

NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

# SAH NOTICES

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**1989** Annual Meeting—Montreal, Canada (April 12-16). Elisabeth Blair Mac-Dougall, Harvard University, will be general chair of the meeting. Phyllis Lambert, Canadian Centre for Architecture, will serve as local chairman. Headquarters for the meeting will be the Meridien Hotel. Several evening receptions have been planned, and architectural tours will be held on Saturday and Sunday along with two overnight tours.

1990 Annual Meeting—Boston, Massachusetts (March 28-April 1). Elisabeth Blair MacDougall, Harvard University, will be general chair of the meeting. Keith Morgan, Boston University, will serve as local chairman. Headquarters for the meeting will be the Park Plaza Hotel. Members are urged to submit session topics for this meeting by November 1, 1988. Suggestions should be sent to Elisabeth Blair MacDougall, Society of Architectural Historians, 1232 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

**1989 Foreign Tour, The English Midlands (June 29 to July 20, 1989).** Carol Herselle Krinsky, New York University, will be the leader of this tour. Participants will visit major architectural sites in the vicinities of Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Lincoln, Boston, Leicester, Stamford, and Peterborough. The tour will conclude in London, passing through Ely and Cambridge on the way.

# Nominating Committee for 1988/1989

**Slate.** Suggestions and recommendations to the committee should be sent to the Society of Architectural Historians, 1232 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5944. If you yourself would like to serve as a board member, please notify the SAH office of your interest. Deadline for submissions is December 1, 1988.

# EXHIBITIONS

"Twenty Years of Restoration in Venice, 1966-1986" will join the **National Building Museum's** traveling exhibition schedule in Fall, 1988. The exhibition is sponsored on its U. S. national tour by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation and was created by the Superintendency of the Environmental and Architectural Heritage of Venice. The following restorations are explored in depth: the sculpted arches on the middle portal of the Basilica of S. Marco; the Summer Refectory in the Monastery of the Frari; the Scuola Vecchia della Misericordia; the mosaics in the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta of Torcello; the Mocenigo Pavillion on Murano; and the Corderie in the Venice Arsenal.

Beginning October 30, 1988 and running through April 30, 1989, the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission will host an exhibit entitled **Building by the Book: New Jersey Pattern-Book Architecture.** It will feature contemporary photographs, architectural models, pattern books from Andrew Jackson Downing and others, wall mural dioramas, artists' renderings and floor plans of 19th century New Jersey homes.

The opening of the exhibit is October 30, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Cornelius Low House/Middlesex County Museum, 1225 River Road in Piscataway, New Jersey. The public is cordially invited. Mapcards are available from the Cultural and Heritage Commission at the number listed below. The museum is open to the public free of charge, and its regular hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. For information contact the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, (201) 745-4489.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

The Vernacular Architecture Forum is soliciting proposals for presentations at its 1989 Annual Meeting to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, May 10-14, 1989. Papers may address any aspect of vernacular architecture in the United States or abroad, and should be primarily analytical rather than descriptive in content. Proposals may be for either a 20-minute paper on a subject the author has extensively researched or a 10-minute "work in progress" report. Selection will be based on the proposed paper's original contribution to the study of vernacular architecture. Proposals should be typewritten with the author's name, address and telephone number in the upper right hand corner and be a maximum of 400 words in length. The text should succinctly state the paper's content, delineating the scope, argument, and method, not just outline its topical considerations. Deadline for submission: 30 November 1988. Accepted papers, prepared to conform to the prescribed time limits, must be submitted to the session chair by 31 March 1989. Send three copies of the proposal to: Thomas C. Hubka, VAF Papers Chair, Department of Architecture, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201. For further information concerning the Annual Meeting, contact: Osmund Overby, Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, Telephone: (314) 882-9530.

