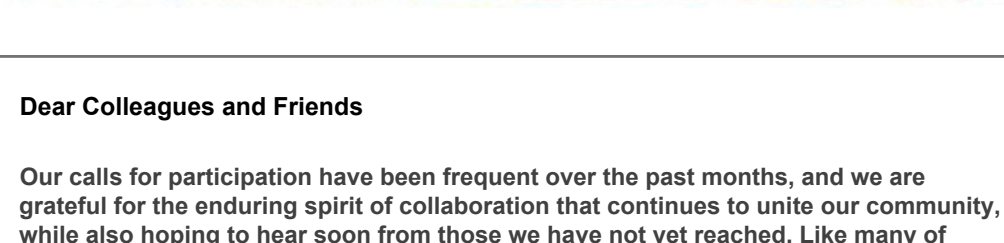


ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON SHARED BUILT HERITAGE

ISCSBH Newsletter n.10 (2024-2026) – August 2026



Dear Colleagues and Friends

Our calls for participation have been frequent over the past months, and we are grateful for the enduring spirit of collaboration that continues to unite our community, while also hoping to hear soon from those we have not yet reached. Like many of you, we have found ourselves immersed in the many events and challenges surrounding us, always keeping our shared commitment to heritage at the forefront of our work.

We are drawing closer to our annual gathering, the 22nd ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2026 in Kuching, Malaysia (17–24 October), held under the theme "Living Heritage: Respect – Enhance – Accept – Partnership." This theme resonates strongly with the mission of ISCSBH and with the topics that continue to shape our work on shared built heritage.

In this issue, we highlight three important developments. First, we present our contribution to the Scientific Symposium through Session 10, "Shared Built Heritage: Seriality, Connectivity and Global Narratives." The session attracted a remarkable response from scholars, researchers, and practitioners worldwide, reflecting growing interest in the ways heritage connects communities, cultures, and histories across borders. Ten papers have been selected for presentation, promising stimulating discussions on cultural routes, shared histories, conservation strategies, and international cooperation.

Second, we share details of the ISCSBH Study Tour in Malaysia, which will take place before the General Assembly. The programme focuses on the historic cities of George Town and Melaka, whose rich multicultural urban landscapes offer exceptional examples of shared built heritage shaped by centuries of exchange, trade, migration, and cultural interaction. Through site visits and meetings with local partners, participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the heritage themes that underpin our scientific work.

Third, we draw your attention to the Getty Conservation Institute Conservation Guest Scholars Program, an outstanding opportunity for heritage professionals and researchers seeking dedicated time for advanced study and research. We also highlight recent contributions to the Shared Built Heritage Talks initiative, including publications and research shared by our members and colleagues, which continue to enrich the international dialogue on heritage conservation and interpretation.

Together, these activities demonstrate the vitality and diversity of our network. They remind us that shared built heritage is not only a subject of study but also a framework for collaboration, learning, and mutual understanding across cultures and regions. We hope the articles in this newsletter will inspire your participation and contribute to ongoing exchanges within our community.

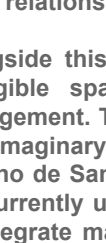
As the summer break approaches for many of us, ourselves included, this is also a welcome moment to pause. We wish all our members a restful and inspiring time, and we look forward to reconnecting in Kuching with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Maria José de Freitas

President ICOMOS ISCSBH

WG#01- ISCSBH Concept – Session 10 (S10) – ICOMOS GA2026



GA2026

KUCHING, SARAWAK MALAYSIA

S10 - Shared Built Heritage: Seriality, Connectivity and Global Narratives

Organizers: ISCSBH

Chair

Dr. Maria José de Freitas (President)

Dr. Romeo Carabelli

(Vice-President)

Session 10 – 22nd ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Kuching, Malaysia, 17–24 October 2026

Description

This session examines heritage beyond isolated monuments, focusing on serial and shared built heritage connected through cultural routes. Exploring tangible and intangible dimensions, it considers how itineraries — such as the Silk Road, Camino de Santiago, or colonial trading paths — mediate historical narratives, cultural exchange, and community connections. Participants will discuss interdisciplinary approaches to conservation, governance, interpretation, and sustainable development, highlighting the potential of shared heritage to foster intercultural dialogue, global understanding and innovative strategies for connecting heritage across regions, landscapes, and societies.

