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Scientific Symposium: Thursday 8 April 2010

*The Historic City, a Reference Model for Urban
Sustainable Development Policies*

Going for Gold: Seizing the Opportunity

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Journal of Architectural Conservation, Context, World Heritage Review, ...

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Auto-Introduction

complementary activities in cultural heritage

Dennis Rodwell

historic monuments, sites and cities

architecture + planning

development + management

NGO founder chairman

consultant to UNESCO and partners

research + writing

education + training

archaeology – renaissance – neoclassical – industrial – modern

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International assignments, 1998 onwards

With UNESCO, include:

- Monuments:
 - Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow.
 - Ancient Reserve, Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
 - Renaissance monasteries, Island of Lopud, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Historic Cities:
 - indicative parameters and guidelines for sustainable management.
 - case studies: mostly across Central and Eastern Europe.
 - projected application: global.
- Historic Urban Landscapes initiative:
 - rapporteur to workshops in Saint Petersburg and Paris.

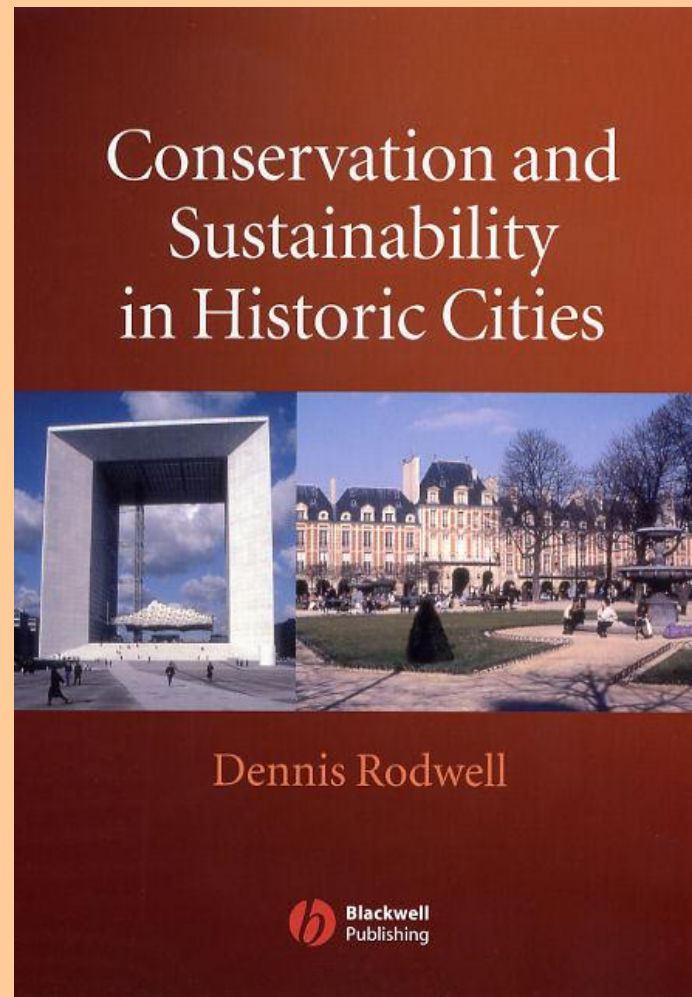
With ICOMOS, include:

- Historic Urban Landscapes initiative:
 - rapporteur to workshop at the 2008 General Assembly, Quebec City.

Definitions

‘Conservation’, ‘Sustainability’,
‘Sustainable Development’, ‘Heritage’

Conservation and Sustainability in Historic Cities



(Blackwell Publishing, 2007)

‘Conservation’ and ‘Sustainability’

In the wider, environmental sense, *conservation* and *sustainability* have parallel meanings and are frequently used interchangeably to express the need to manage the world’s natural resources and the biosphere in order: firstly, to secure long-term harmony between man and nature; secondly, to achieve continuous enhancement in the environment and in the conditions and quality of life for humans and other life forms.

In the context of historic cities, it is in this broad sense that I employ and apply the word *sustainability*.

Conservation, on the other hand, has a much narrower meaning when applied to historic cities. The principal root is architectural conservation, whose starting points include archaeology, and the geo-cultural diversity and historical evolution of architectural styles, building materials and techniques. The secondary root of urban conservation is townscape, and an aesthetic approach to the management of change in historic cities.

Neither architectural conservation nor townscape is founded upon a preoccupation with sustainability. Both, however, have the potential to make a significant contribution to it.

‘Sustainable Development’

Classic definition: *Brundtland Report*, 1987:

“***Sustainable development*** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Three pillars:

- **environmental protection**
- **economic growth**
- **social equity**

Today’s interpretation: a holistic concept that also embraces quality of life, geo-cultural identity and diversity. Hence:

Fourth pillar:

- **cultural continuity**

Catchphrases of Sustainability

- **Think global, act local**

- urges people to consider and act in their communities and cities in accordance with the needs of the health of the planet.

- **3 Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle**

- maximise what exists;
- recognises the *environmental capital* (embodied materials and energy) of resources that have already been invested – for example in buildings and urban infrastructure, thus supporting adaptive re-use over redevelopment;
- generally supports an approach of minimum intervention.

- **Stay close to source**

- prioritises proximity: including sources of materials, energy and food to places of consumption, work to residence, education to leisure.

- **Top-down meeting bottom-up**

- balances theories and policies from outside with local knowledge and practices.

Consequences

Include:

- Built environment is recognised as a material and socio-economic resource as well as an architectural one.
- Conservation has a more central role to play in safeguarding and sustaining the continuity of the world's immensely diverse tangible, intangible and natural heritage than if it is focused on the preservation of selected immovable objects.
- Equally, conservation of the historic built environment has a central role to play in responding positively to today's challenge of Climate Change. The *environmental capital* (embodied materials and energy) that it represents opens the way to establishing coherent policies that reduce the need to exploit non-renewable material and energy resources.

Concept of ‘heritage’: past (only)

Common perceptions today:

heritage = “the culture, property, and characteristics of past times”

or,

heritage = “today’s perception of a pattern of events in the past”

- Is **heritage** simply a linguistic ‘construct’, one that relates only to history, that is packaged for education and tourism, and is perceived to be divorced from individual and community life today?

- And is the purpose of architectural conservation simply:

- **the preservation of historical evidence**, and
- **to provide fuel for the heritage industry?**

... as it is perceived by many people today,

... thus justifying the self-consciously inharmonious *heritage* of the future through ‘iconic’ contemporary architecture?

Concept of ‘heritage’: past, present, future

The UNESCO definition, “**heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations**” is neither limited in time nor restricted to material (tangible) objects. The past is therefore seen as an entry point into the future.

