



**AMSTERDAM**

*~ Stakeholdership in Cultural Inheritance ~*

*Cover Photo: The Old St. Antoniespoort*

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*Review of the 10th World Conference of  
Historical Cities in Ballarat, Australia 2006*

*Report of Round-Table Forum 1*



**WORLD  
HISTORICAL  
CITIES**

**The League of Historical Cities Bulletin**

**No.42: March 2007**

# Stakeholdership in Cultural Inheritance

by Mr. Jac. Maas, Head of the Dept. of Monuments & Archeology  
City of Amsterdam

Everybody knows Amsterdam, especially for its beautiful city center. This crescent-shaped canal-belt has embraced the mouth of the River Amstel ever since the sixteenth and seventeenth century. Over time, an intriguing interplay has developed between these waters, the four centuries of varied building styles and the colorful seasonal changes of the waterside trees. Many of the seventeenth century warehouses, houses and public buildings are still standing and are amongst the city's more than 8,000 monuments. As happened in many other important cities, the demolition of the old city walls and subsequent development and expansion outside of the center, changed Amsterdam from being an inwardly oriented society into a modern city. However, these changes and adaptations happened in such a way that the structure and layout of the seventeenth century heart of city remained untouched. (ill.1)

Until recently, the nineteenth and twentieth century expansions around the center were much less well-known. An increasing number of visitors are beginning to discover that these neighborhoods also contain unsuspected and beautiful examples of architecture and urban development. Now, architectural tourists from all over the world come to Amsterdam to visit Plan Zuid, the world-renowned expansion on the south side of the city, designed by H.P. Berlage. Here, and in other parts of Amsterdam that date from the early twentieth century, the highlights of the Amsterdamse School can be found; an expressionistic stream in architecture that continues to inspire many architects. (ill.2) Once outside the center, large numbers of visitors go directly to Cornelis van Eesteren's post-war expansion and roam through the spectacular city renewal in the Oostelijk Havengebied (Eastern Harbor area). (ill.3)

However, much of the beauty of Amsterdam would have been lost, had it not been for the timely actions of city residents against the city council's and large property developers' huge demolition plans. The involvement of citizens in the care of our cultural inheritance, or 'stakeholdership', has now become an



(ill.1) The Seventeenth Century City from the air

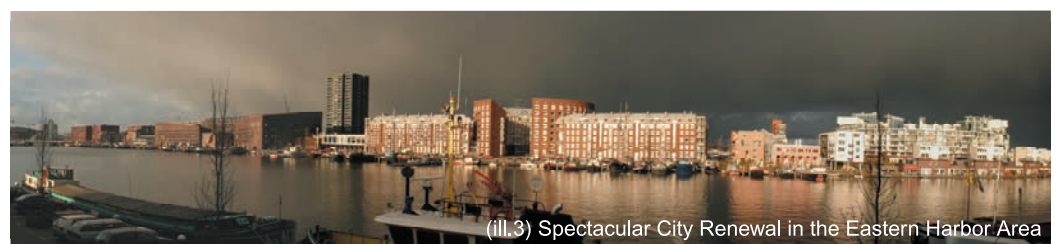
important theme. Amsterdam has had a great deal of experience in this since the beginning of the twentieth century, long before the preservation of historical buildings became popular. One example of this 'stakeholdership' is the direct action of alarmed citizens in support of the painter Jan Veth around 1900, who was successful in preventing the filling in and closing up of the Reguliersgracht. This is one of the most picturesque canals in Amsterdam and is today a must for every canal tour.

## City's Citizens

The fierceness of this direct action increased after World War II; first in the center of the city, but also quite quickly in the neighborhoods that date from the nineteenth century. Attempts to interfere in the intricacy of the city's layout and design became more intense with the increasing desire to establish offices and improve the city's accessibility for traffic. The city council planned a broad through-road through the Nieuwmarktbuurt, a neighborhood dating back to the Middle Ages. (ill.coverphoto) Residents, squatters and citizen-established historical buildings' societies joined forces to avert the demolition of this historical area. The preservation of the seventeenth century areas of Amsterdam is also due for a large part to the activities of Stadsherstel Amsterdam NV, a private initiative that bought and restored derelict historical premises. This organization's work put a stop to the degeneration of historical buildings in the 1960s and 1970s. (ill.4)



