

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES

NEWSLETTER CIAV

International Scientific
Committee of
Vernacular Architecture



EDITORIAL

The present issue includes various kinds of news, both good and bad. Sadly, we have lost Mrs. Hristina Staneva, a very dear colleague of ours. We all lament her loss.

On the other hand, we welcome our new members: Jean-Louis Paulet from France, Nelson Melero Lazo from Havana, Cuba, Randi Berit Sjølie from Norway, Ruben Abela and Jevon Vella from Malta, Guido Licciardi at The World Bank in Washington, DC USA, Anna Antalobosyné from Hungary, and Martin Cernansky from the Czech Republic.

We are proud to present the very well documented article by Christoph Machat, which describes the history of CIAV. Augusto Villalon has been our most prolific contributor, offering us some very interesting articles. In this issue, we can enjoy reading about Katmandu and a Zen Pilgrimage to the Birthplace of Buddha. Also he announces the similarities between "Cinque Terre" and Ifugao. Virginia Flores has sent us an account of her experiences teaching and building vernacular architecture in Santo Domingo.

Markku Mattila is working once more in the Documentation Camp on Vernacular Architecture in Finland, which is a great undertaking.

We are glad to have a very enthusiastic new colleague in Martin Cernansky from Czech Republic, who writes about the vernacular architecture in his country.

Additionally, international news from UNESCO, ICOMOS and other colleagues is included in this issue, including a brief report about a Scientific Convention on architecture in Colombia.

I would like to express my thanks to all of you who contribute to our CIAV Newsletter, informing us of your projects and experiences while also improving communication between members.

Valeria Prieto
August 2009



INDEX

Index



Editorial



1

Condolences



2

CIAV New Members



3

*The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture,
CIAV (Comité International d'Architecture Vernaculaire)*

By Christoph Machat



4

*Three Articles: Unusual Place in Kathmandu; Zen Pilgrimage in the Buddha's
Birthplace; Cinque Terre and Ifugao*

By Augusto Villalon



5

Bohio Project in Santo Domingo

By Virginia Flores



6

*Finn Vernadoc 2009: The International Documentation Camp of Vernacular
Architecture*

By Marku Mattila



7

The Vernacular Architecture and Monuments of the Czech Republic

By Martin Cernansky



8

New Sites have been Added to UNESCO's World Heritage List



9

Significants Notes from International ICOMOS



10

About the Theme of 18 April 2009: Heritage and Science
By Pamela Jerome and Cliff Ogleby



11

I Convención Científica de Innovación Arquitectónica y Sostenibilidad en Colombia



12

Last Minute News
By Guido Licciardi



1. Condolences

Dear colleagues and friends:

We have received the news about the lost of a very dearest colleague who have been participating with us in CIAV, besides many other responsibilities and work she have done on the benefit of the cultural heritage.

We have received also many condolences expressions from our members. We have chosen the one from Guo Zhan from ICOMOS China that very well reflects all our sentiments.

Dear friends of Mrs. HRISTINA STANEVA's family,

Dear Colleagues of ICOMOS/Bulgaria,

I was shocked to hear the tragic death of Ms. Hristina STANEVA, deeply saddened!

Ms. Hristina STANEVA made a great contribution in the cultural heritage protection. She is a great co-operation partner and a dearest friend of mine and Chinese colleagues.

On the occasion of the occasion of sorrow, On behalf of ICOMOS/China, I express deepest sympathy and solicitude to my friend's family and ICOMOS/Bulgaria.

Guo Zhan





2. CIAV New Members

We are proud to present our recent new members:

France: *Jean-Louis Paulet*

Cuba: *La Havana. Nelson Melero Lazo*

Norway: *Randi Berit Sjølie*

Malta: *Ruben Abela and Jevon Vella*

USA: *Guido Licciardi The World Bank Washington, DC,*

Hungary: *Anna Antal Dobosyné*

Czech Republic: *Martin Cernansky*





**3. The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture, CIAV
(Comité International d'Architecture Vernaculaire)**

By Christoph Machat

The foundation and the first two decades of activity

The International Committee on Vernacular Architecture (Comité International d'Architecture Vernaculaire - CIAV) is one of the specialized scientific committees, member of the Scientific Council of ICOMOS. It was founded in 1976, the Executive Committee of ICOMOS accepting the requirement expressed by the resolution of the 1975 International Conference for the Conservation of Vernacular Architecture, held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The CIAV started working in 1977, headed by the founding President Prof. Dr. Rachele Anguelova, Bulgaria, the permanent seat being installed in Plovdiv. Following the recommendations of the ICOMOS National Committees the Executive Committee of ICOMOS confirmed the 12 permanent (and founding) members from Bulgaria, USSR, Switzerland, Finland, CSSR, Belgium, UK, Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary, Turkey and Spain, completed with 10 associate members from Austria, Denmark, France, the Federal and the Democratic Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden, Canada and Australia.

The regular annual sessions of the committee have been held in different places and countries: 1977, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1989 in Plovdiv, 1980 in Smoljan, 1981 in Lovetch, 1984 in Sandanski and Melnik - all in Bulgaria, 1982 in Istanbul and Izmir, 1986 in Istanbul and Ankara - Turkey, 1983 in Helsinki and Seinäjoki, Finland, 1987 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 1988 in Petrosavodsk, Karelia, Soviet Union, 1990 in Austria and Switzerland, 1992 in Brauweiler, Germany and 1994 in Sardegna, Italy. There is no doubt that the activities of CIAV would not have been as successful without the very important financial support given by the Bulgarian National Committee of ICOMOS and the Bulgarian Government until 1992 - for the permanent seat in Plovdiv with administration, secretary and library, for the travel expenses of the President and the organization of the above mentioned regular sessions in Bulgaria. Besides these sessions usually combined with scientific colloquies or conferences from the very beginning a special attention was given to an active cooperation with other international scientific organizations inside and also outside ICOMOS: The first joint annual conference of CIAV with the Wood Committee of ICOMOS took place in 1980 in Switzerland, followed in 1983 after the annual session in Finland by a visit of CIAV members to the colleagues of the Wood committee in Norway. In this way active contacts have been established between the two specialized committees, a very remarkable fact considering that wood is the most important building material for both committees. As a consequence the international conference on "Conservation of Wooden Vernacular Architecture", organized by the USSR ICOMOS National Committee in 1988 in Petrozavodsk, Karelia was at the same time the joint annual session for both committees, one of the main subjects being the preservation philosophy for the "Kishi Pogost", an ensemble of two wooden churches, bell tower and surrounding fence (18th century) in bad condition due to wood alteration and structural problems, since 1990 on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Contacts to other scientific organizations followed, part of the CIAV delegates working as link members to ICOMOS International Scientific Committees like Cultural tourism or Historic Towns and Villages, but also to ICOM, the European Association of Open Air Museums, ICCROM and the Council of Europe, Cultural Heritage Division. With the Committee on Historic Towns the CIAV organized in 1989 a joint session in Plovdiv, Bulgaria under the main topic "Historic Towns and Rural Vernacular Sites and the Process of Urbanization". Focussing on the rapid ongoing changes within contemporary life and society

and within the architectural heritage, the final resolution of the session pointed out at the one hand the necessity to sensitize and involve the communities in recognition, maintenance and continuance of their cultural values. At the other hand it includes a clearly formulated demand to reorganize, restructure and improve the work of the two committees, studying new methods of assessment, conservation strategies and policies, to establish an international multidisciplinary network including specialists in sociology, ecology, economy, ethnography, town and landscape planning, to coordinate regional and local initiatives, to participate in development projects and to organize educational and training programmes.

