**HAVUTS TAR monastery**

**RESTORING THE PAST - SHAPING THE FUTURE**

Yerevan, Havuts Tar, Goght

July 2 – 9, 2025

Why do we restore monuments? What knowledge and values underpin our conservation efforts? How do we balance the cultural, ecological, and societal roles heritage sites play? Through lectures, workshops, anthropological fieldwork, and a 3D survey, this program integrates perspectives from anthropology, archaeology, art, architecture, ecology, and the digital sciences. Participants will critically explore the interactions between monuments, landscapes, and local communities, developing thoughtful strategies for sustainable heritage conservation.

The disciplines involved include:

Anthropology, Architecture, Topography, Art, Art History

**Special guests**

On July 2nd, the summer camp will be introduced by the highest representatives of the international heritage organizations, namely:

**Yannis Avramides** (Senior Director of Programs, World Monuments Fund)

**Isber Sabrine** (President, Heritage for Peace, CSIC)

**Organization**

Supported by the History Protection Foundation, and organized by SIREH in collaboration with the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA), Alma Mater University of Bologna, Yerevan State University and the State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia, in connection with the European Heritage Hub initiative, this summer school fosters innovative thinking, cross-disciplinary cooperation, and meaningful approaches to preserving our shared heritage.

**Venue**

The teaching will be delivered at NUACA, Teryan 105, YEREVAN. The programme includes field work in Havuts Tar, Goght and Garni. Travel expenses from and to Yerevan will be covered by the organizers.

**Draft Program**

**July 2: Foundations and International Perspectives (Yerevan)** *Morning Session*

h. 10:00

Official opening ceremony at the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia.

(welcome speeches)

11:00 - 12:30

International Insights

Yannis Avramides, WMF: "Heritage Missions – Methods & Experiences"

Isber Sabrine, Heritage for Peace: "Heritage left behind: Conservation Challenges"

Emma Harutyunyan "From Classroom to Fieldwork: Educating the Next Generation of Preservationists with the Master program in Preservation of Architectural Heritage”

Interactive discussion

moderated by Amiran Badishyan, Alessia Zampini (Università di Bologna) and Gaianè Casnati (SIREH) “what is monument preservation for? What values do we recognize in monuments? What risks are facing the Armenian Cultural sites?”

*14:00*

*Afternoon Session*

**Site Exploration**

Guided tour of Havuts Tar with:

Karen Matevosyan, historian (the historical context)

Arsen Harutyunyan epigraphist

arch. Amiran Badishyan (author of the project for the restoration of Havuts Tar church) will present his research

expert from the Ministry of Environment: rules and characteristics of the natural reserve - Characteristics of the flora and fauna of Khosrov Forest State Reserve

**Exercise conducted by Alessia Zampini - Silent observation: the invisible values**

Every student takes 5 photos that document intangible qualities of a place (i.e. light over time, marks of use, forgotten corners, specific views…) and write a caption with a reflection on why those details matters

Moreover, they remain silent for 30 minutes documenting other intangible aspects (light changes, human movements on the site, sound patterns, smells, emotional impressions…)

The expected outcome is a powerpoint with mixed media (pictures, texts, audio, drawings,…) that we will be part of the final presentation

**July 3: Understanding Values (Yerevan)**

*Morning Session*

University of Bologna (Alessia Zampini, Valentina Gili)

**Conserving Architecture: key concepts and principles**

What is the role of key concepts and principles like authenticity, integrity, minimum intervention, value-led approach? How these concepts evolved over history and why.

After an overview of the past and ongoing theories and discussions on what it is to preserve and what we should and should not do approaching an historical monument, participants will be conducted in a critical reflection on the material dimension of heritage conservation. Moving beyond abstract ideals or the reconstruction of imagined forms, the session explores how the physical fabric of a monument, its stone, mortar, voids, and scars, anchors its historical and cultural identity. Drawing on preservation theory and international best practices, the experts of the University of Bologna emphasize the importance of safeguarding material authenticity as a way to respect the life of a structure through time. Using Havuts Tar as a case study, where collapse and erosion have transformed the monument’s presence, participants will consider how conservation can become an act of care: attentive to what remains and deliberate in what is added. This session encourages an approach to restoration that is grounded, responsible, and deeply attuned to the layered meaning of place.

**Amiran Badishyan or another expert from Armenia** - monuments preservation in Armenia

*Afternoon session*

**Online lecture by Unibo or Polito**: (Andrea Ugolini or Emanuele Morezzi/Tommaso Vagnarelli)

Preserving Archaeological sites: legacy, landscape and care

"The need to preserve a complex archaeological site today entails facing several challenges and answering various questions, such as understanding its intrinsic relationship with the surrounding landscape, exploring its potential interaction with vegetation, identifying the value of the ruin, and above all, shifting from an idea of restoration as an exceptional event to a concept of continuous, preventive, and planned care, in which communities also play an increasingly active and central role."

