

## FLORENCE CHARTER TWENTY YEARS LATER

Florence Charter (FCH) of 1982 drafted by the ICOMOS Committee is still an important document, written with knowledge of wide spectrum of gardens and parks with great favour of problems of their maintenance, conservation, restoration, use and legal protection, their evaluation, appreciation and popularization. From its contents it is still clear, that it was prepared with love of exceptional open-air spaces, where artistic and natural elements were luckily joined together which came into being and were changed according to the way of life during historical periods. Historic gardens of Florence Charter were and still are oases even in the present confused world, refuge of people and even animals where they feel to be in safety and are influenced by positive energy.

I submit my recommendation to let Florence Charter as it is. It is important that in minds of specialists FCh has evoked discussions and passionate debates. It was presented in seminars and symposiums in many states of the world. It became part of professional publications. It has been very correct to reassume the Venice Charter of 1964 which failed to include gardens and parks within historical monuments even when there are whole collections of creative art examples.

In course of twenty years the world has changed severely and no doubt that even the care of cultural heritage reacts to these changes. We have been taught by many experiences that the changes' impacts could be threatening. Continents, states and nations went through significant changes as far as the approach towards nature and heritage. The economy is fighting to keep the most important position in values' hierarchy. Fortunately, culture and religion are still playing the important role in all continents societies' life.

In course of twenty years we recognised that in our deepest interest we have to step over the borders of gardens and pay more attention also to places threatened by trends of contemporary civilization: to cultural landscapes important for each single country which could be damaged for ever by speculative interference.

The effort to present important places has led to the preparation of Burra Charter in 1988, Charter for the Conservation of places of cultural significance initiated by Australia. When thinking of other continents how complicated must be the similar problem of multinational and religiously variable Asia or Africa gradually discovering secrets of their past.

For Europe the fundamental document dealing with the cultural heritage was prepared by Council of Europe and was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 1995 ("Integrated Conservation of Cultural Landscape Areas as Part of Landscape Policies".)

Each Continent will have specific demands for the conservation of its cultural landscape heritage. Icomos has world-wide domain and with deep knowledge of previous documents is able to work out Charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance generally. Separate Continents can prepare specific detailed conventions. The precondition of this extremely difficult program will be the training of specialists, team collaboration under methodological leading of Icomos-Ifla' international committee.

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