Urban Heritage: Putting the Past into the Future

LOES VELDPAUS, ANA R. PEREIRA RODERS, and
BERNARD J. F. COLENBRANDER
Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands

This article presents part of the results of doctoral research focused on the contribution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's historic urban landscape approach to the theory of urban heritage management. This paper argues that the historic urban landscape approach reflects a century of evolution on theories related to urban heritage management. Moreover, it confirms that heritage management is going through a process of change both in theory and practice, from focusing on isolated built heritage assets, towards a landscape-based approach, adopting notions such as the intangible, setting and context, and urban and sustainable development. Next, this process of change is related in theory to the need for a more integrated approach towards urban heritage management, combining policies and practices on conservation with those of urban development. Furthermore, this article discusses the challenges and possible contributions of the landscape-based approach to urban heritage management. Lastly, this article pleads for the need not only to develop, but also to assess the adequacy of the tools and methods to support the implementation of such an integrated approach, because only then can the sustainable development and conservation of urban heritage be fostered.

Towards a landscape-based approach

The protection of cultural heritage assets, what is now called 'cultural heritage management' and in the USA is often called 'cultural resource management', has long been primarily about the conservation or restoration of monuments, even when attributed cultural significance occurs throughout an urban area.[1] This object-based approach was more focused on the conservation of the tangible dimension of cultural heritage assets, e.g. building materials, façades and structures, and building ensembles. As such, it mainly dealt with the protection of surviving remains left to

represent significance, helping to preserve many historic buildings and sites. Such an approach made it difficult to attribute value to the intangible, the larger scale, or the process or production, e.g. urban concepts, structures, evolutionary processes, or local traditions and practices. In addition, it was about what to keep, to protect, so this approach almost automatically positioned itself in opposition to development. This situation has been changing and cultural heritage management has been growing towards a more all-inclusive approach which also includes notions such as the intangible, setting and context, and urban and sustainable development, accompanied by a greater consideration of the social and economic function of (historic) cities.[2] This approach is known as a *landscape-based approach*. One of the main aims of such a landscape-based approach is seeing conservation as reducing the adverse impacts of socioeconomic development on what is considered to be of significance, by integrating urban development and heritage management.[3]

Theory on such a landscape-based approach is to be found more readily ever since the 1990s, and can be found reflected in several works.[4] This literature also indicates that the landscape-based approach is the expected future path. Moreover, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have been reflecting and defining strategies to address it, e.g. the European Landscape Convention,[5] Vienna Memorandum,[6] Xi'an Declaration,[7] and most recently the Valletta Principles.[8] Literature also refers to the use of a long-term and holistic planning process, such as a landscape-based approach, as one of the key principles for sustainable development.[9] The discussions leading to such documents contributed to the recent worldwide adoption recommendation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on historic urban landscapes (HULs)[10] as a standard-setting instrument targeting the global level. The HUL recommendation provides guidance on implementing a landscape-based approach; however, it is now up to national and local governments to adapt, disseminate, and facilitate the implementation of the HUL approach, as well as to monitor its impact on the conservation and management of historic cities under their safeguard.[11] To understand the challenges it becomes relevant to understand the history of the concept of urban heritage itself and its importance for the integration of heritage management and urban development, as it is hardly a new invention.

A short history of urban heritage theory

John Ruskin

Although a landscape-based approach is to be found more regularly since the 1990s, an urban approach towards heritage is not that recent. Already during the nineteenth century there were some hints towards a wider scope of looking at the meaning and management of heritage. John Ruskin, pioneer in the protection of historic monuments who has been influential at an international level when it comes to heritage protection, noted the importance of a wider scope in heritage protection by introducing the possibility of attributing value to more than just the 'isolated richness of palaces'.[12] 'To this day', Ruskin states in his *Lamp of Memory*, 'the interest of their fairest cities depends, not on the isolated richness of palaces, but on the cherished

and exquisite decoration of even the smallest tenements of their proud periods'.[13] He argues that inhabitation itself is a valued element, but his focus is on the individual character of such buildings, not on the whole; however, by arguing that *the smallest tenements* can be just as important as the palaces, he considers domestic architecture to be a fundamental and structural element of the 'fairest cities'. In addition, it shows Ruskin's belief in the relation between social processes and spatial form. He did not identify the value of the whole, but made a start by identifying the value of more than just some specific palaces. For Ruskin, urban fabric consists of varied assemblies, in which all buildings could be preserved. Moreover, he argues this specifically only for the survival of a few pre-industrial cities in western countries.[14]

