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No matter how well planned or how creatively designed, today's buildings just seem to lack the character and quality of the buildings of yesteryear. Historic buildings often reflect the lifestyle of the past and say something about the people who occupied them. From the exquisitely carved pediments to the hand-hewn beams, country's heritage, a record of its ethics and character, is preserved in its older buildings.

In today's disposable world where we throw away functional items to make way for newer ones, we tend to destroy far too many of our historic structures. Renovation is expensive and preservation is often out of the question. When we do engage in preservation, it is usually with commitment and quality that would make the original builders of the historic structure turn over in their graves.

Old buildings are an important part of a country's heritage and need to be protected from the ravages of man and nature - and of time itself. The honor of protecting these majestic and not so majestic structures and the history they tell falls only to a few of us fortunate security practitioners. What an honor it is!
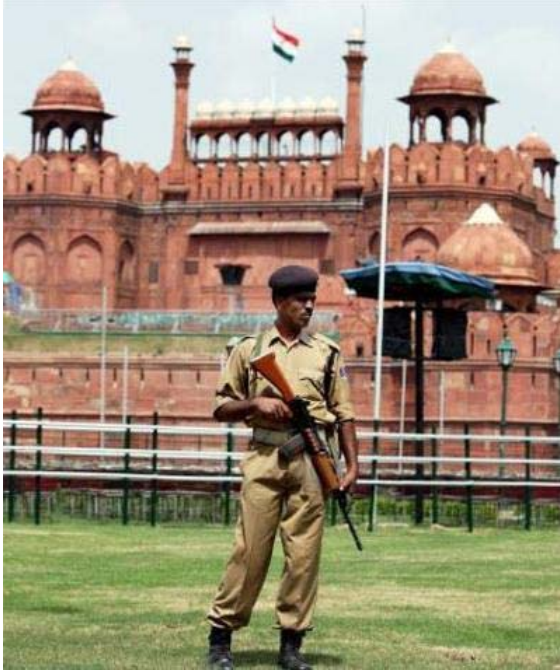
With very best regards
Capt S B Tyagi

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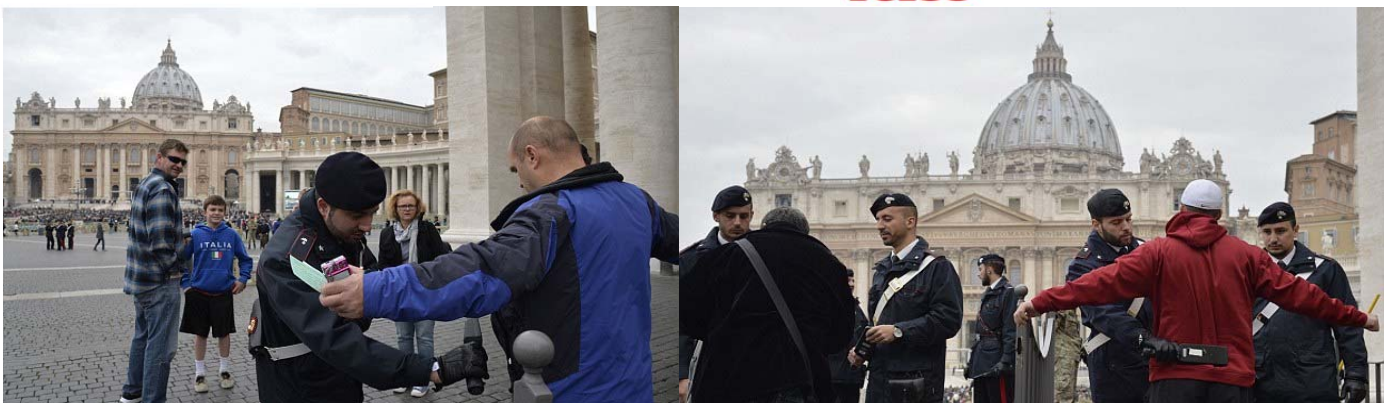
Security for Heritage Buildings

"They don't build 'em like they used to. Ain't it a shame!"

Few people think of buildings as works of art, but they are. The vision of true genius can be found in some of the innovative designs of our architecture. Craftsmanship rarely seen today abounds in the details so generously included in older buildings and houses. The building fabric tells much about a way of life that existed once, and is now nearly extinct.

