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(jwells@rwu.edu)

Rebecca J. Sheppard, *University of Delaware*
(rjshep@udel.edu)

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Editorial correspondence, including manuscripts for submission, should be emailed to Jeremy Wells at jwells@rwu.edu and Rebecca Sheppard at rjshep@udel.edu. Electronic submissions are encouraged, but physical materials can be mailed to Jeremy Wells, SAAHP, Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809, USA. Articles should be in the range of 4,500 to 6,000 words and not be under consideration for publication or previously published elsewhere. Refer to the back of this volume for manuscript guidelines.

Books for review, and book reviews, should be sent to Gregory Donofrio, School of Architecture, University of Minnesota, 145 Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. E-mail donofrio@umn.edu.

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Robert A. Young. *Stewardship of the Built Environment: Sustainability, Preservation and Reuse*. Washington: Island Press, 2012, 233 pp., black-and-white photographs, paperback, \$35.00, ISBN: 9781610911795.

This book introduces the concept of stewardship of the built environment through preservation and reuse, which, while drawn from the social, environmental, economic, and social contexts of the past, is a philosophy that also offers a fresh look at the shape of today and tomorrow.

Robert Young not only presents the history of the preservation movement in the United States and how it can complement the environment today, he also touches on preservation practice in Europe. The glossary of key terms and acronyms, as well as the recommendations for further reading included in the appendixes, are also informative. I believe students, architects, preservationists, and planners will find this book useful.

The book is well organized. It begins with an introduction of the theme of the book, and then explores the three basic factors of sustainability—social, environmental, and economic. Finally, Young suggests how to put it all together, summarizing the lessons we can learn and the possible future directions of this philosophy of stewardship.

The strongest contribution to the preservation field by this book in my view is in the environmental factor. The author has a rare background in civil engineering, business, and architecture; is a professor in a school of architecture and planning; and is a LEED-accredited professional engineer. Having both academic and professional experience, he is able to observe preservation through several complementary, but seldom combined, perspectives.

The book features a number of environmental indicators and metrics such as the Energy Utilization Index, embodied energy, material flow, and lifecycle analysis. These are indeed useful indexes for measuring the energy and material consumption in saving and reusing existing buildings, or constructing new buildings, helping us to determine whether or not our specific actions are advancing the goals of sustainable development.

Young stresses that it takes more than designing and constructing new green buildings to achieve sustainability. Parallel to new green building efforts, we must preserve old buildings and reuse them to achieve our goal of sustainability. For example, he quotes *The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Environmental Value of Building Reuse*, a 2012 report by the Preservation Green Lab: “It can take between 10 and 80 years for a new energy-efficient building to overcome, through more efficient operations, the negative climate change impacts that were created during the construction process.” He also reminds us that demolition debris contributes nearly 40 percent of the material buried in landfills; the environmental impacts are significant.

I share the author’s observation that preservationists face many challenges: those who favor the new and reject the old; the pressure for change that leads to demolition; and the misconception that preservationists are against progress and are only merely looking backward. However, to overcome these challenges, I believe we need to find effective ways for working with many professionals, political leaders, community activists, and developers. To convince the general public to value and support preservation, and to overcome political interference, we must learn how to work with the news media. We need to know how to marshal resources from both public and private sources to make preservation projects feasible. To realize preservation objectives in design, marketing, and financing, we need interdisciplinary expertise to help us achieve our common vision. To preserve the old and to relate the new to the old, we need urban design sensitivity and skill to help us achieve visual compatibility and harmony. I would also like to suggest that it is important to continue making advances in architectural excellence in a community—to create new landmarks for the future. To achieve this goal, we need to support a creative en-

vironment and recruit great architects, landscape architects, artists, and urban designers to help us fulfill our vision.

While I admire some of the European preservation efforts, I am proud that the U.S. preservation movement was more initiated from the grass roots, and then advanced to the state and national levels. I am also pleased to see the broadening over the years of preservation activities from individual landmarks to districts, from architectural to environmental concerns, as the author points out. I believe that great progress has been made toward further broadening preservation's influence and benefits, especially during the time Richard Moe was president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Having the privilege of serving as co-chair for the 2007 National Preservation Conference, I remember well Mr. Moe's opening statement: "Now we're on the threshold of a new phase as growing numbers of people are concerned about the degradation of the environment and our relentless consumption of irreplaceable energy and natural resources. Preservation certainly isn't the solution to these problems, but it can be—and should be—an important part of the solution." I was happy to see that Young quotes this call to action in his book.

Above all, I also share Carl Elefante's view, "We cannot build our path to a sustainable future; we must conserve our way to it. The greenest building is the one that is already built."

WEIMING LU
Minneapolis, MN (USA)