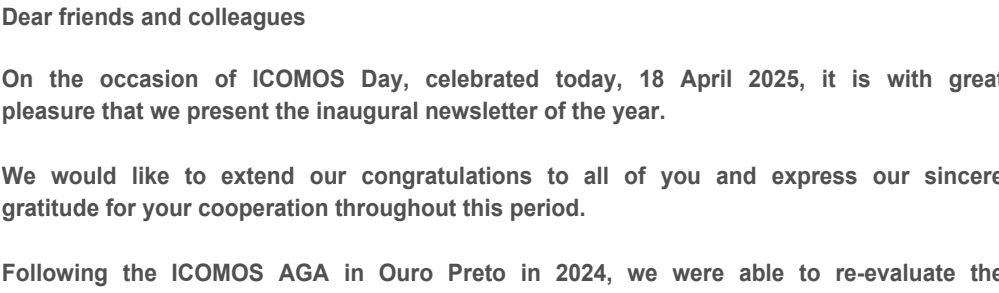


ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON SHARED BUILT HERITAGE

ISCSBH Newsletter n.5 (2024-2026) - April 2025



INTERNATIONAL ICOMOS DAY – 18 April 2025

Dear friends and colleagues

On the occasion of ICOMOS Day, celebrated today, 18 April 2025, it is with great pleasure that we present the inaugural newsletter of the year.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all of you and express our sincere gratitude for your cooperation throughout this period.

Following the ICOMOS AGA in Ouro Preto in 2024, we were able to re-evaluate the concept of shared built heritage. Consequently, a new articulation of our working groups was adopted, a decision that is already evident in the themes mentioned in this newsletter.

This edition is dedicated to addressing matters related to the ICOMOS Triennial Programme: Resilience, Resistance and Response. We are pleased to collaborate with our Emerging Professionals who are preparing a webinar to be held on 5 June. We kindly request your attention and encourage you to register your interest in participating.

In addition, we are publishing an article by our member Akram Lilja, who provides an insightful perspective on the heritage situation in Gaza.

A further relevant reference pertains to the protection and safeguarding of heritage in the colonial period, a discourse within which the ISCSBH is involved, collaborating with ARTisON on the edition of No. 15. This issue includes the contributions of several ISCSBH members, namely Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos (editor), Siegfried Enders, Maria Jose de Freitas and Sagara Jayasinghe.

Given the current climate of uncertainty on the global stage, the moment is particularly opportune for the promotion of awareness. This discussion will encompass the concept of dissonant heritage, with reference to Michael Falser's book 'Monuments and Sites D-Colonial! Approaches to the Built Heritage of the German Colonial Era', which will be introduced herein.

We are also busy preparing for the upcoming ICOMOS 2025 Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium, to be held in Lumbini, Nepal, from 13-19 October 2025. For general details of the event, please refer to the estimated Global Schedule provided.

At this ICOMOS 2025 General Assembly we would like to present our work within the ISCSBH. We are also organising a scientific study tour as well as thematic workshops.

Members who would like to collaborate are welcome.

We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Best wishes for ICOMOS DAY!



