

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ASSOCIATION FOR PRESERVATION
TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
*PRESERVATION IN THE CITY
WITHOUT LIMITS*

NOVEMBER 2–6, 2009

MILLENNIUM BILTMORE HOTEL
LOS ANGELES

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CONFERENCE PAPERS DELIVERED ON
NOVEMBER 4–5, 2009



Preservation

in the city without limits

APT

The Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) was established in 1968 and is the leading cross-disciplinary organization dedicated to studying and promoting the best methods, materials and techniques for preserving the historic built environment. Members include architects, engineers, conservators, scientists, planners, landscape architects, historians, consultants, developers, crafts and trades people, educators and students. APT holds an annual international conference to enable its membership to meet and share information and new discoveries.

APT PUBLICATIONS

APT disseminates information through its regional chapters and technical committees, its conference, website, an electronic newsletter, a journal and other publications. All papers presented at the Conference are considered for publication in APT's quarterly peer-reviewed journal, the *APT Bulletin*.

APT LA 2009 CONFERENCE THEME

The theme of the 2009 conference is "Preservation in the City Without Limits." Los Angeles represents the quintessential American city of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Technological and social changes allowed an interconnected, yet scattered, collection of towns and villages to grow (sprawl) into one of the world's major metropolitan regions comprising five counties; more than 200 towns, cities, and municipalities; and more than 15 million residents. At the hub of this metropolitan agglomeration, Los Angeles invites rigorous debate between those seeing an urban utopia—complete with fast cars, movies stars, high-tech jobs, surf boards, fruit orchards, and mountain resorts—and those who envision a dystopian nightmare of race riots, air pollution, traffic jams, endless sprawl, and rapidly increasing density. Somewhere in the middle, for better or worse, lies the real Los Angeles, the model for the post-war 20th century American metropolis and (jaded) blueprint for the World City.

Now that we have moved into the 21st Century, both philosophical and pragmatic questions arise regarding the conservation and management of the World City...

- How do we wisely use and improve a now historic built environment that was conceived under a set of assumptions that are no longer sustainable?
- How do we evaluate decisions as to whether and, if so, how to preserve materials that were not designed for permanence?
- What constitutes appropriate technology in a world where the pace of technology development is increasing and where technological tools that once took generations to change now evolve day-by-day?

The APT LA 2009 Conference in Los Angeles will address the scientific, engineering and technical ramifications of preserving the modern metropolis and its expansive body of historic resources through the four conference tracks in the program.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

Each conference track will be eight hours long and presented over two days. There will be four, two-hour sessions in each track. **Each paper session** will feature two to four 20-minute papers. A Session Chair will moderate discussion and questions. **Each panel discussion** will be one, two-hour session with a moderator leading the interactive discussion between the panelists and the audience.

MATERIAL MATTERS: PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING MATERIALS

Los Angeles boasts a range of building materials and techniques that stretch across its historical development from adobe, wood, brick and tile systems, through lime plaster and cement stucco finishes, to the pioneering use of pre-stressed and post-tensioned concrete structures. The City's core boasts fine terracotta-clad transitional framed skyscrapers while suburban Craftsmen, Textile Block and Case Study houses grace the hillsides and valleys beyond.

So in Los Angeles and similar contexts, this conference track seeks to better understand the development of structural and building technologies and the scientific mechanisms of their decay or deterioration. Research reports and case studies will reveal the comparative performance and durability of repair treatments in different climate zones. Papers should describe new conservation, repair or maintenance treatments or the innovative development of existing treatments for new applications to extend the life of buildings. The conference committee will be particularly interested to receive papers on means to preserving novel or experimental materials of the Inter-War and Post-War periods that had no prior history of use or performance.

PRESERVING MODERNISM AND POST WAR HERITAGE

The modern architectural heritage of Los Angeles and other cities is threatened by risks to both functionality and performance. The track will address the first issue by reference to mid-century houses, K-12 schools and commercial office or retail developments that pose special problems because their original uses have become outmoded or are drastically changed, and the deterministic "tight fit" of their architectural forms limit flexible adaptation and changes of use. How can the architectural qualities of these modern buildings be preserved? What technical solutions can upgrade the performance and contemporary lifestyle requirements of this architecture through sensitive rehabilitation and expansion strategies?

This track's second issue will be addressed through technical studies of curtain walls; a primary character-defining feature of the Post-War era. They are proving challenging to repair, maintain or replicate for the upgraded expectations and standards of the 21st century and case studies are invited to illustrate efforts to re-use all or parts of the original component system, to upgrade systems in seismic zones or for energy conservation purposes.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN: INFRASTRUCTURE OF URBAN/SUBURBAN LANDSCAPES

World cities require major infrastructure to support their populations—moving people and goods; supplying water and power; providing communication. This infrastructure tells the story of the place—how development occurred; what the priorities were of the populace and its leadership; how the future was seen. Infrastructure frequently becomes an iconic representation of place and the achievement of an era in civilization from, for example, the Brooklyn Bridge to the Hoover Dam.

As the needs of society increase and technology changes, this conference track explores how these iconic 19th and 20th century structures should be preserved. How can their defining features be maintained? By what means can their significance be retained and translated when their technology is obsolete? How is new equipment incorporated into telephone switching stations and power plants? How can historic roadways and bridges be upgraded to serve ever-increasing traffic and more rigorous codes?

LA UNCONFIDENTIAL: LESSONS LEARNED IN PRESERVING THE WORLD CITY

This conference track will investigate new methods and innovative developments of existing techniques to survey, identify, map, record and utilize information on the location, physical evidence and condition of Los Angeles' historic urban environment at a variety of levels. Such surveys are undertaken to assess the values and significance of cultural resources, to evaluate their welfare or estimate the costs of managing the assets.

Also solicited for this track are papers presented on the rehabilitation of iconic historic buildings in Los Angeles, as well as LA sites and cultural landscapes that help to safeguard future public benefits through innovative management, design, repair or use.

SUBMISSION

REQUIREMENTS

Abstracts for 20-minute papers by one speaker (and no more than one co-presenter) should be 400-600 words in length. Abstracts for panel sessions of 75-85 minutes (plus 20-30 minutes discussion and questions) with a moderator and three or four speakers should be 600-900 words in length. All abstracts should be submitted electronically on the Abstract Submission Form at www.apti.org.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Highest consideration will be given to paper abstracts that:

- are relevant to the conference theme and one of its four tracks
- make a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in preservation technology
- demonstrate multidisciplinary approach to preservation
- are original material and have never been published or presented at any conference
- are written by the intended presenter who was directly involved in the work

REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED PRESENTERS

Speakers of papers chosen for presentation at the conference will be required to:

- a) submit a preliminary outline of the talk before 15 June 2009;
- b) register for the conference (at a reduced speaker rate) by 1 August 2009 (co-presenters do not qualify for the discounted registration fee);
- c) present your paper on Wednesday 4 November 2009 or Thursday 5 November 2009 in Los Angeles; and
- d) if requested, submit a revised version of the presentation by 1 October 2009.

APT reserves the right to publish all accepted abstracts on its website and with conference registration materials. Selected presenters will be invited to submit papers for publication in post-conference issues of the *APT Bulletin*.

DEADLINES

Abstract Submission Forms are due at Noon (US Central Time), 9 March 2009. Notification of acceptance of abstracts will be made by 23 March 2009. Confirmation of speaker's participation and attendance at the conference will be required by 31 March 2009.

FURTHER

INFORMATION

Updates and details for the APT LA 2009 Conference are at www.apti.org. For more information, contact Dana Saal, APT Conference Manager at dana@apti.org or 217.528.2460.