Built to Meet Needs

Cultural Issues in Vernacular Architecture

Paul Oliver
# Contents

Acknowledgements vii  
List of illustrations xi  
Introduction xxi  

## Part I: Defining the field  
1 Why study vernacular architecture? (1978) 3  
2 The importance of the study of vernacular architecture (1993) 17  
3 Problems of definition and praxis (1999) 27  

## Part II: Cultures and contexts  
4 Learning from Asante (2000) 47  
5 Cultural traits and environmental contexts: Problems of cultural specificity and cross-cultural comparability (1999) 55  
6 Huizhou and Herefordshire: A comparative study (2001) 69  
7 Tout confort: Culture and comfort (1986) 87  

## Part III: Tradition and transmission  
8 Vernacular know-how (1982) 109  
9 Earth as a building material today (1983) 129  
10 Handed down architecture: Tradition and transmission (1989) 143  

## Part IV: Cultures, disasters and dwellings  
12 The cultural context of shelter provision (1978) 185  
13 Earthen housing and cultures in seismic areas (1984) 197  
14 Factors affecting the acceptability of resettlement housing (1984) 223  
15 Rebirth of a Rajput village (1992) 247
Part V: Conservation and continuity

16 Conserving the vernacular in developing countries (1986) 267

17 Re-presenting and representing the vernacular: The open-air museum (2001) 287

18 Perfect and plain: Shaker approaches to design (1990) 315

Part VI: Suburbs and self-builders

19 Individualizing Dunroamin (1992) 333

20 Round the houses (1983) 349

21 Kaluderica: High-grade housing in an illegal settlement (1989) 365

Part VII: Meeting the challenge of the twenty-first century

22 Tradition by itself... (2000) 383

23 Ethics and vernacular architecture (2000) 395

24 Necessity and sustainability: The impending crisis (2002) 411

Conferences and publications 427

Index 431