

## Solomon's Success: Trenton Bath House to be Saved

On Friday, August 11th at 2:54 PM EST, news flashed across the internet and around the world that the Bath House and Day Camp pavilions designed by Louis Kahn in the mid 1950s for the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Ewing, New Jersey, would be preserved. The message was sent from architectural historian, DOCOMOMO US member, and Kahn scholar Susan Solomon. She is the leader of a ten-year struggle to preserve Kahn's work in Ewing and literally wrote the book on Kahn and the Bath House (*Louis I. Kahn's Trenton Jewish Community Center*, Princeton Architectural Press, 2000).



**Exterior, Trenton Bath House, Trenton, NJ**  
 (photo: Susan Solomon)

Design of the JCC was the first major project of Kahn's private practice. He acknowledged this work as inspiring a fundamental and profound shift in his architectural thinking. Kahn "discovered himself" after designing this project, considering the Trenton Bath House as his first opportunity to work out the concept of served and serving spaces. The architectural fundamentals he discovered is

recognizable in every building he designed subsequently.

Kahn's Bath House and pool (1955) and four Day Camp pavilions (1957) have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and protected by a Ewing preservation ordinance since 1984. Due to extensive deterioration of the Day Camp pavilions, the JCC sought approval for the demolition of two of the four pavilions in 1966 but withdrew the request when the preservation community strongly objected. Although the Day Camp pavilions were not demolished, wooden barricades and wire fencing were erected to prevent access; deterioration accelerated.

For the last ten years, Susan Solomon has rallied world-wide support for the preservation of the landmark site. She promoted the buildings' continued use by inviting supporters to imagine what each

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## Welcome

DOCOMOMO US is part of the larger international network of DOCOMOMO International, which as of the last International Conference in September of this year in Turkey, has some 54 countries represented. That international dimension and the successful preservation of the so-called Trenton Bath House designed by Louis Kahn inspired us to look at the preservation of his work not just in the US but also elsewhere in the world and make it the subject of this issue of our national newsletter. We will continue to do occasionally issues that center around a theme or subject be it a building type or the work of a particular architect.

This fall issue is the second newsletter that we will largely distribute electronically and post on our website. This change is part of a larger strategic move to increase our advocacy and make it more effective and accessible. This summer we used our website as a 'forum', the place where opinions and letters with regard to the renovation of the Alvar Aalto designed Woodberry Poetry Room located in Harvard University's library could be posted and read. Because this experiment was well received and proved to be effective advocacy, we will take on other issues in the future.

Finally, with mid-century modernism becoming the buzzword for the preserving the post World War II heritage, we are continuing to add chapters to our network. This geographic growth—locally, nationally and internationally—and its diverse membership is what makes DOCOMOMO unique among volunteer preservation organizations but can only be accomplished by your support.

— Theodore Prudon  
President  
DOCOMOMO US

## Kahn's Yale University Art Gallery Unveiled

**Y**ale University and the Art Gallery's 12-year commitment to revitalizing Louis I. Kahn's 1953 museum will be celebrated on December 10th, 2006. What started as a replacement of clouded glazing became a comprehensive project to restore the museum to the architect's design, re-program its spaces, and re-engineer its non-structural systems for twenty-first century use. The renovation has been rigorously guided by Polshek Partnership Architects, Yale University Construction & Renovation Facilities, and the Yale Art Gallery.

The Yale University Art Gallery, Kahn's first large-scale institutional commission, is often dismissed to the degree that it does not prefigure the architect's mature projects. Kahn's disappointment with the interior changes wrought by gallery staff post-occupancy is legendary. He vowed



**Pre-renovation interior walls, Yale Art Gallery, 1972**  
(photo: Archives, Yale University Art Gallery)

never again to provide a modernist open plan for clients and occupants to manipulate with conventional, nostalgic room divisions. In his later buildings, such as the Yale British Art Center across the street, the room, radically re-thought, controls Kahn's interior plan.

Kahn's disappointment aside, the Yale Art Gallery re-defined museum building typology for the second half of the twentieth century, creating from industrial materials an idealized, open space for viewing art. Only recently has cultural studies challenged the presumption of art-space's neutrality, and the expressive possibilities of industrial materials continue to be inventively explored by many museum architects. Because of the building's architectural progeny, its experimental mid-century modernism, and its unique place in Kahn's career, the renovation team was committed to revealing the original architectural features—open plan, industrial materials, and the electrical, lighting and HVAC services running through the tetrahedral ceiling voids.

Some Kahn experiments, while prescient architecturally, created problems for the building's longevity. Although not a true curtain wall, the window wall along York Street was one of the previous century's early attempts at continuous double-paned glazing across a multi-storey façade. But lacking sufficient expansion joints (a design oversight), the window wall failed decades ago—

visible to all as clouded glass. This façade could not be expected to survive through conservation alone.

Signifying continuous unbounded space, this typically modernist façade presents a field of window bays of identical design. However, the bays as built are not uniform, a fact at odds with the standardization of the modern machine. The original wall was neither plumb nor square, and the original builders had to custom cut and fit the individual steel pieces of the façade's frame in order to align it with the uneven concrete structure, which was far from co-planar by today's construction standards. The renovation team's re-engineered frame (detailed to match the profile of the original) was made through computer-aided fabrication and design, so its tolerance of error is measured in millimeters. For a truly plumb replacement installation, the tradesmen began at



**Restored open plan, Yale Art Gallery**  
(photo: Elizabeth Felicella, ©2006 Yale University Art Gallery)

the concrete face farthest outboard and, moving inward, crafted customized connections between the frame and the irregular column and slab structure.

