

Spring 2015

School of Architecture
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

ARCH 555: Global Perspectives in Heritage Conservation

Units: 2

Instructor: Vinayak Bharne (bharne@usc.edu; 323-252-7145)

Location: Watt I

Schedule: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Office Hours: By appointment

The definitions, efforts and efficacies of heritage conservation are shaped by the specific social, political and economic cultures of a place. In many societies outside the Western world, the strategies that underlie the success of heritage conservation efforts are therefore significantly different than those typically pursued in Europe and the United States. Extreme economic disparities, ethnic and religious diversity and ad hoc, illegal possession and appropriation of historic sites surface the need for bottom-up instead of top-down strategies, self-help mechanisms and populist grassroots efforts as methods and tools. Additionally, the multi-generational presence of unconventional habitat types such as squatters, slums, urban villages and refugee camps, also raise complex questions on what constitutes heritage and how and why we need to conserve it.

The course will introduce students to the issues and challenges surrounding the idea of heritage conservation beyond the Euro-American world. It will specifically aim at provoking discussions on the nexus of heritage conservation, socio-economic inclusiveness and social justice by focusing on selected case studies that highlight the dilemmas of these other worlds.

The following are the specific learning objectives of this course:

- (1) Develop an awareness of the **different socio-political contexts** in which heritage conservation changes its meanings and definitions.
- (2) Develop an awareness of the **various strategies and methods** of heritage conservation that have been proposed in these cultures.
- (3) Develop a critical understanding of these efforts by assessing **their successes, failures and legacies**.
- (4) Develop positions on how gleaned into heritage conservation attitudes in these other worlds serve to inform our own, and **how they may expand or question our own methods of working**.

COURSE STRUCTURE & TEACHING METHOD

The course will be structured around **10 themes**, each examined through a single or multiple focused case studies.

Each class will consist of a 1 hr lecture, followed by 30 minute discussion on the required weekly readings. Mid-term and final presentations of student assignments will be done in front of an invited jury.

REQUIRED COURSE READER

Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation edited by John H. Stubbs

This book is a comprehensive survey of the practice, theory, and structure of architectural heritage conservation throughout the world. Offering an argument for why architectural conservation is indispensable to modern life, Time Honored describes its parameters and evolution in an historical context, and then methodically presents approaches used in various countries, showing how historic preservation in the West differs from conservation in the rest of the world. Illustrated throughout with over 300 photographs, drawings, maps, and charts. No other book navigates the global conservation programs, policies, and project types so completely.

Students will read selected chapters each week as outlined in the class calendar.

For every class each student will submit, based on the readings:

1. One sentence on something that stood out for them, or they felt strongly about.
2. One sentence on something they disagreed with.
3. One sentence on something that they did not understand (OPTIONAL)

This weekly submission will be tracked, and will count towards the grade for class participation.

GRADING

Grading will be based on a mid-term, quiz and/or assignments, and the final design project. The grade breakdown will be as follows:

Mid-term	30%
Final project	60%
Class participation	10%
Total	100%

CLASS CALENDAR

Week 1 (January 13): Heritage Conservation beyond the Euro-American World – Phenomena & Issues

This introductory lecture will introduce the meanings and understandings of heritage conservation in the non-western world. What are the phenomena and issues that change the intentions and expectations of heritage conservation in other worlds. What are the deciding factors, entities and agencies? What is the track record of their efforts?

This introductory lecture will also overview the 10 case studies and identify their overlaps and differences, and spell out their relevance and reasons for selection.

Recommended Reading: Chapter 1 – Introduction; pp 3-20

Chapter 2 - What is Architectural Conservation; pp 21-32

Chapter 3 – What Do We Conserve? pp 33-50

Week 2(January 20): Historic Urban Cores

Case Study: Old Delhi, India

Numerous historic cores in cities around the developing world face a dubious future. On the one hand, they are repositories of history, traditional architecture and construction. On the other they are chaotic, crowded worlds of ad-hoc appropriated habitat, with no adequate sewage or garbage collection facilities, with successive generations building on ancient structures with no regard for safety or security. In such worlds, formal conservation efforts have little - no consequence, and it is in the self-empowerment of the inhabitants that the success of heritage conservations truly lies. How does one incentivize conservation in such places without disrupting the daily workings of the community? How does one reinforce, regulate policies, and more importantly gauge them? This study review conservation efforts within two historic urban cores – Old Delhi and Fez – and show how the idea of conservation is re-defined in these places through non-formal, and bottom-up conservation methods.

