



Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

Australia ICOMOS Conference
5-8 November 2015
Adelaide Australia



Robyn Clinch

Dr Robyn Clinch is a full-time practising urban planner in a local council in Melbourne. Robyn's career has spanned a number of disciplines underpinned by her post-graduate qualifications. Her varied early professional background and academic qualifications have provided an excellent basis for urban planning including a broad understanding of the aspirations and machinations of business and community whose goals and ideals often clash in the planning context. This and her planning experience have culminated in her recent doctoral research that seeks to match the interpretation of heritage theory and policy with the day to day practical management of built form heritage places.

Since completing this qualification, Robyn has presented her work extensively overseas including at Cambridge University, York University, University College London and at international conferences in the US and Australia. LMusA, BEd, GradDipDP, GCertMktg, MMgt(Tech), MBus (Marketing), MSocSci (Env & Planning), PhD (Heritage planning)

Fabric and philosophy: heritage fabric (built heritage) and statutory controls in Australia

Paper Abstract

This paper briefly reviews the development of the philosophy that has underpinned statutory controls of built heritage places in Australia. Comparison is made with other western colonial jurisdictions tracing similar influences based on SPAB, the Venice Charter and more recent initiatives of bodies such as ICOMOS, ICROM and APT. The mismatch between academic and practitioner initiatives that have broadened the definition of heritage and the controls used for development is highlighted including for World Heritage sites in Australia. The outcomes in terms of statutory policies for built heritage in Australia, the US, Canada and the UK are demonstrated with practical examples. A suggested approach to addressing the mismatch between theory and practice in the management of built heritage is presented.

Research questions

1. What philosophy underpins the management practice of heritage places in Australia compared with those in other western jurisdictions such as the US, UK and Canada?
2. What are the differences between these western jurisdictions in their management of heritage places and why?
3. What is the mismatch between academic approaches, practitioner practice and 'on the ground' management of heritage places?
4. How can these mismatches and differences be better reconciled in the Australian context?