



international confederation of architectural museums

## icam Code of Ethics for Architecture Museums, Centres and Collections

### Introduction

**icam** code provides recommendations of conduct for **icam** members and professionals dealing with architectural documents, collections and archives.

Objectives

- Preservation of the integrity of architectural archives
- Protection of cultural property of national or local historical significance or interest
- Protecting the policies of all institutions regardless of size or wealth

**icam**, as affiliated to ICOM, accepts and keeps as reference for the protection of Cultural property concerning architectural archives the Code of Ethics for Museums: <http://icom.museum/ethics.html>, adopted in 2004.

**icam** has special links with ICA and recognises the principles expressed in the Code of Ethics for Archivists: [http://www.ica.org/biblio/Code\\_of\\_ethics.html](http://www.ica.org/biblio/Code_of_ethics.html) adopted in 1996.

Recognizing that architectural archives have particular requirements, **icam** recommends to professionals traders dealing in architectural documents and complete archives of architecture the following principles:

### Acquisition

1- **icam** members respect the ICA code of ethics, when dealing with archival records to assure the integrity of architectural archives and retaining the principle of provenance.

2- **icam** members acquiring or disposing of architectural documents or complete archives should not seek or accept acquisitions when this would endanger the integrity or security of records; they should cooperate to ensure the preservation of these records in the most appropriate repository, reflecting geography and collecting policies.

3- **icam** members conform to all national and local laws, respect the legislation of other states as they affect their operation, and respect international legislation. When an **icam** member is acquiring an archive of cultural property that could be considered of national or local historical interest, they should consult the institutions concerned in the countries and communities of origin.

### Co-operation

4- **icam** members support the cooperation among professionals of **icam** and other institutions and organizations to promote the preservation and integrity of architectural documents and complete archives. They should promote documentation and collecting by institutions in the countries and communities of origin. They should co-operate for the restitution of displaced archives or parts of archives, above all, in case of illicit traffic or exportation.

### Access and impartiality

5- **icam** members promote the widest open access to architectural documents and archiv in the interest of research and better understanding of architecture and guarantee the impartiality of the services. Access and service should be provided equally to all without favour or discrimination

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### **Primary evidence / Principle of provenance**

6- **icam** members should indicate clearly the significance of archives and collections retaining the principle of provenance, preserving and making evident the original relationships of documents. They should resist pressure from any source to manipulate evidence so as to conceal or distort facts.

### **Privacy**

7- **icam** members must respect the privacy of individuals who created or are the subject of records, especially those who had no voice in the use or disposition of materials.

These recommendations reflect principles generally accepted by the international museum and archives community. Membership of **icam** is an affirmation of these principles.

### **LINKS**

#### **Codes**

ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums:  
<http://icom.museum/ethics.html> , 2004

ICA Code of Ethics for Archivists:  
[http://www.ica.org/biblio/Code\\_of\\_ethics.html](http://www.ica.org/biblio/Code_of_ethics.html)

CIA Code de déontologie des archivists:  
[http://www.ica.org/biblio/Code\\_de\\_deontologie.htm](http://www.ica.org/biblio/Code_de_deontologie.htm)

UNESCO International Code of Ethics for dealers in Cultural Property:  
[http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=13095&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13095&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

#### **Cultural Property**

UNESCO recommendations, conventions, international laws:  
[http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=2633&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2633&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Canadian Heritage – Patrimoine Canadien, Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, Criteria for outstanding significance and national importance:  
[http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cebc-cperb/criteria\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cebc-cperb/criteria_e.cfm)

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