



THE WORK OF THE OLMSTEDS IN MISSOURI

by Esley Hamilton

Frederick Law Olmsted is generally recognized as the founder of the landscape architecture profession in America. The design he and Calvert Vaux created for Central Park launched the public park movement at a high standard that has arguably never been surpassed. Olmsted (here referred to as FLO), his son Frederick Law Olmsted Junior (FLO Jr), and his stepson and nephew John Charles Olmsted (JCO) together worked for nearly a century and created thousands of designs, not only for parks, but for homes, college campuses, fairs and exhibitions, whole communities, and every other conceivable landscape category.

We are now much better able to study the Olmsteds thanks to the monumental effort to catalog their papers that has been going on for the past two decades. Olmsted Associates, the successor firm, gave the Library of Congress many of its project files in the 1950s, including reports, correspondence, and manuscripts. When "Fairsted," FLO's home and office in Brookline, Massachusetts, became Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in 1979, the more recent project files and almost all the plans and drawings came with it, almost a million documents in all. Since then Park Service employees have processed more than 120,000 of the 150,000 drawings, working at Fairsted and at a larger facility in the Springfield Armory.

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP), founded in 1980, has done much to make these records more accessible. (They are online at <http://www.olmsted.org>.) In 1987, they teamed with Historic Massachusetts to publish *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857-1950*, and that list is now online under the website for Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (www.nps.gov/firla/joblist.htm). More recently the NAOP has partnered with the National Park Service on a much more elaborate project to make details of the records accessible through the internet. The Olmsted Research Guide Online, or ORGO (www.redisov.com/olmsted) provides a search

mechanism, first to find the names and job numbers of projects in a given geographical or subject area, and then to learn what materials are available for further research. As catalogers Camille Larson and Jonathan Powell go page by page through the Olmsted letter books and a separate cache of FLO's papers in Washington, new material is being added to ORGO nearly every month.

Missouri was not prime territory for the Olmsteds, partly because of the dominance in Kansas City and later in St. Louis of George Kessler, himself an Olmsted protégé and friend. But they did make some significant contributions in this state. Following is an outline of the Olmsted work in Missouri as identified by ORGO, arranged by job number, which turns out to be roughly but not exactly chronological. These projects show that the firm's greatest contribution here was not in fine details but in bold concepts, which once they were proposed seemed inevitable.

81. Missouri Botanical Garden

Henry Shaw opened the Missouri Botanical Garden on the grounds of his country house, "Tower Grove," in 1859 and by his death in 1889, it had already become one of the leading institutions in the country. Shaw's bequests enabled his successor, Dr. William Trelease, to undertake a reorganization and expansion of the plantings on the fifty acre site, and he called in JCO in 1896. As he had done a year earlier at Washington University, JCO got to the heart of the matter on his very first visit. He noted that Flora Avenue (now Place), which extended from Grand Avenue to the main gate of the Garden, was being widened into a Shaw-owned strip along its north side to 140 feet with a central parkway, and he suggested that the proposed new palm house be situated directly on axis. This proved to be the beginning of a long planning process, one feature of which was a list, running to 55 pages, of species of North American plants that could be arranged synoptically in the west or arboretum portion of the site. The firm's services concluded with the delivery in early 1905 of two large packages of mounted and colored plans, and Trelease wrote to express his appreciation, "although it may be a long time before we can effect the radical changes. . . which you contemplate."

Trelease's successor, George Moore, wrote in 1912 to say

that “the large range of greenhouses called for in your original plan are now under construction.” The centerpiece of that range was replaced in 1960 by the Climatron. The formal axis JCO envisioned remains, although it is now more difficult to experience since the Flora gate is usually closed and Flora Place is no longer a through street. Two ponds projected for the southwest part of the property were built. One was expanded in the 1970s to become the centerpiece of the Japanese garden. The other was removed about 1925 when the western acres of the Garden were sold to acquire the 2,500-acre arboretum, now the Shaw Nature Reserve, 35 miles southwest of St. Louis at Gray Summit.

90. Forest Park

No file has been found relating to this job number. Caroline Loughlin and Catherine Anderson note in their 1986 book, *Forest Park*, that the park commissioners told the *Republican* newspaper in March of 1875 that they were considering inviting plans from “the most eminent landscape gardeners in the country.” Possibly this file contained such a letter. The file may also, as was the case with #91, have contained material for reference, documenting the design by Maximilian Kern for this 1,370-acre St. Louis park, which opened in 1876.