Connected to these ideas and tasks the international project "Regional Architecture and Cultural Development in Europe" has been drafted by Marc Laenen, at that time Secretary General of the CIAV and Olga Sevan from the Research Institute for Culture in Moscow. Considering the regional character of the vernacular architecture, the preservation and development problems of the historical milieu of cities and villages in contemporary society and the formation of contemporary regional architecture, the project was presented at the international conference on "Historic Towns and Villages and the Process of Urbanization", organized by the Union of Architects of the USSR and the Research Institute for Culture in Moscow during a cruise on the Wolga river in June 1990 and recommended towards implementation. The CIAV adopted it during the annual meeting 1990 in Austria and Switzerland with an agenda for the future work - international colloquies on three main topics: conservation in situ - open air museums - new vernacular architecture. The active contribution of the CIAV to the Skansen Centenary organized by the European Association of Open Air Museums and the Skansen Museum in September 1991 was part of the project implementation. The conservation in situ as part of the project was the main topic of the international conference on "Preservation of the Rural Heritage. Cultural Landscape and Sites in Europe", organized by the CIAV and hosted by ICOMOS Germany in May 1992 at Brauweiler Abbey in cooperation with the Council of Europe. During the CIAV annual session the German-Romanian project on the "Documentation of the cultural heritage of the Transylvanian Saxons" worked out by C. Machat and financed by the German Federal Government (implemented 1992 - 1998) has been accepted as part of the future scientific work of the committee. Part of the Brauweiler conference was also a joint session of the CIAV and the group of specialists on "Heritage Landscape and Sites", created in 1991 by the Cultural Heritage Department of the Council of Europe. As a result of the Brauweiler conference the Council of Europe in cooperation with ICCROM, CIAV and different European Universities succeeded to organize a pilot training course on multidisciplinary conservation management for cultural landscape areas, held in November 1993 at the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne, Germany. (Unfortunately an international colloquy on the third main topic - new vernacular architecture - is still missing).

Since the very beginning the CIAV has given special attention to the educational aspect of its activities - exhibitions, public relations, publications etc. - to inform a larger public, especially the communities living within the vernacular heritage, on the different aspects of preservation work. Most of the papers presented at the first colloquy on „The Vernacular Architecture“ 1976 in Plovdiv have been published in „Monumentum“, vol. XV-XVI, 1977. A special number of the Romanian „Revista muzeelor si monumentelor“ (Museum and monuments revue, No. 1, Bucharest 1979) was dedicated to the CIAV activities, with papers signed by most of the members.

A first exhibition prepared by the CIAV (M.Gschwend, with H.Hiltbrand) on „Rural Architecture in Switzerland“, sponsored by the foundation Pro Helvetia, was shown in 1980 in Romania (Bucharest, Village Museum and Sibiu), in the same year in the open air museum of Ballenberg, Switzerland and in 1981 in Sofia, Bulgaria. In exchange, in 1982 the exhibiton „Romanian Rural Architecture“, organized by G.Stoica, was presented in Switzerland, at Zürich (Museum for Ethnology) and the open air museum of Ballenberg and in the year after was included in the programme of the „Romanian-Romanche Weeks“ of the Romanche League in Laax-Flims. Other smaller exhibitions accompanying different sessions or colloquies followed.

Even if the efforts made to publish the most important papers and results of all the CIAV sessions or meetings failed, at least the papers of the Brauweiler conference (1992) have been edited in 1993: "Historische Kulturlandschaften" (Historic Landscapes, = ICOMOS Journals of the German National Committee XI) and those presented during the international river cruise on the Wolga in June 1990 have been printed under the title „Historic Towns and Villages in the Process of Urbanization“, Moscow 1994. Among the books prepared by different National and International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS especially for presentation at the Xth General Assembly of ICOMOS in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the CIAV was also represented: „Vernacular Architecture“, Colombo 1993.

Thanks to the efforts made by N. Moutsopoulos (CIAV President between 1989 - 1995) and other committee members from the Balkan countries, UNESCO published the volume „L'architecture vernaculaire dans les Balkans" (The Vernacular Architecture on the Balkans, No 10 in the series =Etudes et documents sur le patrimoine culturel , CLT-85/WS/48), including contributions on the Greek Popular House and on Vernacular Architecture in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania. In winter 1992 the volume „Traditional Architecture of the Balkans" has been edited by the Melissa Publishing House in Athens, Greece. (In the later nineties of the XXth century the Melissa Publishing House continued with editing books on the vernacular architecture of the different Balkan countries.)

The work of the committee after 1995

Considering the results of all the scientific achievements of its work, all the aims and tasks included in the resolution of Plovdiv 1989, the „State of the Art" of Vernacular Architecture adopted in 1990, the „Recommendations for the Conservation and Renovation of Vernacular Architecture" presented at the Brauweiler conference in 1992 or the different versions towards a final and generally accepted text for the „Charter of Vernacular Architecture", some committee and Bureau members of the CIAV became conscious of the main tasks for the future work and started to rewrite its content, the working methods, its international coordinating or cooperative task and to think on a restructuring of its composition in order to become a real worldwide operating committee. As a consequence after the adoption of the Eger Principles for International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS by the General Assembly in Colombo in 1993 new Statutes have been worked out for CIAV in conformity with these principles and adopted at the annual CIAV meeting 1994 in Sardegna, Italy. Based on the new CIAV statutes up to the end of 1994 36 National Committees had already nominated voting members for the restructured committee and the constitutive meeting could take place in May 1995 thanks to the support given by the ICOMOS National Committee of Guatemala. A detailed plan for the future activities of the committee worked out in strong cooperation between the new members and the new Bureau of CIAV should be mentioned as one of the most important results of this meeting: The committee decided to start operating worldwide by moving with the annual meetings and scientific conferences from continent to continent, enlarging the cooperation with national and international conservation bodies, especially the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS, but also with specialists outside ICOMOS, trying to establish an international multi-disciplinary network, at the same time continuously trying to increase the number of committee members (at the moment more than 70), to finalize the "Charter", to pay even more attention to educational and public relations activities, like publications, exhibitions, training programs, to prepare a CIAV home page and a „Vernacular Newsletter" - which today is at the XIIIth edition (thanks to our Secretary General Valeria Prieto, Mexico).

Implementing the Guatemala decisions the following annual meetings took place in 1996 in Jerusalem, Israel, 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand, 1998 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1999 in Morelia, Mexico as part of the scientific conference during the XII. General Assembly of ICOMOS, in 2000 on the island of Santorini, Greece, in 2001 in Québec City, Canada, in 2003 in Ammersfoort, The Netherlands as part of the Dutch "Year of the Farm", in 2004 in Matsuyama, Shikoku Island, Japan, in 2005 in Xi'an, China during the General Assembly of ICOMOS, in 2006 in Patzcuaro, Michoacan, Mexico and 2007 in Banao, Philippines related

to the famous rice terraces of the Ifugao Province, World Heritage Sites. Among these very well organized and successful meetings two are of special interest: At the Jerusalem meeting the committee members succeeded to finalize the doctrinal text for the „Charter“, prepared by a working group of CIAV members (from all continents) and Spanish specialists during a working session hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Culture in January 1996. The Bangkok meeting in May 1997 hosted by the Department of Fine Arts of the Thai Minister of Culture for the first time offered the possibility to specialists from the Asian countries (even without ICOMOS National Committees) to discuss the topics related to the preservation of the vernacular heritage. More than 120 participants from 24 countries contributed with very interesting papers, active discussions or poster presentations to the success of the meeting. The papers printed in the volume „Proceedings of the International Conference on Conservation and Revitalization of Vernacular Architecture and ICOMOS-CIAV Annual Meeting 1997“, Bangkok 1998 include a large number of contributions from CIAV members and also the final „Recommendations for the Preservation of the Vernacular Heritage“ worked out by the Bureau of the CIAV. Other scientific contributions and papers signed by members of the committee can be found in the proceedings of the XI. General Assembly in Sofia as well as in those of the XII. General Assembly as part of the papers held at the scientific colloquy in Morelia, in the proceedings of the XIII. (Madrid), XIV. (Xi'an) and XV. (Québec City) General Assemblies of ICOMOS. The contribution of some CIAV members to the „Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World“, edited by Paul Oliver in 1998 (Cambridge University) should also be mentioned. Last but not least number V of the newly created series on “Monuments and Sites”, “Vernacular Architecture”, published in Munich 2002, edited by ICOMOS International is dedicated to the activities of our committee, including the text of the “Charter” and some examples on traditional houses and housing worldwide.

