

Planning History News

Society for American City and Regional Planning History

Summer 2001

Philadelphia and Camden Beckon

**Ninth Biennial Conference on Planning History
November 1 – 4, 2001**

Upbeat reports of the 2000 census showing population gains in some of our most important cities, including New York, and a slowing pace in out-migration in other cities, has led to a more optimistic tone among urbanists. Viewing news reports, one might be led to conclude that the biggest metropolitan problems in America lie in our outer areas, in continued sprawl and the degradation of precious land and other elements of the natural environment. Will the big challenges of the 21st century lie in our suburbs, not in our cities? Is this where the next planning frontier lies?

Our first conference for the 21st century is well situated to address the big questions of future development and planning as well as to assess lessons of the past. In the optimistic spirit of the new century, we take a good look at cities and neighborhoods that have come back. In both a paper session and a November 1 morning tour, John Kromer, until recently director of housing for the city of Philadelphia, looks at the revitalization of North Philadelphia, an area where high-rise public housing and abandoned structures have been replaced with highly livable blocks of housing. Both Alex Von Hoffman and Themis Chronopoulos examine the reconstruction of America's most notorious late-20th urban area, the South Bronx. And James Schmidt, president of the New Newark Corporation, will detail his organization's mission to push the heralded renewal of the downtown area around the New Jersey Center for the Performing Arts out into the grey area of older housing and commercial structures extending to the Rutgers-Newark campus. Appropriately, Dennis Gale, the new director of Rutgers, Newark's Cornwall Center, with its mission to address the central issues facing the Newark metropolitan area,

joins us as a commentator.

In looking at the outer portions of metropolitan areas, we could not be better served than to hear from our Friday luncheon speaker, Andres Duany. Internationally recognized for his leadership role in the practice and theory of "the new urbanism," he is the author, with his wife, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, of *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. Duany and Plater-Zyberk's approach to design as a primary means of enhancing community can be considered a modern variation on the garden city approach to planning fashioned a century ago. Convention participants who wish to view some of the best examples of that thinking can join Michael Lang's Sunday tour of four garden cities, including the nearby Fairview section of Camden (originally Yorkship Village) and Clarence Stein's landmark Radburn, among other communities. Two additional sessions address suburban issues broadly . . . (*cont. page 2*)

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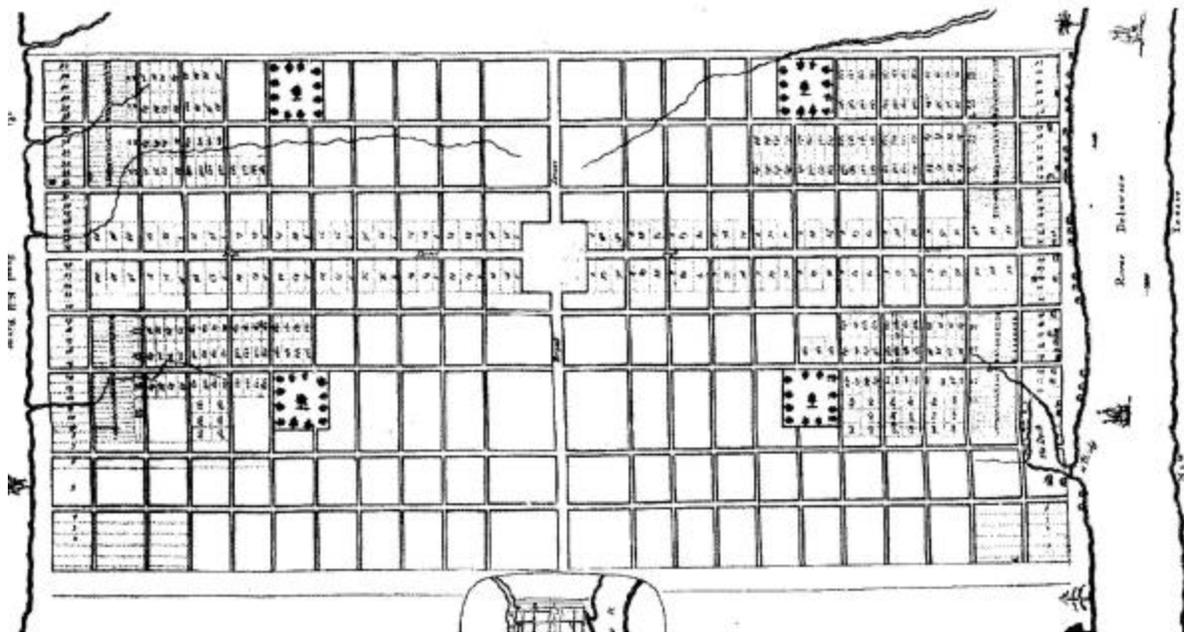
and in specific contexts, while Kristen Szylvian and George Thomas offer additional tours of model communities on the metropolitan fringe.

