



US/ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES, U.S. COMMITTEE
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THE VISION FOR US/ICOMOS: REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

US/ICOMOS Vice-Chairman Robert Wilburn has ably summarized the new reality of shrinking funding for nonprofit organizations nationwide: People are working harder and longer, resulting in a decline in available volunteer hours; a greater competition for the philanthropic dollar due to a surge in nonprofit organizations as a result in shifting funding patterns away from government and other traditional sources; a greater proportion of nonprofit budgets are being spent on financial accounting to meet increased government oversight; and an accelerating involvement in computer technology and electronic communications out of fear of being left behind.

US/ICOMOS leadership is committed to a sustained effort to attain the strategic planning goals set out at the Board of Trustee's Williamsburg retreat in March 1997. A far-reaching consensus to come out of this process is that the objectives of US/ICOMOS will be focussed on serving the professional needs of its members regarding international preservation issues. In practical terms this will mean enhancing our educational programs, professional exchanges and other activities. US/ICOMOS leadership recognizes that the organization needs to achieve financial stability and this means that leadership needs to be involved with fundraising and other program support. We have identified our strengths: the International Summer Intern Program has been very successful and should be expanded to include mid-career exchanges. Another area targeted for expansion is the Annual Meeting. Beginning in 1998, the Annual Meeting will include an international symposium. To shift away from the image of a Washington-oriented organization, the Annual Meeting will be held in other cities in alternating years starting in 1999.

Two other tools identified to be of primary importance are the specialized committees and the Internet. To help develop their full potential, Specialized Committees are focused on developing better work plans that involve their full membership. Regarding the use of the Internet, expansion of the US/ICOMOS home page and a more intense use of the e-mail list server have also been identified as initial steps in an increasingly effective electronic exchange and the dissemination of information on international preservation.

REPORT ON THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE CONFERENCE IN THAILAND

The ICOMOS International Committee on Vernacular Architecture (CIAV) met in Bangkok on May 13-18, coinciding with an international conference organized by the Thai members of the CIAV. US/ICOMOS was represented at the event by U.S. Vernacular Committee Chair, William Chapman. Mr. Chapman's attendance was made possible through a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation in New York City.

During the CIAV meeting, members dealt with a number of issues, including the continuing refinement of the draft Charter for Vernacular Architecture, which is scheduled for circulation and full membership review next winter in preparation for its final approval at the 1999 General Assembly in Mexico. The Draft will be presented in this Newsletter to provide all US/ICOMOS members full opportunity to comment.

Thirty-four papers were presented to 150 participants as part of the Conference on Conservation and Revitalization of Vernacular Architecture. The abundance of Thai papers was an ideal opportunity to present to the world at large the richness of that country's vernacular traditions. Upon concluding, the Assembly issued recommendations for the conservation of the vernacular heritage, portions of which are summarized in the following paragraphs:

The Vernacular is a fragile heritage. Its preservation is dependent upon the maintenance of traditional lifestyles, the availability of traditional crafts and materials, and the curbing of threats posed by development.

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It is necessary to provide for the future of this vernacular heritage whilst offering the inhabitants the modern facilities and opportunities to which they are entitled.

Accordingly, this conference calls upon governments.. to:

1. Recognize the invaluable resource provided by the vernacular heritage, and defend it from the threats to which it is now exposed.
2. Encourage the maintenance of traditional lifestyles, architecture and the environmental context, at the same time providing the people with modern facilities and standards of health, education and economic opportunity.
3. Prevent the destruction of such communities by controlling the inevitable changes due to industrialization and exploitation, such as tourism, mining, logging, public utilities and infrastructure.
4. Maintain the production of traditional building materials... and make them available for the maintenance and restoration of traditional and vernacular buildings.
5. Support and provide facilities for the training of craftsmen in the traditional building trades.

US/ICOMOS MISSION STATEMENT ■

US/ICOMOS fosters heritage conservation and historic preservation at the national and international levels through education and training, international exchange of people and information, technical assistance, documentation, advocacy and other activities consistent with the goals of ICOMOS and through collaboration with other organizations.

US/ICOMOS membership includes professionals, practitioners, supporters and organizations committed to the protection, preservation and conservation of the world's cultural heritage. US/ICOMOS is the U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the international nongovernmental organization dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the world's heritage.

US/ICOMOS NEWSLETTER ■

The US/ICOMOS Newsletter is published by US/ICOMOS six times a year. Members are encouraged to submit articles, illustrations and editorial items for inclusion in the Newsletter. Contributors are solely responsible for the facts and opinions stated herein, and publication in this Newsletter does not constitute an official endorsement by US/ICOMOS.

Please send submissions and any inquiries to the Editor, US/ICOMOS Newsletter, 401 F Street, NW, Room 331, Washington, DC 20001-2728.

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6. Survey and record the vernacular heritage on an ongoing basis, both to provide information for future restoration projects, and to provide a permanent record of any buildings and settlements which may be destroyed in the future.

The recommendations conclude with a call upon all nations of the world "to develop and promote housing forms which respect their own vernacular traditions, harmonic with existing settlements, use traditional materials in a sustainable way, and respond effectively to local climates and conditions."

STRUCTURES COMMITTEE MEETS

The second meeting of the new International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage (ISCARSAH) met at the Engineering University in Rome from March 13-15. Thirty delegates attended the meeting, including Stephen J. Kelley, US/ICOMOS Board member and U.S. representative.

