The APT Bulletin Promotes Preservation of Modern Heritage

Between 1945 and 1980 the volume of the global built environment more than doubled relative to all that had been constructed in the course of human history. Many structures now considered landmarks date from this period, but the largest volume fall into the category of OEM (ordinary everyday Modernism), which are also worthy of preservation. Articles in the newest issue of the APT Bulletin, The Journal of Preservation Technology, tackle Modern-heritage preservation projects and issues, including technology and sustainability of both landmark and OEM buildings.

Michael McClelland’s paper uses the example of post–World War II housing towers in Toronto to show how private and civic initiatives address OEM. On a different philosophical approach, David Strauss’s paper discusses a renovation and addition to the Magnolia Branch Library in Seattle. For the restoration of the Yale Art + Architecture Building designed by Paul Rudolph, Ben Shepherd shows how the architect’s vision was restored while changes to the building systems and envelope enhanced its sustainability.

Vanessa Fernandez argues that Marcel Breuer’s design for the layered facade and ventilation systems for the UNESCO headquarters in Paris could enhance building performance and sustainability. Cameron Logan presents mid-century Modern hospitals as heritage structures and challenges the preservation community to be creative in repurposing these buildings, as reuse is their only hope for survival. Problems in water management and current performance requirements are discussed by Harry Hunderman and Ken Itle in their article about the stone plazas at the Lyndon B. Johnson Residential Library in Austin and at 860-880 Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Angel Ayón and William Rose highlight
the technical challenges in refashioning the exterior glazing envelope at the Guggenheim Museum. Rosa Lowinger’s article on the restoration of Otto Peine’s kinetic Sun and Moon light sculptures in the Hawaii State Capitol describes how compromise was inevitable in updating the lighting programs. Susan MacDonald and Gail Ostregon describe the “Twentieth-Century Built Heritage” bibliography, a resource from the Getty Institute’s Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative.

This special issue originated with the “Modern Heritage: Progress, Priorities, and Prognosis” panel discussion held at the APT annual conference in Los Angeles in 2009. Some of the papers that were presented in this conference are featured in this issue, which was guest-edited by architects Thomas C. Jester and David N. Fixler.

This issue’s Practice Point, the twelfth in the series, was written by Evan Kopelson. It features a review of condition glossaries by trade organizations, government agencies, and Vertical Access and how they are used in the survey process.


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. Visit 

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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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