

Interdisciplinary Negotiations: The Disconnect between Architects and Historic Preservationists

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ABSTRACT

In the interdisciplinary practice of historic building preservation, there is a disconnect between architecture and historic preservation professionals because each side is not fully aware of the responsibilities and goals of the other within the context of a project.

Subsequently, these projects involve more conflict than collaboration, undermining the quality and focus of the work. This research acts as an accessible reference and provides resources to help emerging professionals in both fields become more aware of the challenges each side faces. This includes a comprehensive interrogation and identification of the root causes of the disconnect that currently divides the fields, and proposes solutions to mend it. By compiling information related to the various disciplines and factors at play during a project, this document presents an overview of considerations both architects and preservationists make throughout the historic preservation process. This includes a brief contextual discussion on the evolution of preservation practice in the United States. It should be expected that the number of non-preservation architects working on historic buildings will increase out of a necessity to reuse our existing building stock in the face of climate change, and also hopefully out of a greater appreciation for built historic resources. If we are to continue the practice of historic preservation with integrity, it is imperative that we provide emerging architecture and preservation professionals with the tools and knowledge to communicate efficiently and to complete appropriate, successful, quality interventions on our historic buildings.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Every field of practice faces their own internal problems, and often issues collaborating with other disciplines arise as well. There could be myriad reasons for this, but it is most important to acknowledge that the responsibility of addressing these issues falls to each individual member of that profession.

Problem Statement

Within the context of historic building preservation projects there exists a disconnect between architects and preservationists in their ability to effectively communicate and negotiate with one another. This issue stems from a deficiency of knowledge in both parties about how each profession operates on a project team, and is further compounded by the stereotypical assumptions that exist for both preservationists and architects. Outwardly, it may seem that these fields are intrinsically connected; after all, both care deeply about architecture. However, to make this assumption is dangerous, and it ignores innumerable contemporary challenges professionals of both disciplines face.

The consequences of this disconnect are practical on the surface, but they also indicate a deeper philosophical divide. With regard to the technical preservation and maintenance of a historic building, these consequences take shape in the form of project negotiations that result in decisions that may not be in the best interest of the historic building, whether intentional or otherwise. There are many unfortunate scenarios that could result

from poor communication at minimum, or an adversarial relationship at worst. For instance, irreparable damage could be caused to building materials, that originally retained integrity, due to inappropriate treatment methods being specified. Or, perhaps a building owner made some rash demolition decisions based on the advice of their architect who downplayed the role and importance of preservation in carrying out the project. Beyond architectural interventions, treatment regimens and preservation planning, however, there is the larger issue that architects and preservationists do not necessarily share the same values. If disciplines tied directly to the care of historic buildings intrinsically valued these places for their architectural and heritage contributions, this research would be without merit. However, the values of the preservationist are not always shared by architects, contractors, engineers, developers and the like. Thus, preservation legislation and historic preservation's subsequent establishment as a field of study and practice is in reaction to a lack of universal preservation values in the building industry and in American society.

There are three areas in which both professions would benefit from broadening their understanding of one another. First, architects and preservationists should have a baseline understanding of the responsibilities and priorities of the other discipline respectively. This will allow them to better understand the motivation behind the trajectory of a conversation during project discussions. Second, each side should know what considerations and factors the other side is taking into

account, as well as how these constraints affect the project. This will help them be more prepared to identify which issues are non-negotiable, which issues present conflicts, and on which issues it is easiest to compromise. Finally, everyone on the project team should strive to reach a clear vision of the shared goals for their project. This will help the team avoid unexpected pitfalls or missteps that could have otherwise been prevented had everyone been in clear communication rather than made assumptions about each other's professional responsibilities and intent. This is especially important for emerging professionals still gaining a foothold in their field. It is important to recognize that conflict can either be a productive tool or a hinderance depending on attitude and approach. Productive conflict will end in thoughtful compromise. If the gaps creating this disconnect can be filled, then these types of projects can be carried out by preservationists and architects more collaboratively, efficiently and successfully with respect to reaching appropriate, timely solutions that satisfy the constraints for any given historic building preservation project.

Contribution to the Fields of Historic Preservation and Architecture

This research seeks to address the lack of productive discourse surrounding the countless interdisciplinary conversations integral to the successful practice of historic building preservation, with a concentration on the intersection of architecture and preservation professionals. Specifically, the relationship between architects and preservationists is called into question, and whether there is a disconnect between them that is impacting

important preservation work being carried out all over the United States.

The focus of this discussion was born of a perceived disconnect in the classroom between students of historic preservation and students of architecture, which has been seemingly confirmed by informal anecdotal accounts from practicing professionals in both fields. Stereotypically speaking, it is understood that preservationists will vehemently resist solutions that do not involve the comprehensive retention of all historic elements, while architects simply cannot understand the nuances of preservation and are generally annoyed at the constraints it presents their design intentions. If these stereotypes continue to be perpetuated in the classroom by students and in the field by emerging professionals, many future projects will suffer when appropriate compromises cannot be reached because neither side can prioritize their goals within the context of the other sides responsibilities. Furthermore, there are many other steps that can be taken at institutional and community-wide levels that would greatly improve discourse and understanding between both fields. Therefore, there are two fundamental goals of this research: 1) to interrogate the disconnect between architects and preservationists in order to identify possible causes and solutions to this central issue, and 2) to compile sets of information and references that textually and graphically convey the most important data anyone on a building preservation project team should be aware of, especially emerging professionals. This includes a list of resources which encourage access to additional information on various topics. These goals have been set with the intention of positively influencing future practitioners in both

fields towards more well-rounded, productive and respectful communication.

Audience

There are three types of readers who will benefit most from the contents of this document. First, undergraduate and graduate students considering or pursuing the fields of either or both historic preservation and architecture will find the information herein useful in gaining a better understanding of the process of historic building preservation from various perspectives, and whether it is a type of work they would like to be part of their career¹. Second, emerging professionals in either or both aforementioned fields who are seeking to fill gaps in their knowledge of the other field and in the components of a historic building preservation project, or any project involving both of these fields. Finally, non-preservation professionals, potentially from other disciplines on a preservation project team and particularly practicing architects who have not previously carried out a project of this type, can use this document as a reference to gain an overview of project challenges and considerations they may not be familiar with. For instance, this group may include contractors, sub-consultants, or engineers who find themselves on a preservation project team. In general, readers will come away with a better understanding of their professional relationship to the field of historic preservation, and how they might improve upon it.

Methodology

The information presented in this document can be divided into four main types of research: 1) research defining specific vocabulary used in this text for the sake of clarity and consistency; 2) research giving context to the practice of preservation by architects and preservationists; 3) research as evidence to support the main claim herein that there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists in the practice of preserving existing and historic buildings; 4) research compiling disparate information on the disciplines and constraints considered during historic building preservation project planning. The intent of providing the information in each chapter of this document differs, and thus the type of research conducted and the sources consulted varies.

The types of sources referenced throughout this methodology section were sought out and obtained through a variety of methods and databases. The University of Oregon (UO) library system website grants access to 520 databases with sources including books, periodicals, articles, reports, theses, images, maps, newspapers, government documents and publications, and audio-visual media including films and audio recordings. The UO Library search engine served as a starting point for much of this research. Other general search engines included Google and Google Scholar. Additional searches for visual and audio sources were conducted using YouTube, the digital visual streaming platforms Netflix and Hulu, and the audio streaming service Spotify.

¹ For the definitive handbook on choosing a career path in historic preservation, see Jeremy Wells and Priya Chhaya's , *A Guide to Becoming an Historic Preservation Professional: The Work You Can Do, What Employers Want, and Educational Considerations*.

The National Park Service website was a consistent source of information for important national preservation standards and guidelines with regard to professional preservation practice. When possible, additional bibliographic sources were sought from the cited references of each source consulted during the course of this research, even if that source did not yield relevant information. Peers and colleagues were also a source of suggested references for various portions of this document. Referenced sources are regionally isolated to the United States. The graphic diagrams, used in this document to describe the connection between various pieces of information and offer a visual interpretation to the reader, were inspired by other documents² that use graphics in a similar capacity as well as the contents of several Google image searches resulting in numerous examples of graphic styles and methods of representation.

When searching the previously listed databases, a variety of keywords and phrase combinations were used to find relevant sources. Typically, specific keywords were searched with the settings that they may match any field that contained one or more of those words. In some instances, advanced search options were adjusted to find specific phrases, authors, or resource types. Keywords typically consisted of the vocabulary defined within this document or variations thereof, or words and phrases related to the history of preservation practice, project team disciplines, and project considerations. When possible and where applicable, primary and secondary sources were checked for diversity of authorship with regard to gender and race.

In addition to the types of resources previously listed, people involved with both the fields of preservation and architecture were informally consulted for their opinions in professional online forums. These individuals included students and practicing professionals with differing levels of experience. The gender, professional title, and location of each respondent, as self-reported by them either on their respective profile or in their response, was recorded in order to demonstrate the background of opinions represented. Responses were voluntarily submitted, and none of the respondents were specifically targeted or solicited for their input. An informal set of survey questions used to focus the content of the responses was developed by the author. Answering these questions was suggested, but not required. This informal survey and a description of the context for this research was submitted as a posting in a combination of six public and private online professional forums. The specific forums, postings, all public responses, and respondent demographic data can be found in the Appendix of this document. The methodology and purpose of this section of research is discussed further in “Chapter IV, The Disconnect: Forum Responses”.

The definitions given at the end of this chapter are provided in order to clarify terms and phrases commonly used throughout this document. Most definitions are an adapted and expanded version of a specific dictionary explanation of that term. Exceptions to this include profession-specific vocabulary such as *preservation*, which has been further defined by the National Park Service.

² See “Use of Graphics”.

Definitions were sourced from Dictionary.com unless otherwise noted.

In “Chapter II, A Brief Context of Preservation Practice in The United States, 1906 – 1966 – 2020”, the intent of summarizing how preservation has been practiced by architects and preservationists, since its formal 1966 inception in the United States, is to give context to the relationship between the two disciplines. This paper is focused primarily on the contemporary challenges shared by these two professions with regard to historic building preservation, and so the information in this chapter is synthesized mainly from secondary sources that have already adequately summarized this timeline. These sources include books, journal articles, and resources published by the National Park Service.

The research presented in “The Disconnect” chapters is organized around supporting a main claim with reasons, backed up by evidence, that warrant making this claim³. The claim is that there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists in the practice of historic building preservation which can cause project negotiations to be inefficient and potentially result in inappropriate solutions. The reasons for this disconnect between the two fields is a lack of understanding for the responsibilities and constraints faced by the other profession, as well as stereotypes⁴ and assumptions that can further compound

misunderstandings. These reasons are warranted by signs of misunderstanding between these two disciplines as observed by students and professionals alike, which implies that there is a disconnect, the main claim of this paper. The evidence supporting the reasons that warrant this claim has been obtained mainly from primary and secondary sources⁵. These sources include books, articles, reports, theses, oral presentations, trusted industry websites, and informally acquired opinions and observations from both students and professionals in both fields.

Other research in “Chapter VII, Contexts of Negotiation”, involving the descriptions of disciplines that may reside on a historic building preservation project team and considerations made chiefly by preservationists and architects on that team, is provided for the contextual benefit of the reader. Showing the connections between project disciplines and factors is important to demonstrating the project planning process, and providing information about each individual or issue discussed is crucial for achieving a clear and comprehensive understanding of the layers involved in these types of preservation projects. Research on these components culminates in the form of summarized descriptions, and is sourced mainly from primary and secondary sources. These sources include federal government documents, federal national standards and guidelines, industry

³ The organizational structure for this research as described here was outlined in *The Craft of Research* by Wayne Booth.

