



## Preservation Design Awards Call for Entries announced

Submissions for CPF's 13th Annual Preservation Design Awards competition are now being accepted. If you know of a strong candidate for these prestigious awards, or wish to submit your own work in the field of historic preservation, call CPF *immediately* for instructions.

**Submissions are due to us by December 5, 1995.**



**Pasadena's historic Castle Green**

Awards are given in six categories: Restoration, Rehabilitation, Adaptive Re-use, Preservation/Stabilization, Cultural Resource Studies and Reports, and Craftsmanship/Preservation Technology. To be eligible, projects must be located in or deal with a California subject, and have been completed between June 30, 1990 and November 30, 1995.

This year, the popular Design Awards Program will be held on February 11, 1996 at Pasadena's historic Castle Green, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Opened in 1899 as the Central Annex of the Hotel Green complex, Castle Green was a lavish resort for easterners and others escaping winter rigors. Architect Frederick L. Roehrig drew on Moorish, Spanish, Victorian, and other stylistic elements to produce what has been called Pasadena's "most stunningly original building."

**Inside: John Merritt's first  
"Letters from Prague"**

In 1924 a group of investors bought the hotel complex and divided it into three parts. The Central Annex was divided into 50 individually owned units and remains so today, renamed the Castle Green. The Castle Green's public rooms and gardens are rented out for events. Watch your mail for invitations to this not-to-miss event!

## Attend the Restoration '95 show at no charge!

CPF members are invited as special guests to attend, *absolutely free of charge*, many of the activities at RESTORATION '95, an exhibition and conference showcasing preservation-related products and services. This unique three-day event will be held at the San Francisco Hilton & Towers December 10-12, 1995.

**To receive your complimentary guest badge, mail or fax the enclosed "Complimentary Exhibitor Guest Ticket" to the show organizer by November 22, 1995.**

*(See Restoration page 2)*

## Restoration '95

(continued from page 1)

Along with CPF, other contributing and exhibiting organizations include: AIA San Francisco, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, California State Office of Historic Preservation, The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, National Association of the Remodeling Industry/SF Bay Area Chapter, National Park Service Western Regional Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation Western Regional Office, and Northern California Chapter/American Society of Interior Designers.

See the enclosed flyer for additional details and sign up today!

### *Feds cut preservation funds; non-profit advocacy efforts also threatened*

In a damaging move to historic preservation efforts nationwide and in California, members of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees have approved a total appropriation of \$36.052 million for the FY96 federal Historic Preservation Fund, a reduction of 13% from the FY95 funding level.

Most of the cuts came at the expense of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which suffered a whopping 50 percent reduction in its annual allocation (to \$3.5 million). The State Historic Preservation Offices received an appropriation of \$29.4 million, a reduction of \$1.5 million (five percent). The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation received an appropriation of \$2.5 million, a 17 percent reduction. The Conference Committee report states that the new funding level for the National Trust is to initiate a three-year period of transition to replace federal funds with private funds.

In a message to CPF, National Trust President Richard Moe said "I know that you share my

extreme disappointment in the action of the Conference Committee. We were optimistic that the National Trust's FY96 appropriations would be in the range of \$4.6 - \$5.0 million. However, the conference had to reconcile a difference of approximately \$68 million between the Senate and the House Interior Appropriations bills and also to find offsets to restore approximately \$86 million for Native American programs." Moe believes that in the long run, however, the National Trust will be stronger by gaining independence from federal funding.

Most alarmingly to California preservationists, Moe reports that, "there is an ongoing campaign in Congress to cripple the advocacy and communications programs of non-profit organizations which receive federal financial support. This assault on the right of non-profit groups to hold public policy views and to communicate those views to elected and appointed government decision makers is at the heart of the Trust's precipitous loss of federal appropriations."

Such moves could threaten the statewide advocacy work of CPF and many local preservation organizations that work with legislators in Sacramento to ensure California's historic resources receive the utmost protection. Many preservation organizations receive small amounts of federal funding in the form of National Trust or SHPO grants.



*California Preservation* is published quarterly by the California Preservation Foundation, California's only statewide, non-profit organization promoting historic preservation. This newsletter is brought to you by: Lindsey Ainsworth, Susan Brandt-Hawley, Jack Douglas, Toni Symonds Dow, Ruthann Lehrer, Bob Mackensen, John Merritt, Jeff Eichenfield, Paige Swartley, and Kristi Coombs. Your contributions are always welcome. Please include a black & white glossy to illustrate your story.

