

**8^e Conférence mondiale
des villes historiques**

**8th World Conference
of Historical Cities**



**Summary Report
of the 8th World Conference
of Historical Cities,
Montréal,
October 6-8, 2003**



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
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Montréal



Société de développement
de Montréal

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Illustrated version on the Web : <http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/2003>

Summary

World-class metropolis. Historical and modern city. Prime locus of Knowledge and Culture. Home to the Olympic Games and to academic excellence. Showcase for festivals and crucible of next-generation technologies. Leading light of French-speaking America. Fine example of multicultural integration. Montréal is all of these things, said **Yorikane Masumoto**, Mayor of Kyoto and Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities, in his opening address to the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities. For the occasion, Montréal welcomed representatives of several heritage cities, including the following:

Ballarat	Kazan, Republic	Rhodes
Budapest	of Tatarstan	Rivière-du-Loup
Calgary	Kyoto	Roma
Dijon	Lyon	Saguenay
Esfahan	Montpellier	Sherbrooke
Firenze	Montréal	Tehran
Geneva	Ottawa	Vienna
Gyeongju	Québec	Xi'an

Under the banner *Conserving and Developing: How? With whom? Why?*, some 180 delegates — including elected officials, experts, bureaucrats and students — from 15 countries discussed and debated issues related to heritage and development during an ambitious three-day program.

Monday October 6, 2003 — During the day's workshop sessions, numerous delegates held varied discussions about the problems most often encountered by their respective municipalities: clashes between the business community and heritage-protection associations; development and modernization of high-demographic-density historical districts; integration of heritage wealth into contemporary urban life; promotion of historical districts as indispensable poles for economic development; identification and conservation of heritage-rich cultural landscapes; the need to actively support restoration of private built heritage; the urgent need to take action more globally to develop historical areas and neighbourhoods; and the values and principles that should underpin all such efforts.

Some conference-goers preferred to brave the rather chilly temperatures and take a field approach to the issues, as it were, by enjoying the marvellous floral décor of the Mosaïcultures exhibit; taking a *bateau-mouche* boat tour along the Lachine Canal; joining a guided tour through the historical Old Montréal district; or admiring the fall foliage on Mount Royal before rejoining colleagues in the late afternoon to take part in the Conference official opening ceremonies. The day concluded with cocktails and a banquet at City Hall, and a tour of the Lights of Old Montréal.

Tuesday October 7, 2003 — The roundtable sessions began, delving into the core issues of this 8th Conference.

◆ **Roundtable I: Choosing Heritage Priorities**

Presentations by Martin Dickie, representing the City of Vienna, Sun Qingyun, Mayor of Xi'an, Gábor Demszky, Mayor of Budapest, and Luc Noppen, professor at Université du Québec à Montréal, addressed such issues as the relevance and feasibility of conservation efforts and the decision-making mechanisms designed to ensure their longevity.

◆ **Roundtable II: Involving Citizens, Residents, Merchants and Experts**

Contributions, notably those of Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto, Jean-Paul L'Allier, Mayor of Québec City, Farit R. Ishmakov, Deputy Mayor of Kazan, and Phyllis Lambert, Founding Director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture, focused mainly on the pooling of urban forces and the search for consensual development solutions that are viable and profitable for all.

◆ **Roundtable III: Are Development Costs an Expense or an Investment?**

Delegates debated at length the weighty issue of local, national and international funding for heritage interventions, after addresses by Claudio Mastrodicasa, representing the City of Florence, Jean-Yves Provencher, Deputy Mayor of Saguenay, Patrice Béghain, Deputy Mayor of Lyon, and Bruce McNiven, expert in corporate and commercial law.

Following the meeting of the Board of the League of Historical Cities, delegates were invited to attend the official banquet at the Chalet on Mount Royal.

Wednesday, October 8 — Several conference-goers attended the morning address by Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director of the New York City office of UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), on sanitary conditions and water supply in urban centres.

Others attended workshop sessions that examined the immense potential of the Internet for compiling, processing and disseminating heritage inventories, and for interconnecting heritage databases.

Still other delegates chose to devote their morning to a guided tour of Pointe-à-Callière, the Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History, or "Traces of the Past," a walking tour of Old Montréal.

At the General Assembly in the late morning, participants unanimously adopted the **Montréal Declaration**. It was then signed by the representatives of the member cities of the League of Historical Cities present at the Conference: Kyoto, Montréal, Xi'an, Kazan, Vienna, Budapest, Ballarat, Gyeongju, Esfahan, Montpellier and Roma. This document, important outcome of the 8th Conference, bears witness to the significant consensus reached here, and especially to the commitment by all in attendance to the vital need for citizen involvement in the process of heritage conservation and development.

*“What we decide to do with our heritage and culture
is up to society and the citizens of our cities:
our elders, the custodians of our collective memory,
and our children, who embody the potential of tomorrow.”*

Helen Fotopulos

Member of the Executive Committee
Responsible for Culture and Heritage
City of Montréal

The 8th World Conference of Historical Cities concluded with closing remarks by Helen Fotopulos, in which she synthesized the work accomplished over the past days, and well-attended speeches by Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montréal, and Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto and Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities. The latter officially adjourned the Assembly and invited all participants to the next Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea, in 2005.

Day 1 — Monday October 6, 2003

Workshops

Monday's workshops covered virtually the entire gamut of challenges and hurdles that stand in the way of truly meaningful heritage preservation and its integration into cities' ongoing development.

Workshop 1: A Heritage Feeling in New Orleans: Preservation Associations Versus the Business Community

Martine Geronimi, who holds a PhD in Cultural Geography from Université Laval and teaches at Université du Québec à Montréal, examined the close but often conflictual relationship between the heritage awareness of residents of the Vieux-Carré (French Quarter) district of New Orleans and the enthusiasm surrounding the emergence of mass tourism (which simultaneously confirms and compromises the area's heritage wealth).

A jewel of French and Spanish colonial heritage and a cradle of Creole culture lost to poverty, the Vieux-Carré was first revived in the 1930s by businessmen who, banking on the nostalgic appeal of a mythic past, saw it as ripe for commercial development. "Social cleansing" and expropriations followed; historical properties were demolished and new hotels built (more than 40 of them, not including clandestine operations and bed & breakfasts, within a 1.3-hectare area), all strongly opposed by citizens' commissions. A plan to run a highway through the area was narrowly averted in 1970, but growing tourism, parades, festivals, Mardi Gras and various *carnavals* and voodoo celebrations brought higher crime rates and insecurity. Access to housing and property in the district was seriously compromised by the expropriation of key sites and the demolition of buildings deemed unprofitable by promoters. Caught between political responsibility and financial profitability, the municipality must often give in to the pressures of mercantile interests that "perpetuate the myth" while paying precious little attention to authentic heritage concerns.

The ensuing discussions pointed to the risks of excessively tourism-oriented development, where the danger is that historic neighbourhoods will be stripped of their very substance, both in the name of, and as a result of, promotion of their heritage assets.

<http://www.new-orleans.la.us/home/vcc/history2.php>

Workshop 2: Redevelopment Perspectives of Historical Places: A Case Study of Hanoi (Vietnam)

Dr. Nam-Son Ngo-Viet, an urban planning and historical conservation consultant, spoke about the controversy opposing advocates of thorough preservation of the original character of Old Hanoi (which would guarantee tourism income and prosperity) and those who support modernizing this disadvantaged neighbourhood (which would improve health conditions and quality of life for its 200,000 residents, among other benefits).

