



# NEWSLETTER

## THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

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### SAH NOTICES

**1978 Annual Meeting, San Antonio—April 5-10.** Adolf K. Placzek, Columbia University, is general chairman of the meeting. O'Neil Ford of Ford, Powell and Carson will be honorary chairman, and Mary Carolyn Jutson, San Antonio College, will act as local chairman.

**SAH members will receive the preliminary program, accompanied by preregistration form and hotel reservation card, by December 1, 1977. Members abroad who wish to have the preliminary program sent airmail should notify the SAH central office immediately. To insure places on the tours and attendance at functions where numbers are limited, members are urged to preregister promptly.** (Information on sessions and tours appeared in the April and August 1977 *Newsletters*.)

**1979 Annual Meeting, Savannah—April 4-9.** David Gebhard, University of California, Santa Barbara, will be general chairman of the meeting. Leopold Adler II and Dean Owens will act as honorary local co-chairmen, and Beth Lattimore Reiter and Holly Symmes Montford will serve as local co-chairmen.

**1980 Annual Meeting—Madison, Wisconsin (April 23-27).** David Gebhard, University of California, Santa Barbara, will be general chairman of the meeting. University of Wisconsin members Eric S. McCready, Elvehjem Art Center, and Narciso Menocal, Department of Art History, will be local co-chairmen.

**1978 Annual Tour—Portland, Maine (and Vicinity), August 16-20.** Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, will serve as chairman. The tour will include visits to Wiscasset, Brunswick, Bath, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Cape Arundel.

**1978 Foreign Tour—Greece (and Turkey), May 26-June 17.** Paul M. Mylonas, National Academy of Fine Arts in Athens, will serve as chairman.

Because of the tremendous response, the Society is endeavoring to re-run this tour September 22-October 14, 1978, with Professor Mylonas again acting as chairman. Members who are interested should send the original registration form and deposits to the SAH central office.

**Finance Committee.** Under the chairmanship of James H. Halpin, the committee is beginning a drive to obtain new members and to encourage those who are presently members to increase their support by becoming Patron or Sustaining members of SAH.

**Student Scholarships—1978 Annual Tour (Portland, Maine and Vicinity).** To enable outstanding students to participate in the annual tour, the Society will hold a competition for student scholarships. The 10% surcharge on non-student participants' registrations will be applied toward two or three tour scholarships, which will defray wholly or in large part the cost of the tour itself, the hotel accommodations and air or train fare (depending upon the travel distance involved).

To be eligible, a student must be engaged in graduate work in architecture or architectural history, city planning or urban history, landscape or the history of landscape design. Interested student members should write the SAH central office (1700 Walnut Street, Room 716, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103) for an application. The application should be completed (attaching a *vita* and one or more departmental recommendations) and returned to the SAH office by February 15, 1978. A scholarship review committee will be appointed by the President to make the awards, and notification will be sent to all applicants by mid-May 1978.

**Sicily Syllabus.** A limited number of these handbooks which were prepared for the Sicily tour are available from the central office at \$6.50, postpaid. **All orders must be prepaid.**

**SAH Journal Reprints.** Johnson Reprint Corporation will have a complete run of the *Journal* (Volumes 1-25) available by March 1, 1978.

**SAH Placement Service Bulletin,** No. 3, October 1977 is enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter*. The next *Bulletin* will appear with the December 1977 issue. **Deadline:** position-available and member-applicant listings must reach the SAH office (address above) no later than November 10, 1977.

### URBAN HISTORY

A first session of this **SAH subgroup** will be held in New York City November 4 in conjunction with the ACSA regional meeting. ACSA will meet in the Cooper Hewitt Museum November 3, 4, 5. Our group will have a business session Friday, November 4, 3-5 p.m., with papers on urban history in the northeast. Then the group will join the Columbia University Seminar on the City at the Columbia Faculty House (400 W. 117 St.) for cash bar followed by buffet dinner (\$6.50-\$7.00) and an evening of lecture and discussion. Christiane C. Collins will report on the Urban Planning History Conference held in England in September, and Reyner Banham will give a lecture. For further information and reservations contact Deborah S. Gardner, 110 Morningside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027.

## SICILY TOUR—JUNE 1977

We arrived in Sicily on Saturday, greeted by Spiro Kostof. Sunday morning we set off across Sicily from west to east. Our first stop was Cefalu, where we visited the awkwardly-assembled church with its Byzantine, Arab, and Norman features and its superb Pantocrator in the apse; Spiro said, "If I were God, that's what I'd look like!" Then to Tindari, an early Greek settlement where the archeological sites were closed. This became a predictable uncertainty of the trip. Further hours on the winding narrow road along the coast brought us to Messina for the night. Some went out before dinner to join the Corpus Christi festivities and others after dinner rode the ferry over to Calabria and back.

After a traffic-filled night, we assembled in the morning under the guidance of Henry Millon to look at a statue of Don Juan of Austria, and some Baroque and Norman churches.

From Messina we turned south along the flank of Mt. Etna. We drove to Taormina along a road of hairpin loops around which the bus had to back and fill. Since it was Monday, the excavations were not open, but we did see some always-open Roman structures and we did have a good time walking around the hill town and buying souvenirs. Monday closing also foiled our attempt to see Naxos, another early Greek town along this coast.