91. Lafayette Park

Fairsted has two photographs of Lafayette Park in St. Louis, marked “Genelli.” The 30-acre park site was set aside from the St. Louis Common in 1836 and dedicated in 1851 but was much improved after the Civil War by Maximilian Kern. Francis Tunica, the first superintendent of Tower Grove Park, designed the surviving park fence in 1869.

145. D. R. Francis

David Rowland Francis (1850-1927) is one of the best-known figures in St. Louis history, remembered as president of the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition Corporation but a household name even before then as a wealthy grain-commission merchant, one of the city’s youngest mayors (1885-89) and governor (1889-1893). On their return from Jefferson City, David and Jane Francis bought the house at 4421 Maryland Avenue in the fast-growing West End. The property with its old trees covered four acres, half a city block, bounded by Newstead, Maryland, and Berlin (now Pershing). In 1895, the Francis reduced the old house to four

rooms and built a palatial new house around it. Designed by Eames & Young, it was inspired by Palladio’s Villa Rotonda, with a low dome and Ionic porticos facing both Newstead and Maryland.

The extensive documentation of the Olmsted landscaping plans begins in late 1895 and shows much involvement by Warren Manning, who later developed an substantial landscape practice of his own in St. Louis. Work seems to have been complete by the end of 1896, while Francis was serving as Secretary of the Interior. The plants had reached maturity by 1904, when the Francis hosted dignitaries from around the world. Former President Grover Cleveland and President Theodore Roosevelt both stayed the night before the fair’s grand opening on April 30.

After so many successes, D. R. Francis had the bad luck to be appointed U. S. ambassador to Russia just in time to witness the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. The Francis returned to an apartment and offered 4421 Maryland for use by the Boy Scouts and other civic groups. After Jane Francis’s death in 1924, the governor purchased the home of Thomas K. Skinker at 6464 Ellenwood Avenue in Clayton, and he died there in 1927. The old house was reopened for the funeral but demolished in 1935 to make way for a Gothic-style convent for the Sisters of Mercy. Today the building is known as Cathedral Tower, the Msgr. Robert P. Slattery Memorial. The address 325 North Newstead appears on Isaac Taylor’s ornamental brick and stone wall, which gives access to the curving entrance drive and the shady front lawn, still the largest in the West End.

David R. Francis House, 4421 Maryland at Newstead, St. Louis, early view



1250. Kansas City Parks

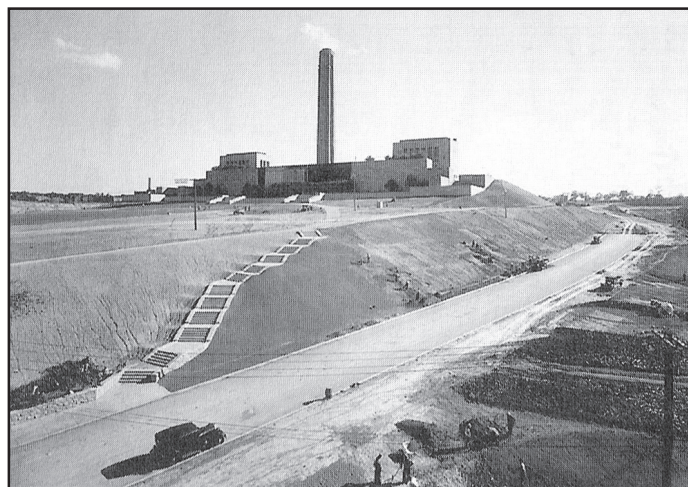
Integrating large regional parks and smaller neighborhood parks by means of a citywide network of parkways, the Kansas City park system is generally recognized as one of the fullest realizations of Olmsted ideals, even if not emanating directly from the firm. George Kessler deserves much credit for the Kansas City park system, but at the very outset the Olmsted firm made a significant philosophical contribution. The initial invitation came in March of 1892 from the architect Henry Van Brunt, who had moved west from Boston in 1887. The president of the newly formed park board, August R. Meyer (1851-1905), seconded the request for help. At that time, FLO was spending much time in Chicago working on the World's Columbian Exposition, so another colleague, apparently Henry Sargent Codman, visited Kansas City. His seven-page preliminary report, dated April 28, 1892, describes the value to urban dwellers of large natural-looking parks, recognizes the need to separate such parks from active recreational facilities, suggests specific park sites, especially along the bluffs, recommends "pleasure drives" as linear connections, and urges discretion to keep land costs from rising speculatively. This was followed in May by drawings showing how 11th Street could be widened into a parkway. Kessler's first plan appeared the following year.

