

Reviews of *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*

“An extraordinary large-scale demonstration occurred in Stuttgart in October 2010 when 100,000 protesters—one sixth of that city’s population—took to the streets to protest the \$8.75 billion transformation of Paul Bonatz and Friedrich Eugen Scholer’s Central Station of 1911–1928 into a hub of a new trans-European high-speed rail network. That controversial project, Stuttgart 21, planned by the Düsseldorf-based Ingenhoven Architects, required the demolition of the monumental terminal’s north wing in 2010 and south wing this past January, leaving the building’s 183-foot-high flat-roofed clock tower and its Romanesque-basilica-like main concourse, the latter of which will become redundant when travelers will board trains below ground.

Bonatz and Scholer’s imposing elevations of unornamented rough-hewn beige limestone established a distinctive (if somewhat conservative) local variant of Modernism that set the tone for Stuttgart’s exceptionally cohesive architecture of the 1920s and 1930s. That consistent urban vision inspired James Stirling and Michael Wilford to follow the main precepts of the so-called Stuttgart School in their sandstone-and-travertine-clad Neue Staatsgalerie of 1977–1984, the city’s most distinguished postwar urbanistic achievement and the finest example anywhere of Postmodern architecture, i.e., design that didn’t accept the Bauhaus rules against ornament or historical pastiche.

To be sure, opposition to Stuttgart 21 has not been wholly, or perhaps not even primarily, architectural, even though critical opinion reckons the station among the finest transportation facilities of the twentieth century. The new scheme also involves felling two hundred trees in the adjacent Schlossgarten, one of the city’s best-loved parks, which along with the project’s enormous cost—opponents have warned that it could exceed \$23 billion—may well be the main sources of public anger. Yet even the partial destruction of Bonatz and Scholer’s masterful work (which they dubbed *umbilicus sueviae*, the navel of Swabia) has been rightly perceived as an irrevocable act of cultural vandalism.

How big a political issue can be made of despoiling architectural landmarks? In fact, voter disgust with both Stuttgart 21 and mainstream politicians’ evident indifference to the numerous demonstrations against it helped the Green Party to win a majority on the Stuttgart city council in 2009 and two years later to lead a coalition government in Baden-Württemberg’s legislature, a first for a German state. What has made the story of the Stuttgart Central Station especially shocking is that the historic preservation movement arose a half-century ago in direct response to the equally misguided demolition of another great railway depot: McKim, Mead & White’s majestic Pennsylvania Station of 1908–1913 in New York City.

Today we take for granted the imperative to protect architectural treasures for the edification and enjoyment of our descendants. But in 1963 an outcry from architectural historians, picket lines of outraged citizens, and a fiery New York Times editorial were not enough to save Penn Station from being plundered to make way for Charles Luckman’s irredeemably cheap-looking Madison Square Garden of 1963–1968. Yet from that senseless act of urban self-mutilation quickly arose a more protective attitude toward venerable buildings.

In 1964, the architect James Marston Fitch—whom the urbanist Jane Jacobs termed “the principal character in making the preservation of historic buildings practical and feasible and popular”—began this country’s first graduate degree program in historic preservation at the Columbia school of architecture, a giant step followed a year later by Mayor Robert F. Wagner’s creation of the

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and James A. Gray's founding of the New York-based International Fund for Monuments (known since 1984 as the World Monuments Fund). Although Fitch averred that it was not he but the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (saviors of George Washington's Virginia home in 1858) who launched the preservation movement in this country, there is no question of his central importance in professionalizing the discipline and suggesting economic models to make preservation an attractively remunerative proposition—what we now call adaptive reuse—rather than solely an act of altruistic beneficence.

The effectiveness of that new movement was proven a decade later when in 1975 well-organized preservationists (including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who became the public face of the campaign) derailed plans for a fifty-three-story Brutalist tower by Marcel Breuer to be built atop Reed & Stem and Warren & Wetmore's Grand Central Terminal of 1911–1915 in Manhattan, a Beaux-Arts treasure second only to Penn Station. (Unfortunately there was no such movement in 1963 to stop the vast, ugly Pan Am Building by Walter Gropius and the Architects' Collaborative from going up next to the terminal.)

Despite such conspicuous victories, undesignated landmarks are still routinely endangered and too often destroyed, provoking periodic demands for stricter safeguards. Private ownership often trumps communal benefit, and the US Supreme Court's baneful decision in *Kelo v. City of New London* (2005) allows the use of eminent domain to supersede other factors including landmark ordinances.

Nonetheless, there are some who believe that historic preservation has gotten out of hand and thwarts innovative architecture and city planning. That was the premise of "Cronacaos," a quintessentially contrarian exhibition organized by Rem Koolhaas that was first seen at the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2010 and then traveled the following spring to New York's New Museum. In this visually deficient show, Koolhaas asserted that some 12 percent of the earth's surface is now barred from new construction because of various restrictive regulations—historic preservation, land conservation, and the like—and thus the full creative potential of the building art is stiflingly inhibited by what he sees as an excessive, sentimental attachment to older architecture.

That proposition sounded rather ironic coming from the author of the stupendous Central China Television Headquarters of 2004–2012 in Beijing, in the veritable shadow of which has unfolded one of the most deplorable preservation disasters in recent memory: the systematic devastation of the city's historic hutong, or alleyway quarters. Among the recent victims of this replay of the barbaric sacking of artistic treasures during Mao's Cultural Revolution was the siheyuan, or courtyard house, of the revered architects, historians, and preservationists Liang Sicheng (1901–1972) and his wife, Lin Huiyin (1904–1955). In order to escape notice, the authorities suddenly razed it last January during Lunar New Year festivities; yet the demolition set off an international uproar.

In a 2007 article in *The Guardian*, the architecture critic Jonathan Glancey called the CCTV building "the most dramatic of these hutong-gobblers," but noted how Koolhaas showed him snapshots of the endangered landmarks and wistfully commented that "people, I think, miss their old life down below in the courtyards." Glancey cited this contradiction as "exactly the kind of paradox [Koolhaas] revels in. In public, he is the master of sock-it-to-me design; in private, he looks with affection at...an old way of oriental life likely to vanish."

