



international confederation of architectural museums

icam Charter

It was agreed to establish the Confederation on August 22, 1979, at the First Conference in Helsinki. On October 26 1980, it was affiliated to the International Council of Museums (ICOM) as an International Specialized Body and as a Member Organization. As defined by icam, a museum is any permanent institution which preserves and displays - for the purposes of study, education and enjoyment - collections of objects of cultural or scientific interest. icam has adopted in its title "Confederation" to describe the looser knit character of architectural museums, centres, archives, collections, libraries and other institutions fulfilling the conditions of the icam Statutes. icam is the international non-governmental organization that fosters links between all those interested in the promotion of architecture. Its Charter was also promulgated on August 22, 1979.

icam will, by individual and corporate effort, attempt:

1. to raise the quality of the built environment;
2. to stimulate and receive public response in the appreciation and understanding of architecture and its allied fields in the creation of the human environment;
3. to foster critical attitude towards architecture and its allied fields;
4. to act to protect the quality of the built environment when it is threatened;
5. to monitor and record the whereabouts of architectural records and aid in their preservation, and to share this information;
6. to expand understanding of cultural continuity and its environmental context through the knowledge of history as a source of information and inspiration in the field of architectural practice;
7. to exchange information by means of publications, exhibitions, films and other media, on matters concerning the whole history and practice of architecture and allied fields;
8. to support and encourage the exchange of scholars, architects and members of allied professions with the intent of fostering a mutual understanding of common issues;
9. and to seek the cooperation of all interested groups in the efforts to achieve these objectives.

Statutes

1. Membership of the Confederation is open to all museums of architecture and similar institutions concerned with the promotion of architecture and architectural history, which are associated with a museum function and available to the public. In all cases of dispute the ICOM Statutes of June 14, 1974 will be referred to. The Executive Committee of the Confederation will receive and approve applications for membership, and the Secretary-General will maintain a register of members. Personal membership is open to individuals of good standing who support the aims of icam's charter.

2. The purposes of the Confederation are: to further the aims of icam; to maintain contact between its members; to pursue the terms of its Charter and to maintain contact with other relevant international bodies.

3. The Confederation will levy an annual subscription determined by vote at the General Assembly for the running expenses of maintaining a Secretariat and to aid the Executive Committee. The accounts will be approved by the General Assembly at the end of every term of office.

4. The Confederation will attempt to achieve its ends by holding a conference at least every three years, and through any other activities that may be considered to promote its causes. The Confederation will bear no financial responsibility for conference expenses and the Executive Committee will have no authority to accept such responsibility.

5. The General Assembly of the Confederation, which will hold its business meeting during an appointed session of each conference, is the sovereign body of the confederation, with authority to elect its officers, amend its statutes, and decide its policies. Each museum or similar institution will have one vote only. Any alteration to the Statutes will require a majority of two thirds of the members present. Prior

notice of such alterations shall be sent to all institutional members at least six weeks before the General Assembly.

6. The Confederation's daily business will be directed by an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary- General, the Treasurer, the immediate past President and five other members. Decisions taken by the Executive Committee will be passed by a simple majority, the President having the casting vote. The Secretariat of the Confederation will be located in the country of the Secretary- General.

7. The President, Secretary-General and other members of the Executive Committee will be elected by secret ballot at the end of every second General Assembly and will hold office until the end of the General Assembly at the second following conference. Any vacancies occurring between conferences, including that of President, may be filled at the Executive Committee's discretion.

8. The General Assembly may confer the title of Honorary Member on anyone whose services have notably advanced the aims of the Confederation or who has rendered distinguished service in the field of architectural museums.

9. The business of the Executive Committee will normally be done by post, but one meeting should take place at each conference, and one meeting, if possible, during the triennial congress of ICOM.

10. The confederation may act upon urgent issues at either national or international level. Normally this will require a member to present a case to the President or the Secretary-General and the Executive Committee. Under circumstances of extreme urgency, the President or the Secretary-General is empowered to issue a press statement in the name of the Confederation at her or his own discretion.

11. A member of icam may be struck off the register by the General Assembly for any violation of the rules and principles of the Confederation. Membership will be considered to have lapsed after two years non-payment of the annual subscription, but can be re-initiated upon payment of the debt.

12. A Nominations Committee of three members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at least two years before the next General Assembly. The Nominations Committee shall prepare a list of candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and other members of the Executive Committee and shall obtain the consent of each nominee before presenting her/his name. The list of nominees shall be sent to all institutional members at least six weeks before the General Assembly. Nominations shall be voted on by secret ballot at the General Assembly.

Regulations for the Conference

1. At the end of each conference (Statute 5) the General Assembly will agree on the venue for the next conference with one or two reserves. The conference may, if necessary, take place in two or more centres. It will not meet twice in succession in the same country.

2. Members from the country selected for the next conference, or the constituents of the member body in that country, will set up an Organizing Committee and a programme, which will be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

3. Should circumstances force the country chosen for the next conference to revoke its undertaking, the Executive Committee is empowered to invite the first reserve and should this be no longer in a position to accept, then the second will be invited.

4. The main expenses of the conference will be borne by the host country but the participants will be expected to pay a justifiable conference fee.

5. Participation in the conference is restricted to members of icam, but the Organizing Committee will be empowered to allow attendance at conferences to those persons judged responsible in architecture and allied fields, although they will not be allowed to vote at the General Assembly.

6. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee will administer the session and will ensure that the formal conference programme includes a General Assembly. Matters to be brought before the General Assembly should be presented to the Secretary General not less than six weeks before the commencement of the conference. The Organizing Committee will be responsible for preparing the conference report, which will be sent to all members of the Confederation if possible within six months of the close of the conference.

7. At the end of the conference the elections will be held (Statute 7) and the place of the next conference agreed.

Principles for the Acquisition of Architectural Archives

Preamble:

The principles for the acquisition of architectural archives* are required for several reasons, including: - the growth in the market for architectural archives - the dispersal of archives - the variable nature and effectiveness of export controls - the variable scope of ICAM members' collections, from national to international - the widely divergent resource levels of icam members - competition between icam members over acquisition of archives

Principles

1. In the interests of research, preservation and the better understanding of architecture, all icam members agree that it is of the utmost importance to respect the integrity of archives. 2. icam members should as far as possible avoid collecting architectural archives in other members' countries, which are known or believed to be of national interest to members in those countries, without first consulting them.

3. When an icam member has acquired an archive known to be of national interest to another member and acquired inside that other member's country, or has an acquisitions policy which includes the selective international collection of individual records, that institution will take all necessary steps to facilitate documentation or copies to relevant icam members in the country of source.

4. icam should as soon as possible generate a system through which the national interests, institutional aims, collecting policies and holdings of members become known and can be disseminated.

5. icam members owning archives known or believed to be of national interest to other members should give those members reasonable access to those archives and should, where reasonable, facilitate temporary loans.

6. icam members should encourage non-member institutions in their countries to recognize the principles 1-5 set out above.