Section I: Defining the setting of monuments and sites:
The significance of tangible and intangible cultural and natural qualities
Section I: Définir le milieu des monuments et des sites-
Dimensions matérielles et immatérielles, valeur culturelle et naturelle

UNDERSTANDING, PROTECTING AND CELEBRATING THE SETTINGS OF MONUMENTS AND SITES

Walker Meredith / Australia

Abstract

The Venice Charter 1964 (and subsequent ICOMOS charters and declarations) recognize the cultural significance of settings and surroundings of monuments and of monuments and sites. However, this recognition is mostly in general terms, without enunciating the wide range of values, associations and meanings that might be present at a specific monument or site.

The characteristics of the setting that might contribute to significance of the monument or site include:

- Design and siting characteristics [e.g. in relation to the natural landform]
- Past functions [e.g. physical evidence of former uses once part of the monument, including archaeological evidence]
- Present functions [e.g. uses integral to the function of the monument and site – such as the approach road]
- Relationships with other sites, through historical associations [e.g common ownership, or views to and from the monument/site and other places
- Historical patterns, built forms, materials and scale, and other townscape and landscape values
- Relationships developed through traditional uses, activities and practices, and
- Associations between people the monument/site and its setting and the meanings of the setting, especially to people for whom the monument has spiritual and other social values

Images of a variety of monuments are used to describe these characteristics and values; and two Sydney sites - a house museum on Sydney Harbour and an industrial site – are used to demonstrate a method for the analysis and mapping of settings and devising appropriate measures for conservation. Appreciation of the values of settings, especially by local communities and groups involved with management, is essential for the management of change within settings.