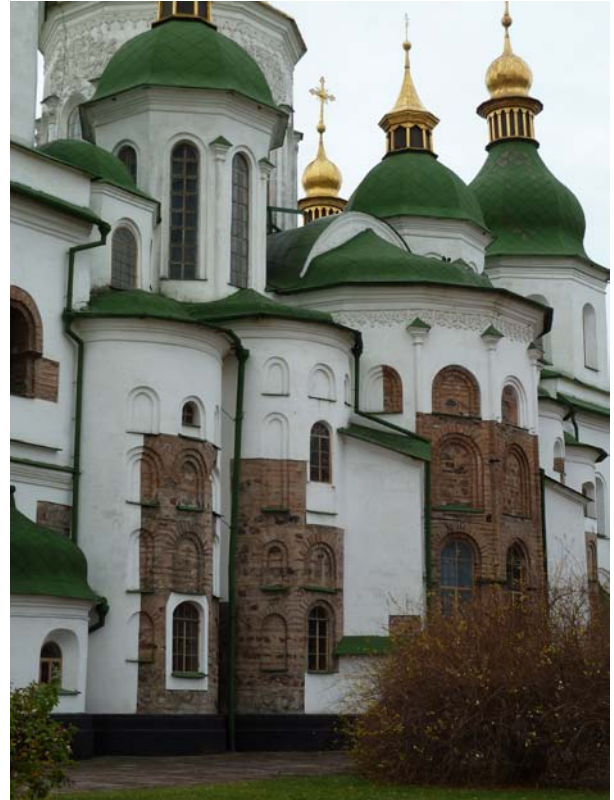


"How to write a global history of heritage preservation?"

Prof. Dr. Jukka JOKILEHTO (ICCROM, Rome)

The proposal is to examine how to write a “global history of heritage preservation”, taking Europe and Asia as principal references. One can here respond to a series of questions, such as: what is meant by ‘heritage’ and ‘historic preservation’ in this global perspective? What issues would need to be examined and critically compared in such a history? More specifically: how are these notions interpreted in the different cultural contexts?

The modern theory of restoration dates from the 20th century, and the international doctrine has evolved mainly since the Second World War. What have been the forms of interchange of influences and ‘cross-fertilization’ between east and west, over time? How have these been integrated into current conservation policies? There have certainly been periods when foreign dominant powers have imposed priorities on local traditions. Certainly, this is a political issue, but it should also be examined in reference to the philosophical and cultural approaches in different regions.



Saint Sophia in Kiev: Russian Orthodox church with Byzantine influence originally built in the 11th century. It was seriously damaged in the 17th century, rebuilt in baroque style. Recent reconstruction is based on archaeological evidence.



Traditional houses in the historic centre of Kyoto. These wooden structures have retained their traditional layout even though the external appearance has been subject to gradual change and modernisation, however built in traditional technology.

Safeguarding inherited resources is not limited to modern world. There are also traditional approaches to defining and safeguarding, repairing and maintaining heritage, which continue being practised locally in Europe and Asia. Such traditions are often recognized as part of our contemporary doctrine. Indeed, the notion of 'outstanding universal value' introduced by the World Heritage Convention is becoming a new reference framework for defining heritage and safeguarding policies. The conservation of cultural heritage is fundamentally a cultural issue, a counterpoint to the challenges of the increasingly mechanised and industrialized 'global world'.

About the author

Prof. Dr. Jukka Jokilehto, originally from Finland, graduated in architecture and town planning at Helsinki Polytechnic, doctorate (DPhil) at the University of York, UK. Worked at ICCROM from 1972, retiring from the position of Assistant Director General in 1998. President of ICOMOS International Training Committee (1993-2002). World Heritage Advisor to ICOMOS from 2000 to 2006. Currently working as consultant to UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and various governments on issues related to planning and management of historic areas. Has lectured widely, and is currently Extraordinary Professor at the University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia).

Publications include

- *A History of Architectural Conservation*, Butterworth, 1999;
- *Management Guidelines for World Heritage Sites*, ICCROM, 1993 (with Sir B. M. Feilden)
- ICOMOS Monuments and Sites XVI: *The World Heritage List, What is OUV?* ICOMOS, 2008
- 'Il quadro internazionale: Asia, Australia, Medio Oriente, Paesi Arabi e Africa Subsahariana', pp. 147-209 in: *Trattato di restauro architettonico* (ed. G. Carbonara), volume IX, 2007