One of the most important results of the committee's work is without any doubt the final version of the „Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage“ in English, French and Spanish, adopted by the General Assembly of ICOMOS in Mexico in 1999, published (in English and French) in the first issue of ICOMOS News 2000. Besides the long history of preparation the text is a real document of the conservation philosophy of CIAV. Addressed directly to owners, communities but also to specialists, it is deliberately avoiding any definition for the vernacular heritage - which might vary according to the specific cultural traditions in the different regions of the world. For this reason the elaboration of regional guidelines will be a very important task for the future work of the committee. The first step was made as a result of the Santorini meeting 2000: „Guidelines for Tourism in Vernacular Settlements“. Nevertheless all the important achievements in the field of study and conservation of vernacular architecture or the development of preservation strategies are the result of the ongoing scientific work of the committee since its foundation. Starting from the traditional preservation strategies of conservation in situ or in open air museums (in the first years a rather important part of the committee members coming from open air museums) and faced by the rapid ongoing changes within contemporary life and society, the committee learned to enlarge its understanding of what “vernacular” is - from the single farmsteads and traditional village units to urban vernacular areas and settlements, to cultural landscape areas and the links between the vernacular heritage and the geomorphological conditions of the landscape. Being content of the fact that the vernacular is one of the most endangered parts of our heritage new methods and conservation strategies and policies have been studied and worked out, trying to establish an international multi-disciplinary network, to sensitize and involve the communities in the recognition, maintenance and continuance of their cultural values, to coordinate regional and local initiatives, to participate in development projects like new vernacular architecture and to organize educational and training programmes. Since 1993 committee members are involved in international training programmes addressed both to specialists (Cologne, Germany 1993, Tbilissi, Georgia 1998) and administrative bodies (Guatemala 1996) and in teaching activities (architectural conservation courses at universities, ICCROM, post-graduate studies etc.). Since a couple of years the CIAV is much more involved in the evaluation process for nomination and monitoring of the vernacular heritage to the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

The invitation pronounced by the Romanian National Committee of ICOMOS in November 2007 to host the CIAV annual meeting 2009 in Transylvania as part of the "Tusnad Conferences" was unanimously accepted and welcomed by the CIAV members at the Banaoe conference in December 2007. The main theme of the conference "The vernacular and the multicultural dialogue" is promising a rather new experience in the work of the committee facing the ongoing changes inside the vernacular settlements especially in specific multicultural areas of Europe.

The CIAV has at the moment more than 100 members, 60 of them being voting members, the others associate or coopted. The committee is headed by Marc de Caraffe (Canada) as President, Lena Palmquist (Sweden) and arch. Augusto Villalon (Philippines) as Vice Presidents and arch. Valeria Prieto (Mexico) as Secretary General. Dr. Georgeta Stoica (Bucharest) as founding and voting member and Dr. Ligia Fulga (Brasov) as associate member are our esteemed CIAV colleagues.





4. Three Articles: Unusual Place in Kathmandu; Zen Pilgrimage in the Buddha's Birthplace; Cinque Terre and Ifugao

By Augusto Villalon

Unusual peace in Kathmandu

By Augusto Villalon

Philippine Daily Inquirer

First Posted 20:02:00 07/05/2009

Filed Under: Travel & Commuting, Tourism

I been there before, so arriving in Kathmandu that day was routine: landing, disembarking, clearing immigration and customs, turning over my luggage to the person sent to meet me, and, finally, a dusty ride into the city.

The person who met me said the vehicle was trapped at the airport. A wildcat strike took the entire city of Kathmandu by surprise that morning, forcing businesses, schools and everything else to close down, ordering all vehicles off the streets.

More flights arrived.

A large crowd of stranded travellers continued to build up in the waiting area. As tempers and mid-day heat soared, anger and sweat took over. Only tourists were ferried to the city in ancient, dusty buses bannered with Ministry of Tourism signs that allowed free passage through heavily guarded streets.

With no other transportation in sight, grumbling locals walked into town, pulling and dragging heavy luggage behind them. Only a few were lucky enough to find porters willing to walk heavy baggage into the city.

The first bus had just left. After waiting an hour and a half, I clawed my way into the second bus, only to be told to get off because the driver had to go for lunch.

He drove off and never returned.

An hour later, another Ministry bus came, unloading departing tourists and their luggage out of one narrow door, everyone simultaneously pushing and cursing their way into and out of the bus. With much shouting, baggage, children and boxes were shoved through open windows. It was two-way traffic forcing its way into the proverbial eye of a needle.

There was no way I would miss this bus.

I shoved my way in as if my life depended on this ride, and little did I know that it did. I was told later that afternoon when I was safely in town that buses suddenly stopped going to the airport without any warning.

The strike was called so opposing political parties could settle issues. Rallies and public meetings were scheduled in the evening. Until then, the city floated in a state of suspension. Reinforced by army presence everywhere, people were not going anywhere.

Surreal street scene

Kathmandu at a standstill was surreal. Streets usually filled with total chaos of people, rickshaws and horn-tooting vehicles all raising up clouds of dust were totally deserted that day. Quiet settled over the city, something I never imagined I would experience.

Normally polluted city air was once again high-altitude crisp, invigorating and breathable. Without pollution, the sky turned uncompromisingly blue, providing a magnificent, clear view of the mountains enclosing Kathmandu Valley normally hidden behind a cloud of gray pollution.

It was a rare opportunity, a great day for rediscovering Kathmandu without being assaulted by the usual traffic, dust and pollution, so out of my hotel

I went on foot, avoiding the packs of stray dogs that roamed Kathmandu streets, walking on the broad, cracked and uneven sidewalks of Durbar Marg, the wide boulevard at the center of the city leading to the former Royal Palace.

Today, in the total absence of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, I noticed for the first time that trees lined both sides of the short boulevard, trees having once provided a trace of urban elegance sadly swallowed up without warning in recent years by the heavy, unregulated sensory assault of everyday city life. Progress, in other words.

Urban elegance

Inspired by the trees on Durbar Marg, I set out to discover what urban elegance remained in chaotic Kathmandu.

The brave few who were out that day walked nonchalantly in the middle of streets, not on the sidewalks which were dangerously broken down that constant attention must be on the pavement to make sure the next step fell on safe ground.

While I was walking on the safe, flat center of the street pavement, the entire streetscape unfolded, an urban vista never seen in the constant swirl of traffic. What a great place to know the city from.

The low-key, imposing but unpretentious Western-style former Royal Palace, framed by scraggly gardens behind a tall grilled fence at the head of Durbar Marg, a royal ensemble, modest and provincial by Western standards, fit into the unassuming everyday low-rise Kathmandu urbanscape.

Walking away from the palace into the maze of twisting, narrow streets in the older section of central Kathmandu, strong architectural and social patterns emerge in the rundown, peeling, jumble of old and new buildings coexisting in various stages of benign decay along streets.

Handsome traditional three-story wooden buildings with wooden filigree windows on the upper levels, once residences, now haphazardly converted into commercial spaces, continued to maintain their long-established elegance despite crowding on all sides by newer buildings, jerrybuilt cheaply out of concrete within the last decade.

It was seeing at least two layers of Kathmandu lifestyle existing tenuously side by side. More importantly, it was seeing the writing on the wall, knowing at this early date which architectural layer would eventually give way to progress.

What would take quite a while, or maybe never give way to progress, was the amazing web of narrow lanes that fan out, bringing the pulse from the center of Kathmandu out to its main streets.

Unexpectedly, off from work, people slowly streamed out of their homes into the deep shade of narrow, stone-paved streets hemmed in by two- and three-story buildings.

Children played, men sipped cups of tea, people bought snacks from ambulant sellers. Everybody went to see what was available from the baskets of produce vendors set up on the pavement, and bargained for fresh vegetables to cook for that night's dinner.

