Mothballing [abstract]

Particularly, but not exclusively, in the public sector, historic properties are being abandoned by users. Most are either sold by their owners or, in many cases, left to be sold or developed when the real estate market improves. Where it can be identified, mothballing is usually accidental or occurs by default with very little deliberate mothballing; although actions required can be readily identified. No minimum standards exist for the mothballing of historic buildings and the solutions may vary with financial resources available, returns expected, and the desire of the owners for the properties to survive the mothballing! Mothballing is equivalent to ‘preservation’ as defined by the Burra Charter and is a legitimate conservation process; although by comparison attracts little active interest, other than from archaeologists.

Ivar Nelsen

Ivar Nelsen has until recently been the principal heritage architect for Australian Construction Services and manager of their Heritage and Environment Group. He has recently been appointed to the position of manager, Historic Places Branch of the Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Ivar has been involved in the conservation field for the past 19 years in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmanian and Queensland. Through his position with the Commonwealth he has been actively involved with a variety of military sites for the past 10 years.