But Catania made up for it in the abundance and availability of the Baroque monuments that Hank showed us. Here we began to follow the Sicilian work of Vaccarini, Ittar, and others. Next morning we visited S. Nicolo, the second largest monastery in Europe, a sad experience because it was in such dilapidated condition. Later we went to Frederick's Castello Orsino, now a museum. "Beginning today it is always closed in the afternoon . . ." but we got to see the courtyard and moat. That evening we attended Bellini's *The Sleepwalker*; Catania is Bellini's hometown and we joined a large audience of all ages and great enthusiasm for opera.

Wednesday June 15 we visited two inland sites: Morgantina, a Greek town of the 4-2nd centuries B.C., where we were guided by Hubert Allen who is in charge of the Illinois excavation team; and Piazza Armerina, a Roman palace of the 4th century A.D., famous for its mosaics. Scenery and light this day cried out for a great landscape painter.

Then we drove down the coast to Megara Hyblaea, a Greek city with an oil refinery on the next promontory. Here we noticed three layers of ruins including a water system. Before lunch we came to Castel Eurialo at Syracuse, built ca. 400 B.C. and still showing towers, moats, and underground passages, as well as a splendid view of the city below. Some of us went off that afternoon to the catacomb of S. Giovanni looking for traces of Greek aqueducts, and then in late afternoon we all bussed out to the plain where the temple of Zeus Olympius stood and then to the island of Ortygia to see the Temples of Apollo and Athena (now the Cathedral) in raking evening light—bellissimo!

Next morning we caught up with ourselves archeologically by going first to the museum to see groups of finds from Morgantina, etc. We made a quick visit to the Museo Bellomo which had models and views of 18th century Syracuse. Then to the Greek theater, altar of Heiron, and Roman amphitheater. The dazzling sheen on the brilliant white limestone in the heat of noon was overwhelming; most of us, however, recovered in time to tour Baroque monuments of Syracuse in the late afternoon.

On June 18 we went first to Noto. It has more than 30 churches



*The Sicily tour pauses at Morgantina to hear Hubert Allen discuss the excavations there.*

Photo: Rosann Berry

but we visited fewer, those along the three plazas which edge the Corso; we also admired the palaces with their elaborate consoles.

The afternoon was spent in Avola, a 17th century hexagonal town. One of the Syracuse evenings Hank showed us slides about the Baroque buildings. Modica and Ragusa, two more Baroque towns with spectacular hill sites for their major churches, were the next day's business. On the 20th we left Syracuse. At Gela we saw a stretch of Hellenistic walls of well-cut ashlar, and a set of Greek baths from about 200 B.C.

We arrived at Agrigento in time to walk the ridge and see the three major temples just at sunset! Some of us got up early to photograph the temples again in early morning light, and then we all went to the museum where we heard Malcolm Bell who is working on the strange Zeus temple here, famous for its Atlas figures. He then took us around that temple. After he and Spiro had traded delicate pedantries, Spiro remarked, "Ah, how delightful to be erudite!"

In the late afternoon we went up to the Acropolis of Agrigento to visit early Greek temples and late Baroque churches, with Serpotta's sculptures in white plaster. That evening was Midsummer Night, and inspired by the ancient pagan temples, we had a discussion of having an orgy—but like true intellectuals we talked and did not act. Hank came up with the best definition: An orgy is an excess of opportunities.

Selinus was the last site along the south coast, and we spent most of June 22 climbing around its ruins. There are two ridges with temples in various stages of ruin. After lunch and rest in the shade of trees at the edge of the ruins, we walked across the little river and inland to the third group dedicated to underground deities. Coming back we saw a gate and walls and many Hellenistic houses with bathtubs. That night Spiro lectured to us on Greek temples.

Next morning we visited Motya, an island off the west coast, which had been a Carthaginian settlement. Most of the ruins—inland port, graveyard, temple, and some beautiful walls—date from the fourth century B.C. We were greeted by representatives of the English family who own and farm the villa. We saw in their museum Carthaginian baby bottles, pornographic lamps, and other relics. Returning in small groups in a small boat, we ate

lunch along the road, where the bus was parked, then drove northward to Erice, once sacred to Aphrodite and now to international conferences. The view from this hill town was splendid. What a contrast to Palma di Monte Chiaro that we visited the same day, which is famous as the site of *The Leopard*, and where for the first time we encountered really degrading poverty!

Back to Palermo where we began and where we stayed for the last few nights. On the morning of June 24 we visited Monreale—at once a glory and a frustration, since the cathedral is so magnificent and half a day so short! Many felt as I did that these mosaics were the climax of the trip.

For lunch we drove out to Segesta, and sat on a hillside opposite the "unfinished" temple. In the heat of the afternoon, like mad dogs and Englishmen, we straggled up the tall hill to the Greek theater at the top—and to the best view of the whole trip. Then back to Palermo, where Spiro lectured on Norman buildings and their mosaics.

Arabo-Norman buildings of Palermo occupied the first part of Saturday morning, elucidated by John Hoag, followed by Baroque churches with Hank. For the only time, it drizzled, and we had grown so accustomed to perpetual sunshine that none of us were carrying rain gear. Late afternoon was a whirlwind of Baroque churches with Hank, mostly the works of Serpotta.

