


**NATIONAL PLAN  
FOR TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE**



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## 0. INTRODUCTION

Traditional architecture has shaped our landscapes and set the stage for our history. In its huge diversity, in its dazzling creativity and in its perfect harmony with the natural environment, it is one of the richest and most varied spheres of heritage. It is of huge importance as the expression of a society, as the reflection of geographical conditions and as the basis for Intangible Heritage.

However, traditional architecture has suffered many decades of abandonment, of transformation, of disappearance, without society engaging in a collective effort to safeguard these records of popular life. While it is true that there have been numerous studies and research projects over the past three decades, the process of the disappearance of properties in cities, towns, villages and isolated settlements has continued.

Madrid staged almost 20 years ago now a preparatory meeting for the ICOMOS Charter on Vernacular Architecture. At the time, numerous enlightened professionals, such as the architect Félix Benito and the archaeologist Pía Timón, argued for the promotion of institutional action to give this threatened architecture a chance of survival. Although the meeting was a success, and the document was ultimately published, this activity proved unable to continue.

The same individuals as back then, with the same enthusiasm, have now promoted this National Plan for Traditional Architecture, in an attempt to respond to the problems which loom over traditional architecture. Félix Benito has unfortunately been unable to see the completion of the work to which he dedicated such great effort. His early demise cut short an intense professional career. We dedicate this National Plan for Traditional Architecture to him.

The National Cultural Heritage Plans are management instruments shared by the various authorities and other public or private entities. Their aim is to develop criteria and methods, and also the coordinated scheduling of activities, in accordance with heritage needs, including actions for protection, conservation and restoration, research, documentation, training and dissemination.

The legal basis for the National Plans lies in Spanish Historical Heritage Act 16/1985, the second article of which declares that *"the State Government shall adopt the measures necessary to facilitate collaboration with other public authorities, and among them, in order to gather and provide any information that may be required"*. It likewise states that *"the communication and exchange of operational and information programmes regarding Spanish Historical Heritage shall be facilitated by the Heritage Council"*.

Meanwhile, Article 35 of the Historical Heritage Act declares that *"for the protection of the assets which comprise Spanish Historical Heritage, and in order to facilitate access thereto by citizens, to foster communication among the different services and promote the information required for the development of scientific and technical research, National Information Plans addressing Spanish Historical Heritage shall periodically be drawn up"*, allocating responsibility to the Spanish Historical Heritage Council for the generation and approval of those plans.

The National Plans were set up in the second half of the 1980s once responsibility for Heritage had been transferred to the Autonomous Regions, and a new Historical Heritage Act was in place. The first National Plan was the Cathedrals Plan drawn up from 1987 onwards and approved in 1990, followed by Industrial Heritage, Defensive Architecture, Cultural Landscape, and Abbeys, Monasteries and Convents, in the first decade of the 21st century.

A proposal was presented in 2010 to the Heritage Council to review and update the existing National Plans and to formulate new plans which would offer a more horizontal response to new fields of heritage and new facets of the conservation of cultural assets. The National Plans so far authored and approved cover Preventive Conservation; Conservation Research; Intangible Heritage and Education and Heritage, in addition to the reviews of the National Plans for Industrial Heritage; Cathedrals, Abbeys, Monasteries and Convents; Defensive Architecture, and the Cultural Landscape.

Presentation of the Plans for Heritage of the 20th Century and Traditional Architecture draws to a close the set of plans originally proposed, while work is now beginning on the authoring of two new National Plans for the Conservation of Photographic Heritage and for Heritage Emergencies. These 13 plans provide the methodological basis shared by the various authorities, and the coordination of initiatives in the key fields of heritage.

The National Plans represent a primary source of information for decision-making, establish a shared operational methodology and set priorities in accordance with heritage needs, with the ultimate aim of protecting and preserving cultural assets through the following objectives:

- Active protection of cultural assets
- Promotion of knowledge through research
- Preventive conservation
- Scheduling of interventions
- Coordination of actions
- Support for public access
- Information and dissemination

They thus represent multidisciplinary instruments for integrated management, involving various government authorities and other public and private entities, fostering knowledge and scheduling preventive conservation actions, restoration interventions and dissemination initiatives, in order to protect cultural assets and allow them to be accessed and enjoyed by society.

The National Plans are drawn up by forming a committee made up of Central and Regional Government technicians and independent experts, as listed at the head of this document, who author the Plan for presentation to the Historical Heritage Council. We wish to thank all of them for their outstanding efforts.

## 1. BASIC ASPECTS

### 1.1. JUSTIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN.

One of the main reasons justifying the implementation of the National Plan for Traditional Architecture is the need to develop an instrument which will structure the various actions of the different public authorities and institutions. This demands a high level of coordination in order for the participation of each of them to take place in an appropriate manner, in accordance with the safeguarding of traditional architecture and the participation of the agents involved. Hence the need to establish a coordination instrument serving to provide an objective evaluation of the application and development of the National Plan.

It likewise proved necessary to develop this Plan because of the relative lack of legal and specific administrative protection for this type of architecture. Despite the existence of a protective legal framework, the distinctive nature of such assets is subjected on the one hand to certain diverse criteria and operational methodologies, and on the other a mismatch between the current regulations in force and traditional systems of construction. All the above led to the consideration that it was vital that this plan be embarked upon, in order subsequently to establish lines and programmes of action, regulations and recommendations to guarantee their safekeeping.

Another reason for the implementation of this Plan is derived from the need to generate an instrument which would serve to arrest the risks and threats currently faced by traditional architecture:

- Many of these traditional architectures are losing the rootedness which they enjoyed until just a few decades ago, because of processes of globalisation and changes in ways of life, which are altering their specificity. Meanwhile, such phenomena are occurring at breakneck speed. Such events were in fact first noted in this country in the 1960s, and a significant proportion of this heritage has already been destroyed. It is therefore a challenge for the cultural authorities to safeguard and contribute to the perpetuation of the inherent cultural baggage of such architectures in their range of cultural spaces.
- There is a lack of social recognition and awareness with regard to such heritage. Clearly, protection and respect are the result of a collective will of sociocultural self-recognition and self regard. It was therefore necessary to intensify, promote and foster such appreciation at the national level as to the scale and cultural values represented by traditional architecture.
- The dizzying loss of knowledge and techniques connected with traditional construction trades convinced us that, within the context of the Plan, space should be found for the restoration of traditional systems and materials. This would first of all assist in the maintenance of the Intangible Heritage represented by such trades, both by conserving traditional architecture and

applying these environmentally friendly and bioclimatic solutions to new constructions.

- There is also a notable move in current society to opt for newly built housing to the detriment of the residential use of urban centres. It is therefore viewed as particularly relevant for this Plan to establish the resources required in order to foster the regeneration of such urban areas.

All these factors were noted by National and Regional Governments, which felt it was necessary to develop the authoring of this Plan by appointing a Committee of Experts, representatives of Regional and National Government and universities.

This Plan will, as an instrument for management and planning, allow for the establishment of appropriate criteria and methodology, and will propose safeguarding strategies and actions.

## **1.2 DEFINITION OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE**

We have opted for the term Traditional Architecture, which represents a more commonly used phrase in this country. As understood by this Plan, this would be equivalent to the term Built Vernacular Heritage employed internationally (ICOMOS Conference, Morelia, Mexico, 1999).

Traditional Architecture is viewed as the range of constructions derived from the rooting of a community within its territory, revealing in its diversity and evolution a process of ecological adaptation both to natural resources and factors and to the historical processes and socio-economic models which have developed in each location. They represent a key reference point among the cultural hallmarks of the community generating them, as the result of shared knowledge and experience, transmitted and enriched from one generation to the next.

Although there are numerous variables which have been taken into consideration in characterising this, those which enjoy the greatest consensus include: use of materials extracted from the immediate environment; organisational layout and creation of specific spaces suited to environmental conditions; usage of construction techniques and varied aesthetic resources resulting from long historical processes, which have been handed down and re-adapted over time. In terms of planning and construction, although this is not a necessary feature, the active participation of those who will be the users is common, although local builders and craftsmen (master builders, carpenters, potters, blacksmiths...) enjoy the greatest knowledge and expertise in adapting the ancestral know-how expressed in such architecture.

The result is an architecture, whether scattered across the rural environment or forming urban units of outstanding variety (even within one single town or district), which is the consequence of adaptation to the social conditions of the local residents and the specialisation or priorities of habitational, techno-economic, religious or socio-

political uses for which the architecture was conceived. This is the reflection of specific modes of life, and as a result it is also necessary as far as possible to preserve those furnishings which (in many cases inherent in the purpose of the building intended to contain them) help to give meaning to the constructions themselves.

Hence the fact that, in response to the growing uniformity of urban landscapes worldwide, traditional architecture must likewise be valued because of the nuanced diversity and quality of cultural, urban and rural landscapes which it has helped to shape.

### **1.3 CHARACTERISATION OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE**

– **Traditional architecture represents a substantial part of Cultural Heritage.**

Few activities can match architecture in their capacity to reflect with such intensity and richness the nature of human existence and their community of origin. Built heritage is not only expressed in major public or private works, in monuments. It is seen in domestic and productive architecture, in the urban design of cities and villages, and beyond this in the overall landscape inhabited and transformed by humanity. The transcendence of the values of traditional architecture as Cultural Heritage lies in all of these.

These values represent models of inestimable heritage importance, in terms both of the contribution to the shaping of the cultural landscapes of Spain's territory, and the construction techniques employed and the architectural results obtained, derived from interrelationships between people and their environment.

This value, then, must be given the highest level of consideration as Cultural Heritage, representing the Heritage most closely identified with the physical record of human presence.

– **Traditional architecture is one of the key hallmarks of the different groups which have breathed life into it.**

Each of these architectures represents a unique and intrinsic record of the community which produced it, and they thus serve to bring groups together and strengthen bonds of shared identity.

The huge diversity of nuances revealed by each geographical area can be seen in its buildings. This means that each location has its own distinctive architectural personality, and as a whole they all reflect the huge variety and cultural wealth of this country.

The nature of such architecture is based on a series of principles giving it significant value for collective human memory. Each group is the repository of this inherited tradition and must be the guarantor of its continuity, coexisting and living within a heritage which must remain in use. The various aspects and expressions of such



heritage are produced directly by the very community with which they are identified.

– **Traditional architecture is tied to the ways of life and social structure of a region.**

Traditional architecture arises as a response to the daily needs of its users, and is dictated by the functionality, economy, structure of ownership, social classes, beliefs and symbolism, tradition, local history and the geographical zone where it is produced and rooted. It is inseparable as a whole from the life of the people who shape and inhabit its locus.

It is directly tied to the organisation and management of a territory, with a particular significance vested in the relationships which the human community has established over the course of its history with its natural setting.

It is important in this regard to emphasise that through the set of such architectural expressions we observe the socio-economic realities of different districts and cultural areas. As a result its existence is dependent on the development of certain agricultural and livestock farming models, the greater or lesser dispersal of the population across the territory, and the result of the establishment of large farming estates or smallholdings. This architecture likewise reflects its loss of functionality following the rural exodus in the late 1950s, and is thus a marker not only of the socio-economic structure of the era, but also a fundamental chapter in the history of the last 60 years.

