



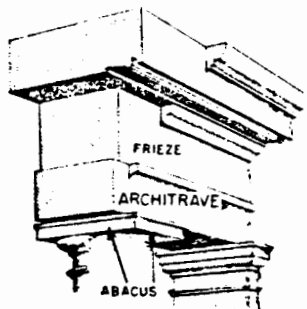
# NEWSLETTER

Summer 1999

## FROM THE EDITORS

At the recent meeting in Minneapolis, Ted Goodman, Avery Library, and Judy Connorton, City College of New York, volunteered to be the new editors of this newsletter with assistance from Joy Kestenbaum, Pratt Institute. We want to take this opportunity to thank Pat Weisenburger, Kansas State University, for her heroic editorship of this publication for the past eight years. Pat is retiring and will be enjoying relaxing and traveling. We join the entire membership in wishing her well!

This issue of the newsletter is the annual conference edition. The 21st annual meeting took place March 20-23, 1999 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Joon J. Mornes, Head, Architecture and Landscape Architecture Library, University of Minnesota, along with the rest of the 1999 Conference Planning Committee, Kathy Brackney, Kathleen Demsky and Ann Scott, organized a wonderful meeting with a great mix of sessions and tours. We applaud their hard work which resulted in our coming away with a much better understanding of the city and its cultural and architectural legacy.



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## ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

### Sat. Mar. 20

9-12:30 ACSA Tour of Minneapolis architecture was taken by a number of AASL members. Highlights included Rapson's Guthries Theater, the magnificent Purcell-Cutts House, Saarinen's Christ Lutheran Church, Wright's Willey House, and the Milling district at the edge of town.

2-4:15 ACSA annual meeting including the keynote address by Winona LaDuke, an internationally recognized activist for Native American lands and people.

4:45-5:30 ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education was presented to Cecil Steward, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

6-8 ACSA President's Reception at the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota. was attended by a number of AASL members.

### Sun. Mar.21

**8:30-11:30 Designing Libraries:  
Architects and Librarians Working  
Together**

8:40-9:30 Design Challenges: What to Anticipate in Planning the Library by Jeffrey Scherer, FAIA and Principal of Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Architects, Minneapolis. This internationally known

library designer who has won numerous awards was concerned about why the relationship between the architect and client falls apart. He observed that librarians don't spend enough time asking themselves what they do. He felt that a strategic plan for five years is necessary and that we must determine what must be kept and what can go.

Three important items which must be addressed are: 1. Quality 2. Quantity 3. Cost The client can only control two; the architect must control one, and this can vary by project.

It is helpful to the architect if the librarian:  
1. Prepares a vision statement of their ideal library consisting of one paragraph prior to selection of architect 2. Prepares a list of needs (not same as wants).

He concluded with the thoughts that we librarians must be involved in the design process at all stages— we must study plans, ask questions, offer honest challenges, choose battles carefully. Librarians must agree that the design is functional and efficient and that the space is clearly defined.

Electronic access to his firm's web page containing similar lectures is at:  
[www.msrltd.com](http://www.msrltd.com).

9:45-11:30 Staff-Centered Design of Reference Desks: Librarians and Architects Collaborate by Lars Peterssen, Adjunct Assistant Professor & Assistant Head, CALA, Univ. of Mn., Pamela Holt, Youth Services Librarian, Edina Library, Hennepin County Libraries, and Michael McConnell, Principal Librarian, Rockford Road Library, Hennepin County Libraries. This panel focused on collaboration on reference desk design which included desk and signage. They stressed that the reference desk needs to retain the social functions of the traditional library and is the

contact point where the patron and librarian come together. Librarians help users navigate different kinds of information with electronic tools that require cabling and wiring and that can cause space problems. Hennepin County had action groups working with the architects on the design of the reference desk. Electronic access to ongoing project information is at:  
[www.hennepin.lib.mn.us/extranet](http://www.hennepin.lib.mn.us/extranet)

11:30-12:00 Avery Index Users Group Meeting

Ted Goodman, General Editor, Avery Index, gave an update on activities and asked for feedback on a number of issues. The Index has moved to the Getty Research Institute. Getty Trust Publications will replace G.K. Hall in issuing CD-ROMS in Windows. There has been an increase in price for the Index online in RLIN. This will be the last year for a print edition of the Index— it is too expensive to produce and few people still buy it. The Index has received an NEH grant to convert over 150,000 records from the old card catalog which is most familiar to librarians as the large, green volumes. AASL members want to see an online list of currently indexed journals as well as a list of journals dropped in 1992 & 1996.

