A group of devoted heritage experts are on mission to restore and preserve traditional Tibetan architecture, from landmarks in Lhasa to Buddhist monasteries in Mongolia

We realised documenting wasn’t enough. Something else needed to be done. So we founded the Tibet Heritage Fund in 1996.

A traditional building being restored in Lhasa’s old town (left); the Central Asian Museum in Leh (right).

By the mid-1980s, the archive had attracted a few more dedicated campaigners, including a Portuguese architect, Petronella Azevedo. The archive had always had a dream that a proper exhibition of its documentary wasn’t something else needed to be done,” she says. “So we founded the Tibet Heritage Fund in 1996 and started talking to the Lhasa municipality about restoring buildings in the old city. The mayor arranged for the cultural relics workers to work with us. In Lhasa, we worked with local authorities to take out the buildings that had become fire hazards. We started to digitise and preserve the remaining valuable structures, including 17th-century monasteries in the old Barkhor area surrounding the Jokhang Temple.

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