## Legal Updates:

**AB 133.** CPF's legal challenge to AB 133, state legislation that prohibits local governments from designating religious-owned properties as landmarks without owner approval, is proceeding to summary judgment and is scheduled to be heard in March in San Francisco court. In motions for summary judgement, opposing parties argue that based on undisputed facts, the law requires judgment in their favor. No additional trial should be needed; the motion will decide the case. CPF and our co-plaintiffs are being represented pro bono by attorneys from Morrison and Foerster and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Co-plaintiffs include the California Chapter American Planning Association, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, City and County of San Francisco, Los Angeles Conservancy, National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, and the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. The statute is opposed on the grounds that it grants a special exemption from local land use laws to one type of property owner, unlawfully delegates unreviewable power to religious organizations, restricts public input, and will lead to the "entanglement of state with religion."

**Cobb Warehouse:** In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeals in San Diego ruled against SOHO (Save Our Heritage Organisation) in the case regarding the Cobb Warehouse in San Diego's Gaslamp District. CPF had joined the National Trust as *amici* on appeal supporting SOHO. Since the case was not published there is no difficult precedent created. However, the court's failure to acknowledge the building as being a contributor to the National Register district is very troubling.

**USS Hornet:** A new historic preservation case involves the USS Hornet, a National Historic Landmark World War II aircraft carrier active in the Pacific Theater and the vessel that retrieved the Apollo 11 and 12 astronauts. The Navy is

proceeding to scrap the ship without complying with the federal review requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A lawsuit filed on October 20 in federal court in San Francisco by an Alameda citizens group has stayed the dismantling. The Navy and preservationists have agreed to discuss the possibility of donating the ship for restoration as a museum. A further court hearing is (ironically) scheduled for December 7, Pearl Harbor Day.

John Merritt

### Letters from Prague

*In June, CPF Executive Director John Merritt took a leave of absence and embarked upon an exciting assignment with the Ministry of Culture in Prague, Czech Republic. John has since informed CPF he will not be returning to his former position with us. We will sorely miss John, but he has promised to update us on his, and Prague's, progress as well as his travels.*

August 25, 1995

Sergei Radnitzky preached in the fields and forests, discovered springs, talked to bears and, from logs he cut and crafted, raised houses for the followers he attracted. Elevated to sainthood, and one of Russia's patron saints, Sergei Radnitzky's presence still permeates a hundred-mile region surrounding Moscow. We were visiting the original settlement, a town of 30,000 recently called Zagorsk to honor a Soviet hero but now again called Sergei Posad (the place of Serge). Our guides were Olga Lourikova and her poet husband, Volodye. Olga, who interned with CPF last year, had worked herself into a frenzy trying to show us every sign of her favorite saint...that monastery, a spring he had discovered, where the miracle with the bear took place, the path he must have followed through the forest, the fourteenth century church we stared at in amazement. (See Letters page 10)

## CPF conference to showcase Peralta Adobe house museum for opening reception

by Jack Douglas, Preservation Action Council of San Jose

Participants in the 1996 CPF Conference in San Jose (May 30-June 2) will have the opportunity to visit the Peralta Adobe, Northern California's oldest house museum, and its historic neighbor, the recently restored home and gardens of pioneer Thomas Fallon.

The adobe was built in the 1790s by Manuel Gonzalez, an Apache Indian. It later became the residence of Luis Maria Peralta. Both Gonzalez and Peralta were in the party of

Captain Juan Bautista de Anza which came north in 1775-76 to settle Alta California.

When Peralta's military duties were completed, he retired to San Jose where he became Com-misionado of the Pueblo. For his services, Peralta was granted the Rancho de San Antonio which encompassed most of the east bay of



**The Peralta Adobe, San Jose**

Alameda County. Peralta, who with his wife Maria had 17 children, was a wealthy man by the standards of the day, but he chose to remain in his humble two-room adobe for 50 years until his death in 1851. The adobe lay forgotten behind buildings of more recent vintage until a group of historically-minded citizens brought about its restoration in 1976.

The Peralta Adobe is now part of an historic district which also includes the Fallon House and gardens. Built in the late 1850s, the Fallon House was considered one of the grandest homes of its day. Both the Peralta Adobe and the Fallon House are furnished with items of their respective periods and should be included on your list of sites to visit during the conference.