The Vietnamese government supports preservation of the neighbourhood, also known as Ba-Muoi-Sau Pho-Phuong, but lacks the financial means to do so and is actively seeking Unesco funding in this regard.

At the same time, researchers and experts are engaged in efforts to raise awareness among Hanoi's citizens of the urgent need to protect this millennial heritage site for its historical, cultural and identifying value (not to mention the tourism and economic benefits). They also hope to convince the business community — which is skeptical of a restoration project that has no immediately tangible benefit — of the importance of investing in such preservation.

The strategy of Old Hanoi's defenders is to promote participation by citizens and international bodies; to identify, restore and preserve historic sites, including their various levels of historical reference; to preserve the character of the streets while enhancing the surrounding areas as well as quality of life; to reduce the pressure to develop; and to reconcile pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

As discussions near the end of the workshop emphasized, the high demographic density of Old Hanoi and the central government's prioritizing of economic and social development make the task of the champions of integral heritage preservation singularly difficult.

<http://www.thudo.gov.vn>

<http://www.ceci.ca/ceci/info/fra/article/urbanism/grise.htm>

<http://www.hanoi.irisnet.be/index.htm>

Workshop 3: Heritage for Today: Cultural Institutions in Old Montréal and Their Experience

Sylvie Dufresne, Director of Exhibits and Research at Pointe-à-Callière, the Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History, and **Jean-François Leclerc**, Director of the Montréal History Centre, noted the many efforts by an association of Old Montréal museums and cultural bodies to find new ways of communicating information and holding public activities, and the considerable impact they have had on the neighbourhood's recent emergence as a living space into which the heritage dimension is harmoniously integrated.

In the past 10 years or so, museums, archaeological societies and cultural groups in this historical neighbourhood have successfully explored new approaches to dissemination of information and knowledge in a bid to infuse Old Montréal's past with new life and meaning, while avoiding the dangers of "museumification" of heritage neighbourhoods.

Exploiting to the fullest the natural connections between the museum institutions and the surrounding heritage district, the association views the consolidation of true neighbourhood life — involving citizens, commercial interests, and multifunctionality — as an indispensable component of a “sustainable urban ecosystem.”

A representative of City of Dijon was delighted to hear of this involvement by cultural institutions in public awareness of historical neighbourhoods, remarking that more often than not, a commercial, tourism-driven vision predominates.

This workshop highlighted the determination of residents and experts, the political will of government bodies, the openness of merchants and promoters and, especially, the commitment of Montréal’s cultural and museum institutions to showcasing not only Old Montréal’s tangible heritage, but also its enduring soul.

http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/attr_act/eng/fen_atta.htm

Workshop 4: Globalization and New Opportunities for Historical Cities

Razieh H.S. Rezazadeh, who has a PhD in Urban Planning and is an associate professor at Iran University of Science and Technology, described the often beneficial effects of so-called globalization, which, although mostly associated with the spread of U.S.A.-style “modernity,” is also nurturing international networking efforts allowing historical cities to bring their culture- and heritage-related struggles to the public forum *par excellence* that is the global village.

In Prof. Rezazadeh’s view, it is because their cultural singularity is now under threat from globalization that the world’s cities are becoming more conscious of their heritage and refusing to stand by and watch it be vandalized or trivialized. To counter the adverse effects of globalization, she said, it is in the interest of cities to fully exploit the tools for research and exchange that globalization itself makes available to them.

Taking advantage of the ease of communication, transportation and networking now made possible by globalization, Ms. Rezazadeh came to Montréal for the express purpose of blocking the planned construction of a modern, New York City-style office tower in the very heart of the old neighbourhood of the city of Esfahan. She planned to use the prestigious forum provided by this international conference to raise world awareness of this issue and, more important, discuss it directly with the Mayor of Esfahan, **Sayed Mortaza Saghaian Nejad Esfahani**, who was also attending the Conference. And yet their meeting — which, according to the protagonists themselves would have been unthinkable in Iran — was, much like the skyscraper project at issue, a fruit of the current process of globalization.

In response to a question from the floor, Ms. Rezazadeh expressed her regret that, for economic as well as political reasons, Iran’s rich heritage remains inaccessible to international tourism — for that factor alone would drive the investments so sorely needed to preserve that heritage.

<http://isfahan.apu.ac.uk/isfahan.html>

Workshop 5: Protecting and Showcasing Heritage Assets: The National Capital Commission in Ottawa

Lynda Villeneuve, holder of a PhD in Historical Geography and manager of the Heritage Program at the National Capital Commission in Ottawa, pointed to the urgent need to develop new policies aimed at preserving heritage landscapes, as centuries-old testimonials to the ongoing interaction between citizens and their urban ecosystem.

Pointing to the development work already accomplished on the LeBreton Flats, Canadian War Museum, and Chaudière Islands sites, Ms. Villeneuve emphasized the importance of timely definition of guidelines and principles for action, analytical parameters and methods, as well as classification of so-called blue, green and landscape heritage zones.

The LeBreton Flats, a neighbourhood that was wiped out by a huge fire at the turn of the 20th century, has gradually yielded an impressive number of archeological evidence going back to the earliest human settlements there, from which more than 80,000 artefacts have so far been recovered. The War Museum site has benefited from decontamination and soil remediation as well as infrastructure improvements to the surrounding parkland and roads network. The Chaudière and Victoria Islands Planning Initiative, meanwhile, will result in a harmonious blend of Aboriginal and Victorian traditions, bearing witness to more than 4,000 years of habitation.

<http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/>

Workshop 6: Montréal's "Operation Local Heritage"

Architect **Jean-François Gravel**, Head of the Heritage and Toponymy Division of the City of Montréal's Economic and Urban Development Department, is the initiator of a wide-ranging program to raise public awareness of Montréal's built heritage, and the sense of shared identity that may be derived from it.

The program, dubbed *Opération patrimoine architectural de Montréal*, aims to improve the quality of the maintenance and restoration of privately owned residential and commercial heritage buildings, and in so doing increase their owners' pride in them. To this effect, every year a committee of professionals selects exemplary building in each of the City of Montréal's boroughs, ensuring representation by the different types of architecture that give Montréal its distinctive character.

Because the quality of the work is dependent upon the expertise of skilled craftspersons, *Opération patrimoine architectural* acknowledges the excellence of their work in all fields, including woodworking and metalworking. By drawing public attention to these artisans, the City encourages property owners to be careful about choosing their suppliers, while motivating craftspersons to constantly improve and maintain the quality of their work.

For two weeks in September each year, municipal departments, boroughs, the media and sponsors, along with several partners including museums, libraries and historical societies, join forces to publicly promote this campaign to raise awareness of Montréal's built heritage.

<http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/patrimoine/patrimoine.htm>

Workshop 7: Montréal, a North American Hub

Geographer and Université du Québec à Montréal professor **David B. Hanna** spoke about the particular geographical situation of Montréal, which for centuries has made it a continental and Atlantic hub. As a “crossroads city,” after the fashion of New York, Boston, New Orleans and Baltimore, Montréal has been, and remains, a significant locus of international trade, a financial centre, and a nerve centre for transportation organization.

The old city centre, Old Port, and railway station district together form an exceptional heritage ensemble that is unique in North America, well preserved, and displays a rare cohesion of architecture and urban planning that merits international recognition. Such was the conclusion reached by a committee of urban planning and historical experts formed to study Montréal’s potential candidacy as a World Heritage City.