This type of architecture thus covers a range of responses in which functionality often coexists with a wide range of architectural elements reflecting the ecological, historical, social, economic and symbolic values of each community.

– **Traditional architecture adapts to the natural conditions of the territory.**

Such constructions have been generated in accordance with an infinite number of parameters, at a steady pace which has allowed for gradual decantation. This results in such a close relationship with the context, and rather than referring to integration one could assert that such traditional architecture emanates from the territory and community themselves.

A decisive role is played in the genesis of traditional construction not only by the great diversity of parameters comprising the territory (geology, contours, climate, vegetation, economic activities, demographics, historical evolution), but also the way in which each of these factors acts in shaping such architecture.

*It corresponds to a specific climate:*

Architecture corresponds to the need for shelter and protection against inclement elements, and houses have therefore been identified as a means of heat control. This is demonstrated by the responses offered by construction solutions which include the choice of materials, to alleviate high or low temperatures, damp, the most common precipitation in the region (rain, snow) and wind. A range of responses has been found to all these factors, from the

orientation and siting of buildings to the specific creation of a type of wall, roof or ceiling, along with the inclusion, in order to alleviate low temperatures, of animals within the domestic setting, or the exclusion of sources of heat, such as kitchens, or the use of opposing windows to improve ventilation, etc.

*Construction uses local materials:*

Materials dictate the execution of architectural forms: stone, earth in its different degrees of manipulation, timber and other less hard-wearing elements of vegetation are the most commonly employed. The lack or abundance of any of these has been shown to dictate construction processes.

*It adapts to the location:*

Another of the natural factors shaping construction with regard to the territory is the location. It is unquestionable that in upland regions with abrupt contours, hillsides, plains, rich and poor territories, those with or without water, construction systems and urban development tend to conform to the morphology of the terrain and natural resources, offering a wide range of solutions in each case (scattered or concentrated architecture, single or multi-storey and underground solutions, etc.).

– **Architecture generates landscape.**

It is important to bear in mind that the landscape, as a cultural reality, is the result of the integration of natural elements (vegetation, soil, climate, flora and fauna) and man-made elements, with the latter in the main transforming original habitats through agricultural and livestock farming activities.

It is thus clear that one of the most significant features of traditional architecture is its intimate integration within the environment, within the landscape. Such constructions have progressively been generated in accordance with the infinite parameters referred to above, at a moderate pace allowing for gradual decantation through oral transmission. This results in such a close relationship with the context, and rather than referring to integration one could assert that such traditional architecture emanates from the territory and community themselves. The hugely nuanced diversity seen in each geographical area is expressed in built forms, generating a specific landscape.

As a result of these factors, this National Plan is connected with the plan addressing Cultural Landscapes, since both of them address the same reality, albeit from complementary perspectives.

– **Traditional architecture is dynamic.**

It is not an immobile architecture, but instead maintains the values of tradition.

Of all categories of traditional architecture, housing is in particular a living organism perfectly reflecting family ties and stratifications, neighbourhood relationships, life-

cycle stages depending on age and the differentiation between domestic zones based on gender and status within the same house (spaces for animals, games, for women and for men, public and private spaces, etc.). Homes grow (or shrink) as a result of aggregation, the merger of properties, divisions caused by inheritance. An initial core has interior and exterior structures and rooms added to it as needs progressively arise.

Architecture so adapts to the circumstances of the context, the resources and the environment that it offers a solution to each need. Creativity and adaptability to the medium are continuous.

– **Traditional architecture is intrinsically tied to Intangible Cultural Heritage.**

Intangible cultural expressions in such architectural contexts correspond to the knowledge and the construction techniques employed, the functions of the spaces in accordance with domestic and economic activities or social celebrations, along with the organisation, division and meaning thereof on the basis of the group of dwellers. Lastly, the beliefs and practices associated with the usage and maintenance of constructions, along with the appreciation, perception and local meaning as an inhabited space, form a part of intangible culture.

In turn, this whole intangible dimension associated with architecture is connected with know-how which goes beyond technical and scientific construction methods, such as the organisation of a territory with its landmarks, productive zones, community areas, networks of roadways, traditional knowledge connected with crafts and trades, the management of livestock, crops, the use of countryside resources, meteorology, flora and fauna, in other words, the context housing such traditional constructions.

– **Traditional architecture generally has no specific or individual authorship.**

It is a type of architecture which is not in tangible or formal terms subject to changes and the temporal evolution which dictates the buildings of a particular era. It is not substantially influenced by cultural models from outside the community itself, nor by academic output. In other words, it does not incorporate solutions which are alien to its own environment. In the best cases, many of these constructions were produced by master builders, drawing on a baggage of technical knowledge handed down within guilds of tradesmen, and inherent to the local area.

– **Traditional architecture is built in the main with traditional techniques.**

The means of reproducing knowledge and know-how, conducted by means of practical apprenticeship and reflecting the traditions of the community itself, in both spatial and constructive systems and also the functional schedules generating them, reveal the importance of such inherited and transmitted techniques. Their proven application helps ensure that the result of such constructions is as required.

– **The re-use of materials is another characteristic of traditional architecture:**

The reuse of materials has been another characteristic of traditional architecture. In

the rural world use is made of everything, and this is unquestionably a factor to be acclaimed in the consumer world we now inhabit. Materials were always recycled in successive constructions, as in the case of stone walls, tiles or timber. Stone was transformed by crushing it to produce lime or as aggregate for mortar. Tiles and bricks were crushed to produce fragments or grog for the production of hydraulic mortars. Likewise, timber was employed for other structural elements such as carpentry, furniture, or ultimately as firewood, etc.

– **Traditional architecture is sustainable.**

It employs the resources available in the natural environment and local setting: construction materials, tools, machinery, preferably located close to the construction site to reduce costs. Traditional architecture also facilitates the conservation and regeneration of the region, using the materials which it requires in a way which maintains the local environment and vegetation (felling of timber, river stones, rocks, etc.).

All the above provides an insight into the symbiosis between the bioclimatic medium and human beings, between economic activities and construction, between neighbourly coexistence and urban development. In short, between architecture and forms of dwelling.

– **Traditional architecture represents in itself a lesson for contemporary architecture.**

Traditional architecture, in its respect for the surrounding natural environment, the use of the materials provided locally, the appreciation and knowledge of traditional techniques, suitability for conditions and contexts adapted to specific life needs, the saving of resources, functionality, its aesthetic sense in harmony with nature, provides an example and model for contemporary architecture, by offering specific solutions in each individual case.

Traditional architecture thus offers us values and solutions which can be perfectly applied and employed in today's "unstable, changing and crisis-ridden" society.

Meanwhile, the role of such architecture could be linked to new forms of ecological production, adapting for this purpose certain constructions and infrastructures, which in many cases have for decades not had a current function, and which could now serve to allow certain practices, both agricultural and livestock farming, to enjoy sustainable development.

Traditional architecture represents, in short, the global imprint of human activity on time and territory. We should not only list landmark buildings as heritage sites, but also apply this status to urban centres and their residential properties as a whole, alongside other utilitarian or productive forms of architecture. The result covers a remarkably broad and rich spectrum of types and functions, with multiple variants across districts and even individual towns.

#### **1.4. SPHERES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE**

The set of traditional constructions which arise out of the settlement of a community in a particular territory is very extensive. They all adapt to the conditional factors of the location, such as its natural resources, its historical processes, its socio-economic models. They represent a reference point among the cultural hallmarks of the population generating them, and reflect the result of shared knowledge, experiences and know-how, enriched and transmitted from one generation to the next.

On the basis of a holistic analysis of the territory as a cultural unit, we will be able to understand the value and interrelationship of certain constructions with others, along with their uses and changes of activity, the modifications made to the landscape by the huge role which human action has played and continues to play, while likewise understanding the meaning and re-meaning of the associated intangible Cultural Heritage.

Architecture cannot, of course, be disassociated from these parameters within which it is inserted: resources, landscapes, human action and expressions thereof, techniques and knowledge... We perceive all of these as interrelated, allowing the reality of the territory to be understood. Hence the difficulty in understanding the mountain landscapes of Cantabria without the presence of the 'cabañas pasiegas' and the walls enclosing the meadows, the endless olive plantations of Andalusia without the 'haciendas' dotted among them, and the traditional techniques of olive farmers, etc.

This Plan must, however, link up the diverse range of constructions under consideration as forming a part of Traditional Architecture, in order to establish a focus facilitating clarity as regards the object of study, in accordance with the methodology applied in all the National Plan documents. This is why the various constructions have been set out in accordance with categories based on priority uses, without overlooking first of all the multiple functions which have characterised the same buildings, making it at times difficult to discern which was the priority use, and also the function defined both by architectural structure as a mode of interpretation from a functionalist perspective, and also continuous re-adaptations to new uses, even if the buildings retain the architectural features with which they were originally devised.

We consider the existence of three major categories, based on the main (although not unique) use characterising the essence of the building or architectural unit. We look not only at residential constructions, but also those connected with work and different productive and transformation activities, as well as venues for socialisation and collective use.

##### **1.4.1. Residential Architecture**

This covers one single type: housing. The purpose of such buildings is essentially residential, with any other function being secondary. Unlike accommodation or residential spaces included within or forming a part of architecture intended for agricultural and livestock farming, in these cases the houses have been devised as domestic spaces specifically intended as regular family abodes. Although they are predominantly contained within urban contexts, they will also form a part of more or

less scattered habitats, as occurs in the north of Spain (parishes).

This is a highly generic category which will need to be nuanced in the specific fieldwork (inventories, research projects), being subdivided into other more specific types, either on the basis of the social class inhabiting the buildings (upper bourgeoisie, tradesmen, owners of smallholdings) or the fact that they are identified, documented or referenced with distinctive names given to strata of the socio-economic structure in each location: *pasiegos, payeses, pelentrines, mayetes, jornaleros, pescadores*, etc.

#### 1.4.2 Architecture for work.

The second category covers "architecture for work", linked to processes of production, transformation and distribution. It includes a vast and complex classification, highlighting the frequent difficulty entailed in establishing clear architectural classifications.

Architecture takes on meaning to the extent that there are multiple forms of interrelation and combination of all its constituent elements: reasons for original creation, constructive processes, evolution over the passage of time. The aim is to establish the function which served as the essential backbone of these buildings, and how they are designed overall in accordance with the resources and construction traditions of each location. While we can, then, speak of basic level classifications, this does not in any way mean that there will be identical outcomes in terms of morphology, structural complexity or construction techniques, irrespective of the location where they are built. Quite the opposite, in fact.

In accordance with the above, and the nuances which will be referred to below, one may establish different types within this macro-category.

- a) The first of them covers **architectural infrastructures** (not always viewed as architecture per se) which have on many occasions served to create cultural landscapes with a strong architectural imprint in the real world. These would include *banking, terracing, pathways, conduits (irrigation channels, aqueducts, canals, gutters...), quarries, fences (windbreaks), water storage (basins, reservoirs, ponds, swamps, pillars, drinking troughs...), resting places, wharfs, jetties, threshing floors, fountains, laundries, pumps, wells, bridges*, etc.

Their status as basic architectural resources intended for primary uses of transit, human or animal supply or for ancillary domestic tasks have not prevented them from often developing elaborate architecture with a strongly emblematic (symbolic) nature: *bridges, fountains, laundries, drinking troughs*.

