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Interrogating Tradition: Epistemologies, Fundamentalisms, Regeneration and Practices

International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments, Biennial Conference, Dec. 12–15, 2008, Oxford, U.K.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: DEADLINE FEB. 15, 2008

Tradition has become a keyword in modern global design practice, its meanings inextricably linked to the issues it seeks to explain. The exercise of interrogation is therefore essential to understanding the social and political contexts in which it is mobilized, and the ways it may bind the cultural imaginary to the reality of the built environment. For example, tradition is often a marker of nationalism and economic progress orchestrated in part to stabilize local cultures, legitimize invented histories, and frame social practices. The invocation of tradition has accordingly become instrumental in various nationalisms, regionalisms, and fundamentalisms. Paper proposals are invited in three tracks related to the conference subthemes.

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