Whether because standard building practice mid-century was a poor match for the modernist ideal, or whether the architect chose to leave the tradesmen's decisions visible, the Art Gallery has a fascinating relationship between what was drawn by Kahn versus what was built. While smooth, impersonal metal formwork was available for the tetrahedral ceiling pours, Kahn chose smaller wood boards for the column and beam formwork. The fossil-like imprint of the wood grain on the columns, the imperfect air entrainment in the pours, and the tracings of formwork seams all corroborate in the building's personal, even intimate, manipulation of the massive building material. Atypical of industrial building, the mini-block designed by Kahn is about the size of a human hand, and often cited as a source of the Art Gallery's surprising humanism.

After the Yale Art Gallery, Kahn not only abandoned the modernist open plan, his building vocabulary evolved considerably. However, the absence of fussy ornament, a hallmark of modernism, remained essential to Kahn throughout his career.

—Leslie Myers, AIA

## Chapter News

### NEW YORK/TRI-STATE

Following well-attended summer tours of Edward Durell Stone's University of Albany Campus and Wallace Harrison's Albany Government Center, and a Midtown modern landscape tour, DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State organized a tour, **Antonin Raymond and His Circle**, on Saturday, September 16th in New Hope and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to view the exhibition, "**Crafting a Modern World: The Architecture and Design of Antonin and Noemi Raymond**" at the Meyerson Galleries at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design.

First, the group went to New Hope to visit the **Raymond farm** and the nearby workshop complex of Raymond's close collaborator, architect, and noted furniture designer, **George Nakashima**. Nakashima's daughter, Mira Nakashima, led a tour of the well-preserved complex of modernist buildings where Nakashima's designs are still hand crafted. The tour went on to the picturesque Raymond farm, highlighted by a historic farmhouse that Antonin and Noemi renovated for their studio and residence. The DOCOMOMO group enjoyed hearing the reminiscences of the Raymond's son, Claude, who met them at the site.

The tour continued in Philadelphia with a gallery tour led by William Whitaker, curator of the Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania, and one of five curators of the **Raymond exhibition**. Afterwards, a reception was held in the Architectural Archives at the Frank Furness Building.

The Raymond exhibition will travel in January 2007 to the University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, California and then to the Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura, Japan, in Fall 2007.

## Status Report on Proposed Changes to the Salk Institute

Louis Kahn completed the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, in 1965. His collaboration with Jonas Salk led to a project that was the culmination of his study and interest in "meaningful order," light, nature, and the human scale. Originally conceived of in three parts—laboratories on the bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, residences and a meeting house further down towards the ocean—the laboratories were the only element built by Kahn.

Amidst conflict, an addition was completed in 1995-96 by Los Angeles firm Anshen & Allen, chosen by Jonas Salk because several partners

Simultaneously, as the National Register report was being prepared and subsequently reviewed by the Keeper, the Salk Institute was processing a required Coastal Development Permit with the City of San Diego, where La Jolla is located. The permit is now in the last phase of community input and design review. The Salk Institute could be entitled to build up to 500,000 square feet of laboratories and support space on the 26.75-acre site. Since much of the westerly portion of the site is designated open space and canyon areas, any future expansion is now planned for the north and south mesas, on land immediately north of the original Kahn lab buildings, and to the east, past the Anshen & Allen addition.

The current expansion plans prepared by NBBJ are considered a master plan for entitlement purposes. The Institute is required to develop Design Guidelines as part of the entitlement process. The Salk Institute has presented the master plan and guidelines to a variety of citizens groups including community planning groups, local architectural committees and preservation organizations.

The current plans vary from the original Salk/Kahn tripartite scheme primarily in function for the proposed

expansion and in site placement for buildings. Part of the permit involves a lot split that would yield four separate legal parcels.

In the original Kahn scheme residences were proposed for the south mesa; today the Institute is proposing a day care center and 24 residences. Current designs locate the day care center recessed into the ground with the residences further to the west. Kahn originally planned for the Meeting House on the north mesa. The current plans for the north mesa are not developed and for entitlement purposes show block footprints and block elevations. Images used during community presentations show these north mesa massing blocks visible as one moves westerly through the original Kahn courtyard. It is debatable whether the day care center and residences on the south mesa will be visible from the courtyard.

The Salk Institute is planning for an underground parking garage stretching along the north boundary, from the original lab buildings to the north mesa. The master plan also calls for an underground lab building on the north side of the original Kahn lab buildings.

The most controversial structure of the proposed master plan is a new three-hundred-foot long, uninterrupted, two-story structure along the entire east side of the site. This massive structure



**Iconic courtyard, Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA**  
(photo: Jeffrey Shorn)

had previously worked for Kahn. The main argument against the Anshen & Allen addition included the loss of the infinite axis of the iconic courtyard as a powerful architectural gesture, the razing of a grove of eucalyptus trees, and the materials chosen for the addition, which have a sleek, corporate feel in contrast to the humble materials chosen by Kahn for the original laboratories.

Today, another situation has arisen over the site. Here is a brief update on the status of the National Register designation of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and the current master plan, which is under development.

California's State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) voted in late summer 2005 to forward the National Register nomination prepared by Professor Jeffrey D. Shorn, architect, and landscape historian Vonn Marie May to the Keeper of the Register at the National Park Service. The nomination is for the entire Salk Institute site, including the iconic modernist laboratory buildings and specific component landscapes contemporaneous to the Kahn piece. As the Salk Institute did not agree with the entire site being designated as an historical resource, the site will be listed on the National Register as "eligible".

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## Chapter News

Other recent DOCOMOMO-US/New York Tri-State activities include the publication of another edition of its newsletter featuring activities and programs in the region.

The chapter continues its orientation series and active recruitment of volunteer researchers for fiches for the international register.

