



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006

Print this page | Email this page

Upcoming Conferences and Events

Letter from the Chair

by James J. Malanaphy III, AIA

At year's end, it's time to acknowledge the many members, partners, sponsors, and staff whose participation made 2006 a busy and productive year for the AIA Historic Resources Committee. Their time and expertise has made all the difference and positions the HRC for a great year in 2007.

➤ [Read the full message.](#)

HRC Member Volunteers Needed in New Orleans in 2007

The [Preservationist in Residence](#) program of the [Preservation Resource Center](#) (PRC) of New Orleans 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 will be needed beginning the week of January 8.

So far, 41 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. PRC staff schedule site visits, accompany the homeowners during the assessment, and assist 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. The PRC 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 this issue](#) of *Preservation Architect* about one HRC member's experience as a PRC volunteer.

Call for Submissions to *Preservation Architect*

This fourth quarterly issue of *Preservation Architect* for 2006 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 click on "[Tips for Submissions](#)." You may also contact our project manager, Derrick Thomas (DThomas@aia.org), or myself (kwendeche@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions or comments. We look forward to receiving your submission!

HRC Programs and Events

[Save the date! HRC 2007 Spring Conference](#)

March 8–11, 2007
Philadelphia

The AIA [HRC home page](#) also 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

[Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference](#)

In This Issue

- Letter from the Chair
- Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- December 2009
- September 2009
- June 2009
- March 2009
- February 2009
- September 2008
- June 2008
- March 2008
- December 2007
- Summer 2007
- March 2007
- December 2006
- September 2006
- July 2006
- March 2006
- January 2006
- August 2005
- March 2005
-

March 8–10, 2007
Boston

The 2nd Annual Traditional Building Design Challenge will be a live competition during the exhibit hall hours. The American Institute of Building Design, the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America, and *New Old House* magazine will showcase some of the country's best architects and designers and task them to design a new old house that would fit into one of Boston's nationally recognized historic districts.

[University of Victoria Offers Courses in Heritage Management and Planning](#)

The Cultural Resource Management Program (CRMP) at the University of Victoria in British Columbia is offering the following courses to professionals in the cultural, museum, and heritage sectors:

- "Managing Cultural Organizations," January 15 to April 22, 2007
- "Financial Management in Cultural Organizations," January 15–20, 2007
- "Planning for Heritage Building Maintenance," January 29 to February 3, 2007
- "Measuring Performance," March 12–17, 2007

For more information or to register for any of these programs, see the [CRMP course listing](#).

[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"

In the News

Preserve America Calls for Public Comment on Issue Area Reports

Comment deadline: January 16, 2007

AIA HRC members served as expert panelists during the national Preserve America Summit, held October 18–20, 2006, in New Orleans. The summit, which marked the 40th anniversary of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, was coordinated by the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#). First Lady Laura Bush served as honorary chair of the event. HRC Advisory Group Chair James J. Malanaphy III, AIA, cochaired the "Addressing Security" Issue Area panel, which included other AIA members. All of the Issue Area Reports from the summit are now available on the [Preserve America Web site](#) for public comment. Comments must be received by the close of business on January 16, 2007.

Congress Grants Permanent Status to the ACHP

The U.S. House of Representatives passed S. 1378, a bill drafted by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), to provide appropriations authorization for the ACHP and the Historic Preservation Fund and to make certain operational improvements for the ACHP. The House action clears the bill to go to President Bush for signature.

The legislation provides a permanent authorization for the ACHP, which in the past had to be reauthorized every five years with a fixed-dollar appropriations limit. In a fitting conclusion to the year-long 40th-anniversary celebration marking passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that created the ACHP, the now-permanent status of the independent federal agency affirms its stature as a pivotal element of the national historic preservation program.

➤ [Read the full article.](#)

2006 Peterson Prize Winners Announced

The [Historic American Buildings Survey](#) (HABS) of the National Park Service, [The Athenaeum of Philadelphia](#), and the AIA have announced the 2006 winners of the [Charles E. Peterson Prize](#), which annually recognizes the best set of measured drawings prepared to HABS standards and donated to HABS by students. Taking first place was a team of 10 students from the School of Architecture & Environmental Design at Kent State University. Second place went to a team of four students from the School of Architecture at Louisiana Tech University. Third place went to a single student of the Department of Architecture, University of Oregon. For details about the winners and the winning drawings, see the [Peterson Prize Winners Web site](#).

Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes

by Harry J. Hunderman, FAIA, FAPT

The U.S. Navy recently agreed to abandon demolition plans for two Modern landmarks: the Hostess House and the Gunner's Mates School. Both structures are at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North

April 2004

➤ December 2003

➤ September 2003



Photo: Landmarks Illinois

The Gunner's Mates School at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago is one of two Modern landmarks recently saved from demolition.

Chicago, Ill., and both were the work of distinguished designers at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. During the public comment period for this project, the Historic Sites Advocacy Team of the AIA HRC strongly encouraged the Navy to evaluate these buildings further before proceeding with plans for demolition.

The international preservation community has become increasingly aware of the value of Modern landmarks and of the threat to these newer buildings that are not always recognized as having special architectural and historic value. In the case of these two buildings at Great Lakes Naval Station, the

preservation community voiced its support for these buildings, and the Navy listened.

► [Read the full article.](#)

Adaptive Reuse of 1950s-Era Gas Station Wins Preservation Award

This porcelain-enamel, metal-panel gas station was moved from near the airport in the 1970s to its current location at 54th Street and Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, where it became an auto repair shop, complete with an "updated" look of fake brick and a mansard roof.

When new owners wanted to open a custard shop, they researched vintage ones throughout the Midwest and decided to locate their new business in the Tangletown neighborhood. There, the brick and wood was peeled away and the integrity of the original gas station was discovered underneath. The enamel panels were restored, a complementary 500-square-foot addition was built, and the interior was adapted to its new use. The project successfully knit the old and new.

Now doing business as Liberty Frozen Custard, the restoration project by KKE Architects Inc. won a 2006 Adaptive Reuse Award from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

► [Read the full article.](#)



Photo: Courtesy of KKE Architects Inc.

Liberty Frozen Custard began life as a 1950s-era gas station.

Features

After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise

by Kwendeche, AIA

One year after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and other Gulf Coast areas of Louisiana and Mississippi, three HRC-member architects donated a week of their time to the [Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans](#) (PRC), whose [Preservationist in Residence](#) program helps to address the huge backlog of requests from homeowners whose residences were severely damaged by Katrina. The program offers professional expertise to New Orleans property owners who need to know how to address specific problems with their damaged homes. So far, 41 AIA HRC members have participated in the program.

One member of that team has written a brief recollection of that week in New Orleans, when the architects contributed to a house-by-house survey and individual damage assessments that might help some residents to rebuild their blighted neighborhoods. His account outlines his work with the PRC and its organized approach to resolving some of the most pressing issues. It also urges more AIA HRC volunteers to step forward, as much work remains to be done.

