

Summary

In Sweden, unlike in several other member countries, the Venice Charter has not served officially as a direct object of reference from which chapter and verse have been quoted in controversial situations to support decisions to preserve and restore historic buildings. However, the Charter, which to a great extent contains ideas already incorporated in Swedish law when it was adopted, has been an important background to the provision in the 1982 Planning and Building Act for the needs and interests of architectural and conservation management. The Charter has also made its influence felt in the spate of norms and directions generated by International Conservation Year in 1975. An example is the general directions issued in 1981 for the conservation of historic buildings.

The Venice Charter forms the background for the official processing of architectural and cultural heritage questions. Its universal principles of conservation and restoration are applied by expert advisers at the planning and supervision stages and are mandatory for the implementation process.

The general applicability of the Venice Charter has been questioned in some quarters. Amendments and additions have also been proposed, but the proposals have yet to result in any additions to the original document or in a completely new document.

On the strength of developments in Swedish building conservation, it is recommended that ICOMOS

- take action to secure priority status for environmental questions in its work
- stress that building conservation and restoration should wherever possible employ traditional materials and methods, and disseminate knowledge of these
- discuss how the concepts of preservation planning and careful conversion can be added to the Venice Charter.

The Swedish National Committee of ICOMOS