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Representative partitioning examples indicate the unusual versatility of the O'BRIEN line, bringing practical interior layouts within reach of any organization. Below: Utilizing Masonite Hardcote, general office view, Clipper Manufacturing Co.

Neville, Sharp & Simon, A.I.A., Architects
Win-Senter Construction Co.
General Contractors

Partitioning is ideal for production areas, too. Plant view of Electro Dynamics Corporation (above) indicates how partitioning of Masonite Royalcote adds beauty as well as efficiency.

Earl D. Clark, Jr., Architect
Collins Construction Co.
General Contractors

Neat and orderly individual work space for artists of Medco, Inc. is provided by maintenance-free, pre-finished Masonite Royalcote panels and anodized aluminum. (below)

Morris Schecter, A.I.A., Architects
Masters Construction Co., Inc.
General Contractors

Inviting reception areas can be created within limited space, as indicated in the example above — the offices of Mullin and Hansen, A.I.A., Architects. Materials are Masonite Royalcote Panel with combinations of glass and anodized aluminum.

A Kansas City Life Insurance Co. office features railing dividers of Tropicell with aluminum; Partitions are vinyl-covered panels.

General Contractor, John M. Fogel Construction Co.

Many square feet of valuable floor space was saved by using thin, solidly-constructed partitions at O'Hara High School. Chalk, tack and pegboards are built into the movable units.

Cooper-Carlson-Robinson, A.I.A., Architects
Folger Coffee Company added 33% more desks to their general offices by efficient partitioning that improved space utilization and work flow. Paneling is beautiful Masonite Royalcote Woodgrain.

A Kansas City Life Insurance Co. office features railing dividers of Tropicell with aluminum; Partitions are vinyl-covered panels.

General Contractor, John M. Fogel Construction Co.

Pleasing designs in combinations of colors and materials provide ideal executive offices — the example above, utilizing Masonite Hardcote, photographed at the Glen O'Brien Movable Partition Company's general offices and plant in Kansas City, Mo.

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AUGUST SEPTEMBER 1966

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Credits:
  Cover: Withers House, Missouri Town. Sidney Moore, Artist.
  Cover quotation: Albert B. Wolfe
  Special Issue Editor: John A. Huffman, Architect
  Illustration (left): Wornall House, Kansas City
"It is within the power of the legislature to determine that the community should be beautiful as well as healthy, spacious as well as clean, well balanced as well as carefully patrolled." Supreme Court of the United States, Berman v. Parker.

Various legal techniques may be used to further preservation of historic sites and buildings. Several salient factors determine which of these techniques may be appropriate for a specific project.

Ownership is one such factor. Is the property privately owned or does title rest with a branch of the government or other public body dedicated in some way to promoting the public interest?

Need is a second factor. Is the specific problem say one of acquisition, of research, or of maintenance? Or is the protection of a property from unwarranted encroachment or destructive modification of primary importance?

In general, legislation which affects the preservation of historic sites and buildings may be classified in two general categories, i.e., 1) that which protects historic properties by ensuring the maintenance of their structural and aesthetic integrity, and 2) that which provide actual financial assistance for preservation planning, capital improvements or maintenance.

Designation of a special historic district in which both new construction and the modification of existing structures, if permitted, must conform to certain aesthetic criteria, is an example of the first category of legislation, New Orleans Vieux Carre, is zoned as an historic district in which building must conform to such criteria.

Tax abatement is an example of the second category of legislation. The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities has, since 1910, been chartered to hold properties for preservation in Massachusetts free of local real estate taxes.

The following is a list of various laws and legal techniques of significance for the preservation of historic sites and buildings. Comments concerning their applicability are necessarily brief.

1) TAX ABATEMENT. In some cases, this may be granted to private as well as public owners. Certain maintenance requirements may be stipulated and often the property may not be used for profit.

2) COVENANTS. This usually requires a transfer of ownership. A preservation oriented organization may establish a corporation with a revolving fund to acquire, restore and convey historic properties. The purchaser covenants for maintenance. Such organizations have been active in New Orleans and Charleston, S. C. among other cities.

