



FOUNDATION NEWS

by The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach
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THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION AWARDS PRESENTS THE ELIZABETH L. AND JOHN H. SCHULER ARCHITECTURAL AWARD TO JEFFERY SMITH



*John Schuler, Jeffrey Smith,
 Elizabeth Schuler*

The Rosenthal Lecture Room in the Preservation Foundation Building was the setting on 5 April for the presentation of the prestigious Elizabeth L. and John H. Schuler Architectural Award to the Smith Architectural Group, Inc. and to its client Mrs. Henry Ford II. The Schuler Architectural Award, the newest of the Preservation Foundation’s awards for architectural excellence, was established in 2005 by the Schulers to recognize new construction in Palm Beach which honors and highlights the traditional architectural styles which contribute so much to Palm Beach’s unique ambience.

Mr. Jeffrey Smith accepted the award from Mr. and Mrs. Schuler on behalf of his firm’s design for “Serenity” the Palm Beach residence of Mrs. Henry Ford II. In his acceptance presentation Mr. Smith provided insights to his spectacular design of Mrs. Ford’s resi-

dence. Mr. Smith provided a brief overview of the historical development of the style on which “Serenity” is based. The Georgian style is characterized by proportion and balance, symmetry and adherence to classical rules. Originated in England, Georgian architecture spread to the colonies where it was modified based on local environmental conditions. Thus “Serenity” has more windows than the traditional Georgian house in England which permits spectacular views of Lake Worth from every major room in this residence. In similar fashion, “Serenity” uses loggias and terraces to diminish the distinction between interior and exterior permitting the integration of indoor and outdoor living. The typical stone and brick used on residences in England has been replaced by a buttery yellow façade in stucco which is better suited to Florida.



Frank Chopin and Kate Ford

After the conclusion of Mr. Smith’s brilliantly illustrated presentation, the Schulers presented an award to Mrs. Ford who made a brief statement of appreciation and thanked the architect and his staff for a house which more than met her expectations for gracious living with ample room for visiting children, grandchildren and guests.

Following Mrs. Ford’s remarks, the approximately 50 attendees participated in a delightful reception held in Pan’s Garden immediately adjacent to the Preservation Foundation Building.

Richard P. D’Elia, Ph.D



Jean Tailer and Alyne Massey

THE VENETIAN DILEMMA



Richard and Carole Rifkind

The Rosenthal Lecture Room was the site of the presentation of “The Venetian Dilemma” a film produced and directed by Dr. Richard and Carole Rifkind. The film examines the paradox of how too much success can adversely impact a city. Globalization in the form of mass tourism with the concomitant economic imperative of pandering to the lowest common denominator of the tourist masses is the main culprit. A street which used to be an admixture of resident owner-operated small shops, restaurants and stalls serving both locals and tourists has been overwhelmed by souvenir shops, bars and food shops solely operated by employees of absentee owners caring nothing about the fabric of city life.

The film incorporates the perspectives of several native Venetians on the changes to their city over the past 30 years. Statistics dramatically and lucidly illustrated the changes, e.g., local population has plummeted as both cost of living soared and affordable housing disappeared while mass tourism exploded.

Both elected and appointed city officials were castigated for their lack of will to originate and enforce laws to protect the fragile nature of this island city. The film graphically illustrated how high speed boats carrying tourists wishing a quick overview of the sights of Venice are destroying, via high speed wake, the very buildings the tourists desire to see. Residents disparaged appointed officials for attempting to build an underwater subway from the mainland which would have substantially increased the daily influx of tourists.

“The Venetian Dilemma” was the culmination of a five year effort engaged in producing and directing this documentary. This labor of love by the Rifkinds is for a city which is the repository of much of the Western world’s most valuable architectural and artistic heritage. Part-time residents of Venice for a period of 15 years, Richard and Carole decided that they must do something to demonstrate their concern by building an awareness of the multidimensional nature of the problem. This superb documentary, achieves its goal of awakening us to the potential catastrophic loss of Venice due to the deleterious combination of natural (subsidence) and more controllable, manmade economic forces.