For all their good intentions, many nominal supporters of landmarks preservation have little actual idea of the complex political, economic, aesthetic, technical, and interpretive issues that

affect historic structures. In his admirable and much-needed general introduction to the subject, *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation*, John H. Stubbs (who studied under Fitch at Columbia, worked with him at the New York architecture-and-preservation firm Beyer Blinder Belle, guided field operations for the World Monuments Fund for two decades, and now directs the masters preservation program at Tulane) sets forth a smoothly organized, well-paced survey of landmarks preservation through the ages and highlights several turning points in changing attitudes toward historic architecture since ancient times. Stubbs is eloquent about what he presents as historic preservation's potential for easing the traumas of globalization:

Our ever-expanding knowledge of other people and places, both in the present and across time, offers improved abilities to interpret and present heritage sites as well as increased opportunities for international exchange and cooperation. The marvels of humanity's past—and the issues we face in understanding and conserving them—are topics of concern as never before.

Time Honored also offers a concise (and cautionary) summary of preservation methods in the premodern period, extensive bibliographic references, and useful listings of preservation groups. Equal parts primer, chronicle, textbook, and source guide, it should become the basic publication for laymen and an indispensable reference for specialists. Among the sites it discusses in depth are Rome's historic center, ancient Pompeii, Angkor in Cambodia, Beijing's Forbidden City, Old Havana, the Marais quarter in Paris, and New York City. The absence heretofore of a comparably thoroughgoing but accessible resource on a topic of such urgent public concern was a glaring lapse that makes this deeply researched, lucidly written, and helpfully annotated book an invaluable addition to the literature.

Stubbs and Emily G. Makaš's equally excellent companion volume, *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*, is a country-by-country compendium of case histories that, taken as a whole, display what must approach a complete range of the concerns at play in historic preservation today. From such well-known and long-vexed sites as the Athenian Acropolis to more contemporary locales like the Space Age Modernist capital city of Brasília, the conflicting and not always neatly resolvable forces that bear upon preservation are addressed as clearly and thoughtfully as the general reader could hope for."

— Martin Filler, *New York Review of Books*, November 2012

"North America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. If you are interested in the heritage policy of Albania, Azerbaijan, Malta, Belize, Cuba, Eleuthera, Panama, Guyana, Suriname, Uruguay you will not be disappointed. Highlighted sections (several penned by expert contributors) are devoted to key topics such as sustainability... An astonishing range of heritage types is documented, from the megalithic moai of Easter Island to the topiaries of Wales. The authors report on the statutory status of not just buildings but also archeological sites, monuments, industrial sites, landscapes and maritime heritage... It is no small achievement that all 36 chapters maintain a consistent pace and level of detail, especially when you consider the heroic effort of researching and describing so many countries..."

— Raymond Pepi, *Traditional Building*, April 2012

"This is a book about the protection of cultural heritage. It is a reference guide to architectural conservation practices, legislation, funding mechanisms, design regulations, and political and cultural support throughout Europe and North, Central and South America. The authors' interests are quite wide in scope, and they address both the conservation of historic structures as well as Modernist architecture.

Stubbs and Makaš examine the architectural heritages and legacies of the regions, identifying the best conservation practices employed in each. There are many overlapping themes, but three major principles stand out:

- Cultural and environmental heritages vary by region and the architectural heritage is a direct response.
- The conservation movement is a worldwide phenomenon. It is broadly supported in most societies and represents the post-war consensus that heritage must be conserved and shared.
- NGOs and philanthropic and activist advocacy organizations play as vital a role as governments in the conservation of the historic fabric.

While it is less lavish than other architectural surveys (all the photography, of uneven quality, is black and white), the hefty volume is amply illustrated with photographs, drawings, and maps. Abundantly supplied with references and bibliographic sources, the book is a convenient resource for any design, planning, preservation, or policy professional involved in conservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or preservation—which at some point can mean any of us.”

— Stanley Stark, FAIA, *Oculus*, Winter 2011

“Following on from *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* parameters, theory and evolution of an ethos, published in 2009 (reviewed in *Context*, July 2009), this second book in the series is an astonishing feat of research, compilation and synthesis. What can the second and proposed third volumes add? In *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas*, John H. Stubbs, former vice-president for field projects for the World Monuments Fund and associate professor of historic preservation at Columbia University, is joined by Emily G Makaš, assistant professor of architectural history at the University of North Carolina as co-author.

The book is in two parts (Europe and The Americas) and eight sections. Each section is divided into countries, with a description of the history and development of historic building conservation, followed by comments on recent conservation success and challenges. The authors’ enormous knowledge is supplemented with specialist essays by distinguished international practitioners, which contextualises some overarching themes in global conservation. These include Dennis Rodwell on ‘Urban conservation and sustainability’ and Lisa Ackerman’s ‘Conserving fine architectural interiors’. Many examples of conservation introduced in *Time Honored*, whether as a ‘challenge’ or a ‘promising development’, are explored in the current volume to describe good practice. Controversial projects are aired, training initiatives, such as the Transylvania Trust’s work in Romania, are discussed, and the revitalization of old Havana in Cuba through sustainable reuse of historic buildings are but a few of the many case studies presented. Each section concludes with a summary. Despite the great individualism within Europe in approaches to conservation, the availability of resources and cultural diversity, there is a remarkable similarity due to adherence to international charters and the influence of pan-European advocacy programmes.

The conclusion of Part 2, ‘The Americas’, is also upbeat, noting great progress over the last two decades. While most influences stem from European conservation practices, there is growing appreciation of both indigenous and colonial heritage in Latin America. However, there is still a need to engage wider audiences, to improve the training of professionals, and to reappraise the social role of the built cultural heritage.

Stubbs and Makaš look to the future of architectural conservation in Europe and the Americas with guarded optimism. They commend the shared knowledge and increasing understanding of the intrinsic and economic value of international cultural heritage, through the advocacy and influence of international bodies and the hard work of NGOs which have undertaken many of the projects described.

The authors also highlight major threats to cultural heritage in the 21st century: global warming; targeting heritage through vandalism, terrorism and iconoclasm; commodification and marketing of the past in insensitive ways; and the dilution of history through inaccurate treatment and interventions. An overriding concern is the perceived threat of under-investment in the historic environment, although the book does not reflect the effect of global recession on the built heritage sector. As governments spiral into debt, it is the conservation projects that are shelved, the conservation officers that are made redundant, the building preservation trusts and NGOs that can not find match funding. Heritage-led regeneration may grind to a halt.

