

Session: (CS5.4) Session CS5.4: Heritage and Social Purpose (10:45 AM – 12:15 PM)

Saturday, October 14, 2017

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Room: Confederation I - Level 4

Session Chair: Dima Cook, OAA, OAQ, CAHP, LEED AP, APT, MRAIC – Senior Associate, Architect, EVOQ Architecture Inc.

This session addresses the challenges of conserving and recognizing the community values of past and present day communities – by revealing and layering the previous occupation of the land on the present day urban fabric; preserving traditional craftsmanship; interpreting and preserving the stories associated with a place and community; and engaging with the different groups and communities.

The papers present the different challenges and opportunities that arise from recognizing and preserving the often intangible values of a community by discussing how:

- to define the cultural heritage values of a place when communities are rapidly changing;
- to manage conflicting values and opinions of different groups invested in a place;
- to build trust and dialog to develop a connected narrative;
- to redefining and reintroduce past stories and histories;
- to commemorate and preserve communities, crafts and history; and
- to find ways of co-creating with the different community groups to create a joint narrative.

Session objectives:

1. Upon completion, participants will be able to recognize the importance of layering of planning, heritage and history in the evolution of a place.
2. Upon completion, participants will be able to identify different approaches for addressing the intangible values of a place, a culture and a craft
3. Upon completion, participants will be able to develop community consultation and participation that can inform and shape the conservation of the heritage cultural values of a place; and to identify and manage the different and often conflicting views of heritage values within a community.
4. Upon completion, participants will be able to articulate how different interpretation and cultural programming approaches can be used to preserve and promote the cultural heritage values of a place and community.

Vancouver Chinatown Under Threat: Observations on Heritage from a New Generation

Speakers/Conférencier: Doris Chow

In the recent battle over a contentious rezoning development application located in the heart of Vancouver's Chinatown, disparate groups of people- advocates for the low income community, seniors, architects, planners, youth groups, citizens concerned with loss of character areas, and so forth- played a pivotal role in its rejection by city council. Rezoning had rarely, if ever, been rejected prior. The

lengthy and high-profile public hearing and ultimate rejection of the rezoning raised important heritage issues:

- 1) Without heritage groups making any concerted effort to engage youth, they mobilized themselves to fight a project in Chinatown that they viewed as a threat to their cultural heritage. Heritage organizations have for many years been grappling with how to engage youth in heritage issues. What attracted youth to this fight?
- 2) As well, what attracted other interest groups to this particular struggle?
- 3) How does heritage intersect the interests of all these groups and what is the opportunity for heritage to assist in the conservation of areas by acting as a common thread by which other community preservation interests may find assistance
- 4) What is instructive to the heritage community based on the organizing of youth groups and other opposition groups against the rezoning

Learning Objectives:

- Upon completion, participants will be able to identify key heritage and social values for Vancouver's Chinatown (and perhaps even Chinatowns across Canada)
- Upon completion, participants will be able to identify how UNESCO safeguards intangible cultural heritage, defines ICH and identify the categories of Historic Urban Landscape toolkit.
- Upon completion, participants will be able to see and plan for how place activates culture as a tool for rehabilitation.
- Upon completion, participants will be able to gain inspiration and devise cultural programming for their own context to rehabilitate or strengthen social cohesion, social values for an area.

Creative Approaches to Conserving Social and Community Value

Speakers/Conférencier: Alex Corey, MSc Historic Preservation – Heritage Planner

Speakers/Conférencier: Marybeth McTeague, Bsc Arch, Dip Arch, MA, RIBA, CAHP – Heritage Planner

In the identification and conservation of a historic place's cultural heritage value, it is frequently evident that the significance of place is not solely reliant on its built form but instead has local importance through more organic historic elements such as use or intangible qualities based on memory and association.

The City of Toronto has been experiencing an unprecedented period of rapid growth, and while new development has presented the city with opportunities to increase the livability and appeal of Toronto,

challenges have arisen around conserving historic places that embody the social and community fabric of our neighbourhoods, and that provide a sense of continuity with the past.

The City of Toronto currently employs provincial criteria and the City's own heritage conservation district policies in order to identify social and community value as part of a historic place's cultural heritage value. However, the current policy and planning framework has limited means to directly conserve the intangible heritage values of these places experiencing rapid change, inadvertently placing at-risk the users and activities that ascribe value to these places.

This presentation will present how the City of Toronto is identifying and conserving social and community values through the identification and designation of individual properties and heritage conservation districts. Recent case studies will illustrate how the City is engaging stakeholders in the identification of heritage properties in their neighbourhood and the policy development process, and how collaboration with mutually supportive private and public sector partners is helping to ensure the long-term conservation of Toronto's diverse social and community heritage values.