While acknowledging that the proposal was well founded, delegates suggested that the designated area be extended to include the Lachine Canal, Mount Royal and the lower part of Saint Lawrence Boulevard — a commercial and cultural axis that is a vital part of “Montreality.”

<http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/plaque/indexa.htm>

Workshop 8: Restoring the Historical District of Old Montréal: Principles and Values

Suzanne Provost, an advisor with Québec’s Ministry of Culture and Communications, explored the highly complex issues surrounding some 25 years of efforts to preserve, restore and remediate the historic borough of Old Montréal. Today, the area can be described as a superimposition of eras, in which certain spaces stem from a specific period, while others appear as a synthesis of multiple periods. From this fusion of historical eras in the crucible that is Old Montréal, an overall cohesion has emerged to form the basis of the neighbourhood’s historical identity. That same identity has dictated the values and principles of the governmental and municipal actions taken in the district, as well as directed all forms of interpretation, promotion and development in Old Montréal.

To illustrate her thesis, Ms. Provost described the many public interventions aimed at revitalizing, preserving and remediating the neighbourhood, including the work to restore and bring up to standards many older buildings that have shaped Old Montréal’s identity (e.g., the Bonsecours Market, Château Ramezay, the Centre d’histoire de Montréal [once a fire station], and the Old Customs House), along with development projects undertaken in Place Jacques-Cartier as well as on Gosford and Saint-Claude streets. In each case, new contemporary needs had to be taken into account while respecting the existing street grid and public spaces.

Conference-goers agreed that the current state of the historical borough of Old Montréal and its planned evolution are eloquent testimonials to the success of this joint approach that has been years in the making.

Day 1 — Monday October 6, 2003

Opening Ceremonies

Participants were first invited to share welcome cocktails. **Michel Gariépy**, Chair of the *Société de développement de Montréal*, spoke about the role that this development corporation has played, and continues to play, in the revitalization of Old Montréal and in real-estate development of abandoned urban areas. *“Like any real-estate firm, the Société is in the business of buying and selling property. What sets it apart is an ability to see, in old neighbourhoods, what jewels may grow from conversion of an abandoned or rundown building, or one designed for a purpose that no longer exists; the capacity to visualize what new neighbourhoods might emerge on a site previously occupied by vacant, contaminated lot. It is about waiting for the opportune moment and the right project to guarantee sustainable development.”* Mr. Gariépy added that *“When the City of Montréal agreed to host this Conference, it quite naturally entrusted us with its organization,”* before wishing one and all an excellent conference.

<http://www.sdmtl.org>

Yorikane Masumoto, the Mayor of Kyoto and Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities, stood under the vaulted ceiling of the Bonsecours Market building ballroom and officially inaugurated the 8th Conference, declaring that *“Promotion of multilateral exchanges among historical cities, outside State frameworks, is an extremely effective system that ensures open dialogue and encourages the formation of constructive ideas and useful recommendations.”*

Considering them as being *“closer to the people,”* Mr. Masumoto called upon local governments to help make the city a more attractive and friendly place to be by working in concert with citizens and community groups. He reminded participants that the Conference, besides welcoming municipal elected officials and administrators, would also benefit from the active presence of experts who could nurture shared reflections and discussions. Lastly, he invited delegates to capitalize on the presence of Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director of the New York City office of UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), to think about implementing true collaboration among historical cities, UN organizations, and international networks committed to exchange and solidarity.

The host of the Conference, Montréal Mayor **Gérald Tremblay**, spoke of the thousands of years of collective human experience represented at this gathering, and underscored the paramount role that cities have played throughout history and will continue to play in the future. As engines for the development of civilization and global awareness (think of Kyoto, whose traditional concern for ecological awareness is now embodied in the protocol that bears its name), *Cities can and should rely on memory to make enlightened choices. They must see to the development of their communities by looking to the future in a way that always acknowledges that memory of the past.”*

Recalling recent devastation in cities such as Baghdad and Dubrovnik, partly destroyed by armed conflict, **Dinu Bumbaru**, Secretary General of ICOMOS, criticized the devastation — more subtle but just as radical — wreaked in cities that cannot resist the urge to rebuild again and again. Inviting conference delegates to choose the route of accumulation of heritage initiatives and “sustainable” enrichment of urban culture, Mr. Bumbaru noted that *“Cities are*

doubtless the greatest of humanity's works, but at the same time the most complex. And it is precisely because they are so complicated that preserving them is so rewarding!"

<http://www.icomos.org/>

Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director of the New York City office of UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), noted that today, October 6, 2003, date of the Conference opening, was also World Habitat Day, and took the opportunity to deliver a message from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan about water resources and public health in urban areas. Noting that 90% of worldwide population growth over the next 15 years will be absorbed into urban areas, Ms. Gebre-Egziabher urged delegates to be just as mindful of the health and welfare of their citizens as they are of heritage site preservation.

<http://www.unhabitat.org/>

Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Deputy Premier of Québec and Minister of International Relations, spoke about Montréal's cultural and historical role, the exponential development it has undergone since the days of Mayor Jean Drapeau, and its opening up to the world through such events as Expo 67, the 1976 Summer Olympics and the Floralties exhibition, and urged the assembled delegates to *"conserve heritage for the good of all humankind."*

Lastly, **Helen Fotopulos**, Member of the Executive Committee Responsible for Culture and Heritage for the City of Montréal, spoke of how delighted she was to be meeting with colleagues and experts from all over the world, and invited conference-goers to join the soldiers of the *Compagnie franche de la Marine* and, to the strains of the bagpiping Olde 78th Fraser Highlanders, to proceed to the lobby of City Hall for cocktails and a banquet. The evening concluded with a tour of the Lights of Old Montréal.

http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/planlum/eng/lu_intra.htm

Day 2 — Tuesday October 7, 2003

Roundtable Discussions

Roundtable I: Choosing Heritage Priorities

The moderator of this first round-table session, Montréal Executive Committee Member **Helen Fotopulos**, invited the first participant, **Martin Dickie**, representative of the Vienna Old Town Conservation Fund, to address the 100 or so delegates gathered in the Grand Hall of the Bonsecours Market building.

Mr. Dickie began by asserting that urban heritage, more than a mere touchstone to the past, must be seen as an expression of a certain magnificence that *“impresses the hearts and minds,”* that generates legitimate pride on the part of its heirs — and, of course, fascination on the part of tourists. This approach has certainly appeared to be successful in Vienna, where protection and conservation efforts enjoy widespread public support. These efforts are not limited to historical monuments; they also affect private built heritage as well as — via the designation of “protected zones” — landscape heritage, which is an essential component of neighbourhood cultural identity. There are currently 118 protected zones in Vienna, containing about 10,000 buildings. Since these changes were enacted to the municipal building code in 1972, several buildings that would not normally be individually protected are nonetheless subject to heritage-conservation regulations because they lie within urban zones that have been deemed worthy of being preserved as is. Protection of typical small villages, which have been merged with Vienna, is also part of the protected-zone conservation concept. Since the new regulatory framework is likely to infringe upon the rights of private owners of affected buildings, the city, in an effort to prevent any conflict-of-interest cases, has created a program to provide financial assistance for carrying out the maintenance and restoration work related to these buildings’ conservation. The system has so far been hugely successful.

Lastly, Mr. Dickie spoke of the importance of physically occupying heritage buildings, of calling on local talent to redevelop them, of finding new uses for them and of making them part of citizens’ daily existence, so as to prevent their being seen as pointless and their upkeep being viewed as a luxury.