JCO visited in 1908 to review the progress of Bluff Terrace and Penn Valley Park. Twenty years later, FLO Jr. was to expend much effort on Penn Valley in connection with the Liberty Memorial.

1256. Kansas City Liberty Memorial

Acclaimed as the nation's largest and most ambitious monument to the fallen of World War I, the Liberty Memorial, a tower 217 feet tall and 36 feet in diameter, was already largely complete before FLO Jr. got involved. When the competition-winning design by New York architect H. Van Buren Magonigle was dedicated in 1926, however, the 8.5-acre setting and particularly approach from Jarvis Hunt's Union Station were bare. The board of governors reached an impasse with the architect over his expensive tastes and determined to turn elsewhere. FLO Jr. made two trips to Kansas City in 1927 to devise more reasonable plans, working with the distinguished local landscape architect S. Herbert Hare 1888-1960), whom he referred to as "Bunny." He told J. C. Nichols that this was "the most difficult problem he had ever encountered." In 1932 the board hired the local architectural firm Wight & Wight, with landscape architects Hare & Hare; Bunny's father Sid J. Hare (1860-1938) was the senior partner. FLO Jr returned that year, greeted by the press as a celebrity, and judging from the

number of drawings that survive in the Olmsted records, the firm played much more than a consulting role in the final design. Records in Kansas City show that E. M. Prellwitz was the designer for Olmsted Brothers. The trees were planted according to the plan in 1938.



Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, looking southeast with Kessler Road in foreground, September 1934; from collection of Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, Kansas City, MO

1384. John T. Davis

The Davis project was at some point classified as non-job related, possibly because at one point the plant orders were cancelled. But the design was actually carried out, as later correspondence attests. It is the only one of the three St. Louis residential projects with both the original house and site remaining. The plans and plant lists would make a restoration possible.

One problem with the records is that the job list and correspondence folder are labeled "John F. Davis" when the man's middle initial was T. This was important in St. Louis, where several others were named John Davis. John T. Davis inherited the thriving wholesale dry goods business his father Samuel C. Davis had founded in 1835. He hired the Boston firm of Peabody & Stearns in 1892 to design his house at 17 Westmoreland Place in the newly developing haven for plutocrats near Forest Park. Based on McKim, Mead & White's Villard houses and ultimately on the Cancelleria in Rome, the ashlar-cut pink granite Davis house introduced the Second Renaissance Revival to St. Louis and made the new Richardson Romanesque houses near it seem old-fashioned.

Peabody & Stearns sent the site plan to the attention of Olmsted partner Charles Eliot in December of 1893. By January 18, they were sending back a site plan for review, with plants costing about \$750. Plant orders had just gone out to ten suppliers when Brookline received a letter from Davis dated February 24 requesting substantial reductions



John T. Davis House, 17 Westmoreland Place, St. Louis, early view

and eliminating the rose garden entirely. All the orders had to be revised; the new total was \$404.14. Planting had begun when John T. Davis himself died from nephritis or Bright's Disease on April 12, 1894 (at the age of 49 it was said, although his tombstone gives his birth year as 1843). This was the second tragedy during two-year construction of the house, as Pierce Furber, the architects' St. Louis representative, had died in 1893 at 40.

Maria Filley Davis completed the house and moved in with her son John T. Junior, and members of the family lived there until 1959. Now occupied by its fifth subsequent owner, the house remains a showplace.

1548. Metropolitan Park Commission Exhibit

The Metropolitan Park Commission was established by the Massachusetts legislature in 1893 to create a regional park system for the Boston area, the first such effort in the United States. By 1900, the agency had acquired more than 7,000 acres, including such important natural features as the Blue Hills, Revere Beach, and the Charles River. One of the driving forces behind this achievement was Charles Eliot. He died in 1897, but the firm remained much involved. Arthur A. Shurtleff seems to have been the staff member responsible for designing a wall exhibit about the Commission and shipping it to St. Louis to be displayed at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904. It was shown in the Town Hall of the "Model City," a group of ideal civic buildings clustered on the east side of the fairgrounds. Kansas City had an exhibit about its park system in the Casino, another building in the group.

