



UNESCO  
Asia-Pacific Awards for  
*Cultural Heritage  
Conservation*

— 2012 —



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



2005 Award of Distinction : Sideng Market Square and Theatre, Yunnan Province, China

## About the Awards

Throughout Asia and the Pacific, cultural heritage sites are under threat. As heritage buildings and properties are largely in private ownership, the role of private individuals and institutions in protecting these vulnerable sites is paramount.

Recognizing this, UNESCO seeks to encourage private sector involvement and public-private collaboration in conserving the region's cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognize excellent achievement in successfully conserving or restoring heritage buildings and properties in the region by the private sector or by public-private initiatives.

In 2005, UNESCO launched the Jury Commendation for Innovation. The Jury Commendation recognizes newly-built structures which demonstrate outstanding architectural design that is well-integrated into historic contexts

Since 2000, UNESCO has received 426 entries from 24 countries. A total of 140 projects have received Awards for exemplary conservation efforts, while 5 projects have received the Jury Commendation for Innovation.

The Awarded projects span a wide range of conservation projects from private residences to palace complexes. Over the years, the projects illustrate the increasing momentum and level of conservation in Asia and the Pacific.

The Awards set technical and social benchmarks for cultural heritage conservation in the region. Award-winning projects serve as catalysts and a source of inspiration for private individuals and institutions in conserving cultural heritage throughout Asia and the Pacific.

## UNESCO's Mission

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is at the vanguard of international efforts to safeguard cultural heritage.

UNESCO is the only United Nations agency with a mandate in cultural heritage.

UNESCO recognizes that cultural heritage in its rich diversity has intrinsic value for sustainable development, social cohesion and peace. As a source of identity, innovation and creativity, it constitutes our collective cultural memory and the foundation upon which communities can construct their future.

In Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO promotes the stewardship of cultural heritage in all its manifestations, including built heritage. UNESCO works closely with governments and civil society in protecting the region's cultural heritage through activities at all levels.

## Deadline for Submission

Submission deadline for the 2012 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation is **31 March 2012**.

## Contact Us

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2007 Award of Distinction : Convocation Hall, Mumbai, India

### 2011 Award of Excellence

#### **Baojiatun Watermill, Guizhou Province, China**

"The restoration of the ancient watermill in the village of Baojiatun sets an outstanding precedent for safeguarding a living agricultural landscape in China."

#### **Sumda Chun Gonpa, Leh, Ladakh, India**

"The heroic rescue of the Sumda Chun Gonpa has brought back to life one of the oldest monasteries in a remote area of Ladakh."

### 2011 Award of Distinction

#### **Altit Fort, Hunza, Pakistan**

"The project represents yet another step forward in the model of community-based conservation practice that has been evolving in the body of work of the Aga Khan Cultural Service of Pakistan."

### 2011 Award of Merit

#### **Serkhang Monastery, Qinghai Province, China**

"The restoration is commendable for its comprehensive approach to conservation, encompassing the entire site and the valuable collection of wall paintings."

#### **Scriptures Hall of Wat Thepthidaram Worawihan, Bangkok, Thailand**

"From a state of serious disrepair, the monastery has been restored with an outpouring of support from the Thai conservation community and the public."

### 2011 Honourable Mention

#### **SCAD Hong Kong (Former North Kowloon Magistracy Building), Hong Kong SAR, China**

"The adaptive re-use of the former magistracy as an international university of the arts has breathed new life into a decommissioned 1960s government building."

#### **Na Phra Lan Historic Shophouses, Bangkok, Thailand**

"The refurbishment of the historic shophouses has uplifted a historically significant urban complex in the heart of the historic core of Bangkok."

#### **Salarian Pavilion of Wat Kutao, Songkhla, Thailand**

"The project highlights the accomplishments of a participatory conservation approach involving the local community, educational institutes and technical specialists."

### 2011 Jury Commendation

#### **Sydney Harbour YHA and the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre, New South Wales, Australia**

"The project successfully puts urban archaeology in the spotlight, showcasing the site through creative use as a youth hostel and a public education centre."