Feelings that "too soon it would be over" began to waft through the group, emphasized by the fact that we had our farewell dinner early, as Hank had to leave. Marian Donnelly gave the perfect presidential speech, the "size of a postage stamp," and gifts were presented to Spiro, Hank, and Rosann. Then Judy Holliday gave a humorous account of the trip, pointing out that we had been studying two kinds of buildings, "open" and "closed."

Fortunately the Archeological Museum was open the next morning, so we were able to see a great selection of Greek vases, some Carthaginian materials, and the beautiful metopes from Selinus.

Last of the great Norman mosaic cycles that we saw was the Capella Palatina, smaller in scale than Monreale, but by its iconographic variations just as interesting. From the palace we walked to a nearby church, a blocky cube with red domes showing strong Arab influence. In late afternoon we examined the wonderful pastiche of the Cathedral, and saw two more cubical domed churches.

Both the Byzantine-Baroque Montorana and the Arabo-Norman Catalbo opened next morning to Spiro's blandishments. Our last day wound to a close with visits to souvenir shops or the *Art Nouveau Villa Igea* or the *Chinese pavilion*, once a love nest for Wellington and Lady Hamilton. Returning to New York, the group was led by Robert Winter. New York was cloudy and drab, the traffic awful—and so we were "home," having done a month's trip in two-and-a-half weeks!

*Contributed by Dora Crouch, participant*

## LECTURES

The Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in N.Y.C. announces a series of courses beginning Oct. 3: Architecture: The Last Decade, led by Robert Stern (SAH); Cities within Cities, Kenneth Frampton; The Arts: The Modernist Vision, Anthony Vidler; and Language of Design, Andrew MacNair.

Beginning in late September, the Royal Oak Foundation offers a lecture program in N.Y.C. on British and American Art. Of particular interest to architectural historians are the Nov. 16 talk

on "The English Country House" and the Dec. 1 talk on "Oriental Fantasies—Claydon, Brighton Pavilion, Kew, Woburn."

## ORGANIZATIONS

The **Art Association of Australia** was formed in 1976. Aims of the Association include a concern with architectural history. A semi-annual newsletter will be published as well as the *Australian Journal of Art* to be produced in Italy. People wishing information about the Association, its new *Journal* or about architectural history programs in Australia should contact: Donald Leslie Johnson, Editor, *Art Association Newsletter*, School of Humanities, Flinders University, Bedford Park, South Australia 5042.

The **Society for the Study of Architecture** in Canada has elected new officers of whom the following are also members of SAH: Michael McMordie, president (Dept. of Environmental Design, U. of Calgary); Diana Bodnar, communications; and William Thompson, member at large.

## CONFERENCES

First Canadian conference on **log structures** will be held Oct. 23-28 in Banff, Alberta, sponsored by the University of Calgary.

Historians are invited to participate in a symposium on **shalls and spatial structures**, to be held under the auspices of West Virginia University, Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 1978. Write Emory L. Kemp, Dept. of Civil Engineering, W. Va. U., Morgantown, W. Va. 26506.

**American Architecture: Its Roots, Growth, and Horizons** is a conference to be held in Milwaukee Oct. 28-30. Also, an exhibit of the same name may be seen at the Milwaukee Art Center Oct. 21-Jan. 8, and a multi-media program including documentary films relating to the midwestern architects especially has been arranged, and is available to borrowers with the exhibition.

Hancock Shaker Village and the Royal Oak Foundation are holding a preservation conference Oct. 7-9 at Pittsfield, Mass. Title is "Looking Forward to the Past II: **Rural Villages and Historic Preservation.**"

The Sixth Annual Conference of the **Art Libraries** Society of North America will be held in New York City at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel, January 20-25, 1978. For more information, contact ARLIS/NA, P.O. Box 3692, Glendale, Calif. 91201.

The Anglo-American Study Tour of the Victorian Society will visit **South Wales** July 7-16, 1978. Hermione Hobhouse and Peter Howell will be the leaders. A conference on "The Arts and Crafts Movement" is being organized by Alan Crawford of Birmingham Polytechnic to take place in September 1978. Contact the Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London, W4 1TT.

**Preservation in the Real World** is the theme of Maryland Historical Trust's seventh annual conference to be held in Annapolis, November 5-6. Emphasis will be placed on the reality of preservation rather than the ideals behind it. Numerous prominent preservationists will participate. For information contact: The Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

**Villas on the Hudson**

Compiled by George S. Appleton

One of the most beautiful architectural books ever published in America—now extremely rare in its original edition—*Villas on the Hudson* is of great artistic as well as historical significance. It comprises thirty-one exquisite photolithographs by W. A. Turner, providing a picture of architectural embellishment along the Hudson River, exactly as it appeared in 1860, that cannot be found in any other publication.

The photolithographs capture, in elaborate detail, the grandeur of the residences of William Aspinwall, C. M. Connolly, Thomas Cochran, Samuel Babcock, Washington Irving, and other personages of the nineteenth century.

(Philadelphia, 1860)

3 plates leaf, 31 plates, 21 plans (19 x 13)

\$65.00

**History of the Skyscraper**

by Francisco Mujica

Written by a South American architect who was quite prominent in the early part of this century, this book is the first great pictorial history of what has become virtually the signature of American architecture—the skyscraper. It is a valuable source book of early skyscraper designs, richly embellished with pictures, plans, and perspectives of nearly every tall building built from 1880 to the 1930s.

