



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | March 30, 2007



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Upcoming Conferences and Events

Chair's Welcome

by Jack Pyburn, FAIA

With the heartiest of thanks to 2006 HRC Chair James J. Malanaphy III, AIA, for his years of leadership, the 2007 HRC Advisory Group has a strong foundation, with plans already under way for exciting events and programs for years to come. Membership value will be its top priority, and we welcome members' contributions and feedback as well as articles and event notices for *Preservation Architect*, the quarterly eNewsletter you are now reading.

We are entering the fifth year of our Preservation Education Initiative, an ambitious effort to integrate preservation values and knowledge into professional architecture education. To that end, the AIA HRC has developed excellent partnerships on a number of activities and events with architecture-education organizations. Building on this success will remain a particular focus of the HRC—this year and in the long term.

The 150th anniversary of the AIA this year offers still more exciting opportunities to celebrate the successes of architecture as a profession and—just as significantly—the success of preservation over the first 150 years. Most notably, preservation is being recognized as a fundamental part of sustainability in the built environment, and the HRC is an important part of that dialogue as well.

> [Read the full letter](#)

Call for Submissions to *Preservation Architect*

This first quarterly issue of *Preservation Architect* for 2007 stands before you as a high-quality source of information that reaches more than 6,000 HRC members. Countless others browse through our main product with much anticipation and good recognition of new and timely information relative to historic preservation. We strive to be diverse, trendy, and up-to-date with our product, and we certainly need your help in sustaining our goals.

Did you know that you can contribute to our quarterly eNewsletter by submitting an interesting article from your region? Yes, you can! We accept unsolicited articles of interest to the HRC membership. Yes, there is a review process, and yes, we have submission guidelines. You can start by going to the [HRC Web site](#) and clicking on "Tips for Submissions." You may also contact our project manager, Derrick Thomas (DThomas@aia.org), or Don Swofford, FAIA, who is the HRC Communications and Publications Subcommittee chair (Dons@DASAonline.com), if you have any questions or comments. We look forward to receiving your submission!

HRC Programs and Events

The AIA [HRC home page](#) runs a regularly updated list of scheduled HRC events. Just look under "HRC Highlights" and click on the links for more details about any HRC-sponsored or related event.

Other Historic Preservation Events

10th US/ICOMOS International Symposium

April 18–21, 2007

San Francisco

"Heritage Tourism: Balancing Culture, Conservation, and Economic Development: Heritage Tourism in and around the Pacific Rim"

First Euro Mediterranean Conference on Traditional Architecture

July 12–15, 2007

Barcelona

In the News

The AIA HABS Coordinating Committee: Plans for the Future

by David Woodcock, FAIA

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When the late Charles E. Peterson proposed in 1933 to establish a program to employ out-of-work architects and draftsmen, he could never have envisaged that the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) would be the sole surviving New Deal program nearly 75 years later or that the HABS drawings in the Library of Congress (LOC) would be the most-used part of the LOC Prints and Photographs collection and accessible on a world-wide network.

For the last several years, a HABS Coordinating Committee consisting of representatives from the AIA, National Park Service, and LOC has maintained the agreement between the three organizations that administers HABS. When the committee met in January 2007 at the AIA headquarters, it confirmed the charge to maintain open communication and to support, facilitate, and encourage the continuing activity and development of HABS, perceived by many as the single most effective way to attract architects to preservation practice.

> [Read the full article](#)

HRC Preservation in Architecture Education Initiative Makes Strides

For the past four years, an ad hoc group of educators and historic preservation architects have gathered in January to chart a year's activities focused on integrating historic preservation values into the dialogue of professional degree programs in architecture schools. With support from the National Center for Preservation Technology & Training (NCPTT) of the National Park Service and the AIA, the Preservation in Architecture Education Initiative has made some significant strides:

- Contributed to the revision of the criteria for the accreditation of architecture schools
- Attended, presented to, and organized preservation tours for, and jointly sponsored events with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.
- Organized and hosted a summer [teachers seminar at the Cranbrook Academy](#) for architecture faculty on historic preservation.
- Organized and sponsored the first national student design competition with a preservation focus

Among the current endeavors, a Web site is being developed to help faculty develop course syllabi that integrate preservation values and technology into design course studios. The student design competition has attracted 51 entries and will be judged in June. Representatives remain involved in the next round of accreditation-criteria revisions being considered by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. Most important, the initiative is also engaging architecture students by involving them in AIA HRC activities and events.

