



SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORIANS

Virtual Conference 2025

September 18-20

Conference
Program

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

08:00 AM–9:50 AM

Divided by Print: Interrelating Architecture and Interiors

Session Co-Organizers: Linda Stagni, ETH Zurich; Charlotte Rottiers, ETH Zurich / KU Leuven

Abstract:

Although interiors and architecture are spatially interdependent, their interrelation is often omitted in print media. Focusing on the late nineteenth and early twentieth century this panel aims to explore how this division in print media, which increasingly tailored to differentiated audiences, related to ongoing processes of professionalization and separation of competences of architecture and interiors.

During this time, an unprecedented circulation of visual material and access to print media empowered the consumption of interior and architectural images. Interiors increasingly featured as an autonomous subject, mediatized independently from their built environment. Interiors often became instrumental in constructing notions such as class, gender, and domesticity, while architecture was commonly associated with more evident narratives of power and authority. Remarkably, photographs of domestic spaces rarely reveal how the rooms interact within the building, architectural facades with shut doors prevent looking in. Captions and descriptions of newly opened buildings often support ideas of interiors as simple functional solutions. Examining this disconnection in the media allows to unveil social, political, and cultural constructions instrumentalized in the function of the audience called more and more to act as consumers.

This session investigates how the relationship between architecture and its interiors was shaped, distorted, or omitted. Which textual and visual strategies of word and image were used to assert their interrelation? Were architecture and interior images staged, photographed, and printed in similar ways, or informed by different agendas and expectations? While both architecture and interiors throughout the history of print media have been treated by robust scholarship separately, the ambiguous relation of interior-architecture has only partially been researched as such. The contributors to this session address this lacuna through key case studies of public buildings, domestic architecture, and beyond, as published in specialized journals, mass-market print, general magazines, or newspapers (but not only), from different geographies.

This session is endorsed by the SAH Historic Interiors Affiliate Group.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Interiors as indexes of the nation's progress in illustrated weekly newspapers: the case of La Ilustración Española y Americana, 1869-1898*, Pilar Morán García, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
- *Sensory Regimes of Architecture in Turkish Craft Magazines*, Damla Göre, ETH Zürich
- *Raumkunst for all? The term and concept of Raumkunst in German Arts&Crafts journals around 1900*, Sonja Sikora, Philipps University Marburg
- *The Minimum Dwelling as Interior-less Architecture? On the Invisibility of Living Spaces in Mass Housing in 1920s Architectural Journals*, Amelie Ochs, Bremen University
- *A Transcalar Interiority: Travelogues and Hotel Architecture in Cyprus*, Savia Palate, University of Cyprus
- *Baroque on the Edges: the Afterlives of Palazzo Bianco, Genoa*, Flavia Crisciotti, The Oslo School for Architecture and Design

10:00 AM–11:50 AM

Asian (Post)Colonial Works, Labour and Gender Through the Camera Lens

Session Co-Organizers: Beatriz Serrazina, University Institute of Lisbon; Leonor Matos Silva, University Institute of Lisbon

Abstract:

This session examines how photography mediates the histories of labor, architecture, and gender in Asian (post)colonial contexts, particularly in Macao. It brings together five researchers who are members of the LabourMap-Macao project, complemented by an external respondent. Focusing on four case studies from 1849 to 1999, the project's research explores how photography has documented and, at times, obscured the presence and roles of laborers—particularly women—within the processes of construction. Despite its inherent subjectivities and constraints, photography captures both the built environment and the standpoint of those behind the lens, revealing layers of power, visibility, and authorship.

