

prospectus  
2024

**history now**

HSPV

University of  
Pennsylvania  
Stuart Weitzman  
School of Design

# Prospectus

# 2024

## Historic Preservation





# Contents

Editors:  
Sarah Lopez  
Amber Wiley

*Prospectus* is a publication of the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design Department of Historic Preservation. It presents an overview of the academic program, a sampling of student work, and current research. Each issue is centered on a critical theme challenging and shaping the historic preservation field.

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# From the Editors

Throughout the ages, axioms and aphorisms arguing for historical thinking abound. The past is not dead, it is not even past. Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.

As *the discipline* tasked with creating knowledge about human relationships to both time and space, by definition history and historical thinking challenge fascism and demagoguery. As Confucius wrote: "Study history. Study history. In history lies all of the secrets to stagecraft." Or how about American social historian Howard Zinn? "If you don't know history it's as if you were born yesterday. If you were born yesterday a leader can tell you anything."

I agree with—and even live by—all of the above. And yet my reasons for studying and producing history, and specifically the history of the built environment, are perhaps simpler. In what I experience as a chaotic and troubling time, I study history to give my life meaning. I find the wicked problems, challenging complexity, and boundless mystery that arise when one turns toward the past and asks: "how did this come to pass?" and "who are we now because of it?" a great salve, great comfort, and source of hope in an era of global uncertainty—an era that is, for some, certain darkness.

The study of the history of the built environment gives my life meaning because it activates my surroundings, the material context of my life. History also allows me to connect macro processes to micro decisions anchored and evident in our everyday environments. I search for the untold stories of valiant and sometimes forgotten or neglected protagonists of history to not only view but also place their role in the grand fabric of society. I work on Mexican migration as a spatial, material, and historical fact.

My colleague Amber Wiley and I, as new members of the Department, join forces with Professors Francesca Ammon and Aaron Wunsch to further strengthen the Department's (also strong in the areas of conservation, planning, and design) concentration in public history. Together we embark on reinvigorating and experimenting with how we identify sites of importance in



**Sarah Lopez**  
Associate Professor,  
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Planning

our cities, as well as how we tell the stories of those sites. Digital humanities, oral history, urban occupations, and community engagement are key ingredients to elevating the role of history in the fight to steward our cities, ushering in a future that best represents the people who make them vibrant. As we look forward, I invite us to collectively consider the following questions:

How can the study of history inform the future trajectory of the field of Historic Preservation?

What role can historic preservation play in recognizing the fundamental role of marginalized community groups whose built heritage might not fit into standard historic preservation guidelines? And, how can "history" support this goal?

How can we build on the legacy of historic preservation as we challenge its boundaries and expand the field's purview? How can we leverage history—the history of past actions by activists, doers, squatters, builders—in envisioning the field's future?

Sarah Lopez  
March 6, 2024

“We’ve got to tell the unvarnished truth.”

John Hope Franklin, 2005

History is under attack. This is not the first time, nor will it be the last. This statement is not meant to be alarmist. It is a matter of fact. Thus, what follows is a brief recount of how and why the intersections of history and our documentation, interpretation, conservation, and design of the built environment are of critical importance. We must move away from the notion that what we do within these realms are the incontrovertible outcomes of objective applications of theory and praxis, and instead reckon with institutional structures that have undue influence on our results. The practice of history is one such framework that does need to be examined, but from the perspective of expansion, rather than reduction. In the view of history praxis, less is not more.

It was early in my undergraduate years that I realized the power of history. Rather, the power of historical omission. My Intro to Architecture course highlighted the grand schemes of visionaries, city commissioners, and private monied interests in urban renewal and city planning. What were they trying to accomplish? Why were these large-scale changes necessary? What does this reveal about the nature of the city? These were the questions our professors wanted us to pursue. But I had questions of my own—why don’t we hear about the people who were impacted? What did these visions do to their communities, their sense of place, their sense of self-worth? What are these areas like now? What is it like to live there? And most importantly—why aren’t we talking about these things?

The Urban Renewal Authority in Muskogee, Oklahoma demolished my grandparents’ home and replaced it with a shopping mall in the mid-1980s. It could have been a case study presented in my class. But my family was on the receiving end of those actions, not a part of the planning or visioning processes. We were historically omitted from the curriculum and from my classmates’ consciousness. Our insights were placed outside the realm of knowledge production. Through the process of historical omission, my professors overlooked our epistemological contributions to understanding the built environment.



## Amber Wiley

Matt and Erica Nord Director, Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites  
Presidential Associate Professor,  
Historic Preservation

This omission was to the detriment not only of our perspectives and insights, but also my classmates’ educational experience. These historical omissions resulted in a lack of rigor in the educational process. My classmates were not made aware of the historical impacts of environmental racism, the loss of generational wealth, purposeful destruction of communal ties, and the scars that remain in the absence. How would they have approached design projects differently if they knew these things? Indeed, grand historical narratives do not exist without their messy, controversial, and often disturbing undersides. We must grapple with these multiple truths—as Black queer feminist Audre Lorde argues, “descend into the chaos of knowledge”—to emerge adequately prepared to address compelling needs in our field for today and for the future.

Amber Wiley  
March 10, 2024



# curriculum





# Degrees

## Master of Science in Historic Preservation MSHP

The identification and analysis of historic fabric, the determination of significance and value, and the design of appropriate conservation management measures require special preparation in history, theory, technology, and planning. These subjects form the core of the Master of Science in Historic Preservation program. Within this framework, students individualize their coursework to define an area of emphasis, such as architectural conservation, public history of the built environment, preservation planning, or preservation design. The curriculum stresses mastery of the research process along with the marriage of theory and practice.

In coursework, studios, and laboratories at the School of Design, as well as through partnerships with other national and international institutions and agencies, students have unparalleled opportunities for study, internships and sponsored research. Graduates can look toward careers focused on the design and preservation of the world's cultural heritage, including buildings, engineering works, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, and historic towns and cities.

MSHP students are required to select a curricular concentration which encompass the various dimensions of professional practice:

- Architectural Conservation
- Preservation Design
- Preservation Planning
- Public History of the Built Environment

## Master of Science in Design with a concentration in Historic Preservation MSD-HP

The one-year Master of Science in Design with a concentration in Historic Preservation (MSD-HP) complements Weitzman School's long-standing two-year MSHP degree. The MSD-HP directly addresses the needs of practicing design professionals seeking post-professional training, specialization, or change in career path. The MSD-HP curriculum requires 10 CUs and spans one calendar year—two full time semesters. Half of the required courses are elective; personalized curricula can accommodate advanced thesis research or advanced studios. Applicants must possess a professional degree in design or planning fields (architecture, landscape architecture, interior architecture, urban planning, urban design, engineering) from an accredited university, and at least three years of professional experience.

## Certificate in Historic Preservation

The Certificate in Historic Preservation provides an opportunity for students enrolled in other graduate degree programs in the University of Pennsylvania to gain expertise in historic preservation while completing requirements for their professional degree programs. A total of 5 HSPV course units, including HSPV 6600/6610 Theories of Historic Preservation I and II (0.50 cu each), are required for the certificate, and are selected in consultation with the HSPV faculty to develop an area of professional focus.

## Concentration in Architectural Conservation



Architectural conservation encompasses the physical documentation, analysis, conditions diagnosis, testing, monitoring, treatment, and preventive maintenance of buildings, structures and sites. It is the technical means by which a wide spectrum of preservation interventions is conducted on all built heritage to address a broad range of issues from material deterioration to historical interpretation. As one specialization within the broader field of historic preservation, it is distinguished by the application of scientific method in the study of historic buildings and sites in accordance with a clearly defined theoretical and methodological approach.

Work opportunities within this specialization include private practice such as architectural and technical consulting firms as well as public institutions such as federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations that own or manage heritage places.

## Concentration in Preservation Design



The preservation design concentration prepares students with undergraduate training in design, engineering, and planning to apply preservation principles and methods to design practices. Unlike typical graduate-level design programs, this concentration applies these tools to the existing built environment, in a manner informed by current historic preservation theory and practice. In the last decade, the preservation and design fields have evolved much more complex and intense points of engagement – reflected in the ascendance of the creative reuse of historic structures and places as design problems, greater focus on technical understanding and modeling of the performance of existing buildings, and, at the scale of community, landscape and urbanism, much greater attention to conservation as a tool to achieve resilience.

This concentration prepares students for careers in architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, engineering and planning, as well as project review at the local, state or national level or with non-profits.

*Image: Taha Mughal, rendering of visitor's center at Taliesin West*



## Concentration in Preservation Planning



Preservation planning uses policy and planning tools to carry out preservation at larger scales – of neighborhoods, cities, towns, and cultural landscapes. Issues of larger-scale preservation – and how they connect with other planning, development, environmental and social issues – continue to grow as strategically important parts of preservation practice.

Work in the preservation planning concentration focuses on decision-making processes relating to the management and financing of heritage places through time, as well as the integration of heritage values into territorial planning and policy systems. Community planning, adaptive reuse proposals, policy analysis and innovation are typical project types.

The professional pathways for those focusing on preservation planning include: public policy (including regulatory and survey work), city and town planning (including urban revitalization, economic development and community development), real-estate development and consulting, advocacy, and creative placemaking.

*Photo: Jingyi Luo*

## Concentration in Public History of the Built Environment



The Public History of the Built Environment (PHBE) concentration prepares students to put the study of urban and architectural history in service to publicly-oriented historic preservation practice. Unlike more general graduate-level public history programs, Weitzman School's concentration focuses on the built environment, in a manner informed by other aspects of current historic preservation practice. Our emphasis is on the American cultural landscape—using Philadelphia as our laboratory—but the tools and skills covered will be relevant for international application across diverse geographies. This concentration prepares students for careers in government such as the National Park Service (NPS), State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), public history museums, historic sites, archives, cultural resources management (CRM) firms, and design offices specializing in Historic Preservation.

A new and related effort is the Initiative in the History of the Built Environment, directed by Francesca Russello Ammon. The initiative organizes and amplifies existing teaching and expertise in the history of the built environment across the departments at Weitzman and within the larger university. It also promotes new scholarship in this interdisciplinary area. Finally, through new courses and faculty, the initiative supports masters and doctoral students committed to studying history in the fields of city planning, historic preservation, and design



# Core Curriculum

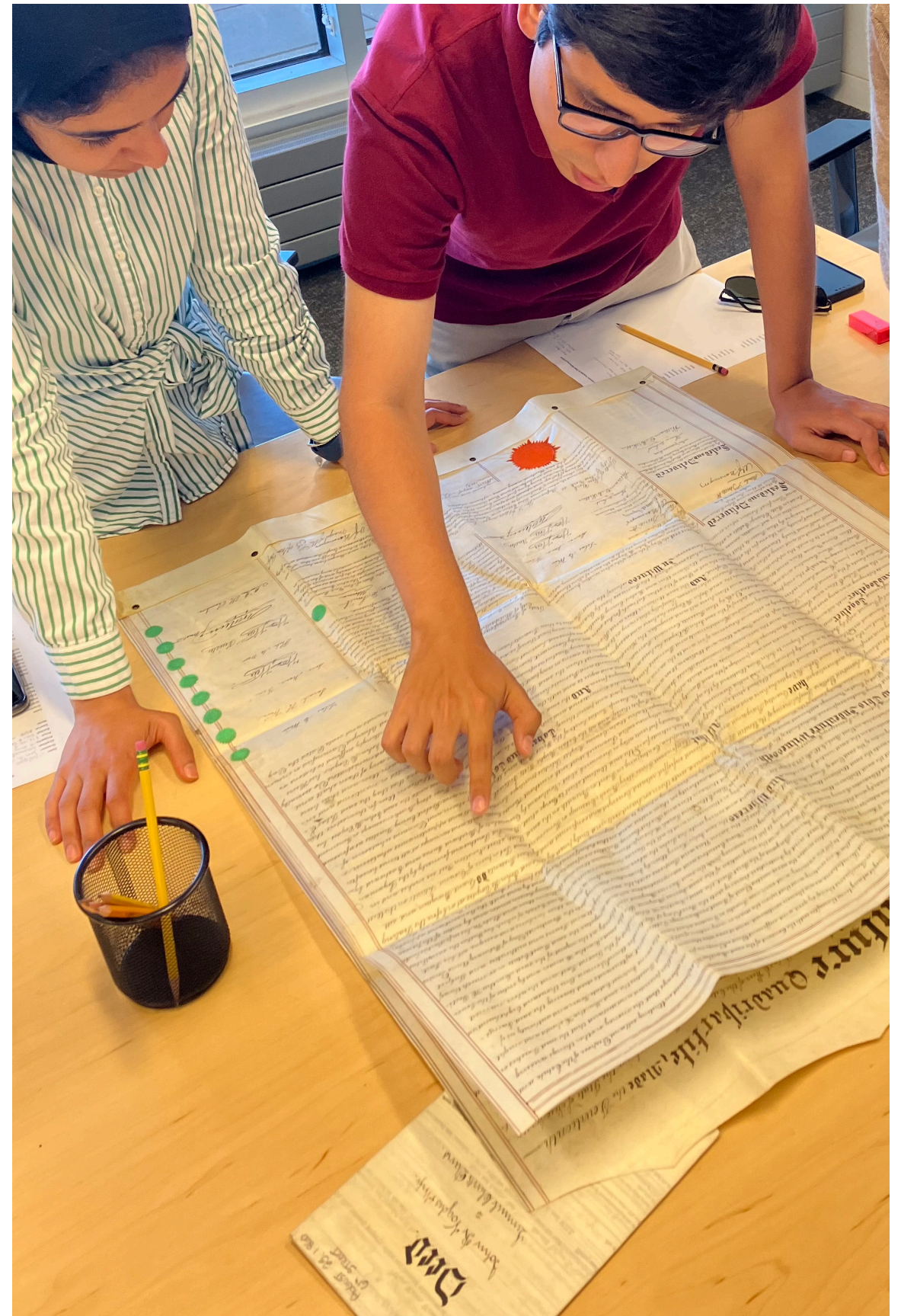
## First Year

### Documentation, Research, & Recording I HSPV 6000

The goal of this course is to help students learn to research and contextualize the history of buildings and sites. In order to gain first-hand exposure to the actual materials of building histories, we will visit our neighborhood research sites and several key archival repositories. Students will work directly with historical evidence, including maps, deeds, the census, city directories, insurance surveys, photographs, and many other kinds of archival materials. After discussing each type of document in terms of its nature and the motives for its creation, students will complete a series of projects that develop their facility for putting these materials to effective use. Philadelphia is more our laboratory than a primary focus in terms of content, as the city is rich in institutions that hold over three centuries of such materials; students will find here both an exposure to primary documents of most of the types they might find elsewhere, as well as a sense of the culture of such institutions and of the kinds of research strategies that can be most effective. The final project is the completion of an historic register nomination.

### Documentation, Research, & Recording II HSPV 6010

This course provides an introduction to the survey and recording of historic buildings and sites. Techniques of recording include traditional as well as digitally-based methods including field survey, measured drawings, photography and rectified photography. Emphasis is placed on the use of appropriate recording tools in the context of a thorough of the historical significance, form and function of sites.





## American Architecture **HSPV 5210**

This course is a survey of architecture in the United States. The organization, while broadly chronological, emphasizes themes around which important scholarship has gathered. The central purpose is to acquaint you with major cultural, economic, technological, and environmental forces that have shaped buildings and settlements in North America for the last 400 years. To that end, we will study a mix of “high-style” and “vernacular” architectures while encouraging you to think critically about these categories. Throughout the semester, you will be asked to grapple with both the content of assigned readings (the subject) and the manner in which authors present their arguments (the method). Louis Sullivan, for instance, gives us the tall office building “artistically considered” while Carol Willis presents it as a financial and legal artifact. What do you make of the difference? Finally, you will learn how to describe buildings. While mastery of architectural vocabulary is a necessary part of that endeavor, it is only a starting point. Rich or “thick” description is more than accurate prose. It is integral to understanding the built environment - indeed, to seeing it at all.

## Digital Media for Historic Preservation **HSPV 6240A & 6240B**

A required praxis course designed for students to further explore the techniques and applications of digital media for visual and textual communication. Techniques will be discussed for preservation use including survey, documentation, relational databases, and digital imaging and modeling. This course is organized in two 0.5 CU parts; the first half (HSPV 6240A) is taught in the second half of the fall semester, while the second half (HSPV 6240B) is taught in the first half of the spring semester.

