

SASI PRAKAS SOREY

NEED FOR A BROAD BASED APPROACH IN TRAINING  
FOR CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

1. *General situation in the field of conservation*

Professional Training in the field of Conservation of Cultural Property in India is at present confined only to the scope of Archaeology. The subject of Conservation itself is principally confined to Departments of Archaeology, which were set up about 100 years ago and have a commendable history of excavation of sites and the restoration of major monuments in the country. There is a centrally organised Archaeological Survey of India for the whole country, which looks after the monuments of national importance. In addition, most of the States of the country have their own Archaeological Departments to take care of monuments and sites of State level importance, within their jurisdiction.

The Archaeological Departments are equipped with Engineers, Architects and Restorers, who are generally trained in their jobs after enrolling in the Departments. This is however, a National Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property at Lucknow, which imparts training in the science of preservation and there is a School of Archaeology under the Central Archaeological Department at New Delhi. Some universities in India have Archaeology as one of the Academic Courses, which deals mostly with the Philosophy, History and general principles of Archaeological excavations. Therefore, whatever little training facilities are available, they are designed to suit the needs of Archaeological Departments.

The Archaeological Departments are able to take care of only the major Historical monuments like the Tajmahal, the Fatehpur Sikri, the Qutubminar and the Charminar etc. The country possesses a vast wealth of Towns and Cities with distinct historical background, expressed through various styles

of Architecture in domestic buildings, palaces, gardens, forts and towns as a whole. There are many cities with their Historic centres still retaining some of the traditional character through ensembles, bazaars and chowks (squares).

The concept of Conservation of less important monuments, buildings and historic centres has just started taking root in the country. Conservation does not find any place in the Town Planning and Building rules in the country as it does in developed countries by way of listed buildings, Conservation areas and Secteur Sauvegardé. Except the monuments protected by the Archaeological laws, no buildings and areas are statutorily safe-guarded from demolition. The above situation is also reflected in the field of training.

### *2. Situation regarding training in conservation*

Various Universities in India have full time courses offering the Bachelor Degree in Architecture after 5 years of study. The courses have the history of architecture as one of the important subjects. The Syllabii cover the History of World Architecture as well as Indian Architecture. Unfortunately this subject is taught in a rather isolated and indifferent manner. Planning and Designing for contemporary buildings is considered to have nothing to do with the preservation and utilisation of old buildings and Architecture.

An extremely negligible percentage of the total number of Architects in the country are appointed in the Archaeological Department whose scope is very limited as explained earlier. A substantial amount of construction in the country takes place in the Government Sector and the majority of buildings, about 67 per cent, are constructed by private individuals. In order to make any significant impact on the discipline and practice of Architecture in the country, it is therefore necessary to mould Architectural education, as well as Urban Planning education in such a way that any new development should start with a presumption in favour of Conservation i.e. the Architect or Town Planner must be trained to carefully consider whether he could do with reusing or improving the existing built environment before pulling it down and rebuilding.

### *3. A change of strategy needed*

Utilisation and improvement of the existing housing stock and old buildings has taken a special dimension against the ever worsening energy

crisis facing the world and to a much larger extent the developing countries. It is therefore not enough to introduce the subject of History of Architecture in the Syllabii of Architectural Courses; — the study of History has to be related to the present day context and every Architect should have the minimum expertise of undertaking normal repairs and of adaption of existing old buildings for reuse. For restoration and Conservation works of special importance however, Architects with Post Graduates training in Conservation would be required.

It is equally important to introduce the structural principles involved in the field of Conservation and Preservation into the basic training of Civil Engineers. Young Engineers in India generally learn designing with steel and concrete and have little knowledge of handling traditional building techniques, which were common even 40 years ago; such as the Madras Terrace Roof, the Jack Arch Roof and special lime plaster techniques.