A central issue in the health of metropolitan areas lies in the location and accessibility of affordable housing. New Jersey is known as a pioneer in securing those rights under law. Despite the two landmark state judgments, known as the Mount Laurel decisions, a very high standard has been diluted over time. In practice little has changed over the past quarter century, and efforts to build quality housing for residents of low and moderate income have been fought consistently by suburban communities. A chief litigant in the Mt. Laurel cases, Peter O'Connor, has been at the forefront of this battle. On November 1 he will lead a tour of the new Ethel R. Lawrence Homes, which he developed in Mount Laurel. This complex, with its superior design and wide range of social services, is reminiscent of the best ideals of early public housing, as described by Jack Bauman and Gail Radford in their work.

O'Connor got his start as a public interest lawyer in Camden, where he joined the fight against the displacement of minorities through the standard urban renewal process of clearing older housing and replacing them with highways and commercial structures. Thirty years later, Camden stands as the epitome of what the Clinton administration liked to describe euphemistically as "cities left behind." With the nation's highest poverty rate of cities with more than 20,000 people, Camden defies the advantage of

its prime site on the Delaware River directly across from Philadelphia. It seems appropriate, then, in evaluating the full range of contemporary metropolitan communities, that we take a hard look at Camden the first day of the conference. By the time we meet, the city will have completed its first master plan in nearly a quarter century. Embracing a strong neighborhood revitalization strategy, this effort is complicated by the state of New Jersey's extraordinary effort to take full control of this troubled city. Our evaluation, then, will be most timely and will include an optional morning tour of the city, an overview of the planning process going back to the first major post-war plan of 1962, and panels on waterfront as well as neighborhood revitalization. We will hear from some of the most talented community development leaders in the region as well as from the chief executive officer of the Delaware River Port Authority about his organization's vision for revitalization through investments in cultural institutions on both sides of the river. To add perspective, we will be joined by David Wallace, the chief planner of Baltimore's Inner Harbor and an early participant in envisioning the conversion of the Camden waterfront from abandoned industrial sites to a premier entertainment and employment center. A panel discussion later in the conference considers Camden along with other cities beset by deindustrialization.

Philadelphia will get much more than a cursory look this fall. In addition to a number of individual papers on the city, we open and close the papers



Thomas Holme's 1682 plan of Philadelphia

portion of the convention with plenary sessions devoted to Philadelphia. We start with Edmund Bacon reflecting on his central role in early redevelopment efforts. He will be engaged in a public conversation by New York City planner and Yale professor Alexander Garvin. We close with a look to the future, asking some of the city's central leadership for direction on how they might best navigate its continued transition along a post-industrial path. In addition to John Kromer's evaluation of North Philadelphia, Guian McKee offers a tour of Eastwick, an underappreciated redevelopment site in South Philadelphia, and Philadelphia preservation officer Richard Tyler leads a tour of the old city downtown.

Two years ago, we hosted an important conversation in memory of Martha Ritzdorf about difficult issues in planning history revolving around race, class, gender, and sexuality. That conversation continues at this convention in a session moderated by Gail Dubrow. Additional sessions on gender and planning and race, gender, and economic space sustain these issues for our collective deliberation.

Participants will be glad to greet the familiar figure of John Reys. He is joined by Stockholm University's Thomas Hall in a session considering the prevailing influence of the urban grid, a feature widely associated with Philadelphia. We are pleased that Professor Hall is joined by a number of international colleagues. Their topics range widely, from Mexico, to Germany, to India, among other sites. In our global economy, comparative analysis becomes ever more important. Among the major contributions to this effort are sessions on the transnational milieu of planning and preservation as a planning tool. The latter session combines discussions of Maryland and Seattle with East Berlin.

SACRPH founder Larry Gerckens reflects on the society's now substantial 15-year history on November 3rd. In addition, he will present plaques associated with planning pioneers Mount Laurel, Fairview, and William Penn.

SACRPH's philosophy has always been to provide plenty of opportunities for exchange among participants. In addition to common meals at breakfast and lunch, we will host three receptions. Thursday's focus on Camden will culminate with cocktails at Campbell Field, the new minor league stadium on the waterfront that affords a spectacular view of the Philadelphia skyline. Our first day's sessions in Philadelphia end at the mayor's reception hall in City Hall, the venerable structure celebrating its centennial year with an ambitious program of rehabilitation. Our final day's deliberations culminate with an awards

ceremony and reception at our Doubletree Hotel base.

The Doubletree is located on Broad Street, now also known as Avenue of the Arts, directly across from the Academy of Music. Those who have not been to Philadelphia recently will be struck with the activity along this important corridor, including the New Wilma Theater a block away and just beyond that the city's new performing arts center, which will be in the final stages of its completion. Philadelphia has made destination tourism a keystone in its revitalization. In addition to papers on that topic, conference participants will have the living example of Philadelphia downtown to consider.

Philadelphia and Camden beckon. Full details should be available on our web site, at GO TO BUTTON BM_1_ www.urban.uiuc.edu/sacrph by the time this newsletter reaches you.



Fig. 21—Plan of the residential district, dated November 1925.