**Talinn Grigor** (1:30 h) Prof. of Art and Architectural Historian, University of California, Davis

Art Historical Debates on Preservation and Restoration Politics

Focused on disciplinary methodology, the lecture traces the art historical debates of the 19th century in Europe and their impact on Armenian architecture. It discusses the politics of the preservation versus restoration debates (John Ruskin and Alois Riegl), collective memory theories (Maurice Halbwachs, etc.), nation-state building megaprojects (Benedict Anderson), the formation of Armenian art historiography in the 20th century (Josef Strzygowski), and the impact of preservation-restoration politics on modern design (Alexander Tamanian’s Yerevan).

**July 4: Topography and 3D modeling**

*Morning session*

prof. Anush Margaryan, Nanar Kalantaryan, Davit Hakhverdyan NUACA

Introduction to topography and 3D modeling

Lesson on manual sketching by the National Academy of Art

*Afternoon Session*

Unibo workshop (14:00-18:00) (Alessia Zampini, Valentina Gili)

- Framing identity (thanks to general questions and graphic exercise we will ask the student what their relationship is and understanding of CH sites)

- Assessing values and defining a vision (specific work on Havuts Tar to define the core values of the site, SWAT analysis and define the main vision of their preservation work)

**July 5 Full day fieldwork in Goght & Havuts Tar – 3D survey**

Full-Day Practical Session – 3D survey - sketching

**July 6: (Yerevan )**

*Morning session (Yerevan)*

*Ruzanna Tsaturyan*  (Yerevan State University): “Introduction to Anthropology and Heritage”

What is anthropology? Anthropology of monuments: relationships between monuments and communities. Fieldwork methodologies

During this lecture, "Introduction to Anthropology and Heritage," students will explore how cultural anthropology provides insights essential for architects and heritage professionals. The first part of the lecture, "What is Anthropology?", will clarify the role of anthropology as a discipline that examines human cultures, practices, and values, offering deeper understandings of the social and symbolic dimensions of the built environment. We will discuss how anthropological approaches contribute to inclusive, culturally sensitive design and preservation practices by helping architects, managers, and other professionals interpret user experiences, social interactions, and diverse cultural meanings embedded within architectural spaces.

The second part, focusing on the Anthropology of Monuments, will examine the dynamic relationships between monuments and communities, revealing how monuments function as active agents shaping identity, memory, and social cohesion. Through specific examples and case studies (Tatev and Gosh monasteries), the lecture will illustrate how communities engage, interpret, and redefine monuments, even private houses, reflecting broader societal values and conflicts. Finally, the session will introduce key anthropological fieldwork methodologies—including some key principles of participant observation, qualitative interviewing, especially narrative interviews—that students can employ to analyze and understand these complex interactions in their future architectural and heritage conservation projects.

“Heritage Perceptions & Community Interaction”

Intangible cultural heritage and monuments: shifting perceptions and use

Preparing the field work

How to conduct an interview. Preparation of the questions

**July 7 Yerevan**

*Morning session*

reflection

preliminary draft of the questions for Garni and Goght meetings -1 hour

*Afternoon session (Yerevan)*

Work in class under the supervision of: Gayane Shagoyan, Ruzanna Tsaturyan, Amiran Badishyan and Gaianè Casnati, Anush Margaryan, Nanar Kalantaryan, Davit Hakhverdyan

*Afternoon session (Garni, Goght)*

Field interviews and ethnographic research with local communities

Observation and documentation of local perspectives and interactions with Havuts Tar

**July 8: work in class**

Architects will concentrate on the 3D survey and architectural drawings

anthropologists on the powerpoint presentations

Finalization of the anthropological work

**July 9: Wrap-Up & Final Presentations**

Morning Session:

Student Presentations • Presentation of individual and group research projects, reflections, and proposed interventions.

Afternoon Session:

Closing Discussions and Certification

Reflection session on the workshop final statement on approaches to heritage conservation

Distribution of certificates and closing remarks.

Student Project and Credit Information

Student Assessment:

Evaluated on participation, fieldwork, final presentations, and reflections

**Total workload: ~ 64 hours (approx. 3 ECTS credits)** • Attendance is mandatory for certification. Credits will be certified by the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia and by the Yerevan State University (to be confirmed).

**Public presentation**

EXPECTED OUTPUT

As a result of the interdisciplinary discussions and workshops involving anthropologists, architects, and site managers, the participants will collaboratively produce:

* the 3D survey of the site + Autocad drawings scale 1:50
* **A summary report outlining the key findings** that emerged from fieldwork, lectures, and group activities, highlighting diverse perspectives on restoration philosophy, values, and methodologies;
* **A set of guidelines for future action** for the conservation and enhancement the entire site of Havuts Tar, developed on the basis of both expert input and local community perspectives.