Newsletter of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

Fall 2009
Vol. 26 No. 3

SESAH News

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27th SESAH Annual Meeting
Jackson, Mississippi
October 28-31, 2009

U.S. Federal Courthouse, Jackson, Mississippi, designed by H^3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture of New York City. The six-story, 400,000-square foot, $120 million civic landmark is currently under construction.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in SESAH,

In scanning the pages of this issue of our newsletter, I am struck by the energy, productiveness, and diversity of our members' activities, which seem to jump from every page.

We can picture Ruth Little tromping through the brambles to explore the long-hidden 19th century house of an African-American family; Ellen Weiss illuminating audiences about the architecture of Tuskegee and dodging tornadoes in the meantime; Richard Guy Wilson and his colleagues assembling old tools and rare drawings for an exhibition on Jefferson's University of Virginia; and Rob Craig leading avid curators and SAH members through the echoing chambers of the USS *Intrepid* in New York.

We can also imagine (and appreciate) the hive of activity in Mississippi as Jennifer Baughn and Michael Fazio and their colleagues prepare for our meeting--putting the final touches on tour notes, checking and rechecking hotel arrangements and technology set-ups and buses and meals and venues; reviewing the list of registrants and wondering if certain speakers will actually register; and trying to keep up with their "day jobs" all the while.

The conference program encapsulates the energy and diversity of our organization. Our speakers come from a multitude of disciplines and institutions from our SESAH region and beyond. Some are SESAH stalwarts, while a promising number are "new faces," young professionals, and students. Their topics range far and wide. SESAH's mission encourages all types of architectural history scholarship, encompassing the architecture of our geographical region and also our members' work on all periods, locations, and types of architecture.

The papers therefore encompass topics from ancient Rome to fallout shelters, and from slave quarters to skyscrapers. As all of us know, each 20-minute presentation represents a tremendous investment in research, writing, and preparation. Even as I write, our members are pulling together their images, honing their arguments, and practicing their presentations. With over 50 papers for this meeting, the mind boggles at how many cumulative hours our colleagues are offering as a gift to us all.

Two years have sped by since I accepted the "trowel" of the SESAH presidency from David Gobel in Nashville. During that time, my admiration for SESAH has mounted, as I have witnessed the devotion, energy, and good cheer of all of those who make the organization thrive.

Did you know?

SESAH's emblem of the presidency is a trowel--representative of the building trades--which each outgoing president hands to the incoming president.

SESAH's award certificates feature a leaf motif representative of our region - -kudzu!

In our next newsletter, we would like to feature first-hand accounts of how these two symbolic motifs were chosen: write to Robbie!

Thanks especially to David, vice president Michael Fazio, treasurer Rob Craig, secretary David Sachs, newsletter editor Robbie Jones, "web weaver" Mikesch Muecke, journal editor Stephen James, and others always willing to give good counsel, accomplish tasks, and keep SESAH the lively and welcoming organization it is.

When I hand the presidential trowel over to Michael in Jackson, you can be sure that SESAH will be in very good hands.

Catherine Bishir
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC

Built in 1955-1956, the Florida Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee is a replica of Andrew Jackson's Hermitage in Nashville. President James Monroe appointed Jackson the military governor of Florida in 1821 after the U.S. acquired Spanish Florida. Jackson and his family and slaves lived in Pensacola. Palm Beach architect Marion Sims Wyeth, FAIA (1889-1982) designed the iconic landmark, which was National Register-listed in 2006.

FROM THE EDITOR

Architectural historians realize that architectural landmarks are more than good architectural design or examples of a particular architectural style or the work of a master architect. They are also important for their history, something often more difficult to quantify. We can easily identify a Grecian-style landmark like the Florida's Governor Mansion (above). But, besides being the home of an elected official, why is this particular building important? Why in the 1950s did Floridians build a replica of Andrew Jackson's colonnaded Tennessee plantation? Like you, I'm often more intrigued by why a building was designed in a particular architectural style than the style itself. To me, the stories behind the design are what makes our places relevant and worth documenting and ultimately saving. That being said, I'd like to invite SESAH members to send me examples of iconic buildings in your state along with the stories behind their design. We'll publish these in future issues of the *SESAH Newsletter*. See you in Jackson!

Robbie D. Jones
Editor, *SESAH Newsletter*
Parsons Brinckerhoff
1900 Church Street, Suite 203
Nashville, TN 37203
robbiejones4@comcast.net

Send correspondence and submissions for publication to the *SESAH Newsletter* editor. Deadline for submission of material for the Spring 2010 issue is **January 15, 2010**. Contact the editor about format preference.

The *SESAH Newsletter* has been published three times yearly since 1983. Visit www.sesah.org to download recent issues of the *SESAH Newsletter*.