Maria José de Freitas

President ICOMOS ISCSBH

WG 01 – ISCSBH CONCEPT- PRINCIPLES - PERSPECTIVES - DISSONANT HERITAGE

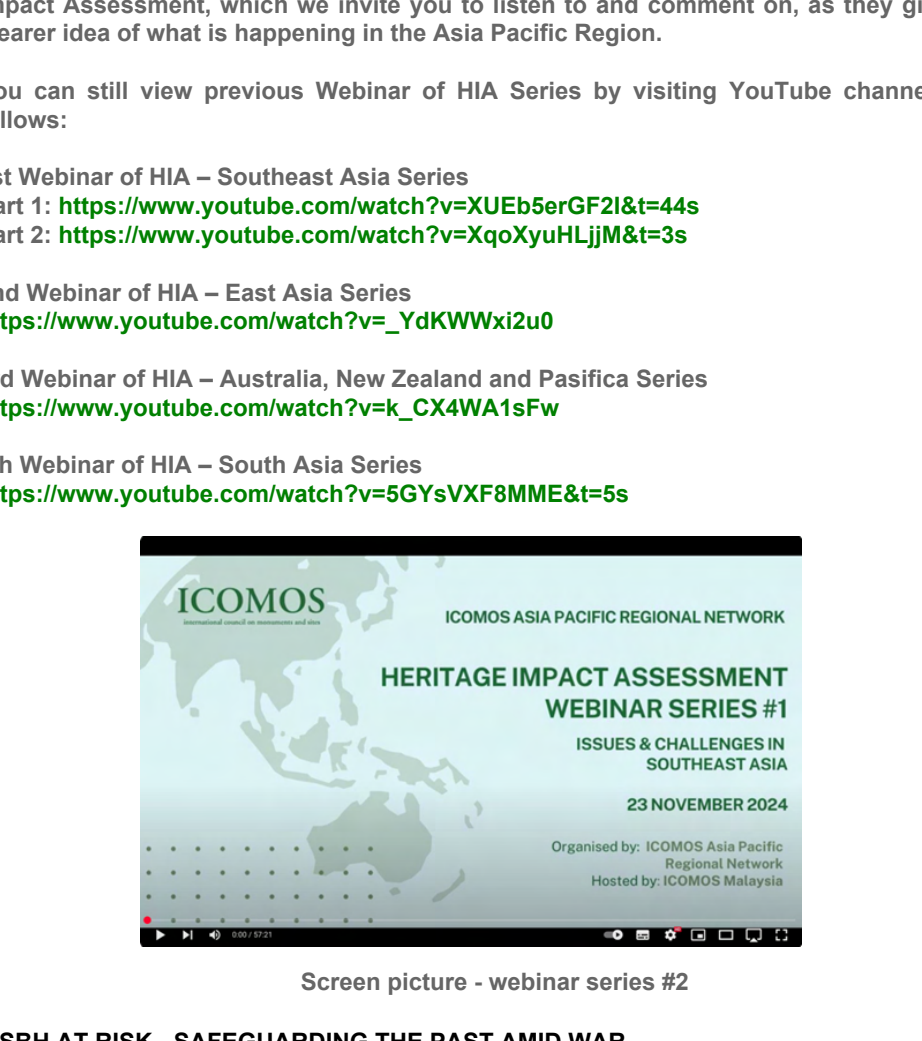
• RESILIENT HERITAGE

Our first webinar of the year on this topic will be conducted by Emerging Professionals under the coordination of our EP representative Mohamed Fareed.

In this context, Mohamed introduced us to the general idea presented below.

The webinar will be titled: Resilient Heritage: Emerging Professionals in Shared Built Heritage Conservation and will take place on 5 June at 13:00 Paris time.

(See more information in group WG10)



• WORKING GROUPS

As a result of the analysis carried out by our General Secretary, John Ward, and discussed at our last General Assembly on 6 December 2024, we have opted for a new articulation of our Working Groups in 2025, which is already reflected in the themes mentioned in this first Newsletter.