## Theories of Historic Preservation **HSPV 6600 & 6610**

Theories of historic preservation serve as models for practice, integrating the humanistic, artistic, design, scientific and political understandings of the field. HSPV 6600, taught in the fall, examines the historical evolution of historic preservation, reviews theoretical frameworks and issues, and explores current modes of practice. Emphasis is placed on literacy in the standard preservation works and critical assessment of common preservation concepts. In addition to readings and lectures, case studies from contemporary practice will form the basis for short assignments. Professional ethics are reviewed and debated. HSPV 6610, taught in the spring engages advanced topics such as cultural landscape theory, economics of preservation, sustainability and environmental conservation, social justice, and urban design. In addition to readings and lectures, case studies from contemporary practice will be used to examine theories in practice.

## Second Year

### Historic Preservation Studio **HSPV 7010**

The Preservation Studio is a practical course making architectural, urban and landscape conservation operations, bringing to bear the wide range of skills and ideas at play in the field of historic preservation. As part of the core MSHP curriculum the Studio experience builds on professional skills learned in the first-year core. The work requires intense collaboration as well as individual projects. The Preservation Studio centers on common conflicts between historic preservation, social forces, economic interests, and politics. Recognizing that heritage sites are complex entities where communities, cultural and socio-economic realities, land use, building types, and legal and institutional settings are all closely interrelated, the main goals of the studio are (1) understanding and communicating the cultural significance of the built environment, (2) analyzing its relation to other economic, social, political and aesthetic values, and (3) exploring the creative possibilities for design, conservation and interpretation prompted by cultural significance. Studio teams undertake documentation, planning and design exercises for heritage sites and their communities, working variously on research, stakeholder consultation, comparables analysis, writing policies and designing solutions. Students work in teams as well as on individual projects. Study sites will be announced in the fall before the semester starts

To view past Historic Preservation Studio projects, see page 39.

### Thesis I & II **HSPV 7100 & 7110**

The Department of Historic Preservation's Thesis course is a two semester 2 CU capstone. The goal of the Thesis is demonstrated mastery of the research process by exploring a question of academic/professional relevance to the preservation field and presenting the results of the study in accordance with the highest standards of scholarly publishing. The Thesis spans the academic year, beginning with HSPV 7100: Thesis I in the fall semester, which culminates in a research proposal and literature review. The course cycle continues in the spring with HSPV 7110: Thesis II, which sees students through the completion of research and writing their thesis.

To view featured thesis projects, see page 50.

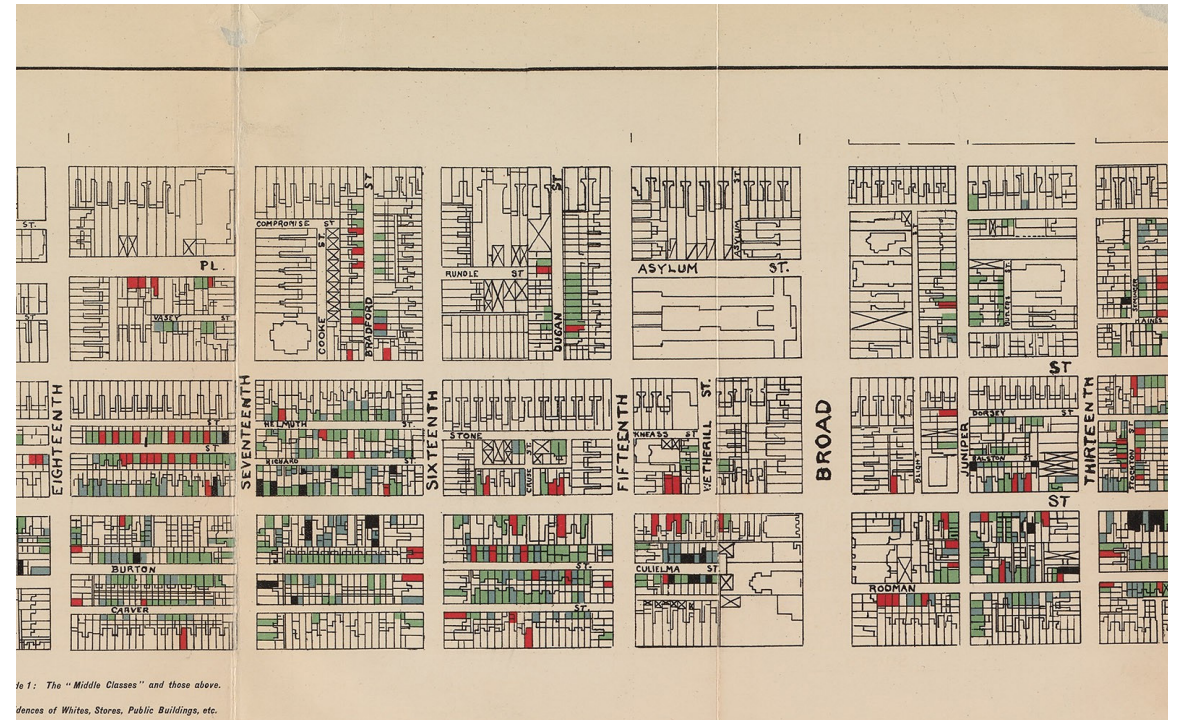
### Capstone Studio **HSPV 7210**

Capstone Studio is a one-semester 2 CU course taken instead of HSPV 7100/7110 Thesis to fulfill the MSHP capstone requirement. This is a research studio that builds on the core curriculum completed in the first year. The work requires intense collaboration as well as individual projects. A studio topic will be chosen and announced each year.

To view past Capstone Studio projects, see page 68.

# Electives

Weitzman Preservation students gain field-based experience - internationally and domestically - through an annual offering of elective seminars and studios. Led by faculty from across the curriculum, these courses and projects are often multidisciplinary and push the edges of scholarship, practice, and advocacy in the field.



## Topics in Preservation & Public History: Approaches to Philadelphia's Black Heritage

Amber Wiley  
HSPV 6200-001

This seminar is a deep dive into Black heritage sites in Philadelphia, with the purpose of developing documentation and historic context around these underrepresented and threatened community assets ahead of the Semiquincentennial of 2026. It grows out of a series of conversations between the Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites (CPCRS) and Black heritage stewards in the city. To date, there has been no systematic investigation into Black historic assets in Philadelphia, a major oversight and challenge to preserving the city's Black heritage. Many of these sites are in areas that are experiencing new development and gentrification. As the 2018-2023 Statewide Preservation Plan for Pennsylvania noted, "There is little diversity in the historic and archaeological resources that reflect Pennsylvania's diverse ethnic and cultural history. In particular, African American resources in Pennsylvania are greatly underrepresented in National Register of Historic Places listings, by Pennsylvania Historical Markers, and in the CRGIS database of identified historic properties maintained by PA SHPO." It is critical to help list them as local and state landmarks to protect, preserve, and elevate these histories. This class forms the first part of an asset-based cultural heritage and tourism initiative by CPCRS. In partnership with our local Black heritage stewards, we will engage in archival research, document buildings, conduct interviews, map resource locations, and create public-facing content to share with city and state-level stakeholders to help them prioritize planning ahead of 2026.

*Image: W. E. B. Du Bois, The Seventh Ward of Philadelphia, 1899.*

# Public History of the Built Environment: Theory and Practice

Aaron Wunsch, Elizabeth Milroy  
HSPV 5340-001

This seminar builds on skills developed in HSPV 5210 (American Architecture), HSPV 6000 (Documentation), and HSPV 6060 (Site Management); only HSPV 6000 is a prerequisite. Unlike many public history courses, this one focuses on interpretation of the built environment. While proficiency in archival research is required, an understanding of form and chronology in American architecture is helpful. Fundamentally, this course is about community, memory, and their relationship to built form. As such, it examines oral history methodology and includes readings in sociology and ethnography. It acknowledges that while buildings and landscapes are in one sense simply larger forms of material culture than furniture or other movable objects, they also “work” differently by dint of being inhabited, occupied, and publicly encountered, forming de facto frameworks for private and public life. More than other courses, this one grapples with interpretation and dissemination- everything from signage and monuments to websites and exhibits. It is not, however, a tutorial in the use of those media so much as a chance to reflect critically on their strengths and weaknesses in different contexts.

## Cultural Landscapes

Randall Mason  
HSPV 5380-401 / LARP 7380-401

The course surveys and critically engages the field of cultural landscape studies. Over the semester, we will explore cultural landscape as a concept, theory and model of preservation and design practice; we will read cultural landscape historiography and creative non-fiction; we will examine a range of types (national parks, community gardens, designed landscapes, informal public spaces), and we will map the alternative preservation, planning and design methods that ground cultural landscape studies practically. Readings, class discussions, and projects will draw on cultural geography, environmental history, vernacular architecture, ecology, art, and writing.

## Building Pathology

Michael Henry  
HSPV 5510-001

This course addresses the subject of deterioration of buildings, their materials, assemblies and systems, with the emphasis on the mechanisms of deterioration and their enabling factors, material durability and functional longevity. Details of construction and assemblies are analyzed for existing and potential deterioration pathologies and the impact on function and performance. Lectures cover: concepts in durability; climate and climate change; psychrometrics; soils and soil moisture; physics of moisture in buildings; systems thinking; wall and roof systems; structural systems; and building services systems. The course concludes with an introduction to diagnostic thinking.

## Conservation Science

Frank Matero  
HSPV 5550-001

Conservation Science is an introduction to the technical study of traditional building materials. This knowledge is essential preparation for any professional engaged in the conservation and adaptive reuse of structures built before the mid 20th century. The course focuses on these materials' properties, performance, and especially weathering, and the basic laboratory-based methods that can be employed for their study, characterization, and specification for restoration. Lectures and coordinated laboratory sessions introduce the history of use, composition, and deterioration mechanisms of a wide array of traditional building materials including earth, stone, brick, terra cotta, concrete, mortars and plasters, metals, wood, and paints. The course provides a basic knowledge of the major building materials in use before the Second World War in industrialized as well as pre-industrial traditional contexts.

## Preservation Through Public Policy

Amber Wiley  
HSPV 5720-001

This course explores the intersection between historic preservation, design and public policy, as it exists and as it is evolving. That exploration is based on the recognition that a challenging and challenged network of law and policy at the federal, state and local level has direct and profound impact on the ability to manage cultural resources, and that the pieces of that network, while interconnected, are not necessarily mutually supportive. The fundamental assumption of the course is that the preservation professional must understand the capabilities, deficiencies, and ongoing evolution of this network in order to be effective. The course will look at a range of relevant and exemplary laws and policies existing at all levels of government, examining them through case studies and in-depth analyses of pertinent programs and agencies at the local, state and federal level.

## World Heritage in Global Conflict

Lynn Meskell  
HSPV 5840-401

Heritage is always political. Such a statement might refer to the everyday politics of local stakeholder interests on one end of the spectrum, or the volatile politics of destruction and erasure of heritage during conflict, on the other. If heritage is always political then one might expect that the workings of World Heritage might be especially fraught given the international dimension. In particular, the intergovernmental system of UNESCO World Heritage must navigate the inherent tension between state sovereignty and nationalist interests and the wider concerns of a universal regime. The World Heritage List has almost 1200 properties has many such contentious examples, including sites in Iraq, Mali, Syria, Crimea, Palestine, Armenia and Cambodia. As an organization UNESCO was born of war with an explicit mission to end global conflict and help the world rebuild materially and morally yet has found its own history increasingly entwined with that of international politics and violence.



# Contemporary Asia and the Historic Built Environment

Kecia Fong  
HSPV 5880-001

What place does the historic built environment have in contemporary Asia and what does its enduring care and conservation express about perceptions and values of heritage in daily life? What happens when the historic and the contemporary are treated as separate and distinct categories? This course examines what we will refer to as built heritage in contemporary Asia for what it reveals about the legacies of conservation (indigenous and colonial) and the centrality of heritage to an array of historical and pressing concerns. While heritage conservation in Asia has always been integral to cultural continuity, governance, and spiritual practice, it is increasingly implicated in phenomena of rapid urbanization, rising religious and ethno-nationalism, regional alliance building, the aggressive pursuit of developmental modernism, and resilience strategies in light of climate change. We will investigate how heritage conservation practices in Asia have and continue to shape the built environment and the ways in which they are challenging longstanding conservation discourse erroneously considered as international norms.

# Historic Site Management

Laura Keim  
HSPV 6060-001

This course focuses on management, planning, decision making, and interpretation for heritage sites, from individual buildings and historic sites to whole landscapes and historic objects. Class projects ask students to analyze historic site operations and interpret objects. Course material will draw on model approaches to management, as well as a series of domestic and international case studies, with the goal of understanding the practicalities and particularities of site management. Topics to be examined in greater detail might include histories of historic sites, collections and conservation policies, interpretation, tourism, social justice, community engagement, strategic planning, in addition to fundraising and financial management. The course emphasizes making historic sites meaningful, relevant and sustainable in the present.



# Photography and the City

Francesca Ammon  
HSPV 6380-401 / CPLN 6870- 401

This seminar explores the intersecting social and cultural histories of photography and the urban and suburban built environment. No prior background in photography is necessary. Since its inception in 1839, photography has provided a critical means for representing urban space. The medium has helped to celebrate the great structures of the industrial city, reform cities from the Progressive Era through urban renewal, critique expanding postwar suburbs, and document change in the post-industrial and post-disaster city. In all of these ways, the photograph has been both a reflection of the city and an agent of its transformation. Our subjects each week will include individual images and larger photographic archives. We will discuss not only the creation of these images, but also their application in design and planning discourse. Although technical training in photography is not expected, students will have a chance to construct a photo-essay of their own. Through our investigations, we will collectively explore how photography's dual documentary and aesthetic properties have shaped the city—physically, socially, and culturally.

*Image: Diyi Zhang (MCP, MSHP'23)*





## Migratory Urbanism: The Spaces of Transnational Subjects in US Cities and Beyond

Sarah Lopez  
HSPV 6510-401 / CPLN 6291-401

Migration is an inherently spatial phenomenon; the study of migration is the study of places, people, processes, and the state. This course addresses the history of 20th century international migration—with a focus on US-Mexico migration post WWII—through the lens of the built environment. The aim of this course is to bring migration theories and histories into the realm of architecture and planning to equip spatial practitioners with tools for thinking through how contemporary movement interfaces with the production of space. An interdisciplinary approach to the study of migration will incorporate urban and architectural histories, political economy, urban theory, ethnographies of individuals, families, and communities, material culture, and film to explore how U.S. cities and towns (as well as other countries) and border regions are influenced by the continuous flow of people, ideas, dollars, and desire. We will engage concepts such as assimilation, transnationalism, diaspora, spatial practices, ritual infrastructure, spatial hybridity, and urban design from below. We will investigate international remittance development, multi-scalar migrant neighborhoods, and housing.

*Image: Sarah Lopez.*

## Topics in Historic Preservation & Public History: Celebrations in the Contingent City

Aaron Wunsch, Elizabeth Milroy  
HSPV 6200-401

This seminar will focus on the history of Philadelphia's celebratory public landscape and its lingering impact on adjacent communities. Selected to host the 1876 Centennial Exhibition (in West Fairmount Park), Philadelphia was the first American city to dedicate a considerable amount of public parkland to an exhibition organized to celebrate American independence as well as to affirm private entrepreneurship and America's growing importance in global capitalist markets. What was the long term impact of the Centennial on Philadelphia's growth and development? This question is especially pertinent because while much of the landscape of the Centennial survives, as well as some exhibition buildings, it is in the neighborhoods adjacent to the exhibition site that we see the impact of the fair and its legacy on the city's urban realities. Why did subsequent Philadelphia planners return repeatedly to West Fairmount Park as a space that was available and disposable—proposed for the 1926 Sesquicentennial, the United Nations and the Bicentennial in 1976? How did parkside neighborhoods change over the decades, and did development plans take into account these changing conditions? Students will conduct archival, documentary, site-based, and other kinds of research to analyze the origins, course, and consequences of these celebratory sites, in particular their impact on the development of adjacent residential neighborhoods as well as on the management and interpretation of public landscapes and institutions. In addition to discussing readings in history, art history, cultural landscapes, historic preservation, sociology, and material culture, students will design and conduct original research projects that may involve: The exploration of a particular landscape feature, building, or object. Archival research involving the planning, implementation and impact of Philadelphia's world's fairs. Archival research about architecture, urban planning and real estate development, civic culture or historical commemoration.

