

## International Hands-on Workshops for Architectural and Site Conservation



### Heritage Conservation Network

#### 2007 Annual Report

Heritage Conservation Network (HCN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, based in Boulder, Colorado USA, that produces an annual series of hands-on building conservation workshops held internationally in partnership with local individuals and organizations. Our workshops provide a forum for training in both traditional building skills and in new conservation technology while providing technical assistance and volunteer labor to support the preservation of historic structures. HCN's workshops also demonstrate that historic preservation can be a powerful tool for change, contributing to sustainable economic development initiatives worldwide. Workshop sites are selected based on the availability of local partners, the benefits of the project to the community, and the value of the project as an educational and cultural experience.



*Students from the U.S. and Ghana work alongside local residents to rebuild wall of future community center.*

In addition to its hand-on workshop programming, HCN also provides information and professional referrals to many additional building conservation projects. HCN strives to offer both an educational experience and a meaningful volunteer opportunity for individuals wishing to contribute to a project in need.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Heritage Conservation Network supports community-driven projects around the world directed toward the conservation of architectural heritage. Through a network of experts, volunteers and community members, HCN increases awareness of the significance of historic structures, provides hands-on training in building conservation skills, and assists in the completion of projects, all in support of sustainable development and long-term economic growth.

**2007** was a year of development for HCN both in our workshop outreach and within the organization.

## Workshop Development

In 2007 HCN organized five successful workshops, including the first workshop in Africa. Our workshop series began in April in **Serravalle, Italy** where we held our initial workshop in partnership with Professor Alma Ortolan, one of Italy's leading art and fresco conservators. Ms. Ortolan contacted HCN with the intent of developing a long-term relationship providing at least one workshop each year in and around the vicinity of Serravalle in Vittorio Veneto, northern Italy. This remarkable medieval town is the home of Ms. Ortolan and is just beginning to see changes brought by development. She hopes to influence this development by demonstrating and encouraging appropriate methods in preserving and restoring the town's stone structures, many of which display remnants of the original painted facades.



*Alma Ortolan, project instructor, works with an architect volunteering from the Philippines to document the remaining segment of a wall painting in Serravalle's Monastery cloister.*

The 2007 workshop dealt with the documentation of elements in the cloister of the **Monastery of San Giovanni Battista**. Participants learned techniques for recording the current condition of wall paintings and masonry columns, and identifying deterioration in preparation for conservation work in subsequent workshops.

In June, HCN held its first project in Africa in partnership with Dr. Pratt Cassidy of the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design, Center for Community Design and Preservation and with Sam Baddoo of Home Tours, Accra, Ghana. The Accra project was initiated by Mr. Baddoo, who is dedicated to saving the built heritage of his home country. Workshop participants from the U.S., many who were students in Dr. Cassidy's Ghana Service-Learning Studio, were joined by students from the University of Ghana to

undertake two projects over a two-week period.

The first was a masonry conservation project in the town of **Ablekuma** on the outskirts of Accra. Local residents and workshop participants worked together under the leadership of Ghanaian George Tetteh to rebuild one wall of the 19<sup>th</sup> century chief's house, using traditional building techniques taught by Mr. Tetteh. Mr. Tetteh is an advocate of using local natural materials both to save historic architecture and create new affordable buildings.

The second project took place in the historic James Town section of Accra. Participants documented serious deterioration present in the **Naa Laingoye House** in preparation for planned restoration work, which will convert the former residence into a Bed & Breakfast with an on-site culinary school. Students from the local community will receive training in hotelier and culinary skills there.

HCN returned to **Virginia City, Montana USA** in July for a second year, working with Jeff MacDonald, head of the Virginia City Institute for

Preservation Research and Technology, in support of the Montana Heritage Commission's continuing efforts to restore the 19th century mining town. Eight participants, ranging from preservation professionals to a marine engineer to enthused vacationers, learned techniques for restoring the unique interior and exterior finishes on a residence constructed c. 1875. HCN plans to continue this partnership offering workshops in Virginia City in 2008 and beyond.



