

An International
Preservation Organization

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

174 East 80th Street
New York, New York 10021
Telephone: 212 517 9367
Telefax: 212 628 3146

PROPOSAL FOR CONSERVATION OF THE
HISTORIC CITY OF ANGKOR, CAMBODIA

PREAH KHAN TEMPLE COMPLEX



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The Temples at Angkor, a Heritage in Crisis

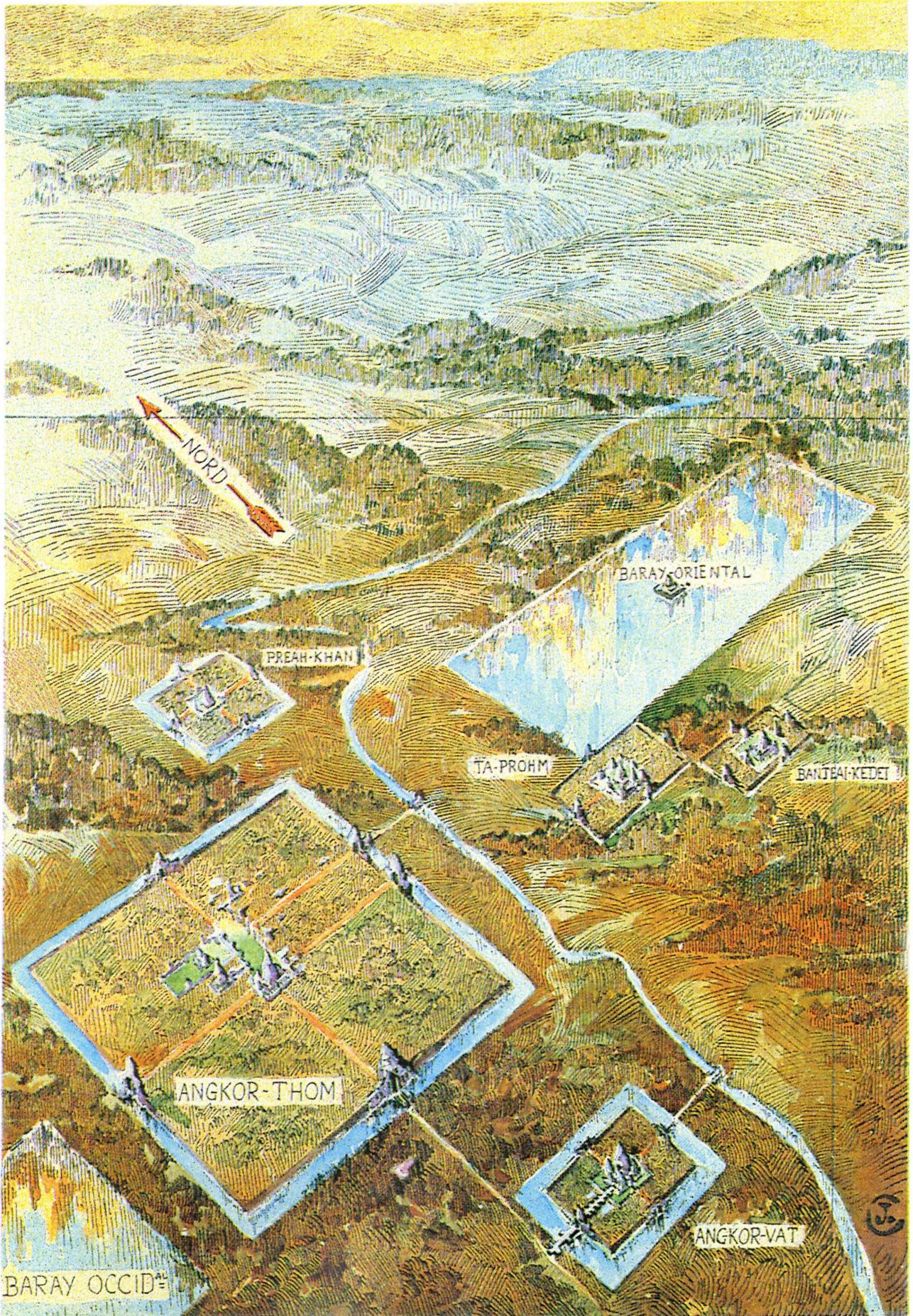
No site in the world today has greater appeal as the remnant of past history than the temple complex of Angkor in central Cambodia, the historical capital of the Khmer civilization from the 8th century to the mid-15th century. Renowned for the beauty of its sculpture, the magnificence of its architecture, and the almost incredible engineering achievement represented in its vast hydrological works, Angkor has been an ultimate destination for connoisseurs for more than a century.