The country also needs special training for Craftsmen to undertake construction and repairs with traditional methods and material mentioned above. Availability of bricks, tiles and other structural members of traditional sizes and specifications is also another aspect requiring attention. The Madras Terrace Roof, of which a large number of palaces and buildings still exist in the country, most of them in good condition and use, was constructed with bricks of special size placed on edge. Such bricks are no longer produced. Therefore any repair work of these building creates problems.

### *4. Stress on urban conservation*

In order to give due regard to the problems faced by Historic centres and Historic Towns, it is necessary to include the principles of Urban Conservation in the Courses of Town Planning in Indian Universities. Training in Town Planning is offered as a 2 year Post Graduate Course in some of the Indian Universities and Institutions. The syllabii however, do not have even a passing reference to the need for preserving our historic quarters and to revitalise and reuse them. It will be important now to incorporate the principles of Urban Conservation in the Courses of Town Planning. The teaching of Town Planning should try to identify the reasons which resulted in city centres, bazaars and spaces of immense vitality and variety in our old cities, as against some of the drab and dissolute Supermarkets of today. The layout of many old residential neighbourhoods respected the local climate and social needs. The so called modern concepts of drastic redeve-

lopment and road widening have done as much damage to Indian Cities as they did in the West. Planning principles should include lessons from our past mistakes.

### 5. Conclusion

The problems of professional training in India in the field of Conservation are very much similar to problems raised in 1968 in the UNESCO meeting in Pistoia (Italy). India as well as other developing countries of the region will however require a more broad-based training programme, where the principles of Conservation should be well integrated with basic training of disciplines such as Architecture, Engineering and Town Planning. The danger of treating Conservation as an isolated subject, in the context of developing countries, is that Conservation is often mis-understood as a luxurious and extravagant idea, which poor countries can not afford. Through effective mass communication this notion has to be slowly changed.

The intention is however not to undermine the importance of specialised Post Graduate Courses in Conservation. It will be extremely relevant to expedite the setting up of a regional centre of the International Centre for Conservation (Rome) in New Delhi which could cater to the needs of specialised training for this part of the world. The regional centre should have departments of Architectural Conservation, Urban Conservation, Conservation Science, Conservation of mural paintings, Conservation with special reference to Archaeological excavations and should also run special courses for Social Scientists; such as Sociologists, Economists, Historians, Geographers as well as for common people, recognising the fact that Conservation of Cultural Property is a multi-disciplinary subject.

NOM: SASI PRAKAS SOREY - Architecte et Planificateur - Inde.

THEME: PROFESSION

TITRE: NECESSITE D'UN ELARGISSEMENT DES BASES DE LA FORMATION EN MATIERE DE CONSERVATION DES BIENS CULTURELS.

RESUME:

Dans le domaine de la conservation des biens culturels, l'Inde dispose de très peu de moyens de formation professionnelle; ceux qui existent relèvent, d'ailleurs, du seul domaine de l'archéologie. En effet, l'effort de conservation en Inde se limite aux sites et aux monuments archéologiques de première importance nationale ou régionale, que protège une législation dont l'application est l'affaire des Départements d'Archéologie des différents états ou de l'administration centrale.

La protection qu'offrent ces lois pour le patrimoine archéologique ne s'étend pas aux centres historiques, ni aux monuments d'importance locale, ni aux enclaves historiques, ni à de nombreux autres édifices et sites méritant d'être conservés. C'est ainsi que seul un domaine très restreint bénéficie des connaissances d'un personnel qualifié, dont le nombre est d'ailleurs insignifiant, les énormes richesses culturelles du pays demeurant totalement privées de soins professionnels.

Il faudrait donc intégrer dans la formation des architectes et des ingénieurs l'enseignement des principes et des techniques fondamentaux de la conservation. Les architectes et les ingénieurs diplômés devraient être à même de comprendre l'intérêt de la conservation, de la réanimation et de la réutilisation du patrimoine immobilier existant et d'entreprendre, sans l'aide de spécialistes, des travaux de conservation mineurs. La simple étude de l'histoire de l'architecture — qui est souvent enseignée en l'absence de tout lien avec les besoins actuels — ne suffit pas. Les programmes des cours d'urbanisme doivent comprendre un enseignement des principes de la conservation urbaine.