This definition supports the increasing view that the perception of *heritage* as something that relates only to the past – to be preserved or conserved – needs to be substituted by **an anthropological vision:**

- **a dynamic approach that is focused on processes that safeguard geo-cultural identity and secure its creative continuity in harmony with the evolving aspirations of peoples and communities.**

This requires top-down bottom-up engagement, in which **culture** is perceived not as a restrictive academic concept but as a continuously evolving “**process and negotiation of connections**”.

This represents a step-change from a focus on objects that require to be preserved to processes that require to be revived (where lost or in jeopardy) and sustained.

Critically, it embraces intangible cultural heritage traditions, spirit of place, and relationships at all levels between the human and natural worlds.

Anthropological vision

An embracing concept that includes processes related to the conservation of national monuments and intangible traditions at all levels.



Catherine Palace, Tsarskoïe Selo,
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation



Lace making, Xlendi, Gozo, Malta

Objectives + questions

Some objectives:

- Achievement of self-sustaining continuity of training and employment opportunities in traditional, locally-based craft skills.
- Broadening the market place for these skills:
 - conservation *and* creative continuity
 - step change from ‘specialist-expensive’ focused on selected monuments to ‘normal-inexpensive’ spread across the full extent of the historic environment, thereby achieving geo-cultural continuity within communities.
- Reinforcing traditional academic and conservator approaches.
- Engaging with local communities as primordial and participatory stakeholders.

Some questions:

- Should conservation be a specialism that requires additional accreditation or a component of the core training of construction professions – architects, engineers, surveyors, etc?
- How much *value* do we really attach to *heritage* in the broadest sense and how relevant is it to *sustainability* in today’s world if it is simply a specialism?

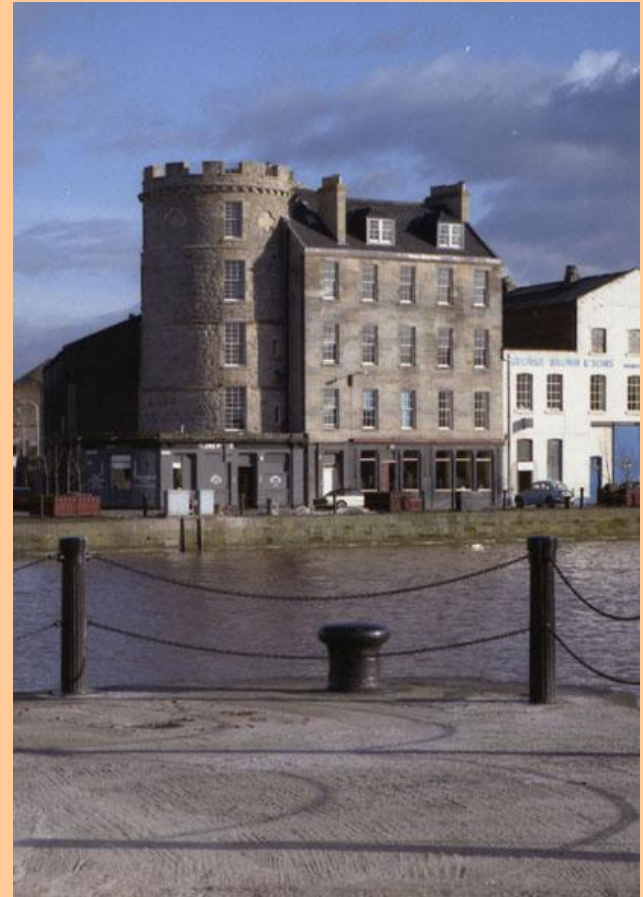
an Opportunity, not a Threat

Reality and potential in the UK construction industry

According to a survey published in 2006:

- The UK construction industry accounts each year for the use of 6 tonnes of building materials per head of population and 35 per cent of all wastes.
- Each year: 3.5 billion bricks are manufactured and 2.5 billion destroyed.
- Over 50% of the annual turnover in the UK construction industry relates to repair and maintenance work – currently dominated by techniques and materials that are not appropriate for traditional building types.
- The overall potential market place for conservation-related works is a substantial proportion of half the annual turnover of the entire UK construction industry, a proportion that has increased since the onset of the present recession.
- Historic monuments alone will not provide the demand to ensure an adequate supply – and in several instances the availability and survival – of traditional building materials and craft skills or to enable them to compete favourably in the market place. Unit costs are disproportionately high; often excessive.

Supply and demand balance across a city



Edinburgh, Scotland

Supply and demand balance: natural stone, traditional joinery, ...

Broadening Perceptions

Broadening Perceptions (1/3)

Seen from the international perspective:

Progressive shift from a primarily monumental and aesthetic interpretation of:

- **monuments** and **groups of buildings** (1972 UNESCO *World Heritage Convention*), as physical objects to be protected and conserved in isolation; to
- **inhabited historic towns** UNESCO *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.
- Epitomises a broader understanding of historic cities as places of habitation and socio-economic activity, in which individual cultural objects are recognised as components within their wider settings and human context.

Broadening Perceptions (2/3)

Complementary concepts and values and the re-interpretation of established ones:

- **1992: Cultural Landscapes**: defined under the UNESCO *Operational Guidelines* as the ‘combined works of nature and man’;
- **1994: Nara Document on Authenticity**: reassessment of the concept of authenticity to embrace cultural diversity;
- **2003: Intangible Cultural Heritage**: UNESCO *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*;
- **2005: Cultural Diversity**: UNESCO *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*; effectively from
- **2005: Historic Urban Landscapes**: ... more later ...
- **2008: Spirit of Place**: ICOMOS General Assembly, Quebec, Canada.

Broadening Perceptions (3/3)

Parallel global agendas

- **Sustainable Development**: the inter-relationship of environmental, social, economic and cultural issues, in which heritage is recognised as a cumulative material, functional, financial and cultural resource.
- **Climate Change**: and a heightened awareness of the spectrum of conservation issues as they affect both the natural and manmade worlds.

