

Preserving the Recent Past II, October 11-13, 2000

Preserving the Recent Past II, the sequel to the highly successful and groundbreaking conference held in 1995, will be sponsored this fall in Philadelphia. Sponsored principally by the National Park Service, the Association for Preservation Technology International, the General Services Administration, and the Historic Preservation Education Foundation, the conference will explore the philosophical, planning, and practical challenges associated with the preservation of modern buildings, structures, objects, and landscapes. The three-day conference and associated workshops and symposium will be a unique opportunity to learn about state-of-the-art methods and strategies for preserving our modern heritage.

Conference sessions are being organized under two broad themes: evaluation and preservation strategies and preservation technology and practice. Bringing together architects, conservators, planners, engineers, property owners, and preservation officers, among others, the conference will cover a host of topics, ranging from the suburbs, housing, supermarkets, landscapes, bridges, and public buildings, to planning and advocacy issues. The technical sessions will cover technical preservation issues on a diverse range of subjects, including HVAC upgrades, windows, metals, lighting, interiors, roofing, modern paints, screen block, plastics, and brick veneer.

The setting for the conference will be the PSFS Building, designed by Howe and Lescaze in 1932. The building, which is one of the great examples of early modernism in America, is currently being converted into a Loews Hotel. Conference participants will be offered a discounted rate to stay at the hotel.

Preserving the Recent Past II will also include an exposition of restoration products for modern buildings, a new publication, and other memorable activities. Following the main conference, participants will have the chance to learn more about the recent past in and around Philadelphia on tours of buildings designed by Louis Kahn, Oscar Stonorov, Frank Lloyd Wright, Robert Venturi, among others. Diner, Art Deco, sculpture, and skyscraper tours are also planned.

Preceding the main conference, the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) will sponsor a symposium, **Preserving the Twentieth Century Curtain Wall**, as well as four technical workshops. The curtain wall symposium will explore issues related to evaluation, repair, and upgrade of the curtain

walls on historic buildings. Participants will learn about the behavior and performance of curtain wall systems and opportunities for modifying the curtain wall to meet contemporary standards and program requirements without compromising the original design intent.

The following technical workshops will be offered by APT:

- **Modern Historic Concrete.** This two-day technical workshop will address characteristics of concrete, techniques of field and laboratory investigation, and methods of repair, restoration, and protection for historic concrete, focusing on the 20th century. Participants will examine samples, review case studies, and take part in theoretical investigations led by experts;
- **Coatings for Architectural Surfaces.** This two-day technical workshop will present a detailed summary of common and novel 20th-century coatings and discusses their aesthetic, economic, and performance characteristics. The course will also address assessment of coating failures, identification of existing coatings, and techniques for repair;
- **Glass In Historic Buildings: 1750 to 1950.** This two-day technical workshop will cover the history, investigation, conservation, and replication of glass in historic buildings for the period 1750 to 1950. Participants will have an opportunity for hands-on investigation, conducted by a team of leading experts;
- **Twentieth Century Sculpture: Preserving Art of the Recent Past.** This two-day technical workshop will focus on issues related specifically to 20th-century sculpture, including the characteristics and behavior of the materials employed in their creation; the techniques used to investigate their condition; collections care; and conservation and artists' intent. Outdoor public monuments, as well as sculpture housed in museums and private collections, will be discussed. In addition to education sessions, the workshop will feature a visit to the conservation laboratories of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

For additional information about the **Preserving the Recent Past II Conference**, symposium and technical workshops, write: Preserving the Recent Past II, P.O. Box 75207, Washington, DC 20013-5207; call: (202) 343-6011; e-mail: recentpast2@hotmail.com; or visit the conference web site at www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/recentpast2.htm