Camillo Sitte

One who does introduce an urban approach is Camillo Sitte. He clearly expressed his belief in the importance of the urban fabric as a whole for the understanding of the city. He published his ground-breaking book *Der Städtebau nach seinen künstler-ischen Grundsätzen* (*City Planning According to Artistic Principles*) in 1889 and many practitioners have used his theory to guide planning practice.[15] Sitte's book starts with a chapter on the relationship between buildings, monuments, and places, where he argues that beautiful buildings and monuments and a good/correct arrangement of those belong together. For Sitte, 'the modern disease of isolated construction' is to be condemned and monuments are actually to be built within the urban fabric.[16] At around the same time, Otto Schlüter coined the term 'cultural landscape' (1899) which was further defined by Carl O. Sauer (1925).[17] This concept of 'cultural landscape' became in the 1990s the first globally acknowledged basic figure of landscape-based heritage management.[18]

While Ruskin argues for the conservation of the individual elements that convey memorial and social values, Sitte mostly argues their sum in historic and esthetical values. Francoise Choay declares Sitte to be the first of a generation of urban morphologists who really focused on the existing city and its essential (tangible) elements.[19] Sitte's theories also apply to the conservation of pre-industrial cities for their picturesque and historic qualities. Charles Buls, a contemporary supporter of Sitte's ideas, additionally argues that the demolishing of smaller structures has to be placed within the bigger picture of the city, the immediate context, and also in relation to each other, as together they might comprise value which is not understood when dealt with separately.[20] Sitte and Buls together provided us with a new objective in urban planning: the preservation of urban structure and fabric.[21]

Patrick Geddes

Some years later this approach became further established by the works and theory of Patrick Geddes. He argues, in his famous book *Cities in Evolution* (1915), how urban heritage underpins urban development: 'If town planning is to meet the needs of the city's life, to aid its growth, and advance its progress, it must surely know and understand its city. To mitigate its evils, it needs diagnosis before treatment'.[22] When looking at the HUL recommendation, it is obvious Geddes must have been an inspiration, as it aims to integrate:

the goals of urban heritage conservation and those of social and economic development. It is rooted in a balanced and sustainable relationship between the urban and natural environment, between the needs of present and future generations and the legacy from the past [...] The historic urban landscape approach may assist in managing and mitigating such impacts.[23]

Geddes' famous concept of survey — to know and understand a city — is based upon the idea of finding, by dissecting, the essential character of a historic city, as this conditions both its environment and occupation. When Geddes analyses the evolution of a city, he analyses its behaviour both of and in the landscape. By that he introduced methods to survey urban settlements and their inhabitants in relation to their heritage, the beginning of an evidence-based planning process, leading to the observational model of survey to diagnosis and plan. This again is very much related to the HUL approach, where the first step to implementing such an approach is 'to undertake comprehensive surveys and mapping of the city's natural, cultural and human resources'.[24] Before any demolition could take place, Geddes insisted on a detailed survey of past, present, and future alternatives — very similar to what is nowadays called 'cultural significance assessment' or 'heritage impact assessment', so, even though these words might be new, the practices are surely not.[25] Geddes would meticulously log a building's condition, but also set it contextually within its historical significance and cultural meaning within local traditions and customs.[26] Geddes was truly aiming for more holistic research on the city, conceptualized in his 'thinking machine' triad of place, work, and folk,[27] indicating a direct relation that exists between spatial form, economic activity, and socio-cultural processes. Geddes also called for participation of many actors and stimulated the local community to get to know their city.[28] A direct relation to heritage management is apparent here as stakeholder consultation, since its beginnings, has been a very important part of it. Already in 1972, UNESCO states that the public should be closely associated with the actions undertaken to protect cultural heritage, be informed of what they can do, and 'should be called on for suggestions and help'.[29] This injunction is taken up in the HUL recommendation where organizations are stimulated to 'reach consensus using participatory planning and stakeholder consultations'.[30] Geddes preferred to establish a process of locally rooted interventions, postponing concrete design proposals, as he valued the process over a final image.[31] All in all, Geddes provided us with the basis of an integrated, process-oriented approach towards urban development which is now being explored and further developed in the field of cultural heritage management. Geddes approaches the city from a development point of view, not focusing on heritage as such, although it is interesting he takes it seriously. His approach can still be seen in 'his' city, Edinburgh, today (Figure 1).[32]

