



The Association for Preservation Technology International
Association pour la préservation et ses techniques

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The *APT Bulletin*: Special Issue on Concrete

The newest issue of the *APT Bulletin: The Journal of Preservation Technology* focuses on strategies and successes related to the preservation of concrete. Concrete, a pervasive and complicated building element, was used extensively during the midcentury-modern period. Many concrete buildings are now reaching an age at which preservation measures must be undertaken to ensure longevity. Guest editors Frances Gale and Doris Eichburg correctly stated that “concrete in monolithic form and precast and concrete block are primary building materials of many modern heritage structures, and our discussions of challenges with modern heritage structures always include concrete materials.”

“Empiricist and Rationalist Approaches to the Design of Concrete Structures” by Thomas E. Boothby and Sharyn Clough examines the philosophy of engineering, specifically the differences between empirical and rational techniques. The authors consider how each method is used in the design of concrete structures, as well as the pros and cons of each approach.

“Photogrammetry as a Tool to Replace Eroded Decorative Architectural Elements” by Diego Romero and Alfredo Bustamante addresses the use of photogrammetry in making replacement spandrels for the facade of the Lancaster Hotel in Houston, Texas.

Photogrammetry proved to be a cost-effective method of creating and installing the replacement panels.

Jeffrey Chusid's article, "Joseph Allen Stein's Experiments in Concrete in the U.S. and India," provides a history of Stein's career. Chusid highlights the struggles that Stein faced in the United States as an architect in the 1940s, which led to his revolutionary use of concrete as a building material in India over the course of the rest of his career.

"Preserving Heritage with Tomorrow's Technologies: Trials, Errors, and Criteria" by Camilla Mileto and Fernando Vegas considers the evolution of preservation technology, as well as current trends. The authors, who presented this paper as the College of Fellows lecture at the San Antonio APT conference, walk readers through the history and philosophy of preservation, explaining the need to strike a balance between the old and the use of modern materials. They discuss techniques as varied as early photography from balloons to "prosthetics" in construction.

Quentin Collette's article, "Investigation of the Reinforced-concrete Construction of the Dotremont House in Brussels," conveys the architectural history of a residence designed in 1932 by Belgian architect Louis Herman de Koninck. The article highlights the building's distinctive features and reviews investigations conducted prior to preservation interventions.

Ann Harrer and Jeffrey Caldwell's article, "Repairs to Concrete at the Pilgrimage Theatre in Los Angeles, California," is a case study focusing on the challenges of restoring an early twentieth-century theatre. The authors share the unusual history of the theater's conception and discuss the challenges that a limited schedule and budget can have on restoration projects.

The book reviews for this issue were provided by book review editor Frances Gale. *Practical Building Conservation: Concrete*, edited by David Odgers, Bill Martin, and Chris Wood, is reviewed by Marjorie Lynch. *National Park Service Preservation Brief 41: The Seismic Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings*, by Antonio Aguilar, is reviewed by James W. Shepherd. *The Window Sash Bible: A Guide to Maintaining and Restoring Old Wood Windows*, by Steve Jordan, is reviewed by John G. Waite.

The Association for Preservation Technology is the only international organization dedicated solely to promoting the best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings. Founded in 1968 in Québec as a joint venture between Canadian and U.S. preservationists, APT provides members with benefits that include publications, networking opportunities, conferences, training courses, and student scholarships. As a benefit of membership, APT members can, at no cost, search, browse, download, and print full-text PDF versions of past *Bulletin* articles on JSTOR, an international online digital archive. Visit <http://www.apti.org> for more information.

The *APT Bulletin*, a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal, is a valued source for state-of-the-art information on preservation technology. Published three times a year by APT, the *Bulletin* examines all aspects of preservation technology in feature articles and book reviews, keeping readers at the leading edge of the field.

Mount Ida Press, which edits and produces the *APT Bulletin*, specializes in high-quality publications on history, architecture, and building technology. For further information about the *APT Bulletin*, please contact the editorial office in Albany, New York, at 518.426.5935 or at info@mountidapress.com.

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