



# Preservation Architect

The Newsletter of The Historic Resources Committee | January 18, 2006



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## Upcoming Conferences and Events

**From all on the AIA Historic Resources Committee Advisory Group  
and the Communications and Publications Subcommittee,  
Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!**

### *HRC Communications and Publications Subcommittee*

Kwendeche, AIA (chair)—Little Rock  
Raymond Plumey, AIA—Raymond Plumey, Architect & Planner, New York City  
Steven Spurlock, AIA—WNUK Spurlock Architecture, Washington, D.C.  
David N. Fixler, AIA—Einhorn Yaffee Prescott A/E, Boston  
Don A. Swofford, FAIA—DASA Architects, Planners & Conservators, Charlottesville, Va.

### *HRC Advisory Group*

Michael J. Mills, FAIA (chair)—Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects, Princeton, N.J.  
James J. Malanaphy III, AIA (vice chair)—Anchorage  
Jack H. Pyburn, AIA—Jack Pyburn Architect, Atlanta  
Sharon Park, FAIA—National Park Service, Washington, D.C.  
David Woodcock, FAIA—Texas A&M University, College Station, Tex.

### *HRC Project Manager*

Kathleen L. Lane, Assoc. AIA—Professional Practice, The American Institute of Architects, Washington, D.C.

### Calendar of 2006 Preservation Events

Check out a complete list of events that will include HRC-sponsored sessions or programs as well as many of the major conferences sponsored by other organizations.

## In the News

### AIA Sessions Attract Interest at NTHP Conference

*by James J. Malanaphy III, AIA*

The AIA HRC presented three successful full-day workshops and the annual HRC Affinity Breakfast at the 2005 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference: "Sustain America—Vision, Economics, and Preservation." The U.S. Custom House in Portland, Ore., and the inspiring urban landscapes of Lawrence Halprin offered picturesque sites for HRC hands-on workshops in historic-assessment methods and the federal historic preservation tax credit program.

### Year in Review: Historic Preservation and the 109th Congress

*by Heather McIntosh, president, Preservation Action*

Even without the worst hurricane season on record, 2005 was a stormy year for preservation in Congress. Pressure to reduce the budget deficit and strong support for private property rights propelled many threatening ideas through Congress. The overwhelming needs brought about by Hurricane Katrina, and then Rita and Wilma, reshuffled the congressional agenda virtually overnight.

### Ann Webster Smith Wins Gazzola Prize

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) honored Ann Webster Smith of Washington, D.C., with the highest international award that ICOMOS bestows on an individual: the Piero Gazzola Prize. Smith, chair emerita of the United States Committee of ICOMOS, accepted the award on October 17, 2005, at the 15th ICOMOS General Assembly in Xi'an, China. Many in the global heritage conservation community consider the Gazzola Prize to be the closest equivalent to a Nobel Prize in Heritage Conservation.



Attendees of the "Historic Landscape Assessment" workshop at the NTHP Conference toured Forecourt Fountain and other Portland, Ore., landscapes designed by Lawrence Halprin. (Photo by James J. Malanaphy III, AIA)

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**Prince of Wales Accepts Scully Prize**

The National Building Museum presented its **Vincent Scully Prize** to the Prince of Wales on November 3, 2005. The award recognized the prince's long-standing interest in the built environment and commitment to creating urban areas with human scale. In his acceptance speech in the museum's Great Hall, Prince Charles focused on issues of traditional urbanism and sustainability.

**Winners of the 2005 Charles E. Peterson Prize**

Eight architecture students from Louisiana Tech University won first place in the 2005 measured-drawings competition, followed by teams of students from Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, Bucks County (Md.) Community College, and the Art Institute of Chicago. The annual prize program seeks to increase understanding and awareness of historic buildings throughout the United States while also adding to the permanent collection of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) at the Library of Congress.

**Roundtable on Sustainable Design: Preservation and Utilization of the Existing Built Environment**

The fourth AIA Roundtable on Sustainable Design focused on historic resources and continued use or reuse of existing buildings—addressing areas of both common ground and perceived tensions between preservation traditionalists and advocates of green-building and smart-growth.

**Features**

**HRC Conference Report: "Historic Preservation in Professional Architecture Education: An International Dialogue"**  
*by David Woodcock, FAIA*

This international meeting—held September 11-14, 2005, in Bath, England—continued the Preservation Education Initiative begun with meetings in Washington, D.C., in November 2004 and January 2005. More than 50 participants received an international overview from which to examine educational practice in the United States, including presentations on European programs relevant to the initiative's goal: to integrate preservation-related values, knowledge, and skills into first professional architecture degree programs.



Conference reception at Bath Guildhall.  
(Photo courtesy of James Rhodes, FAIA)



Principal facade, Prudhomme-Rouquier House, Natchitoches, La.  
(Drawing courtesy of Guy Carwile, AIA)

**Historic Resource Documentation at Louisiana Tech University**

*by Guy W. Carwile, AIA*

Since 1991, Louisiana Tech has offered one course per year devoted to historic resource documentation to Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) standards. Each year, 4 to 12 students from the School of Architecture enroll in the course and are responsible for field data collection and the production of the measured drawings. Louisiana Tech's documentary subject matter ranges from the vernacular to high-style architecture, with construction dating from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century. Building types represented include houses, cottages, churches, cabins, barns, plantation houses, supermarkets, and tourist courts of American, Anglo, Creole, and/or African cultural influences.