For more information about how to join this effort, see the Call for Volunteers near the top of this page of *Preservation Architect*.

► [Read the full article.](#)

HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference

by James J. Malanaphy III, AIA

Pittsburgh—city of steel, city of history—is emerging from its industrial past to rediscover itself and promote its important role in American history. The city's legacy of unique architectural works by modern American masters gave the AIA HRC a rich choice of sites for the three workshops it sponsored at the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) 2006 National Preservation Conference, held in Pittsburgh October 31 through November 5, 2006.

Robert Pfaffman, AIA, was the featured speaker at the traditional AIA Preservation Breakfast, also during the NTHP conference. A noted local historical architect and architectural historian, Pfaffman touted important but often-overlooked works by recent modern architects such as Mitchell and Ritchey, Harrison and Abramovitz, Curtis and Davis, and Gordon Bunshaft. He focused his talk on recent events surrounding the city's plan to demolish the 1962 Pittsburgh Civic Arena (now called Mellon Arena), designed by Mitchell and Ritchey. Pfaffman and others want to convince city leaders to preserve the structure and adapt the site to serve as a revitalized community center and public park.

The HRC also sponsored three day-long continuing education workshops that drew upon some of Pittsburgh's historic buildings to teach preservation assessment and tax-credit certification skills:

- The "Certifying Federal Tax Credit Projects" workshop at the Key Grocery/Try Street Terminal Building, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation as student housing for the Art Institute of Philadelphia
- The "Historic Landscape Assessment" workshop at the Point Park National Historic Landmark, site of pre-Revolutionary War Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt
- The "Historic Building Assessment" workshop at the historic Allegheny County Courthouse (shown above)



Photo: James J. Malanaphy III, AIA
The Allegheny Courthouse (1898), Pittsburgh, was the site of the Historic Building Assessment workshop.

► [Read the full article.](#)

Building Bridges

by Kwesi Daniels

Premier architecture educators and practitioners from around the world gathered on the historic grounds of the Cranbrook Academy of Arts for the **2006 ACSA Teachers Conference** about preservation and architecture education. In particular, the conference brought the AIA into a new dialogue on preservation issues with the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA).

The NOMA representative at the conference represented three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Because many HBCUs were founded in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many have historic structures in need of preservation that make them ideal ground for both teaching and practicing historic preservation.

► [Read the full article.](#)

The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever

by David Marshall, AIA

Stated unscientifically, "entropy" means "nothing lasts forever." For architects who specialize in historic preservation, entropy is a daunting challenge to face. In the life span of a building, it takes just one insensitive owner or natural disaster to erase history forever. Even if a building survives all that, the fight to save old buildings from the toll of time is a never-ending struggle, and even the best restoration lasts only so long.

► [Read the full article.](#)

Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals

by Mark Thomann

Mohawk Industries Inc. (a sponsor of the AIA HRC) discovered a treasure trove of historic carpet patterns in the forgotten storage areas of the Karastan Rug Mill in Eden, N.C., a carpet

mill built in the early 1900s. Tucked away in file cabinets and boxes were more than 20,000 carpet pattern cards, along with a number of hand-drawn and hand-painted carpet design "point sheets." Also found were numerous books and a collection of textile drawings dating back into the late 1800s. The collection opens a unique window to the history of textile design in the context of 19th- and 20th-century American architecture, spanning from the Victorian to the Postmodern periods.

Mohawk Heritage is a project developed by Mohawk Industries to share this rich archive with preservation professionals. It provides a time capsule of American historic carpet designs for thousands of now-historic structures across the United States, including theaters, hotels, courthouses, corporate offices, universities, retail stores, state capitals, and the White House. (The oldest record is a picture of the 1863 Lincoln White House.) While all the pattern cards are dated, many of them also detail the structure and use for which these carpet patterns were designed. The [Mohawk Heritage Web site](#) presents examples of pattern details, historic pattern cards, and other useful research information from this collection.

➤ [Read the full article.](#)

Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach

by Daniel T. Campbell, AIA

The restoration of a 1765 Georgian house museum—Mount Pleasant in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park—garnered two preservation awards in 2006. It also represented a successful partnership between the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which has housed 18th-century collections in the mansion, and architecture firm John Milner Architects of Chadds Ford, Pa. The joint project restored one of the most significant architectural and cultural resources in Fairmount Park and the Philadelphia region.



Photo: Philadelphia Museum of Art
Mount Pleasant with completed roof restoration.

The architectural and structural engineering team worked closely with the curatorial staff of the museum to design and implement a comprehensive repair and conservation strategy that would preserve original fabric to the greatest extent possible and ensure protection of the buildings' valuable interior finishes during the construction. The project included stabilization of heavy, timber-framed roof trusses; accurate restoration of the original appearance of dormers, cornices, and balustrades; and reroofing with wood shingles at the main house and two dependency pavilions.

➤ [Read the full article.](#)

Preservation Knowledge and Networks

First Edition: The AIA HRC Historic Preservation Book List

by Raymond Plumey, FAIA

The AIA Historic Resources Committee (HRC) is pleased to present its first edition of a Historic Preservation Book List. This book list—created to assist HRC members in preservation professional development—is not considered final or all-encompassing but rather a working book list to be updated periodically. This is not considered an endorsement of the books but rather a listing of books available to the preservation professional. This book list is a culmination of contributions from both the HRC Advisory Group and the HRC Publications and Communications Subcommittee.

HRC members are encouraged to contribute to this book list and, whenever possible, to submit book reviews for inclusion in the quarterly HRC *Preservation Architect* eNewsletter. The books on this list can be purchased and/or ordered through the AIA Store, by going to its Web site at www.aia.org/bookstore. AIA members wishing to contribute to the book list or to write book reviews are encouraged to send contributions to the attention of Raymond Plumey, FAIA, in care of R. Derrick Thomas, AIA HRC program manager, at dthomas@aia.org.

➤ [See the full list.](#)

HRC Member and Component News

Plumey, Pyburn, and Robertson Elevated to AIA College of Fellows

Three long-time members and leaders of the AIA Historic Resources Committee were elected to the AIA College of Fellows and inducted into the College last June during the AIA 2006 National Convention in Los Angeles:

- Raymond Plumey, FAIA, principal of New York City-based Raymond Plumey, Architect & Planner
- Jack Pyburn, FAIA, vice chair of the AIA HRC Advisory Group and principal of the Atlanta-based Office of Jack Pyburn, Architect Inc.
- Donna V. Robertson, FAIA, dean of the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology

The AIA College of Fellows, founded in 1952, comprises members of the Institute who are elected to Fellowship by a jury of their peers. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of the architect as an individual but also elevates before the public and the profession those architects who have made significant contributions to architecture and to society. The purpose of the College of Fellows is to stimulate a sharing of interests among Fellows, to promote the purposes of the Institute, to advance the profession of architecture, and to be of ever-increasing service to society.