The new committee was founded at the Executive Committee meeting of ICOMOS in Sofia last October. A third meeting is scheduled for Santiago de Compostela in September. At the Rome meeting, the Committee stated its goals as follows:

- 1) to promote international cooperation in the establishment of a world body gathering the various specializations of professionals in conservation and restoration concerned with integrating the contribution of structural engineering into conservation knowledge, so that a full understanding of structural typology and behavior and of materials characteristics become an intrinsic part of conservation practice;
- 2) to establish guidelines and/or formulate general recommendations to be regularly updated.
- 3) to disseminate the knowledge acquired for the development of competency in conservation of historic structures in different countries.

Kelley reports that participants at the Rome meeting first shared experiences, techniques and different approaches to structures work in their country, then resolved to jointly develop a document with guidelines for structural intervention on a monument. It was generally agreed that it is best to perform the least intervention possible.

The newly elected President of the Committee is Prof. Ing. Giorgia Croci of the Ordinario di Tecnica delle Costruzioni, Rome. Prof. Koen Van Balen of Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium, is the new Secretariat of the Committee; and Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard, architect, is the new Treasurer. Schmuckle-Mollard is a Vice President of ICOMOS.

Kelley is on the Managing Group of the Committee. His US/ICOMOS alternate is Melvyn Greene, a seismic engineer of Melvyn Greene and Associates, Inc., in Torrance, California.

Kelley says "This is a first for ICOMOS — it will mean that more engineers and scientists will want to become involved. I feel certain that we will see a U.S. committee drawn up in the future."



*Myoshin-Ji
This Buddhist Temple
in Kyoto is rebuilt
periodically*

ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL WOOD COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM

HIMEJI, JAPAN, MARCH 7-11, 1994

John Rahmes

Three years have passed since the International Wood Committee Symposium was held in Himeji, Japan, an interval which has provided time for reflection and assessment of the work carried out then by 21 participants from seven countries.

Memories of that program begin with the pre-symposium visit we took to the Ise Shrine, the most sacred Shinto site in Japan.. A taxi brigade took us to the Uji Bridge, which spans the Isuzu River. We crossed the bridge on foot and entered the shrine.

The shrine has been completely rebuilt every 20 years since 690 A.D. The 61st Shikenen Sengu, or renewal, which we witnessed, had begun 10 years before with the felling of trees for reconstruction. Thirty-one ceremonies accompanied the process, culminating in Sengyo in October 1993. In this final rite, the sacred artifacts from the former shrine were transferred to the new.

The two main shrines at Ise are rebuilt at 20-year intervals, but other structures, such as the Uji Bridge, 14 auxiliary shrines and some 2,000 ceremonial items, including swords, mirrors, and silk items are also renewed periodically.

During the first 3 1/2 days of the symposium, we saw historic wooden buildings in all stages of the process in Nara, Kyoto and

Himeji. This was fascinating. To all who are interested, I heartily recommend Knut Einar Larsen's excellent Architectural Preservation in Japan, (Tapir Forlag, Trondheim, 1994) for a thorough overview of these preservation practices.(see the review in this issue, p.7).

At the end of the week, participants gathered for presentations and discussions of the third draft of *Principles of Practice for the Preservation of Historic Timber Buildings* at the Jokaku Center, a research center in Himeji City. There seemed to be common agreement that the proposed document is an accomplished adaptation of the Venice Charter, but there has been much discussion about whether a completely original document should be generated, and reviewers have made many suggestions for amplification of individual sections of the draft. Some would like to see it expanded into a handbook that describes every possible situation. Others, blanching at the enormity of this task, have suggested the equally arduous one of reviewing specific conservation methods, one by one, and deriving first principles from that review. The Third draft is published on p. 2. If you have comments or proposed revisions, please contact me, John Rahmes, (718) 783-2126, Fax # (same), with your suggestions.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

USI/WOOD was established in January 1995, but this represents the committee's first newsletter. We are pleased to bring it to you, and hope you will find it interesting and useful.

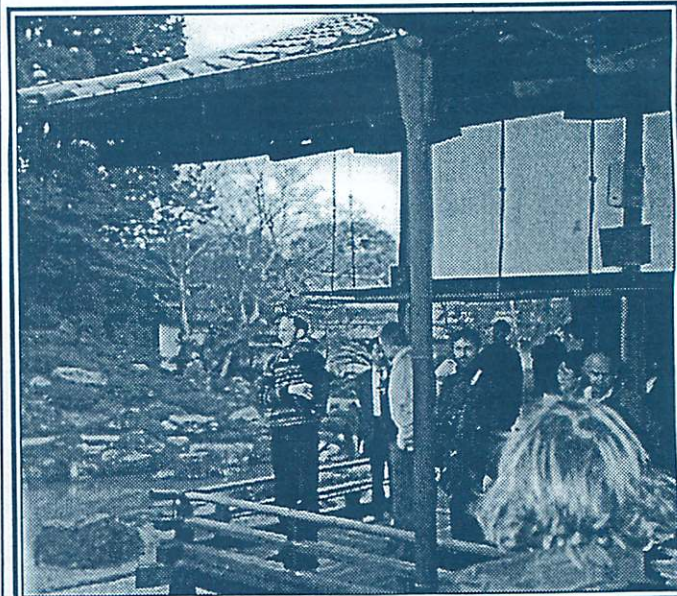
We are planning future issues and call upon the members of USI/WOOD to submit articles about their conferences and projects, or book reviews on interesting reading. Please send your contributions to Mr. John Poppeliers, vice-chairman of USI/WOOD, at 2939 Van Ness Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008-4622.