—Nina Rappaport

### GEORGIA

#### Modern Living/Living Modern: October 6-7, 2006

The Georgia Chapter's Modern Living/Living Modern event, October 6-7th, was an overwhelming success, far exceeding the committee's expectations, and is indicative of the growing public interest in modern design. The event certainly met its goal of educating the public about modern housing in Atlanta—while raising awareness of DOCOMOMO's documentation and conservation efforts. Originally conceived as a small tour of a few modern homes, the event grew to include a panel discussion and eight home tours throughout the metropolitan area.

Friday evening, the **Design Within Reach Atlanta Studio** hosted a reception and panel discussion including: **Cecil Alexander**, FAIA, designer of the Alexander/Pound residence (1957); **Theodore Pound**, present-day owner of the Alexander Residence; **Stanley Daniels**, FAIA, of Jova Daniels Busby, a member of the design team responsible for Colony Square; and **Sabir Khan** of Georgia Tech and Cottle Khan Architects, a resident of Colony Square. Moderated by **David Green**, AIA, of Lord Aeck Sargent, the discussion led from designers' reminiscences of original design work to the homeowners' observations, and eventually to a

## Sherbanglanagar and the National Assembly at Dhaka, Bangladesh

**S**ituated in the city of Dhaka, the capital of the deltaic country of Bangladesh, is one of the architectural marvels of the twentieth century: the National Assembly Building. Designed by one of the leading architects of the modern era, Louis Isadore Kahn (1901-1974), the Assembly Building is part of a larger capital complex known as Sherebanglanagar. After being commissioned in 1962 by the then-government of Pakistan (and known at this time as the Second Capital Project), Louis Kahn continued to work on this project until his death, while the eastern part of Pakistan had already emerged as the new country of Bangladesh.

Laid out over an area of six hundred acres, the design of the master plan of Sherebanglanagar and the Assembly Building embody fundamental issues related to architecture and human institutions. The master plan was conceived and developed with the idea of two distinct sectors along a

Building in 1983. The construction in general followed Kahn's designs and the authorities received them enthusiastically. On one occasion immediately after independence, the Public Works Department (PWD), which was the executing agency of the government, had constructed the prime minister's residence based on a design prepared by them and without Kahn's knowledge. Though he did not allow this instance to affect his relations with PWD adversely, he exacted a promise from the authorities that no other building would be erected on the capital site without his prior approval.

The death of Kahn in 1974, as well as changed political circumstances after 1975, did not have an immediate effect on the work. However, over the years the reverence given to Louis Kahn and his design has waned. Wanton construction work within various parts of the master plan and insensitive transformations of the buildings remain major concerns with respect to



Recent construction around the National Assembly Building (visible in background), Dhaka, Bangladesh  
(photo: Saif Ul Haque)

north-south axis; one, the assembly sector, and the other the sector of institutions. The focal point of the assembly zone is the Assembly Building itself, a monumental concrete structure set on a large body of water surrounded by plazas, gardens, and hostels for ministers, secretaries, and parliament members. The plan of the Assembly is a centralized one, with the assembly chamber in the center ringed by an ambulatory space with offices, meeting rooms, and various other functions on the outer periphery of the ring.

The actual construction commenced in 1964 but was disrupted during Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971. The work resumed soon after the war, when a new contract between the government of Bangladesh and the architect was signed. Kahn received an enlarged brief with an immediate task of designing a Secretariat building for the new country. Preliminary designs were completed before his death in 1974 but Kahn was not able to see the completion of the Assembly

the proper preservation of this masterly work. The most recent instance is the construction of two residences within close proximity to the Assembly Building in spite of major public outcry over them. Even a court battle over this could not deter the authorities from going ahead with the construction. The only way to safeguard this architectural treasure from such mutilation is by bestowing it with a status of a special landmark by the government of Bangladesh and having its upkeep advised and monitored by a specially constituted body of experts. The legal verdict has already put forward this opinion, but it remains to be implemented by the government.

—Saif Ul Haque

## Chapter News

discussion of larger questions regarding modern planning and design. The audience sat transfixed for almost an hour, and responded during a question-and-answer session later in the evening.

On Saturday's tour the range of Atlanta's modern housing was well represented, with a variety of sophisticated ranch homes in the Northcrest neighborhood; homes in the southeast's first cooperative, Briar Hills; two homes in Atlanta's brutalist landmark, Colony Square; and the nationally significant Alexander Residence, recently documented by the Georgia Chapter for the DOCOMOMO Register.



**Colony Square, Atlanta, GA**  
(photo: courtesy of DOCOMOMO/GA)

The tour offered a glimpse into three types of homes in the **1950's-60s Northcrest subdivision**, a single level home furnished with a collection of mid-century modern furniture and accessories, an exceptionally intact split level home with "Hollywood" bath, and a large butterfly and-a-half split level. At the modern-style **Briar Hills Cooperative**, a townhouse and flat were open, both with collections of mid-century furniture, art, and accessories. The complex sectional arrangement of the Colony Square residential towers, reminiscent of Le Corbusier's mid-century apartment blocks, were revealed through visits to townhouse and flat types—the flat a recipient of a 2005 AIA Georgia Honor Award for Residential Design.