In this session Ana Vaz Milheiro will examine construction site photographs in Macao (1938–1970s) to reveal how local workers were represented in architectural narratives. Analyzing two administrative reports, she will explore the role of labor in shaping major public works, and how Portuguese and local institutions influenced the territory's built environment across the colonial transitions. Cecilia Chu will explore the notion of the “ethnic supplement” in Chinese architecture, focusing on the ways in which photographs shaped perceptions of engineered modernist landscapes. Inês Nunes will delve into Pierre Jeanneret's Rolleiflex images of Chandigarh, uncovering how photography mediated understandings of labor and modern national identity in postcolonial India. Leonor Matos Silva will present a single anonymous photograph taken at the Lourenço Marques (now Maputo, Mozambique's capital) airport, tracing the professional trajectories of two women architects and their families as they moved between Portugal and Macao. Finally, Inês Rodrigues analyzes visual records from the construction of the Macau-Taipa Bridge (1969–1974), exposing the (in)visibility of workers and the colonial observation embedded in official photographic documentation. These contributions argue for the critical value of photography as both evidence and artifact, allowing for renewed insights.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Getting to know the workers and the construction processes through photographic records of building sites in Macau (1938-197-),* Ana Vaz Milheiro, University Institute of Lisbon
- *Engineering the Modernist Landscapes: Chinese Architecture and the “Ethnic Supplement,”* Cecilia Chu, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- *Photographing Chandigarh: Modern India Through Pierre Jeanneret and Jeet Malhotra's Rolleiflex,* Inês Leonor Nunes, University of Coimbra
- *Captured in Transit: Two Women Architects and the Story of Labour Mobility from Portugal to Macau (1960s–1985),* Leonor Matos Silva, University Institute of Lisbon
- *Framing labor through the colonial lens: Photography and the (in)visibility of work in the construction of the Macau-Taipa Bridge (1969–1974),* Inês Lima Rodrigues, University Institute of Lisbon

Session Respondent: Kathleen James-Chakraborty, University College Dublin

12:00 PM–1:50 PM

Asian American Pacific Islander Architectural History as Critical Pedagogy

Session Co-Organizers: Jeremy Lee Wolin, Princeton University; Sujin Eom, Dartmouth College

Abstract:

This interdisciplinary panel brings together emerging scholars in the field of architectural history with expertise and experiences in developing classes in Asian American architecture and built heritage. At a moment of increasing precarity surrounding global migration, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) landscapes provide students and teachers with the historical context for understanding contemporary assaults on the human rights of migrants. Historic landscapes of migration, exclusion, incarceration or community-building efforts offer case studies in how the built environment has been shaped by the enforcement of borders, citizenship, and belonging as well as migrants' resistance to such structures of power. Panelists will share insights gained from community-engaged course design, historic preservation fieldwork, and course-based curatorial exercises that address the complexities of AAPI presence in the Americas. In doing so, the panelists introduce how specific topics and assignments have helped students better understand AAPI built heritage and disrupt prevailing narratives of global architectural history. The panelists will also reflect on the necessity of incorporating recent scholarship, including their own work, to capture this young but quickly growing field. This panel seeks to provide a collective platform on which to interrogate the promises and challenges of teaching AAPI architectural history.

Papers and Presenters:

- *AAPI History as Heritage: Lessons from Historic Preservation Coursework*, Priya Jain, Texas A&M University
- *Teaching Asian American Landscapes through Community Engagement*, Hongyan Yang, Boston College
- *Curation as Critical Pedagogy*, Sujin Eom, Dartmouth College
- *Teaching East Asian Diasporic Architecture: A Pedagogical Reflection*, Zhiyan Yang, University of Chicago
- *The Camps Through Their Images: Teaching Visuals of Japanese American Incarceration*, Crystal Luo, Georgetown University

Session Respondent: Sean H. McPherson, Bridgewater State University

2:00 PM–3:50 PM

Case Studies in the Global Beaux-Arts

Session Organizer: Charlette M. Caldwell, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Abstract:

Scholars agree that Beaux-Arts classicism was the dominant architectural language of empire. Though typically associated with the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Beaux-Arts architecture manifested in various contexts and across geographies, languages, identities, and cultures. This style—a recognized design language with a set of rules and standards—has been translated, repeated, and transplanted. Students from across the globe, especially from the Americas, came to study at the École, bringing back what they had learned to their communities of origin. In settler colonial societies, like the United States, the style appears among the enclaves of the marginalized, like Black Americans asserting their national identity at state and city fairs. Britons used Beaux-Arts-inspired civic and commercial buildings across their empire from Ireland to Africa to make their

geographic reach visible. In the global south, like Japanese colonial-era Taiwan, the colonized locals appropriated the styles of planned Beaux-Arts districts to create their own modern vernacular. Beaux-Arts architecture as a global phenomenon appeared well into the twentieth century.

