

Conservation of Cultural Heritage - Finishes of built heritage - Investigation and documentation

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

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English Version

## Conservation of Cultural Heritage - Finishes of built heritage - Investigation and documentation

Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Finitions du patrimoine bâti - Investigation et documentation

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes -  
Oberflächenausführungen des gebauten Erbes -  
Untersuchung und Dokumentation

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 28 June 2021.

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## European foreword

This document (EN 17543:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 “Conservation of Cultural Heritage”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2022.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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## Introduction

Throughout its existence, built heritage is subject to continuous change and alteration. The most frequent changes have been the repeated refurbishment and redecoration of interiors and exterior architectural surfaces, carried out in response to a wide range of factors: developments in decorative fashions, changes in the functions of rooms, changes in the wealth of successive occupants and owners, the need to revive an old and worn painted decoration or simply maintenance. The investigation on built heritage finishes provides a systematic method of understanding these changes. It offers insights into the appearance of original and later schemes and may provide dates for the application of specific finishes.

The purpose of the investigation can be to locate, identify, interpret and, if possible, date current and previous finishes. Such investigations help to deepen our general knowledge of the significance of the area under investigation, its history and alterations, and also to assess its condition and to plan for future conservation and presentation, taking account of aesthetic considerations. These investigations should be looked upon as an integral part of the documentation and investigation process on built heritage.

The aim of each investigation may vary considerably in scope and complexity. While this document offers a framework, it should be recognized that every finish offers a different challenge to an investigation and interpretation. The presence of wall paintings will be recorded, although the investigation and documentation of wall paintings themselves is beyond the scope of this standard.

While the focus of this document is the investigation of finishes in and on buildings, the techniques described are commonly employed on other heritage objects.

The expertise required to carry out such investigations should be in line with the objectives and challenges. Multidisciplinary professionals involved in this field are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, including conservation, science, art history, architecture, building archaeology, and painting and decorating crafts.

In some countries, the investigation and documentation of finishes, is known as Architectural Paint Research (APR).

It is the aim of this document to define common principles and best practice for the investigation on built heritage finishes.

## 1 Scope

This document defines best practice when investigating finishes on built heritage, with the aim of establishing existing schemes by collecting data and processing findings. It applies to finishes that can be decorative or protective, on buildings and their interiors, as well as other built heritage, but explicitly excludes the category of wall paintings.

This document applies to the planning and execution of such investigations with documentation throughout. It can be used as a process reference for stakeholders involved in the investigation of built heritage.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 16085:2012, *Conservation of Cultural property - Methodology for sampling from materials of cultural property - General rules*

EN 16853:2017, *Conservation of cultural heritage - Conservation process - Decision making, planning and implementation*

EN 17429:2020, *Conservation of cultural heritage - Procurement of conservation services and works*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **architectural element**

designed part of a building

Note 1 entry: “**architectural element**” has a wider meaning, but in this standard refers to a elements of a building, such as skirting, panel, door, column, pillar, etc.

### 3.2

#### **built heritage**

immovable and movable standing structures which have an architectural, cultural or historic value

EXAMPLES: buildings, railings, street furniture, vehicles, industrial artefacts, ships, boats, furniture