

UNESCO  
Asia-Pacific Awards for  
*Cultural Heritage  
Conservation*

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2019

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## Winners' Project Profile

### Award of Excellence

**Project name:**

**Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts**

**Location:**

Hong Kong SAR, China



The transformation of the former Central Police Station into a world-class centre for heritage and arts has created a vibrant new civic space in the heart of the city's central business district. The project tackled a complex site with multiple layers of history dating back to the mid-19th century, enhancing its legibility and opening it up to the public. The technical quality of the restoration work is standard-setting on an international level, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of the historic fabric. Innovative architectural and engineering solutions are underpinned by meticulous investigation and rigorous conservation principles. The centre's diverse and creative programming enlivens the historic space with engaging heritage interpretation programmes and contemporary arts and culture. Against tremendous commercial real estate pressures, the successful realization of Tai Kwun stands as a testimony to Hong Kong SAR's commitment to heritage.

## Award of Distinction

**Project name:**

**Location:**

**Keyuan Garden**

Suzhou, China



The sensitive conservation of the Qing Dynasty Keyuan Garden showcases the art and science of safeguarding traditional Chinese designed landscapes. The project has reversed years of inappropriate interventions in both the gardens and the architecture using a well-chosen combination of vernacular and contemporary techniques and materials. The careful protection of ancient trees and plantings and the recovery of lost features such as a stone bridge achieves a holistic balance between natural and built elements. The site has become a hub of cultural transmission, providing technical training in ancient building crafts during the course of the restoration work, as well as on-going educational activities related to traditional music and arts to the general public. The project restores not only the garden's internal harmony, but also its place in the life of Suzhou and its renowned landscape tradition.

**Project name:**

**Location:**

**Vikram Sarabhai Library**

**Indian Institute of Management**

Ahmedabad, India



The restoration of the monumental Vikram Sarabhai Library heralds an important step forward in the preservation of 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture in India. The linchpin of Louis Kahn's iconic Indian Institute of Management campus in Ahmedabad, the library was rehabilitated from a state of extensive material dilapidation. Through careful studies and extensive modelling, the conservation team has conquered a range of difficult technical challenges to extend the life of the composite brick and concrete structure with its distinctive geometric forms. The project has recovered configurations and uses of space in line with the architect's original vision, while upgrading functionality to ensure that the library is ready to meet contemporary requirements and provide universal access. With Modernist heritage enjoying increasing acclaim, but still facing the widespread threat of demolition, this initiative promises to have major policy impact within Ahmedabad and throughout India.

**Project name:**

**Location:**

**Nelson School of Music**

Nelson, New Zealand



The elegant restoration of the Nelson School of Music has brought new life to the significant Edwardian landmark, upgrading the century-old building to function as a 21<sup>st</sup> century performance space. The project has reversed the excesses of a 1970s seismic retrofit, which stripped away the façade ornamentation and installed inappropriate structural reinforcements. Using a light touch, a post-tensioned system now strengthens the structure in line with required building and safety codes. External ornamentation was reintroduced using innovative materials, while the historic interiors were reinstated. Modern building systems and a new entry foyer were deftly inserted, blending in smoothly with the heritage character of the property. The project establishes a noteworthy model for seismic upgrades, which can be applied to other historic buildings.

### Award of Merit

**Project name:**

**Location:**

**Tseto Goenpa**

Paro, Bhutan



Following an earthquake in 2011, the Tseto Goenpa was saved from potential demolition in an inspiring act of devotion by monks, community members and generous supporters. The badly damaged rammed-earth temple was restored and seismically strengthened using a combination of vernacular materials and non-intrusive modern structural reinforcements. Specialist conservation expertise guided the restoration work in line with international standards, notably in the preservation of the wall paintings. The commitment of the monks and villagers overcame a range of challenges, including the remote location, which required hand-carrying construction materials to the site. The rehabilitation of dilapidated buildings and the sensitive addition of new facilities ensure that the *goenpa* is now able to fully serve all its ritual and communal uses. The revitalization project is to be commended for providing an exemplar for safeguarding other religious buildings in Bhutan.

