

Architecture and Design 597D

Fall 2013

Fridays, 1 to 4 pm

History and Theory of Historic Preservation in the United States

Professor Max Page

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This class examines the history and theory of historic preservation, focusing on the United States, but with reference to traditions and practices in other countries. The class is designed to examine the largely untold history of the historic preservation movement in this country, and explore what laws, public policies and cultural attitudes shape how we preserve or do not preserve the built environment. The class will give students a grounding in the history, theory and practice of historic preservation, but is not an applied, technical course. We will not, for example, be examining in great detail the practice of building conservation and restoration.

Readings

1. Max Page and Randall Mason, *Giving Preservation a History*
2. Daniel Walkowitz and Lisa Knauer, *Memory and the Impact of Political Transformation in Public Space*
3. Jean Carroon, *Sustainable Preservation*
4. Richard Todd, *The Thing Itself: On the Search for Authenticity*

Other readings for this course are available on the web, will be distributed by email, or will be made available on our Moodle site (<https://moodle.umass.edu/course/view.php?id=11035>)

Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance and Participation

A lecture class in which one doesn't say a single word all semester might actually be enjoyable and intellectually stimulating, depending on the quality of the readings and lectures. A seminar, however, depends on the regular, informed, energetic participation of its members. I am strongly committed to encouraging everyone to participate in class discussions.

2. Questions for class:

In order to spark discussion, I would like each of you to email me, by 9 pm on Thursday before our class, a brief (no more than one page) series of questions or commentary about the topic and/or readings for that week. The weekly questions and comments will not be graded, but you must do them (i.e. **not** submitting them will affect your grade).

3. Biweekly assignments

Because we meet every other week, I have assignments for the intervening weeks. They are due by the end of the day on the Friday when we don't have class. This won't apply to the week of Thanksgiving and the final two weeks of the semester (when we meet successive weeks).

#### 4. Attendance at public lectures.

We have an ongoing historic preservation lecture series at UMass. The speakers – many are key figures in the preservation movement locally and nationally – will deliver a lecture at noon on Fridays, before our regular class meeting. Students are expected to attend the lectures if at all possible. You should also look out for a larger set of talks on architecture and cities, which will be distributed to all graduate students in our department, and can be found at [umass.edu/architecture](http://umass.edu/architecture).

#### 5. Final Paper or Project

I would like you to work in pairs to work on the following projects, or a project of your own design:

1. Nomination for a modern building on the UMass campus. Many of UMass' iconic buildings are approaching the traditional 50-year line, which would make them eligible for nomination to the National Register. Students will prepare a nomination for one or more buildings on the campus, looking into the history and making the case for preservation. Possible buildings include the Fine Arts Center, the Du Bois Library, the McGuirk Alumni Stadium, and the Campus Center.
2. The Old Chapel. UMass' most beloved historic building, the Old Chapel, is the subject of a planning process which will lead to its renovation and reuse. Students will undertake one of several possible topics in this process: proposing a way to reuse the first and second floors; suggesting how to incorporate modern elements into the historic fabric of the building; exploring how to make the building much more energy efficient while retaining its historic character.
3. Lake Wyola. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is planning to take on a number of projects related to the preservation and interpretation of the popular and historic Lake Wyola State Park in Shutesbury (25 minutes from Amherst). Working with Kevin Allen of DCR, students would undertake any number of projects to advance the department's efforts; research and documentation of the park and site; renderings of the park's buildings; proposals for new uses; and proposals for interpretive panels or other interventions.

## September 9 The Roots of Historic Preservation in the United States

Nora, "Between Memory and History," *Representations* 26 (Spring 1989), pp. 7-25.

Page and Mason, *Giving Preservation A History*, Introduction. The book is available at Food for Thought Books, on North Pleasant Street in downtown Amherst.

John Ruskin, "The Lamp of Memory," 1849 at

<http://www.archive.org/stream/1920sevenlamps0f00ruskuoft#page/184/mode/2up>

"The Lamp of Memory" begins on p. 184.