Richard P. D’Elia, Ph.D

DREYFOOS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS JAZZ TRIO



A sunny afternoon, puffy cumulus clouds in a bright blue sky, a gentle breeze to cool the large audience amid the exuberant foliage surrounding the Pan’s Garden Pavilion formed the perfect setting for an hour of jazz expertly performed by the Dreyfoos School of the Arts Jazz Trio. Gianni Bianchini, piano; Jeff DeLuca, bass guitar; and Paul Mowatt, drums seamlessly blended their talents to perform a medley of tunes from the Great American Songbook. Their selections – compositions associated with Frank Sinatra, Earle Gardner, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller and those from the Big Band Era etc. – resonated harmoniously with the audience which reacted with rapt attention and sustained applause. Time passed quickly – too quickly for many audience members – always the sign of a time thoroughly enjoyed.

Richard P. D’Elia, Ph.D

PAULINE PITT HOSTS A LUNCH TO HONOR MISH TWORKOWSKI'S SUPPORT OF THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

On Monday, March 5, Pauline Pitt hosted a luncheon in honor of fine jewelry designer Mish Tworkowski of Mish New York. The lunch at Mary Mahoney's on Worth Avenue and was organized as a "thank you" to Mish for all of his generous support of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach during Mrs. Pitt's four year tenure as Chairman of the Preservation Foundation's Annual Dinner Dance.

Upon arrival, guests were invited to view Mish New York's stunning jewelry collections while sipping champagne. Mish had brought over 150 gorgeous pieces with him to Mary Mahoney's including many of his signature designs as well as new pieces that made their debut in Palm Beach. The Kate Bracelet, which has quickly become one of Mish's most loved pieces, was also a favorite with the lunch attendees. The Kate features 16 different rich hues of precious and semi-precious emerald cut stones and is named after one of Mish's favorite people in Palm Beach.

Once all of the guests had arrived, which was a wonderful group of women from all over South Florida and Robert Janjigian, everyone was brought to the third floor of the shop which had been transformed into a bright, beautiful dining room with tables featuring some of Mary Mahoney's wonderful merchandise. Flowers were by Tom Mathieu & Company and included multi-colored spring tulips each woman received a fresh cymbidium orchid corsage at their table setting. The food by Sandy James's included poached salmon, filet mignon, roasted vegetables, green and caprese salads and an amazing assortment of picture-perfect cakes.

During the lunch, Pauline Pitt and the other guests, many of whom also have a close relationship with the Preservation Foundation, expressed their gratitude to Mish for custom designing and donating gifts for the Preservation Foundation Dinner Dances as well as his generous financial contributions to the Foundation over the years. For the most recent March 2nd Dinner Dance Mish created a wonderful sterling silver bookmark with a koi fish charm on the end in keeping with the event's oriental theme. Last year Mish designed a special seagull key ring charm in honor of Sea Gull Cottage. This had been the fourth consecutive year that Mish had generously donated the Foundation's dinner dance gift.

After lunch and the amazing desserts had been thoroughly enjoyed, many of the guests found their way back to Mish's display cases for one final look at Mish's beautiful creations. Of the lunch Mish said, "I just love Palm Beach. It's one of the "chicest" places on earth!"

ANNUAL BRIDGE PARTY

Mrs. Jack Maxey, Mrs. Robert Grace and Mrs. Bruce McAllister are chairing the Annual Bridge Party held at the Foundation Building. Talbott, Jane and Susan have planned a delicious lunch and an afternoon of friendly bridge for Tuesday, May 1 at 12 noon. Please make your reservations early as seating is limited. Valet parking will be provided. If you would like to participate, call Sharon at 832-0731. Tickets this year will be \$100.