(ill.2) Amsterdam School



(ill.3) Spectacular City Renewal in the Eastern Harbor Area

Residents' protests were successful also in districts dating from the nineteenth century. These areas were seen as unhygienic, dark and structurally unsound. The City Council, therefore, wanted to demolish large sections of these districts to build new homes that would have been more fitting for a suburban environment. The government at this time was striving for a strict separation between living and working environments, but in the 1960s and 1970s a mass longing developed for more intimate, pleasant districts which combined both working and living environments. Coalitions of alarmed residents, committed architects and squatters worked together to ensure that districts such as de Pijp on the south side of the city center and the Staatsliedenbuurt on the west-side became popular areas in which to live and work. The government later established a city regeneration program that placed emphasis on respecting the existing city layout and design, and on viewing residents' input as indispensable. In this program, combining living and working environments became important and thus it became possible to introduce a large variety of small-scale businesses. Today the cultural inheritance of an area seems to attract companies in the creative industry to establish their businesses.

Since this time the consciousness has grown that a city's citizens are important stakeholders in the preservation of the historical qualities of their city. Who knows better than they what is missing from their work and living environments or what could be improved? It is also becoming increasingly recognized that maintaining existing cultural and historical elements helps to make an area a more pleasant place in which to live. In the Fannius Scholtenbuurt for example, a part of the nineteenth century expansion, the City of Amsterdam worked together with housing corporations, private owners and shopkeepers' organizations to renovate the neighborhood, and to restore the nineteenth century facades to their former glory. The City Council gave the residents and other neighborhood users the freedom, financial backing and responsibility to carry out the regeneration. New businesses and artists took over many of the empty shops, which reintroduced the previous liveliness of the neighborhood. Furthermore, together with the residents, a new design was developed for the public spaces in the district.

In other areas, the City Council also experimented in actively involving residents in city regeneration projects, helping residents to make their ideas and wishes known as input

for the design. In this way the City Council started an interactive design process for the Stadionplein, named after the 1928 Olympic Stadium. Under the guidance of Floris Alkemade, architect from the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, research was conducted regarding transforming this empty space that was mainly used for parking, into an enclosed, lively square.

If the City Council wants to ensure that Amsterdam remains a city for all its inhabitants, then the multicultural community also becomes an important theme in the context of 'stakeholdership'. Just as in many other cities across the world, the arrival of immigrants means that there are new generations that have hardly any history that they can share with the indigenous population. For them, the cultural inheritance of the city doesn't have the same meaning, and their involvement is, therefore, less strong. Yet, in the future they will be charged with maintaining our cultural inheritance. Therefore, in Amsterdam special education programs are being developed to inform school pupils about the cultural inheritance of their city and to help stimulate their involvement and identification with their living environment. One such successful program was the TV series 'Schatten van Amsterdam' (Amsterdam's Treasures) in which groups of young people from different cultural origins get to know special monuments in Amsterdam.(ill.5)

Also, in order to ensure an even commitment from all population groups, a more balanced approach to the historical writing regarding cultural inheritance is needed. While for many Dutch people the seventeenth century is known as the Golden Age, for other population groups the seventeenth century has darker connotations: those of the slave trade and colonization. However, it is not only reviewing historical writing that would help increase the involvement of immigrants: we should also recognize that the nicest city expansions from the last fifty years are part of our cultural inheritance. The largest groups of immigrants live in these areas. In this way, slowly but surely, a connection can develop in the collective memory of all population groups and the idea of 'stakeholdership' will have meaning for everyone. Increased involvement of all Amsterdam residents will result in an ongoing and careful management of what makes Amsterdam so special: both the seventeenth century canal-belt and the districts around it.



The Heren street in 1965



The Heren street in 1971

(ill.4) Stadsherstel NV, a company set up by Amsterdam residents, purchased extremely dilapidated properties in the Herenstraat in Amsterdam for restoration purposes. This led to the recovery of this entire area of the city center.