FLO Jr. had his own idea for an exhibit at the St. Louis fair. He had been one of the members of the blue-ribbon McMillan Commission that had completed in 1902 a visionary plan for the redesign of the monumental core of Washington, D.C, made compelling by models, plans, and perspective drawings by talented artists, including St. Louisan Jules Guerin. Charles Moore, the secretary of the

Commission and later the biographer of commission members Charles McKim and Daniel Burnham, told Olmsted that he didn't see how the exhibit could be moved without giving up its long-term display at the Library of Congress.

1729. Washington University

Founded in 1853, Washington University was by the end of the century becoming engulfed by commercial and industrial development on its original

location at 18th & Washington. The trustees, under the leadership of Robert S. Brookings (later founder of the Brookings Institution), purchased in 1895 a tract of land straddling the city-county border at the west end of Forest Park and invited Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to provide a site plan. JCO arrived in May and immediately recognized the dramatic potential of the rising ground. He emphasized that the main building of the new campus should be placed on axis with Lindell Boulevard. He also observed that without the frontage on Forsyth Avenue the site would be cramped and successfully advocated its immediate acquisition.

In 1899, in anticipation of an invitational architectural competition, the firm detailed grading plans to make the top of the hill a plateau, eliminating a ravine that cut diagonally through the property. They prepared an illustrative site plan to guide the competitors, incorporating suggestions from Brookings that the quadrangle be kept free of vehicles and that vehicular access to the buildings be along the outer sides of the buildings at basement level, made possible by situating the buildings at the edge of the plateau. The winning design, by Cope & Stewardson of Philadelphia, incorporated all these ideas.

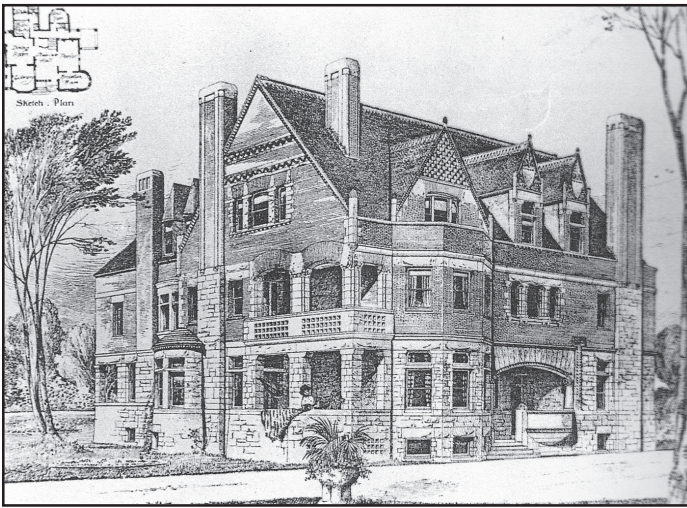
The Hilltop Campus served as the administrative center for the 1904 World's Fair and hosted the Olympics that summer. The university moved in the following year, when George Kessler and his assistant Henry Wright supervised the planting, including the double avenue of oaks along JCO's dual entrance drive extending the Lindell axis west from Skinker Boulevard. The architects and their successor firm, Jamieson and Spearl, continued to be employed for nearly all work until 1953, giving the campus unusual visual unity. Today, the Hilltop Campus is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Historic Landmark.

1801. H. C. Pierce

Three job numbers, 131, 1801, and 2062, are associated

with Henry Clay Pierce, whose Waters-Pierce Oil Company and many railroad and banking interests made him possibly the wealthiest man in St. Louis. Most of the records deal with Pierce's summer home, Rock Cove Cottage, at Pride's Crossing, an elite seaside section of Beverly, Massachusetts. Conflicts over the construction of a sea wall and other features of this estate eventually led the firm to sue Pierce in 1901 for payment of \$2,483.25, a case not finally settled until 1908.