Manifesto of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 1877

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/morris/works/1877/spabman.htm>

Max Page, "All We Know of Heaven"

<http://www.architects.org/architectureboston/articles/madeleine-moments>

Rem Koolhaas, "Preservation Is Overtaking Us,"

[http://www.arch.columbia.edu/files/gsap/imceshared/aml2193/Koolhaas\\_04.pdf](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/files/gsap/imceshared/aml2193/Koolhaas_04.pdf)

Assignment to be done before class: Take the survey on engagement with the past at

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/survey/question.html>

### September 13 Assignment:

Read the following and discuss (in a two or three pages, no more) the key themes in the history of historic preservation they explore. We will follow up on this discussion on September 20.

Page and Mason, chapters 3, 4, 5, and 7

NOTE: The Guantanamo Public Memory Project touring exhibition opens on 9/11 in Herter Gallery, with a panel at 4 pm in the Bernie Dallas Room of Goodell Hall and a reception in the gallery at 5:30. Also, this Thursday, September 12, at 5:30, Daniel Brook will be speaking about his book, *A History of Future Cities*, in Hills North 105. One of the key issues is how rapidly growing cities protect, destroy, and invent their pasts.

## September 20 History, Continued....and the Process of Preservation Today

National Register evaluation guidelines & eligibility criteria

[www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html](http://www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html)

National Register, process for listing [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/listing.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/listing.htm)

National Register of Historic Places -- <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/about.htm> and

[http://www.nationaltrust.org/why\\_preserve.html?cat=7](http://www.nationaltrust.org/why_preserve.html?cat=7)

Massachusetts Historical Commission

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/statepresplan20062010webversion.pdf>

Secretary of Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/>

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 -- [www.achp.gov/NHPA.pdf](http://www.achp.gov/NHPA.pdf)

September 27 Assignment:

Examine the list of historic resources on the National and State Registers of Historic Places for your home town, and discuss what significant resources are included, and what you think have been excluded.

**October 4 The Politics of Authenticity and Integrity: The Case of Amherst and the Emily Dickinson Museum**

Guest Speaker: Jane Wald, Director of the Emily Dickinson Museum

**NOTE: We will meet at Five Colleges Inc., 97 Spring Street, in downtown Amherst (there is ample free parking) at Noon – lunch will be provided.** We will spend an hour there discussing Richard Todd’s book, before taking a tour of the Emily Dickinson Museum and meeting with the director of the Museum, Jane Wald, who will discuss the preservation and interpretation developments there. If there is time, we will take a brief walk to a few preservation sites in downtown Amherst.

Richard Todd, *The Thing Itself: On the Search for Authenticity*

National Park Service Bulletin 15 <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>

Look especially at Part VIII.

Be sure to visit the following:

[emilydickinsonmuseum.org/](http://emilydickinsonmuseum.org/)

<http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=765>

<http://www.communitypreservation.org/index.cfm>

October 11 Assignment:

Write a brief (2 -3 page paper) describing your responses to the visit to the Emily Dickinson Museum and the walk through Amherst. Bring in the readings from the week.

**October 18 Massachusetts Preservation Conference -- Lexington**

You are all strongly urged to attend this conference. We will arrange carpools.

Information is at <http://www.mapreservationconference.org/>

**October 25 Preservation and Sustainability**

I have arranged for the third Preservation and Sustainability Symposium sponsored by the UMass-HSV Preservation Program to coincide with our class on the same theme. The focus this year’s symposium is “New Innovations In Policy.” The program runs from 1 to 5 pm in Gordon Hall on North Pleasant Street, just a short distance from the Fine Arts Center.

Jean Carroon, *Sustainable Preservation*, selections

Longstreth, ed., *Sustainability and Historic Preservation: Toward a Holistic View*, selections to be distributed.

Look at the National Trust's Preservation Green Lab site: <http://bit.ly/15bEE6J>

November 1 Assignment:

Write a brief (2-3 page) commentary on the workshop and/or Jean Carroon's book, or the essays in Longstreth's, highlighting what you found most compelling.

