



YOUR GUIDE TO

**ADAPTIVE REUSE OF
CULTURAL HERITAGE
SITES**



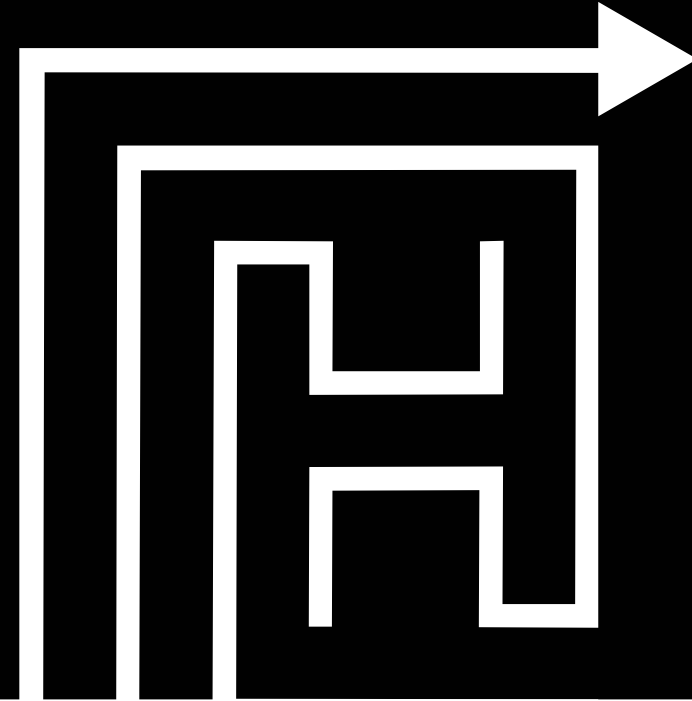
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PRESERVE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

BY RETHINKING THE USE OF

PHYSICALLY SIGNIFICANT SPACES



Adaptive reuse is a sustainable way of rethinking the role of cultural heritage sites that have been abandoned or lost their significance in a community. Simply put it is about reusing the neglected sites in a new context linking the past with the future and thereby preserving the heritage while adding new value.

DEFINING CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

The cultural heritage sites that are applicable for adaptive reuse are often: historical buildings and monuments, sacred places, ruins, ships, gardens, landscapes, military compounds etc. Common for them is that they have had some sort of cultural significance.



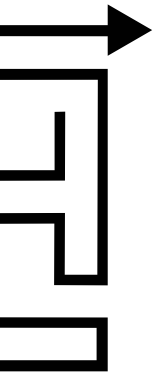
 **CULTURAL O
HERITAGE 2.0**

ADAPTIVE REUSE EXPLAINED

Adaptive reuse refers to the practice of repurposing and renovating existing buildings or structures for a different use or function than their original intended purpose.

Instead of demolishing a building, adaptive reuse seeks to find new and creative ways to utilize existing structures, often with the goal of preserving historical or cultural significance, reducing waste, and promoting sustainable development.

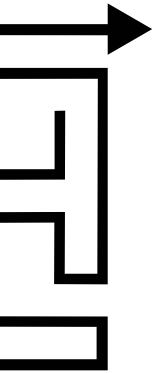
E.g. converting old factories into residential lofts, turning warehouses into offices or creative spaces, converting churches into museums, or transforming historic homes into boutique hotels.



ADAPTIVE REUSE EXPLAINED

The approach has gained popularity in recent years as a sustainable approach to urban development, as it can reduce the demand for new construction materials and energy consumption associated with new building construction.

It can also help to revitalize communities by preserving their architectural heritage, generating economic opportunities, and fostering cultural preservation.





REIMAGINE PHYSICAL SPACES

The practice of adaptive reuse holds the potential for CHOs to reimagine themselves in new physical environments or for communities to shape entirely new types of CHO ecosystems using neglected cultural heritage sites for new purposes.

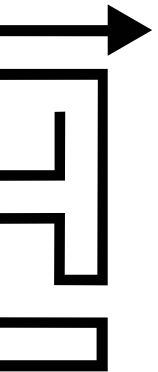
E.g. community driven CHOs in rural areas or cross-national CHOs managed through decentralized autonomous organizations and owned by the contributors.

LEADING TRANSFORMATION

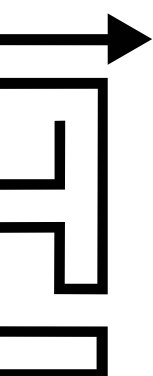
Engaging in an adaptive reuse project is a complex process with a lot of possible stakeholders.

