International Conservation Center
Città di Roma
PRACTICAL CONSERVATION TRAINING IN OLD ACRE, ISRAEL

an initiative of the
Israel Antiquities Authority
and
ICCROM
As Israel's premier Institute of Technical Conservation and Historic Preservation, the International Conservation Center – Città di Roma, serves as a place of study for researchers, students, and emerging professionals from Israel and abroad, providing them with unrivaled hands-on conservation experience and field work, taught by professional conservators, architects, archaeologists, and specialists of the Israel Antiquities Authority. Courses, workshops, and other programs reflect and feature Acre’s rich cultural heritage, and encourage economic development for the city’s residents. Situated in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Old City of Acre, Israel, the Center is granted intimate access to a veritable living laboratory for the study and application of practical heritage conservation within the historic living city.

In 2005, The Israel Antiquities Authority, the Old Acre Development Company, and the Akko Municipality joined forces and founded the International Conservation Center – Città di Roma. The Center’s objective is to provide training in all preservation and conservation professions. The continued development of the Center is due to fruitful cooperation between the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Cultural Ministry of the Italian Government. In 2009 under the patronage of then Mayor of Rome, Giovanni Alemanno, the Center was the recipient of the prestigious “Dan David” award to commemorate the Italian activities in San Giovanni di Acre during the Middle Ages. This partnership provides the Center access to renowned Italian conservation specialists.

Acre is an historic port city on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and is home to remains of world cultures including the Hellenistic, Roman, Mamluk, Crusaders, Ottoman Empire, and the British Mandate. What’s in a name? Historically the city of Acre has been called by many names: Ptolemais, St. Jean D’Acre, Acre, Akka, and Akko for which the modern city is currently named.

The Campus

The building of the International Conservation Center is situated on the southern edge of the Old City of Acre, next to the city wall, in a building that offers remarkable views of Haifa Bay. It is a spacious, two-storey, 19th century residence, with an area of 1,000 square meters. The building’s massive pillars and impressive supporting vaults, suggest that part of the structure may date back to the Crusader Period, when this sector formed part of the autonomous Pisan Quarter.

The upper floor, which once housed one of the wealthy families of Acre, is replete with architectural elements typical of a Lebanese house, a central hall plan, where the rooms open to face a central salon, which is decorated with marble floors, pillars and decorative wooden ceilings. In recent decades, the building housed a youth hostel, later vacated.

Neglect and improper use have damaged the structure and its special features. Various training programs focus on practical and artistic conservation of architectural elements in the building itself.
Flagship Workshops and Programs

**Saving the Stones:** a 16 or 22 week, international practical training internship in the conservation of built cultural heritage and historic preservation for emerging professionals from interdisciplinary backgrounds.

**Public exhibitions** in our campus building in collaboration with the Institute of Italian Culture, Tel Aviv and Haifa, including the upcoming:

- **Journey of the Stones, A Jewish Cemetery: Urban Renewal of the Small Harbor Waterfront of Syracuse**, opening Sunday October 13 with special reception and distinguished guest lectures:
  - Prof. Francesco Taormena: “Planning by Empty Spaces”
  - Prof. David Cassuto: “Aspects of Southern Judaism before the Expulsion”
- **Conservation Techniques in Italy**, opening October 27, and will remain as a permanent exhibition.

**Courses in Conservation and Restoration in collaboration with Istituto Superiore per Conservazione ed Il Restauro**, a series of eight, week long courses, taught over the period of two years by Italian conservation specialists, and beginning in the coming months. Geared towards international and local emerging professionals in the fields of architecture and archaeology.

**Practical courses in collaboration with ICCROM:** an MOU was signed between the Israel Antiquities Authority and ICCROM in June 2013, which offers a framework of cooperation between the two organizations in promoting practical conservation training.

