Newsletter of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

Fall 2010
Vol. 27 No. 2

SESAH News

Chattanooga, Tennessee: A City Transformed

By Gavin Townsend
Conference Chair

Most of us associate Chattanooga with the famous tune by Benny Goodman. For SESAH members, this will be reinforced by the name of our convention hotel, The Chattanooga Choo Choo. While Railroads and Big Bands constitute much of the city's heritage, the Scenic City offers many architectural treats too. Chattanooga is home to the only building in Tennessee designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. It's also the only city in the state with a home designed by Richard Neutra. Ralph Adams Cram left his footprint here, as did Stanford White. The city's 1907 James Building is one of the first skyscrapers in the South.

Virtually every period revival style is represented in the city: Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, you name it. No fewer than 101 properties, including 17 historic districts, in and around the city are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Tennessee Valley Association is headquartered here, housed in a remarkable building of the 1980s. Chattanooga also boasts the best single collection of buildings by one of the South's most prolific and versatile architects, Reuben Harrison Hunt (1862-1937).

Located along the Tennessee River, at the intersection of two river valleys and a rare East-West gap in the Appalachian Mountains, Chattanooga was attractive to both Native Americans and early white settlers. From about 1000 BCE to 1000 CE the area was home to the Woodland Indians, noted for their burial mounds. One of these, the so-called Roxbury Mound on the north side of the city, is the only substantive reminder of a culture that occupied Chattanooga for two millennia.

In the 1770s the Cherokee moved here. (*Chattanooga* is a Cherokee word of uncertain meaning, probably used in reference to a Muskogean tribe that lived around Lookout Mountain.) The Cherokees were immediately joined by a trickle of Scots, the first of whom, John MacDonald, married a half-Cherokee woman, became fluent in Cherokee, and built a trading post near what today is Eastgate Mall. He also built a log dwelling in 1797. Later owned by McDonald's grandson, the famous Cherokee chief John Ross, the dwelling is the oldest house in the area, allowing for some heavy restoration.

The John Ross House in Rossville Georgia, just over the state line, is a restored c.1797 log dog-trot dwelling. Built by John McDonald, a Scottish trader and adopted member of the Cherokee, the house was later owned by Cherokee chief and ferry-owner, John Ross.

Until the late 1830s, the Cherokee thrived in Chattanooga, mixing with Scottish traders and Presbyterian missionaries, but preserving the region as an inviolate part of the Cherokee nation. That changed during the Presidency of Andrew Jackson. With his support, the Cherokee were driven from Chattanooga in 1838 to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears.

Continued on page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in SESAH,

It is time to register for the 27th Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you there. Please send in your registration form as soon as possible so that Gavin Townsend can make his final arrangements. The registration form, hotel information, and conference itinerary are included in this newsletter.

The schedule of the paper sessions, titles, moderators, and presenters can be found on the website. This year, we will once again have a wide variety of fascinating and contemporary topics by scholars, students, and practitioners from around the country.

This time last year, the future of *ARRIS* was in a state of flux, as the University of Houston reneged on its promised funding. However, Leslie Sharp at Georgia Tech assembled a team that includes Mark Reinberger and Paul Sprague, and they went to work. Leslie, Paul, and Mark plan to have the 2010 issue out by the end of the year, and I cannot say enough about the contributions of this threesome, as no activity of our organization is more important than our journal.

Aerial view of Chattanooga.

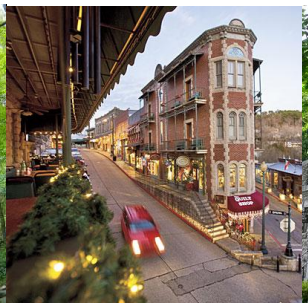
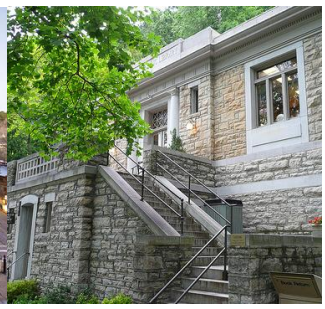
Robbie Jones is stepping down as editor of the *SESAH Newsletter*. This is another extremely important job, and Robbie has done a superb job. I am happy to say that a new editor is standing in the wings. An official announcement of this change will be made at the annual meeting.

