

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
AWARDS
BOOKSHOP
CAST COLLECTION
CHAPTERS
MEMBERSHIP
PUBLICATIONS
PUBLIC EVENTS
TRAVEL

Home
Upcoming Events
Calendar
News
Bulletin Board
Resources
Mission
People
Contact Us

On this page: Current News For More News Announcements

THE INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE & CLASSICAL AMERICA

NEWS OF THE INSTITUTE

On this Page: Announcements Current News For More News

Announcements

Southeast Chapter Announces the Shutze Awards

View photos from recent Rome/Naples drawing tour

ICA&CA Joins Forces with Habitat for Humanity

Call for Volunteers

Mayor Bloomberg Announces ICA&CA Day in New York City

Charlotte Chapter Hosts Fantastic Tour of the Biltmore Estate!

ICA&CA Announces Launch of Online Classical Architecture Handbook

ICA&CA Affiliates with TradArch Listserv

ICA&CA Launches Classicist Blog

Institute Announces 2006 Arthur Ross Awards Winners

Are you interested in teaching at the Institute?

ICA&CA and Hurricane Katrina Efforts

Katrina and The Mississsippi Renewal Charrette

Victor Deupi Appointed Director of Education

The Institute for Traditional Architecture merges with the ICA&CA - PDF (What is a PDF?)

Boston Architecture Council

Current News Fall 2006

Message from the President

The Institute is pleased to announce the launch of a major new educational initiative conceived to further its mission of advancing the practice and appreciation of the classical tradition in architecture, urbanism, and the allied arts. It is made possible by a leadership grant from the Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund with the guidance of ICA&CA trustee and New York artist Jacob Collins. With the advent of the Fall 2006 academic semester, classes for artists are now under way.

The Grand Central Academy of Art (GCA) at the ICA&CA is operating in a 2,700-square foot suite of studios on the sky-lit sixth floor of our national headquarters in the landmark General Society building. It heralds a comprehensive program of instruction devoted to painting and drawing with an evolving curriculum conceived as a mutually-reinforcing complement to ongoing architectural, urban planning and related design, and fine arts instruction. The historic plaster casts

collection received by the ICA&CA from the Metropolitan Museum of Art constitutes a compelling daily resource for rigorous observation just as they enrich the core architectural program. (The new teaching facility and space has allowed the arrival of additional casts previously held in storage. Included among them are the Diadoumenos, the Diskobolos and Crouching Aphrodite, all which had been on loan to New York's Dahesh Museum, now closing as it looks for a permanent location.)

Concurrent with the Academy's launch, the board has approved the formation of a new academic committee specifically dedicated to the allied arts and charged with defining ways that existing course offerings, as well as new initiatives made with the Academy as contextual resource, will help ensure that this vital aspect of the classical tradition assumes a growing and well-integrated share of Institute pedagogy both in New York and at chapter locations.

The faculty consists of professional, exhibiting artists offering classical training for students intent on making the fine arts their career. It establishes an effective environment for classical, progressive instruction of painting and drawing.

The Academy's curriculum is designed around a three-year, full-time intensive Program. Students devote their time and disciplined study to learning the fundamental and advanced concepts and skills of drawing and painting from both the antique and direct observation. During this three-year Intensive Program, students will be working in a systematic, organized environment with the handson guidance of the school's instructors. They will be immersed in studies that ensure an objective understanding of visual phenomenon and the classical principles of form, design, practice, and discipline. Evening and weekend classes will also be offered for artists of varying skills and backgrounds along with special symposia and public lectures on related themes and topics including the humanistic impulses that enliven classicism.

Central to the Institute's embrace of the GCA is a long-held belief that the convergence of fine art and architecture has been unnecessarily severed and that the GCA initiative provides an additional way to draw from cultural memory in reconstituting it. Along with past programming both public and academic, the Academy further re-establishes an understanding of classical art inextricably tied to classical architecture.

In response to my question about his founding impulse, Jacob Collins said, "There are many practitioners today across the country and in Europe who have been attempting this revival of classical training. Mostly, they start out with an artist taking on a few students. Sometimes these efforts evolve into actual small schools. However, the major American institutions of art have not participated in this change. In fact, there is no existing art institution of any real scale that offers a program in classical art or that supports the classical or traditional art movement."

