



ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta, Georgia, April 26-May 1**

**ARLIS/NA Architecture Section Meeting**  
**Friday, April 27, 2007, 1:30 – 3:00pm**

**Officers:**

Moderator: Deborah Husted Koshinsky, (deborah.koshinsky@asu.edu )  
Vice-Moderator: Alan Michelson, Head Librarian, Architecture and Urban Planning Library, University of Washington, Seattle (alanmich@u.washington.edu)  
Webmaster: Elizabeth Meyer, Visual Resources Librarian, Design, Architecture, Art and Planning Library, University of Cincinnati (meyeret@ucmail.uc.edu)  
News Coordinator: Amy Trendler, Architecture Librarian, Ball State University (aetrendler@bsu.edu)

**In attendance:** Patti Cossard, Michelle Laing, Alfred Willis, Karen Dewitt, Barbara Brenny, Jeanne Brown, Janine Henri, Marsha Stevenson, Sarach Dickinson, Susan Lewis, Betsy Peck Learned, Thomas Fulda, Martin Aurand, Kitty Chibnik, Cathy Carpenter, Beth Dodd, Elizabeth Schaub, Vince Sullivan, Gerald Beasley, Ann Kuth Kennedy, Gilda Santana, Kathryn Pierce, Fran Scott, Susan Craig, Martha Gonzalez Palacios, Vanessa Kam, Susan Koskinen, Amy Trendler, and Alan Michelson.

**Guests:**

Deborah Ultan Boudewyns (incoming ARLIS/NA President), Ken Soehner (incoming ARLIS/NA Vice-President)

**Recorder:** Amy Trendler, Ball State University

**Proposed new officers:**

Vice-Moderator: Patti Cossard, Subject Librarian for Architecture and Historic Preservation, University of Maryland (pcossard@umd.edu)  
News Coordinator: Michele Laing, head, Musagetes Architecture Library, University of Waterloo ([mlaing@library.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mlaing@library.uwaterloo.ca))

Moderator Deborah Koshinsky was unable to attend the conference. Vice-Moderator Alan Michelson led the meeting on her behalf.

**Discussion of Assessment Task Force Recommendations**

Rebecca Price began the discussion of the Assessment Task Force Recommendations. Price encouraged attendees to read and reflect on the

recommendations, especially those related to dissolving the DSRTs (Divisions, Sections, Round Tables) in favor of special interest groups, and invited the group to discuss how this might affect the Architecture section.

Deborah Ultan Boudewyns encouraged attendees to provide a report or feedback as a group by the end of the conference, if possible.

Janine Henri noted that if there was no Architecture Section it would be hard to justify attending the ARLIS/NA conference to her institution. Henri also pointed out that the group has had many joint activities with the Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL), which is one of ARLIS/NA's affiliated organization.

The question of what was the hope for ARLIS/NA arose. The task force investigated feelings, but the members need to decide the next steps. Another goal was to evaluate what is needed for the Society and deal with the difficulties in communication and accommodate the dual or multitude of interests among members.

Vanessa Kam advocated keeping the structure but implementing better conference scheduling for the DSRTs. Kam stated that as an art and architecture librarian she found it more useful to attend ARLIS/NA conferences than AASL conferences.

Al Willis said he wants to make architecture more a part of ARLIS/NA. Willis thought the recommendations seemed to represent the status quo without the bureaucracy. He also thought that if new groups formed and stuck around that this would be hard to manage.

Kitty Chibnik thought there should be more emphasis on conference planning and analyzing the affiliated interests among groups.

Price noted that the Architecture Section could meet with different groups at each conference.

Henri said that conference planning could mix up the sections and interest groups better.

Jeanne Brown advocated continuity for the section and keeping the current structure.

Willis asked if groups could define structures.

Price responded that getting rid of hierarchy was part of the assessment task force recommendations.

Willis stated that conference planning was in need of reform.

Deborah Ultan Boudewyns asked the group to consider technology and more fluid ways of meeting.

Brown stated that she would need to see some examples of techniques for using technology in place of face to face meetings. She said she was interested in this but needed prodding.

Others noted that traffic on the blog for the assessment task force recommendations had been light.

Willis wondered if My Space-like interests could be listed for each ARLIS/NA member.

