



# CONSERVATION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH *CRAFT LABORATORIES*

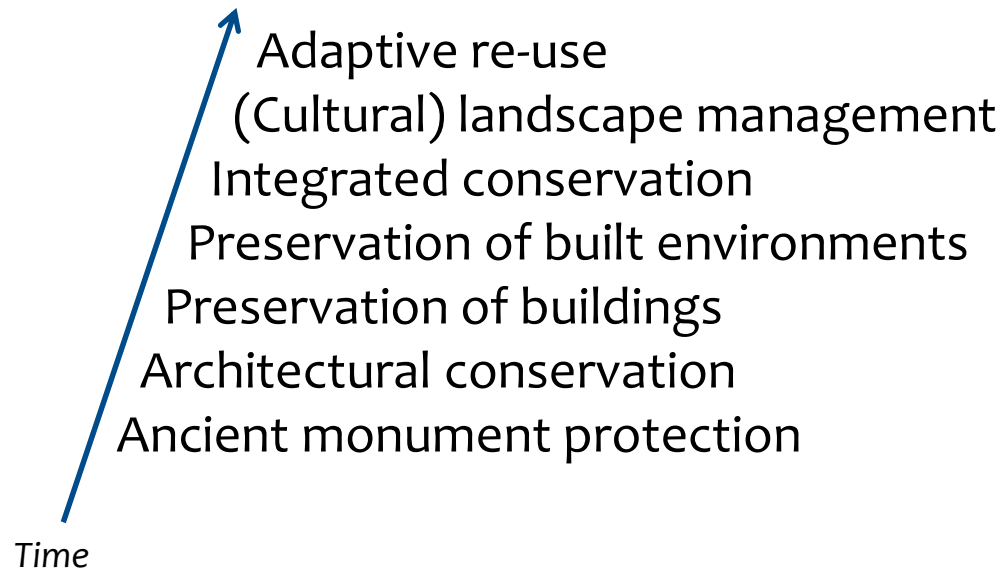
– AN EXAMPLE FROM DEPT OF CONSERVATION, SWEDEN

Bosse Lagerqvist

[bosse.lagerqvist@conservation.gu.se](mailto:bosse.lagerqvist@conservation.gu.se)



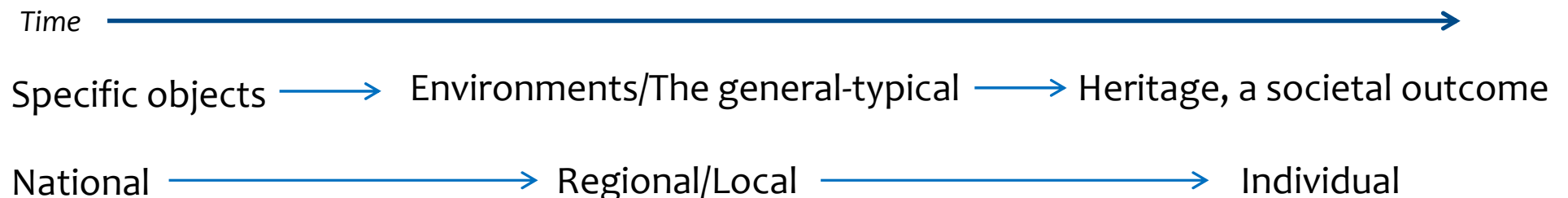
# Background: Evolving heritage practice



