The Protected Landscape Approach: Linking nature, culture and community
ISBN: 2-8317-0797-8

The Protected Landscape Approach consists of an introduction and overview, the body of the volume as case studies, and a closing titled ‘the way forward’. No less than 27 authors are listed as contributing to the 17 articles that grew out of a workshop at the 5th World Parks Conference held in 2003 in Durban and an earlier meeting of the Protected Landscape Task Force at Stow-on-Wold in 2001. They present a kind of Lonely Planet guide to protected cultural landscapes of the world. This reviewer will look at those articles that in general terms best exemplify the tone of the volume as well as the contributions that might be of interest to Australian cultural heritage specialists.

Five articles open the volume: one by the editors, followed by discussions of historical cultural landscapes, specific World Heritage cultural landscapes and protected areas/landscapes with an emphasis on the binding together of cultural and natural values. Each of these is worth reading on its own, but as a group they present similar material in only slightly different perspectives. The overlap sets the tone for the remainder of the book and frustrated this reader with the duplication of information and the proliferation of generalisations in the case studies.

Nevertheless, Adrian Phillips in ‘Landscape as a meeting ground’ offers an excellent summary of the position of the IUCN and protected areas as they relate to places inscribed on the World Heritage list as cultural landscapes. Four fascinating landscapes are presented: the rice terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, Ferto/Neusiedlersee cultural landscape in Hungary and Austria, the landscape of the Pico Island vineyard culture in the Azores and Pingvellir in Iceland. These landscapes depend very much upon a continuation of traditional practices that would seem to be diminishing in strength, particularly with the rice terraces of the Philippines (see also in this work the article by Augusto Villaçón, ‘World Heritage inscription and challenges to the survival of community life in Philippine cultural landscapes’ and the contribution by Mechtild Rössler, ‘World Heritage Cultural Landscapes: a global perspective’). Phillips states that the case studies he presents represent a shift in the thinking of the IUCN towards ‘greater engagement in the cultural dimension of conservation’. Given that natural and cultural area park managers and heritage specialists have been engaged in this process for many decades – exemplified by the epic first World Conference on International Perspectives on Cultural Parks, held in Mesa Verde in 1984, where Glen Morris, Isabel McBryde, Sharon Sullivan and Peter James offered contributions on the Australian condition – the obvious question to ask is if there have been any real advances in our understanding of the relationship between cultures or their component communities and protected areas?

‘From pre-assumptions to a “just world conserving nature”: the role of Category VI in protecting landscapes’ by Marietti et al. is an informative discussion of Brazilian Amazon cultural landscapes in the context of ‘extractive reserves’. A glimpse of the relationship between natural resources and traditional communities is offered on the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve in the Amazon (established in part due to opposition to deforestation by local communities) and the coastal marine-related Mandira Extractive Reserve in the southeast. An article on Nepal, where half of the protected landscapes incorporate settlements and farmlands, by Prabhu Budhathoki, raises the vexing issue of the need for external funding sources to support traditional cultural landscapes. The socio-economics of protected landscapes is hinted at by other authors but only directly confronted by Miroslav Kundrata and Blazena Huskova in ‘Sustaining rural landscapes and building civil society: experience from Central Europe’. Here the authors detail the financial contribution to the local economy of traditional activities fostered by a landscape revitalisation program. Their analysis indicates that few traditional cultural landscapes appear to be sustainable without external funding support systems. Also, this is the only article that takes a personal approach by describing the economic pursuits of Pavel Mach, a relatively successful small sheep farmer. Of special interest to Australian readers is the article by Jane Lennon titled ‘The evolution of cultural landscape conservation in Australia: reflections on the relationship of nature and culture’, which describes the management of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Kosciuszko National Park and the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park from a historical perspective.

The final section has two articles. That by Elizabeth Hughes, ‘Building leadership and professionalism: approaches to training for protected landscape management’, should be read by all who aspire to provide professional heritage training.