**The Fallon House, San Jose**

## **Design Solutions Workshop: A Blueprint for Success**

### **Workshop proceedings to be published ~ Underwriting/Advertisers sought**

CPF's September workshop series, *Award-Winning Design Solutions: Exemplary Projects, Universal Applications*, offered an insider's look at the design challenges posed by recent preservation projects and the creative solutions devised by the architects, engineers, and planners who worked on them. Each of the featured California buildings had been honored with a Preservation Design Award from CPF within the past five years.

For those who were unable to attend this program, a CPF publication based on the workshop proceedings is in the works. This book will include transcripts of the speakers' presentations, project data, graphic illustrations, and transcripts of the in-depth and informative "Question and Answer" sessions.

Featured projects and speakers included:

*Alameda County Courthouse, Oakland:* Arnold Lerner, Lerner + Assoc. Architects  
*Alex Theatre, Glendale:* Peyton Hall, Historic Resources Group; Ron Reed, Restoration Studio  
*Castle Green, Pasadena:* David Charlebois, California Waterproofing and Restoration  
*Center for Motion Picture Study, L.A.:* Frances Offenhauser, Offenhauser/Mekeel Architects  
*Colorado Street Bridge, Pasadena:* Michael Ellegood & Pat Gelb, De Leuw, Cather & Co.  
*Galindo House, Concord:* Jay Turnbull, Page & Turnbull, Inc.  
*Gilroy Old City Hall:* Bruce Judd, Architectural Resources Group (ARG)  
*Jackson Brewery, San Francisco:* Henry Siegel, Siegel & Strain, Architects  
*Los Angeles Central Library:* Stephen Johnson, Hardy, Holzman, Pfeiffer, Assoc.  
*Mills Hall, Mills College, Oakland:* Bob Hersey, Robert H. Hersey, AIA

*Oakland City Hall:* Franz Steiner, VBN Architects

*Pasadena City Hall:* Bruce Judd, ARG

*Sausalito Women's Club:* Bruce Judd, ARG  
*Shell Building, San Francisco:* Alice Carey, Carey & Co., Inc.

*Spreckles Temple of Music, San Francisco:* Alice Carey, Carey & Co., Inc.

*Fallon House, San Jose:* Bruce Judd, ARG

Such a fantastic resource requires funding assistance, however. Here's an excellent opportunity to support the dissemination of new preservation technology and promote your business. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, or to pre-order the publication, please contact the CPF offices at (510) 763-0972.

## **CPF's January Workshop: The Mills Act and Other Preservation Tools**

In January, CPF will offer three full-day seminars on the Mills Act and Other Preservation Tools. Five years have passed since CPF's first Mills Act workshops were conducted. Since that time, the Mills Act itself has been amended, Mills Act contracts are becoming more popular, and savvy local preservationists are becoming increasingly innovative with mitigation plans. This workshop will focus on lessons learned in the past five years, how to draw up Mills Act contracts, the Assessor's role in Mills Act agreements, current problems and issues with incentive and mitigation programs, administrative procedures, and other relevant topics. The creative use of mitigation as part of the CEQA process will also be discussed.

The workshops will be held in Redwood City, Redondo Beach and a third location TBA. The workshop registration fee is \$75 for CPF members, \$85 for non-members, and \$60 for CPF student/senior members. On-site registrations will incur a \$10 late fee. For more information, call Paige Swartley at (510) 763-0972.

## Sign-up for CPF Legislative Action Network and make our voice heard in Sacramento!

As the legislative session comes to a close for the year, CPF is making plans for next year's activities. As ever, CPF prides itself on its aggressive presence at the State Capitol. In these rapidly changing times, political power is increasingly being evaluated by an association's ability to represent and organize people at the grassroots level. Here at CPF, we believe that with term limits it is even more important for all of us dedicated to historic preservation to make our voices heard.

As a member of CPF, you have a unique opportunity to join in our legislative activities in an immediate and personal way. By completing the form at the bottom of the page CPF will send you:

- \* a current roster of other organizations like yours that want to be involved in policy making;
- \* a sample letter which supports a piece of legislation;
- \* a sample letter which opposes a piece of legislation;
- \* a current roster of California State Assembly and Senate Members;
- \* a current list of California State Assembly and Senate Committees including the names and phone numbers of the Chairman, members, and staff;
- \* a special memorandum on the ten basic rules of effective lobbying.

With these simple but vital tools in hand, you will be ready to help make historic preservation a growing priority with elected officials in this state.