From *monument*  
To *heritage*

Heritageisation  
Heritage design/production  
***Heritage reconstruction***

## Conservation





# Heritage & Conservation

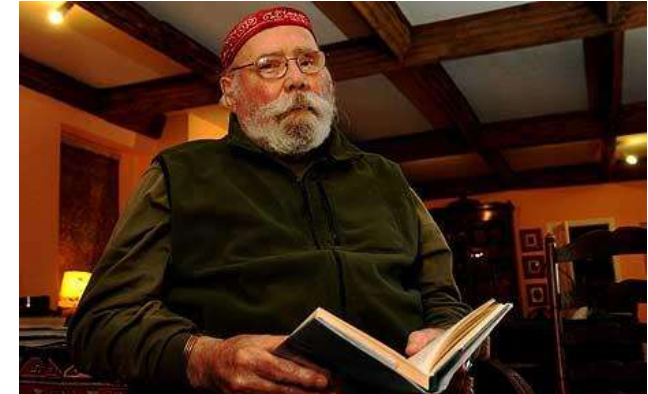
**Sir Bernard Feilden:**

**Conservation may be defined as the dynamic management of change in order to reduce the rate of decay.**

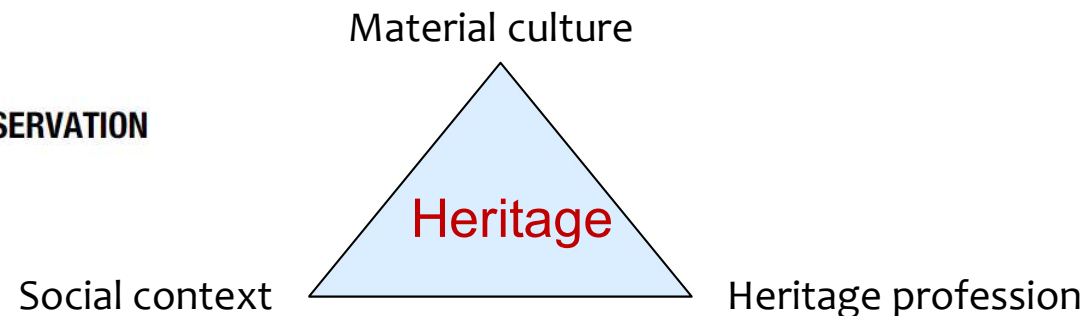
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**Conservation requires comprehensive socio-economic, legal and cultural planning, integrated at all levels.**

(Air Pollution and Conservation, Safeguarding Our Architectural Heritage, 1986)



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**



**Conservation and societal development**

Not only study **theoretically** – also the ability **to perform** operative interventions (*learning by doing*) and at the same time **reflect** on these operations (*learning from doing*)

**To improve the professional practice**

# Challenges in practice: Organisational bureaucracy

More complex heritage dynamics

## Socio-cultural processes

that adapt, create, cultivate, experiment, change, problematize, define the following:

### Stewardship, preservation, resource economy, recycling of principal significance for:

#### Natural landscapes

a global level encompassing:

The tangible and intangible not separated

The society and heritage as a resource:

#### Cultural landscapes

Development:

Development must support participants to engage in the central challenges of our time in ways that are place-specific and meaningful (e.g. 17 UN SDG)

#### Cities and built environments

which consist of:

#### Buildings and other spatial structures

constituting the frames for:

- Inclusive human rights-based

- holistically integrated understanding of subjects/areas

#### Artefacts

e.g. furniture, arts objects, utility goods, etc.

Increased resilience  
potential associated  
with each element of the  
model

Less complex heritage dynamics

## Master's Level Conservation

Conservation  
of cultural  
objects

Master's in conserva-  
tion/heritage studies;  
Individual in-depth study  
plans

Craft science

Sustainable  
Management  
of Cultural  
Landscapes  
ERASMUS Plus

Architectural  
conservation/  
restoration

BSc Conservation of  
Cultural Objects

BSc Integrated Conserv-  
ation of Built Environ-  
ments

BSc Building crafts

BSc Garden &  
Landscape Crafts

BSc Leadership in  
Handicraft

Co-operation 11 partners from:  
Sweden, Germany, UK, France,  
Hungary, Poland, Slovakia,  
Spain, Italy





# Returning to reconstruction



*The reconstruction of Södra Råda medieval timber church*



Oxford English Dictionary,  
online version 17 Oct 2018

# Theory

**1. a.** The conceptual basis of a subject or area of study. Contrasted with *practice*.

/.../

**3.** A conception of something to be done, or of the method of doing it; a systematic statement of rules or principles to be followed.

/.../

**4.** Mental view, insight; contemplation

/.../

**6. a.** An explanation of a phenomenon arrived at through examination and contemplation of the relevant facts; a statement of one or more laws or principles which are generally held as describing an essential property of something.

