



Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

Australia ICOMOS Conference
5-8 November 2015
Adelaide Australia



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Paul is a registered architect, long associated with heritage conservation in South Australia. He has served with National Trust committees, worked with local councils, and with Peter Donovan and Susan Marsden he undertook the first Heritage Study of the City of Adelaide. While later studying for his Masters in Conservation Studies at the University of York, Paul was encouraged to return to the City Council. He went on to ultimately manage the City's Heritage Incentives Scheme, which continues to this day.

Paul has been subsequently employed by Government in urban design and is a past delegate of the Heritage Minister on State heritage matters. He is currently assisting reform of the planning system in the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. Paul has been active in heritage education as a regular contributor to conservation summer schools at Curtin and Canberra Universities and was one of a team to contribute heritage expertise to the City of Georgetown, Penang.

Creating value for the public

Paper Abstract

We stand in a rough circle some dozen deep, eagerly anticipating the motor being 'run up'. Pump, prime, whine, a blued cough, catch and adjust; the roar settles into that characteristic crackle of a Merlin. Ignition off – now the silence is deafening.

Pinking cool, the motor triggers spontaneous applause and just beyond my threshold shift I hear the man with pork sausage arms in suitably accented tones, "Thart ware the motor wot won the Battle o' Britain".

We can be drawn to and entertained, at times moved, by objects of value in much the same ways as the fine arts and block-buster exhibitions engage us. But how sites, places and historic buildings can move us in similar ways seem insufficiently part of the heritage rationale. Is the appeal of heritage on the wane and what might we learn from public institutions and their periodic re-inventions?

Lessons of a re-set in the UK are briefly outlined in this paper, as are potential alliances to broaden the public value of heritage, as well as perceptions of it.

"...preservationists have not done enough to capture, articulate and communicate the value of what they do...Significance is a great start, but there is much more to do." [Clark, K. 2014]