In most cases public institutions are the primary mover for adaptive reuse of cultural heritage, but central governments sometimes plays a role as well. International organisations, stakeholders (e.g. UNESCO) and national legislation are key drivers in the cultural heritage field as well.

They all have unique cultural, environmental, social and economic contexts within specific political and legal frameworks. They may also involve a variety of actors with conflicting interests. Therefore there is a need for a framework for such projects.



LEADING TRANSFORMATION



In order to achieve environmentally, socially, culturally and economically-sustainable urban and territorial development The CLIC project* has developed a set of 7 circular governance principles for adaptive reuse. The initiative is set to prevent threats to the cultural heritage like the following:

* Circular models Leveraging Investments in Cultural heritage adaptive reuse (CLIC)

Poor territorial governance and planning

Disinvestment and depopulation

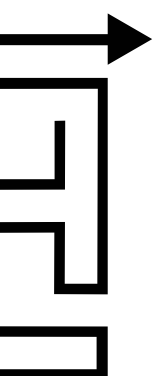
Loss of indigenous and traditional knowledge

Environmental factors

Unconstrained tourism

CIRCULAR GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

1. Participatory



Open the process to all members of society so that they can contribute a legitimate voice. Participation is not unidirectional. It should not simply be the practice of informing the public, but rather enabling the spaces (physical and virtual) and conditions for all interested community members to engage in open dialogues about community cultural heritage assets.

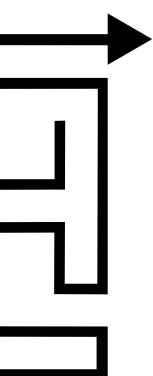
2. Collaborative

Encourage partnerships between different actors to share in the “ownership” of the processes, programs, and projects through collaborative ideation, development, execution, and management. Collaboration adds value to adaptive reuse processes by bringing together resources and talent from a variety of sources and reinforces the concept of heritage communities.

CIRCULAR GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

3. Inclusive

Engage a wide variety of public and private actors with diverse experiences and expertise, and not just those in the cultural heritage field. Diverse perspectives can offer new angles and potential solutions to problems hidden in groups with similar views and practices.



By inviting and enabling a wide variety of participants to contribute in cultural heritage processes, the heritage communities concept is reinforced, which only strengthens the potential for collaborative, sustainable, community-managed cultural heritage adaptive reuse projects.

CIRCULAR GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

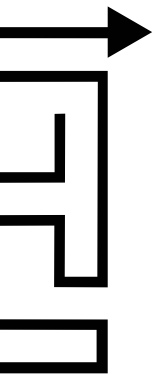
4. Transparent

Governance processes and decision-making processes should be transparent so that they are easier to understand from the outside and enable new actors to better engage and participate in the long term.

Transparency is a cornerstone of good governance and co-functions with another circular governance principle, accountability.

5. Accountable

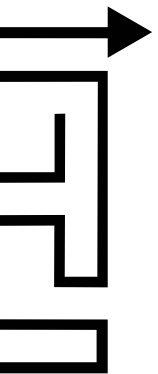
Be accountable to the public and communicate clear, concise, and sufficient information about decisions, and accepting responsibility for its actions. Together with transparency, these principles provide a foundation for mutual trust and long-term organisational resiliency



CIRCULAR GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

6. Circular (Focused and Iterative)

Focus on concrete objectives through an inclusionary process that includes visioning, long-term goal setting, and built-in feedback loops, such as 5-year plan updates or annual performance reporting. Communities and societies are dynamic. Needs and aspirations change, particularly as global influences, like rapidly evolving technologies and climate change, start to impact regions. The adaptive reuse of cultural heritage assets is one mechanism to adjust to this changing landscape, by both preserving historic cultural assets and adapting them for present needs. However, its governance processes need to balance long-term goals (e.g., physical preservation, cultural storytelling) with the evolving needs of a modern society in crisis. In other words, it is not just the building that needs to be adaptive, but also the process.

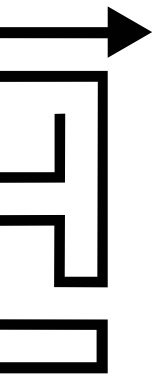


CIRCULAR GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

7. Fair and Just

Strive to improve the well-being of society and provide a voice for the voiceless, particularly for intangible cultural heritage aspects and the environment. Many voices have been missing from cultural heritage discussions and decisions, which directly affect underrepresented populations.

This principle intends to reset historical imbalances and provide an opportunity for underrepresented, marginalised, or voiceless entities, as future generations, to be considered in the cultural heritage adaptive reuse process.





FURTHER USE

The circular governance principles should serve as inspiration on what to consider when engaging in a potential adaptive reuse project.



Source: The CLIC project

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