The theft of artefacts from heritage buildings, museums and galleries is a serious problem that affects institutions throughout the world. One estimate suggests that pictures and sculpture worth more than £100 million are stolen each year in the UK alone. At the same time, the increasing value of tourism and the leisure industry has placed considerable burdens on those responsible for managing heritage premises. In particular, problems are posed by allowing the public access to locations where the building and the contents are of considerable financial as well as heritage value.

Risk and Threat Assessment

Before any work is undertaken, funds committed or contracts placed, it is essential to undertake a proper risk assessment of the premises. The assessment process may sound daunting, but this need not be the case. In most instances there is certainly no need to hire an expensive consultant to undertake this task. The process should not be confused with the fire risk assessment (for life safety purposes), which is now a legal requirement for all places of work other than those used solely by the self-employed. The security risk assessment seeks to identify and quantify the potential threats facing the premises and their contents.

At its most basic, the assessment can be produced by asking some simple questions:

- What items are we seeking to protect?
- Who is likely to want to steal or damage them?
- When are the intruders likely to attack?
- How are the intruders most likely to try to gain access?

If these questions can be answered, the next steps should fall into place.

Risk assessment is a useful tool, but to be effective the process needs to be repeated whenever circumstances change. For example, if contractors are due to start work on an extension, then the risk will change, particularly if scaffolding is erected, making access much easier.

It is also worth keeping a record of the assessments made so that if something went wrong, it would be possible to demonstrate to the insurers or the courts that appropriate steps had been taken to protect the property.

Security Surveys

The security survey should not be confused with the risk assessment. It is true that the two are connected, but the survey is a distinct tool to be used to determine precisely what security measures are in place and the deficiencies which may exist. Furthermore, any reasonably competent manager can undertake a basic risk assessment (providing he or she understands the principles), but the security survey is a little more demanding and it is unlikely that a non-specialist will be able to produce a meaningful outcome.

The survey should begin with a review or analysis of the area in which the building is located. This can often have a significant impact on the risk of crime. Crime Patterns vary tremendously. For example, buildings in rundown inner city areas where arson and vandalism are common obviously present widely different problems from remote rural locations.

It has been suggested that the arson risk can be predicted by using a simple scoring system which is available in a free leaflet published by the Arson Prevention Bureau.[1]

Once the environmental threat has been determined, the basic principles of security can be considered. These are often known as the 'three Ds' - Deterrence, Delay and Denial:

• Deter the would-be intruder by presenting a difficult and discouraging site
• Delay the intruder by making entry as difficult as possible
• Deny the intruder either any advantage or access to the key parts of the building once entry has been gained.

The survey should review all the various security features - including both positive and negative aspects - and then produce a list of considered recommendations to overcome any deficiencies detected. The survey will normally be the starting point for any security improvements and may also provide the basis for contracts with suppliers of systems or services, so it is important to ensure that

the individual or company undertaking the survey has no links with contractors. Some security service and equipment companies offer free surveys as a sales tool, but it must be accepted that such advice is worth little and may be counter-productive. Only an independent security consultant can offer impartial and unbiased advice, not motivated by thoughts of commercial self-interest.

Perimeter Protection

All buildings or premises have a perimeter; this may be a fence, wall or simply the 'skin' of the building. It is at the perimeter that the security of the building and its contents begins. In the centre of a town or city it is unlikely that heritage buildings will enjoy the luxury of a perimeter wall or fence, so improving the level of security presented by the building 'skin' may be the only option. All buildings have penetrations in their skins - not just in the form of doors and windows, but also skylights, ventilation ducts, coal chutes, delivery shutters, utility duct covers, boiler room access panels and so on. It is very easy for those who live or work in a building to overlook such features.

Perimeter security can be enhanced or improved by either physical measures or detection devices. Physical measures might include bars and catches on windows and replacing or supplementing window glass with laminated or toughened glass. Detection devices might include fitting sensors on windows or the use of beam systems on walls or fences for example.

Alarm Systems

© AFP Getty Images

Too often the response to security threats in heritage properties has been an unthinking reflex

response: 'Fit an alarm system'. While intruder detection systems can play an important role as part of a coherent security strategy, specifications for such systems are often produced by the supplying company, so it is not surprising that there have been some well-publicised cases of alarm systems failing in their intended purpose.

