Historic Urban Landscape: An International Perspective

Jukka Jokilehto,
Bari, 22 March 2013
UNESCO 1976 Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas

- Every historic area and its surroundings should be considered in their totality as a coherent whole whose balance and specific nature depend on the fusion of the parts of which it is composed and which include human activities as much as the buildings, the spatial organization and the surroundings. All valid elements, including human activities, however modest, thus have a significance in relation to the whole which must not be disregarded.
Historic Centre of Vienna, WH 2001
Vienna Memorandum, 2005
on “World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture –
Managing the Historic Urban Landscape

• The historic urban landscape is embedded with current and past social expressions and developments that are place-based. It is composed of character-defining elements that include land uses and patterns, spatial organization, visual relationships, topography and soils, vegetation, and all elements of the technical infrastructure, including small scale objects and details of construction;
Vienna Memorandum

- **Contemporary architecture** in the given context is understood to refer to all significant planned and designed interventions in the built historic environment, including open spaces, new constructions, additions to or extensions of historic buildings and sites, and conversions;

- **The central challenge of contemporary architecture** in the historic urban landscape is to respond to development dynamics in order to facilitate socio-economic changes and growth on the one hand, while simultaneously respecting the inherited townscape and its landscape setting on the other. Living historic cities, especially World Heritage cities, require a policy of city planning and management that takes conservation as one key point for conservation. In this process, the historic city’s authenticity and integrity, which are determined by various factors, must not be compromised.
Olinda Meeting on HUL  
Brazil 2007

• 1. The consideration of “landscape” as a broad construct to extend conservation beyond the accepted boundaries of the historic cities and urban areas;
• 2. The recognition of the city as a layering of significances;
• 3. The acceptance of the multiple dimensions of identity, in places where it can strengthen communities, and as a way to express genius loci;
• 4. The importance of integrating intangible aspects of urban culture;
• 5. The recognition that change is an inherent part of urban development and conservation therefore is integral to the management of this evolution in an historical area requiring continuity and coherent substitution;
• 6. The need to consider environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability in the process of conservation and development, which is an essential goal in the urban process and in achieving equity;
• 7. The participation and engagement of all stakeholders, be they citizen, community, expert or governmental, was considered essential in making urban conservation meaningful and successful, aided by educational initiatives;
• 8. The need of multi-disciplinary cooperation to address the range of values and issues that form a cultural system.
UNESCO 2011, RECOMMENDATION ON THE HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE

HUL

• The historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of “historic centre” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting.

Asmara
HUL 2011

• The historic urban landscape approach aims at **preserving the quality of the human environment**, enhancing the productive and sustainable use of urban spaces while recognizing their dynamic character, and promoting social and functional diversity. It integrates the goals of urban heritage conservation and those of social and economic development.

• **It is rooted in a balanced and sustainable relationship between the urban and natural environment, between the needs of present and future generations and the legacy from the past.**
Assisi by Astengo, 1950s
Assisi WH 2000

Carte indiquant les limites de la zone proposée pour l’inscription et celles de toute la Zone Tampon
Bien à inscrire (ha 14,563,259)
Zone Tampon (ha 4,006,700)
Action Plan for HUL

Also recommends that Member States and relevant local authorities identify within their specific contexts the critical steps for implementing the historic urban landscape approach, which may include the following:

a) to undertake comprehensive surveys and mapping of the historic cities' natural, cultural and human resources;

b) to reach consensus using participatory planning and stakeholder consultations on what values to protect for transmission to future generations, and to determine the attributes that bear these values;

c) to assess the vulnerability of such attributes to socio-economic pressures and the impacts of climate change;

d) to integrate urban heritage values and their vulnerability status into a wider framework of city development, which shall provide indications of areas of heritage sensitivity which require careful attention to planning, design and implementation of development projects;

e) to prioritize actions for conservation and development;

f) to establish the appropriate partnerships and local management frameworks for each of the projects identified for conservation and development, as well as to develop mechanisms for the coordination of the various activities between different actors, both public and private;
Tools

- Civic engagement tools should involve a diverse cross-section of stakeholders and empower them to identify key values in their urban areas, develop visions that reflect their diversity,

- Knowledge and planning tools should help protect the integrity and authenticity of the attributes of urban heritage.

