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NEWS FROM GETTY PUBLICATIONS

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*This new volume brings together a selection of seminal writings
on the conservation of historic cities*

LOS ANGELES, CA—Too many cities worldwide are in crisis. When measured by ecological, social, and other criteria, many cities fall short of delivering healthy conditions in which increasing amounts of people are living. By 2050, not only will three quarters of the world's population live in cities, but most urban growth will occur in the Global South, placing huge burdens on housing, transportation, and other infrastructural systems. As urban populations mushroom, cities and their leaders often lack effective means of coping with the myriad of implications that stem from more people living in “mal-developed” conditions.

There are several crucial dimensions of this seemingly unstoppable trend toward global hyperurbanization, ranging from health and education to shelter and governance. Focusing on what might be called a cultural dimension associated with urbanization, *Historic Cities: Issues in Urban Conservation* (Getty Publications, \$75.00, paperback) fills a significant gap in the published literature on urban conservation. The topic of urban conservation is distinct from both heritage conservation and urban planning; despite the recent growth of urbanism worldwide, no single volume has presented a comprehensive selection of these important writings until now.

This anthology, profusely illustrated throughout, is organized into eight parts, covering such subjects as geographic diversity, reactions to the transformation of traditional cities, reading the historic city, the search for contextual continuities, the search for values, and the challenges of sustainability. With more than sixty-five texts, ranging from early polemics by Victor Hugo and John Ruskin to a generous selection of recent scholarship, this book thoroughly addresses regions around the globe. Each reading is introduced by short prefatory remarks explaining the rationale for its selection and the principal matters covered.

The eighth book in the Getty Conservation Institute's Reading in Conservation series, this book will serve as an easy reference for administrators, professionals, teachers, and students faced with the day-to-day challenges confronting the historic city under siege by rampant development.

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Jeff Cody is senior project specialist at the Getty Conservation Institute. He has a PhD in the history of architecture and urban planning from Cornell University and has published widely; his books include *Exporting American Architecture 1870–2000*.

Francesco Siravo is an eminent Italian architect specializing in historic preservation and town planning. Since 1991 he has worked for the Historic Cities Programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, a foundation promoting urban conservation in the Islamic world.

Publication Information:

Historic Cities

Issues in Urban Conservation

Edited by Jeff Cody and Francesco Siravo

Getty Conservation Institute

Readings in Conservation series

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