One would have thought that after dealing with various kinds of protected cultural landscapes over the past twenty or so years, there would by now be a body of knowledge or information required in a case study. This appears to not be the case. For the most part the case studies offer descriptive material, often of a historical nature, and call upon generalised references. For instance, I could find no material referenced to a page number. The volume would have been far more enlightening if the authors had moved smartly into an informative description and a detailed analysis of the current situation with an evaluation of likely outcomes in the near future. After all, science is as much about analysis and prediction as it is about description. Traditional cultural landscapes are fragile and many mechanisms are being put in place to buffer them against radical change. It is of utmost importance that environmental and socio-economic baseline studies be conducted, if heritage managers are to know whether these mechanisms actually conserve both the cultural and the natural values of the protected landscapes.

Brian Egloff
Public Archaeology
ISBN: 0-415-25889-8

The term 'public archaeology' is understood variously: state protection of archaeological sites on behalf of the public; presentation of archaeological sites and objects on-site and in museums; involvement of the public in 'doing archaeology'. The two specific meanings of the 'public' in this book - 'the state' and 'the people' - are said to always be in tension. Yet the real theme of the anthology emerges as the tension between objective research results and the public's notion of archaeology. In a post-modern world where a plurality of interpretations is validated, everything from New Age fantasies of the past, such as reinvented Druidism or recreated 'pagan' practices, termed 'alternative archaeology' (255-271), appear acceptable.

The book consists of updated papers from the 4th World Archaeological Congress held in Cape Town in 1999, and some specially commissioned ones. Its 15 chapters are divided into two sections: Spreading the word: communication and interpretation and In the public interest? The stakeholders. The first only looks at the USA and UK, the second includes perspectives from Australia, Brazil, China, and East Africa. The scene is set by Jameson's comprehensive history of government archaeology in the USA. Whilst some of the story parallels that in Australia, emerging trends and issues related to interpreting archaeological sites are different. For example the practice of on-site reconstruction has been popular in the USA, triggering tensions between the 'scientifically objective' and the 'popular, yet conjectural' (43). The state increasingly accepts its responsibility for archaeology and both quality research and the interpretation of research findings, which have a considerable interest to the public despite a general ignorance. Most other papers look at these last issues.

The majority of the projects involving amateur archaeologists (the general public and, increasingly, school students) focus on one only aspect of the archaeological process - excavation. In fact, they focus on the process of digging, rather than on the research questions that digging aims to resolve about how people lived in the past or what caused cultural change through time. Nonetheless several interesting programs are presented. Successes include many education extension programs run by state bodies or universities linked with school curricula, 'blanketing North America with the stewardship message' (88). Another success is the English Heritage pilot project to bring metal detectors 'on board' to report archaeological finds (272-291). Such programs might mitigate the looting of archaeological sites in China or attacks on 'elite heritage' in Brazil, discussed in further cases. By contrast, constructing a 'reverse archaeology' as described by Byrne, where Indigenous people increasingly treat archaeological sites as 'title deeds', results in a return of heritage objects to the traditional owners.

Positive examples provide useful models. In Tanzania genuine participation by local communities counteracts an alienation from their heritage resulting from archaeological research by outsiders. Parker Pearson and Ramilisonina, comparing examples in Madagascar and the Scottish Western Isles, show that participation, even by children, results in a strong sense of custodianship. These last papers parallel Indigenous 'community archaeology' in Australia.

Papers on 'museum archaeology' show visitors less ready to accept the 'authorised view of the archaeological past, preferring to choose for themselves what kind of past they believe in' (191). Perhaps it's part of capitalism's emphasis on the right to and power of consumer choice. A study of visitors to London's Petrie Museum reveals that many adhere to pseudoscientific or New Age spiritualism, which the authors state should not be merely dismissed as the taste of 'nutters' or 'pyramidolts'. The prevalence of such views is demonstrated in an attempt at 'democratic archaeology' - an archaeology chat-site which became a forum for 'alternative archaeology', even supremacist, racist ideas.

