

## NEWSLETTER WINTER 1998

### **Plans for the AASL Annual Meeting Are Underway** By Joon Mornes (University of Minnesota) Vice-president/President-elect

The AASL Annual Meeting is scheduled from March 20<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> 1999, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Many exciting topics, guest speakers, and tours are being arranged for the program.

During the business meeting last year, the AASL members formed a planning committee to assist the Vice President with the program. Committee members this year are Kathy Brackney (Georgia Tech) who served many years as Treasurer, President Kathy Demsky (Andrews University), and past President Ann Scott (Kansas State).

The recommended topics are "Designing Libraries: architects and librarians in collaboration," "Web-based Library Instruction" and "Digital projects: where are libraries heading?" We are considering others such as the publishers presentations which were well-received last year, AASL members' special project presentations, and Diversity: what does it mean in collection development and reference work. All of these topics are subject to change as the committee develops the details.

Tours being considered are of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, designed by McKim Mead and White with an addition by Kenzo Tange; the Weisman Art Museum designed by Frank Gehry, the Norwest Bank by Cesar Pelli and its art collection, the Purcell-Cutt house, a Prairie School House, and a guided walking tour of the downtown buildings as seen from the Minneapolis skyway system. The difficulty is that we have too many sites to fit in our limited schedule. Those of you who wish to catch the Prairie Home Companion will be disappointed to hear that the show is not scheduled that weekend. However, those who wish to see the Mall of America will be happy to find easy transportation from any of the major hotels.

Minneapolis weather in March can range from sunny days of 30's and 40's to wonderful winter storms or gentle rains. Minnesotans survive winter by bundling up for outdoor activities and by finding much to do indoors. Skyways connect the downtown buildings and malls. Winter in Minnesota, the land of ten thousand lakes, is picturesque when the lakes are frozen for ice skating or ice fishing or when the hills are filled with children sledding and tobogganing. On the other hand, the Twin Cities offer many indoor rich cultural events.

The Planning Committee hopes to send out the conference program and the registration materials in early January. We hope that many of you will join us in Minneapolis. Michael Leininger from MIT has kindly offered to post our AASL conference program and make related links in his web page. We will keep you posted with web addresses or announcements as they develop. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the conference. My e-mail address is [j-morn@tc.umn.edu](mailto:j-morn@tc.umn.edu), fax (612) 625-5597, telephone (612) 624-1638.

## **Did You Know. . .**

### **AASL Has a New Secretary/Treasurer**

Margaret Culbertson (University of Houston) is the head of the William R. Jenkins Architecture and Art Library at the University of Houston which has a collection of 70,000 volumes and serves both the College of Architecture and the Art Department. She has held this post for 22 years while serving at various times as Coordinator of User Education and Acting Head of Reference for the UH Libraries. Margaret earned a BA in art history at Rice University and an M.S. in Library Service at Columbia University.

Home for Margaret is a small 1920's bungalow located in an older part of Houston called the Woodland Heights. When she is not working, she spends time with family and friends. Other pleasures include reading, walking, movies, travel, research and writing. "There's never enough time," she says.

Thanks to an ARLIS/NA research grant several years ago, she produced **AMERICAN HOUSE DESIGNS: AN INDEX TO POPULAR AND TRADE PERIODICALS 1850-1915**, which Greenwood Press published in 1994. She just sent off the proofs and the index for another book. **TEXAS HOUSES BUILT BY THE BOOK** (houses based on published designs) is to be published by Texas A&M Press in the spring. She hopes all AASL members will order copies for their libraries.

### **ARLIS/NA Annual Conference Follows AASL Annual Meeting**

By Anita Carrico (University of Maryland)

The ARLIS/NA 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia March

25-31, 1999. Three tours on March 25 are of particular interest to architecture librarians: "Glorious Gardens of Vancouver," "Art Deco Vancouver Walking Tour" and "Vancouver's Modern Legacy Walking Tour." Also, on the 25th is an all day workshop on basic resources in East Asian art and architecture. Important WPA projects in the Pacific Northwest will be examined from the perspective of an architectural historian. This looks like a terrific session, as does "Green Spaces: Inspiring Landscapes by Women." The Architecture Division is sponsoring a plenary session entitled "Vancouver's Public Libraries: Place, Function and Symbolism in the Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century." Sessions on electronic resources, time to meet colleagues and to see some of the many attractions available in this wonderful city will make this a great conference. AASL members, try to attend if you can!

### **ArchLib Is Now High Tech**

By Jim Robertson (New Jersey Institute of Technology)

During the January 1998 winter break, we successfully moved the Architecture Library into the new School of Architecture building at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (see winter 1997 AASL Newsletter for description of the new facility). Despite moving in amidst carpenters, painters, and electricians putting finishing touches on the building, we were open for sightseeing on the first day of class and open for normal business for the second week of class. The new ArchLib goes a long way towards our goal of providing a high-quality academic learning environment for the students of the School of Architecture.

Over the last twelve months, we've also been able to significantly upgrade our computer facilities, as well. In the old ArchLib facility, we had two public-use PCs--only one of which was connected to the Internet viz. a low-speed connection. Today, we provide our library users 14 Pcs--all but one of which are connected directly to the Internet via the campus backbone. In addition, we also have two flatbed scanners and one slide scanner for student use. Further, beginning in January 1999, we will be moving our subscription to the Avery Index to Architecture Periodicals from a CD-ROM subscription to a web-based one.