Collins continues, "There are a growing number of commercial art galleries devoted to the careers of classical realists. Many of their clients live in New York. There is also a large community of painters and sculptors here who are contributing to this evolving art world. But there is no institutional center for these artists. An art school devoted to aesthetic refinement, patience, skills developed to the very highest level, beauty, proportion, and a classical humanist optimism will fill this pedagogical void. The time has come for artists to come together to develop a real aesthetic philosophy for this revival of the classical tradition in painting. It could motivate a dormant passion in many artists and patrons in America. But, more importantly, it is a chance to train artists."

"The board, staff, and growing national constituency of the Institute wholeheartedly and gratefully acknowledge the Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund for making possible this auspicious new cornerstone of the Institute's academic program," said Arthur Ross Director of Education Victor Deupi. "The Academy's advent would not have been possible without the example made by our Honorary Chairman, Arthur Ross, in leading the way to create our national headquarters and building organizational capacity. We are pleased to welcome the first students and urge Institute members and friends to stop by for a personal inspection as that best reveals its purpose and potential."

The first class of 15 students, who have been selected through portfolio submission, have demonstrated a serious work ethic and a sincere desire to make the fine arts their career. More information about the Academy, and in particular its Intensive Program, is posted at www.classicist.org/grandcentralacademy/index.html. And as always we are at your call to answer questions and tell you more.

Sincerely,

Paul Gunther President



The delivery in July of the plaster cast of Dadoumenous stopped traffic on West 44th Street.

March is John F. Staub Month

Over the weekend of March 23–26, 2006, an enthusiastic group participated in the ICA&CA and Classical Excursions travel program, John F. Staub's Houston. At the opening dinner on March 23, Gilbert P. Schafer III, ICA&CA chairman, accepted a Houston city proclamation from architect and city-councilmember-atlarge, the Honorable Peter H. Brown. The proclamation recognizes the ICA&CA and decrees the month of March as John F. Staub Month in honor of his mid-20th-century vision of Houston as a garden city. Stephen Fox, architectural historian, and Susan B. Keeton, Houston landscape historian, led the sold out tour.

Inaugural Event for Tennessee Chapter

On September 7, 2006, ICA&CA board member David M. Schwarz presented a special tour and lecture for ICA&CA members at Nashville's new Schermerhorn Symphony Center (see image below), which was designed by David M. Schwarz/Architectural Services, Inc. The September 7 event served as the inaugural activity for a nascent Tennessee Chapter of the ICA&CA. This preview of the center given by the design architect was followed by a rehearsal concert by the Nashville Symphony as it prepares for the opening. Mr. Schwarz generously gave his time to help kick off the fledgling chapter, which had the first organizational meeting this summer to begin choosing officers, adopting bylaws, and securing state incorporation.



The Nashville Schermerhorn Symphony Center is shown here nearing completion. Photo by Anita Blake.

Plaster Cast Cataloging Progess

On-line cataloging of the Metropolitan Plaster Cast Collection continues apace. So far, completed text has been written for ten pieces including the Parthenon Metopes and Frieze and the Ara Pacis Augustae. ICA&CA members are encouraged to contribute researched and erudite descriptions of any of the casts in our collection. To find out more about participating contact Paul Gunter pwg@classicist.org, or to see examples of text already written, visit the on-line-catalog.

INTBAU Conference in Venice, November 2006

In November 2006, INTBAU presents a conference in Venice, Italy, entitled "The Venice Charter Revisited: Modernism and Conservation in the Post-War World." The Venice Charter is a document from 1964 that sets out to define the responsibility of nations to safeguard cultural heritage for future generations. This conference aims to examine whether the Venice Charter is still relevant in the 21st century and if not, how it might be amended.

Anne Fairfax will present a paper about revisioning Marion Square in Charleston; Steven Semes and Richard Sammons also will present a paper about the physical and intellectual value of architectural restoration. For more information about the conference contact Dr. Matthew Hardy, Secretary, INTBAU, matthew.hardy@princes-foundation.org or visit www.intbau.org/venicecharter.htm.