There is little in-depth discussion of how to harness this romance of archaeology to achieve a better understanding of past cultures and their lifestyles. Increased efforts to engage public interest is partly explained by the drying up of public archaeological research funding. Archaeologists are seen as cleverly using the media and the popular interest to get funding. Are these the reasons for archaeologists' apparent acceptance of this 'alternative archaeology', even when described as the 'comforts of unreason' (255)?

These and many other questions are raised in the papers; few are fully answered. Given Australia ICOMOS' welcome of community meanings of place, this book provides some interesting examples of some of the risks involved. For example, a local London community did not want anything in their local museum that predated the memories of their grandparents, suggesting that whilst fantasies about goddesses in Egypt or aliens from space grip the imagination, many may not know the story of the landscape they live in. Such examples provide food for thought, making this volume particularly suited to class discussion for cultural heritage students. Otherwise the main benefit to Australian readers is in providing a contrast to the Australian experience.

Marilyn Truscott

Archaeology from Australia

Presented as a survey of research both at home and abroad, this ambitious edited volume offers an eclectic overview of current directions within the discipline of Australian archaeology. Through the various chapters, it delivers a mixture of detailed case studies and literature overviews focused on temporally, regionally, and thematically defined subfields. The volume has been divided into two main parts, roughly covering the world inside ('Australia and Oceania') and the world outside ('Global archaeology from Australia'). This structure, while superficially obvious, does beg some deeper questions of purpose. How do these two perspectives articulate with each other? Is the editor suggesting the emergence of a distinctly 'Australian' research approach, or scholarly tradition that would transcend the specific geographic region under analysis? Could elements of such a regional tradition be explicitly identified? Could it be contrasted with the more 'processual' or 'interpretivist' genre associated with American or British styles of archaeological practice?
Ranging from questions of early human occupation and faunal extinctions in the late Pleistocene, through recent settler migrations and landscapes, and into current debates over the impact of Native Title legislation, culture-contact, repatriation, heritage management, and Australian contributions to human history on a global scale, volume chapters can be grouped into three familiar (and entirely overlapping) categories: Indigenous archaeology, Settler or 'historic' archaeology, and Overseas archaeology. Chapters within the first category have explored themes of early colonisation, environmental use, adaptation and exploitation, technological change, local chronologies, cultural elaboration, cross-cultural encounter, and heritage politics. These contributions powerfully demonstrate the sheer growth of knowledge about Australia's deep prehistoric past. Others highlight exciting new perspectives on the surrounding regions of Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia and Polynesia. Australian research overseas has powerfully enhanced our appreciation of the fundamental human 'story' by contributing to our broader understandings of urbanisation, technological evolution, palaeo-ecology, classic typologies, mortuary practices, and architecture. By including this group of papers, the volume illuminates the continuing impact of Australian funded research in the international sub-fields of African, Egyptian, Near Eastern, and Classical archaeologies.

Research on 'historic' topics offers a similar diversity of subjects, with significant research themes of pastoralism, mining, industry, maritime trade, convictism and immigration explored. Within these discussions, the multi-scalar links – those underlying subtle articulations first hinted at through the 'Home and Away' structure of this volume – become more explicitly evident. Through these contributions, local case studies are situated within the broader global dynamics of colonialism, technological transfer, skilled labour migration, social identity, and capitalism from the eighteenth century. For example, Susan Lawrence's presentation of her recent work at the Mount Alexander goldfields of Victoria demonstrates the importance of domestic settlements, homestead gardens, and miners' rights to the maintenance of gender and class identities over the Industrial era. Similarly, Martin Gibbs' contribution questions the artificial demarcation separating 'maritime' from 'terrestrial' sites. Instead, he suggests the possibility of 'seascapes' or 'maritime cultural landscapes' as a useful way for scholars to interpret the complex dynamics that shaped local innovation, foreign immigration, colonial cargoes, and cross-cultural encounters. In her contributing chapter, Jane Lydon deconstructs the entire concept of 'heritage management' itself, situating Australian practices within a wider international tension between the commercialisation of tertiary education, and expanding Indigenous critiques of colonialism and its legacies.