Both the structural and aesthetic development of the skyscraper are considered in depth; the author traces clearly all the evolutionary transitions in design from nineteenth-century classical styles to the Gothic tendencies of the early 1920s. The book also includes comments by various architects on the effect of the skyscraper on requirements for adequate sunlight, air circulation, safety, street congestion, and city planning. Controversial views concerning the construction of skyscrapers are well represented by original contributions by John Sloan, Thomas Hastings, Harvey Wiley Corbett, and Henry Curran.

(Paris, 1929; New York, 1930)

72 pp., 134 plates (17¼ x 12½)

\$75.00

**Amerika**

Bilderbuch Eines Architekten

by Erich Mendelsohn

In 1924 Erich Mendelsohn, a leading German architect of the Expressionist period and one of the great figures of modern architecture, visited America for the first time. What he saw and photographed is a fascinating record—America as seen through the eyes of a great European architect.

As can be seen from his photographs, Mendelsohn was deeply impressed and moved by the variety of forms he saw in American cities. From the dramatic spectacles of Times Square and Broadway at night, the majesty of the skyscraper, and the dignity of Chicago's Federal Reserve Bank, to the commonplace factories of the large cities, Mendelsohn captures the spirit of American architecture in the 1920s. Text in German.

(Berlin, 1926)

ix + 82 pp. + 77 photo. (13½ x 9½)

\$39.50

*a two-volume set*

**Wooden and Brick Buildings with Details**

Published under the Direction of A. J. Bicknell

Amos Jackson Bicknell was, in the late nineteenth century, among the most prolific publishers of architectural literature, especially pattern books, and his publications helped to shape architectural tastes in both urban and suburban areas during the post-Civil War era. His *Wooden and Brick Buildings with Details*, an outstanding example among American architectural pattern books, was the primary source book used by builders and architects of the 1870s. The book contains plans, elevations, views, sections, and details by many of the leading architects of the period, including Samuel Sloan, R. M. Upjohn, Leopold Eidlitz, H. J. Hardenbergh, W. A. Potter, James Renwick, F. C. Withers, and others.

(New York, 1875)

Vol. I: 118 pp., 80 plates (9½ x 13)

Vol. II: 113 pp., 80 plates (9½ x 13)

2-vol. set: \$65.00

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**Architecture  
and  
Decorative  
Art**

## CHAPTERS

**Chicago.** "The Architecture of Frank Furness of Philadelphia" was presented by James O'Gorman on July 14. This chapter is planning an October tour of New Harmony, Ind.

**Decorative Arts.** Oct. 3-5 meeting in Cleveland, to coincide with the Assoc. for Preservation Technology meeting there. Sessions on glass, wood, and metals will be followed by a visit to Hale Farm and Village of the Western Reserve. Nominated as officers for 1977-79 are: Dianne Pilgrim, president (The Brooklyn Museum, 188 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238); Jonathan Fairbanks, vice-president; Lynn Springer, secretary; and Barbara Carson, treasurer.

**Landscape Architecture.** Officers are: Robert Harvey, president (2202 Cessna St., Ames, Iowa 50010); Laurie R. Hammel, vice-president; and Caroline Sloat, secretary-treasurer. Fall tour and business meeting were held in Boston in September.

**Latrobe.** At the end of December, the officers were re-elected. A series of lectures has been sponsored, such as May 10, Antoinette Lee on "Conservation Areas in British Towns," and the chapter is active in preservation matters.

**New Jersey.** Annual meeting in May elected these officers for 1977-78. Sandy Brown, president (34 Ramsey Drive, Summit, N.J. 07901); Paul R. Baker, first vice-president; Lou H. Mitchell, second vice-president; Marion Husid-Bensky, secretary-treasurer; and Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., preservation officer.

**Central New York.** A day of papers and touring in Canandaigua, held with the Ontario County Historical Society, Sonnenberg Gardens, and Granger Homestead Society, was held June 18.

**Philadelphia.** This chapter issues a *Preservation Newsletter*, illustrated, and edited by Perry Benson. In May they heard George E. Thomas on "The Architecture of the Hewitt Brothers" and toured Maybrook; and in June they joined the Athenaeum, the Victorian Society, AIA, Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, to hear Yurly S. Yaralov of the Central Research Inst. of Theory and History of Architecture of U.S.S.R. speak on "Using Historical Architecture to Improve the Urban Environment."

**Northern Pacific Coast.** At the April meeting in Berkeley, papers were read and a tour of Maybeck, Morgan, and Greene & Greene buildings was led by Sara Boutelle. Next meeting is October, in Vancouver.

**South Gulf.** New officers: Dwight Young, president; Katherine Binger, vice-president; Nancy Holmes, secretary-treasurer; and Karen Wade, preservation officer. After the business meeting, a tour of some historic areas and houses in Mobile took place.

**Texas.** In July, a pot-luck dinner and business meeting were held at New Braunfels, with sight-seeing, canoeing, and swimming.

**U. of Virginia.** New officers of this student chapter: Cynthia McLeod, president (Braeburn Farm, Free Union, Va. 22940); Vanessa Patrick, vice-president; Catherine Gilliam, secretary; and Mark Wenger, treasurer.

**Southern California.** Newly elected officers: Janann Strand, president (1207 S. Pasadena Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 91105); William A. Kelly, vice-president; Elizabeth McMillian, secretary; Eugene Streich, treasurer; Robert Winter, preservation; and Kathryn Smith, newsletter editor.