ARRIS remains available, of course, only in hard copy. The newsletter arrives that way as well and is also posted on the SESAH website. It is no secret to anyone that times are changing, and we need to continue evaluating all of our media options because of costs and because of evolving expectations among our membership. We need to meet the needs of all of you, and with that in mind I would welcome your comments by email mfazio@caad.msstate.edu or phone (662.312.3039) or in person in Chattanooga as we look to balance traditional and new means of external communications.

And if there are other issues that you would like to raise, please contact me about them. See you in Chattanooga!

Michael Fazio
Mississippi State University

Historic Postcard of the Chattanooga Choo-Choo.

FROM THE EDITOR

In 1998, I was introduced to the SESAH family at the University of Arkansas when I presented a paper on Carnegie libraries – the subject of my master's thesis. I was awed by the presentations, receptions, and the tours of buildings and places I'd only seen in books. I'll never forget Thorncrown Chapel or Eureka Springs, where I discovered a Carnegie library built into the mountainside. At every turn, I ran into the titans of architectural history, which for a grad student can be very intimidating. I'd read their books, footnoted their research, been inspired by their insights. To my surprise, these scholars were friendly as could be. I was hooked.

As I made the long drive home from the Ozarks, never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that over the next dozen years I would serve on the SESAH board of directors, lead tours of some of my favorite places in Tennessee, chair the 25th anniversary meeting in Nashville, or edit this newsletter. Looking back, I can hardly believe how fortunate I've been to be involved with this extraordinary group.

But, it's time for me to pass the torch so this will be my last issue as editor of the *SESAH Newsletter*. It's been my honor to have served SESAH in various capacities over the past eight years. I'm still hooked and look forward to hearing your presentations, mingling at receptions, and touring new places throughout the South. One final note: I recently accepted a new position as Senior Historian and Branch Manager of the Nashville office of New South Associates: that explains the new return address.

Robbie D. Jones
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Send correspondence and submissions for publication to the *SESAH Newsletter* editor. Deadline for submission of material for the Spring 2011 issue is **April 15, 2011**. 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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Continued from page 1

Soon thereafter, taverns, hotels, and shops opened along the Tennessee River near where John Ross had maintained a ferry landing. By 1850 the town had a railroad - no small feat given the need to tunnel through some of the surrounding topography. By 1853 Chattanooga was home to the first coke-fueled furnace in the South, the Bluff View furnace owned by Robert Cravens. While the furnace is no more, Cravens' house - designed in 1855 and rebuilt in 1866 - remains.

The Robert Cravens House on Lookout Mountain, built 1855 and rebuilt in 1866. The house served as headquarters for Confederate forces defending Lookout Mountain during the "Battle Above the Clouds." The house survived the battle only to be burned to its foundations by drunken Union troops. Damn Yankees!

During the Civil War, the strategic importance of Chattanooga as a river and rail hub caused the town to be the focus of several major clashes between Union and Confederate armies, especially during the fall of 1863. (Founded in 1890, the nearby Chickamauga-Chattanooga Battlefield is the country's oldest and largest National Military Park.) The war devastated the city and left it with only a few bits of antebellum architecture. But the war also introduced no fewer than 100,000 soldiers to the area.

Many veterans, especially from the North, returned to Chattanooga after the conflict, lured by recollections of iron ore and coal deposits in the surrounding hills. By 1871 smokestacks dominated Chattanooga's skyline. For the next century Chattanooga would remain an important manufacturing center, the "Dynamo of Dixie." By 1900 the city had a population exceeding 35,000 and was home to nationally-recognized pharmaceutical companies, insurance firms, and a lucrative Coca-Cola bottling plant.

A fine example of Chattanooga industrial architecture from the turn-of-the-century is the Chattanooga Plow Power House, c. 1902, at 1635 Chestnut Street. Electricity was generated in this building to supply power to the (now lost) plow factory. Photo by Andrew Jameson.