3) EMINENT DOMAIN. Where preservation of property of historical interest is considered to be of general public benefit, the state may exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire such property, or to arrange for others to acquire the same. The reverse of this is true in Massachusetts, in which both the highway department and the renewal authority are prohibited from exercising their general power of eminent domain when a property of historic interest is "owned, preserved and maintained by any historical organization of society", unless the state legislature grants special authority for the taking of such property.

4) ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. Beginning in 1933 the service conducts the Historic American Building Inventory Survey which designates some 6400 buildings throughout the country as historically significant.

Established in 1960, the Registry of National Historic Landmarks is concerned with sites of exceptional value in either private or semi-private ownership. 400 or more have so far been selected. The owners of these sites receive a certificate from the Secretary of the Interior and a bronze plaque upon agreeing as a condition to display the plaque, to preserve so far as is practicable the historical integrity of the property and to use it only for purposes compatible with its historical character.

5) THE HISTORIC DISTRICT. Within a certain boundary, controls are established to regulate new construction and the modification of existing structures. The controls aim at preserving appearance without change in ownership and use "where the setting is important as well as the buildings." Frequently "controls deal only with features open to public view from a street, and cover paving, fences and signs as well as buildings."

The legal basis of such controls vary from state to state as do the extent and details of the controls themselves. Usually a commission is established to review plans and issue a certificate of appropriateness.

In 1959, the Missouri Legislature amended certain zoning statutes so as to give municipal legislative bodies power to make certain zoning regulations to preserve features of historical significance. (V.A.M.S. Sec. 89.020, Sec. 89.040)

These laws have been held specifically to give a city of the third class the power to enact zoning ordinances providing for an historical area. (Op. Atty. Gen. No. 212, Dames, 9-14-65).

Richard F. Adams, Attorney-at-Law

Original U.S. Capitol design, Robert Mills, Architect, 1850.
WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is proud to have within its boundaries an enviable number of historic landmarks from Fort Washington on the east to Gerry’s Landing on the west; and

WHEREAS: The preservation of historic sites is a matter of importance to the City, the Commonwealth and the Nation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: There is hereby established under the provisions of Chapter 40 C of the General Laws, as inserted by Chapter 372 of the Acts of 1960, an Historic District Study Committee consisting of five members subject to confirmation by the City Council.

The above excerpt from an ordinance introduced by Mayor Edward A. Crane to the City Council of Cambridge, Massachusetts in April, 1961, illustrates the orderly means by which one municipality, enabled by an appropriate state law, undertook the initial survey of historic sites and buildings located within its boundaries.

In June, 1962, the Historic Districts Study Committee submitted its final report to the City Council. The report recommended four actions of general interest to preservationists:

1) A comprehensive survey of all buildings and sites within the city to establish their historic and architectural merit. The survey would be coupled with a procedure for the review and control of proposed modification to any site or building found to be of exceptional historic or architectural significance;

2) A publicity program consisting of markers, improved maps and brochures, and the construction of a visitors center which would house a model of the city circa 1775;

3) Revision of a proposed urban renewal plan to better accen­tu­ate a major historical landmark. For the future it was suggested that a continuous advisory body be established to provide the urban renewal authority and all local institutions with information on historic sites and buildings in Cambridge and urge developments compatible with these sites and buildings;

4) Designation of four Historic Districts. One such area, the Fayerweather—Lee Historic District, is partially described as follows:

“The proposed Fayerweather-Lee Historic District extends from Fayerweather Street to Riedesel Avenue along the north side of Brattle Street, and include all or parts of fourteen houses. The Marrett-Ruggles-Fayerweather House at the west end, the Lee-Nichols House near the center, and the Thomas Lee House near the east end are exceptionally fine examples of 18th century domestic architecture and of national significance. The two first named, and the Lechmere-Sewall-Riedesel House at the east end had interesting pre- Revolutionary and Revolutionary histories. . . . The other houses although not as exceptional architecturally or historically include several excellent architectural examples and form a suitable environment, and are mutually enhancing with the others. They include the home of John Bartlett, famous for his “Quotations”. The group is more significant as a whole than separately, and Historic District controls will assure maintenance and perhaps eventual improvement of the suitability of the setting.”