<http://www.wien.gv.at/english/>

Next to speak was the Mayor of Xi’an, **Sun Qingyun**, who reminded delegates that, as the cradle of Chinese civilization and the Imperial Capital under 13 dynasties, his city is more than 3,000 years old and enjoys considerable recognition around the world. The sheer age of Xi’an, however, leads to problems in deciding what to preserve, what to destroy, and what to redevelop among the hodgepodge of styles and eras that have succeeded one another during those 3,000 years. The problem is all the more acute in that Xi’an is also a modern city, with a focus on high technology and industrial expansion, and confronted with accelerated urban development.

It soon became clear that any intervention by the City of Xi’an would have to be part of a coherent, viable master plan that would maintain a certain chronological “readability” of the city’s long history; incorporate a practical vision of urbanity that would allow smooth integration of the

city's modern face; and (in the name of unavoidable profitability) take into account the demands of international tourism.

Grounding their actions in systematic reliance on and strict respect of historical sources, Xi'an municipal authorities adopted a heritage policy and urban plan that gives pride of place to the vestiges of the grandeur of the Tang Dynasty while maintaining the significant elements of other dynasties, traditional-style popular construction, and harmony of natural landscapes with built heritage.

In choosing to alter as little as possible the integrity of original elements by making only those modifications and treatments designed to guarantee ongoing conservation, Xi'an followed the strictest possible standards in its efforts to redevelop such sites as the Great Wild Goose Pagoda (emblematic of the old city and now bordered by expansive wooded grounds that evoke the original site, known as the Tang Emperors' Lotus Park) and the adjacent City Wall, which at more than 600 years old is the best-preserved wall in China. The Mayor of Xi'an concluded his presentation by requesting the assistance of Unesco and friendly countries for the recognition and protection of key sites, and declared: *"History has granted us glory! Consequently, it is our duty to bequeath our heritage to the world, for it belongs not only to the Chinese, but to all humankind."*

<http://www.tourismchina-ca.com>

Next, **Gábor Demszky**, Mayor of Budapest, emphasized the vital importance that must be ascribed to joint responsibility of civic authorities and private property owners in matters of heritage preservation. Having adopted a heritage policy aligned with Unesco principles, Budapest has committed to financially supporting heritage preservation efforts agreed to by citizens. The city's program has a specific budget to provide interest-free loans and renovation grants; though they do not cover all costs, subsidies are awarded on the condition that buildings be restored to their original state and not be resold for 10 years.

Like Montréal, however, Budapest has a new city administration, the result of a recent merger of several municipalities, and there are emerging problems specific to this situation. The decentralization of municipal power, approved democratically, creates 23 quasi-autonomous districts that have their own independent budgets, the power to collect their own taxes, and full decision-making authority regarding preservation (or not) of sites that fall within their jurisdiction. The central administration cooperates with the districts, but cannot force any decisions. *"For this reason,"* said Mr. Demszky, *"I urge those cities who are still in the process of defining the jurisdictions of their municipal authorities to avoid excessive decentralization, which is disastrous from a heritage point of view because it leads to political disputes that are harmful to the urban landscape and the sociocultural climate of a city."*

<http://www.budapest.hu/engine.aspx?page=meetbudapest>

Lastly, **Luc Noppen**, Professor in the Department of Urban and Tourism Studies at Université du Québec à Montréal and holder of the Canada Research Chair on Urban Heritage in the university's School of Management, explored the sensitive issue of the preservation of religious heritage, against a background of mass disinterest on the part of the communities that originally built and maintained houses of worship in Québec.

After providing a history of heritage choices in Québec, which have evolved from the “heritage-ization” and learned conservation of historical evidence likely to be reflective of the Québécois national identity, to the collectivist anti-establishment movements of the 1970s and the re-appropriation of the debate by citizens over the past decade, Prof. Noppen touched upon the fate that awaits buildings described as useless or unusable for various reasons, especially the many abandoned churches in Québec — of which 400 have been eliminated in Montréal alone.

Current legislation contains no provision for churches that have yet to be classified as either public or private heritage buildings. As community assets — since they were built with funds raised publicly and locally — churches are seldom “rescued,” unlike commercial buildings that are often restored by private concerns or taken over by the state. Privatization for commercial purposes in fact has a negative community impact, as people tend to see it as devaluing public heritage. Recognizing houses of worship as municipal public property would not lead to all churches being preserved, especially given the fact that the usefulness of such conservation is in doubt because of the irreversible decline in the number of worshippers.

According to Prof. Noppen, there must be a clear position on this issue on the part of the public, and authorities must commit, in the name of the greater good and using the financial means that are available, to restoring certain selected sites. Such selective conservation could be funded in part by the selling off of assets that are not selected.

“Heritage is not the sum of all our ‘preservable’ assets; rather it is the reflection of our cultural and historical evolution. Citizens must get involved, and there must be a democratic process of heritage selection — which must be a tool for development, not merely a tool for protection of properties of historical value that remains frozen in time,” Prof. Noppen concluded.

<http://www.unites.uqam.ca/src/regroupements/chaire-canada-patrimoine-urbain.htm>

Interventions by delegates and participants clarified the terms and conditions for granting of subsidies in the cities of Vienna and Budapest, which, because they are contingent on conformity requirements and resale restrictions, do not have any significant impact on the property value of the affected buildings. They also clarified green and blue heritage policies, which in the case of Vienna lie outside the city’s jurisdiction, but are of concern in Budapest, which is struggling with a massive project to clean up the Danube — for which, fortunately, it has secured a World Bank loan as well as substantial funding from the European Union.

The issue of decentralization of powers emerged once again in a comment by **Helen Fotopulos**, who advocated improved balance between the city’s vision and the local plans in each borough, *“where heritage must be at the forefront.”* Bernard Fabre, Deputy Mayor of Montpellier, took the opportunity to congratulate Montréal on the way it has integrated urban life into heritage revitalization, *“because extreme museumification can lead to depopulation of urban areas.”*

The Deputy Mayor of Lyon, **Patrice Béghain**, criticized the state monopoly on heritage protection in his country, and the French government’s new plan to transfer financial responsibility for restoration projects to the *Collectivités territoriales*. This decision breaks the chain of responsibility, he said, and will probably have a negative impact *“unless urban planners across all of France are taught sound principles of heritage preservation.”*

Roundtable II: Involving Citizens, Residents, Merchants and Experts

Helen Fotopulos, Member of the City of Montréal Executive Committee and moderator of this second round-table discussion, asked conference-goers to give a warm welcome to the first speaker: their Chairperson, the Mayor of Kyoto, **Yorikane Masumoto**.

Kyoto, founded in the year 794, was Japan's Imperial Capital for more than 1,000 years, and is described as the sanctuary of the country's soul. A traditional city, nestled amid hills that are still richly wooded, Kyoto is also a thoroughly modern metropolis, home to 1.5 million people.

To safeguard this heritage jewel against the adverse effects of development, an urban plan concept was proposed in 1999 that recommended close collaboration between municipal authorities and citizens, held jointly responsible for the growth of their city. Adopted in 2001, the Kyoto Urban Plan cements that trust-based relationship through a variety of programs and measures. It has grounded its actions in communication and partnerships with local communities, residents and merchants, via a public consultation plan and the creation of the "Kyoto Community Cooperation Centre," which stimulates meetings and exchanges, research and support among all players, public and private.