The wealth generated by these enterprises went into some impressive mansions. Civil war forts and breastworks gave way to some palatial homes on Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and along the bluffs on either side of the river. The Ross Faxon House, site of SESAH's reception and keynote address, and now part of the Hunter Museum, is one of many landmarks of the American Renaissance in Chattanooga. Another, Lyndhurst, the home of Coca Cola magnate J. T. Lupton, which was built in 1909 and razed in 1960, encompassed 34,000 square feet - perhaps the largest house in the South next to Biltmore in Ashville.

The Hunter Museum on High Street was once the home of banker and insurance agent Ross Faxon. It was designed by Abram Garfield, son of the President, in 1902.

With the manufacturing plants and mansions came some impressive public buildings, many of these the products of Reuben H. Hunt, the leading architect in Chattanooga from the late 1880s to the mid 1930s. Hunt designed the city's first public library (1903), first public high school (1904), first electric railroad building (1906), first skyscraper (1907), and first federally funded courthouse (1932-33). He also designed the City Hall (1907-08), the city's main

auditorium (1919-24), and scores of its churches and schools. Many of these buildings still serve their original purpose and will be included our tours.

The Chattanooga Post Office and Customs House, c. 1888-1892. East 11th and Lindsay Street. William Freret, Supervising Architect. Federally funded example of the Richardsonian Romanesque.

The Chattanooga Public Library, one of thousands of public libraries financed by Andrew Carnegie, was designed by W. T. Downing and R. H. Hunt in 1903 and built by 1905. It actually consisted of two libraries, one for whites, reached through the main entrance, and one for blacks at the side.

The Joel W. Solomon Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse is the city's best WPA Moderne structure. Completed in 1933, the civic building was designed jointly by the R.H. Hunt Company and Shreve, Lamb and Harmon.

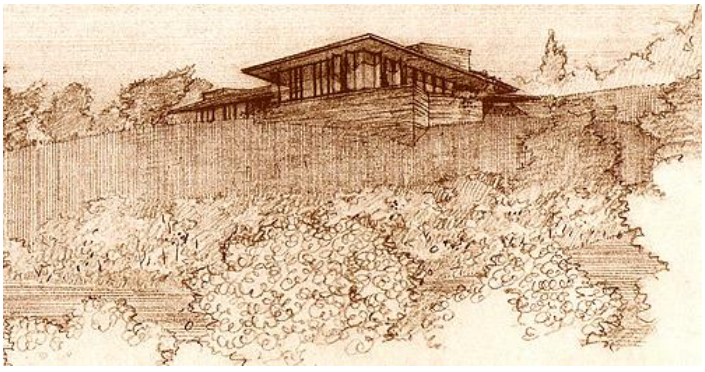
The AIA listed the Solomon Building as one of the top 150 buildings constructed in the USA between 1918 and 1937.

While the list of attractions on our Saturday bus tour has yet to be finalized – many of target properties lie in private hands – we hope to offer aficionados of mid-twentieth modernism some special treats. In 1945, Mario Bianculli, better known as a designer for TVA, built a house in Chattanooga much inspired by Le Corbusier.

On Missionary Ridge is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most perfect Usonian houses, the Seymour and Gerte Shavin House, built from 1950-1952. Mrs Shavin still lives there. And hidden among the laurels of Riverview is little-known work by Richard Neutra, the Philip and Jean Livingston House from 1956. Remarkably, it too is still owned by the original family.

Mario Bianculli house on Indian Road, 1945. The first modernist house in Chattanooga, designed by former TVA architect Mario Bianculli, sports a rare butterfly roof.

Frank Lloyd Wright used regionally quarried Crab Orchard stone for the Shavin House. Photo by Brian Wallace.



Rendering by Frank Lloyd Wright for the Shavin House.