**Western Reserve.** New officers: Richard Karberg, president (2929 Edgehill Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44118); Elizabeth Breckenridge, vice-president and program chairman; and Ruth Adomeit, treasurer-secretary, assisted by Joy Cheshier. The Western Reserve Award was presented to Mary-Peale Schofield for her *Landmark Architecture of Cleveland*, and a special mention went to William A. Brenner for his planning study, "Downtown and the University: Youngstown, Ohio." The chapter also buys a book each year for the Western Reserve Historical Society, and supports local archival preservation.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

ROBERT W. BERGER will be a visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study during 1977-8. BRIAN SPENCER has been named first curator of Prairie Archives at the Milwaukee Art Center. Harvard's GSD heard lectures during the spring from EDMUND BACON, PETER SERENYI, DAVID VAN ZANTEN, EDUARD SEKLER; and ELIZABETH MacDOUGALL (Secretary of SAH) organized the fifth in a series of conferences on garden design, held at Dumbarton Oaks and concerning itself with Renaissance garden fountains. Honored at the June AIA meeting by investiture as fellows were: HENRY MAGAZINER (Director of SAH), JACK SHERMAN BAKER, EDWARD CHARLES BASSEN, RICHARD L. BLISS, JOHN H. BURGEE, JOHN MORRIS DIXON, and ALBERT HOMER SWANKE. The AIA medal was awarded to G. HOLMES PERKINS, and to the PITTSBURGH HISTORY AND LANDMARKS FOUNDATION; and honor awards to PHILIP JOHNSON for Pennzoil Place, RICHARD MEIER for the Bronx Developmental Center, and HARRY WEESE for the Campbell Courthouse Annex; ARTHUR COTTON MOORE for Canal Square; SHEPLEY BULFINCH RICHARDSON & ABBOTT for College Center at Vassar; and to Venturi and Rauch, whose consultants were NATIONAL HERITAGE CORP. for Franklin Court. THOMAS J. SCHLERETH has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study Solon S. Beman. Meanwhile, the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters awarded its annual Arnold W. Brunner Prize in Architecture to HENRY N. COBB, and inducted ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE and ROMALDO GIURGOLA as members. An honorary doctorate was awarded to BARBARA WRISTON by Lawrence University. Recipients of research grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission are RICHARD W. UPDIKE and MICHAEL A. TOMLAN. FREDERICK NICHOLS will speak on William Buckland Oct. 17 to mark the opening of an exhibit at Gunston Hall in Lorton, Va. The N. Y. Society of Architects has presented their L. Strauss Memorial Award to GIORGIO CAVAGLIERI. News has been received of the deaths of JOHN F. OGLEVEE, and HANS HUTH. The American Council of Learned Societies has given a grant-in-aid to STEVEN H. WANDER, to finish his doctoral dissertation; and has given fellowships to STANFORD ANDERSON, ROSEMARIE H. BLETTER, MEREDITH CLAUSEN and PATRICIA ANN WADDY; and awarded post-doctoral research grants to JAMES F. O'GORMAN and DANIEL REIFF. CHARLES MOORE has received a Guggenheim. Arizona State

University heard HUGH HARDY as commencement speaker. Photos by RICARDO CASTRO were shown at KSU; G. E. KIDDER SMITH's *History of Art in America* exhibit is available from the Smithsonian. MARVIN MILLS is constructing a Georgian style Ionisphere Club for Eastern Airlines at Philadelphia. ELAINE S. HOCHMAN has been catalyst for improved design of a new Fifth Avenue apartment house, a project that involved the talents of JAMES POLSHEK, PHILIP JOHNSON and JOHN BURGEE.

### TEACHING ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

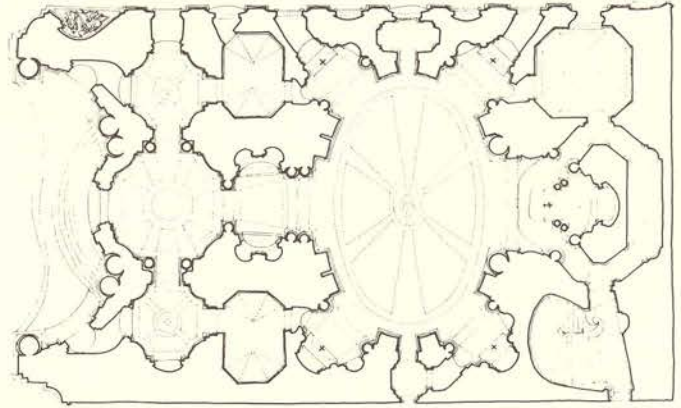
**American Novels/American Houses** is a senior seminar offered at Wheaton College by Curtis Dahl (SAH), inspired by an idea of Margaret Floyd (SAH). Students study such basic American architectural styles as "Dutch colonial, Elizabethan Gothic, Creole plantation, stick style, Queen Anne, and Sullivan Chicago modern" as they appear meaningfully in fiction. This double-faceted method has worked best with Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*, Howells' *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, James' *An International Episode*, and Wharton's *The House of Mirth*. Though novelists sometimes mention buildings by important architects, the great bulk of architecture in American fiction is vernacular. This emphasizes, as conventional architectural history courses do not always do, that ordinary buildings have great impact on cultural consciousness. Students do research in literature, biography, local history, picture collections, and architectural literature, and come to realize how literary and pictorial sources can combine to result in larger comprehension and keener appreciation of both fiction and architecture.