At the 11th General Assembly of ICOMOS in Sofia, Bulgaria, the international wood committee had a short meeting in which the members voted to have the chairs of the U.S. and U.K. wood committees serve as vice-presidents of the international committee. In addition, John Rahmes of US/ICOMOS was approved for another vice-presidential post. He will be in charge of fundraising.

At Sofia, I presented a report on work being done for the establishment of historic forest reserves in the United States. The international wood committee had also proposed submitting the third Draft of *Principles of Practice for the Preservation of Historic Timber Buildings* for adoption, but decided to delay submission until a full-scale review of this document can take place.

The 1997/98 program for USI/WOOD was prepared in draft form for review at the annual meeting of US/ICOMOS and mailed to all members.

Hiroshi Daifuku



The Nishi-Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Kyoto.

ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL WOOD COMMITTEE

Principles of Practice for the Preservation of Historic Timber Buildings, November 1995

Recognize the importance of timber buildings from all periods for the world cultural heritage;
the great variety of timber structures in the world;

Consider the various species of wood used to build these structures and the differing rates of wood decay due to varying climatic conditions;

Consider the great variety of actions and treatments required for the preservation (conservation) of these heritage resources;

Recognize that buildings partly or wholly of timber construction have special problems owing to the risk of rapid degradation as a consequence of fluctuations in humidity, fungal decay, insect attack, or fire;

Recognize the scarcity of original buildings due to vulnerability and the loss of historic technical knowledge concerning design and construction;

Note the Venice Charter and related UNESCO and ICOMOS doctrine, and seeks to apply these general principles to the protection of historic timber buildings.

Maintenance

Continuous maintenance is crucial for the protection of the cultural values of historic timber buildings.

Interventions

Any intervention must be governed by unswerving respect for the aesthetical and historical values, and the physical integrity of cultural property. However, it must be recognized that some problems are unique and have to be solved from first principles on a case by case basis.

Any proposed intervention should: a) be reversible, if technically possible; or b) at least not prejudice a future intervention whenever this may become necessary.

The least possible intervention in the fabric of historic timber buildings is the ideal. However, depending on traditions or on particular structural requirements, preservation (conservation) work on a timber building may be carried out by dismantling, followed by repair or replacement of individual members, and

subsequent reassembly.

During interventions, all material, including in-fill panels and weather-boarding, and roofing and flooring materials should be regarded as being as important as the structure itself. The protection should also include surface finishes such as plaster, paint, coating, wall-paper, etc.

Documentation

The condition of the building before any intervention and all materials used during treatment must be fully documented in accordance with Article 16 of the Venice Charter.

Repair and Replacement

In principle, as much as possible of existing material should be retained. However, restoration (the process of making changes to a historic building so that it will closely approximate its state at a specific time in history) should be accepted under certain circumstances and conditions according to the principles outlined in the Venice Charter. It is desirable that members which are removed from buildings are catalogued and that characteristic samples of members are put in permanent storage.

Replacement timber should be accepted where this is an appropriate response to the conservation of the aesthetic and historical value of the cultural heritage.

Replacement timber of appropriate moisture content and characteristics of appropriate compatibility shall be used when members or parts of members must be replaced due to decay or damage.

New members or parts of members should be made of the same species of wood with the same grading as in the members being replaced. Where possible, this should also include similar natural characteristics, such as knots,

Where restoration is the goal, new members should be dressed with similar tools or machines as were used originally. The same techniques of craftsmanship and construction should be employed.

If a part of a member is replaced, traditional woodwork joints should, if appropriate and compatible with structural requirements, be used to splice the new and the existing part.

It must be accepted that new members or parts of members will be distinguishable from the existing ones. To copy the natural decay and deformation of the existing members is not desirable. Appropriate traditional or well-tested modern methods (which should not degrade the surface of wooden member) may be used to match the coloring of the old and the new.

New members or parts of members should be discretely marked by carving, or by marks burnt into the wood or other methods, so that they can be identified later.

Historic Forest Reserves

All countries should be encouraged to establish historic forest or woodland reserves where appropriate timber can be obtained, on a selective basis, for the preservation (conservation) of historic timber buildings.

Institutions responsible for historic preservation should establish or encourage the establishment of stores of timber

appropriate for preservation (conservation) work.

Contemporary Materials and Technologies

Contemporary materials, like epoxy resins, and techniques like structural steel reinforcement, should be used with the greatest caution, and only in cases where the durability and structural behavior of the materials and construction techniques have been satisfactorily proven.

The use of chemical preservatives should be carefully controlled and should be used only where there is a clear benefit, where public safety will not be affected, and where the likelihood of success over the long term is significant.

Education and Training

Comprehensive and integrated training programs on national, regional, and international levels should be established. The programs should include all relevant professions and trades involved in preservation (conservation) work, and in particular architects, conservators, and craftsmen.

This draft was edited by Knut Einar Larsen (Secretary General of the Wood Committee) and is based on:

Bernard Feilden, "A Possible Ethic for the Conservation of Timber Structures." in Charles, F.W.B., *Conservation of Timber Buildings*, (London: Hutchinson, 1984), pp.238-241; Mennim, A. Michael, "Guidelines for the Conservation of Timber Structures," in *Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings Transactions*, Volume XIII, 1988; Weaver, Martin, suggestions for the amendment of Mr. Mennim's proposal, October 1988; resolutions adopted by the Wood Committee during its meeting in Himeji, Japan, March 11-12, 1994; and comments given after the 1994 Wood Committee meeting.