In the last twenty years, however, the site of Angkor has been inaccessible to outsiders because of the civil war that ravaged Cambodia in the 1970s and the isolation that followed it. Only in the last two years have international experts been able to visit Angkor again and assess the damage done by the war. They have discovered that although Angkor sustained little damage owing directly to military conflict, it is in extremely fragile condition due to the 20-year hiatus in regular conservation, maintenance and security. Extensive looting has occurred, which may even have accelerated recently with the presence of military units in the area.

Most tragic, however, has been the total loss of trained Cambodian professionals capable of managing the site of Angkor in the future. Of the young architects, engineers and craftsmen trained by the French School of Oriental Studies, only one professional and a small number of craftsmen have survived the war. Moreover, education was disrupted, and only in 1992 will the University of Beaux-Arts in Phnom Penh graduate its first class of students in 20 years.

Cambodia urgently needs outside expertise to guide the establishment of routine conservation at the site. Funds are needed to address the most urgent emergency situations, in which important parts of major monuments -- such as Angkor Wat, the Bayon, and Preah Khan -- could collapse without immediate treatment. As tourism to Cambodia is reopened, Angkor will become the country's most important resource in terms of attracting visitors and hard currency from outside.

Those visitors who are concerned for the future of this majestic site can make a meaningful gesture to the economic and spiritual recovery of Cambodia by supporting the preservation of the monument that is the symbol of Cambodia's culture -- the Historic City of Angkor.



The World Monuments Fund Program

The World Monuments Fund, an international private preservation organization headquartered in New York, began an assessment of the situation of Angkor in 1989, when an invitation to visit the site was extended by the State Government of Cambodia. The four-man team of experts who visited the site on behalf of WMF concluded that no single emergency condition took priority on a short-term basis, and that the site needed extensive and sophisticated planning, integrating and addressing the issues of protection, development, presentation, and conservation. Above all, the team expressed the opinion that all future work at Angkor should incorporate young Cambodians, in an effort to supplement their rudimentary classroom training with on-site experience and exposure to outside professionals.

After presenting general recommendations and comments to the government of Cambodia concerning the conservation of Angkor, WMF chose the site of Preah Khan, a classic-period temple complex, for a pilot project in conservation planning, training, and research. With the completion of a conservation plan for this site during the summer of 1992, WMF is ready to begin small pilot projects at several different locations within the Preah Khan complex, which will carry out the multiple purposes of developing conservation technologies for Angkor, training Cambodian students, stopping the deterioration and collapse of endangered areas, and making the site more accessible and intelligible to visitors.