➤ [Read the full article.](#)

Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee

by Amanda Lehman, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP

The AIA New York Historic Building Committee (HBC) is part of the tapestry of preservation advocacy organizations, preservation technical consultants, neighborhood groups, community boards, and real estate organizations that together are taking a role in the stewardship of one of New York City's most precious resources—its buildings.

The HBC's yearly programming includes public-private symposia; roundtable discussions to consider current issues; panel presentations; and tours of historic landmarks, often combined with technical presentations of restoration or conservation practices. In addition, the HBC participates in review and testimony before the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission through the AIA NY Policy Board.

➤ [Read the full article.](#)



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006

Print this page | Email this page

Letter from the Chair

by James J. Malanaphy III, AIA

At year's end, I'm going to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize and thank many of the members, partners, sponsors, and staff who contributed to and supported HRC programs and initiatives last year and during my term on the HRC Advisory Group. Each one of these individuals has been more than generous with his or her time and expertise and has helped to shape the HRC's activities this past year. For their names and more details about their activities, please see the [membership listings and descriptions](#) of the following HRC groups, programs, and partners:

- **Historic Resources Committee Advisory Group**
 - HRC Advisory Group
 - AIA HRC Program Staff
- **HRC Committees and Subcommittees**
 - The HRC Historic Sites Advocacy Team
 - The Historic American Building Survey Coordinating Committee
 - HRC Awards
 - HRC Speakers & Program
 - HRC Communications and Publications
 - HRC Sponsorship
- **Special Initiatives and Task Groups**
 - HRC Historic Preservation Education Task Group
 - 2006 Preserve America Summit
 - Preservationist in Residence Program
 - Green Strategy Partnership
- **Sponsors**
 - Restore Media
 - Mohawk Carpets
 - Unico Systems Inc.

There is always the risk of omitting the name of at least one important person or organization that also provided critical assistance. I know I have left out many for lack of space and time. Nevertheless, thank you, one and all—volunteers, members, partners, sponsors, and staff.

Thanks to your contributions, 2006 has been a busy and productive year for the AIA Historic Resources Committee. Your participation has made all the difference

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

Have a peaceful and blessed holiday season and a prosperous and Happy New Year in 2007! See you next year!

James J. Malanaphy III, AIA
2006 Advisory Group Chair, AIA Historic Resources Committee

April 2004
» December 2003
» September 2003



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006

Print this page | Email this page

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.

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

April 2004

» December 2003

» September 2003



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page



Email this page

Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes

by Harry J. Hunderman, FAIA, FAPT

The U.S. Navy recently agreed to abandon demolition plans for two Modern landmarks at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago, Ill. These structures—bureaucratically referred to as Building No. 42 and Building No. 521—are the work of distinguished designers at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM).

Building 42, referred to as the Hostess House, was designed as a building for cadet recreation and constructed in 1942. It is an early work of Gordon Bunshaft, FAIA, one of SOM's preeminent designers who also designed Modern architectural landmarks such as the Lever House (1952) and the Beinecke Library (1963).

Building 521, the Gunner's Mates School, was designed by well-known SOM architects William Priestly and Bruce Graham and constructed in 1954.

Building 42 is rectangular in plan and sited on a long, narrow site. It houses a reading and writing room, reception room, lounge, offices, and terrace. Among its unique design features are a laminated wood roof frame supported at both ends by steel columns, with the exposed wood trusses projecting through both facades. The building was built rapidly, on a 24/7 schedule, and completed within six months as part of the construction program initiated in December 1941, immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor.¹ Building 42 has been altered since construction, but its architectural integrity remains intact.

Building 521 is a large, blue-green glass box with narrow steel mullions. An interior concrete structure, a "building within a building," houses classrooms and service areas. The large open spaces within the larger box provided areas in which large, heavy weaponry could be operated during drills. This building was the first SOM project for which a curtain-wall structure was designed by the firm's Chicago office rather than the New York City office.



Photo: Courtesy of the Chicago History Museum, photographer Hedrich Blessing
Building 42, or Hostess House, stands as a historic landmark after the U.S. Navy abandoned plans to demolish the 1942 cadet recreation facility.

Buildings 42 and 521 exemplify the Modernist design of high-profile governmental and corporate commissions executed by SOM in the 1950s and 1960s. Both buildings are recognized as

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005



Photo: Courtesy of Landmarks Illinois
Building 521, the Gunner's Mates School,
also exemplifies mid-century design.

outstanding works of mid-century design, deserving of long-term preservation and worthy of study for further reuse. Initially, the Navy's preferred option for both structures was demolition, at a projected cost of approximately \$5 million. An article in the *Chicago Tribune* noted that according to Commander Tony Edmonds, executive officer of the Naval Facilities

Engineering Command Midwest, the proposed demolitions were part of the Navy's 15-year effort to downsize.

This summer, the Navy solicited public comment on the proposed demolition as part of the Section 106 review process with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.² During the public comment period, the AIA HRC's Historic Sites Advocacy Team strongly encouraged the Navy to evaluate these buildings further before proceeding with plans for demolition. After several meetings between Navy officials and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office as well as several consulting organizations including Landmarks Illinois, DCOMOMO Midwest, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Midwest, the Mies van der Rohe Society, and the federal-level Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, new uses for these buildings were developed. Chicago architect John Vinci, FAIA, of Vinci/Hamp Architects, representing the Mies van der Rohe Society, developed a reuse scheme for the Hostess Building for the Great Lakes Naval Museum, which was looking for new quarters near the base. In addition, an SOM team including Jason Stanley, AIA; Jeff McCarthy, AIA; and Phil Enquist, FAIA, prepared a comprehensive reuse proposal pro bono for rehabilitating the Gunner's Mates School Building. Plans for the preservation and reuse of both buildings are in progress.

During the past decade, the international preservation community—as well as preservationists in Chicago and throughout Illinois—have become increasingly aware of the value of Modern landmarks and of the threat to these newer buildings that are not always recognized as having special architectural and historic value. In the case of Buildings 42 and 521 at Great Lakes Naval Station, the preservation community voiced its support for these buildings, and the Navy listened.

¹ Carol Herselle Krinsky, Gordon Bunshaft, FAIA, of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (Cambridge, Mass.: The Architectural History Foundation and The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1988).

²Section 106 is a provision of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that requires that federal agencies determine the effect of their activities on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, with an opportunity to comment on such undertakings.

Harry J. Hunderman, FAIA, FAPT, is a principal and director of knowledge management at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates. He also serves on the Advisory Group of the AIA Historic Resources Committee (HRC) and on the

April 2004
› December 2003
› September 2003

HRC Historic Preservation Education Task Group. Hunderman can be reached at hhunderman@wje.com.





Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006

Print this page | Email this page

Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award

KKE Architects' restoration and updating of the Liberty Frozen Custard building at 5401 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, has been honored with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's 2006 Adaptive Reuse Award.