Modern technology is very reliable but can only be effective if the correct sensors are specified and if a reliable company which is properly certificated for this sort of work installs the system. No alarm supplier should be considered unless it is listed or approved by a reputable supervisory body.[2] It almost goes without saying that a heritage building must have its alarm system directly connected to a central alarm monitoring system. However, given that some 94 per cent of all intruder alarm activating events prove spurious, it is not surprising that the police in many parts of the country are now more likely to view such equipment as a distraction and nuisance than as a welcome ally. In some force areas three or more false alarms in a specified period can result in a withdrawal or downgrading of police response to such systems.

If police response is withdrawn, insurers, whose conditions drive the installation of many alarm systems, may downgrade levels of cover or increase excess levels or 'deductibles' (the amount you have to pay of any claim).

Security Lighting

Properly designed and installed lighting can play a considerable part in deterring would-be intruders. Again, correct specifications are important. Lighting should not only eliminate shadows or areas where an intruder can hide but should also be directed outwards from the building to provide security personnel with an advantage, silhouetting any intruder against the background and by shining into the intruder's eyes.

Lighting can be operated on time switches or by motion sensors.

Closed Circuit Television

Like alarm systems, closed circuit television (CCTV) has frequently been proposed as a panacea for security problems. While CCTV is extremely useful for providing surveillance of such areas as galleries, display rooms and exhibits, it must be remembered that to be effective there has to be a proper response to security breaches picked up by camera. Always consider who is going to respond to any incidents spotted on a monitor.

Nevertheless, recorded images are useful to the police as they may help to identify an intruder later. To this end, tapes should be retained for at least 28 days. To get the best possible images, tapes should be retired after six months use.

Specification of a CCTV system (including the type of camera and its location) should form part of an overall security design and should not be left to the supplier.

Display Cabinets, Locks And Security Devices

Where exhibits are displayed inside cabinets or cases, consideration should be given to the thickness and type of glass, the way it is fixed and the locks used to secure the doors or drawers. Conventional plate glass offers no real security and is positively dangerous when it is smashed. Laminated glass of 10mm thickness is the lowest level of security glazing which should be considered for items likely to be at risk. Proper security locks (of the type manufactured by Bramah, Abloy, Medeco or Chubb for example) should be considered, and contractors familiar with this kind of work should fit the locks and glazing.

Security Personnel

If it is decided that the risk justifies full-time security personnel, then the choice will be between employing the personnel directly or using a security service company. Either approach has its advantages and disadvantages - it is certainly true that the contract approach may be cheaper and less time consuming for management. However, the in-house security officer, particularly in a small location, may well prove more flexible and will usually identify more closely with the organisation.

Security officers are not cheap. It has been estimated that to maintain a single post 24 hours a day, 365 days a year will cost around £85,000 per annum, so it is essential to ensure that you receive best value for the money you spend. This means that you are entitled to a security officer who is:

- Properly trained;
- Has had his or her background checked;
- Reports for duty on time, dressed in the prescribed manner;
- Complies with assignment instructions;
- Is honest and reliable.

Like alarm systems, security officers should be contracted only from companies which have been independently certificated.[3]

Both in-house and contracted security officers should be properly trained (and retrained) and assistance in this respect can be obtained from the Government-recognised industry training organisation, SITO.[4]

Installation Of Security Equipment In Heritage Buildings

Any changes to a heritage building must meet a number of tests:

- **Minimal Intervention.** Any changes to a listed or heritage building must cause as little impact to the building and its fabric as possible. Any work undertaken to improve security should not cause unnecessary disruption or damage during installation, maintenance or eventual removal.
- **Necessity.** Only the minimum amount of work necessary to achieve the stated objective should be undertaken and all the work should be justified and informed by a detailed risk assessment.
- **Reversibility.** Any changes to historic fabric or a listed building should be reversible wherever possible. Sensitivity. Security systems should be installed with due consideration to the overall appearance of the building as well as having the minimum impact on its fabric. In particular, appropriate use should be made of existing features (such as voids, risers, old chimneys and ducts) to conceal wiring runs.
- **Appropriateness.** The security adopted must be appropriate to the level of risk.
- **Compliance.** The installation of security equipment, like all changes to listed buildings, must comply with all legal requirements, including listed budding consent, building standards, fire regulations and certification procedures.