- b) Buildings connected with **primary activities would form** other sets of classification corresponding to this category. These would include various different groups.
  - Architectures associated with agricultural and livestock operations would include *beehives, farmhouses, cattle sheds, hay lofts, orchards, barns, dovecotes, granaries, refuges (temporary shelters), drying facilities, silos, tithe barns, towers, agricultural and livestock housing, pigsties...*

Given the importance that such activities had in the economy and societies of

the Spanish mainland until quite recently, this is probably the most complex grouping of types. Here the multiple functions which one single building or even architectural space could perform is particularly in evidence, making it on occasion difficult precisely to define the type corresponding to each construction.

Functions performed as residential spaces (human habitat) as well as workplaces are on occasion significant variables to be taken into consideration. They may be both agricultural or livestock farms and the regular family abode of the owners (*caseríos, masías, barracas*), giving rise on occasion to a family-territory symbiosis expressed through the presence of the farmhouse with a strong symbolic imprint on the rural societies of the Cantabrian coastline and the Pyrenean mountains.

A distinction is more often made, however (in terms of architectural structure, but also social and symbolic meaning) between urban residences (regular and family abodes) and those located within contexts featuring a range of farming practices.

They may ultimately be spaces of considerable size, as in the case of the larger rural constructions (*cortijos, haciendas*) intended as the temporary residence of the owners (in many cases quite luxuriously appointed) and workers. Or they could be constructions specifically designed as homes, on occasion with distinctive architectural imprints for the purpose of workers and their families (cattle herds, shepherds, swine herds). It is not infrequent on such occasions for the same term to refer to the home of the worker and the livestock infrastructure alongside (farmyards, cattle sheds), as in the case of *mallatas*. They may even simply be constructions (which despite their simplicity still have architectural quality) used as occasional refuges to shelter from inclement weather whilst herding, working in the fields or travelling along pathways (known by such names as *bujardas, bombos, chozos, cassetes*).

All the examples referred to above, however, have an existence and characterisation intrinsically tied to the agricultural and livestock operations of which they form or formed a part, and they have served as occasional residences, depending on the inherent activity undertaken (rotation of crops and changes of altitude in sheep and pig farming operations), or the duration of the employment contract.

These buildings can therefore be grouped together in the same functional type as agricultural and livestock housing, albeit with numerous variants in their architectural forms and names, and they will therefore need to be identified and documented individually in each territory. In some cases they are highly generic names (*chozos, cabañas, casillas*) covering many different architectural meanings, as in the case of the huts known as *chozas* which until well into the 20th century were likewise found as urban housing in rural settlements inhabited by day labourers and fishermen, while in other cases they have given rise to architectural terms and features with strong local/district routes: *caracolas, bombos, bordas, bujardas, cucos, mallatas, pallozas, torruças,*

*tribunas, ...*

As regards the other functional types we have established, they will likewise not necessarily take the form of independent architectural structures or buildings. Application will reflect the terms stated with regard to factors conditioning their use and the multiple functions which have characterised much traditional architecture. One clear example would be stables, which are seldom found as separate buildings but were omnipresent, up to the 1960s/1970s, in the architectural structures of buildings connected with agricultural and livestock operations, and in the houses in most rural settlements. The same would apply to hay lofts; the haciendas of Andalusia were used for the production of both oil and wine, and plenty of other examples likewise abound.

It should again be recalled that all these elements (infrastructure, spaces and buildings) must be identified and recognised, respecting the rich heritage of the names by which they are known in each location: *aceñas, albarrás, arnales, atarjeas, aventaderos, baranas, cabriles, cletas, corralizas, cotas, enramadas, herrerías, hórreos, jaraíz, lacos, majadas, mallatas, paneras, paratas, parideras, sequeseros, sotambios, tombos, toriles, trapiches, vallas, yerberos, zarzos, ...*

- One second grouping within this architecture linked to primary activities is connected with structures and buildings associated with mining activities, such as *lime kilns, mining complexes, loading bays, salt flats, gypsum quarries...*
  - Lastly, maritime activities, and specifically fishing, have generated their own distinctive architecture which would be divided across the above sections as infrastructure (ports, wharfs, jetties...) and housing, albeit with a highly specific architectural references, such as fish enclosures, net facilities, lighthouses...
- c) Buildings connected with **transformation activities** represent the third group of types within the context of architecture for work. Once again, and without devoting any greater time to this issue, it is important to highlight the practical impossibility faced as regards clear categorisation with unequivocal functional and formal architectural responses in all cases. Many of these buildings have been equipped with spaces and have been or are family abodes; their layouts are incorporated within multifunctional architectural complexes or comprise specific buildings; they may be located in urban contexts or in isolated places, etc. As a result, when performing a typological classification the dominant functionality must once again be given priority, rather than specific architectural features.

In fact, a similar functional typology has often given rise to clearly distinct architectural structures. A good example of this would be *flour mills*: they could be *windmills (cylindrical towers) or watermills*, while the latter reveal significant differences between *tidal or riverbank mills*; while in turn one must include at least the earliest architectural works intended to house *industrial mills*.

Having said that, these typologies would cover those buildings intended for the production and preservation of foodstuffs (*oil presses, slaughterhouses, flour mills, workshops, ice shafts (refrigerators), salting facilities, bakeries...*), drinks (*winecellars,*



*distilleries, grape presses...), the preparation of leather (tanneries...), creation of fabrics (woollen mills, looms...), woodworking (carpentry workshops, riverside carpentry facilities, sawmills, barrel workshops...), earthenware (potteries, tile workshops...), metals (jewellery and blacksmith workshops, forges, hammering and panel beating workshops...).* Although in semantic terms the buildings housing these trades or activities now or in the past do not always have specific names, and so could be referred to generically by such terms as factory, plant, warehouse or most typically (craft) *workshop*.

- d) The fourth grouping corresponds to **buildings intended for distribution and services**, with numerous variants, within which one may establish at least two clearly distinct sub-groups: those establishments intended for retail and distribution of products (*markets, shops, eateries, drugstores...*) and those providing hospitality services (*spas, thermal baths, hotels, inns, hostels, taverns...*).

### 1.4.3. Venues for socialisation and collective use.

This is a concept where once again we encounter difficulties in demarcating certain types, given their links or similarity with functions characterising buildings already located in the above categories. This would apply to bars or taverns, which, since they are likewise places connected with a specific economic activity, could be defined as places of commerce or even hospitality, but which we consider to be essentially venues which attract people not so much in order to acquire a specific product, but because of their role as places to gather and socialise.

We likewise believe it would be relevant to include a category which would potentially cover buildings which are very far removed from the features defining traditional architecture, namely those of a religious nature, and most specifically parish places of worship, which are in the vast majority associated with well defined architectural styles. This was not, however, always the case, and there are above all numerous shrines, crosses and even hermitages which do belong to such traditional architecture, both in terms of the physiognomy and construction techniques of the religious spaces, and the facilities which surround or adjoin them: *the caretaker's house, hostels, shelters for pilgrims, drinking fountains, etc.*

In any event, two features will be taken as comprising the backbones of this category:

- a) They must be communal spaces which facilitate or are structured in terms of events of gathering or coexistence which reflect the community as a whole or distinctive sectors of the community, whatever the purpose or context in which they are staged: political/administrative, leisure/rest, play/recreation, social/religious. The inclusion of places of municipal administration is dictated by this functionality applied to the group in question as a whole.
- b) They must be architectural expressions of collective values and beliefs. Accordingly, the categories established here could be divided into various sub-groups, such as: administration, community symbols and services (*town halls, cemeteries, notice boards, gallows...*), venues for civil socialisation (*bars, taverns, casinos, clubs, cultural associations, cinemas, ball courts, supporters' clubs, bull rings, theatres, bowling alleys...*), and venues and the spaces connected with religious beliefs and practices: *altars, calvaries, crucifixes, chapels, oratories,*

*houses of fellowship, parish houses, crosses (boundary, votive, commemorative), hermitages, shrines, niches, temples, columns...*

## **1.5 STATE OF THE MATTER**

Traditional architecture typically occupies a prominent role among the cultural referents identifying a specific group, materialised in the specific expressions which may be observed in towns or broader regions. As opposed to the specificity and identification with particular towns associated with so-called monumental architecture, traditional architecture blends into a collective image, populating countryside areas, villages and cities.

As a result, an explicit reference to its recognition and preservation is a recurrent theme in proposed interventions to preserve this part of our Cultural Heritage, in particular in connection with a so-called ethnological heritage, as traditional architecture is seen as one of the most significant expressions of ways of life linked to the traditions of each locality.

However, under the societal model which prevails today, in many cases the patterns followed in the process of change are leading to an impoverishment of the diversity and wealth of cultures.

The permanent transformation of our social environment is a circumstance inherent in cultural dynamics themselves, but does not necessarily need to lead to the eradication of any vestige of previous ways of life, above all when they can continue to perform, as is the case with traditional architecture, a relevant role in today's culture. If we feel that this type of architecture currently occupies a leading position within the concept and practices of Cultural Heritage, then this is not simply because it forms a part of our memory, or because of the significantly prominent role to which we are referring in shaping our collective identities (cultural landscapes, urban fabrics, architectural physiognomies), but also because of its contribution to economic endurance (cultural tourism, architectural and urban planning resources) in those territories (localities and districts) where it is to be found, and which it helps to characterise.

This process is expressed at present in a wide range of forms and to differing degrees in the different regions of the world, without any uniform models taking shape. We often in the same country encounter situations of all three circumstances detailed below:

- Regions and countries where the inhabitants respond to the challenges of the new civilisation through living, autochthonous cultures, adapting to this process of change while respecting their hallmarks of identity and characteristic ways of life. With regard to architecture, the traditional mode of habitat remains valid: it is adapted to new standards while guaranteeing continuity of use.
- In other areas cultures have been transformed and integrated within an increasingly urban and uniform system, but nonetheless retain substantial Heritage inherited from past eras, socially considered to be such, but limited to certain spheres which are typically protected by law.

- In some places, above all in the contexts of Western cultures, we are seeing the development of the inverse process of recognition, from the modern perspective, of the meaning and functionality of this traditional architecture. We are now beginning to see a new approach to the clearest aspects of autochthonous tradition, to be incorporated within new construction models, as in the context of current trends for bioclimatic architecture, based on the principles of new parameters for materials, structures and energy savings, which incorporate solutions which have been used for many decades by traditional architecture. In this same regard, and in accordance with a new perspective of such architecture in a heritage context, we are also now beginning to note in certain cases a conservation-based policy which highlights both the symbolic (identity) and functional (adaptation) value of traditional architecture, perfectly able to coexist with the present time.

As regards this last aspect, it must be borne in mind that certain properties may not be able to maintain their original functionality, and so new uses should be encouraged in line with current demands (social centres, housing) or connected with new activities linked to sustainable and responsible tourism, developed on the basis of the showcasing of this type of architecture as heritage (museums, visitor centres, hostels).