In the 1980s, Chattanooga began the transition from a polluted manufacturing center to an environmentally sensitive city for the Information Age. The city's "renaissance" was marked by the building of huge energy-efficient headquarters for TVA, followed by the Chattanooga Aquarium. Tourism began to thrive. Miles of greenways and riverwalks were planted. LEED-certified buildings went up. Dilapidated neighborhoods were revitalized. Dubbed the dirtiest city in America in 1969, Chattanooga now serves as a model of urban design and planning. It will be our pleasure to show you the results.

The huge TVA Office Complex, which rests on what had been the city's main railroad stations, was built 1979-84 as a model of energy efficient construction. Contributing to the design was Chattanooga largest architectural firm, Derthick, Henley and Wilkerson.

The Tennessee Aquarium, 1988-1992, designed by The Cambridge Seven and Associates headed by Peter Chermayeff. This $45 million project helped to spearhead the redevelopment of Chattanooga's river side.

Future SESAH Annual Meetings

Charleston, South Carolina
Oct. 26-29, 2011

Athens, Georgia
2012

S E S A H

Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

28th Annual Meeting

October 13-16, 2010

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Registration Fees: $_____

Advance Registration (postmark before October 2)	$125
Late registration (after October 2)	$150
Students (with photocopy of valid student ID)	$ 65

Registration fee includes access to all paper sessions, receptions, walking tours and access to historic landmarks, a bound souvenir copy of the abstracts, keynote lecture by Dr. Fikret Yegül of The University of California at Santa Barbara, a reception at the Hunter Museum of American Art, a Business Lunch & Awards Ceremony, and more! A Saturday Study Tour is optional with additional fee.

SESAH Membership: $_____

Individual	$35
Student	$20
Contributing	$50+
Life	$500

All conference attendee 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 SESAH* Newsletter *(2x/year).*

Saturday Study Tour: $50 $_____

Bus tour includes visits to various architectural landmarks, including private homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra, in and around Chattanooga.

TOTAL **$**_____

2010 SESAH Annual Meeting Chattanooga, Tennessee October 13-16, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM

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: _____

SESAH member? _____ How many SESAH conferences have you attended? _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE (from page 1): **$**_____

Please make checks payable to SESAH.

Send completed registration form, along with payment, to:

Gavin Townsend
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Department of Art
615 McCallie Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37403

(423) 425-4464
Gavin-Townsend@utc.edu

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA

THE 2010 SESAH CONFERENCE HOTEL

The Chattanooga Choo-Choo

1400 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
1-800-TRACK-29 (1-800-872-2529)
http://www.choochoo.com

Designed by Beaux Arts architect Donn Barber, FAIA (1871-1925) of New York City, the Choo-Choo served as Chattanooga's main railroad terminal station from 1909 to 1970. In the early 1970s local businessmen renovated the landmark – made famous in song in the 1940s - for use as a hotel, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The hotel features "Victorian" train car rooms, a 1950s-style diner, an espresso bar, a micro-brewery bar, three restaurants, several shops and gardens, and a 1924 trolley to get you around the complex.

When making reservations, be sure to mention that you are participating in the SESAH conference and ask for the special discounted rate of $92 per night (plus tax). Choose either a standard room or one of the Choo-Choo's popular train car rooms.

TRAVEL

The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport offers direct flights to and from Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Memphis, Orlando, Washington D.C., and Tampa (via St. Petersburg), and is served by American Eagle, U.S. Airways, and Delta, among others. The hotel offers a free shuttle to and from the airport (call 423-308-2466).

For those who prefer to drive, Chattanooga is centrally located and served by two interstate highways (I-24 and I-75).