The building started its life as a 1950s-era gas station near the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and was moved to its present location in the 1970s, where it was turned into an auto-repair shop. Over the years its façade was obscured with brick veneer and a mansard-type roof.

Realizing the hidden, classic nature of their building, Liberty Frozen Custard's owners, Vickie and Steve Uhr, worked closely with KKE's Rob Grundstrom, Assoc. AIA, and Michelle Piontek, AIA, to preserve and renovate the structure. "Working with KKE was a great experience," says Vickie Uhr. "They're talented, reliable, personable and real smart."

"The project respects the original design intent of the prefabricated 1950s building. It recalls simple modern lines and reinforces the original building's best features," notes Grundstrom.

Essential elements in the restoration were exposing the building's original porcelain panels and incorporating the original red, white, and blue patterns. The existing garage doors were used as functional architectural elements, opening up the indoor dining area and connecting it with outdoor seating. A complementary 500-square-foot addition was constructed, and the interior was modified to its new use.

The Adaptive Reuse Award was presented during the Alliance's 22nd annual Presentation Awards Program, held September 28, 2006, in Red Wing, Minn. The annual event recognizes historic preservation projects from across Minnesota for excellence in adaptive reuse, addition, community effort, restoration and rehabilitation, or stewardship. For a complete list of 2006 award winners, please visit the Alliance's [Preservation Awards Web page](#).



Photos courtesy of KKE Architects Inc.

A 1950s-era gas station that was renovated in the 1970s as an auto-repair shop has been restored as a frozen custard store featuring the original building's design elements.

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005



The existing garage doors were used as functional architectural elements, opening up the indoor dining area and connecting it with outdoor seating.

April 2004
➤ December 2003
➤ September 2003



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page



Email this page

After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise

by Kwendeché, 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

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

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.

April 2004
» December 2003
» September 2003



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page



Email this page

HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference

by James J. Malanaphy III, AIA

Pittsburgh—city of steel, city of history—is emerging from its industrial past to rediscover itself and promote its important role in American history. The city's legacy of unique architectural works by modern American masters gave the AIA HRC a rich choice of sites for the three day-long workshops it sponsored at the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) 2006 National Preservation Conference, held in Pittsburgh October 31 through November 5, 2006.

HRC Preservation Breakfast Focuses on Effort to Save Civic Arena

The city of Pittsburgh grew up on a narrow triangle of land between the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers as they converge to form the Ohio River on the original sites of Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt—occupied by both the French and British prior to the Revolutionary War. It has come to be known as the Golden Triangle.

Pittsburgh was the center of U.S. steel production from the earliest beginnings of the industry. Since the Second World War, though, Pittsburgh has experienced tremendous and often difficult changes. Historically referred to as one of the dirtiest cities in the United States, it was often characterized as “Hell, with the lid off” because of the tremendous number of fiery blast furnaces once located along the banks of the rivers.

Pittsburgh's unique contribution to architecture involves its early innovations in the architectural and structural use of metals—predominately steel and aluminum. During the annual AIA Preservation Breakfast at the NTHP conference, local historical architect and architectural historian Robert Pfaffmann, AIA, quickly dispensed with more widely recognized work by architects such as Daniel Burnham and H.H. Richardson to tout equally important but often overlooked works by more recent modern architects such as Mitchell and Ritchey, Harrison and Abramovitz, Curtis and Davis, and Gordon Bunshaft, among others.

Pfaffmann focused most of his talk on recent events surrounding a plan to demolish the 1962 Pittsburgh Civic Arena designed by Mitchell and Ritchey. The Civic Arena is currently known as Mellon Arena—home to the Pittsburgh Penguins professional hockey team. When it was designed and built, the Civic Arena was the largest dome ever constructed. Its roof was designed to be fully retractable to become an open-air amphitheater. We received a careful review of the developmental history of the Civic Arena and its neighborhood as well as the methods used to construct and operate the structure. We even viewed the original master planning concepts proposed for the redevelopment of the surrounding neighborhood, prepared by Mitchell and Ritchey in the early 1960s.

The Civic Arena was the only building ever completed as part of Mitchell

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

and Ritchey's redevelopment proposal for its neighborhood. Major features of the overall development scheme were never built. Now, partly because the Pittsburgh Penguins want to relocate to a new and larger arena, the Civic Arena and its neighborhood are again under pressure from interests that wish to redevelop the area. Pfaffmann and local preservation leaders are working vigorously to save the Civic Arena from demolition. They have been trying to convince city leaders to look at alternate uses for the site that will incorporate this truly marvelous structure and its surrounding open space as a revitalized community center and public park, masterfully woven into the adjacent fabric of its new surroundings and contributing to the successful redevelopment of its neighborhood.



Photo: James J. Malanaphy III, AIA
Keystone Grocery Building (1910), Pittsburgh

Certifying Federal Tax Credits Workshop

The Keystone Grocery/Try Street Terminal Building (shown above, currently undergoing rehabilitation as student housing for the Art Institute of Pittsburgh) served as both site and example for the "Certifying Federal Tax Credit Projects" workshop presented by the AIA HRC. The workshop was led by Bonnie Wilkinson Mark (Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation), Rebecca Shiffer (National Park Service [NPS]), and HRC Advisory Group Chair James J. Malanaphy III, AIA.

The workshop introduced attendees to the process of planning and documenting the rehabilitation of National Register-eligible historic buildings to meet federal historic preservation tax-credit program criteria. Participants inventoried contributing architectural features of the Keystone Grocery/Try Street Terminal Building and prepared recommendations for the building's documentation and rehabilitation using the NPS Certification Application process.

Built on the site of an early Pittsburgh meatpacking plant, the building was originally constructed as a nine-story concrete warehouse in 1910. Over the years, its use has changed in response to the disappearance of railroad service adjacent to the site. It had been used as both a manufacturing and storage facility, then sat vacant for a number of years. Recently, the project

April 2004
› December 2003
› September 2003

development team retained an architectural historian to research the building's history. As a result, it became eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, thereby qualifying it for use of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.

Prominent general contractor and development partner Joseph Massaro (The Massaro Corp.) gave us access to the building for the day, led the tour of the facility, and described strategies used to finance the development of the building and overcome the obstacles encountered along the way.

The partnership has promised to restore and/or rehabilitate various features of exterior and interior, working collaboratively with the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation to preserve the architectural integrity of the building. The building will be completely rehabilitated to accommodate 650 new residents in 140 apartments. In addition to fully furnished one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, retail tenants will provide for a convenience store and casual dining facility adjacent to an atrium, an 11,000-square-foot activities lounge, a sport court, and recreation space.



