Editor’s Note

With this issue, *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* enters its twenty-first year of publication. Throughout these years, we have tried to maintain disciplinary balance in editorial selection as well as interdisciplinarity in what we expect of our authors. In my opinion, this has been the secret of *TDSR*’s success and longevity.

Following our recent conference theme, this issue interrogates traditions and their attendant epistemologies. It begins with a reflection by David Moffat, *TDSR*’s longtime managing editor, on “IASTE at Twenty.” He tracks the gradual evolution of interest within the association from a relatively unproblematized reverence for traditional design and building processes to a more nuanced understanding of tradition as a multivalent discourse for valuing environmental qualities, and he calls for a reconnection between this powerful awareness and new practice initiatives.

Moffat’s conference report is followed by four feature articles. First is Mark Gillem’s examination of emergent “lifestyle centers,” themed shopping venues that re-create and reimagine the American Main Street while also promoting spatial exclusion and isolation. These centers use the trope of the small town while rejecting its traditional geography. At a more human scale, we then present Charlie Hailey’s historical analysis of the tradition of sleeping in the open air. By tracing the evolution from exterior sleeping porches and various other contraptions to air-conditioned bedrooms, he reveals changing concepts of modernity, health, and the value of fresh air. Tradition, in this case, has come to be defined epistemologically, no longer empirically. Next comes Daniel Maudlin’s expansive examination of the complex elements of identity in Scottish residential architecture. Based on his 2008 Jeffrey Cook-award winning conference paper, the article deconstructs myths and misconceptions regarding heritage and tradition, and shows how Scotland’s particular histories conflict with current planning policy. In our last article, Kate Jordan also interrogates the relationship between heritage and tradition. Her study of the Bruce Grove area of North London shows how heritage conservation may provide a powerful but shaky foundation upon which to negotiate realities of multiculturalism, gentrification, and migration.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the next IASTE conference will take place in Beirut, Lebanon, in December 2010, hosted by the American University of Beirut. I would also like to announce important changes to IASTE’s governance structure, approved by the IASTE Advisory Council following the Oxford Conference. Although IASTE and TDSR will continue to be based at UC Berkeley, starting in January 2010, I will step down as IASTE director to assume the post of IASTE president. Mark Gillem of the University of Oregon, will take over as IASTE director, aided by an IASTE executive committee composed of Hesham Abdel fattah of Cairo University, Heba Farouk Ahmed of Cairo University, Duanfang Lu of the University of Sydney, Mina Rajagopalan of New York University, Ipek Tureli of Brown University, and Montira Unakul of UNESCO, Bangkok. The IASTE Advisory Council, consisting of many senior scholars, will continue to advise the IASTE president. It is my sincere hope this new structure will help pass the baton to a new generation within the association, who may push it in new directions as it enters its third decade.

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