Periodically, CPF will ask you to send a letter or make phone calls on specific legislative proposals. But don't worry, CPF will always supply you with a sample letter and/or suggested comments to assist you in making an educated and informed contact with state officials. And after the vote CPF will tell you what happened on the vote and what the next step is.

CPF understands that some organizations, businesses and individuals may only feel comfortable supporting legislation and would prefer not to oppose legislation. That is fine. It is always your choice to which legislative advisories you respond. So make the commitment today to join other CPF members in helping to shape public policy in California!

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### CPF Legislative Action Network

Organization or Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail, or fax to CPF at (510) 763-4724**

# Legislative Updates:

## 1. Financing Historical Properties

**SB 875 (Marks and Petris)—Historic Tax Credits**—Provides for a tax credit of 10% for residential and 20% for non-residential of the amount paid or incurred for the seismic rehabilitation of historic properties. The bill has a \$5 million annual cap, and the tax credit provision would “sunset” on January 1, 2001.

**Comment:** This is a top priority for CPF in January. Senator Milton Marks has done a phenomenal job in moving this important bill through the legislature. The Assembly Appropriations Committee is the last hurdle before going to the Assembly floor and back to the Senate for concurrence. We need letters ASAP showing support. A copy of CPF's letter of support will be promptly faxed upon request to anyone who is interested in a prototype.

**Position:** Support

**Last Amended Date:** July 19, 1995

**Status:** Assembly Appropriations

## 2. Bond Acts

**AB 1234 (Cortese)—Park Bond Act**—Would establish funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation, Coastal Conservancy and other environmentally-sound programs.

**Comment:** Historically, Park Bond Acts have been routinely approved by the voters. Since 1984, money for preservation grants administered by OHP has been included. CPF is working with the author's staff to ensure that the grants are in there one more time (we suggested \$20 million). However, in the last several years bond acts of all types have had difficulty passing on the ballot. As a result, this has made many state elected officials reluctant to place bond acts on the ballot. It is crucial that people at the Capitol understand how important these preservation monies are to Californians. Letters of support should be sent to Assemblyman Cortese at the State Capitol, room 6031, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**Position:** Support

**Last Amended Date:** As introduced

**Status:** Assembly Appropriations Committee

\*\* Anyone interested in a summary of 1995 legislation affecting historic preservation should call CPF and one will be mailed to you.

## *Volunteers needed to staff Greene and Greene exhibition*

Volunteers are needed to staff “**Last of the Ultimate Bungalows: the William R. Thorsen House of Greene and Greene,**” an eight-week exhibition of architecture and furnishings designed by renowned turn-of-the-century California architects Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene.

The exhibition, scheduled for June 14-August 18, 1996 will feature the re-installation, for the first time in over 50 years, of the complete original furnishings designed for the house at 2307 Piedmont Avenue in Berkeley. The exhibition is presented by The Gamble House and the University of Southern California School of architecture, in cooperation with the University of California at Berkeley and the Sigma Phi Society. Contact Edward R. Bosely at The Gamble House in Pasadena (818) 793-3334.

### **Input sought on annual conference topics**

In planning our next annual preservation conference (to be held in San Jose May 30-June 2), CPF would like to solicit your ideas about topics you wish to have addressed, as well as cutting-edge preservation activities which can be used statewide as models. Please send a brief statement with your name, address and daytime phone to the CPF office, attention: Annual Preservation Conference.

## More public input needed to preserve California's military "Legacy"

by Elizabeth Johnson, National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has been working in partnership with the Department of Defense and the National Park Service for the last three years to provide preservation assistance to military installations, funded by the DoD's Legacy Resource Management Program. The military is the steward of more than 25 million acres of land, which includes a large number of historic and archaeological sites. The Trust's emphasis is on encouraging partnerships between installations and preservation groups at the state or local level who can help the military with identification and preservation of cultural resources located on these military holdings.

In the Trust's Western Region, I have been providing field service to installations in the nine western states. Of particular interest to Californians is the assistance we provide bases and communities affected by base closures. It is up to each base and community to determine how historic resources will be preserved after closure. The DoD approves the re-use plan and prepares environmental documentation on the plan, as well as entering into consultation with the Advisory Council and the State Historic Preservation Officer when properties eligible for the National Register are impacted.

The Trust is assisting these communities with reuse planning for historic properties. Most of the bases are well into the re-use planning process, but public input in reviewing Environmental Impact Statements and implementing re-uses of historic structures is still badly needed.