The most popular home on the tour was the **Alexander/Pound Residence**. A recent renovation

## A Personal Encounter with Kahn's Indian Institute of Management

In 1962, Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi—who had worked with Le Corbusier in his Paris office from 1951 to 1955 on his projects in India—invited Louis Kahn to design the building for the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad, India. Built between 1962 and 1974, the complex sits on a 60-acre campus. It is



**Front view, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India, 1991**  
(photo: Valeria Koukoutsis-Mazarakis)

comprised of a main building with teaching areas, a library and faculty offices around the main courtyard, separate dormitory units for the students that are interconnected with a series of arched passages, and houses for the faculty and staff. Kahn's presence in the 1960s signals a turning point in contemporary architecture in post-independent India, whose course had been dominated for more than a decade by Le Corbusier's brutalist architecture. When designing the school, Kahn put into question how and where people learn. Learning was not happening strictly in classrooms, but in the corridors and the spaces in between as well. It is in his uncompromising approach to rethinking the fundamentals of architecture that young Indian architects found in Kahn. Through his massive yet austere brick forms, Kahn offered these architects a spiritual experience that made them believe they could effectively build the new nation and achieve a balance between modernity and tradition.

## Salk Institute *cont'd from pg. 3*

would effectively block any remaining view of the courtyard and the ocean from the street, sealing off the site from the public and forever negating Kahn's inspired design narrative of "sky," "light," and "air."

This structure, along with the day care facility on the south, may be among the first to be constructed and have generated the most criticism from local groups and public bodies. In response to numerous comments received at community meetings, including those with the City of San Diego Historic Resources Board Design Advisory Committee, the Salk Institute is considering a possible redesign of the east structure.

It is clear in advocating for the Kahn/Salk legacy manifested at this architectural pilgrimage site that preservationists have not been able to affect a level of reverence that would satisfy or work within tremendous development pressure. The process aches for an international design

When I visited the complex in 1991, walking through the main courtyard, I felt I was walking through the open courtyards of the Red Fort in Delhi or Fatehpur Sikri; walking through the system of arched passages into the smaller courtyards of the dormitory units and crossing paths with students, it brought back a sense of community and life around the courtyard. But it was really in the interstitial spaces of the double exterior walls and verandahs that Kahn had captured the Indian psyche and its complete spiritual and pragmatic dependence on the effects of the sun. I dare say that in the big openings, piercing the walls to capture the glare of the sun against the background of another wall, Kahn had captured the essence of the layered stony screens of the Adalaj Well or of the gradual transformation of spaces through the control of light and processional movement at the Sun Temple in Modhera.

Seen under this light, one cannot only talk about what Kahn offered to India but really about how India, its people, and its old architectures ignited Kahn's spiritual quests in architecture. Robert McCarter's description of the design changes since the early phases of the project (in his 2005 book *Louis I. Kahn*) becomes testimony of how the project was transformed as Kahn became more aware and involved with India's cultural and architectural past. As such, the IIM should be treated not only as Indian patrimony, but also as world patrimony of an exemplary architectural oeuvre of the 1960s.

—Valeria Koukoutsis-Mazarakis

**(Editor's Note:** *Kahn's Indian Institute of Management is currently occupied. In later issues we will be publishing articles relating to the current condition and use of this building.*)



**Kahn's original lab buildings, Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA**  
(photo: Jeffrey Shorn)

competition. Whatever is ultimately built on the site should absolutely continue the scientific legacy of Dr. Jonas Salk, but conversely, should not be at the expense of the brilliant master Louis I. Kahn. It would not seem right to pit these two American giants against each other posthumously.

—Jeffrey Shorn and Vonn Marie May

## Chapter News

project manages to preserve the remarkable aspects of this round home—its interior court, expansive views of its wooded site, and use of materials. Tour-goers were hosted by the homeowners and Busman Studios, while those visiting the home in the afternoon were able to meet Cecil Alexander, FAIA, original designer of the home.



**Alexander/Pound Residence, Atlanta, GA**

(photo: Thomas F. Little)

Over 200 tickets were distributed for the tour, and at least 150 visited Colony Square and the Alexander/Pound Residence. Key to successful ticket sales were the event sponsors, each promoting the event through ticket sales or individual promotion: Design Within Reach, Uri Vaknin/The Art of Real Estate, The Office of Jack Pyburn, Busman Studios, Cindi Sokol Realtor, City Issue, Victory Vintage Home, and Surber Barber Choate & Hertlein Architects.

### **From Tourist Cabin to Early Motel: Accommodating the Traveling Motorist in Atlanta, June 28, 2006**

Over 60 DOCOMOMO members and supporters attended the Georgia Chapter's 2006 meeting, and enjoyed a "southern style" dinner at an Atlanta institution - the Colonnade Restaurant. Speaking at the meeting, Robert M. Craig, PhD, presented a fascinating overview of Atlanta's accommodation of the automobile traveler, accompanied by a collection of images of early auto courts to more recent motels.

## The Louis I. Kahn Collection



**Louis I. Kahn Collection, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

(photo: Matt Wargo)

**T**he Louis I. Kahn Collection records the life work of an architect whose significance is only now being fully realized. It has been the center of scholarly activity in the preparation of numerous exhibitions and publications and a significant resource in the preservation of the architect's built works.

Kahn died unexpectedly on March 17, 1974, in New York's Pennsylvania Station. It was soon ascertained that his estate was, in fact, several hundred thousand dollars in debt. His family and colleagues were left with the agonizing decision that the assets of the firm would have to be liquidated in order to settle the estate. Fearful that the archives would be dispersed among diverse collections, a group of Kahn's supporters formed a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the archives in their entirety. The foundation was led by a distinguished board of directors and a group of sponsors that included Edward Larrabee Barnes, Lewis B. Davis, Balkrishna Doshi, Buckminster Fuller, Bruce Graham, Ada Louise Huxtable, Philip Johnson, Samuel Maitin, I.M. Pei, Jonas Salk, Vincent Scully, and Kenzo Tange. The foundation approached the Pennsylvania state legislature and proposed that the state purchase the Kahn papers on behalf of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), which was approved by a single vote in 1975. The PHMC agreed to place the Louis I. Kahn Collection on permanent loan to the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania, Kahn's alma mater. The university was considered the appropriate repository for this collection not only because Kahn taught at Penn, but also because he had designed the Richards Medical Research Building (1957-60) for the campus.