This ambitious, 730-page book is very readable, but who can afford three large volumes at £70 each, when increasingly such material is more up to date on line? It is profusely illustrated with over 600 black-and-white photographs, maps and drawings, with comprehensive end notes and an extremely useful section on further reading, arranged by region. The third volume of the trilogy will cover Asia, Africa, Oceania and the polar regions.

Each volume is able to stand alone, but the sum of the three will be even greater than the parts, providing a comprehensive review of the history and the philosophies and practicalities of early 21st century global architectural conservation.”

— Harriet Devlin, *Context*, September 2012

“Historical preservation efforts over the past 100 years or so in 90 countries on three continents, including headline-making projects as diverse as the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, London's Tate Modern, the Frauenkirche in Dresden, and Fallingwater in Bear Run, Pa., are found in this 729-page tome.

One wonders how the authors found the courage to take on the task. The topic, of course, is as important as it is extensive. Consider, as essayist Frank Matero does here, only the more recent world events, from the human destruction of the Bamayan buddhas to the devastation wreaked by nature upon New Orleans and Portau Prince, Haiti. Architectural preservation (we tend to say "historic preservation" in the U.S.) is "ever expanding," as authors Stubbs and Makas make clear. They note four major threats to architectural heritage—global warming, vandalism and terrorism, commodification of the past in insensitive ways, and "the dilution of history through inaccurate treatment and interventions." Much to consider here, and the authors, experts in their disciplines and capable writers of clear, solid prose, guide us unfailingly through the issues and the regions.”

— *BOOKSHELF MUSEUM, The Magazine of the American Association of Museums*. Nov-Dec 2011

“The urbane Louisiana gentleman architect, John Stubbs, has been rather busy of late. Following more than twenty years of field projects experience as a Vice President of the World Monuments Fund (WMF) and the teaching of preservation at Columbia University, this former UNESCO Fellow at ICCROM has been cranking out large, handsome tomes about architectural conservation at a prodigious rate. Good timing for his recent appointment as Senior Professor of Preservation at Tulane University, New Orleans.

John's first book, *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation*, came out in 2009 and was nearly 500 pages long. It offered a survey of the practice, theory and structure of architectural conservation across the world, based on his training under James Marston Fitch at Columbia and at the New York architectural firm of Beyer Blinder Belle; his contacts and experiences in Rome; and his WMF work where he, his staff and colleagues have been responsible for stimulating conservation actions at over 250 historic sites in 87 countries.

The subsequent volume reviewed here is on an even grander scale with a total of 729 pages and over 600 photographs and maps. Despite this a third volume is planned, due in 2014, which will document best practices in architectural conservation across the continents not included in this volume. No wonder Professor Stubbs needed the assistance of co-author Dr Emily Makaš to deliver the breadth and depth of information contained in these pages.

This is a great textbook for students of international architectural conservation, as it boldly seeks to describe the historical and theoretical roots of heritage conservation, the current organizational structure and key elements of practice on a continental, regional and then national basis, starting with Europe (from Ireland to Azerbaijan and including Iceland and Greenland) and ending across the Atlantic (from Canada to Chile including the Caribbean). Endnotes abound. There is a 23-page bibliography, and additional supplementary materials are available on a complementary promotional website www.conservebuiltworld.com.

Sidebar essays enliven the pages with informative vignettes and WMF case studies from a wide range of specialist authors. But the general coverage is inevitably spotty because few countries have long or well-documented histories of preservation practice, while the scale and complexity of operations is hard to distill into an allotted number of pages. Understandably, given the authors' home bases, the US gets 56 pages of description and explanation, while Italy gets 45, the UK 25 pages, France surprisingly only 17, while smaller and newer countries are covered in only two or three pages.

Even where online conservation literature abounds, or where previous national surveys have been published, the accuracy of information and its interpretation vary with the authors' understanding of the background context and of recent or ongoing developments (most textbooks are out-of-date as soon as they are printed). Because of this, the description of North American practice is precise and well-rounded, but the materials describing practice elsewhere are somewhat mixed. Take, for example, the two pages on Applied Conservation Science and Technology in Europe (pp. 218–9), where there is no mention of the European Commission's huge scientific research grant programme that has underpinned many of Europe's laboratories for the last 25 years.

Given the price, the quality of numerous photographs is unacceptably poor. The book retails at £70.00/\$99.00 plus shipping (or for approximately £80.00/\$80.00 in Adobe Digital Edition (ADE) web-based format) and may be prohibitively expensive for fee-paying students and, of course, beyond the reach of non-English speakers and many in less-well-developed countries. Come on Wiley, how about paperback and Spanish editions?"

— John A. Fidler, *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, November 2011

“Published in 2011, this book is by two American authors and professors from Columbia University and the University of North Carolina closely associated with the World Monuments Fund, and has been long awaited. The results of their work are a comprehensive analysis of the state and protection of certain monuments in Europe and the Americas. The only thing lacking is the inclusion of Asia, Africa, and Australia; however, we believe we can expect the missing regions to be included in a later text. This work is an ideal expansion of the book *A History of*

Architectural Conservation by Jukka Jokillehto, and explains the basics of worldwide historic and philosophic concepts of the protection of cultural heritage. This phenomenon emerged in Europe only 250 years ago, and has now existed on the global scale for over 50 years. In every country there are conservation movements to protect historical monuments, but the results seen today are a direct result of certain conditions and directions, which have created the conservation of the environment and the experiences created. John Stubbs represented a broader look at various tendencies in world architectural conservation in an earlier book, *Time Honored, A Global View on Architectural Conservation*.