2010 SESAH Annual Meeting Chattanooga, Tennessee October 13-16, 2010

PRELIMINARY 2010 SESAH CONFERENCE OUTLINE (all times EST)

Wednesday - October 13, 2010

3:00-6:00pm	Registration	Victorian Lounge
6:00-9:00pm	Board meeting	Crystal Room Buffet
Dinner on your own		

Thursday - October 14, 2010

8-8:30am	Registration	Reception Hall
8:30am-10:00am	Plenary session	Imperial Ballroom
	"Chattanooga, 1800-1969" by Gavin Townsend, Professor of Art History The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	
	"Chattanooga, 1969-2010" by Andrew Smith, AIA	
10:30am-12:00pm	Paper session 01	Finley Lecture Hall, Gallery Rooms
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own	
2:00pm-3:00pm	Solomon Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse Tour	
3:45pm-5:00pm	Paper session 02	Finley Lecture Hall, Gallery Rooms
5:30pm-7:30pm	Keynote Reception	Hunter Museum of Art
	"'When the Walls Parted and the Column Became': The Classical Column as a Fundamental Notion in Architecture." Fikret Yegül, Professor of Art History, The University of California at Santa Barbara	
Dinner on your own		

Friday - October 15, 2010

9:00am-10:30am	Paper session 03	Finley Lecture Hall, Gallery Rooms
10:45am-12:15pm	Paper session 04	Finley Lecture Hall, Gallery Rooms
12:45pm-2:45pm	Business lunch and awards	Imperial Ballroom
1:15pm-2:45pm	Business meeting	Imperial Ballroom
3:00pm-4:30pm	Paper session 05	Finley Lecture Hall, Gallery Rooms
4:30pm-6:00pm	Walking Tours - R.H. Hunt buildings or TVA Headquarters	
Dinner on your own		

Saturday - October 16, 2010

9:00am to 2:00pm	Study Tour by bus of Chattanooga

NEWS FROM MISSISSIPPI

By Bill Gatlin

We are happy to report that there has been no reported damage to any cultural resources in Mississippi due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Although we have not completed an intensive survey of the coastal archaeological sites, there has been no indication of any infiltration into those sites.

MDAH continues to monitor conditions in the Gulf of Mexico and coastal resources such as Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island remain threatened by subsurface oil that may be deposited on land due to weather conditions. A major hurricane could still inundate coastal resources with oil, not to mention any damage that could result from the storm.

On a brighter note, Jackson is now the home of the only Hindu temple constructed through traditional Hindu construction practices found between Atlanta and Dallas. The Hindu Temple Association recently completed a four-year construction of a 3,500 square foot worship center. Constructed by a crew of eight artisans from India, the concrete and sand structure displays intricate carvings that "display every aspect of Sanatan Dharma, the traditional ancient Indian religions." It is a truly spectacular building.

Hindu Temple, Jackson
Courtesy Jennifer Baughn

NEWS FROM ALABAMA

By Susan Braden

Charlene LeBleu, associate professor in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction at Auburn University received an award for green design projects that she and her students have done for the city of Mobile and Mobile Green Streets.

"Citizen Architect: Samuel Mockbee and the Spirit of the Rural Studio," a new documentary film by producer director Sam Wainwright Douglas, tells the story of Mockbee and Auburn University's Rural Studio program. It first aired in August on Public Broadcasting Stations.

Frank Orr, AIA Emeritus, has donated a collection of his drawings, renderings, and photographs to Auburn University. Orr is noted for his church architecture in Tennessee and in Alabama and Mississippi.

The Architectural Legacy of Wallace A. Rayfield, Pioneer Black Architect of Birmingham, Alabama (Allen R. Durough, 2010) covers the work of Rayfield who taught at Tuskegee and then founded his own firm, W. A. Rayfield & Co., in Birmingham. He designed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham and other churches, institutional and residential buildings.

New park - Birmingham's Railroad Park, will open in September 2010; the newly landscaped park covers eight blocks lying between the city's downtown core and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Designers include Tom Leader Studio (Berkeley, CA), HKW (Birmingham), Giattina Aycock Architecture Studio (Birmingham), Macknally Ross Land Design (Birmingham).

New restaurant on Lake Martin - Dungan & Nequette Architects of Birmingham recently completed SpringHouse Restaurant at Russell Crossing near Lake Martin. Designed to recall a farmhouse surrounded by auxiliary buildings, the main building features a private dining room in the Well House which is connected to the restaurant by an underground tunnel.

