

FAQ's

1. Explain the term heritage briefly.

Heritage' as 'property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance', 'valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations', and 'relating to things of historic or cultural value that are worthy of preservation'. The emphasis on inheritance and conservation is important here, as is the focus on 'property', 'things' or 'buildings'.), heritage is something that can be passed from one generation to the next, something that can be conserved or inherited, and something that has historic or cultural value. Heritage might be understood to be a physical 'object': a piece of property, a building or a place that is able to be 'owned' and 'passed on' to someone else.

2. What are the degrees of intervention in architectural conservation?

The minimum degree of intervention necessary and the techniques used depend upon the conditions of climate to which cultural property is likely to be subjected. Interventions practically always involve some loss of 'value' in the property but are justified in order to preserve them for posterity.

Minimum and effective intervention is the best and there are seven ascending degrees of intervention.

- PREVENTION OF DETERIORATION
- PRESERVATION OF EXISTING STATE
- CONSOLIDATION OF THE FABRIC
- RESTORATION
- REHABILITATION
- REPRODUCTION
- RECONSTRUCTION

3. Explain the need and objective of architectural conservation.

The Need:

The majority of India's architectural heritage and sites are unprotected. They constitute a unique civilization legacy. This unprotected heritage embodies values of enduring relevance to contemporary Indian society. Conserving the 'living heritage' therefore offers the potential ways of conserving a building. Conserving the unprotected architectural heritage and sites ensures the survival of the country's sense of place and its very character in a globalizing environment. The 'living heritage' also has symbolic relationships with the natural environments within which it originally evolved.

The Objective:

The objective of conservation is to maintain the significance of the architectural heritage. The significance could be both tangible and intangible. Conservation of architectural heritage and sites must retain meaning for the society in which it exists. It is crucial to conserve tangible or intangible evidence even in fragments as it is representative of a bygone era. The overarching objective for undertaking unprotected architectural heritage and sites is to establish the efficacy of conservation as a development goal.

4. How can the heritage significance of a historic property be assessed?

- Understand the fabric and evolution of the place
- Identify who values the place, and why they do so
- Relate identified heritage values to the fabric of the place
- Consider the relative importance of those identified values
- Consider the contribution of associated objects and collections

- Consider the contribution made by setting and context
- Compare the place with other places sharing similar values
- Articulate the significance of the place.