



Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

Australia ICOMOS Conference
5-8 November 2015
Adelaide Australia



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Dr Noni Boyd is a New Zealander based in Sydney, Australia. She holds a B. Arch from the University of Auckland, a Masters of Architectural Conservation from Sydney University and a PhD from RMIT University in Melbourne.

Noni is an architectural historian and heritage specialist with 25 years of experience. She has a detailed knowledge of building types, including military and prefabricated buildings, and construction methods of the nineteenth and twentieth century. Her recent projects include a study (with Jean Rice) of the evolution of the terrace house form in Sydney. She has been involved in conservation projects in NSW, Norfolk Island and New Zealand and is a member of ICOMOS, DOCOMOMO and the National Trust of Australia.

She works part time as the heritage officer for the NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects. Noni is a member of the Australia ICOMOS Energy and Sustainability Working Group.

Heritage and Sustainability 101

Paper Abstract

Environmental sustainability is being embraced at a rapid rate in the building industry; it is promoted as an essential operational and performance-based requirement for new buildings. Retrofitting existing buildings, not just heritage-listed buildings, to achieve sustainability objectives needs greater recognition as an important method of conserving resources for long-term environmental sustainability.

This paper would discuss the challenges involved with heritage conservation as an environmental sustainability measure and the inherent contribution of fabric and materials (the embodied energy) to the lifecycle of a structure and cultural value of a building. The paper would also discuss the concept of responsible retrofitting of traditional buildings.

For example:

What are challenges in retrofitting heritage buildings?

What are some of the common myths?

What are the tools available for analysing a building?

Which fabric upgrade techniques are successful in the various Australian climatic zones?

Which common fabric upgrade techniques are proving detrimental to significant heritage fabric?

The principles for the recognition and the success of sustainable retrofitting in existing buildings can be discussed, challenged and demonstrated in the conference with the theme of 'fabric'.