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**Climate change related urban transformation and the role of cultural heritage**  
*Matthias Ripp & Christer Gustafsson (Eds.)*

## **The Vulnerability of Historic Urban Landscape Triggered by Improving Visibility — The Case of Visual Integrity of the “West Lake Cultural Landscape”**

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### **Abstract**

As air governance has achieved positive results, improving atmospheric visibility has expanded the range of sight. As a result, some heritage property, particularly Historic Urban Landscapes, have begun to face new threats from urbanization. Within these heritage sites, construction projects are restricted by visual analysis in order to preserve the spatial pattern or texture with historical value. Thus, this study helps establish the “Visibility Changes—Urbanization—Value of HUL” linkage model, discussing how the positive effects of air governance affect or even break the original balance between the city and the heritage.

As a typical Historic Urban Landscape, Hangzhou and its world heritage “West Lake Cultural Landscape” will be incorporated into this model to complete an empirical study. The actual scenario of visibility changes and urban expansion is utilized to explain the cumulative effect, which alters the visual integrity of the historical spatial pattern and thereby worsens the vulnerability of heritage. This study essentially employs Outstanding Universal Value to analyze the solutions to the various practical challenges faced by the property. Moreover, it is necessary to include potential impacts within the wider settings into the heritage management framework and to improve heritage management processes and technologies to be much more methodical, forward-thinking, precise, and intelligent.

**Keywords:** Visibility, Visual Integrity, Urbanization, Potential Vulnerability, Historic Urban Landscape

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