The history of a locality is often defined by its culture and the built manifestations of that culture. The preservation of the architectural heritage of a culture is an indication of the importance that culture placed on its past. The trend in the developed world today is to preserve historical monuments, historic district, tangible and intangible heritage as much as possible. In Asia, conservation has a checkered history. For China and Hong Kong, architectural conservation is at the early stages of development. Much have been learned and much have to be done. This course is designed to introduce the basic concepts and practices in conservation with a particular emphasis on conservation practices in Hong Kong and the region. It will serve as the foundation for further development of interest and skill in conservation.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To understand the history and basic tenets of architectural conservation.
- To be aware of the universality of the principles of architectural conservation.
- To be able to apply principles and practices of architectural conservation.
- To be able to continue to work and study various aspects of the policy and technique of architectural conservation beyond this course.

**STRUCTURE**

The course will consist of three parts. **Part I** is primarily an introduction to architectural conservation: its history, charters, theory, local practices, and conceptual and legislative frameworks. **Part II** will concentrate on the techniques of conservation concentrating primarily on values-centered assessment. It will deal with documentation, conservation plan and other techniques in actual conservation works. A fieldtrip to Macau will be organized which will be the subject of **Part III- case studies, different strategies and opinions and field work.**
The course will be interactive in delivery consisting of lectures, seminars, discussions, reading and visits. Lectures will set the conceptual framework and will be relatively short. The main bulk of learning is through reading, presentation and discussion. The visit to Central and trip to Macau would be to observe and critique a variety of approaches in architectural conservation.

The course allows the students to acquire basic understanding of the history and theory of conservation. In a step-by-step manner, the course will lead the students to formulate their own attitude and value judgments on issues involving architectural heritage. Students will learn the fundamentals and practice of evaluation of conservation values, as well as formulation of conservation plans. The many case studies will also expose students to different approaches to conservation, including visits to local and Beijing case sites. The course is also reading and writing intensive, thereby encouraging students to acquire these skills.

The course would be necessary pre-requisite for taking G6 studio. It is also the first course in the MArch + study scheme in the concentration area of Conservation Design. The learning outcome and course objective would be geared towards a full set of knowledge and skills in conservation study and practice.

**SCHEDULE**

**PART I**

1. September 7  **INTRODUCTION** | history and language of architectural conservation

   Primary reading:

   Secondary readings:

2. September 14  **THEORY** | charters and principles

   Primary reading:

   Secondary readings:
3. September 21  LEGISLATURE  |  legal and administrative framework

Guest lecturer:
Ms. Margaret Chan, Senior Heritage Officer, Antiquities & Monuments Office

Primary reading:

Secondary readings:

Websites for heritage conservation in Hong Kong:
http://www.conservancy.org.hk/heritage/mainE.htm

4. September 28  TOOLS  |  how to conserve

Primary reading:

Secondary readings:

5. October 6  PRACTICE  |  China and Hong Kong

Guest lecturer:
Nelson Chen, Honorary Professor, School of Architecture, CUHK, Principal, Nelson Chen Architects Ltd., visit http://www.nca.com.hk/

This session aims to look at the framework for architectural conservation in terms of values of architectural heritage, legislation, practices and outcome in both China and Hong Kong from practitioners’ point of view.

Readings and websites for heritage conservation in China:


6. October 12  NEIGHBOURHOOD  |  several cases in Central

This afternoon, we will take a walk around Central looking at several sites, including Central Market. These sites represent different conservation approaches based on the cultural and administrative environment of the time and future possibilities. You will be given a list of sites to visit and research with different strategies in conservation. You will write a critique of these strategies.

Guest speaker:
Mr. Kenneth S.W. Tam, Chief Heritage Manager, Antiquities & Monuments Office
Readings:
Articles on Central Market:
The Hong Kong and South China Builder, vol. 4 No. 2 April and May, 1939.
Conservation plan of the Central Police Station Compound, Hong Kong:
http://www.centralpolicestation.org.hk/eng/plan.htm
Resource Kit for the Former Police Married Quarters at Hollywood Road:
Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum:

Websites by the Development Bureau, HKSAR:
“Conserving Central”:
Redevelopment of the Sheng Kung Hui Compound in Central:

PART II

7. October 19 EVALUATION | determining the values, interpreting the site

Primary reading:

Secondary reading:

8. October 26 STRATEGY | develop an approach and write a conservation plan

Guest lecturers:
Wendy Ng, Research Project Officer, CAHR
May Ho, Heritage Officer, CAHR

Primary reading:

Secondary readings:
Conservation plan of the Central Police Station Compound, Hong Kong:
http://www.centralpolicestation.org.hk/eng/plan.htm

9. November 2 DISCUSSION | back to the cases of Central

In this session, you will combine the notes and critiques of Central cases with the knowledge gained in the last two lectures to discuss the merits and demerits of these cases. What are the architectural merits of these buildings and what should have been and not been done? Additionally, students are asked to present their conservation plan for one of the seven sites they visited.
PART III

10. November 9  FUTURE Adaptive re-use, urban regeneration and other strategies

Guest Lecturer:
Mr. Michael Ma Chiu-tsee, Director, Planning & Design, Urban Renewal Authority

Primary readings:

Secondary readings:

November 12-13  FIELDT RIP  Macau

A field trip is planned for visiting Macau with an objective to attend a part of a conference on Conservation and to visit sites with different approaches to architectural conservation, both in traditional Chinese architecture and in Western style buildings.

11. November 16  DIALOGUE NGOs, professionals, pressure groups

Dialogue:
Having seen what happened in Central and Macau, it is time to engage in a dialogue with different parties and stakeholders with an interest in architectural conservation. What are their views, how do they articulate their concerns, what actions did they take, and how effective they are. This session will be interactive and the students will be asked to lead the dialogue and prepare the questions for the guests, who would include architects, activists, and conservation professionals.

12. November 23  No class

13. November 30  Studio review

14. December 7  PRESENTATION

This will be a presentation on the draft essay you have written for peer review.

**ASSESSMENT**

Attendance and class discussions 20%
Each student will be assigned a reading passage twice over the entire course. After the class, they will submit a summary and critique of the reading in one A4 page.

Conservation plan 20%
Pick a building from the sites visited in Central and prepare a brief conservation plan. Format and requirement will be given.
Submission date: November 3.

Fieldtrip report 20%
Each student will report on the Macau fieldtrip in the form of a critique of the conservation projects visited during the trip. These projects are taking a variety of approaches and should be critically analyzed and discussed.
Submission date: December 7. Maximum length: 3 A4 pages.
Dialogue 10%
Prepare background materials of invited guest and suggest issues and questions to engage the guest. Group work.

Final essay 30%
Pick an issue in architectural conservation that we have covered in the course and discuss. This might also take the form of preparing for a position for conservation strategy relating to the design studio G6 for next semester.