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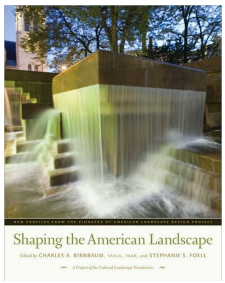
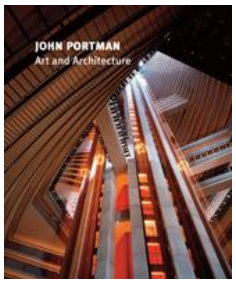
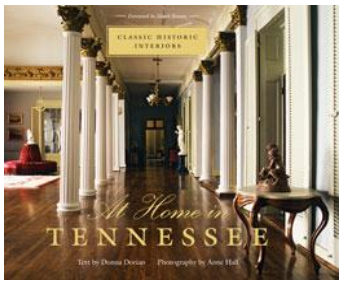


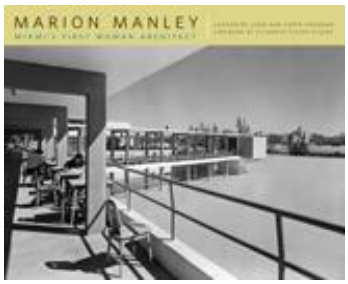


Shaping the American Landscape: New Profiles from the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Project
University of Virginia Press (496p, $65.50hb)
Edited by Charles A. Birnbaum, and Stephanie S. Foell of Baltimore, Maryland

Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village: The Creation of an Architectural Masterpiece
University of Virginia Press (144p, $23pb)
By Richard Guy Wilson of the University of Virginia

John Portman: Art and Architecture
University of Georgia Press (160p, $45hp/$30pb)
By High Museum of Art/Paul Goldberger

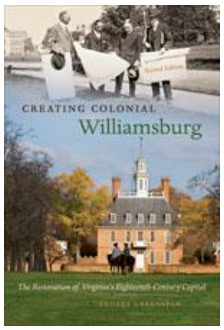


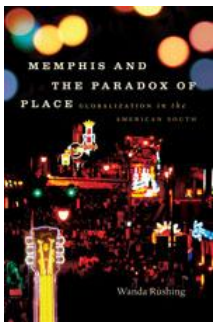


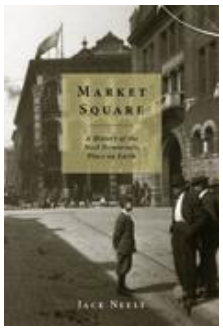
At Home in Tennessee: Classic Historic Interiors
Louisiana State University Press (229p, $50hb)
Text by Donna Dorian of New York City; photographs by Anne Hall of Greenwich, Connecticut

Marion Manley: Miami's First Woman Architect
University of Georgia Press (248p, $35hb)
By Catherine Lynn and Carie Penabad, both of the University of Miami

NEW BOOKS!
NEW BOOKS!
NEW BOOKS!
NEW BOOKS!



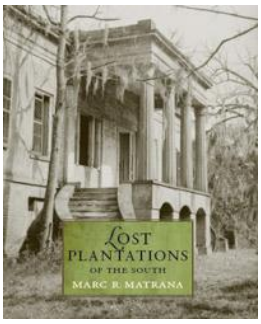


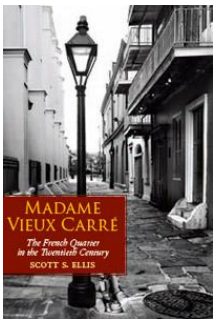


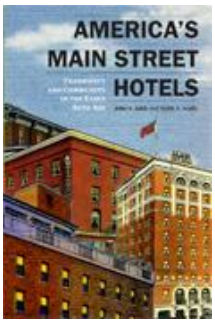
Creating Colonial Williamsburg: The Restoration of Virginia's Eighteenth Century Capitol
UNC Press, October 2009 (240p, $45hb/$20pb)
By Anders Greenspan of Texas A&M-Kingsville

Memphis and the Paradox of Place: Globalization in the American South
UNC Press, September 2009 (272p, $60hb/$22pb)
By Wanda Rushing of the University of Memphis

Market Square: A History of the Most Democratic Place on Earth
University of Tennessee Press (207p, $25pb)
By Jack Neely of Knoxville, Tennessee







Lost Plantations of the South
University Press of Mississippi (336p, $40hb)
By Mark A. Matrana, M.D., New Orleans

Madame Vieux Carré: The French Quarter in the Twentieth Century
University Press of Mississippi (240p, $28hb)
By Scott S. Ellis, Panama City, Florida

America's Main Street Hotels: Transiency and Community in the Early Auto Age
University of Tennessee Press (232p, $30pb)
By John A. Jakle of the University of Illinois and Keith A. Sculle of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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2009 SESAH Schedule

(subject to change, all times CST)

Wednesday, October 28

Self-guided walking tour of downtown Jackson

3:00-6:00	Registration
6:00	Board meeting and dinner at Walthall Hotel

Thursday, October 29

8:00-9:00	Registration
	Breakfast on your own
8:30-9:30	*Opening plenary session* (Central High School)
	"Introducing Jackson"
	Todd Sanders, Architectural Historian, Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History
10:00-12:00	*Paper Session 1*
12:00-1:30	Lunch on your own
1:30-3 PM	Tours of New Capitol
3:30-5:00	*Paper Session 2*
6:00-7:00	Dinner on the grounds at the Old Mississippi State Capitol
7:00-8:30	Awards ceremony/Business meeting, War Memorial Building

Friday, October 30

8:30-10:00	*Paper Session 3*
10:15-11:45	*Paper Session 4*
11:45-1:00	Lunch on your own
1:00-3:00	*Paper Session 5*
3:00-5:00	Walking tours of downtown Jackson
5:30-6:30	Reception at Old Mississippi State Capitol
6:30-7:30	Keynote lecture at War Memorial Building (next door to Old Capitol)
	Robert Ivy, FAIA
	Editor, *Architectural Record*
7:30	Dinner on your own

Saturday, October 31, 9 AM – 5 PM

8:30-5:00	Bus tour of Jackson, "Beyond Greek Revival"

Jackson, Mississippi, panoramic view, 1910 – New Capitol (left) and Old Capitol (center)

Visit www.sesah.org for more information.