## Heritage and Social Justice

Randall Mason, Brent Leggs  
HSPV 6210-301

This course will explore connections between heritage, historic preservation (and related design, planning and artistic practices) and the pursuit of social justice. How do historic preservation and other design and humanities professionals contribute to more equitable and just societies? How can our work be organized to result in greater equity, access and social justice? The course will focus on conceptual and theoretical work (how we think about built heritage and social change; how we conceptualize social justice) and practical examples of advancing social outcomes through preservation and design (how social justice concerns reorganize projects, practices, and organizations). We'll draw on work by: designers; historians; public intellectuals; geographers, anthropologists and other social scientists; heritage organizations; artists; entrepreneurs; and more. Subjects will include traditional preservation, reparative practices, creative placemaking, public art, memorialization, and organizational-managerial social innovation. Cases will be drawn from the US and abroad. The course will progress through a series of weekly topics, often including guest practitioners and scholars. Students will have significant agency in helping flesh out the topics and cases; final projects (individual and group) will be envisioned as a statement (in the form of an exhibition or publication) of how social justice concerns have reshaped practice and how they could reshape our fields in the future.



# Preservation Economics

Donovan Rypkema  
HSPV 6250-001

The primary objective is to prepare the student, as a practicing preservationist, to understand the language of the development community, to make the case through feasibility analysis why a preservation project should be undertaken, and to be able to quantify the need for public/non-profit intervention in the development process. A second objective is to acquaint the student with the measurements of the economic impact of historic preservation and to critically evaluate “economic hardship” claims made to regulatory bodies by private owners.

# Contemporary Design in Historic Settings

Nathaniel Rogers  
HSPV 6400-302

Contemporary design can contribute value and meaning to historic settings of any age or scale, from individual landmarks to landscapes and neighborhoods. In turn, engaging in a rigorous dialogue with history and context enriches contemporary design. This seminar immerses designers, planners and preservationists in the challenges of designing amid existing structures and sites of varying size and significance. Readings of source materials, lectures and discussions explore how design and preservation theory, physical and intangible conditions, and time have all shaped the particular realm of design response to historic context, as well as the political, cultural, and aesthetic environments that influence its regulation. Through sketch analytical exercises set in Philadelphia and outstanding case studies from around the world, students will learn to communicate their understanding of historic places, critique propositions for design intervention, and conceptualize a range of potential design responses.

# Material Histories and Ethnographic Methods

Sarah Lopez  
HSPV 6500-401 / CPLN 6830-401

What does it mean for students in the spatial disciplines (outside of anthropology, sociology, and history) to engage human subjects as primary sources of evidence? How can students in design, planning, and preservation both learn from the social sciences and transform classic ethnographic and historical methods to address the unique contexts of buildings, landscapes, and cities? This class focuses on how to conduct built environment research that views human subjects as repositories of knowledge and critical sources of primary evidence. We will explore research on the history of the built environment (dependent on maps, plats, documentation of sites) and human centered research as we design—collectively—best practices and spatially oriented interview and observation techniques. We will address multiple scales (sidewalks, commercial store fronts, post offices, neighborhoods) as we problematize human experience, perception, and knowledge of the built world.



# The Idea of a Park

Randall Mason  
HSPV 7200-401 / LARP 7700-401

This seminar course explores a basic question – what is the idea of a park? – and how the myriad answers to this inform how we design, conserve, plan, use, and maintain parks in practice. We'll consider social and design histories of parks, theories of urbanism, models for parks and park systems, environmental philosophies, and changing ideas of public good and infrastructure. Looking across cultures, geographies, and historical periods, we'll work with literature, art, and design evidence from several fields: landscape architecture, urban design, social and urban history, environmental history, nature conservation and historic preservation, and creative nonfiction. And we'll analyze parks of many kinds across place and time – national parks, urban parks, parks specialized to display art or make space for recreation or respond to ecological disturbance. Some weeks will include field visits to local parks. Working together, the seminar will build a sense of how the commonplace ideas about park have become so ubiquitous and varied in the contemporary landscape and everyday experience. Students' work products will be individualized, and could include research papers, design analyses, speculative projects, exhibits, or other creative formats.

*Image: Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Photo by Randall Mason.*

# Historic Preservation Law

Anne Nelson  
HSPV 6710-001

This course provides an introduction to the legal mechanisms used to protect historic resources in the built environment, focusing on the legal principles underlying preservation laws, including constitutional issues related to governmental regulation of real property, as well as federal, state, and local historic preservation laws. Students will gain an understanding of the legal and advocacy tools, strategies, and responsibilities of public and private organizations in the historic preservation field, and will be able to identify legal issues, communicate effectively with attorneys, and be stronger advocates.

# Preservation and Development of Urban Heritage in the Americas

Eduardo Rojas  
HSPV 7030-401 / CPLN 7730-401

This advanced topic seminar focuses on the challenges confronted by the conservation and urban planning professions in turning the urban heritage into a social and economic development resource for cities in developing countries. The preservation of the urban heritage is moving to a new paradigm of intervention responding to: a growing interest in communities for preserving their intangible and tangible urban heritage; rising development pressures on historic neighborhoods; the generalization of adaptive rehabilitation as a conservation strategy; and international agreements calling for expanding the role of the urban heritage in the social and economic development of the communities. This is a problem that is in the cutting edge of the research and practice of heritage conservation and urban planning and has conservation, planning and design implications making it ideally suited to a multi-discipline seminar approach. The course will combine seminar and field study methodologies in ways that they support each other. The knowledge acquired through the seminar work will be put to use in a field study exercise whose objective is to allow the students to work on topics of their interest and pursue research or urban development and heritage conservation interventions related to the semester's specific studio site.

# Conservation Seminar: Wood

Andrew Fearon  
HSPV 7380-301

Globally, spanning ancient history to present day, most structures found in the built environment rely upon wood as a primary material for both structural and finish components. An understanding of the physical properties as well as the historic application of this organic material provides the basis for formulating solutions for a broad spectrum of contemporary conservation issues. As the scope of preserving wooden structures and wooden architectural elements is continually expanded, new methods and technology available to the conservator together allow for an evolving program – one that is dependent upon both consistent review of treatments and further study of craft traditions. This course seeks to illustrate and address material problems typically encountered by stewards of wooden built heritage; among them structural assessment, bio-deterioration, stabilization, and replication techniques. Through a series of lectures and labs on subjects of wood science, diagnostics, entomology, engineering, and archaeology, theoretical and practical approaches to retaining wooden materials will be examined with the goal to inform the decision-making process of future practicing professionals.

# Conservation Seminar: Masonry

Roy Ingraffia, Casey Weisdock  
HSPV 7390-301

This seminar will offer an in-depth study of the conservation of masonry buildings and monuments. Technical and aesthetic issues will be discussed as they pertain to the understanding required for conservation practice. Part 1 will address a broad range of materials and masonry construction technologies, and deterioration phenomena; Part 2 will concentrate on conservation methodology as well as past and current approaches for the treatment of masonry structures. The subject will be examined through published literature and case studies. Students will gain practical experience through lab and field exercises and demonstrations. The subject matter is relevant to interested students of conservation and preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, architectural history, and archaeology.





## Topics in Conservation: Conserving Modern Concrete

Frank Matero, Irene Matteini  
HSPV 7410-001

200 years have now passed since the introduction of artificial Portland Cement in 1824. No other building material in this time period transformed global life, helping to usher in the modern age. As the main ingredient in concrete, the most widely used substance on Earth after water and the foundation of modern development, cement is the third largest carbon dioxide emitter in the world. The technology and use of concrete in engineering and architecture has evolved greatly over time. Despite its first deployment in the 3rd century BCE by Roman engineers, concrete reemerged in the 19th century to become the signature material of Modern 20th century architecture and engineering, and the key protagonist to the development of our modern cities and infrastructure.

With over a century of modern concrete structures, the topic of concrete conservation and modern heritage has become a central subject amongst design and heritage professionals. This seminar will offer an in-depth study of modern concrete and its conservation. The course will provide an overview of the history of concrete technology and its applications, and through case studies, lab and field applications, students will learn about its deterioration mechanisms, assessment techniques and repair methods. International guests and experts will participate in the seminar to provide different global perspectives on the challenges and issues related to the conservation of concrete heritage. The seminar will also reflect on concrete conservation in relation to today's demanding topic of sustainability and ecological transition. As part of the course, students will participate in fieldwork on the concrete desert masonry at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West in partnership with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

*Image: Mario Carrieri, Milan, courtesy Pier Luigi Nervi Project, Brussels*

## Conservation Seminar: Finishes

Catherine Myers  
HSPV 7400-001

Architectural surface finishes are among the most ephemeral of all materials in the built environment. Enduring harsh conditions and subject to frequent change, they are intrinsically vulnerable and, as a result, are often replaced or disappear entirely. Yet, despite their changeability, finishes are extraordinarily important. They offer insight into architectural alterations and conditions. They imbue buildings with meaning, influence the perception and expression of design, and the effect color and light. Finishes ornament, imitate, and fool the eye. They function as disinfectants, insecticides, and water-proofing. They are reflections of economies, trade, and natural resources. They demonstrate people's mythologies, beliefs, aesthetics, and aspirations. Because architectural surface finishes encompass a wide range of material types and possibilities for conservation intervention, approaches to their treatment vary widely. On the one hand, in a departure from pure conservation convention, they are commonly replicated. On the other hand, treatments may rise to the same level as that of murals or painted sculpture. These differences in levels of approach call on conservation principles and charters for guidance, while sometimes stirring debate and igniting controversies on questions of consistency, original fabric, and authenticity.

## Readings in Urban & Planning History

Francesca Ammon  
HSPV 8200-401 / CPLN 8200-401

This intensive reading and discussion seminar examines selected topics in urban and planning history, with an emphasis on the United States, 1820-2000. We will read works produced primarily within the last 10-20 years, making this is an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the most recent generation of scholarship. A first goal of the course is to survey the historiography of this field, in terms of both topics and methodological approaches. As students will observe, a focus on the history of the built environment is a common approach taken by authors throughout the reading list. A second goal is to assist students in mastering a body of literature that will prepare them for a range of future possibilities, including: pursuing their own research contributions in this area (at the masters or doctoral level), teaching a course in modern U.S. urban and planning history, developing a rich list for an examination field in this area, or simply for general interest. All class members will read one book in common per week.



Image: Rendering for tactical preservation design at Washington Irving school in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, by Hillary Morales Robles.

# student work





# Historic Preservation Studio

HSPV 7010 Preservation Studio is required in the fall of the second year of the MSHP program. The Studio centers on the importance of sound and creative decision-making as a hallmark of every preservation professional's practice. Known internationally as "conservation planning," this is common methodology in the field. Though they take many forms, conservation plans are used to guide decisions about all kinds of heritage places across a range of management situations. As a common methodology used to advise clients, recommend public policies, shape development and curate sites of cultural significance, conservation planning is part of the core MSHP curriculum.

The Studio calls on many of the ideas, skills, and issues covered in the first year of the MSHP curriculum. Students apply preservation ideas, tools and methods to real sites and the processes shaping them. Research, field work, consultation, analysis and design are brought to bear, formulating strategies, plans and interventions to advance the preservation of our subject sites and the roles these sites play in community context.

Guiding owners, public officials, advocates, and other site stewards in making decisions is a central competency for any preservation professional. The Studio projects therefore give students practice with making decisions in complex and real situations, and pitching preservation as both an end in itself (for reasons commemorative, archival) and a means to achieve clients' other goals quite directly (economic prosperity, community well-being, social justice, affordable housing, environmental benefits, etc.).



# Isaiah Zagar Mosaic Landscape

## Fall 2023

Studio lead: Ashley Hahn

Student team: Jiwen Fan, Debbie Fu, Daren Johnson, Carrick Reider, Khayla Saunders, Sissi Wang

This studio explored preservation possibilities for Philadelphia's collection of public mosaics by artist Isaiah Zagar, a Pratt-educated but self-described "outsider" artist active in Philadelphia since the late 1960s. Zagar has produced a body of more than 200, mostly public, mosaic murals in Philadelphia, including an immersive art environment on South Street called the Magic Gardens. His works have become a recognizable environmental attribute of the neighborhoods where Zagar has been most active and are a popular draw for visitors.

Philadelphia is unique, perhaps in the world, to have such a large concentration of mosaic murals by one artist in one city – a significant contribution to Philadelphia's claim to being the American city with the "largest and oldest" collection of public art. Philadelphia also is unique in its efforts to preserve, in place, another local mosaic masterwork: Maxfield Parish and Louis Comfort Tiffany's "Dream Garden," located in the lobby of the original Curtis Publishing House building on Washington Square. Zagar's legacy expands on this unusual circumstance of a city claiming identity through place-based art.

The Eyes Gallery and The Painted Bride, two of Zagar's largest and most important works recently faced existential threats, raising timely preservation questions. Students developed preservation strategies for their client, Philadelphia Magic Gardens, the nonprofit that stewards Zagar's works.

*Image: Ashley Hahn*





# Catasauqua, Lehigh Valley, PA

## Fall 2023

Studio lead: Katie Levesque

Student team: Olivia Brogan, Meagan Kearney, Anusha Khansaheb, Jingyi Luo, Monique Robinson, Mojtaba Saffarian, Shaelin Spahle

This studio focused on the industrial heritage and economic revitalization of the town of Catasauqua in the Lehigh Valley, located 65 miles northwest of Philadelphia. An important landscape in the Industrial Revolution, the Lehigh Valley is now growing again with new manufacturing and warehousing industries related e-commerce. Within this context, the studio sought to leverage the region's built heritage to support a more sustainable, equitable future. Flooding and environmental risks associated with past and present industrialization are also key concerns for the area.

Students worked to understand the web of interlocking values, to inform a preservation philosophy, celebrating diverse histories and reactivating historic industrial spaces as community centers, tourist destinations, and new opportunities for economic growth.

*Image: Jingyi Luo*





# Eastern State Penitentiary Cell Block 3

## Fall 2022

Studio lead: Liz Trumbull

Student team: Yi-Ju Chen, Elizabeth Donison, Cameron Moon, Qianhui Ni, Ying Wang, Priyanka Gorasia, Diyi Zhang, Anyuan Ji, Yuxuan Wu, Yixiao Hu

Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary (ESP) opened in 1829 and is considered the world's first true penitentiary. Active from 1829 to 1971, Eastern State is an artifact of the evolution of the American penal system woven into a complex building chronology spanning over 140 years.

Cellblock 3 was first occupied by prisoners in 1831. Over the course of several decades, the cellblock transformed from a building designed for separate confinement into a well-equipped prison hospital. By the mid-20th century, some considered it the best prison hospital in the state.

Today, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site (ESPHS) staff have increasingly used the power of this rich historic setting to deepen the national conversation about mass incarceration—one of the most critical civil rights issues of our time—while remaining uncompromising stewards of this National Historic Landmark.

Essential stabilization work was completed, and Cellblock 3 opened to the public in 2017. Unlike many other cellblocks at Eastern State, Cellblock 3 is only available to visitors via a guide-led tour on a limited schedule.

As part of this studio, students assessed the current values and conditions of Cellblock 3, developed an architectural conservation strategy, including prioritizing projects for spaces not currently open to visitors and accessible to staff, and developed of an interpretive approach, especially around contemporary issues of healthcare and healthcare in prisons.

*Image: Elizabeth Donison*





# Henry Ossawa Tanner House

## Fall 2022

Studio lead: Randall Mason

Student team: Danele Alampay, Namrata Dadawala, Xinyu Dong, Betsy Ivey, Nicola Macdonald, Taha Mughal, Shixin Zhao, Sophie Zions

Henry Ossawa Tanner was a renowned American painter whose work is collected in many leading museums. Tanner's family home, a late-19th-century rowhouse on Diamond Street in Strawberry Mansion, was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1972. The building was also home to the broader Tanner-Alexander family of prominent artists, scholars, professionals and civil rights activists. The family are iconic in Philadelphia's African-American society for scholarship and civil rights advocacy.

While the building has suffered from neglect and a tangled title, it was also the focus of an energetic grassroots movement for its preservation, the Friends of Tanner House (FOTH), who were determined to create a truly community-centered and community-led project.

This studio project aimed to imagine possible next lives for the building, based on the Friends' vision of a center for local community and an assessment of current values and conditions. Important questions arose about architectural-conservation strategy, programming and use, organizational makeup and strategy, funding, and interpretive approach. Research will explore models of community-based heritage organization, programs and uses – challenging the assumption that a traditional historic house museum is preferable.

