INTERNATIONAL

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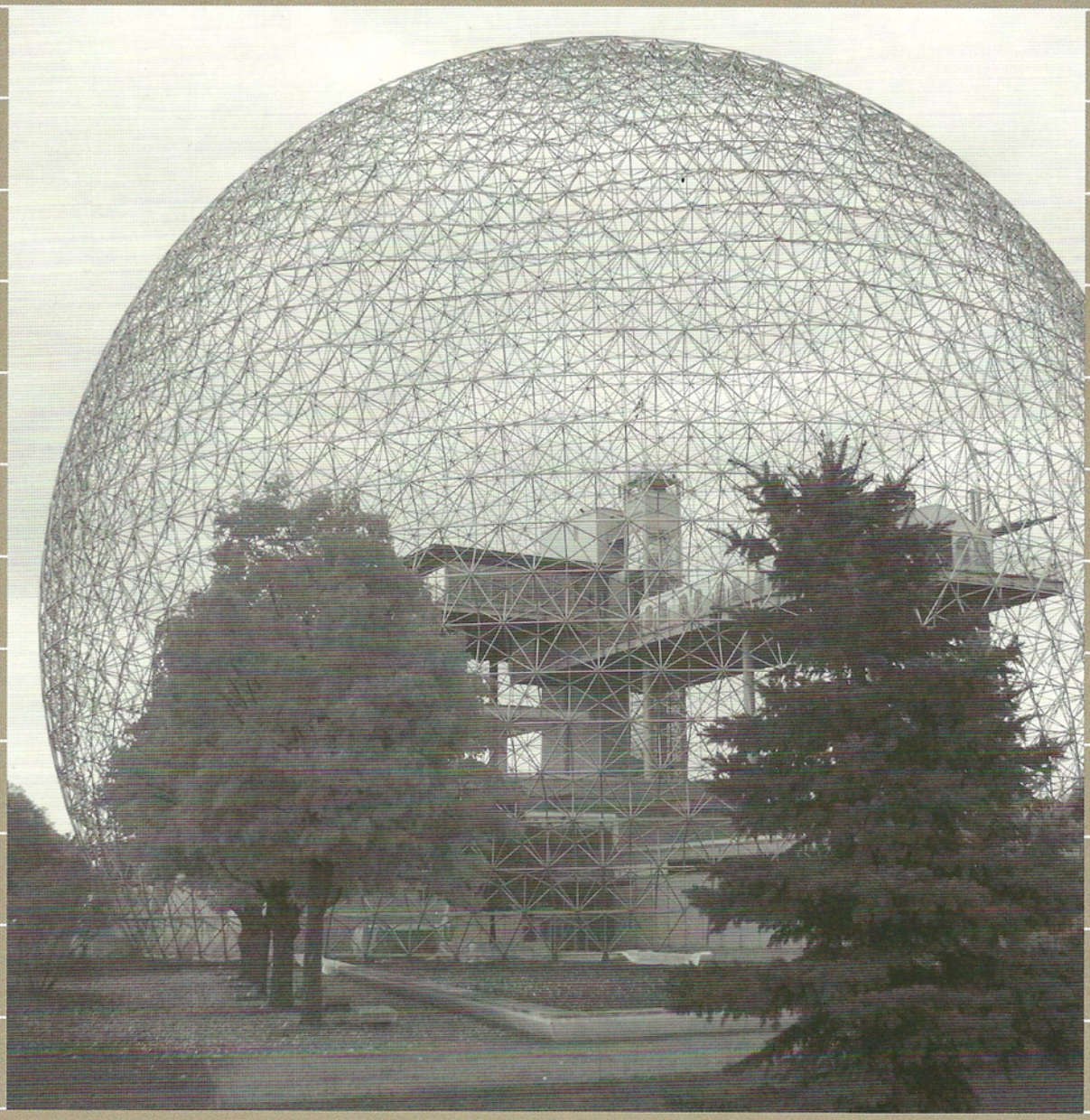

THE JOURNAL OF PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY

The Association for Preservation Technology Association pour la préservation et ses techniques

INTERNATIONAL

EDITOR'S NOTE

DIANA S. WAITE

In the five years since APT published its first special issue on the confluence of preservation and sustainability (vol. 36, no. 4), the limited nature of our resources, both natural and cultural, has become an ever more pressing concern. The need for action has gone from being regarded as a specialist topic to an "inconvenient truth" in our culture at large.