LAKE DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

The Preservation Foundation is sponsoring the development of a master plan for Lake Drive Park, at the request of the Town Council. The Foundation selected LaQuatra Bonci Associates of Pittsburgh, PA to develop the master plan for presentation to the Town Council. Fred Bonci, a principal in the landscape architecture firm, visited Palm Beach during March for an orientation to Lake Drive Park, its environs, and to identify problems from a consultant's perspective. The Preservation Foundation is not only funding the consultant, but is playing a key role in the project team which includes: LaQuatra Bonci Associates, John Ripley and John Mashek from the Foundation; and Jay Boodheshwar and John Luscomb of the Town Recreation Department.



John Ripley

On Thursday 5 April, Mr. Bonci made his second visit to Palm Beach to conduct a series of focus groups with community organizations and selected Town Departments. Representatives from Public Works, Police, Fire-Rescue, Recreation and Planning Zoning & Building described in detail their use, views, and critical needs of the park facilities for current operations as well as for the future. Mr. Bonci reported the key issues gathered from the initial focus group meetings in March, and presented several options and illustrations for discussion. In addition to the Town Departments, Mr. Bonci conducted focus groups with the Royal Park Home Owners Association, the Garden Club and the Palm Beach Civic Association. During his first visit in March, Mr. Bonci included the Marina Lease Holders and Recreation Department in the focus groups. Feedback during the focus group meetings was very positive regarding Mr. Bonci's grasp of the issues surrounding Lake Drive Park, and the illustrations will continue to be developed for the master plan. Foundation Executive Director John Ripley was present for these focus group sessions, as well as President John Mashek for several of the key sessions.

Friday, 6 April saw Mr. Bonci presenting an overview of his initial options for the master plan to a Town-wide Public Meeting held in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Mr. Bonci provided a lucid overview of the issues surfaced in the focus groups, and possible options for going forward. While Mr. Bonci cautioned that the illustrations presented were not proposals, the unanimous positive reaction to elements of his presentation suggests significant progress has been made. Many community members gave high praise of the consultants hired by the Foundation for listening and taking resident concerns to heart unlike their perception of other consultants hired by the Town.

The next step in the process will be the consultant's evaluation of the concerns and feed-back from Town residents and staff for incorporation into a proposed master plan for Lake Drive Park. Mr. Bonci is working closely with the Foundation and the project team, and will return to Palm Beach again for the presentation to the Town Council during their May session.

*Richard P. D'Elia, Ph.D.
& John M. Ripley*

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Burt III
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Donnelley
Mr. and Mrs. R. Joseph Fuchs
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Greenfield
Mrs. Elsa Mosse Hvide
Ms. Galina Judge

Lessard & Bauman, Inc.
Mrs. Florence S. McDonough
Deborah McLaughlin
Mrs. Diana Paxton
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Weingeroff

UNDER PAN'S PROTECTION: PAN'S GARDEN HOSTS PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE HORTICULTURE CLASS

Pan's Garden became a living classroom for Palm Beach Community College's newly launched horticulture class "Plant Selections for Landscape Situations." Neil Schuler, Gardens Director and Daniele Garson, Garden Associate, served as guest educators in teaching the native plant section for the horticulture program headed by Dr. George Rogers of Palm Beach Community College. The following article about Pan's Garden was written by Dr. George Rogers and featured in the "Palm Beach Post."



Neil Schuler

Last week I ducked out of a meeting, sped to Palm Beach, hauled out my digi-cam, invaded Pan's Garden all atwitter with expectation... and the downpour commenced, probably punishment for the premature meeting departure! But on the bright side, all those native plants needed natural irrigation, and a soaking was a small price to visit a magical world. Operated by and adjacent to the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, Pan's Garden packs bountiful botanical beauty into the best half-acre in town. Like its namesake, Pan, God of the Shepherds and their Flocks, the facility is tiny, but every square foot is accounted for. Visitors who gallop down the garden trail will complete the tour in about 55 seconds and then wonder, "well, what do I do now." Probably not a great venue for restless children. But those inclined to savor every specimen,

every plant combination, and every vista will stay awhile and depart reluctantly.

