



The Association for Preservation Technology International

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## **It's Not Easy Being Green: *APT Bulletin* Explores the Intersection of Environmental Sustainability and Historic Preservation**

The rapidly evolving green-building movement and the field of historic preservation naturally share many common goals and ideologies. The current special issue of the *APT Bulletin: The Journal of Preservation Technology* addresses both practical and theoretical aspects of these two vital fields. Many of the authors who contributed to this issue are members of APT's new Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation, which was formed to provide an arena for discussion, review, and information sharing.

In the introduction, guest editor Mike Jackson highlights the skills, concerns, and goals shared by the professionals involved in both the sustainability and preservation movements. Jackson discusses the meaning of sustainability and poses the question, "How will the effectiveness of sustainability measures taken now be calculated when the ultimate measure will, one hopes, be generations in the future?"

John Lesak reports on the goals and accomplishments of the ground-breaking sustainability symposium held at APT's annual conference in Halifax in September 2005. Symposium participants drafted a list of action items and needed research, along with preliminary sustainability-evaluation guidelines, which are included in his article.

Several articles approach the convergence of sustainability and preservation from a theoretical standpoint. Andrew Powter and Susan Ross focus on the characteristics of existing rating tools and discuss their shortcomings and necessities when used to measure the sustainability of historic buildings.

Helena Meryman highlights areas of potential conflict that can arise when introducing green strategies in historic-building projects. In his second contribution to this issue, Mike Jackson describes the nature and importance of embodied-energy assessments and how they can be a boon to preservation and sustainability advocates alike. Carl Elefante's article rounds out the discussion by pointing out that the preservation community still has "lots to learn and lots to teach" when it comes to implementing sustainable practices and understanding their short- and long-term impacts.

Four articles in this issue offer practical information and examples of how sustainable practices can or have been integrated into preservation projects. William B. Rose explores the possible benefits and likely pitfalls of retrofitting walls of historic buildings with insulation. Walter Sedovic and Jill H. Gotthelf make a pointed argument for maintaining, rather than replacing, historic window systems. James Cavallo illustrates how residences in Galena, Illinois, exemplify how both monetary and energy savings can be incorporated into historic houses. In their discussion of the rehabilitation of the Samuel T. Dana Building, Maggie McInnis and Ilene R. Tyler describe how green design was used to preserve the building's role as a center for learning and research at the University of Michigan. Several of these articles originated at the sustainability track of APT's annual conference held in Galveston in 2004.

This issue of the *APT Bulletin* includes reviews of two books: *The Philosophy of Sustainable Design* by Jason F. McLennan and *Canals* by Robert J. Kapsch. These critiques were overseen by book review editor Robert A. Young.

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 new benefit of membership, APT members can now 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 Bulletin*, please contact the editorial office in Albany, New York, at 518.426.5935 or [info@mountidapress.com](mailto:info@mountidapress.com).

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