

GUIDELINES ON MONUMENTS HONORING NATIONAL HEROES, ILLUSTRIOUS FILIPINOS AND OTHER PERSONAGES

Monuments under this category, which basically include full-bodied statues, busts, pedestals, pylons, arches, relief murals and the like, shall be governed by the following set of Guidelines.

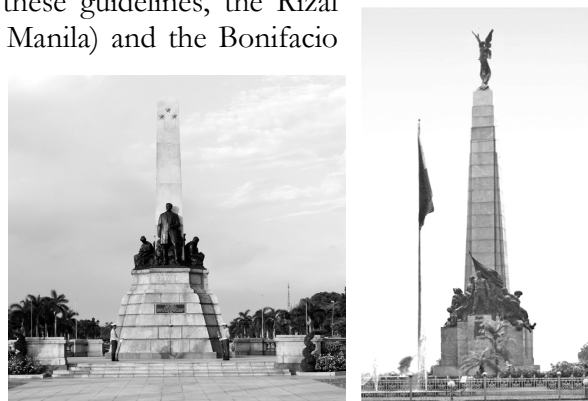
Monuments are great **landmarks** of our towns and cities. Monuments are **memorials** to historic events, places and heroes and their deeds and contributions to the building of our nation. Therefore, monuments must be treated as sacred or hallowed grounds and accorded with the same full reverence as we have for the Philippine Flag. Any form of desecration against monuments, such as squatting, graffiti and advertising commercialism shall not be allowed.

The Constitution of the Philippines, Article IV on Arts and Culture, Section 16 states: *All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition.*

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines is the government agency mandated by law, the Republic Act 10086, to undertake and prescribe the manner of conservation, restoration and protection of the countries historical movable and immovable objects.

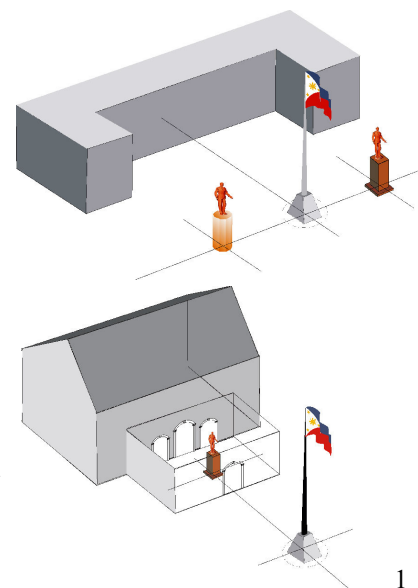
1. DOMINANCE

Monuments are landmarks of our cities, towns and provinces. They must be honored, preserved and protected. Monuments should be given due prominence since they symbolize national significance. For the purposes of these guidelines, the Rizal National Monument in Luneta (Rizal Park, Manila) and the Bonifacio National Monument (Caloocan City) are established as objects of reference. The monument should preferably be the focal point of a city or town center. Quezon City adopted its official seal and logo from the Quezon Memorial, and Caloocan City from the Bonifacio National Monument. The corporate identities of these cities are strengthened by their adoption of these monuments in their official seals.



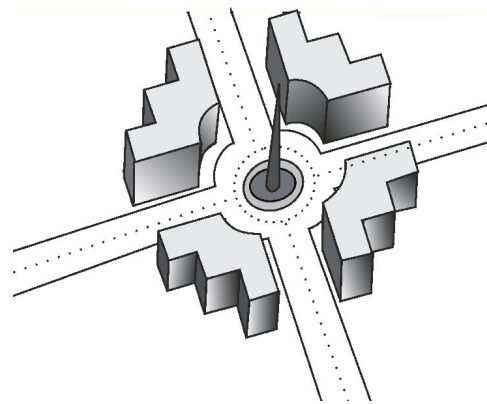
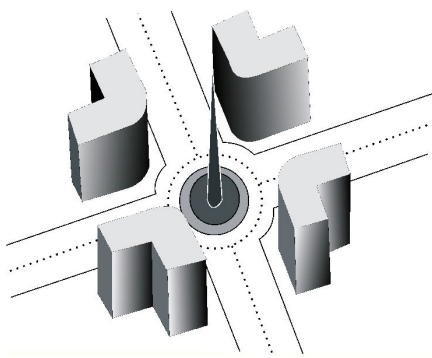
If two or more monuments are present at the site, the following standards shall be adopted correspondingly:

- a. the more important monument should be given prominence at the site;
- b. Rizal monument or the more important monument is situated at the left side of the flagpole, and the local hero's monument at the right side of the flagpole (the two monuments are installed side by side with the flagpole, facing the observer);
- c. When three (3) or more monuments are present at the site, the monuments shall be properly or logically rearranged/reoriented: bust monuments of



local heroes shall be relocated in the main lobby of important public buildings around the public park/plaza in order to reduce competition for dominance, while the most important ones shall be appropriately relocated/reoriented together with the main flagpole; *E.g., The monuments at the Provincial Capitol Plaza of Pampanga.*

Façade of buildings around a monument, particularly on a rotunda or circle can be retrofitted with a uniform design to enhance the urban renewal of the site and the prominence and dominance of the monument. Likewise, building heights, volume and design should be regulated.



Measures by which dominance could be achieved are the following:

- a. Maintain a clean and neat environment;
- b. Keep vista points and visual corridors to monuments clear for unobstructed viewing appreciation and photographic opportunities;
- c. Maintain a simple and environment-friendly landscape. Provide plants and trees wherever appropriate, to enhance and soften the built areas;
- d. Commercial billboards should not proliferate in a town center where a dominant monument is situated; Limit building signage throughout the second level of buildings around the monument; Cities, municipalities and provinces shall adopt these billboard and building signage regulations by passing local ordinances;
- e. Introduce creative design devices such as paved walkways, attractive ground cover and rows of tall trees to make the monument the main attraction of the site;
- f. The monument may be elevated on a mound or a platform to emphasize its importance;
- g. Use strong contrast between the monument and its background. This will enhance the monument as a focal point of the site; and,
- f. Enclosing structures may be used to emphasize and protect the monument.



Top: Monument elevated on a mound to emphasize its significance and presence.

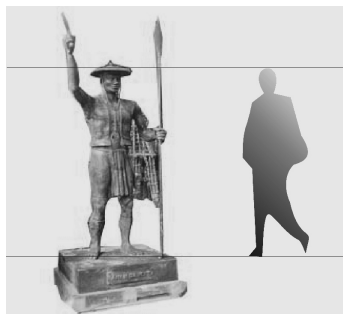
Bottom: Sultan Kudarat Memorial Shrine is enclosed by roof cover and low walls and fence to emphasize its importance and to protect the enshrined object

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The scale of the figure of an outdoor monument should be kept to an ideal standard, which may be governed by the following:

- Minimum : Life-size
- Maximum : Twice the life-size
- Landmark/Monumental structures : More than the life-size



Aman Dangat, Basco, Batanes: Lifesize



Juan Luna, Intramuros, Manila: Twice the lifesize



Elpidio Quirino, Vigan, Ilocos Sur: More than lifesize

The scale would depend on the size of the open space where the monument shall be placed in relation to human perception. The larger the open space, the taller the monument. As a rule of thumb, no full-bodied monument must be smaller than life-size. The scales used by sculptors are usually one-and-a-half times the life-size or twice the life-size. These sizes, when placed on corresponding proportional pedestals, would appear life-size at an appropriate viewing distance. The over-all effect of the site should be an overwhelming experience. This feeling, thus, contributes to the effectiveness of the learning message the monument conveys.



Capas Memorial: The large scale of the monument is quite proportional to the vastness of its setting

2. SITE AND ORIENTATION

- A. SITE/SETTING – the area or territory where a monument is found or located. The setting is not only limited with the exact area that is directly occupied by the monument, but it extends to the surrounding areas whether open space or occupied by other structures as may be defined by the traditional or juridical expanse of the property.