Gustavo Giovannoni

Gustavo Giovannoni did something similar to Geddes, but coming from the other side of the spectrum. He is credited with the invention of the actual term 'urban heritage', a definition that before only existed in concept and later gained a name.[33] He first used it in the publication *Vecchie città ed edilizia nuova* of 1913.[34] Giovannoni argued and promoted the protection of heritage on an urban scale, without excluding the importance of urban development as he defined a historic city as a monument and a

FIGURE 1   The successive interventions in the Old Town, particularly those carried out by Edinburgh-based Sir Patrick Geddes, are an exemplar of early urban conservation. This panoramic view of Edinburgh seen from North Bridge/South Bridge shows interventions are continuing long after Geddes, turning Edinburgh into a historic urban landscape that keeps evolving, where the discussion is on *how* to develop sustainably without damaging the cultural significance, instead of *if* one should develop at all.
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living fabric at the same time. Giovannoni, one of the most important theoreticians and practitioners in the first half of the twentieth century, introduced the concept of 'mutually supportive, harmonious coexistence: avoiding conflict and allowing the distinctive characteristics of both to be respected and given the freedom to evolve creatively'.[35] He considered recognized monuments and the modest vernacular architecture in their surroundings to be inseparable parts of a whole; both not being complete without the other, neither contextually nor functionally. As such there should not be any differences in the criteria for decision making while planning, designing, or constructing the different scales of interventions. After all, they would together represent the social values of their local communities. Regarding change, Giovannoni suggests intervention should be combined with respect for the interconnectedness of the elements of the urban fabric, the historical spirit of a place, materialized in spatial configurations.[36] Giovannoni was also involved in the creation of the 1931 Athens Charter for the Restoration of Historic Monuments, which argues for a site-specific, tailor-made, approach towards the built environment.[37]

Giovannoni's ideas were rather remarkable at a time when the influence of the Congrès International d'Architecture Moderne (CIAM) modernists, working on their notion of the functional city,[38] was substantial. Giovannoni's ideas on integrating urban heritage within planning and design have long been overruled by the ideas of modernists of the CIAM, who rejected the notion of the historic city. Le Corbusier's *Plan Voisin* (Paris, 1925), for example, is emblematic of these ideas. It proposed demolishing the old neighbourhoods of Paris to make space for new buildings, and preserving only a few monuments such as Notre Dame. This is the moment when urban development and urban heritage theory really took separate paths, with one mainly concerned with the general need for expansion due to population growth and hygiene, while the other emphasised the listing of monuments. The 1931 and 1933 Athens Charters can be seen as enshrining this division.[39]

However, from a heritage management perspective, it is not only the listing of buildings or the acknowledgment that every building within a city can convey significance and value, but also, as Giovannoni stresses, that the urban ensemble, the structure as such, and the human activities within such structure, can be of cultural

significance. Both Geddes and Giovannoni integrate 'heritage management' into the general conception of territorial planning and urban development and both see people as part of the city. The importance of integrating heritage management into larger policies of planning was first promoted about a century ago, and the concept can be found reflected in cultural policy since the earliest recommendations by UNESCO in the 1960s.

Integrating heritage, planning, and development

The notion of an integral and holistic approach towards heritage and urban development is highlighted in almost every heritage-related international cultural policy document since the 1960s. These, for example, stress the importance of balancing out the benefits of socioeconomic and urban development with the preservation of cultural heritage.[40] The World Heritage Convention wants states parties to adopt 'general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes' because cultural heritage is 'increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction'.[41] Then, in 1976, UNESCO adopted the *Recommendation Concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas* and, somewhat later (1987), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) adopted the *Washington Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas*. These were the most recent international documents on urban heritage management, until 2011, when ICOMOS adopted the Valletta Principles and UNESCO the HUL recommendation.