⁴ These stereotypes are defined in Chapters IV and V, and assumed to exist, though this paper does not analyze why or how they came to be.

⁵ Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

professional standards, trusted industry websites, articles, and reports.

This document is a tertiary resource and seeks to synthesize the aforementioned research. Conclusions and recommendations are based on connections supported by documented evidence including, when possible, professional affirmation obtained during informal discussions of both the stated problems and proposed solutions within this text.

In acknowledgement of the limitations of this research, this document does not claim to be a wholly comprehensive preservation planning project guide as it is impossible, and less useful, to discuss every possible aspect that shapes the trajectory and outcomes of a project. In addition, this research does not psycho-analyze project team communication, nor does it propose certain communication⁶ styles as solutions to poor project negotiation discussions. Finally, conclusions and recommendations synthesized from this research are meant as suggestions and do not guarantee increased efficiency, productivity, or more positive project outcomes. At various points throughout this text the shortcomings of this research are discussed, and areas of further exploration and development are proposed. In summation, this document is primarily meant to analyze the disconnect between

preservationists and architects from varying points of view, and give the reader an opportunity to quickly grasp the complexity and interconnectedness of all the disciplines and factors involved in the preservation of a building.

Literature Review

Most literature discussing the negotiation process centered around making crucial design decisions during any given building preservation project typically focuses on project delivery or philosophy in relation to either the field of architecture or the field of historic preservation, but typically not both. Information designed to help architects better understand concepts of project flow and management begins to discuss how to have interdisciplinary conversations, but usually with engineers and contractors rather than specialty fields such as preservation. Due to the variety of professionals that practice preservation, it is difficult to research how these practitioners approach this issue. For the purposes of this paper, we focus on preservationists concerned with regulatory management and enforcement, usually government officials or preservation consultants⁷. Since the majority of sources do not discuss the topic of this paper, being the disconnect between these fields, the research presented here attempts to connect several disparate sources in an effort to create a meaningful and useful

⁶ Ann Phillips thesis, *Common Ground: Bridging the Gap Between Architect and Historic Preservationist* is a deep dive into communication between architects and preservationists, and suggests a framework for communication that will promote successful project outcomes. The content of Phillips' thesis and this document pair well to create a more comprehensive look at the relationship between the fields of architecture and historic preservation.

⁷ This is not to disclude preservation contractors or those who carry out field work and repairs, but this research is mainly concerned with preservation professionals that work directly with the systems and standards that guide the practice of carrying out a project on an existing or historic building property.

conversation that concludes in a series of recommendations that will help bridge the gap between preservationists and architects. Literature that *is* in part related to the topic of this research is reviewed further in “Chapter V, The Disconnect: Academia & Media”.

There are professional guides available for each discipline that are discussed with regard to their relationship with the fields of architecture or preservation. These guides are typically published by an institution that oversees that field of work. For instance, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) periodically publishes *The Architect’s Handbook of Professional Practice*, currently in its fifteenth edition, and this document outlines information important to the architecture profession such as career development, firm management and project delivery. Similar handbooks are available for engineers, planners, archaeologists, scientists, and other disciplines that are discussed. For preservationists, this information is provided by a combination of public and private institutions, including the National Park Service (NPS), the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), and the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE). These references are used to provide a description of the professions of potential project team members working on a historic building preservation project, as covered in “Chapter VII, Contexts of Negotiation”.

Sources surrounding factors that could theoretically impact a preservation project

are difficult to summarize in that, by their very nature, they are all individualistic considerations that do not inherently have bearing on one another, and thus must be researched separately. Factors such as building code, accessibility, historic integrity, economics, politics, and philosophy of design approach could all easily have their own literature reviews. The information obtained about each factor is used to define it in general terms and describe why that issue might be considered when carrying out a building preservation project. These references are used to provide a description of the factors and constraints that should be considered as part of a historic building preservation project, also covered in “Chapter VII, Contexts of Negotiation”.

Use of Graphics

Graphics, such as diagrams, tables and flow charts, are used as part of this text in support of the information and recommendations given herein. Several precedents were used as inspiration for the layout and flow of these graphics, primarily Donovan D. Rypkema’s *Feasibility Assessment Manual for Reusing Historic Buildings* and *The Architect’s Handbook of Professional Practice* published by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Some graphics are provided for personal interactive use by the reader⁸ in order to reinforce concepts presented in the text and provide a starting point for emerging professionals in practice.

⁸ Interactive graphics are found in “Chapter VII, Contexts of Negotiation”.

Definitions

The following definitions are given within the context of this document and provided for the clarity of the reader. Some definitions expand upon the dictionary explanation⁹ of the given term, shown italicized, while other phrases are defined explicitly for this discussion. All discussions and definitions herein are given with regard to the regional context of the United States.

Architect:

a person who engages in the profession of architecture; a licensed professional practicing architecture including but not limited to design, construction document development, construction oversight, and project management; may work as a public official or for a private firm; experienced with ‘best practice’ building design and code compliance

Compromise:

an agreement reached by adjustment of conflicting or opposing claims, principles, etc., by reciprocal modification of demands; an agreement primarily reached through mutually productive communication and discussion with regard to any number of challenges within a given historic building preservation project

Conflict:

to be in opposition, disagreement; to be contradictory; a disagreement pertaining to the best course of practice with regard to any number of challenges within a given historic building preservation project including but not limited to the consideration of factors and constraints as raised by individual project team members; conflict may arise between team members, stakeholders, clients, owners, government officials, the public, or any combination of those groups

Conservation:

see “preservation”; this term is typically considered the European counterpart to the term, “preservation”, but may be used interchangeably in this text¹⁰

Consideration:

something that is to be kept in mind in making a decision; an issue to be kept in mind while making project decisions that the project team may or may not have control over

Constraint:

limitation or restriction; a given restriction associated with a potential factor or consideration that the project must comply with

⁹ As given by Dictionary.com unless cited otherwise.

¹⁰ See Constance Lai’s 2018 report, *Defining Quality: From Design through Construction*, for an in-depth discussion on the relationship between the terms “preservation” and “conservation”.

Discipline:

a branch of instruction or learning; a profession potentially represented in the project team of a historic building preservation project

Disconnect:

a lack of communication or agreement; a lack of communication or understanding between architecture and historic preservation professionals with regard to the relationship of the two fields, the relationship of specific professionals, and the effect of those relationships on decisions related to historic building preservation projects

Emerging professional:

a person, typically a recent graduate with less than 5 years of professional experience, in either/both the professions of architecture and/or historic preservation; an emerging professional of architecture is typically not yet a licensed architect

Factor:

one of the elements contributing to a particular result or situation; an issue to be kept in mind while making project decisions that may or may not directly impact the project outcome

Graphic:

pertaining to the use of diagrams, graphs, mathematical curves, or the like; diagrammatic; diagrams crafted in support of textual concepts, arguments and information; interactive charts for personal use by the reader per the given purpose

Historic building:

a building or structure nominated or designated as having some kind of inherent value based on the criteria of significance for which it was nominated; nomination and designation may be at a local, state or national level; criteria of significance may include association with an event or person, value with regard to design or construction, or potential for information that the building may yield in the future; does not include historic objects, landscapes, or other culturally significant sites which would not require the expertise and intervention of an architect in their preservation

Historic building preservation project:

a set of tasks culminating in the physical preservation and/or maintenance of a site nominated or designated as a historic building within the regional context of the United States; only includes projects that require the expertise and intervention of both an architect and an historic preservation professional

Interactive document:

this document which includes graphics for direct use by the reader

Interdisciplinary:

combining or involving two or more professions, technologies, departments, or the like, as in business or industry; primarily involving the professions of architecture and historic preservation with regard to a given historic building preservation project; may situationally involve other disciplines

Negotiation:

mutual discussion and arrangement of the terms of a transaction or agreement; an interdisciplinary discussion carried out due to a conflict and in pursuit of a compromise

Preservation:

*sometimes used as an umbrella term for the related work of restoration, renovation, and reconstruction, the term “preservation” as used in this document will assume the following definition, as outlined by the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: *the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property; work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction; new exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project**¹¹

Preservationist:

a person who advocates or promotes preservation, especially of wildlife, natural areas, or historical places; a preservation professional charged with regulatory management and guideline enforcement with respect to historic buildings; may be a public official or private consultant; experienced with ‘best practice’ historic building preservation approaches

Project team:

a group of professionals from various disciplines collaborating on achieving a common goal; a historic building preservation project team will include an architect and a preservationist as well as other disciplines as needed

Reader:

the audience of this document, typically students and emerging professionals

Responsibilities:

a thing or things for which one is accountable; the items and obligations which each discipline is accountable for due to their expertise involving those items

¹¹ National Park Service, “The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties”, 2.

Stereotype:

a simplified and standardized conception or image invested with special meaning and held in common by members of a group; one or more unfounded and potentially harmful assumptions held about members of a group, specifically the members of the fields of architecture and historic preservation as discussed in this text

Student:

a person formally engaged in learning, especially one enrolled in a school or college; pupil; an undergraduate or graduate student typically of either/both the fields of architecture and/or historic preservation



II. A BRIEF CONTEXT OF BUILDING PRESERVATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1906 – 1966 – 2020

“In a broad sense, *preservation* has been defined as a concern for the rate of consumption of buildings. The implosion of an existing building to make way for new construction represents instant consumption. The original building immediately ceases to exist.” – William Murtagh

The six decades leading up to 1966 dramatically shaped the legislation that now governs the way we practice historic preservation in the United States, regardless of profession. While the events of 1966 through the present day are most pertinent to the larger discussion established in Chapters I and III, it would be reckless to present them without prior context. Preservation was on the minds of Americans in the early 1900s, and it is important to recognize the steps that were taken that lead us to acquire the foundational preservation toolkit we have today.¹²

Who practices preservation?

In the United States, historic preservation has typically been practiced by architects and two types of preservationists: private citizens leading grassroots efforts and, more recently, preservation professionals that are *not* architects, typically consultants or regulatory management officials for instance.

Long before the demolition of Penn Station in New York City created an uproar¹³, women were often the leaders of preservation efforts. Ann Pamela Cunningham organized the first official preservation movement in the United States. Her work from 1853 to 1879 is credited with saving Mount Vernon¹⁴. Steven Semes summarizes this concisely in his book, *The Future of the Past: A*

¹² While there are widespread concerns about the effectiveness of these preservation tools and conversations about how we might adapt and update them to our current needs, we unfortunately have neither the time nor space to cover that topic here. We will reference these tools as needed, but will not be questioning their application; it is up to practitioners to stay up-to-date on legislative amendments, technological advancements, and best practices.

¹³ This event is considered by many to be the spark that initiated formal preservation efforts in the United States.

¹⁴ Semes, “The Future of the Past”, 130.

Conservation Ethic for Architecture, Urbanism, and Historic Preservation: “The first American preservationists were virtually all amateurs and laypeople passionately interested in history and culture. At the time, there were few American scholars of historical architecture and, with their focus on civic and moral instruction, early restorers were as likely to be guided by imagination as by evidence”¹⁵. In the late nineteenth century, American architects were mainly concerned with the growth of the young country—heritage conservation fell by the wayside¹⁶. However, there has always been a subset of architects interested in preserving architecture, and as grassroots movements took hold in the early 1900s, more architects became interested in these types of endeavors. They came to realize that preserving early architecture also meant preserving strong examples of traditional architecture that future scholars would look to and learn from¹⁷.