**Project name:**

**Location:**



**Guyue Bridge**

Chi'an Town, Zhejiang, China

The meticulous restoration of the 800-year old Guyue Bridge embodies the successful combination of high technology with a respect for traditional construction. State-of-the-art surveying, engineering and materials science were deployed to understand and strengthen the ancient structure, one of the oldest documented folding stone arch bridges in China. A new composite material was invented and applied to slow down the bridge's future deterioration. Local artisans using handmade construction techniques ensured continuity in vernacular building practice. The project has returned a local landmark, which had fallen into disrepair and was impassable for the past two decades, back to the community, thereby contributing to the recovery of an important traditional rural landscape.

**Project name:**

**Location:**



**Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue**

Mumbai, India

Undertaken with generous private sponsorship, the restoration of the Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue celebrates the cultural plurality of Mumbai. From a state of dilapidation with extensive material decay and structural damage, the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Classical Revival structure has been successfully revitalized in a technically proficient manner. Meticulous craftsmanship has resulted in the reinstatement of the ornate Victorian interiors, notably the stained-glass windows, stucco work, decorative cast iron and wall stencilling. The sensitive upgrade of building services allows the synagogue to continue its vital service to Jewish devotees and visitors of all faiths, extending the cultural continuum of the oldest Baghdadi synagogue of the city.



**Project name:**

**Location:**

**Our Lady of Glory Church**

Mumbai, India



One of the oldest Roman Catholic churches in Mumbai, Our Lady of Glory Church has been lovingly restored to its original splendour. The project demonstrates state-of-the-art conservation practice in its methodical process, attention to detail and commitment to using like-for-like materials. The carpentry, joinery and plasterwork demonstrate high levels of artisan skills. The team has made a praiseworthy effort to retain historic fabric, notably the timber roof structure. The thorough investigation and documentation that underpinned the conservation process will prove invaluable for future reference. The refurbishment of the stained glass windows was the final touch in re-establishing the Neo-Gothic grandeur of the Church, which now stands proudly as a neighbourhood landmark.

**Project name:**

**Location:**

**Lyttelton Timeball Station**

Christchurch, New Zealand



The heroic reconstruction of New Zealand's Lyttelton Timeball Station, following its massive destruction during the devastating 2010 earthquakes, has reinstated one of the few functioning timeball stations in the world. Sophisticated digital technology was employed in the stone-by-stone scanning, documentation and reassembly of the historic building components. Using original stonemasonry techniques, the salvaged 19th-century heritage fabric was pinned to a new seismic-resistant core, while retaining traces of the earthquake damage as a visual memorial of the catastrophic event. With its prominent harbourside location, the restored monument is an important visual marker in the urban landscape of Christchurch and a living reminder of the technological innovations associated with the heyday of trans-oceanic shipping.

## Honourable Mention

**Project name:**

**The 5s Classroom, Preshil The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School**

**Location:**

Kew, Australia



The 5s Classroom restoration has resulted in safeguarding a Modernist building while honouring the original pedagogical traditions espoused by this pioneering school. The rigorous, evidence-based approach to conservation is reflected in the great efforts made to find suitable materials and techniques to preserve the aesthetic and spatial qualities of the original design. Through lively engagement with the school community and alumni, as well as present-day students, the project reflects and sustains the spirit of place associated with Preshil The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School.

**Project name:**

**Westpac Long Gallery, Australian Museum**

**Location:**

Sydney, Australia



The Westpac Long Gallery project is commendable for its careful and thoughtful conservation of the original 19<sup>th</sup>-century museum interiors, thereby conveying the historical spirit and feeling of the museology of the period. Revealing the spaces previously obscured by later eras of exhibition design has brought the Gallery's venerable history back to life, while elegant contemporary additions update the facility for ongoing use. On the basis of a thorough historical and materials analysis, the project team selected appropriate materials and artisanal techniques. A thoughtful approach was taken to resolving complex building code requirements, with adept technical solutions that respected the significance and inherent spatial qualities of the gallery.