Preah Khan: Historical and Cultural Significance

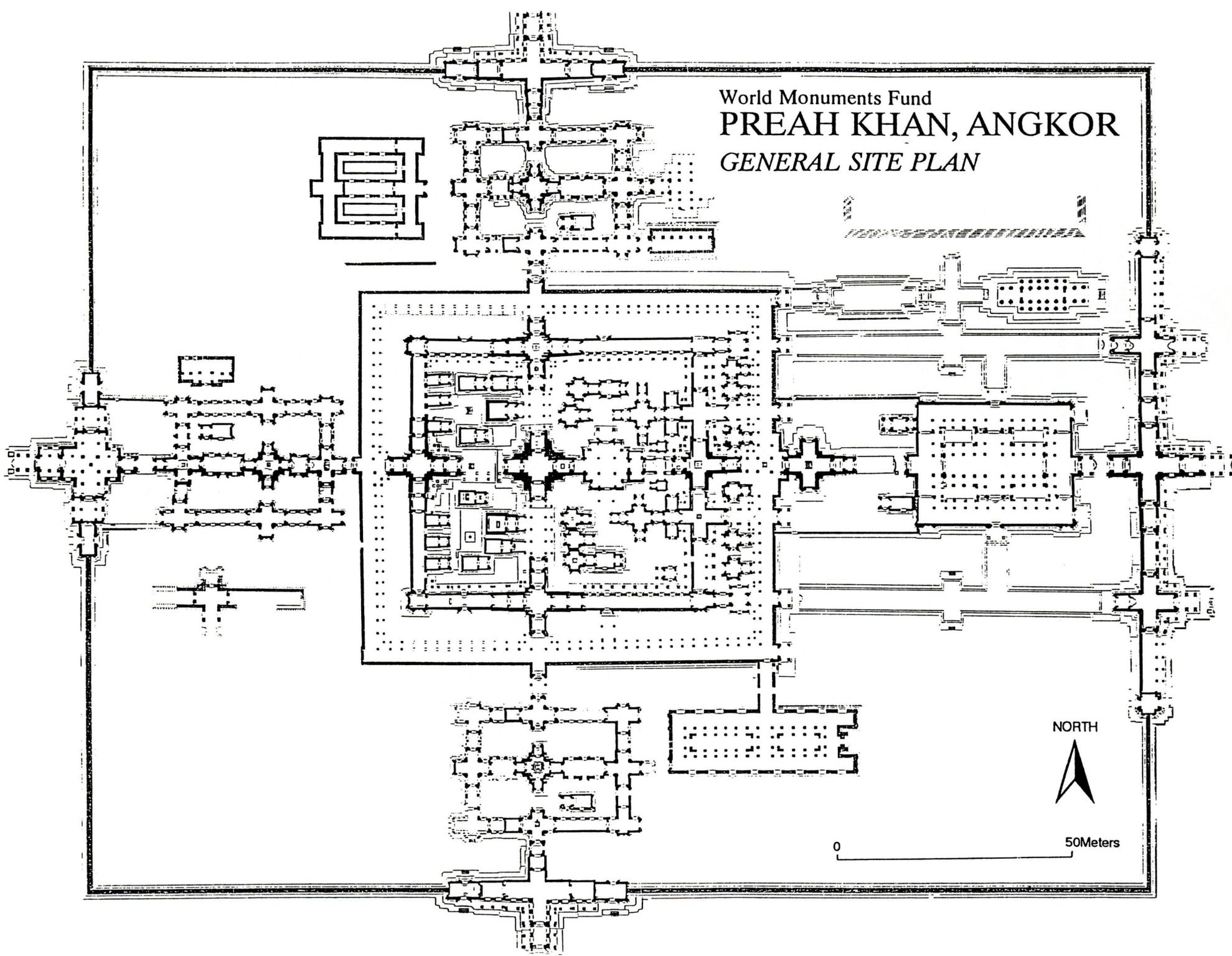
Preah Khan is one of several cities built by the Khmer king Jayavarman VII (1181-ca. 1215), who was distinguished by his large number of building accomplishments at Angkor. Jayavarman's many architectural projects were intended apparently as replacements of the royal palaces of his predecessors (Yasovarman II and Tribhuvanadityavarman). Preah Khan was built on the battlefield where the final combat between Jayavarman VII and his Cham competitors took place. The direct translation of Preah Khan is "Sacred Sword" and it is often referred to as the "Holy Palladium," or "City of Royal Victory." Preah Khan was dedicated in 1191 to Jayavarman VII's father, Dharanindravarman.

Preah Khan is unique among Khmer monuments for the fact that it is described as a place of learning and for its syncretic approach to religious practice, allocating individual chapels to Buddhism, Saivism, Vaisnavism and ancestor worship. According to the well known stele of Preah Khan recording the dedication of the central temple, a total of 515 divinities were installed in the temple complex. Numerous other chapels, added irregularly in the central courtyard, were dedicated to the memory of great dignitaries and their families. The Preah Khan stele records that the complex was also a place of learning and lists the actual numbers (no longer legible) of teachers and students it sheltered there at that time.