HISTORIC SHIPS CONFERENCE

June 26-28, 1995, Dundee, Scotland

Kevin Foster & Diane Miller

Wooden ships are built in many regions of the world. Regional differences in construction and the timbers used reflect centuries of experience and provide the basis for distinct traditional skills. Ships have been built to face not only the perils of the seas — storms, currents, and hidden obstacles such as shoals and rocks — but also to carry passengers, cargo, and in the past, canons. Canons displaced a good deal of weight and when fired, the recoil had to be absorbed by the hull, which imposed additional factors that builders had to take into account. Ships using sails for propulsive power require rigging to stabilize the masts. Yards and hulls must be strengthened to meet such pressures. For these reasons, designs, tools and building traditions are well-established, and changes in contrast to structures built on land are slow.

While insects, fungi and other biological factors may affect the preservation of a building, ships also face analogous problems. Rot, in a humid environment, is a constant problem. Instead of termites, ship worm (Teredo) a highly specialized clam that tunnels into ship timbers below the water line, can riddle

unprotected timber. Barnacles and seaweed also fasten themselves to the hull. The different micro-environments above and below the water line are striking.

Additional factors contribute to problems in preservation. If a ship is floating in water polluted with chemicals, or bathed in a salt solution at sea, it is exposed to much harsher conditions than that faced by most buildings. The recent development of marine archaeology has, at times, yielded material in far better condition than on land. At the same time, the recovered artifacts may need special care when moved to a dry environment. For these reasons, much of current research and methods used in marine conservation provide useful data for the conservation of wooden cultural property on land. International conferences bring together specialists in the field and provide for the exchange of information on new technologies and products.

Dundee, Scotland

Dundee is located in eastern Scotland on the north shore of the Firth of Tay, an important seaport and shipbuilding center. It is the home of two large wooden vessels that have been preserved, the frigate H.M.S. Unicorn and the Arctic exploration steamship, Discovery. It is also the site of two Scottish universities, St. Andrews and Abertay Dundee, both of which are involved in ship preservation, and jointly sponsored the conference with The Unicorn Preservation Society. All three organizations maintain a significant collection of historic boats, including a frigate built in 1824. They also conduct innovative wood preservation technology, and maritime archaeology.

The conference participants had varied backgrounds — some were scientists — chemists, physicists, and mycologists — others were preservationists — conservators, historians, etc. The papers presented were all focussed on current projects that involve the study and preservation of historic vessels. Part of the conference centered on the preservation of large wooden structures specifically.

Papers Presented

1) Alec Barber, Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works, Canada.

This paper discussed the salvage and preservation of a huge wooden gold mining dredge in the Canadian Yukon. The project included constructing a drydock out of gravel, using a chain saw to cut blocks of ice, and using meltwater to create fluidized mud to float the vessel into the drydock.

2) Michael Albright discussed the development of a new, less-destructive method of testing large timber structures. An accelerometer was used to determine areas infected with rot, followed by incremental boring of suspected areas to determine the extent of the rotted section.

3) C. Dobbs spoke about the replacement of deck timber on the Mary Rose, a flag ship of Henry VIII that sank in 1545 and was raised in 1952. The ship has been painstakingly re-assembled in an enclosed dry-dock/conservation laboratory with custom-made titanium props to support the decks without corrosion. Polyethylene glycol (PEG) has been used to consolidate the wood. Loose wood, which had been attacked by wharf borer

beetles, are now wrapped in heat sealed metal foil.

4) Jajit Singh, engineer, spoke about innovative methods to determine damage caused by rot in large timber structures. These included the use of reflected photons from gamma rays; ultrasonic probes; stress wave detection; immunological tests of core-samples; radiography; and small diameter drills fitted with sensitive resistographs. A low-tech method that was also used was the use of trained dogs to sniff-out decayed areas.

Rot treatment included traditional liquid borate and PEG, as well as drilling multiple holes into infected timber to embed glass rods of fused borates that will dissolve in the wood over a course of time. Another method used heat (up to 90° C) to sterilize the wood. This treatment was used to treat the entire bow of a ship, which was enclosed in a shelter for several days.

5) Elaine Ferguson, Scottish Institute for Wood Technology

Ferguson presented a discussion of competing wood-rot fungus infections based on an analysis of timber from the H.M.S. Unicorn that found 14 different species of fungi in the timbers of the ship. Some of the species specialize in colonizing new wood, others succeed these transitional species. The species establish dominant patterns, competing with one another for territory.

6) John Smith, Curator of Ships, Falkland Islands

The preservation of wrecks in shallow waters. Vessels such as the Charles Cooper, a trans-Atlantic packet of 1856, and the Vicar of Bray, 1841 have survived in the cold waters of the Falkland Islands where ship worm is absent. However, during the past ten years, the wakes of high speed fishing boats have caused problems.

Toward a preservation policy for historic ships in the U.K.

A national committee has been established to define objectives and policies for the U.K. to ensure the long-term preservation of the most important historic examples in the country. St. Andrews University is under contract to prepare a National Register of Historic Ships, including a standardized form to evaluate the vessels and a model scheme for preserving such ships.

The program is to be financed by a modest fraction of the proceeds from the national lottery. The liveliest debate of the conference concerned the criteria to be used in distributing government funds for this previously neglected area of preservation.

The Conference brought several leading specialists together who contributed a good deal of information. We believe the development of a national inventory and standards for conservation will provide a good beginning. The proposed method of financing the preservation of ships from the proceeds of the national lottery was a welcome idea, though not all countries could follow this example. The sponsors plan an early publication date for papers, and a follow-up conference in Stockholm in 1999.