Even though the theory has been developing since the beginning of the twentieth century, and global policy concepts had been developed, heritage scholars such as Jokilehto observe a trend of heritage management moving towards an urban scale in reality only by the end of the twentieth century. Jokilehto indicates that additionally to 'historic monuments, which had been the main conservation focus, increasing concern was given to traditional habitat, the built environment as such, and what came to be defined as cultural landscape'.[42] Indicating a shift from object to landscape, Jokilehto not only shows there is a change of scale, from the singular object to the collection of objects, structures, and areas, but also an inclusion of intangible heritage such as traditions, rituals, and events. This observation has been confirmed by others: '[t]he spatial dimension of heritage has grown from "monument" to the slightly larger concepts of site, thence to "setting", areas and "landscapes" and cities, and finally to the landscape [. . .] The various successive enlargements of "heritage" have created an all-inclusive concept of the "historic environment"'.[43] This is considered to be a landscape-based way of looking at heritage and spatial planning in general. The evolving theory on integrated heritage management can be found reflected in discussions and in application since the 1990s in many countries.[44] Janssen et al. (2012) show for example that English Heritage stressed an entirely new, integrated approach to managing the historic environment for the next century. France aimed for a better integration with tourism and regional development. In Germany, the main discussion

was about how to make national policy on heritage more dynamic and decentralized.[45] The Netherlands installed the Belvedere programme to stimulate the integration and use of cultural significance in spatial (re)development[45] and, as a result of the latter, Amsterdam even included the HUL approach in its World Heritage management (Figure 2).[46] As such, the trend on theory is followed by application in policy, and those are an essential premise of the HUL approach, culminating in the UNESCO recommendation of 2011; however, the HUL approach does not necessarily aim to reflect all those previous policies and practices, rather it aims to provide an overarching frame, which would help to structure and improve policies involved in urban heritage management.

Changing terms, changing concepts

The trend towards broadening the concept of heritage is commonly addressed, but seldom evidenced. An analysis of the list of cultural heritage policy documents, as gathered for the Getty Conservation Institute, shows this change very clearly.[47] For this research, the part of the list between 1950 and 2008 has been used (seventy-six out of eighty-two). The ones specifically referring to natural heritage, movable heritage, and underwater heritage (fourteen in total) have been excluded, leaving a set of

FIGURE 2   Amsterdam Herengracht in winter. Amsterdam is truly a historic urban landscape, and it is considered as such by the local authorities. The Canal Ring Area as a World Heritage property is a distinct area within the 'historic urban landscape' of Amsterdam. The management plan also includes the historic urban landscape approach.
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sixty-two documents. To analyse trends and patterns in documents content analysis was used.[48] The documents were pre-coded by registering every reference on both theme and specific terminology. This regarded urban-related terms (specified by terminology: town, urban, city, landscape, district, ensemble, place, settlement, fabric, site, area, and complex or equivalences (i.e. city/cities, district/districts etc.)) and object-related terms (specified by terminology: building, monument, architecture, object, and artefact or equivalences (i.e. artifact(s)/artefact(s)). The number of references per decade was compared to documents per decade to understand the ratio between the terms and the amount of text. Lastly, the HUL recommendation was added to the comparison to reveal if the trends evidenced in the previous documents were continued within this recommendation. Although this gives a bit of an imbalanced image, as there is now only one document analysed instead of the multiple documents over previous decades, it can still be used to reveal if observed trends continue.

Object versus urban

The content analysis of the documents revealed that the charters, conventions, and recommendations, when organized per decade since the 1950s, show a clear increase in the use and number of words related to the urban scale from the 1960s onwards. Also, the 1990s and beginning of the twenty-first century show a rapid decrease in the use of object-related terms, as well as a growing difference between urban and object-related terms (Figure 3). In addition, the many new words found related to urban scale have been introduced over the past sixty years. This contrasts with the number of terms used for the object scale, which has remained the same since the beginning. As Steele places this document on his list of international cultural heritage policy documents, its influence is considered to be global.[49] This is confirmed when analysing the recommendation on HULs, which even has the word 'urban' in its title. Indeed, more conclusive results would need a qualitative study of how the words are used in context, since they could have different meanings in different documents. For this reason, words such as site, structure, complex, and property have been excluded, as they could relate to both urban and object scales.