*HCN participants gather at the Kornthal parsonage in Illinois to learn cutting-edge techniques in wood preservation.*

Southernmost Illinois was the site of the next workshop held in July at the **Kornthal Parsonage**. This was the first step of a developing partnership to assist in stimulating the economy in this region through the development of Land Between the Rivers National Heritage Area. HCN partnered with two local organizations. The first was the Kornthal Union County Memorial, a non-profit that owns and manages the site of the former town of Kornthal. Only the church and parsonage remain, and preservation work on the church is near completion.

HCN also partnered with Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's Preservation Summer Program, led by Professor Robert Swenson. His students were involved at the site for much of the summer. In addition to the workshop, they spent time recording oral histories of local residents and collecting memorabilia of the site. SIU students and other workshop participants were led by Bill Black, Jr., a leading advocate of preservation in the region and head of his own firm, Ray Black & Son in Paducah, Kentucky. Mr. Black taught participants techniques for saving badly deteriorated exterior wooden features, focusing on new consolidation techniques applied to saving the Victorian porch detailing.

In August, HCN was involved in one final workshop located in **New Paltz, New York** at the 18<sup>th</sup> century stone **Jean Jacob Hasbrouck House**. The Huguenot Historical Society of New Paltz recruited volunteers via three preservation organizations - HCN, Preservation Volunteers of New York City, and the French organization REMPART. A hard-working crew of two Americans and five French students worked under the tutelage of Andy deGruchy to reapply mud plaster to the interior walls of one room. Mr. deGruchy heads one of the leading masonry preservation firms in his region, and also supports many projects by donating his time and expertise.

As with all of HCN's workshops, the emphasis in New Paltz was on the use of traditional techniques and materials, which meant using local clay, local straw, and lime imported from France that was very similar to what the colonists would have used. Mr. deGruchy had previously worked with HCN, leading work at the hugely successful Weisel Bridge project.

## Conservation and Sustainability

Historic preservation has long been recognized as an economic development tool, with restoration and redevelopment bringing cities and Main Streets in America back to life. With the growth of global cultural heritage tourism, preservation is once again proving a tool for sustainable development in economically depressed regions and developing nations.

HCN's workshops provide a catalyst for conservation that has a wide variety of benefits. Whether they contribute to heritage tourism



*HCN participants learn how to prepare and apply historic finishes in Virginia City, where past, present and future all revolve around building preservation efforts.*

development efforts; promote the use of traditional building materials and techniques, which are inherently "green"; or provide job skills training, their impact goes far beyond the one or two weeks of the actual workshops.

## Development of Future Projects

During 2007, a great deal of effort went into building partnerships and developing projects that will take place over the next few years. A primary example is the effort expended to organize a multi-year project in Gyumri, Armenia. This region was hit by a severe earthquake in 1988, and the historic center of Gyumri has just started to return to some normalcy over the past few years. HCN's assistance was requested to help save historic masonry residences to provide much-needed housing.

The city center contains over 1000 intact historic structures, and HCN's goal is to demonstrate that preservation and re-use of historic buildings is a viable alternative to demolition and new construction, which results in the loss of both the built heritage and valuable building materials. The long-term goals of the project are to initiate a conservation program to provide housing, to provide local residents with skills training for new jobs created by demand for restoration and maintenance of historic buildings, and to save the unique vernacular architecture of Armenia. This project is currently scheduled to begin in 2009.

Planning is also underway for possible long-term projects in the following countries: India – partnering with INTACH and private citizens of Bijapur; Ghana – partnering with Cultural Heritage Ghana; and Albania – partnering with the Albanian National Trust, the Gjirokastra World Heritage Site, and the local UNESCO office. We also plan to continue our ongoing partnerships in Montana, Illinois and Italy.

HCN received an additional 16 requests for workshops this year, six of which have been selected as potential workshop sites:

- ◆ The Speaker's House, Trappe, Pennsylvania USA
- ◆ Adil Shahi Period architecture, Bijapur, India
- ◆ Lockwood-Mathews Mansion, Norwalk, Connecticut USA
- ◆ Old City of Akko, Israel
- ◆ Stone Residence, Lamu Island, Kenya
- ◆ Archaeological/Architectural heritage site, Ethiopia

## Organizational Development

2007 saw significant progress made in HCN's efforts to develop internal programs. This progress was largely achieved by bringing in very talented volunteers to assist in several areas. Top priority was given to developing a program to identify corporate sponsors for each of our projects. Key volunteers continue to be instrumental in developing marketing strategies and approaching potential corporate sponsors and partners. Two additional volunteers will begin working with HCN in 2008 on fund raising and promotional activities.