The plan of Preah Khan is comprised of four concentric enclosures. The two inner enclosures are surrounded by galleries that are linked in several locations. Within these enclosures there is a labyrinth of shrines, courts, halls, pavilions and entrance porticos.

The third enclosure wall represents a significant separation within the complex as does its outermost protective fourth enclosure wall. Little is known about the designs and placement of structures that may have existed between the third and fourth wall enclosures at Preah Khan. Such structures were probably made of wood, hence their disappearance.

World Monuments Fund
PREAH KHAN, ANGKOR
GENERAL SITE PLAN



The architectural style of Preah Khan belongs to the height of the Classical Period at Angkor. The temple is associated stylistically with the great temple of Bayon. The majority of the building exteriors at Preah Khan are richly decorated in bas-relief sculpture. The influence of Indian building styles is evident throughout.

The main axis of Preah Khan runs east-west and is divided by large gopuras (grand entrance gates), with multiple entrances. The centrally placed main temple is oriented to the east, surmounted by a cruciform central tower accessible from each of its four side porticos. Other distinguishing characteristics of the site include a unique two-story pavilion with round columns of an unknown original use, and the so-called Hall of the Dancers, both located in the eastern part of Enclosure III.

Preah Khan Today

Preah Khan today can be considered an architectural pilgrimage site, among the most important sites within the Historic City of Angkor. Enough remains of the structures and overall plan of Preah Khan for it to be rather easily interpreted as an example of "extended linear temple" plan. Preah Khan's location on the northern edge of the Historic City of Angkor and its rather intact natural jungle setting, including its partially functioning moat system, make it a special setting for interpretive purposes.

Preah Khan also contains a veritable catalogue of architectural vaulting forms, in varying sizes and conditions, all used to great effect in the layout of the vast complex. The semi-ruined state of Preah Khan offers a number of opportunities for conservators to study construction technology as used by the Khmers on monumental buildings. Changes to Preah Khan over time are also discernable, which adds to the interest of the site to the visitor today and bears witness to Preah Khan's probable long period of use, and its cultural significance over time.

It is the very diversity of the site, with its lexicon of architectural elements, hydrological setting, and untouched archeological context, which make it an ideal starting point for a long-term program to conserve Angkor. After a hiatus of 20 years, there is an extraordinary opportunity to develop new techniques for conservation at the site. Once a center of learning, Preah Khan will provide a training ground, both for Cambodian students, and for international experts who visit the site in the coming three to five years to conduct research and participate in the international consortium which will together solve the challenging architectural problems inherent in many of the more complex Angkor temples. WMF expects that Preah Khan will be a pilot program in conservation that will engage specialists from throughout the world.

Action Plan

Beginning in the fall of 1992, WMF plans to undertake conservation and on-site training at Preah Khan. A team of international experts, Cambodian students and local laborers will work at the site for five months a year (November through March) over a three year period, developing conservation plans and interventions for ten areas in the temple complex which urgently require conservation treatment. The stabilization and conservation of these ten areas is foreseen within the three-year period, at a total cost of approximately \$1,000,000. Upon completion of this phase, the program can be extended into other areas of the temple complex. Complete conservation of the Preah Khan complex will require ten years' work and an investment of an estimated \$5 million.

The work plan for conservation will be organized into two intensive training and consultation sessions at the beginning and end of each season. These intensive sessions will engage all international consultants and seven to ten students from the University of Beaux-Arts, who would work together for three weeks to a month to develop plans at the beginning of each campaign, and to produce documentation at its conclusion. During the interim three months, an on-site project manager will direct continuing work, carried out by a team of craftsmen retained throughout the five-month duration of each year's campaign.

A WMF project office within the Conservation d'Angkor headquarters will provide a focal point for documentation and limited research activities. The project office, equipped with computer and communications facilities, will be accessible to all members of Conservation d'Angkor and to foreign teams working at the site. It is foreseen that this office, once established, will be maintained on a year-round basis.

Summary and Request

The preservation of Angkor is one of highest priorities of international historic preservation, and is the subject of an international campaign, led by Unesco. World Monuments Fund has been a participant in this effort from the beginning, and is now beginning hands-on conservation through a three-year program addressing the important classic period temple complex of Preah Khan.