**Rebuilding the Mosaic Templars of America Headquarters: An Update**

As demolition work on the ruined site got underway last August, the construction crew made an astonishing discovery: a rare collection of original documents offered by members of the Mosaic Templars that had been bricked over during a commemorative ceremony back in 1913. Hidden for nearly a century in a chiseled time capsule atop the structure's granite cornerstone, the artifacts survived mold, grime, hungry rodents, and a devastating fire in early 2005 that destroyed the whole building. After several weeks of intense work, an Arkansas History Commission archivist restored those artifacts.



Conceptual design of Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, Little Rock.  
(Courtesy of Thomas Jameson Jr., AIA)

**Preservation Knowledge and**

Networks

Call for Entries

2006 Charles E. Peterson Prize

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, and The American Institute of Architects (AIA) announce the 2006 Charles E. Peterson Prize, which annually recognizes the best set of measured drawings prepared by students to HABS standards and donated to HABS by students.

Preservation Opportunities

Heritage Conservation Workshop Series

Heritage Conservation Network's hands-on workshops for architectural and site conservation present an excellent opportunity for preservation, architecture, and art conservation students to gain practical experience while contributing to the success of a preservation project. Topics for 2006 include documentation and assessment; stucco, adobe, and masonry conservation; and structural repairs at locations in the United States, Mexico, and Slovenia. For more information, see the Web site at [www.heritageconservation.net/workshops.htm](http://www.heritageconservation.net/workshops.htm).

UNLV Seeks Statements of Qualifications for Planning and Architectural Services

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SQOs) for preservation planning, master planning, and historic architectural services for Walking Box Ranch (WBR 0602). The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be posted January 23, 2006, on the [UNLV Planning and Construction Web site](#). For further information, contact UNLV Planning and Construction at 702-895-2500.

Recent Preservation Publications

"Reconceptualizing the History of the Built Environment in North America"

Harvard University's Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History is pleased to make available the full-text proceedings of the center's Spring 2005 conference, "Reconceptualizing the History of the Built Environment in North America." The conference brought together the several generations that have contributed to the field to discuss the current state of built-environment studies and set an agenda for future work. Keynote speakers outlined the history and evolution of the field. Three paper sessions followed, each addressing a cutting-edge issue. The first panel investigated racial dimensions of the built environment, the second considered the North American built environment in comparative perspective, and the third analyzed how the built environment has been disseminated to public audiences. A final roundtable discussed with the audience the future of built environment studies in the United States. For more information, see [www.fas.harvard.edu/~cwc/builtenv/](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cwc/builtenv/).

Other Preservation Resources

HeritageWatch

HeritageWatch, a nonprofit organization working to preserve Cambodia's cultural heritage, has launched a new Web site at [www.heritagewatch.org](http://www.heritagewatch.org). HeritageWatch continues its efforts to reduce the impact of cultural heritage destruction in Southeast Asia and has been a grant recipient from the prestigious United States Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation for the second year in a row.

HRC Member and Component News

AIA Atlanta Reactivates Historic Resources Committee

To better serve and engage its members and other constituents, AIA Atlanta is in the process of organizing and energizing active Knowledge Communities, among them the Historic Resources Committee. The effort coincides with the increasing professional attention to preservation in the Southeast. The Atlanta HRC has planned several 2006 events, including public tours, lectures, and establishment of a continuing education program focused on preservation knowledge.

List of State and Local HRCs

Get involved! Check out a complete list of state and local AIA components that have formed Historic Resources Committees, complete with contact names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.



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## ***AIA Sessions Attract Interest at NTHP Conference***

by James J. Malanaphy III, AIA

Historic Resources Committee members joined other preservation leaders from across the country last September in Portland, Ore., at the [2005 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference: "Sustain America—Vision, Economics, and Preservation."](#) It was truly a great conference, with many dynamic and moving presentations at plenary sessions and special events, valuable education sessions, entertaining and informative tours, and the chance to join with peers and to recognize and honor recent preservation projects completed around the country. In addition to the many contributions of individual and local AIA HRC members who helped with tours, events, and sessions throughout the conference, the HRC presented three full-day preservation workshops and hosted the annual AIA HRC Affinity Breakfast. Attendance was excellent, the Affinity Breakfast had a great turnout, and all three HRC workshops sold out.

## **Beautiful Portland Settings for HRC Workshops**

Two of the HRC workshops—"Preparing a Historic Structure Report" and "Certifying Federal Tax Credit Projects"—used Portland's 1901 [United States Custom House](#) as a hands-on laboratory. The General Services Administration, Northwest and Arctic Region, provided access to this beautiful building. Participants enjoyed a guided tour of this full-block palazzo designed in the Second Renaissance Revival architectural style, replete with classical detailing from its foundation to its twin rooftop flagpoles. Classical organization and details prevail inside and out; elements from the Italian Renaissance, Mannerist, and Baroque periods were created from materials such as marble, terrazzo, plaster, and oak on the interior and granite, terra-cotta, roman brick, cast iron, and slate on the exterior.