As such, as historians concerned with globalizing our profession, studying the Beaux-Arts allows for documentation of this style's widespread effects on individual cultures and regions. How did subaltern architects employ Beaux-Arts principles of order, rationality, symmetry, and typology in their own contexts, even after liberation? Did the monumentality of classicism take on new meanings in recently transformed societies, and (if so) how?

With this history in mind, each speaker will explore the globalization of the Beaux-Arts by recentering this style within architectural history. These case studies rely on archival research and close attention to visual form to highlight the duality of agency and coloniality in Beaux-Arts empire building.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Anchors of Empire: The Neo-Baroque from Northern Ireland to South Africa*, Pollyanna Rhee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- *Faces of A Colony: Japanese Colonial Planning in Taiwan and the Emergence of a Modern Vernacular*, Meng-Hsuan Lee, Columbia University
- *The Argentine Pavilion's Transatlantic Voyage: A Transplanted Beaux-Arts, 1889*, Rebeca Yuste, Columbia University and Dumbarton Oaks
- *Beaux-Arts Jim-Crowism: William Sidney Pittman's Negro Building at the 1907 Jamestown Exposition*, Charlette Caldwell, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
- *Colonial Compositions: Beaux-Arts Designs on the Maghreb, c.1878*, David Sadighian, Yale University

04:00 PM–05:50 PM

Architecture, E-Waste, and Memory in West African Cities

Session Organizer: Halimat Somotan, Georgetown University

Abstract:

This panel explores how historical and contemporary actors have shaped and preserved urban spaces in West Africa while contending with the toxic elements of the built environment, such as e-waste. As gentrification leads to the destruction of historical buildings and environmental waste spreads toxicity throughout urban spaces and human bodies, how can scholars examine the ways in which policymakers and marginalized communities navigate the tensions between environmental degradation and preservation efforts? What historical methodologies are most effective for studying demolished structures? The panelists will address these questions by placing the built environment in a long historical context—from the rise of British colonialism to the emergence of independent African states and the spread of neoliberalism. These processes have shaped how West Africans construct, inhabit, and preserve urban architecture. The panel contributes to broader conversations on building new histories of architecture, both preserved and demolished, and address the challenges faced by conservation practitioners and workers in imagining new futures for urban environments.

Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi will examine the development of urban spaces following colonial invasion, focusing on how missionaries, traders, and colonists built new architecture under British colonial rule in the late nineteenth century. She will discuss the hidden struggles that have influenced modern urban planning and infrastructure.

Halimat Somotan will present a method for studying demolished buildings, showing how historians can use oral interviews and 3D animation to reconstruct domestic spaces and understand the lived experiences of Lagos residents in the 1940s and 1950s. Kofo Adeleke, a long-time advocate for cultural heritage, will discuss the challenges faced by a Nigerian non-profit organization working on architectural preservation.

Papers and Presenters:

- *(Re)Building Lagos: Negotiating Faith, Space, and Freedom in the Nineteenth Century*, Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi, Howard University
- *Oral Interviews, 3D Animation, and the Reconstruction of Historical Buildings in 20th century Lagos, Nigeria*, Halimat Somotan, Georgetown University
- *Preserving Built Heritage: Challenges of Architectural Conservation in Nigeria from an NGO-Led Perspective*, Kofo Adeleke, Independent Scholar

Discussant: Adedoyin Teriba, Dartmouth College

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

08:00 AM–9:50 AM

Chapels: A Typology Transformed

Session Organizer: Alexander Luckmann, University of California Santa Barbara, and Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra (Yale University)

Abstract:

What architectural characteristics connect Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, portable “field chapels” in the trenches of World War I, and multi-faith chapels in the Singapore Changi Airport? Despite the ubiquity of chapels, there has been little scholarly effort to study chapels as a spatial type. The term “chapel” emerged in sixth-century France in reference to the cape (capella) of St. Martin and, by extension, the space where the Frankish kings preserved it for veneration. Over the subsequent millennium and a half, this royal Christian type has expanded and evolved to serve a wide range of groups and practices within and beyond the Christian tradition. Chapels exist at the intersection of individuals and collectives; local congregations and global religious organizations; private, public, and corporate spaces; and singular buildings and architectural complexes. As adaptable and often small spaces, chapels offer sites for religious expression in unexpected places.

