



Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

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Miljenka Perovic

Miljenka Perovic is post-graduate student in the School of Civil Engineering and Built Environment in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the Queensland University of Technology. She has a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Zagreb in Croatia.

The Impact of Retention of Heritage Buildings and Places

Paper Abstract

The paper presents the findings drawn from an extensive review of extant literature conducted from 2012 to 2014, and the survey (results) from a substantive PhD research project conducted in January 2015.

The movement to protect heritage buildings and places has grown enormously in Australia over the past decade. The renewed recognition of the significant roles that heritage buildings and places play in the urban development society today is encouraging, but has a way to go if demolition of memorable places and irreversible loss of intangible values seen in previous times is discontinued.

From the majority of respondents to the recent survey, it becomes noticeable that the financial side of renovation, although important, often overpowers the proper consideration of the intangible value of restoration. The research also investigates the perceptions held currently by the general public, which are similar to the views of professionals involved in heritage retention.

Both results indicate that while there is a growing passion to sustain the reflection of the memories by retaining our cherished icons for the future, there needs to be a better way to manage our heritage projects. The paper concludes that despite the challenges of renovation and the future burden that upkeep and maintenance can induce, the value that accrues from preserving out heritage structure is much higher.