One important aspect of this process of showcasing has been the recognition of traditional architecture in Spain in a range of legislative documents, at both the national and regional levels, since prior to the heritage laws currently in force traditional architecture was generally linked to more questionable concepts as being "emblematic" and/or "picturesque", such as contextual images associated with "villages" and "places", rather than intrinsic values. Nonetheless, a recognition of its value has progressively been noticeable, from the outset, in the legislation which has been developed in Spain since the early 20th century with regard to what we now refer to as Cultural Heritage.

The course followed by the various legislative documents in the field of Cultural Heritage illustrates the existing unevenness as to the recognition of traditional architecture, the diversity of types and concepts of protection in place, and the value vested in such assets.

A detailed analysis of these and other documents allows us to reach a series of conclusions and reflections which we believe it would be relevant to set out here in order to explain the current situation of traditional architecture. We below list a number of these reflections:

1. Lack of more direct and committed intervention by public institutions in the preservation of traditional architecture. The references analysed within the framework legislation of each autonomous region (Historical/Cultural Heritage Act) and the meaning given in them to traditional architecture do not correspond to the subsequent development of specific legislation for its protection and embellishment.
2. Recognition of such architecture in declarations as "Historical Ensembles" remains highly precarious, on occasion in the hazardous categories of recognition/protection as being of "environmental interest" (Specific Protection Plans), which could do more harm than good to the image and embellishment of

traditional architecture.

Nonetheless, in the opposite direction, and as well reflected in certain cases, since the late 20th century (the period coinciding with the implementation of Spain's structure of regional autonomy and the aforementioned increase in the recognition of such architecture as Heritage), we do note a progressive interest in valuing such architecture as a key element of historical ensembles, to the extent of viewing it as the dominant and decisive value in such declarations. In these latter cases we have moved on completely from the "folksy" images which lay behind the declarations of historical ensembles in the 1960s/70s, in order to emphasise the intrinsic value of traditional architecture forming urban landscapes, with these declarations as historical ensembles being based on precise documentation and the embellishment of such architecture, including a detailed description of the dominant architectural types in the declaration dossiers.

3. Meanwhile, both regional and national legislation gives urban planning a key function in the task of providing integrated protection for heritage assets, with a particular impact on the preservation of Historical Ensembles, and also the areas around Landmarks, with regard to traditional architecture. This likewise entails the need to achieve effective coordination of both legal frameworks, and also their respective mechanisms for the protection and conservation of such assets. As a result, general urban regulation plans, subsidiary standards, special protection plans, regional plans... take on the role of essential reference tools. They lay down provisions directly affecting the traditional architecture of municipalities, territories and regions where they are approved, establishing intervention criteria for refurbishment, conservation or maintenance, and even the cataloguing of constituent elements. It is likewise vital that there be coordination and collaboration among the different public authorities addressing Heritage, and also zoning and urban planning regulations. In short, the range of legislation intended to protect this heritage likewise places it in danger because of a lack of unity and effective coordination.
4. As regards the inventories of traditional architecture which have been produced, as well as highlighting the disparity of the institutions involved in these processes (regional, local, local development groups...), and focusing solely on their content, we wish to make the following points:
  - Substantial gaps in documentation and fragmentation of information. What is above all lacking are generic inventories which set out and comparatively contextualise the range of types which could be included within a definition of traditional architecture, if not with regard to the broadest political and administrative framework of the entire autonomous region, then at least those regional frameworks which have a clearer cultural demarcation in particular districts. Only in the case of Extremadura and Andalusia (the latter unfinished) have generic inventories been drawn up covering the entire autonomous region, along with that which is currently being produced in the Madrid Region, included within what is known as the Systematic Ethnographical Inventory of the Madrid Region.

- Focus on certain types, either because they have been viewed as emblematic of each autonomous region, or because of their relationship with traditional activities currently viewed as the most representative of ethnological heritage: these could be connected to agricultural and livestock farming activities (farmhouses, huts...), storage and conservation (granaries...) or transformation processes (mills, grape presses...).

5. As for the interventions applied to this type of architecture in Spain, inappropriate operational policies and criteria exist, given a lack of training, of evaluation and awareness of this subject. This may be seen in various aspects, such as the inappropriate choice of materials and construction systems alien to this type of architecture, as opposed to the application of traditional techniques. Meanwhile, there is a clear trend to adopt a superficial approach to the facades of buildings, while also overly divorcing such constructions from their contextual environment, likewise as a result of abusive real estate speculation in this country, which has undermined the structure of numerous traditional edifices. Lastly, many interventions lack direct participation by users, with their opinions and needs not being taken into consideration.

Support is, in short, required in this regard for the promotion, ideally in a coordinated manner, of meanings, content and applications, legislative measures (accompanied by the corresponding economic plans making them viable) to protect this traditional architecture. It is likewise equally necessary to facilitate and develop research and documentation projects (including inventories), serving to reveal the overall situation of this traditional architecture. Similarly, the protection of such architecture in Spain must involve the recovery of traditional systems to be applied in interventions, along with the development of actions for awareness-raising, dissemination, transmission and cooperation.

## **1.6. IDENTIFICATION OF RISKS**

Traditional architecture reveals a wide array of risks affecting both its material existence and socio-economic aspects derived from the identity of the community within a region.

### *Globalisation and uniformity of cultural values*

*The main risk faced by traditional architecture lies in the very process of cultural homogenisation, as referred to as early as 1976 in the UNESCO Recommendation in Nairobi. This, alongside processes of systematic industrialisation and intensive emigration from countryside to city, has placed cultural expressions at grave risk of obsolescence around the globe.*

The uniformity of cultural and architectural values, exacerbated by the influence of the media, generates standardised output far removed from the diversity and specificity inherent in traditional architecture. The globalisation of materials, techniques and

industrialised modes of production and routes of distribution makes it difficult, expensive or simply impossible to obtain the materials or techniques traditionally employed in these constructions.

#### *Loss of functions and knowledge*

- Loss of functions and their original identity, which because of the progressive disappearance of traditional productive practices and ways of life, in particular in the rural environment, have led to a process of depopulation, and the corresponding abandonment of architecture.
- Loss of know-how and difficulties in the transmission of knowledge regarding traditional trades connected with the constructions. The difficulty in finding skilled labour familiar with traditional construction techniques is evident. On numerous occasions an ignorance of expressions of traditional architecture and the specificity of the techniques involved leads to inappropriate interpretations which ultimately alter the values of such Heritage.

#### *Lack of appreciation and awareness*

- Devaluation of the rural world: There has been a thorough devaluation of traditional architecture by the actual inhabitants themselves, leading to the absence and scant appreciation and identification of individuals with this Heritage.
- Absence of heritage value in traditional architecture: social awareness has not been raised sufficiently in order to allow a perception of expressions of this architecture as an element of heritage. There is a lack of formal and informal education regarding the recognition, appreciation, possibilities and options for preservation or refurbishment.
- Expoliation and vandalism, facilitated by the lack of appreciation.
- Speculative urban developments, as a result of individual, political and economic interests, a phenomenon affecting both built Heritage and the landscape, leading to discontinuities in and abandonment of the traditional built fabric, generating an effect which causes devaluation and prevents integration within a context.
- Ignorance of the wealth of possibilities which would open up through embellishment, with an awareness of the remarkable positive influence entailed in the conservation of vernacular architecture in sustainable economic development and the promotion of employment, trades and local craftspeople.

#### *Lack of studies, measures, regulations and publicity*

- Lack of tools (technical, political, social and economic) to structure measures intended for recognition, embellishment and preservation.

- Insufficient measures to foster and support maintenance, conservation and refurbishment of traditional architecture, addressing both private individuals and local agencies.
- Lack of specific studies in the traditional architecture of each location so as to guarantee proper and sufficient historical, morphological, technical, material and cultural knowledge.
- Lack of appropriate cataloguing of these architectures so as to guarantee proper protection, as well as an absence of protection meaning that there are insufficient safeguards, with arbitrary or superficial selection of buildings leading to the systematic disappearance of those which are not protected.
- Inappropriate regulations in force for the application of traditional techniques and materials in both refurbishment and new constructions. The current regulations in many cases impede the use of traditional techniques, as they impose a series of requirements in terms of mechanical strength, fire protection and habitability which enter into conflict with the possibility of preserving or employing traditional techniques and materials or those used in the building itself.
- Need to promote technical studies regarding the performance and characteristics of materials affected by ageing, which in many cases are systematically eliminated, despite the fact that they remain functional.
- Absence of channels for dissemination and distribution of traditional construction materials, masons and specialist companies and professionals.
- Limited dissemination of good practice and appropriate models for intervention on traditional architecture which could serve as an example of initiatives and criteria in addressing conservation and refurbishment projects.

#### *Inappropriate intervention criteria*

- Refurbishment and/or restoration interventions which are inappropriate from the perspective of physical, chemical, material, structural and aesthetic incompatibility, because of a lack of knowledge, training and sensitivity on the part of certain architects with regard to vernacular architecture.
- Unnecessary replacement of original materials with others of the same characteristics, even if they have been traditionally produced, undermining the possibility for conservation and restoration, leading to a decrease in the authenticity of the Heritage.
- Absence of maintenance on the part of the user community or the bodies responsible for this Heritage.
- Usage of traditional construction techniques and materials, approached with the best of perspectives and with a view to the conservation of traditional techniques, but which can in turn generate certain risks such as, for example, the

loss of local identity if employing a traditional technique simply for the sake of this, irrespective of its relationship with the location where the construction or restoration project is taking place. The homogenisation or globalisation of such interventions, even if undertaken with respect for construction tradition, can be clearly seen at the point at which interventions are not specifically based on a local construction tradition.

- Overemphasis on aesthetic and vernacular aspects of traditional architecture can lead to superficial interventions which address the facade, lavishing attention on the external appearance of the building while often demolishing or extensively modifying the interior, undermining the special, tangible nature of the building itself.
- Excessive consideration of certain types of construction and neglect of other buildings, in particular those connected with work, those which are smaller in size (as in the case of enclosures, flagstones and flooring) or those which are for communal use.
- Limited attention to ensembles and their interrelationship with the surrounding territory and landscape, which must be alleviated by means of an integrated vision of urban settlements and proper planning, establishing levels of protection and defining zones for current agricultural and fishery constructions which do not directly or visually affect historical traditional buildings.
- Inappropriate use, reinterpretation and transformation of the original meaning of centres of traditional architecture as a result of intensive tourist exploitation, turning them into theme parks devoid of content.

#### *Environmental risk factors*

- Specific meteorology and climate change. The alteration of microclimates because of global climate change, with the consequent hydrological and thermal imbalance, represents a risk factor for architecture which is adapted to, integrated within and is a product of a specific natural environment.
- Inappropriate humidity and temperature inside constructions, because of a lack of use and/or maintenance, facilitating material deterioration processes.
- Bio-deterioration of structures, exacerbated by abandonment, lack of care and lack of maintenance.
- Pollution or high concentrations of pollutants in certain zones, as a result of industrial activity or vehicle traffic in urban areas, causing various alterations to the constituent materials of such architecture.
- Intrinsic risks associated with the site of the buildings (seismic, geotechnical, hydrogeological risk, etc), representing latent risks since the building was constructed at that site, but which on occasion can be heightened as a result of environmental change (deforestation and consequent erosion, variations in the level of the water table, etc.).