Detail of U.S. Custom House, Portland  
(Photo by Victoria T. Jacobson, AIA)

### **"Preparing a Historic Structure Report"**

**workshop.** HRC members Victoria T. Jacobson, AIA; Alfred M. Staehli, FAIA, FAPT; and Barbara Campagna, AIA, joined fellow GSA representative Kelly Sarver-Lenderink and guest presenter Everett Shigeta, preservation architect for the City of Denver, to lead the investigation of the U.S. Custom House. Workshop attendees were shown how to assess the historic significance and condition of contributing and noncontributing architectural features of the building, site, structure,

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Rooftop flagpole of U.S. Custom House, Portland  
(Photo by Victoria T. Jacobson, AIA)

systems, interior and exterior finishes, and how to prepare recommendations for the building's future treatment and use. The workshop successfully demonstrated the importance of using a qualified interdisciplinary team to conduct a thorough assessment before beginning the rehabilitation of any historic building. Workshop participants were also provided reference materials and information documenting the evolution of the historic structure assessment process developed by the National Park Service and providing guidance on how to complete each necessary task.

**"Certifying Federal Tax Credit Projects" workshop.** The U.S. Custom House also played host to a presentation of how planned rehabilitation of the U.S. Custom House could meet the criteria of the federal historic preservation tax credit program. The presenters included HRC members Elizabeth Boggs Kittas, AIA; Sharon Park, FAIA; and Barbara Campagna, AIA. Joining them were fellow GSA representative Douglas Foster; Gary Sachau, the National Park Service's Oregon tax program reviewer; and Joy Sears, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office's tax program reviewer. Attendees also learned the history of the tax credit program and how to successfully complete the application forms before touring the building in order to identify the architectural character defining features of the building and develop a rehabilitation plan using the certification form.

**"Conducting a Historic Landscape Assessment" workshop.** Light rain didn't dampen enthusiasm as Aaron Tuley, ASLA; Steve Koch, ASLA; Michael J. Mills, FAIA; John Russell of Russell Development Company; and National Trust Advisor Karen Jessup led an exploration of the superb collection of urban landscapes that constitute Lawrence Halprin's inspiring series of spaces—Source Fountain, Lovejoy Fountain, Pettygrove Park, and Forecourt Fountain—that were so instrumental in the success of the South Auditorium Redevelopment District in the 1960s. Landscapes present an interesting challenge to those interested in their maintenance and preservation. The "Historic Landscape Assessment" workshop introduced attendees to the principles and skills used to identify and analyze the form, structure, and function of a historically significant designed landscape. Landscape terminology was applied to the existing typologies found in Portland's Halprin collection, including its systems of circulation, vegetation, lighting, and its supporting structures and furnishings. Contributing and noncontributing features of the landscapes were inventoried and evaluated



Halprin-designed Pettygrove Park  
(Photo by James J. Malanaphy, AIA)

for significance and material condition as members discussed issues to be resolved during rehabilitation: public access, security, treatment, management, and interpretation.

### **Annual Breakfast Honors Murtaugh, Presents Staehli Lecture**

At the HRC Affinity Breakfast, Alfred M. Staehli, FAIA, FAPT, entertained fellow HRC members with an informative retrospective of his preservation work throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Attendees also honored preservation giant William J. Murtaugh, PhD.



Halprin's Forecourt Fountain  
(Photo by James J. Malanaphy, AIA)

HRC Advisory Group Chair Michael J. Mills, FAIA, had the honor of presenting Murtaugh with a Presidential Citation from 2005 AIA President Douglas Steidl, FAIA. A giant in the field of historic preservation and former keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Murtaugh had been attending a book signing at the NTHP meeting to mark the publication of the third revision of his classic text, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America*. With his typical wry wit, Murtaugh charmed the audience with vignettes from his career and stressed the importance of teaching new generations of students about the value of historic preservation.

Longtime HRC member Staehli, in his breakfast address, kindly credited the HRC with being an important technical resource and source of support during the early phases of his career. A lifelong Portlander, Staehli began his own practice in 1972. His projects include restoration and renovation of many notable buildings and sites, including the Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum in John Day, Ore.; Old College Hall at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore.; the Pittock Mansion in Portland; and the Oregon State Capitol in Salem. A dedicated member of [The Association for Preservation Technology International](#) (APT) and the AIA HRC for more than 30 years, Staehli has been the de facto advisor for an entire generation of preservation professionals in the Northwest. He is currently advocating for better standards for preservation architects, which might ultimately lead to certification in the field.



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## *Year in Review: Historic Preservation and the 109th Congress*

Heather McIntosh, president, Preservation Action

Even without the worst hurricane season on record, 2005 was a stormy year for preservation in Congress. Pressure to reduce the budget deficit and strong support for private property rights propelled many threatening ideas through Congress that still might have great and lasting negative impact on historic resources nationwide.

Due to news reports of abuses to the **conservation easement program**—the only federal tax incentive for owners of historic homes—a January 27, 2005, report from the Joint Committee on Taxation proposed to gut the program by eliminating easement donations on owner-occupied properties and significantly reducing the allowable donation for nonresidential properties.

Days later, the president released his budget recommendations for FY2006, including cuts to most agencies and the elimination of programs that were determined inefficient. The **Historic Preservation Fund** saw an overall \$5.5 million cut, which was relatively minor compared with proposals for other programs such as the **Community Development Block Grant** program and state grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, both of which were cut from the budget altogether. The CDBG program, perennially threatened with elimination, has funded rehabilitation of historic buildings and scored relatively high in [Preservation Action's](#) Grassroots 2006 poll. The CDBG program was not only zeroed out in the president's budget but also was recommended for a move to the Department of Commerce.

