

TH3.00.04 Historic Preservation: Space and Place

The Magnitude of Memory: Challenges of Scale in Commemorating Slavery in Richmond, Virginia

Presenter: Jason James, University of Mary Washington (jjames@umw.edu)

Authors: Jason James, University of Mary Washington

In 2016 the commemorative landscape of Richmond, Virginia remains dominated by Confederate leaders and soldiers. Only in the last decade has the former capital of the Confederacy initiated efforts to commemorate slavery — one of many pasts silenced by the Lost Cause narrative embodied by statues of Robert E. Lee and others. The most ambitious effort to include slavery in Richmond's commemorative landscape to date focuses on the excavated remains of a notorious slave jail in the Shockoe Bottom area near downtown, where Richmond's share of the domestic slave trade (second only to New Orleans' in the number of human beings bought and sold) once thrived, hidden in plain sight. Most parties involved support making the Lumpkin's Jail archaeological site the center of commemorative efforts focused on slavery, but many residents also insist that the space and architecture devoted to this history should go well beyond that small tract and incorporate a much larger area. At stake in this process is thus a question of what I call commemorative magnitude: how much acreage and architecture is judged as paying adequate homage to a past seen as having enormous and previously unacknowledged significance? In this paper I examine notions of commemorative scale and location as well as multiple facets of context that inform questions about the adequacy of commemorative space and architecture. In doing so I identify the multiple and sometimes unexpected factors that influence perceptions of commemorative magnitude — the dimensions of both the past to be commemorated and the sites and objects devoted to doing so.

Collective Memory and City Planning: The Continuing Legacy of Park Planning in Memphis, TN

Presenter: Susan Roakes, University of Memphis (sroakes@memphis.edu)

Authors: Susan Roakes, University of Memphis

This paper explores how collective memory framed citizen activism/inactivism and community motivation to participate or not participate in efforts to save the Overton Park Greensward, designed in 1901 by George Kessler. Overton Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Citizens to Preserve Overton Park (CPOP) formed in 1957 to stop plans to route I-40 through Overton Park. In 1971, CPOP filed a lawsuit that ended this plan. Strauss (2006) says this case "is easily one of the most important cases in the administrative law repertoire, with 4,640 citing opinions listed by Sheppards as of the end of 2004." PBS included Overton Park in its recently broadcast film, *10 Parks that Changed America*.

In 1994, the Memphis Zoo began to use the Greensward for overflow parking on busy days. Citizen opposition grew as overflow parking expanded. This conflict reached a critical point in 2016 when City Council announced plans to give the Zoo control of the Greensward. Lawsuits were filed and citizens protested. Some suggested the battle lines were drawn over race. While early surveys determined high numbers of both black and white visitors to Overton Park, there was indication that the usage and concern over the Greensward may be different.

This study will analyze archival information, social media, and interviews. The first two sources will determine historical records of events and range of perspectives. Interviews will be conducted with a sample of park visitors. The goal is to interview people of different races with varied histories with

Overton Park to determine how collective memory of the park influenced their perspective on the current conflict over the Greensward. By identifying the influence of collective memory on discussions of municipal responsibility, citizenship, and public space, this research provides insight into how collective memories of different communities continue to affect public plans and policy today.

Declining Heritage: How the Gdańsk Shipyard, the Cradle of the Solidarity Movement, was Treated by Politics and Urban Planning in Post-1989 Poland?

Presenter: Jakub Szlachetko, University of Gdansk (jakubszlachetko@gmail.com)

Authors: Jakub Szlachetko, University of Gdansk

The year 1989 witnessed the fall of communism in Poland. This was a breakthrough moment for the modern history of the country. Integrity and determination of the society, reflected in the social movement called „Solidarity” and its ten million members, finally resulted in the accomplishment of the objective established and brought about a long period of reforms that formed and strengthened the Third Polish Republic.

If it is to be assumed that there are historical and symbolic places which gave legitimacy to the new statehood, the Shipyard in Gdańsk should be definitely considered one of them. It was there, among industrial buildings, characteristic cranes and hull structures that the movement of opposition against the authoritarian regime was formed. It was there that the Solidarity movement came into being. The Shipyard in Gdańsk is a home to the Solidarity and a symbol of the free and democratic.

Unfortunately, 25 years after these events, the Shipyard in Gdańsk is no longer “the place” with the status it deserves. It did not find, and in all likelihood, it will never find its proper place in the fabrics of the city or in the mental map of its residents, not to mention foreign tourists. It is merely a “space” floating on the sea of incompetence of local officials and powerlessness experienced by the local community. The Shipyard in Gdańsk fell as communism did. It fell as an institution, it fell in terms of spatial planning. Recently, it fell also symbolically as the ideals and ethos of the Solidarity is increasingly less understood...

This paper presents a story of the place which should be permanently enshrined in the awareness of people who love freedom and democracy. It is a story about failures of politics and urban development planning in the Third Polish Republic. It is also a story about how old issues bring consequences these days and destroy the place which is a common good of Polish people (and maybe not only Polish people).