*Image: Randall Mason*





# Downtown Selma

## Fall 2022

Studio lead: Randall Mason

Student team: Scott Gerlica, Faye Messner, Cyrus Yerxa, Calvin Nguyen, Haoyi Shang, Miles (Chengjun) Wu

This studio explored how historic preservation could be leveraged to support economic development in Selma, Alabama. The result is this preservation and reactivation plan – focused on repair in every sense of the word, and connecting Selma’s deeply significant heritage to its economic future. A city known worldwide for its role in the Civil Rights Movement, Selma has had little economic investment or prosperity since. For this project, the studio team’s specific study area was a roughly twenty-two block core along the northern bank of the Alabama River, synonymous with downtown Selma. As the city’s historic commercial center, and retaining much of its late nineteenth century architectural and urban fabric, downtown Selma served as an appropriate focal point for the studio’s efforts.

This project was built on two purposes: (1) to preserve, commemorate, and holistically interpret Selma’s tangible and intangible heritage in its own right, and (2) to configure these preservation efforts to support economic growth and opportunities for the city and its residents, particularly through developing a tourism economy.

*Image: Randall Mason*





# Thesis

Thesis is one of two capstone options required to complete the Master of Science in Historic Preservation. The goal of the thesis is demonstrated mastery of the research process by exploring a question of academic and professional relevance to the preservation field and presenting the results of the study in accordance with the highest standards of scholarly publishing.

Thesis topics are chosen according to several criteria: the topic is relevant to an individual's interests and capabilities; it reflects the preparedness acquired through the program's core and elective courses; it contributes to the intellectual capital of the preservation field. Theses are built on original research, and in some cases original design work or laboratory experimentation.

Individually and collectively, the hundreds of Penn Preservation theses represent an impressive intellectual achievement – and a good reflection on the intellectual and practical questions driving preservation practice. The featured projects earned the Anthony Nicholas Brady Garvan award for outstanding thesis.

# Thesis Projects

## 2022

Carly Adler: "A Delicate Balance Between the Artist and His Work: Preserving Isaiah Zagar's Public Mosaic Murals"

Alison Cavicchio: "An Evaluation of Shelter Coating as a Preventive Conservation Method for Earthen Sites"

Namrata Dadawala: "Symbiotic Approach: Towards a Preservation Model for the Auction Hall and Its Contemporary Extension at Navi Mumbai's MAFCO Wholesale Market"

Annie Greening: "Activating Our Tools: A Qualitative Analysis of Statewide Historic Preservation Plans"

Xiyue He: "Restoration of a Qing Dynasty Historic Palette in Chinese Official-Style Architectural Polychrome Painting with Formulations from Treatise Sanchu Huitong Huazuo Xianxing Zeli"

Heather Megan Hendrickson: "Strathglass Park: Strategies for the Revitalization of a Rural Mill Town Community"

Jose Carlos Hernandez Cruz: "Vaults Speak: A History and Material Analysis of Guastavino Akoustolith Tile"

Blair Horton: "Developing a Methodology for the Conservation of a Tserkva: Examining the structural and Decorative Composite of the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Drohobych, Ukraine"

Jingyu Liao: "Multi-Heritagization and Its Impacts on the Conservation of Agaria Cultural Landscapes: A Case Study of Honghe Hani Rice, Terraces and Ifugao Rice Terraces"

Caitlin Siobhan Livesey: "Formulation and Evaluation of a Biophilic Protective Surface Treatment for Stone Substrates"

Hillary Morales Robles: "Tactical Preservation for Climate Emergency: Adaptive Reuse of 20th C. Public Schools in Puerto Rico"

Aislinn Pentecost-Farren: "Soot in the Mortar: Climate Crisis Interpretation at The Elms"

Yifei Yang: "Revisiting the Past Treatments and Condition Assessment of the Painted Sanctuary at Tumacacori"

Chuxuan Zhang: "Demolition and Reconstruction as Urban Preservation in China: The Case of LiaoCheng City"

## 2023

Danele Kristin Bugayong Alampay: "And Then What?: Cultural Significance and the Local Landmark Design Review"

Colin Cohan: "Better Maintain Than Preserve: Preservation Maintenance as a Primary Tool for Historic Preservation"

Xinyu Dong: "Understanding Heritage Delisting: a Comparative Study of UNESCO's World Heritage List and National Historic Landmark in the United States"

Elizabeth M. Donison: "Overlooked History: Social Effects of Urban Renewal on Portsmouth, New Hampshire's African Americans"

Scott Gerlica: "In the Offing: The Effects of Future Sea Level Rise on Historic New Jersey Lighthouses"

Jingyi Li: "A Study on the Differences Between NERF (Neural Radiance Fields) and Photogrammetry and an Evaluation of the Possibility of Using NERF as an Alternative to Photogrammetry in the 3D Reconstruction of Heritage Sites"

Nicola Gabrielle Macdonald: "Analyzing the Architectural Finishes at Ivy Lodge: Examining the Influence of A.J. Downing"

Faye Messner: "Analyzing the Intersection of Transit-Oriented Development and Historic Preservation Planning and Policy"

Cameron E. Moon: "Differential Durability and Preventive Conservation for Early Twentieth-Century Wall Systems"

Jane Nasta: "A Sheltered Life: The History, Preservation, and Interpretation of the Taliesin West Desert Shelters"

Allison Ijeoma Nkwocha: "Igbo Landing & Flying Africans: Landscape, Folklore, and the Future"

Calvin Tran Nguyen: "Mini-Malls and Fish Sauce: Cultural Landscapes, Heritage, and Identity-Making in Philadelphia's Little Saigon"

Alyson Rock: "Climate Adaptation as Preservation: Compatible Passive Design Strategies to Reduce Heat Gain Within the Rowhouse"

Haoyi Shang: "Telling Our Own Stories: An Analysis of Asian American Community Museums in the U.S."

Laura Margaret Sollmann: "Expanding the Reach of the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program: An Equitable Reinterpretation of the Non-Historic Tax Credit"

Cyrus Maxwell Yerxa: "Plus Ultra: Interpreting Craft at the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works"

Shixin Zhao: "A Critical Evaluation of Historic Building Information Modeling (HBIM) as Applied to Frank Lloyd Wright's Midway Barn"

Sophie Calla Zions: "The 'Threat' of District Designation: Preservation or Gentrification?"

## Calvin Nguyen

### Mini-Malls and Fish Sauce: Cultural Landscapes, Heritage, and Identity-Making in Philadelphia's Little Saigon



This study analyzes the relationship between Vietnamese-American identity and the built environment of Philadelphia's Vietnamese-American neighborhood. Drawing upon cultural landscape studies approaches, this thesis looks at Vietnamese Americans' interactions with and alterations of their physical environment in Southeast Philadelphia as ways to create a distinctly Vietnamese-American space. The created landscape provides important cultural spaces and opportunities for Vietnamese Americans to preserve their Vietnamese heritage, feel a sense of belonging, and imagine Vietnamese-American futures; at the same time, new outside developments increasingly threaten the neighborhood's character as a Vietnamese-American cultural and economic hub. This study addresses the multiple levels of importance Philadelphia's "Little Saigon" has in the realm of architectural history, heritage conservation, and community preservation. It also argues for a concerted effort to help preserve Little Saigon's significance to its Vietnamese-American community – not as a static historic artifact, but as a dynamic living landscape.

The study's first section details the history of Vietnamese migration into the United States, comparable examples of other "Little Saigons" across America, and the urban history of South Philadelphia. The second section looks closely at the built forms and spatial organization of the neighborhood, identifying five main character defining elements: (1) mini-malls, (2) adapted buildings, (3) the Buddhist temple, (4) signage, and (5) commercial interiors. The third section presents findings on community perspectives on the neighborhood, largely drawn from interviews. The final section addresses the threats to Little Saigon's survival and proposes measures to preserve the neighborhood and its significance to Vietnamese Americans.

This project won the John Reps Prize for best masters thesis from the Society for American City and Regional Planning History.

*Image: View of Wing Phat Plaza, one of two operating Vietnamese-oriented mini-mall plazas on Washington Avenue. Located between 12th and 11th Streets. Photo by author.*





## Faye Messner

# Analyzing the Intersection Of Transit-Oriented Development And Historic Preservation Planning And Policy

Urban development has been tied to public transit for centuries. Today, historic properties designated on the National Register of Historic Places, state and local registers exist near transit hubs that can be historic themselves. Since the late 1980s, cities have been exploring the idea of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), which aims to promote dense, walkable, mixed use, and affordable development around quality public transportation. Not coincidentally, many TOD projects today intersect with historic properties given the history of development around transit in American cities.

This thesis explores the relationship between TOD and historic preservation plans and policies to identify conflicts or congruences between these planning initiatives. Through case studies in Philadelphia and Chicago as well as through the examination of relevant tools and policies in other cities, this thesis concludes that historic resources can be successfully integrated into TOD.

This research also highlights examples where TOD planning can facilitate appropriate additions to a historic environment with thorough and robust preservation planning efforts. Because TOD aims to promote the development of dense, mixed use, affordable, and pedestrian-friendly places, this thesis also argues that historic districts and neighborhoods that embody these characteristics can accomplish these goals too – when they are well protected.

*Image: The Chicago "L" along Wabash Avenue in Chicago Illinois in 1907.  
Source: Hans Behm, (photographer) Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Collection*



## Elizabeth Donison

### Overlooked History: Social Effects of Urban Renewal on Portsmouth, New Hampshire's African Americans



Scholarship at the intersections of urban renewal, historic preservation, and race is currently relatively limited; this is even more so the case when focusing on small cities with small minority populations. This project examines such history in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where the minority African American population has been integral to the city's history and culture since the 17th century. Urban renewal shaped Black history in Portsmouth via residential displacement and the loss of familiar sites and businesses. This thesis documents the material and social effects of urban renewal on African Americans in Portsmouth from the 1950s-1970s through an analysis of redevelopment plans, census data, city directories, oral histories conducted by Valerie Cunningham from 1989 to 1991, and new interviews. By documenting and mapping the African American experience, the project expands our understanding of this transformative federal program that continues to shape the city's civic identity and collective memory. Prioritizing the perspectives of those who lived in and around affected neighborhoods reveals a more nuanced story of erasure in Portsmouth's built environment within the history of urban planning and historic preservation. This thesis recommends future public history projects and further engagement to diversify the narrative of the mid-20th century Black experience and build upon existing restorative justice initiatives.

*Image: Post-demolition cleanup in 1973 during the Vaughan Street Project. Portsmouth Athenaeum.*

## Jane Nasta

# Sheltered Life: The History, Preservation, and Interpretation of the Taliesin West Desert Shelters



Taliesin West—founded in 1938 in Scottsdale, Arizona—was the winter home of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, his family, and the team of architectural apprentices who composed Wright’s Taliesin Fellowship. For their living accommodations in Arizona, apprentices camped out on the desert property in either sheepherder tents, shelters that they designed and built themselves, or previously built shelters left behind by former apprentices. Camping in the desert landscape and building a unique shelter were vital aspects of Wright’s learning-by-doing pedagogy that shaped life at Taliesin West. As the program evolved over time, the shelters became increasingly more experimental in their design. Today, the Taliesin West landscape is home to nearly 100 shelter sites displaying a wide spectrum of design influence, materiality, and current condition. The shelter program’s core themes include ephemerality, experimentation, and connection to the natural environment. The shelters embody historic, social, and experiential values in both their tangible and intangible elements, and their future preservation, programming, and interpretation must highlight these distinct values to effectively honor and communicate their sense of place.

This thesis creates a comprehensive history of the Taliesin West shelter program from 1938-2020 that considers its architectural, social, and administrative dimensions. Furthermore, this thesis evaluates the heritage values that contribute to the shelters’ significance and considers future site management by reviewing relevant preservation philosophies and synthesizing potential interpretive themes. These aims are achieved through archival and secondary source research, interviews with former Taliesin apprentices, and on-site observation and documentation.

*Photo by author.*



## Aislinn Pentecost-Farren

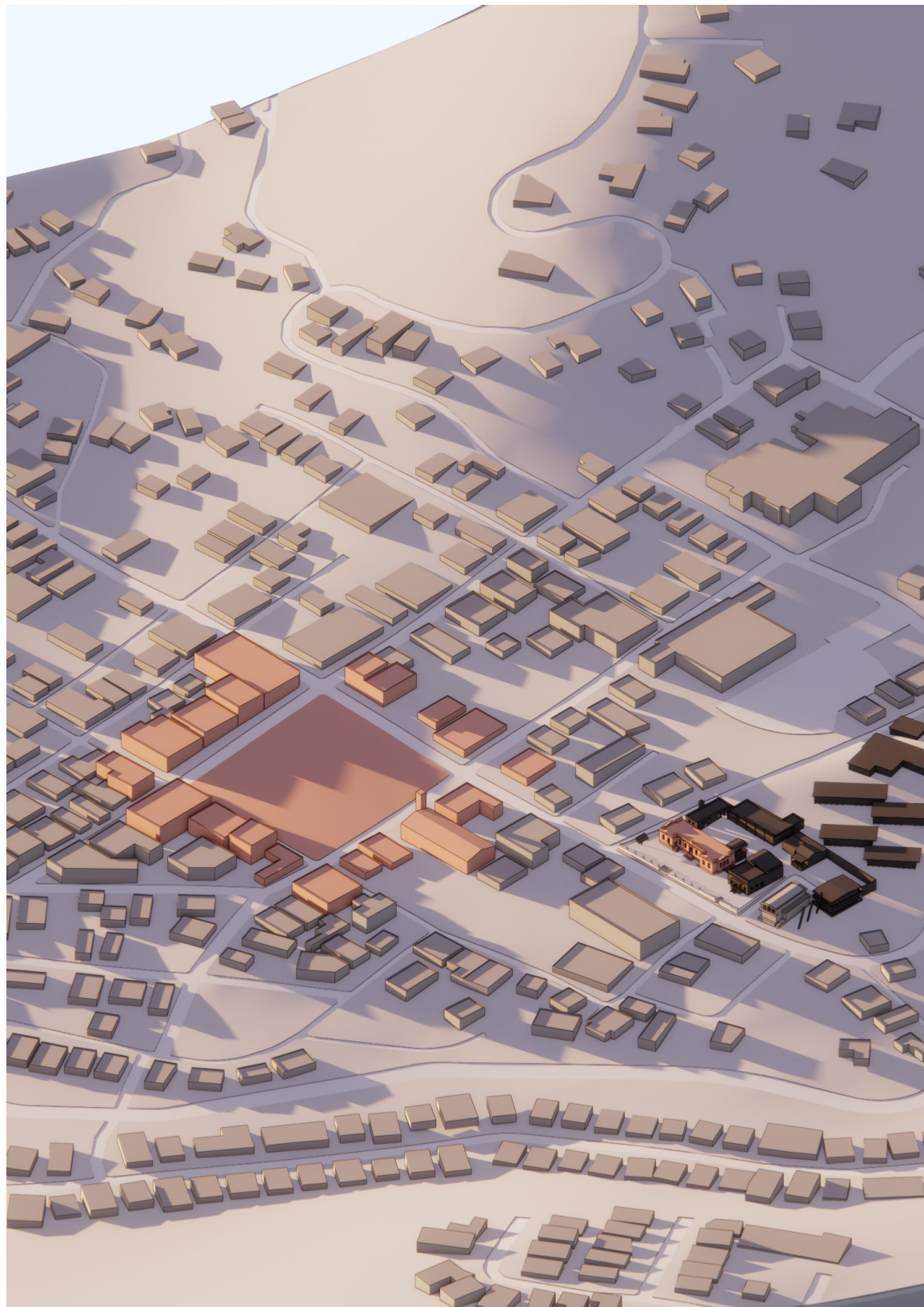
### Soot in the Mortar: Climate Crisis Interpretation at The Elms



As climate change effects increase, historic sites with connections to the fossil fuel industry assume new meaning. These sites offer opportunities to grow public recognition of climate change history and the ways our cultural values and economic systems feed the climate crisis. This thesis investigates The Elms, coal magnate Edward Berwind's 1901 mansion in Newport, Rhode Island, as an especially apt case study for interpreting the history of the climate crisis at historic sites and industrialist house museums.