Broadening perception + accumulation of parallel agendas epitomises a move

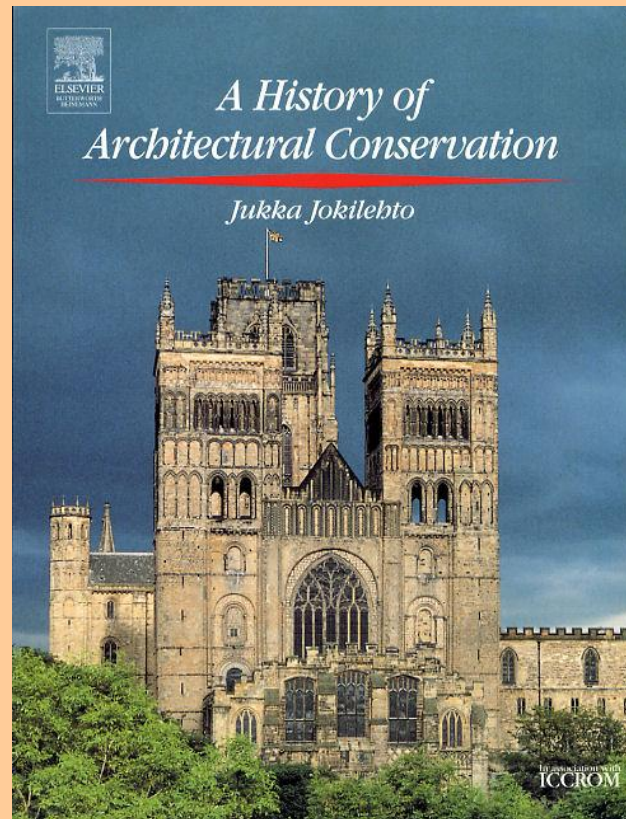
- from traditional scientific approaches to the conservation of manifestations of tangible cultural heritage,
- to a complex world that engages with today's societies and demands holistic approaches.

Changing perceptions - 1975



- “The starting point in a historic city must be its historic quality and visual character – not secondary social, economic or even ecological arguments.”

Changing perceptions - 1999



... asks,

- “if the conservation movement, as it evolved from the eighteenth century, cannot be considered as concluded, and whether modern conservation should not be redefined in reference to the environmental sustainability of social and economic development within the overall cultural and ecological situation on earth.”

Changing perceptions - 2003

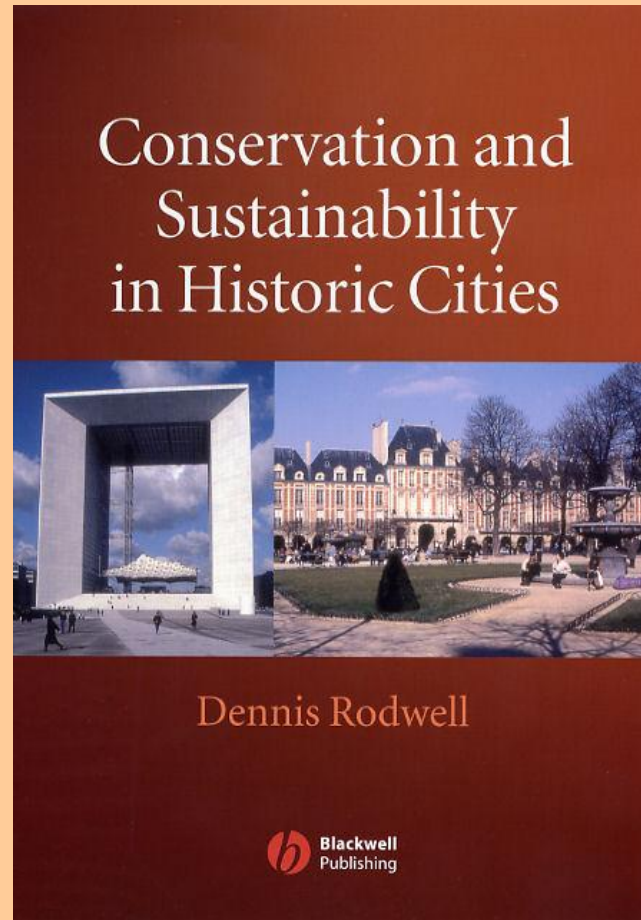


Sylvio Mutal, cultural heritage consultant,
speaking at a conference in Vilnius, Lithuania

- **“Conservation is not sustainable if it is only carried out for cultural reasons.”**

Conservation and Sustainability in Historic Cities

(Blackwell Publishing, 2007)



... sets out the complex background and endeavours to take the debate forward

Broadening Field

Broadening Field

The Renaissance: creative continuity inspired by classical antiquity:

18th century: Picturesque Movement: ruins of antiquity and medieval period; establishment of museums, scientific processes and the concept of authenticity.

19th century: Romantic Movement: emergence of nationalism, recognition of geo-cultural diversity and identity.

20th century onwards: expansion of interest and protection from individual monuments and ensembles to historic gardens, domestic architecture and the vernacular, historic areas of cities, industrial ‘archaeology’, the Modern Movement, to holistic concepts such as cultural landscapes.

Accelerating conflict with the historic environment:

- wartime + peacetime destruction
- the dynamics of socio-economic processes.

Alternative Models and Concepts of Urbanity

The ‘Western model’ for post-industrial cities

Determining influence: the negative imagery of the C19 English and French industrial city: eg Charles Dickens + Gustav Doré + Emile Zola.

The Garden City: **Ebenezer Howard** (1850–1928): Simplistic two-dimensional quasi-sociological concept of land use separation for new towns/cities:

housing – recreation – industry – circulation

The Modern Movement: **Le Corbusier** (1887–1965) and the promotion of the *Charte d’Athènes*: Reconstruction of historic cities following Howard’s model:

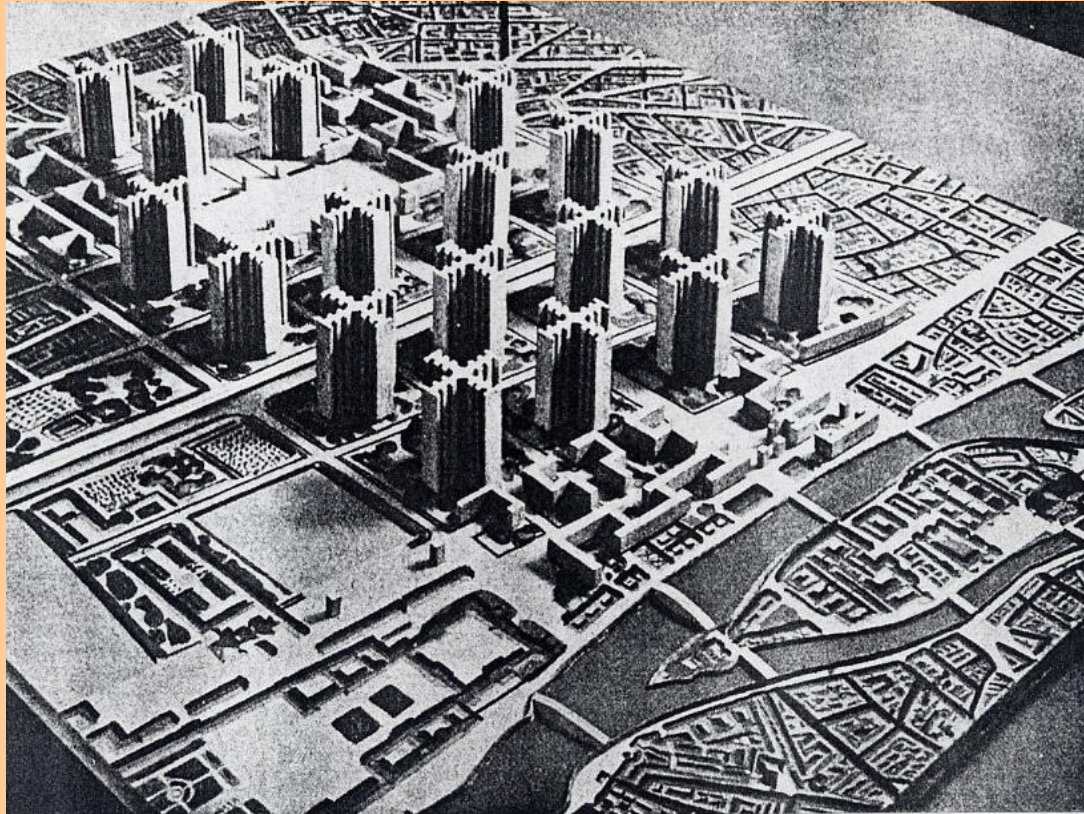
living – recreation – working – transportation