Vigan, Ilocos Sur Plaza and Lagoon: The monument is the centerpiece of the urban setting



The International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter) further defines SETTING in the following:

ARTICLE 1. The concept of an historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilization, a significant development or an historic event. This applies not only to great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time; and,

ARTICLE 6. The conservation of a monument implies preserving a setting, which is not out of scale. Wherever the traditional setting exists, it must be kept. No new

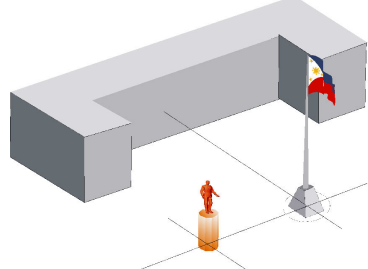
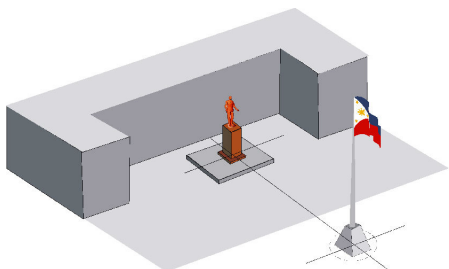
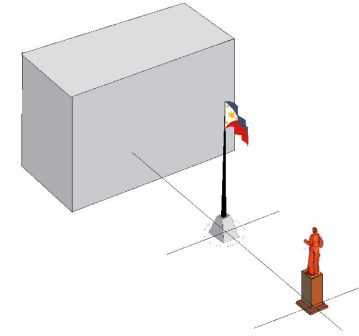
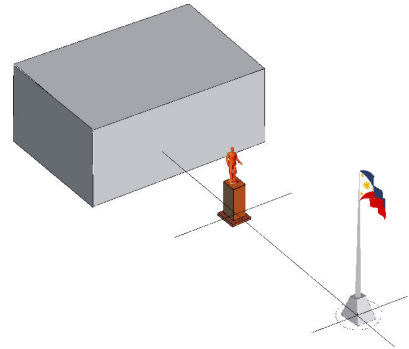
construction, demolition or modification, which would alter the relations of mass and color, must be allowed.

B. ORIENTATION

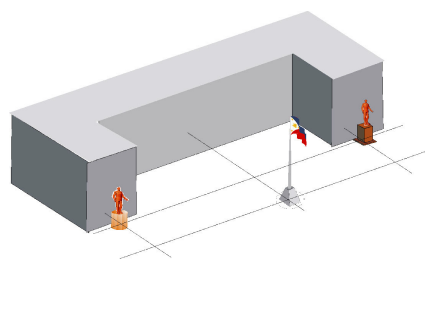
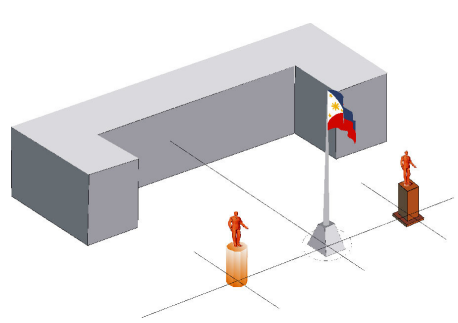
Monuments are usually located in front of a prominent building, at a plaza or park, in an interior courtyard of a prominent building, at the center of a partially-open space, a rotunda or triangle in major thoroughfares.

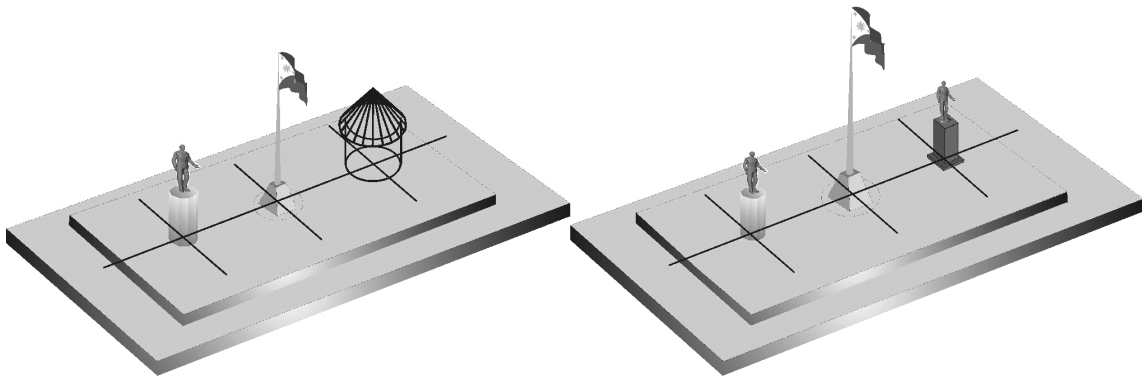
They are oriented in front of a prominent building and facing a flagpole; facing a flagpole at the center of an interior courtyard, surrounded by enclosing walls of a building; facing the open space when located in the center of a partially-open space; facing the larger part of the open space when located in a park or plaza.