Soon after the president's budget news, preservationists were again put on the defensive by a discussion draft circulating within the House of Representatives Resources Committee calling for changes to the **National Historic Preservation Act**. These changes would reduce the scope of **Section 106 review**, that is, the review of potential impacts to historic resources when federal dollars are involved in projects such as the construction of cell towers or highways. The changes coincided with the pending reauthorization of funding for the president's [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#) as well as deposits from offshore oil lease revenue into the Historic Preservation Fund.

On June 23, 2005, the Supreme Court ruled that the City of New London, Conn., was correct in its **"taking"** of historic private property (that is, homes) for the purposes of economic development—a decision that sparked a public outcry and congressional protest. Opposition to the ruling generated many separate pieces of legislation conceived to discourage the taking of private property for the purposes of economic development. Most legislation recommended removing or disallowing federal funding to states and municipalities that use **eminent domain** for economic development—meaning CDBG funds and other invaluable federal sources of support for

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urban revitalization. The National Conference of Mayors took a stand against anti-takings legislation, and later in the session, when the first anti-takings bill was passed with overwhelming support in the House of Representatives, those voting no stood out. Two-term Dayton Mayor Michael Turner (R-Ohio), now congressman and Republican cochair of the historic preservation caucus, voted against the bill.

The overwhelming needs brought about by Hurricane Katrina, followed by Rita and Wilma, reshuffled the congressional agenda virtually overnight. The first, and most disastrous, storm beat down and flooded large historic sections along the Gulf of Mexico in late August and generated film footage and photographs of striking and seemingly insurmountable suffering and need. The place of historic resources, within this context, seemed to fall quickly into the general category of “rebuilding”—the initial relief packages were designed to support human services and housing the displaced hundreds of thousands; the initial tax relief package facilitated private donations to the relief effort and other immediate needs.

Daily reports of federal spending in the Gulf prompted total rebuilding estimates of \$200 billion or more. In a budget year focused on downsizing and debt reduction, this excessive demand on resources pointed toward tough and potentially disastrous decisions that might be made to generate revenue for hurricane relief offset funds. The extant drive to sell off federal land was quickly sucked into the flurry of ideas for this reason. One of the worst ideas—to sell fifteen National Parks (including historic sites) for the purposes of economic development or energy production—was shot down within a few days of its official introduction.

In October 2005, preservationists waited for word on the success of a proposal to provide incentives for rehabilitation activity in damaged areas by allowing a temporary historic home owner's tax credit, grants for contributing buildings (including homes) within historic districts, and other means of preservation support. In November 2005, in a House of Representatives tax relief bill focused on the hurricane-damaged Gulf, preservation saw a meager, temporary 3 percent increase to the existing tax credit program, and no help for owners of historic homes. The good news is the Community Development Block Grant program was not only saved, but will likely see a FY2006 appropriation higher than last year. This is due, in part, to the need for the program as a means of supporting rebuilding in the Gulf, and in part from general support for the program within Congress and in communities nationwide.

While the issue of amending the easement program is now coming to a reasonable conclusion—the Senate Finance Committee recently passed a bill focusing on easements in historic districts (no more façade easements, easements will only be granted if all sides of a property are restricted from alteration), and that proscribes standards for appraisers and penalties for misstatements—many threats to federal preservation policy are now, as of December 2005, unresolved.





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## 2005 Symposium: Historic Preservation and Architecture Education: An International Dialogue

By David Woodcock, FAIA

The international meeting—held September 11-14, 2005, in Bath, England—continued the Preservation Education Initiative begun with meetings in Washington, D.C., in November 2004 and January 2005. The program for the conference in Bath added an international perspective from which to examine educational practice in the United States. The meeting was held with the support of the Conservation of Historic Buildings Program at the University of Bath, headed by Michael Forsyth, PhD, RIBA.



Conference attendees gather for a reception in the Bath Guildhall. (Photo courtesy of James Rhodes, FAIA)

In his keynote address, Jukka Jokilehto, PhD—an architect and city planner from Rome and formerly with the [International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property](#) (ICCROM)—presented a time line on preservation education and noted an increased acknowledgment that heritage must include both intangible and tangible components and that education is a mix of knowledge, skills, and attitude.



HRC Advisory Group Chair Michael J. Mills, FAIA, greets the Mayor of Bath. (Photo courtesy of James Rhodes, FAIA)

Along with Forsyth, John Fidler, RIBA, of [English Heritage](#), and John Ashurst, an architect and director of Ingram Conservation Consultancy, described current preservation education in the UK. They noted that English Heritage was in a position to demand that only qualified professionals work on grant-aided projects and that the craft skills, long separated from professional education, were essential to good conservation practice.

Donna Robertson, AIA, dean of the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology, introduced George Ferguson, RIBA, Hon. AIA (immediate past president of the [Royal Institute of British Architects](#) [RIBA]), who stressed the need to see conservation as part of sustainable design with a life-cycle perspective, a belief in crafts, and insisted that integrity was the essential value in design. "Our

job is to make better places, not iconic objects," Ferguson said. Architect Gionata Rizzi of Milan, Italy, noted that Italian conservation architects had separate training with extensive internship experience. "Conservation is an intellectual adventure, theoretical, philosophical and scientific in nature," Rizzi said. James W. Rhodes, FAIA (Preservation Design, Croton-on-Hudson,

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N.Y.) called for education that is a “fusion of the design process, technical knowledge, and an understanding of crafts and skills.” He stressed the value of judgment, not just a reliance on science. In a discussion session these speakers called for a common early training for all designers and noted that “conservation is a problem of balancing culture and creativity.”