## **2. METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS**

### **2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN**

The general objective of the National Plan is to safeguard Traditional Architecture, safeguarding being understood as measures intended to guarantee the viability of this Heritage, including actions for identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, appreciation, transmission and revitalisation.

Given the complexity of this type of Cultural Heritage and its high level of vulnerability and the lack of supporting safeguards currently in place, this National Plan pursues the following objectives:

#### **2.1.1. Establish agreed theoretical principles regarding:**

- The concept, criteria and operational methodologies of Traditional Architecture.
- Systems of registration, documentation and research.
- Control of risks and threats.
- Systems for diagnosis, strategies and specific lines of action.
- Criteria for protection, integration and the recovery of traditional systems.
- Systems for dissemination, transmission and promotion.

#### **2.1.2. Recommend specific actions regarding the following programmes:**

- Research and documentation programme.
- Protection programme.
- Programme of intervention and recovery of the traditional systems.
- Programme of dissemination, transmission and promotion.

#### **2.1.3. Raise awareness among society and achieve institutional recognition within the context of cultural policy:**

- Promote and encourage recognition and social awareness-raising so as to strengthen the sense of identity of the key groups involved, along with respect by public authorities and the public at large for the dimension and cultural values of traditional architecture.
- Contribute to the inclusion of criteria to safeguard traditional architecture within policies, plans and actions in those sectors which could impact on the preservation of such heritage, without overlooking the importance of transmission.

#### **2.1.4. Facilitate information and coordination between institutions.**

The treatment of this type of Cultural Heritage demands, more than any other, not only consensus with the users of this type of architecture, but consistent collaboration among the authorities involved, with a particularly important role played by local agencies.

This coordination is held to include both International Bodies and the various ministerial departments which have responsibilities in this regard, and also the Autonomous Regions, local public agencies and other public or private entities. Activities without coordination or consensus could cause irreparable harm to the nature of traditional architecture. The Plan must therefore draw on an exchange of experiences and collaboration among competent institutions, while also offering technical support to any national or international organisations which may so request.

## **2.2 GENERIC CRITERIA**

We include in this section those criteria to be taken into consideration in legislative protection instruments, in urban development plans, in actions involving historical ensembles and buildings, administration and management, etc. In addition to these basic criteria, consideration will likewise be given to other more specific aspects included in each of the programmes and lines of action of the Plan.

### **The importance of documentation and research prior to any action.**

Documentation regarding architecture will be addressed from a perspective of global heritage, covering not only a technical and historical consideration but also an evaluation of intangible aspects, in accordance with the criteria established by UNESCO. As a result, this documentation prior to any action must be based on an analysis of the existing inventories and catalogues, including those for elements which have already disappeared.

They represent a vital initial phase before embarking on any process to embellish and protect heritage. We cannot protect what we do not understand, above all when valuing a particular type of assets revealing multiple and diverse expressions.

The information provided by these inventories and catalogues is highly extensive, as they are based on field work. What is recorded then receives attention, while those points of reference not selected and identified simply will not exist in heritage terms: they will be condemned to neglect and potential disappearance. It is therefore held that prior documentation studies are vital as an initial means of protection, requiring an inventory and catalogue generation process if such instruments do not exist, as the basis allowing us to draw conclusions so as to act in the future.

In other words, any intervention on traditional architecture must always be examined within the context of its relationship with the territory and landscape to which it belongs and owes its existence, along with aspects of anthropology, knowledge and intangible activities of the culture within which it has developed. The physical, formal and construction reality, state of preservation and usage likewise serve as influences.

### **The application of multidisciplinary methodology.**

Studies into traditional architecture must adopt a multidisciplinary methodology specifically because of the inherent characteristics: specialists in Architecture, Anthropology, Engineering, History, Geography, Archaeology, Art History, Restoration,

Documentation, among other disciplines, will be involved from the formation process onwards in order to achieve the stated goals.

A range of methodologies will be employed: the methods inherent in architecture will be combined with those associated with archaeology and anthropology, including in particular the gathering of oral memory and records on the part of the protagonists involved, with the historical method likewise serving to research original models through documents of various kinds: written, photographic, audiovisual, etc.

### **The central role necessarily played by the community of users.**

The decision and opinion of the bearer group inhabiting these architectures must be taken into consideration in any initiative. All cultural policy linked to the safeguarding of Traditional Architecture must be debated with and accepted by the creators and bearers and those inhabiting the Heritage. In the past there has been insufficient dialogue and consensus among administrators and those responsible for cultural policy, experts and those who are the owners, maintainers and legitimate users of such constructions. This means that prior to implementing any initiative a thorough, organised and representative debate must be staged, involving the overseers and owners of the Heritage in question.

### **Respect for all the cultural values of the architecture.**

Traditional architecture offers a series of values which must always be taken into consideration:

- Historical and identity value, as the record of past human activity, knowledge, integration within the environment and the cultural diversity and wealth of our world.
- The intangible and symbolic value of traditional architecture. The functions of these spaces are important as a record which must necessarily be incorporated within the documentation phase, as regards domestic activities and production transformation processes. Spaces connected with constructions with socialisation and religious functions are likewise included. An analysis of the organisation, division and meaning of all the spaces in accordance with the inhabitant group is vital. Similarly, these spaces are intrinsically tied to their most significant objects and furnishings. We lastly feel that the beliefs and practices associated with the use and maintenance of housing, along with the appreciation, perception, meaning and symbolism of the community itself, must likewise be valued and documented.
- Scientific value. Traditional architecture also represents a scientific storehouse of knowledge with regard to the specific qualities of local traditional materials, based on empirical use and production over the course of generations. Knowledge and qualities which are being uncovered in specific scientific studies, with applications which extend to the restoration of monuments and to new architecture. Given all the above, the wisdom stored up in such buildings

represents a value worthy of safeguarding, not only for the present but also for future generations.

### **Territorial balance.**

Architecture interacts with the territory. Human beings have, since the dawn of history, moved to and settled in different places. As a result, the territory has gradually adopted specific physiognomies, both in terms of economic activities and forms of habitation. In this regard, consideration will need to be given to such other ancillary structures in the territory which have, through their specificity, contributed to the economic activities historically pursued there: terraces, jetties, hay lofts, fountains, loading bays, enclosures, etc. This relationship between traditional uses of the territory and the structures scattered across it cannot be divorced from the traditional landscape as we now perceive it.

Such integration and balance must represent one of the cornerstones of sustainable long-term development. It could provide the basis for a better adaptation by modern society to the territory, to the diversity of regions and cultural areas, thereby enriching culture at the global level.

### **The application of sustainable measures.**

Traditional architecture serves as an example of ecological and bioclimatic solutions, applying the concepts of sustainability: in its relationship with the environment, the use of local materials, recycling and appropriate usage, adaptation to the local climate, orientation, spatial location, positioning of interior spaces, integration into the landscape and the balanced management of local resources in the various economic activities undertaken in each territory.

Traditional construction has unquestionably always been a profoundly sustainable activity, in its adaptation to the climate, to modes of living and social activities, and also its dependence on inherent local materials as the basic elements for the entire built environment.

We are today questioning in depth at the global level construction and habitat transformation processes which do not respect the environment, the huge plundering of materials and their transportation, and the ecological footprint which all construction involves.

Furthermore, all refurbishment operations represent a much more sustainable approach, better suited to preserving the material wealth of the planet, rather than pursuing uninterrupted growth, in terms both of construction and ancillary infrastructures, rather than developing existing and underused residential assets.

### **The appreciation and application of traditional construction techniques.**

One essential aspect of the interest in studying traditional architecture is the importance of the construction know-how of a territory's inhabitants, through adaptation to climate, to the functions of the building and the usage of local materials.

It is vital to make the most of the construction knowledge of the inhabitants of a territory. This represents an adaptation to the territory reflecting a profound sense of sustainability and local rootedness.

The limited direct records of those who still have a familiarity with and mastery of vernacular construction techniques, handing down to the present the experience of a distant past, must be processed, recorded and documented as precious ethnographic construction records. Meanwhile, re-learning, the true re-discovery of techniques, actions, the choice of components and materials is also called for, based on direct experience made possible specifically by the study of built records, along with knowledge of the territory associated with these techniques, in terms of benefits and differences offered by certain materials at the micro-spatial level, or physical location in accordance with contours, groundwater, orientation, etc.

The aim is to break with the concept that traditional construction techniques are incompatible with social progress and economic development. These techniques reveal qualities and advantages which often prove themselves superior when compared with current methods. It is no coincidence that the average usable life of recent buildings is significantly lower than those built with traditional materials and techniques.

In this regard a genuine educational exercise is required in distinguishing traditional materials from what would be traditional techniques and construction systems, between construction with traditional techniques and intervention in traditional constructions. As a result, this call for traditional construction techniques must be based on comprehensive knowledge by renowned specialists familiar with the techniques, and within the legal scope of sensitive urban planning regulations. Meanwhile, these techniques must as a result be considered as a genuine cultural resource and an economic driver of the future, given their capacity for maintenance and integration within landscapes. Many countries are now turning their gaze back to traditional construction, without overlooking the necessary modernisation, in order to fulfil today's standards of well-being.

### **The compatibility of use with the specificity of Vernacular Heritage.**

This Heritage teaches us a great deal of diversity about aspects of adaptation to use in accordance with the environment and social demands, which remain perfectly valid and current day.

We must encourage compatible alternative uses and responses which strike a balance between the technical advances offered by modern civilisation and the distinct specificity revealed by Vernacular Heritage in each of the different regions.

The principle reasserted here is that the priority in any programme or intervention must take into consideration a higher level of social well-being. In many cases the transformations undergone by current society entail standards of living which are fundamental and non-negotiable for the community. However, the transformations described could lead to irreversible losses of cultural riches, through the loss of

Vernacular Heritage and the identity and diversity this represents the society. Conservation of both values must be compatible, and provide cultural and social enrichment for the various communities.

**Modern architecture based on specific parameters of foundation, volume, types and materials from traditional architecture.**

Just as the architecture of the Modern Movement admired the strict functionality and expressive austerity of vernacular architecture, and learned much from these aspects for incorporation in the architectural projects of the past, a hundred years later we need to take a further step in this direction and likewise learn from the integration, materiality and short-, medium- and long-term environmental sustainability of vernacular architecture, to incorporate this within the architecture of the 21st century.

It is therefore absolutely vital to preserve the vernacular architecture which still exists, drawn from the know-how based on the trial and error of successive centuries, as this represents an irreplaceable example of environmental balance and adaptation, and can serve to establish guidelines for the design of a more environmentally sensible and sensitive architecture of the future.

**The balanced differentiation of new initiatives as the record of the era in which they are produced.**

Within the context of traditional architecture, the issue of a distinction between additions, restorations and new initiatives represents a double-edged sword, since it is a clear argument in favour of the architecture of any given era, while at the same time, given the fragility and defencelessness which characterise vernacular architecture, it could lead to the complete ruination of a built environment, without this having been intended or even noticed. The context of traditional architecture is completely different from courtly or monumental architecture, which is more able to withstand transfers of idiom, conceptual exercises and formal perceptive contrasts. Traditional architecture instead reveals a flat and fundamental idiom, a synthesis of its culture. Its forms are the immediate result of simple generation and direct implementation of materials.

