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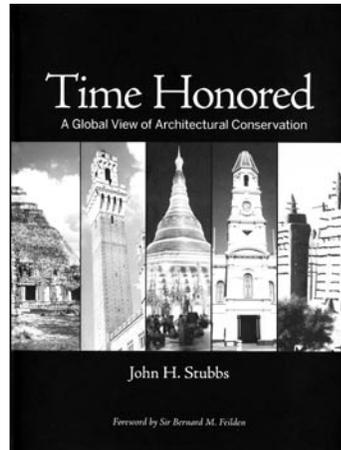
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John H. Stubbs. *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation: Parameters, Theory, & Evolution*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2009, 434 pp., photographs, charts, illustrations, cloth, \$75.00, ISBN 978-0-4702-6049-4.

The book *Time Honored* is the first in a planned series of books intended to illuminate worldwide architectural conservation practice; it is a promising beginning. John Stubbs's elucidation of the scope and significance of past and current preservation efforts expands our understanding of world issues and practices. It also provides a cultural context for international heritage protection challenges, which are often very different from our own. Yet, the message is not one of distinctions but of shared commitment. For the first time, Stubbs argues, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, we are experiencing a global commitment to the protection of the world's "cultural patrimony"; so widespread is the concern that it "characterizes life and societal values in our time" (p.ix).

Every corner of the world is touched by cultural loss, from destruction by war, natural disaster, development pressure, or environmental devastation to social and economic inequality, population pressure, or simply an accelerated rate of change.

Advances in communication and information technology, a globalized economy, and increased world travel further connect world cultures. Stubbs discusses these issues in the context of advances in conservation science and its global support network, with the understanding that world heritage belongs to all. He directs his evidence to reveal an increased capacity among nations and peoples to grasp the importance of protecting symbols of the past, tangible and intangible. *Time Honored* convinces us that such capacity exists.

Stubbs is lucid in his explanation of the processes at work in preservation. Few could do so with such authority. For twenty years, he has directed the World Monuments Fund's field projects. His post-graduate training was at ICCROM, and he later worked in the Technical Preservation Services Division of the National Park Service. He practiced with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, was a close associate of James Marston Fitch, and continues to teach in Columbia University's graduate preservation program. Though its author is a conservation specialist, this book is not a technical manual. Instead, it testifies to his considerable international experience and his unique ability to dissect the intricacies and implications of today's world practice.

Framed in four parts, "Conserving History in Changing Contexts"; "Problems, Principles, and Process"; "Conservation of the Built Environment: An Enduring Concern"; and "Contemporary Architectural Conservation Practice," *Time Honored* is appropriate for the student, the professional, the academic, and the curious. It is written in a thoughtful, never arbitrary, manner. Part I introduces the practice of building conservation, its concerns, methods, rationales, and history. The second part addresses building threats, conservation options, and the history of international sanctions and charters, woven together by an excellent discussion of ethics, and ends in a profile of the conservation process and professional participant.

Part III eloquently traces the history of building conservation efforts from prehistory through the fourteenth century, a narrative unsung in any previous books, to my knowledge. The author takes us through the Renaissance and the Enlightenment to precisely measure conservation practice as it comes of age in Western Europe in the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. Part IV reports on contemporary practice around the world, addressing regional accomplishments and challenges, international organizations currently at work, and the influence of European conservation principles abroad. Here, Stubbs includes observations on tangible versus intangible heritage and on differing regional concepts of authenticity and permanence.

No comparable work treats the evolution of architectural conservation practice with the even-handedness and aplomb of *Time Honored*. Others have recorded preservation concerns, for instance, of the key Western theorists—Viollet-le-Duc, Pugin, Scott, Ruskin, Morris, Schinkel, Riegl—and their influence on practice in the West. But *Time Honored* addresses a broader international picture illuminating theoretical and practical issues against the background of world practice. Stubbs's testimony of the "enduring concern" for protecting the monuments of the past across time encourages us to acknowledge our world neighbors and understand today's conservation accomplishments and challenges in a new, brighter light.

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