1:30-5:00 AASL Group Tour was conducted by architecture professor James Mornes, AIA. It included downtown Minneapolis architecture and scenic lake areas as well as stops at the Walker Art Center's Sculpture Garden and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts including the Chinese Rooms.

7:00-9:00 AASL Members Group Dinner was held at Luci Ancora in St. Paul. Chris Johnson, retired University of Minnesota architecture librarian and former AASL member, joined the group for dinner.

**Mon. Mar. 22**

**8:30-11:00 AASL Panel Discussion  
Reinventing Ourselves: New Roles for  
Architecture Librarians**

Redefining Public Services at MIT: an Experiment in Organizational Change by Michael Leininger, Architecture Librarian, MIT. MIT has downsized and has a management consultant— everyone must participate and must reach consensus. They are combining their reference desk and circulation desk into an ISP (Integrated Service Point). The support staff of the circ. desk is being encouraged to grow by joining either a technology or service group. Stages in the MIT self-evaluation process were: 1. Forming 2. Storming 3. Norming 4. Performing. MIT public services priorities: 1. User self-sufficiency 2. Have value to users 3. Timely delivery of information

The Librarian as Information Consultant: Forming Partnerships with Faculty by Kathy Brackney, Architecture Librarian, Georgia Institute of Technology. She liaisons with the faculty and finds that older faculty members still need reference intervention. Although her title has changed, the duties are the same as before— helping people find information. She does searching on the Web as well as Web-based BI. She creates customized Web-based pathfinders for courses in collaboration with the faculty member. A standard format is used, covering the local catalog and the statewide catalog. Kathy also prepares a list of recommended databases for each course.

Sharing Digital Images: Creation of an Image-Sharing Consortium in the Big-12 by Kay Logan-Peters, Architecture Librarian and Interim Director of the Engineering Library, University of Nebraska. The Deans from the Big 12 (Iowa State, Kansas State, Univ. of Nebraska, Univ. of Colorado, etc) felt there was a need for a

digital image databank with shared images. Implementation was left to the librarians. All schools are short-staffed and lack finances, but many are interested in participating. The biggest problem is that most of the images are copied from books and are a violation of copyright.

Needs:

1. Solution to copyright problem
2. Development of prototype collection
3. External funding or grant
4. Full time coordinator
5. Quality control
6. Methods of buying large numbers of digitized slides from vendors

From EDRA to Europe: Where is the Librarian? by Kathy Demsky, Architecture Librarian, Andrews Univ., Berrien Springs, MI. Her regular duties include managing the architecture library and the art, modern languages, and history collections. Her special duties include EDRA book display coordinator. The Environmental Design Research Association is housed in St. Andrews and has an annual conference. She receives hundreds of books for display on approx. 40 tables. She used PRO-CITE to create a database of materials and receives many ILL requests. She is also in charge of the study abroad program and helped create it. She goes to Italy ahead of students to locate a instructors and arrange special enrichment activities.

**11:00-Noon NAAB Discussion**

The New NAAB Initiatives and the Library by Elliot Pavlos, Executive Director, NAAB, James Anstis, FAIA, Current NAAB President, William Miller, FAIA, Dean, Sch. of Architecture, Univ. of Utah and NAAB Board Member. NAAB is reviewing library requirements for accreditation, especially the 5,000 NA titles. They are seeking AASL suggestions. Comments from AASL members offered to the panel:

1. Review core list of journals
2. Librarians emphasize service rather than number of volumes

3. Many libraries are emphasizing access rather than ownership
  4. Electronic services and distance learning should be included in self-study
  5. Adequate staff and space should be emphasized
  6. Relationship between faculty/administration and library staff is important
  7. Examine guidelines established by Council of Planning Librarians
- AASL will draft a proposal for NAAB to discuss over the next 18 months. NAAB representatives urged librarians to value unique characteristics in their libraries- not to seek standardization.

**1:30-2:30 AASL Guest Lecture**  
The Prairie School Architecture in Minnesota by Tim Quigley, AIA and Adjunct Assistant Professor, CALA, Univ. of Minnesota. Showed slides and discussed work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, George Mahler, and especially Purcell and Elmslie who brought Prairie School style to the Twin Cities and entire state. Slides illustrated interior and exterior detail in houses and banks.