Class Readings: Chapter 4 – Why Conserve Buildings and Sites; pp 51-64

Chapter 5 – Who Owns the Past?; pp 65-70

Chapter 6 – History, Historiography, and Architectural Conservation; pp 71-64

Week 3(January 27): Monuments & Monumentality

Case Study: Taj Mahal and its environs, Agra, India

This study will expose the typical dilemmas of preservation versus appropriation surrounding many historic monuments across Asia. It will focus on the ongoing preservation efforts of the Taj Mahal. Once planned along a beautiful river promenade and accompanied by a flourishing market, it is today situated between a dilapidated riverfront and a slum. While the drying river

poses a threat to the Taj Mahal's foundations, the slum dwellers are resisting efforts to vacate this informal settlement and claiming that they are the progeny of the original builders of the Taj. This study will discuss the cautions behind the Taj Mahal's ongoing linear and myopic preservation as an embalmed building complex for a tourist economy, and argue for an inclusive attitude to heritage conservation that acknowledges its current realities.

Class Readings: Chapter 7– Perils to Built Heritage; pp 93-119

Week 4(February 3): Conservation & Tourist Economies

Case Study: *Bang* or traditional riverine habitats, Bangkok, Thailand

This study will trace the evolution of the amphibious "*bang*" riverine settlements – their traditional prosperity, subsequent decline through changes in modes of production, consumption, and transportation, and their current conservation and revitalization mostly through the influences of global and local tourism industries in search of authentic and romantic Thai village lifestyles. It will examine the projects that have brought back these fragile places, and show how the global-local nexus and cultural commodification can contribute significantly to preserving a past for the benefit of the present on the one hand, but simultaneously undermine its continuity and future on the other.

Class Readings: Chapter 8 – Options for Involvement; pp 121-130
Chapter 9 – Principles, Charters and Ethics; pp 131-140

Week 5 (February 10): Re-using Indigenous Infrastructure

Case Study: *Qanats* (indigenous subterranean water channels) of Yazd, Iran

The re-emergence of sustainable prerogatives in architecture and urban design has re-surfaced vernacular infrastructural traditions as didactic formal and methodological constructs. This study will discuss the dilemmas of sustainability and strategic conservation surrounding the historic *qanats* (subterranean water channels) and *ab anbars* (reservoirs) of the city of Yazd in Iran. It will examine the traditional roles of this 3000 year old ingenious arid water system and the reasons for its decline within the changing socio-political milieu of the country. And it will demonstrate potential strategies for preserving *qanats* and *ab anbars* - from gray water recycling to neighborhood design - through alternative uses and roles, weighing them against the realities of Yazd today. In so doing this study will forge a broader dialogue on the cultural, ethical and practical dimensions of conserving vernacular infrastructure in a time of looming global water crisis.

Class Readings: Chapter 10 – The Conservation Process; pp 145-148
Chapter 11 – Participants in Architectural Conservation; pp 149-156

Week 6 (February 17): Ethnic/Tribal Patterns, Habitats and People

Case Study: Dogon Villages of Sudan
Hakka Villages of China
Anasazi Pueblos of New Mexico

This study will examine the place of minority ethnic and tribal cultures within a rapidly changing cosmopolitan milieu. It will offer a comparative overview of the habitat forms, patterns and lifestyle shifts in three such places - Dogon Villages of Sudan, Hakka Villages of China, and Anasazi Pueblos of New Mexico. It will specifically focus on the tenuous future of such places and how tourism, eco-tourism and other methods are bringing in alternative ways of rethinking their sustenance.

Class Readings: Chapter 12– Prehistory Through the Fourteenth Century; pp 157-182

Week 7 (February 24): Mid Term submissions due (no lecture)

Week 8 (March 3): A Less Privileged Heritage: Squatters, Tenements and Slums

Case Study: Shek Kip Mei slum, Hong Kong,
Torre David, Caracas, Venezuela
Dharavi, Mumbai, India

This study will elaborate on the idea of informal and illegal habitats as potential heritage conservation sites. It will look at the evolution and place of three simultaneous places to highlight the nuances and overlaps of this issue – The Shek Kip Mei slum and public housing project in Hong Kong, the vertical slum of Torre David in Caracas and the slum of Dharavi in Mumbai. What policies and measures have been adopted to include or exclude these places within a franchised urbanity – from slum tourism to slum clearance? What kind of future do they face? Are they justified candidates for conservation?

