

APT – NTC Conference 2017

Saturday October 14, 2017

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Room: Confederation III - Level 4

Spark Session: Session 6.4

Infill, additions, façade retention, new construction in historic landscapes – heritage advocates and practitioners continue to wrestle with what makes a “successful” preservation project. In the heritage field, there are also broader questions that are emerging such as the challenges involved with understanding and managing cultural landscapes, property portfolio assets, and identifying and protecting vernacular heritage. Presentations in this wide-ranging session will explore where heritage value lies, how communities are engaging with it, and what constitutes quality, context-sensitive design.

Learning Objectives

To identify best practices in infill and neighbourhood conservation.

To explore the shifting value of cultural heritage and how to recognize and manage it.

To discuss the differences in approach between handling built heritage and landscapes.

To discuss strategies for stakeholder engagement and mobilization.

Spark Presentations

Kensington Market in Toronto: Conserving an Ever-Changing Cultural Landscape

Tamara Anson-Cartwright

Kensington Market's dynamic history has created a diverse and continually evolving neighbourhood character in the heart of Toronto's downtown. The unplanned area began evolving into its dynamic character as a market in the early 20th century, with an influx of Jewish immigrants. Learn about the unique, multi-cultural neighbourhood of Kensington Market, and how it has been shaped by immigration, activism, cultural organizations, food, urban design, music, and art from the 1790s to present day. Toronto City Planning, with Taylor Hazell Architects (THA), recently completed the first phase of the Kensington Market Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Study and will share highlights of the area's resiliency and enduring cultural heritage value and the key challenges in the next phase of the study, including developing a methodology to identify contributing resources to the district's heritage values and attributes, policies and guidelines to manage change, conservation and enhancement of the organic relationship between the built form and public realm, with the intangible and social and community values of the district.

Dubai...in the Race for Excellence

Sabeen bin Zayyad – PhD Student, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

The preservation of heritage and the processes involved are now being used to address issues vital to living in the 21st century such as its role in shaping of the identity of cities. The notion and relevance of cultural heritage has evolved from simply the desire to preserve the past. The orientation of the process itself has evolved. It is no longer solely about pursuing economic goals but also about improving the environment of a community - in a sustainable manner that will allow them to live within the social fabric with which they are comfortable.

In 2011, the United Arab Emirates applied to UNESCO to have Dubai Creek included on the World Heritage list. Measuring between 100-500 meters in width, Dubai Creek is a natural seawater inlet located in the heart of Dubai. Previously extending to a wildlife sanctuary, the Creek has now become part of the development of the new Dubai canal, extending it all the way to the shores of the Persian Gulf. Over the course of the 20th century, the Creek not only became the commercial centre of Dubai but also the political seat of the ruling family. The preservation of the geographical area was realized when it started becoming incorporated into the newer developments taking place in Dubai.

This paper will examine the challenges that rapid urban developments present in the preservation of historic sites. By understanding the application of conservation principles and tools, the paper will posit why in its race for excellence, Dubai struggles to reconcile the old with the new.

Building Alliances to Protect the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site: We are All in This Together

Leslie Maitland – Past-President and Vice-Chair, Heritage Ottawa

In November 2014, the Government of Stephen Harper announced that 60 acres of the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) would be donated to the Ottawa Hospital for a new Civic Campus. While a well-intentioned offer (who doesn't want a new hospital?), it was not based on any understanding of the importance of the Farm, and especially the importance of the scientific research fields that were on offer. The CEF is a scientific research centre studying the long-term effects of climate change on agriculture. Its work supports Canadian agriculture as an industry, and underpins our food security. The CEF is also a national historic site and treasured green space in the city of Ottawa. To persuade all parties differently, a coalition (The Coalition to Protect the Central Experimental Farm) was formed by representatives of the international scientific community, the greenspace community, and the heritage community to educate decision-makers and sway public opinion. It was a two-year struggle to persuade all parties that a win-win was possible if the Hospital was offered another piece of land not on the scientific research fields. This is a textbook case of how heritage must build alliances with others to achieve common goals.

The Principles of Future-Proofing

Brian Rich, AIA, LEED BD+C, CCCA, PMP – Principal, Richaven Architecture and Sustainable Preservation

Preservationists constantly struggle to demonstrate the value of preserving historic buildings and convincing investors that they will be successful despite the ample evidence from past projects. The value of a successful rehabilitation project lies in the trifecta of socio-cultural preservation, economic success, and maximizing the sustainable qualities of an existing building, including their materials, embodied energy, and capability to serve people.

This paper presents the concept of future-proofing and discusses the development of the Principles of Future-Proofing historic buildings. By presenting an innovative understanding of resilience as a decision making framework, new policies for managing our cultural heritage can be developed. New understanding of and approaches to our cultural heritage can be developed that will preserve our historic built environment for the long term.

