



## Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

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Caryl Bosman (Dip.Arch, B.Arch, PhD) is a Senior Lecturer in Urban and Environmental Planning in the Griffith School of Environment and a Member of the Urban Research Program. She has research expertise in qualitative research design and in undertaking oral histories and interviews.

Caryl has received research grants to undertake qualitative research into the histories of urbanisation on the Gold Coast with an edited book forthcoming in 2015: *Off the Plan: The Urbanisation and Development of the Gold Coast*. Her current research interest and publications focus on the scholarship of studio learning and teaching, the histories of planning and placemaking and the provision of housing for an aging population. Her research has been published in National and International journals. She has worked in architectural practices in South Africa, London and Adelaide and taught in both architectural and planning degree programs.

### Patterns of place: Heritage, development and urban change in Guangzhou, China

#### Paper Abstract

The Nara Document on Authenticity recognises that authenticity is culturally constructed and is therefore context and place specific; according to Henri Lefebvre (1991) 'authentic knowledge of space must address the question of its production' (quoted in Hayden 1995:14). In urban areas subject to large scale redevelopment, understanding the significance embedded in the place is critical for protecting and enhancing cultural heritage and therefore human development (Nara 1994). This approach is not universally followed and in particular in cities undergoing economic and development booms; where time, money and unilateral interests hold sway over meanings, memories and fabrics of specific places.

This paper looks at the Xiguan area around Enning Road in Guangzhou, China, the site of an International Cultural Heritage Field Trip undertaken by a group of Queensland Architecture and Planning students in February 2015. Students undertook a 3D survey of the site using Zebedee scanning technology which potentially offers opportunities to understand place more authentically as it captures the everydayness of the place at the time of scanning. The site is currently the focus of a large scale clearance/demolition and redevelopment/modernization project which seeks to maximise economic returns and prosperity for the area; which is largely rundown, over crowded, lacks infrastructure and amenity and has been subject to devastating fires. Nonetheless, residents, not surprisingly, have a connection and attachment to the place and their cultural heritage is under threat. Data collection includes observation, photography, surveys and relevant literature. The aim of this paper is to open up discussions and thereby start to unravel stories about how the Xiguan area around Enning Road has been produced. In so doing opportunities arise to think about the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage places, thus contributing to human development.