The extent of the Kahn Collection's resources was staggering, including nearly 6,500 sketches by Kahn, 30,000 office drawings, his sketchbooks and notebooks, more than 12,000 photographs, 100 models, and 150 boxes of correspondence and project files. The Archives' facility includes the Kroiz Gallery of the Louis I. Kahn Collection, a specialized library, reading room, and seminar room, as well as storage and processing facilities. Stewardship of the Kahn Collection is a top priority, and numerous grant-funded projects, including a *Save America's Treasures* grant, are helping to preserve these resources for generations to come.

While the Architectural Archives at UPenn gained its international reputation through the Louis I. Kahn Collection, it has since grown to preserve the works of more than 400 designers from the 18th century to the present. Now one of the largest repositories of its type, the Architectural Archives strives to raise awareness of the importance of preserving architectural records and making them available, as Kahn himself had wished, to "students of all ages and degrees."

### **The Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania**

220 South 34th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6311  
(215) 898-8323

Hours: Weekdays, 10-5  
<http://www.design.upenn.edu/archives>

—Julia Moore Converse and William Whitaker

## Chapter News

The event was a great success, offering an opportunity for a summary of the past year's accomplishments, plans for the coming year, and "modern" discussion long after the conclusion of the program.

—Thomas Little

### CHICAGO

In addition to working on our soon-to-be-unveiled website, DOCOMOMO US/Chicago has been focusing on local preservation advocacy. In a call to arms initiated by Landmarks Illinois, DOCOMOMO US/Chicago issued an advocacy alert and helped to garner letters of support during the public comment period against the proposed demolition of two modern landmarks at the Great Lakes Naval Base in North Chicago. DOCOMOMO US/Chicago was also included as a consulting party to the Section 106 review process and participated in numerous meetings and conference calls to advocate for re-use of the Hostess House/Building #42 (designed by SOM's Gordon Bunshaft in 1942) and the Gunners' Mates School/Building #521 (designed by SOM's Bruce Graham in 1952-54). The Navy has postponed demolition and is reviewing possible schemes for adaptive use. See the article by Landmarks Illinois' Lisa DiChiera in this newsletter.

We have also lent our advocacy support to significant modern works that have been threatened by the endemic tear-down pressures in the region. Some of these works include residences such as the 1961 Louis Ancel house in Glencoe, Illinois, designed by Edward Dart, and the Frueh House in Highland Park, Illinois, designed by Robert Bruce Tague in 1948.

—Lynette Stuhlmacher

## Trenton Bath House to be Saved *(cont'd from pg 1)*

would do, "If I Owned the Trenton Bath House." Their suggestions were subsequently the focus of an exhibit in 1998 in Art's Garage, an auto repair shop/art gallery. The exhibit, still hanging there, includes diverse suggestions submitted by such American luminaries as Peter Eisenman, Robert Venturi, and landscape superstar Ken Smith.

In 2000, the JCC received a grant from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund to undertake a historic site management study of the property. The report, produced by architectural firm Ford, Farewell, Mills & Gatsch, was presented in 2003 and estimated that the cost to repair the Bath House would be \$486,000 with an additional \$400,000 required to restore the four Day Camp pavilions. Four years later, these costs may have grown to over \$1 million. Senior partner Michael Mills has commented that, "A major



**Typical water damage, Trenton Bath House, Trenton, NJ**  
*(photo: Susan Solomon)*



**Central atrium, Trenton Bath House, Trenton, NJ**  
*(photo: Theodore Prudon)*

issue with the Bath House is that it was constructed of very standard, inexpensive materials of the time."

In 2004 the JCC announced plans to sell the property and relocate to a larger site. For preservationists, the critical concern became what kind of care a new owner would provide for the Bath House and pavilions. It was feared that the Bath House might fall victim to demolition by neglect, similar to the threat faced by the Day Camp buildings due to failed maintenance.

Last February, before placing the existing property on the market, the JCC initiated discussions with Mercer County for the property to be purchased under New Jersey's Green Acres Open Space preservation program.

In Andrew Kitchenman's *The Times of Trenton* article on August 11, 2006, the details of agreement to save the Bath House were made public and included plans for Ewing Township to acquire the existing Community Center Building (designed by Kelly and Gruzen, architects, 1961) for use as a senior center. Mercer County is to take possession of the remaining 36 acres, including

ownership of the Bath House and Day Camp structures, for a sale price of \$7.7 million. Funds for the purchase are to be obtained under New Jersey's Green Acres program for open space acquisition administered by the Garden State Preservation Trust. The land will be reserved for passive recreation and (although owned by the county) the Kahn buildings will be operated by Ewing Township as a community pool and local recreation facility. Funds for the pool operation and for insurance have not been identified, but the county will be responsible for the restoration and maintenance of the historic structures. The county hopes that money for this work can be obtained through private donations and state aid.

In her message addressing the "happy ending to the

Bath House saga," Solomon paid tribute to all those who had diligently worked over the years to help save Kahn's buildings. "I am delighted with the total outcome. There is no question that this ideal resolution reflects the swift, focused, and eloquent messages that you sent. You have shown what happens when people feel passionately about a building and take time to express their concerns."

Under new ownership and facing a different agenda, the fate of the landmark structures will soon be in the hands of politicians and professional consultants. The fundamental question remains: How should Kahn's design intentions for the JCC be preserved? The debate will now be held in the court of public opinion. A suitable answer will be anything but simple—the determination of what is an appropriate preservation intervention.