**Workshops in cooperation with international organizations**
- ICCOMOS U.S.A. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- Penn State University
- L'Istituto Veneto per i Beni Culturali (IVBC), the Venetian Institute for Cultural Heritage

**Cultural Heritage Risk Map Project (CHRMP)** The Center, in it’s role within the Israel Antiquities Authority works in direct collaboration with both the Department of Inspection, Research, and Policy, and the Department of Conservation. Together, with the University of Padova, Italy, our organizations launched the Cultural Heritage Risk Map Project (CHRMP). A pilot project to develop and model a risk map for archaeological sites and seismic dangers, which can then be utilized for decision makers to quantify the needs and degree of intervention requirements for cultural heritage.

**National Training Program for Technical Conservators** – under the auspices of the National Heritage Program in the Office of the Prime Minister, together with the leading conservation bodies in Israel, the Center is currently developing a national training program for people currently working in fields related to conservation, in order to create a national baseline of conservation standards.

**Practical course for maintenance in historic cities** in collaboration with ICCROM, the Israel National Parks Authority, and the Society for the Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites.

**Meetings and Discussion Forums** to develop national conservation programs and legislative steps, for adoption by decision-makers and public opinion molders.

**Conservation Tours and “Open House” days for the general public**
Saving the Stones

Practical Conservation Training Internship

Saving the Stones is a 16-22 week international practical training internship in the conservation of built cultural heritage and historic preservation for emerging professionals from interdisciplinary backgrounds.

Upcoming Sessions

Foundation Studies:
August 25 – December 11, 2014
Practicum:
December 11, 2014 – January 22, 2015
Application deadline May 15, 2014

Foundation Studies:
February 23 – June 11, 2015
Practicum
June 11 – July 23, 2015
Application deadline November 15, 2014

The program is intended to give recent graduates and young professionals in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, architecture, urban planning, design, history, biblical studies, art, geography, various specialized conservation disciplines and other related subjects, the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge hands-on in the field of conservation. Saving the Stones will give you the foundation needed to begin a career in cultural heritage and conservation.

Through an immersive cultural heritage experience, you will have the opportunity to learn, work, and live in an historic city and embrace the many unique characteristics of Old Acre, and the ancient cites of the land of Israel.

Saving the Stones is a joint project of MASA Israel Journey, the Israel Antiquities Authority, ICCROM, the Old Acre Development Company, the Akko Municipality, and the Israel National Commission for UNESCO.
Training Objectives

☑ Gain an understanding of conservation procedures and theoretical basis
☑ Develop skills for practical conservation
☑ Get acquainted with built heritage and history of Israel and the Mediterranean region
☑ Immerse yourself in the historic living city of Old Acre and explore the intricacies of conservation in an urban environment through community engagement. By living within the historic city, side-by-side with local residents, participants will develop a greater understanding of the underlying meaning connected to the rehabilitation of an historic living city.

**Intensive Immersion into Conservation of Built Cultural Heritage:**

16 weeks foundational conservation and historic preservation studies, including theoretical and practical documentation and survey methods, and treatment planning through to application.

**Advanced practicum:**

Optional 6 week practicum during which the knowledge acquired by the foundation unit is applied through apprenticeship, and thorough personal research is conducted.

On site practical training with ongoing national conservation projects such as mortar and stone preservation at the Western Wall Tunnels, mosaic conservation at Caesarea, and historic building technologies in Acre.
Curriculum

Unit 1 – Introduction
1.1 Site Management and Safety Procedures

Unit 2 – Introduction to Archaeology and Archaeology of Acre
2.1 General Introduction to Archaeology
   - What is Archaeology?
   - History of Archaeology
2.2 The Israel Antiquities Authority
2.3 International and National Archaeological Legislation
   - Antiquities Legislation in Israel
   - Antiquities Robberies, Thefts, and Forgeries
2.4 Archaeological Procedures and Archaeological Research
2.6 Archaeological Time Line
   - Prehistory
   - Biblical Archaeology
   - Classical Archaeology: Hellenistic through Byzantine Periods
   - Archaeology of the Mishna and Talmudic Periods
   - Middle Age Periods
2.5 Dating Methods for Archaeology
   - Total Chronology
   - Relative Chronology
   - Pottery
2.7 Typologies of Historic Structures
2.8 Excavation Methodology
   - The Archaeological Research Procedure: From the Site to the Museum
   - Archaeological Publication
   - Field Excavation Methods
2.9 An Archaeological Mound
   - The Case of Tel Akko
2.10 Urban Archaeology
   - The Case of Crusader Akko
2.11 Archaeology of a Living City
   - The Case of Ottoman Akko