The 36 chapters include every country from all three continents. At the beginning of each chapter the authors present local conditions, and later characterize major individual differences. Each chapter indicates modern challenges in its region which are addressed in the 21st century. The work is divided into two parts: Europe and The Americas. The presentation of some countries may seem modest, but in this book we have our first effort at a genuinely objective assessment and coherent international perception of the accomplishments of individual nations. It was more important for the authors to capture unique local qualities rather than quantities and replicating standard works. This is shown by the selection of the quoted and illustrated examples included. Like most works of such a rich nature, there may be inaccuracies or omissions, but it must be noted that extensive cooperation with a group of international experts minimized such discrepancies here. It will be interesting for Polish readers to see how Poland is presented (pages 258-268). Our country first received an objective presentation of historic and political conditions, and an explanation of the issues faced in post-war reconstruction. The authors were particularly interested in the reconstruction of Warsaw's Old Town and Royal Castle, as well as the conservation efforts of the church in Dębno. These activities in their opinion show both the technical capabilities of Polish conservators in these different environments, as well as the seriousness of these undertakings as complex and multidisciplinary tasks. The authors emphasized the post-war achievements in Polish architectural conservation education and professional training of conservators. The leading role in this field of the state enterprise of National Monument Conservation Workshops in glorifying our country has been carefully cited. Reading a passage on the destruction caused by the war I noticed an amalgamation of information, which Pabstow was attributed not only to the plan to destroy Warsaw, but also Gdańsk. But it just so happens, that beyond the ocean you hear about the heroic battles for Polish Gdańsk, and of the success of the American air raid in Gdynia, and of the Soviets carrying the torch of freedom, in fact it was the latter who burned Gdańsk in 1945 (page 260).

The fairly brief chapter on Poland doesn't include other work done in Krakow, Gdańsk, Toruń, and Zamość. Here we have a clear signal that many of our great achievements occur without any promotion or publicity. These are the consequences of our polycentrism and reverie in our own accomplishments, lacking publication in languages of the congress. This is exactly where we can see our mistakes in issuing publications and journals regarding Polish conservation efforts without maintaining broad Polish translations. How much have we lost limiting the trips of Polish conservationists to international conferences, in which they could have passed on their knowledge and experience. In the 20th century, you could blame communism for blocking international relations for Poles, but today we can only blame ourselves for the twenty-year lack of the appropriate political will in international promotion of the achievements of Polish monuments and heritage conservation.

It is surprising that the separate section devoted to the protection of Jewish heritage and the holocaust, including the issues at Auschwitz, are included in the chapter devoted to Slovakia (pages 255-6). We can assume that this is a reaction to the questioning attributed to Poland regarding German concentration camps. Another surprise for Polish readers may be quoted in the

section devoted to Belarus, completed in 2003, reconstructed from the funds of the American estate of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, an American hero in the revolution in Kosova. It is interesting thinking of what Kosciuszko would say to the organizers of these works from the funds of the U.S. Ambassadors fund. It turns out, that in conservation, just like in politics, there are no sentiments and you have to fight hard for yourself, because it can turn out, like in post-Yalta reality, that we lost already half of our heritage, and political correctness can rob us of national heroes.”

— Marek Baranski, *Conservation News – Journal of the Association of Monument Conservators*, Nr29/2011 165-66

“After having analyzed the varied situations and with knowledge of the different conservation methods undertaken regionally, *Architectural Conservation in Europe and the Americas* shows merit in its highlighting specific laws and regulations and restoration projects in the context of their particular cultural values; values that, Roberto Pane agrees, are testimony to the legacy of the past, which continues to live in the present though is not always discernable. Each country thus has its work to do to promote its cultural heritage without renouncing its continuing, evolving cultural identity. This is the ultimate aim of heritage conservation. This book counsels us to reflect on these themes without necessarily making a career of it.” [Translated excerpt, full review below]

“Durante la conferenza generale dell’Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per l’Educazione, la Scienza e la Cultura, riunitasi a Parigi tra il 17 ottobre ed il 21 novembre 1972 è stata sottoscritta la «Convenzione sulla protezione del patrimonio culturale e naturale mondiale» che nel 2012 compirà 40 anni. Dall’analisi sullo stato di degradazione e di impoverimento del patrimonio culturale mondiale, la cui conservazione è stata più volte minacciata non solo da azioni antropiche (tra cui gli eventi bellici) ma anche da disastrosi eventi naturali (terremoti, alluvioni, etc...), l’Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite ha ritenuto fondamentale condividere una Convenzione Internazionale che all’art.4 ha sancito, per ogni Stato membro, l’obbligo di assicurare «l’identificazione, la tutela, la conservazione, la valorizzazione e la trasmissione alle future generazioni del patrimonio culturale e naturale» presente sul proprio territorio. I contenuti della Convenzione hanno definito dettagliatamente le modalità di gestione del patrimonio e gli impegni dei singoli Stati membri ai quali sono poi affidate le scelte e le modalità di intervento. Su quest’ultimo punto gli studi affrontati in ambito ICCROM, UNESCO ed ICOMOS hanno fornito delle relazioni scientifiche importanti per valutare, nel rispetto delle differenti istanze culturali, le modalità con cui i singoli Stati sono intervenuti ed intervengono per tutelare il proprio patrimonio. Contributi come quello di Jukka Jokilehto con *History Restoration of Architectural Heritage*, di Giorgio Croci con *The Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage* ed ancora il Trattato di Restauro Architettonico coordinato da Giovanni Carbonara rappresentano riferimenti scientifici fondamentali per comprendere le ragioni che sono alla base dei differenti approcci operativi. Soprattutto la storia che ha interessato il patrimonio mondiale durante tutto il secolo XX ci ha fornito molte occasioni per discutere, analizzare e mettere a punto criteri e metodologie finalizzate alla conservazione e alla valorizzazione del patrimonio. Sulla base di queste premesse il volume *ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION in Europe and the Americas* curato da John H. Stubbs ed Emily G. Makaš fornisce una occasione molto importante di messa a punto di una situazione internazionale, analizzando nel dettaglio quanto è accaduto nel secolo scorso nel continente europeo ed americano e realizzando una disamina dettagliata di interventi effettuati sul patrimonio culturale e naturale. Il volume è suddiviso in due parti per un totale di 36 capitoli. La prima parte è dedicata all’Europa.