Learning Objectives:

- Upon completion, participants will have an understanding of the emerging issues around identifying and conserving diverse social and community values of historic places and areas within a rapidly evolving historic urban landscape
- Upon completion, participants will be able to identify the limitations of current heritage planning legislation as it pertains to conserving social and community value
- Upon completion, participants will be able to develop and implement strategic approaches relating to the conservation of social values through identification techniques, planning studies, community engagement and collaboration in municipal planning

Upon completion, participants will have an understanding of the current heritage planning and policy framework employed by the City of Toronto in the identification and conservation of historic places and heritage conservation districts, and their social and community heritage value

Creating a Culture of Craftsmanship: Studying the Family Boatbuilding Movement

Speaker Contact: Aleen Stanton – Graduate Student, University of York, UK

Craft skills are at the heart of conservation practice in the twenty-first century. At the very same time, there is an acute sense that we, as a society, are losing the embodied knowledge of expert craftspeople. A 'craft crisis' exists. The world seems over-mechanized, our lives removed from first-hand experience. We feel the knowledge of how to make things 'by hand' slipping away.

When we practice heritage conservation, we are not just conserving buildings, we are conserving the very intangible heritage craft skills that make preservation possible. Yet, tension exists: are craft skills "in" or "out" of history? Should we accept change in craft practice or minimize it? How can we let craftsmanship evolve and reach new audiences? Artisans today shoulder these expectations and these disparate conservation philosophies. Craftsmanship walks the tightrope between authenticity and fabrication, between tradition and innovation, and between a living practice and a fossilized one.

Carpentry is one of the most common crafts performing this high wire act. Built heritage carpentry is usually what comes to mind first, but wooden boatbuilding presents an even more compelling case study. Boatbuilding seems to be one of the few areas bucking the 'craft crisis' trend. This research analyzes the flourishing Family Boatbuilding movement. Founded in 1998 by Wooden Boat Magazine, Family Boatbuilding events have since spread across the US and Canada and become a veritable international movement. The premise is simple: members of the public, often novices, build their own 12-foot wooden rowboat with guidance from expert boat builders over the course of three days, launching the boat on the third day. Its policy is straightforward: public outreach with a "can-do" and a "hands-on" approach. Both NGOs and government-managed heritage institutions like the Alexandria Seaport Foundation and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic have recognized that the program is not only a way to bring new people to boatbuilding, but to the very idea of conservation and craftsmanship. This accessible grassroots program with a DIY spin has brought community groups, new immigrants, at-risk youth, and families alike into the conservation fold. The movement continues to grow.

As Nova Scotia sailor, boat builder, and writer, Silver Donald Cameron describes in his essay *The Nine Year Seminar on Boatbuilding and Life*, "Building a boat is a process of thinking, knowing, and doing—of learning and creating, which are the two most important of all human activities. It is not a single big job; it is a thousand little jobs, some of them done over and over and over." In a way, boatbuilding can stand as a metaphor for conservation policy and practice, and for life. We do not live in an ideal world, but we can continue to try and make it one.

Learning Objectives:

- Upon completion, participant will be able to define heritage craftsmanship and to outline the Family Boatbuilding movement.
- Upon completion, participant will be able to identify philosophical tensions in conservation and problems that exist in the craft skills sector in particular (including a compare and contrast between Canada/US/UK).

- Upon completion, participant will be able to apply the lessons learned from the Family Boatbuilding movement to implement more programs that successfully integrate community groups, government, and the general public.
- Upon completion, participant will be able to describe in detail what creating a "culture of conservation" looks like in practice.

Indigenizing Montreal: Re-Occupying Montreal

Speakers/Conférencier: Alain Fournier, OAQ, OAA, ALBNL, FIRAC/FRAIC, NWTAA – ARCHITECT, DIRECTOR, EvoqArchitecture

Speakers/Conférencier: Philippe Tsaronsere Meilleur – Executive Director

Native Montréal, is a non-profit organization that promotes and supports Indigenous people living in Montreal. Its mission is to contribute to the holistic health, cultural strength and success of Indigenous families, individuals and communities in Montreal.

Native Montreal submitted the project Indigenize Montreal to the Société des célébrations du 375e so it could be part of the official program celebrating Montreal's 375th. This was later followed by an offer from The World Design Summit, to be held in Montreal the fall of 2017, to exhibit within its venue, the various projects that will be developed for Indigenize Montreal's.

