About Us

The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP) under the auspices of UNESCO, is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Asia-Pacific region. Since 2013 WHITRAP (Shanghai) and Tongji University's Advanced Research Institute for Architecture and Urban-Rural Planning, in cooperation with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, are facilitating the implementation of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape by promoting and undertaking research and training, as well as developing pilot projects in the region.

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Pilot City: Tongli, Jiangsu Province, China
Pilot City: Rawalpindi, Pakistan
Pilot City: Shanghai, China

www.historicurbanlandscape.com

THE HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE (HUL)
What?

HUL is an integrated approach towards managing heritage resources found within dynamic and evolving environments. HUL acknowledges the layering of interconnections within a city, which occur between the built and natural environments, the tangible and intangible values, as well as within the cultural and social practices of a community. This approach considers these factors as key pillars towards sustainable urban heritage management and the development of the city.

Why?

The identity and local character of historic cities are increasingly under threat by the globalizing process of urban development. Traditional heritage conservation practices in the cities have yielded important successes in saving historic areas from urban decay. However, a critical look at these projects reveals that historic inner cities have often been preserved in isolation without integrating them into the broader context of their urban surroundings. Consequently, these areas have been abandoned by their traditional population and have lost their initial identity and cultural value. The application of the HUL approach, within the contemporary urban development process, seeks to safeguard local culture and heritage.

How?

The HUL approach creates a clear and alternative understanding of the relationship between urban development and heritage management processes, by prioritizing and structuring the evolving needs of a specific area and its society. Local culture and heritage, as well as the values and meaning they carry, are at the heart of the decision making process according to the HUL approach. These aspects are acknowledged through specific steps and tools such as identification of the city’s natural, cultural and community resources; performing community and stakeholder consultations; and conducting environmental and social impact assessments, among others.

HUL Projects in Other Regions

- Edmonton - Canada
- Guayaquil - Ecuador
- Zanzibar - Tanzania
- Maputo - Mozambique
- Priverno - Italy

HUL Pilot Cities, Case Studies & Projects

Pilot Cities
1. Rawalpindi - Pakistan
2. Varanasi, Hyderabad, Ajmer-Pushkar - India
3. Tongli - China
4. Shanghai, China
5. Ballarat - Australia
6. Levuka - Fiji

Case Studies
1. Dujiangyan - China
2. Suzhou - China
3. Jakarta - Indonesia

Case Study: Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China

Case Study: Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province, China

Pilot City: Ballarat, Australia

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