> [Read the full article](#)

Mary Bomar Becomes New NPS Director

The U.S. Senate last fall confirmed the appointment of Mary A. Bomar as director of the National Park Service (NPS). A career NPS employee, Bomar had served as director of the NPS's 13-state Northeast Region since July 2005. Bomar replaced Fran Mainella, who announced her resignation as NPS director last summer.



© National Park Service

From 2003 to 2005, Bomar was superintendent of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. During her tenure, both the Liberty Bell Center and the National Constitution Center opened in the park on Independence Mall as part of the largest urban revitalization project in the nation. Also during her tenure, the NPS reopened the park's Second Bank of the United States after a two-year utilities project and installed a new exhibit, "The People of Independence."

Concurrently the park managed a \$5.2-million rehabilitation of Independence Square, the site of Independence Hall. Spurred by the new construction, park visitation surged by 35 percent.

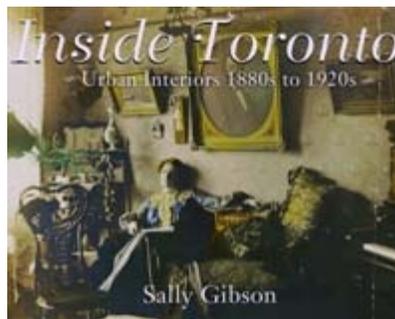
Previously, Bomar served as the first superintendent at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the first NPS Oklahoma State Coordinator, acting superintendent at Rocky Mountain National Park, and assistant superintendent at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Before joining the NPS, Bomar worked as a manager at the U.S. Department of Defense. Raised in Leicester, England, Bomar became a U.S. citizen in 1977.

Features

Inside Toronto: An Interview with Sally Gibson

by *Martha L. Werenfels, AIA*

Inside Toronto: Urban Interiors 1880s to 1920s, by heritage consultant Sally Gibson, may be the first book to extensively document historic interior spaces in a major urban area. Preservation architect Martha Werenfels, AIA, recently engaged Gibson in an interview about the new



perspectives she developed on architecture and urban living.

Combing through thousands of photographs of Toronto interiors from the Victorian, Edwardian, and Early Modern periods—as well as other historical documents that put the photos in context—Gibson's work presents a cross-section of city life, some of which is rarely documented. "Right from the beginning, I was determined to investigate not only the movers and shakers but also the moved and shaken," Gibson says.

> [Read the full interview](#)

Preservation Knowledge and Networks

Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Seeks Candidates for Senior Position

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in Scottsdale, Ariz., seeks a vice president/campus planning, restoration, and development to lead the creation and execution of a master plan for the buildings, land, and infrastructure of both Taliesin and Taliesin West. We are looking for a senior manager with the ability to lead an assessment of the foundation's stabilization, preservation, and space needs. The ability to lead the subsequent development and realization of a master plan for restoring, managing, and developing new facilities on both campuses is equally important.

The vice president will have a minimum of 20 years' relevant experience. An advanced architecture, engineering, or other appropriate degree is required; additionally, an MBA or other advanced management degree is preferred. For more information, including salary, see the Web site of the foundation's search consultant, The Himmelfarb Group (www.himmelfarbgroup.com) or call Meghan Strubel at 708-848-0086.

Volunteer Opportunities in New Orleans Available Until June

The [Preservationist in Residence](#) program of the [Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans](#) (PRCNO) has been such an overwhelming success that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has extended funding for the program through June 2007. Help from HRC member volunteers is needed continually. More than 500,000 people were displaced; to date, fewer than 200,000 have returned. Each week, homeowners return to the area seeking assistance and expertise on how to repair, rebuild, and restore their homes.