There are two amazing things about Pan's Garden. First, it is beautiful. Say hello to Pan guarding the entrance, then step around the bend through a space-time warp. The aggravating world of automobiles and asphalt (and meetings) yields to a storybook setting of shifting sunbeams and raindrops on flowers. Lots of flowers (and lots of raindrops)---over 300 species, the vast majority native to Florida. That brings us to the second amazing thing about this lovely place---not only are the species diverse, but they are also mature, expertly tended, and caringly composed aesthetically as well as ecologically---a work of art where the species are the brushstrokes.

The garden is a living experiment with native species, and not the same old choices used the same old ways. I kept thinking, "Golly-gee, I didn't know this species could look like that," especially in connection with groundcovers. The temptation now is to go on about each lovely species, but there are about as many species in the garden as words I'm allowed in my article. A mini-lake expands the perceived extent of Pan's Garden and provides moist habitats for Iris, giant Leather Ferns, a drift of Royal Ferns with sun glowing through their golden-brown plumes, Alligator-Flag and its mirror-image paired flowers, Horsetails, and even a tiny Cypress Swamp aflutter with butterflies as the rain subsided.



Daniele Garson

THE 2007 GRUSS MASTER ARCHITECT: RICHARD MEIER

Internationally acclaimed architect Richard Meier was the featured speaker at the Fourth Annual Gruss Master Architect Lecture Series on 16 March at The Harriet in West Palm Beach. The lecture series was established in 2004 through the generous sponsorship of long-time foundation members and benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gruss.

Meier, one of a handful of peripatetic architects traveling the world, has assembled an unsurpassed portfolio of prestigious commissions as well building a sterling reputation among the public and his peers. The latter have amply acknowledged his architectural vision by showering him with a plethora of awards and honors among which are the Pritzker Prize, the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal etc.



The audience was treated by Mr. Meier to a retrospective overview of his career using slides and anecdotes to illustrate his points. Evoking a magisterial presence throughout the talk, he jocularly commented that after his first house, commissioned by a Princeton professor for \$9,000 was completed, his parents were sufficiently convinced of his ability to permit him to design their home in Essex Hills, NJ. In a tongue-in-cheek comment he complained that he was the only architect in his practice still using pencil and paper to assist in initial design development. His younger associates used computers throughout but he believed the precision of the computer output may at times indicate a more thoroughly developed idea than it actually is. The value of computers occurs after the basic design has been decided in facilitating the changes inherent in the design process.

Meier discussed the Jubilee Church project, completed in 1993, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul's pontificate. He was one of six architects worldwide selected to submit designs for this high profile project which he won. As part of the competition he brought a large model of the church to the Vatican for Pope John Paul's inspection. He arrived early for his private audience in a large, somewhat darkly lit audience chamber. He requested the Swiss Guard in attendance to obtain additional lights so that the model's features could be readily inspected by the Pope. Nothing happened. Time passed and Meier once again remonstrated with the attendant. Still nothing occurred until a side door opened and Pope John Paul entered followed by a bevy of TV cameramen with lights...problem solved.

Meier encouraged the many FAU architecture students in the audience to think outside the box as they attempt to design within the constraints of local building codes. An example of this was a house constructed in Naples, FL. The local code required a sloped hip roof – this is not characteristic of a Meier designed house. His solution – a sloped roof built as a “V” i.e. sloping from the sides to the center instead of sloping from the roof center to the eaves. Meier chuckled as he reminisced “They changed the code after the house was constructed”.



Overall the lecture was an immense success – comprehensive, informative on a variety of dimensions and witty – more than meeting the expectations of a mixed audience of architecture students, professionals and aficionados of modern architecture. Upon conclusion a new scene unfolded: architect as rock star, Meier was mobbed by the audience for autographs and questions. Our thanks once again to the generosity of the Grusses for bringing Mr. Meier to Palm Beach!