Photo: James J. Malanaphy III, AIA
Block House (1764), Fort Pitt, Pittsburgh

Historic Landscape Assessment Workshop

Point Park National Historic Landmark, site of pre-Revolutionary War Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt, was the focus of the "Historic Landscape Assessment" workshop presented by the AIA HRC. The workshop was led by Cari Goetcheus, ASLA; Marion Pressley, FASLA; Kurt Leahey, Assoc. ASLA; and Malanaphy of the AIA HRC.

The excellent venue posed some unique challenges. Virtually all historically significant fabric associated with the earliest occupation of the site has either been removed or lies completely buried and obscured from view as a result of subsequent periods of development. As Pittsburgh came of age as America's premier steel-producing center, this extremely significant historical site virtually disappeared. Original building materials used to construct the historic fortifications on the site were sold for reuse elsewhere in the community. The elevation of the site was raised significantly by placement of fill gathered from a project that lowered nearby Grant Hill—

site of the Allegheny County Courthouse. The new grade elevations helped protect the site from flooding and facilitated railroad and automobile access through the site to downtown and adjacent neighborhoods.

The early 1960s brought a major redesign of the site—with the intent of creating a great new public civic space for Pittsburgh. The design also provided for interpretation of the site's historical significance. The new park scheme was promoted as part of a major urban redevelopment program for the city: "The Point: Pittsburgh's Renaissance Park." Point Park, to be a key element of Pittsburgh's renaissance, was constructed almost completely as designed by landscape architect Ralph E. Griswold and architect and architectural historian Charles M. Stotz, FAIA. Budget cuts toward the end of the project caused some significant deviations. Still, many feel that the surviving features of the site designed by Griswold and Stotz and built during the 1960s have achieved historical significance in their own right.

The workshop introduced attendees to the process of assessing the integrity and material condition of historically significant cultural landscapes using the NPS framework currently used to conduct cultural landscape inventories of federally owned historic landscapes. During the field session, participants explored the central organizing and character-defining features of Point Park to identify significant features of the plan and landscape that still possess historic integrity. Investigation teams shared their findings and recommended preservation treatments for the park.

Historic Building Assessment Workshop

The historic Allegheny County Courthouse was the site for the "Historic Building Assessment" workshop presented by the AIA HRC. The workshop was led by Elizabeth Corbin Murphy, FAIA; Yolita Rausche, Assoc. AIA; and Malanaphy of the AIA HRC.

The workshop introduced attendees to the process of assessing the integrity and material condition of a historically significant building using the NPS framework currently used to conduct assessments of federally owned historic properties. During the field session, participants identified significant character-defining features of the Allegheny County Courthouse and analyzed the building's site, structure, systems, and finishes to prepare recommendations for its future use, treatment, and interpretation.



Photo: James J. Malanaphy III, AIA
Allegheny County Courthouse (1886),
Pittsburgh. Architect: H.H. Richardson
(1883–1888).

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato welcomed the attendees and provided a detailed overview of the developmental history of the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail (originally designed by H. H. Richardson [1883–1888]). The current courthouse is the third courthouse built and the second one to stand on the current site—the highest point in the immediate downtown area, known as Grant's Hill. Following the destruction of the second courthouse, Boston architect H.H. Richardson designed a new courthouse and jail complex. Construction of the buildings

was begun by Norcross Brothers in 1884. The jail was completed in 1886, the year of Richardson's death. The courthouse was completed in 1886 by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. The courthouse and jail are two separate buildings linked by a bridge over the intervening street, known locally as the "Bridge of Sighs."

Workshop investigations did not include the jail complex but focused entirely on the courthouse, which is quite large and proved an interesting site for the workshop. Over the years, the building has seen significant interventions—some not easily recognizable. For instance, a few years after the building's original construction, the exterior grade level was lowered significantly—to below the existing basement level—exposing the building foundations to view and forcing the redesign of the surrounding streetscape, secondary entrances, and primary entrances on Grant Street. As usual, new mechanical, electrical power and lighting, data, and other systems have been introduced, not always sympathetically. In addition, many significant features have been obscured by modern improvements, such as suspended acoustical ceilings, new wall partitions, and the like. It is evident the county is striving to reverse the situation and is committed to a long-range plan that includes the restoration of the original building fabric. At every turn you can see evidence of the county's efforts to preserve and restore this masterful building.



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006

Print this page | Email this page

Building Bridges at Cranbrook

by Kwesi Daniels

Architects are known both as “master builders” and as visionaries of the world. They give reality to ideas. The [Cranbrook Academy of Art](#), an institution founded and designed by architects, is an example of realized ideas. George Booth and Eliel Saarinen manifested the founding designs of the institution based on the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement. Since its inception, many students have matriculated through Cranbrook's programs, making it a premier institution for architectural and artistic expression for youth. Its scholarly environment attracts the children of many prominent families—families interested in giving their children the best education from the premier professionals of the world. Students learn design fundamentals through the interaction between their professors and the campus grounds.

In the spirit of Cranbrook, more than 50 premier educators and practitioners from around the world gathered on its historic grounds last June for the [2006 ACSA Teachers Conference](#) to discuss historic preservation and the teaching of preservation within architecture. The serenity of the campus and the diversity of the attendees produced vibrant dialogue centered around preservation—building bridges between academics and professionals as well as between preservation practitioners and representatives of several professional organizations. In particular, the conference brought the AIA into a new dialogue on preservation issues with the [National Organization of Minority Architects](#) (NOMA).

The conference began by introducing the participants to the history of Cranbrook and the current trends within the historic preservation field. The campus was used as the model grounds to understand how to apply preservation techniques within the context of traditional architectural teaching. Two days were devoted to syllabus-development workshops, and a syllabus-design assignment was geared toward developing an integrative preservation course at our respective institutions.

The representative from NOMA represented three prestigious Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): Prairie View A&M (1876), Tuskegee University (1881), and Florida A&M University (1887). These historic institutions were founded under similar traditions as Cranbrook, which provided a fertile ground of discussion from their respective academics. Because many HBCUs were founded in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many have historic structures that need the attention that can be provided through historic preservation. The age and history of the HBCU institutions makes them ideal grounds for historic preservation.

Architecture is experiencing a new phase within the direction of its practice. Sustainable design is quickly becoming a necessity within the profession. Historic preservation can be viewed as a component of sustainability under the premise of resource conservation. Serious attention toward preservation

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

will foster a new direction in architecture in the coming years, and the ACSA Teachers Conference provided an important foundation to begin this preparation within the classroom.

Kwesi Daniels is an instructor and the architecture program coordinator in the Tuskegee University Department of Architecture.

April 2004

- › December 2003
- › September 2003



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006

Print this page | Email this page

The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever

by David Marshall, AIA

Let us start by cracking open the trusty dictionary:

Entropy ('en-tro-py)

"A measure of disorder. The inevitable tendency for all matter in the universe to evolve toward a state of steady deterioration."

One of the few things that I still remember from my high school physics class is the principle known as "entropy." Stated unscientifically, entropy simply means "nothing lasts forever." At 16 years old, it was the first time that my mortality was put into proper scientific perspective. Today, as an architect who specializes in historic preservation, steady deterioration is a daunting challenge to face.