Gustavo F. Araoz, AIA, executive director of the [U.S. Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites](#) (US/ICOMOS), moderated a session on programs in Spain, Belgium, and France and explained the European intention set out in the [Bologna Declaration](#) that identifies the intent of degree programs in architecture. Conservation should be integrated into architecture. It was noted that in France, as in Italy, the privilege of working on significant heritage buildings is limited to a select group of architects with special qualifications.

Theodore C. Landsmark, PhD, Assoc. AIA (president of the Boston Architectural Center and president-elect of the [Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture](#) [ACSA]) made an impassioned plea for “better understanding of politics, not see[ing] conservation as depending on the passions of individual personnel on a faculty, avoiding the cult of personality and hero designers, and developing a perspective on architects as custodians of the built environment.” Jonathan C. Spodek, AIA, of Ball State University described a collaboration with the school in Milan. Loughlan Kealy (Dublin) discussed a comprehensive educational program and called for “conservationists to be embedded in, and reinforcing, community tradition.” He supported the belief of Bernard Tschumi, AIA, that “architects must go beyond the provision of shelter, and challenge society’s perceptions and ways of thinking.” Kecia Fong and Jeffrey W. Cody, Assoc. AIA, discussed international work by the [Getty Conservation Institute](#), and Tom Sheehan described the nature of the The American School at Fontainebleau, the successor to the Ecole de Beaux Arts, Paris.



Meeting participants tour Wells Cathedral (begun in 1180), focusing on the stone conservation of the architecture and sculpture.

(Photo courtesy of James Rhodes, FAIA)

## Summary Observations

In his summary session, David Woodcock, FAIA, of Texas A&M University reviewed the content of the previous sessions and identified six questions that had emerged as central to the integration of conservation and preservation into architecture education:

1. How would you raise the level of understanding of the building process—materials, construction, crafts, and trades—in a first professional degree program?
2. What is the relation between “regeneration” and invention? “Making a better place, not iconic objects”? How can we address this in schools? To the power structures? To the public?
3. “Conservation is an intellectual adventure—theoretical, philosophical, scientific...” Is this true of architecture education and practice today? If so, how can we advocate, encourage, and support this “adventure” in schools and practice through the AIA Historic

## Resources Committee?

4. Is conservation a specific discipline warranting two kinds of architects? If so, what should we insist is common to the preparation of all architects?
5. Is it inevitable that students (and perhaps the public) are attracted to “heroic” architects who make “iconic objects”? What could schools (we) do to make broader, more inclusive perspectives about the nature of architecture as being “the making (and managing) of better places”?
6. What will be the major drivers of change in our field in the next five years? How can schools (and we) be proactive in making these shape the “intellectual adventure” of architecture education for all students?

The 50-plus participants in this session were divided into four groups, self-selected so that each included group professionals and educators from AIA/HRC, international speakers, and student scholarship winners. The groups—moderated by Jokilehto; Sue Ann Pemberton, AIA; Elizabeth Corbin Murphy, FAIA; and Joseph K. Oppermann, FAIA—had 45 minutes to use the questions as the basis for discussion on the basic issue of preservation education within architecture education.

The moderators then formed a panel to report the major points developed during the discussions. The broad responses have been developed as a group of suggestions and observations rather than specific answers to the questions.

## Discussion Group Reports

1. How can we raise the level of understanding of the building process in a first professional degree program in architecture?

- a. Integrate the missions of construction, materials, and building failures into history of architecture courses—including modern architecture.
- b. Make technology exciting by using materials, physical contact, making and testing, materials labs.
- c. Introduce old texts on building construction, historical details, and so on in courses on building technology.
- d. Visit building sites, manufacturing plants (note growing problems for legal liability and other issues for fieldwork generally).
- e. Bring in professionals (including crafts and trades) to talk about case studies that might parallel a design studio project.
- f. Introduce heritage and conservation issues to 12- to 18-year-old students (note that this generation is conscious of need to recycle materials).
- g. Keep pressure on NAAB.

2. How can we address “making a better place, not iconic objects” in schools?

- a. Emphasize the significance of context, including social, physical, and cultural issues of intangible heritage.
- b. Faculty interest and good programs are essential.
- c. Develop a broader appreciation for history.

- d. Send “professional hit squads” to schools to bring case studies that demonstrate conservation and intervention as creative and challenging practice experiences. (Noted reluctance of schools to make time for, and financially support, such visitations—the schools promulgate the “architect as hero” by their selection of highly published architects.)
- e. Note that, in conservation, the building becomes the hero!

3. Should there be two professions—creators and curators? What is common to both?

- a. This idea was resoundingly rejected, particularly as it relates to a first professional degree training, though specialized instruction at a graduate level was deemed appropriate.
- b. “Architects are specialists at generalization”; conservation is a part of architecture. “Architects manage change.”
- c. Educational standards on materials and construction (seeing these issues as integral to design) must be raised.
- d. “Preservation design” is often the weakest link in preservation education.
- e. Introduce conservation issues into the curriculum from the beginning.
- f. Change is part of a continuum.

