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2. See, for example, the proceedings of the conference, "Preservation and the Quality of Life," Columbia University, 18-19 January 1989.
3. Announced by studies such as R.C. Ming, "Tourism's Potential for Contributing to the Economic Development in the Caribbean," *Journal of the Role of Tourism in Caribbean Development* (Barbados: Caribbean Economical Consultation for Development, 1971) and L. A. Perez, "Tourism in the West Indies," *Journal of Communications* 25 (1975): 136-43.
4. San Juan's regulations, dating to 1955, are described in *Origen, Gobierno y Propositos del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena*, pamphlet, revised 1988. The history of Virgin Islands preservation laws is described in William R. Chapman, *Interim Guidelines for Historic and Architectural Controls of the Virgin Islands* (St. Thomas: Division for Archaeology and History Preservation, no date).
5. For example, the Garrison in Barbados, Fort Oranje in St. Eustatius and the Whim Plantation Museum in St. Croix were developed as museum-type sites in the 1960s and 1970s. Commercial interests, combined with antiquarianism, helped create the Nelson's dockyard development, a consortium of restoration efforts initiated in Antigua in 1951 by the Society of Friends and English Harbour and opened to tourists in 1961.
6. See especially M. Fox, "The Social Impact of Tourism: A Challenge for Researchers and Planners," in B. R. Binney and A. Watson, eds., *A New Kind of Sugar: Tourism in the Pacific* (Santa Cruz: Center for South Pacific Studies, 1977).
7. "Tourism and Preservation: Improving the Quality of of the Tourism Product," conference held 18-19 May, 1988, St. Thomas and St. Croix. Discussed further in "Tourism and Preservation: An Exciting Conference on an Exciting Concept," *Postbassen* (April 1988): 1-3.
8. Despite much unsympathetic work, sections of Charlotte Amalie, including the sensitively rehabilitated Royal Dane Mall area, retain a strong sense of historic character and identity.
9. Suzanne Slesin, Stafford Cliff, Jack Berthelot, Martine Guame, et al., *Caribbean Style* (New York: Clarkson Potter, 1985).
10. Recent guidelines may help counteract the impact. See William R. Chapman and Jeanne Strong, *Virgin Islands Preservation Guidelines 1-16* (St. Thomas: Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, 1991).
11. The work of the Beautification Society is described in various issues of *Heritage*, published by the St. Christopher Heritage Society, Basseterre, St. Kitts, West Indies.
12. Jean-Luc Cailleux, Nathalie Herard and Philippe Hochart, *Architecture St. Bart: Une ile et ses maisons* (Gustavia, St. Barthélémé: Les Editions du Latanier, 1989).

Juliet Barclay

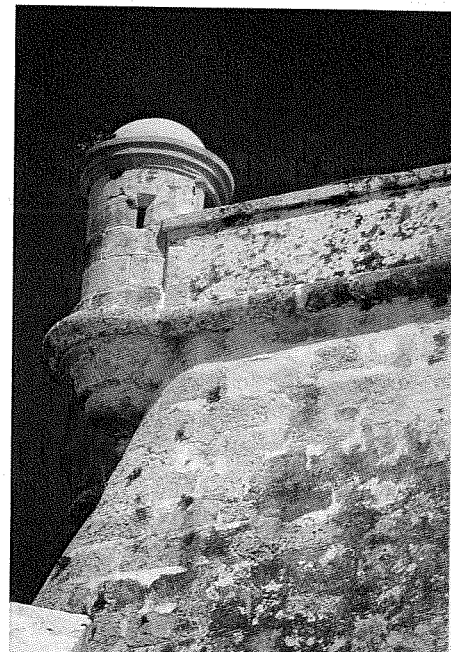
Eusebio Leal Spengler — the Havana city historian, Director of the Museum of Havana and professor at the University of Havana — is directing the restoration of Old Havana, a highly respected Caribbean project that recently was designated a World Heritage site. He was elected to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba in 1991. He was interviewed for Places by Juliet Barclay.

Many of the restored buildings in Old Havana have changed in use from residences to museums and cultural centers. In view of the acute shortage of housing in Cuba and especially Havana, how can you justify the spending of money and resources in this manner?

I have always defended the view that Old Havana is a place to be lived in, not only a place to be looked at. However, more than 83,000 people live in Old Havana, in conditions that are totally filthy, ignoble and inhumane, so the residential population must be drastically reduced.

