Rediscovering the Spirit of Place through Documentation: Steps Towards Sagada’s Architectural Heritage Conservation

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Abstract
The authors were tapped by the vestry of the Episcopalian Mission in Sagada to help them in their Conservation efforts, which would eventually have a positive effect on the whole municipality of Sagada. The center of this endeavor was the St. Mary the Virgin Complex, which is embedded in Sagada’s rich and colorful history.

The project was not just a standard documentation, but it also focused on other aspects of Architectural Heritage Conservation. It touched on, not only the physical structures, but the intangible heritage, as well.

As a whole, the project hopes to emphasize the important role of conservationists in the restoration of architectural “treasures”. Architectural Heritage Conservation goes beyond buildings. It is actually a means through which culture can be kept alive, for conservationists believe that the protection of a people’s heritage leads to the preservation of a people’s cultural identity. The result is a product of the collaboration of the community (stakeholders), professionals (experts), various non-government organizations, and the local government unit.

Keywords: Sagada, Architectural Heritage Conservation, Documentation, Spirit of Place