By late afternoon, the entire neighborhood was out on the street. Everyone knew each other, each had something to say to the other. So interesting to observe. My camera and I were intruders on this scene.

At irregular intervals, the network of narrow lanes opened out into little squares, some no larger than wide intersections where sometimes a small Hindu shrine, strewn with yellow flowers, stood against the blank brick wall of a house. The larger squares' temples were always filled with devotees filing in and out.

Rare afternoon

The largest square of all is Kathmandu Durbar (royal) Square, the ceremonial center of the city where kings of Nepal once were crowned and legitimized. The original Royal Palace, residence of the kings before it moved north to Narayanhiti about a century ago, still stands.

Flanking three loosely linked squares, the series of traditional brick-and-wood and Western-style civic buildings and temples that make up Durbar Square mostly date from the 17th and 18th centuries. But the principal draw of the square is that the locals go there to watch the world go by, often seated on the high terraced platforms of the Maju Deval, a temple at the center of the square.

On a rare afternoon like this one, when Kathmandu was relaxing because of the strike, people-watching at Durbar Square was a special event.

More special was spending an afternoon on foot in quiet Kathmandu, without being harassed by tourists, traffic, pollution and the swirl of motorbikes on narrow lanes. Being able to navigate the city in comfort opens up the discovery that beneath the urban chaos of modern Kathmandu lies a layer of lost urban elegance, sustainable traditional urban practices, and a comfortable lifestyle.

All of that has now vanished with the current state of disarray of the Nepalese government, a state of disarray evident in the present lifestyle of the people.

Kathmandu returned to normal the next day. Totally gone was the peace I felt the day before.

E-mail pride.place@gmail.com for comments.

Zen pilgrimage in the Buddha's birthplace

By Augusto Villalon
Philippine Daily Inquirer
First Posted 16:21:00 07/12/2009
Filed Under: Travel & Commuting, Places

THE AIRLINES ON the tarmac at the Kathmandu airport were definitely local: Druk, Cosmic, Yeti, Sita.

And then there was Buddha Air, which, ever so appropriately, was the airline that took us to the birthplace of the Lord Buddha, a World Heritage site in Lumbini in the flat, rice-growing landscape of southern Nepal. It was an arid place in the post-harvest summer season of our visit.

When I first took that flight a year ago, my Nepalese-Swiss friend Kai Weise told me to take a window on the right side. A few minutes after takeoff, he told me to look out. In full view were the snow-capped Himalayas.

On the same flight again a year later, my amazement remained intense; the short Buddha Air flight is the most memorable flight I have taken.

All association with snow-capped Himalayan peaks immediately dissolved upon disembarking at Gautama Buddha Airport. I was rudely accosted by the stifling 44° C heat of the flat Terai plain that stretched from southern Nepal across to northern India, whose border was only 9 kilometers away.

Author Peter Matthiessen writes in his book "Snow Leopard" that the Lumbini landscape today looks as it did during the Buddha's time. That statement may be arguable, but the haunting feel of the landscape and its people definitely radiates a sense of continuity stretching back 2½ millennia.

Now, rickety buses often packed to the roof hog the narrow highways, which are cluttered with slow-moving tractors pulling trailers, rickshaws, motorbikes, bicycles, men, women in saris or heavy black burqas, children and dogs.

Dirt roads branch off from the potholed asphalt, leading to dust-blown, dirt-poor villages of mud-walled houses roofed with either thatch or baked clay tiles. Everything is built close to the ground.

Caked rice paddies, dried out by summer heat, surround the small villages where people gather under the shade of the few trees that manage to grow.

Sacred spot

There wasn't a breeze the day we arrived. Nothing, not even people, moved. In searing midday, everything was still, and only the occasional howls of jackals pierced the barren silence.

Beneath a sal tree (*Shorea Robusta*) in a Lumbini forest clearing near those villages was born Siddhartha Gautama, Crown Prince of the royal Sakya family, who was to evolve into the Buddha during his lifetime.

He was born in 563BC, when Queen Maya Devi journeyed from Kapilvastu, the powerful Sakya capital where she had married the king, to the neighboring kingdom of Devadaha

where she was born a princess and where, in keeping with tradition, she intended her son to be born. Unexpectedly she gave birth at a rest stop in the Lumbini forest.

The pond where the queen bathed before her delivery remains, now a brick-encased pool. A 6-meter-high sandstone pillar erected by Emperor Ashoka commemorates his visit to the religious site in the third century BC. The inscription on the pillar is proof that here is, indeed, the birthplace of the Buddha.

A reputedly 14th-century sandstone carving depicting the birth is enshrined in the recently constructed Maya Devi Temple, named to honor the Buddha's mother, also worshipped by Hindus as a mother goddess incarnate.

The markers of the Buddha's birth, located close to each other in a special area called the Sacred Garden, are encircled by archaeological remains of monasteries and stupas dating since the second century BC, attesting that the holy site has been revered from the beginning.

Excavated bricks outline walls and floor levels of vanished buildings that silently tell stories of religious life and rituals from centuries ago. Still unexcavated are vast areas of archaeological artifacts within the Sacred Garden; full archaeological documentation and research still remain to be done.

Master plan

In 1978, the eminent Japanese architect Kenzo Tange submitted the Lumbini Master Plan to a group of international and local authorities for implementation. Execution of the Master Plan has been minimal since.

An advantage, really, since it provides the opportunity to fine-tune the plan to meet modern needs impossible to foresee 30 years ago.

What needs absolutely no fine-tuning, however, is Tange's vision. As the Master Plan area, Tange demarcated a rectangular area oriented due north to south, three miles long and one-mile wide, further subdividing the main rectangle into three smaller ones, equal squares measuring 1x1 miles (1.6 km x 1.6 km).

The first square on the northern side was designated for pilgrim services, including hotels, shops, library, museum, visitor information and parking. The middle square, the Monastic Zone, was designated for construction of temples by different countries for their pilgrims. In the final, southernmost square, at the center of a circular body of water, stands the Sacred Garden.

To arrive at the Sacred Garden, Tange designed a spiritual processional that begins at a large plaza where pilgrims noisily alight from vehicles to commence the walk of slightly over a mile to the Sacred Garden.

The brick-paved walk cuts through the Lumbini jungle in a perfectly straight, level line, shooting directly toward the Sacred Garden where Buddha was born. The point is visible in the distant horizon, the focus at the end of a long canal running along the center of the wide walkway.

Ritual walk

Once the pilgrim sets foot on the walk, his pilgrimage begins. The ritual of walking toward the Sacred Garden takes over. The trees planted at the center of the walk at uniform intervals begin a cadence marking the pilgrim's walk.

As he walks deeper into the Monastic Zone, his steps take on a rhythm that stills his mind more and more until the Sacred Flame appears, symbolizing the light of the individual soul, at the end of the walk.

After the flame, the walk contracts suddenly, squeezes the pilgrim between high brick walls, restricts his vision. Upon passing the constricting walls, it erupts without warning into an expansive semicircular body of water. Release!

The brick pilgrim path turns into a causeway across the still water, ending at the Sacred Garden on the opposite shore.

The procession masterfully designed by Tange brings the serious pilgrim into a state of calm, preparing him for his entry into the Sacred Garden, where he comes in emptiness into the birthplace of the Lord Buddha.

The processional walk, the "warm-up" to the Sacred Garden experience and the "cool-down" walk in the return direction into the everyday, provides the spiritual experience worthy of one of the holiest shrines in the world.

Its design is a 20th-century interpretation of the Buddha's principles laid down 2½ millennia ago, as seen through the Zen vision of the celebrated Japanese architect Kenzo Tange.

Despite uncertain political situations, lack of funding and site-management issues, there, indeed, is continuity with the ages in Lumbini, a major world pilgrimage site that strongly conveys that aura of spirit of place.

