



Conserving the Heritage of Workers' Housing: A Comparative Study

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In much of the developed world, heritage has become a well-developed concept in planning and management, generating large amounts of tourist income and providing the focus of Europe's largest membership organization, the UK's National Trust. Even industrial and workers' housing, originally built in vast numbers and of poor build and design quality, has become a focus of popular interest; and the National Trust has developed some highly-successful projects in this field in recent years, including the "back-to-back" houses in Birmingham city centre. But in the developing world, economic and social conditions are so different that the "heritage of the ordinary" is scarcely identified let alone protected. A view from China is that these less-important sites "should give way to economic development". This contrast is explored through the example of workers' housing in Antakya (Antioch), Turkey. This high-density housing in the historic urban core has undoubted historic interest, not least in the complex pattern of interlocking property rights, but the occupants of these largely one-room houses would priorities their redevelopment rather than retention.

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