Early in the relationship, however, on September 6, 1895, Pierce wrote requesting the firm to relandscape his St. Louis house at 40 Vandeventer Place, and several other documents survive to indicate that this work was carried out. Pierce's house was the largest and most expensive on what many people considered to be the city's most fashionable private street. Pierce had brought in the Albany, New York firm of Fuller and Wheeler in 1886 to design the house, which had taken three years to complete. By 1895 Pierce was building an addition, bringing the house to 26 rooms and measuring about 90 by 110 feet on a lot 226 feet wide by 155 feet deep.



Henry C. Pierce house, 40 Vandeventer Place, St. Louis
American Architect and Building News, July 9, 1887

The Pierce house was demolished in 1936, twelve years before the whole eastern part of Vandeventer Place from Grand to Spring made way for a veterans hospital, now called the VA Medical Center, John Cochran Division.

2889. Louisiana Purchase Exposition

In 1901, at the request of David R. Francis, JCO offered to have the American Society of Landscape Architects appoint a blue-ribbon committee to help select a site for the forthcoming world's fair. As things turned out, the site was selected before the committee could be formed.

3538. Louisiana Cemetery

The City of Louisiana, Missouri, purchased the town cemetery in 1908. Robert N. Williams, a member of the city council and an employee of Stark Brothers Nurseries, asked the firm to design a seven-acre extension to the cemetery, but they declined to bid on the work, as it was too small.

3996. St. Joseph Park Board

Ever since it had been linked to the Mississippi River by the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad in the 1850s, St. Joseph had prospered, and successive civic leaders worked to establish a park system there. In 1910, the Board of Park Commissioners asked FLO Jr. to suggest a qualified professional designer to assist them. He sent back a list of members of the American Society of Landscape Architects, noting that it included "nearly all the men in the country of first rate training and experience in that profession." "I am not looking for the job myself," he continued, "having more on my hands already than I can do with comfort."

JCO, on the other hand, suggested that he might be able to stop in St. Joseph on one of his semiannual trips to the West Coast. Six years passed before the Commissioners responded to his offer. Milton Tootle, Junior, described in JCO's notes as "one of the wealthiest men in the City," invited him to visit in 1916. Ironically, when JCO arrived in St. Joseph on September 26th, Tootle was still at his summer home on Mackinac Island. The other two members of the commission, John McDonald of the R. L. McDonald Manufacturing Company and R. T. Forbes, president of the First National Bank, drove him around town, first in Forbes's big touring car and after lunch in his little Scripps-Booth. JCO brought back a beautifully produced brochure entitled "St. Joseph - The City Worth While" and wrote seven fascinating pages recording the events of the day, but he did not make a formal report, as none was requested. He wrote that McDonald and Forbes "balked at any new method" he suggested: "At any idea of the sort their cry is 'forget it'."

A month after the visit, JCO suggested an ongoing consultant relationship, offering some pointed criticism of the work he had seen in St. Joseph: "Without such plans, it seems to me very likely that the very stiff and incongruous style of planting which distinguishes the two principal parks is likely to remain and be added and extended to additional park areas. There is, of course, a place occasionally where stiff formal planting is appropriate, but it seems to be difficult to get even the best of gardeners to plant consistently in the naturalistic landscape style." In response, Tootle suggested that

Olmsted Brothers prepare new designs for five small downtown parks for a fee of \$900, but nothing came of this.

By 1925, the Commission had moved ahead on its long-projected parkway plan to connect Krug Park in the north with Hyde Park in the south. Milton Tootle again wrote to request advice. This time Percival Gallagher agreed to a three-day visit and report for \$500. The local newspaper covered his arrival on March 17, 1926, with a detailed story including his photo. Gallagher learned however, that while several board members wanted Olmsted Brothers to do much of the detailed design work, at least one preferred George Burnap of Washington, D.C., who had already executed a children's area in Krug Park. Gallagher's 16-page report was not followed by further commissions, but apparently there were no hard feelings, as he responded cordially to a request two years later to recommend good street trees. He favored Horse Chestnut, American Elm, Red Oak, and American Plane, but not Norway Maple or Sugar Maple.

6572. J. J. Heim

The single surviving letter from John J. Heim of The Kansas City Breweries Co. indicates that someone from the firm visited his residence in 1917 and advised on landscaping plans that had been prepared by Hare & Hare. In return, Heim sent a check for \$25.