Unit 3 – Introduction to Conservation and Heritage Management
3.1 General introduction to Conservation and Cultural Heritage
   - What are we Conserving?
   - What is Conservation?
   - What is Cultural Heritage?
3.2 History of Conservation
3.3 Philosophy of Conservation
3.4 Value Assessment and Cultural Significance: Intangible Heritage
3.5 Conservation Conventions and Treaties
3.6 International and Israeli Conservation Bodies
   - International Bodies – UNESCO, ICOMOS, and ICCROM
   - Israel Antiquities Authority – Conservation Department
   - Society for the Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites
3.7 International and Israeli Conservation Legislation
   - World Heritage
   - Construction Legislation
   - Conservation within the framework of planning in Israel
3.8 Associated Professions for Conservation as an Interdisciplinary Practice
   - Architects and Planners
   - Engineers
   - Practical Conservators
3.9 The Conservation Procedure
   - Survey
   - Architectural Documentation and Evaluation
   - Conservation Plan
   - Physical Intervention
   - Report
Unit 4 – Building Technologies and Materials

4.1 Building Materials: Technologies and Construction Procedures Taught through the lens of Materials
  - Stone
    - Types, Origins, Qualities
    - Stone as a Building Material in the Ancient World
    - Technology of Quarrying, and Moving Masonry
    - Skills: Masonry and Artistic Stone Work
  - Adobe and Earthen Construction
    - Types, Origins, Qualities
    - Adobe as a Building Material in the Ancient World
    - Manufacture of Adobe Bricks
    - Skills: Preparation of Adobe and Earthen Plasters and Bricks
  - Historic Plasters and Mortars
    - Types, Origins, Quality
    - The Lime Cycle
    - Components, aggregates, and binders
    - Plasters and Mortars as Building Materials in the Ancient World:
      - Construction, Plastering, Floors, Roofs, and Decorative Uses
    - Skills: Preparation of Historical Mortars and Plasters
  - Wood
    - Types, origins, qualities
    - Wood as a Building Material in the Ancient World
    - Technology of Woodworking
    - Skills: Woodworking
  - Metals
    - Types, origins, qualities
    - Metal as a Building Material in the Ancient World
    - Technology of Metals
    - Skills: Metalsmithing

4.2 Building Structure
  - Foundations and Walls
    - Rubble Walls
    - Ashlar Walls
    - Load Bearing and Support Walls
  - Architectural Elements
    - Doors
    - Windows
    - Balconies
    - Staircases
    - Columns
  - Floors
    - Earthen Floors
    - Stone Floors
    - Plaster Floors
    - Mosaic Floors
  - Roofs and Ceilings
    - Domes
    - Arches
    - Vaults
    - Flat Roofs
  - Renders
    - Plaster
    - Fresco
    - Stucco
    - Secco

Unit 5 – Condition Assessment

5.1 Pathologies
5.2 Erosion and Degradation
5.3 Risk Management
Unit 6 – Documentation and Survey
6.1 Architectural Documentation for Conservation
6.2 Historical Research and Value Assessment
6.3 Recording
- Photography
- Architectural Measurements
- Basic Hand Drafting and Sketching
6.4 Preparation of a Conservation Plan
- Physical Survey
- Condition Assessment
- Intervention Plan

Unit 7 – Stabilization
7.1 Principles of Conservation Interventions
7.2 Preventative Treatments
7.3 First Aid and In-Situ Interventions
7.4 Maintenance Plan

