

Special Section: Heritage and Conservation in Israel

Guest Editor:

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Delineating Buffer Zones around World Heritage Sites

Idan Avidan and Eliahu Stern

Although the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention require buffer zones to ensure the conservation of World Heritage sites, many sites are still threatened as a result of inappropriate delineation of their buffer zones. "Current policies and practices of the World Heritage Convention do not appear to have exploited or even realized the potential of buffer zones as a tool for sustainability" (Boccardi, 2006), suggesting the need for appropriate methods and tools for their practical delineation. The present paper is the first in a series towards the development of a constructed methodology for the delineation of buffer zones around cultural World Heritage sites. It examines the range of considerations under various space-time conditions and their consequent results, in order to define the appropriate delineation and negotiation components needed under the various conditions. This is considered essential for the development of a constructed, global, methodology. The consequent study scans the delineation process, the considerations, and the limitations of 80 cultural sites around the world which were submitted for subscription to the World Heritage Committee in recent years. The results of various cross-classifications are presented and analyzed. The basic forms of cross-classifications include the frequency distributions of delineation considerations by various characteristics such as type of site, level of national development, location, size, subscription criteria, level of threat, and others. Typology analysis enabled the construction of delineation profiles, and their comparative analyses provided the major components needed for the development of a constructed methodological framework. Tel Beer Sheva, Israel, served as a case study to exemplify the complexity and the space-time dependency of the process and to examine the proposed methodology. A minimax solution

enabled doubling the area of the prescribed buffer zone, to increase its sustainability, and to reduce public objections.

Keywords: Buffer zones, delineation methodology, Tel Beer Sheva.

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Integrated Heritage Landscape – Built Cultural Heritage in Open Spaces

Irit Amit-Cohen and Yossi Vitriol

Declaration of cultural property as well as natural landscape for preservation means intervention, but while cultural built heritage needs high intervention to avoid further deterioration, landscape and nature need minimal interference. These observations encourage planning authorities to present different outline plans for open space and natural reserves and for cultural heritage assets. In cases where cultural heritage assets are located within the natural landscape, the planning authorities prefer to preserve the landscape and neglect the preservation of heritage assets. Today the International Covenant on Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage (1972) celebrates its fortieth anniversary. From the beginning the covenant included mixed definitions and in 1992 defined new criteria for cultural landscape that present a combination between natural and cultural heritage. The purpose of this article is to bridge between the definition of open areas and natural landscape and built cultural heritage and to argue that the encounter between these two creates a new synergetic landscape fabric, which therefore needs special recognition and planning methodology. To test this methodology, a declared open area in east Rehovot was chosen as a case study.

Keywords: open space, cultural heritage, national and regional outline plans, integrated heritage landscape.