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON THE CONSERVATION OF WOOD, NORWAY, 1990

Eric Mack

As UNESCO grew rapidly from the small organization it was in the early 50's, it created new international organizations to carry out its mandate to "maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge . . ." These organizations included the International Center for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in Rome, which was created with the cooperation of the Government of Italy, and several years later, ICOMOS.

UNESCO established regional training centers with The United Nations Development Program (U.N.D.P.) and international training centers with ICCROM and ICOMOS. Many of these training courses have been very successful, encouraging international cooperation and the transmission of technology and information, as well as stimulating new development and improved technology. More importantly, perhaps, they have also been the cause of friendships and continued collaboration that have contributed a varied mix of international attitudes, approaches and solutions to common problems.

Among the training courses developed was a course on the conservation of stone, brick and other materials. Held every second year in Venice, Italy, it was directed to mid-career specialists for whom study abroad was an important factor in their professional career. The success of the stone course encouraged UNESCO to plan an analogous course on wood. Planning began in 1980, and an international symposium on wood was held in Tokyo and Saitama, Japan in 1982. The final report on that symposium, entitled "International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property," was later used as a textbook for the course. It was published by the Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties in 1983.

In 1984, the first course was held in Norway under the administration of the Riksantikvaren (National Directorate for Cultural Heritage) and with the cooperation and support of The Norwegian Institute of Technology in Trondheim; UNESCO; ICCROM; and ICOMOS.

The First Course -- 1990

The five-week course was held in Trondheim in 1990, when I was one of fourteen participants from 12 different countries enrolled in the course. Enrollment was limited to two people from any given country, and we were based in Oslo, where the headquarters of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee/Comite International Bois is located. Two of the instructors, Nils Marstein and Knut Einar Larsen are President and Secretary-General of that committee, respectively. The lectures and practical work of the course were supplemented by trips to project sites where restoration and conservation could be seen and studied. The group also visited laboratories and museums to study Norwegian methods.

One of the strongest points of the course was its adaptability. At the end of each course Nils Marstein and Knut Einar Larsen led a final review of the subjects covered with all of the participants. The results of this review were then used in planning the next course.

The course covered all wooden artifacts, from wooden buildings to small wooden objects like cups and saucers, and included all manner of treatments from paints on wood to protective coverings over wood, discussing repairs and damage prevention, etc. For the most part, however, the course concentrated on wooden structures. Different kinds of wood and the characteristics, handling and treatment of wood were discussed in the context of the various approaches to analyzing wood problems and solutions.

Topics included Climatology and the effect of the weather on timber resources and wooden artifacts, tools, points of deterioration, conservation principles, restoration theory, and case studies of zoning and regulation. There was a segment on technical problems, and another on the effects of traditional practices on the conservation of wood.

In 1990, Professor Nobuo Ito from Japan was one of the lecturers, and he ably presented his country's approach to the effects of traditional practices on wood. The discussions that ensued underlined the very real and defensible international differences in opinion on this topic.

Financing Wood Conservation Education

As noted earlier the wood course is given under the auspices of UNESCO, ICCROM, AND ICOMOS, but it is planned and realized by The Riksantikvaren, The Norwegian Institute of Technology and The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research. In the past, contributions have come from UNESCO, ICCROM, and The Riksantikvaren. Increasingly, however, the budget required has come from The Riksantikvaren and other Norwegian sources.

The total budget for the course in 1990 amounted to 1.1 million Norwegian kruger, or about \$18,400. This covers the cost of local staff, the lecturers, accommodations for the participants and guest lecturers, and local travel. There is no tuition charge, but the participants are expected to cover the cost of transportation to and from the course as well as food, and incidental expenses.

There are some study grants furnished by UNESCO for students from developing countries where it is difficult to obtain convertible currency. Local institutions and governments also furnish grants. In my case, I received a grant from The Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The no-tuition policy is an important way to promote the international makeup of the group and is also an important factor for those who attend the course at their own expense.

Evaluating the Course

It is my opinion that Norway is an excellent location for the international wood course, in part because it is so famous for its use of wood. Through most of its history, Norway has based its development on the use of wood, and this has created in

Norway an extraordinary pool of wooden artifacts and the knowledge of how to use and preserve them. The country is beautiful, the people friendly, and the food is great. In addition, the long hours of summer sunlight encourage a wonderful social component of the student experience in Norway. The course promoted a wonderful international exchange of ideas and information on wood conservation and all its aspects throughout the world.

One of the ways that we who are in the field can support this course is by helping with fundraising ideas to provide it with a stable and broad-based source for funding. The long-term advantages of this course and the resulting information network that it creates are worth far more than the financial investment involved.

BOOK CORNER

The reviews in this issue were all written by Hiroshi Daifuku. Several of them concern publications issued by the Riksantikvaren of Norway and the ICOMOS International Wood Committee/Comité International Bois and can be ordered from: Tapi International Booksellers, N-7005 Trondheim, Norway. Tel.: +47/73-59-32-20, Fax.: +73-59-84-92

The last book reviewed is on the restoration of wooden buildings in Finland. It can be ordered from P.R.G., Inc., P.O. Box 1768, Rockville, MD 20849-1768.

Larsen, Knut E. and Marstein, Nils, Eds. *Conference on Authenticity in Relation to the World Heritage Convention: Preparatory Workshop, Bergen, Norway, 31 January-2 February, 1994*. Published by the Riksantikvaren, 1994. 138 pages, 4 photographs and 1 line drawing.