With citizens having clearly expressed the desire to preserve examples of archetypal ancestral architecture, the urban plan had to smoothly integrate the "residential," "work" and "inter-purpose space" aspects of the city's various neighbourhoods. In the southern part of the Gion District, for example, a neighbourhood dotted with teahouses and old townhouses and home to a variety of artistic practices, a real-estate developer, via exactly this type of partnership with local citizens, built condominiums that blend extremely well with the traditional small wooden houses nearby. An effective counterweight to the depopulation of the historic city centre, this new mixed-use approach has invigorated property and lease values and enhanced the social and economic life of neighbourhoods.

By looking beyond mere preservation of historic sites, *"Kyoto plans future changes jointly with citizens and communities, in a true spirit of partnership!"* said Mr. Masumoto.

http://www.city.kyoto.jp/koho/index_e.html

The Mayor of Québec City, **Jean-Paul L'Allier**, echoed these comments, with a warning that according too much importance to economic development is always a hindrance to progress in historical cities. Citing the expressway interchanges that for the past 20 years have been a blight on the northern flank of Cap Diamant (they were designed to make it easier to access the Old City by car, despite the fact that the neighbourhood cannot contend with the increased traffic flow), Mr. L'Allier castigated the days when mayors and real-estate developers felt free to do whatever they wanted.

"We have to create associations of citizens, developers, experts and political bodies instances so as to develop our urban culture," Mayor L'Allier declared, adding: *"Above all, we must not view culture and heritage as being in conflict with economic and social development. On the contrary: we must bring these concepts into line and be consistent, coherent, and committed to the decisions that are made. There is no other way to succeed in restoring, remediating and showcasing the value of our city."*

Expressing his conviction that heritage must become part and parcel of the life of a city, and influence the quality of that life, and that we cannot safeguard heritage without also developing and promoting it, Mr. L'Allier invited his colleagues to find the right balance between mercantile interests and the realities of urban citizens, with their specific constraints. *"The idea is to give heritage a voice, to make it intelligible and indispensable, and share responsibility for doing so with all citizens — especially the younger members of the community. We must be sensitive, not to the 'dead parts' of a city, but to the values they embody. And because a city's heritage belongs also to the heritage of nations, elected officials must — as we are doing at this gathering — listen to what their colleagues from other countries have to say,"* the Mayor of Québec City concluded.

<http://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/en/accueil/index.shtml>

The key question of insufficient financial means and local expertise was then addressed by **Farit R. Ishmakov**, Deputy Mayor of Kazan, which will hold its millennium celebrations in 2005 and owes the protection of its heritage solely to support from international community. *"It will take us years, perhaps even centuries, to restore Kazan. We are about to embark on extensive archeological research that will involve citizens as well as experts from around the world. And you are all invited to take part. . . . Because by ourselves we do not have the means to take responsibility for our history,"* he said.

http://www.kcn.ru/tat_en/kazan/

Among the possible solutions to such lack of tools, **Phyllis Lambert**, Founding Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Centre for Architecture, advocated the radical involvement of citizens in efforts to preserve their city, its heritage and its quality of life. Over the past 40 years in Montréal, the issues of heritage conservation, the right to housing, urban planning on a human scale, and preservation of community life have given rise to many an epic struggle, which in turn have led to the emergence of a vast and increasingly complex web of citizens' actions and to the creation of cultural institutions that, through education and active support, have led to more enlightened decision-making in these matters. For example, the tenants' rights movement begat a number of radical groups, among them *Save Montreal* and *Heritage Montréal*, which — taking their cue from late-1960s squatters movements in London and the People's Park movement in Berkeley — permanently shattered the very notion of property, and redefined the relationships between the private and public spheres.

With government heritage protection programs doing little in the way of preserving the architectural integrity of the urban fabric, citizens countered the appetite of speculators by setting up more and more housing cooperatives. This initiative in effect killed two birds with one stone, as it enabled the preservation of entire swaths of the city's built heritage via the *Fonds d'investissement de Montréal*, while simultaneously providing decent housing and preserving neighbourhood life for many low-income Montrealers. It was *Heritage Montréal* that convinced the federal government to open consultations with citizens on the future of the Old Port of Montréal, and we all know the successful outcome of that initiative. Lastly, the creation of the *Office de consultation publique de Montréal* two years ago, in the wake of the merger of the Island of Montréal's 28 municipalities, and the more recent institution of the *Conseil du Patrimoine*, have enshrined the inalienable right of citizens to have their say in the future of their city. *"Citizens make far better urban planners than do expert bureaucrats. Their vigilance is a vital tool for heritage preservation,"* Ms. Lambert said. She concluded by underscoring the

ongoing work of private institutions, such as Friends of the Mountain and the Canadian Centre for Architecture, which act as watchdogs vis-à-vis our shared heritage.

<http://cca.gc.ca/>

Bernard Fabre, Deputy Mayor of Montpellier, warned his colleagues of the dangers of excessive delegation on the part of elected officials. *“A heritage policy must be coherent across all of the urban fabric. Yes, public consultations are indispensable, but they must not lead to contradictions. The paramount role of the politician is to see to the well-being of the entire community.”*

For her part, **Axumite Gebre-Egziabher**, Director of the New York City office of UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), warned against the risk of too-rapid decentralization of decision-making authority with no parallel movement on the part of financial organizations, themselves highly centralized. Thus, it becomes very important to properly decide who should be consulted, how, and within what scope of action, so as not to engender false hopes or false debates.

Gilles Morel, Coordinator of the Conference, pointed to the success of the *Table de concertation du Vieux-Montréal*, an umbrella group that acts as an efficient interface for the multiple users of Old Montréal’s heritage spaces. By the mid-1990s, life for the few thousand residents of Old Montréal had been rendered quite intolerable by the daily passage of hundreds of thousands of Montrealers and the “invasion” of some 10 to 12 million annual visitors. Created by the City of Montréal in 1995, the **Table de concertation** brings together, every six weeks, residents, merchants, businesspeople, building owners, hotel managers, cultural organizations including some 15 museums, heritage groups such as Heritage Montréal, the *Société du Vieux-Port*, *Tourisme Montréal*, a representative of the Québec Ministry of Culture and Communications, and two representatives of the City (one representing the borough, who serves citizens on a daily basis, and one representing central services). *“The primary benefit is to have created such strong bonds between people whose opinions are sometimes diametrically opposite — to have built respect among them,”* Mr. Morel reported happily. *“The second is to have set up a preferential information channel for citizens. The Table de concertation is neither a decision-making nor a political body; it does not exist to express any one opinion, but to allow a multiplicity of opinions to be expressed, in a respectful atmosphere and for the greater good.”*

A citizen regretted the fact that politicians who are elected on a platform that advocates heritage awareness are always the first to take the rap when a project fails: *“The developers laugh all the way to the bank! All they have to do is resist with enough effrontery and for long enough, and the ‘anti-speculators’ will eventually be voted out of office!”* Ms. Fotopulos replied philosophically: *“I’m ready to take the credit and the blame — that’s politics!”*

Roundtable III: Are Development Costs an Expense or an Investment?

The moderator of this round-table discussion was **Georges Bossé**, Member of the City of Montréal Executive Committee Responsible for Economic Development. He gave the floor to the first speaker, **David Vendy**, Mayor of Ballarat, Australia, who provided a short history of his city, which will play host to the 10th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2006.

The junior member of the League of Historical Cities, Ballarat has existed by that name for only 171 years, but its history as an Aboriginal centre goes back 50,000 years. A gold-rush town, with 19,000 inhabitants representing at least 22 distinct nationalities, Ballarat is the cradle of Australia's multicultural experience. *"Ballarat has been rich and prosperous from the start; we are extremely proud of its Victorian architecture, its historical monuments, its parks and its public spaces . . . and we can't wait for you to come and discover them!"*, Mr. Vendy said.

