

BOOK REVIEW

K. Taylor, A. St Clair, N. J. Mitchell (Eds.): CONSERVING CULTURAL LANDSCAPES. CHALLENGES AND NEW DIRECTIONS. - Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2015, 393 p., ISBN 978-0-415-74415-8, ISBN 978-1-315-81322-6 (eBook).

We can start our bookreview with a definition: "A cultural landscape perspective explicitly recognises the history of a place and its cultural traditions in addition to its ecological value. A landscape perspective also recognises the continuity between the past and with people living and working on the land today." (Mitchell & Buggey, 2001).

We see landscapes with our eyes but interpret them through the values and spiritual reasons. One of our needs, identity, is fulfilled in this way. The mechanism of our perception are the human attachment to a landscape and the question: How we find identity in landscape and in a geographical place (Kovář, 1993). This implies that a successful approach to urban and cultural landscape conservation brings together cultural as well as natural values and keeps connections between places and people in local stewardship. It supports cooperations of academics within the humanities and humanistic social sciences, conservation and preservation professionals, stakeholders and practitioners, to re-think the management of cultural heritage conservation.

Comprehensive study of cultural landscapes published to date was lacking. The editors of the present book have succeeded in building a bridge across the actual knowledge gap by an excellent list of contributors. Cultural landscapes, how their concept evolved around the world and defined their preservation will surely find much interest in this field. The structure of this book is presented as follows:

Introduction - Cultural Landscapes: Twenty-First Century Conservation Opportunities and Challenges;

PART I - Reflections on Past and Future Directions; 2 World Heritage Cultural Landscapes: 1992-2012; 3 Sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes; 4 Entre chien et loup: World Heritage Cultural Landscapes on the Fortieth Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention; 5 Opportunities for Integration of Cultural and Natural Heritage Perspectives under the World Heritage Convention: Towards Connected Practice;

PART II - Community Stewardship and Diverse Values; 6 Stewardship of Protected Landscapes by Communities: Diverse Landscapes, Diverse Governance Models; 7 The Interrelationships of Land, Culture and Heritage: The Gullah Geechee Communities of the Southeastern United States; 8 Ecological and Socio-Cultural Resilience in Managing Traditional Sacred Landscapes in the Coastal Savannah Ecosystem of Ghana; 9 Cultural Landscapes: Message from Our Ancestors;

PART III - New Approaches and Policy Frameworks: The Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL); 10 Historic Urban Landscape: A New UNESCO Tool for a Sustainable Future; 11 Applying a Cultural Landscape Approach to the Urban Context; 12 Asian Theoretical and Best-Practice Framework for the Historic Urban Landscape: Heritage for the Future;

PART IV - Confronting the Everyday Challenge of Cultural Landscape Management

The conservation of towns and cultural landscapes becomes more and more difficult in the context of global threats. This book provides useful guide for the management of such sites with clear priorities. It is an excellent picture and/or map of where cultural landscapes

are at present. It shows living landscapes with their major values in complexity and challenges addressed within today's needs of the heritage maintenance. Movement of thinking from more traditional Euro-Central concentration ("island" approach) to the international level of World Heritage landscapes (e.g., case studies from Asia included) provides higher and more efficient degree of applicability. It exhibits compatibility with the idea of large areas ecology (landscape ecology) extended to the systems of towns and cities promoted by Richard Forman (Kovář, 2014).

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