



International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage

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AUSTRALIA

Dear ISC and NC Presidents,

INVITATION TO ENGAGE!

The ICOMOS ISC for Twentieth Century Heritage would like to invite specific input from your committee on the Madrid Document, which was launched last June and presented at the General Assembly of ICOMOS in December as part of the ISC20C's ambitious plan to promote the profile and conservation of the twentieth century.

The demand for principles or guidelines for the conservation of heritage sites of the twentieth century has been illuminated by recent nominations for World Heritage listing of major modern monuments and sites, when questions about authenticity and integrity come into very sharp focus.

Most ICOMOS members daily wrestle with the constant pressures to manage change and intervention to heritage places, but for the monuments and sites of the twentieth century, there is the added resistance of many decision makers and government authorities to even recognising that the heritage places of the modern era are significant and need active conservation management.

How do we identify and select what are the significant places for twentieth century- there are too many! Do the buildings and places of the modern era have different conservation issues to consider in terms of change- such as their specific materiality and functionality? What role do original designers have with proposed changes to their buildings? How much change is too much? Which layers of change are significant? Of course, many of these questions apply to all forms and eras of heritage.

In late 2010 the International Scientific Committee for Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC 20C) decided that in the ICOMOS spirit of open debate and intellectual enquiry, to draft a broadly based Twentieth Century Heritage Principles document that might eventually become ICOMOS doctrine.

The ISC20C's role and agenda is specifically multi-disciplinary-since we are engaged in the conservation and promotion of the architecture, landscapes, urbanism and even the moveable heritage of the twentieth century. However, we decided to start off our guidelines work with an emphasis on approaches to intervention and change to architectural heritage and to broaden the document scope later, once we had an agreed draft of basic principles set down.

That's where we are right now, and we would like your help to broaden its scope and see if we can easily extend its applicability to all types of Twentieth Century heritage!

The Madrid Document

We were indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to debate our ideas and test the emerging draft document through the support of a major international conference held in Madrid in June 2011 the "Intervention Approaches for the Twentieth-Century Architectural Heritage – CAH 20thC".

ISC20C Vice President Fernando Espinosa de los Monteros worked tirelessly to support the working group efforts and sustain a hugely successful conference in association with the Campus Internacional de Excelencia Moncloa – Cluster de Patrimonio, and with the collaboration of the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid (ETSAM).

Over 250 international delegates to the conference debated and amended the initial ISC20C draft text. Its principles were illuminated by two days of academic and theoretical papers and long into the hot Madrid nights the ISC20C working group pondered the complexity of wording an ICOMOS document that was presented in full in Spanish, French and English simultaneously. The Madrid Document was adopted by the conference delegates on June 16th, at the Palacio de Cibeles, before the City of Madrid and Ministry authorities, to unanimous acclaim.

Next steps.

At the ISC20C's 2011 annual meeting at the Paris General Assembly we decided to further consider the application of the document to the full breadth of Twentieth Century heritage places, and to incorporate case studies. We are distributing the text as widely as possible for public and ICOMOS comment. With the ongoing sponsorship of the Spanish conference organisers, the Madrid Document has been published together with a magnificent publication of the Madrid Conference papers- an outstanding contribution to the field of research and promotion of Twentieth Century heritage conservation practice.

The ISC20c was greatly encouraged by the support of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee meeting in Paris and subsequent unanimous passing of a resolution of the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly, which noted *with satisfaction the development of the draft text Approaches for the Conservation of Twentieth Century Architectural Heritage (The Madrid Document) by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage, and its distribution for comment and discussion, and considering the full breadth of 20th century heritage; and encourages the wide participation of National and International Scientific Committees in the on-going development of these draft concepts.* **Resolution 17GA 2011/37**

We would very much appreciate the comments and input of your committee to ensure we cover the full breadth of Twentieth Century heritage places- as well as the architecture.

We need to receive your comments by the end of April, please.

<http://icomos-isc20c.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/madriddocumentenglish.pdf>

Warm regards,



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