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#### WHAT, HOW, FOR WHOM? THINKING ABOUT ENGINEERING HERITAGE AND ENGINEER'S INTERVENTION

*“The value of architectural heritage is not only in its appearance, but also in the integrity of all its components as a unique product of the specific building technology of its time. (...) Each intervention should, as far as possible, respect the concept, techniques and historical value of the original or earlier states of the structure.”*

As clear as the *Principles for the Analysis, Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage* of the ICOMOS Charter of Victoria Falls (2003) seem to be, it is often difficult to translate them into the reality of conservation – especially if we think of World Heritage *Structures* dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. How can we retain their material authenticity in view of obvious structural faults, fatigue and ageing problems? What importance has the generally required primacy of maintaining the original structure if just this has proved highly problematic from a structural point of view? To what degree are interventions tolerable and at what point should we think about replacing it? And - first of all: What has to be respected at all? What in detail is the *cultural significance* of those bulky monuments? Using some case studies as examples the presentation will discuss challenges and possible solution-strategies in the conflict laden relation between the demands of modern conservation concepts and structural needs.