Finally – and perhaps as a manifestation of the ingenuity that underlies Australian archaeology – many of the contributing authors have emphasised the multi-disciplinary sources of their research. With these resources ranging from the archival (rate books, directories, fire insurance records, police records) through the decorative (rock art, ceramic styles), environmental (seeds, starches, pollen, faunal) and biological (human remains), and into the architectural and traditionally material (lithic, textile, metal), contributing authors ultimately provide an image of Australian research as both vital and vigorous.

But what is the underlying purpose of this volume? A reference to 'a comprehensive selection of major publicly funded research' in the book's Preface (xxii) hints at the political economy of this volume. Certainly, the inclusion of testimonies from the Presidents of the three central archaeology societies (ASHA, AACAI, AAA), in addition to the CEO of the Australian Research Council, suggests a worthy attempt to raise the profile of the discipline within the wider national research community. Or perhaps the book is designed as a 'taster-plate' for Australian-based archaeology – certainly an important goal if the intended audience is the student market.

Ultimately, as a snapshot of archaeological work undertaken by Australians during these early years of the new millennium, the volume does an admirable job of introducing the themes and directions that shape current research. While the varying nature of the contributing chapters does leave readers with a sense of inconsistency, similar problems do, of course, plague all but the most rigorously edited volumes of collected works. As a celebration of scholarly diversity, the book offers a compelling testimony of the creativity and workmanship that has characterised Australian archaeology since its emergence in the 1960s. While its value as a reference volume might have been enhanced by greater editorial influence over the scope and directions of the chapters, it is perhaps that eclectic variation itself which delivers the flavour of this collection.

Eleanor Conlin Casella

Education and the Historic Environment

Edited by Don Henson, Peter Stone and Mike Corbishly.

At a time when John Howard's Australia Day address criticised the political nature of history being taught in Australian schools, and the right-wing, anti-postmodernist educator Kevin Donnelly advises the Howard Government on the development of a national curriculum, this collection encourages Australian heritage professionals to consider the nature of educational material being presented to students and the public in museums and heritage sites in Australia. It provides stimulating ideas and models of what can be done (and not done) to successfully educate students of all ages about history and archaeology.

The book was produced as a joint initiative between the English Heritage Education Service and Routledge and consists of 20 papers presented at professional seminars and conferences at the end of the twentieth century. Together they provide a 'taster' of the different ways archaeology is and has been presented to students in Britain, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Part I, 'The present state of education in the United Kingdom' is a somewhat dry yet utilitarian description of the present state of education in the UK. Papers by Henson, Copeland, Jones, Hamilikis and Rainbird, and Lock describe the content of syllabuses that present archaeology at different educational levels, from primary and secondary schools, to tertiary and further education. I found it useful to make comparisons between the UK and Australia: like Australia, the UK has no single education system that shapes curriculum as a whole. However, Britain, like NSW and Queensland, has developed a
This is largely because heritage professionals are rarely experienced classroom teachers and vice versa. The same could be said for some (not all) museums and heritage sites in Australia. Copeland’s paper is particularly helpful in that it endeavours to bridge the gap by providing useful ‘template activities’ (such as for literacy and numeracy) syllabus requirements that can be linked to interpretations of the past at heritage venues.

In Part II, ‘National organisations’, authors Corbishly, Mitchell, Henson and Davidson, Henry, and Lassey examine the different ways national organisations in the UK interpret and present archaeology to the public. The different emphases placed on the past by each member of the United Kingdom makes it obvious that each country has specific national and local interests.

Part III, ‘The Educative Role of Audio-Visual Media’ contains two papers. The first, by West, surveys two highly successful archaeology programs on British TV: Channel 4’s Time Team, a reality TV show for archaeology enthusiasts and BBC’s Meet the Ancestors. Both have produced outstanding ratings and thereby increased the profile of British history and archaeology with the public. The second, by McElearney, demonstrates how ICT (information and communication technology) can be applied to archaeological education. Unfortunately the link http://www.shef.ac.uk/learningmedia/cba to relevant resources was still ‘under construction’ at the time of this review.