L’Italia apre il primo capitolo con i progetti di musealizzazione di Carlo Scarpa in Castelvecchio a Verona, gli Uffizi di Firenze, i più recenti esempi romani quale l’Ara Pacis di Richard Meier per poi soffermare l’attenzione anche sugli interventi di restauro delle aree archeologiche, ed in

particolare di Piazza Armerina in Sicilia, nonché i problemi di salvaguardia della città di Venezia e le ricostruzioni dei monumenti a seguito di danni calamitosi. Si prosegue poi con la Francia, la Gran Bretagna, Spagna, Portogallo, Belgio fino ad analizzare la Russia, il Caucaso e i paesi del sud-est europeo per chiudere con Albania, Bulgaria e Romania. Per ogni singolo Stato sono esaminati casi esemplari che hanno segnato anche la storia del Paese: pensiamo all'abbattimento del muro di Berlino nel 1989 e al restauro del Reichstag ad opera dell'architetto britannico Norman Foster e degli interventi che sono seguiti in particolare a Berlino Est dopo questo straordinario evento o le ricostruzioni in stile attualmente in corso in Lituania. Certamente le esperienze nel settore della tutela del patrimonio che si sono registrate in Europa, soprattutto a seguito del secondo conflitto mondiale, hanno costituito un ricco bagaglio di esempi e di differenti apporti metodologici che nel volume *ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION* sono ben descritti ed illustrati anche grazie al contributo di immagini provenienti dall'archivio del World Monuments Fund.

La seconda parte del volume è dedicata interamente al continente americano e le esperienze realizzate negli Stati Uniti fanno da apripista all'interno di un contesto culturale molto variegato e complesso quale è per l'appunto la realtà americana. Lo sviluppo dell'architettura in ferro a partire dalla fine del XIX secolo nonché delle grandi infrastrutture (principalmente ponti) consente a John H. Stubbs ed Emily G. Makaš di aprire un interessante paragrafo sul tema della conservazione delle opere di ingegneria alcune delle quali oggetto di recenti restauri. L'argomento investe anche l'architettura monumentale e la salvaguardia di molti edifici storici (pensiamo alla stazione centrale di New York) che invece in anni anche molto precedenti sono stati demoliti per dar spazio a nuove e più moderne costruzioni. È fondamentale qui ricordare il ruolo oggi svolto dalla Paul Getty Foundation di Los Angeles e del suo istituto di ricerca che consente a tanti giovani di avvicinarsi e di operare nel settore della conservazione sia dei beni immobili che mobili. La trattazione continua illustrando interessanti casi in Canada, in Messico e ai Caraibi per affrontare poi il tema del restauro nei paesi latino-americani dove l'argomento è di estrema attualità. Paesi come l'Argentina, il Brasile, la Colombia ed il Cile, soprattutto a partire dalla seconda metà del secolo scorso, hanno favorito lo sviluppo di importanti scuole di formazione nel settore del restauro ed i risultati sono straordinari e molto competitivi.

Dopo aver analizzato i diversi casi e conosciuto i differenti metodi di intervento attuati nelle singole realtà e regioni, il volume *ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION* ha il grande merito di aver sottolineato che, indipendentemente dalle leggi e dalle norme, in un intervento di restauro prevalgono i valori culturali di ciascuna comunità; valori che - come affermava Roberto Pane - sono testimonianza dell'eredità del proprio passato, che continuano a vivere nel presente e non sono omologabili. Ogni Paese ha così il compito di tutelare il proprio patrimonio senza però rinunciare alla continuità delle peculiari qualificazioni culturali che sono a fondamento delle azioni finalizzate alla conservazione e questo volume ci consente di fare delle riflessioni su questi temi, che necessariamente coinvolgono anche le scuole di formazione e a seguire le attività professionali.”

— Olimpia Niglio, Università degli studi eCampus, Visiting Profesor Universidad de Ibagué (Colombia), membro ICOMOS. *Hevelius* webzine, June 2011

Reviews of *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation*

“The book *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* is the first in a planned series of books intended to illuminate worldwide architectural conservation practice; it is a promising beginning. John Stubbs's elucidation of the scope and significance of past and current preservation efforts expands our understanding of world issues and practices. It also provides a cultural context for international heritage protection challenges, which are often very different from our own. Yet, the message is not one of distinctions but of shared commitment. For the first

time, Stubbs argues, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, we are experiencing a global commitment to the protection of the world's "cultural patrimony"; so widespread is the concern that it "characterizes life and societal values in our time."

Every corner of the world is touched by cultural loss, from destruction by war, natural disaster, development pressure, or environmental devastation to social and economic inequality, population pressure, or simply an accelerated rate of change.

Advances in communication and information technology, a globalized economy, and increased world travel further connect world cultures. Stubbs discusses these issues in the context of advances in conservation science and its global support network, with the understanding that world heritage belongs to all. He directs his evidence to reveal an increased capacity among nations and peoples to grasp the importance of protecting symbols of the past, tangible and intangible. *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* convinces us that such capacity exists.

Stubbs is lucid in his explanation of the processes at work in preservation. Few could do so with such authority. For twenty years, he has directed the World Monuments Fund's field projects. His post-graduate training was at ICCROM, and he later worked in the Technical Preservation Services Division of the National Park Service. He practiced with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, was a close associate of James Marston Fitch, and continues to teach in Columbia University's graduate preservation program. Though its author is a conservation specialist, this book is not a technical manual. Instead, it testifies to his considerable international experience and his unique ability to dissect the intricacies and implications of today's world practice.

Framed in four parts, "Conserving History in Changing Contexts"; "Problems, Principles, and Process"; "Conservation of the Built Environment: An Enduring Concern"; and "Contemporary Architectural Conservation Practice," *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* is appropriate for the student, the professional, the academic, and the curious. It is written in a thoughtful, never arbitrary, manner. Part I introduces the practice of building conservation, its concerns, methods, rationales, and history. The second part addresses building threats, conservation options, and the history of international sanctions and charters, woven together by an excellent discussion of ethics, and ends in a profile of the conservation process and professional participant.

Part III eloquently traces the history of building conservation efforts from prehistory through the fourteenth century, a narrative unsung in any previous books, to my knowledge. The author takes us through the Renaissance and the Enlightenment to precisely measure conservation practice as it comes of age in Western Europe in the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. Part IV reports on contemporary practice around the world, addressing regional accomplishments and challenges, international organizations currently at work, and the influence of European conservation principles abroad. Here, Stubbs includes observations on tangible versus intangible heritage and on differing regional concepts of authenticity and permanence.

No comparable work treats the evolution of architectural conservation practice with the even-handedness and aplomb of *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation*. Others have recorded preservation concerns, for instance, of the key Western theorists—Viollet-le-Duc, Pugin, Scott, Ruskin, Morris, Schinkel, Riegl—and their influence on practice in the West. But *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* addresses a broader international picture illuminating theoretical and practical issues against the background of world practice. Stubbs's testimony of the "enduring concern" for protecting the monuments of the past across

time encourages us to acknowledge our world neighbors and understand today's conservation accomplishments and challenges in a new, brighter light."