**b.** More generally: a hypothesis or set of ideas about something.

The theory of 'doing'

# Practice

1. The carrying out or exercise of a profession,

2. **a.** The actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to the theory or principles of it; performance, execution, achievement; working, operation; (*Philosophy*) activity or action considered as being the realization of or in contrast to theory (cf. [PRAXIS n. 1a](#))

/.../

c. The action of doing something; method of action or working

/.../

4. Repeated exercise in or performance of an activity so as to acquire, improve, or maintain proficiency in it; activity undertaken to this end; (also) †the familiarity with or proficiency in a subject or activity so acquired

*The practice of 'doing'*



# UGOT Conservation - Craft Science

“Craft science is **theoretical** in the sense that the purpose is **explanations and understanding** of craft procedures and craft processes and **practical** because both the exploratory methodology and the survey results include **being able to execute** the procedures and control the processes (aside from knowing how they are executed or controlled).”

Peter Sjömar (2013) ” Hantverksetenskap. Rapport från försök med hantverksinriktad forskarutbildning”  
(Craft science. Report from establishing PhD-programme in craft)

Having the ability of 'doing'



# UGOT Conservation - Practice-Led Research

“Research in which the professional and/or creative practices of art, design or architecture play an instrumental part in an inquiry.”

The professional disciplines of art, design and architecture have many differences but all share a tradition of situating learning and scholarship in a professional practice setting. "Practice-led research" can be thought of as a natural extension of this principle since many academics in these fields see **practice as the natural arena for inquiry and the methods of practice as methods of inquiry.**

Christ Rust (2007) Practice-led research in Art, Design and Architecture  
Professor of Design and Head of the Art & Design Department at Sheffield Hallam University, England.

The **Craft Laboratory** was set up in 2008 and formally inaugurated in 2010, in order to:

- act as a **support and a knowledge bank** for the **upkeep** of heritage objects (buildings, gardens, parks and landscapes)
- by **recording and developing** craft skills and procedures
- thus **improving** the **quality output** of governmentally funded restorations, as well as improving the ability among concerned to **procure** and **evaluate craft interventions**

*Based on the subject area conservation and the field of craft science.*

*Craft science was established with a PhD-program in 2007 at the Department of Conservation.*