Security of Shops, Retail And Catering Facilities

Shops and catering facilities now play an important part in the economics of many heritage institutions and as such need to be considered when security is being reviewed. Cash and stocks of materials intended for sale (including alcohol and catering supplies) may prove an attractive target for thieves. Care should be taken to include these areas in the security survey and risk assessment.

Special Event Security

Historic buildings are often let out for private functions ranging from corporate lunches to weddings. Events such as these must be carefully considered from a security perspective as any changes in layout, routine or personnel will inevitably create new or different risks, and risk assessments should be repeated beforehand.

Any special event may also create problems for security staff. For example, how are smoking restrictions to be enforced? What happens when a Royal visitor or VIP 'lights up'?

Protecting Empty Heritage Buildings

It is an unfortunate fact of life that an empty heritage building is much more likely to become a fire statistic than one which is occupied. Some 55 per cent of all large fires in the UK are now the result of arson and listed buildings feature heavily in the fire statistics. If a heritage building is to be left unoccupied for any length of time then additional security measures must be taken. Advice on this subject can be obtained from a useful publication produced by the Loss Prevention Council.[5]

Care should be taken to ensure that none of the physical security measures taken damage heritage fabric. For example, boarding up must be done sympathetically and if necessary, in consultation with the planning authority. Any 'stopping up' of windows or other openings should not be permitted to interfere with normal ventilation otherwise damp or mould may be aggravated. Regular cheeks on roofs, gutters and drains must be undertaken to ensure that the premises are wind and watertight.

In conclusion, the application of modern security management techniques in respect of heritage buildings can help alleviate some of the perils which threaten historic buildings and their contents. However, care must he exercised when selecting the mix of measures that need to be imposed. In particular, the use of the risk assessment and a proper security survey may assist in providing a cost-effective solution.

Museum Security
Capt. Pran Ranjan Prasad

Capt. Pran Ranjan Prasad (MBA, MCA and Art Appreciation Course) is an Army Veteran and Former Chief Security Officer of Archaeological Survey of India, Govt. of India. He held the additional charge of IT Head and was designated as Estate Manager of the newly created Land Management Cell of ASI in 2010. He is credited with introducing Computerization in all the offices of ASI across the country.

He has many professional and sports achievements to his credit. He has been the key member of the National Committee in 2015 for Drafting "Comprehensive Security Policy for Museums and Monuments under Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India".

This is his second book. His first book titled "Safeguarding Heritage a Monumental Glory" was published in 2008. Presently he is Advisor of Heritage in Jharkhand.

According to the International Council of Museums, a Museum is a non-profit making permanent institution in the service of society and of its development, open to the public, which acquired, conserved, researched, communicated and exhibited, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, the tangible and intangible evidence of people and their environment. Museum stands as

a repository of the cultural ethos of the country and showcases art and arte-facts from early period till the present times. There are many museums of various size and themes all across the country. Some of them are under the care of Union Govt. while others are under the respective State Governments, Registered Society or, are privately owned.

There are innumerable priceless antiquities, artefacts and other items of the country to be preserved for eternity due to their rarity and impeccable importance. The objects may be made of stone, terracotta, metal, glass, wood, textile or paper. Reserve collection stores and Sculpture Sheds too are important to house the required number of collections properly. They shall also have to be under constant and effective security umbrella. International practices on museum security suggest greater role and preparedness for all eventualities ranging from object lifting to natural calamity and war. It focuses on specialized training to the museum officials as well as security personnel.

Existence and status of any museum is totally based on its collection of objects, display and visitors' comfort to the desired level in terms of ease of movement in the gallery in viewing the objects on display with their descriptions, safe drinking water and clean public conveniences. Special facilitation is desirable for differently able people.

Displayed objects need proper care, preservation and security while being on display for the visitors from world over of all age group from all walks of life. So, it can well be understood that if any of the museum collections are damaged or lost then the objective and purpose of museum is lost.