In comparing the issues addressed in the articles from that issue and this one, it is easy to see both emerging topics and continuing areas of concern. The debunking of the need to replace historic materials in order to increase energy efficiency is a battle still being fought, and examining articles from these two issues illustrates the ways in which that conversation is evolving, both in terms of specific actions we can take and in how we look at preservation and sustainability holistically and in concert.

It is a mark of APT's leadership in this area that the 2005 special issue of the *Bulletin* completely sold out and is no longer available in hard copy. Even now, requests for the information contained in those articles still come to our office, and we gladly point people to JSTOR, which makes back issues of the *Bulletin* accessible to individuals and institutions around the world. We hope that the information gathered here will likewise become a global preservation resource. The issue would not have been possible without the assistance of our guest editor, Walter Sedovic, and, of course, the authors themselves. We thank them all for their contributions.

COMING OF AGE

WALTER SEDOVIC, GUEST EDITOR

It has been some time since sustainability advocates working within the realm of preservation were summarily cast off as "granola-eating, Birkenstock-wearing tree huggers" by their own colleagues. This issue of the *Bulletin* is proof that we as a profession have matured and that our notion of sustainable preservation has come of age. Building on the groundbreaking advances reflected in the *Bulletin*'s first issue on sustainability, published in 2005, we have moved from a more philosophical and reactive stance regarding embodied energy, energy conservation, and rating systems to approaches that are studied and qualitative while more deeply embracing of community, education, and authenticity. In short, our focus, techniques, and successes have become more holistic.

That was the ultimate goal of this special issue, and it has been achieved.

Organized by APT's Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation, one objective of this *Bulletin* was to offer tools that allow us to more definitively substantiate claims that we as sustainable preservation practitioners often cite: the benefits of restoring historic windows, of maintaining thermal lag in solid masonry building envelopes, and of advocating for long-term performance over initial cost considerations. In this issue we explore methods of measuring the performance of our interventions, thereby allowing us to build a portfolio of data-driven results which may be further collected, collated, refined, and distributed. We as preservation professionals continue our sisyphean efforts, providing myriad bridges across a canyon that still divides those who believe in the intrinsically sustainable nature reflected in our heritage buildings from those who would advocate for more drastic measures. Clearly, providing tools that enhance our ability to consistently demonstrate actual performance are welcome and long overdue.

Finally, this *Bulletin* was meant to offer an array of both practical and philosophical guidance reflecting global palettes and patterns. The projects described herein demonstrate the similarities of our approaches against a backdrop of dissimilarities: can we really hand down traditional building methods in a world that is increasingly industrialized and electronics-driven? We learn from these examples and reflect… in the end, sustainability is all about *community*.

A relative newcomer to APT's family of technical committees, the Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation provides a forum for cross-pollination among the varied disciplines that contribute to holistic, sustainable approaches to preserving heritage sites. It provides research and development of innovative initiatives, coalescing focus groups to explore, dissect, and redefine the component parts of sustainable preservation, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The committee creates educational modules and symposia with an international reach while also actively pursuing a voice in government initiatives toward the goal of affecting policy.

How fortunate, then, that this special issue arrives at a time of growing worldwide interest in creating plans that define global concerns for environmental stewardship. Preservation and community are ideally positioned to become the centerpiece of these prescient and remarkable sustainable-development plans. Now is the time for a new paradigm: preservationists leading global efforts in sustainability.

We already are firmly established among the ranks of planners, engineers, code officials, community activists, and political circles. Each of us, independently and collectively, must now work from the inside out toward a more sustainable future. That is, after all, what we have always represented.

Ultimately, let us agree that when we no longer need a guest editor for a special issue on sustainable preservation—that is, when sustainability and preservation truly become synonymous—we really *will* have achieved something.