—Peter Anderson

## Chapter News

### WESTERN WASHINGTON

Using its new website, DOCOMOMO/WEWA has launched several advocacy efforts in Western Washington:

<http://www.docomomo-wewa.org/angered.php>

In the state capitol, Olympia, the government could dramatically alter the capitol campus's modern legacy. The Department of General Administration (GA) currently has plans to create an ambitious new Executive Office Plaza/Heritage Center. This would call for the demolition of the 1956 General Administration Building, which is eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A nomination has been submitted to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. DOCOMOMO/WEWA has attended public meetings for the Executive Office Plaza/Heritage Center project and expressed its support of the nomination.

The Washington State Library Building (Joel M. Pritchard Building), located on the State Capitol Campus south of the Legislative Building, was the last monumental building to be added to the campus. The Washington State Library Historic Structures Report, prepared for GA in October, 2002, cited the Library Building as "...among the most important regional archetypes of mid-century architectural design and thought." The prominence of architect Paul Thiry anchors the building firmly in the history of Pacific Northwest post-war development. DOCOMOMO/WEWA has been concerned about the proposals to reuse and enlarge the building because none of the alternatives appear sensitive to the original library building and do not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. DOCOMOMO/WEWA and representatives from the Washington Trust for Historic

## Announcements



### IXth International DOCOMOMO Conference, Ankara, Turkey

(photo: Flora Chou)

Ankara, the capital of Turkey.

The workshop, which ran from September 18th to 25th was titled "How to Preserve a Housing Utopia: The Documentation and Sustainability of Modern Heritage, Case Study: Ataköy - Istanbul". The location was selected because of its urban and architectural significance as iconic examples of planning and architecture of the 1950's and 1960's in Turkey. The need to re-assess this significance in the context of Modern Movement heritage motivated students and teachers from different countries who collaborated in the development of preservation plans for Ataköy. The study identified the importance of the area and criteria for its conservation and developed plans and proposals which were subsequently presented at the conference.

After a formal opening reception at the Osmanli Bank in Istanbul, the entire conference moved to Ankara to the Middle Eastern Technical University. Here from September 27th through 29th papers and roundtable discussions centered on the theme "Other Modernisms" where the participants engaged in a wide range of discussions about what constituted modernism, modernity



### Attendees at the DOCOMOMO Conference, Ankara, Turkey

(photo: Flora Chou)

and Modern Movement. The conference culminated in a somewhat impromptu final session dramatically punctuated by a massive thunderstorm where principles and origins of DOCOMOMO were reasserted and changes in conference format and content were suggested. While the need for a theoretical basis and discussion was recognized, the lack of a discussion about actual preservation examples was decried. The conference concluded with a final party at the recently restored modern residence of the Dutch ambassador.

### 2006: IXth International DOCOMOMO Conference, Turkey

The IXth International Conference, which took place in Turkey at the end of September, was, for the first time, held in two different cities: a workshop in Istanbul and the conference proper in

At the Council Meeting, which consisted of representatives from all the recognized working parties in good standing, the International Secretariat, and the various International Scientific Committees, presented their activities over the previous two years along with plans for the next two. In addition, several new working parties were recognized and admitted to the Council, including Malta, Cyprus, and Columbia, bringing the total number of member countries to 54. Finally, the Council reviewed the proposals submitted by the Japanese and the Dutch working parties for hosting the Xth International Conference in 2008. With a narrow margin the Council selected the Dutch proposal partially in recognition that the Xth Conference was a fitting time to return to the country where DOCOMOMO was founded.

—Theodore Prudon

### DOCOMOMO US Technology Seminar, Fall 2007

#### Constructing Modernism: Building Now and Then

In 2004 in conjunction with the VIIIth International DOCOMOMO Conference DOCOMOMO US organized its first Technology Seminar. In the fall of 2007 a second seminar will take place in New York City. The 2007 seminar will seek to address and study the actual building process and how it has, and continues to, influence design and preservation. Many of the decisions that affect the final appearance and use of a building are made in regards to the constructability and efficiency of the design, construction detail, and the equipment and tools available. The presentations will not be limited solely to US subjects.

The program will consist of a series of invited presentations addressing the evolution of the construction process and its tools in the last hundred years and how it has shaped modern architecture. Because of the small format of the seminar, a series of shorter presentations and roundtable discussions will be organized. No particular New York City venue has as yet been selected but is likely to be in the midtown area.

The seminar will take place around the middle of October 2007. Specific dates are to be announced to assure that they do not conflict with similar events elsewhere. The seminars will be sponsored by DOCOMOMO US, ISC Technology, DOCOMOMO International, and other sponsors forthcoming. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be made available.

—Theodore Prudon

## Chapter News

Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Western Regional Office have met with a representative from GA to discuss the project and have spoken at public meetings.

The self-parking garage, built in 1959 to accommodate the Bon Marché Department Store, was unique for its circular ramp design. At the time, only one other existed in the country—a garage of similar design in San Francisco, built in 1955 by the same company. This summer, representatives from DOCOMOMO/WEWA met with the new owners and their architect to discuss plans for the garage. DOCOMOMO/WEWA was pleased to hear that there are no longer plans to permanently alter the facade by making it appear as a traditional building with punched windows. However, the project developer is still considering a screen for the facade. DOCOMOMO/WEWA is urging the developer not to make any changes that would compromise the integrity of the upper stories on the exterior.

DOCOMOMO/WEWA meets each month, typically on the last Wednesday of the month, at different locations in Seattle and the surrounding region. Please contact [info@docomomo-wewa.org](mailto:info@docomomo-wewa.org) for additional information.

