Challenges in Sustaining Historic Urban Landscape Values in the Face of Rapid Urban Transformation

Velkommen til forelesning  Welcome to the lecture
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April, Global Landscape Architecture Month

April 28, 2008, 150th Anniversary of the Central Park Greensward Plan
Frederick Law Olmsted & Calvert Vaux, first used “Landscape Architect”
World Heritage Cultural Landscapes

- 1992 Cultural Landscapes Added, Defined, 3 Types:
  - Designed
  - Evolved (Relict & Continuing)
  - Associative
- 60 Cultural Landscapes WH inscribed 1993-2007
- In Cultural Landscapes Culture-Nature Integration
- Heritage Preservation Challenges in Evolved Continuing Landscapes Where People Live & Continue to Imprint Land
- Understanding, Documenting, Designing within, Managing

Pilgrimage Landscapes, Associative Example

- Champanar, India
- 15th century city
- 2,000,000 Annual Pilgrims
- Sustainability Issues
World Heritage Overview
Chronological Highlights

1972 WH Convention defined Natural & Cultural Heritage
1992 Integration of Cultural Landscapes
1992 Convention on Biological Diversity
1994 UNESCO-ICOMOS Nara Document on Authenticity
2003 UNESCO Convention on Intangible Heritage
2004 UNESCO Merging of the Cultural & Natural Heritage Criteria
2005 UNESCO Vienna Memorandum Architecture & Urban Landscape
2005 ICOMOS Xi’an Declaration on Settings
182 States Parties Signers, Vehicle for Global Understanding & Peace

World Heritage Outstanding Universal Value

• Means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for inscription of the properties on the World Heritage List... adopts a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value which will be the key reference for future effective protection and management of the property. WHOG
**World Heritage Criteria**

i. Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

ii. Important interchange of human values, over time/within a cultural area, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design

iii. Unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition living or lost

iv. Outstanding example of a type of traditional, architectural, technological ensemble illustrating significant stages in human history

v. Outstanding example of a traditional human settlement cultural representative

vi. Directly associated with events, living traditions, ideas, beliefs, artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance

vii. Superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;

viii. Outstanding examples, major stages of earth’s history- record of life, significant on-going geological processes, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

ix. Outstanding examples, significant on-going ecological and biological processes in evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;

x. Most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation. (See UNESCO World Heritage on worldwide web.)

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**World Heritage Cultural, Natural, Mixed Properties**

- ICOMOS-Culture Advisor
- IUCN-Nature Advisor
- 24 Mixed Properties
- Natural & Cultural Values Recognized
- Example Peru- Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu
  - 2,430 m above sea-level,
  - Middle of tropical mountain forest, in an extraordinarily beautiful setting. It was probably the most amazing
  - Urban creation of the Inca Empire giant walls, terraces and ramps
  - Eastern slopes of the Andes, upper Amazon basin with its rich diversity of flora and fauna.

Machu Picchu, Peru, 1983
**Natchitoches Declaration on Heritage Landscapes**

- There is a convergence of natural and cultural values in the landscape, and a growing recognition that the traditional separation of nature and culture is a hindrance to protection and is no longer sustainable.

- Further heritage landscape protection is required at the local, national and global levels in order to transmit these universally valuable heritage landscapes to future generations.

- 2004, US ICOMOS International Symposium

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**Urban Values**

**Tangible Values:**
- Historic Character
- Urban Pattern
- City Scale
- Aesthetic Quality
- Unique Physical Elements

**Intangible Values:**
- Traditional Craft
- Dance, Music
- Customs
- Way of Life
- Sense of Place
Landscape Character-Defining Features, Tangible

- Land Uses and Activities
- Patterns of Spatial Organization
- Views, Visual Relationships
- Cluster Arrangements
- Responses to Natural Features
- Landforms, Topography
- Vegetation Cover
- Circulation Systems
- Water Features and Drainage
- Buildings, Structures
- Small-scale Features

Half of Urban Public Space = Landscape

- 56% Washington DC
- 52% Vienna
- Parks, Botanical Gardens
- Public Building Grounds
- Campuses
- Streets, Sidewalks, Trails
- Tree Lawns
- Streams, Canals, Lakes
- Lighting, Furnishings
- + 60% Combined Public Lands & Private Yards & Gardens
Historic Urban Landscapes

The historic urban landscape is embedded with current and past social expressions and developments that are place-based. It is composed of character-defining elements that include land uses and patterns, spatial organization, visual relationships, topography and soils, vegetation, and all elements of the technical infrastructure, including small scale objects and details of construction (curbs, paving, drain gutters, lights, etc.).