The Baltimore Basilica to re-open after Renovation

After an exacting, years-long renovation respectful of the master's original intent, Benjamin Henry Latrobe's Baltimore Basilica will be rededicated this fall. The ICA&CA Mid-Atlantic Chapter is currently working on details to offer our members a unique preview tour. Watch for the announcement.

Exhibit: New Classicism

Elizabeth Dowling, professor at Georgia Tech and member of the ICA&CA Council of Advisors, and Anne Fairfax of Fairfax & Sammons and ICA&CA board of trustees, are curating a traveling exhibit called "New Classicism." Based on Professor Dowling's book, New Classicism (Rizzoli, 2004), the exhibit is intended to educate the general public, students of architecture, educators, and practicing architects I several ways.

First, the exhibit will expose the viewing audience to a wide range of contemporary classical design including residential, commercial, and civic design. It will illustrate the availability of craftsmen who produce traditional ornament and it will demonstrate how traditional building materials are cost effective and intrinsically sustainable. Second, the work of largely self-educated designers will demonstrate the positive value of returning time-honored architectural knowledge to architectural curricula. By providing access to traditional design knowledge, the quality of all forms of architecture can improve and lively dialog ensue. Third, the exhibit will demonstrate alternatives to Post Modern abstractions of classical design. Please visit www.newclassicismexhibit.typepad.com for more information.

Harrison Design Associates Presented with 2006 Urban Design Award of Excellence

In July of 2006, The Atlanta Urban Design Commission recognized architectural firm Harrison Design Associates with a 2006 Urban Design Award of Excellence in New Construction for The Row Houses within the historic Inman Park neighborhood of Atlanta. Without a history of older townhouse architecture in Atlantic from which to draw, Harrison Design Associates worked closely with general contractors Brunning & Stang, and developers, Lake Avenue & Associates, LLC to determine the most appropriate architectural vision for this particular redevelopment project on 20 acres within Inman Park. With The Row Houses, Harrison Design Associates sets a new precedent for historically influenced townhouse design within the city.

Jeanne Heath Joins ICA&CA Staff

The ICA&CA welcomes Jeanne Heath who joins the staff as the School Coordinator for the Grand Central Academy of Art. Jeanne began the significant task of registering students, processing applications, and setting up general operations on August 1 and we are delighted to have her on board.

Save the Date - ICA&CA Holiday Cocktail Party!

Friday, December 8, 2006, 6-8 pm. See Public/Holiday Party for more details.

ICA&CA Chapter News

Southern California

The Southern California Chapter meeting in April featured five notable architects

who presented their work: Marc Appleton (Appleton & Associates), Erik Evens (KAA Design Group), Steve Giannetti (Giannetti Architects), Richardson Robertson III (Robertson Partners Architects), and Robert Sinclair (Sinclair Associates Architects). At the May chapter meeting, three highly regarded professionals in the design community presented their work: designer Chris Barrett, architect and landscape designer Damon Hein, and designer James Swan.

The Spring Lecture Series began in April with Lynette Proler, an expert in garden antiquities, who did a presentation, "The Renaissance of the American Garden." Architect Richardson Robertson did a presentation entitled, "The Future of Classical Architecture in Los Angeles: The New Beaux Arts." The last talk of the series featured interior designer Thomas Callaway, who discussed how the historical past influenced his designs for modern life in his presentation, "Period Style for Contemporary Living." Additionally, Domiane Forte taught his popular course, "Introduction to Architectural Field Sketching and Water Color."

In May, the Southern California Chapter hosted a lecture and book signing with designer Martin Wood who presented his latest book, Nancy Lancaster: English Country House and Garden. The Decorative Arts Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Royal Oak Foundation co-sponsored this event.

The chapter looks forward to many upcoming events this fall. A seminar by Michael Kallar, "Creating Dynamic Architectural Photos" will be offered and the fall classes will include "Beginner and Intermediate Architectural Field Sketching and Watercolor," "Interior Detailing in the Classical Tradition," "Designing Floors and Ceilings in the Classical Tradition," "Shades and Shadows for the Practitioner," and "Elements of Exterior Architecture."