As historic preservation practice became more commonplace, it became clear that establishing a formal education for the budding field was necessary. Historic preservation education is a relatively new concept in the United States with the first architecture programs introducing conservation-related coursework in the 1960s, almost in defiance of Modernism¹⁸.

Early preservation coursework was often introduced to architecture programs by architectural historians, and was born out of a growing interest in how environmentalism and sociology are related to the built environment¹⁹. Eventually, Columbia University introduced the first historic preservation degree program in 1973, and the University of Florida introduced the concept of preservation as a specialization for students of architecture²⁰. As the number of institutions offering an education in historic preservation grew, so did the space between preservation and architecture. The evolving curricula was often associated with departments of history, archaeology or geography, sometimes with no connection to the departments of architecture and planning²¹. In essence, when historic preservation was established as an independent field of study, it effectively began to separate itself from the field of architecture because preservation programs were not necessarily developed in conjunction with architectural programs. Thus, a disconnect between preservation and architectural professionals emerged because they were no longer considered one in the same²². It is only in retrospect that this disconnect becomes an evident problem caused by

¹⁵ Semes, “The Future of the Past”, 130.

¹⁶ Phillips, “Common Ground”, 5.

¹⁷ Phillips, “Common Ground”, 5.

¹⁸ Tomlan, “Historic Preservation Education”, 187.

¹⁹ Tomlan, “Historic Preservation Education”, 188.

²⁰ Tomlan, “Historic Preservation Education”, 189.

²¹ Tomlan, “Historic Preservation Education”, 190.

²² To be clear, historic preservation becoming established as an independent profession is not the issue. The issue is that a meaningful connection between preservation and architecture programs was not maintained by those that took charge of establishing the field of preservation. Consequently, there is a lack of professionals with an adequate knowledge and understanding of both fields that would allow them to practice preservation efficiently and effectively with others on a project team.

chronic insufficient overlap between the fields academically.

Among various institutions, two types of historic preservation programs emerged producing two different types of preservation professionals: “preservation specialists” and “preservation generalists”²³. As one might deduce, “specialists” typically have a background in architecture, and “generalists” have a background in nearly anything else; both are still considered “historic preservationists”²⁴. The National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) was formed to create standards of education for historic preservation degree programs,

which helped further historic preservation’s recognition as a bona fide profession²⁵. However, the field still lacks two major milestones: acknowledgement by the United States federal government as an independent profession²⁶, and an accredited certification process carried out by an overarching institution²⁷, similar to that of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) which dictates architectural licensing requirements. Peter Dedek succinctly summarizes the culmination of historic preservation’s evolution into a legitimate field:

“Over the past two hundred years, historic preservation has evolved from a few isolated private efforts by a handful of concerned citizens trying to save individual sites into a highly sophisticated movement backed by law, governmental bureaucracy, and organized activism. Preservation has become an academic discipline with departments and undergraduate and advanced degrees related to preservation located in universities across the nation. Preservation has also become a profession that employs thousands of individuals who are educated in its theory and practice, including historical architects, architectural historians, preservation lawyers, and preservation specialists, who work in federal and state agencies, private advocacy groups, and design and consulting firms.”²⁸

²³ Tomlan, “Historic Preservation Education”, 191.

²⁴ In, *A Guide to Becoming an Historic Preservation Professional: The Work You Can Do, What Employers Want, and Educational Considerations*, Jeremy Wells and Priya Chhaya point out that there are no employment-related titles that include “historic preservationist”, and that this is a generalized term used for anyone with an interest in preservation advocacy. It does not indicate any formal education or association with a preservation focused institution.

²⁵ Tomlan, “Historic Preservation Education”, 191.

²⁶ United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Occupational Outlook Handbook”.

²⁷ Wells, “Historic Preservation: Challenges to Collaboration”, 88.

²⁸ Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 24.

Today, through the parallel growth of academia alongside preservation, those interested can now attend college and become a ‘preservationist’²⁹, and then go on to fill a multitude of positions with more specific titles.³⁰

The trajectory of historic preservation practice in the United States was not without its pitfalls. The Modernist Movement peaked in the 1960s, and with it came the architectural practice’s abandonment of historical appreciation. Architectural education shifted, and as Eugene Surber frames it, “(s)ince (architect’s) training denigrated the practitioner who drew from the past, in a sense it denigrated the architecture of the past as well”³¹. Modernism sought progressive designs with a focus on functionality and spatial organization. Such innovation would only be impeded by traditional influences, and so the movement rejected history³². Federally funded urban renewal programs coincided with the rise of Modernism, further fueling architects to replace vast portions of cities with new glass and steel high-rises and infrastructure³³. This often included wiping out minority communities and historic neighborhoods through eminent domain, an act encouraged by the federal government

who deemed these areas “blighted”. Not only were people left without their homes, but also without their culture and a sense of place. This highlights the fact that, in ignoring the physical manifestations of history, architects also ignored the people, intangible events, and heritage tied to them³⁴. Ultimately, this series of events caused the initial separation of architectural practice and preservation practice.

By the 1980s, Modernism had given way to Postmodernism, a movement that questioned the strict ideology of Modernism and attempted to restructure it³⁵. This often included bending the principles outlined in Modernism and reincorporating traditional and vernacular influences, which often created a sort of visual irony in the designs.

Postmodernism was a red herring for preservationists; it seemed like architects were acknowledging a renewed appreciation for historic architecture. To preservationists’ disdain, Postmodernism encouraged the practice of “facadism”³⁶ and pasted on ornament, far from the model of appreciation they had hoped for³⁷. This incited preservationists to begin incorporating other aspects of cultural heritage into their work, documenting forms of history both tangible and

²⁹ One does not need a degree or even a certificate to call oneself a “historic preservationist”. However, this research focuses on practicing professionals with direct influence over the care and preservation of historic buildings.

³⁰ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, xix.

³¹ Surber, “The Architect and Preservation”, 116.

³² Phillips, “Common Ground”, 8.

³³ Phillips, “Common Ground”, 9.

³⁴ Pyburn, “Historic Preservation in Architectural Education”, 45.

³⁵ Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 20.

³⁶ “Facadism” refers to the practice of only retaining the façade of an existing or historic building, and incorporating it into new construction. Typically no interior of the original building survives, and often only the most aesthetic or ornamental facades are retained.

³⁷ Tomlan, “Historic Preservation Education”, 192.

intangible. This gave them a foothold over aspects of the built environment that had cultural and historical value outside of their architectural value³⁸.

Despite a lapse in preservation by Modernist architects, today building owners, and often the public, expect design that is complimentary to existing and historic contexts. This puts pressure on architects to have an understanding, if not appreciation, of historic styles and construction methods. Despite American Institute of Architects (AIA) statistics that show more than fifty percent of work carried out by architectural firms is related to existing construction, it remains to be seen whether this is enough motivation to refocus architectural education and the field of architecture towards a more sensitive and thorough understanding of historic preservation³⁹.

What is most important to note when considering who is participating in the field of preservation is that it has always been a combination of both public officials and private practitioners. This equal commitment on the parts of the government and its constituency is a defining feature of American preservation efforts and the evolution of legislation at federal, state, and local levels over time.

³⁸ Tomlan, "Historic Preservation Education", 192.

³⁹ Wells, "Challenging the assumption", 457.

Establishing a Timeline

In 1966, what has been dubbed “the Preservation Congress”⁴⁰ was held and many of the acts, offices, systems, and programs that we are familiar with today were inaugurated in a move to formally govern and fund historic preservation efforts. This timeline seeks to highlight major actions taken by the United States Federal Government, as a public institution, and by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the foremost non-profit private institution cited in the National Historic Preservation Act⁴¹. By incorporating the National Trust in federal historic preservation efforts, the United States government was able to recognize the goals of private citizens in the preservation movement.

In order to lead a productive and informed conversation about issues in the preservation movement today, it is important to have a sense of the immediate context from which they developed. The following timeline offers a brief overview of actions that shaped the landscape of historic building preservation in the United States today; the preservationists will find themselves familiar with these events, though the architects may not. However, seeing as the goal of this text is to fill gaps in knowledge that exist in both parties, the architects will find it helpful to know that preservation is in fact a longstanding

institution⁴² with a complex history and a passionate constituency.

A key takeaway from this compilation of important preservation events and legislation is that, depending on your project, there may be important resources to consume, guidelines to consider, funds to pursue, or laws to abide by.

⁴⁰ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, 53.

⁴¹ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, 26. This timeline does not include events directly related to land conservation such as the Wilderness Act. Instead, this timeline is meant to focus on legislation and programming that directly formed and affects the work that architects and preservationists collaborate on in the present-day.

⁴² For a more complete timeline, the author recommends the National Park Service’s Conservation Timeline, which can be found on their website at nps.gov. For an accessible discussion of preservation as it pertains to design disciplines, the author recommends the 2014 book, *Historic Preservation for Designers* by Peter Dedek.

1906 – 1966

- 1906 American Antiquities Act**
Authorized the President to protect archaeological sites through the establishment of national monuments.⁴³
- 1916 National Park Service (NPS)**
Established "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."⁴⁴
- 1931 Athens Charter**
An early attempt to standardize treatments for historic sites, this document put forth by the First International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments recommended developing maintenance plans for historic sites on a case-by-case basis.⁴⁵
- 1933 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)**
Created to document buildings with drawings, photographs, and writing by commissioning unemployed photographers, historians, and architects under President Roosevelt's New Deal. All HABS documentation can be found in the Library of Congress.⁴⁶
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)**
Founded by President Roosevelt's New Deal, the CCC employed young, jobless, unmarried men to federal lands, which often included National Park's sites.⁴⁷ Many of the buildings constructed by the CCC are sites we seek to preserve today.
- 1935 Works Progress Administration (WPA)**
Established by President Roosevelt's New Deal, the WPA employed unskilled laborers, typically young men, to construct public works projects such as roads and buildings.⁴⁸ Again, many of the projects constructed by the WPA are sites we seek to preserve today.

⁴³ National Park Service, "Conservation Timeline 1901-2000".

⁴⁴ National Park Service, "Conservation Timeline 1901-2000".

⁴⁵ Semes, "The Future of the Past", 132, 134.

⁴⁶ Dedek, "Historic Preservation for Designers", 11-12.

⁴⁷ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 42.

⁴⁸ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 42.

Historic Sites and Buildings Act

The acquisition, documentation, and preservation of historic properties is launched by the Secretary of the Interior, head of the Department of the Interior which manages federal land and the conservation of natural resources.⁴⁹ Efforts include collecting information on sites by conducting surveys and research, and interpreting that data to demonstrate site heritage in an educational capacity.⁵⁰

1947

National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings

The first established private national organization formed in support of local preservation initiatives, the National Council connected leaders in historic preservation across the country.⁵¹

1949

National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust was established by the National Council in order to begin acquiring and maintaining historic properties.⁵²

1950

Modernism

The architectural Modernist Movement peaks in the United States and Europe. The movement prized innovative, technological, minimalist design principles with a focus on spatial organization and a rejection of historic influences⁵³. Spanning from the late 1920s through 1960, the movement was seen as a force against historic preservation efforts, and resulted in the loss of many historic sites and buildings through the effects of federal urban renewal programs⁵⁴.

1952

National Council merges with the National Trust

In order to consolidate resources, the National Council merged into the National Trust for Historic Preservation.⁵⁵

1959

Seminar for Historical Administrators

The National Trust launched a summer training program for emerging professionals interested in historic preservation. The program, held in Colonial Williamsburg, encouraged a career path in the field of preservation.⁵⁶

⁴⁹ National Park Service, "Conservation Timeline 1901–2000".

