Preserving the past in a digital age:
How can heritage keep up?

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Abstract
This paper examines how heritage and architecture can withstand the changes made by the virtual world. With the birth of the digital age, the online activity of teenagers and young adults has been rising. This not only contains the normal desktop with webpages but even in a virtual world. If society will gradually change to a virtual world, can heritage keep up with these changes? The dynamic process of developing values over time means that heritage is not static, and in the digital age, heritage and architecture can transcend from physical to virtual through various digital mediums. Based on qualitative analysis of literature studies it is concluded that digitised heritage is critiqued because of its inaccuracy and its lack of presence in time and space. The physical experiences of heritage and architecture provide a unique sense of place and connection to history.

Digital-born heritage could on the other hand give an opportunity for the world of heritage to grow in the direction of the virtual realm. This is not without its prerequisites that the material must be "born-digital" (there is no other format but the digital original), the resources must represent human knowledge or expression, and the resources must have lasting value and significance for current and future generations.

The concept of architecture-as-entity suggests that architecture can have its own identity and agency, separate from its users or broader context. However, architecture should not be completely divorced from its societal context. Heritage is defined by social and cultural values that are formed by communication within a society, while architecture can shape society and culture. Architects should strike a balance between these two understandings to create meaningful, flexible, and adaptable buildings that are both autonomous and responsive to the needs of society. Buildings that embody these principles may ultimately shape culture and history and earn the status of heritage.

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