#### Design Projects as Teaching Tools in Architectural History Courses

Because most of the students that I teach are architects, I conceived of a series of design projects set in historical frameworks which I hoped would help to make more students active participants in the class. The object of the design projects I devised was to cut the distance in time and space between the student and history by giving him the tools to come to grips with the major questions posed by a city or building and then asking her to come up with a solution. My hope was that the combination of design with academic scholarship would lead to a more profound grasp of the architecture of the past than either method alone.

One of the projects I used was intended to teach Roman domestic architecture while also dramatizing the difficulty of describing a building in words, and demonstrating the speculative nature of reconstruction. In the first century A.D., Pliny the Younger had described his seaside Laurentian villa in detail, but scholars have long disagreed about the building's actual appearance.<sup>1</sup> The sections of the class were divided into teams. A review of the lecture material on the design of Roman villas was presented and then each group was instructed to read Pliny's famous description, and to design the villa described.<sup>2</sup> In order to complete the project successfully the students not only had to know intellectually about the Roman villa but also had to use design sense to come up with a likely answer. At the end of class the students were shown the reconstruction attempts of fellow students as well as those of scholars over the years. Through trying to reconstruct the villa, students had the experience of assuming the role of a Roman architect and the role of a modern architectural historian struggling with limited data.

In a lecture class that I teach on Baroque architecture I used a similar design project to interest the class even more deeply in the images on the screen. The project was to design a church



*Santa Croce hypothetical church by Scott Findley.*

which was to be built in Rome in 1680. The program of the church, its site, and advice about price was given to the students along with a detailed biographical sketch of the architect whose character they were to assume. Included was information that the architect had been impressed by Borromini's S. Carlo and, though fairly conservative himself, was haunted by Borromini's advanced design.

The students' Baroque churches were outstanding. Their drawings demonstrated that they had understood the orders, geometry, and sensuality of the Baroque. Most of the buildings were not copies of a building or even copies of the details of any specific building of the period. Most were extremely original, yet fit into the 1680 period well. One church, which is illustrated here, is essentially an original composition yet could easily have been built in late 17th or early 18th century Rome. The student-architect understood the Baroque although this was the first history course he had ever taken. And another member of the class said reverentially, "I could never have done this without Vignola,"\* a 16th century authority on proper use of the classical orders.

In addition to the designs themselves, a paper describing the design process and the sources which the student used was required. Interestingly enough, these written reports did not necessarily disclose the students' understanding of the Baroque style. One student designed a 16th century Mexican Colonial church and a second, a Gothic Revival church, both thinking they were Baroque. While these misconceptions, interesting in their own right, might have slipped by in a written report, they were very apparent in the design projects.

Another design problem approach was offered to students in a large survey course. The students could choose to investigate, through models or drawings, any historical problems they wished as an alternative to the traditional research paper. One student designed a new Stonehenge which would function calendrically like the original but would incorporate more monumental vistas. Another student decided to design and build a Roman transit in order to see how accurately the Romans could survey. Still another wrote the history of a medieval monastery and illustrated its year-by-year growth on its fictional site.

\*Giacomo Barozio da Vignola, *Regola delli Cinque Ordini di Architettura*, 1596.

The capability of the design problem format is limitless; these are just a few of the ways it might be used. At first I was concerned that I might be accused of teaching a kind of Ecole des Beaux Arts eclecticism which might be considered dangerous in this period of uncertain architectural ideals. But the only danger in the approach thus far seems to be its intellectual attractiveness. One engineer who was in the professional architectural program chose to design a scale reconstruction of the "secret hoist" which Brunelleschi supposedly used in the construction of the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, in order to test current hypotheses about this machine.<sup>3</sup> The project so fascinated him that he decided to change his career plans and become an architectural historian himself.

Contributed by Stephen Tobriner  
University of California, Berkeley

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>For Pliny's text and an assessment of several reconstructions see Helen H. Tanzer, *The Villas of Pliny the Younger*, N.Y., 1924, and Clifford Pember, "Lost Villa of the Younger Pliny," *Illustrated London News*, no. 211, August 23, 1947, pp. 220-221.

<sup>2</sup>Joan E. Draper, at that time a teaching associate for Environmental Design 170, wrote the script for the section. Her earlier paper on the reconstructions of Pliny's villa for a graduate seminar gave me the idea for using the problem as a teaching device.

<sup>3</sup>Richard M. Levy analyzed the hoist in a term paper entitled "An Analysis of a Mechanical Hoist of Filippo Brunelleschi," December 5, 1973.

#### QUERIES

Unpublished or obscurely published material on the architect, the client, or the building is needed for a monograph on **H. H. Richardson's Marshall Field Wholesale Store**. Send to James F. O'Gorman, Dept. of Art, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. 02181.

Information on **Albert Lawrence West**, FAIA (1825-92), an engineer involved in the Confederate defense of Atlanta, is sought by Robert J. Leary, 6906 Lakewood Dr., Richmond, Va. 23229.

Suggestions for **re-cycled buildings**, for a definitive book on the subject, may be sent to Barbaralee Diamondstein, 4 East 70th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10021.