(ill.5) Poster from the TV series for young people about the city's monuments "Schatten van Amsterdam" (Amsterdam's Treasures)

*For further information*  
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Protection and Guidance  
 Round-Table Forum I with Ballarat and KYOTO  
 The Review of the 10th Conference in Ballarat

Case Study in Ballarat:  
 "Community Engagement in Heritage"

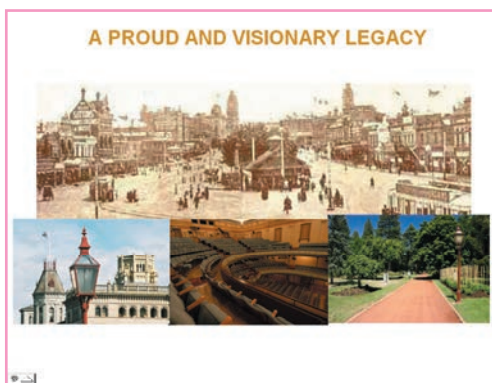
Ballarat is "a city built on gold". Our history is a fascinating and substantial chapter in Australia's story. Our city has managed to maintain its status as one of Australia's most historically significant cities, while at the same time developing into a progressive regional center with a growing population of almost 90,000 people. Over the years, Ballarat has kept pace with development, unlike so many other gold towns that are now long deserted. There is a clear and indisputable need for local government to protect, promote and interpret our role in history, while also ensuring the community is actively engaged in this process. Some may argue that it is often the community leading Council in this process.

Many international countries may question the contribution of Australia and Australian cities to the LHC. Our built culture is recent, however it is representative of key eras of development. Our major cities were not devastated by war, so our interest in charters

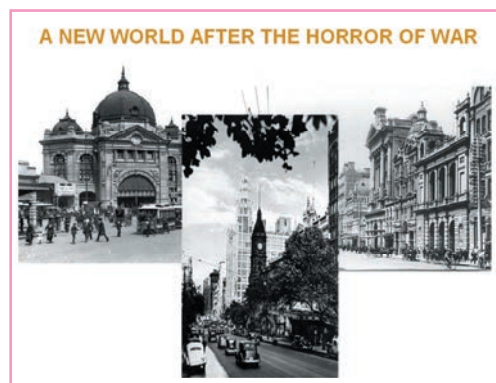


Mr. David Vendy, Mayor of Ballarat, emphasizes that community engagement can be a challenge, it needs respect, and in some instances, we - as local government - need to recognize that the community will lead us.

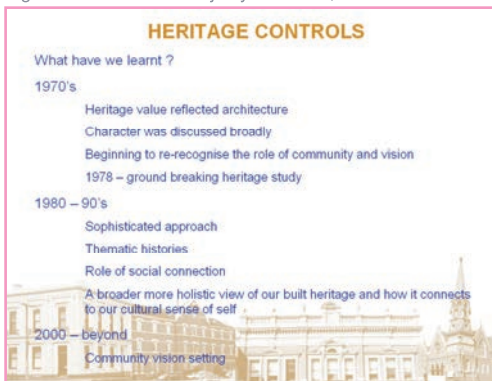
dealing with restoration and reconstruction was not as immediate. In fact, it has only been in the last decade that the bombing and loss of life in northern Australia during the Second World War has been acknowledged. We need the community to understand that heritage is one of many competing demands for Council to consider. When we 'lose' heritage, we need to take all action possible to avoid the loss, to incorporate elements into new development and to document the item for future generations.



[Ballarat-1] The citizens of Ballarat aimed to increase its role as both an educational and cultural center. These people invested in not only the physical, but cultural, development of the city. Perhaps the harsh realities of the gold fields highlighted the importance of beauty, knowledge and cultural pursuits, for Ballarat's early forefathers left us legacies such as Her Majesty's Theater, the Gardens.



[Ballarat-2] The post-war period was a key time for the development of heritage controls and systems. The concept of cultural heritage was not a conscious issue in the 1940's and 1950's Australia. Whilst charters had existed in Europe, the country was swept with a sense of being the "brave new world" and embraced modernity. Victorian streetscapes were transformed into clean lines with decorations being removed.



[Ballarat-3] As our understanding of heritage as a tool to interpret the story of a place has been heightened, there has been increasing levels of recognition of the need to protect and interpret places. This understanding has corresponded with increasing pressure for the infill redevelopment of heritage sites in Ballarat. Heritage controls for the suburban area have recently approved with general support in the community.



[Ballarat-4] Our community is educated and articulate. To achieve a heritage control requires study, documentation and consultation. The community will be active in the debate of significance and appropriateness. Whilst the community's understanding of heritage has come a long way, there is still confusion over heritage versus history, particularly relating to what a heritage control is.