Fayerweather-Lee Historic District
Historic preservation, as defined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is a well-rounded program of scientific research and study, protection, restoration, maintenance and the interpretation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
A structure or area should have outstanding historical and cultural significance in the nation or in the state, region, or community in which it exists. Such significance is found in:

1) Historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state or community is best exemplified, and from which the visitor may grasp in three-dimensional form one of the larger patterns of the American heritage.

2) Structures or areas that are identified with the lives of historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state or local history.

3) Structures or areas that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type-specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period-style or method of construction; or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age. Mere antiquity is not sufficient basis for selection of a structure for permanent preservation, but can be a factor if other more significant examples have disappeared or if the building forms part of an especially characteristic section of a given community. Smaller structures, such as the first squared-log cabins or the sod houses of the pioneers, may be as important relatively as the mansions of the past.

4) Structures or sites of archaeological interest that contribute to the understanding of aboriginal man in America.

SUITABILITY
Preference should be given to those structures or sites where there is a preponderance of original material or other physical remains which have retained their integrity. (Integrity is a composite quality derived from original workmanship, original location, and intangible elements of feeling and association.) Repair or restoration of original elements or reconstruction of a building long destroyed demand high professional standards of historical and scientific techniques. Generally speaking, it is better to preserve than repair, better to repair than restore, better to restore than reconstruct.

Property boundaries adequate to protect the essential historical or cultural values of the project should be obtained at the outset if possible.

Other important practical considerations are accessibility to the public; encroachments by business, industry, housing, and traffic; availability of fire and police protection and of essential utilities.

Since all historic structures significant enough to warrant preservation cannot support themselves as historic museums regularly open to the public, adaptation to other possible uses should be considered. It is essential, however, no matter what the proposed use, that every effort should be made to preserve those elements which account for the significance of a particular structure.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE
The primary purpose in preserving a structure as a historic museum is public use and enjoyment. Each project should have a place in the national, state or local programs for the preservation of historic sites or buildings and should be coordinated with all similar projects in its area to increase its usefulness as an educational force.

COST
The cost of restoration or reconstruction and of subsequent adequate maintenance and interpretation should not be beyond the means of the sponsors. A well-considered plan should contemplate that the project be fully endowed or potentially self-sustaining.
Missouri Town—1855 exemplifies the preservation of historic buildings by relocating them on suitable sites safe from modern encroachments.

This preservation technique has been applied in other locations, such as Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts and Upper Canada Village, Ontario, and has the advantage of juxtaposing several historic buildings in an interpretive surrounding.

In slightly more than two years, the rustic Missouri Town—1855 grew from an idea formulated by the Jackson County Historical Society and others who were alarmed by the number of buildings being torn down in the name of progress. At present, the town consists of the site with four houses, a church, cabin, chicken house and shed, all completed or under construction.

Before any building is torn down, it is meticulously numbered, photographed, sketched, and measured. As the house is dismantled—like an onion, layer by layer—the detective work and research pays off. All alterations are discovered, on the site or by research through old letters, bills of repair, and newspaper articles. A decision is reached and the building is assigned a site that is suitable to the general plan and—this is important—it is given the direction and similarity of site the building originally had. Because of this attention to detail, the building appears to be on its original site. All structures are made as authentic as possible; other buildings are razed for their logs, timbers, bricks, and foundation stones.

From observations of other restorations, an apparent common mistake is to use present-day materials. For example, we have seen structures erected on concrete blocks, built with plaster-board walls, and roofed with asphalt tab shingles; the list of past mistakes is endless and we have made our share. From experience we have learned one must proceed slowly in order to control the workmen and to achieve the desired results.

To be successful in the historical field, there must be a cooperative effort by the historian, architectural historian, interested laymen, and the professional recreation and park administrator. Research and attention to detail are the keys to success.

