

## Ronse Declaration on HUL in practice

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**On the occasion of the international workshop:  
"Heritage in the 21st Century and the Future of HUL:  
Lessons from China and Europe"  
that took place in Ronse, Belgium, February 26-27, 2013**

**Considering** that according to the United Nations more than 50% of the population is currently residing in urban areas. Considering further that by the year 2050 the urban population will have increased worldwide up to 67% and that Africa and Asia together will account for 86 per cent of all increase in the world's urban population forty years from now. Considering that by the year 2050 it is estimated that China will have added 341 million people to its urban population. Considering further that because of an increased migration, a growing globalization, further economic development and the growing pressure on available living space worldwide, heritage will be under a constant and increasing risk of deterioration and decline if no conscious concern is given and if no further action is taken.

**Taking into account** that UNESCO has adopted its Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) in November 2011 and, by doing so, created an important point of reference for the international heritage community when further discussing the topic of dealing with the Historic Urban Landscape in the context of modern urbanisation.

**The participants declare** that the implications of HUL should be further investigated in order to better understand the dynamic nature of the living city as a whole. It is also believed that a better understanding of the historic urban landscape in particular is needed in order to better assess the impact of modern urbanisation within the confines of the historic urban landscape. It is declared that earlier charters, recommendations and declarations on the topic of the historic urban landscape by the international community, especially UNESCO and ICOMOS, are still valid to be further investigated. It is also agreed that historic urban landscapes have a quality of their own which has a positive impact on the quality of life within the city as a whole, especially in the context of rapid urbanisation and modernisation.

It is further declared that the study of HUL should take place on a global scale taking into account regional traditions and regional points of view and that there is a need to exchange expertise on the differences between those traditions and approaches. At the workshop this was done by comparing European approaches with developments taking place in China.

The "**Ronse Declaration on HUL in Practice**" is handed over to the president of the ICOMOS Scientific Committee for Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration at its 8th annual meeting taking place in Florence, March 08-09 2013 under the theme of "**The HUL Challenge. Re-assessing the Values of the Past in the Light of Contemporary Trends.**"



Participants and papers discussed at the Ronse international workshop **Heritage in the 21st Century and the Future of HUL: Lessons from China and Europe** were as follows: Mr Hou Weidong, Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage (China): Managing the archaeological heritage of Xi'an; Mr Milan Kovač, architect and conservation expert (Slovenia): E-Pang Palace: the concept for an archaeological park integrating the remains of the palace of the first emperor in China into an urban development programme; Mr Wilfried Lipp, president of ICOMOS Austria, president of the ICOMOS ISC for Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration, member of the ICOMOS Executive Committee (Austria): Situation Analysis against the Background of HUL; Mr Willem Derde, Ename Center (Belgium): On Paradigms, Theories and Heritage; Mrs Chengyu Zhang, Peking University (China): "Reconstruction" in China based on some examples; Mr Lars De Jaegher, Ghent City Museum (Belgium): From don't touch to multitouch: STAM Ghent City Museum; Mr Michael Petzet, former President of ICOMOS International (Germany): HUL Step by Step.