**Project name:**

**Location:**



**Liddell Bros. Packing Plant**

**Wuhan, China**

The conservation of the Liddell Bros. Packing Plant contributes to preserving China's richly diverse industrial heritage, celebrating an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century architectural typology that is rapidly disappearing. The project team was able to successfully balance the protection of its historical significance with modern requirements for its current and future use. The project is notable in its respect for the site's former state, taking the approach of minimal intervention as seen in the careful repairs and the retention of the building's historic patina. The project creates a public place that rehabilitates and enhances the relationship of the former industrial complex to the local community, offering a vibrant hub for programmes associated with Wuhan's status as a UNESCO Creative City of Design.

**Project name:**

**Location:**



**Flora Fountain**

**Mumbai, India**

The careful restoration of Mumbai's iconic Flora Fountain completes the series of conservation interventions to revive the city's many Victorian era fountains, a collection of ornate civic monuments unique in India. After meticulous research and documentation, layers of paint and pollution build-up were carefully removed, revealing intricate details which had not been seen in decades. The cleaning, repair and replacement of stone elements was followed by the systematic rehabilitation of the fountain's water system, which is once again fully functional. The refurbishment of the fountain has transformed the surrounding area, giving it a renewed lease on life as a public meeting space. The project has not only recovered the fountain's artistic beauty, but has also validated its continuing role in the life of the community and its prominent place in the urban fabric of Mumbai.



## Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

**Project name:**

**Joan Sutherland Theatre Passageway & Lift, Sydney Opera House**

**Location:**

Sydney, Australia



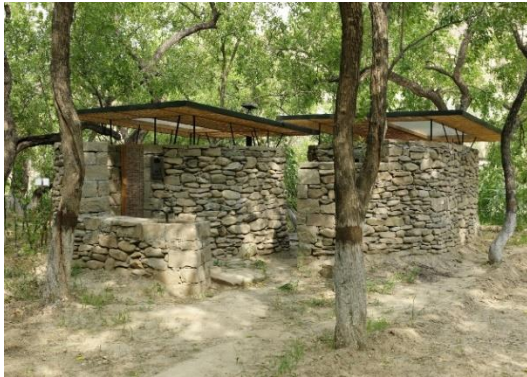
The Joan Sutherland Theatre Passageway and Lift project demonstrates a thoughtful design approach to providing full access to the upper levels of the Sydney Opera House. The new additions blend in seamlessly with the iconic architecture of this well-loved World Heritage site, whose form and design have become a hallmark of 20<sup>th</sup>-century aesthetic sensibilities realized through innovative engineering. In particular, the choice of materials and detailing were carefully calibrated within the framework of the building's conservation principles. The project successfully overcame challenges in working with extremely restricted space options under rigorous conservation controls, providing a benchmark for providing universal access at heritage properties.

**Project name:**

**Dry Pit Latrine in Jiaxian Ancient Jujube Garden**

**Location:**

Nihegou Village, Shaanxi, China



The design of the Dry Pit Latrine in Jiaxian Ancient Jujube Garden is a modern intervention that subtly incorporates vernacular knowledge in addressing the infrastructure needs of a historic settlement, adding dignity to the life to those who live there. The re-interpretation of indigenous building traditions, including the use of dry-stone walling, supports a compatible and environmentally friendly response to the local context. The project establishes a readily applicable model for sustaining the functionality of rural heritage places with minimal financial requirements in a manner that reflects traditional approaches and ecological sensitivity.



**Project name:**

Location:

**The Mills**

Hong Kong SAR, China



The adaptive reuse of The Mills has preserved a physical reminder of Hong Kong SAR's industrial heritage, while also transmitting to future generations' knowledge of the fast-disappearing intangible practices associated with the city's textile manufacturing history. The imaginative reinvention of the former factory into a cultural hub connects former textile workers with young designers, contemporary artists and the public. In order to strengthen the building to support its ongoing reuse, new elements were carefully designed to showcase the original structural elements. The Mills serves as an example of how the transformation of utilitarian mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings can achieve sustainability and resonate with contemporary society in a fast-changing urban context