Background

In recent decades, heritage has undergone a profound transformation, moving beyond the notion of monumental uniqueness to embrace dynamic, multi-scalar entities that reflect cultural diversity and shared histories. This shift is exemplified by serial inscriptions on the World Heritage List — such as the Vauban fortifications or the Le Corbusier inscriptions spanning several continents — which embody semantic richness and cultural dynamism. These entities naturally integrate a strong value of Shared Heritage, shared both in time and space, and invite us to rethink heritage as a living relationship with the past rather than a static presence.

Alongside this evolution, we have witnessed a growing emphasis on tangible and intangible spatial entities within tourism, territorial development, and heritage management. These entities, which constitute the history of humanity in both material and imaginary dimensions—such as the cities along the Roman Via Aemilia, the Camino de Santiago, or the string of Portuguese fortresses along the African coast—are currently undergoing profound change. Attempts to "add a carat to the diamond" or integrate major entities highlight the interplay between material configurations of space and their intangible counterparts: visual and narrative dimensions shaped by itineraries, routes, and journeys. Heritage today is not only a physical reconfiguration of spaces but also a narrative experience that connects communities through shared stories and cultural routes [e.g. the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/>].

In light of these observations, it is essential to analyse and reflect on these multiple entities, which include singular monuments, linear experiences, and networks that share their history, heritage items, and communities. This involves addressing the multiple approaches to the constitution of a series: the legitimisation of a common character that enriches the heritage register and introduces the sharing of heritage. These new configurations call for a fresh approach to shared built heritage, as well as the creation of thematic paths where serialities — such as colonial expansion routes (Portuguese or Dutch), religious influence routes (Cluniac), and significant cultural paths such as the Silk Road, Sahara caravan crossings, or the modern Route 66 — find their semantic sense in the sharing of experiences. This perspective opens the way for interdisciplinary dialogue on heritage conservation, cultural exchange, and sustainable development.

The call attracted a wide response from scholars, researchers and practitioners across many fields. The ten papers selected for this session explore the intersections of shared built heritage and cultural itineraries as conduits for mutual learning among civilisations. The full programme, with titles and speakers, will be circulated ahead of the Assembly.

WG#03 - ICOMOS GA2026 – ISCSBH STUDY–TOUR

As you know, we are planning a **study-tour** to take place prior to the ICOMOS General Assembly and the accompanying Scientific Symposium.

As previously announced, the study-tour was due to take place between 5 and 14 October; however, due to time constraints faced by some of the organising members, this period has now been reduced to 9–15 October, giving priority to a more in-depth visit to those cities in Malaysia that contain the most examples of shared built heritage, such as George Town and Melaka (old Malacca).

The itinerary is therefore as follows:

- 9–12 October: George Town (Penang)

- 12 October: depart George Town for Melaka by bus or plane via Kuala Lumpur.

Accommodation is not yet confirmed; we are looking for a centrally located hotel.

- 12–15 October: Melaka

- 15 October: depart Melaka for Kuching via Kuala Lumpur (Melaka to Kuala Lumpur by bus).

Accommodation is not yet confirmed; we are looking for a centrally located hotel.

- 15 October: arrive in Kuching.

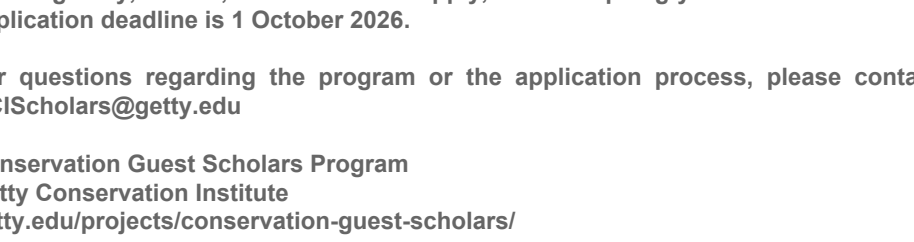
Some of us will be staying in Kuching from the 15th to the 25th at the Grand Margherita Hotel.

