



## Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

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Felicity Morel-Ednie Brown has a PhD from the University of Western Australia exploring the development of the urban core of Perth from inception and its history, heritage and cultural development. She is interested in the planning and symbolism of cities; the reading of authenticity; architecture and spatial relationships to humanity; urbanization as a physical and psychological process; and, the interaction between culture in cities, interpretation and new technologies.

With a professional background in history, heritage, interpretation, cultural tourism and conservation, she has often worked alongside planners and architects on projects affecting the city. She is currently Principal of strategic consultancy Culture+Context, an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia and an expert Member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Interpretation and Presentation.

### Finding place: memory, authenticity and sense of place

#### Paper Abstract

Cities carry within their fabric messages about the past, expectations of the present and hopes for the future, and reveal themselves to be dynamic entities which both reflect and form their situate societies.

The nexus between remnant fabric and the valuing of it has never been more important than in post-modern, new millennium Australia. Sense of place is widely discussed as the means of urban engagement but cultural heritage significance is often curiously missing from the lexicon of place activation.

This paper explores the connection between cultural heritage significance and an authentic sense of place. It introduces a model to identify the multi-layered influences which build and sustain sense of place and cultural heritage significance at a local level and explores one component of it: memory.

Through a discovery process articulated in the paper, the trigger points of memory within the physical fabric reveal a palimpsest of intimacy and recollection which can then be articulated beyond the personal and shared with the community to form the basis of a sense of place, interpretation and retention of authentic intangible values.

This authenticity is both a product of cultural heritage significance and a defence against its erosion and loss; intangible cultural heritage significance thus becomes the foundation of good citizenship and a sustainable engagement with physical place.