Il convient toutefois de ne pas sous-estimer la nécessité d'une formation plus spécialisée destinée aux architectes et ingénieurs diplômés. Les travaux de conservation importants ne doivent se faire que sous le contrôle d'experts; à cet effet il faudrait créer à New Delhi un centre régional dépendant du Centre International pour la Conservation (Rome).

NAME: SASI PRAKAS SOREY - Architect and Town Planner - India.

SUBJECT: PROFESSION

TITLE: NEED FOR A BROAD BASED APPROACH IN TRAINING FOR CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY.

SUMMARY:

In the field of Conservation of Cultural Property India has very little professional training facilities, which are again limited to the scope of Archaeology. Conservation in India is confined only to the Archaeological sites and monuments of great national and regional importance, which are protected by Archaeological Legislation within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Archaeology at the central and state level.

Protection by the Archaeological Acts does not extend to the historic centres, monuments of local importance, historical enclaves and many other buildings and sites deserving conservation. Therefore the benefit of the trained personnel, whatever insignificant their number, is confined to a very small sphere and the vast cultural wealth of the country is deprived of their attention.

It is therefore necessary that the fundamental principles and techniques of conservation are made part and parcel of the basic training in Architecture and Engineering. Graduate Architects and Engineers should be able to understand the value of conserving, revitalising and reusing the existing building stock and should be competent to undertake minor conservation work without the need of specialists. Mere teaching of the history of Architecture, which is more often taught without relating it to the present day requirements is not enough. The Courses of Urban Planning also must include the principles of Urban Conservation.

However, the need for specialised Conservation training for Architects and Engineers at Post Graduate level should not be undermined. All major Conservation works should be supervised by experts only. A regional centre of the International centre for Conservation (Rome), should be established in New Delhi.

NOMBRE: SASI PRAKAS SOREY - Arquitecto y Urbanista - India.

TEMA: PROFESION

TITULO: NECESIDAD DE AMPLIACION DE LAS BASES DE FORMACION EN MATERIA DE CONSERVACION DE BIENES CULTURALES.

SUMARIO:

En el campo de la Conservación de bienes culturales, la India dispone de muy pocos medios de formación profesional; los que existen se encuentran limitados al campo exclusivo de la arqueología. En efecto, el esfuerzo realizado en la India en materia de Conservación se refiere solamente a sitios y monumentos arqueológicos de primera importancia nacional o regional, que son protegidos por la legislación dentro de la jurisdicción del Departamento de Arqueología a nivel provincial o central.

La protección de la legislación arqueológica, no abarca los centros históricos, ni los monumentos de importancia local, ni zonas históricas y otros muchos edificios y sitios que merecerían ser conservados. En consecuencia, solo una pequeña esfera de acción se beneficia del personal calificado, muy reducido en número, mientras la enorme riqueza cultural del país permanece privada de la atención profesional.

Es pues muy necesario que los principios fundamentales y técnicas de conservación se integren a la formación básica del arquitecto y el ingeniero. Los arquitectos e ingenieros graduados deberían comprender el valor de la conservación, de la reanimación y la reutilización del patrimonio arquitectónico, y ser capaces de emprender, sin la ayuda de especialistas, trabajos menores de conservación. La sola enseñanza de la historia de la arquitectura, que en la mayoría de los casos se ofrece privada de vinculación con las necesidades del presente, no es suficiente. Los cursos de Planeación Urbana, deberían incluir los principios de conservación urbana.

Sin embargo, la necesidad de formación en conservación a nivel de posgrado, para arquitectos e ingenieros no debería subestimarse. Todo trabajo mayor de conservación debe ser supervisado solamente por expertos. Un centro regional dependiente del Centro Internacional de Roma, debería fundarse en Nueva Delhi.