So far, approximately 50 AIA HRC members have donated at least one week of their time to the Preservationist in Residence program, which gives New Orleans homeowners guidance and a preliminary assessment of the damage to their homes. PRCNO staff schedule site visits, accompany the homeowners during the assessment, and help with formatting of reports (brief, typed property-condition assessments that explain, in layman's terms, the current condition of the property). Each volunteer will spend four nights in New Orleans, arriving Tuesday and departing Saturday afternoon. Site visits and consultations begin Wednesday and end Saturday morning. PRCNO provides accommodations at a nearby downtown hotel, currently the [Queen & Crescent](#). All additional travel expenses are the volunteers' own responsibility.

To learn more about the Preservationist in Residence program and receive instructions on how to schedule your visit, contact AIA HRC Project Manager [R. Derrick Thomas](#) or PRCNO Homeowner Assistance Coordinator [David Fields](#) in New Orleans at 504-636-3070. Also see the [article in the December 2006 issue](#) of *Preservation Architect* about one HRC member's experience as a PRCNO volunteer.

Updated: Historic Preservation Book List

AIA HRC members have begun an online bookshelf of recommended reading in the historic preservation field. We hope to keep expanding the list as members contribute their own recommendations of titles. If you know of a book that should be on the list, please contact Raymond Plumey, FAIA, at rplumey@aol.com.

> [See the full list](#)

HRC Member and Component News

AIA Seattle HRC Events

For May 2007—Preservation Month in Seattle—the AIA Seattle HRC will present a lecture series, "Rich Heritage, Bright Future." Each two-hour lecture will be held 4 to 6 p.m., venue TBD. Lecture-series planning, including confirmation of guest speakers, is still in progress, but here is the current topic list:

- **May 10: "Seattle Area Landscape as Heritage Tourism."** Guest speakers and discussion including existing and future landscaping and projects.
- **May 17: "Historic County Courthouses."** Guest speakers discuss the revitalization of these centers of iconic architecture throughout the state, their importance to local identity, and how they attract heritage tourism.
- **May 24: "The Future of Heritage Tourism."** Guest speakers discuss their interest, work, and future possibilities in heritage tourism. This will bring in a broad spectrum of subjects not always associated with preservation or heritage tourism: art and historic modern architecture.

For more information, contact Seattle HRC chair K. Casey Caughie (kc@mka.com) or AIA Seattle managing director/continuing education Carolyn Forbes (cforbes@aiaSeattle.org).



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Chair's Welcome

by Jack Pyburn, FAIA

Welcome to the first 2007 issue of *Preservation Architect*. Our quarterly eNewsletter has evolved as a primary communication forum for the members of the AIA Historic Resources Committee (HRC). We welcome the contributions of members. If you have articles or notices of events or programs that would interest the general HRC membership, please send your ideas and contributions to Derrick Thomas at the AIA at dthomas@aia.org.

On behalf of the HRC Advisory Group (AG), I would like to express appreciation to James J. Mananaphy III, AIA, for his untiring work over his five-year tenure and for his leadership as 2006 AG chair. The five-person AG is focused on serving you not only this year but also in the coming years with exciting, meaningful, and educational programs. As the 2007 chair, I have the privilege of serving with these other AG members this year: Vice Chair Sharon Park, FAIA, chief of technical preservation services, National Park Service; David Woodcock, FAIA, FAPTI, professor of architecture and director of the Center for Heritage Conservation at Texas A&M University; Harry J. Hunderman, FAIA, a preservation architect in Chicago; and Raymond Plumey, FAIA, a preservation architect in New York City. This group desires to serve you and is committed to advancing the values of preservation in practice, education, and government at all levels. Membership value is your AG's top priority for the coming years.

Historic preservation in architecture education has been a particular focus of the HRC and of mine for the past four years. As we move into the fifth year of the [HRC Preservation Education Initiative](#), we have made respectable progress in becoming engaged in the dialogue of professional architecture education. We have developed exceptionally good relations with the [Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture](#), the [National Architectural Accrediting Board](#), and the [American Institute of Architecture Students](#). To that end, we have partnered in producing programs as far afield as Mexico City and as recently as [our recent joint conference in Philadelphia](#).