When the World Heritage Committee met in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1992, it recommended that a critical evaluation be made of the criteria governing integrity and authenticity. A preparatory meeting of experts was held in Norway to explore the implications of the recommendation and prepare the UNESCO/ICOMOS committee with the working documents for its meeting later in the year.

The papers introduced at the meeting reviewed the concept of authenticity from different points of view: theoretical, historical and philosophical as well as the generally accepted standards of the present. It was noted that there are differences among countries in the importance they attach to the material cultural properties as well as in the non-material, such as language, religion, music and dance. Thus, cultures that place little importance on the survival of material structures are ill at ease with principles such as those embodied in the Venice Charter. These peoples place greater emphasis on spiritual values, on authenticity of thought, than on material symbols. New guidelines were needed that would take into account more than site and structural values.

The conservation of religious buildings in Japan was cited as

an example. Shinto shrines, in particular the most sacred one at Ise, were traditionally demolished every twenty years with an exact copy erected on a nearby foundation. This is not considered by the Japanese as conservation, but a religious event celebrating a rite of renewal.

By contrast, Buddhist temples, and other historic buildings are treasured for their materials, and every effort is made to ensure their continued existence. The patina of age, the historicity of the object (the identity of the builder, the artists, the events with which it is associated) are all treasured and documented in detail.

In view of the fact that the "Preparatory Workshop" was to be followed by "A Conference on Authenticity in Relation to the World Heritage Convention", held in Nara, Japan, in November 1994, the conference agreed that the four criteria in the Operational Guidelines did not define the authenticity of World Heritage cultural sites adequately. It discussed authenticity in relation to function, form, tradition, spirit and material.

The Conference also noted areas of possible conflict. It considered that authenticity should not be confused with values as values change with time. An example of conflicts affecting authenticity are in alterations made in which "contemporary needs for the use of historic buildings may be more important than [its] historical interest." Other possible areas of conflict were noted, such as between religion and authenticity. It was added that the "preservation of sacred buildings are under a heavy load of religious concepts." An example is the common concept that a building dedicated to a deity should be in perfect condition.

Finally, one of the most important recommendations made in Bergen was that the Nara meeting should include representatives from a range of cultures.

Larsen, Knut E. *Architectural Preservation in Japan*.

Published by the ICOMOS International Wood Committee, 1994. 204 pages, 65 photographs, and 34 line drawings.

Japan began its development as a modern industrialized state with the restoration of the Meiji emperor to power in 1868. This transition was recent and rapid, and has resulted in the continuity of many of the traditional building skills of artisans used in the construction and maintenance of historic buildings. In addition, in many cases detailed reports and drawings were kept of repairs made to important historic buildings.

Recently, Larsen, had the opportunity to examine in detail Japanese practice in the conservation of historic wooden architecture. He had met Dr. Nobuo Ito, the former Director General of the Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, when he lectured in the International Wood Course in Trondheim. At that time, he realized that:

".... the Japanese approach to the preservation of timber structures is rooted in the country's culture and its natural conditions. At the same time, the Japanese approach is 'modern', in the sense that preservation work in Japan is also based upon on-going scientific and humanistic research."

In 1989-1990 he spent a year in Japan as a Japan Foundation Long-Term Research Fellow and, through Ito's sponsorship, had an opportunity to study Japanese theory and practice in the conservation of its wooden cultural heritage. He examined in detail several important restoration projects, and visited more than 500 historic buildings designated as "Important Cultural Properties". He selected 200 buildings for closer inspection.

In the course of his study he noted the contribution made by Kiyoshi Asano, architectural historian, who carried out a detailed study of the buildings of the Horyuji Monastery, which was built during the 8th century in Nara. It was dismantled and repaired in the 30's. Fires had damaged the buildings, but repairs were carefully documented. All members were measured and studied. The types of joints used, the dates of construction or repair and the lines followed were inscribed with ink and recorded. Studies of ancient documents accompanied the work and these methods have been followed. The research done made possible the revival of outdated techniques and complemented the work of preservation. Asano's methods have been faithfully adopted by his successors.

Another factor contributing to the methods followed in repairs, particularly in the complex curves of roofs and their support, is based on *kiwari*, the standard sizes all members and their proportions, which varied in different periods and styles. In addition, *kiku*, the methods used to shape the wood, taking into account its grain and structure, calls for highly developed skills and is an important complement to the task.

Larsen visited many outstanding historic buildings, and also witnessed the use of traditional tools and skills by contemporary craftsmen. His text records Japanese terminology (and English translations) in restoration work, providing information which was not readily accessible to non-Japanese speaking specialists. Photographs, traditional line drawings and terminology are reviewed. Some of the traditional techniques include the replacement of decayed parts of wooden pillars which is frequently considered to be an unsuitable form of repair in Europe, as "splicing in a vertical member is thought to result in a transmission of uneven stress, resulting in breakage."

However, numerous repairs of historic buildings, some made centuries ago, reveal the excellence of Japanese carpenters who have developed two principal kinds of joints: 1) *tsugite* or lengthening joints; and 2) *shiguchi*, or angle joints. Moreover, there are approximately 50 main types of *tsugite* joints and 80 *shiguchi*. Larsen adds that subtle and intricate variations are found, and over the course of centuries, the actual number of joints may be over 1000. Several are illustrated in the text.

Larsen notes that the Japanese approach to restoration is similar to the Italian as developed by Cesare Brandi and others in which restoration:

"aims at the re-establishment of the potential unity of the work of art so far as possible without committing an artistic or historic falsification. A fundamental precondition for restoration is the recognition and definition of an object as a work of art, considering its aesthetic and historic aspects. Restoration is the method for transmitting the work of art to the future." (p. 105).