Class Readings: Chapter 13– The Fifteenth Through the Eighteenth Centuries; pp 183- 202

Week 9 (March 10): Transplanted Heritage: Ethnic Enclaves and Immigrant Communities (Site Trip to Chinatown, Los Angeles)

This site trip to Chinatown will involve a walking tour of the main street of the community – Broadway Avenue. Students will see the ways in which an immigrant ethnic community has re-established its cultural identity through physical simulacras of their native symbols, as well as through the continuing patterns of their daily lifestyles – from informal vending and spill-over retail to food and festivals.

Week 10 (March 17): Spring Break. No Class

Week 11 (March 24): Sacred Landscapes and Ritualscapes

Case Study: Banaras, Uttar Pradesh, India

Varanasi is the holiest of Hindu cities. It is located on the banks of the Ganges River, whose waters, the Hindu's believe have the divine ability to free one of all sin. Dying in these sacred waters is considered a guaranteed path to salvation. Consequently, over centuries, millions of Hindus have thronged to these waters to bath, worship or cremate their dead, and continue to do so. The waters of the Ganges, it is now known, have pollution levels some 3000 times higher than what is considered acceptable for use of any kind by global standards, with diseases on the rise. In 2002, the Ganga Action Plan initiated to cleanse the waters by reducing sewage and industrial discharge, was brought to a gradual halt by political changes and corruption scandals, and this world-famous pilgrimage city faces a dubious future. This study will reveal the dilemmas of heritage conservation in Varanasi – looming between the need to conserve the ancient ritualistic culture associated with the holy river whilst mitigating the public health issues related to its pollution.

Class Readings: Chapter 14 – The Forging of a Discipline: The Late Eighteenth to the Early Twentieth Centuries; pp 203-238

Week 12 (March 31): Landscapes of War

Case Study: Hiroshima, Japan
Refugee Camps, Beirut, Lebanon

The site of the Hiroshima's bombing was memorialized into a public space, the Hiroshima Peace Park (1949-1955). But ironically, the Park chose to prohibit public grieving for the effects of the bombing – a mandate that would have significant social consequences. Suffering was compounded not merely by the unprecedented scale of the catastrophe, but also by the fact that public struggle with this traumatic experience was not permitted. Survivors of the bombs could not grieve publicly, could not share their experiences through the written word, could not be offered public counsel and support. The Hiroshima Peace Park was fraught with complexities. If it embodied patriotism and peace, it also represented the failure to understand the difficult ways in which a wronged populace attempts to communicate its trauma and loss. This study will examine the dilemmas of war-related landscapes, and the conservation challenges therein.

Class Readings: Chapter 15 – International Activities and Cooperation; pp 241-278

Week 13 (April 7): Colonial Landscapes

Case Study: Goa, India
Macao, China
Galle, Sri Lanka

In many countries in Asia, colonial landscapes continue to have two contrasting readings: One sees them embodying a subaltern attitude towards indigenous habitats. New Delhi was planned and built as a City Beautiful model of radiating streets physically disconnected the medieval labyrinthine grid of Shahjahanabad by a *cordon sanitaire*. The other observes how colonial efforts never failed to embrace climatic and tectonic vernaculars within their urbanisms for both practical and political reasons. Cities such as Galle and Panaji reveal upon closer look, the creative and successful amalgamation of native spatial concepts and construction techniques in both dwellings and monuments, creating hybridities found in neither worlds. What are the formal, stylistic and tectonic challenges in conserving colonial buildings and places in a post-independent and post-Modern era?

Class Readings: Chapter 16 – A Multidimensional Field for the Twenty-First Century; pp 279-284

Chapter 17 – A Summary Global Tour of Contemporary Practice: Challenges and Solutions (Europe); pp 285-300

Week 14 (April 14): Preserving the Recent Past - Modern Architecture and Rapid Urbanization

Case Study: Chandigarh, Punjab, India
New Gourn, Cairo, Egypt
Nakagin Capsule Tower, Tokyo, Japan

More than fifty years since its making, the city of Chandigarh, designed by Le Corbusier remains a celebrated paradigm of Modern architecture and urbanism, and in 2006, its officials submitted a bid to UNESCO's Paris-based headquarters to make the city a World Heritage site. Meanwhile, in Cairo, the famous village of New Gourn, designed by Hassan Fathy at the same time as Chandigarh, faces a dubious future, with officials debating whether this iconic mud habitat now appropriated into a squatter is worthy of conservation. The situation is pregnant with irony, since Chandigarh's Capitol, has been abandoned by the public even as it remains glorified by an architectural elite, even as new Gourn teems with life. This study will trace the parallel debates surrounding these two iconic places and provoke deeper reflection on the relationship between democracy, conservation and participatory process.