4. How can we make students, faculty, policy makers, and the public more aware of conservation as an exciting “intellectual adventure” with creative overtones?

- a. Use the media—start with the friendly ones! (Note HGTV in the U.S. and its support of the National Trust by grant programs.)
- b. Highlight “Buildings as Heroes.”
- c. Work with campus awareness to upper administration and student body generally—visibility for the “value added” by architects and architecture.

5. Major drivers of change?

- a. Inspiring the teacher.
- b. Climate, resource scarcity, failing modern materials (e.g., 1960s), heritage tourism.
- c. Market-driven preservation.
- d. Sustainability as central to a dynamic design field—learning from the past.
- e. Culture identity and intangible heritage.

The international dialogue continued in informal sessions and field visits during the two days. The AIA HRC Education Task Group held a Washington, D.C., meeting in January 2006 and is excited to be collaborating with ACSA for the 2006 Teachers Seminar to be held at Cranbrook, Mich., June 15-18, 2006, for which Robertson of IIT and Pyburn of AIA/HRC are co-chairs.





# Preservation Architect

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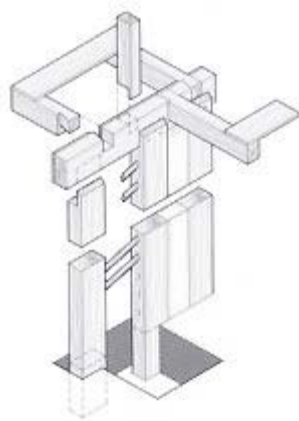
## Historic Resource Documentation at Louisiana Tech University

by Guy W. Carwile, AIA

Louisiana Tech University's School of Architecture is relatively small by national standards, at 150 students; the university proper is of medium size with approximately 11,000 students and is located in the small town of Ruston in North Louisiana, which has approximately 10,000 permanent residents. Architecture education at Louisiana Tech emphasizes design excellence informed by ethics; an appreciation of cultural, social, and physical contexts; and an understanding of the relationship between "what has been" and "what could be" as measures of design excellence.



*Principal facade, Prudhomme-Rouquier House, Natchitoches, La.*



*Construction isometric, Badin-Roque House, Natchez, La.*

Since 1991, Louisiana Tech has offered one course per year devoted to historic resource documentation to Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) standards. Each year, 4 to 12 students from the School of Architecture enroll in the course and are responsible for field data collection and the production of the measured drawings. Typically, the documentation is underwritten by federally funded flow-through grants administered by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Division of Historic Preservation, in Baton Rouge. The documentary subject matter for any given year is a function of the physical proximity of the resource to the university and the goals and objectives of the granting agency. When complete, the drawings and related materials from the documentation project are submitted to HABS en

route to the Library of Congress and the Louisiana State Archives, simultaneously adding to the national and statewide databases for historic resources.

Louisiana Tech's documentary subject matter ranges from the vernacular to high style architecture, with construction dating from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century. Building types represented include houses, cottages, churches, cabins, barns, plantation houses,



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supermarkets, and tourist courts of American, Anglo, Creole, and/or African cultural influences.

*Principal facade, Beau Fort plantation house, Natchez, La.*



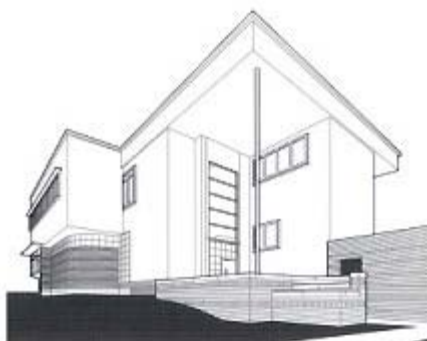
*Exterior view, Big Chain Store—Broadmoor, Shreveport, La. (Image courtesy of the Archives and Special Collections Division, Noel Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Shreveport)*

Many of the documented structures are unique and peculiar to the northern half of Louisiana from which Tech selects documentation projects, such as the following: (1) the Badin-Roque house, circa 1833 and documented in 2000, Louisiana's only surviving example of *poteuax-en-terre* (post-in-earth) construction; (2) the Big Chain Store, circa 1940 and documented in 2003, probably the most significant pre-World War II grocery store built in the United States outside of Los Angeles; (3) the Hotel Palomar Courts, circa 1937-38 and documented in 2002, the only free-

standing, cottage-type tourist court remaining in the state; and (4) the Samuel G. Wiener House, circa 1937 and documented in 2004, probably the most significant early orthodox modern house in the southern United States. It is through the recordation of significant structures such as these that the documentation course at Louisiana Tech has made an impact.



*Interior stairwell, Samuel G. Wiener House, Shreveport, La.*



*Exterior perspective, Samuel G. Wiener House, Shreveport, La.*

Regardless of size or context, small universities like Louisiana Tech and scores of other similar institutions scattered across the United States can play a part in adding to the baseline of knowledge relative to historic architecture and the nation's historic resources database.

