

It is too expensive to look after and repair old buildings. This money should be spent on building modern buildings instead. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Some call them architectural heritage, others consider them out of style. Old buildings, dating from either decades or centuries ago, have always been a topic of controversy. While, to many people, they are not worth spending money on, I ~~disagree and~~ contend they could even be assets as they can convey symbolic meaning and add diversity to the area.

Preserving old constructions can be of potential benefit due to their cultural values. Designed and created decades or centuries ago, these antique constructions are likely to embody the history of the place and of the people who once built and ~~accommodated-settled~~ them, our ancestors. People who completely or partially –depending on the area and time– escaped unscathed from globalism, had the chance to demonstrate their own belief and taste, and often the older the building, the more discrete it becomes in its surroundings. Destroy such a structure, and you will destroy part of the local culture along with its individuality.

Moreover, for all the ludicrous claims that these structures make a city or a neighborhood look outmoded, it is common knowledge that fashion, in any shape or form, is a matter of taste. One generation's most popular style may be another's least. Many a style had gone out of fashion and then came back. Thus, an old building, which is now regarded as an eyesore, may attract many eyes in the not too distant future.

Finally, from a financial perspective, maintaining these buildings and refurbishing them could make economic sense. Granted that some are dilapidated beyond repair, but a large number of these constructions can be saved with a little or reasonable amount of money whereas the cost of demolition ~~them~~ and erecting a new one would be astronomical. Also, if possible they can function as tourist attractions, ~~and create~~ creating revenue-generating opportunities.

To conclude, while many are of the opinion that restoring and renovating old buildings make no economic sense, I, on the contrary, see little merit in destroying them and believe they bring ~~the~~ cultural identity to an area and can even ~~can~~ present economic opportunities.