There is a worrisome lack of participation in reuse planning by preservationists in some locales. This could lead to the loss of many resources

that are important to California's and the nation's history. Many of the local officials coordinating re-uses of these bases are primarily concerned with introducing new uses to replace lost jobs and are unable to see the opportunities presented by historic structures. Historic designations are often seen as obstacles in creating a competitive industrial or office park. For example, Mare Island's core industrial area has been deemed unusable because the accessways to the buildings were built (c. 1900) to accommodate hand-carts and horse carts, not trucks. Although most of the re-use plans make room for a museum in an historic structure, this is not always enough. Overall vision for marketing historic buildings is still needed. Once the base is transferred from the military to a local agency, it loses the limited protection provided by the Section 106 consultation process.

In the following paragraphs, I will highlight some of the preservation activities taking place on closed/closing Northern California bases. In the next CPF newsletter I will cover Southern California.

**Mare Island:** The Navy is preparing the EIS/EIR for the city's re-use plan for this National Historic Landmark and the first U.S. Navy installation on the Pacific. The Navy's consultant has recommended that the base be re-designated from multiple "listed" and "eligible" districts to a single NHL district covering 1,000 acres. Mare Island includes unique turn-of-the-century houses, industrial buildings spanning the industrial revolution to the nuclear age, and hundreds of other structures of interest. One of the jewels is a shingle-style chapel with authentic Tiffany windows.

**Treasure Island:** The City of San Francisco is currently developing a re-use plan. There are only three remaining structures from the 1939 World's Fair, held before the island was taken over by the Navy for WW II. One of these, the Administration Building, houses the Treasure



Island Museum, which was originally funded by the Navy and is now raising funds to continue operation as a non-profit. They are also working with the DoD to determine whether the museum's collections will remain on the island after closure or be sent to Washington, D.C., as is the standard procedure.

**Oak Knoll:** A group called the Oak Knoll Heritage committee has formed to preserve the history of the Oakland Naval Hospital. They worked with Oakland Heritage Alliance to place one of the base's most interesting buildings, the former golf club that the Navy took over for an officer's club, on the study list to become a city landmark. The structure was determined to be ineligible for the National Register, but has come to symbolize the presence of the Navy and the hospital in Oakland during WW II. They are looking for ways to preserve the building and display the photos and artifacts that recall the site's history. The Navy is currently preparing an EIS/EIR on the City of Oakland's re-use plan.

**Alameda Naval Air Station:** Re-use plans are being drawn up by the Alameda Regional Re-use Authority, and an educational institution is planning to use most of the base's Art Deco historic district. A group has formed to preserve one of the contributing buildings as a naval aviation museum, with a goal of displaying Navy aircraft. In addition, the Aircraft Carrier *Hornet* Foundation is attempting to save this historic ship, which is currently on loan to Alameda NAS from a scrap dealer.

**Presidio of San Francisco:** Much has been written about the efforts to preserve the Presidio and about the establishment of the Presidio Trust to guide its re-use by the National Park Service. The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage and the Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association played an important role in these efforts.

Other closing bases in Northern California with resources of interest to preservationists include: **McClellan Air Force Base** near Sacramento, the **Oakland Army Base**, and **Castle Air Force Base** in Atwater.

The Trust is preparing a new information booklet to assist communities with preserving historic resources on bases that are closing. This booklet will be available after the first of the year. If you or your organization is interested in finding out more about base closure activities and the preservation of historic military sites, please call me at (415) 956-0610.

### ***CPF Publications List***

- (1) *How to Use the State Historical Building Code.* Price: \$12.00.
- (2) *Avoiding the Bite: Strategies for Adopting and Retaining Local Preservation Programs.* Price: \$12.00.
- (3) *Conserving Housing, Preserving History.* Price: \$12.00.
- (4) CPF's "Earthquake Policy Manual" — *History at Risk.* Price: \$10.00.
- (5) *Loma Prieta: The Engineers' View*, by John Kariotis, Nels Roselund and Mike Krakower. Price: \$12.00.
- (6) *Preservationist's Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act*, by Jack Rubens and Bill Delvac. Price: \$14.00.
- (7) *A Preservationist's Guide to the Development Process*, edited by William F. Delvac, Christy McAvoy and Elizabeth Morton. Price: \$12.00.
- (8) *Preservation for Profit*, by William F. Delvac and Thomas Coughlin. (Tax Act projects and historic preservation easements.) Price: \$13.00.
- (9) *What's In It for You*, by Carolyn Douthat and Elizabeth Morton and subtitled "*Capitalizing on Historic Resources with the Mills Act and other California Preservation Incentives.*" Price: \$12.00.

