

TC•SP

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE on SUSTAINABLE PRESERVATION



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

The Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation (TC•SP) of the Association for Preservation Technology International was created to provide increased opportunities for interdisciplinary 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.

TC•SP Greening Preservation through Collaboration

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

The Halifax, Montreal, and Victoria Symposia Setting the Agenda for Sustainable Heritage Conservation

TC•SP conducted three symposia during APT's 2005 Annual Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the 2008 Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec, and the 2011 Annual Conference in Victoria, British Columbia. These symposia attracted leaders in the sustainable preservation field where they collaborated to sharpen the vision, clarify the mission and advance the techniques of sustainable heritage conservation.

The Halifax Symposium produced an official statement that concluded that sustainability "is of critical importance to APT's mission to promote the wise use of the built environment". The mission of APT's TC•SP is to stay at the forefront of broader and more comprehensive discussions between historic preservation professionals on the topic of sustainable preservation, particularly as it relates to preservation technology. The following are several important developments in this conversation:

In 2013, the United Nations issued a global report on Heritage and Resilience. It noted the connection between physical and social resilience. "The symbolism inherent in heritage is ... a powerful means to help victims recover from the psychological impact of disasters. In such situations, people search desperately for identity and self-esteem", and find it in reclaiming their heritage and historic places. It further stated, "Heritage contributes to social cohesion, sustainable development, and psychological well-being. Protecting heritage promotes resilience."

In 2014, the Historic Preservation Subcommittee of the Whole Building Design Guidelines stated that "Historic buildings are inherently sustainable. Preservation maximizes the use of existing materials and infrastructure, reduces waste, and preserves the historic character of older towns and cities. The energy embedded in an existing building can be a significant percentage of the embedded energy of maintenance and operations for the entire life of the building. Sustainability begins with preservation."

And recently, DoCoMoMo International issued the Eindhoven-Seoul Statement 2014, augmenting a 25-year old set of principles for the preservation of the architecture of the Modern Movement with new thinking regarding sustainable preservation and adaptive use imperatives.



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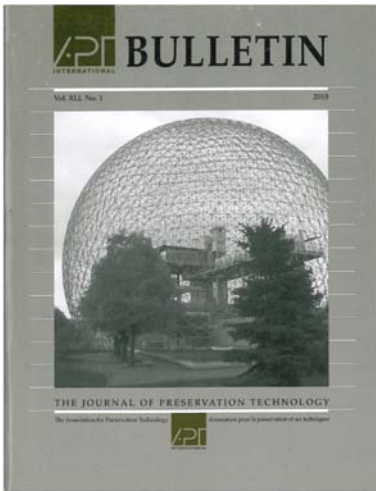
PUBLICATIONS & OUTREACH CHAIRS

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APT Bulletin Special Issues on Sustainable Preservation

Following the Halifax and Montreal Symposia, TC•SP prepared two special issues of the APT *Bulletin* devoted to sustainable preservation and heritage conservation topics. (APT *Bulletin* Vol. 36, No. 4, published by Mount Ida Press, 2005; APT *Bulletin* Vol. 41, No. 1, published by Mount Ida Press, 2010)

Articles published in the 2005 Special Issue established the scope and depth of work accomplished in the U.S. and Canada at the intersection of sustainability and preservation. The 2010 Special Issue explored the integral role of sustainability in the field of preservation.

The TC-SP is currently developing a third special issue on Sustainable Preservation that will focus on Climate Change and Preservation Technology. The documentation and analysis of specific climate trends and impacts – such as sea level rise, diurnal changes in relative humidity, and variations in freeze/thaw cycles or particular pollution levels – and correlative effects on the rate and extent of material deterioration (i.e. erosion, thermal expansion/contraction, bi-deterioration, corrosion, etc.) is necessary to ensure the advance of best practices in preservation technology that are response to near-term predictions in climate variability. Anticipated articles will focus on new research and developments that highlight the impacts and effects of climate change on culturally-significant historic resources and preservation technology.



Ron Blunt

TC•SP Action Agenda

Make a difference by contributing to these TC•SP Focus Group activities for 2014/2015!

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

Education + Research:

Identifying strategic partnerships and developing sustainable preservation educational “modules”. The group is currently updating surveys of Canadian and American academic programmes in heritage conservation / historic preservation that will help establish priorities for identifying resources to assist in developing integrated sustainable conservation teaching and research initiatives.

Climate Change:

Documenting how climate change impacts historic structures and landscapes and determining how preservation technology can best address this issue. The group is currently working on a special issue of the *Bulletin* on climate change and preservation technology.

Publications + Outreach:

Preparing TC•SP newsletters and articles for the APT *Bulletin* and *Communique*, and other preservation and green building publications, as well as updating the TC•SP webpage and bibliography.

OSCAR

(On-line Sustainable Conservation Assistance Resource):

TC-SP is developing OSCAR to be a free, user friendly and self-guided web-based interactive tool that assists designers with the sustainable rehabilitation of heritage buildings, while maintaining their heritage value. OSCAR uses a holistic approach to support this design process, in order to increase health, energy efficiency and the natural & cultural conservation of built historic assets.

OSCAR is benefitting from the guidance and oversight of an Advisory Panel led of general APT members, and will be working closely with the Training and Education Committee over the next year to ensure high-quality technical content both in broad concept and across all components of the web tool. The latest demo version of OSCAR is available at www.OSCAR-apti.org; please try it out, share the link, and give us your feedback!

O S C A R

ONLINE SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE RESOURCE

Find Out More!

TC•SP Publications and Sustainable Preservation Information

APT *Bulletin* Vol. 41, No. 1 and APT *Bulletin* Vol. 36, No. 4; Special issues on sustainability and preservation for sale in the Committees Section at www.apti.org

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

Links to TC•SP activities and a bibliography of resources for sustainable preservation can be found at www.apti.org. All APT members are encouraged to participate.

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. To learn more, visit www.apti.org

APT 2014 QUEBEC APT's 46th Annual Conference “Métissage: The Fruitful Encounter of Differences” October 26–29, 2014

The 46th Annual Conference of the Association for Preservation Technology International will explore original and often unexpected mixtures of plan, program, construction methods and materials, as influenced by cultural references and the savoir-faire of both the local milieu and the migration of knowledge and technique. Métissage also speaks to wider societal concerns and can be seen at all scales of intervention: landscapes, urban environments and buildings.

This conference will have a series of papers that will be presented in two sessions dedicated to topics that connect sustainability to historic preservation. CS14 “Energy and the Building” will examine several mid-century modern case studies, and CS17 “Preservation, Sustainability, and Climate Change” will focus on the macro scale of this issue, including theory, policy, and application.

Please join us during the conference in the Resource Lounge to participate in a demonstration of OSCAR, the On-line Sustainable Conservation Assistance Resource interactive web tool that will be launched publicly in 2015. Feedback on the OSCAR experience is encouraged and welcomed from all conference attendees.

Please also join the TC-SP committee meeting on Tuesday, October 28th at 5PM for an overview of past accomplishments and future goals and initiatives for the coming year. Renewed partnerships are forming with the American Institute of Architects, with plans for an APT / OSCAR presentation at the organization's annual conference in May of 2015. At the 2015 Annual APT Conference in Kansas City, there will be a dedicated conference track for Sustainable Preservation, as well as the public launch of OSCAR. The TC-SP will be collaborating with the Technical Committee on Modern Heritage to a greater extent in the coming year – both with regard to OSCAR and in preparation for a 2015 APT symposium entitled “Renewing Modernism: Emerging Principles for Practice”.