This initiative is important. First, preservationists share a bond with academicians through their joint interest in, and commitment to, research. Preservation is an environment of continuous learning shared with academia. According to the AIA Firm Survey, work related to existing or historic buildings represents more than 40 percent of U.S. architecture firms' billings. It is therefore essential for preservation architects to promote, support, and advance the integration of preservation values into architecture education.

The Preservation Education Initiative is a long-term effort. Academia is a complex, massive, and evolving institution. It is imperative that preservation architects become embedded in the fabric of education so that

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all architects graduate with a threshold understanding of, respect for, and ability to make ethical and sound fundamental decisions about how to handle a historic resource. I encourage each of you to find a way to contribute to this endeavor in your community. If you would like more information about the initiative and what you can do to support it, please contact me at jpyburn@ojparchitect.com or Derrick Thomas at dthomas@aia.org.

The AIA also commemorates its 150th anniversary this year. It is an interesting and exciting time. It is a time to celebrate the successes of architecture as a profession and—just as significantly—the success of preservation over the first 150 years. Preservation is being appropriately recognized as a fundamental part of the sustainability in the built environment. Modern Movement buildings are requiring us to reaffirm the nonjudgmental foundation of preservation—a firm platform to link architecture with time, tectonics, culture, and society.

Thank you for your membership in the AIA Historic Resources Committee in 2007. We look forward to an exciting and productive year.

Jack H. Pyburn, FAIA
Chair, 2007 Advisory Group
AIA Historic Resources Committee



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Tips for Submissions to Preservation Architect

Preservation Architect is the eNewsletter of the AIA Historic Resources Committee (HRC). *Preservation Architect* combines thoughtful commentary and analysis on current issues and future trends in historic preservation. We are always seeking new ideas and fresh perspectives. Please keep the following tips in mind as you prepare your article.

Style

- You are writing a feature article for the Internet, not a printed report. Your readers are looking for a good read, something that will be short yet informative and useful as they think about the many issues involved in their daily work.
- Strive for an informative, approachable style in your writing. Stay away from the passive voice.
- Please keep in mind that not every reader will be familiar with some well-used acronyms and terms used among practicing architects.

Format

- Your article should be about 500 to 700 words. Your readers will not have time to wade through a long, complex article.
- Your article should show an orderly development and coherent flow. As a rule, your conclusion should answer the reader's question, "Why did the author want me to read this?"
- For greater Web readability, please do not double space after full sentences.
- Use targeted yet creative headlines, and use subheads to break up long sections of text.
- Photos and illustrations are welcomed but should not be embedded in the text. Each illustration or photo should be submitted as a separate file in .jpg format. Please include captions and credit information for photos in a separate Microsoft Word file.
- Your article should include a short (50 words or fewer) biographical sketch of each author.

Submissions

We prefer to receive articles electronically, preferably as a Microsoft Word or otherwise PC-compatible file attached to an e-mail. Submissions should be sent to hrc@aia.org.

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HABS Coordinating Committee Plans for the Future

by David Woodcock, FAIA

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The survey began as a joint project of the AIA, the National Park Service (NPS), and LOC, created and administered under a 1933 Tripartite Agreement that was last re-signed in 2003 as part of the observance of [HABS's 70th anniversary](#). For the last several years, the Agreement has been maintained by a [HABS Coordinating Committee](#) consisting of six AIA members, three NPS representatives, and up to two LOC representatives. The current committee met in January 2007 at the AIA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The group confirmed the charge to maintain open communication and to support, facilitate, and encourage the continuing activity and development of HABS, perceived by many as the single most effective way to attract architects to preservation practice.

The Charles E. Peterson Prize

The 2006 [Charles E. Peterson Prizes](#) were presented in Philadelphia on March 9, 2007—appropriately, in Peterson's own long-time home city—at [The Athenaeum of Philadelphia](#), a partner in the Peterson Prize. Thanks to the generous support of the UNICO Co., one student and one faculty member from each winning team had support to attend the event.