In addition, the chapter will be conducting two home tours, including an estate inspired by the Caroline and Georgian periods of English Architecture. The fall Lecture Series will include Nancy Goslee Powers, who will present "The Classical Garden: Back to Basics;" Richard Sammons, "Palladio in America: Thomas Jefferson and His Legacy;" and Richard Manion, "The Literature of Classical Architecture."

Lastly, the chapter is proud to announce that the Web site is up and running! Please visit www.classicist-socal.org. For more information, please contact Chapter Coordinator Diane Sipos at 310-396-4379 or diane@classicist-social.org.



Southern California Chapter President Chris Barrett introduces Richardson Robertson, III at his lecture for the spring Lecture Series.

Northern California

The Northern California Chapter is pleased to announce the following events for fall 2006:

Saturday, September 30

Tour of Julia Morgan Houses-East Bay

Tour highlights include the Williams House (1928), the former residence of the Vice- Chancellors of the University of California Berkeley, and a 1915 cottage built for two doctors and the Berkeley City Women's Club. The tour begins at the Berkeley City Club; 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm; the fee is \$50. Please call 415-445-6700 right away to reserve your place as space limited to twenty participants.

Thursday, October 5

Lecture on Warren and Wetmore by Peter Pennoyer and Anne Walker Location TBA; reception at 6:00 pm, lecture at 6:30 pm. Admission is \$35 for non-members, \$25 for members. Call 415-445-6700 to reserve.

Thursday, November 2 Special Event!

Please join the Northern California Chapter and designer Mario Buatta at The Carolands to celebrate the upcoming publication of the book, "Carolands" (Acanthus Press). The reception begins at 6:00 pm at The Carolands, 565 Remillard Drive, Hillsborough, California. Admission TBD. For more information and to reserve call 415-445-6700.

Built between 1912 and 1915 at then an astonishing total cost of \$3,000,000, The Carolands Chateau has been unoccupied for much of its existence. The design and construction were commissioned by Harriet Pullman Carolan, heiress to the Pullman sleeping car fortune. Harriet Pullman Carolan, born in 1869, was the daughter of George Pullman, the 19th century American industrialist who became the wealthiest man in Chicago after he created the Pullman Palace railway car. Perhaps because her father was the very inventor of modern "luxury" or "first class" travel, Harriet Pullman came to expect perfection and beauty in her surroundings; her particular taste was in all things French.

The mansion originally occupied a 544-acre plot of land, situated at the highest local geographical point in order to "look down on the Hearsts and surpass the Crockers." The exterior was inspired by the 17th century designs of Mansart, while the interior was constructed by noted San Francisco architect Willis Polk, who was working from the designs of landscape architect Achilles Duchene and the renowned French designer Ernest Sanson.

For further information about all upcoming events and the chapter, please email lcancc@aol.com or phone 415-445-6700.

Charleston

The Charleston Chapter is currently in the process of gathering likeminded folks together to brainstorm about future plans. If you are in the Charleston area and would like to participate, please contact Ralph Muldrow at muldrow@cofc.edu.

Charlotte

On May 6, members and guests of the Charlotte Chapter traveled to Asheville, North Carolina for a day of specially tailored tours of George Washington Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate, which was the recipient of the 2005 Arthur Ross Award for Stewardship. Working closely with members of the Biltmore Estate staff, the chapter planned a day that provided an in-depth, detailed look into the design, construction, and preservation of one of America's greatest homes, self-sustaining farms, and conservation areas.

The group was greeted in front of the estate's main house by Mr. Rick King, Vice President of Biltmore House and Gardens and Mr. Rick Conrad, Director of Engineering. With over 35 years of combined experience at the Biltmore Estate, Mr. King and Mr. Conrad were a wealth of knowledge for not just the history of the house and its family, but also its construction, design, materials, and requiredmaintenance. As Mr. King led the way through the amazing 255-room mansion that was designed by Richard Morris Hunt, it became clear that the tour was more about the home itself and less about its legacy and name. The design of the house, the modern features that were incorporated into it, the native materials used to build it, and the extensive amount of preservation and maintenance work were the stars of the day. For a full report on the tour, written by chapter member and tour coordinator Elizabeth Condrick, please visit www.classicist.org/chapters.