Registration

Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians
27th Annual Meeting: Jackson, Mississippi
October 28-31, 2009

Registration Fee: $_____

Advance Registration (postmark before September 29) **$125**
*(after September 30- **$150**)*
Students (with photocopy of valid student ID) **$ 65**
*(after September 30 - **$75**)*

Registration fee includes all paper and plenary sessions, a copy of the paper abstracts, reception at Old Capitol, and dinner-on-the-grounds & awards ceremony. Saturday study tour is optional with additional fee.

Saturday Study Tour: $_____

Advance Registration (postmark before September 29) **$35**
*(after September 30 - **$50**)*
Students (with photocopy of valid student ID) **$25**
*(after September 30 - **$40**)*

SESAH Membership: Renewing? **Y / N** $_____

Individual **$35**
Student **$20**
Institutional **$60**
Contributing **$50+**
Life **$500** (payable in installments)

All conference attendees and participants must be members of SESAH.
Membership dues are for one calendar year. All SESAH members receive the annual journal ARRIS *as well as the society newsletter (3x/year).*
Already a SESAH member? How many SESAH conferences have you attended? _____

Please make checks payable to SESAH. **Total** **$**_____

Please write your name and institutional affiliation and/or city as you would like them to appear on your badge and in the participant directory:

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

City: _____

Mailing Address: Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Dietary Restrictions/Preferences: _____

Send completed registration form, along with payment, to:

Michelle Jones
MSU-CAAD
PO Box A Q
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Questions??? Contact Michelle Jones at mjones@caad.msstate.edu or 662-325-2520

Visit www.sesah.org for more information.

SESAH CONFERENCE HOTEL

Roberts Walthall Hotel

225 East Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

(601) 948-6161 or (800) 932-6161

The Roberts Walthall Hotel is within walking distance of many downtown landmarks and restaurants. All conference paper sessions will be held at the hotel.

Make your reservations directly with the Roberts Walthall Hotel under the "**SESAH Block**" to receive your special group room rate of **$99/night** (single/double). This special rate is good only until **September 27**, so book your room early! Regular room rates after September 28 are $139.

NOTE: There are no online reservations at this time.

TRAVEL

The **Jackson-Evers International Airport** (JAN) is served by six commercial airlines including American Eagle, Continental Express, Delta, Southwest and Northwest Airlines, and US Airways. Jackson Evers International Airport is located approximately 10 miles from downtown Jackson.

Visit the airport website at http://www.jmaa.com/JAN/default.htm for airline information.

An airport express shuttle to the downtown hotel is provided by the hotel. Notify the reservation desk clerk of your flight information and the shuttle will be at the airport awaiting your arrival. Visitors may also take taxis (about $25 to downtown).

One Amtrak train (*The City of New Orleans,* running from New Orleans to Chicago) stops in Jackson each day. Visit Amtrak's website at www.bytrain.org for timetables and tickets.

For those who prefer to drive, Jackson, Mississippi, is centrally located and served by Interstate 55 North/South and Interstate 20 East/West as well as the Natchez Trace Parkway connecting to Nashville, Tennessee.

Visit www.sesah.org for more information.

SESAH 2009 PAPER SESSIONS - JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Session I: Thursday, Oct. 29: 10:00am to 12:00 pm

Narratives - *Chair: Richard Guy Wilson; University of Virginia*

1. *Three Thousand Pounds and a House of His Own: How Roger Fry Funded Durbins.* Benjamin Harvey, Mississippi State University
2. *Gropius and Meyers' Fagus Factory as a Direct Response to Peter Behrens' AEG Turbine Factory*. Michael Fazio, MSU
3. *"Text Messaging" in Architecture: The Role of Inscriptions in Contemporary Work.* Carol Flores, Ball State University
4. *Growth & Propriety in Pasadena, California.* Laura Voisin George, University of Virginia

Southern Vernacular Architecture - *Chair: Virginia Price; National Park Service, Washington, DC*

1. *Home Away From Home: Hotel Palomar Courts.* Guy W. Carwile, Louisiana Tech University
2. *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men: Sensory Spaces and The Construction of a Southern Vernacular Landscape.* Gerard Fitzgerald, New York University
3. *Delta Drawn: The Architecture of Arkansas' Dyess Farms.* Gregory Herman, University of Arkansas
4. *Slavery in the Shenandoah: A Study of Buildings & Landscapes.* Sarah Thomas, University of Virginia

