

## Editor's Note

This issue of *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* follows the successful completion of IASTE's 2012 conference in Portland, Oregon, on the theme of "The Myth of Tradition." We start this issue with a report on that event by Prof. Mrinalini Rajagopalan. The issue next includes articles by the winners of the Jeffrey Cook Award for Best Paper on the Subject of Traditional Settlements, which we again presented at the conference. The recipients were, in the Scholar category, Prof. Itohan Osayimwese of the Department of Art History at Ithaca College, and, in the Student category, Rick Miller of the Department of Geography at UCLA. Their original conference presentations have been revised into journal articles following an additional round of reviews. Osayimwese investigates the myth of authenticity during the colonial period. During the early twentieth century German officials and travelers celebrated the Bamum Kingdom of Cameroon as the paradisiacal "Africa" of the Western imagination. But she argues that representations of its building traditions, like the similarly mythologized narrative of Mousgoum architecture, should be understood not in relation to lived reality, but the conditions of its production — namely, the complicity of German ethnology in legitimating the colonial enterprise. Miller explores the narratives of differing communities surrounding a memorial to Chinggis Khaan in Inner Mongolia. In particular, he studies how the myths and politics of this monument continue to inform identity construction and local interethnic relations. The analysis examines a rich mix of sources, including recorded Mongolian stories, nineteenth-century traveler's journals, a Chinese conservation plan for the site, and his own visual analysis of architecture and landscape.

The issue next features a revised version of the 2012 conference paper by Sujin Eom, awarded an honorable mention in the Student category of the Cook Award. Eom explores the meanings of "Chineseness" in relation to overseas settlements in Yokohama and Incheon. She argues that although the development of these Chinese enclaves engaged with tropes of colonialism and modernism, they were not direct outcomes of "Western" influence, and thus they have produced alternative understandings of modernity in the region. Our fourth article, by Jing Zheng, is also based on a conference presentation. Her concern is the way the *tulou* of southern China have been misrepresented in heritage discourse as primarily defensive structures. In fact, the supposed "fortress" qualities of *tulou* were supplanted early on by their utility as a form of cooperative housing in a region with few flat building sites. She documents how their defensive weaknesses were then clearly demonstrated during the long period of the Chinese Civil War. Last, Mirjana Lozanovska, Iris Levin, and Maria Victoria Gantala provide a field report from Melbourne, Australia. The trio explore how post-World War II immigrants from southern Europe adapted traditional forms and processes of suburban housing there, an effort that not only created a new vernacular but eased adaptation to life in a new land.

There are substantial measures underway to increase access and readership to IASTE publications. I am happy to announce our partnership with both JSTOR and EBSCO, two well-known and well-respected aggregation services, to carry *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*. This will likely bring revenue from royalties, while still allowing IASTE and TDSR authors to retain full editorial, copyright, and intellectual property control. In addition, since these databases are widely used at the undergraduate level across the country, our partnership with these services will bring the journal to libraries and students who may not now have access to it.

Finally, I would like to announce that the next IASTE conference will take place in Shanghai, China, in December 2014, hosted by Jiao Tong University. Its theme of "Whose Tradition?" will encompass ideas of ownership and agency. I hope you will respond to our upcoming call for papers and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

*Nezar AlSayyad*

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