The questions central to this issue of *Built Environment* concern conservation education and how, in facing the myriad challenges associated with conserving built heritage, practitioners and teachers can achieve the best results. Education, conservation and heritage are all contextualized by culture, therefore to be successful built heritage conservation activities must be based upon shared cultural values. Jeff Cody and Kecia Fong identify five key themes, common to all the papers in this issue:

- The necessity of fieldwork as a part of a student’s conservation education;
- The importance of collaboration or partnership as a means of advancing the field of conservation;
- The multi- and/or interdisciplinary nature of conservation efforts;
- The potential disconnect between global norms and local values;
- The significance of community participation in the process of heritage identification and conservation.

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