



The Association for Preservation Technology International  
*Association internationale pour la préservation et ses techniques*

## APT Code of Ethics

### PREAMBLE

**APT's mission** is to advance the application of traditional and contemporary technology appropriate to preservation of the built environment and the cultural resources that contribute to its significance.

**Membership in APT** demonstrates a commitment to the preservation field. APT members include preservationists, architects, engineers, conservators, consultants, contractors, craftspeople, curators, developers, educators, researchers, historians, landscape architects, students, technicians, and other persons directly involved in the application of methods and materials to maintain, conserve, and protect historic structures and sites for future use and appreciation. In striving to achieve APT's mission with this diversity of membership, member professionals assume certain obligations.

This document sets forth the principles that guide preservation professionals who belong to APT, and who are involved in the care and preservation of cultural property. APT members who receive APT Recognized Professional status must agree in writing to follow the Code of Ethics.

APT is aware that in some locations the term "conservation" is used instead of "preservation" in describing the overall decision-making process regarding cultural resources. Therefore, when used herein, the term "preservation" is also meant to include and to be read as "conservation".

### CODE OF ETHICS

In their work, APT Professionals:

1. Pursue and promote the preventive care, examination, documentation, treatment and study of cultural property, guided by preservation philosophy, principles and skills.
2. Demonstrate informed respect for the cultural property, its unique character and significance, and the people or person who created it.
3. Consider, select, and utilize methods and materials to the best of current standards that will not adversely affect the integrity, function, investigation, or treatment of cultural property.

4. Undertake only work for which they are qualified and prepared, engaging appropriately experienced specialists to conduct work for which they also are qualified.
5. Provide advice, testimony and public statements only when informed on the specific circumstances of the matter and qualified to do so.
6. Accurately represent their professional achievements and acknowledge others who contribute to work for which they are being recognized or seeking recognition.
7. Seek to ensure the creation, maintenance, and dissemination of an appropriate record when preservation of significant cultural resources is not possible.
8. Maintain their competence through continuing education and professional engagement to advance the field of preservation technology through the exchange of information and experience.
9. Act with honesty and respect in all professional relationships, supporting the development, opportunities, acknowledgement, and fair treatment of colleagues.
10. Minimize risks and hazards to co-workers, the public, and the environment.
11. Use the resources of APT, as appropriate, for guidance in resolving ethical dilemmas and emergency situations.