

The Status Quo and Outlook of the Collaboration between the US and China in Historic Preservation

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[Abstract]:

China has a long, rich history with an almost unbroken cultural tradition extending back more than 5,000 years, but with the fast development of Globalization and Urbanization, Chinese ancient buildings are destroyed rapidly.

Despite a long tradition of conservation and restoration practice, China had no national charter or set of guidelines for conservation and management of its cultural heritage until the publication of *Principles for the Conservation of Heritage sites in China* in 2000. In recent years, some of the US conservation organizations and companies have been invited by the Chinese government to cooperate with Chinese specialists in saving and preserving Chinese legacies. The most prominent example is the long-term collaboration among three institutional partners—China's State Administration for Cultural Heritage (SACH), the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), and the Australian Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) in researching and preserving the Dunhuang murals in the northwest of China.

However, the collaboration between the US and China in historic preservation is just starting, and there is much to be done to promote the collaboration in this field.

Based on the status quo of Chinese Historic Preservation and collaboration with foreign countries, three issues will be discussed in this thesis: 1. the existing problems in Chinese historic preservation 2. In what kinds of preservation fields the collaboration between Chinese and the US specialists can be enhanced? 3. What benefits will be gained through these collaborations?