These [2006 winners](#) won prizes of \$2,500, \$2,000, and \$1,500, respectively:

- **First Place:** Kent State University, Elizabeth Murphy faculty sponsor, for drawings of the Cleveland Grays Armory
- **Second Place:** Louisiana Tech University, Guy Carwile faculty sponsor, for drawings of the Ghana House on the Melrose Plantation
- **Third Place:** University of Oregon, Howard Davis faculty sponsor, for drawings of Stevenson Hall, Sheldon Jackson College

Regional Initiatives Revisited for HABS

As part of the committee's revitalization effort, the AIA members will reestablish the 1933 regional basis for HABS by developing a pilot program in each of their geographical areas that will involve at least one AIA component and at least one academic program. Concepts were discussed in March, and the completed programs will be evaluated in November.

NPS Reviewing Guidelines for HABS Drawings

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Catherine Lavoie, acting chief of HABS, noted that she is working on modified guideline for HABS drawings to encourage broader participation in this vitally important program. NPS is looking for ways to celebrate the 2008 anniversary, and the AIA HABS Coordinating Committee will be actively involved in this important event.

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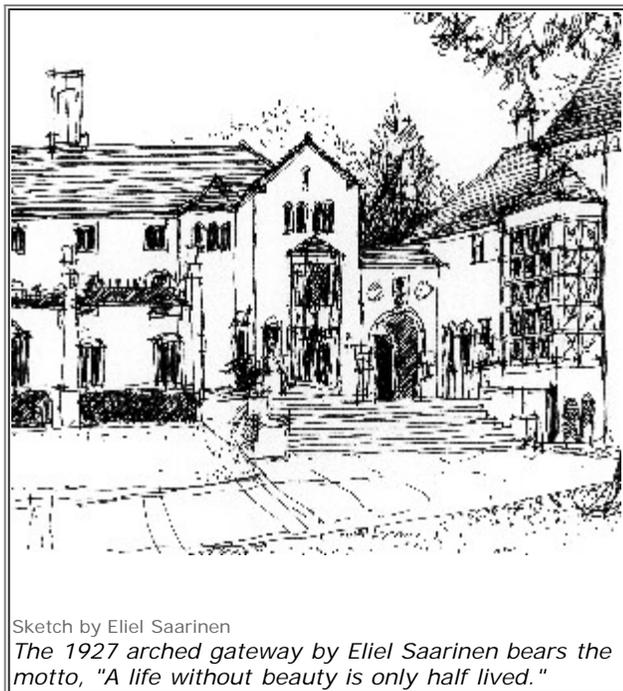


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2006 ACSA/AIA Teachers Seminar at Cranbrook: "Time Matters"

By David Woodcock, FAIA

"Time Matters: Exploring Preservation Values in Architectural Education" drew more than 50 academics and professionals to the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., for the 2006 ACSA/AIA Teachers Seminar June 15–18. Attendees examined the theoretical underpinnings of preservation and design, explored their common values, and tested the concepts using the architecture of Cranbrook Academy as both backdrop and inspiration.



Sketch by Eliel Saarinen

The 1927 arched gateway by Eliel Saarinen bears the motto, "A life without beauty is only half lived."

With support from the AIA, the [Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture](#) (ACSA,) the [National Center for Preservation Technology & Training](#) (NCPTT), and the [Cranbrook Academy](#), the seminar was organized as part of the [Preservation Education Initiative](#) of the AIA Historic Resources Committee. The goal was to provide a fresh perspective on preservation and design that can be translated into creative and effective teaching skills, tools, and resources to expand the horizon of preservation in the academy and practice. The outcome was a series of syllabi that can be used in design studios at the senior or first-year graduate level and will serve as the basis for the [2006-2007 ACSA Historical Preservation Student Design Competition](#). This competition program will help to address and promote the Student Performance Criteria adopted by the [National Architectural Accrediting Board](#) (NAAB) that require an understanding of context, history, and preservation legislation as parameters for design, and the competition program will address these issues.

Keynote speaker Mark Wigley, dean of the of Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University, drew on the seminar theme: the relationship between architecture and time. In his presentation, "ABOUT TIME!", Wigley suggested that preservationists have been thinking more about the future and the importance of continuity than have designers, who are more focused on the past and their need to differentiate their work from it. In addressing the need for schools to experiment, Wigley noted that the design studio has the threefold task of skill development, knowledge building, and the acquisition of judgment in

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application. The studio is a form of experimentation as we are in fact imagining the future, and the gap between the future and the past is shrinking.