The National Planning Landmark community of Radburn, New Jersey, designed by Clarence S. Stein and Henry Wright for the City Housing Corporation in 1928-29, will be one of the sites featured on Michael Lang's tour of four Garden Cities, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2001.

Centre-Periphery: Globalization Past and Present

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE

August 20-23, 2000.

Helsinki was an inspired choice as a locale for the ninth congress of the International Planning History Society (IPHS). Over 250 delegates from around the world gathered in Finland to exchange views on the global diffusion of planning ideas. The conference was structured to include a core of plenary speakers addressing the conference topic and over 200 papers presented by the participants.

The keynote Gordon Cherry Memorial Lecture was "Re-Worlding the City" by Anthony King (SUNY-Binghamton). After cleverly deconstructing the meaning of the *International* in IPHS, Dr. King discussed the current state of research on globalization and post-colonial theory and criticism. He concluded with observations on the globalization of suburbs, illustrated by disturbing images of new Beijing developments. The Dragon Villas offer a "pure American-Canadian gated community" only 40 km outside the capital.

The sixty research sessions were punctuated by plenary presentations by leading scholars. Conference convener Laura Kolbe (Helsinki) discussed "Metropolises at the Baltic Sea"; Dirk Schubert (Hamburg) presented "New Challenges for Planning Theory in a Period of Globalization" and Hans Bjur (Chalmers) analyzed "Urban Form, Movement and Transformation." Mark Gottdiener (Buffalo) concluded with "Deconcentration and the End of Urban Planning: The Fallacy of Globalization."

The HUT Centre for Urban and Regional Studies produced a monograph of the abstracts from the conference. Although the full proceedings will not be published, the research sessions indicated that several new books were in the works. IPHS President Stephen Ward (Oxford Brookes) discussed a collaborative effort on "Global Planners"; Michael Hebbert (Manchester) shared a piece of his manuscript on "A Hundred Years of Urbanism" and Tony Sutcliffe (Nottingham) and Dave Gordon (Queen's) presented a framework for a book on planning capitals in the twentieth century.

The locale of the IPHS conference was a great resource for architectural and planning historians. Most sessions were held at the main building of the Helsinki University of Technology, designed by

Alvar Aalto. His design for the campus is a famous example of incorporating modern buildings with strong sculptural forms in a free plan. In contrast, the closing sessions were held in the main building of the University of Helsinki by Finland's leading classical architect, C. R. Engels. This building forms part of Helsinki's principal urban space, the Senate Square. The contrast between the public spaces and the conference buildings (all exceptionally fine examples of their style) was a powerful reminder of the changes in urban design and architecture over the past century.

Perhaps the most stimulating of the mobile workshops was a walk through the woods from HUT to the neighboring new town of Tapiola. Delegates admired the many social housing projects nestled in the forest and relaxed in the town's cultural center, another icon of 1960s Modern design.

Over fifty delegates extended the conference with a three-day visit to St. Petersburg. Russia's former capital is a five-hour train ride from Helsinki. Professor Valery Nefedov of St. Petersburg State University guided us on a full day's tour of St. Petersburg's development, in chronological order. After a fine banquet, Professor Nefedov ended the day with a tour of St. Petersburg's magnificent subway system. The good condition of the subway system was a stark contrast to the deterioration of many of the massive Soviet era projects. Fortunately, the Czars built for the long term and historic core of St. Petersburg appears to be in fairly good shape.

One small disappointment, especially in comparison to the 1998 Sydney meeting, was the small number of SACRPH members attending. Most of the sessions discussed the international diffusion of planning, but many American voices were not present to join the debate. We hope more American delegates attend the tenth IPHS conference, in London and Letchworth, scheduled for July 10-13, 2002. The organizing committee has already established a web site with details: <http://www.iphs2002.com>.

We hope to see you there!

Dave Gordon
Queens University, Canada

A Look at Urban Housing Policy

From Tenements to the Taylor Homes: In Search of an Urban Housing Policy in Twentieth-Century America, edited by John F. Bauman, Roger Biles and Kristin M. Szylvian (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000) is a recently published volume that evolved from discussions and papers presented at SACRPH's 1999 Seattle conference. Although *Planning History News* does not normally review books, this volume is so much a product of our eighth biennial conference, and of our members' efforts, that it deserves a place in this newsletter. SACRPH past president Christopher Silver (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) generously provided the following review [Ed.].

From Tenements to the Taylor Homes offers an interpretively fresh approach to the history of urban housing policy in twentieth-century America. Twelve separate authors converge to examine how America progressed from the New York Housing Act of 1879, which responded to the massive build-up of housing for low-income residents, to the recent destruction of the Robert Taylor Homes project in Chicago, where the modern public prototype of the tenement failed. This volume demonstrates how difficult community-building is not only in lower-income inner city neighborhoods but also in those suburban spaces that lured urbanites with false promises of a better community.