7098. Long-Bell Lumber Company

The client of this anticipated job was based in Kansas City, but the project itself was on the West Coast. In 1922, James F. Dawson sent a note to the office offering the tip that the Long-Bell Lumber Company was planning to develop a new town at Kelso, Washington, and since Olmsted Brothers had done so much work in that region, they should seek the job. In reality, planning for the new town of Longview, four miles from Kelso, was already underway, in the offices of George B. Kessler (by then located in St. Louis) and Hare & Hare. Longview was dedicated in 1923.

7680. Kansas City Country Club District

Businessman J. C. Nichols telegraphed FLO Jr. in 1926, inviting him to Kansas City to discuss his ambitious and forward-looking Country Club development, which had been underway since as long ago as 1908. The Spanish-style shopping area at the heart of the plan had been announced in 1922, to designs by Edward Buehler Delk. Olmsted's staff in Brookline enthusiastically assigned a job number, but as it turned out FLO Jr. was too busy to visit.

10215. St. Louis Gateway Mall Competition

In 1966, the firm entered a competition for the design of the Gateway Mall, a block-wide open space that was to be sliced through the downtown along the north side of Market Street from the Old Courthouse on 4th Street west past Union Station to the site of the proposed North-South Distributor Expressway at about 22nd Street. The portion of the mall west of 12th (now Tucker) had previously been opened up but not uniformly designed, while the portion from 5th (Broadway) to 11th was still largely occupied by commercial buildings. The firm submitted plans showing profiles looking north and looking south of Market Street from the river to the expressway. Both the expressway and the mall proved to be highly contentious, and by the time the eastern portion of the mall was cleared in the 1980s, this competition had been forgotten.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CATALOGS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Through the efforts of Mary Patricia Holmes, reference specialist with the State Historical Society of Missouri, this newsletter will be kept at the Society's library in Columbia, and finding aids will be created to help researchers use it. The Society has 30 issues from Volume 2, Number 6 (Fall 1996) to the present. If any members have saved Volume 1 and the first part of Volume 2, copies would be most appreciated to complete the set.

Although the Missouri Historical Society and the History Room at the St. Louis Public Library also have copies of the newsletter, Pat Holmes points out that none of the members of Mobius, the statewide online academic library catalog (<http://mobius.missouri.edu/>) has so far added it to their collections. Pat comes by her interest in Missouri architecture naturally as the daughter of author and critic George McCue.

DINOS MICHAELIDES' NEW BOOK AND A RESPONSE BY LOU SAUR

SAH-St. Louis member and former dean of the Washington University School of Architecture Constantine E. Michaelides, FAIA, has written a book, *The Aegean Crucible*. It has been described as "a feast for the eyes and minds of laypeople and architects." Michaelides argues that "life and culture can be understood through the examination of architectural form" and presents his case with over 650 illustrations from the Aegean in the book's pocket-friendly 6 X 9-inch size. The book follows from the exhibit at the Sheldon reported in some detail in these pages in the Winter 2000 issue (Vol VI, No. 4). To obtain a copy of the \$40 book, please phone the AIA-St. Louis bookstore, 314-621-3484.

Copies are available through Delos Press, 1-866-463-2954.

Lou Saur, FAIA, the current president of the St. Louis Chapter of the AIA, described his reaction to the book in the chapter's Friday e-mail for January 2:

"It is apparent from the maps, plans and over 600 photos in the book that, despite the severe natural and man-made influences effecting the Aegean Islands over a 3,500-year period, the architectural system emanating from these influences has produced a surprising unity of form, including the modern era. I was struck how the premise of the book offers such a stark contrast to our attitudes today regarding these factors influencing architectural form in 21st Century America.

"I am referring in particular to the post-modern premise that unity or consistency is inherently boring and that variety is best achieved through fragmentation or the haphazard juxtaposition of disparate parts. Nowhere in this more evident than in the strip retail centers, where each individual store, although occupying a building with other stores seeking to share a common attraction to customers, demands its own stand-alone architectural expression as if the center were built by different owners at different times. I find this attempt to simultaneously express variety and unity to be far less affective than the more authentic system Dinos describes in his book."