The thesis begins with an overview of recent literature on the interpretation of "hidden" and "difficult" histories at historic sites, climate change interpretation in the museum industry, and the state of climate change history as a field of study. The thesis then presents a brief history of Berwind's coal business and an account of the businesses' role in the current climate crisis. The Berwind-White Coal Mining Company played a significant role in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the late nineteenth century when climate change began to accelerate. The thesis proposes ways the mansion could include the origins of climate change in its public interpretation, based on a material culture study of several artifacts that offer compelling opportunities to discuss climate crisis histories with visitors. These objects include a small-gauge train used to transport coal for the furnace, the grates and boilers of The Elms' heating system, a commemorative medallion, and a letter left by a visitor whose father worked in Berwind's mines. These artifacts are the basis for an appendix that provides narrative scripts that can be easily inserted into The Elms' existing audio tour. Historic sites offer an experiential way for the public to encounter the history of climate change. In-person interactions with objects and spaces hold the potential to expand understanding and awaken people to ways that contemporary values and systems continue to worsen the planetary climate crisis humanity faces.

*Image: The Elms rear from the west gardens. Photo by author.*



## Hillary Morales Robles

### Tactical Preservation for Climate Emergency: Adaptive Reuse of 20th Century Public Schools in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has experienced three major disasters in the last five years, the hurricanes María and Irma in 2017 and earthquake swarms in the winter of 2020. Post-disaster vulnerabilities studies have concluded that municipalities in rural Puerto Rico present high exposure and risk in the next disaster. Moreover, through various mapping studies, Adjuntas is, in effect, one of the most vulnerable municipalities due to its remoteness. Parallel to this context, thousands of 20th-century public school closures were performed in the last decade due to disinvestment in public infrastructure on the island, leaving schools in complete abandonment, but most importantly, decreasing the number of available emergency shelters locations. This thesis aims to study the typology of vacant 20th-century public schools in Puerto Rico as an opportunity to develop alternative spaces for emergency protection and sustainable equitable revitalization of rural communities. In order to envision a future of rural preservation and self-governance, a three-part model called the plausible futures triangle is applied and evaluates the weight of the past, the push of the present, and the pull of the future.

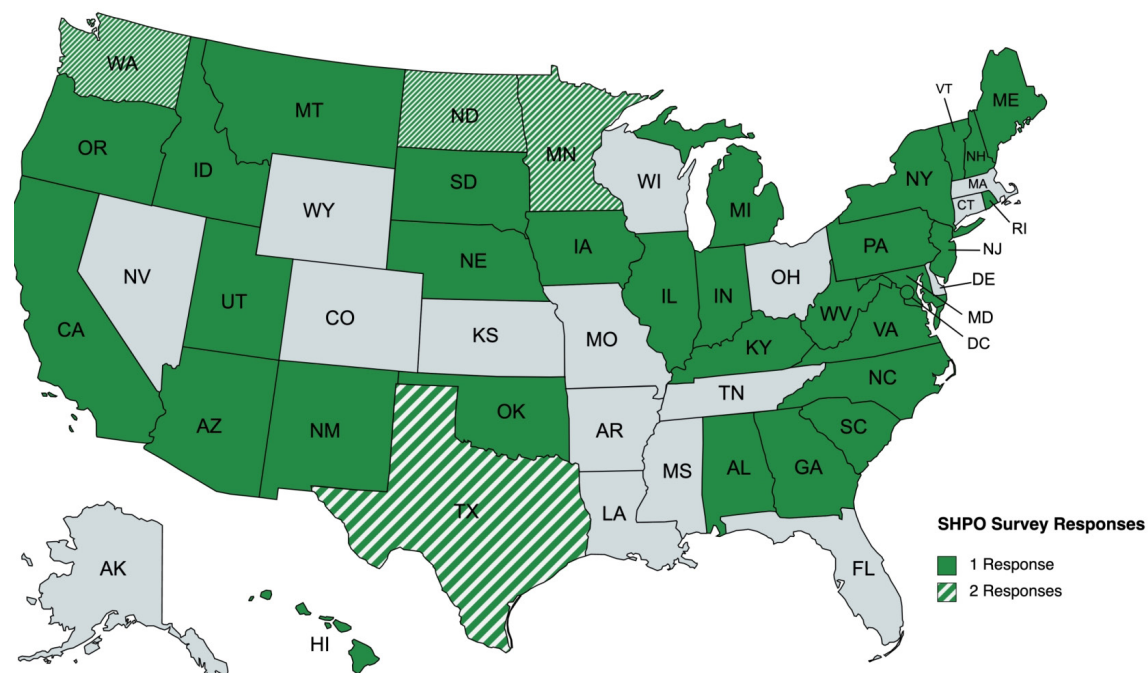
The first part of the weight of the past studies the history of massive public-school construction and politics of education in Puerto Rico after the American occupation in 1898, its typological evolution in both urban and rural areas, and its potential for adaptive reuse. The second part of the push of the present is an ethnographic architectural study that explores bottom-up approaches of tactical preservation and transformative resistance paradigm carried out by grassroots organizations as first responders in post-disaster scenarios. Lastly, the pull of the future carries out the application of tactical design for school rehabilitation. The case study site is the Washington Irving school in Adjuntas. The 1903 rural school shows the signs of typological evolution and construction during the 20th century. The proposed adaptive reuse framework implements existing grassroots programs and uses for autonomy in disaster emergency and post-disaster reconstruction. The explored design consists of tactics for seismic retrofit and independent superstructures while maintaining the character-defining elements of the historic school typology.

*Image: Aerial Perspective of the town of Adjuntas Puerto Rico. Drawn by author.*



# Annie Greening

## Activating Our Tools: A Qualitative Analysis of Statewide Historic Preservation Plans



Since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, State Historic Preservation Offices have been required to create and implement Statewide Historic Preservation Plans on a recurring cycle. Despite this longstanding requirement, State Plans have been overlooked in academic research and there have been few comprehensive evaluations of the planning process, the written plans, and their implementation. This thesis begins to fill that gap in research and suggests further areas of study for future researchers. Through interviews with staff at the National Park Service, an online survey of SHPOs in U.S. states, territories, and Freely Associated States, and follow up interviews with seven states, this thesis analyzes current practices of State Planning, including common challenges to planning, areas of success, and innovative practices. This thesis recommends best practices for SHPOs' creation and implementation of Statewide Historic Preservation Plans, as well as ways for the NPS to assist states in their planning processes.

Image: The 43 respondents to the author's SHPO survey. Map by author.

# Capstone Studio

The Capstone Studio is one of two curricular options that allow graduating MSHP students to demonstrate mastery of their chosen field. In contrast to the independent academic research required by the Thesis, the Capstone Studio enables students to apply the knowledge and skills of their elected concentration toward professional problem-solving. The Capstone Studio is a requirement for completion of the MSD-HP degree.

New studio topics are offered each spring and incorporate each of the four curricular concentrations: architectural conservation, preservation design, preservation planning, and public history of the built environment. The goals of studio work include gaining practical experience in researching, documenting, and analysis, engaging in teamwork and collaborations with experts, and delivering professional-quality presentations and documents, all under the constraints typical in practice.



# Taliesin West: Materials + Materialities

## Spring 2023

Studio leads: Frank Matero, Irene Matteini

Student team: Yi-Ju Chen, Priyanka Gorasia, Dan Mangano, Taha Mughal, Qianhui Ni, Anyuan Ji, Florence Wang, Ying Wang, Miles (Chengjun) Wu, Yuxuan Wu, Diyi Zhang

This Capstone Studio focused on the materials and materialities of Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home, studio, and architectural campus located in the Sonoran Desert outside Scottsdale, Arizona. A seasonal complement to Taliesin, Wisconsin, Taliesin West served as Wright's desert laboratory, where he practiced and refined his ideas of organic architecture in tandem with his pedagogical philosophy of "learning by doing." With the Architecture School's departure in 2020 and increasing public visitation as a heritage site, Taliesin West is now at a crossroad. To better understand the place as Wright's 'experiment in the desert' and its continuing role in showcasing and expanding Wright's principles of organic architecture in the 21st century, the Studio explored Wright's writings on the nature of materials and their deployment at Taliesin West through his drawings, constructions, and modifications over time. Students then pursued three projects examining the Cabaret and strategies for its conservation, a technical study of the site's iconic Desert Masonry, and the adaptive reuse of the Crescent building for a new visitor center.





# Rethinking Public Space in Philadelphia

## Spring 2023

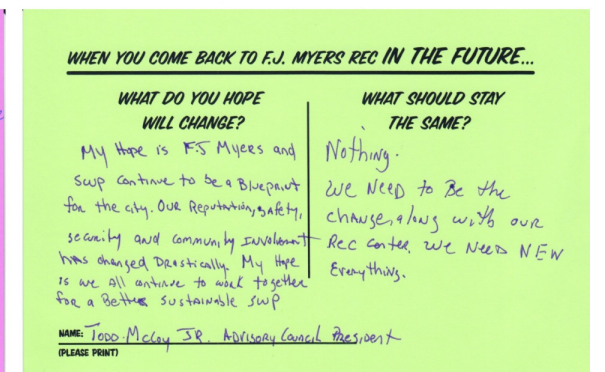
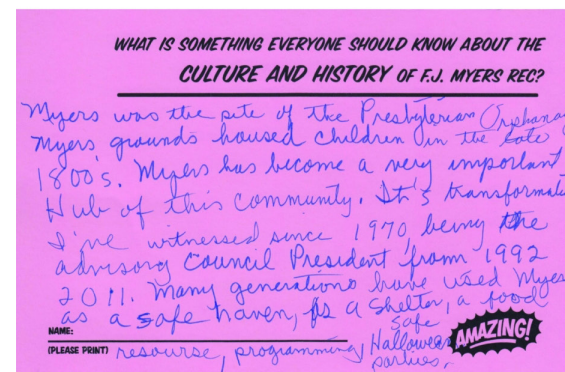
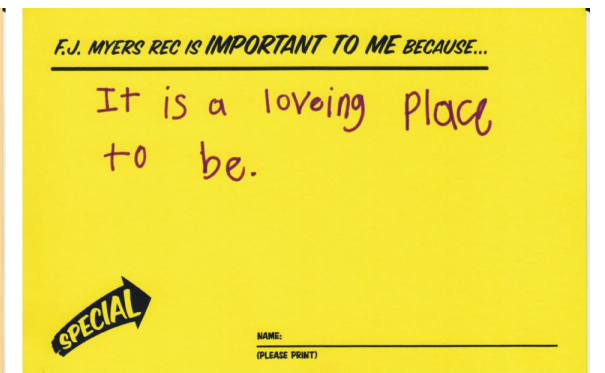
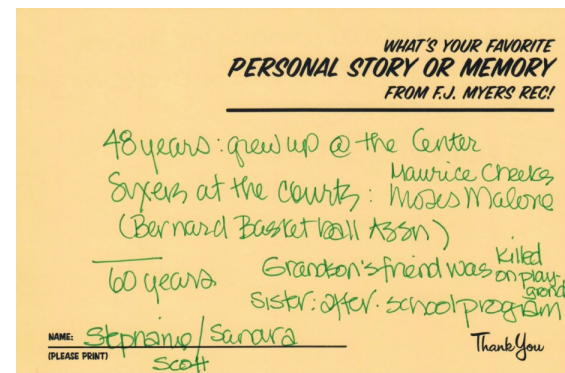
Studio lead: Ashley Hahn

Student team: Danele Alampay, Abbey Dyer, Betsy Ivey, Samantha Purnell

Historic public spaces—like parks and plazas, recreation centers and libraries—require forms of preservation that depart from standard practice, which typically emphasize what can be regulated and thereby focusing on physical materials. This studio developed more expansive preservation approaches appropriate for a set of dynamic civic assets, intended to encompass a diverse array of interconnected contemporary and heritage values, tangible and intangible.

The studio began by studying the evolution of Philadelphia's system of civic assets; tracing intertwined social reform movements, charitable and philanthropic influence, and notions of the public good that continue to shape these places. Students then focused on a constellation of historic recreation centers and libraries in Southwest Philadelphia which were selected for a multi-million-dollar city reinvestment program, Rebuilding Community Infrastructure. The class studied Kingsessing Recreation Center and Library, Blanche A. Nixon/Cobbs Creek Library, and F.J. Myers Recreation Center, conducting historic and ethnographic research at each.

Students developed a toolkit designed to document and communicate the diverse cultural and social context and histories of these civic assets and the communities that make them whole, that their value and meaning might be better stewarded and sustained as each of these sites face major change.





# Preservation and Development of Urban Heritage in the Americas

## Spring 2024

Studio lead: Eduardo Rojas

Student team: Debbie Fu, Paridhee Goel, Daren Johnson, Meagan Kearney,  
Monique Robinson, Shaelin Spahle

The research and practice of urban heritage preservation is rapidly moving to a new paradigm focused on the sustainable use of urban heritage sites for social and economic development. City governments and investors increasingly use adaptive rehabilitation approaches to put the urban heritage to contemporary uses.

This trend responds to multiple interrelated factors including the growing interest of urban communities to preserve their intangible and tangible heritage that sometimes conflicts with the growing demand for residential, retail, craft production, and office space in historic neighborhoods of cities of all sizes. These issues are at the cutting edge of the research and practice of urban heritage conservation, city planning, urban design, and architecture, making their study suited for a multidisciplinary approach to explore emerging issues in turning the urban heritage into a resource for the social and economic development of communities.

*Image: Cartagena de Indias. Photo by Eduardo Rojas.*





# Internship

Internship is a requirement for the MSHP degree, completed between the first and second years of study and is an important aspect of a professional education. Internship opportunities vary; students typically perform site and condition surveys, documentation, inventories, mapping, historical research, feasibility studies, material analysis and treatment, etc. The internship exposes students to the realities of practice in advance of their entry into the professional world.





## Debbie Fu Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners

As an intern with BBB's Historic Preservation team, I had numerous opportunities to apply my academic knowledge in practical settings. I actively participated in two PARKS projects. One of them was the Admin Building. When I joined the project, it was already at around 70% completion in terms of submission. The overall design work was mostly finished, but there were many intricate details that needed further refinement. Based on prior research, I assisted in creating detailed window drawings and construction diagrams, encompassing over ten different window types within the building, categorized based on their condition, distinguishing between need to be replaced and preserved ones, which led to different approaches. This aligned well with the concepts I learned in HSPV 7380 Wood Seminar and further deepened my understanding of wooden window structures and their practical restoration.

Another project involved renovating the John Jay Homestead in New York state. I witnessed the evolution of this project. The initial drawings received from the client were incomplete, and I spent time organizing them. For buildings without drawings, I created plans and elevations using photographs and data. I also conducted on-site surveys, primarily involving data measurements and documentation.

Simultaneously, the company provided me with various opportunities to engage in other projects. For instance, I conducted research on the degree of cracking in brick walls at a disused Columbia University property. I experimented with different chemical treatments to identify the best solution for protecting the exterior walls. I applied knowledge from HSPV 5550 Conservation Science and HSPV 5510 Building Pathology, such as understanding brick porosity.



## Nicola MacDonald Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Material Analytics Laboratory

This summer, I worked as a Research Fellow at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Material Analytics Lab in Williamsburg, Virginia. The CW Conservation facilities provided the perfect environment to become better acquainted with modern diagnostic tools and the best practices used in architectural paint research.

During my time in Williamsburg, I worked on a range of analysis projects, including paint analysis for the Bray School—a mid-18th century school endorsed by Benjamin Franklin dedicated to the religious indoctrination of enslaved and freed Black youth in America's British colonies (located in Williamsburg). Previous research determined that the earliest paint found in the school is a green paint containing chrome yellow pigments, which date to the early 19th century. My goal for the project aimed to find additional and earlier paint layers that date to the time of the building's conception in the mid-18th c.

Some other projects I worked on include the technical study of an 18th c. wallpaper from the Miles Brewton House (Charleston, SC); the analysis of an 18th c. Chinoiserie-style cornice from the Lenygon Collection (British Architectural Fragments); and the interior paint analysis of a small 18th c. Italianate home referred to as the Pryor Campbell House in Petersburg, Virginia, where I worked alongside Paint Analyst Susan Buck.

Due to my interest in Architectural Conservation, many of my projects were in collaboration with CW's Architectural Preservation and Research department; thus, frequent site visits to discuss analytical findings with the preservation team ensued, often leading to opportunities for in-situ sampling and documentation from the sites being researched.





## Scott Gerlica New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office

This summer, I worked as a project review assistant for the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office. I primarily reviewed projects subject to Section 106, the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act, and New Jersey land use regulation. Day-to-day, SHPO staff would assign me a new project or new step for an existing project, and I generally had 30 days (as mandated by regulation) to review and draft a response to the agency undertaking the project.