⁵⁰ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 43–44.

⁵¹ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 25.

⁵² Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 46.

⁵³ Surber, "The Architect and Preservation", 116.

⁵⁴ Phillips, "Common Ground", 9.

⁵⁵ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 25.

⁵⁶ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", xix.

1960

Postmodernism

The architectural Postmodernist Movement is established in reaction against the Modernist Movement. Postmodernism is characterized by bending the strict principles of Modernism and invoking historic style references in paradoxical ways.⁵⁷

1964

Venice Charter

The Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites established a set of preservation treatment guidelines that has since been adopted by most professional preservation programs in the world. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was established the following year in 1965 as a result of the Venice Charter.⁵⁸

1966 - 2020

1966

“the Preservation Congress”**National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665)**

Inspired by the report, *With Heritage So Rich*,⁵⁹ this pivotal act “set up the system of checks and balances for evaluating sites, buildings, objects, districts, and structures... significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture...which should be taken into account in the planning process” of sites and cities.⁶⁰ The National Trust was incorporated into the Act in order to allow the private organization to receive federal funds in the form of grants to carry out preservation work.⁶¹

National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

The ACHP was formed to advise the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. The Council also provides input on projects affecting National Register resources.⁶²

National Register of Historic Places (NR)

“The National Register of Historic Places, which is maintained by the National Park Service, lists districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects which are significant on a national, state, or local level in American history,

⁵⁷ Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 20.

⁵⁸ Semes, “The Future of the Past”, 135.

⁵⁹ Cullingworth, “Historic Preservation in the USA”, 137.

⁶⁰ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, 51.

⁶¹ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, 31.

⁶² Cullingworth, “Historic Preservation in the USA”, 137.

architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture - in short, America's cultural resources." Designation protects these resources under Section 106 by requiring any work proposal affecting that site to be reviewed by the SHPO and the ACHP.⁶³ Resources possess equal significance on the National Register regardless of their local, state, or federal importance.⁶⁴ Placement on the National Register also qualifies projects for tax credits, tax incentives, grants and other potential funding.⁶⁵

Section 106

Initially, Section 106 created SHPO's and required allowance for the ACHP to comment on projects implementing federal funds that would possibly affect historic resources. This law has since expanded to include a formal review process for these projects that must take place before work commences.⁶⁶

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

State Historic Preservation Offices and Officers were established by the Secretary of the Interior. The main purpose of a SHPO is to manage historic resources in that state including the identification, documentation, inventory, and potential nomination of those sites. This includes developing and implementing a statewide preservation plan, working with federal agencies on preservation related issues, and providing educational and technical assistance for the public. Each SHPO is required to have a state historic preservation review board that actively incorporates public participation.⁶⁷ In recent years, without adequate financial support, these offices struggle to manage the resources they oversee, subsequently leaving more of the responsibility of preservation to private organizations.⁶⁸

Department of Transportation Act: Section 4(f)

This Act sought to protect historic resources located along existing or proposed transportation routes from damage or demolition. Sites were to be protected unless no other feasible alternative was possible. This Act was arguably in reaction to the effects of the 1959 Federal-Aid Highway Act which saw federally funded highways routed through urban neighborhoods, usually those of black or minority communities, which also led swaths of historically eligible areas in cities across the country to be demolished.⁶⁹

⁶³ Cullingworth, "Historic Preservation in the USA", 13.

⁶⁴ Longstreth, "Architectural History", 327.

⁶⁵ Cullingworth, "Historic Preservation in the USA", 139.

⁶⁶ Dedek, "Historic Preservation for Designers", 18-19.

⁶⁷ Cullingworth, "Historic Preservation in the USA", 140.

⁶⁸ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 35.

⁶⁹ Cullingworth, "Historic Preservation in the USA", 138.

Demonstration Cities & Metropolitan Development Act (Model Cities Program)

Developed as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, this Act and the Model Cities Program were implemented to strategically promote new urban renewal ideas, including the reuse of existing housing and stronger social programming. This program, generally written-off as a failure, was also arguably fuel for preservationists as it contradicted much of the other legislation enacted in 1966.⁷⁰

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Established by the National Historic Preservation Act, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation eventually transitioned into the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS), and today is an independent agency under the National Park Service. In general, the agency oversees the protection and use of cultural, natural and recreational resources.⁷¹

1968

Association for Preservation Technology (APT)

A research-based, multi-disciplinary, membership organization focused on best-practice preservation technology. The organization has grown to an international scale and includes more than 30 countries; there are regional chapters throughout the United States. Programming includes conferences, training, scholarships, publications, and committees that ties together a global network of preservation professionals.⁷²

1969

Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)

Similar to HABS, HAER was established by the NPS and the American Society of Civil Engineers to document industrial and engineering related resources with drawings, photographs, and writing. All HAER documentation can be found in the Library of Congress.⁷³

1970

National Environmental Policy Act

Implemented environmental impact studies to review the effects of projects on their surroundings,⁷⁴ and included a special provision to protect historic resources.⁷⁵

1971

Executive Order 11593

Requires federal agencies to survey, preserve, and restore cultural properties on their land.⁷⁶

⁷⁰ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 53.

⁷¹ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 55-56.

⁷² APT International, apti.org.

⁷³ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 41.

⁷⁴ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 58.

⁷⁵ Cullingworth, "Historic Preservation in the USA", 138.

⁷⁶ Murtagh, "Keeping Time", 58.

1976

Tax Reform Act

The 1976 Tax Reform Act was later replaced by the 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act, and finally the 1986 Tax Reform Act. In general, these acts created economic incentives to invest in the rehabilitation of historic properties.⁷⁷ In some cases, states may offer additional tax incentives that can be paired with federal tax provisions. In summary, there are “six taxation methods used to encourage historic preservation: exemption, credit or abatement for rehabilitation, special assessment for property tax, income tax deductions, sales tax relief, and tax levies.”⁷⁸

1977

Main Street America

This program, introduced by the National Trust, provides preservation-sensitive guidance to local communities engaging in revitalization efforts.⁷⁹

1978

Supreme Court Case 438 U.S. 104:***Penn Central Transportation Co. v. New York City***

The Supreme Court rules that New York City’s early preservation laws are constitutional, and sets a crucial precedent in support of future preservation legislation.⁸⁰ This event also prompted the study of historic preservation law.⁸¹

1984

National Heritage Areas & National Heritage Corridors

Recognizes large swathes of area containing several zones of historic importance, and in some cases may include several counties.⁸²

1990

Americans with Disabilities Act

Prohibits discrimination against individuals with mental or physical disabilities. The Act also established design standards; these standards accommodate historic resource considerations to a point, but ultimately the goal of the Act is to promote accessibility in both existing and new construction.⁸³

1991

Interstate Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)

The Interstate Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), eventually transitioned to the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21), granted federal funds to protect and preserve historic resources located near transportation corridors such as highways and railroad tracks.⁸⁴

⁷⁷ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, 58-59.

⁷⁸ Cullingworth, “Historic Preservation in the USA”, 139.

⁷⁹ National Park Service, “Conservation Timeline 1901-2000”.

⁸⁰ National Park Service, “Conservation Timeline 1901-2000”.

⁸¹ Cullingworth, “Historic Preservation in the USA”, 141.

⁸² Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 21.

⁸³ US Department of Justice, ADA.gov.

⁸⁴ Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 22.

- 1996** **Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)**
Protects Native American sacred sites and their continued use by tribe members.⁸⁵
- 1998** **Executive Order 13072 (Save Americas Treasure's)**
This executive order signed by President Clinton created “a public-private partnership involving the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities to fund the physical bricks-and-mortar preservation of sites with national historical significance”.⁸⁶
- 2000** **Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)**
Similar to HABS and HAER, HALS was established by the NPS and the American Society of Landscape Architects to document historic and cultural landscape resources with drawings, photographs, and writing. All HALS documentation can be found in the Library of Congress.⁸⁷
- 2003** **Executive Order 13287 (Preserve America)**
This order, also known as Preserve America, was signed to reaffirm the federal government’s commitment to protecting America’s federally-owned historic resources through the enhancement and promotion of their contemporary use. Instead of convening physical interventions on any sites, this order called for studies and planning that could be implemented later.⁸⁸

Historic Preservation Education

The National Trust listed 54 institutions offering undergraduate or graduate programs in historic preservation.⁸⁹ This exemplified an ever-growing interest in historic preservation and its establishment as a professional career path outside of other disciplines like architecture.

Contemporary Challenges in the Field of Preservation

The field of preservation is facing a variety of challenges, far too many to be discussed in depth here. However, to lend context to the complexity of issues facing this field, some of which will come up

later, what follows is an extremely brief list. Hopefully this will allow you, the reader, simply to appreciate that the main issue of concern in this paper is, in fact, embedded in a variety of other issues.

These issues include questions of preservation philosophy, our treatment of ‘new’ resources with old standards, and the

⁸⁵ Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 23.

⁸⁶ Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 23.

⁸⁷ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, 41.

⁸⁸ Dedek, “Historic Preservation for Designers”, 24.

⁸⁹ Murtagh, “Keeping Time”, xix.

adaptability of our preservation toolkit. How will we approach newly of-age resources from the 1970s, an era of both radical and questionable architecture? These challenges also include concerns over diversity and inclusion in the field with regard to both people and resources. How do we attract those people whose culture and resources have not been properly represented or protected in the past? What strategies are there to document bygone sites, oral histories, or intangible heritage? Another issue: money. Economics push and pull at the field of preservation in multiple capacities. Some claim preservation is too expensive, though simultaneously others cite it as a leading cause of gentrification in cities. Is the money put towards preservation being applied ethically? What about climate change: what is the role of historic preservation in sustainability? Some would argue that reusing existing buildings is an obvious green solution, but others might counter that some existing buildings are simply energy inefficient and difficult to retrofit with new systems. Another concern is politics and the direct effect it can have on funding, design trends, and preservation law. Finally, what is the role of preservation education amidst this list of issues? To what degree can we reasonably expect college programs to address these challenges and prepare their students to tackle them whilst carrying out the most direct mission of preservation: to document and protect our nation's diverse cultural and historic resources?

Madeline Archer defines four stages of preservation in her 1991 piece, *Where We Stand: Preservation Issues in the 1990s*. These stages are reaction, action, interaction, and integration. 'Reaction' is summarized in the grassroots efforts formed to save early landmarks threatened with demolition. Next, 'action' describes preventative measures taken to preemptively protect resources before it became too late. At the time of her writing, Archer described the current stage of preservation to be 'interaction', demonstrated by the intermixing of private and public preservation efforts. It would seem that we are now in pursuit of the 'integration' stage, where she suggests that "preservation must attempt...participation in the management of growth and land use at every level".⁹⁰ This statement may seem narrow, but she goes on to describe a "holistic preservation" approach which requires interdisciplinary collaboration in order to achieve both philosophical and pragmatic solutions⁹¹. Archer continues on to warn that a balance of public and private roles is crucial to the heart of the preservation movement, and its development in the United States supports this claim as there has always been an interplay between the two institutions.⁹² Whether or not you agree with her breakdown of the movement, Archer has done something very important: she has painted a succinct picture of her perspective of preservation in America at a particular moment in time, which allows us a point from which to consider the movement today.

⁹⁰ Archer, "Where We Stand", 35.

⁹¹ This reference to interdisciplinary collaboration supports the importance of achieving successful interdisciplinary negotiations between architects and historic preservationists, as does Archer's 'integration' stage.

⁹² Archer, "Where We Stand", 36.