Thinking with historian of religion Sally Promey’s contention that “modernity has produced, rather than irreligion, pluralism in belief and culture,” this session traces the history of chapels from the Middle Ages to the present. The presenters investigate how this originally Christian European typology has transformed to encompass a pluralistic global religious landscape. Moving from private chapels in medieval England, and early modern Spanish chapels within global infrastructures of racialized labor regimes, to rural chapels in the Mississippi Delta, postwar diplomatic chapels as an expression of global U.S. power, and the transnational emergence of multi-faith chapels, this panel convenes architectural historians, religious scholars, and sociologists. Each panelist will present a case study of a single chapel to discuss how it illuminates the ongoing transformation of chapels as an architectural typology.

Papers and Presenters:

- *The Private Chapel and Conspicuous Withdrawal in Medieval England*, Julian Luxford, University of St Andrews
- *The Chapel as Archive: Thinking With Atlantic Airs in Early Modern Seville*, María Lumbreras, University of California Santa Barbara
- *The Maternushaus Chapel in Cologne: From Parish Urbanism to Diocesan Institution*, Alexander Luckmann, UC Santa Barbara
- *From Single to Multi-Faith Chapels*, Wendy Cadge, Bryn Mawr College

Session Respondent: Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra (Yale University)

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Spatial Histories of Ocean Worlds Roundtable

Moderator: Prita Meier, New York University

Abstract:

As the effects of global climate change manifest in the loss of marine diversity and create increased vulnerabilities for coastal communities, how do architectural and urban histories respond to these changes? How do we address the temporal scope of terraqueous histories from the ephemeral to the *longue durée*? In this roundtable, the authors of three recently published books—Joseph Godlewski, *The Architecture of the Bight of Biafra: Spatial Entanglements* (Routledge, 2024), Nidhi Mahajan, *Moorings: Voyages of Capital across the Indian Ocean* (University of California Press, 2025), and Tasha Rijke-Epstein, *Children of the Soil: The Power of Urban Form in Madagascar* (Duke University Press, 2023)—will discuss their interdisciplinary approaches to spatial histories of ocean worlds and how we might address these questions.

Panelists:

- Joseph Michael Godlewski, Syracuse University
- Nidhi Mahajan, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Tasha Rijke-Epstein, Vanderbilt University

12:00 PM–1:50 PM

The Politics of Housing and Domesticity in the Post-WWII Eastern Mediterranean

Session Organizer: Konstantina Kalfa, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH

Abstract:

Recent scholarship in architectural history has documented how, immediately after WWII, modernization and development theory left a lasting spatial imprint on the Eastern Mediterranean. This session intervenes in the current scholarship on this region by focusing on discourses that laid the groundwork for the growth of private initiatives and the dominance of strikingly similar market-based apartment housing models—known as *polykatoikía* in Greece, *müteahhit yapımı apartman* in Turkey, *al-ʿImara* in Egypt, and *bait meshutaʿin* in Israel—establishing conditions that fostered the formation of the region’s middle classes.

The session’s four papers delve into previously uncharted global and local postwar debates and representations of housing across the range of three geopolitical contexts in the region, spanning Southern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Studying materials in the US and UN archives, Ecem Sarıcaýır explores the conflicting foreign and local imaginaries for financing housing schemes and home ownership in postwar Turkey. Hazem Ziada examines competing narratives and policies surrounding housing in postwar Egypt. Christos-G. Kritikos discusses foreign influence on housing and related class pursuits as portrayed in Greek media. Rowan Ashraf Aly explores a multi-sensorial methodology, that combines visual documentation, oral

history, soundscapes and ethnography, to reveal how “modern” housing shaped Egypt’s middle-class domestic experience.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Housing Finance in Postwar Turkey: Foreign Aid Proposals, 1950-1960*, Ecem Sarıçayır, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH
- *Housing Egypt’s Middle-Class 1950s-60s: A Pivotal Transformation*, Hazem Ziada, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH
- *Real Estate & Imaginary Status: Property and Class Aspirations in Postwar Greece*, Christos Georgios Kritikos, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH
- *Sensing home: Interpreting Modernized Experiences of Dwelling in Egypt*, Rowan Ashraf Aly, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH

Session Respondent: Burak Erdim, North Carolina State University

2:00 PM–3:50 PM

Contesting and (Re)Inventing Long-19th-Century Ottoman Spaces

Session Organizer: Zeki Furkan Sarılcıan, Rutgers University

Abstract:

The Ottoman Empire witnessed significant contestation and (re)invention across its religious, political, and educational landscapes in the long nineteenth century. Central to these transformations was the built environment, which functioned both as a product and catalyst of change. Despite this, the architectural history of the late Ottoman period remains mired in elite narratives. This panel participates in a shift of focus towards how ordinary people interacted with and shaped built spaces. From missionary colleges and civic institutions to religious structures and archaeological sites, the papers in this panel reveal how architecture mediated evolving dynamics of power, identity, and belonging. Highlighting acts of renovation, repurposing, and resistance, the papers situate Ottoman architectural histories within broader discourses on empire, modernization, racialization, confessionalization, and nation building.

In Istanbul, early nineteenth-century renovations of religious architecture aimed to sharpen confessional boundaries, impose Sunni orthodoxy, and materialize a theology of obedience to the sultan. These transformations responded to the Ottoman dynasty’s crisis of legitimacy, using built space to enforce religious discipline and sovereign authority. Outside the capital, reinvented spaces were often so idealized that they became detached from their original contexts. European-inspired folly ruins shaped expectations of how antiquity should appear, favoring people-less landscapes and prompting the expulsion of those living among repurposed ruins, first in Europe, then in Ottoman territories. Expulsion also marked the activities of missionary colleges across Anatolia. Central Turkey College in Aintab exemplifies this: through its varied uses as a school, military barracks, and institution for the displaced, the college became a site of spatial, racial, and political contestation. Its history reveals how missionary architecture

mediated imperial ideologies, Armenian identity, and transformations in religious space and governance. Together, this panel offers new methodological approaches to understanding architectural change as an active arena of political and cultural reinvention during a pivotal period of imperial reconfiguration.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Bringing Medina to Istanbul: Renovations of the Tombs of Saints (1808-1839)*, S. Berk Metin, Simon Fraser University
- *An Enforced Pittoresque Ideal: Displacing Ruin Reusers Across Ottoman Landscapes*, Sean Silvia, Princeton University
- *From School to Barracks: Central Turkey College and Ottoman Aintab's Overhaul*, Zeki Furkan Sarılıcan, Rutgers University

04:00 PM–05:50 PM

Digital Preservation and Architectural Memory in Conflict Zones

Moderator: Bryan Clark Green

Abstract:

This session explores the critical role of digital technologies in preserving architectural heritage and cultural memory in zones of conflict, with a particular focus on Ukraine during the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. As cultural landmarks are systematically targeted and destroyed, architects, historians, and preservationists are turning to digital tools—such as 3D scanning, augmented reality (AR), and virtual reality (VR) to document, interpret, and memorialize what is at risk of being lost.

The session begins with an introduction by Bryan Clark Green, who also presents on the broader use of 3D technologies to document and interpret difficult histories, framing the session's central questions. Michael Cavicchio presents *A Museum in Exile*, a digital reconstruction of the Mariupol Theatre, destroyed in 2022, which serves as both a virtual memorial and a case study in how VR can sustain cultural memory when physical access is impossible. Kateryna Malaia shifts the focus to the rural landscape, examining the methodological challenges of studying Soviet-era mass housing in Ukraine—structures that are often overlooked but deeply embedded in everyday life and now increasingly vulnerable. Her paper raises important questions about what kinds of architecture are preserved and why. John Dumsick expands the conversation to include strategies for protecting buildings and collections in conflict zones more broadly, offering comparative insights that situate the Ukrainian case within a global context of cultural resilience and risk.