Note: Around eight ISCSBH members have already signed up for the study tour, some of whom have already arranged their travel and hotel bookings in the designated cities and for the set dates. We would like to have a more representative number of participants from our scientific group, but responses are still coming in.

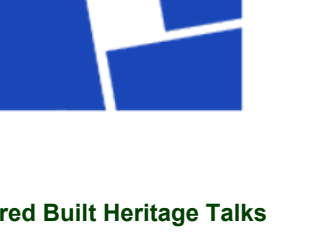
As one of our members is the director of a museum in Melaka, we will be arranging a guided tour of the museum as well as visits to other relevant sites in the city that he wishes to highlight; to this end, it is important to know who is interested in taking part. Please confirm your interest by writing to [e-mail address] by [date].

Suggested itinerary

Penang – George Town, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka (Malacca), Kuala Lumpur, Kuching



Some places to visit, among many others:



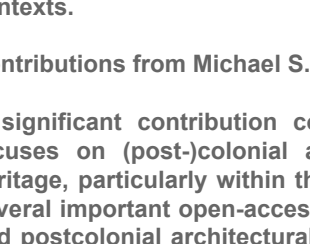
George Town, Chinese shophouses.



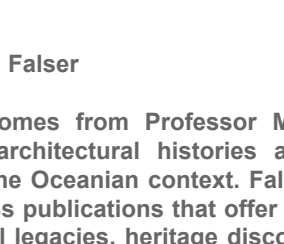
Cheong Fatt Tze - The Blue Mansion.



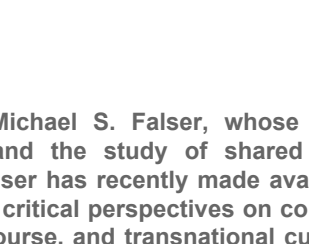
St. George Cathedral



Melaka, Portuguese Fort (1511).



Dutch Square



Cheng Hoon Teng Temple

WG #04 - ICOMOS GA2026 / GETTY CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

ICOMOS GA 2026

Sign up, find out more and take part!

<https://www.icomosga2026.org.my/en/home>

ICOMOS GA2026
KUCHING, SARAWAK MALAYSIA

Organised by
ICOMOS MALAYSIA

22nd ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2026 (ICOMOS GA 2026)
LIVING HERITAGE: RESPECT - ENHANCE - ACCEPT - PARTNERSHIP

SAVE THE DATE
17-24 October 2026
Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, Sarawak Malaysia

REGISTER NOW

www.icomosga2026.org.my

We also invite you to participate in other events related to built heritage!

Conservation Guest Scholars Program

Application deadline: 1 October 2026

The Conservation Guest Scholars Program provides opportunities for established scholars or professionals who have attained distinction in the cultural heritage conservation field.

Recipients are in residence at the Getty Conservation Institute for three months, in which they pursue their own projects free from work-related obligations, make use of research collections at the Getty Center and Getty Villa, and participate with other Getty scholars, fellows, and interns in the intellectual life of Getty.

Applications are welcome from researchers and practitioners of all nationalities working in cultural heritage conservation or preservation—including objects, collections, architecture, and sites. Applicants should have at least seven years of professional experience and should have an established record of publications and other contributions to the field. Individuals from groups underrepresented across the field of cultural heritage conservation are encouraged to apply. Proposals for postdoctoral research or research that contributes to a PhD or other academic degree will not be considered.