At this hazy-yet-pivotal moment of preservation in the United States, it would behoove us to analyze and synthesize the issues challenging the field today. They are numerous, and they may feel overwhelming, insurmountable even. However, this paper seeks to tackle an issue that, if addressed, could potentially have a positive ripple-effect in the field with the potential to impact multiple disciplines. Acknowledging the disconnect between architects and preservationists is the first step, discussing it is second, and attempting to provide at least one solution is third. Consider this the conclusion of step one.



III. THE DISCONNECT

The next two chapters of this text aim to define the disconnect that exists between architects and preservationists through an analysis of forum survey responses and literature. Chapters IV and V are organized into sections that discuss potential research bias, the backgrounds of the voices represented, whether the disconnect exists, causes of the disconnect, stereotypes, challenges both fields are facing, and possible solutions to the aforementioned issues. Chapter VI summarizes a list of recommendations and next steps to be utilized by others passionate about improving the relationship between architects and historic preservationists.

Defining the Disconnect

As previously discussed in the Problem Statement, the “disconnect” referred to herein is defined by the broken relationship between historic preservationists and architects caused by a lack of knowledge and understanding between the fields, and compounded by harmful stereotypes. This research seeks to document and analyze the disconnect as discussed by people in both industries and literature related to this topic. Arguments both for and against the proposed hypothesis, that this disconnect does in fact exist and effects the way we practice historic preservation and the decisions we make surrounding historic buildings, are presented in an effort to provide a well-rounded, comprehensive view of this issue. Ultimately, in defining and accepting the disconnect, we can identify resolutions that will allow us to become stronger, more informed professionals and leaders of interdisciplinary problem solving.

IV. THE DISCONNECT: FORUM RESPONSES

This summary of forum responses is representative of a collective reply to the prompt I⁹³ posted in several architecture and preservation community forums⁹⁴. The prompt questioned whether a disconnect exists between the architecture and preservation communities, what the causes of that disconnect might be, whether stereotypes exist that may also be contributing to this disconnect and what they are, and what solutions could possibly begin to tackle this issue. While the prompt recognized that this issue originated out of personal perception and experience, it explicitly did not define “disconnect” and I did not include any personal opinions in order to avoid creating a bias in the responses⁹⁵. The goal was to give respondents enough personal background information for them to understand my position and intent as a student, and to keep the prompt focused⁹⁶.

Acknowledging Bias

Despite my best efforts, there is room to argue that I potentially created response

bias regardless of my intent; I would like to address these issues here. One respondent pointed out that by posting mainly in preservation-focused forums, I may have inadvertently targeted a group of professionals who would possibly be more familiar with this issue to begin with. Specifically, the responses summarized here may not capture the voice of architects that do not regularly interact with preservation professionals. That said, I did reach out to the AIA Young Architects Forum⁹⁷, the LinkedIn community, and fellow University of Oregon in Portland graduate students of architecture and preservation with little response. The discussion board on Ticco, a private online community for professionals of the built environment, was perhaps the most diverse forum I used and produced insight from professionals less closely tied to preservation. All of that said, it would be a fair assessment to say that these responses may not reflect all facets of the groups I was targeting, but rather those willing to share their opinion which could have been, arguably, because they agreed with my proposition.

⁹³ I have chosen to speak in the first person in this section of the paper because it involves interactions between me and respondents, as well as my personal opinions on this issue.

⁹⁴ See Appendix for each prompt post per forum, and each set of forum responses.

⁹⁵ Unfortunately, this was to the chagrin of a few respondents.

⁹⁶ I consciously decided to leave out the larger purpose of my paper for two reasons: 1) explaining it would have taken a lot of additional space, and I feared a prompt that appeared too lengthy would discourage people from potentially responding and, 2) I did not want responses attempting to advise the other portions of my paper; this would have created a less focused feedback pool.

⁹⁷ Ironically, the only responses in this forum came from university professors, hardly the emerging professional audience I was hoping to target.

The question of whether and what stereotypes exist about preservationists and architects could be seen as an attempt for me to prove causation for the proposed disconnect. Rather, my effort to concisely establish the stereotypes that exist is so that we can avoid furthering them. This information gives us the power to be more aware of when a stereotype is being employed and to address it accordingly. Stereotypes are often harbored subconsciously, and in some instances we may even believe them to be truth. While these stereotypes are not the cause of the disconnect, they certainly do not help bridge it and instead fester in misconceptions. To be clear, I am proposing the disconnect at its roots is caused by a lack of knowledge, but in some cases can be furthered by misinformation, which is sometimes promulgated by stereotypes.

Another issue I feel is important to address is that of representation and the accompanying data collection that goes along with sharing this information for the readers benefit. As responses were submitted, I tracked the gender⁹⁸, location,

and professional titles of each respondent in order to provide readers with this information as a reference⁹⁹. I do not intend to draw conclusions from this data, other than to say that the male-to-female ratio of respondents was nearly half-and-half, and that responses came from all over the United States, and thus a variety of backgrounds and experiences are represented. While data on age and race would also have been interesting to have with regard to experience level and background, collecting this data would have required a more formal survey-style platform and response collection system with the ability to sort data anonymously¹⁰⁰. Based on information some respondents included and on profile pictures, when they were available, most of the collective feedback appears to be from white professionals with several decades of experience. This may obviously be a point of bias in the response summary. However, this is presumably an issue younger generations will also tackle, and so creating an awareness of this problem is the first step in bolstering a dialogue around it that includes more emerging professional perspectives¹⁰¹.

⁹⁸ This was typically based on name, profile picture, and self-reference. It is not my intent to assume anyone's gender, and this data should be understood within a reasonable margin for error. I simply wanted to demonstrate that both sexes were represented and to what degree.

⁹⁹ If available, this data was collected from information readily available from either within their response or on their personal profile associated with the host website for the forum discussion thread. This data was never asked for and was not cross-referenced, and therefore is only as accurate as the respondent was truthful and up-to-date on their profile. This demographic data is available in the Appendix.

¹⁰⁰ A more formal and far-reaching survey would be a very interesting next-step for this research. This paper may be seen as evidence for the value in carrying out a funded study. However, this would still be difficult considering the U.S. government does not track preservation professional statistics, and there are not official titles associated with being a preservationist per se, at least outside of regulatory management positions.

¹⁰¹ I would also venture to say that, in general, it is difficult to wrangle opinions out of students and emerging professionals like myself because it requires time and awareness. At the beginning of your career it always seems that you are bombarded with issues others want you to champion, and it takes years sometimes to figure out what is important to you and worth your time and attention. I

This also speaks to the need for both the preservation and architecture professions to continue reaching out to the next generation as well as minorities, and ultimately work towards better representation in the fields.

Finally, the last issue that needs to be addressed is that of nuance. The wording of the forum post, the language used, the conscious lack of specificity, all create a subjective reading of the prompt. At times this would produce responses that were off-target or unexpected, but often brought refreshing perspectives. In addition, due to the nature of forum threads, some responses were actually addressed to other respondents, and some were more informational in nature, occasionally including references to potentially related research material¹⁰². Moving forward, rather than reading this summary as if it were the results of a formal survey, I urge you to read it as if it were the retelling of a set of related informal conversations which I passively observed and documented. The tone of this discussion is not meant to be adversarial, and rather these responses are part of a means to an end, a stepping stone towards improving our ability to do the absolute best that we can for our historic sites.

My View of the Disconnect

Before presenting the summary, I would like to provide a brief moment of context and also respond to my own prompt. As a student of both architecture and historic preservation, I first noticed this disconnect in preservation classes that included a mix of both majors¹⁰³. The benefit of having both backgrounds represented in class discussions was often that we could provide explanations to one another when either side was lacking information, which was especially useful in group projects. However, it highlighted a disconnect between both groups as evidenced by a lack of knowledge about and misunderstanding of the other. More than a difference in philosophy, a dearth of awareness for the development of those philosophies as influenced by one's background and experiences became evident. In an educational setting, it is easy to have these conversations and build an awareness for one's own weak areas with ample time to improve. However, this becomes more difficult once we are cast into the real world and expected to practice comprehensively.

A glimpse of this could be had depending on the professional background of the professor teaching the course. Often preservation students could be made to feel inadequate by architecturally-minded instructors, derided for their lack of technical skills and understanding.

don't fault anyone for this, but I do wonder whether a verbal discussion would yield better results with a younger audience than online forums do simply because it is a less intensive form of interaction.

¹⁰² Which, in and of itself, supports my proposition of this disconnect.

¹⁰³ At the University of Oregon in Portland, most graduate architecture students enrolled in graduate historic preservation courses are specializing and therefore must meet certain curriculum requirements. Both programs are relatively small, and therefore most classes consisted of about 10 to 15 students, though the ratio of architecture to preservation students could range widely depending on the class.

Meanwhile, preservation-oriented instructors could often leave architecture students questioning the feasibility and applicability of concepts, since so often preservation education is focused on *why* things are important and less about *how* to save those important things, whether in process or in practice¹⁰⁴. For the architect, preservation is just one part of a project, while for the preservationist, it is the whole project. This obviously means that each party is approaching the project very differently, but the sheer difference in scope of work is what I believe can lead to this disconnect, which is rooted in education that does not adequately prepare us. In order to be effective communicators and offer appropriate solutions, we must be aware of each other's scope and of all the considerations that it entails. When the very instructors, who are practicing professionals, teaching us do not address this issue of scope, nor the practical role of one field within the other, this divide is solidified.

The issue of a disconnect would also present itself, unsolicited and unexpected, in my normal daily interactions. A stark example of this is a presentation that I attended at my college. The talk was titled, "Architectural Design Opportunities in Historic Buildings" and was presented by two architects of FFA Architecture + Interiors, Tim Mitchell and Edward Running¹⁰⁵. Though the focus of the presentation was a set of case studies that successfully employed a mix of preservation and adaptive reuse, the ever-

present undertone was the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in order to achieve successful projects. The importance that each discipline knows as much about the goals and priorities of the others involved at the start of a project was stressed, and that a diversity of backgrounds makes a project team stronger. In particular, Mitchell conceded that preservation can be a difficult concept for non-preservation architects because it presents as having little flexibility. However, if an architect can understand the fundamentals of preservation, then they will easily grasp the concepts of renovation, restoration, adaptation, reconstruction, et cetera. He pointed out that the key to this is for architects to understand the difference between historic preservation standards and guidelines, and to acknowledge that they are in fact productive design constraints. In essence, as Running put it, preserving a building does not mean "sealing it in time". On the opposite hand, it is important for preservationists to recognize that there are parts of historic buildings that *don't* work, whether that be circulation, daylighting, materials or something else, and that intervening on those aspects of a building may be a necessity in order to promote the longevity and usability of that building. When it comes down to it, passion can often be the source of misunderstanding between architects and preservationists. Architects typically have a passion for spatial quality and may believe that they can do better than what has already been done, and they would do well to develop a

¹⁰⁴ This is my personal opinion, and I cannot speak to other historic preservation programs. However, I am interested in the technical aspects of preservation such as detailing and materials conservation, which was not a heavy focus of my particular program.

¹⁰⁵ This talk was presented to attending students, faculty and staff of the UO PDX College of Design on January 24, 2020 at the University of Oregon in Portland campus located at 70 NW Couch Street in Portland, Oregon.

better sense of what historic materials and design qualities lend to a space layout or envelope. Preservationists are typically inspired by falling in love with a particular building or site, often having a passion for materiality and style as part of a building's significance, and would do well to develop a better sense of how to invoke or reform existing spatial qualities based on new functions. These passions may be at odds, yet they are integral to one another. Some of these views are echoed by forum respondents, and I myself agree with them.