Charles, F. W. B. with Charles, Mary. *Conservation of Timber Buildings*, published in 1984, and reprinted in 1986 and 1994 with a "Foreword" by Sir Bernard Feilden. London: Donhead Publishing Ltd., 1994. Distributed in the U.S. by P.R.G., Inc., P.O. Box 1768, Rockville, MD 20849- 1768. \$68, with more than 300 line drawings and photographs.

I first met Freddie and his wife Mary at an international symposium held in Japan, in November 1982. His paper, "Problems of Preservation of Lesser Historic Buildings in England", was published in the *International Symposium on the Conservation of Wooden Cultural Property*, (Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Property, 1983). He began:

"The great buildings — cathedrals, castles, churches, mansion houses — are one problem There are in addition some thousands of lesser buildings — manor houses, market halls, guild halls, merchant houses, farm houses, barns — the majority of which are built of wood. ... Most of them are officially listed as buildings of historical or architectural interest, but few are recognized as of national importance.."

Charles begins with the definition of two principal roof types, the rafter or "single" roof and the "purlin" or double roof which can be subdivided into a number of other types of structures, such as post-and-trees, cruck, and base cruck. Different kinds of lap joints were in common use. With time, they developed into many variations, one of which is the "secret-notch lap" which "safeguards splitting along the grain of the tongue." In addition wall frames used mortise and tenon. With time the "box frame system," which used rafter roofs, gradually eliminated the use of lap joints and cross beams. It was introduced to provide greater resistance to stress. Charles describes other changes to illustrate the evolution of joints used in construction. Photographs provide details in extant buildings and supplement the drawings.

Oak was the preferred timber used in construction. As anyone who has had the experience in cutting seasoned oak with hand saws knows, shaping seasoned oak is an extremely tiring task. Today power tools are relied on to shape seasoned wood, but the results obtained differs from wood shaped with axes, adzes, and other manual tools used in the past. It was not until comparatively recently, and thanks to workers like Charles, that the widespread principle of using "green" lumber construction was appreciated. Charles notes that oak is "long grained, strong, durable, and not least important, workable. Though pliable for there first few months and even years after felling, it hardens with age; and eventually becomes virtually impossible to saw or axe across the grain."

Accounts of early building practices in other countries underline the fact that in many countries wood was worked while "green." In Nepal, for example, "sal" (*Shorea robusta*), is the wood preferred for construction. When seasoned, sal hardens and becomes brittle, making it more difficult for the carver to cut fine lines. (Sanday, John. *Building Conservation in Nepal*, UNESCO, Paris. 1978).

Hence, in pre-Industrial England, oak was used green.

However, trees were cut preferably in autumn or winter after its leaves were shed and the flow of sap slowed. Charles points out that:

"Unseasoned timber is the best to work. It will cleave, saw, hew and cut with ease, and even bend in the final structure . . . movement is extremely slight as each component is firmly secured within a completely interlocked frame -- the best possible way to season timber."

In obtaining timber, the preferred source was woodland oak, which grew straight and had few limbs. Carpenters selected the smallest tree that would yield the required cross section of the structural member. The timber also had to be straight, at least in one plane. Original half-timbered buildings on the continent and in England frequently used naturally curved wood for support as well as for decorative purposes. If replaced, this meant seeking trees with the desired form. On pages 48-49, sketches illustrate the relative heights and girths of trees, as they were selected for different buildings. Outlines indicate how the trunks were cut.

The methods followed in examining historic structures and planning repairs are summarized, and illustrated again with line drawings from a number of different buildings. In planning the work to be done, different types of joints are reviewed as well as the introduction of modern materials to ensure greater stability and comfort, such as building roofs which faithfully reproduce the original, but add modern insulating material.

The final section of the book is a series of case studies. Photographic documentation illustrates the presence of rot or insect damage, line drawings of plans for reconstruction, and finally photographs of the restored buildings. The case studies vary from the survey and restoration of a barn to more elaborate buildings.

In conclusion, the text and illustrative material provide a wealth of detail on the restoration of timber buildings carried out in England. The principles followed in the selection of living trees from which timber was used in restoration, the tools and techniques used, would be a challenge to all architect/restorers. Drawings and photographs, and the clear text provide details which should interest American specialists, particularly those working with timber buildings built in the English tradition along the eastern seaboard.

Larsen, Knut E. and Marstein, Nils, Eds. *ICOMOS International Wood Committee--8th International Symposium: Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, Nepal. 23-25 November 1992*. Published with the financial support of UNESCO, 1994. 203 pages, 36 photographs, 30 line drawings and map.

In 1991 ICOMOS encouraged all of its international specialized committees to organize meetings and conferences outside of Europe and North America. In response ICOMOS IWC/CIB organized a symposium in Nepal attended by 13 international members as well as Nepalese and foreigners working in Nepal.

Nepal offers a striking example of one of a country that is undergoing rapid development. In 1951, when the King was

restored to power as a constitutional monarch, Nepal was opened to the world. The adoption of a program of universal education, the development of public health programs and modern medicine contributed to a major growth in population. Cities grew and the increased demand for agricultural products that resulted, caused an expansion of farms and the consequent erosion and overall disruption of the ecological balance. A monetary-based economy replaced the traditional system of social obligations and these changes also affected the social organization. Tourism became the leading source of income.