#### **Ma'anqiao Village, Sichuan Province, China**

"One of the villages devastated by the 2008 earthquake, it is a noteworthy example of post-disaster reconstruction that fits comfortably in its immediate cultural and environmental context."

For information on past winners, please visit the Awards website:  
[www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards](http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards)

Quotes are excerpts from the official Jury citations.



2011 Award of Excellence : Baojiatun Watermill, Guizhou Province, China

## REGULATIONS

### Article 1 – Objective

1.1 The 2012 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation ("the Awards") recognize the achievement of the private sector and public-private initiatives in successfully conserving or restoring structures, places and properties of heritage value in the region.

2.3 Each Award winner will receive one bronze plaque.

2.4 Certificates of recognition will be presented to all parties included on the entry form.

2.5 The format and number of the Awards may be varied from time to time at the discretion of UNESCO and the Jury.

2.6 The Awards will be made out in the name stated on the project entry form.

3.3 The project must be the result of private sector initiative or public-private partnership. The involvement of private individuals or organizations in terms of ownership, tenancy, financing or other contributions to the project should be clear. Projects which are financed, owned and undertaken wholly by government entities are not eligible.

### Article 2 – Award and Frequency

2.1 The Awards, which are established for an indeterminate period, shall be awarded on an annual basis.

2.2 The Awards shall consist of a number of winners to be determined by the Jury in the following categories:

**a. Award of Excellence,** which demonstrates exceptional achievement in all criteria and has major catalytic impact at the national or regional level;

**b. Award of Distinction,** which demonstrates outstanding achievement in all criteria and has significant impact at the national or regional level;

**c. Award of Merit,** which demonstrates superior achievement in all criteria;

**d. Honourable Mention,** which demonstrates noteworthy achievement in selected criteria.

### Article 3 – Eligibility for the Awards

3.1 To be considered for the Awards, the conserved or restored heritage structure, place or property must be over 50 years old. For settlements and landscapes, the essential historic elements must be more than 50 years old.

3.2 The following are eligible for consideration: residential, commercial and institutional buildings; religious properties; urban and rural settlements/historic towns and villages; archaeological heritage; cultural landscapes, parks and gardens; military properties; modern heritage; agricultural, industrial and technological properties; burial monuments and sites; cultural routes; vernacular architecture; and symbolic properties and memorials.

3.4 The work must have been completed within the preceding 10 years at the time of submission. For buildings with a new use, the project must also have been occupied or put to viable use for at least one year at the time of submission.

3.5 Entries which have been previously submitted will not be eligible for resubmission unless invited to do so by the Jury, or unless substantial additional restoration has been carried out since the previous submission.



2011 Award of Distinction : Altit Fort, Hunza, Pakistan

## Article 4 – Criteria for the Awards

4.1 The Awards recipients will have conclusively demonstrated excellence in:

### Understanding the Place

- a. how well the conservation/restoration work articulates the property's heritage values in order to convey the spirit of place;
- b. how well the conservation/restoration work interprets the property's cultural, social, historical and architectural significance;
- c. appropriate use or adaptation of the property;

### Technical Achievement

- d. the understanding of the technical issues of conservation/restoration in interpreting the property's significance;
- e. the use and quality control of appropriate building, artisan and conservation techniques;
- f. the use of appropriate materials;
- g. how well any added elements or creative technical solutions respect the character and inherent spatial quality of the property;

### Social and Policy Impact

- h. the overall complexity, sensitivity and technical consistency of the project;
- i. the on-going socio-economic viability and relevance of the project, and provision for its future use and maintenance;
- j. the manner in which the process and the final product contribute to the surrounding environment and the local community's cultural and historical continuum; and

k. the influence of the project on conservation practice and policy locally, nationally, regionally or internationally.

## Article 5 – Selection Process and Jury

5.1 The Awards recipients shall be selected on the proposal of an internal Jury.

5.2 The Jury shall be composed of

- a. 1 representative from UNESCO, and
- b. 8-10 international conservation experts renowned for their knowledge of conservation in the Asia-Pacific region.

