

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

The fourth in a series that documents architectural conservation in different parts of the world, *Architectural Conservation in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: National Experiences and Practice* addresses cultural heritage protection in a region which comprises one third of the Earth's surface.

In response to local needs, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands have developed some of the most important and influential techniques, legislation, doctrine and theories in cultural heritage management in the world. The evolution of the heritage protection ethos and contemporary architectural conservation practices in Australia and Oceania are discussed on a national and regional basis using ample illustrations and examples. Accomplishments in architectural conservation are discussed in their national and international contexts, with an emphasis on original developments (*solutions*) and contributions made to the overall field.

Enriched with essays contributed from fifty-nine specialists and thought leaders in the field, this book contains an extraordinary breadth and depth of research and synthesis on the why's and how's of cultural heritage conservation. Its holistic approach provides an essential resource and reference for students, academics, researchers, policy makers, practitioners and all who are interested in conserving the built environment.

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National Experiences and Practice

John H. Stubbs, William Chapman, Julia Gatley and Ross King

Foreword by Richard A. Englehardt

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FOREWORD

The universal concern for enduring sustainable development, which pervades global consciousness in the twenty-first century, has increasingly led to the realization that safeguarding cultural diversity is fundamental to this process. Therefore, today more than ever, the conservation of heritage is an endeavor that has attracted widespread attention from all sectors of society: from policy-makers to the private sector and the public at large.

The field of heritage conservation has expanded in multiple dimensions over the past half century to encompass the methodologies as well as the theoretical constructs of all disciplines within the social sciences, in particular archaeology, anthropology, sociology and economics. This has led to the increased interest in Indigenous practices of architectural and site conservation as ways to express cultural identity, preserve local knowledge and extend a community's cultural continuum. The understanding of what constitutes "best practice" in heritage protection has therefore evolved and diversified into new directions to better accommodate local interests, customs and practices complementing established theoretical positions and recognized procedures of cultural heritage protection, most of which were originally conceived in the European historical context.

UNESCO has led the way over the past half century in promoting the concept that outstanding examples of cultural and natural heritage are of "universal" value wherever in the world they may be located. This notion is based on consensus-based international charters and related doctrine, which attempt to establish benchmarks to define best practices for safeguarding the widest diversity of heritage typologies. As inspiring, informative – and indeed transformational – as this approach has proven to be, especially when applied to material conservation, in some cases it has been difficult to reconcile conventional material heritage conservation methodology with locally evolved practices of adaptation, reuse and replacement in societies where intangible cultural practices are at the very foundation of the conceptualization of what constitutes *heritage*. Tellingly, counterpoint approaches to canonical material conservation have emerged particularly strongly from Western Pacific regions, in particular from Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Led from the Pacific, the trend toward increasing validation of the intangible origins of cultural value – and its consequent impact on material heritage conservation practices – is fast changing the conceptual basis of heritage conservation. In recent years, there has been a marked global shift in conservation methodology, from a technological-based approach focused on the conservation of physical materials to a multivariate approach accommodating local Indigenous practices and their diverse cultural and socio-economic context. The basis for this paradigm shift in contemporary conservation practice is a parallel transformational shift in the philosophies and theories underpinning anthropology, history, archaeology – indeed *all* the social and historical sciences – which emphasizes the fundamental importance of diversity as a defining characteristic of cultures.

In this book – *Architectural Conservation in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: National Experiences and Practice* – the authors John H. Stubbs, William Chapman, Julia Gatley and Ross King examine and explain recent trends in architectural heritage protection practice in various Pacific nations through the lens of this global transformation toward localization in heritage conservation practice. Collectively, they suggest a strategy for documenting regional heritage protection practices in different parts of the world, in the belief that heritage conservation practice globally can be enriched, enlarged and rendered more universally relevant by the incorporation of the diverse experiences of practitioners working beyond the profession's long-established European stronghold.

The present publication builds upon a number of other seminal works published over the past decade or more by these same authors and others. In a research project begun in the early 2000s, the results of which were published in a work titled *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation; Theory, Parameters and Evolution of an Ethos* (2009), author John H. Stubbs outlined the fundamentals of the field of heritage conservation, its history and the general state of practice in our time. This was followed by *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas: National Experiences and Practice* (2011), co-authored by Stubbs with Emily G. Makaš. This series, which built upon the predecessor titles, addressed in greater detail accomplishments in architectural conservation in some sixty-seven countries of the so-called Old and New Worlds, and laid out similarities and differences in conservation practice within a comprehensive framework of effective professional practice. *Architectural Conservation in Asia* (2017) by John H. Stubbs and Robert G. Thomson complements these earlier works with the critically important subject of architectural heritage protection

in Asia. The present multi-authored *Architectural Conservation in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands* builds upon these earlier publications by further elucidating the field's constant evolution and diversification.

Researching and writing about heritage protection in the Austro-Pacific region is undoubtedly challenging because of the vastness of the spatial extent and historical diversity of an area covering some one-third of the Earth's surface and containing one entire continent and thousands of islands. Despite the fact that some countries in the region possess their own unique and long-standing traditions of heritage safeguarding and renewal, in many countries of the region, deliberate, organized heritage conservation is a relatively new professional practice. Even in these countries, however, there are historical examples in abundance of less formal measures intended to maintain cultural practices and preserve inherited objects, significant buildings and ancestral sites.