Legacy of the ‘Western model’:

- Urban dispersal + transport dependence.
- Concentration of volatile redevelopment pressures in sensitive historic centres.
- Loss of material fabric + socio-economic identity.
- Inner city neighbourhoods the focus for degradation + socio-economic problems.

Recipe for conflict: historic *versus* modern

Le Corbusier's 1925 *Plan Voisin*



Proposed the rebuilding of Paris according to the Western Model, including the replacement of the Marais quarter by 18 office-use skyscrapers.

Alternative vision of complementary development

Gustavo Giovannoni (1873–1947), engineer, architect, architectural historian, restorer:

- Pioneered mutually supportive, harmonious coexistence.
- Emphasised the complementary qualities and opportunities.
 - Historic city:
 - compact; small scale urban grain; proximity
 - vibrant, distinctive socio-economic role
 - contextual homogeneity
 - Modern city:
 - open, larger scale + limitless possibilities for expansion
 - alternative dynamics
 - absence of contextuality = freedom from design constraint
- Giovannoni opposed:
 - Le Corbusier's ideas as simplistic and out-dated.
 - 'embalming' historic cities for historical, aesthetic or tourist objectives.

Recipe for harmony: harmonious coexistence

Giovannoni's influence



Siena



Urbino

Seminal in modern Italy

**The Historic City
and
The Sustainable City**

Archetypal European historic city (pre-industrial)



Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

- Clearly defined, compact.
- Few major buildings; central market place.
- Diffused with artisan workshops.
- Mixed communities: always socially; sometimes also by ethnic origin and religion.
- Balanced relationship to their locality: physically and ecologically.
- Limited range of local constructional materials and craft skills.

identity – sense of place – human scale – mixed use – proximity – harmony

The City as an Ecosystem: C19 to C20

Patrick Geddes (1854–1932), biologist, botanist, sociologist, town planner, Scotland (Edinburgh) and France (Montpellier):

- Pioneered a sociological approach to urban planning.
- Defined the City as an Ecosystem:
 - cycles of : birth – growth – blossoming – decline – decay – rebirth
- Sought to control the degenerative tendencies.
- Aimed at continuous enhancement of quality of environment and life.
- Highlighted the inter-disciplinary nature of town planning: people – place – culture.
- Recognised that ‘localisation to globalisation’ depends on the global relationship between cities and the world’s natural resources: managing the balance between manmade and natural environments.
- ...

Surviving 'localisation': rural Romania



Surdești, Maramureș



Viscri, central Transylvania

- Balanced relationship to local hinterland.
- Strong sense of place: local identity specific to each community.
- Stay close to source fundamental.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle likewise.

prospects of survival in today's world: precarious

Historical 'globalisation': Adriatic ports



Venice



Dubrovnik

- 1000 year-old maritime mercantile republics.
- Balanced trading, cultural and ecological relationships to extended hinterland.
- Mélange of ethnic and religious communities: melting point of cultures.
- Strong sense of place.
- Strict urban planning regulations: Dubrovnik, 1272; heights, materials, ..., not style.

globalisation *per se* is neither a twentieth century invention nor is it necessarily negative

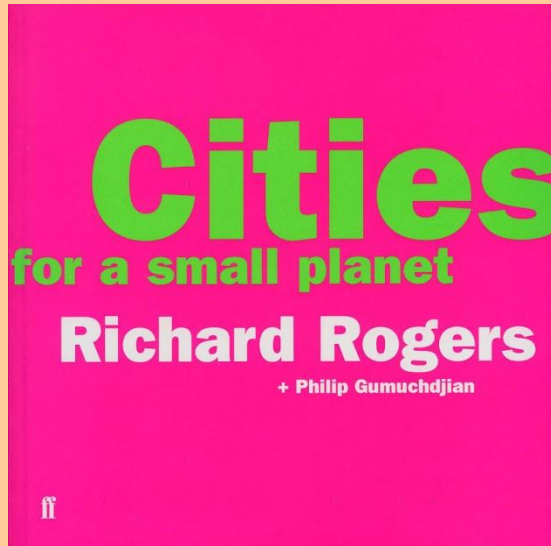
The City as an Ecosystem: the 1994 Aalborg Charter

Charter of European Cities and Towns Towards Sustainability

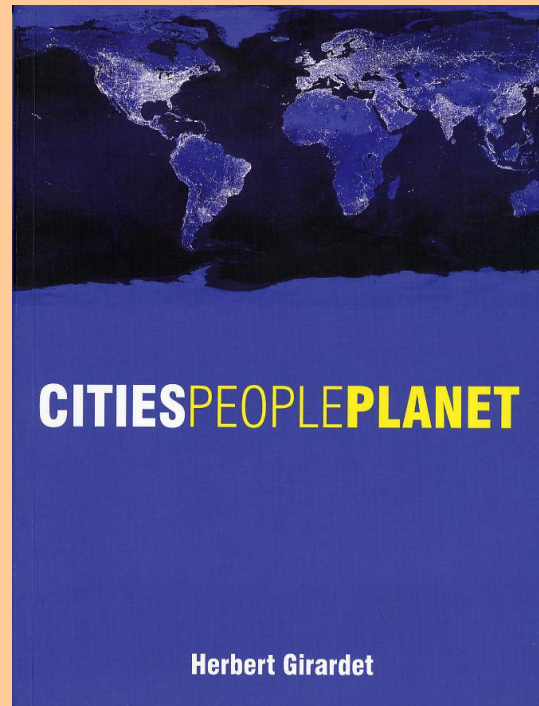
- Expressed the linkage between today's urban lifestyle – especially the separation of functions and patterns of transport, industrial production, agriculture and leisure activities – and the environmental problems that humankind is facing.
- Recognised the limits of the world's natural resources and the need to live within the carrying capacity of nature.
- Drew attention to the vital role that cities, as the focus of consumption, must play in addressing global warming and achieving environmental sustainability.
- Urged an ecosystem approach to urban management in order to re-establish balance between cities and their natural surroundings.