Unit 8 - Practical Skills for Site Conservation
Materials for Site Conservation
8.1 Mortar for Conservation
- Analysis of Historic Mortar
- Mortar Planning
- Preparation of Mortar
8.2 Conservation of Stone
- Treatment of Salts in Stones: Materials and Methods
- Treatment of Erosion: Causes and Damages
- Reducing Damages
- Cleaning Methods
- Strengthening Stones: Materials and Methods
8.3 Chemicals, Glues, and Solutions for Site Conservation
Practical Site Conservation
8.4 Conservation of Stone Walls
- Joint Filling
- Grouting
- Pointing
- Coping
- Stone Fills and Replacement Methods
- Supports
8.5 Conservation of Adobe
- Stabilization of Adobe and Earthen Bricks
- Conservation of Cob Walls
8.6 Conservation of Mosaic Floors In-Situ
- Stabilization of Lacunae and Borders
- Consolidation of Foundation Layers: Grouting
- Conservation of Tesselatum: mortar filling, cleaning, and replacement of tesserae
8.7 Conservation of Mosaics in Labs
- Removal of worn or disintegrated mortar
- Preparation of new supports
- Cleaning and replacement of tesserae
8.8 Conservation of Renders and Decorative Finishes
- Plaster and Stucco
- Fresco and Secco
- Wall Paintings
Unit 9 – Objects and Architectural Elements
9.1 Pottery
9.2 Metals
9.3 Glass
9.4 Organic Materials

Unit 10 – Advanced Practicum (optional)
10.1 Project Development and Proposal
10.2 Research and Implementation
10.3 Final Report
10.4 Professional Presentation
Program Details

Throughout the program, you will work alongside conservation specialists, archaeologists, and architects of the highest professional level within the framework of the Israel Antiquities Authority and other conservation organizations. Practical skills are developed on historic and archaeological sites throughout the country where participants will join current conservation teams and experts.

Professional studies will be during the Israeli work week, Sunday-Thursday. Working hours are generally 08:30-16:30. Full syllabus and calendar will be given to you upon arrival. Working language is English.

Enrichment activities such as Hebrew language lessons, volunteering with the local community, and Israeli cultural events, will take place during afternoons and evenings. Weekends: Friday and Saturday, are typically free, with some exceptions.

Accommodation

In order to understand and explore the complexities of studying, working, and living in an historic city, participants are housed in a large apartment within the Old City owned and managed by a local resident.

Housing is provided in a large renovated apartment a few minutes walking distance from the Center in Old Acre. Sleeping rooms will be shared. The apartment is simply furnished with all that you will need for your time here including bed linens and towels, equipped kitchen including dishes and utensils, large balcony, washing machine with clothesline for drying, and Wi-Fi. Cleaning is your responsibility.

Participants are not required to reside in program accommodation, and a list of alternatives is available upon request. The apartment will not be available prior to program opening or following program closing, if you require accommodation for these dates, we are happy to recommend suitable options.
Application

Fillable application forms are available for download on our website:

http://conservationcenter.org.il/sts/application

Applications are accepted by email.

Tuition

16 week foundation:
$5,390 with accommodation // $3,800 without accommodation in Old Acre*

22 week foundation + practicum:
$9,915 with accommodation // $7,775 without accommodation in Old Acre*

Full tuition includes:

- Educational programming and course tuition
- Accommodation in a shared, simply furnished apartment
- Study tours
- Transportation during regular program activities (not including practicum)
- Cultural and social events

Tuition does not include non-refundable $150 USD application fee, flights to/from Israel, food, compulsory health insurance, and other personal expenses.

Scholarships and Grants

The Center offers work-study grants in the form of a tuition reduction, ranging from $1,000 to $2,000 for every qualified applicant. Scholarship request included in Saving the Stones application package.

Additional scholarship opportunities through Masa Israel Journey available based on eligibility, contact Masa for more information: http://www.masaisrael.org

* If not residing in program accommodation in Old Acre, accommodation during site conservation weeks outside of the city is mandatory and will be provided for you.

** Minimum of 8 participants required for program to run