Now that I have established the origin story of this research, I will provide brief responses to my survey prompts, mainly to clearly state my personal opinions with a clear point of reference within the entirety of this paper. I felt it was important to share my perspective before the summary so that you, the reader, may draw your own comparisons about the validity of my claims in a variety of contexts.

➤ *What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)*

At the time of this writing, I am a graduate student of both the architecture and historic preservation programs at the University of Oregon in Portland. I am also an architectural designer for a local preservation consultant architecture firm. My background is in architecture and I hold a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the Ohio State University as of 2012, and will hold a Master of Architecture and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon as of 2020. My long-term goal is to become a licensed architect and focus my efforts on historic building enclosure detailing and restoration.

➤ *Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?*

◆ *What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?*

I do believe there is a disconnect and I believe it is caused by a lack of knowledge about the responsibilities and goals of each disciplinary party on a project team with regard to architects and preservationists and their understanding of one another. I believe this issue is perpetuated by educational programs that do not adequately promote interdisciplinary crossover and design work. Furthermore, I believe architectural institutions at large do not place an importance on historic preservation, and therefore it is not a point of focus in the educational and professional careers of many architectural designers who may or may not end up interacting with historic buildings.

➤ *Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?*

◆ *Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?*

Stereotypes play a role in our subconscious and can ultimately affect the decisions we make whether or not we realize it. I think that we become aware of stereotypes about architects and preservationists while we are in school, and it is at this point when we choose either to acknowledge their existence and educate ourselves or disregard them with the potential to carry them with us into practice. The condensed version of these stereotypes is that architects, and their egos, do not appreciate being hindered by the strict confines of preservation which prevents them from marking the world with their unique designs, and preservationists aggressively fight all change in their efforts to protect buildings from the reckless intentions of clients, architects, and developers or anyone who does not support keeping the building exactly as it is for the rest of time.

➤ *What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?*

In my opinion, there are three key initiatives that will mend this disconnect: improved interdisciplinary college education, expanded continuing professional education, and the normalization of historic preservation in both our professional practice and our culture at large in the United States.

Summary of Forum Responses

This summary is presented in sections that coincide with the survey prompts. Each section draws from various responses, and the ideas shared herein may represent the thoughts of one or more individuals, but not my own opinions. An appendix of each response and respondent data is provided for reference¹⁰⁶. All ideas and opinions shared within this portion of this document are the intellectual property of the respondents, and was shared voluntarily for the sole purpose of being

used in this paper as evidence that either supports or denies my claim for the existence and manifestation of this disconnect.

Professional Backgrounds Represented in Responses

A variety of educational and professional backgrounds fueled the opinions of individuals who provided feedback. Respondents academic backgrounds include Bachelors and Masters degrees in architecture, architectural history, art

¹⁰⁶ Personal information associated with each response has been redacted to protect the privacy of the respondent. In some cases, full responses were redacted if they were not made in public forums.

history, historic preservation, and communications. Their professional titles include architectural designer, licensed architect, architectural historian, professor of architectural history, preservation consultant, preservation planner, architectural conservator, regulatory manager, contractor, communications consultant, non-profit board member, and historic preservation graduate student. With this, a mix of public and private institutions are represented.

A Disconnect Exists: Agree or Disagree?

In general, while most respondents agree that there is a disconnect, they are quick to point out that this subject is all but black-and-white. Those that disagreed tended to make distinctions about where the disconnect might exist if it does, but that it was not something they had experienced. The ideas presented here are a sliding scale of this spectrum, but few are so bold as to occupy the space of a resounding ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

For those that *did* forwardly agree or disagree on the existence of a disconnect, their answer was essentially yes or no, and that they had or had not experienced this issue in practice. The reasons given by

those who agreed are discussed in the next section. A major chord among those who disagreed is the notion that the disconnect between architects and preservationists is equivalent to the disconnect that exists between architects that practice in other specializations, such as healthcare and education design, and that these differences in practice are simply a product of the way we work¹⁰⁷. It is also not unlike the divide between architects and contractors, a relationship on which a similar amount of research could be conducted¹⁰⁸. One respondent pointed out that the preservation movement was in fact championed by architects, and so the idea that they would become disconnected from their own movement seems unlikely¹⁰⁹. Some respondents who disagreed that a disconnect exists in practice did concede that one might exist in the areas of philosophical and political discourse, the unspoken point being that difference in approach does not ultimately prevent success in practice. Often philosophy and politics play into the larger conversation around what to save, but in many projects this has already been, to some degree, decided and is thus not a point of conflict. In summary, the consensus among those who disagree is that there is not a disconnect, but if there

¹⁰⁷ In this instance, I would argue that while a disconnect may exist between all sorts of professions, the one between architects and preservationists is particularly complicated because it calls into question the validity of the preservationist. After all, what we value as historic can often be considered subjective, and thus the efforts of the preservationist become framed as a power play rather than an honest effort.

¹⁰⁸ It is not uncommon for a disconnect between professions to exist, but the consequences of that disconnect vary by context. This research is acting under the presumption that American heritage and our professional integrity is at stake. Therefore, this document puts forth a call to action foremost for the protection of our built historic resources, and second for overdue maintenance on the professional relationship between the fields of architecture and historic preservation.

¹⁰⁹ Architectural education has evidently shifted our values, because though we are taught to appreciate the great works of past master designers, we are also taught to become the next generation of master designers. Little to none of that includes sensitively working with existing or historic buildings. When our educational systems do not value historic preservation, it is less likely that we will.

is it does not negatively impact our ability to carry out projects.

A handful of respondents were hard-pressed to reduce their answer, and instead focused on the grey area that exists around the term “disconnect”. Foremost, one key point was made that this is not an “either or” scenario, and that in fact an architect and a preservationist can be one in the same¹¹⁰. This respondent was concerned for an adversarial undertone they perceived in the post¹¹¹. Boiled down, the rest of the responses in this category focused on the fact that each interaction on a project is made up of team members with a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and expertise, and that while there may be a disconnect in some teams, it is not a guarantee. Therefore, while a disconnect might exist on a case-by-case basis, that is not enough to assert that a general disconnect exists.

There was also an argument presented against preservation being accepted as its own field in the first place, which renders the issue of a disconnect a moot point. The problem outlined here is that because historic preservation exists as an independent entity with full-time practitioners, professionals in related

disciplines will be less inclined to educate themselves on preservation issues because there is already someone responsible for caring about those issues. This mindset ignores the fact that preservation is a field born out of advocacy, and therefore activism remains at its roots and requires the attention of everyone involved, not just the passionate preservationists. It also ignores that “historic preservationist” is not a professional title in and of itself, and that the work of preservation professionals is *always* associated with another field. After all, a historic preservationist might assume the title of architect, marketing professional, educator, board member, non-profit CEO, planner, engineer, advocate, conservator, historian, administrator, or any number of other positions. Therefore, if we were to establish the expectation that the work of historic preservation be embedded in those fields already charged with shaping the built environment, then there would be no need for a separate dedicated profession¹¹².

It may seem that those in agreement were minimized in this section, and this is because the overwhelming consensus was that a disconnect does exist, and the list of reasons why under “Causes of the Disconnect” is ample evidence for this.

¹¹⁰ I think it is important to point out that, just as a square can always be called a rectangle but a rectangle cannot always be called a square, an architect can be called a preservationist, but a preservationist cannot always be called an architect. They may exist in one person, but often they do not. I will concede that I could have done better to be more specific about the types of architects I was referring to, those being less in tune with preservation but that may inevitably interact with it.

¹¹¹ While the forum prompt title, “Architects vs. Preservationists”, appeared to pit the two parties against each other, I will admit that this was in part to catch the attention of possible respondents, but I wouldn’t go so far as to call it “click bait”.

¹¹² There is still something to be gained by pursuing a formal education in historic preservation, and this argument ignores that there are benefits to the rigorous study of preservation as an independent subject. A certificate in historic preservation will never equate to a degree, it simply acts as a more accessible form of preservation education. It is important to consider what would be lost if preservation was always treated as a specialization rather than a profession.

This section highlights voices of dissent and uncertainty, and frames a set of valid arguments against my proposition.

Causes of the Disconnect

The proposed causes of this disconnect indicate a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Exposed here is the intricacies and complicated systems that govern our careers as both preservationists and architects. The list is long but unremarkable; this is good news. It means these are problems we are aware of and capable of solving. These arguments can be separated into three overarching categories: education, a systemic lack of awareness, and project structure issues.

The most-cited reason for this disconnect was educational institutions and their lack of interdisciplinary teachings and coursework. The purpose of higher education is not only to prepare you for success within your field, but also to expose you to the myriad considerations and encounters you will have as a professional, including those with adjacent disciplines. Critiques of both preservation and architecture programs were offered; let's start with architecture.

Architectural education is often described as highly design-oriented, where an appreciation for history and the honing of technical skills take a back seat to unbridled creativity. Many respondents took aim at studio assignments that often ignore layers of context and prize the *tabula rasa* approach above all else. In addition, traditionalist designs are discouraged, and rarely is any existing historic fabric of the built environment incorporated. When historic preservation is not typically considered to be part of building design, it is effectively separated

from a larger discourse. In situ, this translates directly to less interest in preservation studies by students of architecture, and thus in the long term there are less architects invested in the field of preservation, or even vaguely knowledgeable about it. To play the devil's advocate, architects are expected to be a contemporary version of the "renaissance man". They are to possess both free-thinking design skills and technical understanding, with the ability to carry a project from conception through fruition all while juggling concerns of feasibility, a budget, and questions from the four C's: the client, the contractor, the community, and one or more committees. However, in the grand scheme of things, giving students of architecture a fundamental understanding of historic preservation probably boils down to requiring one single focused course, a course that many schools of architecture either do not currently offer, or offer as an elective rather than a requirement. However, there is much more that schools could be doing, and this will be discussed later in the "Proposed Solutions" section.

Preservation education programs were mainly critiqued by respondents for the lack of technical skills with which they prepare their students, and for the narrow scope of professionals that teach in these programs, who often do not have a background in conservation or architecture, but rather architectural history. Foremost, respondents agreed that this discouraged architectural students from pursuing preservation studies and produced graduates with an inability to "read" historic buildings. In other words, preservation programs focus too much on teaching students why preservation is important and not how to carry out the conservation of sites. This means that

emerging preservationists know less about condition assessments, historic construction methods, and materials conservation, areas which lean towards architectural education and yet which are often not fulfilled by it. One other important point of contention is that preservation programs specifically are fostering a disconnect by making it seem as though preservation cannot be practiced without credentials, which ultimately makes it feel less approachable for adjacent disciplines such as architecture and engineering. The irony here is that, given the issues of each program, both would benefit from crossover with the other and doing so would resolve many of the cited lapses in knowledge and understanding.

The second-most reported reason for this disconnect is simply that each party lacks an awareness of or knowledge about the other. This mainly falls on architects because an architect could potentially go their entire career without ever encountering a preservationist, but the opposite is unlikely. Many architects would have to make a concerted effort to learn about preservation, especially since we just discussed how they probably didn't learn about it in school, but many are simply uninterested. They may even harbor the misconception that preservation is "easy", as one respondent pointed out. This stems from the simple fact that many people, not just architects, don't truly understand what a preservationist is or does. Caked on top of all of this is human nature: regardless of what we do know about the other field, we will always care more about our own. But being blinded by passion is perhaps the most innocent folly discussed here.