To order, send a check payable to: California Preservation Foundation, 1615 Broadway, Suite 705, Oakland, CA 94612  
First-Class Postage: \$3.00 for first item; add \$1.00 for each additional item.

Fourth-Class Postage: \$1.24 for first item; add \$0.50 for each additional item.

CA residents please add 8.25% California Sales Tax on price of book(s) only.

## Letters from Prague

*(continued from page 3)* The kremlin (walled-in area) in Sergei Posad was immense and was chock full of churches for every important event in life, churches with icons on every possible interior space, a church just for the czars, several monasteries, and even a palace where the czars lived when they made their pilgrimages to this holy place. Russian Orthodox priests passed by in flocks, seminarians rushed to perform their duties, a monk widely believed to be "in touch with God" sat on his bench listening intently to troubled women seeking blessing. And this remains a place of pilgrimages with the most ancient church open at all times, filled with praying pilgrims, priests chanting and the faithful's responses sung with voices of sweetness and depth only Russians seem to produce. This, I understood, was real. To be in awe of all of this religious feeling was the only possible reaction. These people weren't tourists, they were pilgrims fully immersed in their faith. This was a functioning sacred place.

Everywhere we went in Russia, churches are being repaired or have been recently restored and reopened. Outside of Sergei Posad, three lone monks have begun restoration of an enormous abandoned monastery and have finished the main church cupola already. The largest church in Moscow, dynamited during the Stalin years, is in the midst of being reconstructed. Smaller, "neighborhood" churches in Moscow were quickly reconstructed -- exact replicas of the historic church -- on their previous sites and now shine with fresh gold or silver onion domes. In the town of Kolomna, near where Olga's family lives, a monastery is open again after 70 years, several churches in Kolomna's kremlin have reopened for regular services and the largest and oldest church within the compound is being slowly restored.

Inside is one man, maybe 60 years-old, high up on scaffolding painstakingly repainting frescoes

covered with hundreds of saintly images. "How does it look down there?" he shouts. We assure him that the results of his meticulous work are truly beautiful, and we wonder aloud how he will ever finish restoring such an immense interior space. He is a volunteer, we learn ... "they're paying me in vodka" ... but he has no concern about finishing his work. He will get it done, "and then I will come and restore California," he says with a hearty laugh.

Later, Olga showed us the cross she and some others had erected where their village church once stood. The church was demolished during war because, they were told, the Germans might use it to guide artillery shells into the village. Hardly a target, the village is a small gathering of traditional wooden houses, all with lace-delicate wooden fretwork around windows and under the eaves. The church cemetery, stripped of any signs of religion, is being re-established, but Olga shows us where they are hiding the cross which once graced the priest's grave. Someday they will build a chapel on the empty site.

Russians were denied easy access to religion for over three generations. The first priority in this post-Soviet period is to restore and rebuild the physical evidence of a strong religious tradition. It is not because all Russians were closet church members all of these years -- a low percentage of the population professes religious belief -- but because the church, physically and emotionally, was an integral part of Russian culture. Reconstituting the society means resuscitating all of the vestiges of that heritage for continuity's sake.

Russia is suffering economically but churches, at great expense of both time and money, are being revived everywhere. I was struck by the contrast between the Russian passion to restore religious buildings and the problems we are having with church property in our country. In Russia, a venerable church reborn reinserts a critical piece

missing from the fabric of the culture. In our communities, too many churches have become, simply, patches of real estate ... and to hell with our cultural heritage.

Perhaps I should take up the offer of the man restoring the fresco. We surely need help to restore the understanding that historic churches play an important role in our religious and cultural heritage, that is, if we are to maintain our own cultural continuity. Russians know this is about the soul of the nation. We seem to be more interested in selling pieces of our soul for "the highest and best use."—John Merritt, Prague, Czech Republic, who is also a volunteer getting paid in pivos.

#### 29 zari (September), 1995

The weather here is already what we would call winter in California. These mornings the feeling in the air as I go to my Czech language class reminds me of being in D.C. one time in January when it was crisp and clear and I knew that either snow or bull---- would soon be flying ....