*French students join their American counterparts in applying mud plaster by hand to the interior wall of the 1721 Hasbrouck House in New Paltz, NY.*

Next priority was given to increasing funds brought in via grants by improving our grant writing approach. A volunteer has been identified who has worked for ten years in the field of grant writing and will work with board members in 2008 to improve these skills.

Public outreach was the third priority addressed in an effort to inspire more volunteers to attend HCN workshops. Professor Alma Ortolan, the conservator leading the Italian project, traveled to the U.S. and made presentations to students at Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Colorado. She spoke about the varied and intriguing projects she has been involved in throughout her career due to her education and hands-on experience in the field of conservation. Preliminary arrangements have also been made to bring Auron Tare, partner on HCN's Albanian project, to speak at several locations including Colorado State University.

In response to the need to spread the word about HCN's projects worldwide, HCN developed an innovative program to recruit a group of international spokespersons. We will offer a scholarship to the workshop of choice to each person who will make a presentation about HCN to a group within their community or beyond. Information and photographs will be provided for each presenter in the form of a PowerPoint presentation or other appropriate format. This program will begin in 2008.

At the end of the year, HCN contracted with a public relations firm to generate media stories about our work and workshops. Results are expected in the first quarter of 2008 and beyond. Word is continuing to spread; close to 1000 people now receive *Update*, HCN's bi-monthly electronic newsletter.

## Looking to 2008 and Beyond

HCN's Board of Directors is determined to grow the organization and become a key provider of hands-on building conservation skills for professionals while offering volunteer vacation opportunities for the lay public to become involved in cultural heritage conservation. With key volunteers now in place, progress in fundraising, publicity and project development is expected to continue and see success at a higher level.

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## Heritage Conservation Network Board of Directors

### *Judith E. Broeker, President*

Ms. Broeker is one of the founders of Heritage Conservation Network. She is a materials conservation specialist with both research and hands-on experience at historic structures in the United States and abroad. She holds a Master's degree in History with an emphasis on historic preservation. She is a member of US/ICOMOS, Colorado Preservation, Inc. and Europa Nostra.

### *Jamie M. Donahoe, Secretary*

Ms. Donahoe is a co-founder of Heritage Conservation Network. A cultural resource management specialist, she has worked for governmental and non-governmental preservation organizations on the local, national and international level since receiving her Master's degree in Preservation Studies in 1987.

### *Devin Croft, Treasurer*

Born and raised in Concord, Massachusetts, Devin has had a lifelong appreciation for history and heritage preservation. He has worked for the Federal Government for over 30 years, the last 12 years with the US Department of Education as a trainer.

### *Trinidad Rodriguez, Board Member*

Ms. Rodriguez lives in New York City where she is attending a one-year program studying documentary filmmaking at The New School. After receiving her degree, she hopes to use an HCN workshop as the subject of a documentary. She previously lived in Boston, where she worked for The Esplanade Association - an organization dedicated to the restoration of Boston's historic riverfront park. Her background in landscape architecture and urbanism has allowed her to work on several preservation and revitalization projects in New England, and she is interested in historic preservation as a tool for community building and neighborhood revitalization.

### *Susan-Joan Mauriello, Board Member*

Ms. Mauriello specializes in marketing and education consulting. She graduated with an MBA degree from Columbia Business School, and a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and history from the University of Pennsylvania. Susan advises HCN on its marketing strategy, which enables her to combine her love of history with her business expertise.

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## 2007 Financial Summary

### INCOME

Workshop revenues	23,675
Donations	6,759
Grants	3,225
In-Kind	54,000
Total Income	\$87,659

### EXPENSES

Promotion, Publicity, Web Site	6,442
Office Expenses	8440
Workshop Expenses	27,568
Staff	48,000
Total Expenses	\$90,450

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