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## CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

<b>NAME OF PRESENTER:</b>	<b>David Gole</b>
<b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b>	<b>The Challenges of Sustainable Heritage Lead Development in the Yangon Downtown Conservation Area</b>
<b>THEME:</b>	<i>Theme 4: Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development</i>
<b>PAPER ABSTRACT:</b>	
<p>Can a new model to initiate and sustain heritage lead development in downtown Yangon be practically implemented? This paper explores the opportunities and challenges of implementing this model as developed by the Yangon Heritage Trust in its 2016 Strategic Plan for Yangon, Myanmar. Yangon has over 3500 colonial era buildings contained within a one square mile downtown conservation area.</p> <p>These buildings have been identified as of significance and recorded as part of detailed field surveys undertaken by the Yangon Heritage Trust. This cohesive and relatively intact precinct forming the downtown conservation area represents an opportunity for Yangon to develop differently to other South East Asian cities. There is an opportunity for these heritage assets to be conserved, reused and redeveloped to benefit locals by providing new enhanced livelihoods, upgraded residential areas, upgraded landscape and streetscapes and associated economic development. This approach can also develop a cultural tourism industry focused on the precinct and its activities. In this paper the opportunities, issues, complexities and many challenges are identified and explored. This includes an outline of the multilayered approach including the Yangon strategic plan, partnerships, advocacy initiatives, education and case study projects intended to demonstrate and lead.</p>	
<b>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:</b>	
<p>David Gole is a Principal of Conrad Gargett (formerly a director of Riddell Architecture) and has been working in the field of built heritage conservation, adaptive reuse and contemporary additions to heritage buildings and places for over 25 years. David was appointed Senior Heritage Architect at the Yangon Heritage Trust, Myanmar from 2015 to 2016 advocating various levels of government for the retention and reuse of over 3500 buildings colonial era buildings that form a substantially intact heritage precinct. David supported the heritage lead development of downtown Yangon contributing to the development of the Strategic Plan for the precinct, assisting with the delivery of case study demonstration adaptive reuse projects and providing heritage advice to support the reuse and development of over 60 individual significant buildings in the precinct. This work in Yangon included developing and delivering training programmes for those caring for heritage assets in Yangon. David is an Adjunct Professor with the University of Queensland School of Architecture facilitating a practice based Masters Studio focused an adaptive reuse.</p>	