E-mail the author at [pride.place@ gmail.com](mailto:pride.place@gmail.com)



CINQUE TERRE, Italy — Cinque Terre ("five lands") alongside the

Italian Riviera between Genoa and Pisa consists of five coastal villages hanging on the cliffs with vineyards and olive tree terraces. These were matched with our five Ifugao Rice Terraces (*cinque terrazzo de riso*) in the Cordilleras by the World Heritage Committee, which is hoping to remove the latter from the List of World Heritage Sites (WHS) in Danger.

Outstanding Universal Value

To deserve international recognition, the site must present exceptional geographical features rich in archeological, historical and cultural values. Shared management strategies must ensure adequate conservation of geological heritage consistently with tourism, environment education, and science research activities.

What is similar between the two WHS? Both of them have unique universal values, upholding ancient traditional engineering to build the terraces. While the vineyards require dry solid terraces, the rice terraces have to be kept wet. Requiring stamina for cultivating mountainous terrain, both Italians and Ifugao natives have farmers who persist in developing fine grape wine and rice wine.

But, with rapid modernization, the young generations of both sites have been abandoning the upland agronomy. The financial gain keeps lessening since the land portion decreases as it is further subdivided among the young heirs. Many exciting businesses in cities draw the young away from farming as well. Both are mountain regions less accessible to local and foreign visitors unless efficient transport systems are provided.

A Common Heritage And Responsibility For All

A young African of the World Heritage Youth stated: "The world is our inheritance. It is mine, yours and ours, too. So let us look after it well for the nations of tomorrow."

To preserve the precious assets of our Philippine WHS heritage, the Italian funds in trust supported the "twinning project" of WHS Cinque Terre with the Ifugao Rice Terraces, enabling a 10-day visit to the coastal villages of Monterosso al mare, Corniglia, Manarola, Vernazza and Riomaggiore.

As UNESCO Secretary General, the author headed the delegation with Ifugao Governor Teddy Baguilat Jr., Hungduan Mayor Pablo Cuhayon and cultural expert and architect Joy Mananghaya, also a native of Ifugao. These photos we took show the self-sustaining assets of Cinque Terre, which can inspire efforts for the sustainability of the Ifugao Rice Terraces.

What solutions have cinque terre to offer?

The effective management strategy for Cinque Terre is handled by the Liguria Regional Directorate for Cultural Properties and Landscape headed by Director Lino Malara.

Access to these high coastal villages comes by way of the railway station from Genoa established back in 1870. Through a clever engineering feat, a second railway was raised on a higher slope in 1926 and improved in 1990 when it was declared a World Heritage Site.



The publicity and accounts of tourists about the modern amenities for board and lodging, including toilets and kitchens, readily attracted thousands of young and old tourists. (To preserve the culture of the Cordilleras, bed and breakfasts should be provided for tourists; hotels should not be constructed so as not to ruin the landscape.

The local cuisine must suit international tastes and standards even though the eateries and cafes are of three-star ranking. Architects, geologists and agronomy experts from the universities must be involved. The local government must partner with national government agencies like the Ministries of Transportation, Tourism, Environment, Education, Finance and Defense to develop the management system.

Heritage, A Lifelong Undertaking

Our energies and talents for heritage problems should promote the following, especially among the young, as well as the local and national government:

- At home, through participation in the life of local sites — cleaning, clearing of undergrowth, recycling and restoration projects — volunteers are always welcome.
- Through local or national promotional activities — organization of discovery and awareness-raising events, such as travel or organized visits, shows, exhibitions, press involvement and fundraising should be undertaken in collaboration with the person in charge of the sites. Corporate linkages would be a big help.
- Through contacts with local or national authorities to help draw their attention to issues or keep people informed about their activities.
- By being a responsible tourist — respecting the sites and respecting the local cultures and communities. Travel is an excellent way to discover other peoples and cultures, to exchange ideas and to establish networks.

Just to let you know this development resulting from our CIAV Meeting in the Philippines 3 years ago. If you remember, there was a representative from Italy's Cinqueterre World Heritage Site at our meeting. Recently, Cinqueterre and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras have entered into a twin sites arrangement.

Augusto Villalón
July 27 09





5. Bohio Project in Santo Domingo

By Virginia Flores

Hola Valeria:

Aquí te envío el reportaje que se publicó en el Periódico de la Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, PUCMM. A través de ese reportaje se dio a conocer la preocupación que algunos tenemos en preservar y mantener nuestra arquitectura vernácula. El proyecto fue elaborado entre Esteban Prieto y yo.

En esta universidad Esteban imparte la materia Arquitectura Vernácula; y yo la materia de Sistemas Constructivos. Ambos nos unimos e hicimos esta vivienda que los dominicanos llamamos bohíos.

La realización del BOHIO fue con recursos propios una gran parte aportado por los estudiantes.

Fue un proyecto muy bonito.

Espero les guste.

Un abrazo.

Virginia Flores

vfloressasso@yahoo.es

Junio 23 09

On June 23, our colleague Virginia Flores from Santo Domingo sent me her report about a very interesting work, which was published on the Catholic and Pontificia University's Newspaper. She describes the work that has done by Esteban Prieto and herself and explains that it is about the rescue of traditional construction systems of vernacular architecture. It is at this University where Esteban teaches the Vernacular Architecture Cathedra and Virginia teaches Constructive Systems. They have built this "bohío", which is the name Dominicans give to this kind of rural houses. The construction was made with their own resources and with the collaboration of the students.

VP



MANEGO HOUSE



HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

“Eso es lo que hace falta en el país, instituciones como la PUCMM; estoy muy contento con lo que hicieron los estudiantes de la Universidad”, expresa “Manego”, al referirse al significado que tiene para él la labor realizada por los alumnos de la Universidad.

El grupo de estudiantes emprendió la travesía a Pueblo Viejo, con el valor agregado de que habían decidido, en acuerdo con los profesores Flores y Prieto, utilizar el estilo de “arquitectura vernácula”, propia de la República Dominicana.

“Durante tres fines de semana fuimos a ayudarle a hacer su casa y él (Manego) terminó enseñándoles a los muchachos cómo escoger los materiales e incluso hasta cómo construir varias áreas de la vivienda, porque es que él conoce mucho de los recursos naturales de la zona, en especial de los diferentes tipos de madera”, adujo la arquitecta Flores.

La casa de “Manego” consta de 2 habitaciones, sala, comedor y baño. Lo más significativo de la propiedad es su concepción, que a juicio del profesor Prieto permite que se mantenga la identidad caribeña y además sirve como fomento al turismo, ya que en su construcción se usaron recursos netamente dominicanos, lo que constituye un atractivo para el extranjero que visita el país.

Sin dudas que dar es mejor que recibir y la solidaridad es el estadio ideal para todo ser humano porque muchas veces

no es necesario tener grandes recursos ni facilidades inagotables para lograr cambiar la vida de un semejante.

Hoy, gracias a que un grupo de alumnos y dos profesores de la escuela de arquitectura de la PUCMM asumieron el compromiso de servicio a la comunidad y la búsqueda de soluciones al bien común que inspiran a la Madre y Maestra, la familia García-Meléndez cuenta con una casa propia, un lugar que guarda entre sus paredes aquella mítica frase de la Madre Teresa de Calcuta: “Amar al prójimo debe ser tan natural como vivir y respirar”.

Materiales para la construcción

El uso de árboles endémicos se erigió como uno de los puntos básicos del proyecto, en tanto que para las columnas se utilizó la planta Bayahonda; Mangle y Baitoa para las paredes; el techo fue confeccionado con Palma Real, Palma de Cana y Yarey, mientras que para el proceso conocido como Enlate, es decir, el amarre de los canales, se escogió Bambú y Piñi Piñi.



UNIVERSITY'S NEWSPAPER REPORT

PUCMM
con la comunidad

Informa
Febrero - Mayo 2009 • Página • 13



Rafael Enrique García, mejor conocido como "Manego", jamás pensó que su historia daría un cambio de 360 grados fruto del servicio comunitario de 35 jóvenes estudiantes de la Escuela de Arquitectura de la Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra del Recinto Santo Tomás de Aquino, quienes le proveyeron de uno de sus más enraizados anhelos: un techo propio; y a la vez cumplieron con uno de los principales ejes de la Madre y Maestra: el servicio a la comunidad.

