

Historical built environments are being subjected to unprecedented pressures of **expedited change**.

It is generally recognised that intervention within **historical environments** should aim to interpret the past with sensitivity and yet remain anthropologically orientated, i.e., address the cultural needs and desires of its present (and future) **inhabitants**. However, in practice, the results have often been its apathetic mutilation or over-cautious **conservation**.

This one-day colloquium aims to explore some of the pertinent theoretical, practical and **policy** related issues that are of relevance to historical environments subjected to **globalising forces** of economy, politics and technology.

Through discussions on theoretical and policy related issues and case studies the colloquium will develop a critical understanding of current **approaches** and **practices** in the field.



COLLOQUIUM

Architecture, Design and Global Difference Research Group

Historical Built Environments, between Permanence and Change: Theoretical Approaches and Practicalities

NEWLT8, Newton building, Nottingham Trent University, City site
Wednesday 6 July 2011
9.15 am – 5.30 pm

www.ntu.ac.uk/colloquium

Nicholas Temple *The Creative Architect and the Conservationist: Redefining a Contentious Relationship*

The development of instrumental methods of conservation in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world, where historic sites are seen as the exclusive responsibility of conservationists, has been detrimental to the historical and cultural continuity of the built environment. Much of our built heritage has been reduced to little more than museum pieces, emptied of contextual relationships or hermeneutical traces. Our capacity to interpret the past depends largely on the opportunities, presented to us through architecture, to participate in its legacy. This investigation, which takes a historical view of the relationship between architectural conservation and practice, argues that only the creative architect can rescue these precious sites from ossification. ntemple@lincoln.ac.uk

Samia Rab *Port City Heritage: Documenting and Conserving Urban Continuities in Eastern Arabia*

The presentation focuses on the oldest part of Sharjah along the Gulf waters (*Al Khalij*) in eastern Arabia. I will argue that documentation of port cities necessitates our consideration of the ocean as a unifying geographic entity as opposed to an urban edge. Following Paul Steinberg, I examine *Al Khalij* as a space "where social relations are imagined". Recent discoveries in archaeology have strengthened my conceptualization of *Al Khalij* as a maritime situation that shaped cultural evolution throughout the region. The seafaring talent of indigenous settlers allowed for a unique development of linked urbanisms across the *Khaliji* seascape. srab@aus.edu

Rajat Ray *From a "Weapon of Resistance" to a "Tool of Neo-Colonialism"*

Conservation of built heritage has been a fascinating post-colonial idea in a country like India. Right after independence a selective collection of monuments was delegated to providing a "depth" to the nation's history. By the eighties, the idea of built heritage populated the new space of critique of Modernism. And currently, with economic liberalization in the nineties, conservation seems to develop certain complicity with overwhelming forces of globalisation. This presentation, along with case examples, highlights how conservation may lead towards a distortion of its original values. shalgram@gmail.com

Paul Yule *Documentation: a Cross-Disciplinary Perspective. Archaeological Prospection in Oman, 2011*

This paper highlights the importance of cross-disciplinary approaches to understanding settlements. The purpose of our mission in February 2011 in Oman was to determine the archaeological potential of Izki (locally Ziki) for future research. We also planned to record the traditional village architecture complimentary to excavation. NTU team was to carry out the architectural part and the Heidelberg one the archaeological component. We planned to record the village language of al-Nizār and al-Yemen (locally Al-Yemen or just Yemen) and compare them in the hope of determining the origins of the two. The author accented the late pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods in his search strategy. Paul.Yule@t-online.de

Antonello Monsù Scolaro *Conservation and Reuse of Architectural Heritage: Methodologies, Materials and Techniques*

The fast change of modern society invites – maybe forces – to find solutions to the growing demand for the conservation and, above all, the re-use of built heritage: from the conservation of ruins to the maintenance of operational buildings and the adaptive rehabilitation of historical buildings. Projects and works carried out over a decade have allowed to test on site and consequently refine a methodological approach suitable for the various scales of intervention on built heritage. The presentation aims to describe this methodology, the outcomes and, at the same time, to point out new ways forward. amscolaro@uniss.it

Luciana de Rosa *Historic Places in Transformation: Projects and Works by Pica Ciamarra Associati*

The existing building stock has long offered our practice the opportunity to experiment energy-saving and environmentally friendly technologies while managing its archaeological, historic and cultural component. Unused historic urban complexes often lie in beautiful settings affected by their degradation. My talk will show how this condition has been turned into an occasion for fostering sustainability in the rehabilitation of disused industrial complexes – the City of Science in Naples, a theatre in Catania, the San Giorgio Library in Pistoia – in the urban remodelling of Ponte Parodi in Genova and Rione Libertà in Benevento – in the redesign of two squares in Rionero in Vulture and the architectural and artistic restoration of a square in La Spezia. derosa@pcaint.eu

