

On behalf of ICOMOS-UK, I would like to thank the four German-speaking ICOMOS national committees – Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Luxembourg – for this new volume in the MONUMENTA series and its presentation at the internationally renowned Salzburg Fair Monumento. It is an honour and privilege to receive this exceptional publication translated into English and French. I would recommend it to all English-speaking colleagues in the UK and elsewhere as an interesting read and a valuable resource.

In my view MONUMENTA IV is an exemplar exercise in promoting a number of values, in particular, the promotion of access to many of the international committees' work through translation into other languages, a holistic approach to preservation and protection of monuments, and the promotion of shared culture and heritage between nations. I would like to further expand on each of these values.

As a standard setter, ICOMOS and its national committees produce some excellent debates, concepts, policies, practices and perspectives relating to the conservation of monuments, yet much of this body of work remains inaccessible because of the lack translation into other languages, usually due to prohibitive costs and other social and political reasons. The translation of this document into English, for example, will allow ICOMOS members, the wider professional community and the public in the UK to benefit from the work that the German speaking countries have produced since 1975. The publication will also act as a valuable source of reference for our future generations.

Some of the diverse and challenging perspectives presented in the essays and articles demonstrate the interconnectedness between the tangible and intangible, joining up UNESCO's 1972 and 2003 Conventions well before the latter came into effect; thus, indicating the progressive thinking among the German speaking ICOMOS National Committees. Monuments have to be linked to the people, spaces and cultures within which they are stood to provide an inclusive context. The intangible cultural traditions and living heritages practiced by citizens give meaning to monuments and bring them to life which help promote local, regional, national and international identities. Additionally, our cities in Europe have evolved considerably over the centuries and decades in terms of their population, culture and heritage. As we are witnessing currently across the globe, including Europe, we are no longer monocultural in make-up; instead, we are increasingly becoming pluralistic societies for social, economic, political and environmental reasons. Plural societies create layers of rich and diverse heritages and identities. These need to be factored into conservation and protection policies and practices. MONUMENTA draws attention to this fact and thereby helps us celebrate the integration of the tangible and intangible and the benefits that we derive from the merging of the two.

-

Culture and heritage also cut across national boundaries as a result of globalisation practiced over many centuries and which has contributed to people travelling with their cultures across the world. Additionally, as members of ICOMOS-UK, we belong to a global organization, comprising 110 nations. This unique membership facilitates contact and interaction between individual members and nations. It also provides us unparalleled opportunities for mutual learning about, respect for and the promotion of each-others' histories, monuments and cultural traditions. The translated MONUMENTA is yet another tool to improve on the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise between the nations that are part of the ICOMOS family.

I would like to congratulate the national committees of ICOMOS Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Luxembourg in producing this document as a follow-up to the European Cultural Heritage Year 2018, and the organisers of the 'MONUMENTO' Salzburg Fair for hosting the book launching ceremony.

I wish the editors a successful dissemination of the English and French translations of MONUMENTA IV. ICOMOS-UK will ensure it is available to its members and the wider public in the UK and abroad through its website.

Clara Arokiasamy
President
ICOMOS-UK
5th March 2020