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Changes in the cultural landscape and their impacts on heritage management : a study of Dutch Fort at Galle, Sri Lanka

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Propositions to accompany the defense of "*Changes in the Cultural Landscape and their Impacts on Heritage Management: A Study of Dutch Fort at Galle, Sri Lanka*" by Uditha Niroshini Jinadasa.

1. Despite the specialist definition of a (living) historic city as identified by UNESCO (and the local heritage authorities), the inhabitants themselves experience a "World Heritage city" as an everyday landscape within its own social context (i.e. *gama* or "village" in the case of Galle Fort), one that they are strongly connected with.
2. In spite of the best practices of participatory and people-centred approaches developed and promoted in relation to historic cities at the international level, they are slow to be implemented at the local level.
3. In the local context of Galle Fort urban heritage conservation, the focus rests predominantly on material heritage preservation or "protecting (Dutch) colonial buildings," despite the changing paradigms of urban conservation at global level towards the social values of the city's inhabitants.
4. A (living) historic city's World Heritage recognition—even one that is a former colonial city in an Asian country—is directly linked with the local economy amid global tourism, and heavily influenced by bureaucratic and political agendas within the local context, as seen at Galle Fort.
5. Although World Heritage recognition is a root cause of the historic city's change, it should optimistically be seen as a new phase, as its interlinked outcomes—global tourism, foreign direct investments, urban regeneration, gentrification, real estate pressures—are not only negative, but also positive for the urban community and the historic city as a monument, as seen at Galle Fort.
6. Despite the fact that World Heritage-recognized (living) historic cities in Asia face similar challenges in urban conservation, their individual local contexts—cultural, economic, political and ethnic considerations—make these challenges unique, as identified at Galle Fort, which has to be taken into account in urban conservation policy and lawmaking.
7. The aspirations and requirements of the urban community contribute to the historic city's change as much as heritage legislation does. Thus, urban conservation policies and laws should be formulated in a way that encourages a "harmonious coexistence" between the urban community and its historic urban landscape, which are interdependent.
8. A long-standing residential urban community in a (living) historic city should be valued as a "preserver" in urban conservation, as they are the primary contributors to its long-term existence.
9. Behind an old city's pleasing landscape are countless stories of its dwellers; unwritten and unheard; some have happy endings, while many do not; and some are ongoing while others are yet to begin.
10. People create their own worlds within this vast world, yet the one created within the walls of the home remains the dearest to many.