David Yeomans *Matching Policies to Technical Requirements*

On those occasions when I have been looking at technical issues associated with historic districts it has only been too apparent that the technicalities were not the real problem; it was generally the conservation and development policies or the administrative framework within which one was operating. By drawing on projects from Istanbul and Nepal, I aim to address this key relationship between technicalities and policy. What is it that we as those concerned with the preservation of historic character want, to what extent is that consistent with the aspirations of those living in the district and what can we do to ensure that the two coincide? mail@davidyeomans.co.uk

Luke Cooper *Conservation and Development: Managing Change*

Austin-Smith:Lord has developed projects bringing together detailed conservation strategies with the desire for new uses. The key to the success of these projects is inevitably the balancing act between the need to conserve a site's heritage whilst promoting the successful integration of new programmes to ensure the building's viability for the future. The important issues arising from this broad concern will be illustrated through three recent projects from the UK and the Middle East. To conclude, some of the difficulties in tackling development within listed buildings will be discussed through a recent "invitation to tender" for Piece Hall in Halifax. luke.cooper@austinsmithlord.com

Andrew Croft *Guiding Change: Differing Approaches for Different Places in Different Times*

Enabling and guiding change in historic environments is critical to their long-term conservation and the wellbeing of their residents and users. Using three recent Atkins projects, this presentation will outline and explore three different approaches at three different sites: Saltaire World Heritage Site, Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site and Harat al Ramel, Ibbi (Oman). It will conclude by identifying some lessons learnt and identifying where the major challenges for heritage may come from in the 21st century. andrew.croft@atkinglobal.com

Hossam Mahmoud Mahdy *Political and Socio-Cultural Aspects of Conservation in Egypt*

This presentation examines the near past and the possible future of conservation in Egypt. On 25th January 2011 a popular revolution changed the political and socio-cultural landscape in Egypt forever. The status quo was not sustainable; the historic built environment was greatly impacted by globalisation, corruption and political suppression. Policies for conservation and development were uncoordinated and often conflicted. The hegemony of multinational enterprises and corruption on national and local levels led to policies that resulted in undermining local communities in favour of international mass tourism and the ruling elite. hossam.mahdy@adach.ae

8.45 am – 9.15 am Registration

9.15 am – 9.20 am Welcome
Peter Westland – Nottingham Trent University, UK

9.20 am – 9.30 am Introduction
Prof Soumyen Bandyopadhyay – Nottingham Trent University, UK

SESSION 1 – Between Permanence and Change: Theoretical and Methodological Issues

9.30 am – 10.05 am *The Creative Architect and the Conservationist: Redefining a Contentious Relationship*
Prof Nicholas Temple – University of Lincoln, UK

10.05 am – 10.40 am *Port City Heritage: Documenting and Conserving Urban Continuities in Eastern Arabia*
Prof Samia Rab – American University of Sharjah, UAE

10.40 am – 11.15 am *From a "Weapon of Resistance" to a "Tool of Neo-Colonialism"*
Prof Rajat Ray – Sushant School of Art and Architecture, India

11.15 am – 11.45 am Coffee break

SESSION 2 – Between Permanence and Change: Documentation, Conservation, Rehabilitation

11.45 am – 12.20 pm *Documentation: a Cross-Disciplinary Perspective. Archaeological Prospection in Oman, 2011*
Prof Paul Yule – Heidelberg University, Germany

12.20 pm – 12.55 pm *Conservation and Reuse of Architectural Heritage: Methodologies, Materials and Techniques*
Dr Antonello Monsù – Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy

12.55 pm – 1.30 pm *Historic Places in Transformation: Projects and Works by Pica Ciamarra Associati*
Luciana de Rosa – Pica Ciamarra Associati, Italy

1.30 pm – 2.15 pm Lunch break

SESSION 3 – Between Permanence and Change: Policies

2.15 pm – 2.50 pm *Matching Policy to Technical Requirements*
Dr David Yeomans – International Scientific Committee for the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage, ICOMOS

2.50 pm – 3.25 pm *Conservation and Development: Managing Change*
Luke Cooper – Austin-Smith:Lord, UK

3.25 pm – 3.40 pm Coffee break

3.40 pm – 4.15 pm *Guiding Change: Differing Approaches for Different Places in Different Times*
Andrew Croft – Atkins, UK

4.15 pm – 4.50 pm *Political and Socio-Cultural Aspects of Conservation in Egypt*
Dr Hossam Mahmoud Mahdy – Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH), UAE

4.50 pm – 5.15 pm Questions and debate

5.15 pm – 5.25 pm Closing remarks
Prof Soumyen Bandyopadhyay – Nottingham Trent University, UK

5.25 pm – 5.30 pm Conclusion
Paul Collins – Nottingham Trent University, UK