**2:45-4:00 AASL Business Meeting Minutes**

I. The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Demsky, and the minutes of the March 15, 1998 meeting were approved.

II. Treasurer's Report: Margaret Culbertson distributed copies of the report, which showed a cash balance of \$1,972.28, with several expenses for the 1999 conference yet to be paid, and total assets of \$4,221.34. The report was approved. [see report in this issue]

III. Election Results: Joon Mornes reported for Francis Chen that Kevin McMahon, from Sci/Arc, had been elected Vice-President/President Elect. Kevin introduced himself to those present.

IV. Old Business:

A. AASL Membership Brochure: Anita Carrico could not attend the meeting, but she sent a draft version of the brochure for the group's review. The group felt that a membership form should be included in the brochure, and there was one question about the clarity of the lettering on the front of the brochure.

B. There was no ARLIS report, since Anita was unable to attend.

C. Membership dues and student registration fee: Joon Mornes reported that the increase in member dues from \$8.00 to \$10.00 that was approved at the 1998 meeting will be incorporated for next year's dues. Margaret Culbertson suggested that a reduced conference registration fee be instituted for students who might want to attend. After a discussion, Margaret made a motion to initiate a half-price student registration fee. The motion was approved with one dissenting vote.

V. New Business:

A. Electronic Newsletter: Michael Leininger proposed that future newsletters be in electronic form and mounted on the AASL Web Site, if the new editor was willing and able to produce it electronically. Pat Weisenburger described the duties of the newsletter editor, and Ted Goodman and Judy Connorton agreed to serve as co-editors of the newsletter.

B. AASL Listserve: Kay Logan-Peters reported on the listserv, which has approximately 60 subscribers now, and she asked the group if they objected to the fact that the list is not archived. The group did not object.

C. & D. AASL Web Site: Michael Leininger reported that he had added the AASL officer's guide to the Web Site this year and that he was planning to add both a calendar for officers' activities and the bylaws of the organization. He conceived the site as a gateway to the organization,

and his additions have been related to that conception. However, he also emphasized that other members should feel free to submit appropriate items to the site. The group felt that a membership form should be added, and it was suggested that when the new brochure is completed, it could be scanned and put on the site. Michael also suggested that a brief history of the organization should be added to the site. URL:<http://libraries.mit.edu/rotch/architecture/aasl.html>

E. NAAB Responses and Future Plans: The following people volunteered to work on a response to the NAAB's request for input on the library evaluation part of the accreditation process: Deborah Thompson-Wise, Kay Logan-Peters, Kathy Brackney, and Irene Askelson.

F. Review of Honoraria for Conference Speakers: Joon Mornes asked for a response from the group regarding whether the honoraria for conference speakers should be increased according to the amount of time committed by the speakers. Michael Leininger felt that the honoraria are tokens anyway, and variations of amount should not be necessary. Wayne Meyer mentioned that there are times when a check may not be appropriate, and the conference planner could use discretion. Presenting a book or a gift certificate to the speaker or a donation in the speaker's name to an appropriate charity or organization might be alternatives.

VI. Recommendations for By-Laws: Michael Leininger led a discussion of changes that should be made to the By-Laws to reflect changing practices and procedures in the organization. He will prepare and post the suggested changes on AASL-L, and votes should be cast by email or mail. The suggested changes will include:

-Change the number of members on the nominating committee from "three" to "from one to three."

-Include the duties of the Archivist and the List-Moderator in the By-Laws.

-Change voting procedures in the By-Laws to incorporate email voting.

-Add that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

VII. The group applauded Joon Mornes's work with local arrangements and program planning.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned.

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#### **OFFICERS**

Joon Mornes, President

Kevin McMahon, Vice President/President Elect

Margaret Culbertson, Secretary/Treasurer

Michael Leininger, Archivist

Kathleen M. Demsky, Past President

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Ted Goodman

AASL Newsletter Co-Editor

Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library

Columbia University

1172 Amsterdam Ave., MC0301

New York, NY 10027

tel: 212-854-8407

fax: 212-854-8904

email: [goodman@columbia.edu](mailto:goodman@columbia.edu)

Judy Connorton

AASL Newsletter Co-Editor

City College of New York

Architecture Library

408 Shepard Hall

138th St. & Convent Ave.

New York, NY 10031

tel: 212-650-8766

fax: 212-650-7214

email: [jmccc@cunyvm.cuny.edu](mailto:jmccc@cunyvm.cuny.edu)