Имя : Сази Пракас Сорей, Архитектор и Городской Планификатор

Предмет : ПРОФЕССИЯ

Название : НУЖДА ДЛЯ БОЛЕЕ ШИРОКОГО ПОДХОДА  
ВО ВРЕМЯ ОБУЧЕНИЯ СОХРАНЕНИЮ КУЛЬТУРНОГО  
ИМУЩЕСТВА

Краткое Описание :

Индия имеет очень мало возможностей на поприще Сохранения Культурного Имущества. Возможности эти опять-таки ограничиваются Археологией. Сохранения в Индии ограничивается только археологическими местностями и памятниками большой национальной и местной важности, которые охраняются Археологическим законодательством, в рамках юрисдикции Археологического Отдела на центральном и археологическом уровнях.

Охрана вследствие Археологического Акта не распространяется на исторические центры, памятники местной важности, исторические клинья и многие другие строения и места достойные сохранения. По этому, преимущество тренированного персонала, несмотря на его численную незначительность, ограничивается очень маленькой сферой и мало значения придается широкому культурному богатству страны.

Вот почему необходимо чтобы фундаментальные принципы и техника сохранения стали бы основной частью первоначального учения Архитектурной науке и Инженерного искусства. Выпускные Архитекторы и Инженеры должны быть способны понять стоимость производить консервативную работу, оживлять и вновь употреблять существующие стоки строений не прибегая к специалистам. Простое преподавание истории архитектуры которое чаще всего не имеет никакого применения к нуждам действительности наших дней совсем недостаточно. Курсы Городской Планировки должны также включать принципы Городского Сохранения.

Тем не менее, не следует умалять нужду специализированной тренировки в сохранении Архитектурной науке по сохранению. Все главные работы по сохранению должны быть поставлены под наблюдение одних экспертов. Местный центральный отдел Интернационального Центра по Консервации (в Риме) должен быть учрежден в Новом Дели.

NOME: SASI PRAKAS SOREY - Architetto ed Urbanista - India.

TEMA: PROFESSIONE

TITOLO: NECESSITÀ DI UN APPROCCIO ALLARGATO DI BASE  
NELLA FORMAZIONE PROFESSIONALE PER LA CONSERVAZIONE DEI BENI CULTURALI.

SOMMARIO:

Nel campo della conservazione dei beni culturali l'India ha ben pochi mezzi per la formazione professionale ed essi sono limitati all'Archeologia. La conservazione in India è confinata soltanto alle zone archeologiche ed ai monumenti di grande importanza nazionale e regionale, i quali sono protetti da legislazioni che vanno sotto la giurisdizione del Dipartimento di Archeologia a livello centrale e statale.

La protezione di queste leggi non si estende ai centri storici, ai monumenti di importanza locale, alle zone storiche circostanti, né a molti altri edifici e zone che meritano di essere conservati. Per questo il privilegio all'addestramento professionale è riservato ad una sfera ristretta di persone ed il vasto patrimonio culturale del paese è privato delle necessarie cure professionali.

Sarebbe quindi opportuno integrare la formazione di architetti ed ingegneri con l'insegnamento dei principi e delle tecniche fondamentali della conservazione. Gli architetti e gli ingegneri laureati dovrebbero essere in grado di capire il valore della conservazione, della rianimazione e della riutilizzazione del patrimonio immobiliare esistente e d'intraprendere, senza l'ausilio degli specialisti, lavori minori di conservazione.

Il semplice studio della storia dell'Architettura, che spesso viene insegnata senza essere messa in relazione alle necessità attuali, non è sufficiente. I programmi dei corsi di urbanistica dovrebbero includere l'insegnamento dei principi della conservazione urbanistica.

Comunque, non bisogna sottovalutare la necessità di un addestramento più specializzato nella formazione di architetti ed ingegneri. Tuttavia i più importanti lavori di conservazione dovrebbero essere controllati da esperti. Sarebbe opportuno creare a New Delhi un Centro Regionale dipendente dal Centro Internazionale per la Conservazione di Roma.