If the site is limited, a monument may be located side-by-side, but not very near or next to, the existing flagpole on the same axis parallel to the significant building's facade line, the monument figure, and the flagpole fronting said building.



Monuments are generally co-axial with those of the significant structures around them. If there are to be two monuments at the same time on the site, these may be placed side by side with the flagpole at the center. The two monuments should be on an axis parallel to the prominent building's axis.



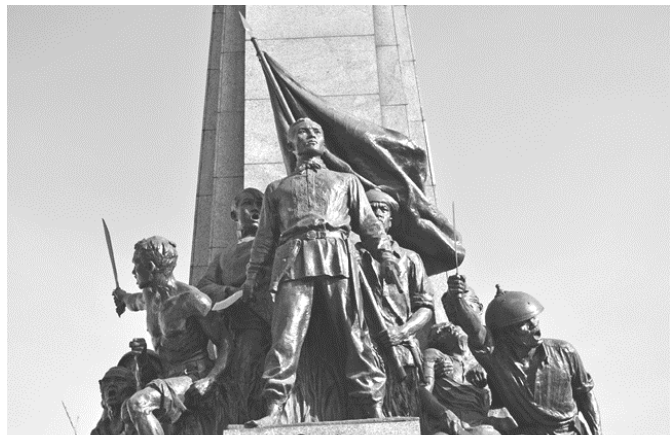


3. ARTISTIC STYLE

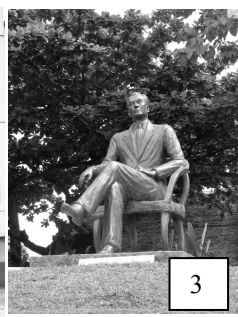
Classic memorials are timeless. Monument figures intended to memorialize great heroes and eminent Filipinos, and are commissioned by either a national or a local government entity shall be created in the classic or the modern classic style, having the closest facial and physical likeness to and meaningful representation of those being honored. *E.g.: Rizal National Monument in Luneta; Bonifacio National Monument in Caloocan City.*



Rizal National Monument, Luneta



Bonifacio National Monument Monument, Caloocan City



OTHEREXAMPLES OF CLASSIC AND MODERN CLASSIC MONUMENTS:

1. *Emilio Aguinaldo on horseback, Kawit Freedom Park, CaviteThe Quezon Memorial Shrine;*
2. *Katipunan Founding Site, Elcano corner C. M. Recto, Manila*
3. *Manuel L. Quezon, Baler, Aurora*
4. *The Oblation, University of the Philippines Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*

4. DESIGN AND MATERIALS

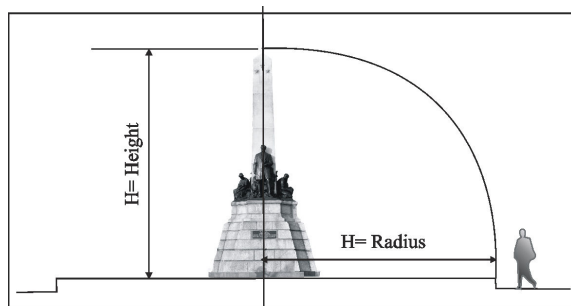
The design fundamentally is based on the over-all character of the site and its peripherals (urban or environmental character or setting). In other words, the monument should be contextual to the site and its vicinity. The proposed design of the monument and its site development should be adapted to the existing, original, or significant structures, and not the reverse process.