Robert Fairbanks' chapter, "From Better Dwellings to Better Neighborhood: The Rise and Fall of the First National Housing Movement," establishes this interpretive framework of the entire volume. He shows how early housing reformers, led by Lawrence Veiller, "focused single-mindedly on the dwelling places of poor people" (p. 22). After World War I, however, this gave way to "a different, more comprehensive emphasis that wedded housing and neighborhood" (p. 36). Although this revised agenda actually enlarged the challenges facing housing reformers, the movement's leading light, Veiller, saw it as a different mission. In 1936, as Fairbanks notes, Veiller disbanded the National Housing Association and transferred its library and files to the federal government's Central Housing Committee. This might have been the end to the reformers' confrontation with tenements, but as New Deal planners understood, the struggle to create livable neighborhoods had only just begun.

John Garner's examination of suburban planning on the eve of World War I traces the early origins of community housing approaches to the industrial estates of nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Rather than focusing, as most historians do, on Ebenezer Howard's Garden City, which certainly influenced important planners such as John Nolen, Clarence Stein, Henry Wright, Lewis Mumford and Edith Elmer Wood, Garner identifies another continental figure, Emile Muller (1823-1889) from the Ecole Central in Paris, as a key proponent of model industrial communities for workers. American protégés such as Nelson O. Nelson in LeClaire, IL, and the work of Nolen in Neponsit Garden Village (MA), Kistler Village (PA) and Kingsport (TN) presaged the modern housing movement. Garner contends that "most of the places dubbed garden suburbs and garden villages" were not offshoots of the Garden City but were variations on "industrial housing estates — no more, no less" (p. 58).

Another manifestation of the move to transform model housing into model communities were those projects planned and implemented during World War I to housing war workers. According to Eric J. Karolak, the war housing effort was not just about shelter but aimed to reduce the social distance between workers and the middle class. In "No Idea of Doing Anything Wonderful," Karolak shows that "housing professionals associated with the war-labor housing program undertook to reshape residents by reshaping their residences" (p. 76). While the basic rationale for war housing was the need to support productive enterprises in major urban centers, "housing professionals and social reformers took the opportunity to attempt to reconstruct the working class by defining the working-class community in the same image as an idealized middle class" (pp.76-77).

This theme is developed further by Janet Hutchison's examination of various post-World War I housing initiatives, especially the Better Homes in America movement. Consistent with Veiller's belief that urban tenements caused harm, these reformers sanctioned the suburban housing ideal and the domesticity of women. Hutchison shows how the Hoover administration disseminated the "suburban ideal" across the U.S. landscape and how this was imbedded into the New Deal's Federal Housing Administration design guidelines and locational criteria.

According to Gail Radford, an upper tier of housing programs under the New Deal provided

mortgage insurance and other institutional arrangements to ensure low-cost capital for real estate developers and moderate-income consumers to achieve the suburban ideal in the face of the Great Depression. But there was another side to the New Deal, notes Radford, a lower tier of direct assistance to housing that produced the antithesis of the suburban ideal, namely “stingy, physically alienating and means tested” housing for the poor. Public housing projects in the U.S. were a far cry from contemporary efforts in European cities that supported integrated community life and that encouraged a participatory residential environment. Whereas World War I (as the Karolak essay shows) generated lively experimentation in new community forms to transform the working class, all we got from World War II housing programs, according to Kristin Szylvian, was experimentation with new building materials (plywood, plastics, Plexiglas and fiberglass) and mass production techniques that made possible massive post-war suburban housing settlements such as Levittown.

This shift in federal policy from ideal community vision to housing construction process is underscored in Roger Biles’ assessment of the postwar moves to engender an urban renaissance. In one of the more artfully-structured essays in the volume, Biles takes the reader through the legislative wrangling that produced landmark federal housing legislation from the 1949 housing act through the early 1970s. Like Radford, he demonstrates that federal housing policy settled on austerity as its guiding principle, which led to low-income housing that offered Spartan accommodations, poorly landscaped communities, and indifferent management. As he notes, “the housing reformers’ dream of community building faded in the years between passage of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Housing Act of 1949” and Nixon’s moratorium on federal housing subsidies in 1974. He provides evidence, moreover, that the Eisenhower administration wanted to terminate the public housing program but was blocked by Democrats in Congress (just as Ronald Reagan was thwarted by Democrats in the early 1980s when he sought to eliminate the remaining few subsidies).

At the same, throughout the 1950s and 1960s, federal housing policy was restructuring urban landscapes by carving up the inner city and fostering rapid suburbanization. Thomas Hanchett’s “The Other ‘Subsidized Housing’” provides a succinct summary of how FHA, expressway construction and the tax system shaped suburbia. Historian Raymond Mohl focuses more explicitly on the efforts of the federal Bureau of Public Roads to engage in what he refers to as “planned destruction” of blighted urban

areas. Under the leadership of Thomas McDonald, who headed the BPR from 1919 to 1953, and with powerful backing from real estate development interests in institutions such as the Urban Land Institute, federal highway planners proudly pointed to the massive displacement of blighted housing and poor people as a necessary step toward creating the modern and revitalized city.