WMF invites private donors to contribute to this effort. Support of conservation at Angkor accomplishes several purposes: it helps to preserve one of the world's most significant cultural monuments; it offers jobs to Cambodian craftsmen and training to students who are emerging from the university for the first time in twenty years; and it helps bring the world's leading experts to Cambodia to direct and advise on this program.

Over long term, the program will provide a new generation of Cambodian conservators with the skills to manage this spectacular site, and with contacts and experience to make them part of the international preservation community.

A list of opportunities for donor participation follows.

Gift Opportunities

Project Sponsor. \$15,000 or more annually.

Individual donors or groups of donors may adopt a project within the Preah Khan complex for long-term sponsorship. Annual costs for the ten projects identified for the first three-year phase of the conservation program are listed in the 1992-93 budget, attached. Project sponsorship contributions will pay the material and labor costs of restoring the area in question.

Milestone Sponsor. \$5,000 or more annually.

The Preah Khan complex contains more than 200 "milestones," or stele lining each of the entrance causeways. Each contributor of \$5000 will have a milestone named, in perpetuity, in his honor. Milestone gifts will be allocated to the cost of bringing international experts to Angkor for consultation and teaching.

Training Sponsor. \$1,000 or more annually.

Contributions of \$1,000 or more annually will sponsor a student's on-site training costs at Angkor.

General Support. All contributions of funds or equipment.

WMF encourages contributions on any level toward the Angkor conservation campaign. These contributions will be used to purchase equipment and materials for the Angkor Conservation Center.

International Campaign

WMF's work at Angkor is part of an international campaign coordinated by UNESCO under the Cambodian Commission for the Rehabilitation of Angkor. It is supported entirely by private donations.

As the first on-site conservation work to begin under this administrative structure, it offers the opportunity for the various foreign teams engaged in projects at Angkor to share experience and expertise. The conservation plans, research, and training activities developed through this pilot project will become part of the Master Plan for Angkor currently being developed under the auspices of UNESCO.

For further information contact World Monuments Fund, 174 East 80th Street, New York, NY 10021. Tel: 212/517-9367. Fax: 212/628-3146.

PREAH KHAN MISSION - AUGUST 1992 - JULY 1993

BUDGET

I. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Consultants (Travel, Expenses, Honoraria)

Project Director	\$ 38,000	
Environmental Specialist	5,600	
Historian	8,500	
Archaeologist	25,500	
Structural Engineer	17,000	
Computer Programmer	5,600	
National Advisers	<u>15,000</u>	
		115,200

Site Activities

East Gopura Enclosure III	63,000	
Enclosure Wall III	27,000	
East Gopura Enclosure I	6,000	
Site Clearance	<u>16,580</u>	
		112,580

II. DOCUMENTATION AND TRAINING

Training

Site Training Preah Khan Student Team	<u>8,700</u>	
		8,700

Documentation/Physical Studies

Architectural Research	6,000	
Development of Stone Inventory	5,000	
Research on Materials (Stone)	5,000	
Computer Inventory	<u>10,000</u>	
		26,000

Publications and Promotions

Preparation of Annual Report	<u>15,000</u>	
		15,000

Local Support

Establish Project Office	4,000	
Local Staff Salaries (2)	<u>2,250</u>	
		6,250

III. WORLD MONUMENTS FUND - Staff and Administrative Costs

Project Office in Cambodia	25,000	
Program Supervision	<u>25,000</u>	
		<u>50,000</u>

TOTAL

\$333,730



Chhann Chamreun, archaeology student of the University of Beaux Arts, records the sculptural piece uncovered during the investigatory excavations.

SPONSORS

The World Monuments Fund is grateful to the sponsors whose generous support has made the initial research and analysis at Angkor possible.

The American Express Foundation, Tokyo

The Asian Cultural Council, New York

The Brown Foundation, Houston, Texas

Mr. William A. Edmundson, Atlanta, Georgia

The Getty Grant Program, Santa Monica, California

The Guide Foundation, New York

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Mr. H. Peter Stern, New York