 593

**Chapter 34: Brazil 597**

Federal Efforts and Architectural Conservation Partners 598

Urban Conservation and Revitalization in Brazil 600

New Directions in Architectural Conservation 602

Conserving Modern Architecture in Latin America

*Theodore H. M. Prudon* 604

**Chapter 35: The Andean Countries 611**

Venezuela 612

Colombia 615

Ecuador 620

Public–Private Partnerships and Urban Rehabilitation in Latin America

*Eduardo Rojas* 626

Peru 627

Conserving Ancient Earthen Architecture: The Chan Chan Example 632

Bolivia 638

**Chapter 36: The Southern Cone 647**

Uruguay 647

Paraguay 650

Conserving South America's Guaraní Missions

*Norma Barbacci* 655

Argentina 658

Chile 663

**Conclusion to Part II 671**

**Looking Ahead**

**673**

***Further Reading on Architectural Conservation by Region* 675**

***Photo Credits* 699**

***Index* 707**



# Foreword

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In every discipline, someone must step forward to document what has been accomplished thus far and take stock of contemporary practice. While architectural conservation is neither a particularly new discipline nor is this book the first attempt at such a survey, *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* is by far the most comprehensive and noteworthy effort to date. Its authors, John H. Stubbs and Emily G. Makaš have done an extraordinary job of assembling the stories of experiences in architectural conservation in the nearly ninety countries that comprise Europe and the Americas, presenting each in a remarkably clear, balanced, and intelligible manner.

Though much has been assembled here in an unprecedented manner, the authors are the first to admit that the scope and complexity of the topic in some places did not permit their describing every single relevant development. This would be impossible as in most countries of Western Europe alone there have been thousands of successful architectural conservation projects with scores that could be pointed out as exemplary. In an answer to this, the book's extensive endnotes and Further Reading Lists are present to support one of its main aims, which as John has described to me, is to be a convenient 'gateway' to more on most of the topics, examples and allied subjects addressed in this book.

So choices were made, and I think made wisely, in favor of a whole that provides a unique and evenly weighted overarching view while avoiding duplication and stressing the more influential accomplishments and solutions in architectural conservation practice in our time. As such, the book holds together as a remarkably readable and fascinating portrayal of the field at this juncture. It is sensibly organized, abundantly illustrated, and well-indexed. It should prove of interest to a wide audience, ranging from the curious lay person to the student, the professional, and the librarian.

I understand that the present book is the second in a series of probably three titles that will portray architectural conservation in all parts of the world. Along with its related predecessor volume, *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation—Parameters, Theory and Evolution of an Ethos*, and an eventual additional title that documents the other parts of the world, the series holds great promise as a resource and reference for both teaching and reference.

The perspective of *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* is well suited for its task because its principal author John H. Stubbs is an active and accomplished practitioner in the field, trained with institutional perspectives of ICCROM's architectural conservation course and Columbia University's prestigious graduate program in historic preservation that he attended and where he has taught for many years. Dr. Emily G. Makaš, professor of architectural and urban history at University of North Carolina at Charlotte and an expert on cultural heritage conservation in southeastern Europe, serves as an excellent complement to Stubbs here as his coauthor. Adding to their erudition are the voices of several collaborators who have contributed signed specialty essays throughout the book. Many of these participants are distinguished figures in the field today.

As one who has mainly served the field in administrative capacities in several roles at UNESCO, including as Director of the World Heritage Center, and currently as Director General of ICCROM, I am particularly pleased to see that the authors have fairly represented the crucial roles of these institutions and others, such as ICOMOS,

as among the key influences in architectural heritage conservation over the past half century. Indeed the educational aims of these institutions are well reflected in the present book. In their broad view of the subject where the authors discuss not just what has happened but also why Stubbs and Makaš have gone beyond describing what any of the above-mentioned institutions, and even his own—the World Monuments Fund—could, due to the limitations of their purviews.