Alex von Hoffman’s illuminating assessment of the infamous Pruitt-Igoe project underscores how local leaders sought to use federal housing programs to modernize the city. Planning consultant Harland Bartholomew had supplied St. Louis with a blueprint for low-rise revitalized communities in his post-war master plan for the city. However, Mayor Joseph Darst had a grander vision, one that sought to create a “Manhattan” landscape in St. Louis. It was his powerful influence that led to the revamping of the city’s revitalization strategy, and to construction of one of the nation’s most concentrated collections of high-rise housing under the federal public housing program. Yet, as Hoffman makes clear, the original ideal was not to isolate poor blacks in the inner city but rather to serve a more diverse population. What Darst (and other city leaders) failed to recognize was the changing demographics of American cities that were cast into greater turmoil as a result of massive displacement to create a Manhattan skyline in St. Louis. In this sense, Hoffman suggests that the segregation and isolation of poor blacks in inner city public housing was not part of the original intention of the program. Moreover, as he stresses, the federal government did not force St. Louis to adopt the high-rise model. But the same sort of stinginess discerned by Radford in the 1930s programs was still in force in the 1950s and undermined some of the design strategies incorporated into Pruitt-Igoe that were intended to create community environments.

Arnold Hirsch contends that federal housing policy between the *Shelley* and *Brown* decisions was intentionally discriminatory. The program officers in the Federal Housing Administration saw no need to change their exclusionary practices despite the Supreme Court ruling. Hirsch offers another provocative dissection of the legislative wrangling over the 1949 Housing Act and shows how a hostile amendment to prohibit racial segregation in public housing was a thinly disguised effort to kill any non-liberal support for slum clearance and redevelopment. The Supreme Court decision in *Brown* provided another opportunity to revisit the federal housing policies and to devise ways to use federal investments to thwart racial integration. As Hirsch concludes, neither

“unforeseen” nor “unintended” should be used to describe the discriminatory effects of federal policy in the after-math of the 1949 Housing Act.

In the closing essay, John Bauman provides an appraisal of federal urban housing policy under the Carter administration by examining the important role of HUD Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris. Like Carter, Harris was ambivalent about public housing and sought to create a new community ideal that stressed neighborhood-based institutions. The Community Development Block Grant program, initiated in the Nixon-Ford administrations, was a potentially useful tool in realizing the Carter-Harris vision, but the absence of controls over allocations diluted its impact on low-income needy communities. Moreover, Bauman suggests that the Carter-Harris vision sanctioned the abandonment of the most deteriorated inner city neighborhoods in a kind of urban triage which further eroded the residential viability of the center city. In the end, as Roger Biles points out in the Epilogue, the destruction of the Robert Taylor Homes in Chicago in the late 1990s (the work is going on presently), like the detonation of Pruitt-Igoe in 1972, marked another watershed in federal and local urban housing policy. He suggests that the demise of the large federal efforts, which have been replaced by more modest neighborhood-based approaches, may offer a more promising strategy. “The noncommercial housing sector offers no panacea,” he concludes, “but it does provide a means of reconnecting housing back to the larger issues of economic and social reform” (p. 269).

Besides offering a vast array of new interpretive threads, several contributions in *From Tenements to the Taylor Homes* introduce interesting new data sources that may stimulate further inquiry by other scholars. The bibliographic essay is helpful although quite incomplete, and readers are better served by the notes located at the end of each chapter for both primary and secondary materials. Where the book does not fully satisfy is in its coverage of the rich tapestry of federal housing programs, apart from public housing, that were tried since 1937. The whole array of subsidized housing programs, especially Section 236 and Section 8, are given short shrift even though they had important influences on both inner city and inner suburban neighborhoods from the late 1960s through the 1990s. Fair housing receives one mention, and historic preservation and neighborhood conservation fare just as well. By my count the period from 1900 to 1950 gets six chapters, the 1950s and 1960s get 5 chapters, and since 1970 is basically limited to one essay. Moreover, there is precious little in the story line that explores the

effects of federal housing policies and initiatives on the emerging urban areas of the South and the West.

These lacunae do not detract the tremendous strengths of *From Tenements to the Taylor Homes*. If anything, they beg for a follow up volume that takes a similarly daring stab at conventional interpretations which underscore the progress made in housing America’s needy. Michael Harrington’s *The Other America* shattered the illusions that the United States had overcome poverty by the early 1960s. It is also clear from this important volume that in many respects we are no closer to viable inner city communities than when we first experimented with model tenements in the late nineteenth century. Additional historical work may give us necessary insights about how to reframe housing initiatives that may resurrect community in America’s troubled inner city areas.

Christopher Silver

Gerckens Honored by AICP

Laurence C. Gerckens, Professor of City and Regional Planning Emeritus at the Ohio State University and Trustee Emeritus of SACRPH, was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

The College of Fellows nomination noted that “Gerckens is nationally recognized for excellence in teaching American City and Regional Planning History. He founded the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, serves as the National Historian for the American Institute of Certified Planners and chairs the National Planning Landmarks and Pioneers Jury of AICP.” Appointed to fill a vacancy on the National Commission of the AICP in 1998, Gerckens was recently elected to a regular four-year term on the Commission (2000-2004), representing an eight state Midwest region.

