



OXFORD
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Knowing the vernacular: Critical reflections and future directions

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October 2024

Oxford Brookes University, John Henry Brookes Building, Main Lecture Theatre

Convenor: Prof Marcel Vellinga

Vernacular architecture is a term that is commonly used to refer to locally specific forms of architecture that are rooted in community, place and tradition, use locally available resources, and have often been made without the involvement of architects. From the 1960s onwards, a diverse field of vernacular architecture studies has emerged, international and interdisciplinary in scope, that variously aims to document, analyse, understand, safeguard, apply or advocate for the knowledge embodied in vernacular traditions all around the world. The second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World*, to be published by Bloomsbury in 2025, aims to capture the conceptual, theoretical and methodological contributions of the many architects, anthropologists, (architectural) historians, geographers, folklorists, and buildings sciences scholars, among others, that make up this field, in addition to documenting specific examples of vernacular traditions from all continents. The publication of the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World* provides an opportune moment to reflect on the current state of play in relation to the field of vernacular architecture studies: to critically question and discuss what we think we know about the subject, how we got where we are, and the methods and concepts we use; to identify shortcomings, gaps and biases in our studies, and to identify new areas of research, new ways of looking and engaging with vernacular architecture; and to explore and identify ways to make the knowledge embodied in vernacular traditions more widely available so as to have an influence outside academia. The conference sessions will thus discuss issues of nomenclature and definition, of approach and method, of outreach and engagement, and of future directions.

Day 1

08.30-09.15: Registration and coffee

09.15-10.00: Welcome and introduction: **Marcel Vellinga**

Session 1: What we know, and do not know

10.00-10.30: 'Changing concepts of vernacular architecture': **Dan Maudlin** (Plymouth University, UK)

10.30-11.00: 'Traditions are followed, not inherited': **Tim Ingold** (University of Aberdeen, UK)

11.00-11.15: Tea/ coffee

11.15-11.45: 'Decolonising the vernacular': **Aylin Orbasli** (Oxford Brookes University, UK)

11.45-12.15: 'Rethinking the vernacularization of architecture and other cultural phenomena': **Simon J. Bronner** (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, US)

12.15-13.00: Discussion

13.00-14.00: Lunch

Session 2: How else to know what we want to know

14.00-14.30: 'The persistent dilemmas of participation. Disciplinary control, guilt and co-production in making': **Jorge Tomasi** (CONICET, Argentina)

14.30-15.00: 'Apprenticeship as anthropological method: A critical ethnography of making knowledge about making architecture': **Trevor H.J. Marchand** (SOAS, UK)

15.00-15.15: Tea/ coffee

15.15-15.45: 'Bridging tradition and technology: Digitizing vernacular architecture for deeper understanding': **Elizabeth Lee** (CyARK, US)

15.45-16.15: 'Advancing vernacular architecture studies through environmental modelling methodologies': **Marwa Dabaieh** (Malmö University, Sweden)

16.15-17.00: Discussion

17.00-18.30: Reception, hosted by the Oxford Brookes University School of Architecture

Day 2

Session 3: Who knows about what we know

- 09.30-10.00: 'Creating low energy homes, using vernacular buildings as a guide': **Clare Nash** (Clare Nash Architecture, UK)
- 10.00-10.30: 'Lessons from Pakistan's Vernacular Heritage: Decarbonize, Decolonize, Democratize': **Yasmeen Lari** (Pakistan Heritage Foundation, Pakistan)
- 10.30-11.00: 'A living tradition: Ireland's strategy for built vernacular heritage': **Barry O'Reilly** (Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Ireland)
- 11.00-11.15: Tea/ coffee
- 11.15-11.45: 'Beyond "academic gaps" in knowledge: A comparative reflection on the transmission of know-how in contemporary vernacular architecture': **Edoardo Paolo Ferrari** (Italy)
- 11.45-12.30: Discussion
- 12.30-13.30: Lunch

Session 4: What more is there to know

- 13.30-14.00: 'The vernacular in crisis': **Hossam Mahdy** (ICOMOS-CIAV, UK)
- 14.00-14.30: 'Vernacularizing and Indigenising contemporary architecture': **Charmaine 'Ilaiu Talei** (University of Auckland, New Zealand)
- 14.30-14.45: Tea/ coffee
- 14.45-15.15: 'Australian Aboriginal vernacular architecture and its post-colonial transformations': **Paul Memmott** (University of Queensland, Australia)
- 15.15-15.45: 'Digitising the vernacular': **Marcel Vellinga** (Oxford Brookes University, UK)
- 15.45-16.30: Discussion
- 17.00-18.00 Roundtable discussion

Webinar

The conference will be livestreamed: please join for free using the following links:

Knowing the Vernacular session 1: Sat 26th, 9am-1pm: <https://brookes.zoom.us/j/84917611081>

Knowing the Vernacular session 2: Sat 26th, 2pm-5pm: <https://brookes.zoom.us/j/89466440982>

Knowing the Vernacular session 3: Sun 27th, 9.30am-12.30pm: <https://brookes.zoom.us/j/89935290710>

Knowing the Vernacular session 4: Sun 27th, 1.30pm-6pm: <https://brookes.zoom.us/j/85256071187>