TERRA 2008 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF EARTHEN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Organized by The Getty Conservation Institute and the Ministry of Culture of Mali in collaboration with Africa 2009 | CRAterre | ICOMOS South Africa | ICCROM | World Heritage Centre under the aegis of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Earthen Architectural Heritage The conference will take place in Bamako, Mali, February 1–5, 2008

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Terra 2008, the 10th International Conference on the Study and Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage, will take place in Bamako, Mali from February 1–5, 2008. This is the 10th conference organized by the earthen architecture community under the aegis of ICOMOS since 1972, and the first to be held in Africa. The conference is expected to draw up to 300 specialists in the fields of conservation, anthropology, archaeology, architecture and engineering, scientific research, site management, and sustainable development of earthen architectural heritage.

The 4½-day program will include papers and posters that reflect the latest research and best practice in the study and conservation of earthen architecture around the world. As the first such conference to be held in Africa, it also presents a unique occasion to discuss conservation issues particular to sub-Saharan Africa.

Call for abstracts

Abstract submissions are currently being accepted. The final deadline is April 2, 2007. All abstracts must describe the content of the paper or poster and should be written in French or English, no longer than 300 words. They should include the name, affiliation and address of the author(s). Notification of acceptance of papers and posters for presentation will be made by July, 2007.

Themes

The eight themes to be addressed are listed below. Each theme is intended to encompass a range of papers reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the field. Papers are encouraged that present recent research and innovative practice in training, documentation, laboratory and field testing, and implementation, as well as issues of socio-cultural and economic dynamics of conservation, impact of tourism, and development on heritage sites. Suggested topics follow each theme.

Earthen architecture in Mali
- Conservation of earthen archaeological sites and historic buildings
- Site management of earthen architectural heritage
- Sustainable earthen building practices

Conservation and management of archaeological sites
- Ethical issues of conservation of earthen materials in the archaeological context
- Excavation and conservation as coordinated activities on earthen sites
- Visitor impact on earthen sites

Conservation of living sites (cities, settlements, cultural landscapes)
- Integration of modern amenities into traditional earthen buildings and cities
- Planning for conservation
- Raising awareness of the value of earthen architecture for living and working

Challenges and opportunities of conservation and development
- Tourism and earthen sites
- Consideration of heritage issues in development projects
- The relevance of earth in new construction
- Contemporary earthen construction

Local knowledge systems and intangible aspects of earthen architecture
- Earthen architecture as cultural expression
- Inventorying, documenting, and sustaining local knowledge systems
- Traditional methods of passing on traditions
- Materials, techniques, and significance of decorated surfaces

Standards and guidelines for new and existing structures
- Building codes for new and existing structures
- Applicability of existing charters to earthen architecture
- Towards a charter specific to earthen architecture
- Ethics and values in conservation of earthen architecture

Seismic and other natural forces
- How to restore a city after destruction, and to what extent
- Technical advances
- Reconstruction vs. restoration
- Impact of climatic changes

Advances in research
- Traditional and modern materials for building and for conservation
- Laboratory and site testing of materials and methods of conservation
- Evaluations of past treatments, projects and practices

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Languages  
Papers and posters will be accepted in French and English only, the official languages for presentation and publication. Simultaneous interpretation between French and English will be provided during conference sessions.

Presentations  
Presentations will be limited to twenty minutes. Each session will be followed by ample discussion time. A working group program will allow for smaller group presentations. Guidelines for presentations and posters will be sent to authors whose papers or posters are accepted for presentation. Presenters will be asked to submit their presentation texts one month ahead of the conference for the interpreters to prepare for the conference.

Venue  
The conference will be held at the International Conference Center in Bamako, Mali. This modern conference facility is located in the center of the city.

Accommodations  
One or two Bamako hotels close to the conference center will be proposed in the next announcement as the official conference hotels with a preferred rate. Other smaller and less expensive hotels will also be listed for those who prefer more independent accommodations. Participants will be responsible for making their own payments directly to all Bamako hotels.

Ground transportation  
Airport transfers and daily shuttle service between the official conference hotels and the conference center will be provided in air-conditioned buses.

Conference Visits  
The conference program will include visits to The National Museum of Mali, sites of interest in Bamako, as well as auxiliary exhibits and activities on the theme of earthen architecture organized for the public.

Registration fee  
The conference registration fee is 240 €, payable by credit card. Malian and West African nationals not affiliated with an international organization can register for 80 € or 50,000 CFA, payable by credit card or cash on site. The registration fee covers: abstracts in French and English, conference program; receptions; visit to The National Museum of Mali; site visits in Bamako; airport transfers; daily transportation between the official conference hotels and the conference center; all lunches and daily coffee breaks during the conference.

Funding opportunities  
There will be limited sources of funding available for participants who need financial assistance to attend the conference. Participants must indicate a need for funding when sending an expression of interest. Funding sources will be recommended.

Optional postconference tours  
Postconference tours will be offered for a maximum of ninety participants to visit several sites representing the rich and diverse earthen architectural traditions of Mali. The tour program and logistics will be organized by a local Malian travel agency in partnership with the Ministry of Culture of Mali and The National Department of Cultural Patrimony in the various locations. Experienced staff and guides of the Department of Cultural Patrimony will present all sites to the groups. Three-day tour and five-day tour options will be offered within the period of February 6–10, 2008.

Detailed itineraries, costs, and registration information for the three tours will be provided in the next Terra 2008 announcement, scheduled to be posted on the internet in January 2007. Registrations for the postconference tours will be taken starting at that time on a first come, first serve basis. Advance payment will be required. Registration for the postconference tours will close in July 2007.

Mali travel  
Interested conference participants should be aware that travel to Mali requires a visa and yellow fever immunization, as well as anti-malaria medication. Detailed travel information will be included in the next announcement.

Deadlines  
January 30, 2007  
Second announcement  
April 2, 2007  
Abstracts submission  
July, 2007  
Paper/poster acceptance notice and mailing of guidelines to authors  
July 30, 2007  
Postconference tour registration  
November 30, 2007  
Conference registration  
February 1–5, 2008  
Conference  
February 6–10, 2008  
Postconference tours

Next announcement  
The next conference announcement will be posted on the internet by January 30, 2007. This will include: programs; costs; itineraries; hotel information; registration form; travel information for Mali; list of recommended reading. Please email Kathleen Louw (klouw@getty.edu) your full contact information if you wish to receive this next and subsequent Terra 2008 announcements.

Contact information  
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