Urbanism - *Chair: Mark Reinberger; University of Georgia*

1. *Design with Transit: Lawrence Halprin and the Urban Design in the Bay Area Rapid Transit System.* Meng-Tsun Su, UVa
2. *Urbanism and New Urbanism in Hampton, Virginia*. Alfred Willis, Hampton University
3. *Transitional Modernism: The Automobile in Burnham's Plan of Chicago.* Michael McCulloch, University of Michigan
4. *The Curious Case of Savannah Pavement.* Robin Williams, Savannah College of Art & Design

Session II: Thursday, Oct. 29: 3:30 pm-5:00 pm

Modern Architecture - *Chair: Pamela Simpson; Washington and Lee University*

1. *"Ain't that Something": African American 1950s Suburbs in Raleigh, N.C.* Ruth Little, Longleaf Historic Resources, Raleigh, NC
2. *Safety in Your Backyard: The Residential Fallout Shelter during The Cold War.* Raina Regan, Ball State University
3. *The Guiding Star: The Starland Dairy and the Development and Redevelopment of a Suburban Community*. Kristen Rourke, SCAD

Roman Architecture - *Chair: Julia Smyth-Pinney; University of Kentucky*

1. *Piranesi as Recorder, Restorer and Revisionist of Ancient Rome in Le Antichita Romane, Volume I (1756).* Sarah Buck, FSU
2. *The Circus Basilica and the Athletes of Christ.* Kim Sexton, University of Arkansas
3. *Time, Space, Memory: Chrontopic Views of Late Roman Restorations in the Late Roman Empire*. Andrew Ruff, UT-Knoxville

Architecture and Memory - *Chair: William Moore; University of North Carolina, Wilmington*

1. *The Indiana Soldiers & Sailors Monument: German Nationalism and Hoosier Commemoration of the Civil War.* Ben Ross, RATIO Architects, Indianapolis
2. *Selling Revolutionary America: The Colonial Village at the 1934 Chicago Century of Progress*. Lydia Mattice Brandt, UVa
3. *The Faxon House in Chattanooga: A Puzzling Monument of the American Renaissance.* Gavin Townsend, UT-Chattanooga

Session III: Friday, Oct. 30: 8:30 am-10:00 am

Renaissance Architecture - *Chair: Kim Sexton; University of Arkansas*

1. *The Villa Farnesina: A Reliquary of a Lifestyle*. Robin Prater, Georgia Tech
2. *Divergent Approaches to the Venetian Plague; Architecture of Palladio and Longhena*. Timothy Virnig, University of St. Thomas
3. *Reconstructing Space to Reconstruct Experience: The First Cloister of Santa Maria sopra Minerva, Rome*. Angi Elsea Bourgeois, Mississippi State University

Late Modern Architecture - *Chair:Rachel McCann; Mississippi State University*

1. *Transparent Boundaries; Life, Death and the Doors at Brion Cemetery*. Cory Lowery, Mississippi State University
2. *The Load Bearing Modern Façade: Marcel Breuer's Investigation of Expression and Structure*. John Poros, MSU
3. *Renzo Piano's Conversion on the Road to Houston: From Paris to New Caledonia*. Michelangelo Sabatino, Univ. of Houston

Mississippi Architecture - *Chair: Susan Braden; Auburn University*

1. *Hayes Town Mississippi*. David Sachs, Kansas State University
2. *Nature and Humanity in a Simple Shed: Fay Jones's Pinecote Pavilion.* Ethel Goodstein-Murphree, University of Arkansas
3. *Samuel and William Wiener: International Style Architects in the South.* Stephanie Busbea, Mississippi College

Session IV: **Friday, Oct. 30: 10:15 am-11:45 am**

Education and Architecture - *Chair: Philippe Oszuscik; University of South Alabama*

1. *Architectural Education, Postwar Ideology and the Turkish State: Designing Model Communities for the "Middle East," 1945-60.* Burak Erdim, University of Virginia
2. *Architecture and Learning: Two Campus Buildings as Embodiments of Curriculum.* Robert Craig, Georgia Tech
3. *Modern School Building in Greece; Reconsidering a Disregarded Movement.* Juan Manuel Heredia, Mississippi State University

NeoArchitecture (Greek) - *Chair: Robbie D. Jones; Parsons Brinckerhoff, Nashville*

1. *The Architectural Resume of William Nichols.* Paul Hardin Kapp, University of Illinois
2. *Greek Revival Suburban Villas in Athens, Georgia*. Mark Reinberger, University of Georgia
3. *Hampton Institute: An Architectural Laboratory for Richard Morris Hunt*. Theodore Sawruk, University of Hartford

Beaux Arts & Crafts - *Chair: Lee Gray; University of North Carolina, Charlotte*

1. *The Reredos of St. John's Church, Savannah: Gothic Imitation and Innovation in the Twentieth Century*. Evan McWilliams, SCAD
2. *The Arts & Crafts and Beaux Arts Interior in the New South: The Stained Glass, Murals, and Mosaics of Artist Designer, Clara Weaver Parrish.* Cartledge Weeden Blackwell III, Mobile Historic Development Commission, Mobile, Alabama
3. *Continuing Influence of the Ecolé des Beaux-Arts on Architectural Education at Georgia Tech*. Elizabeth Dowling, Georgia Tech

Session V: **Friday Oct. 30: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm**