Deconstructing Heritage: Constraint-based Adaptations at New Mexico's First Public School

Keri Stevenson, AIA – architect, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini

Located in a city that has partly defined itself through its architectural style, the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) is a prominently located campus in Santa Fe that has long balanced preserving its historic identity with the need to adapt to evolving educational models and the functional needs of a special education facility. Established by a Legislative Act in 1887, NMSD was the first public school in New Mexico and is the only land grant school for the deaf in the United States. While the school started with a single building constructed by hand, the campus saw significant growth in the 1920s-30s, a time in which the Pueblo Revival Style reigned supreme in the American Southwest. Ultimately, the campus would include more than a dozen buildings, almost exclusively in the Pueblo Revival Style.

NMSD has recently undergone a surge of renovation, new construction, and demolition projects, but the tension between maintaining historic integrity and identity and achieving the facility's myriad needs have been compounded by a decline in enrollment and severe budgetary limitations, forcing some particularly difficult decisions regarding the campus. This presentation provides a discussion of the tension between historic intent and fiscal reality, improving functionality while preserving integrity, adaptation for historic schools, and placing value on historic campuses.

Strategic Conservation Management of Redundant Government-owned Heritage Assets

Eleanor Banaag – Heritage Advisor, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd

Managing government-owned heritage assets means that our work to ensure the appropriate management and conservation of public heritage assets is work that benefits the community directly. However, the question of conserving redundant structures can be a difficult balance. How do we choose what can and should benefit from public investment when the items no longer serve their intended public function, and particularly when its use is fundamental to its significance?

The Regional Railway Network in New South Wales, Australia includes an asset register of hundreds of items of historic railway infrastructure, a large majority of which are still functional and service the

public. The portfolio also includes a number of redundant built heritage assets. The focus of our study was the management of twenty-one redundant timber railway bridges. These items are significant to the State due to their contribution to the regional railway narrative. However, their conservation management is problematic on several levels, including physical constraints, conservation requirements, financial, accessibility, remoteness and limited potential for future uses or interpretation. The solution lay in applying a pragmatic approach towards appropriate degrees of conservation, scaling the assets against a range of management “attributes” – criteria relating to both heritage and operational factors – to determine better and worse candidates for conservation.

Adapting Buildings - A Regeneration Works Approach

Stephen Collette, BBEC, BBNC, LEED AP, CAHP, BSSO – Faith & the Common Good

Places of Faith - Regeneration Works is a partnership of Faith & the Common Good and the National Trust for Canada. We help faith communities make decisions that can strengthen their engagement within the greater community, even if that means leaving their building. This talk will look at the important components that are in fact, not the building; but engaging the community. With examples from faith communities across the country this talk will help refocus the attention from the building to the community, ensuring a greater success when repurposing is necessary.

What Are we Going to Do About Barns? The Barn as Family Farm Symbol and Conservation Challenge in Southern Saskatchewan

Kristin Catherwood – Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer, Heritage Saskatchewan

Barns are cultural landmarks of rural life and identity, and are representative and symbolic of family owned and operated farms. The predominant barn styles of particular regions define the look, feel, and place-identity of local communities and landscapes. Barns also reflect the inherent industriousness of rural, agricultural landscapes – each barn is an indicator of the production of some sort of agricultural commodity, the sheer number of them attesting to the importance of agriculture in the foundation of Canada. This presentation will reflect on the research for my graduate thesis “Every Place had a Barn:” The Barn as a Symbol of the Family Farm in Southern Saskatchewan. Barns are important in that they reveal much about farming practices across the varied regions of Canada, reveal the changes therein over time, and represent the central site of work for the millions of ordinary Canadians who made their living through farming over the past 150 years of our existence as a nation.

Building Owner Engagement in a New Residential Heritage District: Lessons Learned from Clemow Estates HCD Phase II in Ottawa

Johanna Persohn (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee, Glebe Community Association)

In this session, we will talk about the Glebe Community Association's experiences related to its Heritage Committee's work on a proposed second Heritage Conservation District, Clemow Estate Phase II. We will outline some lessons learned from the first Phase of the District (designated in 2011) which have

greatly influenced our approach to building owner engagement with Phase II. We will outline our One Day Heritage Plaque Project, and how we went about gathering and making our research available to owners. The Glebe's undesignated heritage homes are increasingly under threat of tear downs and modern infills despite the high cost of real estate in the area. With cost not being a disincentive, the only way to combat these threats when formal protection isn't available is to engage the owners to create an appreciation of the heritage architecture and social history of their home, street and neighbourhood, all the while continuing to work towards formal protection where possible.