I found Part IV, ‘Examples of good practice’, the most valuable section of the book. All education programs share the same basic aims: to increase the accessibility of the public and foster an appreciation of local and national heritage. It was pleasing to see that the content and presentation of the programs were constantly assessed for educational effectiveness. Programs did not remain static but were adapted in response to visitor feedback. Pearson, Malim and Jones analyse what did, and didn’t work. They provide practical and valuable advice for those considering, or already running, archaeological education programs.

It was frustrating to read of the demise of the Northamptonshire (Pearson) and Cambridgeshire (Malim) heritage education services (both dynamic and highly successful programs that ran in the 1990s) as a result of budget cuts and reorganisation of policy priorities. Malim emphasises the need for consistent financial provision for these programs to function: it is difficult to keep them running when administrators and financiers are not educators. Long-term educational benefits are considered less important that short-term financial outcomes.

I particularly liked the determined, evangelical approach of these educators: when students couldn’t come to the archaeology they took the archaeology to them with outreach programs, such as artefact loans and ‘road shows’. ‘To reach school children and convert them at an early age is an essential part of any archaeologist’s role’, writes Malim (145). Jones (York Archaeological Trust) and Weldrake (West Yorkshire) both pointed out the importance of visitors being able to touch the past, something that is not allowed in traditional museums. Artefact-handling sessions forge a powerful emotional link between the visitor and the past.

The seven articles in Part IV should be essential reading for every museum or heritage professional whose job involves public education.

Reference
Donnelly, K. 2004 Why our schools are failing: what parents need to know about Australian education, Kingston. ACT: Duffy & Snellgrove.

Louise Zarmati

Covering Your Assets: Facilities and risk management in museums

From the title of the book, through the Rubens painting decorating the cover to the 100 plus pages of tables of statistics my initial reaction was one of disbelief. What had I done to deserve being asked to review this? Anyway, who would have thought of publishing the data from a facilities and risk management survey of 6,879 American museums as a book? Well, I cannot answer the first question but the American Association of Museums has published such results and achieved some real success by providing supporting editorial text on the subject in conjunction with brief essays on key topics.

The book is structured with around a third of the 200 pages allocated to a comprehensive introduction to the survey, followed by editorial text and essays liberally laced with tables. It continues with some 100 or so pages of pure data and concludes with the survey instrument itself, glossary, list of participating organisations etc. It is, as I imagine was envisaged by its planners, a valuable practical guide for non-experts associated with museum building management and excellent associated reading for many educational courses in the museum, built heritage and facility management arenas.

For those involved with the planning and management of the heritage buildings which either house, or are an integral part of, museum collections, the scale of issues and the variability of responses is an eye-opener. The essays reflect familiar issues in managing heritage buildings and grounds. Especially pertinent are those involving risk management and disaster preparedness. These have developed into disciplines in their own right, leaving behind the old ‘risk management equals cheapest insurance’ and a wheeze bin of sponges in the corner.

To get value from the book does take some patience, however. Whilst it is logically structured, the text, essays, tables and headings just seem to keep rolling on without the underlying structure being evident. It cries out for the data used to support the text and the essays to be visually interpreted, instead of talking in percentiles. The formatting does not help, looking very nice and understated, but designed for appearance rather than ease of comprehension.

There is no data on the museum buildings themselves, which is unfortunate given that many have been custom-designed and built, or at least the subject of adaptive reuse of heritage buildings which are directly related to the collections they house. In fact one of the essays is related to Robie House in
Chicago, by Frank Lloyd Wright. This seems to put the validity of some of the data at risk. The lack of qualitative input in the survey, which would not invalidate the results but does reduce their value, is unfortunate. So is some form of executive comment on the general management standards which the survey indicates are being achieved. These criticisms, however, do not detract from the overall value of the book and it is to be hoped that the AAM will build on this and make such information, experience and opinions more widely available to those involved in the management of museums and heritage buildings – without the encumbrance of the raw data results.