- Regulatory systems should reflect local conditions and may include legislative and regulatory measures aiming at the conservation and management

- Financial tools should aim to build capacities and support innovative income generating development, rooted in tradition.
Faro Convention, 2005
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage to Society

• A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.

• The ideals, principles and values, derived from the experience gained through progress and past conflicts, which foster the development of a peaceful and stable society, founded on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
ICOMOS Theory Committee
Conclusions of Florence meeting on HUL, March 2013

- **Cultural Heritage is the result of recognition.** It includes those parts of heritage that are protected by law, some also recognized for their OUV, as well as parts that relate to the community at large, and that may not be covered by any formal protection status. The HUL approach will touch on these issues aiming at an overall guidance in planning and management of the territory that forms the context for recognized heritage areas. Therefore, the UNESCO Recommendation on HUL should always be taken as a fundamental reference in the organisation and implementation of development processes, with Management Plans and related Action Plans.
Protected Monuments!
Ahmadabad
Ahmadabad
Heritage Specificity

- **Heritage Specificity**: Each historic area within its setting has its specific qualities related to the historical stratigraphy and relevant cultural, social, economic and geographic conditions.

- The knowledge and understanding of these qualities needs properly qualified professionals, who must be structurally involved in deciding the establishment of appropriate policies and strategies to be implemented through place-specific tools aiming at culturally and environmentally sustainable decision making.
Continuity and Change

• **Continuity and Change**: Historic Cities are hubs subject to dynamic changes, which may vary depending on a variety of factors, such as economic and social pressures, demography and migrations. In such processes, culture should be identified as a fundamental factor and guidance for the continuity of living traditions, cultural diversity and the conservation of cultural properties.

• Based on the HUL approach, this may require corrective actions in land use, functionality and development strategies, equity, cultural context and social inclusion, environmental protection and sustainability, civic engagement, local governance, and community empowerment. The processes could involve the reclamation and regeneration of place, through relevant cultural expressions.

*Prizren, Kosovo*
Capacity Building

• **Capacity Building:** The decision makers should drive towards a leading political vision of HUL, together with professional conservationists. Capacity building aims at greater awareness in the development and implementation of appropriate policies and management instruments.

• To be effective, the vision must be based on social justice, cultural context, the recognition of rights and correctly informed involvement of the heritage community to be sustained by educational programmes at all levels.

Baku, Azerbaijan
Concepts

- **Clarification of concepts**: Taking into account the ambition of the HUL approach to deal with the broader territorial panorama, the Committee encourages research in the integrity related to urban morphology, cultural context, social-functional and structural-historical dimensions, as well as the relationships of public and private spaces and land uses.

- The impacts of change in urban morphology and typology are bound to be felt particularly in evaluating visual integrity both within the area concerned and in its relationship with the surroundings.

- Therefore the Committee promotes, as a priority, research in the application of the fundamental concepts and theories in relation to the HUL approach in general and criterion (vii) of the World Heritage Operational Guidelines in particular. Special attention is to be given to the fundamental aspects of authenticity and integrity in their manifold material, immaterial and visual dimensions.

Rio De Janeiro
The Kyoto Vision, 2012

• The Convention, in its Article 4, places the responsibility for ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage with the States Parties. At the same time, if one of the aims of the Convention is to “give heritage a role in the life of the community” (Article. 5), then the concerns and aspirations of communities must be centrally involved in conservation and management efforts.
The Kyoto Vision

• Only through strengthened relationships between people and heritage, based on respect for cultural and biological diversity as a whole, integrating both tangible and intangible aspects and geared toward sustainable development, will the “future we want” become attainable.

• Such strengthened relationships should be grounded in a multi-disciplinary and participatory approach to heritage conservation, which would integrate the consideration of social, economic and environmental dimensions, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups respecting all relevant international standards and obligations. Unless such a sustainable development perspective is integrated in the management of a World Heritage property, it will be difficult in the long run to ensure the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value.
THANK YOU