



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

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### **The *APT Bulletin*: 50:4**

The latest *APT Bulletin: the Journal of Preservation Technology*, a special issue dedicated to preservation engineering, was guest-edited by engineers Jenna C. Bresler and Justin M. Spivey. Most of the articles were drawn from presentations at the APT Buffalo-Niagara 2018 conference. They go beyond discussion of building structures and enclosures to explore mechanical and electrical systems, in-building transport, and ventilation. The issue directs readers' attention to the expanding views of preservation relevant to the next half-century, as APT completes its first 50 years of publishing the *Bulletin*.

“Keeping the Lights On: Challenges to the Conservation of Australia’s Electrical Heritage” by MacLaren North highlights the history of Australia’s electricity industry. As technology and standards changed, facilities moved, and demand increased, relics of earlier electric systems were left behind, presenting new challenges in conservation. North presents a case study of an outdated substation that has been successfully restored and updated with upgraded electrical equipment.

“A Working Artifact: Restoration of a 1908 Manually Controlled Elevator in Toronto” by Romas Bubelis examines the restoration of an Otis-Fensom elevator in Toronto’s Birkbeck Building. This elevator, with a 1950s replacement cab, had been operating with its original

electro-mechanical equipment for over a century. The machinery and cab were carefully restored, successfully producing a reliable vertical transport system, still manually controlled by an attendant as it was in 1908, thus retaining the experience and function of the original.

“Measured Performance: Assessing Limit States of Structural Hollow-Tile Arches” by Derek Trelstad, Rebecca Buntrock, and Alex Vandenberg is a companion to the authors’ *Practice Point* in the previous issue of the *APT Bulletin*. The article in this issue focuses on the use of documentation through field measurement and archival resources as important steps in evaluating the structural capacity of floors built of hollow tile. This floor-loading limit is crucial in making informed decisions about the feasibility of proposed changes to the building.

Matthew S. Chalifoux, in his article “Conservation of Character-Defining Engineered Building Systems,” discusses the preservation of mid-twentieth-century building systems that were increasingly designed to be exposed. Many of these systems are now outdated and need replacement. Chalifoux explores how they can and should be conserved, since they are integral to the overall aesthetics of the buildings they serve. Two locations—the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the Richards Medical Research Laboratories at the University of Pennsylvania—are presented as case studies.

Christopher Tavener’s “Clearing the Air: Ventilation at the Colt Patent Fire-Arms Factory in Hartford, Connecticut” addresses industrial heritage, focusing on a large forge where mechanical ventilation appears to have been used as early as 1855. Tavener blends archival and field research to explore how this system may have operated, and he argues that current preservation guidelines do not support accurate interpretations of historic sites since they allow modern heating and ventilation systems to replace historic technology as long as the aesthetic remains the same.

Book review editor Lesley Gilmore secured several reviews for this issue. *3D Laser Scanning for Heritage*, by Clive Boardman and Paul Bryan, is reviewed by Christopher Gray. Robert J. Kapsch's *Building Washington: Engineering and Construction of the New Federal City, 1790–1840* is reviewed by James W. Shepherd. *Concrete: Case Studies in Conservation and Practice*, edited by Catherine Croft and Susan Macdonald along with Gail Ostergren, is reviewed by Jack Pyburn. Finally, *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*, by Norman Tyler, Ilene R. Tyler, and Ted J. Ligibel, is reviewed by Todd Grover. This issue's Building Technology Heritage Library feature by Mike Jackson highlights building-systems catalogs.

The Association for Preservation Technology is the only international organization dedicated solely to advancing appropriate traditional and new technologies to care for, protect, and promote the longevity of the build environment and to cultivate the exchange of knowledge throughout the international community. Founded in 1968 in Québec as a joint venture between Canadian and U.S. preservationists, APT provides members with benefits that include publications, networking opportunities, conferences, training courses, and student scholarships.

As a benefit of membership, APT members can, at no cost, search, browse, download, and print full-text PDF versions of past *Bulletin* articles on JSTOR, an international online digital archive. Visit <http://www.apti.org> for more information. Non-APT members also have the option of joining JSTOR's "Register and Read" program, which allows a user to read six articles online without charge each month.

The *APT Bulletin*, a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal, is a valued source for state-of-the-art information on preservation technology. Published three times a year by APT, the *Bulletin*

examines all aspects of preservation technology in feature articles and book reviews, keeping readers at the leading edge of the field.

Mount Ida Press, which edits and produces the *APT Bulletin*, specializes in high-quality publications on history, architecture, and building technology. For further information about the *APT Bulletin*, please contact the editorial office in Albany, New York, at 518.426.5935 or at [info@mountidapress.com](mailto:info@mountidapress.com).

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