With regard to other aspects, the commissioned artist or architect is free to interpret his own design.

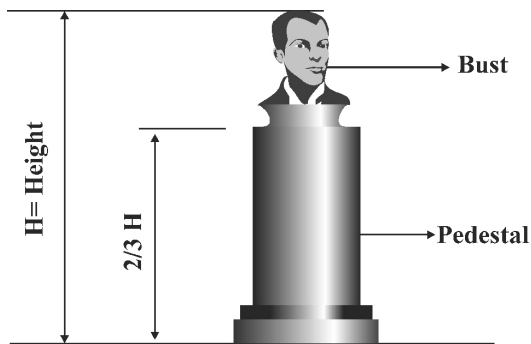
Pedestals, plant boxes, platforms, and other low portions of the design should be carefully studied to avoid areas, which will be attractive to vandalism and vagrancy.

The choice of materials shall be the prerogative of the artist or architect. However, color, texture, materials matching and combinations should be taken into consideration to achieve a refined overall appearance.

A full-bodied monument is preferably placed on a simple pedestal, having the same height as that of the monument, i.e., a figure-to-pedestal ratio of 1:1 (Figure 8). Bust monument pedestals shall likewise be properly proportioned. The recommended bust-to-pedestal ratio is 1:3.



Open space radius should be at least equal to the monument height



Bust figure is one third the total height of the monument



Height of pedestal is three-fourths the the height of the monument figure

5. STRUCTURES

The structures of a monument, which may include a platform, pedestal, figure, pylon or an arch, must be rigidly constructed in accordance with existing National Building Code requirements and accepted engineering and construction practices. Structures located outdoors must be built to withstand corrosion, erosion, intense heat, strong winds, typhoons, and earthquakes. Emphasis should be given to the construction method of assembly and of mounting the monument figure to the pedestal.

Prior to any new excavation work for the construction of monument foundations, if the site of the new monument to



The Quezon Memorial Shrine, Quezon City

be installed is also believed to be the site of an important historic event or settlement of old/traditional community, an archaeological assessment of the site under the supervision of the National Museum of the Philippines shall be necessary to safeguard historical and cultural evidences possibly deposited underneath the present ground level.

6. LANDSCAPING AND AMENITIES

Site development, landscaping, and amenities shall depend on existing site qualities and requirements. Local and national government restrictions regarding site development shall be complied with. To give prominence to the monument, the immediate areas should be simple and unobstructed. Unsightly installations, such as stalls, billboards, tents, debris, garbage, shanties, electrical poles and wires, and the like, should be cleared from the monument site.



The Leyte Landing: The site had been developed as a monument to the Liberation of the Philippines and a public park with modern amenities

7. RENOVATION

This refers to site renovation and renewal projects within existing public plazas, squares, courts, or open spaces. The concept of an open space for public use is that it must remain open, simple, and neat. An open space should function as a breathing space and a center for public congregation.

An open space should be regarded as a natural environment and space that relates the surrounding structures. The composition should be homogeneous and functional.

Historical precedents must always be respected. This means that existing elements, designs, and other features that have gained significance and which are considered distinct elements of a town, site, or center, should be preserved and protected. Additions or renewals on the monument site should only be done to enhance the existing set-up, but they should not compete or radically contrast with it, so as not to result in the indiscriminate alteration of the meaning and intention of the site.

The monument is inseparable from its site.

8. PROPER USE

All monuments as stated in this **Guidelines** should be treated with utmost respect and reverence, more particularly, full-bodied statues and busts of the country's illustrious heroes and eminent leaders of the locality. Desecration in any form is therefore prohibited. City, municipal, and provincial ordinances should protect the monuments from vandalism, graffiti, advertising billboards and posters, direct abutment of structures and improper use. Monument sites, for example, should not be used for: parking vehicles; herding animals; if there is water element or feature, for washing and drying of clothes, bathing, washing of vehicles and pet animals; dumping garbage; gambling dens; commercial stalls; squatting; political rallies venues of illicit activities; and, other forms of desecration.