□ □ □ ■ **Events Calendar** ■ □ □ □

**Exhibit: "Brick by Brick:
Building St. Louis and the Nation"**

St. Louis University Museum of Art (SLUMA)
3663 Lindell Boulevard
April 15 to August 15, 2004
Tues-Sun 1 to 4

Larry Giles of St. Louis Architectural Art Co. shares his unparalleled collection of building materials to tell the story of brick making in St. Louis. Local brickmakers supplied an enormous range of brick types to make possible the buildings we admire today. Included in the exhibition are maps, photographs, interviews, advertising, and ephemera, plus 250 individual patterned ornamental bricks, spanning the history of the product. Bricklayers Local Union No. 1; the Masonry Institute; the Mason Contractors Association, and Richards Brick Company of Edwardsville are cooperating to show tools and masonry products and will create a brick wall illustrating the types of brick bonds.

**Talk: "Shaping of Space
and the Meaning of Place"**

History Museum, McDermott Grand Hall
Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers is one of the nation's leading advocates of recognizing and preserving landscapes as works of art, founder of the Central Park Conservancy and director of garden history and landscape studies at Bard Graduate Center in New York. She explores the ways in which cities, parks and gardens reflect cultural values in this talk, subtitled "Landscape Design History from Prehistoric Times to the Present." Part of the Missouri Historical Society's "Discover St. Louis" series, cosponsored by UMSL and FOCUS St. Louis, the talk is free. For more information, call 314-746-4599.

**History Hike: Maryland Terrace
and Old Town Clayton**

Meet on Westmoreland Dr. east of Jackson, U. City
Saturday, May 1, 9 to 11 a.m.

While the turn-of-the-century houses in Clayton north of Maryland are fast being replaced, similar houses in University City are being preserved in the Linden Avenue and Maryland Terrace historic districts. This tour looks at these distinguished house plus the venerable Hanley House and some of the good new residential work by architect Louis Saur, current AIA-St. Louis president.

Talk: "Sprawl and the Last Chance Landscape"

History Museum, McDermott Grand Hall
Thursday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Jane Holtz Kay, journalist for *The Nation* and author of *Asphalt Nation: How the Automobile Took Over America*, talks about how urban sprawl occurred and what we can do about it. The word "sprawl" has become the epithet of choice to describe our patterns of development for the last half century, which have drained the cities and decimated the landscape. Environmentalists and ordinary citizens are now promoting better alternatives, more livable communities and smarter growth.

Annual Meeting and Garden Party

New Date: Saturday, June 19, 10 a.m. to noon

Melanie & Tony Fathman will open their garden and pool on Pershing Place for our annual meeting, which will see new officers elected. Please RSVP to Esley Hamilton, 314-615-0357.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS (SAA) & ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS ROUNDTABLE

by Kristina Grey Perez

The Architectural Records Roundtable provides a forum for members to discuss issues related to access and management of architectural records and related fields. However, one does not have to be a member of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) to join the roundtable. For more information see the following page of the SAA web site: http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section10.asp#guidelines_roundtables.

To join the e-mail list contact nloe@calpoly.edu. To send a message, use archrecs@lib.calpoly.edu and your post will be sent automatically to everyone. Currently the roundtable uses an alias at Cal Poly but is working toward a more conventional e-mail list and a web site.

COPAR is the Cooperative Preservation of Architectural Records. The national organization published a newsletter until 1998, and several states have active chapters,

including Massachusetts, Connecticut and Texas. TxCOPAR has a useful and informative website at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/apl/aaa/txcopar.html>. The Library of Congress has agreed to host a COPAR web site, and members of the Roundtable are assisting in its completion. It was hoped this would be available before the 75th anniversary celebration of HABS/HAER in November 2003, but that date has come and gone. (We'll publish the URL here when the site actually becomes available.)

One of the first steps is to gather URLs/web sites for architectural archives in order to create a clearinghouse-type web page. Organized on an international, national, state, and local level, the links will provide access points to those working with and pursuing research of architectural records.

The UNESCO web site's Archives Portal lists 72 architectural archives in the world, 29 of which are in the U. S., 2 of which are in Missouri (http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_archives/pages/Archives/index.shtml). The COPAR effort plans to be a much more comprehensive attempt to provide access to repositories that maintain architectural records in any parts of their collection.

**St. Louis and Missouri Valley Chapters
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News Letter

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Spring issue	15 February
Summer issue	15 May
Fall issue	15 August
Winter issue	15 November

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