The recreation possibilities are unlimited; besides the educational living village aspect, there are opportunities for crafts, dances, games of the period, gardens, animals, nature trails, and historical pageants.

William L. Landahl
Director of Parks, Jackson County, Missouri
CASE III:
The Wornall House

Wornall House built in 1858.

Second floor plan, Wornall House.

First floor plan, Wornall House.

Balcony detail, Wornall House.
"The story of the Wornall House at 61st Street and Wornall Road in Kansas City, which has been acquired by the Jackson County Historical Society as the first house museum within the city, is the story of the Southern settlement in the State of Missouri. It is the story of numberless emigrants of second and third generation Virginia and Kentucky families who brought with them a background of gracious living and religious responsibility, together with a combination of ambition and industry which helped them build for themselves and their children out of the wilderness and opportunity of a new land, a life that was even better than that which their parents had known."


The Wornall House built in 1858, was acquired by the Jackson County Historical Society in 1964 for restoration as an historic house museum "to add to the appreciation of the American heritage by demonstrating patterns of domestic architecture and of daily life developed in western Missouri by early settlers from Kentucky."

Many persons and organizations have devoted their efforts toward the objective, beginning with a $12,000 donation toward the purchase price realized through the Bacchus ball. Present work is being directed by a committee consisting of Mr. Milton F. Perry, curator of the Truman Library, Mr. Ross E. Taggart, senior curator of the Nelson Gallery, Mrs. Katherine Taggart, and Dr. John Baumgardt, until recently director of the Loose Park Garden Center. Mr. John A. Huffman is project architect.

Mr. Perry is directing archeological research at the site and has prepared a comprehensive plan for visitor arrangements and interpretation of the restored structure. Mr. Taggart will serve as furnishings consultant to the Historical Society and the several organizations which have already indicated their willingness to support the restoration by contributing appropriate period furniture and interior decoration.

Mrs. Taggart has prepared a draft report on the history of the house, the Wornall family and daily life in Westport prior to the Civil War. This report, amended as additional material becomes available, will provide material for lectures and for guided tours of the house.

Dr. Baumgardt is charged with the task of preparing a landscape plan which will interpret the house as the center of what was once a 500 acre farm. Mr. Huffman is directing actual restoration work and will develop a continuing maintenance program for the restored structure.

To date, intensive archeological investigation of the grounds and suspected modifications of the house fabric have been conducted by a research team, furnished by the University of Missouri and headed by Mr. Robert T. Bray, director of the Lyman Archeological Research Center, Miami, Missouri.

Major restoration work, including the installation of new mechanical systems appropriate to the restoration objective, will be accomplished in the early fall, 1966.
Interpretation of Historic Sites and Buildings

Successful interpretation of an historical restoration is as important as careful restoration itself. Indeed, as many historic sites have been spoiled by faulty interpretation as by poor research and workmanship. Technically, the fundamental reason for accurate restoration is eventual interpretation to the public.

Successful interpretation demands careful, accurate research; intensive training of qualified personnel and diligent on-site traffic planning. The furnishing of historic structures is a more significant interpretative device than any other, for much of good interpretation is self-explanatory. In fact, many of our most successful restorations are almost solely self-explanatory, employing only carefully designed traffic patterns, leaflets and a few judiciously placed signs. However, one should be careful with the use of signs—they must be kept at the absolute minimum, be aesthetically pleasing and the wording succinct.

Leaflets are the most widely used interpretative devices next to signs and labels. They should also be the result of much care and research. The text should be accurate and easily understood. Paper quality, type faces, illustrations and designs should be chosen for the greatest impact.

Trained guides are more desirable in some cases. More historic sites go wrong with their guides than with any other interpretative method. We have all visited historic sites whose guides actually repelled us. They were poorly informed, or worse, ill-informed and related obvious half-truths, legends or impossible statements; they were too “folksy”; they were abrupt or ill-tempered, or obviously bored; they recited; their use of language was poor; their appearance was slovenly or too modern or, if in costume, it was not authentic or was mixed with modern anachronisms. Good guide service can be provided but it demands careful selection of personnel, intensive training and much practice. Guides should avoid recitation and should speak in conversational tones; their command of language should be good, but not above the visitor’s; they should be pleasant and cheerful, show interest in the subject and the visitors and encourage questions.