I first met John Stubbs in relation to his extensive work at Angkor in Cambodia on behalf of the World Monuments Fund. His being at the center of most of WMF's many impressive initiatives for over two decades has given him a rare, if not unique, experience. WMF's leadership among international private not-for-profit organizations in advocating for architectural conservation and engaging the private sector in supporting architectural conservation is unparalleled. Bringing a production-oriented approach to WMF from work in the corporate world of architectural practice in New York City, it is his practical field experience that makes the observations of this book so special. Indeed, it is satisfying to see here how the system of the public and private, and the for-profit and not for profit sectors, have all found niches in architectural conservation practice that add to it being the robust and truly global concern that it is today. The solutions to conservation problems today that are cited in this book are both sensible and useful, and the prognosis for the future it suggests are particularly strong.

From reading this book I find it both amazing and reassuring to see how far the field has progressed, especially in the past few decades. As a result, it is a pleasure to introduce this new volume that I feel confident will be an especially useful new contribution to the field of cultural heritage management both now and for years to come.

MOUNIR BOUCHENAKI

Director General, International Centre for the Study of the  
Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

# Preface

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**A**rchitectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas; National Experiences and Practice explores the background and current status of the widespread efforts undertaken to ensure the survival of the rich architectural legacy of Europe, North and South America. This book addresses the sizable challenge of documenting these experiences by charting the history of the profession and its allied activities in these three continents from the early twentieth-century forward, with a special emphasis on key projects, participants, successes, and challenges of the past two decades. *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* offers a balanced view of architectural heritage conservation in the light of relevant cultural contexts and approaches to heritage protection involving all cultures on these three vast continents.

Organized architectural conservation—namely rationalized documentation, restoration, and preservation of historic architecture—has its origins in the Italian Renaissance, which by the mid-eighteenth century had radiated outward to France, England, Germany and Scandinavia and resonated elsewhere soon afterwards.<sup>1</sup> From the early nineteenth century, this thread of progressive extension gave way to an increasing number of simultaneous realizations and adoptions of cultural heritage conservation practice elsewhere in Europe, the Americas, and around the world. Since the last decades of the twentieth-century architectural conservation has been so pervasive that it is on the civic agenda of practically all countries of the world and global experiences have for several years now fed back and informed the Western European and American countries that so established the discipline. Today, the cross-fertilization of ideas in cultural resources management on a world-wide basis is commonplace.

Discussing developments in both Europe and the Americas together in this book is partly a practical matter: the authors and publisher want to produce this global series in as few volumes as possible, assuming that an additional book addressing Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Polar Regions will follow. More importantly, the discussion of Europe and the Americas together respects certain historical and geopolitical realities. Of the various continents of the world, the histories and cultures of Europe and the Americas have been linked since the Age of Exploration in the early sixteenth century. With the spread of culture, including languages and religion, from one continent to the others, came the transmission of art, architectural and urban traditions between the Old and New Worlds. Heritage conservation practice has been a part of this intercontinental transfer and transmutation.

Today, professionals in both Europe and the Americas are faced by many of the same challenges and use many of the same tools and techniques on behalf of architectural heritage. On both sides of the Atlantic, the scope of cultural heritage protection has expanded to include intangible heritage as well as surviving artifacts, access to sites has been radically improved, developments in instant global communications have facilitated information sharing, including Web-based electronic aids to site interpretation, and documentation strategies and storage systems have improved tremendously. As a result, architectural conservation protection today in Europe and the Americas relies heavily on an electronic and institutional network and there has been significant movement towards institutionalized pan-European, and to a lesser extent, pan-American heritage protection programs and forums. The principal interests of the field in both Europe and the Americas have also evolved in recent years to noticeably include concerns for energy conservation—both in building anew and rehabilitating “green,” as well as on sustainable heritage conservation in general. British architect and planner Dennis Rodwell has rightly called these two themes “the defining issues of our time.”