As a result, although we cannot reject outright the introduction of contemporary idioms within a vernacular context, we must be aware of the danger of inappropriate alienation and modification of the sense of traditional architecture, which could become simply a museum exhibit. Because of this, and given the idiomatic and perceptive fragility of vernacular contexts, we propose a measured and discreet attitude in terms of integration of volume, morphology, colour, textures, fenestration, etc., with only the very minimum which would distinguish new from old, both in newly constructed architecture and restorations, where restorative efforts, which are necessarily unnatural, uncertain or rigid in the repair of the vernacular naturalness of the existing materials, will lead to the distinction required precisely because of our limited capacity for reproduction.

It will therefore be necessary to promote traditional techniques in the current architectural systems in such environments, avoiding any historical and mimetic falsifications which could lead to confusion over the years. It will likewise be necessary to address each case individually, avoiding generic solutions in municipal approaches or the mass replacement of elements, which would strip them of all charm and the "patina" built up over the years.

### **Encourage architectural and urban refurbishment**

The adaptation of traditional architecture to new standards of well-being should be viewed in a natural way, with such changes not only being permitted but encouraged, through solutions which integrate and regenerate traditional housing. This will therefore require support for the training of specialists in these techniques, in order in short for such projects to be perceived with the necessary normality.

### **Traditional architecture as an economic resource.**

The current trend towards urban concentration prompts us to alter the perspective we have of the rural environment, of its landscapes, its villages and its produce. City-dwellers tend to perceive this traditional environment with a degree of nostalgia, which often is also associated with stereotypes or false appreciations. This phenomenon could thus be seen as an economic opportunity which, if handled wisely, could allow certain villages to survive.

Only through the maintenance or recovery, at least to a partial extent, of certain traditional forms of life in rural environments can this "architecture" be made viable sustainable.

Traditional construction techniques are a wonderful example to be championed for traditional architecture, since this knowledge is not only maintained, transmitted and perpetuated, but in fact serves as a job-creating element, and thus an economic catalyst.

Meanwhile, Vernacular Built Heritage, because of another series of values, can become a cultural, social and tourist resource, supporting economic activities which contribute to the development of local communities. This economic factor should be seen as an element lending greater strength, without it being allowed to alter the heritage values of these assets, with a view to balanced and sustainable development. We must, however, avoid the creation of "theme parks" as a general criterion so as not to be guilty of a singularisation which would run counter to what is needed: a natural record of the past throughout the territory.



### 3. PROGRAMMES AND LINES OF ACTION

#### 3.1 RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMME.

##### **Approach and justification.**

Traditional architecture in Spain has been the subject of study and attention by specialists for approximately a century, generating a substantial corpus of general monograph papers dealing with types, provincial studies and specific studies. One may mention by way of reference, among many others, the works by García Mercadal, Caro Baroja, Feduchi, Flores, García Grinda, Benito Martín, etc. All these works have progressively incorporated new perspectives and methodologies of study and documentation which have generated substantial photographic and planimetric documentation, along with analyses of the territory, the landscape, and an anthropological vision offering a cultural evaluation of architecture.

This research tradition must continue, while incorporating new documentation and interpretation technologies, along with more recent criteria as regards instruments for cataloguing and for the management, protection and conservation of this Cultural Heritage.

The systematic research and identification of such heritage must proceed. This will require the generation of inventories and traditional architecture documentation studies, whatever the architectural expression materialised, whether rural or urban (housing, infrastructure, buildings intended for productive activities, religious uses, etc.).

Such documentation and inventories could be generic in nature (topographical) or related to specific typologies (thematic), but must in all cases avoid any overlap of content (different institutions involved or with an interest in their execution), and aim to cover the existing gaps. All this will add to the practical utility which all inventories must offer: identification of the assets comprising traditional architecture; scientific research to present an account of their origins, peculiarities, degree of dissemination, etc; a document base for appreciation through mechanisms for dissemination and inclusion in socio-economic contexts for the benefit of local societies (economic activities connected with refurbishment and maintenance, cultural or active tourism, recovery of trades connected with their original uses); knowledge of the state of preservation and scheduling of measures to guarantee their survival.

This National Plan for Traditional Architecture views as particularly useful the knowledge and coordination of the different inventory systems in order to integrate information. The move should be towards the development of integration systems allowing for the interaction of a range of documentation, in different spheres at both the national and international levels.

The generation of a shared platform or open databases allowing for the transfer of information could serve as instruments to integrate those inventories and studies already undertaken in each region, whether public or private, while also allowing the

incorporation of the new inventories which will be generated. It would in this regard be important to produce as part of the Plan a typological classification of traditional architecture, a set of criteria for the selection of the assets to be included and content agreed by common consensus in order to allow the systematisation of information.

### **Objectives and criteria.**

- Foster the development of documentation, study and research works into traditional architecture with a multidisciplinary methodology and innovative criteria.
- Ascertain the state of documentation and inventory of traditional architecture in the Autonomous Regions and promote procedures, tools and computerised platforms to facilitate access to the documentation and information available at public institutions, private institutions, professional and research bodies.
- Coordinate objectives with the Documentation Plan in the identification of document holdings and sources connected with traditional architecture, along with cataloguing, the generation of guides and dissemination.
- Development of a document corpus to record and archive the knowledge derived from systematic prior research and documentation, explaining the origin, typology, construction system and the elements in which the specific value of the assets comprising traditional architecture resides.
- Encourage specific studies to provide scientific and technical knowledge of aspects connected with the management and conservation of structures, usage of traditional materials and new uses for the assets and ensembles comprising traditional architecture.
- Promote studies into the usage of traditional techniques and materials in traditional and current constructions.
- Promote the authoring of technical manuals, guides and models of good practice for embellishment and conservation.
- Authoring of Special Plans and Steering Plans for ensembles of traditional architecture.
- Generate directories of institutions, study centres, associations, professionals, companies, trades which are connected or related to traditional architecture.

### **Actions**

- Generation of a documentation project and study into the state of the matter as regards documentation, study, protection, conservation, intervention, etc. covering the traditional architecture of the various Autonomous Regions.

- Generation of a manual or datasheet of content for inventorying, cataloguing, documentation and a manual of technical and methodological instructions setting out the overall focus for Traditional Architecture.
- Generation of directories of institutions, study centres, associations, professionals, companies, trades which are connected or related to traditional architecture.
- Generation of a record of bibliography, document and graphical sources establishing the meaningful presence of databases, images of traditional architecture (plans and drawings, collections of ethnographical photos, etc.).
- Generation of a specific thesaurus allowing for the controlled and comparative indexing of the valuable vocabulary generated with regard to the materials employed, construction techniques, architectural spaces, architectural typologies, etc.
- Introduction of a specific bursary funding round for studies and research into traditional architecture.
- Generation of teaching guides and pamphlets to promote usage within different curriculum programmes: from school to university levels.
- Creation of a Traditional Architecture platform, jointly with other programmes within this National Plan, incorporating document sources, inventories, studies, technical recommendations, educational units, resources, periodical publications, latest developments and all the information generated by the Plan programmes as a whole.

### **3.2 PROTECTION PROGRAMME.**

#### **Approach and justification.**

Legal protection is deemed to be necessary for those constructions, spaces and architectural ensembles identified as vernacular heritage, along with the authoring of specific legislation to guarantee their conservation.

Given the complexity and specificity of traditional architectural heritage as a whole, and its integration within the environment, it is felt that all protection and revitalisation must be implemented within the context of heritage regulations, territorial zoning and urban planning, safeguarding its integration within the landscape both in terms of volume and the constituent materials and techniques.

To this end, the heritage protection and territorial zoning regulations will be adapted, specific Intervention Plans drawn up for each municipality, district or grouping of districts reflecting the characteristics of their vernacular architecture, thereby ensuring identification, specific protection, safeguarding and restoration of the elements which

define that architecture and its architectural syntax.

Consideration will be given both to the formal aspects and the knowledge held by specialists within popular and traditional culture and by the users themselves with regard to the elements in question, in order to emphasise both their uses and potential symbolic meanings and their merely formal aspects.

New constructions incorporated within ensembles of traditional architecture will need to be harmonised in a balanced manner with the existing heritage and with the landscape within which they are inserted.

In any event, the fundamental guarantee of balance and effectiveness in territorial planning would lie in parallel efforts to educate, inform and raise the awareness of citizens as to the processes of authoring and discussing these plans. Effective socialisation of the initiatives undertaken within our Heritage improves their contextual value, making citizens feel that they are participants, rather than being excluded from the interventions performed.

### **Objectives and criteria**

- Acknowledge traditional architecture as a sustainable, functional and profitable resource for the furtherance of social, economic, local and regional development initiatives based on the intelligent application of buildings and construction solutions, guaranteeing adaptation to the physical environment, landscape integration, sustainability and the affordable use of existing materials, which have been inherited and which we are obliged to pass on to future generations.
- Foster and promote the appreciation and protection of traditional architecture within urban planning regulations, through appropriate cataloguing, definition of uses and degrees of protection.
- Afford legal protection for ensembles and assets of traditional architecture identified as being representative.
- Afford general basic (environmental) protection for traditional historic settlements.
- Development of urban planning instruments for effective protection and the creation of a programme of integrated refurbishment of traditional architecture.

### **Actions**

- Effectively apply the heritage legislation in force in each Autonomous Region to the protection of traditional architecture.
- Review of the different legislative measures (Heritage Acts, regulations, urban

planning rules, development plans...) in order to emphasise the specific recognition of the value of traditional architecture.

- Incorporate within plans, projects and regional and urban planning regulations objectives, measures and safeguarding techniques for the conservation and maintenance of traditional architecture.
- Draw up Steering Plans for those ensembles selected via the National Plan for Traditional Architecture.
- Properly disseminate methodologies and examples of good practice employed in the processes of protecting and embellishing traditional architecture.
- Emphasise in the protection measures the recognition of the structural and material values of traditional architecture, rather than simply formal aspects.
- Given that this approach involves not only legislation but also the exemplary presentation of models of collective recognition, support must be given for the application of the highest categories of protection for ensembles and specific cases of traditional architecture, in accordance with principles of representativity: associated ways of life, historical origins, architectural and construction features.

### **3.3. PROGRAMME OF INTERVENTION AND RECOVERY OF THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS.**

#### **Approach and justification.**

Interventions on traditional architecture are to be understood as the range of actions and measures intended to safeguard tangible assets: properties and associated furnishings, comprising this set of constructions which represent a substantial part of our Cultural Heritage.

The maintenance of traditional architecture, understood within the context of preventive conservation, must be promoted by the Public Authorities, ensuring that the viability and sustainability of traditional uses is achieved, along with the intrinsic environmental and landscape conditions to which this architecture owes its existence, and for which it plays a key role.

Intervention on traditional architecture may achieve preventive conservation; curative or restorative conservation; restoration or recovery; refurbishment or re-use or adaptation for visitor centres, exhibitions, museums and public presentation (showcasing).

When defining the criteria for intervention on traditional architecture, which will be analogous to those applied to other Cultural Heritage real estate, it is important to take into consideration its nature and characteristics, which in principle make it more

fragile and exposed than other forms of architecture protected on the basis of their cultural value.

It is important to recognise and maintain its character as direct and spontaneous architecture, which is also learned and informed, the result of construction know-how which has filtered down over centuries.