African American Architecture - *Chair: Marilyn Harper; Historic Preservation Consultant, Washington, DC*

1. *Race and Space at George Washington's Mount Vernon.* Jill Baskin, University of Virginia
2. *"Hidden In Plain View: The Sites and Structures of Slave Processing in Charleston, SC, 1670-1865."* Nicholas Fuqua, SCAD
3. *Designing Progress: Race, Gender and Modernism in Early 20th Century America*. Jacqueline Taylor, University of Virginia
4. *Success at Arlington: The Rise & Demise of the Freedman's Village.* Kelly Bressler, Savannah College of Art & Design

Social Landscapes - *Chair: David Gobel: Savannah College of Art and Design*

1. *"System, Papa is Everything": A Woman's View of the Antebellum Southern Landscape*. Emilie Johnson, University of Virginia
2. *Fruitland: The Model Plantation in Antebellum Agricultural Reform*. Phillip Herrington, University of Virginia
3. *The Question of Origin across Locations and Environmental Conditions: Historic Wendish Churches in Germany and Texas*. Anat Geva, Texas A & M University
4. *Justice with Open Arms.* Delos Hughes, Washington and Lee University

Historical Methodology - *Chair: Catherine Zipf: Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island*

1. *Cataloging Mississippi for the Historic American Buildings Survey.* Virginia Price, National Park Service, Washington, DC
2. *In the Wake of Hurricane Katrina: Re-Evaluating the Treatment of the Historic Built Environment and Landscape of Jackson Barracks.* Heather Knight, Tulane University
3. *Preserving and Documenting Architecture's History at Georgia Tech.* Leslie N. Sharp, Georgia Tech
4. *Manchac, British West Florida: An Important British Town Becomes a Farm Field.* Philippe Oszuscik, Univ. of South Alabama

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

MDAH MISSISSIPPI Department of ARCHIVES & HISTORY

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village: The Creation of an Architectural Masterpiece"

September 12, 2009-January 3, 2010
UVa Art Museum

This exhibit explores Thomas Jefferson's design and the construction of the University of Virginia. The exhibit contains many original drawings by Jefferson and others along with books, tools, and early views. The exhibit is accompanied by a revised edition of *Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village: The Creation of an Architectural Masterpiece* edited by SESAH board member **Richard Guy Wilson**. For more information visit www.virginia.edu/artmuseum/ or phone (434)-924-3592.

BLOG: www.uvamblogs.com/jeffersons_academical_village/

From Village to Grounds: Architecture after Jefferson at the University of Virginia

September 15, 2009-May 31, 2010
Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Containing more than 100 drawings and other items by architects such as McKim, Mead &* White, John R. Thomas, Louis I. Kahn, Pietro Belluschi, and W. G. Clark, the exhibit traces the development of the UVa from 1815 to 2009. For more information see www2.lib.virginia.edu/exhibits/exhibits_upcoming.html or phone (434) 924-6109.

Jefferson, Palladio, Art and Architecture and the University of Virginia

November 21-21, 2009

An Interdisciplinary Symposium at the University of Virginia November 20-21, 2009 of leading and emerging scholars from several disciplines will explore the art and architecture of Thomas Jefferson, Andrea Palladio and the development of UVa. The topics to be considered include architecture, decorative arts, landscape, and art. The symposium will serve as the key program for the two major exhibitions described above.

Scholars will explore the impact of Andrea Palladio as part of the 500th anniversary of his birth, Thomas Jefferson's involvement in architecture and the other arts, and the development of the University of Virginia in its architecture and art from 1825 to 2009. Jefferson owned multiple copies of Palladio's *Four Books of Architecture* and once told a friend that "Palladio was the *Bible*, stick close to it." Jefferson's profound influence on the arts in America extends to architecture, art collecting, furniture, gardens, music and literature. On the first day of the symposium, scholars will address Palladio and Jefferson and his interest in the fine arts. This will continue on the second day along with investigations of the development of architecture at the University of Virginia after Jefferson.

The symposium is sponsored by the University of Virginia's departments of Architectural History and Art and the University Art Museum and the University Library. To registration contact:

Elizabeth (Liz) Hicks
University Art Museum
Thomas H. Bayly Building
University of Virginia
(434) 924-3592
Email: ehh5s@virginia.edu

NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

The Ailey Young House, located in the African American community of Wake Forest, North Carolina, is a rare surviving example of African American Reconstruction era worker housing. It is believed to be one of the oldest African American domestic buildings, with the exception of slave cabins, in North Carolina.

Constructed as a duplex or barracks-type housing about 1875 by Professor William G. Simmons of Wake Forest College, it is the only building remaining in Simmons Row, a street of rental housing owned by Simmons.

In 1895 Professor Simmons' widow sold the duplex on a small lot to Ailey Young, an African American and the mother of Allen Young, who established the Wake Forest Normal and Industrial School, the first school for African Americans in town, which operated from 1905 to 1957. Ailey's descendants inherited and lived in the duplex until 1967; it was purchased by the town of Wake Forest, North Carolina, in 1988.

The board-and-batten duplex is a building type known as a "saddlebag" because of its central chimney. The heavy timber frame building has tall granite foundation piers and a granite chimney. Each dwelling unit has a corner enclosed stair to an attic bedchamber. Any information on similar Reconstruction Era African American dwellings in other states would be very helpful in understanding the Young House.