The City as an Ecosystem: C20 to C21

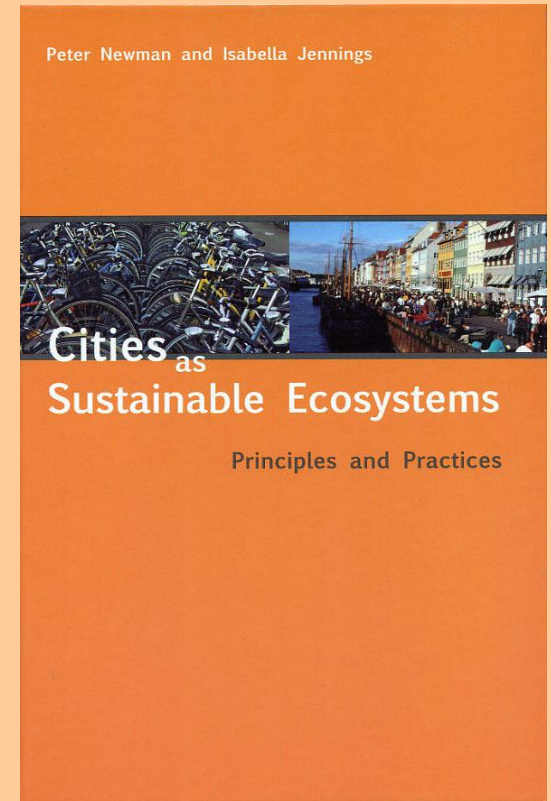
Concept taken forward in the literature on Sustainable Cities from the early-1990s onwards:



Faber and Faber, 1997



Wiley Academy, 2004



Island Press, 2008

Characteristics of the Sustainable City

Key Issues:

- Land: efficient use.
- Material and energy resources: renewable.
- Wastes: limitation + recycling.
- Environmental quality – including air quality.

Consensus:

- Compact, dense, mixed-use.
- Proximity: limit daily journeys.
- Prioritisation of walking and cycling.
- Polycentric development, expansion, and relationship to other cities.
- Historic cities considered as a material and socio-economic resource as well as a cultural one.
- Enhanced reason for their conservation and adaptive reuse.

Is the Historic City a model for the Sustainable City?

Sustainability in an inhabited historic city



mixed community



Dubrovnik



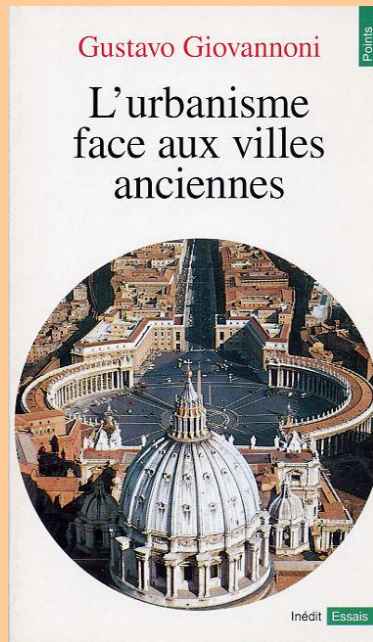
street markets

Sustainability recognises the full range of socio-economic issues and values – including mixed-use functionality down to the smallest scale.

The concept of urbanity

Ebenezer Howard + Le Corbusier reinforced a negative image of traditional urbanity and (urban) citizenship.

Gustavo Giovannoni + Patrick Geddes supported a positive one.



Italian, 1931; French, 1998



Patrick Geddes: conservative surgery, Edinburgh Old Town restoration + rehabilitation + new insertions in harmony.



‘Historic Urban Landscapes’

Key challenges facing Historic Cities today

Include:

- Dramatic demographic and socio-economic changes, especially in many non-Western countries, including rapid urbanisation.
- The pace of change and dynamics of development in cities.
- Hitherto and generally, the concentration of these forces in the most sensitive historic parts of cities – physically and culturally.
- High rise and other out-of-scale buildings within and neighbouring historic city centres.
- Iconic modern/contemporary architecture.
- Pressures for large-scale floor-space for public administration, commerce, retail and services.
- Forecast doubling of international tourist numbers by 2020.
- The threats these all pose to the fabric, grain, functionality, distinctiveness and urban landscapes of historic cities.

Opportunity

- To devise new solutions for the historic parts of cities that enable them to function in harmony with their expanding forms and secure a sustainable future for them.
- To recognise, embrace and highlight the positive aspects of incremental change, including those that:
 - secure continuity of traditional mixed use, small scale functionality, and
 - respond to concerns about climate change.

Cases referred to UNESCO World Heritage Committee

Europe and beyond

- Vienna, Austria – Wien-Mitte high-rise development
- Cologne, Germany – cluster of towers
- Esfahan, Iran – high-rise development
- Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation – Marinsky Theatre and Gazprom tower

United Kingdom

- London: Westminster and Tower – high rise developments
- Liverpool – ‘Fourth Grace’
- Bath – design issues
- Edinburgh – scale and height issues

Deletion from the World Heritage List

- Dresden: in 2009 – bridge over the river Elbe; inscribed as *cultural landscape*

High rise and out-of-scale: historical examples



Alvar Aalto in Helsinki



Moscow

High rise and out-of-scale: today's examples (1/2)



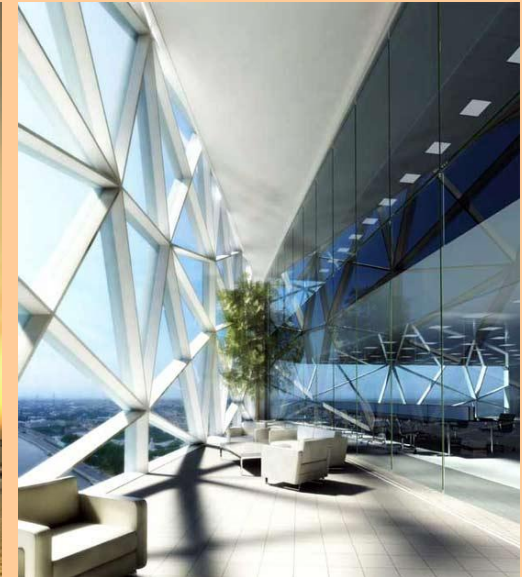
© Cityscape Digital Ltd

City of London: photo montage including planning consents: 'gherkin', 'walkie-talkie', 'cheese-grater', 'helter-skelter', 'shard of glass', ...

conflict: heritage conservation *versus* modernist urban planning and architecture

Can you imagine the equivalent in the setting of St Peter's, Rome?!