The session concludes with a moderated discussion, led by Bryan Clark Green, that brings together the presenters to reflect on the possibilities and limitations of digital documentation in conflict zones. Together, these papers demonstrate how digital preservation is not only a technical practice but also a powerful act of resistance, remembrance, and cultural continuity.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Utilizing 3D Technology to Document and Interpret Difficult Histories*, Bryan Clark Green, VirginiaTech
- *A Museum in Exile: Digitally Reconstructing the Mariupol Theatre Under Russian Occupation*, Michael Cavicchio, VirginiaTech
- *Mass-Built, Taken for Granted, Lived-In, Threatened: Methodological Challenges of Studying Soviet-Built Rural Homes in Modern Ukraine*, Kateryna Malaia, University of Utah
- *Protecting Buildings and Collections in Times of Conflict*, John Dumsick, U.S. Department of State
- Moderated Discussion: The Possibilities and Limitations of 3D Documentation in Conflict Zone

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

08:00 AM–9:50 AM

Building Impact: Troubling Philanthropy as Global Architectural Producer

Session Organizer: Maura Lucking, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Abstract:

When the notion of “impact” crystallized in the 1960s, any number of investment activities—including architecture, infrastructure, and planning interventions—became understood as quantifiable on social, economic, and environmental terms. It suggested a negative relation between the destruction of global capitalism and its correction on local levels, one that could be seen, felt, and measured in neighborhoods and ecosystems alike. This inverted the perhaps more honest definition of philanthropy articulated seventy years earlier by Andrew Carnegie as symbiotic with private wealth. Philanthropy reproduced economic dependence and social control of the working classes through the building of “forms best calculated to do them lasting good,” namely libraries, parks, schools, museums, housing, and other public amenities.

This panel considers how the built environment has been theorized by donors, fundraisers, and social scientists, whether as evidentiary, ameliorative, remunerative, or indexical. Spanning diverse yet interconnected geographies of giving, the presenters aim to show the centrality of building projects within corporate, and, increasingly, imperial and neocolonial strategies. In capitalist societies, philanthropy avoided ceding control to a regulatory or welfare state; for religious charity, the rationalization of giving considered buildings as a “return” on divine investment. This subversion of the language of enterprise blurred sacred and secular conceptions of the public good and its material needs. This slipperiness often manifested along identitarian lines, building projects planned by actors historically understood as marginal—wives, teachers, or ministers—as often as industrialists themselves.

While architecture’s place in state and corporate power structures is central to our discipline, philanthropy remains undertheorized. Rather than reinforcing teleologies of reform or oppression, the presenters in this session use architectural history to reveal the complex and contradictory social relations underpinning philanthropy from the nineteenth century. Rejecting the liberal orthodoxy of impact, the panelists argue, requires troubling its role as a primary producer of our civic institutions and their architectural forms.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Buildings In Progress: U.S. North-South Donor Development and Architectural Photography as a Racial Proxy*, Maura Lucking, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
- *The ‘Scuola-Casa’: How a Group of Senators’ Wives Built the Italian State Quinine Monopoly*, Giulia Amoresano, Auburn University
- *Building ‘International Goodwill’: American Campuses in the Near East*, Yasmina el Chami, Sheffield University

- *Spatializing the 'Gift': Architecture, Land, and the Politics of U.S. Humanitarianism in Post-War West Asia*, Aslihan Günhan, Bilkent University

10:00 AM–11:50 AM

A Sacred Piece of Home: Washington D.C. Film Screening

Session Co-Organizers: Amita Sarin, Writer, Educator, Filmmaker; Ori Z. Soltes, Georgetown University

Abstract:

A SACRED PIECE OF HOME: WASHINGTON D.C. is a documentary series about ethno-religious architecture in the Washington D.C. area. Close to thirty examples were selected from the region's over 800 places of worship and mentioned or discussed over the sweep of half-hour episodes. Architecture serves as a springboard for discussing a variety of related subjects: architectural history, DC history, the history of religion, ethnic and immigration history. Chronologically sequenced, the films recount the history of DC from before its inception as a city, in the 1600s, to the present day. Incoming ethnic groups—from the English, Irish, Germans, Jews, African Americans, and others—have left a legacy in the places of worship they built. Architecture serves as a tangible record of a community's existence.