If you can help SESAH board member Ruth Little with historical or contextual information on similar African-American housing, please email her at mruthlittle@gmail.com.

CORRECTION: The last issue misidentified the Western State Asylum in Staunton, VA, as the DeJarnette Center that was built in the 1930s and '40s and is currently threatened with demolition. Stay tuned!

NEWS FROM TENNESSEE

SESAH board member Robbie Jones reports that a significant architectural landmark in Tennessee is threatened with demolition. Located in Knoxville, the **Eugenia Floride Williams House** is a Regency-style 10,800sf mansion built in 1940-1941 by a Coca-Cola heiress and designed by her childhood friend and renowned Houston architect John F. Staub (1892-1891).

In 1998, Williams died at age 98 and willed the palatial home and the 24-acre, riverfront property to the University of Tennessee, which has unfortunately allowed the historic landmark to fall into disrepair. Vacant since 1983, locals estimate its value at upwards of $20 million. The home was recently placed on the Knoxville's "Fragile 15" most endangered historic properties by Knox Heritage.

Eugenia Williams House (1957, above; 2009, below)

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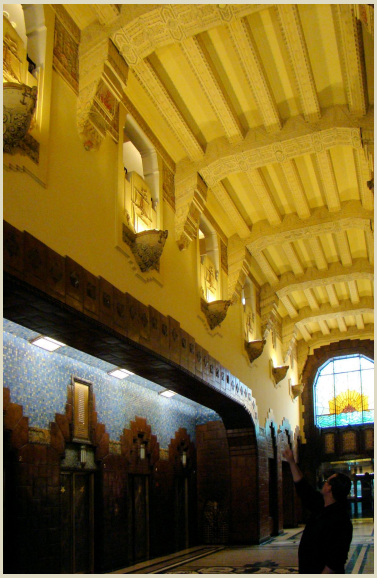
NEWS FROM TEXAS

After extensive repairs for damage from Hurricane Ike in late 2008, the University of Houston's Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture formally reopened the college's gallery in January 2009 with the exhibition, *Raymond Loewy: Designs for a Consumer Culture*, about the great American industrial designer. This exhibition series continues from September 24, 2009 through November 21, 2009 when the college presents *Designing an Icon: Creativity and the American Automobile*, a collection of over 90 original concept sketches by stylists from the Golden Age of Detroit auto design. The exhibit presents the auto designer's craft as an art form, while reminding us of an important period in American popular culture.

January 21, 2010 through March 6, 2010, the college will present *Fallingwater en Perspectiva*, an exhibit of 50 oil paintings of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater by the Spanish artist, Felix de la Concha. The artist spent a year living in residence at Fallingwater and captured this unique house in different seasons, times of day, and lighting conditions. Following this event, from March 12, 2010 through April 24, 2010, the college hosts a retrospective of the work of photographer Lewis Hodnett.



Vancouver's Marine Building, Gavin Townsend

This summer, Gavin Townsend of Chattanooga, Tennessee, visited Vancouver, Seattle, and Sitka in order to study the traditional architecture of the Haida, but he couldn't resist poking around buildings by Rem Koolhaas and Arthur Erickson, who died just days before his visit. One real treat was touring the marvelous Art Deco-style Marine Building in Vancouver, designed by McCarter, Nairne and Partners in 1929.

NEWS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

The College of Charleston and Clemson University seek a qualified person to direct their joint Master of Science Program in Historic Preservation in Charleston, South Carolina. The Director will oversee the administration and policies; will coordinate all activities, including budgeting, fundraising, and grant writing; will chair the Joint Steering Committee and work with them on curricular development and assessment; and will serve as the official spokesperson for the joint program. The candidate should qualify for appointment as a tenured, full professor at both institutions. Expectations for teaching, research, and service are negotiable and will reflect the strengths of the applicant and the needs of the program. The position line and salary expenses will be covered by the tuition generated by the program.

The Director will be housed in Charleston. Candidates must demonstrate a solid record of scholarship, teaching, and professional practice. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Review of materials will begin immediately and will continue until the October 30 deadline. Position will remain open until filled.

Candidates should forward a letter of interest, vitae/resume, and a list of three references to: Historic Preservation Director Search Committee, c/o Rae Ann Blyth, Clemson University/College of Charleston, 292 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401. Questions should be sent to Ashley Robbins or Robert Russell, co-chairs of the search committee at arobbin@clemson.edu or russellr@cofc.edu.

SESAH board member Ashley Robbins reports that the graduate students at the **College of Charleston / Clemson University** placed 4th in the annual HABS Peterson Prize for their documentation of the Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.