— Duncan Campbell, Ball State University, Indiana, *Journal of the National Council of Preservation Educators PEducation & Research*, Volume Two, 2009

"Stubbs (Columbia) has produced a wide-ranging, well-researched, and thoughtful book that assumes the substantial task of addressing architectural conservation on a global scale. *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* is organized thematically into four parts covering the changing philosophical issues fueling the desire to preserve; threats to historic buildings and the process of conservation; a brief chronological survey of efforts to conserve the built environment; and a brief survey of contemporary architectural practice. The first three parts focus on the practice of architectural conservation in Western Europe and North America, while the final section surveys the application of this practice throughout the world. A series of appendixes provide useful information about nomenclature, organizations, and charters, as well as a recommended bibliography. This book is a useful, much-needed survey of architectural conservation in a global context, and should become a welcome addition to the reference collections of students and professionals in historic preservation and architectural conservation. *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* is the sort of book that a student reads first out of necessity, and then returns to many times in the course of professional practice for an infusion of the valuable perspective this book thoughtfully offers. Summing Up: Highly recommended"

— *CHOICE Reviews*, January 2010 [Choice Reviews is a award program of the American Library Association]

"The first in a projected series devoted to historic preservation, this impressive volume provides an in-depth, thoughtful overview of the history, theory, and methodology of the field. Well-organized and illustrated, with notes, tables, and bibliography in each chapter."

— *Book News*, May 2009

"John Stubbs' *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* explores the problems, principles and challenges that conservationists are facing today. The book offers a unique, and also a personal, panorama of contemporary architectural conservation practice worldwide. Quite a challenge! Nevertheless, John Stubbs is certainly well placed to undertake the task. A preservation architect at the US National Park Service, he attended ICCROM's International Architectural Conservation Course in Rome in 1977, where he met Sir Bernard Feilden, author of the Foreword to the present book. He worked closely with Professor James Marston Fitch, an eminent educator and historic preservation practitioner in New York, and for the past two decades he has been in charge of field projects for the World Monuments Fund (WMF). In his position at WMF John has had an exceptional opportunity to be continuously challenged by the policies and strategies he encounters in the conservation of historic structures around the world.

The book is divided into four sections; the first three offer an introduction to what architectural conservation is and how and why we conserve historic buildings and sites, as well as highlighting the evolution of thought from antiquity to the early twentieth century. It is written in a form that is easily accessible to students and laypersons who want an introduction to the field of conservation. In addition to the 'international doctrine', Stubbs refers to a number of national or regional guidelines, such as the China Principles by Getty and ICOMOS (2000) and the Charter of Unprotected Architectural Heritage and Sites by INTACH in India (2004). The last section offers an overview of international collaboration in the second half of the twentieth century, as well as giving a 'summary global tour of contemporary practice: challenges and solutions', with examples in all world regions: Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and even the polar regions.

There are few who have attempted an overall view of the conservation field, though the following should be mentioned: J. M. Fitch: *Historic Preservation: Curatorial Management of the Built World* (1982, McGraw-Hill), B. M. Feilden: *Conservation of Historic Buildings* (1982, Butterworth Scientific), and J. I. Jokilehto: *A History of Architectural Conservation* (1999, Butterworth-Heinemann). *Time Honored* summarizes and builds upon these foundations. Referring to the evolution of architectural conservation practice worldwide, Sir Bernard writes in his Foreword: 'Curiously, what has been lacking is a single published resource that offers explanations of how and why architectural conservation practice – now a recognized specialty profession – has come to be and outlines the extent of it.' This work fills that gap.

Having been involved myself with ICCROM, ICOMOS and UNESCO in international efforts to sustain capacity building in the conservation of the architectural and urban heritage, I see the merit of John's achievement in making this book an excellent reference, supplemented by the large number of concrete field projects. Conscious of the international conservation doctrine, he is also aware of the specific cultural and socio-economic conditions in different places. He has succeeded in giving an excellent, and necessary, overview. Obviously, considering the breadth of the scope, he has not entered into many details, and there is little discussion about conservation theory as such. However, the book is well referenced and includes a large number of case studies, 'windows' to specific issues, a glossary of internationally used terms, lists of conservation organizations and international charters and documents, as well as an annotated bibliography of 100 selected titles."

— Prof. Jukka Jokilehto, *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, July 2009

"In this all-encompassing guide to the large and diverse nature of conservation architecture, Stubbs provides a global tour of geographical areas, demarcated by local cultural, historical and religious considerations. A range of restoration projects are documented with a plethora of photographs. The foreword by Bernard Feilden, the late, renowned international expert on heritage conservation and restoration, gives the book a momentous stamp of approval. A hugely useful resource."

— *Building Design*, May 2009

"This is a wide-ranging survey of every aspect of heritage protection that all can learn from, with chapters that include *Conserving History in Changing Contexts*, *Why Conserve Buildings and Sites?* and *Who Owns the Past?* In the late Sir Bernard Feilden's words, this book "offers the first truly comprehensive review and balanced portrayal of today's field from a professional perspective."

— *British Archaeology*, Sept/Oct 2009

"As the title suggests, *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* offers a global overview of the origins, evolving ethos, and multi-faceted practice of architectural conservation today. It constitutes the introductory volume to a five-part series that profiles architectural conservation in different regions of the world....this is a well-researched and well-presented volume that inaugurates a highly promising series."

— *Institute of Historic Building Conservation*, July 2009

"This comprehensive volume represents a major contribution to our knowledge about architectural conservation today. Far more than a manual of conservation, *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* offers revealing discussions of how philosophies have evolved, how a concern for protection and conservation has expanded globally and why efforts in this area are needed now more than ever before. Clearly John Stubbs' years of experience give

him a unique geographical perspective and I found the global scope of the book to be very impressive, if not unique. *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation* makes ideal reading for students and researchers alike working in the fields of architecture, conservation and heritage studies. I have no doubt readers will finish the book with a much better understanding of the moral and social imperatives underpinning conservation in an age increasingly defined by the rapid and profound changes brought about by globalisation.”