More recently, in early July, the chapter hosted a reception for members and guests at the Duke Mansion, the Charlotte home of industrialist and philanthropist James Buchanan Duke. The reception preceded a slide presentation "John Nolen and the Design of Myers Park" by Dr. Tom Hanchett, staff historian at the Levine Museum of the New South. This presentation coincided with the Museum's traveling exhibition on town planner and landscape architect John Nolen, which is on display through August at the Mansion. After the talk, William Scott White, Charlotte landscape designer and ICA&CA member, led a tour of the Mansion's grounds and gardens. Thanks go to exhibit underwriter Crosland, Inc. and to the Duke Mansion for their gracious hospitality.

Also during the summer ICA&CA members Morrison Brown, ASID; James S. Collins, architect; and Charles Furman McLarty, architect and Charlotte Chapter president, presented "Classical Sources: The Essentials," a panel discussion on ten books each presenter finds essential in his practice. Coming up on Wednesday, October 11, the chapter is delighted to join with the American Society of Interior Designers, Carolinas Chapter, to present noted designer and author Martin Wood, who will talk about the subject of his recent book, Nancy Lancaster: English Country House Style. A reception and book signing will follow Mr. Wood's lecture at Aymar Embury's beautiful 1930s Charlotte Country Club.

For reservations for this event and more information about the Charlotte Chapter please call 704-602-4894 or email charlotteclassicist@yahoo.com. Other programs being developed for the fall include classes on Architectural Literacy and on the Orders. Details to be announced.

For more information and photos, visit the Biltmore tour page.



Charlotte Chapter of ICA&CA takes a tour of the Biltmore Estate.

Florida (in formation)

For information about the Florida Chapter please contact Geoffrey Mouen Architects at 321-939-0470 or email geoffrey@geoffreymouenarchitects.com.

Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter had a very busy spring starting off with a tour of the White House organized by Milton Grenfell. The Spring Semester academic program, orchestrated by Tiffany Burke, included lectures by Al Holm on the Ionic Order and by Steve Bass on Proportion. Calder Loth's class on Architectural Literacy was sold out and a series of drawing classes was offered by Michael Curtis. Thomas Noble, who recently left Washington DC for New York, led a tour of Arlington National Cemetery, one of the most hallowed ceremonial sites in the United States.

The annual spring dinner was an overwhelming success with about eighty people convening at Mt. Vernon to hear the venerable Allan Greenberg speak about George Washington's vision as a statesman and architect, and as an active architectural patron. Organized by Mary Elfreth Watkins, and with the assistance of many chapter members, the event ran successfully. Thanks go to sponsors Ned Lawrence from Tendura; Joe Bohm from Horizon Builders; and Scott Intagliata of Unico.

Also this spring the chapter board met in Richmond to inaugurate a relationship with the Virginia Center for Architecture and establish the groundwork for an exhibit of new classical architecture to be held in Richmond in 2008 in celebration of Palladio's 500th birthday. In addition, with the coordination efforts of Kara Koch, the board discussed the long-term vision for the chapter and the growth of various educational and professional programs, all of which will reinforce the goal of advocating contemporary classicism. Discussions will continue in the fall.

In April, a day-long symposium held by the North Virginia Chapter of the AIA – "Classical Tradition vs. Modern Vision" – featured numerous ICA&CA members and people of like mind. James McCrery spoke on classicism in the opening statements; Nir Buras spoke about his path to the practice of classical architecture; John Dale of Allan Greenberg, Architect presented work by the firm; Carroll William Westfall, University of Notre Dame, discussed whether

modern architecture practices the timeless principles of architecture; and Steve Bass gave an abridged version of his talk on classical styles and proportions. The keynote address was made by Warren Cox of Hartman Cox Architects, recipient of the 2006 Arthur Ross Award for Architecture.