*Guy W. Carwile, AIA, is an architect and associate professor in the School of Architecture at Louisiana Tech University. A team of Louisiana Tech architecture students won the 2005 Charles E. Peterson Prize competition for measured drawings of historic buildings. Unless otherwise noted, all photographs and drawings are courtesy of Guy W. Carwile.*



# Preservation Architect

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## ***Rebuilding the Mosaic Templars of America Headquarters: An Update***

Restorative Powers: Archivist Completes Conservation of Cornerstone Find

As demolition work began last August at the ruined site of the [Mosaic Templars of America Headquarters Building](#), the construction crew made an astonishing discovery: a rare collection of documents that had been hidden in a chiseled time capsule atop the structure's granite cornerstone. After several weeks of intense work, Bob Devan, an archivist with the Arkansas History Commission, restored the artifacts, a set of 10 original documents offered by members of the Mosaic Templars and bricked over during a commemorative ceremony back in 1913. Hidden for nearly a century, the documents had survived mold, grime, hungry rodents, and a devastating fire in early 2005 that destroyed the whole building.

The documents were water stained, tattered, gnawed on by rodents and covered with mold, but perhaps salvageable. So they were taken to Devan, conservator at the Arkansas History Commission, an agency of the Department of Parks and Tourism. A 30-year veteran, Devan has conserved and restored countless historic Arkansas artifacts, but the cornerstone objects would prove a formidable task: Could he recondition them, and could he do it fast? Since staff members from the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center had planned a program featuring the treasures, Devan had only three weeks to do the conservation work.



Conceptual design of the planned Mosaic Templars Cultural Center by JAMESON Architects, Little Rock.  
(Rendering courtesy of Thomas L. Jameson Jr., AIA)

Devan didn't hesitate. He and his co-conservator Robert Williams set to work. Williams is a committed, regular volunteer at the commission who actually trained with Devan more than 20 years ago. Restoring just a single old document is a laborious affair that can involve more than a dozen procedures and take up to a week.

### **Document Conservation: A Painstaking Craft**

Ritual I and Ritual II, thin booklets describing some of the laws, forms and ceremonies of the Mosaic Templars, were the first to be conserved. The pages and covers were carefully rubbed with a special, eraser-like cleaning powder, and dust and mold were vacuumed off. Then, the documents were disassembled by removing old thread and bindings. Next, the book covers were reinforced with like materials, and the pages mended and deacidified. Finally, the text pages, new end sheets and covers were put back together

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with glue and linen thread. The last step called for a Mylar jacket that protects the newly restored document.

The result is amazing. When the Ritual booklets arrived at Devan's office, they were practically falling apart. Water and mildew stains obscured the lettering on the covers. The text pages showed tiny teeth marks left by rodents. Everything smelled of dust, mildew and dirt. In contrast, the professionally conserved booklets look clean and sturdy. Text pages and covers are solidly bound, all lettering is clearly visible. No unpleasant odors prevail.

The conservators say patience, a steady hand and extreme care are required to achieve this outcome and to prevent additional damage. In fact, the conservation process itself can potentially cause old, fragile paper to degrade even more. For example, liquid detergents can cause inks and colors to bleed. Or the glue can leave smear marks. Therefore, the conservators have to test each step on an inconspicuous area first and allow for long waiting periods to observe the results.

Devan's and Williams's office is located on the first floor of the "Big MAC" Building behind the State Capitol. The windowless space measures approximately 3,000 square feet and is really more of a workshop than a conventional office. Artifacts are everywhere: old books, newspapers, photographs, documents, letters, a Civil War rifle, several book presses and much more. To an outsider, it looks cluttered, but the conservators move easily among all the stuff and immediately know where to find everything. The personal touches add to the mix, such as William's oil paintings on the walls and a CD player playing Devan's original compositions as well as classical, jazz and country music.

A visitor watching Devan and Williams at work easily appreciates the high level of skill and efficiency each applies to the craft. Williams demonstrates how to conserve a set of old photographs. Donning white cotton gloves, he carefully places the pictures on a large polyester sheet that he has dusted with a rag. "This creates a static charge to hold them in place," he explains. Then he affixes double-sided tape, "always in the same order: right, top, left, bottom." The tape is trimmed, another sheet of Mylar placed on top and smoothed out, and finally, the corners are neatly clipped. Now the encapsulation is complete. The process takes only a few minutes, with every step done just so. Williams handles the materials deftly yet gently, completely engrossed in the task at hand. He follows the same routine every time, he notes, a routine which he has perfected over the many years working at the History Commission.

All of the artifacts found in the Mosaic Templars cornerstone were conserved in approximately six weeks, which means that several pieces were completed after the September 21 program by the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. "Templars Treasures: Cornerstone Artifacts and History from the Mosaic Templars National Headquarters Building" was held at the Main Library. It was cosponsored by MTCC and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

The cornerstone collection consists of an autobiography by M.W. Gibbs entitled *Shadow and Light*, five Mosaic Templars of America booklets describing the constitutions, general laws and rituals of the organization, a three-page, type-written History of the Temple and three sheets of stationery. For the time being, the artifacts are properly stored awaiting a



debut at the future Mosaic Templars Cultural Building—where they will be at home once again in the same historic site, West Ninth and Broadway Streets.

### **Fundraising Facts: Then and Now**

Among the artifacts found in the cornerstone is a three page, type-written ceremonial speech entitled History of the Temple, which had been drafted and delivered by Mosaic Templars co-founder and Grand Scribe, J. E. Bush, at a May 18, 1913, cornerstone commemoration. The speech offers critical insight into the Templars' successful strategy to raise funds to build the Headquarters Building. At one point, Bush noted that four years earlier, in June 1909, a permanent 20 cent tax had been levied on every Mosaic Templar member in order to pay for the construction. According to Bush, the "projected construction costs were not less than \$20,000."

