Charters and Legislation on Architectural Preservation

In the Western world, the movement for preservation of monuments and sites is fairly well-established. For example the Athens Charter of 1931 contributed toward the development of an extensive international movement which has assumed concrete form in national documents.

In Islamic and developing countries, the preservation movement has a more recent origin. A few countries have prepared charters and passed legislation for the protection and preservation of built heritage. Available documents are listed here.

International Charters

- **Venice Charter** – for preservation of monuments & sites in general, adopted in 1964
- **Florence Charter** [pdf] – for the preservation of historic gardens, adopted in 1982

National Charters

- **India**: [Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage](http://www.institute.org) is India's leading NGO involved in preservation of cultural heritage since 1984. Its charter for the preservation of built heritage is has wide acceptance in the country.

- **Malaysia**: Heritage of Malaysia Trust (Badan Warisan): [National Heritage Act 2005](http://www.heritage.gov.my/)
  

- **Pakistan**: [National Charter for the Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Property: Lahore](http://www.iccrom.org/)
  
  [pdf], pp. 85-90, in Appendix X, First Annual Report of the Pakistan Institute of Archaeological Training and Research, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Lahore, 1989. The charter was produced under the direction of Sir Bernard Feilden, director emeritus of ICCROM.

- **Palestine**: RIWAQ, Centre for Architectural Conservation, is a non-government, nonprofit organization established in June 1991. Since its establishment RIWAQ's main aim has been the protection of the cultural, architectural and natural heritage of Palestine.

- **Syria**: [Old Damascus Project](http://www.olddamascusproject.org/). An Urban Administration Project for Old City of Damascus, this document was written in the 1980s possibly by the Municipality of Damascus, Syria (authorship is not conclusively established). Shown are guidelines for the preservation of the built heritage of Damascus.
National Legislation


- **Bahrain**: *Antiquities Ordinance, 1 March 1970.*


- **Malaysia**: *Conservation Guidelines*. Kuala Lumpur: City Hall, n.d.


  *Malacca Enactment no. 6 of 1988.*