Retired from Ohio State since 1986, he has taught regular graduate and undergraduate courses in planning history as a visiting professor or adjunct professor at a number of institutions including the University of Michigan, Georgia Tech, Kansas State University, and Michigan State University, distance learning courses in urban development history through Goucher College, Towson, MD, and multi-day short courses at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

News from our members . . .

Robert G. Barrows' book, *Albion Fellows Bacon: Indiana's Municipal Housekeeper*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2000. **Ralph Bennett**, Professor of Architecture at the University of Maryland, is a member of the Congress for the New Urbanism. **Sally Berk** chairs the Preservation Sub-committee of The Committee of 100 on the Federal City. **Robert Fishman** is now a member of the faculty of the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning, University of Michigan. He is editor of *The American Planning Tradition: Culture and Policy* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2000). **Eric Fure-Slocum** is completing a dissertation entitled "The Challenge of the Working-Class City: Recasting Growth Politics & Liberalism in Milwaukee, 1937-1952." **Alexander D. Garvin** is a Commissioner of the New York City Planning Commission. He has just published *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: A 21st Century Agenda*. **Owen Gutfreund** is assistant professor of history and assistant director of the urban studies program at Barnard College. **Albert Z. Guttenberg** has been elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. **Richard Harris** was guest editor of the March 2001 *Journal of Urban History* special issue devoted to North American Cities and Suburbs. Contributors to the issue included Harris, **Robert Lewis**, **Todd Gardner**, **Mary Corbin Sies**, **Andrew Wiese**, and **Lionel Frost**. **Carola Hein** is assistant professor in the Growth and Structure of Cities Program, Bryn Mawr College. **Joseph Heathcott** has been appointed assistant professor of American Studies at St. Louis University. He is coeditor of the forthcoming book, *Beyond the Ruins: Deindustrialization and the Changing American Landscape* (Cornell University Press, 2002). *Housing and the Democratic Ideal: The Life and Thought of Charles Abrams*, by **A. Scott Henderson**, was published by Columbia University Press in 2000. **Edward A. Holden**, AICP, completed an oral history interview, "Seven Decades of Planning and Development in the Los Angeles Region: Edward A. Holden." It is part of the collection of the Oral History Program of the University of California, Los Angeles. **Jeff Hyson** has accepted a tenure track position as assistant professor of history at St. Joseph's University. Mariner Books has just published an expanded and updated edition of **Jane Holtz Kay's** *Lost Boston*. **Alan Lessoff** has been appointed associate

professor of history at Illinois State University. **Randall Mason** has joined the faculty of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Maryland College Park. **Mervyn K. Miller**, Ph. D., a chartered architect and town planner, will deliver a keynote address, "100 Years of Letchworth" at the New International Garden City Conference, Kobe, Japan, in Sept. 2001. He was elected the first honorary president of Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. **Marina Moskowitz** is teaching history at the University of Glasgow. Her book, *The Standard of Living: Building Middle-Class Communities at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, will be published by The Johns Hopkins University Press in 2001. **Andrew Myers** is teaching urban and American History at the Fieldstone School, Bronx, NY, and is continuing to write his dissertation. **Raymond A. Mohl** is author of two planning history articles: "Planned Destruction: The Interstates and Central City Housing," in John F. Bauman, et al., *From Tenements to the Taylor Homes: In Search of an Urban Housing Policy in Twentieth-Century America* (Penn State Press, 2000), and "Whitening Miami: Race, Housing, and Government Policy in Twentieth-Century Dade County," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 79 (Winter 2001): 319-45. **Joseph Nasr** is visiting assistant professor, University of Michigan, and is involved in several research programs at CERMOC, Beirut, Lebanon. He is co-editor of a forthcoming book, *Imported or Exported Urbanism?* **Adam Rome**, Department of History, Pennsylvania State University, is author of *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism* (Cambridge University Press). He has been named editor of the *Journal of Environmental History*, the appointment to take effect with the January 2002 issue. The journal is published jointly by the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society. **Tony Schuman** is president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. **Daniel Serda** defended his MIT dissertation, "Restoring Lost Plans: Urban Heritage and the Symbolic Politics of Neighborhood Revitalization," in the spring of 2001. **Daphne Spain's** book, *How Women Saved the City*, has been published by the University of Minnesota Press. **Lawrence J. Vale's** book, *From the Puritans to the Projects: Public Housing and Public Neighborhoods* (Harvard University Press, 2000), was awarded the 2001 Best Book in Urban Affairs prize of the Urban Affairs Association.

President's Column

It's an odd-numbered year and time for our ninth biennial conference. SACRPH's members and friends have once again come through. Jack Bauman and his program committee have done a masterful job weaving together more than 100 presentations in 48 separate sessions. Ranging broadly across a spectrum of issues and including a number of international topics, these efforts promise a lively convention. The full program will be in the mail and on-line by the end of August.