A few significant projects I reviewed include the construction of ADA parking at an eighteenth-century farmstead-turned-community center, a proposed artificial turf baseball field in an Olmsted Brothers-designed park, and a bridge replacement over the Delaware and Raritan Canal, for which I drafted three SHPO Opinions of Eligibility - one for the bridge and two for houses within the area of potential effects.

My biggest take away from my summer at the SHPO is that this work is a *skill*. There is a reason that this is a professional degree, and I was expected to do professional work. David Hollenberg repeatedly told our class that navigating policy is a skill, and I finally understand what he meant after working in the trenches. It takes experience to know what to look for while reviewing a project and how to communicate and negotiate with parties that have differing interests. I learned about the nuances of different preservation law and how they affect our authority. For example, Section 106 includes resources eligible for listing on the National Register, and New Jersey review does not, which greatly impacts how reviews are initiated and carried out.

## Anusha Khansaheb Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is one of the largest heritage non-profits in India. I worked in the Architectural Heritage Division in the INTACH headquarters located in Lodhi Gardens, New Delhi.

Throughout the summer I worked on geolocating historic properties across the country, from the northeast state of Meghalaya in the northeast of the country, to Uttar Pradesh in the south of Agra. This was part of a larger project to survey and document all the potential historic assets in the area. I also assisted in conducting a Heritage Impact Assessment for Kos Minar 22 in Aurangabad, located southeast of Delhi. Kos Minars are small minarets along major historical routes created by the Mughal Dynasty to measure distances.

Working internationally can be difficult: from language barriers to contested histories to culturally specific references to the bureaucracy behind it all. However, this internship taught me how to approach different peoples and places with an open mind and through multiple lenses to create a narrative that accurately showcases to both the private and public sectors what makes these places special and worthy of protection. It is important to not only delve into questions about the past and the history of the place but to also evaluate the impact on the present and future of the peoples and structures that make up a site.





## Carrick Reider Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites

I interned with the Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites this summer on a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Ramah Baptist Church. The majority of the summer was spent working remotely, beginning with gathering historic material and background information on the site, including historic newspaper databases, secondary sources on black land ownership in Reconstruction Era South, online Alabama archives, historic maps, and annual academic reports of the Church's sister school, the Calhoun Colored School, which has already been placed on the National Historic Register.

After completing background research, one week in mid-July was spent on site in both Montgomery and rural Alabama documenting the site. Upon arrival, our team photographed the entire church building inside and out, as well as the entire property on which it sits, including the cemetery. Furthermore, we drew original floor plans, as well as a site map of all the cemetery plots, including topography lines and tree positions. On our third day of documentation, we attended a Sunday service at the Church and met with

numerous members of the community for their "History Day," where numerous parishioners shared their accounts of the history of the parish, including its involvement in the Civil Rights era during the Selma marches, and information on the church building itself.

After the on-site visit, I spent my time writing and post-processing the data and molding it to the nomination requirements and standards, as well as in comparison to successful contemporary nominations and their utilization of primary research, photography, and building description. This included the formation of the narrative of significance for the site within the nomination. This pertained to the in-depth social history of the region and the culture that the church itself represents.

*Image: Exterior view of entry to Ramah Baptist looking west. Photo by Carrick Reider.*



## Qianhui Ni Center for Architectural Conservation

This summer, I worked as a Research Fellow for the Center for Architectural Conservation (CAC) at the Wupatki National Monument in Arizona.

At Wupatki, I worked on documentation and developing the conditions assessment method of the Wupatki Pueblo, a 900-year-old stone masonry complex with over 100 rooms. Our team completed the first site-wide rapid assessment survey (RAS) by continuously discussing and updating the codebook. This methodology will then be used to determine the most at-risk Pueblo walls and offer further monitoring in a regular route. In the meantime, I also worked on site recording, including laser scanning of all four units, photographing wall elevations to be processed

in Agisoft, and annotating the location of the opening, drainage, and slope of ground filling. This integrated data collection further helped refine the conservation and management plan related to escalating climate issues at this site.

My internship provided the chance for me to apply the knowledge and skills gained during my first year's study in the HSPV program into practice. Moreover, when considering approaches to either condition assessment or visual representation, I have learned that conservation practice should always be a choice of comprehensive and relatively optimal solutions, with no absolute answers.



# research



The Blue Swallow Motel, designed as a motor court in 1939 and used continuously into the present. Documented by Joseph Elliott & Elizabeth Donison as a part of the historic Route 66 project "Learning from the Mother Road" at the Center for Architectural Conservation.





# Center for Architectural Conservation

The Center for Architectural Conservation (CAC) is devoted to training and research in the technical conservation of the built environment. Founded in 1991 as The Architectural Conservation Laboratory, the CAC provides a unique intellectual environment for those pursuing focused study in archi-

tectural conservation and building technology. The Center encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration on contemporary issues related to the conservation of culturally significant buildings, monuments, and sites throughout the world, including issues of sustainability. Through grants

and sponsored projects, the faculty and staff conduct a full agenda of research and teaching dedicated to documentation, recording, field survey, material analysis, condition assessment, risk analysis, and the development of new treatments and treatment evaluation of historic structures and sites.

Partnerships include a wide range of institutions, including the National Park Service, the Getty Conservation Institute, World Monuments Fund, Global Heritage Fund, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic England, Middle Eastern Technical

University, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

In addition to providing graduate and post graduate students with the necessary environment to participate and collaborate in applied projects at home and abroad, The Center offers professional workshops and master classes for the public and professional community.

For more information on research and training activities, please visit [www.conlab.org](http://www.conlab.org).





## Midway Barn

Taliesin, Spring Green, WI

The Midway barn at Taliesin has been underappreciated for years and yet it is a significant part of the Taliesin campus in Wisconsin. In coordination with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, the CAC has worked to create the most comprehensive data set for this complex which now includes hundreds of new photographs, up-to-date architectural drawings, as well as a complete 3-D model. The team produced two reports, an architectural investigation and an updated historic structure report.



## Catoctin National Park

Thurmont, MD

Catoctin National Park, located in Thurmont Maryland, is best known as the location of the presidential retreat, Camp David, but it is a park that also contains other camps. Two of these camps, which are available to the general public, are facilities that the CAC has been working on to create a set of guides for the National Park Service in an effort to help with long-term conservation.



## Route 66

Tucumcari, NM

Learning From the Mother Road" aims to document the rapidly disappearing "roadside architecture" of historic Route 66. This project, funded by the National Park Service and undertaken in collaboration with New Mexico Highlands University, addresses the integrated tasks of recording, documenting, and digitally archiving the immediate cultural landscape.

## Fort Union

Watrous, NM

Fort Union is a 19th-century US military fort that holds a pivotal place in the history of the Civil War's western front. Changing climate patterns pose significant threats to the adobe structures. CAC teams have used Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS) to aid maintenance personnel in prioritizing structures for preservation efforts.



## Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Florissant, CO

While Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is most identified with its rich fossil evidence, it is also home to a large collection of petrified wood stumps. This CAC project, funded by the National Park Service, addresses the ongoing effort to protect the stumps from continued decay. Through innovative techniques, portions of the stumps are being stabilized and, in some cases, carefully reattached.



## Pecos National Park

Pecos, NM

The multi-phase project at Pecos National Monument builds off of the work carried out by the CAC at Fort Union National Monument to develop monitoring protocols to identify short- and long-term vulnerabilities of traditionally-built historic resources (sites) in the arid west. The protocols developed will allow NPS management to develop more informed conservation and management (preservation) plans for these sites.







## Wupatki National Monument

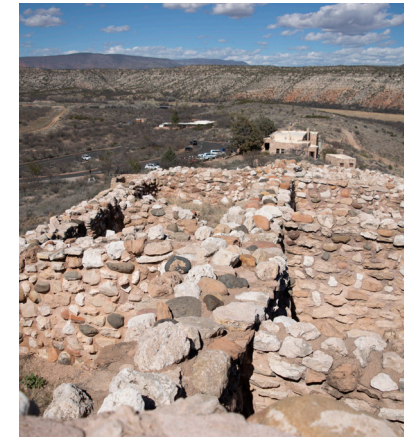
Flagstaff, AZ

Wupatki National Monument is unique in North America for its exceptionally well-preserved archaeological record, their geographical diversity, and their ancestral significance to Northern Arizona American Indian communities. The CAC received a \$1.3 million grant from Getty to develop a conservation and management plan for the monument, and professional training, cultural heritage education, and career discovery opportunities for Native youth.

## Tuzigoot National Monument

Clarkdale, AZ

Tuzigoot National Monument is a site that highlights the unique nature of Puebloan construction. Begun by the year 1000, Tuzigoot's multi-room pueblos are architecturally similar to other pueblos that can be seen around the region. While the CAC took on this project in an effort to help Tuzigoot National Monument better understand decay mechanisms and treatments of their specific structures, a parallel goal was to find solutions that could be applied to the larger NPS pueblo collection throughout the southwest.



## Pennsylvania Hospital

Philadelphia, PA

Pennsylvania Hospital is the first chartered hospital in the nation, founded in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond. Today, patients are cared for in state-of-the-art facilities, but the heritage of the institution remains a source of ongoing inspiration. The CAC and PennPraxis developed this Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to provide recommendations and guidance for the future conservation and preservation of the historic Pine Building, grounds, and collections of Pennsylvania Hospital.

## George Nakashima Family House

Bucks County, PA

As an architect, woodworker, and furniture maker, George Nakashima was one of the leading innovators of 20th century furniture design. The compound, which houses his studio and residence, includes a total of eighteen buildings, seven of which are primarily residential, while the others continue to serve roles in the production and distribution of Nakashima's furniture and art. The CAC is now working on the documentation of the Nakashima family residence as part of a larger overall project to create a comprehensive historic structure report, outlining the history and evolution of this iconic building.



## Tumacácori National Park

Tumacácori, AZ

The CAC is currently a part of an ongoing effort to assist the National Park Service in the conservation of the interior decorative plasters of the Mission Church of San José de Tumacácori, located one hour south of Tucson, Arizona. San José was part of the Sonoran Mission Chain established by Padre Eusebio Kino in the late 16th-early 17th century and was the first nationally recognized Spanish Colonial mission site, designated in 1908, for its remarkable architecture and decorative painting. In collaboration with the Vanishing Treasures Program of the National Park Service, the project has been focused on the cleaning, grouting and compensation of the painted lime and clay plasters extant within the church.

## Mission Climate Vulnerability

Pecos, NM / Tumacácori, AZ

Climate change is here and built heritage will be adversely affected by the full range of climate-related threats including fire, flood, storms, drought, sea level rise and heat. To address these issues within specific regional climate zones and by specific heritage types, the National Park Service and the Vanishing Treasures Program has initiated the Mission Climate Vulnerability Study to address the impacts of climate change on four Spanish colonial missions in the American Southwest. One of the primary goals of the project will be to identify a site vulnerability framework for structural assessment in order to develop a common baseline methodology to identify condition trends for adobe, brick, and masonry sites.







# Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites

The Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites (CPCRS) advances the understanding and sustainable conservation of heritage places commemorating American civil rights histories and Black heritage. Our focus is on the long Black freedom struggle in the United States, from the founding of the country to the present, though we recognize that important civil rights histories and legacies draw on many other experiences in the US and abroad. We are a small team of historic preservationists, memory workers, current graduate students, and fellows who are committed to preserving Black heritage and civil rights narratives in Philadelphia and beyond.

In 2023, Amber Wiley joined the Center as the inaugural Matt and Erika Nord Director, taking the reins from Randall Mason, founding Faculty Director and now Senior Fellow.

To learn more, visit [cpcrs.upenn.edu](https://cpcrs.upenn.edu).

*Image: Professor Kwesi Daniels of Tuskegee University leads students on a tour of the historic Armstrong School. Macon County, Alabama. Photo by Sarah Lerner,*



# Fieldwork

## The Armstrong School & St. Paul Baptist Church Macon County, AL

The wooden building located south of the St. Paul Baptist Church, now known as The Armstrong School (pictured on previous page), is the earliest known remaining one-room schoolhouse designed by Robert R. Taylor and built by a Tuskegee trained teacher from Macon County, John Taylor "J.T." Hollis. The building illustrates the early and on-going relationship between Tuskegee and rural Black communities in Macon County to improve education.

Led by Dr. Kwesi Daniels of Tuskegee University, the work to preserve the Armstrong school has led to a small grant for emergency stabilization from the J.M. Kaplan Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Since Spring 2021, Tuskegee architecture students and Penn historic preservation students have worked to document and record the conditions of The Armstrong School in preparation for future preservation planning.

Thanks to the nomination written by Sarah Lerner, CPCRS manager, and Dr. Shari Williams, Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project, this site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July, 2023.

## Federation of Southern Cooperatives Rural Training and Research Center Sumter County, AL

The Federation of Southern Cooperative Rural Training and Research Center was established in 1967 to create community-based economic development opportunities throughout the rural South for Black farmers and rural communities.

Thanks to the nomination written by Sarah Lerner, CPCRS manager, and Elizabeth Donison (MSHP'23), research assistant, this site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in October, 2023.



## Sustainable Site Management Assessments In Partnership with the Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Site Consortium

These assessments directly address the typical challenges identified by the AAACRHSC's ongoing work and advocacy, including scarce financial resources for historic preservation and maintenance work, extraordinary demands on volunteer managers, and access to professional advice for technical preservation and design.

Building on the success of summer 2022's pilot project site assessments for First Baptist (Brick-a-Day) Church and United (formerly Trinity) Lutheran Church Parsonage in Montgomery, Randall F. Mason, CPCRS senior fellow, is leading another round of sustainable site assessments in Alabama, currently supervising assessments for the Safe House Black History Museum in Greensboro and Brown Chapel AME in Selma. Student research assistant Taha Mughal worked with CPCRS manager Sarah Lerner to support site assessments in the summer of 2023.







## Henry Ossawa Tanner House Strawberry Mansion, Philadelphia, PA

CPCRS worked with the Friends of the Tanner House (FOTH) and project partners Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia and Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. on sustainable long-term preservation plans for the Henry Ossawa Tanner House in the Strawberry Mansion area of North Philadelphia. Goals for the project include a building assessment, repairs to the exterior and interior of the building, and plans for rehabilitation and future management of Tanner House as a community-based institution. In Fall 2022, graduate students in historic preservation explored the possible futures of the Tanner House in a semester-long Preservation Studio.

CPCRS' partnership with FOTH has resulted in a Mellon Foundation Humanities-in-Place grant supporting an arts-rich participatory visioning and preservation planning process that invites community voices to provide input into the rehabilitation and proposed re-use of the Henry Ossawa Tanner House. Between October 2023 and March 2024, FOTH lead Christopher Rogers, in partnership with CPCRS, hosted six community engagement projects with artist partner Qaira Riley, three community partner events, and two preservation planning workshops with internationally recognized design and preservation thought leaders.

## What Remains Preserving the Heritage of Africatown

This interdisciplinary daylong symposium at the Penn Museum brought together scholars, activists, and designers dedicated to amplifying the history of Africatown, Alabama through ensuring community-led processes for racial, environmental, and economic justice. Africatown, also known as Plateau, is a community north of downtown Mobile that was founded in 1866 by formerly enslaved West Africans who were brought to Alabama in 1860 on the Clotilda, the last documented slave ship to arrive to the United States. The journey and the life of one of those founders, Cudjo (Kossula) Lewis is the subject matter of Zora Neale Hurston's *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo."* The event was livestreamed, and recordings of the panels are available on the Weitzman School of Design YouTube channel.



## Barry Farm: Community Land & Justice in Washington, D.C. Film Screening & Discussion

This award-winning documentary film, a collaboration between the Bertelsmann Foundation and the DC Legacy Project, tells the story of a journey for community, land, and justice. It is a story of Barry Farm and a story of Washington, DC. In the cycles of place and displacement, it is also a story of the United States. On March 1, 2023, CPCRS held a screening of the film, followed by a discussion with directors Sabiyha Prince and Samuel George that was moderated by Amber Wiley.



# Urban Heritage Project

The Urban Heritage Project's work addresses issues at the intersection of built heritage, cultural landscape, and societal change through multi-disciplinary research and practice.

Led by Randall Mason, the UHP team works with the National Park Service and other public-sector and NGO organizations to document, interpret, and create plans for public landscapes. Our purpose is always to understand deeply the evolution of these historic landscapes and to connect them to the lives, needs, and desires of contemporary communities.