Most people divide the world into two distinct categories: (1) Temporary Things and (2) Things That Will Last Forever. Everyone understands that eventually flowers wilt, sandcastles crumble, and computers conk out. Few people face the fact that the big things in their lives—such as their jobs, their houses, and their heartbeats—are also temporary. In reality, even our planet has an expiration date—far in the future, we hope, and not due to the hand of man.

A Steady Job

When I consider entropy, I'm reminded of the never-ending maintenance of San Francisco's famed Golden Gate Bridge. I was disheartened to learn that once the painting crew finally completes their multiyear paint job, they must move the scaffolding back to the starting point and immediately begin the painstaking task all over again. I'm sure that the bridge painters view entropy in a more positive light than I do, being that it provides them with a steady job.

For preservationists, the temporary nature of the world is an especially hard pill to swallow. No matter how hard we try to preserve the past, we are, in the end, only slowing down time for a handful of years. In the life span of a building, it takes just one insensitive owner or one natural disaster to erase history forever. Even if a building survives all of that, the toll of time is the enemy that never goes away.

An Architect's Advice

As an architect, I've come to understand that the fight to save old buildings is a never-ending struggle. It might take years of effort and millions of dollars to save a building from crumbling into sawdust, but even the best restoration lasts only so long. Several sparkling jewels of architecture that I've helped to restore are already starting to look tarnished—some after only a decade. Any architect who has been in the profession more than 20 years will have surely witnessed their own creations fall victim to Father

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

Time. Once, when I fretted over the careless treatment of one of my buildings, an architectural mentor wisely counseled me, "When you finish a building, take lots of pictures because it's never going to look that good again."

The Bright Side

This article is intended to serve as a reminder to my fellow preservation architects that the unwavering laws of nature mean that our work, no matter how thoughtful and successful, is only a stopgap measure at best. Maybe we should all take a page from the bridge painters and look on the bright side: Thanks to entropy, preservation architects will always have a job.

(A version of this article was originally published in *Reflections*, the newsletter of San Diego's Save Our Heritage Organisation.)

David Marshall, AIA, is president of Heritage Architecture & Planning in San Diego. Heritage has restored more than 600 significant buildings throughout the western United States. He is also past president of the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) and currently serves on San Diego's Historical Resources Board.

April 2004
» December 2003
» September 2003



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page



Email this page

Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals

by Mark Thomann

We often hear stories of a trunk found in the attic of an old house filled with letters, diaries, and uniforms. Once considered simply sentimental and of little monetary value, these items become, with time, a valuable link to the past, a treasure of information. Mohawk Industries Inc. found such a treasure trove in the form of years of historic carpet patterns deep in the forgotten storage areas of the Karastan Rug Mill in Eden, N.C., a carpet mill built in the early 1900s.

Tucked away in file cabinets and boxes were more than 20,000 carpet pattern cards, along with a number of hand-drawn and hand-painted carpet design "point sheets." Also found were numerous books and a collection of textile drawings dating back into the late 1800s. This collection, representing carpet designs for thousands of now-historic structures across the United States, is a valuable resource for preservation professionals. Mohawk Industries' historic pattern collection opens a unique window to the history of textile design in the context of 19th- and 20th-century American architecture.

The historic carpet brands of Bigelow, Mohawk, Alexander Smith, Sanford, Hartford, and Karastan are represented in this newly found collection. Currently, the oldest pattern card catalogued dates to 1873. The collection spans from the Victorian to the recent Postmodern periods. The design dates found on each card provide the ability to trace and understand pattern design trends over a 150-year time span as well as the ability to search for specific projects by date of construction. A significant number of the pattern cards indicate the name of the building for which they were originally manufactured. Patterns designed and produced for theaters, hotels, courthouses, corporate offices, universities, retail stores, state capitals, and the White House are included in the collection. In a number of cases, detailed manufacturing specifications are recorded. Often the pattern cards indicate the number of colors. Several pattern cards are rendered in color, revealing trends in carpet color and color technology.



The Mohawk Heritage Web site for preservation professionals includes a pattern-card archive and other useful historic research information.

In This Issue

- Letter from the Chair
- Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- December 2009
- September 2009
- June 2009
- March 2009
- February 2009
- September 2008
- June 2008
- March 2008
- December 2007
- Summer 2007
- March 2007
- December 2006
- September 2006
- July 2006
- March 2006
- January 2006
- August 2005
- March 2005
-

Mohawk Industries developed the Mohawk Heritage project to share this rich archive with preservation professionals as they steward America's historic structures. This information not only aids in filling in important pieces of the "preservation puzzle," but Mohawk's unique woven manufacturing and yarn processing capabilities also provide the opportunity to re-create these patterns using the yarn systems, dyeing techniques, and weaving machines used to originally produce many of these historic patterns. A carpet "Made in America" for American historic structures is a continuation of 180 years of carpet manufacturing by Mohawk Industries and historically appropriate for these preservation projects.

Mohawk Heritage has created a Web site (www.mohawkheritage.com) for preservation professionals that presents examples of pattern details, historic pattern cards, and other useful research information from this historic pattern collection. The site allows a visitor to search pattern information by the specific building for which the carpet was produced, original building usage, and the year produced. Mohawk continues to expand the amount of information available from the collection and ways to access it. Mohawk Industries, a sponsor of the AIA HRC, is committed to the preservation of America's historic resources and is pleased and excited to share this historic resource with the preservation community. For further assistance in accessing Mohawk's historic pattern information, contact Mark Thomann, director of historic preservation, at mark_thomann@mohawkind.com or 404-408-1773.

Mark Thomann is director of historic preservation for Mohawk Industries Inc.

April 2004
» December 2003
» September 2003



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page



Email this page

Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach

by Daniel T. Campbell, AIA

The restoration of Mount Pleasant, a 1765 Georgian house museum, garnered two preservation awards in 2006. It also represented a successful partnership between the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which has housed 18th-century collections in the mansion, and architecture firm John Milner Architects of Chadds Ford, Pa. The joint project restored one of the most significant architectural and cultural resources in Fairmount Park and the Philadelphia region.



Photo: Courtesy of Philadelphia Museum of Art
View from the west of Mount Pleasant and the two major dependency pavilions.

The architectural and structural engineering team worked closely with the curatorial staff of the museum to design and implement a comprehensive repair and conservation strategy that would preserve original fabric to the greatest extent possible and ensure protection of the buildings' valuable interior finishes during the construction. The project included stabilization of heavy, timber-framed roof trusses; accurate restoration of the original appearance of dormers, cornices, and balustrades; and reroofing with wood shingles at the main house and two dependency pavilions.



Photo: Courtesy of Philadelphia Museum of Art
The completed roof restoration of Mount Pleasant, viewed from the North Pavilion prior to removal of chimney protections.