Class Readings: Chapter 17 – A Summary Global Tour of Contemporary Practice: Challenges and Solutions (North Africa, Western Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central & South Asia, Austro-Pacific Region); pp 300-340

As a result of land scarcity, up to 30% of Tokyo is demolished and rebuilt each year – ranging from modest face improvement to entire complexes. Due to such rapid changes, many iconic buildings of the recent past have been demolished and replaced with newer ones. One such building that has brought this issue into limelight is the Nakagin Capsule Tower. Hailed as one of the few built masterpieces of the Japanese Metabolism movement, the dialogues on its potential demolition versus preservation represent an ironic moment in Japanese architectural history in which no historic wooden structure stands to date in its original built form. Using the 1970 Osaka Expo Park that currently displays the original Metabolist experimental

fragments as the intellectual backdrop, this study will overview the rubric of preservation and conservation in Japan today at the scale of both the building and the city.

Class Readings: Chapter 17 – A Summary Global Tour of Contemporary Practice: Challenges and Solutions (North America, Latin America & the Caribbean, Polar Regions); pp 341-365

Week 15 (April 21) – Final Reviews Part 1

Week 16 (April 28) – Final Reviews Part 2

May 12 – Final Paper submittal as pdf file before midnight

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

Within the first three weeks of class, each student will choose (or selected from the Instructor's list), a specific heritage conservation case study outside Europe and North America. They will develop this into a position paper as part of their mid-term and final assignment. Specifically the paper will investigate:

1. The socio-political context of the selected place
2. The attributes of the focus area – physical, social and cultural
3. The conservation process and strategy
4. The various actors and entities that were involved in this effort
5. Conclusions on how this study challenges or expands mainstream formal means of heritage conservation in Europe and North America
6. Conclusions on what this lessons this study offers for heritage conservation in developed and highly regulated societies like Europe and North America.

Mid Term Assignment

The Mid-Term assignment will consist of:

- a) Maximum 500 word abstract
- b) One page outline of the paper structure encompassing/breaking down the 6 themes listed above
- c) List of maximum 12 images/diagrams that are expected to be included in the paper.
- d) List of at least 5 scholarly books/articles/essays that will be referenced and built upon in the paper.

Grading will be based on: 1) Clarity and strength of abstract; 2) Clarity and flow of outline and its relationship to the Abstract; and 3) Diversity and breadth of reference list.

Final Assignment

The final assignment will consist of:

- a) A final maximum 500 word abstract
- b) 4000 word position paper in 8.5 x 11 portrait format single pdf file with multiple pages
- c) References or Endnotes
- d) Images/Diagrams with captions and sources embedded into the paper.

Grading will be based on: 1) Depth and clarity of research 2) Clarity of explanation of the players involved and the nature of the conservation strategy; and 3) Thoroughness of references; 4) Language and clarity of writing/grammar.

Mid Term and Final Exam Submittal Procedure

The mid-term and final assignment will be submitted into a DROPBOX account created by the Instructor. Any e-mail received after midnight will be considered late submission and penalized by one letter grade. No assignments will be accepted if they are more than 48 hours late.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bharne Vinayak (Editor), **The Emerging Asian City: Concomitant Urbanities & Urbanisms**, Routledge, 2012

Bharne Vinayak, **The Qanats of Yazd: The Dilemmas of Sustainability & Conservation**, published in *Aesthetics of Sustainable Architecture*, edited by Sang Lee, 010 Publishers, 2011

Cremer R.D, **Macau : City of Commerce and Culture**, Hong Kong: UEA Press, 1987

Eck Diana, **Benaras: City of Light**, Columbia University Press 1998

Jumsai S., **Naga: Cultural Origins in Siam and the West Pacific**, DD Books, 1997

Koch Ebba, **The Complete Taj Mahal**, Thames & Hudson, 2006

Prakash Vikramaditya, **Chandigarh's Le Corbusier: The Struggle for Modernity in Post-colonial India**, University of Washington Press, 2002

Salamandra Christa, **A New Old Damascus: Authenticity & Distinction in Urban Syria**, University of Indiana Press, 2004

Silva, Kapila, Neel Kamal Chapagain (Editors), **Asian Heritage Management: Contexts, Concerns, and Prospects**, Routledge, 2013

Steele James, **An Architecture for People: The Complete Works of Hassan Fathy**, Watson Guptill, 1997

Tambling Jeremy and Lo Louis, **Walking Macao, reading the Baroque Hong Kong**, Hong Kong University Press, 2009

Zhongjie Lin, **Kenzo Tange & The Metabolist Movement: Urban Utopias of Modern Japan**, Routledge, 2010