5.3 UNESCO shall appoint the Jury for the full period of the Awards process.

## Article 6 – Conditions of Entry

6.1 Entries may be submitted by the registered owner, registered lessee, or conservation consultant, architect or designer, any of whom would have had to be involved in the process, preferably throughout the entire project duration.

6.2 Each entry must be submitted to UNESCO before **31 March 2012**.

6.3 Submission of an entry will be taken to imply granting UNESCO the rights to use, publish, display or communicate all materials and particulars of the successful schemes, without charge to UNESCO.

6.4 The wording of plaques and certificates will be based strictly on the details given on the entry form.

6.5 All submitting persons or firms will be responsible for delivery of their respective entries. Entry materials will not be returned.

6.6 One or more entries may be submitted by the same individual or institution.

6.7 The use of the UNESCO logo for any purposes related to the Awards requires prior written authorization from UNESCO.

## Article 7 – Materials Required for Submission

Each entry must be submitted with the following documentation in full (see Awards website for details and forms):

- 7.1 Official entry form
- 7.2 Heritage Awards project description (using the provided official format)
- 7.3 Occupant's comments
- 7.4 Owner consent
- 7.5 Drawings, A4 format
- 7.6 Photographs
- 7.7 Additional materials (articles, videos, etc) may be provided, as per guidelines on the Awards website.
- 7.7 CD ROM (including entry dossier in PDF format, drawings and photographs)





2011 Jury Commendation : Sydney Harbour YHA and the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre, New South Wales, Australia

## REGULATIONS

### Jury Commendation Article 1 – Objective

1.1 In addition to the announced Awards, the Jury will, through its special Jury Commendation, recognize newly-built structures which demonstrate outstanding architectural design that is well-integrated into historic contexts.

### Jury Commendation Article 2 – Award and Frequency

2.1 The Jury Commendation will be given at the discretion of the Jury.

2.2 The Jury Commendation will consist of a bronze plaque for a selected number of entries.

### Jury Commendation Article 3 – Eligibility for the Awards

3.1 Projects should have been undertaken within the framework of a larger conservation project or should be located within or adjacent to a historic area whose essential elements are more than 50 years old.

3.2 Building annexes, new extensions, new buildings, new public spaces and new structures such as bridges are all eligible for consideration.

3.3 To be considered for the Jury Commendation, the work must have been completed within the preceding 10 years at the time of submission. The project must also have been occupied or put to viable use for at least one year.

3.4 The submission must demonstrate that no structures of heritage significance were altered or cleared from the site for the purpose of the project submitted for the Jury Commendation.

3.5 Projects which are new structures built as historic replicas, built against historic facades and historic theme parks will not be considered within the scope of the Jury Commendation.

3.6 Projects which are submitted for consideration to the conservation category of the UNESCO Heritage Awards in the same year are not eligible for submission for the Jury Commendation. Projects which are jointly submitted will be disqualified.

### Jury Commendation Article 4 – Criteria for the Jury Commendation

4.1 The recipients of the Jury Commendation will have conclusively demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

- a. outstanding design concept that demonstrates critical thinking in articulating an innovative response to the specific historic context;
- b. how well the new structure helps to reveal the qualities of the place, including historical, architectural, cultural and social significance;
- c. the compatibility and appropriateness of the new structure's programme/function in its context;
- d. how well the new structure integrates with the existing built and natural context. Factors include, but are not limited to, the following: typology, siting, massing, form, scale, character, colour, texture;



2011 Jury Commendation : Ma'anqiao Village, Sichuan Province, China

- e. the justification of selection and quality control of materials and building techniques (either contemporary, vernacular or a combination of both);
- f. the manner in which the process and the final product extend the local community's cultural and social continuum;
- g. the influence of the project on architectural practice and design policy locally, nationally, regionally or internationally.

### Jury Commendation Article 5 – Selection Process and Jury

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- 5.2 The Jury shall be composed of
  - a. 1 representative from UNESCO, and
  - b. 8-10 international conservation experts renowned for their knowledge of conservation in the Asia-Pacific region.
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2011 Award of Excellence : Sumda Chun Gonpa, Leh, Ladakh, India

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