High rise and out-of-scale: today's examples (2/2)



Gazprom/Okhta tower, Saint Petersburg: 400 metres

RMJM Architects, UK

Furious Russians take to streets over RMJM tower

14 September 2007 – Building Design – 7 December 2007

**Defiant
RMJM tells
Unesco to
back off**

Iconic modern architecture (1/2)



‘The Fourth Grace’, Mann Island, Liverpool
Will Alsop, architect

Iconic modern architecture (2/2)



‘Glittering Shroud’,

...

‘Golden Cockleshell’

...

‘Silver Snowflake’



Marinsky Theatre, Saint Petersburg
Dominique Perrault, architect

**High rise, out-of-scale and iconic modern:
all in one!**



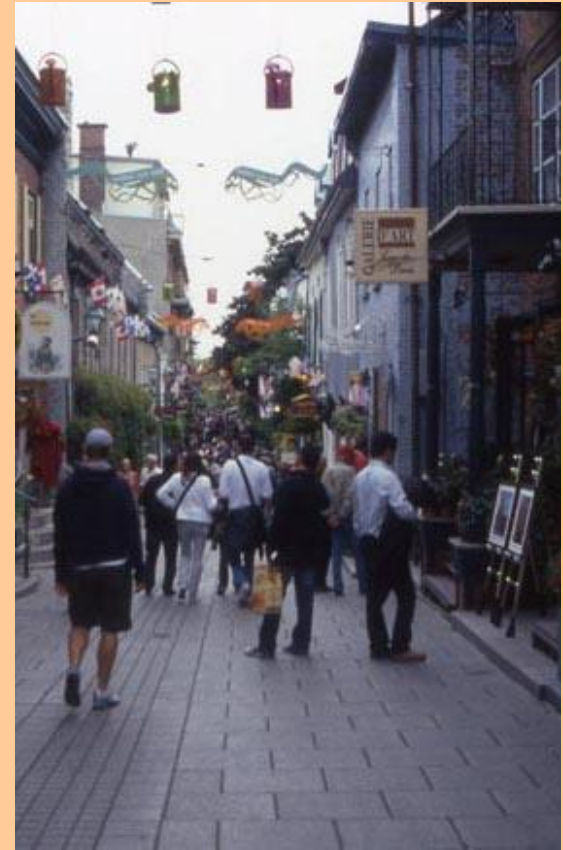
‘Dahlia stuck in a string bag’, Crystal Island, Moscow: 500 metres
Norman Foster, architect of London’s ‘gherkin’

‘Cultural tourism’ and Disneyland (1/2)



Quebec City, Canada

- 12th most visited city in the world
- 8 million visitors a year
- Old Quebec reduced to 5,000 inhabitants
- Concentration of bars, restaurants, souvenir shops, art and sculpture galleries
- But where is the bread shop?
- Viable community – vs – Disneyland



‘Cultural tourism’ and Disneyland (2/2)



Warsaw: hurdy-gurdy in the old town



Genoa: ‘galleon’ in the historic port

“Tourism is a great modern industry. [...] We had lots of those during the Industrial Revolution and we have been cleaning up the mess ever since.”

Professor Alexander Youngson, Edinburgh, 1990

‘Historic Urban Landscapes’ (1/2)

The concept seeks to convey our holistic understanding of inhabited historic cities:

- Tangible and intangible cultural heritage aspects.
- Related natural elements, both within and in their settings/surroundings.
- Thus: ‘the combined works of nature and man’ (as *cultural landscapes* in the UNESCO *Operational Guidelines*)

It embraces the four components of *sustainable development*: the social, economic, environmental and cultural. It aims to articulate the city as a continuously evolving process, not as an object fixed in time. Stages of the initiative to date:

- **2005**: Vienna Memorandum
- **2006**: Jerusalem regional conference.
- **2007**: Saint Petersburg + Olinda regional conferences.
- **2008**: workshop at ICOMOS General Assembly, Quebec.
- **2008**: planning workshop at UNESCO, Paris.
- **2011** (provisional): new UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes (historic cities worldwide) + revised *Operational Guidelines* (World Heritage Cities).

‘Historic Urban Landscapes’ (2/2)

Historic urban landscapes is envisaged as an over-arching framework that establishes principles and guidelines across a sphere that has, to date, lacked consensus at the international level. It is not, of itself, a tool-kit.

In an academic sense, the definition of the term is in a state of advanced evolution. The term ‘landscape’, for example, is not intended to convey a physical reality that can simply be observed; rather, something that must be experienced within the cultural framework of those who have created, sustained, and are responsible for transmitting it to future generations.

In February 2008, ICOMOS sought to define the concept as referring to:

“... the sensory perception of the urban system and its setting. A system of material components (urban layout, plot system, buildings, open spaces, trees, urban furniture, etc.) and the relationships among them, which are the result of a process, conditioned by social, economical, political and cultural constraints over time. The concept of [*historic urban landscapes*] contributes to link tangible and intangible heritage components and to assess and understand the town or urban area as a process rather than as an object.”

This ICOMOS definition did not, however, mention natural elements.

Example 1: Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation



One of the key characteristics of the city's urban landscape is its horizontality, and the relationship this reinforces between people and the city's streets, public spaces and parks, canals and riverbanks. The 2007 Saint Petersburg Regional Conference was unanimous that the embracing term of *historic urban landscapes* is an essential working concept that enables historic cities to be managed effectively in the age of globalisation and at a time of increasing development pressures.

Example 2: Liverpool, United Kingdom



A defining characteristic of the city is the historical relationship between the horizontality of the waterfront and the vertical punctuation at the higher ground of the commercial and residential city behind. The over-arching concept of *historic urban landscapes* would offer the basis for a balanced approach to cultural mapping that identifies and prioritises the tangible and intangible components of the city's unique identity, as the essential foundation for establishing sustainable socio-economic, environmental and cultural continuity. Currently, in the absence of this, developments in the city are proceeding piece-meal, and historical relationships especially at the waterfront have been jeopardised.

The cloning of cities

“... never before has the world been so firmly in the grip of an establishment like the present architectural one, the most rigid in the history of art. All modern cities, as they are rebuilt, grow to resemble each other more. Rio and Hong Kong, to take two with rather similar settings, are clothing themselves more and more in the same style; London and Tokyo come closer each year.”

... Liverpool, UK, is a twin city of Shanghai, China.

[Source: David Hunt, *Memoirs: Military and Diplomatic*, London, 2006, p. 286]

Relevance of the ‘historic urban landscapes’ concept

UK example: **fragmented approach** to protection in the historic environment

- **National designations:**
 - ancient monuments
 - listed buildings
 - parks and gardens
 - World Heritage Sites: possibly, in the future
- **Local designations:**
 - conservation areas
 - locally listed buildings
- **Historic Cities?**
 - no over-arching designations
 - key fragments designated only for ‘architectural or historic interest’
 - no intrinsic relationship to functionality
- **Summary:**
 - technical conservation: exemplary.
 - strategically: fragmented and weak.