OCTOBER 1988

The 1989 Southwest Regional Conference of the Renaissance Conference of Southern California will take place on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8 at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. The Keynote Lecture will be delivered by Barbara Kiefer Lewalski, William Kenan Professor of English Literature at Harvard University. Organized sessions and individual papers on any aspect of the Renaissance are cordially invited. Session proposals and paper abstracts should be sent by January 16, 1989 to Wendy Furman; President, RCSC; Department of English, Whittier College, Whittier, California 90608. Inquiries regarding conference arrangements should be addressed to Kristine K. Forney; Secretary-Treasurer, RCSC; Department of Music; California State University, Long Beach; Long Beach, CA 90840.

# FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANT

The Travel to Collections program of the National Endowment for the Humanities provides grants of \$750 to assist American scholars to meet the costs of long-distance travel to the research collections of libraries, archives, museums, or other repositories throughout the United States and the world. Awards are made to help defray such research expenses as transportation, lodging,

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food, and photo-duplication and other reproduction costs. The application deadlines are January 15 for research travel between June 1 and November 30, and July 15 for research travel between December 1 and May 31. Information and application materials are available by contacting the Travel to Collections Program, Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506 (202/786-0463).

A new residential fellowship for research on topics having to do with America in the eighteenth century will be offered in 1989-90 with joint funding by the American Antiguarian Society and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The program will fund one or two research fellowships of one to two months' duration in the library of AAS in Worcester, Massachusetts. Stipends of \$800 per month will be offered. The collections of AAS are the strongest anywhere in the world for books, pamphlets, broadsides, almanacs, and newspapers printed in America in the eighteenth century. AAS also holds strong collections of manuscripts and graphic arts materials. For the last decade, the Society has sponsored the North American Imprints Program, which is designed to create a detailed bibliographical record of all American imprints through 1800. In this project the Society cooperates with the Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue being edited at the British Library and the University of California, Riverside. The Society's research collections extend through 1876. For information write John B. Hench, Associate Director for Research and Publication, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-1634. The deadline for the next round of AAS fellowships is January 31, 1989.

The American Academy in Rome is now accepting applications for Rome Prize Fellowships for six months to two years of independent work in Rome, Italy beginning in September 1989. The Fellowships provide for a stipend, travel allowance, housing, most meals, and study/studio space at the Academy's tenacre, ten-building facility in Rome, Italy. No courses are offered; Fellowship winners pursue independent work and study. Application forms may be obtained by writing to the Fellowships Coordinator, AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME, 41 East 65th Street, New York, New York 10021-6508, or by calling (212) 5174200. Please specify field of interest when requesting application forms. The deadline for completed applications is November 15, 1988. Rome Prize Fellowships are awarded in the fields of Painting, Sculpture, Musical Composition, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design Arts, Classical Studies, Classical Art and Archaeology, History of Art, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, and Post-Classical Humanistic Studies.

Applications are invited for the fourth year of the **United States Capitol Histor**ical Society Fellowship designed to support research and publication on the history of the art and architecture of the United States Capitol and related buildings. Graduate students and scholars may apply for periods of one month to one full year for a stipend of \$1500 per month. Applications must be received by February 15, 1989. For futher information contact Dr. Barbara Wolanin, Curator, Architect of the Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2700.

The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture is offering two residential fellowships for the 1988-89 academic year. Stipends will be up to \$30,000 and \$50,000 for junior and senior scholars. Applications will be considered from scholars in any discipline who wish to pursue a research project in American architecture, urbanism, and landscape, past or present, and from practitioners in these fields. Applications are due on or before December 1, 1988. For further information contact the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens invites applications for two six-week Summer Session programs to be held June 19-August 2 and June 26-August 9, 1989. The program provides an intensive introduction to the antiquities of Greece in a limited time and focuses on the relationship between the country (its monuments, landscape and climate) and its history, literature and culture. The 1989 Summer Sessions will be led by Professor Kenneth F. Kitchell, Jr. of Louisiana State University and Professor John Traill of the University of Toronto. The program is open to high school and college teachers, graduate and upper level undergraduate students. Credit can be arranged through the applicant's home institution. The \$1500 fee covers tuition, room and partial board; transportation to and from Greece is the

responsibility of the participant. A limited amount of scholarship support is available. Secondary school teachers in the area of Social Studies and/or related Classical fields are urged to apply for the Katherine Keene Fellowship which provides a stipend in addition to a full scholarship. Application kits are available from Department A-3, Summer Session, American School of Classical Studies, 41 East 72nd Street, New York, NY 10021. Completed applications must be returned by February 1, 1989.