— Tim Winter, University of Sydney, February 2009

“So John has put this incredible hands-on experience into a new book - *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation*. If, anywhere in the world, you are teaching a course on international heritage conservation, this should be your core text. If you are a student in historic preservation and have an interest in international issues, buy this book. If you are a professional, a civil servant, an interested amateur, or an advocate for cultural heritage in your own country, but want to understand your efforts in an international context, this book should be your next read. The book ranges from the academic (Nomenclature Used in International Conservation Practice) to the theoretical (Who Owns the Past?) to the history of conservation (The Forging of a Discipline: The Late Eighteenth to Early Twentieth Century) to the very practical (Options for Involvement).”

— *Heritage Strategies Blog* – 31 January 2009

“This introductory volume of an ambitious series that will profile architectural conservation practices in different regions around the world lays a broad groundwork for the principles and practices of historic restoration and preservation. Stubbs (vice president, field projects, World Monuments Fund) is well qualified to produce such an important series, and he ably incorporates hundreds of black-and-white photos of structures and sites from World Monuments Fund archives into a carefully nuanced and holistic text that is appropriate for professional and popular audiences alike. Major sections of this authoritative approach describe and analyze conserving history in changing contexts, challenges and processes, conservation of the built environment from prehistory to the 20th century, and contemporary practices. Useful appendixes include nomenclature, directory of organizations and resources, lists and web addresses of key charters and recommendations relating to international architectural conservation, and an annotated bibliography of 100 selected titles. Coverage is truly international, with examples drawn from over 100 countries. Essential for libraries with strong collections in architecture, historic conservation, and global cultures.”

— Russell T. Clement, Northwestern University Library, Illinois, *Library Journal*, 2009

"An illustrated guide to conservation architecture, presented by a tour of geographical areas, showing the differences between historic preservation in the west and the rest of the world. Stubbs takes into account local cultural, historical and religious considerations when arguing why architectural conservation is so important in modern life."

— Center for the Recycling and Reuse of Buildings

“What equates such different and distant places as the New York State Pavilion in Queens (New York City), the Bamyán site in Afghanistan, the Fenestrelle Fortress in the Italian Alps? The elliptical canopy of the New York State Pavilion with its oversized, mosaic-made map of the state of New York is one of the few remaining structures from the historical event of 1964-1965 World’s Fair. The hollow cliff side in the Bamyán valley sadly reminds us of the two ancient monumental statues of Buddha Vairocana and Buddha Sakyamuni, once peacefully overlooking the site, mercilessly dynamited and destroyed in 2001. And the fortress of Fenestrelle, also called the “Great Wall of the Alps,” with its complex architectural layout, is one of the largest fortified

structures remaining in Europe from the Eighteenth century, and as such an important crossroad for all of European history and identity.

The shared feature of these historical sites, these monuments, is that they are significant examples of the international architectural heritage the humankind risks to lose forever, and as such are all included in the World Monuments Fund's Watch Program, the watch listing that every two years the Fund – a private organization based in New York City, and dedicated to saving the world's most treasured places – releases in order to promote public awareness, and encourage solutions, about threatened cultural heritage worldwide.

The reasons why it is so important that we care for and preserve not only the natural environment and landscape, but also the historical built environment and landscape, that is the result of the interaction between human societies and natural environment over the centuries, are clearly explained by John H. Stubbs in the volume *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation*. The author, Associate Professor of Historic preservation at the Columbia University's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, has also served, among other assignments, as Field Director for the World Monument Fund itself, and so his expertise in and knowledge of the “state of the art” regarding the international architectural preservation issues, their historical and epistemological context, have been acquired through decades of field work around the world.

Even if the book is essentially a comprehensive survey of theory, practice and framework of the architectural heritage conservation through the world - and so an indispensable tool for those directly involved in the field, like professional preservationists or historical conservation students - still its clear explanation of ideas and topics makes it an interesting and useful reading to whoever has interest in the cultural heritage conservation in general.

The first, basic question the volume answers is what the “objects,” the “artifacts” of the architectural preservation, are: they are not only single buildings like the Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the Uffizi Palace in Florence, or the Potala Palace in Tibet, but also structures like the Roman Aqueduct of Pont du Gard in France, or the Great Wall in China, and urban historic centers like those of Lima (Perú), Venice (Italy), or Cienfuegos (Cuba). These are clear examples of our universally shared architectural heritage, testimonials of a history and of a cultural identity common to us all; but deciding and choosing what to conserve today for the future generations is the crucial, and most difficult, task because the concept of history and of cultural identity, of which the whole cultural patrimony is an embodiment, change in time according to societal changes. There are no universal, absolute criteria to be followed, only guidelines and standards debated and renegotiated over time. The author lists and briefly analyzes the standards, or “types of value or significance,” most commonly used to classify the architectural heritage and to emphasize the importance of its preservation: universal, associative (historic and commemorative), aesthetic, exemplary and instructive. Even curiosity, in the sense of desire to know about ancient practices, is among the features that conventionally identify the architectural artifact to be preserved.

The reason why the protection and preservation of this specific aspect of the world's cultural heritage should be a commonly shared concern is that the architectural patrimony contains a rooted history of cultural ideas and styles, and it witnesses and ensures the historical continuity of the environment in which we live, in a word our sense of belonging to a place, not only physically, but also culturally. Stubbs takes into account the multiple threats challenging the built environment, from the inevitable damaging action of passing time on structures and materials, of the weather conditions and/or natural disasters, to man-caused destructive actions resulting from

social and economic changes, such as building or updating economic infrastructure, increased tourist flow, pollution, and so forth, without forgetting about war and armed conflicts. Similarly, he describes the various possible actions of intervention available to the architectural conservationist, keeping in mind that each single intervention is always a complex operation - not only from a technical and scientific point of view, but also from a cultural one - requiring extreme attention and careful consideration, and that the ultimate rationale should always be respecting the structural integrity and the surviving historic architectural fabric.

The penultimate chapter of the volume provides factual examples of architectural conservation practice, along with challenges and solutions, carried out in different areas of the world.