ISCSBH _ WORKING GROUPS 2025 - NEW STRUCTURE

WG 01- SBH Concept - Principles - Perspectives - Dissonant architecture

WG 02 - SBH at Risk - Preparedness - Response – Recovery - HIA

WG 03 - SBH Study tours - Webinars - Activities – Connection with ICOMOS ISCs

WG 04 - SBH Communication - Newsletters - Website

WG 05 - SBH Support - Secretariat - Members directory – Publicomus*

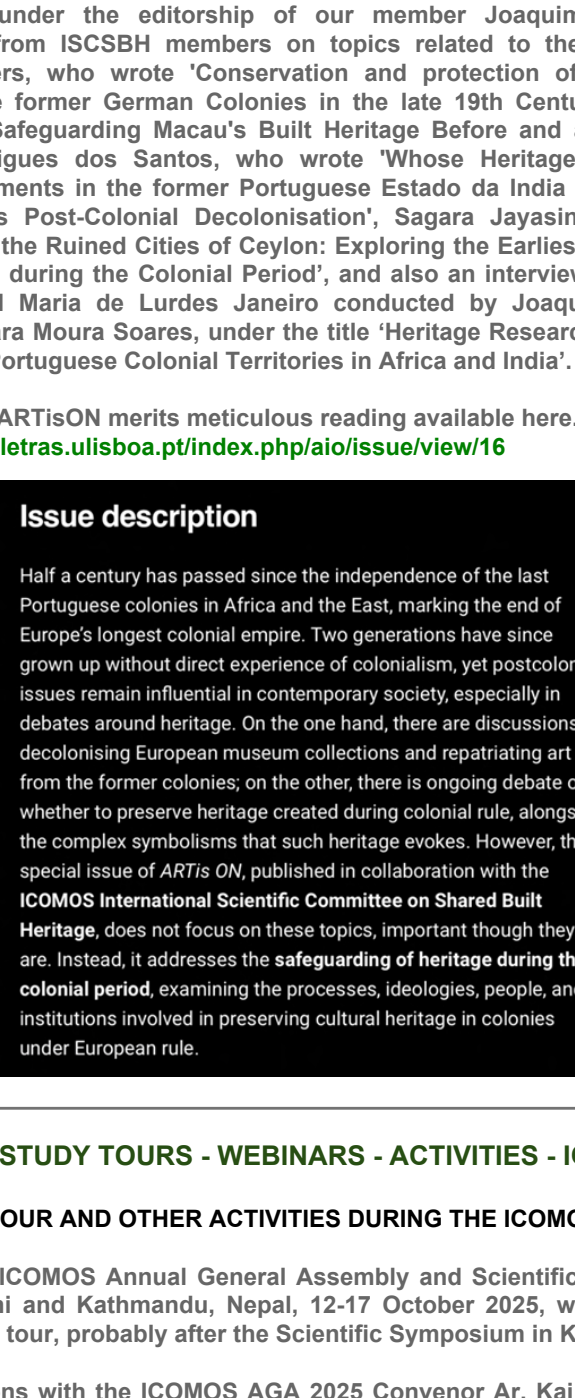
WG 06 - SBH&EPs

Note: Publicomus is the data base from ICOMOS where our articles can be included.

• DISSONANT BUILT HERITAGE

The dissonant built heritage is being discussed within ICOMOS.

Michael Falser made an important contribution to the topic of dissonant heritage publishing a book 'Monuments and Sites De-Colonial! Approaches to the Built Heritage of the German Colonial Era', after the International Conference of ICOMOS Germany and Technical University of Munich (TU Munich, Vorhoelzer Forum, Munich, 3–4 November 2023).



Take a look at:

<https://www.icomos.de/data/pdf/icomos-de-de-colonial-heritage-web-0225-1605-13.pdf>

WG 02 - SBH AT RISK - PREPAREDNESS - RESPONSE - RECOVERY - HIA

• SBH AT RISK- PREPAREDNESS AND HIA

In the context of anticipating and mitigating the risks that could jeopardise our collective built heritage, the Heritage Impact Assessment [HIA] emerges as a pivotal instrument. It facilitates the establishment of a more comprehensive and global framework, encompassing the existing situation, the potential threats, and the requisite actions.

The HIA methodically analyses the necessary measures, implements them where applicable, and ensures ongoing monitoring.

The Asia Pacific Regional Network group, of which our Vice President Soehardi Hartono is a member, has organised a series of webinars on the subject of the Heritage Impact Assessment, which we invite you to listen to and comment on, as they give a clearer idea of what is happening in the Asia Pacific Region.

You can still view previous Webinar of HIA Series by visiting YouTube channel as follows:

1st Webinar of HIA – Southeast Asia Series

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUEb5erGF2I&t=44s>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqoXyuhLjJM&t=3s>

