


[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Programmes](#)
[Looking After Heritage](#)
[Resources](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Materials and Processes in the Conservation of Heritage Buildings

Date: 4th August 2012 (Saturday)

Time: 9am-12:30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Level 5, Wawasan Open University, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, George Town

Programmes

› Education

Talks

[Conservation Seminar](#)
[Heritage x Design](#)
[Previous Kopi Conversations](#)

Tours

Workshops

› Monitoring and Planning

› Special Projects

› Celebrating the World Heritage Site

› Past Projects and Events

The inscription of places on the World Heritage List is based on Universal Significance – a concept which embraces tangible and intangible values. Tangible values include building fabric, which should always maintain its authenticity in order to preserve its inherent values. Authenticity does not preclude the use in conservation of traditional technologies or new science. Both may be applied to obtain good outcomes.

Since the UNESCO inscription, heritage buildings in George Town are being bought, sold and restored at an ever-increasing pace. There is a need to increase public awareness about the process of conservation, while increasing professional know-how. This seminar looks at the materials and processes used in the conservation of heritage buildings, and issues involved in their use. Our three speakers bring a wealth of experience in conservation both in Penang and from around the region.

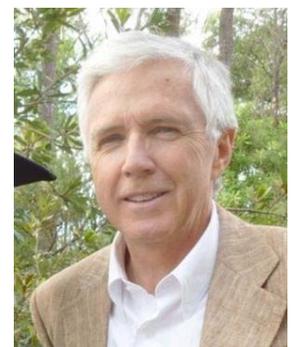
Donald Ellsmore starts the discussion by looking at community values and conservation. He will then present us with a comparative look at authentic and non-authentic materials used in the restoration of heritage buildings. Local architect, Laurence Loh, best known for his award-winning restoration of the Cheong Fatt Tze mansion and Suffolk House, will discuss the criteria for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation as a benchmark for conservation success. We then hear from Gesa Schwantes, a Swiss conservator currently based in Hong Kong, who will share with us her experience on the Central Police Station precinct in Hong Kong, and the conservation of wall paintings in Yunnan and Tibet.

Please register by emailing edu@gtwhi.com.my or call (04) 261 6606

About the speakers

Donald Ellsmore

Dr. Ellsmore has over 35 years professional experience in the conservation of the heritage built environment in Australia, and has contributed to the advancement of preservation technology and the development of other professionals through his work as convenor of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) Australasia Chapter. He has worked as senior conservation architect with the NSW Government from 1978 to 1987, Assistant Director, Collections Management at the Sydney Maritime Museum, and Heritage Manager for the NSW State Rail Authority. From 1999, Dr. Ellsmore has run his own consultancy business, providing architectural conservation analysis, planning and management; conservation techniques; materials and finishes analyses; and heritage consulting services to clients in Australia and in the wider region. In his role as convenor of the APT Australasia Chapter, Dr Ellsmore has been instrumental in promoting the aims of APT and in fostering membership and support for sound conservation approaches in the region. He currently lectures in the heritage management and architectural conservation post-graduate programmes at universities in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Melbourne. In 2012 Dr Ellsmore accepted an honorary appointment as Principal Fellow with the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne, with the title Associate Professor.



Laurence Loh

Laurence Loh is an Architect, Building Conservationist and Cultural Heritage Strategist and Advocate. He has been actively protecting, conserving, managing

and sustaining cultural heritage in Malaysia and the region for the past 28 years. His most well-known work includes the award-winning Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion and the restoration of Suffolk House in Penang, the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple in Malacca, and the restoration of Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur. He has acted as a resource person, consultant and technical advisor to international bodies like UNESCO, the World Heritage Office, the World Bank, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the Getty Conservation Institute, the Urban Renewal Authority of Hong Kong, the Antiquities and Monuments Office of Hong Kong, the Institute of Tourism Studies of Macao, the Cultural Institute of Macao and the Singapore Tourism Board. He teaches at the University of Hong Kong and at the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in Rome, and lectures regularly at various universities and institutions in Malaysia. He is also on the executive committee of the UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy of Heritage Management. Laurence is the author of the book "Suffolk House", currently writes a monthly column for the Edge Financial Daily in Malaysia, and runs his practice, Arkitek LLA Sdn.Bhd., with offices in Penang and Kuala Lumpur.



[Gesa Schwantes](#)

Gesa has 10 years of physical conservation experience of wall paintings, murals and decorated architectural surfaces on historic built heritage sites in Germany, Switzerland and China, with experience includes working with a wide range of surface materials including stone, lime plaster, clay plaster, frescoes, lime paint, tempera paint and watercolour. She is currently the Conservation Laboratory Manager of the Architectural Conservation Programme at the University of Hong Kong. She has a Master of Science in Conservation from The University of Hong Kong and a Diploma in Conservation/Restoration from Bern University of Applied Sciences, Bern University of the Arts, Switzerland.