Starting from Europe, where the awareness about the preservation of built environment has its historical and philosophical roots, and where nevertheless many new challenges have arisen nowadays (tourism pressure, uncontrolled development, pollution, etc.), the tour continues following geographical divisions (North Africa and Western Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, East and Southeast Asia, Austro-Pacific Region, North America, Latin American and the Caribbean, even unusual places like the Polar Regions) starting with localities where the heritage protection has consolidated tradition and practice, and moving on to areas where the concern is new or just forming.

Pictures elucidate issues to be faced and positive actions undertaken for each region of the world examined: about the Polar Regions, for instance, in addition to the major ecological concerns, the reader learns that structures built by explorers, like the hut erected by British Robert Falcon Scott in 1911 on Ross Island in Antarctica during the so-called Terra Nova Expedition (1910-1913), or sites related to the Arctic Native cultures are also at risk, and not only because of the extreme weather conditions. But at the same time the reader discovers that conservation projects are underway, or already completed, in order to save these unique examples of cultural heritage.

Finally, the four appendices concluding the volume offer exhaustive indices about terminology used, organizations and resources operating in the international architectural conservation field, international and regional conventions, charters and recommendations, and annotated bibliography indispensable to whoever, professional or amateur, wants to pursue the understanding of this essential element of our world's cultural patrimony."

— Franca di Valerio, SAFE Corner (website), May 29, 2009

"As the technology for historic conservation made tremendous strides in sophistication in the later decades of the 20th and early part of the 21st century, the means for sharing that cumulative knowledge via the World Wide Web has greatly facilitated access to that expertise by professional practitioners, government, non-profit organizations and the general public alike. This introductory volume of an ambitious multipart series comprehensively outlines the basics of sound theory and best practice to conserve our rapidly vanishing global architectural heritage, and is must reading for anyone interested in worldwide architectural conservation issues.

As an international approach to historic architectural conservation, the uniquely American term "historic preservation" is substituted by author John H. Stubbs with the more commonly accepted British and international term "architectural conservation," with the distinction that architectural conservation is more inclusive than the narrower definition of historic preservation.

Stubbs, in addition to being Associate Professor of Historic Preservation at the Columbia University School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, practiced for 10 years at the eminent firm of Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners in New York, and, among his other

positions for more than 20 years with the renowned World Monuments Fund (WMF), was Field Director for the New York-based organization. Perhaps there is no one more qualified to comment on the state of global architectural heritage than Stubbs. This book offers the most current answers (from the architectural conservationist's point of view) to the myriad of complex technical, cultural and philosophical issues confronting architectural conservationists today. Despite the necessary use of nomenclature specific to the field (which are thoughtfully defined in the appendix), the tome is a useful and readable resource for professionals and laypeople interested in the topic.

The premise for caring about all of humanity's extant architectural heritage is that it belongs to all of us: Stubbs asks "What if the Parthenon, Pompeii, or Hagia Sophia no longer existed? Image Paris without Notre Dame, Florence without the Duomo, and Jerusalem without the Wailing Wall or the Dome of the Rock....What if China had no Great Wall or Forbidden City, if India had no Taj Mahal?" He posits that our various cultures require cumulative physical legacies to provide reassurance that our unique traditions existed in our history, and that without tangible evidence, our lives today would not be as interesting, or as inspirational. As the world becomes smaller and thus more global, the rapidly increasing homogenization of the various world cultures becomes more and more destructive to our vanishing cultural heritage, so special and continual efforts must be made to conserve that heritage.

Essential philosophical questions of architectural conservation are addressed in detail, namely, what should be conserved, why should we conserve, who owns the past and how intrusive should that conservation be? The often intense and divisive mid- to late-19th century debate between Ruskin and Viollet-le-Duc is thoroughly examined as the essential genesis for the development of the contemporary architectural conservation philosophy. Ruskin favored minimal stabilization of a decayed building or site to only prevent further deterioration – he saw any further intervention as "false history," while Viollet-le-Duc advocated full restoration and the use of sympathetic additions where practical, and even using informed conjecture, to better make the building or site useful again.

The trend toward minimalist intervention rather than archeologically accurate restoration and adaptive reuse occurred in the later quarter of the 19th century with the publication of William Morris' 1877 manifesto of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), continued with the 1931 Athens Charter, and was fully realized with the more inclusive 1964 Venice Charter as well as the publication of The US Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, codified in the 1976 Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program.

Stubbs automatically assumes the reader agrees without reservation with the currently prevalent policy in the architectural conservation world that any effort to conserve a historic structure (or district) must be minimal, and that any restoration, rehabilitation or addition must, in the words of the Department of Interior's Standards and Guidelines, be "of its time." This limiting approach has the potential effect of making the historic building or site more of a museum artifact, rather than a useful and productive part of our ever-changing built environment.

Even the author of the foremost Renaissance treatise on architecture, Leon Battista Alberti, advocated adding to historic buildings in their original styles. The current practice of only conserving, rather than restoring historic properties is a Modernist construct, only developed in the last century or so.

All through recorded history and up until the late-19th century, buildings were continually updated and adapted to suit new uses; they were too valuable to preserve (freeze) in an inanimate

state, like an artifact to be merely admired by tourists. There are many contemporary Classical architects and traditional urbanists who would prefer to return to Viollet-le-Duc's advocacy for archeologically accurate restorations of, and additions to, our historic properties and districts, where it is appropriate.

Conservation philosophical issues aside, the balance of the book presents numerous case studies from all over the world, which were evaluated for the quality of their conservation, past and present. Stubbs divides the world into nine regions, such as Europe, North Africa and Western Asia, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and so forth. While the geographical extent of each of these regions is largely self-evident, it would have been helpful to provide diagrammatical global maps with the boundaries of each of the regions highlighted in each of the discussions. In addition to wars – which are unusually destructive to the built environment – natural disasters, cultural indifference and political instability also play key roles in how successful (or possible) the efforts to conserve historic sites are.

The next-to-last chapter offers a telling and informative summary of how each of the global regions have fared in these efforts; excellent examples of each of these regions' "Challenges" and "Promising Developments" are illustrated, and help the reader to quickly grasp the "big picture." The upcoming volumes will go far in delving into further detail within each region on how Western-oriented conservation efforts can be adapted to unique historic site heritages, cultures and various political forms of government. This book is a valuable introduction to ongoing worldwide efforts to save architectural legacies, and should be a great resource for anyone interested in our built heritage around the world."

— Sheldon Richard Kostecky, *Traditional Homes USA*, August 2009