   When the urban scale-related terminology is further analysed, it is shown to be slowly evolving from being about explicitly appointed sites such as historic towns and settlements (1970s and 1980s) towards more general and less defined names, e.g. (historic) urban areas in the 1980s and places and landscapes in the 1990s. At the turn of this century the concern for landscapes as a cultural heritage re-emerged with a bigger role for the European Landscape Convention. Later, this was confirmed by the different documents on HULs issued by UNESCO, ICOMOS, and the International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages, which had been discussing the need for an updated or new charter for historic cities since 2005, to replace the 1987 *Washington Charter*.[50] These documents show the use of a wider range of urban-related terms, as well as a shift in the type of terms towards a more general and inclusive terminology. This comes at the same time that the documents clearly start to mention, and distinguish between, the words 'tangible' and 'intangible'; especially after the establishment of the Nara document on authenticity.[51] Authenticity is no longer merely rooted in its material context as it was before, it now also includes the social,
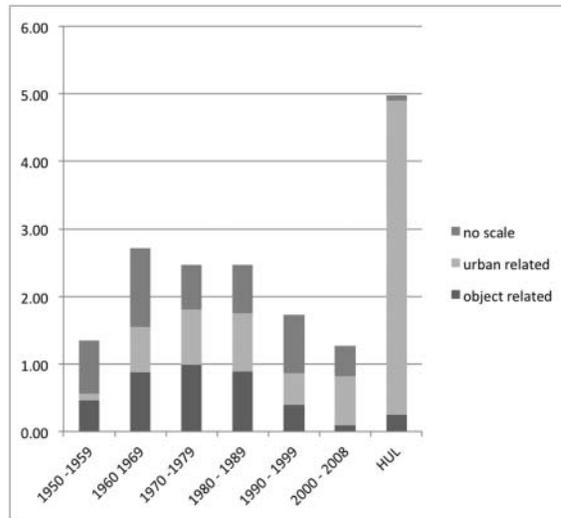
FIGURE 3   Percentage of object versus urban-related terms in international cultural heritage policy documents.

cultural, and economic processes linked to the specific context of the heritage. This shift towards valuing processes and practices in addition to material context also adds to the widening of the concept of heritage.

Trends

The content analysis evidences the trend towards a landscape-based approach as referenced in the literature. In addition, it might then be interesting to see if it also underpins the other mentioned next 'steps' within heritage conservation policy (Figure 4). When the general concept of sustainable development is traced, it shows that the word 'sustainable' starts to appear within documents in the 1990s, in more than half of the cases in direct combination with 'development', which itself is used rather steadily over the decades. In addition, a large increase in management-related terms can be noticed in the 1990s and the beginning of the twenty-first century. This could very well be related to the halving in use of terms such as 'conserve' (or 'conservation') and 'preserve' (or 'preservation') during the past decade. Only the recommendation on HULs shows an increase in the use of such words as conserve/conservation. This could be explained by the fact that conservation has now been defined as *managing thoughtful change*.[52] In addition, the HUL recommendation shows a continued increase in management-related terms. The other trends regarding the high percentage of urban-related terms and increase in management and sustainable development-related terms was confirmed in the HUL recommendation. In conclusion, there is a clear turn towards a sustainable landscape-based approach to the management of heritage and its context in the global scope of UNESCO and its theory. But the question remains how can this be (better) implemented in national
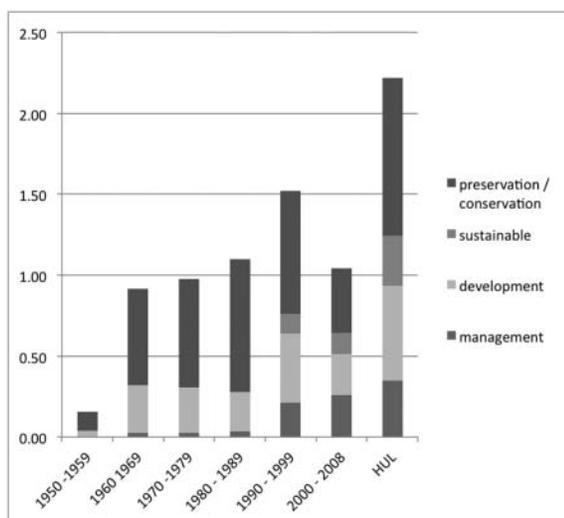
FIGURE 4   Percentage of trend-related terms in international cultural heritage policy documents.

and local policies, and what is needed to facilitate it? In other words, how can the recommendations on HULs really contribute to current policy and, as such, to urban theory?