Costumes should be authentic and no cigarette smoking or gum chewing allowed. The material given guides should be well researched and clear.

Various electronic and mechanical devices are being used in all types of museums. They should not be considered as replacements for human guides, but as a supplement. Various types of tape recorders and radio receivers now give visitors prepared commentaries on exhibits.

From the museum point of view such devices can be very successful. They can enhance the enjoyment and understanding of exhibits and buildings, and voices of inhabitants or famous personalities be used to good effect. However, the devices make it difficult to change exhibits for new recordings must be made. Finally, they require some sort of security arrangement to insure their return.

No museum in our immediate area has yet adapted these devices, though practically all are using audio components in connection with certain exhibits. In Independence, Mr. Truman’s voice describes the reproduction of the President’s Office, and at Lone Jack, Missouri, the animated battle map at the Civil War Museum of Jackson County tells its story with a voice, music, and changing lights.

Orientation movies and tape-slide programs are often seen and should be a part of every restoration. They present the story of the site, identify those who lived or worked there, describe the restoration story and fit the place into the historical picture. The National Parks, Colonial Williamsburg, and other first class institutions employ such devices. They need not be complicated but should be done with a professional flair and equipment. No restoration can be called complete without this kind of interpretation in view of the talent available to produce them.

Interpretative plans should be made at the time restoration plans are begun and the research, working and selection of equipment should be continued apace. Interpretation must be given equal importance in any restoration. Failure to do so will be readily apparent.

Milton F. Perry, Museum Curator
Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Missouri
NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Herbert E. Duncan, Jr.
President
Kansas City Chapter
American Institute of Architects

In April of 1965, New York City adopted a landmark preservation law. Through March of 1966, the resulting Commission had considered some 234 buildings for designation as historic landmarks. Buildings so designated cannot be torn down or substantially changed without the approval of the Commission.

New York City is only one of some 70 American cities that have laws related to the preservation of historic buildings and monuments.

A landmark by New York law is a building "at least 30 years old which has a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the design, patrimony, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation."  

The conflict of public interference with the private right of an individual to sell his property is a major problem to a landmark commission. Several New York property owners have opposed the designation of their buildings as landmarks. The Commission has been most successful when it has worked to find a constructive use for a landmark structure threatened with destruction. The Astor Library is such a building. It is now the home of the New York Shakespeare Festival, a use in keeping with the architecture and arrived at without a financial loss to the former owner.

A Landmark Commission has two tasks. The first is the selection of landmark buildings. Certain types are obvious choices. Buildings record the continuing history of any Community, and the better examples of early buildings should be noted. Many buildings have an unusual architectural importance. Some can be converted to modern use while adding charm to a section of a City, as was done at Georgetown in Washington, D.C.

The second task is the protection of designated landmark buildings. This is considerably more difficult and requires public understanding of the work of the Commission.

Mr. Don Hoffman, Art Editor of the Kansas City Star, has suggested the need for a Landmarks Commission in our own City. In our age of accelerated change, the best of our past should be preserved for future generations. This will not happen by itself. There are few examples of public indignation at the loss of historic neighborhood areas. They arise only when the change is an outrage to a Community. The Citizens of San Francisco recently lost 200 million dollars of government aid by refusing to allow the completion of a proposed freeway along the world famous waterfront of that City.

No existing group in Kansas City could serve as a landmarks authority. Such a Commission must have specialists in the history of the Community and its Architecture. Each member must have a particular interest in this work. The Jackson County Historical Society has many such individuals. Their work at the Wornall Home will create an attraction to tourists as well as Kansas Citians who are proud of their early history. There is considerable difference, however, between the work of such a group and a landmark preservation Commission established and supported by law.