[More Information](#)

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

Sekler PlenaryTalk - "Thinking Beyond Stones: Ephemerality and the Inca Built Environment" with Stella Nair

Description:

While the Inca are well known for their impressive lithic architecture, this only made up a small portion of their built environment. In this presentation Stella Nair argues that to understand Inca architecture we must consider the crucial role of the ephemeral. This includes the thatch and reeds that became the roofs of monumental Inca structures, as well as the adobe, rammed earth, wattle and daub, textiles, leather, and *quincha* (woven walls), that made up much of the Inca built environment. Each of these materials necessitated distinctly different knowledge systems and ways of building while carrying distinct meanings. In addition, we must also consider the temporary, such as the massive cities they made and unmade across the Andes and came to define much of the Inca empire and Inca spatial practices. A consideration of the ephemeral and the temporary forces us to reconsider what constituted Inca architecture but also forces us to confront the biases and assumptions we make about materials, space, time, labor, knowledge, and gender in architecture.

Trained as an architect and architectural historian, Stella Nair is Associate Professor of Art History at the UCLA. Her scholarship focuses on the built environment of Indigenous communities

in the Americas and is shaped by her interests in construction technology, spatial practices, aural and ephemeral architecture, and gender studies. Nair has published [*At Home with the Sapa Inca: Architecture, Space, and Legacy at Chinchero*](#), which examines the sophisticated ways in which the Inca manipulated space and architecture to impose their authority, and (co-authored with Jean-Pierre Protzen), *The Stones of Tiahuanaco: A Study of Architecture and Construction*, explores one of the world's most artful and sophisticated carving traditions. Nair recently completed a third volume (co-edited with Paul Niell), *The Forgotten Canopy: Ephemeral Architecture, Ecology, and Imperialism in the Americas* (under review) and is currently completing a fourth manuscript, *Women and the Making of Inca Architecture*.

2:00 PM–3:50 PM

Building the Lives and Afterlives of Slavery

Session Co-Organizers: Bryan Norwood, The University of Texas Austin; Lisa Haber-Thomson, Mount Holyoke College

Abstract:

This panel examines the lives and afterlives of plantation society across the United States and the Caribbean, tracing how the institutions of chattel slavery produced conjunctures between capital and race that remain inscribed within the built environment today. The papers present a range of architectural sites—including a prison, a construction site, a paper mill, and a single-family home—that complicate both a simple distinction between pre- and post-abolition worlds and singular linear narratives that try to neatly align or distinguish them. Across these five papers, themes of biopolitics, the politics of care, comfort (and discomfort), extraction, and labor surface the ongoing production of racial capitalism.

Three initial papers consider the relationship of plantations to labor in pre- and post-abolition societies of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Furioso's paper attends to a microhistory of enslaved and incarcerated laborers who were condemned to the public work of building the tree-lined promenade known as the Paseo of the Extramuros in Spanish colonial Havana. Norwood's paper takes up the paternalist enslaver's discourse regarding the comfort of enslaved people and follows it through post-abolition agricultural and timber production on a site of the Louisiana State Penitentiary known as Angola. Smith's paper traces a long history of the Hermitage Brickmaking Plantation in Savannah, GA as the site was transformed into a paper mill, showing how the violence of plantation economies was preserved in modern industrial workplace hazards. The final two papers turn to the longer legacies of the plantation system. Nolan's paper shows how the postbellum promise of forty acres and a mule was gradually displaced by the promise of suburban housing and factory wages and examines the role that Black insurance companies played in this shift. Finally, Haber-Thomson returns to the site of Angola, unpacking contemporary legal arguments that dictate boundaries between minimum standards and optional comfort provided to incarcerated people under state care.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Public Work(s): The Urban Plantation that Built Havana's Paseo, 1777–1839*, Dante Furiioso, Princeton University
- *Profit and Reform: Landscapes of Incarceration in New South Louisiana*, Bryan Norwood, The University of Texas Austin
- *From Bricks to Paper: Molding the Plantation into an Industrial Zone*, Hampton Smith, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- *The Promised Land: God, Grace, and the Black Suburban Home*, Ginger Nolan, University of Southern California
- *Title TBD*, Lisa Haber-Thomson, Mount Holyoke College