Work on this conference has coincided with another project for me, forming a regional humanities center for the Mid-Atlantic, which in its demands on my time often has appeared to detract from my efforts as SACRPH president. Spurred by a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, this effort seeks to form ten such centers around the country. While regionalism has informed both efforts, I have been reminded frequently in the organizing process how the term is more honored in theory than in practice. I shouldn't have been surprised. When I first determined to do research on Camden, I sought out Ted Hershberg, who has made himself known as "Mr. Regionalism" in Philadelphia, to locate contacts. Unfortunately, Hershberg told me, he had none, as his efforts did not extend to New Jersey. It was difficult enough, he stressed, to deal with Philadelphia's suburbs and the Pennsylvania state legislature.

Our world, whether professional or personal, is highly segmented. Our divides extend intellectually by discipline and practice as they do geographically by where we live and work. One goal of the regional humanities initiative has been to transcend some of those boundaries. Can humanities councils or tourism organizations from different states cooperate? Can humanities and arts programs be melded? Can they both be tapped as part of revitalization strategies? These are some of the questions we have attempted to answer affirmatively.

In the process of making that effort, I have been fortunate to be exposed to some wonderful models. One, well represented in our conference, is the Rutgers campus in Newark. As the dean of the college, now in his fourth year, Steve Diner has brought his faculty into ever increasing engagement with the city. This has included not just planning professor Dennis Gale, who recently joined the faculty to head a new center for urban policy, but members of the fine arts, jazz studies,

Society for American City and Regional Planning History

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June Manning Thomas, Michigan State University

English, and history departments. In Buffalo, planning professor Robert Shibley has formed a bi-national forum in cooperation with the Waterfront Regeneration Trust in Toronto to address revitalization issues on both sides of the Niagara River. While tourism forms a common thread in their effort, consideration extends beyond capturing tourist dollars to difficult issues of the conservation and interpretation of sites. Our regional humanities center will offer a panel on this subject at a major conference in Buffalo October 23 and 24. Shibley joins the SACRPH conference as a speaker a week later. He will be joined in both venues by the Maryland Department of Planning's Cindi Patak, whose innovative work on the National Road is part of a multi-state and multi-disciplinary initiative.

SACRPH has provided an important model for the regional humanities effort. How many organizations exist that bring scholars and practitioners together? How many extend the disciplinary range as

far as we do? How many consider regional consciousness an important device to see the whole from its parts? I'm confident that this fall's conference will advance these causes. But we have more work to do. SACRPH is far from fulfilling its capacity to reach the many people who would benefit from being part of its deliberations. I have tried to assist that effort by enjoining larger audiences in at least part of our deliberations. Beyond the conference lies the prospect of a new publication, which will be the central subject of a panel in which SACRPH board members Christopher Silver and Carl Abbott are joined by editors of other publications in the field. More than just an exchange of papers, then, our conference forms an important building block for collaborative work.

One additional matter bears note as we approach the convention. Bruce Stephenson, of Rollins College's Department of Environmental Studies, has assumed the position of executive secretary previously held by Rob Hodder. The author of a very well received book on St. Petersburg, Florida, Bruce brings considerable professional as well as personal talent to the position. Undoubtedly most members have heard from Bruce already about membership renewal, as that function has returned to the office as part of his larger responsibility to build membership. We are grateful to my Rutgers colleague, Felipe Gorostiza, for filling in as membership chair for the past year. I am also grateful to Jack Bauman and his committee for their hard work to fashion a great program, the University of Southern Maine for its generous support of this effort, and to Bob Fishman and Genie Birch for their work on local arrangements. Thanks also go to Marilyn Faughner of the Center for Academic Technology, Franklin & Marshall College, for help in producing this newsletter, and to members who have joined our prize committees, announced elsewhere in this journal. We look forward to the fruits of their deliberations and, most of all, to seeing you in Camden and Philadelphia in November.

Howard Gillette

*Please send information for publication in the next issue of Planning History News (spring 2002) to David Schuyler
D_Schuyler@fandm.edu*

Cornell to Honor John W. Reps

The Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell is celebrating the 50th anniversary of John Reps' appointment to the faculty of the university and his 80th birthday with a symposium in his honor on Sept. 14 and 15, 2001. Reps will kick off the symposium late Friday afternoon with a public lecture, "The Inside Story on the New York Commissioners' Plan of 1811; Or, How Gotham Got Its Grid," which will be followed by a reception.