Oriundo del municipio de Pueblo Viejo en la provincia de Azua, agricultor por naturaleza y comprometido con la labor social, García vivía desde el año 2000 en una pequeña casa de dos habitaciones prestada por un familiar, junto a su esposa, Anacaona Meléndez y cuatro hijos, tres de él y uno de ella, ya que no han procreado retoños en común.

Casados desde hace 16 años, Rafael y Anacaona han sabido sobreponerse a situaciones desgarradoras, la más terrible cuando en el 2002 a ella le diagnosticaron cáncer de mama. Esta adversidad provocó que él tuviera que empezar a ausentarse constantemente al trabajo de medio tiempo que tenía como mensajero en la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD) para poder cuidarla; finalmente terminaron por cancelarlo.

"Yo no iba a dejar de cuidar a mi esposa por un trabajo", cuenta este agricultor que complementa su vida entre el vivero que posee en unas tierras

arrendadas por el Ayuntamiento de Azua y su labor desde hace doce años como velador de las Ruinas del Patrimonio Monumental de Pueblo Viejo.

Luego de decenas de viajes al Oncológico de Santo Domingo y a diversos hospitales del país, poco a poco Anacaona, una luchadora incansable que además de los quehaceres de la casa vende víveres en el mercado del pueblo, comenzó a reestablecerse hasta el punto que en la actualidad ha logrado recuperar su salud.

"Manego" siempre soñó con tener una casa, pero al igual que las miles de familias dominicanas que ansían su "casita", la falta de dinero era el principal óbice para alcanzar ese objetivo. Sin embargo, el gesto solidario de dos amigos suyos, profesores de arquitectura en el Recinto Santo Tomás de Aquino de la PUCMM y la entrega noble de un grupo de emprendedores estudiantes de esa casa de altos estudios convirtieron su deseo en realidad.

Manos a la obra

En el momento que Manego menos lo esperaba le llegó la propuesta de la profesora de la materia de Construcción, arquitecta Virginia Flores, quien le comunicó que junto a su colega Esteban Prieto y 35 estudiantes de Arquitectura de la Madre y Maestra le iban a construir su añorada vivienda.





6. Finn Vernadoc 2009: The International Documentation Camp of Vernacular Architecture

By Marku Mattila

30 July – 13 August 2009, Pekkala manor, Ruovesi (Finland)

Draft programme as of 02.04.2009

Aims

- To learn the method by working it throughout the process
- To become acquainted with the expertise of the participants and to create international contacts for further work in the field
- To develop a method and models for international cooperation
- To produce high quality measured drawings and to exhibit them in the exhibition and to publish at the end of the camp

Object

- Measuring and drawing the tradition of the stone cow sheds

Participants

2 persons per country from different parts of the world, the max size of the group is 16, including the organizers and specialists

- They are used to making building drawings and know the basics of measuring work
- All the participants have to be ready to work and live in rather harsh conditions.
- Everyone in the camp works in practice, no idling is accepted
- Min one member in the "country group" is competent to teach the method in the home country and competent to arrange an international documenting camp in the home country

Preliminary timetable:

24.04.2009 Entering

30.04.2009 Choice of participants

30.07.-13.08.2009 the Finn VERNADOC 2009 camp period in Ruovesi

- One week for the measuring and basic drawing
- One week for the finishing of the drawings in ink
- 6 working days a week
- Some days for local excursions

13.08.2009 the exhibition and presentation of the results

Daily program:

- Working days are max. 8 hours long
- Everyone produces her/his own measure drawing,
- In the evening's free performing programme, for example performing of each own projects, having a sauna...

Accommodation and meals:

- Living and eating in local lodgings

Language:

The official language of the camp is vernacular English

Insurances:

The participants will take care of their own insurances

Certificate:

The participants will be certified by Helsinki University of Technology

The principles of the costs:

The participants are in charge of the travel costs. The organizer will pay the costs of the accommodation and the meals at the site during the camp period.

More information:

For further questions and information; please feel free to ask, even on the practical arrangements.

Deadline for Application

24 April 2009

Contact

Markku Mattila

ICOMOS CIAV Finland

markku.mattila@tkk.fi





7. The Vernacular Architecture and Monuments of the Czech Republic

By Martin Cernansky

***Dear Mr. M. de Caraffe,
Dear members of CIAV,***

Thank you very much for your report and CIAV Special Newsletter. It will be honor for me if I can participate on the international protection and conservation of the vernacular architecture.

I would like thank you and all members of CIAV for great time in Transylvania. It was my first opportunity to take part in international conference. Although there was the language barrier on my side, my final impression is very positive. I am pleased I could meet with us.

Let me additionally introduce to you my activity in the Czech National Committee. I hope this information can be useful in the future. At the same time it illustrates the situation about the protection and conservation of vernacular monuments and sites in the Czech republic.

Best regards from Prague,
Martin Cernansky

The wide internet portal about the vernacular architecture in **Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia:**

<http://www.lidova-architektura.cz>

There are papers and photos about the history of settlements and houses (orange buttons), the main regions (red, under construction), the reservations, zones, open air museums (green) and suitable new-building (blue) on this portal.

There are also encyclopedia of the vernacular architecture and the database of my photos ([more than six hundreds for now](#)) on these pages. The pages are updated weekly. See website by clicking on the preview below or on the link above.



www.lidova-architektura.cz/fotoalbum

Prague

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 Webové stránky lidové architektury a zeměpisného dělení
 Moravě a Slezsku (e-mail: info@lidova-architektura.cz)

**VZDĚLÁVACÍ PORTÁL O LIDOVÉ
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Posters





8. New Sites have been Added to UNESCO's World Heritage List

The World Heritage Committee holding its 33rd session chaired by María Jesús San Segundo, the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Spain to UNESCO, has inscribed two new natural sites and 11 cultural sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Since it also withdrew one site - from the List, Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany), the List now numbers a total of 890 properties.

The Committee also inscribed three sites on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger to help raise international support for their preservation. One site was removed from the Danger List. More sites may be inscribed on the Danger List as the Committee continues examining state of conservation reports on Tuesday.

During the session, which is scheduled to end on 30 June, three countries had their first World Heritage sites inscribed on UNESCO's List of properties recognized as having outstanding universal value. They are, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and Kyrgyzstan.

Natural sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List:

- **The Wadden Sea (Germany / The Netherlands)** comprises the Dutch Wadden Sea Conservation Area and the German Wadden Sea National Parks of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. represents over 66% of the whole Wadden Sea and is home to numerous plant and animal species, including marine mammals such as the harbor seal, grey seal and harbor porpoise.

It is also a breeding and wintering area for up to 12 millions birds per annum and it supports more than 10 percent of 29 species. The site is one of the last remaining natural, large-scale, intertidal ecosystems where natural processes continue to function largely undisturbed.

- **Shushtar, Historical Hydraulic System (Iran)**, a masterpiece of creative genius, can be traced back to Darius the Great in the 5th century B.C. The property has an ensemble of remarkable sites including the Salâsel Castel, the operation centre of the entire hydraulic system, the tower where the water level is measured, dams, bridges, basins and mills. It bears witness to the know-how of the Elamites and Mesopotamians as well as more recent Nabatean expertise and Roman building influence.

- **Sulaiman - Toosacred Mountain (Kyrgyzstan)** Its five peaks and slopes contain numerous ancient places of worship and caves with petroglyphs as well as two largely reconstructed 16th-century mosques. One hundred and one sites with petroglyphs representing humans and animals as well as geometrical forms have been indexed in the property so far. The site is believed to represent the most complete example of a sacred mountain anywhere in Central Asia, worshipped over several millennia.

