

Beyond Heritage: Culture as Urban Renewal Resource

Built heritage and intangible culture are remarkable resources. The results of the recent ISOCARP UPAT urban renewal workshop in Suzhou, China will be used to kick-start an expert discussion on how to look beyond the layers of history, and use the heritage as a motor to restore social cohesion, foster sustainable economic growth and revive public spaces.

The Beyond Heritage: Culture as Urban Renewal Resource Session focuses on the contemporary approaches in using cultural heritage as a tool for urban renewal. Based on the results of the recent UPAT workshop in China – Suzhou “Panmen-Shantang Street in the Grand Canal National Culture Park” - the Session will look beyond the layers of history, and examine how to use heritage how to utilize heritage by adding new ideas to the old values

In Suzhou, the international team of ISOCARP experts worked together with the planning professionals of the Jiangsu Institute of Urban Planning and Design (JUP) on transforming the Panmen Historic Watergate site into an attractive node in the future Grand Canal National Culture Canal. Using research-by-design approach, the team produced renewal strategies on several spatial levels. The strategies demonstrate how to identify and combine different heritage assets (from tangible - historical buildings and waterways – to intangible - poetry and local crafts) to revive tourism, diversify existing functionalities, and promote spaces for social cohesion in the wider Panmen neighborhood.

The results of this workshop will be used to break open an international expert panel discussion, with experts from different professional organisations in Europe, Asia and Middle East presenting different views on the Sessions’ topic. The panel will actively search for answers on some of the main questions of the role of heritage in the urban renewal process and achieving SDG’s: how to plan within preservation and conservation rules in a complex, dynamic urban environment, how to define unique, location-responsive approaches, and what can be applicable recommendations for adapting the heritage to the modern tourism-and-culture consumers demands.

Session Moderator: Ir Milena Ivkovic, Member of Board of Directors ISOCARP, Director Urban Planning Advisory Teams ISOCARP

Time and Place: Tuesday 10th September 2019, ISOCARP 55th World Planning Congress venue Borobudur Hotel Jakarta

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