My own summation of the editorials, essays and data is that American museums have come a long way in recent years to addressing the problems and risks that museums, and indeed collections within organisations, face in the harsh social and economic conditions of our times. If you can lay your hands on a copy it is a recommended and informative read for museum and heritage managers.

Derek Hallam

City of Light: A History of Perth since the 1950s


City of Light is the first significant history of an Australian capital to cover the second half of the twentieth century. Indeed, thanks to the commissioning agent, the City of Perth, that city is the best-served in Australia with professional histories covering the entire existence of the Western Australian capital. Jenny Gregory's book follows and links back to Tom Stannage's People of Perth (1973), with a prologue providing a background of the interwar period. Stannage makes a cameo appearance in the new book (215), photographed viewing one of the city's last working class cottages.

Gregory's focus is on the CBD, or 'town', approximately the Perth Council area. Essentially, she presents detailed stories of events that happened in the city centre from the 1950s. A large cast of characters jostle on the pages: councillors and politicians, brothel madams and homeless men; developers and heritage activists. The opening scene evokes a 'leisurely, egalitarian ... comfortable world'. Ensuing stories convey the 'drama and disorder of city life'. The drama was heightened in a city on the brink of massive development, following the first big oil strike in WA in 1953. Perth was the smallest capital on the Australian mainland, but also the fastest-growing metropolitan area. The book describes 40 years of boom and bust: conflict over property, planning and development; and continuous growth. These events are signposted by evocative chapter titles, such as 'Fragmenting Perth', and 'Clashing values', and the chapters also progress chronologically. Gregory describes the 1980s trenchantly as a 'winner-takes-all decade'.

As Gregory's preface makes clear, her purposes include not only writing for a scholarly audience but also drawing in other readers by the use of stories, oral history excerpts and illustrations. There is plenty of solid information, but this is embedded in the narrative. The story-telling approach is often used effectively to make dry topics entertaining. For example, the council's role in public health tells of the banning of spitting in the streets, and of attempts to kill all of the city's pigeons. Council activities are described with a frankness that is a credit to the author and the commissioning council.

Gregory gratefully acknowledges three research assistants, whose massive task is also reflected in the endnotes, appendices and bibliography. The illustrations alone are worth purchase of the book, as they provide a fascinating array of images, including cartoons, city plans, photographs of people and places (and many buildings), and colour and black and white art works. There are maps of Perth, although readers from beyond Western Australia might also appreciate a map of Australia showing Perth's location.

The text is also vivid with imagery, opening with an astronaut's sight of this 'City of Light' in 1962. Gregory threads this theme through the book, including other interpretations of the 'City of Light' (and its 'shady side', in a discussion of prostitution); and discusses Perth's image in the wider world, such as when hosting the Empire Games and the Miss Universe Contest. Chapter one opens with the Royal Visit of 1964 to provide a snapshot of Perth at the time, and to elaborate on the city's image and other themes, such as the desire for modernity. This section is both entertaining and informative; although I found it too long (nearly 20 pages). This brings me to my only real criticism of the book, which is one of omission rather than omission. There is at times too much detail about certain topics (such as the Royal Visit), making some parts a slow and painstaking read.

However, this level of detail gives value for a range of readers, including heritage practitioners. Heritage is a major theme, as the 'battle to save the city's heritage began earlier in Perth than in many other cities'. Perhaps also due to Gregory's own history of heritage activism, and her roles as President of the National Trust (WA) and the History Council of WA, she pays greater heed to this aspect of urban history than is common in Australian books (except in my own work). This personal experience does not preclude criticism, for example, of the National Trust, which fought to save early buildings on the financial boulevard of St George's Terrace, 'but focused on the triumphs of Western Australia's pioneering past to the exclusion of all else' (205).

City of Light is a significant account of architectural and planning history, and the history of heritage conflict and preservation, an account strengthened by detailed reference to events in other Australian capitals. Overall, this is an impressive and important book, which makes a major contribution to Australian urban and cultural history, and heritage studies.

Susan Marsden