

## Book Award Citations

[Editors' Note: There was no MacDougall Award for 2008.]

### Downing Award

Catherine W. Bishir, *Southern Built: American Architecture, Regional Practice* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006).

Taken together, the twelve essays reprinted in Catherine W. Bishir's *Southern Built: American Architecture, Regional Practice*, published by the University of Virginia Press in 2006, form a remarkably coherent and insightful study of the history of Southern building traditions, and admirably reflect and summarize the author's long and distinguished career as a preservationist and historian. Her work places particular attention on those who have often been written out of architectural history—women, blacks, craftspeople—and it presents us with an honest and frank evaluation of the violence and injustice that has at times tormented the South. Bishir's shrewd analysis of how social and economic status has influenced historic preservation challenges the reader to ponder many of its basic assumptions, as well as to focus on what is still being lost. Through all of this her fascination with buildings and places as evidence of history constantly reminds us of the joy and pleasure gained by looking at, thinking about, and investigating these artifacts of our past. Impeccably researched and written with clarity and elegance by a professional preservationist who has been active in the field since the 1970s, *Southern Built* should serve as model for all students of historic preservation and architectural history.

### Founder's Award

Robert Maxwell, "Romanesque Construction and the Urban Context: Parthenay-le-Vieux in Aquitaine" *JSAH*, (March 2007).

In making a case for why some less famous monuments can be worth fresh and serious consideration, Robert Maxwell analyzes the design, construction, and sculptural decoration of the Romanesque church of Parthenay-le-Vieux within a context illuminated by archival documentation. Meticulously detailed, solidly argued, and judiciously illustrated, his article displays a sound knowledge of both the church itself and earlier studies. Maxwell has produced a study that not only sheds light on a particular structure in its historical and geographical setting but also points the way to a new, more complete understanding of its period.

### Hitchcock Award

Michael W. Fazio and Patrick A. Snadon, *The Domestic Architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006).

Michael Fazio and Patrick Snadon have written an exceptionally interesting book that widens and deepens our understanding of a most important architect. While focusing on Latrobe's domestic architecture, their work illuminates his entire trans-Atlantic career and the making of architecture in Britain and America in general. A measurably monumental work, *The Domestic Architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe* begins with a beautiful explanation of the architectural and social context in which Latrobe began his career in England.

Latrobe's teachers and patrons are brought vividly to life, and his making of architecture is explicated with a dazzling synthesis of scholarly acumen and artistic insight. His American career is traced with the same attention, although his sadly depleted oeuvre must first be reconstructed from all manner of evidence—much of it small. For example, plans of the Waln House in Philadelphia are resurrected largely from Latrobe's letters. The authors offer a convincing account of Latrobe's creative processes, one of the products of which was his "rational" plan for domestic architecture. All of his houses are fully discussed and illustrated. The authors' drawings and computer

reconstructions are especially valuable and are used with particular effect to reimagine the dynamic spatial sequences and furnishings of the Pope Villa in Kentucky. While weighty and rich in detail, the book does not succumb to either its mass or minutiae; Fazio and Snadon have important things to say, and they know how to say them.

### **Kostof Award**

Peter Draper, *The Formation of English Gothic: Architecture and Identity* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2006).

During the second half of the twelfth century, a period of close cultural and political connections between England and France, how were received ideas from across the Channel assimilated in ways that account for the originality and creative expression of English Gothic? This is the central question that propels Peter Draper's authoritative and richly synthetic account of the invention of Gothic architecture in England.

This fine-grained study of the formation of English Gothic architecture between ca. 1150 and ca. 1250 focuses on the intersection of imported ideas with local practices. Examining the complexity of Gothic buildings and the layers of alterations and restorations that shape them, Peter Draper assembles a massive array of evidence to construct an archaeology of invention. Broadly conceived within the discipline, Draper's study analyzes the relation of building within the wider social world, to liturgy, patronage, institutional developments, and the play between an interest in ideal planning and an accommodation to practical concerns. Cultural constructions of the great cathedrals of Canterbury, Wells, Salisbury, Lincoln and others each support a case for national identity.

Emphasizing significant questions over chronological narrative or summary conclusions, Peter Draper provides the discipline of architectural history with an open work, which will aid future scholars in their efforts to understand the continuity of expression and diversity of form that define Gothic Architecture in England.

### **Johnson Award**

Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen and Donald Albrecht, eds., *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2006).

In a career that spanned little more than two decades, Eero Saarinen designed an extraordinary number of the iconic buildings and objects of mid-twentieth century modernism, from the General Motors Technology Center, to the Trans World Airlines Terminal, Ingalls Hockey Rink at Yale, the United States Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, and the Pedestal Table and Chairs. Yet, as noted in the introduction to their monumental, beautifully produced exhibition catalogue, "Saarinen may be the least-known famous architect of the twentieth century." *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future*, emphatically redresses that imbalance.

The engaging, comprehensive exhibition catalogue is both the first retrospective of the work of Eero Saarinen and a novel revisionary approach to Saarinen studies. The catalogue is extensive, with an introductory essay by the exhibition curators and editors of the volume; seven newly commissioned interpretive essays; a portfolio of Saarinen's projects, accompanied by eleven short essays on individual projects and building types; and a chronology, selected writings, and a panel discussion by former collaborators.

The interpretative essays situate Saarinen in the social, institutional, professional, and technological contexts of his time and practice, anchoring him firmly in the history of 20th century architecture, and propose a prominent, even transformative role for him in that narrative. Saarinen, it is argued, possessed a nascent skepticism regarding the necessary binary coupling of function and form—a basic tenet of the Modern Movement in architecture for over half a century. The skepticism is credited with the evolving transformation of Saarinen's work in concrete. That transformation is also shown to mark a definitive rupture of the reciprocal relationship between form and construction method.

Based on new archival research, the essays and the Project Portfolio section provide a wealth of new material and information on previously unpublished work. Far more than a record of the exhibition, each entry in the

portfolio section is written by a different scholar and gives valuable information as well as thoughtful commentary. In addition to the innovative scholarship of the essays and catalogue entries, the visual documentation, presented legibly and in an attractive format, offers primary sources for future researchers. *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future* represents well an exhibition, provides information that can be used by others, and makes an critical contribution to scholarship.