SpringHouse Restaurant, Birmingham
Courtesy DesignAlabama Newsletter

NEWS FROM KENTUCKY

By Bob Kelly

Lexington is preparing to host the World Equestrian Games, September 24 to October 10. The games have spurred a number of infrastructure projects in the downtown area including the burying of utility lines, new sidewalks with pavers, street trees, rain gardens, and street furniture. A new arena has been constructed at the venue, the Kentucky Horse Park, just north of town. An extensive lineup of entertainment events and a continuous street festival are also on the schedule during the games.

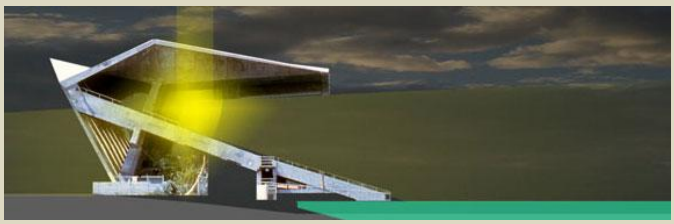
A new 35-story mixed-use project that included a hotel, restaurants, retail, and residential units, known as Centrepointe, originally slated to be open for the games, remains a grassy field in the heart of downtown. Preparations for the project resulted in the demolition of a square block of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that were deemed economically unfeasible to renovate by the developer.

NEWS FROM FLORIDA

By Michelle Michael

Listed in the National Trust's most endangered list and the World's Monuments Watch List in 2009, the Miami Marine Stadium has also been added to the Florida Trust's Most Endangered List for 2010. The Stadium was designed in 1963 by Cuban architect, Hilario Candela with the firm of Pancoast, Ferendino, Grafton, Skeels, and Burnham and other collaborating partners.

The modern icon was damaged during Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and has remained vacant since then. Things are looking up, in April the Miami-Dade Commission agreed to provide three million dollars towards restoration of the facility. As recently as July, the Commission approved the Virginia Key Master Plan which includes the Miami Marine Stadium and Basin as part of the plan. For more information visit the Friends of the Miami Marine Stadium website at www.marinestadium.org.



NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

The Vernacular Architecture Forum presented its 2010 Paul E. Buchanan Award to "North Carolina Architects & Builders, A Biographical Dictionary." The innovative online website covers a large and ever-growing collection of architects, builders, craftsmen, artisans, and other related individuals who planned and constructed buildings in the state. Originally conceived as a book in the late 1970s, the project, 30 years later, materialized as a web-based publication that serves as an exceptional format for research. Easy to use, expertly researched, and expandable, the database focuses on both the vernacular and designed array of buildings and people who contributed to the North Carolina landscape. The VAF award committee found the project remarkable for the accessibility of information and thoroughness of research on each subject.

NORTH CAROLINA
Architects & Builders
A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

The website http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/ was spearheaded by Catherine Bishir, Editor-in-Chief and Curator of the Architecture Special Collections at North Carolina State University Libraries, along with Markus Wust, who served as Project Manager, and Joseph Ryan, the Technical Project Manager. Other project team members included Jason Casden, Brian Dietz, Babi Hammond, Cory Lown, Jason Ronallo, Shelby Shanks, and Tito Sierra. The website launched in June 2009.

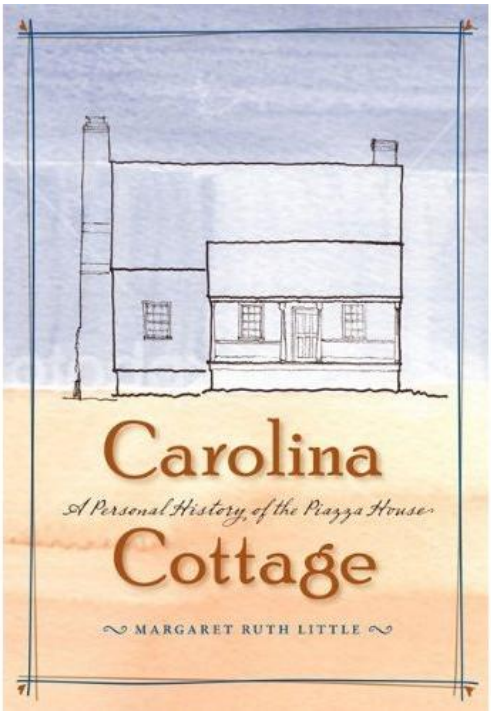
Be sure to subscribe to the SESAH email listserv at

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sesah/

Join the SESAH Facebook group at

www.sesah.org

NEW BOOKS!