Any object or item going 'IN'&'OUT' of the premises shall be properly checked and recorded for their authorized movement. It shall be prudent to mention here that the security personnel can only check the incoming and outgoing number of objects and items in accordance to the authorization documents from the competent authority. They cannot be expected to identify the museum objects for its genuineness, as they are neither trained for it nor is it their duty. It is mandatory to have 'Standard Operating Procedure' (SOP for each and every museum, display galleries and duty posts of security personnel. SOPs shall have to be drafted with due diligence based on proper Security Audit of the museum and its premises.

Security and safety of cultural property and of visitors to the museum is a very important matter to be dealt with sincerity and dedication. This can be ensured by implementing proper security and safety norms in desired degree by adequate number of well-trained security personnel, with the use of latest gadgets and state-of-the-art equipment.

It is desirable to thwart all initiatives of antisocial elements of their sinister designs and of personnel involved in illicit trafficking and invaluable antiquities and cultural property.
Keeping this in view, the author has put his vast experience in explaining all the aspects to provide best solution in providing security to the museums and visitors alike. This will also hold good for monuments as well.

All cultural properties are to be preserved and protected for the posterity as an invaluable treasure glorifying the nation's past.

The book titled "Museum Security" has been published by Abhishek Prakashan, New Delhi. E-mail: abhishekprakashan@gmail.com

No more CISF, 'Cultural Force' to Protect Monuments in India

The Union cultural ministry plans to do away with deployment of CISF and other security agencies at ASI museums and monuments. Instead, it has decided to form its own "cultural force" which will be deployed at monuments. In the initial phase, the special force will be deployed at museums and later at monuments. An IG-rank official will head this force and will directly report to the ministry. The force is expected to have around 7,000 personnel. According to sources, the cultural ministry in 2012 had formed a committee for framing a security policy for monuments after public interest litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court sought to know what the ministry was doing to safeguard monuments. Later, a directive was also passed. Even the parliamentary committee on culture has directed the ministry to look into this matter. The committee was headed by the director general of National Museum as chairman and had chief of several museums across the country as members.

However, no further action was taken in the matter till January 2015. The things started to move after the committee included Capt (Retd.) Pran Ranjan Prasad, former Chief Security Officer of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), as a co-opted member and gave him the responsibility to frame the guidelines. When contacted, Prasad said, "The comprehensive policy has been submitted by the committee to the ministry on September 29 for further action." Capt Prasad added that the aim of the policy is to deploy its own "cultural force" at monuments in place of CISF and other security personnel. The force would be given special training in taking care of monuments and saving them from vandalism. Earlier, the scope of the policy was limited to museums only, but later the ministry decided to include monuments too. "It has been renamed from Rashtriya Sanghralaya Raksha Bal to Bharatiya Sanskriti Raksha Bal.

It is a comprehensive policy and proposed to be implemented in three phases over a span of three years. In the first phase, RFID (radio frequency identification) tagging of museum objects, putting infrastructure in place among other things were recommended. Besides, a special focus on conducting security audit of all monuments to assess their special requirements was also given," Prasad said. The initial cost of setting up this force is estimated to be around Rs 27 crore.

Earlier this week, Union culture minister Mahesh Sharma informed the Lok Sabha about the government's decision. The minister said the committee has recommended measures to be taken towards securing cultural assets by physical deployment and with the help of tools and electronic gadgets, besides a special security force. At present the cultural assets are provided with security by regular watch and ward staff, home guards, CISF and private security guards, the minister added.

The committee has recommended immediate, midterm and long-term goals for securing art installations. It has said security audit should be carried out on all museums and other art institutions immediately and CCTVs should be installed. In the mid-term, among other suggestions, it has said radio frequency identity cards (RFID) should be issued. Creation of a special force, the report says, should be done over the next five years.

- http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31808&articlexml=Spl-force-soon-to-secure-cultural-assets-09102015015027
- http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Special-force-soon-to-secure-cultural-assets/articleshow/49281304.cms

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Forthcoming Events

GDSF Annual Seminar:

India Risk Survey 2016:

India Risk Survey is an attempt to analyse and quantify 'potentially destructive' risks to business enterprises in India. It would provide a referral to understanding the complexity of these risks across a spectrum of stakeholders, i.e., policymakers, corporate and members of the civil society. The survey would help in sensitising the Government and the corporate world about emerging risks and the danger they pose, so that a well-planned strategic policy decision could be formulated and implemented.

Your participation would help us in conducting a comprehensive study

For participation please log on to http://irs.pinkertonindia.com

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