- **The Sacred City of Caral-Supe (Peru)**. The 5000-year-old 626-hectare archaeological site of The Sacred City of Caral-Supe is situated on a dry desert terrace overlooking the green valley of the Supe river. The city's plan and some of its components, including pyramidal structures and residence of the elite, show clear evidence of ceremonial functions, signifying a powerful religious ideology.

- **The Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea)** The inscription of the Joseon Tombs completes the two earlier series of Korean Peninsula royal tombs inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List: the Gyeongju Historic Areas, Republic of Korea, and Complex of Koguryo Tombs, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

- **The Tower of Hercules (Spain)** is the only lighthouse of Greco-Roman antiquity to have retained a measure of structural integrity and functional continuity.

- **La Chaux-de-Fonds / Le Locle watchmaking town-planning (Switzerland)** The site presents outstanding examples of mono-industrial manufacturing-towns which are well preserved and still active. The urban planning of both towns has accommodated the transition from the artisan production of a cottage industry to the more concentrated factory production of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

- **The Dolomites (Italy)** comprise a mountain range in the northern Italian Alps, numbering 18 peaks which rise to above 3,000 metres and cover 141,903 ha. It features some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes anywhere, with vertical walls, sheer cliffs and a high density of narrow, deep and long valleys. A serial property of nine areas that present a diversity of spectacular landscapes of international significance for geomorphology marked by steeples, pinnacles and rock walls, the site also contains glacial landforms and karst systems.

- **Stoclet House (Belgium)** is one of the most accomplished and homogenous buildings of the Vienna Secession, and features works by Koloman Moser and Gustav Klimt, embodying the aspiration of creating a 'total work of art' (Gesamtkunstwerk).

- **The Ruins of Loropéni (Burkina Faso).** The 11,130m² property, the first to be inscribed in the country, with its imposing stone walls is the best preserved of ten fortresses in the Lobi area and is part of a larger group of 100 stone enclosures that bear testimony to the power of the trans-Saharan gold trade.

- **Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande (Cape Verde).** The town of Ribeira Grande, renamed Cidade Velha in the late 18th century, was the first European colonial outpost in the tropics.

- **Mount Wutai (China).** With its five flat peaks, Mount Wutai is a sacred Buddhist mountain. The cultural landscape numbers 53 monasteries and includes the East Main Hall of Foguang Temple, the highest surviving timber Building of the Tang Dynasty with life size clay sculptures. It also features the Ming Dynasty Shuxiang Temple with a huge complex of 500 statues representing Buddhist stories woven into three dimensional pictures of mountains and water.

- **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal (United Kingdom).** The aqueduct is a pioneering masterpiece of engineering and monumental metal architecture, conceived by the celebrated civil engineer Thomas Telford. The property is inscribed as a masterpiece of creative genius, and as a remarkable synthesis of expertise already acquired in Europe. It is also recognized as an innovative ensemble that inspired many projects all over the world.

Extensions added to World Heritage properties:

- **The Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains (France),** have been inscribed as an extension to Claude-Nicolas Ledoux's Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans. The site is now to be known as From Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains to the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans, the production of open-pan salt. The extension features three buildings above ground: salt stores, the Amont well building and a former dwelling and is linked to the Royal Saltworks. The site bears testimony to the history of salt extraction in France.

- **Levoča (in Slovakia)** was inscribed as an extension to Spišský Hrad and the extended site is now to be known as Levoča, Spišský and the Associated Cultural Monument. The historic town-centre of Levoča was founded in the 13th and 14th-centuries within

fortifications. Most of the site has been preserved and it includes the 14th century church of St James with its ten alters of the 15th and 16th centuries, a remarkable collection of polychrome works in the Late Gothic style, including an 18.6-metre high alterpiece completed around 1510 by Master Paul.

• **Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (Philippines)** is an extension to the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993. The extension represents a threefold increase in the size of the original property.

Other changes to UNESCO's World Heritage List:

For the second time in the history of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by UNESCO in 1972, a site was removed from the World Heritage List when the Committee decided that **Germany's Dresden Elbe Valley** could no longer retain its status as a World Heritage site of outstanding universal value. The decision was due to the construction underway of a four-lane bridge in the heart of the cultural landscape.

Improvements in the preservation of **the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)** enabled the World Heritage Committee to **remove** the property from UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger. The site, which sustained damage during the earthquake of November 2000, was inscribed on the Danger List in 2003. Urban development, the absence of conservation policies and dubious restoration were also seen as problems. Improvements in management have, however, allowed Baku to secure the outstanding universal value for which it was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2000.

Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) was put on the Danger List mainly because of the problem of mangrove cutting and excessive development in the property which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996 as the largest barrier reef in the northern hemisphere, with offshore atolls, several hundred sand cays, mangrove forests, coastal lagoons and estuaries. While requesting stricter control of development on the site, the Committee also requested the reinstatement of the moratorium on mangrove cutting on the site which expired in 2008.

Los Katios National Park (Colombia) was placed on the Danger List at the request of Colombia so as to help mobilize international support for the preservation of the property which is threatened by, notably, deforestation in areas inside and around the property due to the illegal extraction of timber. Inscribed in 1994 for its exceptional biological diversity, the site is also suffering from illegal fishing and hunting.

The Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of concerns over the preservation of these important edifices. The Committee asked Georgia to adopt an integrated management plan for the site and address problems related to the serious deterioration of the stonework and frescoes at the site. Other issues of concern include the management of land near the churches and loss of authenticity due to work carried out in the buildings inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1994.

28 June 2009





9. Significant Notes from International ICOMOS

1 Two Awards for Gustavo Araoz, President of ICOMOS

Gustavo Araoz, President of ICOMOS, has recently received two awards honoring his dedication to and achievements in the field of Historic Preservation: **2009 Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Achievement Award in Historic Preservation** (University of Florida, Center for World Heritage Research and Stewardship)

Gustavo Araoz was awarded the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning's 2009 Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Achievement Award on 9 April 2009. The annual award recognizes an individual who, with a connection to the state of Florida, exemplifies the spirit of historic preservation and has demonstrated dedication to the field.

Gustavo Araoz was also honored by the organization "Herencia Cultural Cubana" in recognition and appreciation of his dedication to the preservation of the historic and cultural values of the Cuban nation.

2 International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH): Report of Meeting for the Charter of Historic Towns

8-9 May 2009, Athens (Greece)

On the 8th and 9th of May 2009 a working meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Historic Towns (CIVVIH-ICOMOS) was held in Athens, aiming to update the Charter of Historic Towns on the basis of the new evidence having arisen 22 years after its adoption and the formulation of guidelines for the specialists in the field of protection of Historic Towns. The complete report can be downloaded in PDF format through the following links:

English: <http://tinyurl.com/mhdlqf>

French: <http://tinyurl.com/nhxjwn>

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3 2009 Fitch Foundation Grant

The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation will award research grants of up to \$25,000 to mid-career professionals who have an academic background, professional experience, and an established identity in historic preservation or related fields including, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, architectural history, and the decorative arts.

4 Call for Papers: 11th International Docomomo Conference: Living in the Urban Modernity

19-27 August 2010, Mexico City (Mexico)

During the first part of the 20th Century the city became the favored environment for Modern Architecture. The advancement of technology and the introduction of new materials that brought about a new form of expression were not the only triggers for transformation. Concerns of wellbeing such as hygiene, education, health and the right to work and recreation were also fundamental in shaping the new architectural design. As a response to these novel conditions, new architectural genres emerged within the framework of a diverse urban structure. The analysis of the elements that transformed the city and its architecture, evolve from this starting point, and the proposed program will include several sessions:

Modern Living

Civic and Social Infrastructure

The Modern City

Technology for a Modern Habitat

The University City





10. About the Theme of 18 April 2009: Heritage and Science

By Pamela Jerome and Cliff Ogleby

Pamela Jerome Scientific Council Coordinator,
President of the ISC Earthen Architecture

Cliff Ogleby
Chair – Technological Change sub-theme (2009), President of ICOMOS CIPA

There are two major streams to the theme of Heritage and Science that has been chosen for International Day for Monuments and Sites 2009: one being the role that science (and the scientific process) has played in the creation of heritage, and the other being the contribution that science (and technology) offers to the study of heritage. It is now difficult to separate science and technology; whilst science (as a system of processes and a body of knowledge about the physical world) can often exist without technology, the converse is not true. Technology is a system of tools and procedures concerned with modifying the physical world, and to a great extent is based on science. The bulk of the World's tangible heritage, excluding perhaps completely natural landscapes, is the result of this practical application of knowledge.