Ken Soehner acknowledged that the blog activity had been light but noted that there is always a period of transition for learning new technologies.

Susan Craig said that there was a need to decide the purpose of the Architecture Section and that the communication issue was less important. Craig posed the question of what did the group do in the past? She noted that the section had worked on ACSA standards at one point.

Soehner said that the point could be to increase subject specialization in addition to making the organization more nimble and flexible. Also to make certain that the structure worked for ARLIS/NA members and that it wasn't simply a legacy structure.

When asked to give an example of how the Society could be more nimble the reply was that it could respond to new interests and hot topics.

Chibnik noted that there should be a balance between narrow and broad interests. Chibnik said that the "pie shouldn't be cut too small" or that the Society shouldn't be divided up into too many special interest groups.

Sue Koskinen suggested that the section could have a discussion topic for each conference.

Boudewyns pointed out that some groups did not have much on their agenda or much to report.

Koskinen spoke in favor of the serendipity of discussion at the conference.

Boudewyns replied that it could be fluid. The meetings could be business meetings or devoted to content or both.

Alan Michelson asked if the sessions weren't focused on topics, which might obviate the need for meetings to have discussion topics.

Price said that the group's focus could be project-based too.

Kim suggested that the section team up with other groups and put together sessions.

Margaret Webster said that the group could control programming during its time period; that the meetings weren't conference planning driven and could respond to more of a grass roots effort.

Willis agreed that this put responsibility in the hands of the group.

Brown asked how this was different from the current set up.

Webster said that the group generates broad interest and makes it happen.

Boudewyns encouraged the group to think about its purpose and form. She also noted that the coming year would be a year of transition.

Boudewyns and Soehner were introduced as the incoming President and Vice-President before they left to attend other meetings.

Henri asked if the recommendations were a fait accompli. The answer was no.

Brown encouraged the group to consider its purpose.

Willis described the Society's membership model as a complex, end dimensional matrix and no longer two dimensional. Willis also noted that the Architecture Section was different things to different people.

Craig asked what the Sections goals were. Craig would like to see programming about architecture at the annual conferences. She would like to have an impact on the architects she works with and for ARLIS/NA to have a role in the profession of architecture.

Henri wants opportunities for networking.

Michelson asked if the Architecture Section meeting was an effective forum for networking.

Karen Dewitt pointed out that the section used to meet for breakfast one morning of the conference.

Webster wants the section to be project-driven, publications, more permanent manifestations of what we do, all through the year and not just at the conference.

Henri wants joint projects with AASL.

Michelson noted that this forum was a way of keeping these things going and coordinating them.

Amy Trendler wants the group to focus on its purpose, to brainstorm, and to take the time to do this.

Webster wants the section to come to an agreement or understanding that we'll all work on this project during the year.

Henri noted that Archsec-I had no moderator and that individuals signed up for the list on their own. Henri wanted to know if ARLIS/NA would support the listserv.

Webster replied that MemberClicks may be able to support it.

Michelson asked if ARLIS-L could be used for Architecture Section news and discussions instead.

There were several comments about the usefulness of ARLIS-L as a forum for meaningful discussion.

Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos stated that the Academic Library Division had also discussed ARLIS-I and its relevancy. Stylianopoulos wondered if a web space would be useful.

Webster said MemberClicks and possibly its bulletin board feature would be of use. Webster noted that the board was discussing communication in all its formats.

Willis mentioned the model of interest groups in MSN or Yahoo.

**MOTION:** Henri initiated a motion that the Architecture Section continue as a group if the DSRTs were dissolved. Koskinen amended the motion to state that the group would have a leader, either one individual or co-chairs. The motion carried.

Betsy Peck-Learned asked if there was some vehicle or forum to continue the discussion.

Michelson said this had to be ARLIS-I.

Webster said that the assessment task force's work was done and that the board would take the comments generated and figure out where to go from there. She also noted that it would take a vote of the membership to change the bylaws.

## **Report from AASL**

Janine Henri reported on AASL. She described the recent AASL conference in Philadelphia hosted by AASL vice-president Martin Aurand. The next AASL conference will be held in conjunction with the ACSA conference as usual. The conference is set to take place in Houston March 27-30, 2008 and the ACSA theme is "Seeking the City, Visionaries on the Margin." Contact Janine Henri, AASL vice-president, with ideas for programs or topics for the AASL conference.