Finally, there are the issues created by the very systems we work within. Economics

is obviously one major driver of progress, and developers often decide the life or death of existing buildings; many encourage new construction. The same is true for clients. When projects do incorporate the reuse of historic buildings, it is not always mandated that a preservation consultant be part of the project team from the start. As one might imagine, this can lead to conflict later, and often it is the preservationist that fairs worse. When this happens, it does not foster healthy communication and can lead to a resentment towards historic preservation, each time rendering other professionals skeptical of the preservation process and leaving the preservationist frustrated. Thus, the disconnect is founded in mistrust and misinformation.

Having reviewed the proposed direct causes of the disconnect, we can now discuss the stereotypes that may subconsciously reinforce it. Often these assumptions can lead individuals to believe they know more about another field than they do, which can therefore influence the decisions they make.

Stereotypes

There a plethora of unfortunate stereotypes that caricaturize both architects and preservationists and feed into misconceptions and incorrect assumptions. While each field is typically aware of the stereotypes they are associated with, they may not be aware that they are, in fact, associating stereotypes with another discipline. By acknowledging them, we can address our own subconscious bias and that of others, stunting the perpetuation of these characterizations.

The stereotypical architect is characterized as a monocled, monochromatic, free-spirited designer hellbent on leaving behind a built legacy of curtain-walled high-rise masterpieces. Their ego is unmatched and nothing, not even a historic building, will stand in their way of creating a *new* landmark. They will work tirelessly through the night surviving on nothing but cold pizza and diet Coke in order to realize their design. Context, building code, accessibility, budget, and even the people's voice are nothing but hurdles that the architect, ever the artist, must transcend. These constraints will inevitably detract from the greatness that their final design could have achieved. But alas, what is poor architect to do when society has so unfairly burdened them with constraints?

The stereotypical preservationist is characterized as a retired old white lady; she pulls on her tennis shoes every morning ready to save the neighborhood buildings she grew up with at all costs. There is absolutely no situation in which she will allow that know-it-all architect to replace the defunct, leaky 1920's-era corner deli with a row of cookie-cutter condos. That deli, after all, is an *immaculate* example of early Art Deco commercial architecture. Her schedule today includes a stop at City Hall to protest a roof renovation and addition to the local art museum—these changes are unacceptable. How many more times will she be forced to explain that the Secretary of Interior's Standards are not suggestions? When are people going to start caring about protecting their local history?!

All dramatizations aside, both fields suffer from these presumptions. Architects are typically painted to favor new construction and, if there is enough money

involved, the quality of the design doesn't necessarily matter, and neither does context. Preservationists believe that architects prioritize getting their designs built above all else, and that they actively ignore or work around the constraints of preservation. That said, architects often believe that development and preservation cannot cohabitate in the same project, and that preservation projects are too expensive to pursue in the first place. They also may believe that preservation projects are more time consuming because they require assessing an existing building, and that the additional constraints will not allow for practical or creative improvements to the building. Both sides find themselves waiting for the other shoe to drop, when in fact these projects can manifest in collaboration rather than conflict. The hyperbole employed in the characterization of these stereotypes reveals that they are in fact ridiculous, and that we can move past any consideration that they somehow represent truthful or accurate depictions of either architects or preservationists.

Challenges

Before we can address possible ways to mend this disconnect, there are a host of other challenges that we must also consider in our pursuit of solutions, all issues raised by respondents as they contemplated the disconnect. These mainly surround how we view and treat historic preservation at various levels of society, both inside and outside of the preservation community.

Foremost, there are a few driving factors that directly affect preservation efforts. First, there is the economy which drives development. Behind this however, and

more importantly, is our culture¹¹³ which also drives development. In American culture, we prize private property rights and the power that owners have to do whatever they please with their property. Preservation has often legally challenged these rights, but no more than perhaps local codes and environmental regulations do. However, the subjective intentions of preservation come into play here, and private property owners can often feel attacked by the preservation community, resulting in bad publicity for preservationists. Making matters worse, assumptions that preservation entails an all-or-nothing approach makes owners feel trapped, as if they have no control over the evolution and use of their property¹¹⁴. We need to build a stronger understanding and acceptance of preservation into our culture as a whole in order for preservation efforts to be implemented just as other facets of built environment management are.

The other major challenge is that we currently treat preservation as if it is a niche specialty of many fields rather than an independent discipline that interacts and overlaps with other professions. Despite creating State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) and other

systems of regulatory management, the United States federal government does not track any subset of preservation professional, public or private¹¹⁵. This means we have no conclusive data about preservation professionals, and in fact we do not even have formal titles for these positions¹¹⁶. This creates the challenge of defining qualifications for title-less positions that do not officially exist as an employment option according to the government. On the whole, this delegitimizes the profession and creates unnecessary hurdles for progress within the field of preservation¹¹⁷. Fortunately, there are steps we can take towards normalizing preservation.

Proposed Solutions

Now that we have established a consensus that there is indeed a disconnect and acknowledged other hurdles, we can discuss what hope there is for moving past this issue. Luckily, there is no shortage of areas where we can begin making changes on both personal and institutional levels.

First, we need to acknowledge this issue in both the preservation and architectural communities. This means listening,

¹¹³ This is specific to the United States, and mostly the mainland at that.

¹¹⁴ The inflexibility of preservation is a purely American concept, and in fact in many other countries conservation and design coexist in a way that the needs of an owner are met while the significance and character of the building are preserved.

¹¹⁵ United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Occupational Outlook Handbook".

¹¹⁶ Currently the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics online Occupational Outlook Handbook redirects "historic preservation planners" to "urban and regional planners". This is the only specific preservation-related discipline listed, and because it is grouped into a category of planners that are responsible for more than just preservation work, there are no accurate statistics on the prevalence of preservation as an occupation. This includes information about salary, qualifications, number of jobs, and job growth. "Architectural conservator", "architectural historian", "preservation architect", "preservationist", and "heritage conservator" were also not listed.

¹¹⁷ For instance, this is one of the reasons that it can be so difficult for preservationists to find work. Many job posting websites do not know how to categorize preservation-oriented positions, and this continues to make it difficult for employers and qualified candidates to find one another.

learning, picking our battles, and adapting our work towards compromise. It also means increasing our personal exposure to areas of weak familiarity, and educating others on our expertise as needed. We must check ourselves and others for snap judgements and inappropriate assumptions rooted in ridiculous stereotypes.

Second, we must call upon the institutions and leaders of our respective fields to increase cross-disciplinary exposure and dialogue. Events, conferences, and workshops are all opportunities to open communication between disciplines. Specifically, we must also better define the nomenclature we use in the field of preservation. Current vocabulary can at times lead to confusion as many terms are used interchangeably. Clarifying our language and developing a more universal nomenclature will make the field more accessible to others¹¹⁸.

Third, we must refresh the format of architectural and preservation education programs. There are two approaches to this that could happen simultaneously: existing programs can be revamped and a new integrated program could be designed. With regard to existing programs, current curriculum could be revised to incentivize or require crossover. In the early stages this could take the form of a pilot studio or seminar that pairs students of both majors, and potentially others depending on what that institution offers¹¹⁹. An architectural studio course involving both majors could easily disseminate this introductory information with a memorable hands-on experience mimicking typical preservation project steps, protocol, and design

negotiations. At a minimum, programs should include an introductory course that teaches the fundamentals of architecture or historic preservation with a focus on information that is most applicable in practice. The goal is to expose students of architecture to preservation early on and make it known as an option for focused study and practice, similar to that of healthcare design, and to expose students of preservation to the methods of architectural project inquiry and design. In order to develop a new program, ideally the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) and the National Council of Preservation Education (NCPE) would collaborate on a degree program that meets standards for architectural licensure and prepares students for the moral, bureaucratic, pragmatic, and technical demands of preservation. It would allow students of one or both fields to gain cross-disciplinary experience in a forgiving environment. A program like this would have the ability to define a design philosophy around preservation, and even develop “preservation typologies” that would allow us to better describe different design approaches. It would also have the benefit of being shaped by the input of existing programs, allowing it to avoid replicating the shortcomings our current degree options already have.

Fourth, building off restructuring our educational programs, professional requirements should follow suit. For architects, this means expanded Architectural Registration Exam (ARE) testing around historic preservation and requiring it as part of the continuing

¹¹⁸ This is precisely why this document includes a set of definitions in Chapter I.

¹¹⁹ For instance, students of architecture, preservation, interior design, and landscape architecture collaborate on the adaptive reuse of a local historic building and site.

education credit curricula¹²⁰. For preservationists, though there are no existing continuing education requirements, nationwide programs could be developed, established, and recommended to promote regular exposure to other disciplines including but not limited to architecture.

Fifth, historic preservation needs to be normalized in the architectural community and in American culture. This is the ultimate goal of re-focusing education and follows a trickle-down structure from professionals to the public. Information about historic preservation can be disseminated to the public by preservation-related professionals at project proposal presentations or meetings devoted to public input and inquiry. As preservation becomes a normal, expected part of education surrounding the built environment, it will become a normal, expected part of how our communities operate. Part of this is recognizing that preservation can serve us in areas that we already care about, such as sustainability.

Sixth, we need to integrate preservationists into projects early on in order to avoid conflict later. We have already done this with the architect-contractor relationship in design-build projects and reaped the benefits of this contract format; the same would work with preservation consultants. In addition, building departments could aid in normalizing the presence of preservationists on project teams by requiring a preservation consultant to be brought on for projects involving historic properties. In this way, preservation

becomes a design constraint akin to zoning, building, environmental, and accessibility codes. This will, however, also require that processes for quickly identifying whether preservation is relevant to a particular project be developed. These processes have the potential to show that working with existing buildings, even very old ones, does not equate to preservation or high costs, alleviating much of the anxiety developers and clients associate with these types of properties. If we can establish expectations for how preservation is implemented, the process will be clearer for everyone.

Seventh, projects that successfully demonstrate sensitive and innovative design solutions involving historic properties should be celebrated and showcased alongside the new construction that is typically highlighted in journals of design and architecture. This includes projects employing traditional design. This may require providing specific explanations for the preservation elements of a project that demonstrate why employing preservation was a better decision than new construction, whether it be for heritage, aesthetic, or even cost. Part of normalizing preservation is recognizing its value in mainstream media.

Eighth, and final, we may need to re-evaluate our long-held ideas about preservation in the United States. This could mean taking a hard look at our expectations for what constitutes preservation and what it actually means to preserve. It also means adapting our understanding of preservation to

¹²⁰ Similar to health, safety, and welfare (HSW) credit requirements. This does not mean historic preservation credits should replace other topics, but at minimum they could be encouraged and incentivized.

incorporate resources that the current standards are not capable of recognizing. In other words, how do we identify eligible historic resources and decide which criteria of significance with which to nominate them? Current standards disqualify resources that may not retain the physical integrity typically required by a National Register nomination, for instance. However, a lack of physical integrity does not equate to the degradation of intangible heritage. It is these complexities that our current preservation toolkit is ill-equipped to accommodate. This is a discourse that is already beginning to take place and will hopefully continue in tandem with the proposed solutions already given.

Supposition

Collectively, respondents were able to offer a comprehensive description of the issue at hand as well as a bountiful list of suggestions on how to tackle it. With all of these ideas composed in one place, emerging professionals of both fields have the opportunity to quickly comprehend this situation, and any disconnect between architects and preservationists will not last long.

V. THE DISCONNECT: ACADEMIA & MEDIA

This summary of literature tangential to the idea of a disconnect between architects and preservationists is intended to show whether this issue has been adequately acknowledged in the broader context of academia and media related to both professions. Each text was read with a focus on extracting information that answered the same set of questions asked in the forum section. This allowed for more useful comparisons to be drawn between the forum responses and literature.

