

The International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE)

Bylaws and Organizational Structure

The International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE) was established at the First International Symposium on Traditional Dwellings and Settlements held at Berkeley in April 1988. Principally founded by Nezar AlSayyad and co-founded by Jean-Paul Boudier at the University of California, Berkeley, IASTE is an interdisciplinary forum where scholars from various disciplines and countries can exchange ideas, discuss methods and approaches, and share findings. As opposed to disciplinary associations, IASTE is a non-profit organization concerned with the comparative and cross-cultural understanding of traditional habitat as an expression of informal cultural conventions. IASTE's purpose is to serve as an umbrella association for all scholars studying vernacular, indigenous, popular and traditional environments. Current activities of IASTE include the organization of biennial conferences on selected themes in traditional environments research, a public outreach program which includes supporting films and documentaries, and the publication of the Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Working Paper Series which includes all papers presented at IASTE conferences and accepted for publication.

Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review (TDSR) is the official publication of IASTE. As a semi-annual refereed journal, the Review acts as a forum for the exchange of ideas and a means to disseminate information and report on research activities. All articles submitted to the Review are evaluated through a blind peer-review process.

IASTE *membership* is open to all who are interested in traditional environments and their related studies. In addition to receiving the Association's semi-annual journal, members are eligible to attend the biennial conference at reduced rates.

The following *bylaws* outline the governance structure of IASTE and shall remain valid until amended or changed by the appropriate body/bodies outlined below.

1. The Principal founder of IASTE (serving also as President of the association for a renewable five year term) appoints an Advisory Council of scholars from among the IASTE membership as representatives of the diverse IASTE-related disciplines. This Council serves at the pleasure of the President, mainly in an advisory capacity but will be asked to exercise the right to vote on the main issues pertaining to the association.
2. The President of IASTE nominates a Director and an Executive Board of 5-6 individuals with extensive IASTE experience to also serve a renewable term of 5 years. The IASTE Advisory Council members may nominate candidates for the Executive Board.
3. The duties of the IASTE President includes: presenting the public relations face of IASTE; advising on conference theme, conference location, and keynote

speakers; coordinating with the IASTE Advisory Council, helping to assign some of the daily or weekly work load of IASTE student and administrative staff at Berkeley; managing IASTE finances at the Berkeley end, and any other duties as agreed to by the IASTE Director and/or Executive Board, including International Representation and fundraising.

4. The duties of the IASTE Director include: managing the overall tasks IASTE's agenda; directing all IASTE conferences; serving as Series Editor for the Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Working Paper Series which includes all IASTE conference papers; coordinating all activities with the President, the Executive Board, and the IASTE staff; coordinating IASTE finances with the President and the IASTE staff; grant writing and fundraising for the different IASTE activities including the conference, the journal, other publications, ad-hoc outreach projects or events.
5. The IASTE Executive Board is an elected body that helps articulate the general direction of IASTE and its conferences. Members of this group are expected to attend all IASTE conferences during their term of service, help articulate the conference themes, serve on chair particular tracks or sessions at the conference, and provide general advice and assistance to the Director.
6. All decisions of the IASTE Executive Board are initiated by the President and the Director respectively and confirmed by the Executive Board through a simple majority vote.