—Andrew Phillips

### DOCOMOMO US/New England

The fate of the modern house has once again been at the forefront of the activities of DOCOMOMO-US/New England over the last several months.

NE helped to stimulate and inform an exhibition on the modern houses of Cape Cod over the summer, and have been engaged more actively by organizations such as Historic New England (the stewards of the Gropius House) in establishing future initiatives for the documentation, preservation

## Announcements

### 2008: Xth International DOCOMOMO Conference: Delft/Rotterdam, The Netherlands

**"The Challenge of Change: Dealing with the Legacy of the Modern Movement"**



The Xth International DOCOMOMO Conference, "The Challenge of Change: Dealing with the Legacy of the Modern Movement," will be hosted by the Dutch Working Party at the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and the Van Nelle factory in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, with dates tentatively set for October 8-10, 2008, for the conference and October 11-12 for post-conference tours.

The preliminary agenda for the three-day conference focuses on the meaningful preservation of the modernist legacy. While the aesthetics of the modern movement may remain appealing, the movement itself has always focused on the future, "stressing its newness and innovative character." Now that these future-oriented buildings belong to our past, questions are raised regarding change, continuity, and conflicting interests. Keynote speakers will be invited to reflect on the sub-themes of Change and Continuity, Restructuring Cities and Landscapes, Testing Functionality and Flexibility, Education in Transformation, and Technology and Ecology. There will be a pre-conference workshop for students, from September 29 to October 7, when students and lecturers of the 50 or so member countries will work together on an assignment associated with the theme of the conference. The results of this workshop will be presented in a theme session on "education in transformation" at the conference.

We will be updating further on the Xth DOCOMOMO Conference as information becomes available.

—Toni DiMaggio

### Update on SOM Buildings at Great Lakes Naval Station

The U.S. Navy gave two Skidmore, Owings & Merrill designed buildings at Great Lakes Naval Base in North Chicago—the 1942 Gordon Bunshaft designed Hostess House (Building #42)

and the 1952-54 Gunners' Mates School (Building #521) by Bruce Graham—a reprieve from the demolition that was planned for September 2006. After multiple meetings and negotiations between Navy officials and the Illinois state historic preservation office, with consulting parties to a Section 106 process that included DOCOMOMO Chicago, Landmarks Illinois, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Midwest Office, the Mies van der Rohe Society and the federal level Advisory Council, new uses have been proposed for the buildings.

At Landmarks Illinois' request, the Chicago office of SOM prepared pro-bono a comprehensive re-use proposal with cost estimates that proved competitive to demolition and new construction. Navy officials are now evaluating funding opportunities to carry out the proposal, spearheaded by an SOM team including Associate Partner Jason Stanley, and Partners Jeff McCarthy and Phil Enquist, that demonstrated the opportunity to re-use the Gunners' Mates building as an officers' club and food concessions venue using sustainable design and a technologically advanced double skin solution to maintain the historic exterior or glass walls. Noted preservation architect John Vinci, representing the Mies van der Rohe Society, designed a re-use plan for the Hostess House as a 10,000 sq foot museum that could accommodate the Great Lakes Naval Museum, which was in need of a new facility. The Hostess House's construction date, 1942, was perceived to fit perfectly with the museum's collections, which largely focus on World War II. Representatives of Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust with Vinci presented the proposal to the museum's board in October, which unanimously voted to proceed with fundraising plans to utilize the Hostess House once lease arrangements were negotiated with Navy officials. Landmarks Illinois is contributing \$5,000 toward design costs. Further contributions toward this renovation can be directed to Great Lakes Naval Museum chairman Carl Ross ([carrbal@aol.com](mailto:carrbal@aol.com)).

SOM provided additional assistance to this effort by supplying period photographs of both buildings by the noted architectural studio of Hedrich Blessing and original plans from its archive. These resources have provided invaluable documentation of these important modern buildings.

—Lisa DiChiera



**Gunners' Mates School (Building 521), Great Lakes Naval Station, IL**

(photo: Cody Wright)

## Chapter News

and adaptive use of these resources.

DOCOMOMO-US/New England played a key role in what ultimately proved to be a losing battle to save the Rachel Raymond House by Eleanor Raymond (Belmont, MA, 1931). This work, one of the oldest and most significant modern houses in New England, was purchased by the adjacent Belmont Hill School and taken down for "future unspecified development." In the short weeks leading up to the demolition DOCOMOMO played a major role in the advocacy effort on the part of local and national preservation organizations and the Massachusetts Historical Commission to try to persuade the school to restore and make good use of the house. DOCOMOMO wrote an editorial for the local Belmont Paper and contacted Boston Globe architecture critic Robert Campbell, who published two pieces in defense of the house. See the article about the Raymond House in this newsletter.

The school based its justification of the demolition on the findings of an architect who claimed that it had been altered beyond recognition and had no historic value—evidence disputed by many who have seen the house in recent years. This effort and its tragic outcome point up again the need for broader efforts at educating owners, the public and the real estate community on the value and opportunity embodied in these resources; and on the need to work more aggressively with regulatory agencies at the local and state level to prevent this kind of uninformed, wanton destruction.

—David Fixler

## Announcements

### Compromise Reached to Save Saarinen's Bell Lab Building

A revised proposal for the Bell Labs facility in Holmdel, New Jersey released in August has been received by many in the scientific, preservation, and architectural communities, as well as the surrounding community of Holmdel, as an acceptable step in the redevelopment of the site and original building by Eero Saarinen.

pond behind the Saarinen building. New housing will be developed at the periphery of the site. Although Citizens for Informed Land Use, the coalition of Holmdel residents most active in providing input and feedback on the proposal plans, originally opposed housing on the site, no major opposition has arisen. This revised plan has been well received by the many interested parties, but concern over the new freestanding buildings that would occupy the site has been raised in the



Existing exterior, Bell Labs, Holmdel, NJ  
(photo: Roberta Kaufman)

Built in 1962 in rural New Jersey, the Bell Labs site is a prime example of the postwar corporate campus. Not only is Bell Labs an important example of Saarinen's work, it was also the birthplace of many communication technologies from touch-tone dialing to cellular telephones.

