The APT Bulletin Presents Groundbreaking Research in Recent Preservation Technology Projects

From paint analysis at the U.S. Capitol to the sustainable design of Bauhaus apartments in Tel Aviv, the latest issue of the APT Bulletin explores a wide array of recent preservation and restoration projects. This issue begins with a special tribute to the late Jacques Dalibard, an APT founder and a pioneering leader in preservation technology, whose friends and colleagues offered their stories to honor his memory.

In “Identification of 1850s Brown Zinc Paint Made with Franklinite and Zincite at the U.S. Capitol,” Frank S. Welsh details the discovery and analysis of an architectural paint at the Capitol and traces the history of its manufacture by the New Jersey Zinc Company. This research is the first in-depth study of the use of these materials as architectural pigments.

Another project at an important landmark is discussed by Niklas W. Vigener and James Jamieson in “A Flood of Light: H. H. Richardson’s Great Western Staircase at the New York State Capitol.” Originally illuminated by natural light, the staircase had become shrouded in darkness after the skylight was removed in 1968 and the laylight was altered and damaged. Using surviving documents from the 1912 post-fire reconstruction, the authors oversaw the reconstruction of the skylight and used glazing and framing techniques that replicated the 1912 design, allowing the staircase again to fill with light.
In “Fabricating and Installing Side-Lap Shingles in Eastern Pennsylvania,” authors James Houston and John N. Fugelso lead readers through roofing projects using very different materials. At the Ephrata Cloister, an eighteenth-century historic site in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the authors experimented with different methods to replicate the craft of creating and installing side-lap roof shingles in an efficient manner. They also inspected wood shingles at the Hans Herr house in Willow Street, Pennsylvania, and Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia. By utilizing these various techniques the authors were able recover this traditional craft and trade practice.

Anat Geva explores recent projects at Bauhaus apartment buildings constructed during the 1930s in Tel Aviv in her article “Rediscovering Sustainable Design Through Preservation.” She explains how original architectural integrity and passive-cooling techniques were compromised during building modifications in the 1980s and how preservationists have restored elements of the original sustainable and environmental designs. Geva argues for the importance of understanding the historical features of a building and the frequent need to peel away the palimpsest of modifications to reveal the environmental benefits of the original design.

This issue of the *Bulletin* features Practice Points Number 5, entitled “Mortar-Making Materials.” The first of a three-part series on mortar analysis by Lorraine Schnabel, this Practice Point stresses the importance of understanding the various components of mortars when choosing the appropriate one for a preservation project. She reviews the history of making mortar and the basic elements of mortar — aggregates, nonhydraulic and hydraulic binders, additives, and admixtures — to lay the foundation for decisions about using mortar in projects.

Meadows; and Plastering by J. T. Sawyer. Robert A. Young, the book review editor, oversaw these reviews.

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 Bulletin, please contact the editorial office in Albany, New York, at 518.426.5935 or info@mountidapress.com.

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