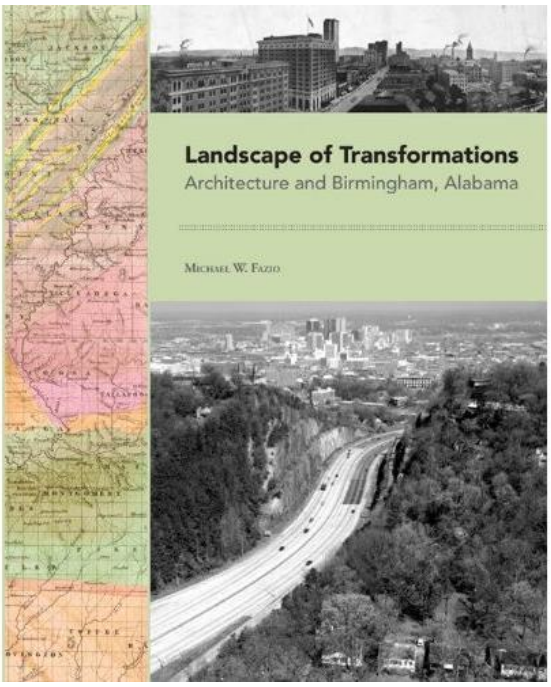


Carolina Cottage: A Personal History of the Piazza House

M. Ruth Little
University of Virginia Press
Available October 2010

Margaret Ruth Little's new book is a celebration and a history of one of the most recognizable vernacular house types in the Upper South, the Carolina cottage. The one-and-one-half-story side-gabled cottage—with its most distinctive feature, an integral front porch known as a piazza—offers not only beauty and hospitality, but a rich history. Intertwined with this history is the author's own account of rescuing and living in a 1775 cottage near Raleigh, an experience that inspired and helps shape this charming book.

Little explores the cottage revival not just for the aesthetic appeal of its compact form but for its humble efficiency, breezy open-air living room, hospitable corner bedrooms, and the happiness that comes from simple, healthy living.



Landscape of Transformations: Architecture of Birmingham, Alabama

Michael W. Fazio
University of Tennessee Press

Landscape of Transformations presents a history of Birmingham's built environment and chronicles the development of the city as it became the dominant industrial powerhouse of the South during the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth. This is a work of broad cultural interpretation, integrating industrial and commercial architecture, planned subdivision development, and the housing of the urban poor, while emphasizing the city's many transformations.

Richly illustrated with black-and-white and color photographs, maps, and drawings, *Landscape of Transformations* is one of the few studies to focus on industrial cities of the "heartland." Architectural historians, urban planners, and historic preservationists will be fascinated by this profound story of coal, iron, architecture, and the people behind the emerging personality of a leading southern city.

MEMBER NEWS

Georgia Tech Symposium to Honor Noted Architectural Scholar

The School of Architecture at Georgia Tech will host a symposium, "Foreground + Background in Architectural History," on Oct. 23, 2010, 8:00 am to 2:30 pm, to celebrate the career of **Elizabeth Meredith "Betty" Dowling**, who recently retired after three decades of distinguished service as professor, architectural historian and campus leader. The symposium is free, and registration is online at www.coa.gatech.edu/event/foreground_background.

According to George Johnston, Professor and Interim Chair of the School of Architecture, "The conference theme invites a range of perspectives on the historian's task, from deep contextual work to the surface logics animating architectural and urban form." Presenting moments in the history of architecture from multiple standpoints, the symposium will explore the role historians play in the shaping of the discipline and the definition of culture. It will feature a keynote lecture on Rome in the 17th century from **Dorothy Metzger Habel**, author of a forthcoming book on that topic and professor and director of the School of Art at the University of Tennessee. Additional speakers include:

- **Carol Flores**, professor emerita of the College of Architecture and Planning at Ball State University;
- **Michelle Moody**, project manager at Norman Davenport Askins Architects;
- **Pauline Morin**, senior lecturer and director of exchange programs in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University; and
- **Julia M. Smyth-Pinney**, associate professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Kentucky.