Adapting cultural-landscape and preservation-planning models, we frame our work as research that explores new, more engaged modes of cultural landscape preservation and design practice. In addition to the National Park Service work highlighted on the next two pages, project descriptions of UHP's work in Rwanda and elsewhere in the U.S. (in collaboration with PennPraxis) can be viewed at [www.design.upenn.edu/work/urban-heritage-project](http://www.design.upenn.edu/work/urban-heritage-project).

The UHP team includes research associates Molly Lester, Jake Torkelson, Meg Frisbie, and Elizabeth Donison.

To learn more, visit the UHP website at [cultural-landscapes.org](http://cultural-landscapes.org), or on Instagram [@urbanheritageproject](https://www.instagram.com/urbanheritageproject).





## Catoctin Mountain Park

Thurmont, MD

The Urban Heritage Project has carried out multiple projects at Catoctin Mountain Park in recent years. CLR's for Camp Greentop and Misty Mount are now being followed up with projects on the Round Meadow section (pictured on previous page), an area associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps, Job Corps, and other significant chapters of the park's history. This will be followed by a study of the entire park landscape.

## Small Parks Study

Washington, D.C.

This five-year, multi-phase project documented and analyzed the National Park Service's collection of 292 small parks distributed throughout Washington, DC. UHP's work on this preservation planning effort resulted in seven Cultural Landscape Inventories, four prototype Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Protocol (REAP) reports, and a Cultural Landscape Report with planning proposals for the entire collection of small parks.



## Arlington House

Arlington, VA

The Urban Heritage Project is conducting research and fieldwork to create a specialized Cultural Landscape Report for the historic house and former plantation located within Arlington National Cemetery. Formerly known as "The Robert E. Lee Memorial," this National Park Service landscape includes garden spaces and a remnant forest little changed since the mid-19th century.



## Civil Rights Mapping Project

Washington, D.C.

UHP is leading a collaborative effort—with NPS' National Capital Region, LSU's Brent Fortenberry, and a group of consulting scholars—to research and map landscapes related to African American civil rights in Washington, DC. Research explorations are focused on innovative methods of documentation and spatial representation, and how these methods can inform cultural landscape preservation techniques.

*Image: "Washington, D.C. Government workers lunching near the Washington Monument" (1942), by Marjory Collins, Library of Congress.*



## Memorial Avenue Corridor

Washington, D.C.

Work is underway on a Cultural Landscape Report for the avenue that links the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC (for which UHP recently completed a CLI) with Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. The avenue was designed in part by McKim, Mead & White and includes the Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, and the entrance to the cemetery.





## Skyline Drive Virginia

Our team has launched the first phase of a multi-year project to complete a Cultural Landscape Report for Skyline Drive, the National Historic Landmark parkway located within Shenandoah National Park.



## Mary McLeod Bethune Council House Washington, D.C.

UHP completed a Cultural Landscape Report for the Logan Circle townhouse in Washington, DC, occupied by civil rights icon Bethune and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).



## Prince William Forest Cabin Camps Triangle, VA

Our team completed a Cultural Landscape Report for the five formerly segregated cabin camps at Prince William Forest Park. The camps are associated with the Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA) program of the New Deal, and hosted military training activities during World War II.



## Lewis Mountain Shenandoah National Park, VA

UHP collaborated with NPS' Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, NC State University, and Weitzman's Center for Preservation of Civil Rights Sites on a Cultural Landscape Report for Lewis Mountain – a camp along Skyline Drive built to be racially segregated. Consultations with descendant communities informed a preservation plan to mark these important park histories.

## Georgetown C&O Canal Washington, D.C.

The Georgetown section of C&O Canal National Historical Park is the intensely developed first mile of the 185-mile-long canal. UHP's Cultural Landscape Report for the National Park Service addresses these complex segments of the C&O and its associations with Black laborers in the New-Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps.



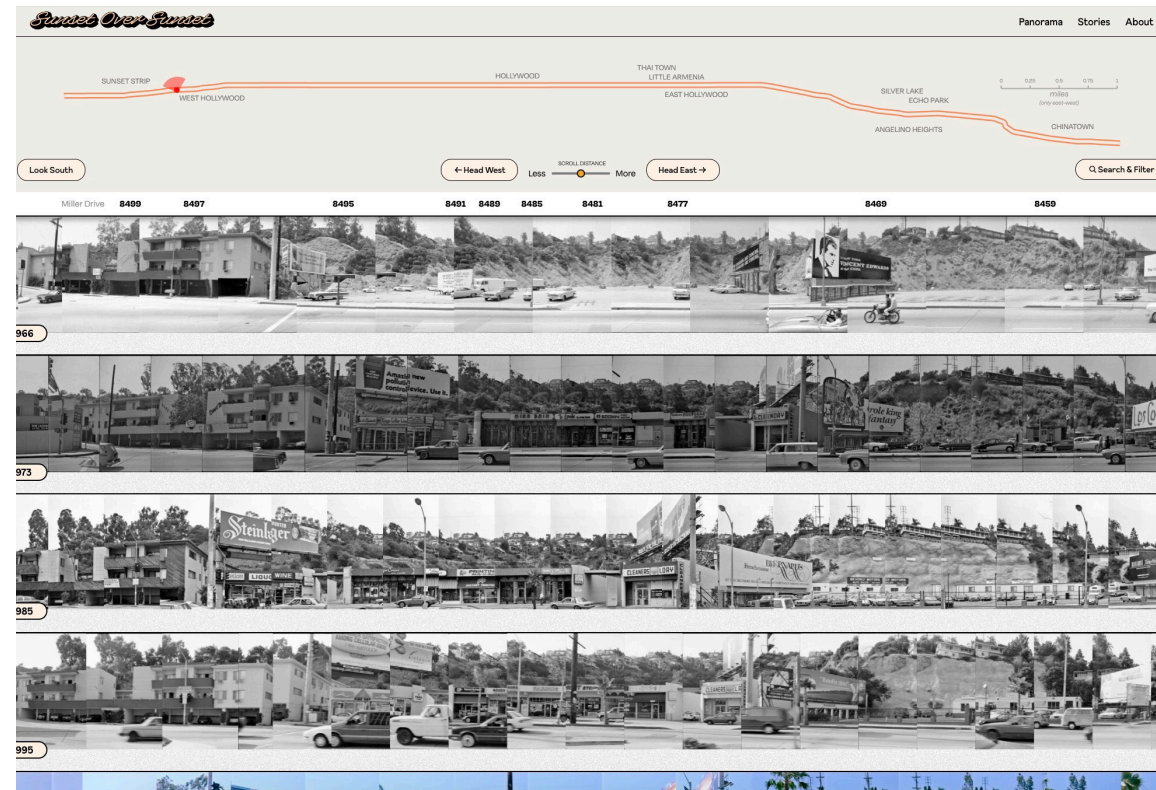


# Sunset Over Sunset

Between 1965 and 2007, artist Ed Ruscha photographed Los Angeles's Sunset Boulevard twelve times using a motorized 35mm camera mounted atop a pickup truck. This rich archive of urban change is newly accessible in *Sunset Over Sunset* ([www.sunsetoversunset.org](http://www.sunsetoversunset.org)), a digital humanities project co-directed by Francesca Russello Ammon along with partners at Swarthmore College and the Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

*Sunset Over Sunset* builds on the Getty Research Institute's newly-digitized archive of Ed Ruscha's landmark series of Los Angeles photographs to examine changes along Sunset Boulevard from 1966 to 2007. The immersive website brings together thousands of Ruscha's photographs, demographic data culled from the US Census and city directories, municipal building records, and historic news coverage to provide a multilayered view of the urban transformation of Los Angeles.

In focusing on LA, the website provides a new tool for tracing local, national, and global histories of migration, economic transformation, architectural innovation, and cultural change in the late twentieth century. Images of facades—and the data behind the



facades—reveal how small-scale changes contributed significantly to the evolution of cities, challenging the common focus on large-scale development to also highlight the cumulative impact of individual and community actions.

Original scholarship published on the website explores stories of Sunset, and the modern city, including Thai and Latinx immigration, banking and globalization, transportation and climate change, place-making, and the advent of now-familiar urban types, like the mini-mall.

*Sunset Over Sunset* was made possible by a Digital Humanities Advancement Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*Images: 7901 Sunset Blvd, 1985 (Top); 1525 Sunset Blvd, 2007 (Bottom); Streets of Los Angeles Archive, The Getty Research Institute © Ed Ruscha*



# Lectures & Symposiums

Aerial view of Philadelphia looking East from 63rd Street. Courtesy of the Special Collections Research Center, Temple University Libraries, Philadelphia, PA.



## Fall 2021

### 9.30.21

OurPlan in YourNeighborhood: Using Technology to Engage and Educate Changing Communities  
Akira Drake Rodriguez, Sydney Goldstein

### 10.6.21

How Existing Buildings Save Carbon, Build Community and Support Equity  
Larry Strain, William Braham, Stephanie Carlisle

### 10.21.21

Reimagining the Corn Exchange Bank to be a Tech Nerd's dream  
Fon Wang, John Carr

### 10.25.21

Design for Chosen Land: Building at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in the 21st century  
Pamela Hawkes

### 10.28.21

Inequality in Bronze: Shared Authority and Collaborative Commemoration at Stenton  
Laura Keim

### 11.4.21

Capitol Colors: Paint Analysis of the Memorial Stair at the US Capitol  
Catherine Myers

### 11.10.21

What's the Diagnosis? Conservation Management Planning at Pennsylvania Hospital  
Jeff O'Neill, Stacey Peeples, Michael Henry, Kecia Fong

### 11.17.21

Change Over Time Dialogues | Conservation: Discipline & Profession  
Frank Matero, Caroline Cheong, Jennifer Minner

### 12.1.21

Brittle Materials: The Seismic Stabilization, Repair and Restoration of 1914 Brick and Terra Cotta at the First Congregational Church of Long Beach, California  
John Fidler

## Spring 2022

### 2.17.22

Exhibition as a Form of Attack: What Minerva Built  
Molly Lester, Bill Whitaker

### 3.17.22

Excavating and Re-Creating Color and Texture at Stenton  
Catherine Myers, Laura Keim

### 4.7.22

Cuban Modernism and Challenges for Preservation  
Belmont Freeman

## Fall 2022

### 10.24.22

Screening of "Women Builders and the Earthen Architectural Heritage of Central and West Africa" with Q&A by director  
Amélie Esséssé

### 10.27.22

UNESCO at 50: What Future for the Past?  
Interdisciplinary Symposium co-sponsored with Perry World House

### 11.10.22

Documenting Philadelphia's Built Environment on the Eve of the Centennial, 1850-1876  
Elizabeth Milroy

### 11.21.22

Engineering Modern Architecture: August Komendant's Method of Structural Design  
Carl-Dag Lige



## Spring 2023

### 1.26.23

Change Over Time Dialogues | Legacies of Detention, Isolation, and Quarantine  
Kecia Fong, Sean Kelley, David Barnes

### 1.30.23

Postwar Modern Urban Townhomes: Early Chicago Work of Homer Rissman (1949-1953)  
Susan Singh

### 2.24.23

Heritage and Presence  
Co-sponsored with Wolf Humanities Center

### 2.27.23

Wright Saving Wright: Preserving Robie 1957 and Beyond  
Daniel Bluestone

### 3.1.23

Screening: Barry Farm: Community, Land & Justice in Washington, D.C.  
Amber Wiley, Sabiyha Prince, Samuel George

### 4.5.23

A World Cultural Heritage: The Synthesis of the Arts at Ciudad Universitaria de Caracas  
José Luis Chacón

### 4.19.23

Black Personhood & Black Preservation: The Work of CPCRS Research Fellows  
Kenyatta McLean, Christopher Rogers

## Fall 2023

### 9.21.23

Memory Movements and Reparations: Public History for Accountability  
Elizabeth Ševčenko

### 10.26.23

Rethinking Conservation: The Aga Khan Trust for Culture in India  
Ratish Nanda

### 11.10.23

Conserving Mud: Learning from Local Practices  
Conservation Dialogues at the CAC  
Divay Gupta

### 11.20.23

The Art of Alteration: The Future of Venturi, Scott Brown's Sainsbury Wing & Why It Matters  
Nathaniel Rogers, David Brownlee, John Chase, Pamela Hawkes, Bill Whitaker

## Spring 2024

### 3.11.24

Launching Sunset Over Sunset: Seeing Urban History through the Lens of Ed Ruscha  
Francesca Russello Ammon, Brian Goldstein, Garrett Dash Nelson, Rob Nelson, Mark Padoongpatt

### 4.4.24

Chinatown  
Kecia Fong, Kenny Chiu, Domenic Vitiello, Deborah Wei, Aaron Wunsch

### 4.4.24

Preservation Meeting the Moment: Are We Ready?  
Adrian Scott Fine

### 4.14.24

Locating Giurgola: Rome, Philadelphia, Canberra  
Cameron Logan





## In Practice

The In Practice series is designed to showcase the breadth and depth of built heritage conservation through its professional practices. Speakers discuss their projects and the trajectory of their careers. These lunchtime talks afford students the opportunity to hear directly from those who have put their knowledge to work as they help define the contemporary discipline and the professional practice of heritage conservation.

### 10.7.21

Nathaniel Rogers (MArch, MSHP'12), Beyer Blinder Belle

### 11.23.21

Christine Britton (MSHP '13), JVA

### 1.31.23

Rohit Jigyasu, ICCROM

### 2.3.23

Glenn Boornazian, ICR-ICC

### 3.17.23

Nakita Reed (MArch, MSHP'10), Quinn Evans Architects

### 3.31.23

Gretchen Hilyard Boyce (MSHP'06), Groundwork Planning & Preservation

### 4.20.23

Rosa Lowinger, RLA Conservation

### 10.5.23

Eve Errickson, Pond & Company, Inc.

### 10.19.23

Elizabeth Milnarik, National Park Service, National Capital Region



# Heritage Conservation in Asia

## Roundtable Series

The Heritage Conservation in Asia Roundtables aim to draw attention to how heritage and conservation in Asia are central to a raft of broader cultural, governance, urbanistic, and environmental concerns. Issues of national identity, rapid urbanization, sustainable development, international relations, political and religious conflict, civil society, public good, design, public art, and climate change all intersect built heritage and the built environment. As one of the most dynamic regions of the world today, what happens in Asia impacts the globe.

This Roundtable Series is a cornerstone of the Heritage Conservation in Asia Initiative, spearheaded by Kecia Fong and Lynn Meskell.

### 1.19.23

Public Space, Identity, and Public Production  
Kecia Fong, Ken Lum, Guobin Yang, Fariha Khan

### 2.16.23

Asian Urbanism  
Kecia Fong, Eugenie Birch, Randall Mason, Nancy Steinhardt

### 3.15.23

Built Heritage Conservation in Asia Trends and Practical Needs  
Kecia Fong, Jharna Joshi (MSHP'99), Christina Paterno (MSHP'00), Kuanghan Li (MHSP'04), Bhawna Dandona (MSHP'06), Ifrah Asif (MSHP'21)

### 3.21.23

Kotchakorn Voraakhom  
Co-sponsored with Landscape Architecture

### 3.30.23

Heritage, Precarity, and Livelihoods  
Kecia Fong, Amy Gadsden, Justin McDaniel, Lynn Meskell

### 10.25.23

Insights from India  
Kecia Fong, Lynn Meskell, Divay Gupta, Rohit Jigyasu, Ratish Nanda, Krupa Rajangam, and Rachel Varghese

# Ruins & Reconstruction

## Roundtable Series

Curated by Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor Lynn Meskell in conjunction with her seminar Ruins & Reconstruction, this lecture series brought together leading scholars and practitioners to examine our enduring fascination with ruins coupled with our commitments to reconstruction. This includes analyzing international conventions and principles, to the work of heritage agencies and NGOs, to the implications for specific local communities and development trajectories. The lectures ask what a future in ruins holds for a variety of fields and disciplines, as well as those who have most to win or lose in the preservation of the past.

### 2.2.22

"The Heritage Lens: How Historic Preservation Can Engage with Global Issues"  
Jonathan Bell, World Monuments Fund

### 2.16.22

"Lessons from the Field: From Site to Place to Cultural Preservation"  
Nada Hosking, Global Heritage Fund

### 3.2.22

"The Doubleness of Beirut's Ruins: Between a Past War and Wars Yet to Come"  
Hiba Bou Akar, Columbia University GSAPP

### 3.23.22

"Destruction, Reconstruction, and the Exclusive Rebuilding of Cities"  
Ammar Azzouz, Arup

### 4.13.22

"The Protective Image"  
Lucia Allais, Columbia University



# Changing the Face of the City

## Speaker Series and Walking Tours

Changing the Face of the City was a collaboration between the Weitzman School of Design and The Carpenters' Company, and was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Curated by Francesca Ammon, the program explored the intersection of historic preservation and urban planning/renewal through the lens of equity and social justice. In addition to a series of lectures, listed below, the programming included two public walking tours of Society Hill and Independence National Historical Park, led by Francesca Ammon for the general public and Philadelphia high school students, respectively.

