

## Society of Architectural Historians and UVA Press Launch Open-Access *SAH Archipedia*

A newly designed, open-access edition of *SAH Archipedia*, an online encyclopedia that tells the history of the U.S. through its structures and places, is now freely available to the public.

October 1, 2019—The **Society of Architectural Historians** (SAH) and **University of Virginia Press** (UVA Press) are pleased to announce a new open-access, mobile-friendly edition of *SAH Archipedia*, an authoritative online encyclopedia of the built environment of the United States developed by SAH and **Rotunda**, the Press's digital imprint, with lead funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities: [sah-archipedia.org](http://sah-archipedia.org). The newly redesigned *SAH Archipedia* brings peer-reviewed scholarship to a worldwide audience of researchers, students, teachers, preservation advocates, cultural tourists and others interested in learning more about the architectural history of the U.S.

*SAH Archipedia* contains histories, photographs and maps for over 20,000 structures and places, and showcases the richness and diversity of architecture and landscapes throughout the U.S. Building entries include scholar-written, peer-reviewed narrative histories, photographs, precise geospatial coordinates using Google Maps/OpenStreetMap, and structural and descriptive metadata that includes semantic tags for architects and firms, periods, styles, materials and types.

SAH Editor **Gabrielle Esperdy** said, "For me, one of the most exciting parts of the new *SAH Archipedia* is something most users will never see: the back end of the website. This isn't just a powerful content management system, it is a true authoring platform that has the potential to foster new forms of scholarly collaboration and makes it easier to create curated collections of entries, such as the buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright or automobile service stations or showrooms."

*SAH Archipedia* originally launched in 2012 with 8,500 building entries and content drawn from the Society's Buildings of the United States (BUS) books, an award-winning series of volumes on U.S. architecture compiled and written on a state-by-state basis. Histories and thematic essays from all the published BUS print volumes have been included in *SAH Archipedia*, which continues to grow with the addition of new peer-reviewed born-digital content and as new BUS volumes are completed. *SAH Archipedia* reached a milestone in 2017 with content representing all 50 states. In addition to building entries, *SAH Archipedia* includes place-based and thematic essays, comprised of peer-reviewed scholarship contributed by architectural historians nationwide, and lesson plans designed for K-12 educators. In the coming years, SAH plans to expand the scope of the project to include global content.

"Back in 1994, Claude Conyers, Oxford University Press's commissioning editor for the Buildings of the United States, envisioned a distant future when the series would encompass all 50 states, first in print and then

digitally,” said **Mark Mones**, formerly managing editor of scholarly reference at OUP and currently senior editor, BUS/SAH Archipedia at UVA Press. “Little could he have imagined the trail we’re blazing today, using a dynamic reference platform to create, edit and publish definitive scholarship online and on the page for a wide variety of readers.”

SAH Executive Director **Pauline Saliga** stated, “We are greatly indebted to the hundreds of BUS and *SAH Archipedia* contributors—scholars, architects, preservationists and students—whose original research and writing are the foundation of *SAH Archipedia*. In addition, without the expertise of editors, peer reviewers and software technologists, a publication of this complexity and authoritative voice would not have been possible. We are pleased to launch the mobile-friendly edition of *SAH Archipedia* open access, for the benefit of all who share a passion for the history of the built environment.”

Development of *SAH Archipedia* has been made possible by lead support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency, as well as major gifts from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Ongoing support is provided by the Society of Architectural Historians, its members, University of Virginia Press, foundations and individuals. Visit [sah-archipedia.org](http://sah-archipedia.org) for a complete list of donors.

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**The Society of Architectural Historians** is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes the study, interpretation and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes and urbanism worldwide. Founded in 1940, SAH serves a network of local, national and international institutions and individuals who, by profession or interest, focus on the history of the built environment and its role in shaping contemporary life. SAH promotes meaningful public engagement with the history of the built environment through advocacy efforts, print and online publications, and local, national and international programs. Learn more at [sah.org](http://sah.org).

**The University of Virginia Press** was founded in 1963 to advance the intellectual interests not only of the University of Virginia but of institutions of higher learning throughout the state. A member of the Association of University Presses, UVA Press currently publishes 65 to 75 new titles annually. All projects are approved by the Board of Directors after a rigorous process of peer review.

The UVA Press editorial program focuses primarily on the humanities and social sciences with special concentrations in American history, African American studies, southern studies, literature, architectural and environmental history, and regional books. While it continuously pursues new titles, UVA Press also maintains a backlist of more than 1,400 titles in print. Learn more at [www.upress.virginia.edu](http://www.upress.virginia.edu).

**Rotunda** was created for the publication of original digital scholarship along with newly digitized critical and documentary editions in the humanities and social sciences. The collection combines the originality, intellectual rigor and scholarly value of traditional peer-reviewed university press publishing with thoughtful technological innovation designed for scholars and students. Rotunda publications are produced by staff members of the University of Virginia Press. For more information on Rotunda or UVA Press please contact Emily Grandstaff at 434-982-2932 or [egrandstaff@virginia.edu](mailto:egrandstaff@virginia.edu).

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