Attendees are invited to a remembrance luncheon in Dowling's honor immediately following the program. A 1971 alumna of Georgia Tech's undergraduate program in architecture, Dowling has been a lifelong trailblazer for women students and academicians. She has been a careful scholar and dedicated teacher of architectural history and classical design since 1973 when she joined the faculty at Georgia Tech. With her retirement, she became the College of Architecture's first professor emerita.

She led many enduring initiatives, including co-founding of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians in 1982 and starting a study abroad program in 1993 that has exposed hundreds of students from all levels and majors at Georgia Tech to art and architecture in Italy, Greece and Turkey.

In 2009, Dowling led the campaign to document and celebrate the history of architecture at Georgia Tech, curating a multi-part exhibition and editing One-hundred Years of Architectural Education at Georgia Tech, 1908-2008.

Her many honors include receiving an International Book Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and a Bronze Medal from AIA Georgia for her book *American Classicist: the Architecture of Philip Trammell Shutze* (1989, 2001). In 2006 she co-curated a traveling exhibit of new classical work based on her book *New Classicsm* (2004). In 2006, she was invited to serve as a juror for the Richard Driehaus Prize for Life Achievement in Classical Architecture and continues in this position today. In 2009, she was awarded the first ever College of Architecture NSF ADVANCE Woman of Excellence Award.

Dowling received the Master of Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1972; and the PhD in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. She remained a registered architect until 2005.

M. Ruth Little of Raleigh, North Carolina, has launched a website with examples of her work in architectural history, historic preservation, and art. Check it out at www.longleafhistoricresources.com.

From the Preservation Officer

By Jennifer Baughn

So much has changed along the Gulf Coast since Katrina that it seems it has been longer than five years since that disastrous day, August 29, 2005. On the other hand, it sometimes feels like it was only yesterday when Katrina came ashore, taking many lives and washing away thousands of historic landmarks in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Preservation organizations at the local, state, and national levels have been working every day since to save surviving historic buildings, constantly battling the twin forces of quick (often taxpayer-funded) demolition and slow deterioration from abandonment.

In New Orleans, the Preservation Resource Center (PRC) reports that they have been able to work with FEMA through the federal Section 106 review process, saving thousands of buildings that otherwise would have been demolished. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has assisted the PRC in its advocacy efforts, not only for federal grants to repair historic buildings but also in its fight to save and reuse Charity Hospital and other individual landmarks such as the Modernist Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School. The National Trust was also instrumental in securing congressional funding for Hurricane Relief Grants to help repair historic buildings on the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In Mississippi, where the storm surge washed out the entire 70-mile coastline, taking hundreds of buildings from the 14 historic districts with it, demolition began so quickly that the Section 106 reviews were of little help in saving many buildings. Thankfully, through the work of volunteers from the Association for Preservation Technology and the National Trust, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History was able to talk many homeowners into repairing rather than demolishing their homes; and the Hurricane Relief Grants have helped stabilize and repair many historic landmarks both along the Coast and inland as far as Hattiesburg.

It might seem like five years would be long enough to recover, but the devastation from Katrina was so complete that "getting back to normal" may take much longer. Demolition continues; abandonment takes its toll; much work remains. The dedicated efforts of preservationists will at least ensure that the new normal will include old landmarks that have stood the test of time and survived the greatest natural disaster in American history.

Waveland School, Bay St. Louis, MS 2006 (above) and 2010 (below).

Home in Gulfport, MS – 2005 (above) and 2010 (below).

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

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

28th SESAH Annual Meeting
Chattanooga, Tennessee
October 13-16, 2009

New South Associates
118 South 11th Street
Nashville, TN 37206

Please notify the Treasurer of address changes.