"Changing the Face of the City" was the phrase renowned urban planner Edmund Bacon used to describe Philadelphia's renaissance in his classic 1967 book *Design of Cities*, unintentionally alluding to the literal consequences of many preservation, planning, and renewal efforts.

### 4.20.22

Human Toll: Accounting For Damage Wrought by Freeways in the Twin Cities  
Greg Donofrio, University of Minnesota

### 5.19.22

Are Cities Just Places? Rebuilding and Unbuilding Preservation  
Jenni Minner, Cornell University

### 6.1.22

Preserving Neighborhoods: How Urban Policy Shapes Baltimore and Brooklyn  
Aaron Passell, Barnard College

### 9.22.22

When Patrons of Center City Preservation Branch Out: Allies & Adversaries in Adaptive Reuse  
Fallon Samuels Aidoo, Tulane University

### 10.13.22

Documenting the Architectural History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church: A Case Study  
Charlette Caldwell, Columbia University

# CPCRS Dialogues

CPCRS Dialogues aim to raise visibility, deepen discussion, and spread the word about civil rights heritage and the equity, memory, design, legal and other issues brought to light by its preservation.

These virtual events scrutinize our nation's collective understanding of what constitutes a civil rights heritage site and advance the means and methods by which "sites" are preserved. The CPCRS Dialogues enable CPCRS to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders in the study of Black heritage and civil rights and facilitate conversations exploring new concepts and ideologies in the fields of heritage studies and preservation. The events will bring the interdisciplinary research, advocacy and partnerships of CPCRS to Penn and public audiences in an accessible, affordable, and digestible digital format.

The theme of each discussion explores a different perspective on the preservation of civil rights heritage. Conversations will engage with popular and scholarly understandings of civil rights heritage, and purposefully appeal to a range of disciplines, professions and perspectives.

### 11.3.21

Tiffany Momon, Sewanee, The University of the South

### 3.30.22

Danielle Purifoy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### 4.18.22

Ángel David Nieves, Northeastern University

### 9.14.22

Tara Dudley, University of Texas at Austin

### 9.28.22

Bryan C. Lee, Jr., Colloqate Design

### 11.2.22

Melvin A. Marshall, Art Culture Now



# Rowhouse City

## History and Adaptation in Philadelphia

The Rowhouse City Symposium examined the history and development of the rowhouse in Philadelphia, and critically evaluated its current conditions, and identify the inherent advantages and challenges associated with its preservation in a 21st-century context.

Organized in coordination with the Association for Preservation Technology - Delaware Valley Chapter, this two-day symposium took place on October 7-8, 2022.

### Day One | The Rowhouse & Its Context: History, Development, Culture, Typology

"The North Atlantic Cities: An International Region of Architecture and City Design With its Centers in London, Amsterdam, and Philadelphia"  
Charles Duff, Jubilee Baltimore

"The Homes of Elfreth's Alley as Early Philadelphia Row Houses"  
Ted Maust, Elfreth's Alley

"Fire's Collateral Gift to History: Seeing Rowhouses Through the Lens of Old Insurance Surveys"  
Jeffrey Cohen, Bryn Mawr College

"D.C. Rules! Building Regulations in the Nation's Capital"  
Kim Hoagland, Michigan Technological University

"A Comparative Study of Philadelphia Rowhouses"  
Paul Hirshorn, Drexel University

"The 'Poorer Class of the People of Colour in West Philadelphia' Build"  
Donna Rilling, Stony Brook University (SUNY)

"Du Bois's Investigation of Philadelphia's Seventh Ward"  
Amy Hillier, University of Pennsylvania

"Mining Rowhouse Gold: Old Collections Newly Accessible"  
Bruce Laverty, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

"The Philadelphia Rowhouse Reborn"  
Andrew Dolkart, Columbia University

"Preserving Society Hill: Mapping the Sites and Stories of Change in an Urban Renewal Neighborhood"  
Francesca Ammon, University of Pennsylvania

"Field Notes from a Rowhouse City Architect"  
Brian Phillips, ISA - Interface Studio Architects

### Day Two | Preservation & Adaptation: Practice & Future Strategies

"SB1135 The Whole-Home Repairs Act of 2022: Preserving the Philadelphia Rowhouse and the Rural Farmhouse"  
Nikil Saval, PA State Senator

"The Whole-Homes Repair Program: Overcoming Local, State, and National Political Divides to Fund Home Repair"  
Jill Roberts, Clarifi / Jane Allen, Office of Nikil Saval

"Can Philadelphia Become the City of Carbon Free Rowhome?"  
Liz Robinson, Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

"Current Trends in Passive Rowhouse Design"  
Paul Thompson, BluPath

"Queen Village—Philadelphia's First Neighborhood Conservation District"  
Mike Hauptman, Brawer & Hauptman Architects

Preservation Case Study Pecha Kucha Presentations featuring APT-DVC Members

"Structural Challenges of Shared-Wall Buildings"  
Timothy Lynch, Thornton Tomasetti / Justin Spivey, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates

Panel Discussion: "The Future of the Philadelphia Rowhouse"  
Inga Saffron, The Philadelphia Inquirer (moderator)  
Kathy Dowdell, Farragut Street Architects  
David Perri, formerly Department of Licences & Inspections  
Ian Smith, Ian Smith Design Group  
Ken Weinstein, Philly Office Retail



# What Remains

## Preserving the Heritage of Africatown

On Friday, October 20, 2023, CPCRS hosted What Remains: Preserving the Heritage of Africatown, a daylong public symposium that brought together scholars, activists, and designers dedicated to amplifying the history of Africatown, Alabama through ensuring community-led processes for racial, environmental, and economic justice.

Africatown, also known as Plateau, is a community north of downtown Mobile that was founded in 1866 by formerly enslaved West Africans who were brought to Alabama in 1860 on the Clotilda, the last documented slave ship to arrive to the United States. The journey and the life of one of those founders, Cudjo (Kossula) Lewis is the subject matter of Zora Neale Hurston's *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo."*

The symposium was also streamed live and a recording was made available for the public after the event. The day was filled with thought provoking and heartwarming dialogues, ranging from perspectives from researchers who work to bring the story of Africatown, its founders and residents, and its diasporic connections to life; Africatown descendants and activists fighting to elevate and protect their home; to designers re-imagining the potential future of the town.

### Schedule

#### Listening to the Ancestors, Excavating the Stories

Matt Kenyatta, University of Pennsylvania (moderator)  
Sylviane Diouf, University of North Carolina Greensboro  
Deborah Plant, independent scholar, writer, and literary critic; Editor, *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"*  
Nick Tabor, freelance journalist; author, *Africatown: America's Last Slave Ship and the Community It Created*

Myth. Legend. Lore.  
History. Facts. Truth.

These terms are often deployed in the process of telling, retelling, searching, and excavating the archives for the history of Africatown and the Clotilda. This panel will serve as an opportunity to discuss the art and science of storytelling, the process of discovery – convergences, divisions, contradictions – and what we do with the space in between. We will hear from storytellers within a range of

academic and professional fields including social history, literary criticism, and journalism.

#### "It's About the People": Reparative Justice for Today and Tomorrow

Rashida Ng, University of Pennsylvania (moderator)  
Ann Cuss, World Monuments Fund  
Joycelyn Davis, Organizer, Spirit of our Ancestors Festival; Member, Clotilda Descendants Association  
Veda Robbins, Descendant and Community Organizer; The BIG We  
Joe Womack, President, Clean, Healthy Educated, Safe & Sustainable Community, Inc.; Co-founder, Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation

"Them people in that cemetery, they count on us."

Africatown holds a singular place in the history of the United States, yet the scars of structural dispossession and environmental racism are facets of its story that resonate within many Black neighborhoods across the country. This panel features Africatown residents, Clotilda descendants, and their allies whose primary aims are to preserve, protect, and prolong the life of the community and its inhabitants. Hemmed in by heavy industry, flooded with publicity since the discovery of the Clotilda and the release of Descendant, these panelists are determined to make sure that policy decisions are focused on the people, and begin and end in Africatown.

#### More than a Museum: Bringing the Vision to the World

Kwesi Daniels, Tuskegee University (moderator)  
Mario Gooden, Columbia GSAPP; Mario Gooden Studio: Architecture + Design  
Jerome Haferd, BRANDT : HAFERD  
Renee Kemp-Rotan, studio|rotan; Co-organizer, Africatown International Design Idea Competition

The final panel engages architects, planners, and designers who have worked closely with Africatown residents and Clotilda descendants to envision a new future for the physical landscape of their community, based on residents' articulated needs and desires. Panelists will discuss design strategies to translate the deep diasporic history, Africatown's fraught origin story, environmental pollutants and loss of Black businesses, while also celebrating the enduring and living legacy of its past and present inhabitants.



# Preservation Futures

## Roundtable Series

Preservation Futures is an initiative of the Department of Historic Preservation aiming to build an understanding of how the preservation field has changed – and is changing – in light of urgent calls for social and environmental justice and better science. This series of four roundtables explored how we want to position the department in relation to future changes.

During the 2023-2024 academic year the Department hosted four roundtables organized around broad contexts and epistemologies that inform historic preservation practice, policy, and theory: society, humanities, design, and the natural sciences. Roundtable participants represented a wide range of voices from Penn faculty as well as colleagues, scholars, practitioners, and leaders from the field at large. The series will take place in Philadelphia and was streamed live, all free and open to the public. Each session resulted in a public white paper on PLATFORM, a digital forum for conversations about buildings, spaces, and landscapes.

### Preservation Futures: Society

#### November 16, 2023

Speakers:  
Randall Mason  
Amber Wiley  
Fallon Samuels Aidoo, Tulane University School of Architecture  
Kimberly D. Bowes, Archaeology, Penn  
Camille Z. Charles, Sociology, Africana Studies, Penn

This roundtable took up the question of historic preservation's contribution to and engagement with broader societal issues and needs. Panelists sought to understand the ways in which preservation draws on the knowledge, insights, and ideas generated by social scientists – and how the preservation field connects our understanding of social histories (from the ancient to the recent past) to contemporary social reform. Furthermore, the conversation contemplated the ways that preservation can be used as a tool of social, racial, and economic justice. What are the possibilities for preservation to serve as a means of structural redress from past inequities and erasures as well as policies such as redlining, urban renewal, and highway construction in the urban and built environment?

### Preservation Futures: History

#### January 25, 2024

Speakers:  
Francesca Russello Ammon  
Sarah Lopez  
Aaron Wunsch  
Jared Farmer, History, Penn  
Elihu Rubin, Yale University School of Architecture

This roundtable considered historic preservation's engagement with public history, and with the humanities more generally. Panelists began by looking back in time, asking how the historic preservation field has deployed history to identify and bound which buildings and landscapes matter. In parallel, how has the field embraced more expansive and layered conceptions of history in order to serve broader publics with thicker narratives? Who are these publics, and how should we engage them? How well do our existing tools work at documenting and preserving history, particularly in the face of ongoing threats posed by development? At a moment when history itself has come under increased public scrutiny and debate, the talk considered opportunities for historic preservation to lead the way in showing how and why the natural and built environment matter.



## Preservation Futures: Design

February 29, 2024

### Speakers:

David Hollenberg

Nathaniel Rogers

Dominique Hawkins, Preservation Design Partnership

Stephen Kieran, Kieran Timberlake

Peter Viteretto, Heritage Landscapes, LLC

This roundtable considered historic preservation's most visible form of engagement with the public: that which is made physical through design. Within the field of historic preservation, design is a key component in the management of change responsive to the built environment: it is how historical settings are adapted to contemporary needs, interpretations, and value systems. This demonstrably creative endeavor, "preservation design," is a mode of operation with an accumulated a set of instincts and codified practices drawn heavily from lessons learned within traditionally-defined historical settings. Set against the backdrop of an evolving understanding of both history and the historic, we must ask: What role should preservation design play in preserving for built heritage? Is there a difference between "design" and "preservation design"? With extraordinary pressure on our built environments and landscapes coming from various directions, can preservation design, as it exists and as it is evolving, inform broader future design directions? Are preservation design practices evolving, and fast enough to remain relevant to today's challenges?

## Preservation Futures: Science

March 23, 2024

### Speakers:

Frank Matero

Jeanne-Marie Teutonitco, formerly Getty Conservation Institute

Heather Viles, Oxford University

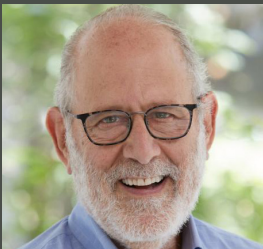
George Wheeler, Highbridge Materials

Architectural conservation is dedicated to the belief that the tangible matters. As a species, we advocate for conservation of the material past because that heritage is a record of what we can know and share of ourselves. Without that record the present and future have no reference. The term "conservation," first used in the context of heritage only in the 1930s, signaled an important and conscious turn from earlier craft-based "restoration." By contrast, "conservation" represented a more methodologically-framed approach, based on the techniques and language of science in preserving works of artistic and historical significance.

In recent years, the field has come to challenge the assumption of the singular "truths" of the material reality of cultural works as revealed by science. What has emerged is a more multi-vocal understanding of the many truths associated with cultural heritage and its construction. This panel examined the role of science in shaping conservation practice and its embrace of a more culturally-informed understanding of heritage values.



# people





# Faculty

**Frank G. Matero**

Gonick Family Professor and Chair,  
Historic Preservation

**Randall F. Mason**

Professor, Historic Preservation /  
City & Regional Planning / Landscape  
Architecture

**Lynn Meskell**

Penn Integrates Knowledge University  
Professor, Richard D. Green University  
Professor

**Francesca Russello Ammon**

Associate Professor, Historic  
Preservation / City and Regional  
Planning

**Sarah Lopez**

Associate Professor, Historic  
Preservation / City and Regional  
Planning

**Amber N. Wiley**

Matt and Erika Nord Director, Center  
for the Preservation of Civil Rights  
Sites  
Presidential Associate Professor,  
Historic Preservation

**Aaron Wunsch**

Associate Professor, Historic  
Preservation

**Michael C. Henry**

Adjunct Professor of Architecture  
Principal, Michael C. Henry, LLC

**David Hollenberg**

Adjunct Professor, Historic  
Preservation

**Brent Leggs**

Adjunct Associate Professor, Historic  
Preservation (2020-2024)  
Executive Director, African American  
Cultural Heritage Fund, National Trust  
for Historic Preservation

**David De Long**

Professor Emeritus, Architecture

**Pamela Hawkes**

Professor of Practice Emerita, Historic  
Preservation

**Joseph Elliott**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Architectural Photographer

**Michael Emmons**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Assistant Director and Senior  
Architectural Historian, Center for  
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**Kecia Fong**

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Editor, Change Over Time

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Principal Conservator, Heritage  
Conservation Collective

**Ashley Hahn**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Independent Researcher & Writer

**John Hinchman**

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Senior Research Associate, Center for  
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**Roy Ingraffia**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
National Director of Industry  
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International Masonry Institute

**Laura Keim**

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Curator, Stenton

**Kaitlyn Levesque**

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**Irene Matteini**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
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ACADEMY

**Elizabeth Milroy**

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Professor Emerita of Art & Art History,  
Drexel University  
Professor Emerita of Art History,  
Wesleyan University

**Catherine Myers**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Founder, Myers Conservation

**Anne Nelson**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Assistant General Counsel,  
Smithsonian Institution

**Nathaniel Rogers**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Senior Associate, Beyer Blinder Belle

**Eduardo Rojas**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Independent Consultant on Urban  
Development

**Donovan Rypkema**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Principal, PlaceEconomics

**Liz Trumbull**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Associate Director of Historic  
Preservation, Facilities & Trade  
Programs, Eastern State Penitentiary  
Historic Site

**Casey Weisdock**

Lecturer, Historic Preservation  
Director of Industry Development  
and Technical Services, International  
Masonry Institute

**William Whitaker**

Curator, Architectural Archives

View full faculty profiles at [www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation/people](http://www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation/people).









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