North Carolina architect Joe Oppermann, FAIA, and David Woodcock, FAIA, of Texas A&M University presented a history of preservation practice and case studies on the factors that shape buildings—noting that James Marston Fitch, the father of preservation education, had written on these topics in the 1960s, identifying historic preservation as “the curatorial management of the built world.” They stressed that preservation is concerned with managing change, not preventing it, and that students quickly make a connection with conservation, the wise use of resources, and the emotional connections between people and place.

Practicing architects Dirk Denison, FAIA, who grew up at Cranbrook and now teaches at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and Pamela Hawkes, FAIA, of Ann Beha Architects in Boston, presented a series of case studies of additions to (and subtractions from) historic buildings and places. They drew attention to the nature of architecture as storytelling—part curation of the past and part creation of the future. Intervention, they said, is the greatest design challenge.

After a tour of the Cranbrook campus, the participants broke into groups to study three specific sites, with the subsequent challenge to develop a design syllabus that would use one site as the basis for an intervention. The sites were each connected with the work of architect Eliel Saarinen's and founder George Booth's tradition of preserving the past and building the future as good stewards of the school and the community. The campus provided inspiration for the professional-faculty teams, each of which operated at fever pitch to develop and present their approaches to an integrative old-new design project. Jorge Otero-Pailos of Columbia University responded to the syllabus proposals and will be the lead on the design competition development.

In his concluding remarks, Woodcock of Texas A&M noted that Henry Wotton had defined good design as an amalgam of “usefulness, stability and delight,” and recalled the motto on the gateway to Saarinen's 1927 Cranbrook school, “a life without beauty (delight) is only half lived.” From that standpoint, Cranbrook 2006 was a delight on every level!

David G. Woodcock, FAIA, is a professor of architecture and director of the [Center for Heritage Conservation](#) (CHC) at Texas A&M University. He is also a member of the AIA HRC 2006 Advisory Group.

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The above represents much hard work and support from many people, yet the momentum has just begun. For success to be lasting, we must demonstrate the relationship of preservation to the present and future as well as to the past and communicate to both faculty and students the educational richness it offers to the present and future.

This year's planning session produced goals and tangible projects that will continue to advance our progress. Jonathan Spodek, AIA, assistant professor of architecture at Ball State University is developing, in cooperation with the NCPTT, a Web site to support faculty in developing course syllabi that integrate preservation values and technology into design course studios.

The competition brief built around the expansion of the museum and library at Saarinen's Cranbrook Academy prepared by Jorge Otero-Pailos, assistant professor of architecture and historic preservation at Columbia University, has attracted 51 entries this spring. A distinguished international jury will judge the entries in June.

Representatives from the initiative are now starting to participate in the next round of review of the accreditation criteria being hosted by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. Preservation architects are each year volunteering for and being placed on review teams for architecture school accreditation.

Finally—and possibly most importantly—the initiative is engaging students in the initiative. Working with the AIAS, the HRC has developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that allows AIAS members to become members of the HRC and receive HRC publications and beneficial registration rates for HRC events. As a part of the MOU, the AIAS has established a member specialty area within its organization focused on

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historic preservation.

This is a long-term effort with room for engagement by all. I hope any AIA/HRC member who would like to know more about the invitation will get involved.

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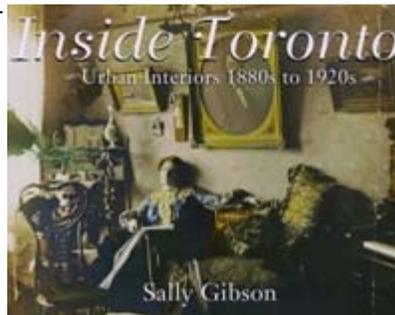


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Inside Toronto: An Interview with Sally Gibson

by Martha Werenfels, AIA

Inside Toronto is a unique new book of interior urban photographs. Preservation architect Martha Werenfels, AIA, recently discussed the book with author Sally Gibson.