The role of Urban Morphology

The ‘Cinderella’ discipline (especially in the United Kingdom)

Key to the understanding of historic cities as a process rather than an object:

- **Not so much** their historical or stylistic ‘period’.
- **Rather**, the evolving relationship between their urban grain, built form, land and building use, and unique socio-economic and cultural identity: their multiple layering and spirit of place.
- **Avoids** conflict between the *heritage* (past only) and *contemporary* (exclusively ‘modern’) constructs.
- **Important tool** for the successful management of change in historic cities.

Statements of Significance

... both for tangible and intangible cultural heritage value, should encompass the full range, from

- Those that are recognised academically; to
- Those that are recognised by their communities;
- Hence, outstanding universal values (in the case of World Heritage Sites); national values, local values and those that are embraced at community level.

This is the key to the broad ‘landscape’ approach that is encapsulated in the concept of *historic urban landscapes*.

It reinforces the Anthropological Vision: a dynamic approach that is centred around humankind and focused on processes that safeguard geo-cultural identity and secure its creative continuity.

Statements of Significance are the basis for establishing the ‘tolerance for change’: the limits up to which change can be accommodated; and beyond which it needs to be resisted.

‘Authenticity’ and ‘Integrity’

What do we mean by these two terms and how should we apply them in the context of living cities?

- Clarity is currently absent, as are baseline authenticity/integrity audits or effective monitoring.
- Without clarity, how can we manage the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site? ... and, indeed, define values in a meaningful way as a tool for the management of any inhabited historic town?

Two key references:

- **1994: Nara Document on Authenticity**: reassessment of the concept of authenticity to embrace cultural diversity.
- **2004: INTACH Charter** (Charter for the Conservation of Unprotected Architectural Heritage in India): highlights the importance of sustaining traditional, local knowledge systems and skills).

Taken together, they render consideration of the conditions of authenticity and integrity easier within historic cities: from monument to vernacular, from city centre ensembles to inner city residential quarters, each within its own terms of reference.

Paris

Harmonious Coexistence

Museological approach, 1960s (1/2)



Place des Vosges (1960)

Marais quarter, Paris



Hôtel Sully (2006)

1962 loi Malraux, first conservation plan: **“the only solution for the revitalization of the 300 large residences in the Marais is to use them for embassies or head offices of large companies”** (also, art galleries, museums and governmental offices) (François Sorlin, 1970)

Museological approach, 1960s (2/2)



... but there were too many



Hôtel Le Rebours, rue Saint Merri (1990)

Integrated approach, 1970s onwards



rue Saint-Paul

Marais quarter, Paris

Implementation of the *plan de sauvegarde et mise en valeur*

- Holistic heritage-led regeneration including the integration of contemporary architecture.



rue Vieille-du-Temple / rue de Francs

Strategic approach, Paris region, 1950s onwards (1/3)



1960



2006

La Défense on the horizon
(established, 1958)

polycentric metropolitan city

Strategic approach, Paris region, 1950s onwards (2/3)



Freedom of architectural expression outside the historic centre



Protection of the urban grain in the historic core

polycentric metropolitan city: harmonious coexistence

Strategic approach, Paris region, 1950s onwards (3/3)



continuity of small scale artisan businesses and traditions in the city centre

polycentric metropolitan city: mixed-use city centre quarters

Paris: tools for a holistic approach



- Polycentric regional plan dates from 1950s.
- Building height protection dates from 1930s.
- Protection of small-scale, mixed-use urban grain dates from Haussmann: 1850s.

If artisan workshops can survive in the heart of metropolitan Paris they can survive in any historic city.

sense of place + socio-economic and cultural continuity

Comparative strategic approaches – 1950s onwards



London

Monocentric metropolitan city

City of London

Functions separated – esp. work-residence

The City only functions on weekdays

[Le Corbusier (1887–1965)]



Paris

Polycentric metropolitan city

La Défense, Cergy-Pontoise, Evry, ...

Mixed use quarters

The whole city functions 24/7

[Gustavo Giovannoni (1873–1947)]

undermined – **historic urban landscape** – **protected**

Sibiu, Transylvania, Romania

A Case Study in ‘top down’ meeting ‘bottom-up’

Sibiu 1/8

**holistic management of a historic city centre:
reviving the local economy and pride in the community**



skyline with Fagaras mountains behind
(photo credit: *Hermannstadt*, Hermann und Alida Fabini)

Romanian-German Cooperation Project:
Sibiu City Hall + GTZ + national, regional and local partners

[GTZ = (Deutsche) Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit]

Sibiu 2/8



Historic core, 86.50 ha; population, 14,000



- 12th century: founded by ‘Saxon’ settlers.
- 1998: UNESCO + Council of Europe Conference: identified threats; promoted vision for a coordinated programme for conservation and sustainable development.

Sibiu 3/8

Year 2000: *Charter for the Rehabilitation of the Historic Center of Sibiu*

Argues: that conserving both the tangible and intangible heritage, together with the living character of historic Sibiu, is fundamental to preserving its identity for future generations and securing a sustainable future for it.

Aim: is to build local capacity for urban rehabilitation and to instil a conservation ethic and practice ... the people, the institutions, the tools and the finance.

Needs include: cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary coordination and management skills.

Results: pioneer and exemplar of best practice in integrated top-down/ bottom-up regeneration of a historic city in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sibiu 4/8

The **city centre programme** encompasses all aspects of urban management:

- service infrastructure
 - traffic and parking
 - public spaces
 - commerce
 - retail
 - cultural tourism
 - townscape
-
- **housing rehabilitation for the existing inhabitants**
 - **capacity building amongst and between professionals**
 - **revival of craft skills and the use of traditional materials and methods**
 - **understanding of *historical layering* and *environmental performance***
 - **advocacy of minimum intervention to buildings and community alike**
-
- **specialist training and support for new businesses**

Sibiu 5/8

Housing rehabilitation: Survey

Comprehensive study of housing conditions, socio-economic profile, residents' views:

- 60 per cent owner-occupied
- 50 per cent lacking basic amenities
- high proportion sharing toilets, bathrooms and kitchens
- low space standards
- low incomes
- high proportion elderly and retired
- **85 per cent wish to improve and stay**
- **strong self-help ethic, experience and enthusiasm**