Saturday's speakers, listed alphabetically, include:

Eugenie Birch (University of Pennsylvania) "The Downtown According to John (Reps)"

Jeffrey Coda (Chinese University of Hong Kong) "Boulevards in the China Shop: Paris Meets California in Southern China, 1912-1932"

Laurence C. Gerckens (Ohio State University, Emeritus) "It's the Turn of the Century . . . Again"

Kevin Harrington (Illinois Institute of Technology) "The Persistence of Grid: From Jefferson' Afterthought to Hilbersiemer's Revenge"

Kristin Larsen (University of Florida) "Creating the Future: Clarence Stein's Influence on and Participation in Early Federal Housing Programs"

Anthony E. J. Morris (Polytechnic of the South Bank, London) "Expediency Supergrid: How to Star Building and Keep Options Open"

David Schuyler (Franklin & Marshall College) "Gridlock: How Gotham's Street System Frustrated Later Generations of Planners"

Christopher Silver (University of Illinois) "Planning Historians and New Urbanism: Back to the Future"

For information contact the Department of City and Regional Planning, 106 West Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607-255-4331) or email Janet Schure (jns22@cornell.edu) or Michael Tomlan (mat4@cornell.edu).

***Final Call for Submissions
SACRPH Prizes***

September 14 is the deadline for submission of materials for SACRPH prizes. Presentations will be made at the ninth biennial conference on planning history, November 1-4, 2001.

The Lewis Mumford Prize is awarded to the best book on American city and regional planning history published in English between June 1, 1999 and September 1, 2001.

Nominated books should be sent directly to the jurors: Richard Longstreth, Dept. of American Studies, 2108 G St., NW, George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052; Ann Durkin Keating, Department of History, North Central College, 30 N. Brainard St., P.O. Box 3063, Naperville, IL 60566; Jane Holtz Kay, 65 Marlborough St., Boston, MA 02116

The Catherine Bauer Wurster Prize honors the best scholarly article on American City and Regional Planning History. Articles must be written in English and published between June 1, 1999 and September 1, 2001.

Submissions should be sent to: Kristin Szylvian, Department of History, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008; Ann Satterthwaite, 1615 34th St. NW, Washington DC 20007; Diane Shaw, Department of Architecture, 201 College of Fine Arts, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

The John W. Reps Prize recognizes the best master's thesis and doctoral dissertation in the history of American City and Regional Planning.

Submissions should be sent to: Eric Sandweiss, Missouri Historical Society, P.O. Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112 (or 225 S. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis 63105); Max Page, Department of Art, University of Massachusetts, 151 Presidents Dr., Office 1, Amherst, MA 01003-9330; Daphne Spain, 640 Explorers Road, Charlottesville, VA 22911

The National Student Research Prize is awarded to the writer of the best student research paper on the topic of city and/or regional planning history in the U.S. or Canada. Papers must have been submitted between June 1, 1999 and September 1, 2001.

Send copies of submissions to: Robert Hodder (e-mail for address: rhodder@erols.com); Roberta Moudry, 411 Turner Place, Ithaca, NY 14850; Sid Sen, City and Regional Planning Program, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD 21239

The Rebuilding of Japan's Bombed Cities

The Growth and Structure of Cities Program at Bryn Mawr College announces a symposium "The Rebuilding of Japan's Bombed Cities: A Comparative Analysis," to be held Oct 28-30, 2001. The symposium, organized by Carola Hein, focuses on three topics. The first is devoted to The Setting for Rebuilding, with speakers Ishida Yorifusa (Tokyo Metropolitan University) "The Destruction of Japan's Cities: Planners and Planning Concepts: Continuities and Change"; David Tucker (University of Minnesota) "Japanese Colonial Planning and Its Influence on the Japanese Reconstruction"; and Cherie Wendelken (Harvard University) "Architects and the Architecture and Aesthetics of Reconstruction." The second session, case studies of reconstruction, includes speakers Ishimaru Norioki (Hiroshima University) "The Reconstruction of Hiroshima"; Nishiyama Yasuo (Tokyo Denki University) "The Reconstruction of Nagoya"; and Koshizawa Akira (Hokkaido University) "The Reconstruction of Tokyo. A final session Monday evening is devoted to comparative studies. Speakers include Hasegawa Jun'ichi (Osaka University) "The Reconstruction of Osaka"; Carola Hein (Bryn Mawr College) "The Rebuilding of Tokyo and Berlin"; and Jeffrey Diefendorf (University of New Hampshire) and Carola Hein, "War and Reconstruction in Japan and Europe."

For information on registration contact Carola Hein at: CarolaHein@aol.com

IPHS 2002

London and Letchworth Garden City

July 10-12, 2002

The 10th Conference of the International Planning History Society will be take place in London and Letchworth from 10th - 12th July, 2002.

The conference proceedings will be held at the University of Westminster campus in the heart of London's West End and in Letchworth, the community designed by Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin which is often described as the physical manifestation of Ebenezer Howard's garden city ideal.

Keynote speakers include Andres Duany, an architect and town planner whose work focuses on the creation of community. Shun-Ichi J. Watanabe (University of Tokyo) will deliver the Gordon Cherry Memorial Lecture.

The conference themes will include comparison of the new and the old urbanisms. The IPHS encourages all urban scholars, practitioners, and observers to consider how their work contributes to the broader project of understanding the past, the urban conditions of the present and building better cities for the future. IPHS encourages interdisciplinary contributions and warmly invites participation from SACRPH members. For details see the conference web site:

<http://www.iphs2002.com>.

Deadline for paper proposals is Sept. 30, 2001.

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