Martha Werenfels: Inside Toronto seems like a truly unique book in that it documents the interiors rather than the exteriors of many different types of historic buildings. Is this the first book to provide extensive documentation of historic interior spaces in a major urban area?

Sally Gibson: Yes, somewhat to my own surprise, *Inside Toronto* is the first book published anywhere to focus on the complex inner life of a single city—the ordinary and extraordinary places where people of all types lived, worked, shopped, and performed the rituals of daily life. It really does provide a new perspective on architecture and urban living.

As I did more research, I became less surprised! Although we spend most of our lives inside buildings, interior photographs are quite rare and often difficult to find. Perhaps only 5 percent to 10 percent of photographs taken during the period under investigation were interior shots. So documenting the private, as well as the public, face of a city became quite a challenge.



Photo courtesy of the Sally Gibson
Ceiling of Toronto Union Station, as shown in an April 4, 1919, photograph

The city is, of course, Toronto, which is now Canada's largest urban center. During the period under investigation—the Victorian, Edwardian, and Early Modern eras—Toronto experienced a huge burst of growth and change, as did many other cities. At the time, Toronto was a very British North American city, reflecting architectural and cultural trends from across the Atlantic (e.g., William Morris and the Arts & Crafts movement) and south of the border (e.g., Daniel Burnham and the City Beautiful movement). As a result, the book should be of interest to an international

audience of architects, urban designers, interior decorators, and heritage specialists.

Werenfels: The book contains 260 vintage photographs of some of Toronto's most interesting interiors, as well as extensive documentation of the buildings and their sociological contexts. How were you able to gather

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such an extraordinary collection of images and information?

Gibson: Toronto is lucky, but not unique, in having a rich visual heritage. I combed through thousands of period photographs at the City of Toronto Archives, the Archives of Ontario, and a variety of smaller, specialized collections, such as a police museum, private clubs, and historic houses. Among my favorites are an 1897 photograph of a hotel bar that appeared in a catalogue for a tin ceiling manufacturer and a 1915 photograph of firemen in one of Toronto's oldest surviving fire halls—with a fireman coming down the brass pole.

In order to understand the photographs, and provide the necessary context, I also combed through a huge range of other records, such as architectural drawings, advertisements, newspaper articles, diaries, city directories, tax rolls, government reports, and so on. Naturally, I also consulted a wide range of secondary literature—books by architectural historians, labor historians, and so on.

Werenfels: The images in *Inside Toronto* range from an 1893 photo of the legislative chamber in the Ontario Parliament Building to the inside of a men's shelter photographed in 1913. While much of the architectural history that we are typically exposed to documents high-style buildings, your book depicts a fascinating cross-section of life in Toronto from the 1880s to 1920s. How were you able to document so many types of spaces?



Photo courtesy of Sally Gibson
Workers on a Toronto factory floor in 1909

Gibson: Right from the beginning, I was determined to investigate not only the movers and shakers, but also the moved and shaken. I still vividly recall my first encounter with the haunting image of that Edwardian "flophouse" that contrasted so poignantly with more familiar images of Edwardian mansions. Ironically, hunting down photographs of middle-class life turned out to be more difficult than finding images of either the very rich or the very poor.

Werenfels: *How do you think Inside Toronto might help practicing preservation architects?*

Gibson: I certainly hope that preservation architects and others in the heritage field will find *Inside Toronto* a valuable resource. I think there are three main ways that it can help. First, it uses photographs as primary sources of information, illustrating the wide range of questions that architects might ask and find answered. Second, it makes available specific examples of rarely documented interiors. The grocery stores or middle-class parlours or grand banking halls of Victorian and Edwardian Toronto share characteristics with their counterparts in other great cities. Third, it identifies, by example, useful research strategies: where you might find interior photographs, what types of photographs might be available, what kinds of complementary materials might prove useful, and what questions to ask.

After obtaining an bachelor's degree from Vassar and a master's degree in urban studies from Yale University, Sally Gibson moved to Toronto. Her first book, More Than an Island: A History of the Toronto Island, grew out of

her PhD dissertation and was described by Jane Jacobs as “city history at its very best.” She is currently a heritage consultant at Toronto’s unique Distillery Heritage District and continues to investigate urban interiors.