The final stage in the process of maintenance and conservation of traditional architecture corresponds to the updating of traditional construction systems, both in project planning terms and in the execution of the project, which would need to be performed by workers familiar with the traditional trades, which are now in disuse.

It is vital to understand the use of traditional techniques and materials inherent in each site as a source of developing the local economy, trades and local small businesses. The production or preparation of local materials and on-site implementation in accordance with traditional techniques demand specific preparation by trades and companies which must clearly be located within the territorial context itself, thereby generating benefits for the local economy.

The way in which materials are worked, how they are treated, finished and their specific colours all correspond to the storehouse of local construction know-how, and these features must therefore be safeguarded and revitalised.

The conservation and recovery of traditional construction systems represents an essential part of the conservation of Built Vernacular Heritage. These systems, both the materials and the techniques, must be available and be promoted and facilitated for use by the resident population itself. Traditional construction systems comprise:

- The population itself, who must necessarily play a central role in the Heritage.
- The production, distribution and on-site implementation of materials.
- Construction techniques.
- Their physical, formal and aesthetic characteristics.

The last requirement is to promote conservation and recovery of traditional materials and techniques, as a sustainable method maintaining an intimate relationship between the construction and the need for ongoing maintenance.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of intervention on traditional architecture are as follows:

- Acknowledge traditional architecture as a characteristic, inherent and inseparable element of construction in a territory and of the cultural landscape resulting from the prolonged interaction between human groups, the natural world and the environmental context.
- Acknowledge traditional architecture as an attractive, sustainable, functional and profitable resource for the furtherance of social, economic, local and

regional initiatives and policies, based on the intelligent application of buildings and construction solutions, guaranteeing adaptation to the physical environment, landscape integration, sustainability and the affordable use of existing materials, which have been inherited and which we are obliged to hand down to future generations.

- Foster the maintenance and consistent and appropriate use of constituent assets, acknowledging them as a non-renewable resource which is required for the social and economic development of human groups and for the sustainable development of territories.
- Develop a methodology which acknowledges and safeguards diversity, the relationship with the context and with the landscape of the inherent assets belonging to this architecture, their distinctive, specific and inherent characteristics, and their unique forms derived from a response to the climate, from the use of local materials and from their distinctive construction systems.
- Stimulate and promote knowledge of the materials of traditional architecture and their application in construction through the research and recording of techniques for on-site implementation, usage and finishing, as their characteristic and inherent features. Knowledge and research intended to recover and maintain the techniques and the architecture itself.
- Promote research into new uses which are compatible with the inherent cultural values of the traditional architecture.
- Promote the design and study of new solutions making the conservation and permanence of traditional architecture viable, by maintaining its authenticity and facilitating the viable, coherent and sustainable adaptation of protected assets to the new demands of users and of society.
- Document the intervention by means of projects which take into consideration and characterise the traditional systems and materials employed both at the site of the project and within its territorial context.
- Promote the usage and development of channels of information and facilitate access by developers, conservators and decision-makers to the manufacturers and suppliers of the materials associated with traditional architecture.
- Develop and promote the usage of networks of specialist professionals and workers.
- Foster the maintenance of plantations of certain species of vegetation employed in construction, while also fostering and enabling the rational use of local natural raw materials in interventions for the restoration of traditional constructions.

### **Specific criteria:**

- *Conservation of materiality and meaning.*
  - The materials of traditional architectural must be conserved as far as possible. As an object of conservation they have a twofold interest, reflecting two fundamental factors of traditional architecture: their constitution, or constituent mass, the materials and the technique employed; and their nature, expressed through the external appearance or patina.
  - Priority will be given to the development and implementation of appropriate maintenance of assets by means of initiatives for preventive conservation, repair and conservation of integrity, applying the characteristic and distinctive techniques of traditional builders and users.
  - Respect for the safeguarding of the original materials must be applied through an understanding that the materials and certain specific elements may be perishable, and thus open to replacement by other analogous materials which are consistent with the twofold interpretation of such matter: its physical constitution and its character.
  - Interventions on traditional architecture will prioritise the maintenance and conservation of the assets over and above refurbishment. In any event, the use of the properties will be encouraged, employing them for their traditional purpose or any other which may be compatible with cultural values.
  - The consistency of interventions and potential contemporary incorporations will preferably be based on the usage of the inherent craft knowledge, trades, materials and techniques of the architecture and its territorial and cultural context; adaptation to the specific climatic and geographical conditions of the location; respect for traditional architectural composition, forms and/or volumes; and the textures and colouring of the traditional architecture.
  - In the case of ensembles, whether they are rural or urban in nature, where traditional architecture represents a fundamental part the recommendation is in all cases to conserve and restore the existing buildings, rather than to construct new buildings. This will thus avoid the mimetic reproduction of traditional architectural models, which would create properties which counterfeit the authenticity of their traditional nature.
- *Compatibility of materials*
  - The new materials to be incorporated within the refurbishment must be compatible with the existing architecture. The sustainable and ecological nature enjoyed by traditional architecture by definition must not be nullified or tainted by the inclusion of new materials which would enter into conflict with the natural philosophy and healthiness of the existing materials.
  - The replacement of materials, elements and physical parts which are characteristic



must be documented, with a graphical and written record of the initiative being drawn up, the original parts being removed, the new parts identified and critically evaluated, by means of a multidisciplinary analysis, along with a consideration of whether the removed parts should be conserved and/or incorporated in a museum.

- *Structural and construction compatibility*

- The supporting framework of traditional architecture is based on the optimisation of local resources, and normally corresponds to centuries-old characteristics derived from its constituent materials, and the need to adapt to a territory. An intervention on the structure offers three potential options corresponding to the priority of action: 1st maintenance and/or repair; 2nd reinforcement; 3rd replacement.
- In all cases of intervention an attempt will be made to prioritise the first two options rather than the third, and if replacement is inevitable, then the aim must be to conserve the structural, constructive, functional and formal principle of the building, which is as important as its materiality.
- Compatibility and coherence must be ensured in the materials, the construction and structural solutions incorporated within the property, the new forms designed and the new uses proposed, in accordance with the original counterparts and with the cultural values which have been characterised.
- The materials and techniques of contemporary technological development will be employed only if they have first been tested, compared and their appropriateness to the real need of the intervention has been rigorously demonstrated, along with their compatibility with the original manufacturing processes and materials and consistency with the conservation and appreciation of the protected cultural values.

- *Functional compatibility*

- The reuse of the residential buildings of traditional architecture must aim to imbue them with conditions of habitability analogous to those required of other housing. It is however necessary to adopt a compromise allowing for a degree of flexibility in the interpretation of regulations, guaranteeing the safeguarding of the values and characteristics inherent in the traditional architecture with which the property is vested.
- Museum interventions are considered possible and recommendable if there are no other more active alternatives for usage which are consistent or analogous with the traditional function, or which could be compatible with a museum function exhibiting and interpreting the original building. Any extensive and exclusive museum conversion of whole territories or ensembles should be avoided, as given the absence of a diversity of inherent uses for the traditional architecture, this would transform them into mere theme parks or tableaux devoid

of life and meaning, little more than a stage set.

- *Conservation of symbiosis with the landscape*
  - The external image of traditional architecture must be maintained in its relationship with its contextual territory, as it has an intimate relationship with the landscape to which it belongs, given that its scale, its materials, its colouring and its texture represent an essential characteristic thereof.
  - Should it prove necessary to incorporate any annex or newly designed building within an environment with a strong presence of traditional architecture, the aim must be to achieve an integration based on the proper choice of volume, composition, colour and texture, in order that these new constructions will go unnoticed within the traditional settlement as a whole, without thereby neglecting the use of a contemporary architectural idiom if necessary.
  - The use of architectural and construction idioms, references and solutions inherent in traditional architecture is not acceptable in a manner which is decontextualised with regard to the characteristics and values of the buildings or assets involved in the project. Nor is it acceptable for the architectural and construction idioms, references and solutions proposed to fail to correspond to the context of the landscape and of the territory to which the architecture belongs, and with which the asset forming the object of the intervention relates, or if the approach is not consistent with the social, economic and human activity aspects to which it corresponds.
  - In the event that because of reasons of force majeure or an acknowledged public interest it should prove necessary to relocate an asset comprising Cultural Heritage in order to guarantee its safeguarding, this may not be performed outside of the landscape, the territory and the spatial sphere of origin. The geographical and district context must be respected, in the sense of the natural and cultural ambience with which the asset is connected, and of which the expressions and cultural activities in question are intrinsically characteristic.
- *Economic sustainability and development*
  - Intervention on traditional architecture must take into consideration in all cases aspects of sustainability and energy efficiency, which are inherent in it based on the experience developed over the course of its genesis and history, making it a living and empirically proven example of adaptation to a specific medium. These aspects have demonstrated the efficiency and excellent performance and adaptation to territory and climate through which it has been devised.
  - The usage of contemporary construction and structural materials, techniques and systems is permissible if they pursue an adaptation to the expectations and needs of contemporary users, in particular in those aspects connected with comfort, accessibility and safety allowing for the development of a use which is sustainable, consistent and compatible with the cultural values of the asset.

## **Actions:**

- Incorporate within plans, projects and regulations of a territorial and urban design nature objectives, measures and safeguarding, conservation and maintenance techniques for traditional architecture. In particular, general municipal zoning plans and special urban planning documents to protect urban or rural ensembles within which assets of traditional architecture might exist.
- Consultancy and technical support offered by the competent public authorities, as required in order to allow the owners and users of the characteristic assets of traditional architecture to have access to knowledge regarding the criteria, means and instruments available so as appropriately to maintain the properties, and conservation and refurbishment actions which guarantee the safeguarding and continuity of this heritage.
- Subsidies and public support programmes for the maintenance, conservation, refurbishment and use of traditional architecture. Support programmes may cover economic assistance in accordance with uses (grants for the establishment and development of public uses, housing, tourism promotion, support for the development of productive activities...); of the design and development of fiscal measures or tax exemptions for activities connected with the maintenance and conservation of this architecture, and technical support and specialist, professional consultancy for the owners, holders and users in order for appropriate interventions to be implemented.
- Scientific studies to develop procedures, techniques and technological solutions facilitating the usage of traditional architecture assets while maintaining their original functions or employing them for other new uses which are compatible and consistent with their cultural values.
- Incorporation within the regulations issued in the field of construction, safety and usage of properties of the singular nature of traditional architecture and its proven functionality, sustainability, economy and intelligent application of materials, construction techniques and resources derived from its rootedness within a specific physical medium. On the basis of this recognition, exceptions or flexible approaches will be required as to the application to this architecture of any standards which are intended for means of construction and building and for a function entirely unconnected with traditional uses, and which would invalidate conservation interventions or prevent their employment.
- Inclusion of knowledge of the singularity and cultural value of traditional architecture within legislation and legal, administrative and regulatory tools intended to protect the environment, public property, the landscape and traditional land uses, in order to include among the characteristic elements to be safeguarded those assets which are characteristic of this architecture and its inherent uses.