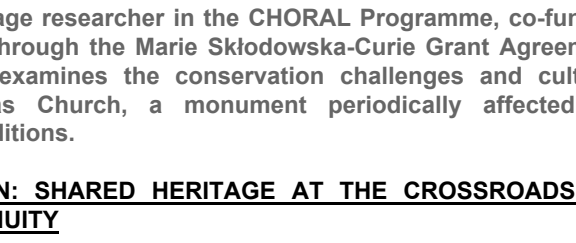
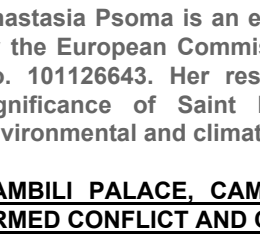
For eligibility, terms, and how to apply, visit <https://gtc.art/GCIScholars>. The application deadline is 1 October 2026.

For questions regarding the program or the application process, please contact: GCIScholars@getty.edu

Conservation Guest Scholars Program

Getty Conservation Institute

getty.edu/projects/conservation-guest-scholars/



Shared Built Heritage Talks

Further Contributions to the Global Discourse on Shared Built Heritage

The Shared Built Heritage Talks initiative continues to serve as an important platform for the exchange of ideas, research, and experiences related to the preservation and interpretation of shared built heritage across diverse cultural and geographical contexts.

Contributions from Michael S. Falser

A significant contribution comes from Professor Michael S. Falser, whose work focuses on (post-)colonial architectural histories and the study of shared built heritage, particularly within the Oceanian context. Falser has recently made available several important open-access publications that offer critical perspectives on colonial and postcolonial architectural legacies, heritage discourse, and transnational cultural exchanges.

Recent monograph/edited volume publications via open access:

Architecture in Oceania (1840-1970). Para-Colonial Influences – Colonial Transactions – Postcolonial Legacies (Leuven University Press 2025)

Monuments and Sites De-colonial! Approaches to the Built Heritage of the German Colonial Era (ICOMOS Germany 2024)

Habsburgs going global. The Austro-Hungarian Concession in Tientsin/Tianjin in China (1901–1917 (Austrian Academy of Sciences 2022)

Michael S. Falser (MA, MSc, PhD habil.)

Institut für Europäische Kunstgeschichte / Institute of European Art History Universität Heidelberg/Deutschland / Heidelberg University/Germany

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Additional Contributions Received

The editorial team has also received a number of valuable submissions from researchers, professionals, and enthusiasts dedicated to the study and preservation of shared heritage. These contributions will be included in a forthcoming online publication in the form of a digital book or journal.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the authors of the following contributions:

PORT SAID: A VANISHING PAST

By Amany Abdelsadeq S. Hussein

Architect

This contribution explores the architectural and cultural transformations of Port Said, documenting the gradual disappearance of significant elements of the city's historic urban landscape and examining the challenges of heritage preservation in a rapidly changing environment.

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH: A PERIODICALLY SUBMERGED MONUMENT

By Anastasia Psoma

MSCA COFUND CHORAL Doctoral Student

Anastasia Psoma is an early-stage researcher in the CHORAL Programme, co-funded by the European Commission through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement No. 101126643. Her research examines the conservation challenges and cultural significance of Saint Nicholas Church, a monument periodically affected by environmental and climatic conditions.

BAMBILI PALACE, CAMEROON: SHARED HERITAGE AT THE CROSSROADS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND CONTINUITY

By Ntomnifor Richard Fru

Ntomnifor Richard Fru is a cultural heritage professional and communicator from Cameroon. He serves as Executive Director of the Organization for Community Tourism and Nature Protection (OCOTONAP). His contribution highlights the complex relationship between heritage conservation, community resilience, and the impacts of armed conflict on the historic Bambili Palace.

For more information about OCOTONAP, visit Organization for Community Tourism and Nature Protection. Website: www.ocotonap.org

Conclusion

The diversity of these contributions reflects the increasingly global and interdisciplinary nature of contemporary heritage studies. Addressing themes such as colonial and postcolonial legacies, environmental threats, urban transformation, conflict, and cultural continuity, these works enrich the ongoing dialogue on shared built heritage and underscore the importance of collaborative international efforts to understand, protect, and promote the architectural heritage that connects communities across the world.