The owner and architect were recognized by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia in its 13th Annual Preservation Achievement Awards and by Preservation Pennsylvania's 2006 Historic Preservation Awards in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (SHPO). John D. Milner, FAIA, and Daniel T. Campbell, AIA, served as principal-in-charge and project architect, respectively, during 1½ years of conditions assessment, research, design, and

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

documentation and one year of construction.

The architectural and structural engineering team worked closely with the museum's curatorial staff to design and implement a repair and conservation strategy that would preserve original fabric to the greatest extent possible and protect the buildings' valuable interior finishes during the construction.

Historical Summary

The Mount Pleasant site, which includes six original buildings, are used extensively by the museum's education department to interpret 18th-century cultural life for school groups, families, and the general public. Since 1926, it has housed museum collections of 18th-century furniture, paintings, and decorative arts. The interiors of the principal house are among the finest surviving from 18th-century America.

The Restoration Project

Severe structural deficiencies caused by rotted wood truss members had been overlooked in two previous restorative treatments in 1926 and 1976. By 2003, the concurrence of deterioration in both roof covering and roof framing (with the implications for short- and long-term maintenance of the building's historic interior fabric) had indicated the urgent need for a comprehensive preservation and conservation initiative. During the 2005 to 2006 project, the most severely deteriorated portions of principal wood members were replaced in kind, using like species of wood spliced to existing members with a specialized method of structural steel plate insertion into structural epoxy matrix concealed between old and new timbers. This provides a structural loading capacity that could not otherwise be achieved through conventional timber framing repair techniques. Where imposed structural loads were within acceptable limits for wood, traditional timber repair techniques were employed.

April 2004
 > December 2003
 > September 2003



Scope of Work

I. Structural

A. The four major timber roof trusses were temporarily supported by a steel beam grid system inserted through dormer openings into the third-floor space, and the timber trusses were hung from the steel spans during the repairs.

B. The rotted portions of the truss members were removed and archived, and then new wood of like size and species (mostly poplar and white oak) was inserted and joined with steel plates mortised into the new and existing wood members and adhered with structural epoxy. The steel plates were predrilled to accept redundant through-bolting, if needed, in the future.



Photo: Courtesy Philadelphia Museum of Art
View of heavy timber truss repair splices using in-kind wood species members attached with concealed steel plates in structural epoxy matrix.

C. Other deteriorated timbers that intersected with the rotted truss members were treated by consolidation, splice repairs, or replacement using conventional timber framing techniques. Areas with minor deterioration received systemic treatment with a fungicide.

II. Architectural

A. The existing 8-inch exposure wood shingle roofing was removed from the Mansion house and the North and South Pavilions.



Photo: Courtesy of Philadelphia Museum of Art
Carpenters install a new 7" x 7" poplar purlin beneath the northeast dormer of Mount Pleasant Mansion.

B. The house's board roof sheathing installed in 1906 to accommodate a standing seam metal roof was removed. Any original 18th-century roof sheathing was preserved in place. Freshly cut, white oak lath strips, identical to the surviving original open lath, were installed on 10-inch centers.

C. New wood shingles were custom split and cut with a beveled butt edge, based upon original shingles found during archeology in the

attic and roof eaves. These were installed with 10-inch exposure, reviving the dramatic scale of the hip roof's original appearance. A metal-lined pole gutter, concealed to the greatest degree possible, was installed at the perimeter of the house and pavilions, as well as new metal flashings at roof valleys, chimney gussets, and flat-seamed sheet metal roofing on low-sloped areas.

D. Woodwork on the cornices and dormers was preserved using consolidation, fills, and spliced repairs. Scrolled brackets at the sides of each dormer were designed and carved based on the physical evidence found on the original woodwork surviving on the dormer walls, by examining related surviving details on local 18th-century houses, and from referencing 18th-century design books



Photo: Courtesy of Philadelphia Museum of Art
Mount Pleasant roof restoration nearing completion under complete scaffolding cover.

known to be used in Philadelphia during the period. Like the shingles, these dormers reinstate a sense of the dramatic, sculptural quality of the original roof design. The deteriorated 1976 balustrade at the top of the Mansion roof was replaced using period molding profiles and reusing the existing 1926-era wooden balusters, which were restored and reinstalled.

Project Team

Client/owner: Philadelphia Museum of Art
David deMuzio, senior conservator of furniture and woodwork
Robert Morrone, AIA, director of facilities and operations

Architect: John Milner Architects, Chadds Ford, Pa.
John D. Milner, FAIA, principal-in-charge
Daniel T. Campbell, AIA, project architect

Structural Engineer: Gredell and Associates, Wilmington, Del.
Gary W. Gredell, PE

Contractor: Unkefer Brothers Construction Co., Philadelphia

Daniel T. Campbell, AIA, is a senior associate at John Milner Architects in Chadds Ford, Pa., specializing in the preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive use of historic buildings; design of sensitive additions to historic buildings; and the design of new buildings in traditional styles. He can be reached at dcampbell@johnmilnerarch.com.



Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page | Email this page

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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In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

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April 2004
 > December 2003
 > September 2003

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Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page



Email this page

HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows

Three long-time members and leaders of the AIA Historic Resources Committee were elected to the AIA College of Fellows and inducted into the College last June during the AIA 2006 National Convention in Los Angeles. The AIA College of Fellows, founded in 1952, comprises members of the Institute who are elected to Fellowship by a jury of their peers. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of the architect as an individual but also elevates before the public and the profession those architects who have made significant contributions to architecture and to society. The purpose of the College of Fellows is to stimulate a sharing of interests among Fellows, to promote the purposes of the Institute, to advance the profession of architecture, and to be of ever-increasing service to society.

Raymond Plumey, FAIA

Plumey is a member of the AIA/New York Chapter and principal of New York City-based Raymond Plumey, Architect & Planner, since 1988. He has been a member of the HRC Communications and Publications Subcommittee since 2002. In addition, he has served on the boards of directors of the AIA/New York Chapter and AIA/New York State, was a trustee of the New York Foundation for Architecture, and was former chair of the national AIA Diversity Committee.

His firm has received preservation design awards from the Municipal Art Society of New York and the New York Landmarks

Conservancy as well as preservation advocacy awards from the Historic Districts Council of New York. He lectures at the New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies on such subjects as historic preservation administration, zoning, building codes, construction documents, and professional practice. In 1979 he received the AIA/New York Chapter James Stewardson Traveling Fellowship to Italy for the study of historic preservation. In 2001 he studied historic preservation in France for six months under the Richard Morris Hunt Fellowship, sponsored by the American Architectural Foundation and the French Heritage Society. In 2006 he was appointed to the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) architectural school visiting teams, representing the AIA, for a period of five years beginning in 2007.