<http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/>

Mr. Bossé next handed the microphone to **Patrice Béghain**, Deputy Mayor of Lyon, who asked the fundamental questions: *"Is heritage spending meaningful? Is it effective? What gives it meaning? And how can we evaluate its effectiveness?"* In the absence of tools for conducting exhaustive assessments, how do we make the leap from expenses, made in a context of "constraint," to investments, made as part of an overall strategy? *"We have few theoretical tools to deal with this issue; we are lagging behind!"*

A heritage policy is expensive, and one must also consider the cost of work in terms of equipment (public, private and mixed), as well as the eventual purpose of many restored monuments, and the cost of heritage inventories as well as of acquisition policies for museums, libraries, municipal archives, and so on. Added to this is the preservation and development of the social dimension of heritage, of immaterial heritage, and of a certain lifestyle. The latter aspect is extremely important for Lyon, which is recognized as a Unesco World Heritage Site not so much for its major historical monuments as for its architectural and urban coherence, its harmonious development over 2000 years of history, and its economic, social and cultural dynamism. *"We call this the heritage territory of urbanity,"* the Deputy Mayor said.

A first stage of consolidation of heritage spending involves partnerships in the form of subsidies from the French government to owners of private and public property and urban complexes in so-called *secteurs sauvegardés* and *zones protégées*. Larger communities such as Lyon also benefit from direct state assistance. These investments have led to clear tourism-related dividends, *"and for us, Unesco recognition has meant a 15 to 20% increase in the number of visitors, although it is always dangerous to justify heritage spending based on healthy tourism statistics. As can be seen from the continuing impact of the events of September 11, 2001, and this past summer's heat wave, tourism is a fragile industry. It is difficult to quantify, and even more difficult to tax. What is needed are better-structured tourism products, better-organized welcoming services, and better-managed territorial marketing . . . to ensure private-sector operators derive the greatest possible profit,"* the Deputy Mayor added.

Other paramount benefits that are not sufficiently valued in financial terms, according to Mr. Béghain, include *"citizens' awareness of the content and importance of heritage, the value of the urban and landscape architectural environment, the use value of public spaces, and values of memory and identity. . . ."*

For these reasons Mr. Béghain believes it is important to map out an economic theory of heritage, to design analysis and computational tools, and — because the ultimate goal of subsidies is no longer merely economic — to appraise returns on heritage investment based on more than just financial criteria. *“While spending is often constrained and has its own purpose, investment proceeds from a political choice, a strategic choice! Thus, past memories and future projects must be the twin pillars of a city’s heritage policy, and at that price, heritage values are a wise investment,”* the Deputy Mayor concluded.

http://www.lyon.fr/en_index.html

Jean-Yves Provencher, Deputy Mayor of Saguenay, presented a profile of this Nordic city, which has existed for barely 150 years but possesses a rich heritage, worthy of interest. There, the revitalization of older neighbourhoods is the foundation for a centre-outward municipal redeployment and development strategy. The basic idea is to maintain the tax base while countering the expense of urban sprawl (the City of Saguenay, created after the merger of seven municipalities, has a population of approximately 150,000 spread across an area of some 1,300 square kilometres).

The benefits to citizens will include enhanced quality of life, higher-density housing, access to public facilities, improved housing, savings in time and energy, and maintenance of the market value of properties.

Successfully implementing such a strategy requires acting upon the built environment by investing in infrastructure renovation and programs to assist housing restoration. To counter the gentrification stemming from such revitalization and to maintain healthy demographic and economic diversity, investments must be made vis-à-vis all client categories. Action must also be taken on behalf of activity-generating institutions such as the municipal library, museums, CLSCs (health and social-services clinics) and the tourism office to create poles of attraction and increase traffic to the central district while encouraging implementation of complementary services. Cultural groups and artists, for instance, are being urged to set up shop in an area known as “Culture Crescent.”

Lastly, action must be taken vis-à-vis urban functions, by adopting a regulatory framework that ensures the central district is reserved for exclusive uses (such as the full range of professional services). All of these revitalization efforts are part of an overall urban management policy, and represent direct investments of about Cdn\$3 million per year.

Mr. Provencher warned, however, that *“the revitalization is not yet a reality, and the investments required are huge. Many sectors continue to be ignored because there are so many other, vital priorities! New sources of financial assistance are therefore essential, and they must come from a specific fund, financed by a portion of the goods and services tax or by natural resources royalties. Without assistance from higher levels, heritage will remain a luxury, and very difficult to finance!”*

The next speaker was **Claudio Mastrodicasa**, an architect employed by the City of Firenze, who stated that cities must change their strategies for heritage management and urban development.

“For us, citizens of Firenze, heritage is a paramount economic and strategic area. All would agree that Firenze’s artistic and architectural heritage is of priceless ‘economic’ value. The safekeeping of that heritage also comes under the purview of economic development.”

Maintaining these heritage jewels in good condition requires ongoing restoration and preservation actions that, in turn, are dependent on the injection of new financial resources. Self-management of a number of cultural properties and the reintroduction on a test basis of entry fees for some recently restored churches is, in the opinion of Mr. Mastrodicasa himself, a fairly restricted avenue. Fortunately, some of Firenze’s most beautiful monuments have been restored to their former glory thanks to contributions by major private corporations such as Gucci and the Tuscany Regional Credit Union.

“We must therefore make investments, because that is indeed what they are. When an expense enhances the value and the profitability of a work, then it is an investment — for now and for future generations. But this financial responsibility is not that of Firenze’s citizens alone. It is that of the state, tourists, art aficionados, the scientific community, and of all those who will never even set foot in the city of Dante — and of all the peoples of the Earth, for Firenze is also part of their history!” concluded Mr. Mastrodicasa.

<http://www.comune.firenze.it/english/homenglish.htm>

Bruce McNiven, a corporate and commercial lawyer and member of the board of directors of Heritage Montréal, believes that heritage conservation can be extremely profitable, as long as it takes place in a context of long-term analysis. *“Properly managed built heritage can be a tool for competitiveness because it attracts residents and capital as much as it attracts tourists. People settle in a neighbourhood and make investments there. They maintain the heritage environment. Properties are preserved, their value increases, the real estate market responds positively, and the city sees an increase in the value of the taxes and royalties it collects. What’s more, heritage is the architectural signature, the marketing hallmark of a city internationally. It is what differentiates it from others, forestalling its trivialization and, in the North American context, its accelerated ‘McDonalds-ization.’ Lastly, if citizens derive a sense of shared identity and property from the city they live in, the sum total of their economic choices is to the credit of the city and ensures its sustainable development.”*

Reminding his listeners that, were it not for the great debates of the 1960s as well as certain protection and private capital investment initiatives, Old Montréal and the Old Port (which are key to Montréal’s “touristic” charm and play a large part in the city’s economic success) would no longer exist, Mr. McNiven criticized policies that are resulting in ghettoization of the city into heritage protection zones, outside which there is “no salvation.” *“Entire swaths of the city, which have the ill fortune of not having been built in the 17th or 18th centuries, have been neglected and have considerably deteriorated. This is leading to a serious problem of equity: maintenance and development of heritage is not encouraged outside these zones. This in turn has the effect of discouraging citizen awareness and responsibility.”*

Lastly, Mr. McNiven pointed to the lack of expertise and hindsight with which cities often have to contend. *“Conferences like this one and the sharing of expertise that they promote can give us all a bit of hindsight and allow us to see things from a much wider perspective from now on.”*

<http://www.heritagemontreal.qc.ca/>

Among the comments that followed was that of **Jean-Yves Provencher**, who remarked: *“We all have the same problem: how to effectively protect heritage without laying too heavy a burden on taxpayers.”*

A delegate from Dijon mentioned the dichotomy constantly on the minds of policy-makers between very concrete, short-term spending and the very long-term returns, which are more cultural in nature, rather than strictly monetary.

