

## Editor's Note

With the publication of the fiftieth issue of *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, I would like to reflect on the continuing vitality of IASTE as an organization. IASTE now links two universities — the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Oregon — with Berkeley managing the intellectual mission of the association, the conference themes, and *TDSR*, and Oregon, under the direction of Mark Gillem, managing the Working Paper Series and our conferences and workshops. We have also recently made some changes to our staff, with Jennifer Gaugler joining as Coordinator, and Tomi Laine Clark continuing in her role as Administrative Coordinator. IASTE is in good hands as we continue our mission to bring exceptional interdisciplinary scholarship to a growing audience.

We are pleased to begin this issue with an invited article from John Archer, a distinguished architectural historian and scholar of cultural studies and comparative literature. Archer was one of the keynote speakers at the 2012 IASTE conference, and he expands on his insightful comments there concerning both the resilience and vulnerability of the myth of the American dream. Focusing on the impact of the recent economic crisis, his article provides a timely look at both contemporary social issues and the persistence of a national mindset. Continuing with the theme of resilience, John Biln and Mohamed El Amrousi next take a critical look at the small house museums of Dubai and how they reflect a profound sense of absence in the face of the relentless development and urban spectacle characteristic of that city. The two make a compelling argument that through various strategies of substitution and simulation these discrete heritage projects have become “unwitting vehicles for melancholic lament.”

Moving back to the U.S., Anna Goodman evaluates the representational strategies that shape the practice of the Auburn University Rural Studio. She suggests that particular forms of representation have distorted perceptions of the program and restricted its critical capacity — an assertion that may have relevance to other humanitarian architecture practices. In our fourth article, Han Li explores what happens when architectural heritage is literally “transplanted” from one context to another. A linguist, Li discusses the complex meanings and outcomes of such acts of appropriation through the case study of Yin Yu Tang, a Huizhou residence that was purchased, dismantled, and shipped from China to the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts. Finally, this issue contains a field report by M. Mizanur Rashid and Katharine Bartsch, who examine the little-known architectural legacy of the early Islamic diaspora in Australia. In particular, they explore the historical roots of the Adelaide mosque, both as an architectural counterpart to the socio-cultural and anthropological work done on this population and as a plea for proper appreciation of such hybrid structures within the Muslim world.

I would like to end this note by reminding all our readers to join us in December for the 2014 IASTE Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Our biennial event will explore the theme “Whose Tradition?” by studying in what manner, for what reason, by whom, to what effect, and during what intervals traditions have been deployed with regard to the built environment. We expect it to be a very exciting event. We look forward to seeing you in Kuala Lumpur.

*Nezar AlSayyad*

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