

About the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

Mission

The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) promotes the study, interpretation and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes and urbanism worldwide for the benefit of all. SAH serves a network of local, national and international institutions and individuals who, by vocation or avocation, focus on the built environment and its role in shaping contemporary life.

History

Founded at Harvard University in 1940, SAH has a distinguished history of providing services for teaching and design professionals and institutions that educate the public about the history of the built environment. In addition, SAH has always welcomed individuals of every profession who simply enjoy learning about the history of architecture, landscapes and urbanism.

As the world's built environment rapidly changes, SAH provides leadership to ensure that knowledge and understanding about architecture, landscapes and planning form the foundation for both assessing new design solutions and conserving the world's cultural heritage. SAH aims to equip the public to think critically about the central role that architecture, design, landscapes, and urbanism play in the quality of everyday life.

Resources

For much of its history, the Society's services revolved around four core activities, namely publishing the quarterly print *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, hosting the SAH Annual Conference, organizing study tours and starting in the 1990s, publishing the *Buildings of the United States* (BUS) publication series.

In addition to those core services, in recent years SAH has developed several innovative online archives designed to disseminate research about the built environment more widely. Those archives include JSAH from 1941 to the present; the multimedia edition of JSAH from 2010 to the present, one of the first scholarly journals to illustrate articles with video, Google-Earth maps, and computer-generated models; SAHARA, a shared online archive of images for teaching and research; and SAH Archipedia, a media rich online encyclopedia of American architecture.

Tours

Although the Society continues to embrace print and digital communications, it also promotes experiential learning by organizing a wide variety of study tours, seminars and programs both in its landmark headquarters Charnley-Persky House and around the world.

SAH Publications & Programs

Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians (JSAH)

SAH publishes quarterly the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians (JSAH)* that includes scholarly articles, and reviews of architectural exhibitions, books, films, and websites. **ONLINE JOURNAL:** In March 2010, SAH launched the multimedia online edition of JSAH, which provides SAH members with access to JSAH articles from 1941- present. Articles published after 2010 feature film clips, video, sound, images, and 3D models layered on Google Earth maps. Development of JSAH online has been funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Annual Conference

The SAH Annual Conference offers the opportunity to present new research, exchange ideas and network with people and organizations from across the globe, including architectural historians, art historians, architects, preservationists, landscape architects, urban planners, nonprofits and civic leaders. The conference is hosted in a different city each year and includes paper sessions, graduate student lightning talks, public events and architectural tours led by local historians.

SAH Archipedia

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Executive Director

Pauline Saliga joined SAH as executive director in 1995, just as the Society was preparing to move its national headquarters from Philadelphia to the Charnley-Persky House in Chicago. Saliga, who holds a Master's degree in art history and museum administration from the University of Michigan, was associate curator of architecture at The Art Institute of Chicago from 1981 to 1995. While at the Art Institute, Saliga organized numerous exhibitions and catalogues focusing on 19th and 20th century architecture in America and Europe, including *Fragments of Chicago's Past*; *Building in a New Spain*; *Contemporary Spanish Architecture*; and *Design for the Continuous Present: The Architecture of Bruce Goff, 1904-1982*. Saliga's other publications include *The Sky's the Limit: A Century of Chicago Skyscrapers* and many museum catalogues that she oversaw when she was a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago from 1977 to 1981. Currently, Saliga is researching the history of Japanese garden design in North America, and she has an avid interest in the history of industrial design.



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SAH Partners

SAH is pleased to have a growing number of Partner Organizations whose educational and preservation missions are similar to the Society's. If you are associated with a not-for-profit organization that would like to pursue an official Partnership with SAH, please contact the SAH director at info@sah.org.

- The Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary Study of Technology, Science, and Art (AVISTA)
- Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)
- Association for Architecture Organizations
- Association for Preservation Technology (APT)
- Construction History Society of America
- Decorative Arts Society
- DOCOMOMO US
- European Architectural History Network (EAHN)
- Historians of Islamic Art
- International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE)
- Italian Art Society (IAS)
- National Building Museum
- National Committee for the History of Art
- National Humanities Alliance
- SAH Australia/New Zealand (SAHANZ)
- SAH Great Britain (SAH GB)
- Society for Industrial Archaeology
- Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada
- Urban History Association
- Visual Resources Association (VRA)
- Society for the History of Technology

Preservation Statement

Preserving important structures, landscapes and other aspects of the built environment is a key tenet of the Society's mission. One way the Society has taken a leadership role is by developing guidelines for architects and historians who have been asked to testify about the significance of a building or landscape.

As a matter of policy, the Society only becomes involved in preservation issues of national or international significance. Preservation issues of local significance should be directed to your State Historic Preservation Office or to local preservation organizations. To request that the Society get involved in a preservation issue, please contact the SAH Preservation Officer at the address below:

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