A landscape-based approach

Urban areas are composed of layers, developed and to be developed over time. 'Each of these layers has implications for the extent to which new layers can be successfully added'.[53] New layers will be added and, from that perspective, heritage protection no longer can be the opposite of development; it is inherent to development and part of a larger, continuous, evolutionary process. As such, the wish to integrate urban development and heritage management has been the catalyst of the development of landscape-based concepts within heritage research and practice, applied all over the world.[54] Landscape becomes an interdisciplinary forum that is multiple in meanings, significance, and collective and individual relevance of the past, the present, and the future.[55] In other words, it is a very inclusive, holistic way in which to consider heritage, where the site in itself is no longer an end; it is placed in a social, economic, ecological, and cultural context, whereby the process becomes emphasised, in addition to or even over the site itself. This means that, even when targeting the protection of individual buildings, the emphasis should be on the whole, at the scale of the urban and the individual building, both including spatial, operational, and narrative qualities. Not only should the protection of historical monuments be integrated in a larger strategy of sustainable urban management,[56] but also it should be more aware of how individual buildings, monuments, and special areas relate to one another and are part of a process of change, for example, as pointed out by White-hand and Gu (2010).[57] Such an approach enables the protection of urban landscapes

through the protection of their vital social and economic mechanisms in history.[58] Indeed, the future of heritage management is expected to become increasingly more about 'thoughtful change' rather than solely the protection of historic buildings and ensembles.[59] This requires a change of policy mostly at the local level, facilitated by national policy, with a policy framework to support the notion of urban heritage that has been developed over the last century. To accomplish this, several concepts, strategies, methods, and management tools have been developed over the past decade, and also the process of assessing their value has started. It has been discussed that the literature indicates a landscape-based approach to be the future trend, as well as a key indicator for sustainable development; however, it is a great challenge for the management practices of historic cities to implement it. This cannot only be concluded from the fact that the concept is already a century old and has been referenced in global theory since the 1960s. Recent research also shows that 'conflicts between heritage needs and development needs' is ranked as being the issue of greatest concern among practitioners, from both the fields of conservation and urban management.[60] Heritage is often experienced as an obstruction to the development of cities and local communities as, accordingly, changes are required to allow those cities to evolve and little can be changed in these urban areas.[61] On the other hand, development pressures and management deficits are commonly found factors affecting cultural heritage.[62] From both the urban development and conservation perspectives there is an urgent call for the development of tools and instruments to stimulate integrating these fields and implementing a landscape-based approach on a national and local level.[63]

The turn towards integrating heritage management with sustainable urban development is thus urgently needed. Although previous paragraphs show that theory is available, and the global policy documents also set, or follow, a trend towards management and development, in practice it seems much more difficult to establish such integration. This implies that the separate paths heritage management and urban development took in the 1930s, in practice, have not yet merged into a common path, despite attempts and positive results over the years.

The HUL approach

The HUL approach is a heritage management tool providing guidelines for urban development for all cities with heritage, not necessarily exclusively to those including World Heritage properties. It was established as a management approach in the Vienna Memorandum,[64] and was officially adopted at the Thirty-sixth General Conference of UNESCO in November 2011. A HUL is an urban area 'understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of "historic centre" or "ensemble" to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting'.[65] It builds upon the assumption that, when an urban settlement is properly managed, initiatives, opportunities, and development can contribute to both quality of life and conservation of cultural heritage, while ensuring a social diversity and justness. To implement this, it is recommended that the following critical steps are used within the specific context:

1. Comprehensive surveys and mapping of the city's natural, cultural, and human resources

2. Reach consensus by participatory planning and stakeholder consultations on values and attributes conveying those values

