

Session Handout

Session CS6.1 - Measuring Success in Additions and Adaptive Reuse

Friday, October 13, 2017

(8:30 am – 10:00 am)

CHANCE: Calculating History, Adaptability, and Condition Easily - A decision-making tool for preservation planning

Speaker: JinWon Lee

Graduate Research Assistant/ Graduate Student, The University of Texas at Austin

The CHAnCE (Calculating History, Adaptability & Condition Easily) is a tool for making quick decisions with projects involving a collection of historic and non-historic buildings. It is designed for the preliminary analysis of building conditions in lieu of a comprehensive feasibility study, especially when site information is insufficient. The study shows an example of how to use the tool on an actual site. The “test drive” was conducted on the Rusk State Hospital at Rusk, Texas, which has served as a state mental hospital since the 1920s. The hospital was formerly a nineteenth century state penitentiary. The site is comprised of approximately forty buildings, varying in size, historic significance and integrity, condition, and year of construction.

Making Heritage: Maison Alcan, Montreal

Speaker: Julia Gersovitz

OAAQ, OAA, AANB, FRAIC, FAPTI, CAHP – Director, Senior Architect, EVOQ Architecture Inc.

From opening day in 1983, Maison Alcan, the former world headquarters of the Aluminium Company of Canada was hailed as a new way forward for the integration of historic buildings into new urban environments in Montreal. In February 2017, the entire complex was classified by the Quebec Ministry of Culture.

From 1980-83, Julia Gersovitz was in charge of the design and conservation of the historic buildings which form a major part of the Alcan complex. Both as a practising architect, chairman of a municipal reviewing committee and as the original designer of a newly minted historic monument, she has been confronted by the philosophical questions associated with managing the recent past. Using two case studies including Maison Alcan, this presentation will raise philosophical questions and provide potential ways forward.

The St-Sauveur steeple and Garth House façade reconstruction: Monument-making within the CHUM mega-project

Speaker: Daniel Durand

MOAQ, CAHP, APTI – architecte, DFS Inc. architecture & design

The CHUM architectural program, situated in downtown Montreal, required the proposal winner to reconstruct and integrate aspects of the pre-existing heritage building which had been saved during demolition. These elements were the St-Sauveur church steeple and two façades of Garth House. Five years prior to reconstruction, the limestone masonry and architectural artifacts had been dismantled and stored with care. The winning CHUM project proposed reinstating the original steeple with a reconstructed spire, as well reassembling two walls of Garth House within the hospital complex, along a public walkway.

Do the Saint-Sauveur steeple and Garth House reconstructions constitute conservation projects? Engulfed by the new hospital, do they instead belong to a “façadism” architectural approach? In another way, is the reconstruction of these elements the architectural equivalent to erecting monuments, evoking what has been lost? Is this type of reconstruction simply a romantic gesture, an attempt to buy peace of mind by maintaining a superficial connection to the past? Now that the project is complete, what can we learn from this experience?

Residential Infill - Heritage Structures

Speaker: Timothy Ankenman

MAIBC, MRAIC, AIA, M.Arch

The presentation will provide advice on the merits of residential infill involving heritage structures in various municipalities throughout the lower mainland of British Columbia. Sustainability is a measure we use to understand the importance of heritage retention. We must better understand sustainability and its importance in heritage restoration. There is a dichotomy between old and new architectural styles that can complement each other. The speaker will underline the importance of cities and developers working together to find creative solutions and ensure proper incentives are in place to create enough economic significance that ensures our heritage resources are adequately protected.

Observations of an Advocate Architect

Discussant: Catherine Nasmith, OAA, RAIC, CAHP

Catherine Nasmith is a practicing architect specializing in heritage research, planning and restoration. Catherine is past president of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and is particularly proud of the recently completed Alton Mill project, which has received awards from the National Trust for Canada and the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals. Catherine will provide commentary and some of her own experiences that relate to the preceding presentations.