The Architectural History Foundation is happy to announce again this year a research grant in honor of Vincent Scully, Jr., to stimulate book publication on an American architect or a group worthy of intense investigation. The deadline is February 1, 1989. Additionally, the AHF will administer for the third year the Samuel H. Kress Publication Fellowship for scholars engaged in preparing for book publication a completed doctoral dissertation on architectural history or a related field. The deadline is January 31, 1989. For further information contact: The Architectural History Foundation, 350 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

# OF NOTE

Marvin Trachtenberg has written a long essay published in the June 1988 *Art Bulletin* reviewing recent architectural history. Part of their series on the state of research in various periods or subjects, his is a survey of all of the books reviewed in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* in the last 15 years. It is a very interesting critique of what books have been published, which have been reviewed, how and why.

A charitable trust, aimed at furthering historic preservation efforts and honoring Dr. James Marston Fitch, the noted preservationist, has been established by the partners of the Manhattan-based architectural firm of Beyer Blinder Belle on the occasion of the firm's 20th Anniversary. According to Richard Blinder, FAIA, Partner of Beyer Blinder Belle, the trust—to be known as the James Marston Fitch Charitable Trustwill award fellowships to American professionals in the fields of architecture, urban design, decorative arts, landscape architecture, and architectural history. The objective of these grants will be to encourage the study of a wide range of problems connected with the preservation and rehabilitation of the nation's heritage of architecture and urban planning. Dr. Fitch, who serves as Director of (Continued on page 4)

# The Preservation Committee:

# A Brief Look at Its Recent Past and Some Thoughts Regarding the Future

Several years have passed since the Society has taken the time to review the activities of the Preservation Committee. Now, as the leadership of the Committee is changing, it is perhaps appropriate to take a brief look at what has transpired before going on to consider the future courses of action.

In April, 1974, the Board of the Society directed the chairperson, Stephen W. Jacobs, to reorganize the Preservation Committee. New members were solicited, and, with the assistance of Richard Candee and Robert B. Rettig, a structure was adopted and put in place at the annual meeting in Boston, in 1975. Five regional vice-chairpersons and five members-at-large were appointed by the chairperson. These individuals and the chapter preservation officers constituted the Committee, which met twice a year: once at the annual meeting of the Society, and once at the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The information that was exchanged among the Committee members and three representatives of related organizations (the American Institute of Architects, National Park Service, and National Trust for Historic Preservation) took the form of brief oral reports, and the discussion tended to focus on nationwide developments rather than local news. Jacobs reported to the Board on the activities of the Committee, occasionally recommending that the Society take a formal stand on a particular issue. The new structure lasted about two years.

In April, 1977, Margaret Henderson Floyd was appointed the chairperson and she reorganized the Committee into a series of task-oriented subcommittees. By October, four groups were designated, for publication, legislative monitoring, professional liaisons, and program development. The first and last of these were the most successful. As a result of the efforts of the publications subcommittee the *Forum* was launched. Floyd herself began to organize and conduct Committee activities as a regular preservation session, parallel to the other sessions at the Society's annual meeting.

Richard Longstreth was introduced as the incoming chairperson at the annual

meeting in April, 1979. Richard kept on board ten "old hands," and appointed twelve new Committee members. Some were assigned tasks and liaison duties. but Longstreth employed others by continuing the idea of directing sessions that would appeal to architectural historians, vernacular architectural historians, and preservationists. In addition, often consulting various Committee members, the chairperson wrote and presented a number of position papers on such issues as the owner consent provisions of the NHPA Amendments of 1980, the computerization of the National Register, and the ethical guidelines to be observed by architectural historians testifying in an historic preservation dispute. Longstreth also continued to support and defend the publication of the Forum, a dozen numbers of which were produced throughout 1986. In fact, upon review, Longstreth's nine years of service as Chairperson of the Committee not only provided it with an important measure of stability, but also allowed it a considerable measure of visibility because he could interact more frequently with federal level preservation policy-makers after he moved to Washington in 1983. He deserves special recognition, for no one in the forty-eight year history of the Society has worked longer or harder to represent our concerns for scholarship and professional standards in the preservation field.