*In 2005 the bachelor's programs in craft were established*





UNESCO

# Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

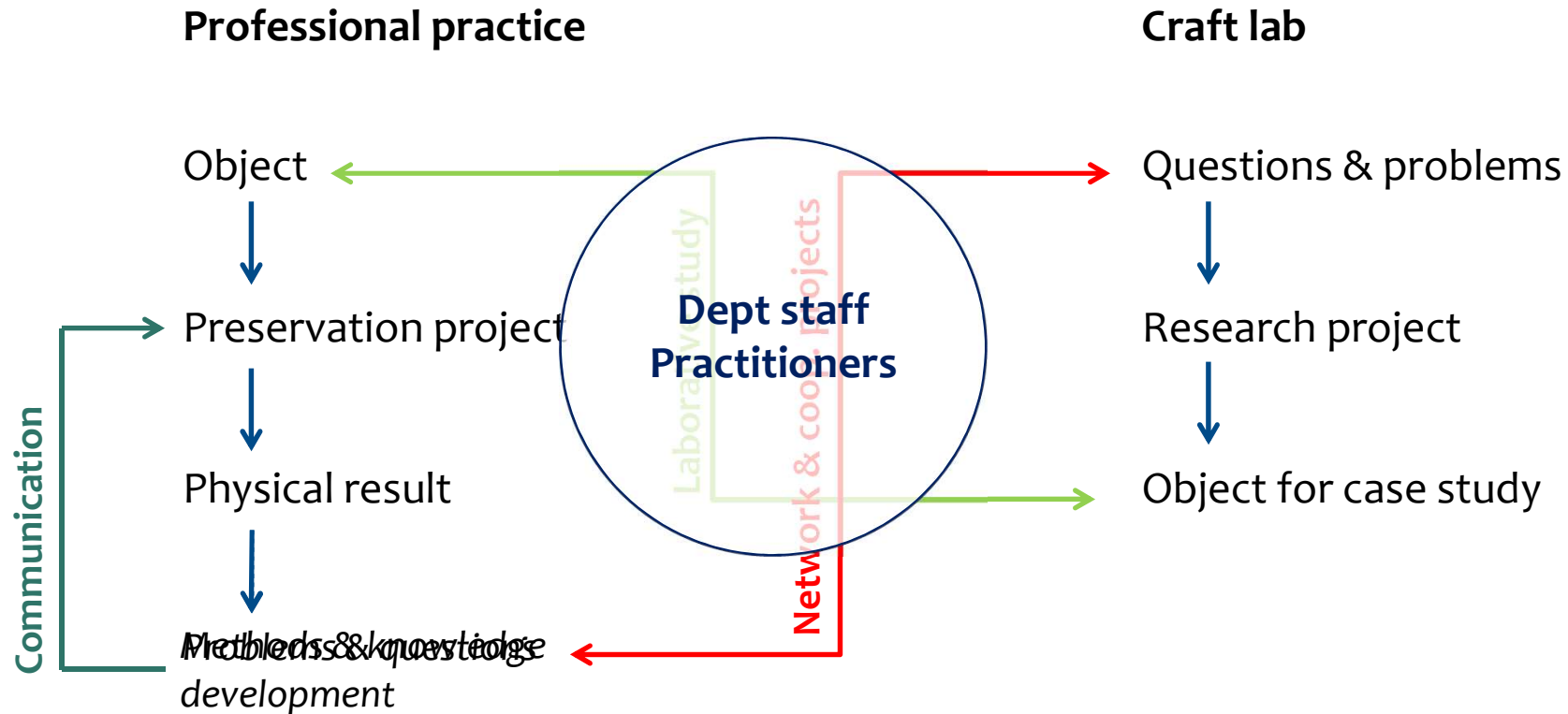
Paris, 17 October 2003



**Considering** the invaluable role of the intangible cultural heritage as a factor in bringing human beings closer together and ensuring exchange and understanding among them

The '**Intangible Cultural Heritage**' is manifested *inter alia* in the following domains:

- (a) oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;
- (b) performing arts;
- (c) social practices, rituals and festive events;
- (d) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- (e) traditional craftsmanship.



**...practice as the natural arena for inquiry and the methods of practice as methods of inquiry.**

Christ Rust (2007) Practice-led research in Art, Design and Architecture





# The Craft Lab - Organisation

The Craft Laboratory is part of the Department of Conservation in the Faculty of Science at the University of Gothenburg.

The activities are managed by an **OPERATIONAL LEADER** acting under the Head of Department, and positioned in Mariestad

The activities are in principal organised in three main areas:

***Building crafts***

***Crafts for historic garden and parks***

***Crafts for landscape management***

For each area a **CRAFT COORDINATOR** is assigned

Financing bodies and otherwise important partners are represented in a **COUNCIL**, in order to secure the strategic development of the Craft Lab:

***University of Gothenburg***

***The National Heritage Board***

***The Swedish Church***

***The National Property Board***

***The National Swedish Handicraft Council***

***The Swedish Local Heritage Federation***

***Region Västra Götaland***

***Mariestad Community***

***The network of County Preservation Officers***



# The Craft Lab - Dissemination

Publications <http://craftlab.gu.se/kunskapsbank/publikationer>

Films <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCISZUm8lwG1e0l1kmgMaMw>

Seminars and conferences

Bi-annual convention for building preservation  
(public bodies, professional businesses, civil society,  
education- and training organisations, researchers)

<https://byggnadsvardenskonvent.se/>

Networks/  
Trade asso-  
ciations

Building Preservation Enterprises (SME), <http://byggnadsvardsforetagen.se/>  
Swedish Cultural Landscapes, <http://www.svenskakulturlandskap.se/>  
Historic garden masters  
Nordic Tar Network  
Nordic Timber Framing, <http://stolpverk.org/>  
Traditional Lime Production  
Dry Wall Network



Practical/applied research  
Real objects  
Social engagement  
Local economies/tourism