Arch of Victory

**Case Study in Kyoto:**  
 "Revitalization of historical areas in central Kyoto"

Kyoto is one of the largest cities in Japan, having a current population of 1.5million. After its founding in 794 A.D., Kyoto had enjoyed prosperity as the capital of Japan for more than 1000 years until 1869, when the capital was moved to Tokyo. Kyoto is a leading historical city representing Japan. As many as 47 million tourists visit Kyoto each year to enjoy the charms of this city. However, Kyoto has been affected by recent changes in values of lifestyle and the "profit comes first" policy of market economy principles. Being carried away by this tendency, Kyo-machiya, traditional townhouses, have been demolished on a daily basis and an increasing number of discomforting high-rise buildings are being constructed within the traditional human scale neighborhoods. Unknowingly, historical cityscapes are being destroyed while, at the same time, rich local communities are on the brink of corruption. Therefore, we have



Mr. Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto, said, "I have a strong sense of an impending crisis that if we neglect this gradual destruction of the cityscape in our historical areas, Kyoto, as the identity of the Japanese, will no longer be the Kyoto we know in the near future."

resolved to implement a new plan to revitalize the urban historical areas. In the state of global urbanization and intensive competition among cities, a city should maintain its own identity in order to live as a sustainable historical city. It is certain that the projects for the revitalization of historical areas in central Kyoto, focusing on landscape conservation, will maintain its identity, improve the city's image and in the end, enhance the power of the city .



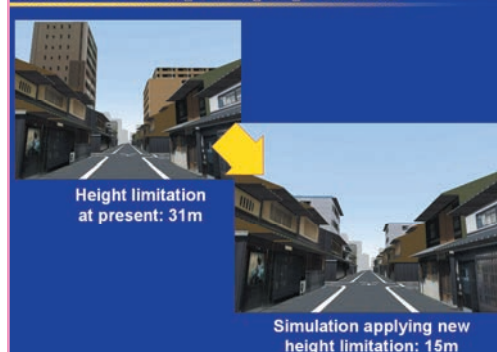
**Ballarat Lodge, The Conference Site**  
 The opening ceremony was held on a grand scale with the 35 cities' delegations on 31 Oct., 2006.

The beautiful natural landscape of Kyoto in four seasons



[Kyoto-1] Kyoto is famous for its spectacular natural landscape in four seasons. The urban area of Kyoto is surrounded by low rolling mountains with rich forests on three sides and has two large rivers running slowly through the city. These mountains and rivers form the framework of Kyoto's natural landscape. Blessed with such rich nature, Kyoto has been admired as a capital of "purple mountains and clear water".

Simulation on lowering building height limitation



[Kyoto-3] This is an example of a computer graphic simulation to verify the height limitation in a historical downtown area. The left picture is a building of 31m and the right picture is of 15m. If you compare the two, you may find yourself more at ease in the right picture with the vast view of the blue sky complimenting well with the traditional low-rise buildings.

Kyo-machiya, traditional townhouses and historical cityscape



[Kyoto-2] Numerous traditional style urban houses consisting of wood and paper called Kyo-machiya still remain in Kyoto. They compose a calm and attractive historical cityscape unique to Kyoto. Featuring a delicate and sophisticated designed facade which is based on traditional methods of construction and a unique spot garden which integrates nature with the interior, Kyo-machiya hold the wisdom of our predecessors.

Restoration of historical landscape by endowment



[Kyoto-4] The City of Kyoto has had its own subsidy program for the preservation of Kyo-machiya for a while. In addition to this existing subsidy program, we have established a new fund supported by donations from citizens. In addition to the city budget, subsidy from the national government and donations from the citizens have amounted to 1.3million U.S. dollars in one year.



Prof. William Logan of Deakin University, plays an important role as moderator of each Round-Table Forum.



**The Ballarat Mining Exchange**  
 The participants enjoy the welcome dinner in an extraordinary example of Victorian Architecture on the gold fields on 30 Oct., 2006.

**Announcement**  
 The summary of other Round-Table Forums in session will be reported in the future issue of the newsletter.

Voices from the Participants  
 Looking back on the good memories of 4 days  
 The Review of the 10th Conference in Ballarat

**City of Vienna**  
 Vice-President of  
 the LHC

**Thomas J. Resch**  
 Chief Executive, Intl. Relations Dept.



It was a great pleasure for me of having had the chance to participate at this outstanding event in Ballarat. The city strikes you with history, beauty and good Australian food. Thanks to the organizers, the program was very interesting and informative and touched on so many different topics. I was most impressed and I am very grateful to the openness, friendliness and kindness of all the organizers from Ballarat. It was a great experience to feel the Australian hospitality. And I underline what Mayor David Vendy said, "We are from bigger or smaller cities, from different cultures and religions, from different parts of the world, but we all strive for peace and it is all about being friends".