Volunteers to identify and catalog photographic resources in public and private collections, towards the establishment of an inventory of remaining **Jewish monuments** of Europe and North Africa, are badly needed. Contact International Survey of Jewish Monuments, 295 Grandview Circle, Ridgewood, N.J. 07450.

Information requested concerning the records of the architectural firm of **Little and Browne** of Boston (1889-ca.1939) for documentation of Anderson House, Washington, D.C. Send to John D. Kilbourne, Director, Anderson House Museum, 2118 Mass. Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

The **Women's School of Planning and Architecture** elicits comments and suggestions from potential participants. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a questionnaire: WSPA, Box 311, Shaftsbury, Vt. 05262.

Zube, Ervin H. and Margaret J. Zube (eds.). *Changing Rural Landscapes*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 1977. \$10.00. ISBN 0-87023-228-2; paper, \$4.95. ISBN 0-87023-235-2.

#### BOOKS

- Airs, Malcolm. *The Making of the English Country House*. London: The Architectural Press, 1976. £ 9.95. SBN 85134-378-0.
- Amery, Colin (ed.). *Three Centuries of Architectural Craftsmanship*. London: The Architectural Press Ltd. and Nichols Publishing Company, 1977. \$17.50. ISBN 0-89397-004-2.
- Apps, Jerry. *Barns of Wisconsin*. Madison: Tamarack Press, 1977. Available from Tamarack Press, P.O. Box 5650, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.
- Ashton, Michael and James Bond. *The Landscape of Towns*. London: Dent, 1976. £ 5.50. SBN 460-04194-0.
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. *Architecture Schools in North America*. Princeton, N.J.: Peterson's Guides, 1977. \$5.95. Available from Peterson's Guides, 228 Alexander Street, Princeton, N.J. 08540.
- Bruce, Curt. *The Great Houses of New Orleans*. N.Y.: Knopf, 1977. \$15.00.
- Bryan, John Morrill (SAH). *An Architectural History of the South Carolina College*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1976. ISBN 0-87249-352-0.
- Carrington, Noel. *Industrial Design in Britain*. London: Allen & Unwin. £ 7.50. SBN 04-745006-1.
- Darley, Gilliam. *Villages of Vision*. N.Y.: Universe, 1976. \$16.00. ISBN 0-85139-705-0.
- Davern, Jeanne M. (SAH). *Architectural Record's Places for People*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1977. \$19.50.
- Edwards, I.E.S. *Tutankhamun: His Tomb and Its Treasures*. N.Y.: Knopf, 1977. \$35.00. Paperback, Ballantine, \$7.65.
- Eisenman, Peter (SAH). *Giuseppe Terragni*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1977. \$40.00. ISBN 0-262-05017 X.
- Federica, Di Castro. *Sottsass's Scrap-Book* "Documenti di Casabella," 1976. Lit. 15.000. Available, Centro Di, Piazza de' Mozzi Ir, 50125 Firenze, Italy.
- Gebhard, David (SAH) and Deborah Nevins (SAH). *200 Years of American Architectural Drawings*. N.Y.: Watson-Guption, 1977. \$30.00.
- Glossarium Artis Deutsch-Franzosisches Systematisches Definitions — Worterbuch Zur Kunst*. 6 vols. DM 35- Available: Max Niemeyer Verlag, D-7400 Tubingen, Postfach 2140.
- Green, Herb. *Mind and Image: An Essay on Art and Architecture*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1976. \$22.50. ISBN 0-8131-1323-7.
- Kempton, Richard. *Art Nouveau: An Annotated Bibliography*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1977. Limited edition of 1000 copies. \$39.95 paper. ISBN 0-912158-59-X.
- Heimsath, Clovis. *Behavioral Architecture*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1977. \$15.50.
- Mackintosh, Barbara A. *Missouri Historical Markers and Sites*. Sioux Falls, S.D.: Breuet Press, 1977. \$8.95; \$4.95 paper.
- Tennessee Historical Markers and Sites*. Sioux Falls, S.D.: Breuet Press, 1977. \$8.95; \$4.95 paper.
- McCue, George (SAH). *The Octagon, Being an Account of a Famous Washington Residence: Its Great Years, Decline and Restoration*. Washington, D.C.: AIA Foundation, 1976. \$6.00, postpaid. Available: The Octagon, 1799 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.
- Meller, H. E. *Leisure and the Changing City*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977. £ 7.50.
- Morgan, Elaine. *Falling Apart: The Rise and Fall of Urban Civilization*. N.Y.: Stein and Day, 1977. \$10.00.
- Nylander, Jane C. *Fabrics for Historic Buildings*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1977. \$5.50 postpaid. Available, National Trust Preservation Bookshop, 740 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. ISBN 0-89133-056-9.
- Page, Marian (SAH). *Historic Houses Restored and Preserved*. Watson-Guption, 1976. \$25.00. ISBN 0-8230-7275-4.
- Percival, Joan. *The Roman Villa: An Historical Introduction*. Batsford Studies in Archaeology, 1976. £ 10. SBN 7134-3238-1.
- Plucker, Lina S. *Kansas Historical Markers and Sites*. Sioux Falls, S.D.: Breuet Press, 1977. \$8.95; \$4.95, paper.
- Portman, John Calvin and Jonathan Barnett (SAH). *The Architect as Developer*. N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 1976. \$22.95. ISBN 0-07-050536-5.
- Smith, George Everard Kidder (SAH). *A Pictorial History of Architecture in America*, N.Y.: American Heritage, 1976. 2 vols., \$45.00. ISBN 0-393-04453-X.
- Thompson, Elisabeth Kendall (SAH). *Recycling Buildings*. New York: McGraw-Hill (Architectural Record Book), 1977. \$19.50.
- Trager, Philip. *Photographs of Architecture*. Middleton, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1977. \$24.95.
- Walden, Russell (ed.). *The Open Hand: Essays on Le Corbusier*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1977. \$24.95. ISBN 0-262-23074-7.
- Wodehouse, Lawrence (SAH). *American Architects from the First World War to the Present*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1977. \$18.00.
- Woodall, Ronald. *Magnificent Derelicts, a Celebration of Older Buildings*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1977. \$29.95. ISBN 0-295-95538-4.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Schools.** University of San Diego now has a graduate certificate program for Historic Site Archaeology Technician. They will soon have an M.A. in American History with an option in Historic Preservation.