## Being Modern: The Currency of Conservation

Frank Matero

If there ever was a moment when heritage conservation had something to contribute to the current malaise of social and political strife, economic recession, and environmental destruction, it is now. On the surface conservation is concerned with the protection of historic and artistic works from loss and damage so they can continue to inspire, to admonish (from the Latin, *monere*, the root for monument) or simply to provide the same or different uses in the present. We advocate for conservation because objects and places hold important information, associations, and meaning; because they embody social and cultural memory which, if lost, would make the world less understandable.

Consider recent world events: the destruction of the Bamayan buddhas, the Mostar bridge, even the World Trade Towers—all potent cultural symbols whose targeted loss says more about the power and significance of these places than their existence ever did. Consider the current dilemma of if and how to rebuild the vernacular neighborhoods of New Orleans or the Haitian capital of Port au Prince in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, or the huge debate over the destruction of 2 Columbus Circle for the Museum of Design in New York City; a debate which has caused a serious reconsideration of how we view and define post war modernism and how we will pass on that legacy. All these examples engage in the phenomenon of loss or retention of cultural heritage and its implications.

For the general public, heritage conservation is fundamentally about the past. Long standing attitudes hold that true progress is about the new and the only real creativity is that which produces something novel. That which is existing or old is far from the new and therefore not part of real progress or progressive solutions. Of course this is untrue. Conservation is both creative and modern. In today's climate it is in fact subversive in its interest in mending the flawed rather than in discarding and starting anew. As Elizabeth Spelman has aptly observed, the capacity of professionals to repair things can scarcely be valued in any society whose economy is based on the production of and the desire for the new. Repair is at odds with the imperative of a capitalist society.<sup>2</sup>

To bring together the past and present by thinking and acting in ways different from the original processes that create new works, and to forge a new approach that is sensitive to all contexts are the very goals of conservation.

As an act of intervention conservation seeks to mediate and in that mediation it is creative. Conservation possesses a uniquely integrated set of knowledge and skills drawn from the sciences and the humanities and based on a values driven model.<sup>3</sup> Its concerns and methods of analysis, intervention, and especially prevention are part of the definition of *sustainability* and it has much to offer all professionals and the public in the ascendancy of that concept. While conservation has matured in response to larger social and environmental concerns, it has far to go in most countries to deeply influence local and global development.

Since the 1970s sustainability has evolved as a significant mode of thought in nearly every field of human intellectual activity. With its origins in the nature conservation movement in the early twentieth century, sustainability and sustainable development are about finding ways to design, plan, and manage that allow essential or desirable resources to be renewed faster than they are destroyed. In design and the building industry, sustainability has become synonymous with “green architecture” or new buildings designed with healthy work environments, energy conserving systems, and environmentally sensitive materials. Only recently, heritage conservation has been recognized as a concept compatible with the objectives of sustainability, emerging as a critical component of international development strategies now being advocated by some local and international government and non-government agencies.

Unlike the case for natural resources, sustainability for the built environment differs in that historic resources cannot be physically regenerated, only retained, modified, or lost.<sup>4</sup> Instead sustainability in this context means ensuring the continuing contribution heritage can make to the present through the thoughtful management of change responsive to the historic environment. Sustainability emphasizes the need for a long-term view. If conservation is to develop as a viable strategy for redevelopment, the larger economic and social dimensions need to be addressed, while at the local level, community involvement is central to sustaining conservation initiatives. In this case, sustainability means an investment in conserving human knowledge as much as historic buildings. Reconciling conservation and development is a prerequisite for achieving improvements in the quality of

life in environmentally and culturally sensitive places. By shifting the focus on perception and valuation, conservation becomes a dynamic process involving public participation, dialogue, and consensus, and ultimately better stewardship. It calls for the retention and reinforcement (if necessary) of healthy existing social, cultural, and economic functions and the introduction of new uses as necessary in order to generate income for the local community. It requires the improvement of services and public open spaces, community-supported rehabilitation of historic housing and open spaces, employment opportunities, and promotion of local knowledge and craft.

