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30. RESTORATION

The process of restoration is a highly specialized operation. Its aim is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic and historic value of the item and is based on respect for original material and authentic documents. It must stop at the point where conjecture begins, and any extra work which is indispensable must be distinct from the architectural composition and must bear a contemporary stamp. The restoration in any case must be preceded and followed by a historical study of the item. The valid contributions of all periods to the building of an item must be respected, since unity of

style is not the aim of a restoration. When a building includes the superimposed work of different periods, the revealing of the underlying state can only be justified in exceptional circumstances and when what is removed is of little interest and the material which is brought to light is of great historical, archaeological or aesthetic value, and its state of preservation is good enough to justify such an action. Evaluation of the importance of the elements involved and the decision as to what may be destroyed cannot rest solely on the individual in charge of the work. Restoration must

incorporate the skills of professionals across a broad range of disciplines. Replacements of missing parts must integrate harmoniously with the whole, but at the same time should be distinguishable from the original so that restoration does not falsify the artistic or historic evidence. Additions cannot be allowed except insofar as they do not detract from the significant components of the building, its traditional setting, the balance of its composition and its relation with its surroundings.