

# Part C2

# Information on Existing Historical Buildings



**Terms of conservation / restoration  
for construction works and conversions on traditional  
structure that exist at the construction site of the New Cyprus  
Museum**

**A. GENERAL TERMS**

1. Taking into consideration that structures constitute remarkable examples of the architecture and historical heritage of the island, while acknowledging also the fact that in the case of their conservation, this can be ensured effectively with their modification to better suit the needs of their new owners, the execution of restoration-revival works needs to be based on the following general principles:

(a) the complete conservation and restoration of the shell of structures that are maintained in their original architectural form, as well as the maximum use of traditional materials and techniques

(b) the replacement of parts of the structures that have been wasted or destroyed with new identical ones to the originals, where that is possible, while where there is no evidence for their original form, the use of new materials of simple form that is well integrated in the architectural whole, without forging the historical evidence of the buildings, and

(c) in cases where the traditional architectural techniques prove to be inadequate, resolving the issues of support and mechanical and electrical equipment with innovative construction and placement methods, which at the same time will need to comply technically and aesthetically with the existing original situation, but also to denote their modern construction form.

2. It is noted that relocation of the above-mentioned structures are not recommended.

## **B. TECHNICAL TERMS**

1. For tackling potential structural problems and deficiencies in masonry of traditional structures, restoration of original structures is recommended with the use of traditional materials and techniques such as seaming of cracks, connection of niches, placement of perimeter beam/wooden horizontal binding beam and joint etc. Repairs carried out on the traditional load bearing structure must not alter its structural function, and for that reason its reinforcement, where necessary, will need to be carried out with additional supportive parts (e.g. timber or metal) provided that they are integrated harmoniously, structurally as well as architecturally, in the existing original structure. These parts are recommended to remain visible in the interior of the structure, which will allow the relevant intervention to remain noticeable. The use of a frame of reinforced concrete is not accepted for the reinforcement of traditional structures, since it constitutes a different structural system with regards to traditional load bearing masonry. Moreover, reinforced concrete is not a material compatible with traditional materials and definitely has a shorter lifetime.

2. The exterior of processed masonry, as well as its possible rock-cut features, such as window and door frames, visors, frames, wall edges etc. will be maintained and restored to their original form and position and will be restored in such a way as to leave the stone exposed. It is implicit that, for the repair of the masonry and of the stone parts, a mixture of lime, riversand and river gravel (pulverised stone based mortar) will be used in the same colour shade as the stone, whereas their heavily weathered parts will be replaced with stone of the same type, appropriately cut. It is understood that joints will not be painted, while the connecting mortar will have the same colour as the stone. Furthermore, in no case will stone or other form of frames be constructed in openings where original frames did not exist, or in new openings.

3. The repair and filling of masonry joints of the existing exterior stone masonry need to be carried out in the traditional method and with the use of traditional materials, so that the final picture is the same with the original.

Special attention needs to be paid to the jointing, the fill in the fresh mortar joints with gallets, the dimensions, the form and the density of stones, while in no case should the joints be painted or cemented. The binding mortar will need to have the appropriate composition based on its original materials. It is understood that the joining mortar will have a similar composition, will be in the colour of local earth and will be placed in recesses to ensure that it is almost invisible.

4. In the case of annexes adjoining the traditional structures, the connecting points between the shell of the annex and the original load bearing masonry, the appropriate details should be fashioned which will highlight the original form of traditional structures. Therefore, the creation of a joint between the traditional structure and the annex is recommended.

5. The interior plasters need to be manufactured in the traditional method and with traditional materials (gypsum or lime mud), so that the final result is identical with the original and at the same time the transpiration of masonry is allowed. In no case will metal or other type of lattice, but nor cement-based plaster should be used in any of the plastering stages.

6. In the case of partial demolition of the interior masonry for merging the spaces, suitably cut stones should be used at the corners and the load bearing walls also need to remain connected, which is required aesthetically and structurally. The heights of the new openings that are created should follow the existing heights of the original traditional openings in the same space. Furthermore, the trail of the masonry that is removed should also remain visible with a noticeable distinction for example of the material of the floor, as well as the use of a simple horizontal lintel: modern forms of arches are in no way acceptable.

7. The ceilings of structures and their ends of the tiled roofs need to be maintained and restored to their original form, complying with the traditional standards and existing details on the ground. It is understood that all wooden parts of the ceilings (board ceilings on the floor and gypsum boards on the ground floor) will be maintained and where necessary will be restored in

accordance with their original form. Special attention needs to be paid to the maintenance/restoration of original terminal points of ceilings. It is understood that the small thickness of the original structures will be maintained / restored and in no way will insulation be placed on the protrusions.

8. All existing original doors and windows need to be maintained, after being conserved appropriately, and only where it is essential should they be replaced with new identical structures. The door and window frames that may need to be replaced should be placed in the position in the masonry where they originally stood.

9. For the construction of new openings wooden lintels should be used, complying with traditional standards. The new openings should have a simple rectangular-vertical form, following the original openings of the structure.

10. The window panes and their spacing should be maintained at their existing dimensions, thickness and form, following the construction details of the existing original window panes.

11. The original colour of door and window frames and of the masonry should be maintained or restored as much as possible. For timber, which will not be painted, a mat varnish of dark colour should be used for the new timber or a colourless varnish for the old timber, while in no case should it be of a red or yellow tint.

12. The original floors should be maintained after being appropriately conserved, while in the case their replacement is essential, new ones should be placed, identical to those.

13. Special attention needs to be paid to the correct manufacture of doorsteps of outer doors of the structures. The doorsteps need to be manufactured of solid materials (e.g. stone etc.) according to their initial original state and the traditional standards of the region or with the use of unified ground concrete.

14. Any decorative details of the interior need to comply with the architecture of the structures in form, materials and colour. The functional

parts (cupboards, benches, etc.) need to be manufactured in minimal, simple form. It is understood that in no case should they extend to the ceilings of traditional rooms or the edges of traditional openings.

15. The covered galleries need to be maintained and conserved appropriately, according to the existing details and the traditional standards. It is understood that the existing position and dimensions of wooden columns should in no case be modified.

16. All outer wooden parts (e.g. wooden railing) need to be maintained and conserved appropriately.