

TC•SP

Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation

*The greenest building is...
...one that is already built!*



TC•SP Greening Preservation through Collaboration

Stewardship of irreplaceable resources is the shared ethic of both sustainability and preservation. Conservation of energy, ecological, material and cultural resources are interdependent. Collaboration among sustainability and preservation advocates is imperative.

The Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation of the Association for Preservation Technology International was created to provide increased opportunities for inter-disciplinary cooperation and practice.

In the U.S. and Canada, nearly three quarters of the building stock is more than thirty-five years old, beyond the intended service life of many exterior envelope components and energy consuming systems. Many are potential candidates for historic or heritage designation. Recycling existing structures is fundamental to achieving sustainability.

Combining experience in existing building renewal with emerging practices in sustainable design, TC•SP is developing tools, documenting best practices, and preparing educational materials to achieve the sustainable use of the existing building stock.

The Halifax Symposium

Setting the Bar for Sustainable Heritage Conservation

TC•SP conducted a symposium during APT's 2005 annual conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which solidified TC•SP's mission and developed an action agenda for increasing collaboration between sustainability and preservation advocates.

The Halifax Preamble:

Sustainability is of critical importance to APT's mission to promote the wise use of the built environment.

There is a need to make the cultural dimension of sustainability explicit.

Respect for the cultural dimension requires a process that is broad-based and inclusive.

Interpreting cultural significance and historic integrity in sustainability rating systems requires both quantitative and qualitative measures.

Fred Charles



James Toner for GSA



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APT Bulletin Special Issue on Sustainable Preservation

Following the Halifax Symposium, TC•SP prepared a special issue of the APT Bulletin devoted to sustainable preservation and heritage conservation topics. (*APT Bulletin Vol. 36, No. 4: Special Issue on Sustainability and Preservation*, published by Mount Ida Press, 2005)

Articles published in the Special Issue establish the scope and depth of work accomplished in the U.S. and Canada at the intersection of sustainability and preservation. Several articles illustrate that the value of heritage conservation is magnified through the lens of sustainability by quantifying embodied energy and material resources in historic buildings. Others demonstrate the integration of high-performance systems, green materials and sustainable practices in historic places.

The Special Issue also shows how historic preservation and heritage conservation alter perspectives on what constitute truly sustainable practices.

A sample article on the real cost of replacing historic windows can be accessed through the Committees section of the APT website.

National Archives



TC•SP Action Agenda

Make a difference by contributing to these TC•SP working group activities for 2007:

Education + Outreach:

Identifying strategic partnerships and developing sustainable preservation educational “modules”.

Case Studies:

Identifying sustainable preservation case studies and assessment criteria to develop a database to be accessible through the APT website.

Rating Systems + Life Cycle Assessment:

Conducting technical reviews of green building rating systems to assess their efficacy for application to historic properties.

Publications + Communications:

Preparing TC•SP newsletters and articles for the APT Bulletin and other preservation and green building publications.

TC•SP works via monthly teleconferences. If you would like to join these calls, please contact the working group leaders.

APT San Juan 2007

TC•SP members will next meet at the APT 2007 annual conference, where one of the paper tracks will address the relationship of climate to traditional building and historic preservation.

APT Montreal 2008

Get ready for APT’s 40th anniversary conference. TC•SP is collaborating with the conference committee to prepare a pre-conference workshop on sustainable preservation themes.

What is APT?

Created in 1968 in Quebec as a joint venture between preservationists in Canada and the United States, the Association for Preservation Technology International has always been at the forefront of the rapidly evolving preservation movement. Drawn together by a need to know, APT members gather at conferences, training sessions, and social functions to expand their professional spheres and share their hard-won knowledge and expertise.

www.apti.org

David C. Overholt



Find out more! TC•SP Publications

APT Bulletin Vol. 36, No. 4: Special Issue on Sustainability and Preservation for sale through the APT website, Committees section.

TC•SP Quarterly Report available online in the APT Communiqué at www.apti.org

TC•SP Bulletin Board available online on the APT website at www.apti.org. All APT members are encouraged to participate by posting entries.