Bruce McNiven noted that decisions are almost always made in a short-term context, i.e., before the next election campaign, which hardly encourages elected officials to commit to longer-term spending.

Gilles Morel remarked that investing in heritage is tantamount to investing in longevity, in eternity. *“In other words, it’s very expensive, and it would be illogical and unjust to have the current generation bear this financial burden alone. The problem is, the funding mechanisms are all designed for the short term!”*

Claudio Mastrodicasa insisted that *“there is a short-term return on such investment! It is the quality of the city’s cultural and intellectual life, the very state of mind of the city.”* This was echoed by **Yorikane Masumoto**, who cited the enthusiasm of owners and neighbours of Kyoto’s famous Kyo-Machiya in restoring these traditional wooden houses and their immediate surroundings. *“Taking pride in their heritage and responsibility for this collective property, the citizens of Kyoto have made it the symbol of their city’s renaissance.”*

Day 2 — Tuesday October 7, 2003

Official Banquet

With the day's official business concluded, delegates were invited to the official banquet in the Chalet atop Mount Royal.

On this occasion, Québec's Minister of Culture and Communications, **Line Beauchamp**, addressed participants. She took the opportunity to announce the creation in the summer of 2004 of the new Historical and Natural Borough of Mount Royal; the borough will encompass Mount Royal Park (inaugurated in 1876 and designed by the "father of landscape architecture," Frederick Law Olmsted) and the institutions surrounding it, including major hospitals, universities and cemeteries, not to mention living spaces closely linked to the area's topography and history. An excerpt from her address follows.

"Throughout the history of the city, Mount Royal has played a paramount historical, social, urban and environmental role. Below its slopes, great moments in the history of Québec and the metropolis have unfolded. Mount Royal is one of the strongest emblems of Montréal.

"This is why the Government of Québec wishes to assign it national legal status, that of 'historical and natural borough.' It will be the first time in Québec that a site is assigned this twofold status, which is fully justified by the exceptional character of this unique site.

"If all goes according to plan, we can expect the Government of Québec to pass an order-in-council in summer 2004, permanently declaring Mount Royal a historical and natural borough.

"Montrealers and Québécois will thus continue to take pride in the exceptional character of Mount Royal, which is home to buildings of great historical value, a priceless landscape heritage, and an urban ecosystem brimming with diversified and miraculously preserved flora and fauna."

http://www.lemontroyal.gc.ca/en_index2.html

Day 3 — Wednesday October 8, 2003

Workshops

Workshop 9: UN-HABITAT — Mission and Projects

During this workshop led by **Martin Wexler**, Head of the Housing Division of the City of Montréal's Economic and Urban Development Department, **Axumite Gebre-Egziabher** explained the necessity for convergence and international consultation among historical cities and United Nations bodies.

Created in 1978 and currently active in 54 countries on all continents, UN-HABITAT is mandated to promote sustainable human settlements and set up programs with the goal of providing adequate shelter. Under the banner "Water and Sanitation," this year's program seeks to improve the health situation of more than 100 million people, especially those living in urban slums, by 2020.

"Our strategy advocates raising awareness of the importance of establishing adequate, sustainable places to live, in both rural and urban settings. Disaster awaits in the short term if we do not address the issue of urban development. In Asia and in Latin America, there is a huge, sudden influx of people toward the cities," Ms. Gebre-Egziabher explained.

UN-HABITAT advocates participation-based planning and cooperation with national and local authorities in each of the countries in which it is active. "Partnership and Participation" are in fact two key objectives of the program. Main partners include:

- ◆ Local authorities, who play a vital role in terms of educating and mobilizing the public;
- ◆ The World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC), which was set up to expand the role of local authorities;
- ◆ The United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA);
- ◆ NGOs, parliamentarians, private companies and foundations.

The cooperation of the League of Historical Cities is strongly encouraged, as it showcases the importance of housing with respect to built heritage, and promotes the values and principles connected to it.

*"Decent housing for all is part of the notion of built heritage.
The UN-HABITAT program desires the support of the world's historical cities
because they share in our debates and our strategy."*

Axumite Gebre-Egziabher

Director of the New York City Office of UN-HABITAT

<http://www.unhabitat.org/>

Workshop 10: Old Montréal and Montréal Heritage Web sites

Heritage inventories are essential tools for learning about, preserving and soundly managing urban heritage. If made accessible to one and all, they can also be tools for enlightened decision-making and for democracy. When entered into computerized databases and disseminated via the World Wide Web, they exponentially widen the possibilities for comparative research and international exchanges.

As an example, two interrelated Web-based heritage inventories were profiled in a presentation by **Anne-Marie Dufour**, an architect specializing in heritage and coordinator of Web publication of Montréal's heritage inventory with the Heritage and Toponymy Division of the City of Montréal's Economic and Urban Development Department, and historian **Gilles Lauzon**, head of research for the Société de développement de Montréal and heritage inventory coordinator for the official Old Montréal Web site.

The original aim of the Old Montréal Web site [www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca], designed in 1998 under the aegis of the *Société de développement de Montréal* and the Québec Ministry of Culture and Communications, was to disseminate information for the "general public" on the district's history and heritage. Soon, however, the site was enriched with a more technically oriented architectural inventory destined for professionals, as well as historical information on builders and artisans, archeological remains, public art, streets and squares, as well as historical personages and societies — all extremely useful to curious visitors, experts and educators.

The Web site *Inventaire architectural de Montréal: Base de données sur le patrimoine* [www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/patrimoine] (Montréal's Architecture Inventory: Heritage Database), officially launched on June 19, 2003, was created pursuant to the Agreement on the Cultural Development of Montréal between the Québec Ministry of Culture and Communications and the City of Montréal.

The site does not focus solely on major monuments; rather, it lays emphasis on buildings toward which citizens have particular obligations (ownership, historical identity, cultural appropriation) in terms of heritage protection. It facilitates citizens' links with provincial and municipal administrations by providing them with comprehensive information on permit applications, regulations and restrictions, expert recommendations, and subsidies. Offering a selective inventory of protected buildings and areas, the site covers an area extending far beyond Old Montréal, and reflecting the diversity of Montréal's heritage.

Workshop 11: Interconnection of Heritage Databases on the Internet

Linkage of databases is now indispensable for ensuring access to exhaustive information as well as a coherent global vision of heritage inventories of the world's cities, regions and countries.