**City of Zhengzhou**  
 Member City of  
 the LHC

**Li Liushen**  
 Vice-Mayor of Zhengzhou



The 10th World Conference of Historical Cities not only provided us the opportunity to enjoy the breathtaking Ballarat, but more importantly, set up a stage for all member cities to exchange ideas and make friends. We felt so exciting to learn all these professional presentations on the protection and development of historical cites and other concerns. We are looking forward to welcoming all dear friends to our city to enjoy the original place of Chinese Civilization.



**Hobart City Council**  
 Tasmania, Australia

**Danielle Pacaud**  
 Assistant Cultural Heritage Officer



It was a delight and an honor to participate in the 10th World Conference of Historical Cities as we seek answers to the key question; how can we conserve our heritage while transforming our cities to meet modern challenges in a way that is ecologically sustainable?

Dr. Richard Engelhardt gave us good answers with his First Principles. We need to reconcile these challenges. We need to make continuity between ancient and modern to carry the spirit of a place from one generation to the next. The role of the community is crucial, and this means sharing and listening, as we live our lives, in conviviality. The Conference was an encouraging example of just this. People from very different places with very different views came together and shared their wisdom and their achievements. This can only help to build peace among all nations. Thank you to Ballarat for an excellent conference and to Mayor Masumoto for his wonderful vision.

**English Heritage**  
 Workshop speaker  
 from London, UK

**Roger M. Thomas**  
 Head of Urban Archaeology



The 10th World Conference of Historical Cities was a most rewarding experience in every way, academically, socially, culturally and gastronomically. A varied range of presentations in the workshops and round-table forums resulted in lively and stimulating discussion both in the sessions themselves and informally outside the conference hall.

For someone from a European context, unfamiliar with the Asia-Pacific region, it was striking how many of the challenges facing historical cities in this part of the world are very similar to those in Europe, even when the historical and cultural contexts are so different.

The intellectual stimulation provided by the conference was superbly complemented by a rich array of social and cultural activities. The evening spent at the Sovereign Hill Museum, dinner in the Ballarat Mining Exchange and the piano recital by David Helfgott will all endure long in the memory, as long, surely, as the many new friendships that were made at this memorable conference.



**"Kyoto Conference on Climate Change" was held from 16 to 18 Feb., 2007 in Kyoto.**



The World Mayors Council on Climate Change is an alliance of committed local government leaders whose concerns about the effects of global climate change have promoted them to foster international cooperation and call for climate mitigation and adaptation as well as sustainability policies. The 109 cities and organizations from 26 countries or area attended the conference including 7 cities from the LHC's member cities - Baghdad, Katmandu, Kiev, Konya, Kyoto, Melbourne, Montreal, and adopted the Declaration".

**"Kyoto Climate Action Declaration"**

*We, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, are committed to leading policy action to protect the climate and to taking steps to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. Acknowledging, here in its birthplace, the 10th anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol, the first global collaboration to protect our climate, and applauding the city of Kyoto's own commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent of 1990 levels; Welcoming the recent IPCC report, which has overwhelmingly concluded that climate change is being caused by human activity; Recognizing that world peace will be impacted by climate change; Gathering now at the Kyoto Conference on Climate Change, where more than 100 local governments from around the world are meeting to share solutions for mitigating and*

Mr.Tahir Akyurek, Mayor of Konya, talks about the renewable energy in the thematic sessions. (Left)



*adapting to climate change; We commit to:*

*Call on all nations to move urgently to negotiate targets for the second commitment period (post 2012) of a 30% reduction by 2020 and 80% by 2050.*

*Urge our national governments to cut our reliance on fossil fuels by setting favorable frameworks for renewable energy, energy efficiency, conservation technologies and integrated multi-modal transportation systems.*

*Collaborate with other local governments, mainly to*

*-make climate protection effective through partnerships*

*-develop adaptation strategies to protect public health and infrastructure from climate change impacts*

*- share experience and solutions*

*-politically and practically address the interrelations between climate change, biodiversity, water, soil and food production at the local level.*

*Encourage other local governments to adopt targets and implement policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

*Integrate greenhouse gas reduction and local economic development strategies.*

*Substantially reduce current levels of greenhouse gas emissions and adopt more aggressive reduction targets in the future, both in our local government operations and in our communities.*

