

Prof. Dr. ing. Niels Gutschow

Collaborative Research Centre 619 "Ritual Dynamics"
University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg

As a historian for architecture his focus is on Asian architectural history as well as urban planning mainly in Japan, Nepal, India and Middle Europe during the Second World War and the time after. He engaged in several conservation projects in Nepal, Germany and Japan.

Niels Gutschow is working at the Collaborative Research Centre 619 "Ritual Dynamics" since 2002. In this context he is concentrating mainly on sacral architecture and rites of passage in Nepal. Since 2004 he is Honorary Professor at the University of Heidelberg.

Main Research and Ongoing Projects

Niels Gutschow combines the theoretical and the practical aspect of architecture. He was in charge of the first Nepalese/German conservation project in Nepal in 1972 and took part in further reconstruction and conservation projects in Nepal and Germany. From 1980-2000 he was a member of the German National Committee for Conservation. He further participated in the evaluation of the World Heritage Sites of Nepal in 1993 and of Pakistan in 1997.

Niels Gutschow coordinated a comparative study of conservation practices in Europe on behalf of the Ministry of Construction and Town Planning in 1973/74 in preparation of the European Heritage Year.

His diverse research projects are promoted by the German Research Foundation since 1970.

From 1980 till 2000 he was member of the German National Committee for Conservation (Ministry of Interior).

As a member of a German-Japanese expert mission of the German Ministry of Research he worked on the actual practice of architectural conservation from 1996 until 1998.

He undertook several architectural surveys in Nepal (1980-88, 1991-98), Orissa, India (1999-2002), Erdene Zuu, Mongolia (2001, 2003) and Lhasa (2005).

The actual research project of Niels Gutschow is about life cyclic rites of passage in Nepal and their relation to modernity. In this project he concentrates on rituals during childhood and youth. He further produced films with Christian Bau and Axel Michaels on the topics of the research project (2005: *Handling Death*, 2007: *Growing Up*).

Curriculum Vitae

2004	Honorary Professor at the University of Heidelberg
1973	PhD on "The Japanese Castle Town"
1970	Diploma in Architecture at the University of Darmstadt/ Germany

Major Publications

Books

2006	<i>Benares. The Sacred Landscape of Varanasi</i> , Stuttgart: Edition Axel Menges.
1982	<i>Stadtraum und Ritual der newarischen Städte im Kathmandu Tal. Eine architekturanthropologische Untersuchung</i> . Stuttgart: Kohlhammer Verlag.

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Co-editor

- 2005 „Reinventing Tradition in Nepal“, in: Wim Denslagen und N. Gutschow (Hrsg.), *Architectural Imitations*, Maastricht: Shaker Publishing, pp.. 51-76.
- 2003 *The Sulima Pagoda. East meets West in the Restoration of a Nepalese Pagoda.* With E. Theophile, eds., Trumbull: Weatherhill.

Articles

- 2003 „Improving, Strengthening, Securing – the Question of Integrating Innovations in Architectural Monuments in Japan“, in: Christoph Henrichsen (ed.), *Historic Wooden Architecture in Japan. Structural Reinforcement and Repair*, Stuttgart: Theiss Verlag, pp. 192-206.
- 1999/2000 „Idee und Substanz – Konflikte in der Denkmalpflege Japans und Nepals“, in: *Kunsthistoriker*, pp. 44-50.
- 1991 „Restaurierung und Rekonstruktion. Gedanken zur Gültigkeit der Charta von Venedig im Kontext Südasiens“, in: *Deutsche Kunst und Denkmalpflege*, 2, pp. 156-160.

Documentary Films

- 2005 *Shivas Landscape*. With Christian Bau
- 2005 *Handling Death*. With Christian Bau and Axel Michaels
- 2007 *Growing Up*. With Christian Bau and Axel Michaels