A structure like the Ironbridge (UK) clearly shows the influence of science and technology in its construction; not only the bracing that disperses the load but also the mining, smelting, transport infrastructure and organised labour components that made the structure possible. The Temples of Angkor (Cambodia) not only illustrate an understanding of astronomy, but also of hydrology, mechanics and the requirements for tools suitable for the quarrying of the stone, placing the blocks, and the execution of the reliefs and frescos. The site of Maritime Greenwich (UK) is noted for its association with the science of astronomy and the determination of position and time; whilst being architecturally significant, it is primarily a monument to scientific endeavour. It is also a monument to the practical application of science, as the manufacture of the transit telescope and the precision timepieces depended on the availability of suitable materials and tools. Fundamentally, without science and technology, no monument or structure could exist.

The contribution that science and technology can now make to the conservation, preservation and even understanding of cultural heritage is rapidly evolving and expanding. For example: the use of lasers for the treatment of surfaces and the measurement of shape and form; non-destructive methods of exploration and examination; chemicals and compounds for treating artefacts and structures; isotope analysis to determine causes of stone deterioration; the analysis of compounds using X-ray diffraction and mass spectrometers; the use of information systems to store and analyse data; structural analysis and finite element modelling as a means of planning repair works; and even the use of communication technology for the dissemination of research and developments. Unfortunately, not all contributions are positive; the development of modern weapons explosives also facilitated the reduction of the Bamiyan Buddhas to rubble, and destroys much other tangible and intangible heritage on a daily basis.

The selection of the theme for the International Day for Monuments and Sites offers an opportunity to review and acknowledge the role of science (and technology) in cultural heritage from the two points-of-view mentioned above. It also provides an incentive to discuss potential benefits and threats that science may provide in the future, with respect to the safeguarding of the 'things we want to keep'.

The Scientific Council's Initiative - Technological Change

The United Nations has declared 2009 the International Year of Astronomy – for which UNESCO has been designated lead agency, and the World Heritage Centre continues to develop its “Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative”. To complement this, ICOMOS will celebrate its International Day for Monuments and Sites on 18 April 2009 under the working title, Heritage and Science. One of the ways ICOMOS will contribute to the exploration of this topic is through its Scientific Council (SC). The Scientific Council consists of the Presidents, or their designated representatives, of all the 28 ICOMOS International Scientific Committees (ISCs). One of its mandates is to develop “umbrella” themes for interdisciplinary research. Since 2006, that theme has been Global Climate Change and its effects on cultural heritage, which resulted, among other, in a one-day symposium during the Advisory Committee meeting in Pretoria in October 2007.

At the 16th General Assembly in Quebec 2008, the Scientific Council chose to continue with the theme of change under the banner Changing World, Changing Views of Heritage: the impact of global change on cultural heritage. Moving from Climate Change to Technological Change (2009), and from there to Social Change (2010), all three change elements will be brought back together as sub-themes to complement and enhance the theme of natural disasters chosen for the 17th General Assembly (2011, Isfahan, Iran).

Like Climate Change, each theme will be the topic of a one-day symposium during the annual Advisory Committee meeting. The symposia will use a similar format to the one held in Pretoria, including breakout sessions with the Scientific Council identifying issues related to each ISC in order to develop recommendations. Papers produced in advance of the symposia will provide contributions to the Heritage at Risk publication.

For the sub-theme Technological Change, Cliff Ogleby, President of CIPA (International Committee on Heritage Documentation), has been appointed as chair. Some of the topics that will be included are the speed of change, the impact of information technology, industrial heritage, water management, materials and techniques, disaster mitigation, climate change, and the cultural heritage of science. A scientific committee under Cliff Ogleby's direction, consisting of representatives from various ISCs and National Committees, will develop a brief that will be circulated on the SC listserv and to all of the National Committees. Interested professionals will contribute through debate of the brief until a position paper is formulated that will guide efforts on the topic up until the symposium. In addition, papers will be sought for presentation at the symposium and/or to be published in Heritage at Risk. These can be specific case studies or overall discussions on technological change and the heritage of science.

The symposium breakout sessions are the opportunity for those participating to contribute to the formulation of recommendations that are published in the ICOMOS newsletter as well as on the website. The recommendations become the bridge to implementation of strategies that further the Scientific Council's research in specific areas of interest.





11. I Convención Científica de Innovación Arquitectónica y Sostenibilidad en Colombia

La Arquitectura puede sugerir nuevas maneras de ser utilizada, nuevos usos, nuevas maneras de vivir y alcanzar la sostenibilidad en su triple dimensión económica, social y medioambiental; y requiere de importantes cambios en los modelos actuales, que poco a poco se están empezando a producir. Para continuar avanzando en el ámbito de una arquitectura más respetuosa con el medio ambiente es imprescindible la innovación en los procesos constructivos, en los materiales y en los planteamientos.

La Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana Seccional Montería, centro universitario de Colombia, tiene el gusto de invitar a la comunidad científica, profesional y académica a la **I CONVENCION CIENTIFICA DE INNOVACION ARQUITECTONICA Y SOSTENIBILIDAD 2009** a celebrarse en Montería, Colombia, el 24 y 25 de septiembre del 2009.

More information: arquitectura@upbmonteria.edu.co





12. Last Minute News

Our colleague Guido Licciardi, who works on the World Bank, would like to send this message to everybody:

The Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Thematic Group (TG) of the World Bank is willing to organize two half-day learning events, one on Economics of Cultural Heritage in October / November 2009, and one on Sustainable Tourism in January / February 2010. The TG is also planning to do at least six brown bag lunches on different topics, all related to cultural heritage and sustainable tourism, with a view to local economic development, from September 2009 to June 2010. Experts in Economics of Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Tourism, and Heritage Conservation as a tool for local economic development are encouraged to contact Dr. Guido Licciardi for further information. There are limited resources for paying air tickets and accommodations for these events. However our network of Country Offices is provided with videoconference equipment, which can be easily used, and we can offer limited funding for the two half-day events depending on the topics the experts would propose.



Guido Licciardi

NOTICIAS DE ÚLTIMA HORA

Nuestro colega Guido Licciardi quien colabora en el Banco Mundial, desea enviar este mensaje a todos nosotros:

El Grupo Temático (TG) de Patrimonio Cultural y Turismo Sustentable del Banco Mundial desea organizar dos días y medio de aprendizaje en dos temas, uno en Economía del Patrimonio Cultural en Octubre / Noviembre de 2009 y otro en Turismo Sustentable en Enero / Febrero de 2010. El TG también está planeando hacer cuando menos seis paquetes de trabajo en diferentes aspectos, todos relacionados con el Patrimonio Cultural y el Turismo Sustentable, con miras al desarrollo económico local, los cuales se llevarán a cabo de Septiembre de 2009 a Junio de 2010. A aquellas personas que sean expertos en Economía y Patrimonio Cultural; en Turismo Sustentable y en Conservación del Patrimonio todo ello considerado como una herramienta para impulsar el desarrollo económico local, se les solicita que para mayor información se pongan en contacto con Guido Licciardi cuyos datos aparecen al pie de este texto. Se tienen recursos limitados para cubrir el costo de boletos de avión y alojamiento para estos eventos. Sin embargo nuestra red de oficinas está provista con equipo de videoconferencias que puede ser utilizado fácilmente, y podemos ofrecer fondos limitados para los dos días y medio, dependiendo de los temas que propongan los expertos.



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