A Build DC initiative continues to gain momentum with a proposal for new classical and traditional architecture and urbanism in Washington DC. A launch was held in the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts. Thanks go to Kalinda Brown, Larry Brady, Virendra Rawat and many others for coordinating this and other Build DC events. Thanks also to David Schwarz, John Torti, and Dhiru Thadani for supporting the effort. Presentations were made by Dan Tangherlini, Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority; and by Laura Cole and John Bailey of the Urban Land Institute's Reality Check program. Thanks to Stephanie Bothwell for organizing the event. Participants then toured the Circle Fort Parks and convened at the Lyceum in Alexandria to hear Calder Loth speak eloquently about 'The Spirit of Place."

For more information contact Kalinda Brown at builddc@ma-ica.org. For information about the upcoming fall Academic Program, which is being organized by Kara Koch, or to participate in any of the chapter events, please contact info@ma-ica.org.



On May 6, 2006, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter hosted a tour of Arlington Cemetery. Participatns are shown with tour leader, Thomas Noble. Arlington House is visible just below the horizon.

New England

The New England Chapter reports that it held its inaugural tour of Bay State Road in Boston on Sunday, June 18, 2006. This handsome residential street, which was originally developed between 1890 and 1914 when there was a general resurgence of interest in Neo-classicism, abounds in variations of Renaissance, Colonial, and Federal Revival styles. Through the courtesy of Boston University, chapter Vice President William Young, Senior Preservation Planner at the Boston Landmarks Commission, led visitors through a number of interiors variously Georgian, Pompeian, or Napoleonic in inspiration, that exemplify the enduring power of the classical ideal.

In the fall, the chapter will participate in the Boston Society of Architect's 22nd annual Build Boston convention and trade show on November 14–16, 2006. The chapter will conduct a seminar entitled "Historic Architecture in the Contemporary City" and is eager to present its views on the role of historic fabric in the urban planning process. The full Build Boston program is on the web at www.buildboston.com.

Also planned this fall, is a tour of and lecture on the monumental Greek Revival Boston Custom House by Ammi B. Young (1837) and the equally impressive Renaissance Revival skyscraper built on top of it by Peabody and Stearns (1911–1915).

For information please email classicistne@yahoo.com or call Heather von Mering at 617-761-1238.

Philadelphia

For information about the Philadelphia Chapter, please contact Alvin Holm at

215-963-0747.

Southeast

The Southeast Chapter of ICA&CA has hired its first Executive Director, Rhodes B. White, FSMPS. She will assist in the administration of the organization, which will allow the officers and volunteers to focus on what they do best, which is providing quality programs and services to the 600 ICA&CA members in the Southeast Chapter region. Rita Patel, who was administering the chapter previously, is headed to the University of North Carolina, Charlotte for the Masters Program in Architecture. Thanks go to Rita for her hard work and dedication. There is no doubt that she will carry her ICA&CA enthusiasm to the Charlotte Chapter!

Rhodes comes with 25 years of experience in marketing professional services and providing management services for major associations and corporations in the design, development, and management of Atlanta's built environment. She is a Certified Professional Services Marketer (CPSM) and a Fellow (FSMPS) in the Society for Marketing Professional Services. Contact information for Rhodes is as follows:

ICA&CA 5180 Meadowlake Drive Atlanta, GA 30338 Phone: 678-447-3996 Fax: 770-671-0038 Email: rw@classicist.org

The Southeast Chapter is also pleased to offer the following fall weekend courses: "Elements," on September 9–10 and on September 30–October 1 (instructors to be announced). Proportions I & II will be offered by Steve Bass on October 21–22; and "Traditional Watercolor and Rendering" will be taught by Andy Taylor on two consecutive weekends, October 28–29 and November 11–12. On November 16, ICA&CA board member Anne Fairfax of Fairfax & Sammons will talk about "American Houses: The Architecture of Fairfax & Sammons," the forthcoming monograph by Rizzoli.



Aliving Holm teaching the Corinthian Order for the Southeast Chapter in February 2006.

For More News:

Institute

View News of the Institute from Spring 2006
View Upcoming Events
View our Calendar of Events

View the <u>News and Bulletin Board</u> for the latest in the world of classical architecture including many job listings.

For more information on courses, events and programs, please Contact the



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