Sibiu 6/8

INFORMAȚII	ASPECT	MATERIALE	CULOARE
<p>Îndrumar 1. FAȚADE</p> <p>Stimați sibieni,</p> <p>acest pliant este primul dintr-o serie de materiale informative cu tema reabilitarea corectă a centrului istoric.</p> <p>În acest document vă informăm despre reabilitarea fațadelor.</p>  <p>În total, seria de materiale informative cuprinde șapte pliante despre principalele lucrări de reabilitare. Vă rugăm să păstrați pliantele, deoarece toate împreună vă ajută să înțelegeți mai bine procesul de reabilitare a centrului istoric și să cunoașteți posibilitățile și regulile ce se aplică aici.</p> <p>Sperăm ca astfel să vă venim în ajutor în procesul de păstrare a valorii casei dumneavoastră și a întregului oraș istoric.</p> 	<p>Aspectul tipic al unei fațade istorice este dat de dotarea acestora cu elemente decorative, cum ar fi: cornișe, ancadramente, frize, etc. Distrugerea acestor elemente înseamnă lipsirea clădirii de aspectul ei caracteristic.</p> <p>Nu permiteți acest lucru!</p> <p>Cu ajutorul experților, elementele decorative pot fi salvate de la deteriorare în cursul lucrărilor de construcție – chiar elementele decorative distruse pot fi refăcute – în conformitate cu prevederile legii protecției monumentelor istorice!</p>  <p>CORECT: Elementele decorative au fost păstrate</p>  <p>GRESIT: Elementele decorative au fost distruse</p>	<p>Fațada ocrotește clădirea după cum îmbrăcămintea protejează trupul.</p> <p>Însă: materialele și tehnicile neadecvate, cum ar fi tencuiala strop sau placarea cu gresie nu protejează, ci dimpotrivă, conduc la degradări enorme ale construcției! Pentru a evita costurile imense datorate acestor degradări, mai bine folosiți materiale specifice locului, mai ieftine și mai fiabile (de exemplu tencuiala cu var).</p> <p>De asemenea, materialele nespecifice strică imaginea fațadelor și astfel deteriorează imaginea generală a orașului vechi!</p>  <p>CORECT: Materialele adecvate păstrează fațada istorică</p>  <p>GRESIT: Materiale neadecvate produc deteriorări ale clădirii</p>	<p>Culoarea este cel mai vizibil element component al fațadei. Culoarea este primul element remarcat de privitor – și impresionează negativ dacă este aleasă greșit!</p> <p>Gustul și culoarea preferată a proprietarului nu trebuie să fie elementul predominant în alegerea culorii. Importantă este folosirea culorii inițiale și armonia dintre culorile fațadei și cele ale clădirilor învecinate.</p> <p>Se vor utiliza culorile pe bază de var, ieftine și specifice zonei istorice.</p>  <p>CORECT: Alegerea corectă a culorii dă o "nouă" înfățișare clădirilor istorice</p>  <p>GRESIT: Alegerea neadecvată a culorii distruge imaginea istorică a fațadei</p>

SIBIU, Iunie 2004

campaigns and free leaflets: example, facades

Sibiu 7/8

Key outcomes of City's overall strategy

- Employment opportunities and skills: city-wide unemployment dropped 20 to 5% from 2000 to 2006
- Technical and transport infrastructure: substantially renewed (city centre)
- National and international transport links (commerce + tourism): upgraded airport and main railway station
- Historic core housing rehabilitation and building restoration: ongoing programmes
- European Capital of Culture 2007
- Ongoing bid for World Heritage Site status

Sibiu 8/8

The **2009 Newsletter CIAV** (ICOMOS International Scientific Committee of Vernacular Architecture) characterised as ‘**outstanding**’ and ‘**faultless**’ the coherence of the integrated conservation efforts in the city and the resultant ‘**strong sense of integrity**’.



Conclusion

Challenge for the Twenty First Century (1/3)

- Over 50% of the today's world population of 6.8bn lives in cities – namely 3.4bn. This figure is projected to increase to 5bn by 2030.
- Approximately 3% of the world's land surface is now urbanised.
- Today's urban half of the human population accounts for three quarters of the world's annual consumption of resources and discharge of wastes.
- Cities, therefore, constitute an important starting point for a sustainable world. Their continuously accumulating heritage, ancient and modern, has a vital role to play in meeting this challenge.
- Historic buildings and urban areas constitute not merely a non-renewable cultural resource: they also represent a non-renewable capital resource – of materials, embodied energy, and financial investment. Further, they constitute an essential functional resource, one that has been demonstrated time and time again to be highly adaptable to creative reuse.

Challenge for the Twenty First Century (2/3)

- By combining our concerns for the heritage value of historic buildings, urban areas and their infrastructure, with the wider environmental imperatives of respecting the finite material resources of our planet and the threats posed by global warming and climate change, the rationale behind the protection and conservation of our heritage is reinforced and magnified many times over.
- A preservationist approach based on top-down academically derived concepts such as ‘architectural or historic interest’ offers only a very limited justification for conservation in a world in which so many other factors can also be brought into play – factors that demand a far more responsible approach to the historic environment than has hitherto been the norm in the developed world.
- Two further influences contribute to this reinforcement of the value of protection and conservation:
 - firstly, increasing emphasis in our globalising world on cultural diversity; and
 - secondly, recognition not simply of tangible heritage values but also of the intangible values that attach to human traditions and practices.

Challenge for the Twenty First Century (3/3)

- These support the expression of cultural diversity through the use of locally and regionally distinctive building materials, architectural details and urban patterns.
- They also support an approach to cultural continuity that is focused at least as much on processes that require to be sustained (or revived where in jeopardy) as on museum-like artefacts from the past that are subject to curatorial care.
- This human approach, characterized as the *anthropological vision* of geo-cultural identity and cultural continuity, has much to commend it.
- At one and the same time it bolsters the safeguarding of historic objects by reinforcing the processes for conserving them and integrates this with the creative dynamics of evolving social and cultural processes.
- Thus, the concept of *heritage* is not seen as being limited to a past that is fixed in time, but is something to which each generation in turn is encouraged to contribute in a positive, additive sense.
- The anthropological vision focuses on people as both the custodians and creative vectors of cultural diversity and identity.

Key Management Issues today, include ...

- The role of historic cities/quarters and their relationship to their modern counterparts:
 - **harmonious coexistence**, through
 - **strategic planning** (two and three dimensional)
- Modern interventions:
 - **harmonious integration**, through
 - **mutual respect** (scale and design)
- Scale and proximity of functions: prioritise
 - **small scale mixed use**, through
 - **detailed planning** (including protection of artisan activities)
- Housing, generally the dominant historical use (floorspace):
 - **protect the function**, as well as
 - **social and cultural mix**
- Sustainable relationships: strive for
 - **ecological balance** within (wherever possible) and between cities
 - **“reduce, reuse and recycle” + “stay close to source”**
- Avoid domination by tourism.

*The Historic City is a Reference Model for Urban
Sustainable Development Policies!*

Thank you

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