



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

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The *APT Bulletin* Debates the Concept of Authenticity in Historic Preservation

The latest issue of the *APT Bulletin*, Vol. 39:2-3, presents diverse perspectives on the theme of authenticity. This issue highlights locations from around the world, including Oceania, Central America, and Africa, and adds to the ongoing debate of what constitutes authenticity, a concept that carries different meanings for preservationists. Guest editor Pamela Jerome kicks off the discussion with an overview of the history of authenticity and questions its importance, definition, and application. While the authors present different views on the definition and application of authenticity, they agree that debates surrounding authenticity are still open — new questions arise only as other questions are answered. This special issue of the *APT Bulletin* will surely spark new conversations about authenticity.

The nine articles in the issue examine the history of the World Heritage Operational Guidelines, the Venice Charter, and the Nara Document on Authenticity, among other documents, and offer interpretations as to how these documents apply to current issues in preservation. Gustavo F. Araoz, for example, analyzes the application of these documents to historic urban landscapes. Herb Stovel outlines the origin and influence of the Nara Document, while Koenraed Van Balen focuses on the use of a Nara Grid to evaluate the authenticity of a site, the Grand Château water tower in Brussels, Belgium.

The authenticity of cultural landscapes is examined in three articles. Mechtild Rössler presents the criteria used to evaluate the integrity and authenticity of cultural landscapes in case studies of the Agave Landscape of Tequila, Mexico, and at Sukur, Nigeria. Nora J. Mitchell relates the authenticity of cultural landscapes to the sustainability movement through an examination of the Mount Tom forest in

Woodstock, Vermont. Thomas D. Andrews and Susan Bugey explore limitations of Western concepts of authenticity when dealing with the values of aboriginal peoples.

Past reconstruction work can present complications when determining the authenticity of a historic site. Christina Cameron examines how guidelines have been revised for reconstructed areas, such as the historic center of Warsaw, Poland, and Jennifer Ko calls for further revisions to guidelines to accommodate neglected locations in Oceania. Ko argues that the cultural-heritage sites in Oceania need to be reconstructed to preserve authenticity, but regulations enforced by the World Heritage Committee restrict reconstruction.

In the *APT Bulletin's* continuing *Practice Points* feature Dorothy S. Krotzer examines the research and analysis of architectural finishes. She outlines the necessary steps of finish analysis, such as historical research, in-situ investigation, and analysis of paint samples using fluorescence microscopy and microchemical tests, and she calls for a standardized approach to architectural-paint research.

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 United States preservationists, APT provides members with benefits such as publications, networking, conferences, training courses, and student scholarships. As a benefit of membership, APT members can search, browse, download, and print full-text PDF versions of past *Bulletin* articles on JSTOR, an international online digital archive.

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*

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