Historic Urban Landscape is the realm of Landscape Architects

Landscape Architects can bring professional value and skills to the current global dialogue toward framing a new paradigm for urban heritage conservation

- As Preservation & Design Professionals
- As Team Leaders
- As Multi-disciplinary Team Members
- As Citizens & Community Advocates
Current Urban Dynamics = Compromised Values

- Rapid Change
- Demolition
- New Construction
- Lost Character
- Economic Pressure
- Increased Tourism
- Degraded Livability
- Increased Homogeneity
- Diluted Customs, Traditions

Urban Values Are Worthy of Preservation & Conservation

Heritage Cities: Global Dialogue Underway

Nearly 400 Heritage Cities, Towns, Villages & Urban Ensembles, WH Inscribed
Many Urban Heritage Areas Unlisted

- Sustainable Urban Conservation Challenges
- Authenticity & Integrity of Urban Heritage
- Retention of Tangible & Intangible Values
- Tourism & Development Impacts
- Tangible & Intangible Values
- Decaying Infrastructure
- Quality of Life, Vitality & Livability
- Retention of Local Traditions, Customs
- Economic Competitiveness
Historic Urban Landscape

The historic urban landscape, building on the 1976 “UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas”, refers to ensembles of any group of buildings, structures and open spaces, in their natural and ecological context, including archaeological and palaeontological sites, constituting human settlements in an urban environment over a relevant period of time, the cohesion and value of which are recognized from the archaeological, architectural, prehistoric, historic, scientific, aesthetic, socio-cultural or ecological point of view.

Historic Urban Landscapes

The cohesion and value of which are recognized from the archaeological, architectural, prehistoric, historic, scientific, aesthetic, socio-cultural or ecological point of view.

This landscape has shaped modern society and has great value for our understanding of how we live today.
Desiring that the Vienna Memorandum be seen, within the continuum of these afore-mentioned documents and the current debate on the sustainable conservation of monuments and sites, as a key statement for an integrated approach linking contemporary architecture, sustainable urban development and landscape integrity based on existing historic patterns, building stock and context.
Rapid Urban Change

- Transformational Change
- Sprawl & Loss of Settings
- Star-architecture Iconic Towers
- New Museums, Bilbao Effect, Gehry Museum
- Global Economic Competition
  - Dubai Model- Bahr El Arab, The Palms
  - Istanbul Issues- Huge Cruise Ships, Multiple Towers
  - Oporto Project- Infrastructure Metro through Historic Core
  - Vienna- Multi-modal center with towers near core

Global Competition for Iconic Towers
St. Petersburg – Horizontal City

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Stressing the need to address adequately the rapid or incremental transformation of cities, landscapes and heritage routes which result from changes in lifestyles, agriculture, development, tourism or large-scale disasters of natural or human origin, and to recognise, protect and sustain adequately the meaningful presence of heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings as a way to reduce the threat these transformation processes constitute against the cultural heritage in the full richness of its authenticity, meaning, values, integrity and diversity.
Cultural Properties in Beijing (China)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 43

Boundary of the Imperial City proposed by Municipality

No WH buffer zone for site

WH core zone

Nanchizi

Item 7B: SOC World Heritage Sites

Xi’an Declaration on Settings Incorporates Landscape Thinking & Scale

- Multi-disciplinary approach, diverse information sources
- Recognition of Adjacencies and Potential Impacts
- Character at Edges
- Visual Relationships
- Approaches
- Tangible & Intangible Values

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Xi’an Declaration Summary Objectives

- Develop planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings
- Monitor and manage change affecting settings
- Work with local, interdisciplinary and international communities in conserving and managing settings
- *Address acceptable limits of change*

Cultural Landscape Preservation Practice Offers Relevant Tools for Tangible Heritage

Upper Middle Rhine Valley, Germany, WH 2002
Cultural Landscapes Character-Defining Features

- Land Uses and Activities
- Patterns of Spatial Organization
- Visual Relationships, Views, Vistas
- Cluster Arrangements
- Responses to Natural Features
- Landforms and Topography
- Vegetation Cover
- Circulation Systems
- Water Features and Drainage
- Buildings and Structures
- Small-scale Features

Component Landscapes of an Urban Area

Riverside, Illinois, 1869
Olmsted & Vaux Designed Suburb

Washington, D.C., Capitol City Documentation

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Washington, D.C., Capitol City Historic Core 1791

- National Park Service
- HABS, HAER, HALS Program
- Historic American Building Survey
- 1990 Documentation Project

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Washington, D.C., Capitol City Historic Core 1884

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Washington Documentation

- Outgrowth of Respect for Heritage & Unique Urban Form
- L'Enfant Plan
- McMillan Commission Redesign
- Response to Contemporary Pressures
- Planning Control of
  - View Corridors
  - Building Heights
  - Design Review
- Concerns
  - Façadism
  - View Corridor Compromises
  - Height Challenges

Annapolis, Maryland, Colonial Town

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Annapolis, Maryland

- Port Town on the Chesapeake Bay
- Capitol City of Maryland, 17th Century Founding,
- High Integrity Cohesive 18th and 19th Century Architectural Ensemble
- Unique Character of Streets, Views, Building Massing, Materials, Details

Annapolis Historic Zoning Diagram

Strict Building Controls
Edinburgh Moggridge Study: Designing the Sky Large Scale Urban Viewscape Planning

