

Editorial

The further back you look, the further forward you can see

History and heritage are inexorably intertwined, yet the role of the latter in promoting and presenting the former is too often restricted. There is much more still to be learnt about how our past might inform our future:

Heritage. Love of the past: English disease. Dr Johnson recognised this: 'The time present is seldom able to fill desire or imagination with immediate enjoyment, and we are forced to supply its deficiencies by recollection or anticipation'. (Bayley, S., *A Dictionary of Idiocy*, Gibson Square Books, London (2003), p. 68)

Papers in this issue of the *Journal* demonstrate the diversity of architectural heritage and highlight the need for greater understanding of the political, economic, social, and technological contexts within which this heritage was created and is now being conserved.

In *East Asian Values in Historic Conservation*, Professor Seung-Jin Chung considers how European attitudes to architectural conservation have impacted on East Asian architectural heritage, and highlights the need for a different approach that respects the often unique spiritual and naturalistic sensibilities of East Asian culture and architecture.

There is a rich heritage of corrugated-iron-clad buildings in rural areas around the world and yet much needs to be done to prevent them from falling into ruin. In their paper *Corrugated-Iron Buildings: An Endangered Resource within the Built Heritage*, Nick Thompson and Professor Phil Banfill describe the history, manufacture and construction of these buildings as well as emphasizing their cultural significance, need for protection and conservation. Their survey of 72 buildings in the Scottish Highlands and Islands show that nearly half are in a poor condition, empty or ruinous, and there is the concern that this situation may be repeated elsewhere.

Increasingly the significance of surface decoration and finishes of all ages is being recognized in works to the historic built environment.

Whether in the form of wall paintings, fabric hangings, or ceramic tiling, surfaces cannot be considered in isolation from the building and its environment. In her paper *Wallpapers*, Allyson McDermott demonstrates the historical and aesthetic importance of wallpapers and considers relevant techniques for their investigation, conservation, and care.

In *Maintenance: From Philosophy to Practice* Nigel Dann and Timothy Cantell discuss the work of Maintain our Heritage, founded on the premise that the United Kingdom should adopt a more sustainable and proactive maintenance-based policy towards historic buildings. This paper considers the results of a pilot maintenance service in the context of current attitudes towards this essential, yet often neglected, built-environment activity, and points to the need for a national maintenance strategy.

Paul D'Armada, in *Prediction and Prevention of Hygroscopic Salt Activity in Historic Buildings*, considers the dynamics, effects, and remedial action required to reduce the impact of hygroscopic salts on the materials and finishes of historic buildings. Soluble salts present a complex and potentially devastating decay mechanism that requires detailed investigation as a prerequisite to the design and implementation of a practical solution. This paper provides background information that should assist in this process.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Nigel Seeley on 21 June 2004. Nigel contributed papers, based on his work with the National Trust, to the *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, and provided a valuable point of reference for a wide range of conservation issues, as revealed in the obituary by Nicolas Barker.

This is my last issue as Editor of the *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, and I would like to thank the authors and reviewers for their contributions, and members of the Editorial Advisory Board for their support, over the past ten years.

David Watt
Editor

Editorial: From the New Team of Consultant Editors

In 1994, academics from the nine UK universities and colleges engaged in postgraduate teaching in architectural conservation came together to support Donhead Publishing in establishing the *Journal of Architectural Conservation*. This was just twelve months from the initial idea of a refereed conservation journal, proposed by Professor Peter Swallow of De Montfort University. The first issue of the *Journal*, March 1995, attracted very positive reviews, raising confidence among key figures in the conservation community that this venture could enjoy long term success. A generous award from the Getty Grant Program allowed flexibility in the early years and an unerring focus on publishing papers of good academic and professional quality. Within four years the Editorial Advisory Board found itself receiving a good spread of law, policy, practice and science papers of real quality and depth covering historic buildings, monuments, places and landscapes. The lofty ambition for the *Journal*, cherished by the Board, Donhead and other supporters – to illuminate, question and inform, attract a broad and international readership and enjoy the support of leading professionals and academics – now seemed achievable, albeit with a lot more hard work.