Lastly, during the fall 1998 semester, the Arch Lib began an experimental collaboration with some of the School of Architecture faculty who teach the architectural history courses. In the past, students of the history courses would have no ability to review the slides shown during the lectures. The slides were either professors' personal copies or ArchLib copies returned to the collection. Occasionally, professors would make "study trays" of slides for students. Even those, however, could only be used by a few students at a time and only when the ArchLib was open.

This semester, we set up web pages for the two major architectural history courses and scanned in selected "highlight" slides for each lecture. These slide sets were arranged chronologically by lecture, some with professor's notes and study aids. To act within the Fair Use guidelines of the copyright laws, we put password restrictions on the pages so only students in the course would examine the slides. At the conclusion of the course, the pages were disabled.

On the last day of class, the professors of

these courses conducted a survey asking students about the electronic slide review system: was it helpful and easy to use, what suggestions did they have for improvement, etc. We will take their opinions into account as we continue the project in the spring 1999 semester. If the members of the AASL are interested, I can share the survey results with them.

Interested colleagues can find additional information about the NJIT ArchLib on our homepage: [www.njit.edu/Library/archlib/index.html](http://www.njit.edu/Library/archlib/index.html). Information about our new facility is found under ABOUT THE LIBRARY. Links to the slide review systems are found under GALLERY. Colleagues seeking a guest password to view the slide review systems should contact me.

## News From Our Members

**Anita Anderson** (Illinois Institute of Technology)

I spent two weeks of my vacation as an EarthWatch volunteer in Mexico. I worked with Dr. Logan Wagner who is currently on the architecture faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. This present research extends what Dr. Wagner did for his thesis, *Open Space as a Tool of Conversion: the Syncretism of Sacred Courts and Plazas in Post Conquest Mexico*.

We volunteers, based in a hacienda outside of Izamal, ventured out to little nearby towns with measuring tools. We measured the church and the nine square blocks around it and made measured drawings based on our work. At the end of the trip we held a presentation of our drawings which we all

signed. Two copies were made of each drawing--one for an archive in Mexico and one for the archives of architectural drawings in Austin.

In addition to this work we visited pyramids at Izamal and Chichen Itza (I climbed to the top of several pyramids), stayed two nights sleeping in a hammock in a traditional thatched house, swam in a cenote and watched a shaman ceremony. I had a really enjoyable and interesting time, and made a contribution to research.

For more details of my trip don't hesitate to ask or wait for the TV showing. When we arrived in Mexico we learned that EarthWatch had engaged a crew to film everything for a program called A Walk on the Wild Side.

**Dana Beth** (Washington University)  
Washington University is planning a new Visual Arts and Design Center which will involve renovation of the existing Schools of Art and Architecture and a new building to house the Art & Architecture Library, the Department of Art History and Archaeology, and the Gallery of Art. In addition to the new and renovated spaces, plans call for more collaboration and interdisciplinary activity among the various divisions. There will be a shared media center.

**Kay Logan-Peters** (University of Nebraska)  
is chairing a committee to examine the feasibility of creating a common database of digitized slides among the Big 12+ schools of architecture. The committee conducted a survey to determine the extent of each school's digitized collection and is now evaluating the responses and determining the next few steps.

Kay is also the interim director of the

Engineering Library. She expects to be in charge of both libraries for at least two years.

**Berna Neal** (Arizona State)

I returned to my post after a six-month sabbatical. During that six months, I worked at the Heard Museum (art and anthropology) in Phoenix, compiling an annotated bibliography of Native American architecture. The project is not quite done yet but when it is completed, it will be available from the Heard Museum's home page ([www.Heard.org](http://www.Heard.org)) under the Library subdivision. Because of time limits, it is about Southwest architecture, and the largest part of it is about Anasazi and Mogollon (pronounced out here something like Muggy-yon) sites. There are also sections on dwellings by tribe and on 20<sup>th</sup> century Native American style and/or Native American architects (sparse pickings).

I strongly recommend sabbatical leaves, having returned with greater appreciation for my regular job and for the people with whom I work. It felt really good to be back, though the sabbatical itself--the opportunity to work at just one thing and the stimulation of having to learn more about archaeology--was most enjoyable, and the Museum atmosphere was a pleasant change from academia.

**Pat Weisenburger** (Kansas State)

On May 14, 1999, I will retire from Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning, and Design and begin a much more relaxed lifestyle. I will miss the annual AASL meetings and the friends I have made over the past 14 years. The newsletter will need a new editor. Any volunteers?

**1998/99 AASL Officers**

President-- Kathleen Demsky (Andrews University)  
Vice President/ President-elect-- Joon Mornes (University of Minnesota)  
Secretary/Treasurer-- Margaret Culbertson (University of Houston)  
Past President-- Ann Scott (Kansas State)

**1998/99 Nominating Committee**

Francis Chen (Princeton)

**2000 Annual Meeting Site: San Diego**

**1998/99 AASL Membership**

Anita Anderson  
Illinois Institute of Technology

Irene Askelson  
North Dakota State University

Martin Aurand  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Paula Bender, Coordinator  
Texas A&M University

Priscilla Biondi  
Wentworth Institute of Technology

Kathryn Brackney  
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Anita Carrico  
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Fran Fisher  
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Dal Tech, Dalhousie University

Michele Sawchuk  
University of Waterloo

Ann Scott  
Kansas State University

Patricia Weisenburger  
Kansas State University

Emilie C. White  
Mississippi State University

The Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL), formed in 1979, provides its members the opportunity to share information and ideas. Membership is open to all interested parties upon payment of yearly dues of \$10.00. The annual meeting is held in March, jointly with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. For additional information contact President Kathleen Demsky, Architecture Resource Center, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI. 49104-6261.

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HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!