Richard P. D'Elia, Ph.D

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES II AND III: THE CRAFTSMEN BEHIND THE ARCHITECT

This year's Adult Education Series focused on the contributions of the artisan to architectural excellence. The Rosenthal Lecture Room was the location for the second lecture held on 7 March. Representatives from Les Métalliers Champenois USA, Porath Fine Cabinetry, Reich Metal Fabricators Inc. and Herpel, Inc. provided the members with a comprehensive overview of ornamental metalworking, woodworking and cast stone and columns.

Using slides, architectural plans and discussion Jean Wiart, President of LMC provided a comprehensive overview of his firm's work ranging from the reconstruction and restoration of the torch and flame of the Statue of Liberty to high-end residential, civic and commercial work. It was evident to all of the pride in workmanship that permeated Mr. Wiart's discussion of the exquisite one-of-a-kind gates, grills, staircases, balconies, fences etc. that his firm produces for the likes of Madonna, Ralph Lauren and Bill Gates.

Jim Bailey, Reich Metal Fabricators of West Palm Beach continued the discussion of fine metal working. This local company fabricates metals, especially aluminum which is power coated to resist the attack of salt air for many Palm Beach residences. Mr. Bailey brought illustrative samples of bronze and aluminum fabrications as well as pictures of the many installations which he has done throughout the local area and in the state.

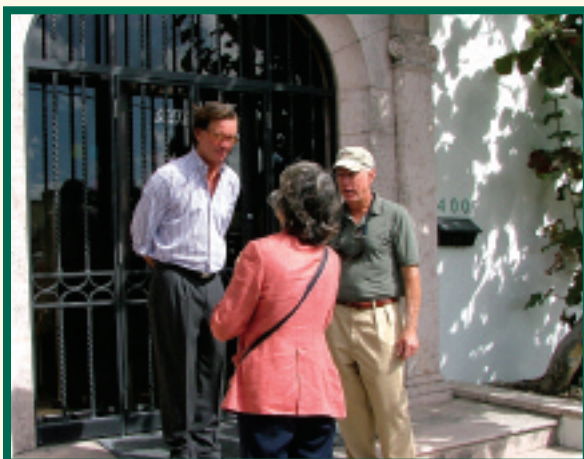
Rick Herpel provided an illustrated discussion of the use of cast stone in providing architectural ornamentation in residential architecture. Herpel, Inc. produces an extensive assortment of architectural elements including decorative brackets, capitals, corbels and cornice sections etc.



Jean Wiart

Mr. Shaul Porath discussed the use of fine woods as an architecture element. He discussed the best types of woods to use in our hot, humid environment as well as the detailed planning required to obtain a superior result. The Foundation's Robert M. Grace Library is representative of the superlative work done by Porath Fine Cabinetry.

The Series concluded on 21 March with scheduled visits to Reich Metal Fabricators, Herpel, Inc. and Porath Fine Cabinetry. Members met at the Foundation and proceeded by trolley to Reich Metal Fabricators and Herpel, Inc. A tour of facilities was conducted at each location by the firms' presidents, Jim Bailey and Rick Herpel respectively.



Rick Herpel, Alex Fatio Taylor, Jim Bailey

At Reich Metal Fabricators participants saw how aluminum stock is heated and turned by hand into ornamental works of art. Workers explained the need for precision in mocking up decorative gates etc. by demonstration on a complex ornamental gate in progress.

At Herpel, Inc. tour participants were shown the entire process of production from the preparation of plaster renditions to the making of rubber molds from the plaster renditions to the final casting of the stone.

Participants were greatly impressed by the activities conducted at each location and peppered their guides with a multitude of questions so much so that the Porath Fine Cabinetry segment of the tour was cancelled due to time constraints.

Richard P. D'Elia, Ph.D

In Memoriam

Mary Alice Fortin
1910-2007

Philanthropist and Community Activist

We dedicate this issue of the newsletter to Mary Alice,
in gratitude for her community spirit and generous nature.

Thank you for helping us to honor her legacy.

Request for Updated Information

To receive the latest information regarding foundation news, please forward your name, address and e-mail address to scottm@palmbeachpreservation.org. Please call us at 832-0731 if you have moved or your status has recently changed.

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