3. Assess their vulnerability to socioeconomic pressures and impacts of climate change

4. Integrate the outcomes of 1, 2, and 3 into a wider framework of city development

5. Prioritize actions for conservation and development

6. Establish the appropriate partnerships and local management frameworks for each of the identified projects and activities.[66]

When surveying theory on urban heritage it became clear that some of the main ideas featured in the HUL recommendation have long been extant. Geddes' principles especially have proven to be truly rooted, e.g. the necessity for comprehensive surveys (1); although there is also the integration of heritage into a wider urban development framework (4), recommended by both Geddes and Giovannoni. Actors and community (2 and 6) are already involved in Geddes' thinking machine triad of place, work, and folk. As Geddes preferred to establish a process of locally rooted interventions, instead of a final image, he is also close to the current definition of landscape where site in itself is no longer the end, but is placed into a social, economic, ecological, and cultural context, by which the process becomes emphasised, rather than the site itself. It has been concluded before by Colenbrander that the Geddesian perspective remains valid and apparent in current times when it comes to urban theory.[67] This article shows that his ideas are also found echoed in current heritage theory, which hopefully can bring both paths closer.

Putting the past into the future

The future agenda for cultural heritage management relies on an all-inclusive approach that embraces transition and change. On the one hand, heritage in the urban context comprises objects and processes that are valued by people and therefore the management of such heritage should cover objects and processes, as well as the human factor.[68] On the other hand, the future of heritage management is expected to become increasingly more about transition management: integrative, and gradually working towards common ambitions through innovation, integration, and co-evolution.[69] When conservation is defined as transition management, it is put in a wider perspective of current and future needs of socioeconomic and urban management, and common objectives can be strived for, which will be likely to benefit both the redevelopment and the heritage property.[70]

By providing a road map for implementing a holistic approach, the HUL approach tries to assist local and national governments to become better equipped to address contemporary socioeconomic transformations, while benefiting from their cultural significance. Some were already starting to assess their current management practices in relation to the HUL approach;[71] however, those experiences are still too limited in number, time, and depth to sustain reliable conclusions on its application. Moreover, no framework was used or found so far defined to evaluate the adequacy of current policy and management practices in relation to the HUL approach. This then is a challenge, because when Landorf recently used a framework to examine how far sustainable development principles had been incorporated into World Heritage Site

management plans, the results showed they were generally far from fully integrated into the planning process.[72] Furthermore, the implemented sustainable development principles constitute only part of the critical steps recommended by the HUL approach.

In conclusion, the century old ideas still inspire but the challenge lies in practice. What is needed is an assessment of the management policies and practices; and this becomes even more relevant in light of the anticipated impacts of climate change[73] and urban population growth foreseen for this century.[74] These pressures call on governments to ensure 'robust, dynamic and well managed protected areas'.[75] As such, the management of the 'resource' of cultural heritage should be dealt with just as professionally as any other vital resource, such as energy, for example, or the European Union's '20-20-20' targets. This can only be done when assessing and further implementing such management practices is taken seriously. To enhance the design and testing of the necessary assessment tools and frameworks is a future aim, although this should be supported by, on the one hand, long-term collaboration with the stakeholders involved in policies and practices and, on the other, by making existing monitoring and historic data on the urban environment open source so it is available to use when assessing the impact of the evolution in policies and practices.

Notes

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Notes on contributors

Loes Veldpaus is a PhD researcher in Urban Heritage Policy at the Department of the Built Environment at Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands since 2011. She is also developing a research project on Regional Urban Heritage Management and is reviews-editor for the *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*.

Correspondence to: Loes Veldpaus, Eindhoven University of Technology, Department of the Built Environment, VRT 7.33, PO Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Email: l.veldpaus@tue.nl

Ana Pereira Roders is Assistant Professor in Cultural Heritage and Sustainability, at Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands. She is co-editor of the *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*, Emerald. Since 2009, she has lead the research "World Heritage Cities, Outstanding Universal Value and Sustainability", together with UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Bernard Colenbrander is full Professor of Architectural History and Theory since 2005 at the Department of the Built Environment at Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands. Previously, he was chief curator at The Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) and project leader Cultural Planning, at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), and is active on many boards.