

Priyanka Singh

Nomination for Treasurer at ICOMOS India

Priyanka Singh is a Conservation Architect and recipient of the Charles Wallace India Trust scholarship. She started her career in conservation as an architect in France working on modern heritage. Following this, she had a long continuing association with CRCI India Pvt Ltd. Two critical projects in this tenure included the Madhya Pradesh Monuments Project- a collaboration between GoMP and WMF- where she was the Project Manager of the PCT- overseeing and liaising with government, funding agency and technical experts - and second, working on the Gol scheme- HRIDAY- a first time engagement of the MoHUA with heritage- as Project Manager towards preparation of the City Management Plan for Amritsar and its implementation on ground.

Continuing thereon as an independent consultant on heritage conservation since 2017, she has consciously engaged with projects which emphasize explorations between nature-culture. Critical engagement includes working on the stepwells in Jaipur and her ongoing work with a team of ecological conservationists on reviving water systems in two areas of Rajasthan. She is also leading research on 'The Qanat in India' through a grant supported by the INTACH Heritage Academy.

Priyanka has been a member of ICOMOS-India since 2015 and was a contributor to the recently held Triennial General Assembly hosted by India, volunteering as co-rapporteur at the Scientific Symposium for the session on 'The role of Cultural Heritage in building Peace and Reconciliation' and presented work on the Qanat as part of 'Culture-Nature Journey'. She was one of the members to conceptualize the working group on 'Water and Heritage'.

ICOMOS as a community has a strong role to play in addressing the evolving discourse on conservation and management of heritage in India. That is only possible when there is an environment which encourages interaction and participation across the membership- from experienced to the youngest members. While there has been a community of professionals who have laid the path for ethical, best practice work in the past few decades, the profession still has issues that need to be addressed.

It is essential to have younger and emerging professionals leading critical thinking to ensure safeguarding of our heritage in times to come. ICOMOS is a critical platform for this, and can foster and create a space for incubation of responsible professionals for the future. A step towards that would be by supporting younger voices in decision making at ICOMOS-India, which is one of the reasons Priyanka's candidature for the position of Treasurer is important.

Having worked with institutional systems and management of large scale projects, she brings with her an understanding of management and finances. Her focus as Treasurer would be to uphold transparency in financial management and assist in creative methods of generating funds. A core focus area would be to ensure equitable distribution of funds and opportunities -continuing the emphasis on scientific work - placing a specific focus on opportunities for emerging professionals, alongside zones which have either no representation (like the North-East) or are currently underrepresented.