9. MAINTENANCE

All monuments shall be ensured with proper and continuous maintenance by local government units if the monument is within municipal, city, or provincial limits, and national agencies for National Monuments. Both local and national government agencies can arrange joint maintenance programs for important national monuments. A routine schedule for the maintenance of monuments, and annual maintenance budget shall be implemented by the concerned local and national government agencies.

10. RELOCATION

Article 7 of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, otherwise known as the Venice Charter states that: *A monument is inseparable from the history to which it bears witness and from the setting in which it occurs. The moving of all or part of a monument cannot be allowed except where the safeguarding of that monument demands it or where it is justified by national or international interest of paramount importance.*

National Monuments cannot be relocated without prior written permission of the Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

A. Existing monuments cannot be relocated without justifiable reasons. Instances in which monuments cannot be relocated include the following:

- 1) If the event which the monument immortalizes occurred in the specific area where it stands;
- 2) If relocating the monument will mean its destruction;
- 3) If there was no prior consultation or due process;
- 4) If the monument is to be replaced with another monument of a lesser stature or importance;
- 5) If the site to relocate the monument is still uncertain;
- 6) If the relocation site is not a better location than the present one;
- 7) If the monument is left idle or decommissioned;
- 8) If the new development plans conflict with those of the existing plans.

B. Monuments may be relocated if the reasons for its relocation will not conflict with the previous reasons. Instances in which the monument can be relocated may include the following:

- 1) If the proposed development plan is an accepted improvement over the existing plan, and does not conflict with the old plan and the existing monument. The point of reference for any development plan should be the existing monument, and not vice versa. If a monument needs to be installed within the area, this new monument shall be placed side by side with the existing monument;
- 2) If the positioning of the old monument is to be corrected, *e.g. the monument is repositioned to face the flagpole*; and,
- 3) If the monument will be replaced with a better monument, *e.g., a cement monument is replaced with a bronze monument. In many cases, the old monument is not destroyed and only transferred to another appropriate site.*

C. Permanent Removal and Disposal of Monument Figures

- 1) When allowed with appropriate justification/s, permanent removal of a monument figure requires observance of proper procedures of removal, disposal, storage, reinstallation, repair, restoration, or reuse;

- 2) Disposal of monument figure is only allowable if the monument figure is found beyond repair or restoration prior to its removal;
- 3) Intentional destruction of an installed monument so that it can be replaced with a new one is a form of desecration. Therefore, this kind of removal is prohibited; and;
- 4) The old monument figure which shall be replaced by a new monument figure can be donated or relocated for reinstallation at another site.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF THE VICINITY (EXISTING AND FUTURE)

It is highly recommended that towns and cities formulate zoning guidelines or local ordinances for the protection and development of monument sites and the promotion of a clean and green environment, and strictly implement these laws, especially in places where important monuments and structures are located.

A buffer zone should be provided around the vicinity of monuments/sites, and should be made part of the respective city or municipal land use and zoning regulations through local legislation.

Height of buildings surrounding or in the immediate vicinity of the monument/site should be regulated by local building code regulation or special local ordinance to enhance the prominence, dominance and dignity of the monument, more importantly, the national monuments.

The design and placement of outdoor signage around the monument/site, whether permanent or temporary, should be regulated by special local ordinances and building codes, or applicable laws governing commerce and industry. No commercial or advertising billboards, which will desecrate the monument, should be installed on the monument/site or on buildings and structures around the monument.

Town planning and urban renewal projects must always include respect for important historic sites and monuments. Adaptation of these areas to contemporary life requires the careful installation or improvement of public service facilities (from the International Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns).

12. MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES:

- a) No monument to a living person on any public space shall be erected or sanctioned by any national government agency or local government unit;
- b) No monument sponsored by any private individual, organization or the honoree's kin shall be allowed on any public space, unless the same is intended as a donation to the government and is sanctioned by a national government agency or local government unit, subject further to public acceptance and the approval of a Board Resolution by the sanctioning government agency;
- c) All government agencies proposing to install monuments shall exercise prudence in their evaluation of requests to erect monuments, in keeping with NHCP Guidelines on Monuments;
- d) Monuments installed on privately owned property do not require NHCP approval.

Comments and Suggestions are welcome.

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