

TIMBAALI DECLARATION (DRAFT)

The declaration adopted on the occasion of the international seminar on;
“The wooden town throughout the centuries,” held in Porvoo Finland 15-17 May 2003 asks:

THE FINNISH ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIC TOWNS TO:

1. Develop recommendations on guidelines for the old town centres of Finland respecting and reflecting:
 - a. Identity and character of the wooden city.
 - b. Design in context including the dimension of time.
 - c. Dynamic use of the urban fabric to ensure living, working cities.
2. Identify good practice to share with Finnish and European historic towns setting out:
 - a. Criteria for selection.
 - b. Principles for conservation including.
 - I. The importance of “listening to “ and understanding historic buildings before making changes.
 - II. Repairing the historic fabric rather than replacing it.
3. Develop and recommend a “process” to involve all parties, including owners, businesses, banks and the community to reach consensus in conserving and enhancing the old town centres of Finland.
4. To consider and identify, in due course, key issues where the national government can help the regeneration of the old town centres in terms of:
 - a. Recognising the needs of Finland’s diminishing stock of heritage buildings as a “special case” for support.
 - b. Recognition and promotion of the potential of old town centres for tourism and it’s contribution to the national economy.
 - c. Possible legislative and/or financial changes.

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIC TOWNS AND REGIONS TO:

1. Continue to provide support to the work of the Finnish Association of Historic Towns.
2. Help disseminate and promote the needs of old wooden towns to the European Union, Council of Europe and throughout Europe.