Dedicated to the identification, promotion and celebration of national heritage, the Canadian Register of Historic Places is a central database with a definition sufficiently vast, in the words of

Victoria Angel, who is in charge of its development, to include buildings, gardens, fortresses, archeological sites, grain elevators, theatres, churches, districts and any other historically important site. The Web site also includes the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, a singular reference for heritage conservation standards and practices, as well as a certification program for heritage sites eligible for financial incentives.

http://www.historicplaces.ca/accueil-home_e.asp

Daniel Lauzon, a geographer and urban planner with the Heritage Branch of the Québec Ministry of Culture and Communications, gave a presentation on the challenging but extremely rewarding process of creating the *Inventaire des lieux de mémoire de la Nouvelle-France au Québec* (inventory of sites of memory of New France in Québec). The France- and Québec-based researchers working on the project faced an early hurdle: the absence of documented dating of inventoried real property. Worse, it proved impossible to establish dating of any kind. With the majority of historical buildings having undergone multiple alterations over the course of three centuries, the question arose as to what exactly was meant by “heritage of New France,” especially since “French-style” construction persisted long after the French defeat of 1759. A framing study enabled definition of the nature of the heritage, establishment of a research methodology, and entry into a database of a preliminary list of properties. The overlap of variables gave such encouraging results that it led to intense collaboration with France’s Ministry of Culture, the *Centre inter-universitaire d’Études québécoises*, Université Laval and the *Région Poitou-Charentes*. Research work is ongoing.

<http://www.memoirenf.cieq.ulaval.ca/Quebec/>

Historian and programmer **Léon Robichaud**, a consultant-designer for the Old Montréal and Montréal computerized heritage inventory system, examined the interrelationship between the [www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca] Web site, dedicated to the historical district only, and [www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/patrimoine], a part of the main City of Montréal Web site that includes a global heritage inventory of all protected buildings and sectors within city territory (the content of this section overlaps that of the other site). The flexibility provided by today’s information systems allows for the management of two inventories, with differing purposes and completely separate user interfaces, using only one database. The structural complexity of the heritage inventory system led to the creation of specific types of links, and any modification made to the database is automatically visible via both sites. And since each item in the central database is directly associated with the inventory for which it was created and will be updated, it will be easy to add new sector-based inventories that will enrich the central database while retaining their autonomy and distinct identities.

Day 3 — Wednesday October 8, 2003

General Assembly of the League of Historical Cities

Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto and Chairperson of the League, declared the Assembly open. After examining the financial statements, the 2002 activities report and the budget forecast for the current financial period, League members agreed on the choice of location for the next Assembly in 2005: Gyeongju, South Korea. They also took the opportunity to warmly congratulate the representatives of Kazan, Tatarstan, which will hold its millennial celebrations in 2005.

Helen Fotopulos then thanked the various partners for the way they encouraged the establishment of such traditions of cooperation and exchange, and officially presented the text of the **Montréal Declaration**, as modified during the meeting of the members of the Board on Tuesday October 7. The Montréal Declaration was then unanimously adopted. Mr. **Yorikane Masumoto** announced that the signing of the Declaration would take place later the same day at 2 p.m., during the Conference closing ceremonies.

The Assembly concluded with a short presentation by the Mayor of Gyeongju, **Sang Seung Baek**.

<http://www.gyeongju.gyeongbuk.kr/en/default.asp>

Day 3 — Wednesday October 8, 2003

Closing Ceremonies

The closing ceremonies of the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities began with a summary report of the morning workshop sessions. The message delivered by **Axumite Gebre-Egziabher**, Director of the New York City office of UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), regarding the responsibility that all must take for the preservation, among other types of heritage, of the planet's water resources was echoed by the participants, who warmly applauded her remarks.

Invited to the podium by **Helen Fotopulos**, Member of the City of Montréal Executive Committee Responsible for Culture and Heritage, **Gérald Tremblay**, Mayor of Montréal, said: *"Citizens' involvement and elected officials' initiative are two sides of the same coin. Both groups have responsibilities vis-à-vis their heritage, and both must develop a new dynamic in which to exercise those responsibilities. Both groups have a wide array of tools available for gauging public opinion.*

"In Montréal, we have created institutions for democratic participation such as the Conseil du Patrimoine, the borough councils, City Council commissions, the Office de consultation publique and the Conseil interculturel — in a city in which 50% of the population represents ethnocultural communities, the latter exists to showcase the immense heritage that comes to us from elsewhere. But at the end of the day, it is the elected officials who make the lasting decisions. They are responsible, and accountable.

"Each of our cities has its own personality, its own ways of doing things. Citizen involvement may proceed along different avenues from city to city, but those avenues are not necessarily contradictory. That is why we much exchange and compare ideas, listen, and learn from one another," Mr. Tremblay concluded. He then invited everyone to take advantage of the superb late-afternoon weather to explore the streets of Old Montréal one last time before making their way back home.

Ms. Fotopulos presented the **Montréal Declaration** to the Assembly, and invited Chairperson **Yorikane Masumoto**, Mayor Tremblay and his colleagues, and the representatives of the League's member cities to sign the Declaration.

Montréal Declaration

We the undersigned, mayors and representatives of cities gathered in Montréal for the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities, declare:

That we recognise the formative aspect of the cultural diversity of our cities and the priority nature of multicultural exchanges and interactions that encourage the mutual enhancement of our communities and contribute to shaping the collective heritage;

That we will use every available means to assume our responsibilities for recognising, conserving, enhancing and propagating the natural and built heritage of our neighbourhoods and our cities, with the purpose of maintaining and improving the quality of life of our fellow citizens;

That, in order to achieve this objective, we will, on the one hand, invite the civil society to join together, in ways that respect our traditions and cultural diversities, to conserve and enhance this heritage by, among other things:

- providing it with access to all relevant information, with the cooperation of various partners, including Knowledge Institutions;
- promoting exchanges that will increase genuine understanding and recognition of the distinctive symbolic value of certain heritage elements for each community concerned;
- encouraging promoters and developers to participate in the screening activities concerning the foreseeable heritage impact of the proposed projects;
- facilitating the participation of citizen in screening activities of these proposed development projects;
- and this without limiting the accountability of decision-makers;

And that we will, on the other hand, promptly proclaim our intentions regarding the conservation and enhancement of this heritage, along with medium- and long-term projections:

- by publicly announcing the principles that will guide decisions regarding heritage conservation and enhancement;
- by identifying our priority areas of action, in collaboration with those of other public authorities and the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT);
- by establishing a precise timetable for the attainment of objectives.

Montréal, October 8, 2003

Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montréal

Ballarat Budapest Esfahan Gyeongju Kazan
Montpellier Roma Vienna Xi'an

Next, Ms. Fotopulos presented her **closing remarks**, summarizing the work accomplished at the Conference, and thanking the participants for their contributions to this important event. *“I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in this wonderful meeting, which has been so important in nurturing discussions on our shared responsibility vis-à-vis history — both that which has passed, and that which is still in the making. For our goal here has truly been to ‘make history,’ by weaving our actions into the historical narrative of our shared urban existence,”* she said.

Lastly, Chairperson **Yorikane Masumoto** concluded the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities, mentioning the magnificent job accomplished by Mayor Tremblay, Ms. Fotopulos, and Gilles Morel, Coordinator of the Conference, as well as *“the many Montréal-based experts and citizens who nurtured our discussions through their active participation in our work. Thanks to you, we the mayors have learned a great deal from this conference. I believe that the League’s stature is elevated by conferences like this one, and we can all be justly proud of our success. The next step is to develop our parallel activities, by multiplying exchanges outside the meetings we hold every two years. That is the new direction in which I invite you all to steer your efforts between now and our next rendezvous in Gyeongju, in 2005.”*

Chairperson Masumoto then invited everyone to attend the Gyeongju conference in large numbers, and declared the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities-Montréal 2003 officially closed.

Credits

The 8th World Conference of Historical Cities was organized by the Directorate for the Promotion and Enhancement of Old Montréal of the Société de développement de Montréal.

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