

## **SUSTAINING AN INDISCRETE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE:**

### **A case study of the South Brisbane peninsula**

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Heritage conservation practice in Australia has, to date, concentrated on the identification and conservation of discrete elements of the humanised environment: heritage “items”, sites, buildings, and Conservation Areas. These discrete items and places can usually be defined with considerable precision, both spatially and in terms of their heritage values. The cultural significance of many of our everyday cultural landscapes, however, remains much less easily defined. This paper pursues these issues by examining the South Brisbane peninsula, one of Queensland’s oldest and densest inner urban areas. This area of physical, socioeconomic and cultural diversity demonstrates Brisbane’s history of development from colonial outpost to postmodern capital city. The concept of cultural landscape enables us to balance the traditional focus on discrete heritage elements with a broader concern with the diversity and dynamism of the wider urban environment. The management of such indiscrete cultural landscapes raises challenges for contemporary urban design and development practice, beyond the limitations of established, discrete, heritage conservation systems.

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