Now, a century later, a major capital campaign is again underway, this time to build a new facility to house the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. The projected construction cost is \$5.5 million. The Cultural Center is still seeking \$1.5 million for construction and \$1 million for exhibits.

Construction on the new facility is expected to begin this fall. If sufficient funds are secured, the center could be completed by 2007 with a grand opening celebration planned for 2008.



# Adventures in Preservation

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**You don't know how much fun I had (we had) taking part in this project. I think it shows with the end result.**

Hänsel Hernandez, Architectural Conservator,  
New York City - Masonry Galleting,  
Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, Bronx, USA, 2008



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**Diana Barbera-Horowitz**

**Preservation  
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So pleased with the results of one workshop, she just had to try another, Diana credits:  
*The people, the people, the people -- the team effort was exceptional.*  
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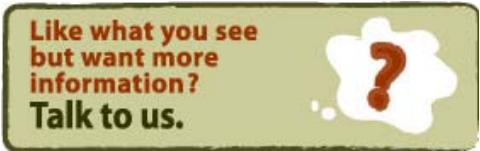
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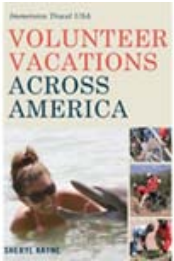
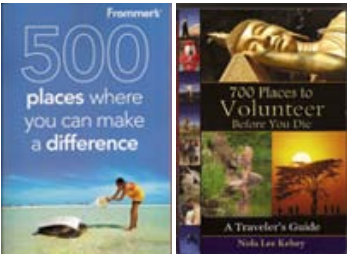
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REconceptualizing

THE History OF THE

Built Environment

IN North America

Conference Proceedings

THE HISTORICAL STUDY of the American built environment emerged in the 1970s as a multidisciplinary investigation of the social, political, and cultural processes that produce buildings and landscapes. Unlike architectural history, the field does not focus on the evolution of styles, the contributions of individual genius, or the canon of high-art architecture. Rather, it analyzes the complex processes behind construction and reception of ordinary buildings and their settings. This interest in the commonplace rather than the canonical, the many rather than the few, was influenced by similar developments in other disciplines including social and urban history, cultural geography, and material culture. During the 1980s scholars produced seminal works and established a set of methodological principles. More recent contributors to the field have employed the empirical tools of established fields with a contemporary theoretical sophistication.

THIS SITE CONTAINS full text of papers presented at the conference, "Reconceptualizing the History of the Built Environment in North America," which brought together the several generations which have contributed to the field. The conference discussed the current state of built environment studies and set an agenda for future work. Keynote speakers outlined the history and evolution of the field. Three paper sessions followed, each addressing a cutting edge issue in built environment studies. The first panel investigated racial dimensions of the built environment, the second considered the North American built environment in comparative perspective, and the third analyzed how the built environment has been disseminated to public audiences. A final roundtable discussed with the audience the future of built environment studies in the United States.

PRESENTED BY

Harvard University's  
**Charles Warren Center**  
for Studies in American History  
on April 29th and 30th, 2005

CO-SPONSORS

The conference was made possible by the [Radcliffe Institute](#) for Advanced Study, the [Harvard University Graduate School of Design](#), and the [A. Alfred Taubman Center](#) for State and Local Government at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Their support is gratefully acknowledged.





# Preservation Architect

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## ***AIA Atlanta Reactivates Historic Resources Committee***

To better serve and engage its members and other constituents, AIA Atlanta is in the process of organizing and energizing active Knowledge Communities, among them the Historic Resources Committee. The effort coincides with the increasing professional attention to preservation in the Southeast. Two indications of this attention are the recent establishment of a new Georgia Chapter of the International Working Party for Document and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement (DOCOMOMO-GA) and a new Southeast Region chapter of the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT).

Deborah Marcella Rehn, AIA, of the National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, is leading the effort to plan activities for next year that will benefit both AIA members and the greater Atlanta community. Her focus is to bring the mission and efforts of the national committee to the local level. These include " . . . to identify, understand, and preserve architectural heritage, both nationally and internationally . . . and to promote the role of the historic architect within the profession through the development of information and knowledge among members, allied professional organizations, and the public."

The AIA Atlanta HRC has set these 2006 goals:

- Providing opportunities for greater visibility of the work and expertise of HRC members through public tours, events and partnerships
- Organizing and expanding the efforts to distribute news and information between members of the Atlanta HRC  
Providing a forum for lectures and discussions including face-to-face exchange of news, developments, ideas and lessons learned
- Establishing a continuing education program that can potentially comprise the full range of preservation knowledge including: preservation theory, principles and design issues; preservation planning, legal and fiscal issues; and the latest most current science, technology and research for preservation
- Developing partnerships with local , national and international organizations whose work already shares and supports the mission of the national Historic Resources Committee Knowledge Community (HRC).

The first Atlanta HRC event was a presentation on the work of the national AIA Preservation Education Initiative by Jack Pyburn, AIA, chair of the task group. A lively discussion ensued between the attendees regarding their thoughts and experiences on preservation education in the professional architectural curriculum. Future events are currently being planned for next year.

For further information or if you have any comments, contact Deborah

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### AIA Minnesota

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