2nd Webinar of HIA – East Asia Series

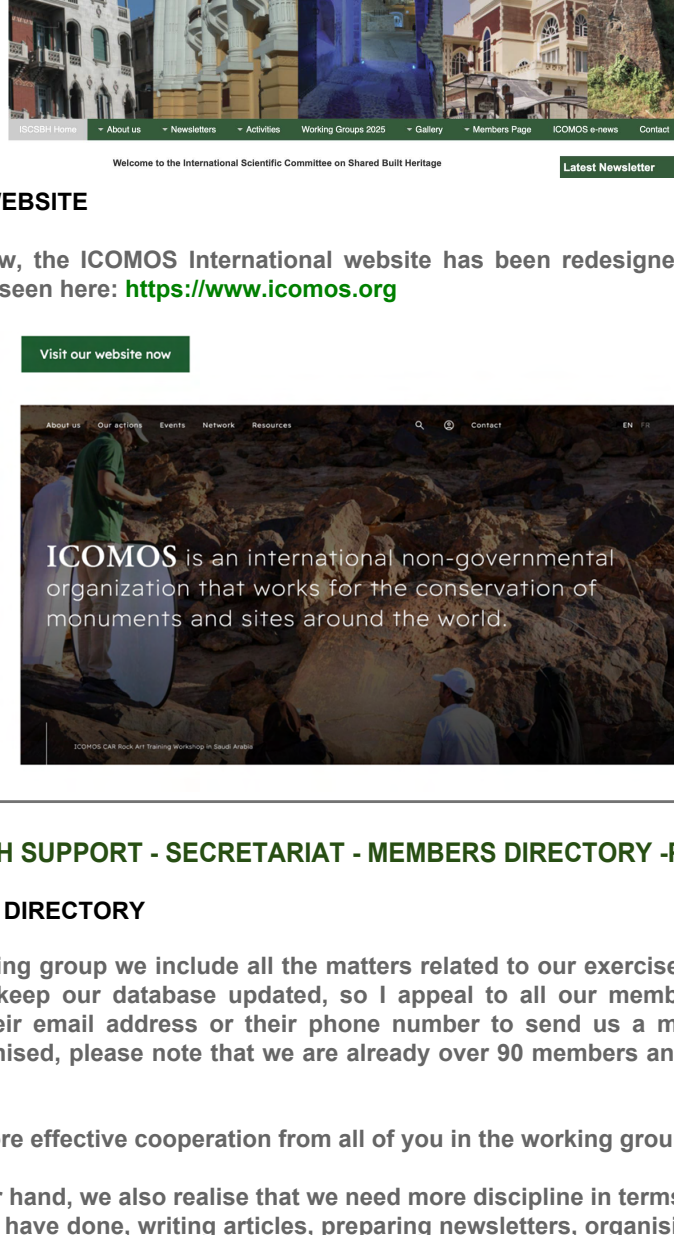
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YOKWWXi2u0

3rd Webinar of HIA – Australia, New Zealand and Pasifica Series

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_CX4WA1sFw

4th Webinar of HIA – South Asia Series

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGYsVXF8MME&t=5s>



Screen picture - webinar series #2

• SBH AT RISK - SAFEGUARDING THE PAST AMID WAR

The very concept of shared built heritage, endangered and threatened, is also an important issue that deserves our attention, please read our new member Akram Lila's article based on his experience working in Gaza.

Safeguarding the Past Amid War: Emergency Efforts to Preserve Gaza's Cultural Heritage.



Picture by the author, Gaza 2025.

In the introduction we can read:

Palestine is a cradle of civilization, home to a rich cultural heritage shaped by millennia of human history. For Palestinians, this heritage is not merely historical—it is a cornerstone of identity and collective memory. However, the relentless Israeli occupation and repeated cycles of violence have placed these irreplaceable cultural assets at serious risk. While global attention has focused on preserving heritage in the West Bank since Palestine's recognition by UNESCO, Gaza's sites remain particularly endangered, especially following the devastating war that began on October 7, 2023. (Lilja, 2025)

For more information [click here](#)

• SAFEGUARDING HERITAGE IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Notwithstanding the ongoing discourse surrounding the preservation of colonial legacies, it is imperative to understand the nature of heritage protection during that period. A comprehensive examination of the prevailing processes, ideologies, individuals, and institutions involved is essential for a nuanced understanding of the subject. Moreover, it is crucial to explore the contemporary connotations of such practices.

The ISCSBH has not shied away from this dialogue, therefore it is with great pleasure that we announce the participation of ISCSBH in ARTisON No.15 - Safeguarding of heritage in the colonial period. Published on 30 December 2024.