After acquiring the facility (now home to a downsizing Lucent Technologies) earlier this year, developer Preferred Real Estate Investments, Inc. (PREI) planned to demolish the existing building and replace it with three stand-alone headquarters-type buildings. The impracticality of renovating the existing structure for current office purposes and the difficulty of attracting a single firm in need of so much space were main reasons cited for the demolition. PREI intended to retain some elements of the original site, including the layout, the landscaping by Dan Kiley and a transistor-shaped water tower designed by Saarinen. However, due to public outcry from the various communities, including many noted scientists and former Bell Labs employees, PREI has reconsidered their initial plans. The proposed solution retains the original 1961 Saarinen structure while stripping away the additions to the original building by Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo from the mid-1960s and early-1980s. This new plan would preserve the original building's relationship to the central axis, water tower, water-reflecting pond, and ring roads. The non-original exterior glass will be replaced with modern insulated glass, but the integrity of the pioneering exterior, as well as the vaulted atrium lobby, would be maintained.

In place of the demolished additions, the developer proposed two new, freestanding buildings that are to sit behind the original building. These new buildings will encircle the existing



Existing exterior, Bell Labs, Holmdel, NJ  
(photo: Roberta Kaufman)

New Jersey are actively involved in this process. DOCOMOMO US will provide updates as the plans move forward.

—Flora Chou

### Rapson Library Faces Uncertain Future

The Southeast Library in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was designed by noted local architect Ralph Rapson in 1964 as a bank and converted into a library in 1967 by the Minneapolis Public Library (MPL). It is one of the few public Rapson buildings remaining in Minneapolis. Because of an inadequate budget approved by the Minneapolis City Council, the MPL voted recently to close the Southeast Library.

Ralph Rapson's distinguished career includes

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## Announcements



**Exterior, Ralph Rapson Building, Minneapolis, MN**

(photo: Greg Frenzel)

the embattled Guthrie Theater, numerous American embassies, and university buildings at University of California, Santa Cruz and University of Minnesota. He also instructed at MIT and held 30-year tenure as Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota. Despite its monumental personality and brutalist nature, the Southeast Library maintains a connection to the street and remains an inviting, comfortable building. The former bank shows rare architectural skill, with its finely articulated concrete pediment and tapered cruciform concrete columns with playful brick solids and voids. It is significant in a neighborhood dominated by timber frame houses and early to mid-century brick apartment buildings. The Southeast Library's architecture and ease of use maintain its value in an age when even public buildings seem to maximize lot square footage and turn inward to new electronic wisdom.

The MPL's budget shortfall has resulted in funding strategies such as permanently closing three libraries, including Rapson's Southeast branch, and leasing the properties to developers. Recognizing the unpopularity of closing the libraries, the mayor of Minneapolis has allocated funds to mothball the libraries properly for two years in anticipation of more permanent budget fixes. Fortunately, the Southeast Library is not without its allies; vocal council member and Rapson champion, Gary Schiff, and the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, are working actively to preserve the structure.

—Greg Frenzel

## Paul Rudolph's Riverview High School Still Threatened

The Sarasota School Board's 5-0 vote to demolish Paul Rudolph's Riverview High School Building earlier this year is a stable threat, despite the advocacy and requests of organizations such as AIA Florida, the Save Riverview Group, and The Twentieth Century Society, as well as architects including Lord Norman Foster and Charles Gwathmey.

Citing maintenance and safety issues, the school plans to demolish the 1958 Rudolph

building once the new proposed building has been completed. Charles Gwathmey visited Riverview High School on October 26th, with members of the Save Riverview group, and had previously written to the Sarasota School Board, urging them to reconsider their decision. Foster has also written to the school, calling Rudolph "the single most formative force in [his] life."

The Save Riverview Group continues their advocacy for this strikingly innovative building, which the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation has listed as one of the most endangered sites in Florida for 2006. Visit

[www.saveriverview.blogspot.com](http://www.saveriverview.blogspot.com) for regular updates of news coverage, events, and information regarding this building.

—Toni DiMaggio

## Raymond House in Belmont, MA, Demolished!



**Demolition, Raymond House, Belmont, MA, 2006**

(photo: Marilyn Fenoliosa, courtesy Arlene Levee)

The Rachel Raymond House in Belmont, MA, designed by Eleanor Raymond in 1931, has been demolished following its recent purchase by the Belmont Hill School. The School, which states that it is committed to historic preservation (citing the rescue and renovation of an 1840 Connecticut Greek Revival church), said that an architectural historian surveyed the property before they decided to purchase it. The historic report, which has not been released by Belmont Hill School, is said to conclude that the renovations over the past 40 years eradicated all the distinguishable features of the house. However, President of DOCOMOMO/New England David Fixler, AIA, feels that, though the exterior was significantly altered, much of the essence of the house remained and it could have been restored.

Cited as the first modern house in Massachusetts by Architectural Forum in 1931, Eleanor Raymond designed the house for her sister Rachel after visiting the Bauhaus in 1930. A signature work of Raymond's, the demolition of this regionally appropriate contemporary residence is unfortunate.

—Toni DiMaggio

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**Central atrium, Trenton Bath House, Trenton, NJ**  
(photo: Theodore Prudon)

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