Be sure to subscribe
to the new SESAH email listserv at

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www.sesah.org

NEWS FROM ALABAMA

Dennis K. "D.K." Ruth: In Memoriam

Dennis K. "D.K." Ruth, age 65, died in Auburn, Alabama, on August, 26, 2009. A longtime professor at Auburn University's College of Architecture Design and Construction, Ruth was born in Cleveland, Tennessee, and received his BA in Architecture from Auburn and his MA from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. He taught at Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He practiced with Grieve & Ruth Architects of Knoxville. In 1992, with Samuel Mockbee (1944-2001), Ruth co-founded Auburn University's renowned Rural Studio. More recently, he created the Design-Build Graduate Program in AU's College of Architecture Design and Construction. Ruth was the recipient of over twenty teaching and design excellence awards, including the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award for service to humanity. He touched and enriched the lives of many using his homespun manner to convey his wisdom with patience for and understanding of others. He is survived by his wife Linda Cain Ruth, three sons, and a daughter. Memorials may be made to Auburn University Foundation for the D.K. Ruth Memorial Scholarship Fund, Attn: Gift Accounting, 317 South College Street, Auburn, AL 36849.

"The Alley" is the most recent addition to Montgomery's revitalized downtown entertainment district located near the Alabama River in the heart of the capital city. Buildings along the old grocer's alley dated from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

An example of successful public-private partnership between the city of Montgomery and several owner-developers, The Alley contains restaurants, a bar, and an events venue, and soon will feature retail shops, downtown apartments, and a children's museum. Architects of the adaptive reuse project include Mike Watson of 2WR/Holmes, Wilkins Architects, Brown Chambless Architects, all of Montgomery. Principles of Smart Growth guided the city's Department of Planning and Development, allowing The Alley to include apartments above the businesses. In addition to paying for infrastructure, the city funded the construction of a covered pedestrian passage that allows pedestrians from the city's downtown hotel area to walk to The Alley and other attractions in downtown Montgomery.

Metropolis: The Magazine of Architecture and Design (July 2009) featured Auburn University's Rural Studio in its cover article, "Rural Studio Builds the $20,000 House." Shown is the Boys & Girls Club of Akron, Alabama (2008).

NEWS FROM LOUISIANA

Last February, SESAH board member **Ellen Weiss** of New Orleans lectured about Robert R. Taylor and Tuskegee at Auburn University and at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. A Tuskegee lecture was cancelled because of tornados. Alabama-based NewSouth Books will publish her manuscript late next year.

Future SESAH Annual Meetings

Jackson, Mississippi - Oct. 28-31, 2009
Chattanooga, Tennessee - Oct. 13-16, 2010
Charleston, South Carolina - 2011

Back to the *Intrepid*

SESAH Treasurer Rob Craig recalls his experiences in the U.S. Navy and his role as tour director last July for the SAH study tour of the USS Intrepid *CVS-11, a WWII-to-Vietnam (1943-1974) aircraft carrier, built in Newport News, Virginia, and now a National Historic Landmark moored at Pier 86 in New York City.*

In 1940 novelist Thomas Wolfe explored a changing America and found that the passing of time meant, in the words of his novel's title, that "you can't go home again." The next year, the United States entered World War II and two years later, the Essex-class aircraft carrier *Intrepid* was launched. I was born the following year. When I was 24 to 26, during a different war--the Vietnam War--the *Intrepid* was "home" for me, as I served aboard this famed ship as a Navy officer. In August, 1970, I left the *Intrepid* for Cornell to study architectural history. This past summer, I went "home again."

My return to the *Intrepid* was brought about by an interesting chain of events. As Secretary of the SAH, I met John Zukowsky, who was for many years the architecture curator at the Art Institute of Chicago. He served briefly as co-Editor-in-Chief, with Karen Kingsley, for SAH's *Buildings of the United States* series. Not long after his appointment, it was announced that John's duties at a new museum job in New York prompted him to resign from the BUS editorial position, but no mention was made of *which* Manhattan museum had hired John as curator.

I guessed MOMA or maybe the Met, but I later discovered that John's interests had developed in other directions. At a SAH board meeting a few years ago, someone mentioned John's work "at the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*." I said to the surprise of the board, "Whoa! If it's the carrier in New York, it's not the *Enterprise*, it's the *Intrepid*---that's my old ship." Citing my service on the USS *Intrepid* in 1968-1970, I surmised, "I'll bet I could tell Zukowsky a thing or two," and was soon in touch with my SAH colleague in New York." John was as ecstatic as if he'd found Livingston in the jungles of Africa. He had been appointed chief curator for the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum, and I was a new-found historical artifact.

"What did you do? Where did you sleep? Did you get sea sick? Where did the ship deploy?" John asked. "Served 10,000 meals a day…slept in "officer's country" under the forward starboard steam catapults…and went to Vietnam, Sidney, Rio, Guantanamo Bay, Pensacola, Philly shipyard, Boston—and, oh yes, we ran aground off Newport, RI. I wonder if the local bars still serve that cocktail called *Intrepid* on the rocks?"

Although John was familiar with the *Intrepid*'s penchant for getting stuck in the mud, my comment about serving "10,000 meals a day" brought his first follow-up question. "That's right, I was food service officer for the ship (population around 3,000), so I was responsible for 3 meals a day plus 'mid-rats,' a midnight ration/meal for night crew---yeah, I'd say about 10,000 meals a day....An average dinner required 3.5 tons of food." John interrupted, "That's a lotta hash!" "Hash my foot! The Navy has a reputation for the best food of all the military services, and we were the best in the Navy--and you should have seen the mess decks I remodeled—most unmilitary colors and spaces you can imagine! One eating area became a French café with Tiffany-style lights hanging from the 'overheads'--I wanted to help the sailors forget they were on a war ship for at least part of the day."