Martha Werenfels, AIA, is a principal at Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects, a 30-person firm in Providence. For the past 20 years, Werenfels’s architecture career has focused on the preservation of landmark structures, industrial mill complexes, and historic residential neighborhoods.





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After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise

by Kwendeche, AIA

In August 2005 Hurricane Katrina brought devastation that riveted the eyes of the world on the New Orleans region, including the Gulf Coast areas of Mississippi. The national news coverage revealed the true extent of the damage, death, and injury. The displacement of thousands of people would undoubtedly leave a cultural vacuum in this once-thriving region. The rich fabric of this iconic region was surely shredded beyond repair. What could we do? What could *I* do to help? Surely I could do something beyond just caring.

Although far inland from New Orleans, my town of Little Rock could easily suffer similar devastation, albeit from a tornado. How would I be prepared to deal with extensive damage or destruction to my own historic house—the only shelter I possess? I imagined all of my family's treasured heirlooms being suddenly lost due to a natural disaster. These thoughts circled in my mind for months, not to be forgotten but without any resolution.

An e-mail message in early August 2006 was definitely a wake-up call. Behind the scenes, the AIA HRC had struck a deal to assist the [Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans](#) (PRC) in a time of desperate need to address the huge backlog of requests from homeowners whose properties were severely impacted by Katrina. The PRC's [Preservationist in Residence](#) program needed volunteers to spread out over the affected areas of New Orleans to bring some welcome relief to property owners who lacked the expertise to address specific problems with their damaged homes.

In early September 2006, after a scenic 10-hour drive from Little Rock, I entered New Orleans with much anticipation. What would the city be like a year after Katrina? Would four days be enough time to have an impact?

The PRC is an impressive, well-organized, and useful resource for information about New Orleans—its architecture and its distinctive culture. One could learn more about the Crescent City while browsing the extensive literature in the PRC than from any library or archives.

Along with Debra McMillan, AIA, from Michigan and Melissa Bullis, AIA, from Washington State, I spent the first three days in the Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood called Holy Cross. Our coordinator, David Fields of the PRC, needed an update on the status of a string of houses within this now-blighted neighborhood, resulting in a house-to-house survey along several long blocks.

Once inside most of the houses, we were immediately struck by the distinctive water marks defining exactly how high the flood waters had reached above street level. Most of the lines reached high above my 6-foot, 4-inch frame. Except for a handful of occupied FEMA trailers, most of the

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houses were vacant and stripped of contents, leaving only the bare wood-stud walls to identify the layout of the rooms.

Our team, led by a volunteer architecture student from the University of Cincinnati, completed the required tasks knowing that our assistance might make a difference in the common goal of many to rebuild this neighborhood as well as many affected areas throughout the city. We felt good about that and sincerely hoped that positive changes would be enacted.

Our last day was spent looking at private residences whose owners were sincerely concerned about the damage to their property and quite grateful to see us arrive and share our insight about what could be done.

We were equally grateful to the PRC for their gracious hospitality and appreciation for our volunteer work. We hope that, with the new call for volunteers from the AIA HRC membership, the enactment of the progressive goals of the PRC and the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be more easily implemented for the benefit of New Orleans residents. For more information, see the Call for Volunteers near the top of this issue of *Preservation Architect*.

Kwendeche, AIA, is a practicing architect in Little Rock and an active member of the AIA HRC Communications and Publications Subcommittee.

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AIA Historic Preservation Book List

The AIA Historic Resources Committee (HRC) maintains a reading list based on the recommendations of HRC members around the country. We hope to continuously expand the list with additional titles and add book reviews when possible. If you would like to suggest a book be added to the list or would like to write a book review, please contact the advisory group member, [Raymond Plumey, FAIA](#). If you are interested in writing a book review please follow the [example](#).

Titles that have been reviewed or featured in *Preservation Architect* are linked to the past review or article.

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Professional Trade Publications Inc. *Traditional Masonry: A Quarterly Magazine for the Masonry Preservationist*.

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