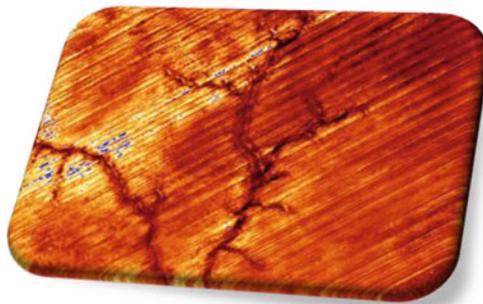# Part II
What Surrounds Us, Shapes Us
Digital Landscapes and Environment

The prosaic issues of the scale and historicity of landscape and environment almost inevitably demand the incorporation of technology and visual technologies and provide seamless access to areas or periods that researchers may not be able to study directly or provide experience of a landscape that cannot be visited by a tourist. In doing so the formative nature of the digital environment, built or natural, is often presumed in much the same way as occurs in other media. Indeed, the title of this section comes from the Berkeley Media Group's assessment of the impact of community environment on health (2009). Having said that we might well have quoted Churchill who, speaking on the rebuilding of the British House of Commons following the Second World War, stated that "we shape our buildings and thereafter they shape us". Churchill, of course, was concerned with how the actual physical structure of the political chamber formed debate within the United Kingdom but Digital Heritage researchers are clearly not exempt from such concerns. Indeed, these issues become substantive when seeking to represent environments that are redolent with cultural significance or, equally, when digital reconstruction of a disputed past requires that, as in Baudrillard's precession of simulacra (1983), the digital image "precedes the territory". The role of digital technologies in representing historic landscapes inevitably becomes a formative

act and the papers in this section explore some of these issues; touching on scale and the "spaces that difference makes" (Soja 1996, 83). They also considered how technology, imposed physically upon space, may itself generate novel relationships between environment and the observer in a manner never previously imagined or achievable.

BMG (2009). *What surrounds us shapes us: making the case for environmental change, prevention institute.* http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-%20175/127.html. Accessed August 19, 2013

Baudrillard, J. (1983) Simulations, Semiotext(e), New York.

Soja, E. W., (1996) *Thirdspace: journeys to los angeles and other real-and-imagined places*, Blackwell, Oxford.