

“Figments and Fragments”

Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho

ICOMOS NZ AGM Conference 2018



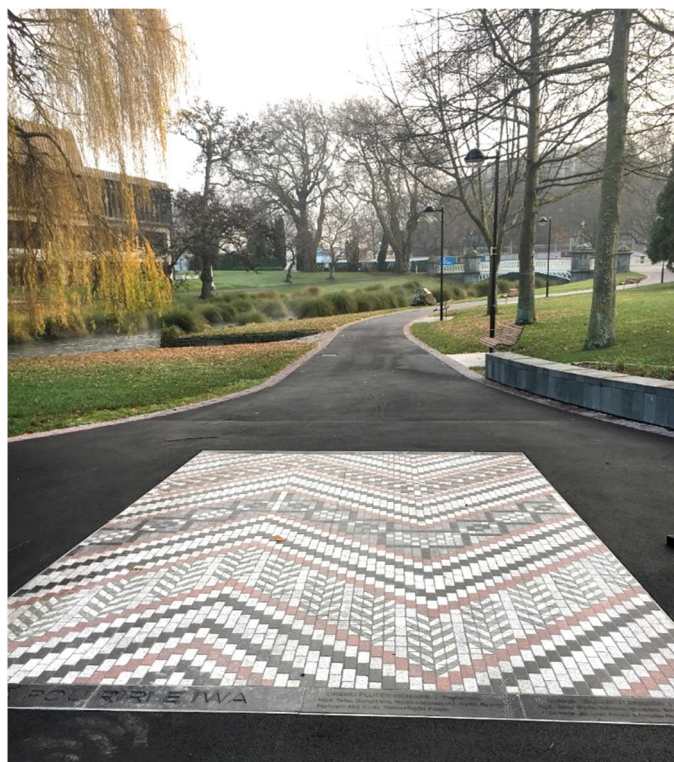
26-28 October 2018



Ōtautahi Christchurch

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula

Call for papers



Ngā Whāriki Manaaki Woven Mats of Welcome, Victoria Square

Kia ora koutou

The conference committee invites members and interested people to submit proposals for papers to be delivered at this year's AGM conference.

The theme of ICOMOS NZ's 2018 AGM weekend is "Figments and Fragments / Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho."

This year's conference aims to explore the intangible aspects of our heritage and the challenges of providing for intangible values when as practitioners our "comfort zone" and expertise may be principally focussed on the conservation of fabric and tangible values.

The intangible is inextricably intertwined with the tangible. For many there is no distinction or separation.

The theme is also aimed at exploring the concepts of authenticity and integrity in conservation. Our practice is particularly challenged in this respect when often all that remains are only fragments or salvaged material of what once was intact, or when no physical fabric remains and all we have left is a site, documentation or memory.

Ōtautahi Christchurch, 7 years on from the Christchurch Earthquakes, is an ideal place to explore this theme. Many of the challenges and opportunities related to heritage conservation management in the post disaster context are equally relevant to other centres and contexts. We outline aspects of the Christchurch experience below as context for the conference location and the theme, but encourage you to interpret this theme broadly, and draw on your own practice and experiences in other areas.

Cover images:

Left - Oxford Terrace Baptist Church – Salvaged columns with new Church building in background.

Right – Salvaged heritage fabric incorporated into City Putt and Cruise Heritage Golf Course, Cnr Madras and Armagh Streets

One challenge we face is how to capture and protect memories of heritage places in our practice. Whose memories and values are we capturing and protecting, and are there parts of the community who are less visible? How do we deal with the nature of memory, and its inherent difficulties? How do we work with communities to identify their values and memories and what can this add to our understanding and decision making for heritage places?

Related to this is the current resurgence of the popular concept of storytelling in heritage practice. What does a storytelling approach look like? How can we use storytelling to reflect traditional practice within both Te Ao Māori and the Pākehā world, and to engage and connect a wider audience with heritage places? How do we ensure that connected communities actively sustain korero to sites?

The rebuild of Ōtautahi Christchurch has provided the opportunity for the hidden layers of culture and heritage – particularly related to Ngāi Tahu / Ngāi Tūāhuriri - to be made visible through public realm design, artworks and storytelling. In any place there will be layers of heritage and value, some of which are hidden and some visible. Interpretation in all its forms is a powerful tool in making the once invisible visible, expressing respect, traditional values, Mana Whenua and generating cultural understanding.

Locally, the responses to the Canterbury Earthquakes have pushed the boundaries of the ICOMOS NZ 2010 Charter principles and processes. Strengthening heritage buildings and structures can be invasive and involve loss of fabric but this is weighted against ensuring safety for people and long term resilience against future events.

In light of what has been lost in Christchurch, façade retention has been seen as a ‘win’. Significant reconstruction in new materials, with some original fabric has retained aspects of the spirit of place of buildings, but does this meet the requirements of integrity and authenticity? Salvaged materials have only been incorporated in a small number of new builds as it obviously provides challenges for meeting design and code requirements but has huge potential for positive outcomes - retaining memory and a sense of place, and community identity. New builds replacing lost heritage buildings can take a ‘clean slate’ approach or reflect what once was through design and materials. Historical, physical and architectural context is not always taken into account in the design of new buildings adjacent to heritage buildings or within heritage precincts or character areas.



Column fragments from Oxford Terrace Baptist Church with Chester Street Townhouses (including one modern interpretation) in the background.

The theme also allows us to consider the mechanisms and processes established by UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The theme also calls on the disciplines of archaeology and materials conservation. The Christchurch Earthquakes have given us the opportunity to uncover artefacts and stories relating to the archaeology of the city on an unprecedented scale. What happens to archaeological artefacts and how do the stories that they can tell get told? Damage to buildings and the processes of repair or adaptation can uncover hidden fabric and fragments that would not otherwise have been known about.

There is international interest in the potential lessons learnt for heritage disaster risk management planning and response from the Christchurch experience. We also have an opportunity at this conference to explore how changes to policy, processes and legislation could or should occur as a result. There is a universal imperative to provide disaster risk management for heritage places and to plan for the appropriate disaster response and recovery of our heritage places.

Papers are invited on the above theme and any related ideas.

Contributions are welcomed from community groups, as well as professional heritage practitioners from all of the related disciplines, emerging professionals, academics and students.



St Andrew's College Centennial Chapel, Architectus 2017

Photo credit:

http://www.architectus.com.au/sites/default/files/styles/news_full/public/20161025_architectus_stac_0050_0.jpg?itok=KnXi7hvH

How to submit a proposal:

- This year we are inviting proposals for 20 minute presentations (no slide limit) or 8 minute PechaKucha style presentations (8 slides excluding title and references slides).
- Please indicate your preference and submit the title and abstract of your proposed paper to the AGM working group at conferenceicomosnz@gmail.com by 6 August 2018.
- We also invite poster proposals – details of poster requirements will follow.
- This year we will have a powerpoint template for presentations – this will be sent at a later date

Ngā mihi,

2018 AGM Working Group