There were 38 attendees at the AASL meeting in Philadelphia.

Two new travel awards, one for a student and one for a librarian were awarded.

AASL officers:

Past president: John Schlinke

President: Martin Aurand

Vice president: Janine Henri

Secretary: Jennifer Benedetto Beals

Archivist: Kathryn S. Brackney

Column editor (for AASL column in ACSA newsletter): Barbara Opar

Webmaster (new position): Jim Robertson

AASL has an ongoing task force headed by Barbara Opar to update the core list of periodicals. There is also a group led by Opar that is compiling a core list of architectural monographs. Contact Opar with input for either project (Barbara Opar, Architecture Librarian, Syracuse University, [baopar@syr.edu](mailto:baopar@syr.edu), 315-443-2905)

A new task force to plan for collecting and sharing architecture library statistics has been formed.

A new task force to work with NAAB on visiting teams assessment of information resources has been formed.

Henri also noted that AASL is one of ARLIS/NA's affiliated organizations and that the Architecture Section should keep this in mind if the liaisons were dissolved in conjunction with the assessment task force recommendations.

### **SAH AVRN**

On behalf of Ann Whiteside, Webster announced that there would be a meeting on the Society of Architectural Historians' Architectural Visual Resources Network. The group is looking for input on the project, which will attempt to create an architecture image database built on a different model from ARTstor but which may answer many of the same needs. There is a planning grant that will be used to consider the SAH AVRN.

### **New officers**

The following responded to a call for volunteers for section officers:

Vice-Moderator: Patti Cossard, Subject Librarian for Architecture and Historic Preservation, University of Maryland  
([pcossard@umd.edu](mailto:pcossard@umd.edu))

News Coordinator: Michele Laing, head, Musagetes Architecture Library, University of Waterloo ([mlaing@library.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mlaing@library.uwaterloo.ca))

### **SAH Affiliation**

Willis noted that there was an ARLIS/NA sponsored session at the SAH conference this year. "Homes and Haunts: American Dwellers and Dwelling." The session was well attended. Willis also pointed out that Session 20: Atlanta and the Architecture of Twentieth-Century Georgia at the ARLIS/NA conference was organized by Robert Craig of SAH. Willis suggested that ARLIS/NA sponsor a session at the SAH conference every other year and seek to get SAH involved at the ARLIS/NA conferences. The SAH deadline for program proposals is at the end of the summer and Willis is interested in working with someone to put together a program for the SAH conference.

Willis reported that SAH is interested in working with the architecture section and that SAH members had noticed that there were fewer librarian members of their organization.

Willis also posed the idea of an architecture book award to be announced at the ARLIS/NA conference but given at the SAH conference. He noted that there is currently no award devoted to reference works and that publishers would be willing to pay a fee to submit entries to be considered for a book award.

### **Tours and Sessions of Note at the Conference (2007):**

Session 6: Architecture of the Old South: Low Country, Back Country and the Vernacular

Session 20: Atlanta and the Architecture of Twentieth-Century Georgia

Tour 1: The Antebellum Trail (3 houses in Madison, Georgia)

Tour 5: The Art and Architecture of Death (Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery)

Tour 7: What a Grand Old Theatre! (Atlanta's Fox Theatre)

Tour 9: Atlanta's Spectacular Courtyard Hotels

Tour 10: Ansley Park Walking Tour A

Tour 11: Ansley Park Walking Tour B

Tour 13: The Art and Architecture of Death (Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery)

### **Ideas for 2008 Tours, Workshops, and Sessions:**

- Price and Koskinen suggested urban planning as a topic or workshop theme
- Patti Cossard suggested sustainability, and noted the interdisciplinarity of the subject
- Cossard also suggested technology in architectural education

- Craig noted that Denver has work by several named architects including the new Daniel Libeskind addition to the Denver Art Museum
- Stylianopoulos suggested architectural conservation or a session on architectural innovation that would include buildings like the Libeskind addition
- Willis noted that Colorado is home to a number of paradigmatic buildings. He suggested the theme of information sources on building types, which is typically an interest of architecture students