We have identified more than 900 historic buildings in Old Havana and we have also prioritized and determined which are the most important residential areas. But it is also necessary to create certain areas that are indispensable to culture because while people need food and shelter, they also need soul, spirit and strength. We have tried to

Sentry box in a wall of El Castillo de los Tres Santos Reyes Magos del Morro. Photos by Juliet Barclay.



create places for institutions that are important to our culture, and that render an economic service.

I have been opposed to adopting easy solutions to the housing problem, such as constructing buildings that are ugly and do not offer an appropriate environment for life in Old Havana. Here, it is important to live within the spirit of an ancient city. The people have to breathe, they must have high ceilings, windows, courtyards through which to enter and stairways to ascend. To accomplish this, we must design bravely, but in accordance with tradition — with boldness, but also with modesty.

How do you intend to reconcile the demands of tourism with the preservation and life of Old Havana?

For me, tourism has double significance. It provides an opening to the world, a chance to hear other voices, to break down insulation and the blockade. Tourism draws us closer to other people, to other forms of living, dressing, thinking and feeling, and that is good. Its second significance is economic: Tourism is an indispensable part of our economic strategy and is important to the country.



Preservation planners in Havana want to conserve historic architecture while improving the quality of life in historic areas.

We must reconcile tourism with the preservation of the city. We must respect Cuban ecology and Cuban history, and the development of tourism must work within this context. This sometimes seems very difficult, not so much because of the tourists, but because of the the “touristologists” — those who reduce everything to the necessities of tourism.

How are the concerns of the people who live in Old Havana communicated to you and to your teams?

We maintain an important dialogue through many channels. First, through my television program, radio programs and articles

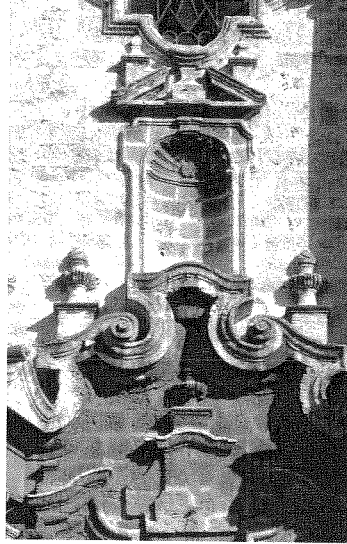
in the press. I answer a vast correspondence. I hold public conferences in the street, where I can really talk to people. One can give academic speeches or lectures in conference rooms and universities, but for me there is nothing more important than the meetings I hold on the corner of Obispo and Mercaderes streets beside the monument to the old university. I always run the risk that pedestrians will not stop, but that has hardly ever happened.

How do you propose to maintain buildings, both practically and financially, at the level to which you have restored them?

I have always believed that the fact that all these activities must depend on the state must change. The people must participate, they must have the wherewithal to maintain these buildings themselves. At the moment, given the circumstances in which these people live, this is still not a very realistic possibility, but it is an ideal that we cannot renounce.

We must encourage initiative, and demand it. The people must understand the relationship of conservation to their way of life. I have seen ruined houses in Venice in which the windows were polished and behind the glass were flowers. We must recover a sense of the dignity of life, especially in the Old City.

The state always has to participate in this type of project. The monument commissions in England, France and Spain, to cite some of the most developed countries of Europe, participate actively. But the people should participate more dynamically. That is part of my goal in preserving the ways of life in Old Havana: If we really want to salvage Old Havana by encouraging people to participate in restoring their



Nineteenth-century architectural detailing in area outside the walled city.

Juliet Barclay would like to acknowledge Diana Barreras, Alina Gaute, Ricardo Quintáns, Alejandro Cruz and Publicitur.

own homes, we must provide advice and some compensation for their trouble.

After the restoration, if residential units are again subdivided to provide more housing, will this be planned in a manner that will not have adverse effects on the architectural structure?

This is our hope. Everything that has been done up to now has been determined by necessity, and on a moral level, I do not dare to condemn it. Everyone did what was necessary; I would have done the same.

Old Havana is picturesque, but for many years it has been a marginal section of the city. The picturesque mask of commercial activity hid the latent reality of Old Havana's poverty; neither the middle classes nor the rich lived here. The restoration of Old Havana should give its residents better living conditions, and our nation should not allow the situation that led to such poverty to occur again.

Afternoon concert, El Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, Plaza des Armas, La Habana Vieja.