"You were an interior decorator for an aircraft carrier?" I explained that the chief petty officer had used some rehabilitation funding to buy a crazy assortment of furnishings, western prints, 'Wanted' posters, spurs, and branding irons, wrought iron lighting fixtures with horses, bright orange patterned draperies, and he told me to "do something with all that @#%!." I remodeled the standard naval compartments on the third deck into theme rooms and transformed the mess deck areas into "Lifer's Lounge" or "The Blue Room"--and the *pièce de résistance*, the French Café.

R.M. Craig as food service officer, discussing recipes with his division chiefs and cooks

Zukowsky thought I was pulling his leg, until I sent him pictures, including the French café. The museum staff began to study how these photos and reminiscences might

serve the restoration displays and the museum's effort to exhibit a sailor's life aboard ship.[1] We're gonna put it all back," Zukowsky said with glee, and I thought surely this time he was pulling my leg.

Almost four decades after I left the *Intrepid*, on a cold December day in 2007, I went back while the ship was docked at Staten Island for a two-year redesign of the museum. "Permission to come aboard, sir?" John and I walked through empty steel compartments to determine where on the third deck of the aircraft carrier the tangerine room (La Cucaracha), the French Café, and the other late-'60s-remodeled mess decks had been located.

The theme rooms had disappeared entirely because when the ship was decommissioned in March 1974, and moth-balled, it was gutted and stripped of almost everything movable. The Western Room, Butterscotch Room, and other mess deck redesigns had vanished.

Bundled against the cold in the guts of this reawakening ghost ship, John and I stepped through hatches and down ladders to the third deck, confirmed location of the galleys and sculleries, and walked through empty compartments, both of us carrying 1969 photos of how it looked in my time there. I served the curators as tour guide, pointing out, "That's where the peppermint-striped awning and storefront was…the ice-cream parlor chairs and tables were in this space." "In this 1969 photo the photographer was standing here, so there's where the ivy-clad brick wishing well with bucket was located---and hanging above it was the identifying sign." We looked up, and lo and behold, dangling from the overhead pipes was a piece of chain, spray-painted white like the entire room for mothballing--the K-Mart chain which 40 years earlier had held the swinging sign in my photo, reading "Wishing Well." There it was: hard evidence of the French Café, still on the USS *Intrepid*.

A few months later, when SAH began to consider leaders for future tours, someone suggested that I lead a tour--not of the work of architect Bernard Maybeck but "an insider tour" of the USS *Intrepid.*

So, this past July, I went home again: I returned to the *Intrepid* to see my old mess decks. The museum staff had translated some of the 1969 photos into a display of life aboard the ship, and visitors can now walk through the 1960s "first class mess" (no pun intended), tour the Butterscotch Room, and look beyond corral posts to see the 1960s bright orange drapery which the museum had reproduced as carefully as if it were intended for a period room at Winterthur.

1970 photo of the French Café aboard the Intrepid

For an entire day I reminisced with the SAH tour participants, telling them how I arrived at the ship after traveling in the baggage compartment of a prop plane, packed among repair parts and mail sacks, and was "delivered to duty" by landing abruptly on the flight deck. At the time, the *Intrepid* was still operating out of Yankee Station (Tonkin Gulf) and engaged in flight operations over North Vietnam.

Before I left the ship two years later, a world-wide Navy competition recognized the USS *Intrepid* as one of the best food service operations in the fleet. And indeed, the *Intrepid* cooks did make a memorable *côtelettes a l'Impériale* and a fine *poulet à la Marengo*."[2] But perhaps our "award-winning mess" won those recognitions in part because in early 1970, no one among the inspecting Navy brass ever dreamed they'd see a French café aboard an aircraft carrier, complete with Edith Piaf's "La Vie en Rose," wafting up several levels below the flight deck. Bon appétit!

Robert M. Craig, Georgia Tech

Ed. Note: Photos courtesy the author. The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum opened in 1982 with the mission to honor our heroes, educate the public, and inspire our youth. Now the world's largest naval museum, it attracts 750,000 annual visitors. The museum website credits Rob Craig with the unique designs of the recreated Mess Deck of this National Historic Landmark.

[1] See http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/The-Intrepid-Experience/Sea/The-Intrepid/The-Carrier/Living-Spaces.aspx

[2] For those wishing to know how this reference is double-coded, see Peter Collins, *Changing Ideals in Modern Architecture* (Montreal: McGill University Press, 1967), p.167.

ABOUT SESAH

The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) is a regional chapter of the national Society of Architectural Historians and includes twelve states - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The nonprofit organization holds an annual meeting, publishes a three-times-a-year newsletter and an annual journal, *ARRIS*, and presents annual awards, including the "Best of the South" preservation award.

SESAH was founded in 1982 at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta to promote scholarship on architecture and related subjects and to serve as a forum for ideas among architectural historians, architects, preservationists, and others involved in professions related to the built environment. The annual meeting features scholarly paper sessions, business meeting, study tours, and a keynote lecture by a national leader in the field. SESAH members come from across the U.S.

www.sesah.org

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