Mt. Zion West Village, Somers, NY

- Rural Community in commuting distance from New York City
- Village Character, Desirable Quality of Life, Rural Landscape
Mt. Zion West Village, Somers, NY

1960s Aerial View

Mt. Zion Church & Cemetery set in broad landscape
Historic Farm now village property
**Village Issues**

- Conserving, Managing Public & Private Cultural Landscapes
- Focus on Mt. Zion Church
- Village Views from Road
- Visual Linkage Historic Farms
- Insertion of New Town Buildings & Facilities
- New Residential Construction
- Traffic
- Character Retention
- Environmental Protection

**Riverside, IL Historic Designed Suburb**

- Developed 1869 to 1940s
- High Integrity to Design
- Engaged Community
- Character Definition Needed
- Development Threats
- 1969 NH Landmark
- Incomplete, Update Needed
Riverside - Curvilinear, Green, Contrasts to Grid

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Riverside - Character Definition

- Land Uses and Activities
- Patterns of Spatial Organization
- Cluster Arrangements
- Responses to Natural Features
- Landforms and Topography
- Visual Relationships, Views, Vistas
- Vegetation Cover
- Circulation Systems
- Water Features and Drainage
- Buildings and Structures - Variable Setbacks
- Small-scale Features

PLAN OF SCOTTSWOOD COMMONS From WPA Survey - 1934 Updated to 1967
SCALE: 1"=50'

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Riverside NHL
nearly 200 contributing Landscape features named in National Landmark Amendment
Diverse Recreation - Four Types

**ACTIVE**
- Organized – Soccer, Basketball, Football, Golf
- Self-Directed – Biking, Running, Exercise Walking

**PASSIVE**
- Walking, Strolling
- Reading
- Sitting
- Looking

**SOCIAL**
- Gregarious, Friends, Pick-up Catch, Frisbee
- Spectators at Sports Events
- Picnic, Church Groups
- Ceremonies, Events

**EDUCATIONAL**
- Bird Watching
- Hands-on Learning
- History Tours, Lectures
- Plant & Animal Communities

**Fort Wayne Historic Parks & Boulevards: Shaping a Green City**
Park Planning Baseline: Understanding of Past & Present, to a Future, Envisioning Vibrant, Valued Parks & Boulevards

City Identity
- Livability
- Linkages
- Connections
- Presence of Parks

Quality of Experience
- Diverse Uses
- Use Conflicts
- Programs

Park Maintenance
- Functionalities
- Basic Services
- Public Safety
- Security & Perceived Security

Park Character
- Legacy & Uniqueness
- Historic Preservation
- Adaptability & Innovation
- Aesthetics

Sustainability
- Resource Conservation
- Ecological Stewardship
- Habitat Diversity

Community Awareness
- Heighten Sense of Value
- Partnerships
- Funding
- Volunteerism

Fort Wayne, Foster Park

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Fort Wayne Parks, Weisser Park

Guilford, Connecticut Traditional, Coastal Town

Central Town Green & Scenic Coastal Area
Guilford, 1930s Aerial Photograph

Issues:
- Heritage Preservation
- Scenic Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- Growth Pressure
- Character Retention

Guilford Preservation & Scenic Conservation Plan
- Identify Character & Resources to Protect
- Document Protected & Vulnerable Areas
- Develop Protection Tool Kit
Guilford Comprehensive Urban Heritage Tool Kit

1. Educational & Community Involvement Tools
   - Publicity, Community Projects, Informational Meetings, Exhibitions, Peer Pressure, Private Building & Property Maintenance, Skill Development Workshops

2. Financial Tools
   - Easements, Transfer of Development Rights, Donations, Public Capital Improvements, Purchase & Resale, Revolving Loan Fund, Long-Term Lease, Mutual Covenants, Outright Purchase Key Properties

3. Advisory Tools
   - Documentation & Planning for Conservation, Preservation & Management of Traffic, Streets, Street Trees, Public Facilities, Parks & Open Space, Natural & Cultural Resources within context of overall Town Plan

4. Regulatory Tools
   - Design Review, Easement Law, Zoning Ordinance, Historic Commission, Tree Ordinance, Scenic and/or Historic Overlay District

HUL Methods & Tools Summary

- Historic Documentation at core of work
  - Tangible & Intangible
- Character-Defining Features, used as guide, modified based on resources present
- Community engagement necessary
- Goal to manage continuity and change to retain tangible and intangible values
- Tool Kit applied, single, multiple, over time
- Planning, Analysis & Design skills applied
- Compatible evolution to sustain heritage values
Historic Urban Landscapes
Potential Next Steps

- Global discussions organized through World Heritage
- IFLA expert representation, Hal Moggridge, UK
- IFLA members can aid in assembling tools, techniques, examples, case studies
- Contributions of IFLA examples to IFLA CLC
- UNESCO upcoming expert meetings
- Refined global guidance on urban heritage conservation
- IFLA CLC website iflaclc.org

Takk for oppmersomheten.
Nøen spørsmål?

- IFLA CLC website iflaclc.org
- IFLA website iflaonline.org

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