Preservation of historic buildings and areas will be the topic of a short course given for the Division of Archives and History of the North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources and Stagville Preservation Center, by Robert E. Stipe (SAH), on Nov. 9-16 in Durham and Winston-Salem.

Fall courses at Boston University include graduate work in preservation. Richard Candee (SAH), will teach New England Preservation Management; Max Ferro (SAH), and David Hart (SAH), will join Morgan Phillips in offering Historic Building Conservation; Charles M. Sullivan (SAH), will give Urban Planning Techniques in Historic Preservation.

**Publications.** A lively and lavishly illustrated approach to preservation is *American Preservation*, P.O. Box 2451, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. Succinct but interesting is *Possibilities* published by the Historic Preservation Graduate Curriculum at the U. of Vermont.

**Buildings.** **St. Mary's Church** in Boston's North End has been torn down. Though the problem generated a lot of emotion, no one came up with an alternate-use plan that the Landmarks Commission found compelling or even suitable. In Philadelphia however the **Athenaeum**, headquarters of the Victorian Society, has been declared a National Historic Landmark; it was restored in 1976.

The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation began work on its Station Square Project last year. This consists in the adaptation of an entire rail terminal complex of buildings covering 47 acres and including the large **Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Station** for a commercial, recreation, and cultural center.

In Washington, D.C. the **west front of the Capitol**, facing the Lincoln Memorial, is in danger of being extended for more Congressional office space. **St. Mary-le-Strand in London** is in drastic need of preservation; those who wish to aid may write to 24 Surrey St., Strand, London, WC2R 2ND, England. **Ward House**, first and oldest extant (1873-76) reinforced concrete building in the U.S. has been designated a National Historic Civil and Concrete Engineering Landmark. **Urban Projects.** The Hartford Architecture Conservancy has raised \$250,000 for a revolving fund for historic preservation. Local corporations were very generous, and other gifts came from the National Park Service and foundations such as the Eva Gebhard-Gourgaud Foundation (SAH).

Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project is sponsoring a conference Nov. 2-5 with the participation of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and the Mt. Auburn Good Housing Foundation of Cincinnati, who have had great success with rehabilitation for low-income residents.

**Personal Action.** Walker Johnson (SAH), and Glenn Hjort (SAH), have been instrumental in the joint effort of the Chicago Historical Society and the Chicago Chapter and Illinois Council of the AIA in founding a **Chicago Architectural Archive**, housed at the Historical Society and open to the public.

**James Marston Fitch** (SAH), has been appointed to the N.Y.C. Landmarks Preservation Commission, and has been honored by the Victorian Society for outstanding achievement in preservation.



Athenaeum of Philadelphia, *John Notman* (1810-1860), architect. This important Italianate Revival library building was erected in 1845-47 after a celebrated architectural competition by one of America's oldest cultural institutions. It has just been completely restored by the society and houses extensive collections of sources on nineteenth-century architecture and cultural history that are available to qualified researchers. Shown here is the Members' Reading Room which contains all of its original furniture and lighting fixtures.

Photo: The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

## MUSEUMS

"Rococo Fountains in Prints" may be seen through Nov. 27 at the **Metropolitan Museum** in N.Y.C.

"Out of the East: Oriental Imports for the Victorian Home" may be seen at the **Memorial Art Gallery** of the U. of Rochester, N.Y., Nov. 19-Jan. 8.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The **Columbia Society of Fellows in the Humanities** offers grants to new Ph.D.'s (Jan. 1976-July 1978). Deadline is Nov. 1, 1977. Write: Director, Room 803, International Affairs Building, Columbia U., N.Y., N.Y. 10027.

Fellowships are available to study American history and culture at the **American Antiquarian Society** in Worcester, Mass. Deadline is Feb. 1, 1978. Write: John B. Hench, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass. 01609.

Deadline for fellowships at the **National Humanities Center** has been extended to Feb. 1, 1978.

The **Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation** offers money for pre- and post-doctoral fellowships for research in Venice, Italy. Deadline is Jan. 15, 1978. Some of the research will be published by the trustees. Write to the Foundation at: 20 Broad St., N.Y., N.Y. 10005.

National Endowment for the Humanities will again offer **Summer Seminars for College Teachers**, of \$2000 plus travel allowance, for two months. Write: Division of Fellowships, N.E.H., 806 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. Deadline is March 13, 1978.