As forests disappeared, the loss of timber for restoration also did, just as major religious structures and palaces were valued as major tourist attractions. The best timber, "sal" (*Shorea robusta*), which is resistant to rot and insect attacks, became increasingly rare and expensive. It can be easily shaped, when green, into sculptured forms and used for roof struts and decorative window frames.

One of the results of the 1991 Symposium was the adoption of a resolution encouraging the Government to begin a "historic forest reserve" program, where sal, which was once the dominant tree in forests stretching from Assam to Uttar Pradesh to the west, could contribute to ecological protection and to the economy.

In its review of conservation problems, the Symposium based many of its conclusions on the dramatic changes which had taken place in Nepal, but also drew upon analogous experience elsewhere. The meeting went beyond the conservation of wood to discuss the infrastructure required to ensure the conservation of World Heritage sites. This included an analysis of social changes, the encroachment of modern building styles in the historic centers of the cities in the Valley, the need for adequate housing, and the need for coherent planning to integrate these elements into a program which would ensure the preservation of historic heritage.

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PRESERVATION LAW IS FOCUS IN WEIMAR

Over 30 international ICOMOS experts on preservation law convened in Weimar, Germany, last April to analyze legal structures of private sponsorship and participation in the protection and maintenance of the cultural heritage. The event was hosted by ICOMOS Germany and organized by Werner von Trützscher. The occasion also marked the launching of the ICOMOS International Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues. US/ICOMOS was represented by Stephen N. Dennis, Chair of the US/ICOMOS Committee on Preservation Law, whose attendance was made possible through a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. US/ICOMOS member Bonnie Burnham, Director of The World Monuments Fund, also attended and presented one of three papers on the U.S. experience.

The Seminar dedicated two full sessions to the analysis of legal forms in 19 different countries. Prof. von Trützscher reports that participants held an exhaustive, comprehensive and comparative discussion of both the real issues and the legal framework of public participation in the protection of heritage, and unanimously approved a number of resolutions, on such topics as the need to study the tax treatment of heritage organizations, projects and beneficiaries under national laws; a legal and fiscal environment that favors transborder giving, receiving and cooperation; the establishment of an international comparative glossary of legal terms in the field of the protection of cultural heritage.

In addition to the above recommendations, the Committee established a draft work program to be presented for approval to the ICOMOS Executive Committee.

With the support of the Kress Grant, Mr. Dennis was also able to attend a panel of legal experts convened by the World Bank in St. Petersburg, Russia, to develop conservation and re-use strategies for the historic districts of the old imperial capital.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

On June 10, the House Committee on Resources held Full Committee Hearings on H.R.901, the bill that would curtail the participation of the United States in the World Heritage Convention. US/ICOMOS presented oral testimony opposing the imposition of further limits on U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. Citing articles iv and vi of the Convention (those that guarantee the protection of national sovereignty), the testimony also sought to dispel unfounded fears that participation in the Convention diminishes U.S. national sovereignty over our sites.

The Department of the Interior (National Park Service) and the State Department both testified orally in opposition to the bill. The George Wright Society, The National Trust and The Society for American Archaeology submitted written testimony in opposition.

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server witnessed and participated in the lively information exchange that surrounded the bill, including the written testimony of US/ICOMOS and the National Parks and Conservation Association, and even some hate mail that was sent to US/ICOMOS Executive Director, Gustavo Araoz.

The overwhelming support for the bill on the part of those invited to testify by the Committee focussed sharply on the diminishment or loss of private property rights caused by the federal government's conservation of natural resources in internationally designated sites. The supporting testimony also made evident that there is a growing mistrust of the Executive branch's ability to steward public land. After the first panel, Chairman Young made this mistrust explicit, commenting to his supporters that he had "yet to see an example of good land management by the Federal Government."

Other parallel legislative initiatives have appeared: Representative Tom Coburn of Oklahoma's amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill, which prohibits expenditures on the World Heritage Convention and the Man and the Biosphere Program, passed with the support of the representatives of states where U.S. World Heritage sites are located.

On the Senate side, a bill very similar to Young's H.R.901 has been introduced by Senator Frank Murkowski of Alaska. S.691, "The Public Land Management Participation Act of 1997," states that no U.S. World Heritage site will become effective until approved by an Act of Congress. It further requires that the United States object to the listing of any U.S. sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger without explicit approval by a joint resolution of Congress.

There is one welcome portion of this Senate bill. It calls on the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to develop regulations that will allow federal, state and local governments and the public to comment and participate in the World Heritage Listing process.

CALENDAR

Borderlands Landscapes, a U.S./Mexican border conference on "Urban Settlement Patterns and The Human Dimension", will be held in Laredo, Texas, Sept. 5-7. For more information, contact Nina Mendez, City of Laredo Planning Department, P.O. Box 579, 1110 Houston Street, Laredo, TX 78040, tel: 210-791-7441.

The Association for Preservation Technology International (APTI) 29th Annual Conference in Chicago from September 25-28, 1997, on the theme, "**Less is More**"; US/ICOMOS will host a session on the specialized committees. For information: William B. Rose, tel: 217-333-4698; fax: 217-244-2204; e-mail: w-rose1@uiuc.edu

International Symposium on the Use of and Need for Preservation Standards in Architectural Conservation, organized by ASTM, in Atlanta, GA, on April 18-19, 1998. For information: Lauren B. Sickels-Taves, Ph.D., Biohistory International, P.O. Box 597, Natchitoches, LA 71458, tel: 318-352-5747; fax: 318-352-6619; e-mail: taves@cp-tel.net

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