The Kansas City Chapter AIA has already taken a major step toward assisting the early work of a Landmarks Commission. The Historic Buildings Committee, under the direction of City Architect Ken Coombs, has completed an initial study of some 42 landmark buildings in Kansas City. It is our intention to publish this report with the recommendation that City Officials consider the establishment of a Landmarks Commission. The least that can be accomplished is a presentation to the public of the notable historic buildings in the area. It is hoped that the Kansas City Star will assist the Chapter in publishing the work of this Committee.

Dr. George Ehrlich is the Head of the Department of Art at UMKC. He recently spoke to a group concerned with the preservation of Historic Buildings. His comments included work on older buildings but he also had an interesting thought concerning our lack of awareness of new buildings. He suggested that some 25 years from now a high speed trafficway may be proposed for the Penn Valley hill. Engineers would consider the BMA building expendable with the same logic employed by government in proposing the destruction of the San Francisco waterfront.

The BMA building is one of the few Kansas City buildings to receive national recognition by the AIA or any other design oriented organization. It was given an AIA first honor award for design in 1964, and will remain a good example of American Architecture in the middle of the Twentieth Century.

No present law of our City is specifically designed to protect this building or any other building for reason of "special character or aesthetic value to the heritage" of Kansas City. It is time to consider the need for this type of legislation.


Herbert E. Duncan, Jr.
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(associate)

JOHN LAWRENCE DAW, A.I.A.
John Lawrence Daw, A.I.A.
JOHN DAW APPOINTED ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT to Public Housing Administration, Washington, D.C. to serve in the United States and Puerto Rico. A.I.A. member Daw is a member of the Lay Advisory Board, St. Joseph's Hospital; member of the Lateran Commission Catholic Diocese; Public Works Officer of U.S. Naval Training Center, St. Joseph; and Honorary Director of Rockhurst College.

A.I.A. MEMBER COMMENTS REQUESTED. Effective with the October/November issue, a new column, MEMBER COMMENTS, will be initiated. This will be devoted exclusively to remarks by A.I.A. members regarding items of interest to other members. Everyone is encouraged to send in their comment well in advance of the October 15 closing so we can properly allow for space. Please keep material as brief and to the point as possible to allow for maximum participation. All comments must be signed and the writers name included in the SKYLINES copy.

PARKVILLE STUDENT RECEIVES A.I.A. SCHOLARSHIPS. Donald Craig Morris of Parkville, an undergraduate student at the University of Kansas School of Architecture received a $400 Desco International Scholarship and a $100 Waid Scholarship. He also received both scholarships last year. The Desco grant is one of four given annually by applicators of Desco coatings, and the Waid grant comes from the Waid Fund established by Dan Everett Waid. Both scholarships are administered by the A.I.A.

ARCHITECTURAL LIBRARY A REALITY. The efforts of the Producers' Council to establish an "Architectural Collection" at the Library of the University of Missouri at Kansas City has become a reality. On April 21, PC representatives presented the first annual contribution to Dr. K. L. LaBudde, Director of Libraries, which will be used for the purchase of new architectural books selected by the AIA Chapter. The AIA Chapter presented an equal amount to perpetuate and build this valuable contribution to the profession. The PC further pledged their time and efforts towards the collection of architectural libraries of retired or deceased architects. The library will be available to architects, architectural students and prospective architects. We invite your assistance in locating any architectural books. For further information on donations of books or memorials, contact Bill Conrad or Dave Brey of AIA or Bob Koob or Chuck Nelson of PC.

NEW PRODUCTS LUNCHEON. The Country Club Chapter of PC will have their New Products Table-top Luncheon on Wednesday, October 5th, where architects and engineers can informally see the "what's new" products of the industry. More information will follow but be sure to mark your calendar now.

REGIONAL CONVENTION, WICHITA, KANSAS. The Country Club Chapter of PC will have their New Products Table-top Luncheon on Wednesday, October 5th, where architects and engineers can informally see the "what's new" products of the industry. More information will follow but be sure to mark your calendar now.

The Country Club Chapter of PC will assume a prominent role in the Regional AIA Convention, Wichita, November 2, 3, 4 and 5. They will supervise the exhibition booth space rental and sponsor a buffet luncheon. Architects from the Kansas City Area are urged to attend the convention.
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