This publication explains a wide range of accomplishments in cultural heritage protection by profiling the stories of architectural conservation in the countries and territories located in the Pacific between the continental Americas to the east and the mainland of Asia to the west – which encompasses all of Australasia and Oceania from the Bering Strait to Antarctica. (The Southeast Asian island nations were addressed in the predecessor volume.) Organized using a historiographical approach, this wide-ranging portrayal of professional practice provides ample socio-historical context, and is rich with examples and illustrations.

Australia, New Zealand and the United States have some of the longest experiences of cultural heritage protection in the Pacific region, although French Polynesia has also had dedicated heritage legislation since the 1950s, and other islands have by now also accumulated impressive experiences in heritage protection, such as the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji and New Caledonia with aspects of their colonial architectural heritage and Samoa and Tonga with their remarkable prehistoric sites.

The authors explain in a clear and balanced way how conservation practice in the Austro-Pacific region has developed several distinctly different approaches to heritage conservation from that of the West and how, in a feedback loop of professional practice, Pacific regional concepts of heritage protection have come to inform and influence those in the West and throughout the world.

In addition to architectural conservation, the publication contains key collateral information on the allied topics of urban landscape conservation, craft traditions, building décor and the arts, and the related disciplines of archaeology and heritage education. Consideration of the socio-economic forces that have shaped the historic environments is also addressed, as are the associated values and the continuing life-ways of the communities who lived and continue to live in these historic spaces.

This book's ample illustrations and detailed index enhance its readability and usefulness, while its extensive endnotes and bibliography of further readings support the authors' aims of providing a gateway to further information. The publication offers a holistic and integrated point of view and, perhaps most importantly, stresses effective *solutions* and proven *best practices* to cultural heritage conservation issues affecting communities everywhere.

Architectural Conservation in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands is an impressive accomplishment. Having worked professionally with both John Stubbs and Bill Chapman continuously for the past three decades, I can attest that the authors – and their almost sixty specialist contributors – have between them the breadth and depth of knowledge – as well as years of extensive field research and professional practice – required to inform such an ambitious work. This book is, without a doubt, a significant contribution to the global professional practice of cultural heritage conservation.

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PREFACE

Nations, communities and groups define themselves in memories and heritage. While cultures evolve and transform, it is in heritage that we find our continuity and identity. In the uncertainty of more recent times, the safeguarding of material heritage not only has taken on a special immediacy but also presents dilemmas and contradictions. The endeavors of architectural conservation arise in that context. *Architectural Conservation in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: National Experiences and Practice* examines the evolution of awareness of conserving architecture, from early concerns on the matter to its widespread practice today. It cites numerous examples and lessons learned from the treatment of historic buildings and sites on a country-by-country and regional basis. The mostly historiographical approach of the volume maps trends and addresses prospects for the field looking ahead.

Presentations of real issues and accomplishments in the field of architectural heritage protection are stressed here, based on the research and experiences of its authors and contributors. Particular attention is given to reporting on solutions and positive accomplishments in the field. Highlighted topical essays, many contributed by noted specialists, appear throughout this book.

For purposes of this book, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands refer to the island nations, territories and archipelagos within the Pacific Basin including both its southern and northern edges, namely Antarctica and the Aleutian Islands. The eastern half of Asia, including the Southeast Asian Island nations, was addressed in the previous volume in this series, *Architectural Conservation in Asia: National Experiences and Practice* by John H. Stubbs and Robert G. Thomson (Routledge, 2017). Eastern Russia, the northwestern corner of the Pacific, also the west coasts of North and South America are addressed in a prior volume, *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*, by John H. Stubbs and Emily G. Makaš (Wiley, 2011). The inaugural volume in the Time Honored Architectural Conservation Documentation (THACD) series, entitled *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation; Parameters, Theory and Evolution of an Ethos* by John H. Stubbs (Wiley, 2009), portrays the field in general including its development, aims and ways of operating. The THACD series is further described at www.conservebuiltworld.com.

In addition to geography, this book's scope is determined by the distinct nature of the cultural heritage of Australasia and the Pacific region. It addresses a range of building types, styles and cultural traditions, and addresses facets of the heritage protection field which are also addressed by allied disciplines in the field including archaeology, ethnography and sociology.

This book is written for professionals, students and all others interested in cultural heritage management in the Pacific region. Its sources, further readings and appendices enhance its usefulness as a broader gateway to the subject. It is written in a diversity of voices, matching the experiences and perspectives of its authors and contributors (though scarcely matching the immense diversity of the Pacific cultures that they address).

The distinct architectural heritage of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and their near Polar regions defines their special meanings, values and sense of place. It is hoped that *Architectural Conservation in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands* will prove useful to those practicing cultural heritage protection in this large, culturally diverse and dynamic region of the world, also to all who study or otherwise seek to experience this third of the Earth's surface.

John H. Stubbs
William Chapman
Julia Gatley
Ross King

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