The job does put me on the road a fair amount and I have been to some really great towns and visited some fabulous buildings. It's entirely an insider's view of the country's historic resources, things most tourists will never see, and that's pretty great ...

As I walk around here (Prague) or visit other towns I can see that change is coming rapidly and it is not always very sensitive ... Even when they repair old buildings, the workmen seem to have little regard for the older materials. They just hammer plaster off, throw away old wooden windows and rip out stone and bricks to cover it all up with new plaster. And the buildings look new. I long ago reached the stage back in the States where I always preferred the "before" to the "after" and am beginning to have that feeling here as well. There is something time adds to a building, more than just patina, to make it interesting. All that mold and dirt is something

like the wrinkles on your face that let people know you have existed a while and experienced existence, ... and it plainly shows. They are much more inclined to worry about the truly historic buildings and architectural marvels of previous centuries -- and they have more than their share of these -- than to worry about all the "common" other stuff, even if it too is several hundred years old.

But, so much for esthetic theory. What I normally do is analyze law, ministry programs, planning options, and federal regulations and then make reports full of recommendations on how procedures or results could be improved ... I am trying to get them to do some economic research on "heritage tourism" and its impact on the economy and to take a look at several protected town reserves to measure the direct and indirect impacts of preservation grants ... I think they would get a very favorable set of figures and that would help in parliament when they go in for funding and new pieces of tax revenues...

Management and organizational planning is not well developed here so I have been trying to describe how to budget, do work plans, carry out programs and how to establish accountability throughout the organization.

So that's the news from the Czech Republic. Any news from California?

#### **Send your greetings and news items to John at:**

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160 00 Praha 6  
Czech Republic

Work phone: 011 42-2 513-2690  
Work fax: 011 42-2 513-2715

## L.A. Mayor's Getty House restoration a model of cooperation

Getty House, the official residence of the Mayor of Los Angeles, has reopened to the public following a year-long restoration that is a model of public-private cooperation.

The 74-year-old Tudor-style residence was designed by Gabriel S. Meyer and Philip W. Holler of the Milwaukee Building Company who later gained fame as the designers of the famous Chinese and Egyptian Theaters on Hollywood Boulevard. It was built for Paul Paulson, the owner of B&M Cafeterias in 1921. During the 1930s the house was leased for a brief time to Delores Costello and John Barrymore. Getty Oil Company took over the deed in 1957. In 1976 Getty donated the house to the City of Los Angeles for use as the official Mayor's residence.

Sixteen years later, needing attention due to a lack of city funds, Getty House was ready for sprucing up. Mayor Richard Riordan created the private, non-profit Getty House Restoration Foundation. The original plans called for a "minor facelift." However, just as restoration was to begin, the Northridge Earthquake hit, causing considerable damage. As a result, the restoration leaders went from "planning a mild facelift to undertaking major reconstructive surgery," says Polly Williams Kroeger, executive director of the restoration.

Committees (18 in all) were formed to address fundraising, design, protocol, art and furnishings acquisitions, historical documentation, the exterior, the public open house, the gala, the tribute book and other activities.



**Getty House**

In addition, an invitation went out to the Los Angeles design community to compete to design the 19 different rooms of Getty House. The challenge for these designers was to have Getty House reflect a style indigenous to Los Angeles, within the constraints of an English Tudor-style house. Nineteen top Los Angeles interior and landscape designers donated their services and secured permanently donated furnishings.

During the restoration, it was discovered that the gardens had been designed by celebrated West Coast landscape designer A.E. Hanson. Maintaining historical accuracy in the magnificent gardens became a top priority.

The restoration was supported by private funding and in-kind donations from Los Angeles residents and merchants raised through numerous fundraising events. More than 300 volunteers donated their time and energy.

Getty House will be open for special events and tours. For information, location and directions, please call (213) 243-9453.

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## Calendar:

**December 5** - CPF Preservation Design Awards submissions due.

**December 10-12** -- Restoration West Trade Show, San Francisco Hilton and Towers, (617) 933-9699 for exhibitor info; (617) 933-6663 visitor info.

**January (date TBA)** --CPF Mills Act and Other Preservation Tools workshop. Call CPF for info.

**February 11** -- CPF 13th Annual Preservation Design Awards program at the historic Castle Green in Pasadena. Call CPF for info.

**April 12-14** -- 1996 Preservation West Trade Show and Conference, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Call (415) 221-4645 for info.

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