**November 8 The Politics of Significance**

Page and Mason, chapter 8 (Bluestone)

*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, October 2005 (The Presidents House):

Tamara Gaskell Miller, Editorial; Edward Lawler, Jr. "The President's House Revisited" (<http://www.ushistory.org/presidentshouse/plans/pmhb2/index.htm>);

Visit the President's House site at <http://www.phila.gov/presidentshouse/> and

<http://www.ushistory.org/presidentshouse/index.htm>; The Civic

Engagement Initiative at <http://www.nps.gov/civic/> and the

Alison Hoagland, "Industrial Housing and Vinyl Siding: Historic Significance Flexibly Applied," in Tomlan, ed., *Preservation of What, For Whom?* (Moodle)

Apontes, "Appropriating Place in Puerto Rican Barrios Preserving Contemporary Urban Landscapes" in Alanen and Melnick, eds, *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*: (Moodle)

Max Page, "The Gerrymandered Lower East Side Historic District," *New York Daily News*, 2001 at <http://people.umass.edu/mpage/writing.html>

Guantánamo Public Memory Project Blueprint: <http://www.sitesofconscience.org/wp-content/uploads/GuantanamoBlueprint.pdf>

November 8 Assignment: All groups will submit an outline of their final project.

November 15 Assignment:

Find online a recent preservation dispute and write about the question of significance involved.

**November 22 International Perspectives: Views from Berlin, Buenos Aires, and Beyond**

Walkowitz and Knauer, eds. Yael Zerubavel, "The Politics of Remembrance and the Consumption of Space : Masada in Israeli Memory"; Czaplicka, "The Palace Ruins and Putting the Lithuanian Nation into Place: Historical Stagings in Vilnius"; Meade, "Holding the Junta Accountable: Chile's "Sitios de Memoria" and the History of Torture, Disappearance, and Death"; James Carter, "Touring Harbin's Pasts"

Alexander Stille, *The Future of the Past*, "The Culture of the Copy and the Disappearance of China's Past" (Moodle)

Wim Denslagen. "Restoration Theories, East and West." *Transactions: Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings*. v.18, 1993, pp.3-7. (Moodle)  
Please look at the Sites of Conscience website: [www.sitesofconscience.org](http://www.sitesofconscience.org)  
The Venice and Burra Charters -- [http://www.icomos.org/venice\\_charter.html](http://www.icomos.org/venice_charter.html) and  
<http://www.icomos.org/australia/burra.html>

No Weekly Assignment: (Thanksgiving next week!)

## **December 7 Preserving the Modern**

Miller and Page, *Campus Guide to the University of Massachusetts Amherst*  
Sherry and Luce, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years*  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb22/>

Max Page, "Preservation Blues: The Destruction of Maxwell Street in Chicago,"  
*Christian Science Monitor*, 2000, at maxpage.us.

Mark D. Brookstein, "When History is History: Maxwell Street, 'Integrity,' and the Failure of Historic Preservation Law," *Chicago-Kent Law Review* 76:3, 2001.  
(Moodle)

Articles about 2 Columbus Circle, New York including "Taste Matters: What to do with 2 Columbus Circle," three essays in *Preservation* Nov/December 2004. (to be distributed)

Visit <http://www.docomomo-us.org/> and especially: [http://www.docomomo-us.org/news/woodberry\\_poetry\\_room\\_docomomo\\_us\\_issues\\_statement](http://www.docomomo-us.org/news/woodberry_poetry_room_docomomo_us_issues_statement) and forum site: [http://www.docomomo-us.org/news/threatened/online\\_forum\\_aaltos\\_woodberry\\_poetry\\_room](http://www.docomomo-us.org/news/threatened/online_forum_aaltos_woodberry_poetry_room)

David N. Fixler, "The Renovation of Baker House at MIT: Modernism, Materiality, and the Factor of Intent in Preservation," *APT Bulletin*, Vol. 32, No. 2/3. (2001), pp. 3-11.

No Weekly Assignment: Work on your final projects!

## **December 13 The Future of Preservation**

Page and Mason, chapter 1 (Lowenthal) and Conclusion (Kaufman)

Hayden, *The Power of Place*, "Urban Landscape History: The Sense of Place and the Politics of Space" (Moodle)

Matthews, "Making the List," *Preservation* 50:4 (July/August 1998) (Moodle)

Readings on the World Trade Center and preservation after Hurricane Katrina will be distributed via email.