Now the Society has the opportunity once again to pause and, looking ahead, consider how the activities of the Preservation Committee can best serve the membership. What is the purpose, organization and scope of operations of the Committee?

The Committee is a standing committee of the Society and, as the Bylaws state, it "shall take the lead in helping their countrymen to understand and appreciate their architectural heritage, both in America and abroad, and in encouraging the membership of the Society to initiate and join in appropriate local, national, and international campaigns to preserve it." At the risk of oversimplification, then, the Committee should be (a) actively educating the public and (b) promoting the involvement of Society members in the preservation field.

As has been indicated, each chairperson has developed a different Committee structure to attain these goals. Looking at the recent activities of the Committee, these imperatives have been addressed by (1) publishing the Forum, (2) conducting one or more sessions or events at the annual meetings of the Society and the National Trust, (3) assisting those involved in site-specific preservation controversies, initiating position papers on topics of interest to architectural historians practicing in the preservation field and insuring that liaisons are established between the Society and a number of related professional groups. All of these activities will be continued in the months and years ahead.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Forum, it should be noted that its purpose "is to serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas and viewpoints on the many preservation issues which concern the Society." From the outset, it was apparent that the Forum could not and should not become a news organ. There are a number of publications in the preservation field that are backed by organizations with better news-gathering capabilities. It was also apparent that the Forum could not be an in-depth, scholarly publication, containing the results of an intense investigation, complete with footnotes and bibliography, in the manner of the Journal of the Society. Still evident, however, are a wide range of issues and ideas related to the study and evaluation of the environment which, the Committee believed, was not only appropriate but important for the Society to consider. The Forum has attempted to address issues not dealt with elsewhere, on a literary and critical level higher than most publications in the preservation field. Its impact has been substantial, if only judging from the number of times it has been quoted and noted. The responsibilities of editing have been taken on by Antoinette Lee, who is both an architectural historian and a preservationist.

Since the late 1970s the Preservation Committee has provided a variety of programs or/and panel discussions not only at SAH meetings but also in an attempt to extend the voice of the Society beyond the membership, as "affinity sessions" at the annual meetings of the National Trust.

At the recent SAH meeting in Chicago, a pre-conference colloquium was held. With the able assistance of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Society members were provided with an opportunity to examine "Issues in Urban Preservation." This initiative allowed the Committee to team up with local and regional associations that have related interests. The colloquium was so successful that the format may well be used again, in the near future.

The third activity of the Preservation Committee has been to act as the voice of the Society in the professional preservation world. In some instances the Society is asked to take a position on site-specific controversy, and the matter is referred to the Committee. In other cases, members of the Society raise an issue of importance. It should be noted, however, that the Chairperson of the Committee has always conferred with members of the Executive Committee of the Board before taking a stand. Further, it has been the policy that the Chairperson regularly reports to the Board all of the Preservation Committee's past, present and future activities. The Preservation Committee will take a formal stand on a particular issue, but not until all aspects have been thoroughly explored and explained. The position papers prepared by Longstreth, mentioned earlier, are good examples of this.

In addition to these infrequently occurring responsibilities, the Committee also maintains on-going liaison relationships with the Committee on Historic Resources of the American Institute of Architects, the National Council on Preservation Education, and the National Park Service. In all these areas I propose to strengthen our ties, and to renew our connections with the National Trust, the Advisory Council and, perhaps, with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. Richard Longstreth has agreed to serve as liaison to some of these groups.