*Invite more municipal leaders to join the World Mayors Council on Climate Change.*

17th February, 2007, Kyoto, Japan



**Kyoto Conference on Climate Change**



Mr. John So  
Mayor of Melbourne



Mr. Allan DeSousa  
Montreal City Councillor



Mr. Daniel Karabayev  
Kiev City Councillor

**Announcement**

The next Board Meeting of Directors will be held in Konya, Republic of Turkey in the end of June, 2007. If there are some cities which would like to be new members, please make contact to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

The Board Meeting 2007 in Konya  
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**From the Secretariat**





**Richard Engelhardt**  
UNESCO Regional Advisor for  
Culture in Asia and the Pacific  
Guest Speaker of the 10th Conference

Culture is identity, providing a set of values and a frame of reference for our actions. The diversity of cultures is the source of the creativity, innovation and renewal that is vital for the continuity of human development. Emanating from our cultures are the material and immaterial manifestations called heritage. The built heritage of our cities and towns, which provides the physical space for the expressions of culture, constitutes a varied, complex and eloquent manifestation of cultural diversity.

Yet our historic cities and the buildings and public spaces of which they are constituted are increasingly under threat from the 21st century requirements for housing, commerce, transportation and public services. The basic question before us is this: How do we balance the preservation of the unique heritage significance of our urban spaces with the transformations required by modernization?

In the Asia-Pacific region, recognizing that the bulk of the built heritage remains in the hands of traditional owners and caretakers, UNESCO seeks to encourage private sector involvement and public-private collaboration in heritage conservation. The flagship strategy for this is the annual UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Awards programme.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Awards were established in 2000 as a means of identifying and showcasing the most successful of the "best practice" examples of built heritage conservation from this region. The programme draws large numbers of entries every year from a wide range of countries and administrative areas, from Antarctica to Uzbekistan demonstrating a universal concern for heritage conservation.

The innovative technical solutions of the winning entries tackle head-on the issues considered in the 10th Conference, namely: Is it possible to adapt heritage buildings for contemporary needs and still retain their heritage significance? How do we insert contemporary architecture into the historic urban landscape? To what extent is change possible if historic districts are to

maintain their character and identity? How can the conservation process address the aspirations of communities for enhanced, sustainable environments?

Testifying to the general applicability of the conservation process as an integral part of urban development strategies are the variety of projects, both religious and secular, which have won an Award. The range of religious architecture is inclusive encompassing Chinese temples, Buddhist monasteries, Hindu shrines, Muslim mosques, Christian churches and Jewish synagogues. Secular buildings winning an Award have included forts, palaces, houses, factories, schools, shops, teahouses and bridges. Other awards have gone to garden, streetscape, street furniture, canal and waterfront conservation projects and to the protection and rehabilitation of historic urban templates.

The rigorous selection process is conducted by a panel of international conservation experts. All winning entries demonstrate excellence in their understanding of the issues of conservation in relation to the cultural, social, historical and architectural significance of the building, employment of appropriate building and artisan techniques as well as use of appropriate materials. In addition, all winning entries have made a significant impact in the surrounding community contributing to the cultural and historical continuum.

In the winning entries we can see an emerging consensus around a set of powerful First Principles:

1. Significance assessment, derived from collective mapping of cultural space, its hierarchies, symbolic language and associations, is a prerequisite for appropriate and successful conservation.
2. Tangible cultural expressions derive their origin, value and continuing significance from intangible cultural practices.
3. Authenticity, the defining characteristic of heritage, is a culturally relative characteristic to be found in continuity, but not necessarily, or only, continuity of material.
4. The conservation process succeeds when histories are revealed, traditions revived and meanings recovered in a palimpsest of knowledge.
5. Appropriate use of heritage is negotiated, resulting in a sustainable, life-enhancing space.

The five First Principles articulate how good conservation practice is grounded in an understanding of the place and its values. How technical achievement is under girded by an understanding of conservation as social process. This values-based approach yields a richly-nuanced conservation product - where tangible and intangible heritage are authentically conserved, and historic layers of meaning are revealed. Through the application of these First Principles we can best ensure the long-term safeguarding of our cultural heritage, which form the core resources for sustainable human development.

# Evolution & Innovation in the Conservation of Asia's Urban Heritage

## Guest Speaker of the 10th Conference : Dr. R. Engelhardt

### The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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### The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2008 City of Konya, Turkey

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