If sustainability ultimately means learning to think and act in terms of interrelated systems, then heritage with its unique values and experiences must be contextualized and integrated with the new. In the transformation of our physical environment, what relationships should exist between change and continuity, between the old and the new? Are modernity and tradition truly oppositional? Only when history is rightly viewed as a part of that continuous change, can we speak of an integrated and sustainable built environment and conservation as an appropriate modern response to this current dilemma.

While Europe and the Americas share affluence, beliefs and social ambitions as well as legal bases for commonalities of approaches toward heritage protection, there are certainly significant differences in the histories, developments and current issues among the countries of these continents. Many of the developing countries of Eastern Europe, South America and the Caribbean have not had the same access to financial resources, training and information about conservation as those of North America and Western and Northern Europe. In some cases the varying foci of conservation practices among the Old and New World have also been theoretical. These differences stem back to the making of the Venice Charter of 1964, approved only tacitly by delegates from the United States and the United Kingdom because of a perceived continental European bias towards monuments that did not take fully into account some of the less monumental heritage found in all countries, or the vernacular and most indigenous heritage of the New World.<sup>1</sup> Since that time, the heritage protection efforts of the younger countries of the United States and Canada (and Australia) have led the quest for more representative strategies for their countries. The result is that the heritage protection management systems of North America and Europe, when viewed as a combined experience and capacity, cover most all the issues and are by any measure impressive in their robustness and influence.

Many European and American countries have shared ideas about architectural conservation through frequent assistance to the rest of the world. From exemplary projects at Abu Simbel and Nubia, Egypt in the 1960s to Borobudur, Indonesia in the 1970s to Angkor Wat in Cambodia since the 1990s—major sites of world architectural significance have been preserved with the assistance of European and American-based institutions. Through these projects training opportunities and information about best contemporary conservation practices have been disseminated globally. As such, the leading architectural conservation organizations, training institutions, several governments, and various practitioners in Europe and the Americas have played a central role in the internationalization of heritage conservation practice so successfully in the past half century that today the whole world is engaged in the activity. Though some imbalances in organized heritage protection exist between Europe and the Americas and the rest of the world—and some imbalances exist within the continents of Europe and the Americas themselves—these gaps have been closing with each passing year. Certain economic and technical advantages in some developing countries have even distinguished conservation efforts in those places. Especially in recent decades, Australia, New Zealand, India and Japan have emerged as leaders in Asia and the Pacific while

impressive progress has also been witnessed in China, South Africa, Jordan and other countries in Western Asia.

There are certainly challenges to presenting Europe and the Americas together and separated from the rest of the world as is done here. This organization makes cross referencing more difficult, especially regarding the activities of European and American governmental and non-governmental organizations abroad as well as of those charters and ideas generated in the rest of the world that have since had an impact on European and American conservation practice and vice versa.

*Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* is organized as a series of country profiles examining key issues, participants, sites and developments in the architectural conservation practices in the subject countries. The book's two parts focus first on Europe and then on the Americas, and within these parts the discussion is divided into sections that group countries together by region based on geographical, historical, cultural, and linguistic ties. Part I includes five sections: Western Europe, Northern Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, and Southeastern Europe. Part II includes three sections that focus on North America, then on Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America, and finally on South America.

This current book is preceded by, but is not necessarily dependent on, a forerunner volume by John H. Stubbs, *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* (Wiley, 2009). That earlier book endeavored to more generally portray contemporary practice in architectural conservation, including its rationale, structure, early history, principles and practices, and likely future directions. *Time Honored* introduced many of the themes, terms, legal instruments, and the whats, whys, whos, and hows of architectural conservation that are explored in focused country-specific and specialty essays in *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*. Though both books are designed to be read independently of one another, readers seeking the broader picture and contextual framework for the portrayals of contemporary practice discussed herein will find *Time Honored* a useful companion. Two of four Appendices within *Time Honored*, a glossary of the field's nomenclature and lists of international resources, should prove especially helpful in relation to this book. The larger research initiative encompassing this book, its predecessor, and its probable successor is described on a companion website found at <http://conservebuiltworld.com>.

*Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* provides the detailed country by country examination of the movement necessary to speak globally and generally about the field. It can be read in its entirety, offering a comprehensive scope to those seeking a comparative understanding of architectural conservation or a broad overview of global practices rich with specific examples. It can also be used as a reference, so that those seeking information about developments in a certain country or region may quickly access a thorough overview of that information with directions for further reading and online resources for additional research. Importantly, this book can also be studied as a source of solutions for effective architectural heritage management.

This book's content represents the views of its authors as researchers and practitioners in the field of heritage conservation, and does not necessarily reflect the positions and opinions of the organizations with which they are affiliated. As such the authors are responsible for its content.

This book is not the only recent publication to take an international view of architectural conservation, but the emphasis, scope, and contemporary nature of *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* varies from the other most significant of these studies and compendia. For example, in the 1980s James Marston Fitch's *Historic Preservation: Curatorial Management of the Built World* took a thematically broad and global view of the field's key facets, and under the auspices of US ICOMOS, Robert Stipe edited a series of bound reports on *Historic Preservation in Foreign Countries* that offered detailed profiles of developments in several European countries

during the period before 1990.<sup>6</sup> Much has happened since these seminal studies were undertaken, however. More recently Giorgio Croci's *The Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage* and Bernard Feilden's *Conservation of Historic Buildings* primarily address technique and materials science. Jukka Jokilehto's *History of Architectural Conservation* provides a foundational portrayal of the history of the field and the contributions of key individuals primarily in Europe up until World War II.<sup>7</sup> *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* addresses these topics and others often in less detail, but contextualizes them within contemporary practice as well as broadens the geographic scope to include developments in every country in these three continents.

The impressive 11-volume thematically-organized compendium *Trattato di Restauro Architettonico* (Treatise on Architectural Restoration), coordinated and directed by Giovanni Carbonara over the course of the past decade and a half, is comprehensive in its scope and includes writings by different experts.<sup>8</sup> Particularly in volume nine, which discusses international practice in various countries and regions, its approach seems similar to *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*, though its compendium-like structure, its overall length and publication in Italian make it less accessible to many practitioners and students in the field today.

Country profiles focused on legislative and administrative frameworks, a component of *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*, have also previously been published by others as well as made available online. For the Council of Europe, Robert Pickard has brought together national experts to contribute to a number of edited books dedicated to this theme, beginning with *Policy and Law in Heritage Conservation* and the two-volume *European Cultural Heritage*, which examine representative countries from throughout Europe; these were followed in 2008 by three additional books focused specifically on Southeastern Europe.<sup>9</sup> The Council of Europe is also the sponsor of two online efforts to compile similar country profiles, including the European Heritage Network website, which focuses specifically on heritage management policies, and the Compendium of Cultural Policies in Europe, which discusses heritage protection in light of pan-European ambitions and broader cultural policies.<sup>10</sup> Both of these sites aim to comprehensively cover all of Europe (the former includes thirty country profiles and the latter forty-one to date) and are periodically updated.

Most of these publications and websites are focused on Europe, while similar comprehensive studies for the rest of the world, including the Americas are rare. UNESCO's World Heritage Center website compiles information about World Heritage Sites globally, and ICOMOS' series of *Heritage at Risk* publications highlights key threats in countries throughout the world on the basis of voluntary submissions.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, the website of the World Monuments Fund, particularly its component which profiles sites placed on its Watch<sup>®</sup> list of endangered sites since 1995, yields a wealth of information on threats to architectural heritage sites worldwide and solutions applied. However, none of these globally oriented sources managed by international organizations claims to be comprehensive in their presentation of the countries in which their projects are located.

Each of the aforementioned publications and institutional efforts has served as a valuable resource during the preparation of *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*. If the present book places these and other efforts to in a clearer context, it will have served its purpose.

## ENDNOTES

1. For the history of architectural conservation in general and the origins of national practices in Italy, France, England and the German States through the early twentieth century, see: John H. Stubbs, *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* (Wiley & Sons: Hoboken, 2009), 183–226.