To accomplish all of our goals we need the involvement of more people. Thus, the most pressing task before the Committee at this time is to identify those willing and able to help. In this, members of the Society could be helpful by identifying young people who are interested in serving, or older people who may not have been actively involved recently, but may now have the time. Further, every member is encouraged to contact the members of the Committee on any subject related to our goals.—*Michael A. Tomlan, Chair (Adopted from a Report to the Board, March, 1988)* 

# OF NOTE

## (continued from page 2)

Preservation at Beyer Blinder Belle, is widely recognized for his work of more than five decades in the preservation field as professor, author, critic, and practicing architect. In the mid-1960's, as the urban redevelopment movement was making a wasteland of America's cities, Dr. Fitch created the nation's first university program (at Columbia University in 1964) to train young architects and planners to preserve and restore historic buildings and urban patterns," says Richard Blinder. "He has dedicated himself to making the built world a better place in which to live. Our goal in establishing this trust is to disseminate his philosophy." The author of more than 200 books and articles, Dr. Fitch has been widely recognized for his contributions to historic preservation. He is a Guggenheim Fellow (1976), and holds both the AIA Medal (1976) and the Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award, the highest honor bestowed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (1985). Dr. James Marston Fitch is responsible for founding the Historic Preservation Department in the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania (1979). He is an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Beyer Blinder Belle was founded as a partnership of preservation and rehabilitation specialists. The firm's projects have expanded considerably over the past two decades, to include new residential and commercial projects as well as town planning.

April 14, 1988, marked the 100th birthday of Sigfried Giedion, the Swiss historian of art, architecture and culture. Giedion is internationally esteemed for his extensive publications, which cover an astonishingly broad spectrum, ranging from investigations into the origins of art to critical opinions about contemporary issues. His magnus opus, "Space, Time and Architecture," is in its own right, an authentic document in the history of Modern Architecture. As a contemporary of such leading architects as: le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe and Alvar Aalto he served as the official representative and spokesman for the Modern Movement. From 1928 to 1956 Giedion led and championed efforts of that laboratory of ideas of the Modern Movement, the "International Congresses for Modern Architecture" (CIAM). Through his practical activities, primarily in Zurich, Giedion gave decisive impulse to Modern Architecture in Switzerland. As an educator at the Architecture Schools at Harvard and Zurich, he consistently sought to relate a knowledge of history to contemporary architectural practice. Finally, in the questions that he posed as a cultural historian and critic in his own time, Giedion clearly foresaw matters of real concern to us today. To celebrate this occasion, the Institute of the History and Theory of Architecture (GTA) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, which is a custodian of the Sigfried Giedion archive, has planned a number of activities. In January 1989, in cooperation with the "Kunstgewerbemuseum-Museum for Gestaltung" (Zurich Museum of Arts and Crafts-Museum of Design), a Giedion exhibition will take place. With material selected from his archive, the exhibition will offer a comprehensive view of Giedion's multifaceted career critically reflected. An International (scholarly) colloquium, held simultaneously with the exhibition, will provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and encourage further research in Giedion's oeuvre. Finally, the Institute GTA will publish a number of books on Giedion which will give evidence of the research as it has been achieved.

The 1987-88 American Association of University Professors **Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession** shows that average salary levels for faculty members rose only 4.9 percent in 1987-88 as compared to 5.9 percent in 1986-87. According to the report this is the third consecutive year that increases in average salary levels have fallen below those of the previous year.

Since the rate of inflation, as measured by changes in the cost of living index (CPI), rose substantially in 1987, the increase in average salaries, measured in real terms (adjusted for a 4 percent rise), was only 0.9 percent.

Average salaries for all college and universities combined are \$47,400 for full professors; \$35,300 for associate professors; \$29,200 for assistant professors; and \$22,090 for instructors. The full report, published in the March-April issue of *Academe*, AAUP's bi-monthly journal, provides analyses of salary adjustments, long-term changes in salary levels, and a detailed discussion of the academic market place. The report also contains information about fringe benefits.

## **BOOKS AND ARTICLES**

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