Raymond Plumey, FAIA

Jack Pyburn, FAIA

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005

Pyburn is vice chair of the AIA HRC. Historic preservation architecture and designing buildings compatible with historic settings have been a primary focus of Pyburn's professional career. His experience includes both careful restoration and rehabilitation and the thoughtful adaptive reuse of older buildings for modern productive functions. Capturing and securing the essential character-giving features in a historic property while sensitively integrating modern functions and features make each adaptive reuse project an exciting challenge.



Jack Pyburn, FAIA

Direct principal involvement in the firm's projects by Pyburn anchors his firm's commitment to quality design within an established budget and function. His clients range from a high-tech fiber optics manufacturer to county commissions. His design experience spans from master planning to designing complex building details to produce the desired result in a project.

Building project teams of engineers, conservators, and related professionals with an appreciation for the special character and requirements of historic properties is a hallmark of Pyburn's approach to historic preservation architecture. Prioritizing design decisions in relation to the project budget and, in preservation assignments, systematically eliminating the unknown conditions in the design process are cornerstones of an exceptional record in designing quality projects within the established budget.

Donna V. Robertson, FAIA

Robertson is dean of the College of Architecture and the John and Jeanne Rowe Chair at Illinois Institute of Technology. She has been an associate professor of architecture since June 1996. Her emphases at IIT are to update and invigorate the pedagogical and architectural heritage of the college, following an evolution from Mies van der Rohe's administration of 1938 to 1958 but anticipating the imperatives of the 21st century.



Donna V. Robertson, FAIA

From 1992 to 1996, Robertson served as dean of the Tulane University School of Architecture. A mayoral appointee to the Central Business District-Historic District Landmarks Commission in New Orleans, she worked to bring architectural integrity to design issues in the city. She is a partner in Robertson McAnulty Architects and has executed projects in New York City, New Orleans, Long Island, and Los Angeles.

Prior to her appointment at Tulane, from 1985 to 1992, Robertson directed the Architecture Program at Barnard College and was an assistant professor at Columbia University. Before that, she was an assistant professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She was a director on the National Architectural Accrediting Board, serving as president for 2003. She currently serves as a peer reviewer for the U.S. General Services Administration, as a board member of AIA Chicago, and on the AIA HRC

April 2004

› December 2003

› September 2003

Education Advisory Committee.

A respected published critic and lecturer, Robertson has received many awards and honors, including first place for the Arlington Country Courthouse Plaza Competition when she was senior designer with Kohn, Pedersen, Fox. She was featured two years ago in *Crain's Chicago Business* as one of "The Most Influential Women in Chicago" and listed as No. 23 of "30 Leaders Who Bridge Practice, Education" in *Design Intelligence Journal*.





Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | December 29, 2006



Print this page



Email this page

Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee

by Amanda Lehman, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP

One of the many exciting reasons for practicing architecture in New York City is the community's active engagement in the built environment. The [AIA New York](#) (AIA NY) Historic Building Committee (HBC) is part of the tapestry of preservation advocacy organizations, preservation technical consultants, neighborhood groups, community boards, and real estate organizations that together are taking a role in the stewardship of one of the city's most precious resources—its buildings. The AIA New York HBC seeks to encourage dialogue and education about New York City's rich variety of historic buildings and districts through programming on many different scales: symposiums, lectures, tours, and committee meetings. Additionally, the HBC participates in review and testimony before the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYC LPC) through the AIA NY Policy Board.

As part of New York City's ongoing private-public dialogue about development, the HBC cosponsored this year's symposium, "Architecture as Public Policy: Far West Side." The timely symposium focused on the implementation of policy initiatives by concentrating on Manhattan's West Side redevelopment. The half-day event of panels and presentations examined the tremendous change in development possibilities through city and state actions and investment, including a major rezoning for office and residential uses, extension of the No. 7 subway line, designation of the High Line as a "rails-to-trails" park project, and the continuing construction of the Hudson River Park. A featured presentation was the new scheme for the Farley Post Office as the new Penn Station presented by SOM.

This past year's programming also included a screening of Peter Rosen's film, ["Workshop for Peace: The Creation of the United Nations Headquarters."](#) The film goes behind the scenes and tells the story of how an international group of architects turned the lofty ideals of the UN charter and the hopes of the international community for global security into a landmark architectural complex of glass, steel, and marble. Following the film was a lively panel discussion about the development and current importance of the UN. The panel included architect Steven Holl, AIA; Thaddeus Crapster, the only surviving UN architect in America; and Susan Farkas, chief, UN Radio and Television Service.

The HBC yearly programming includes tours of historic landmarks, often combined with technical presentations of restoration or conservation practices. Last year's tour of the Battery Maritime Building by Jan Pokorny's office included the building's history, material conservation, and breathtaking views of New York Harbor and Governors Island from the top of the building. This year the Central Park Conservancy graciously hosted an in-depth tour of the restoration of Central Park's Bethesda Terrace Arcade. The arcade project includes the restoration of an encaustic ceramic

In This Issue

- › Letter from the Chair
- › Good News for Preservation of Modern Landmarks at Great Lakes
- › Adaptive Reuse of Gas Station Wins Preservation Award
- › After Katrina, HRC Members Donate Time and Expertise
- › HRC Shares Knowledge at NTHP Preservation Conference
- › Building Bridges at Cranbrook
- › Award-Winning Restoration Took Comprehensive Approach
- › Mohawk Heritage: A New Resource for Preservation Professionals
- › The Truth that No One Speaks: Nothing Lasts Forever
- › HRC Members Inducted into AIA College of Fellows
- › Featured Chapter: AIA New York Historic Building Committee
- › AIA Historic Preservation Book List

Archive

- › December 2009
- › September 2009
- › June 2009
- › March 2009
- › February 2009
- › September 2008
- › June 2008
- › March 2008
- › December 2007
- › Summer 2007
- › March 2007
- › December 2006
- › September 2006
- › July 2006
- › March 2006
- › January 2006
- › August 2005
- › March 2005
- ›

tile ceiling—unique because it is believed to be the only installation of its kind in the world. The HBC members were able to observe the whole conservation and preservation process by touring not only the Arcade site but also the restoration workshops.

HBC meetings have included roundtable discussions as an opportunity for architects to consider current issues. Last month the meeting included a roundtable about rooftop additions on historic buildings and buildings in historic districts. The roundtable began with a thorough presentation given by Cook + Fox Architects about an NYC LPC-approved rooftop addition in the recently designated Gansevoort Historic District. The presentation documented the LPC public hearing procedure as well as the architects' design process prior to and in response to the public hearing. A passionate discussion ensued about both the presentation and other rooftop additions and projects currently before the LPC.

Looking ahead, the HBC will continue to cosponsor events with other AIA NY committees to meet the topic requests not only of the committee members but also of the AIA as a whole. The HBC also looks forward to including a wider audience of professionals in the committee's programming outreach.

Amanda Lehman, LEED AP, practices at Cook+Fox Architects in New York City.

April 2004
» December 2003
» September 2003