- Propose and promote action by advisory or instrumental bodies, comprising multidisciplinary teams of technicians trained through field work, acting directly on detected ensembles and assets, so as to advise and collaborate with owners and other agents involved in interventions so as to agree and establish the best approach and definition for initiatives. The aim will be to pursue the utmost effectiveness and efficiency through the application of standardised solutions which are compatible with the objectives and criteria laid down in this Plan, guaranteeing agility and minimum bureaucracy.
- Regulation of the incorporation of new uses as a tool guaranteeing the conservation of properties.
- Training for civil servants, technicians, professionals, craftsmen and skilled tradesmen in knowledge of the techniques, the materials, practices and procedures characteristic of traditional architecture, in order to provide a supply of individuals with the theoretical and practical training and sufficient experience so as to design and execute interventions.
- Promote major efforts for the recovery of traditional systems of construction and training for the workers and craftsmen required so as to apply these systems, as is currently being performed in a number of specific initiatives at various locations around the country.
- Support and promote craft workshops and centres for the extraction or processing of the materials and initial inputs required for execution of interventions on traditional architecture. Economic and taxation incentives and grants will in particular be promoted in order to guarantee the continuity and activity of those companies, professionals and craftsmen dedicated to the conservation of traditional architecture and the production of the materials required for this.
- Draw up an updated register of firms and enterprises engaged in the manufacture, supply and sourcing of traditional materials, and a register of workers, craftsmen and professionals specialising in and familiar with traditional techniques. Publicise these registers by publishing lists at the local, regional and/or national levels.

### **3.4. PROGRAMME OF DISSEMINATION, TRANSMISSION AND COOPERATION.**

#### **Planning and justification.**

The dissemination and embellishment of traditional architecture, based on its intrinsic nature, is a fundamental and irrevocable objective for the implementation of strategies intended to achieve the knowledge, protection and transmission of the values inherent in traditional architecture.

In this regard, one of the key aims will be the recognition and recovery on the part of the resident population of knowledge and self-esteem regarding their own Heritage,

and those traditional architecture assets which remain in use.

An appropriate strategy of dissemination and public awareness-raising is important in order to achieve a positive, receptive and collaborative attitude in the implementation of documentation and preservation tools.

Given the very nature of such architecture, we also believe it would be desirable to take into consideration the relationship between territories and an analysis of similarities and differences, as a reflection of processes of adaptation and continuous cultural exchanges. This will require close collaboration between the different autonomous regions in Spain, and beyond this collaboration with other countries. Ultimately, the very concept of Cultural Heritage involves not only the recognition of our own cultural identity through the selected elements (in this case traditional architecture), but also the recognition of the identity of others (their Heritage), is the ultimate expression of the cultural wealth which characterises the diversity of peoples.

The dissemination of this Heritage must involve both those disciplines connected with it and, essentially, local societies themselves, and public institutions. It is vital in this task to restore to traditional culture the value and esteem it has lost. To this end we must undertake permanent awareness-raising, education and training as regards cultural, territorial and historical values and the quality of life in terms of environment and landscape which this architecture can and must deliver.

### **Objectives and criteria**

Devise strategies to ensure that inventories and other studies intended to increase knowledge of traditional architecture take the form of specific safeguarding proposals.

- Design of a social awareness-raising campaign for traditional architecture. It will be hugely important to convey to the media the vital role of this architecture as a result of the values which it encapsulates and the vulnerability of this heritage.
- Stimulation for the recognition and training of specialists in construction and restoration techniques applying traditional models.
- Proposals for coordination with the other National Plans.
- Encourage the involvement of schools through seminars involving heritage and education professionals, with the aim of conveying and fostering among the school population a responsible awareness of the heritage handed down to them. It will be important in this regard to have the collaboration of those public and private institutions involved in one way or another in the territories.
- Development of communication strategies via the Internet and social networks.
- Organisation of periodic gatherings of professionals and experts addressing traditional architecture.

- Creation of a network of associations dedicated to the study, protection, conservation and dissemination of traditional architecture.
- Generation of an accessible online database containing sources of information about traditional architecture: location of antique photographs, location of archival documents (land surveys, censuses, plot division registers...), old films, videos.
- Development of programmes of international cooperation allowing for the knowledge and dissemination of regulatory and legal systems developed in different countries with regard to the protection and safeguarding of traditional architecture.
- Exchange of experiences at the international level in all aspects concerning traditional architecture: planning, cataloguing, models of intervention, consideration as a cultural resource, recovery of traditional systems of construction, etc.
- The conservation of World Heritage and inclusion on the list of some of the more prestigious examples of vernacular built heritage could represent an outstanding vehicle for the showcasing of the values of this legacy. In this regard, in order to safeguard vernacular built heritage proposals will need to be put into practice in order to include on the World Heritage list examples of traditional architecture, adopting the objectives and principles established in this Plan.
- Execution of awareness-raising programmes the main aim of which will be to restore the self-esteem of communities as regards their architecture, while also engaging the involvement of local and district groups (associations for Heritage protection, researchers, confederations, local councils) to embark on activities intended to protect traditional architecture.

### **Actions**

- As a mechanism for bringing traditional architecture closer to the general public, it would be necessary to create a series of television documentaries capable of conveying the wealth that this architectural heritage represents, structuring a discourse which would cover the material and built aspects and living spaces.
- Draw up a manual of good practice with regard to the knowledge, protection, dissemination and safeguarding of traditional architecture. This manual should include criteria for intervention on such Heritage, a spectrum of techniques and solutions for intervention on traditional constructions, using different materials and construction techniques.
- Foster the development of multidisciplinary teams and projects (research, intervention) addressing any dimension of additional architecture.

- Stage courses for specialists and professionals, and others with an educational approach, intended to showcase traditional architecture and an understanding thereof.
- Develop intervention projects the main aim of which is to embellish traditional architecture.
- Devise cultural trails in which the different architectures are linked to the cultural landscapes (urban and rural) of which they form a part, and are related to historical processes and ways of life.
- Collaborate in the publication of a digital edition explaining both the wealth and diversity which still remains in this architecture, and the proposed interventions and their capacity for integration within new architectural, landscaping and heritage discourses.
- Include in educational curriculums the various themes connected with traditional architecture and its relationship with the territory where it is rooted. Such educational actions must be implemented at all levels (from infant and primary education up to university courses). This training task, at the university level, must in particular be strengthened at all schools, faculties and disciplines which could be connected with traditional architecture (architecture, surveying, engineering, heritage and territorial management, history, anthropology, agronomy, agriculture, etc.) by means of specific subjects and the inclusion of skills within study plans.
- Structure a national awards process for the restoration of traditional architectural heritage, along with funding for Research Bursaries addressing issues of traditional architecture.
- Reward the best new publications addressing traditional architecture. -
- Promote European investment programmes focused on the recovery of traditional architecture and the exchange of good practice and experience among the countries of the European Union.
- Put into practice pilot schemes for cooperation in Latin American countries through actions for the refurbishment and use of traditional materials.

## **4. EXECUTION AND FOLLOW-UP**

### **4.1. COORDINATION AND CO-FUNDING OF ACTIONS.**

The National Plan for Traditional Architecture represents an instrument for management and collaboration among public authorities, private entities and society at large, by shaping a shared methodological framework to facilitate coordinated action. This Plan requires a high level of interactive communication to ensure that appropriate participation is achieved, with the understanding of all agents, properly aligned with the safeguarding of strategies.

Following approval of the Plan by the Heritage Council, the proposal will be to establish a Technical Monitoring Commission for the National Plan for Traditional Architecture, on a multidisciplinary basis, comprising technicians representing Central Government, the autonomous regional authorities and external experts. So as to establish full and permanent communication and coordination among the public authorities, the autonomous regions may appoint interlocutors in order to channel information.

The task of the Commission will be the evolution and monitoring of theoretical and conceptual aspects of the studies and documents produced, and also the theoretical focus of the initiatives which are progressively developed. It will also have the function of validating and/or proposing the basic operational approaches, monitoring and evaluating the development of any projects instigated within the context of the National Plan, studies into criteria and methodology, and interventions in accordance with the approaches dictated by the Plan. The Technical Monitoring Commission will likewise be responsible for oversight of compliance with each of the operational programmes.

In order to perform these functions, coordination will be established by a Coordination Committee within the Monitoring Commission, comprising the coordinator of the Plan, the vice-coordinator and secretary. The Plan Monitoring Commission will meet at least twice a year.

### **4.2. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STUDY.**

The National Plan for Traditional Architecture, as an instrument for shared management and institutional cooperation, is promoted and supported by the joint action of various official bodies and other public and private entities. As a result, the actions planned for development of the Plan are funded from various sources, coordinated by the Plan itself and including the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, through the Spanish Institute of Cultural Heritage, along with other agencies of



central government, the Autonomous Regions, local authorities, within the scope of their competences, as well as foundations, associations and other entities, which will, through their range of initiatives, contribute to the execution of the various strategies proposed in this national plan.

Although institutional actions addressing Traditional Architecture may be much more extensive, in that they could affect actions for the encouragement of refurbishment, urban generation, energy efficiency, rural development, etc., we have devised in this plan an exclusive quantification of those aspects strictly tied to the proposals set out in the Plan, and which can be managed, promoted and overseen by the National Plan Monitoring Commission.

The scheduled actions correspond to the following four blocks:

1. Research and Documentation. The vulnerability to which this Heritage is subject reveals the importance of documentation and research as an essential element for identification, recording and safeguarding.

2. Protection. Protection of this type of Heritage is vital, since Traditional Architecture lies within the scope of urban planning regulations, through cataloguing, definition of uses and degrees of protection. It is therefore vital to develop actions and instruments for urban planning, the creation of integrated refurbishment programmes, alignment with national and regional regulations, drafting of steering plans, etc., in order to achieve effective protection.

3. Intervention and recovery of traditional architecture. This programme is hugely important for the maintenance of traditional architecture, through pilot initiatives which will serve to recover individual elements and contribute to sustainability. The use of traditional systems, techniques and materials in accordance with the criteria set out in the Plan will make traditional architecture an attractive, functional and profitable resource, which will help achieve the use of such methods in contemporary architecture.

4. Dissemination, transmission and cooperation: In order to underpin the above actions, a dissemination plan must be established by means of courses, seminars and publications, and support for the transmission of knowledge and know-how as to construction systems, techniques and crafts. It is therefore essential to develop operational and cooperation approaches to raise awareness and engage the population in the cultural meaning of these assets, by highlighting the importance of safeguarding and embellishing them.

The planned distribution of the investment over ten years corresponding to each of these programs is as follows:

<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>PLAN (10 years)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Research and Documentation</b>	<b>10 %</b>	<b>100,000 EUR</b>	<b>1,000,000 EUR</b>	
<b>Protection</b>	<b>15 %</b>	<b>150,000 EUR</b>	<b>1,500,000 EUR</b>	
<b>Intervention and recovery of traditional architecture</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>500,000 EUR</b>	<b>5,000,000 EUR</b>	
<b>Dissemination, transmission and cooperation</b>	<b>25 %</b>	<b>250,000 EUR</b>	<b>2,500,000 EUR</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,000,000 EUR</b>	<b>10,000,000 EUR</b>	

#### **4.3. VALIDITY AND REVIEW OF THE PLAN**

The National Plan for Traditional Architecture will be in place for 10 years from approval by the Historical Heritage Council, with a review being undertaken after the first five years.

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