It was particularly pleasing that Sir Bernard Feilden agreed to become the *Journal's* patron, providing support and advice to Editor Dr David Watt and the fourteen members of the original Editorial Advisory Board. David's earlier acceptance of the daunting challenge was quite remarkable but, it turned out, quite properly founded on his own thorough grounding in the techniques of building repair and maintenance allied to an excellent grasp of science. Combined with his attention to detail, his influence in defining the *Journal's* character has been substantial, and we owe him our thanks.

Now in its eleventh year, with the *Journal* strong in all key respects, the Editorial Advisory Board has reiterated its long-held wish to move toward greater international readership, have definable influence in key areas of debate and, from time to time, to draw attention to matters of special importance through theme-based publications.

Sir Bernard Feilden, in Volume 1, Number 1, March 1995, remarked on the evolutionary stages of conservation, continuing development of international charters and the immense complexities and perspectives which inform current practice. Ten years later, most readers will agree that the increasing intricacies and complications attendant at almost every significant project require skills and experience from a range of minds. This is no less true of the editorial tasks and judgment. Mindful of the need to address this, the *Journal* now has a panel of four Consultant Editors with substantial experience in the UK and abroad, able to respond to the increasingly wide range of topics being submitted for publication.

Norman Weiss provides a much-needed USA dimension and strong science input. Bob Kindred brings substantial and highly successful experience of *Context* editorship, together with vast experience inside the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and local government. Elizabeth Hirst has special understanding of the conservation and treatment of historic buildings, objects, interiors and fittings. Vincent Shacklock chaired the early development of the *Journal* concept from 1993, brought together the key universities and schools, secured Getty Grant Program funding and has been an advisor on strategy. Working as a team, the Consultant Editors now control the peer-review process and provide informed guidance for the Editorial Advisory Board on such matters as themed and special issues covering topical subjects. In this respect, we plan November 2005 (Volume 11, Number 3) to be a special issue on the cleaning of buildings including papers from Europe and North America. November 2006 (Volume 12, Number 3) will review the state and health of conservation in the United Kingdom. Both issues are likely to extend substantially beyond the journal's normal 96-page format.

The cover of the *Journal* has been redesigned to offer a more up-to-date image and reflect the fresh approach we intend to take. We hope you will find the design and graphics attractive and more indicative of its international outlook and currency.

Editorial: From the New Team of Consultant Editors

Professor Vincent Shacklock MA, DipLandArch, IHBC, FRTPI, FRSA is Dean of Architecture, Art and Design at University of Lincoln. He played a key part in establishing the Journal and is a founding Editorial Advisory Board member. Following work in several local authorities he ran a private practice before becoming Director of the multidisciplinary Centre for Conservation Studies at DMU Leicester. He has led projects on the conservation of various historic buildings and gardens in Italy and been a member of Lincoln Cathedral's Fabric Council during the last ten years of extensive repairs. He has lectured in the USA and Italy on historic architecture and gardens.

Elizabeth Hirst AMUKIC, FSA first trained and became a senior conservator with The Eve Baker Trust before founding Hirst Conservation in 1986. Hirst Conservation, has grown to form a multi-disciplined organization possessing a wide range of skills and technical expertise, working in the UK and overseas. Offering consultancy and advice, her company undertakes conservation of important works dating from the Roman period to the twentieth century encompassing an understanding of scientific, environmental and political research and practical issues. Elizabeth has been a member of the Editorial Advisory Board since the launch of the Journal in 1995.

Professor Norman R. Weiss FAPT is a technical specialist in the analysis and preservation of traditional building materials. Trained as an analytical chemist, he is recognized for his activities in the field of masonry cleaning and repair. His most current research is in the chemical treatment of limestone and marble, and the development of novel lime-based mortars, grouts and paints. He has taught at Columbia University since 1977. Professor Weiss is a Fellow and Life Member of the Association for Preservation Technology, a member of the PTT Board of the National Park Service, Vice President of MCC Materials, Inc., and Senior Scientist of Integrated Conservation Resources, Inc.

Bob Kindred MBE, BA, IHBC, MRTPI has been Borough Conservation Officer for Ipswich since 1987. He edited *Context* for nine years until 1999 and is now the IHBC's Government Liaison Secretary. He is one of the five Heritage Advisors to the Local Government Association; has been a Trustee of the Association of Preservation Trusts since 1992; and is an Advisory Board member of Maintain Our Heritage. He has served on numerous Government and other inquiries into the heritage most recently as an external advisor on the DCMS Heritage Protection Review.