This edition, under the editorship of our member Joaquim Santos, features contributions from ISCSBH members on topics related to the theme, including: Siegfried Enders, who wrote 'Conservation and protection of the built Cultural Heritage in the former German Colonies in the late 19th Century'; Maria José de Freitas, with 'Safeguarding Macau's Built Heritage Before and after de Handover'; Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos, who wrote 'Whose Heritage? Classification of National Monuments in the former Portuguese Estado da India during the Colonial Period, and its Post-Colonial Decolonisation'; Sagara Jayasinghe with 'Colonial Narratives and the Ruined Cities of Ceylon: Exploring the Earliest and Archeological Documentation during the Colonial Period', and also an interview with José Manuel Fernandes and Maria de Lurdes Janeiro conducted by Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos and Clara Moura Soares, under the title 'Heritage Research and Preservation in the Former Portuguese Colonial Territories in Africa and India'.

This edition of ARTisON merits meticulous reading available here.

<https://artis-on.lettras.ulisboa.pt/index.php/aio/issue/view/16>

Issue description

Half a century has passed since the independence of the last Portuguese colonies in Africa and East, marking the end of Europe's longest colonial empire. Two generations have since grown up without direct experience of colonialism, yet postcolonial issues remain influential in contemporary society, especially in debates around heritage. On the one hand, there are discussions on decolonising European museum collections and repatriating art from the former colonies; on the other, there is ongoing debate over whether to preserve heritage created during colonial rule, alongside the complex symbolisms that such heritage evokes. However, this special issue of *ARTis ON*, published in collaboration with the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage, does not focus on these topics, important though they are. Instead, it addresses the safeguarding of heritage during the colonial period, examining the processes, ideologies, people, and institutions involved in preserving cultural heritage in colonies under European rule.

WG 03 - SBH STUDY TOURS - WEBINARS - ACTIVITIES - ICOMOS

• SBH STUDY TOUR AND OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THE ICOMOS AGA, 2025

As part of the ICOMOS Annual General Assembly and Scientific Symposium to be held in Lumbini and Kathmandu, Nepal, 12-17 October 2025, we are organising a scientific study tour, probably after the Scientific Symposium in Kuala Lumpur.

After discussions with the ICOMOS AGA 2025 Convenor Ar. Kai Waise, John Ward warned us that the focus of SBH sites in Nepal is likely to be in Kathmandu and the valley region, including former royal palaces, government buildings, large houses, schools, etc. As the AGA will end in Kathmandu, it is suggested that a SBH study tour be undertaken at the end of the AGA at the Kathmandu temple.

In addition to the study tour, we'd like to organise a workshop with local professionals and academics as well as the ISCSBH Annual General Meeting.


The schedule for the ISC activities during the AGA is as follows:

As you've already seen, we have been working on the theme of Shared Built Heritage in Times of Conflict and Natural Disaster and will be presenting our work at the next ICOMOS Assembly in Lumbini.

This newsletter already reflects this proposal, including the reorganisation of the Working Groups, as we want to be more effective and have more members working with us.

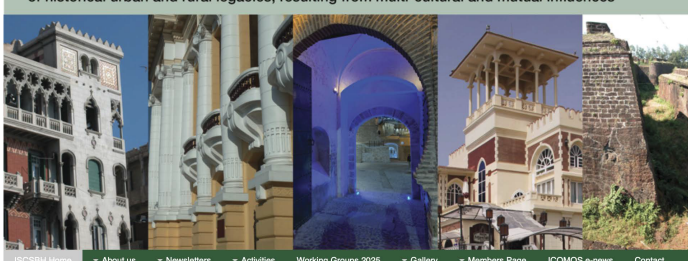
ICOSBH WEBSITE

Our website will reflect this new arrangement of groups and we hope it will be more attractive, take a look at <https://sbh.icomos.org>



ICOMOS
ICOSBH

The ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE on SHARED BUILT HERITAGE (ICOSBH) researches and promotes the understanding, protection, conservation, and management of historical urban and rural legacies, resulting from multi-cultural and mutual influences



[ICOSBH Home](#) [About us](#) [Newsletters](#) [Activities](#) [Working Groups 2025](#) [Gallery](#) [Members Page](#) [ICOMOS e-news](#) [Contact](#)

Welcome to the International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage

Latest Newsletter

ICOMOS WEBSITE

As you know, the ICOMOS International website has been redesigned and the new