Abstract

As a result of modernization and changes in values, redundancy affects numerous old buildings; the designated tenants no longer inhabit them. To avoid dereliction of old buildings, they must be occupied. The introduction of new uses to the old buildings is of critical importance as incompatible uses might result in the disruption of historic fabric and character. With the introduction of new construction and modern technology along with the change of use, the ‘new’ buildings are infused with a new life that allows them to remain compatible and competitive yet most importantly, it prevents the historic significance from being erased. They remain as living witnesses of age-old traditions that stay intact with our heritage.

The paper looks into the adaptive reuse of historic monuments conserved for their cultural values. It commences with 3 case studies (2 local & 1 foreign) each illustrating their merits and demerits in terms of their approaches taken towards conservation.

The notion of the reconciliation of the new use with the limitation of existing layout (space) is investigated individually. It analyses how the new use injects a new lease of life to the old buildings as well as the existing streetscape. Also, included in this study, is the introduction of modern building technology and building services into the old buildings.
With close reference to the various charters and guidelines, the strategies and methods adopted in the 3 case studies are criticized as an attempt to formulate a set of guidelines for critique purposes of future projects.