This project although it is not about preserving heritage sites per se, is just as important if not more so. It is an attempt to weave the presence of indigenous people back into the fabric of urban Montreal, where they belong and should always have been. In a way it is rejigging the heritage fabric to make room for those whose heritage was obliterated. This is all in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation

This raises a number of questions, the first being what is indigenization? An Indigenized Montréal must be an accessible, lived experience, rooted in historical and contemporary Indigenous teachings and knowledge. The Indigenized locations must be connected by a network of key spaces guaranteeing a sense of belonging within the Indigenous community across the urban landscape of Montreal.

The Principles: Key Objectives

The Indigenous world-view must be translated into overarching philosophical and design principles. The key objectives of the principles is to enhance the protection, reinstatement and development of Indigenous cultural landscapes enabling all of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis to connect to and deepen their 'sense of place'. The Principles seek to foster and guide culturally appropriate designs that enhance Indigenous peoples' appreciation of the natural landscape and the built environment.

The Principles: Applications

To be properly applied, the principles must be adapted. The principles are intended as a strategic foundation for Indigenous people to adapt, customize and further develop in response to local context. The principles also provide other stakeholders and the design community with a clearer picture as to how Indigenous people and Nations are likely to view, value and wish to participate in the design and development of the built environment within their ancestral territory or contemporary living space. The use of the principles is predicated on the development of long term relationships based on respect being developed between Indigenous people, mandated design professionals and different levels of governance. The resulting relationships between these groups provide opportunities to unlock a rich design potential.

Learning Objectives:

- Upon completion, participant will be able to understand the meaning of proper acknowledgment of Indigenous Heritage
- Upon completion, participant will be able to discuss why language and culture are so critically linked to indigenous heritage
- Upon completion, participant will be able to identify the traditional owners and keepers of indigenous heritage
- Upon completion, participant will be able to develop a visioning process to support the quest for and protection of indigenous heritage

Whose Memories are More Important? Interpreting a Provincial Mental Health Institution called 'Woodlands'.

Speakers/Conférencier: Julie C. Schueck, Member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals – Principal, Schueck Heritage Consulting

In 1873, New Westminster was chosen for BC's "Provincial Lunatic Asylum" ("Woodlands"). The 1878 building had historic value for age, architectural style, association with prominent builders/architects and colonial history. It had social value as the first dedicated mental health institution in the province. Its 100+ year history reflected contradictory views and evolving beliefs about institutions and the care of those with mental health/developmental disabilities.

In 1996, the 26-hectare site closed. A master-planned residential community was developed and six buildings received heritage protection. In 2003, the Onni Group of Companies subdivided the land,

renamed it “Victoria Hill” and began construction. In 2008, fire destroyed the 1878 building, leaving the 1889 entry tower. With a divided Council and community, and looming large-scale protests, a community consultation process began to answer the question: restore or demolish?

A task-force comprised of heritage advocates, former-residents, neighbours, and Onni was convened and after a three year process, recommended demolition. But, the entry tower outline would be marked in its original location using salvaged granite blocks, and four interpretive panels would be installed on site.

At first it seemed to be a project about whose memories were more important, but it became a project about respecting the complex values of this controversial site. Never before has a task force in the city had to deal with such conflicting values and objectives. Ground rules were established to ensure that meetings, given the different perspectives and sensitive subject matter, were orderly and stayed on topic.

This careful process brought together people who were passionate and expert in their fields, and who were skeptical of each other and the process. By the end, they had achieved trust and respect for each other’s viewpoints and had agreed on how to represent Woodlands past. One former resident, with assistance, was able to fully participate on the task force, providing a unique perspective. Despite conflicting viewpoints and a sensitive subject matter, all members reached agreement on the content of the interpretive panels.

Larger community consultation included the Heritage Commission, provincial heritage agencies, and national advocates for persons with developmental/intellectual disabilities. Other former-residents were included in the process, and material was reviewed by Literacy New Westminster to ensure that content, language and questions were understandable to everyone.

While this project did not result in retention of the building, it did retain the inherent heritage values of the site through the building outline and the panels. Additionally, the consultation process brought together disparate stakeholder groups and a new value emerged as a result; a cultural value of having achieved a balanced/authentic representation of history, education of a community, and some reconciliation for former-Woodlands-residents.

Learning Objectives:

- Upon completion, participants will have a better understanding of how to develop a process that is more likely to resolve conflicting values/objectives regarding the interpretation of an historic site.

- Upon completion, participants will be able to conduct effective task force meetings based on ground rules learned through this project.
- Upon completion, participants will look at historic sites a little differently, and be challenged to consider if sometimes the story might be more important than the physical structure left behind.
- Upon completion, participants will have learned about an important piece of BC history