Acknowledging the Limitations of Literature

As discussed in the Literature Review, there are limited resources that directly comment on the evolution of the relationship between architecture and preservation, and the contemporary professionals working in both fields. In particular, the types of literature written on this topic and their primary genres of focus are telling of who this issue is apparent to and why. This reveals a lot about the current state of each field and the systems which govern their work.

Most of the contemporary literature surrounding the relationship between architects and historic preservationists is academic in nature and often takes aim at the shortcomings of education and communication experienced by both fields. While many of the same grievances expressed by forum respondents are echoed in these texts, it is important to

recognize that these pieces were not written with the context of this paper in mind. Therefore, any conclusions drawn here are conjectural in nature, and may not represent the views of the authors or profession at large. However, seeing as there is overlap between these two anecdotal sets of data put forth by active members of each field, it is reasonable to surmise that the concerns raised here represent a large enough subset of each professional community that these issues should be seriously considered.

Summary of Related Literature

This summary is presented in sections that coincide with the sections found in the summary of forum responses, which were organized according to the survey prompts. Each section draws from various pieces of relevant literature. Where necessary, a discussion of context has been included with statements that might not be fully understood otherwise.

Professional Backgrounds Represented in Literature

A variety of educational and professional backgrounds are represented by the authors of the texts discussed here. In the sphere of academia, authors include directors of both architecture and historic preservation programs, an assistant professor of architecture, and a previous concurrent Master of Architecture and Master of Science in Historic Preservation student. In the realm of practicing

professionals, authors include preservation architects and the board member of a well-known preservation non-profit. One author was also a forum respondent¹²¹, though they did not recommend their work as a source for this section.

Does a Disconnect Exist?

In general, the literature alludes that the fields of preservation and architecture are experiencing a disconnect from one another. For the literature that discussed the relationship between architects and preservation professionals, it seems there is a consensus that communication between the fields and their respective practitioners could be improved. There is discussion both of the inherent interdisciplinary nature of historic preservation and the heavily individualistic approach of architecture. When articulated by various authors, the field of architecture usually shoulders the blame for turning away from an appreciation of the past during the Modernist movement, and educational programs in both fields are blamed for doing little to pursue more integration between the two. This section covers the main dissenting opinion while the next section will break down potential causes of this disconnect that support its existence.

The main perceptible disagreement with the proposition of a disconnect is put forth by Jeremy Wells, which is perhaps ironic because many of his arguments are discussed in the next section where they in fact support the existence of a divide. This “disagreement” is more accurately an argument for indifference towards and acceptance that architects and

preservationists simply practice separately and have no interest in entertaining more disciplinary crossover. Wells introduces the conversation by stating that although it is perceived that architectural and historic preservation practices are closely intertwined, job market data would suggest otherwise. According to his data analysis, employers of both fields are not typically looking for candidates that have experience in both. This despite that many architecture firms claim to be able to carry out preservation work or work on existing buildings. Furthermore, historic preservation positions are more closely tied to environmental studies work rather than architecture because of overlap with the responsibilities of the National Park Service, such as natural resource management. Wells goes on to suggest, “we need a new method of conceptualizing the definition of historic preservation on the basis of evidence on the way in which these two disciplines fail to connect, and from the result, we should re-engage with the potential of preservation architecture”¹²². This is poignantly vague, and suggests complacency with our current systems rather than questioning why this is how we practice and what we are losing because of it. Let’s take a closer look at why we should be skeptical of this position.

Causes of the Disconnect

Before delving into the potential reasons that architects and preservationists feel disconnected from one another in practice, it is important to point out that there are others in the field using very similar language to address these issues. Ann

¹²¹ Respondent #26 – Response #13B (See Appendix)

¹²² Wells, “Challenging the assumption”, 463.

Phillips completed a thesis proposing a framework of communication that would allow architects and historic preservationists to achieve more efficient project workflow. Her claim is that the “present lack of communication between the fields of architecture and historic preservation has resulted in a tenuous relationship between the two professions”¹²³. “Included in the scope of this research is the effort to understand the common disconnect between architect and preservationist”¹²⁴, an acknowledgement that, as written, accepts the disconnect to exist without question¹²⁵. This text, written six years prior to this research, demonstrates that this is an ongoing issue between the fields, only recently gaining more traction primarily through the publications of Jeremy Wells. A previous round of publications commenting on the relationship between architecture and historic preservation professionals were circulated in the mid-to-late 1990s¹²⁶, suggesting that this has been a problem for a long time, but one that does not always receive the attention it should.

There were several potential causes of the disconnect that could be identified in the literature. These include issues with

educational programs, lack of interdisciplinary interaction, project team communication, and distrust of architects by preservationists.

Several texts identified the shortcomings of historic preservation and architectural design programs. Architectural education tends to prize the design process, often prompting students with a clean slate on which to lay out a highly individualized proposal. As Jack Pyburn points out, “(s)imply put, historic preservation (is) not considered integral to the architect's education or practice”¹²⁷. Preservation education has in fact exacerbated the disconnect by failing to study and appreciate design as it relates to a historic context¹²⁸. Thus, both fields find themselves at an academic checkmate, neither making an effort to bridge the misunderstandings between them. This is compounded by the fact that the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB) makes no mention of historic preservation in its criteria for architectural design program curricula¹²⁹. Other well-known institutions in architectural education also ignore preservation. For instance, the *Journal of Architectural Education* does not have a keyword for “historic

¹²³ Phillips, “Common Ground”, iv.

¹²⁴ Phillips, “Common Ground”, 14.

¹²⁵ I did not discover this thesis until after I had already outlined my ideas for this research. Phillips’ research focuses on improving the communication between professionals in the fields of architecture and preservation, and she demonstrates her proposed framework of communication through case studies. Her work and the research herein go hand-in-hand, and I would highly recommend reading her thesis if you find this content provoking. It is highly supplemental to the ideas I have stated here with minimal overlap.

¹²⁶ This primarily includes the following: Madeline Archer’s 1991 *Where We Stand: Preservation Issues in the 1990s*, Michael Tomlan’s 1994 *Historic Preservation Education: Alongside Architecture in Academia*, and Eugene Surber’s 1999 *The Architect and Preservation: A Changing Role*. Full citations for these texts can be found under References.

¹²⁷ Pyburn, “Historic Preservation in Architectural Education”, 46.

¹²⁸ Pyburn, “Historic Preservation in Architectural Education”, 46.

¹²⁹ Wells, “Challenging the assumption”, 461.

preservation” or the like, and only 45 articles in the entirety of their publications include the term¹³⁰. This lack of academic permutation perpetuates the disconnect between the fields.

As has already been identified previously in this research, there is a lack of understanding between historic preservationists and architects about what the roles, responsibilities, and motivations of the other field are. Though this research focuses on the current state of the fields in the United States, the issue of interdisciplinary exposure is widespread. As Cristina Gonzalez-Longo of the United Kingdom points out, “(m)ost of the Architecture and Engineering schools do not teach architectural conservation, certainly at undergraduate level, and there is little room in the curriculum to teach much about traditional materials or even survey and diagnostics”. She goes on to lament the architectural curricula’s focus on new over existing¹³¹. This creates issues of communication and hierarchy later on in practice.

Jeremy Wells published a telling article titled, "Historic Preservation: Challenges to Collaboration with Other Disciplines". He identified that one of the major issues architects and preservationists face when collaborating is that it is unclear who is in charge, a role that architects often assume¹³². This leads to confusion surrounding responsibilities and decision-making. The make-up of the team and the goals of the project will often decide the

role of each professional, but it is not always a straightforward process¹³³.

Finally, as previously discussed in Chapter II, the Modern Movement in architecture is often blamed for discouraging and destroying preservation efforts. While it is difficult to say how much of this ideological scar still remains, the relationship between architecture and preservation practice still bears the effects of this era. This distrust is sewn deep, for some more than others, though it is arguable that we have not revisited the roots of this distrust and it is for this reason, in part, that the disconnect still exists.

Stereotypes

The stereotypical views about architecture and historic preservation expressed in literature are often more subtle than those expressed by practicing professionals. That is to say this type of bias was not detected in the literature discussed here, but was occasionally acknowledged by various authors. For instance, Wells admonishes that the architectural profession has been known to look down upon the preservation architect, assumed to be naively romanticizing the past¹³⁴. Wayne Wood, a preservationist and speaker for TEDx Riverside Avondale in 2013, acknowledges the stereotypes surrounding preservation in a different way, outlining them in a list he calls the “Blunders of Preservation”. This list summarizes and compares what the public thinks preservationists do

¹³⁰ Wells, “Challenging the assumption”, 457.

¹³¹ Gonzalez-Longo, “Can architectural conservation become mainstream?”, 2.

¹³² Wells, “Historic Preservation: Challenges to Collaboration”, 85.

¹³³ Wells, “Historic Preservation: Challenges to Collaboration”, 87.

¹³⁴ Wells, “Challenging the assumption”, 457.

versus what they actually do¹³⁵. For example, he argues that preservation cannot simply be a sentimental endeavor, it must make economic sense, and often it does despite the stereotype that preservation is expensive. Other list entries include the propensity to obsess over “grand mansions” and buildings of high style while ignoring lesser ordinary, eclectic or vernacular structures, the impulse to create a museum in order to save a building while often ignoring the larger neighborhood context, and our failure to embrace “good” Modern and contemporary architecture¹³⁶. However, the general lack of acknowledgement for and definition of these stereotypes in literature suggests that they persist, potentially leaving many to believe them and misshaping their views of how each field operates.

Challenges

Many of the challenges in assessing and dealing with the disconnect are one and the same with the aforementioned causes. Rallying educators, professionals, and institutional leaders to consider and instill change is a difficult task, especially because nobody wants to create fanfare around the shortcomings of their discipline. However, there are two other major challenges presented in the literature that have not been previously discussed.

First, the messy political climate surrounding historic preservation. In his TED Talk, Wood cleverly describes these complex politics, a realization he came to when rallying his neighborhood to protect local historic resources:

"We quickly realized that historic preservation had some quirky politics, and it was quite a conundrum because it's very civic-minded and patriotic to save revered buildings and landmarks, a very conservative notion. And yet to give government the ability to come in and tell us what we can do with our property, even prevent us from tearing a house down, is a very liberal concept. And so historic preservation is made up of very strange political bedfellows, sometimes called 'hysterical preservation', and it certainly is a very conservative-liberal concept. A very radical concept in many ways"¹³⁷.

¹³⁵ Or, perhaps, what a seasoned preservationist professional would do versus a young emerging professional still grasping at the complexities of the field. Either way, what becomes apparent is that our assumptions are often wrong.

¹³⁶ Wood, “Historical Preservation- A Radical Conservative Liberal Concept”.

¹³⁷ Wood, “Historical Preservation- A Radical Conservative Liberal Concept”.

It's no wonder then that disciplines tangentially related to historic preservation, let alone the public, struggle to understand why certain preservation policies command so much power. This misunderstanding, or lack of education, feeds into the stereotyped narratives architects and preservationists find themselves entrapped in. Part of breaking this cycle includes educating everyone, not just professionals¹³⁸. One of the challenges of distributing this type of education is that there is a dearth of resources that directly recognize this particular issue¹³⁹. You cannot simply tell people to care, you must explain why they should care in anticipation that they do not know what they do not know.

Second, the subjective system of appraisal that determines what is historic and what is not. Wells chimes in that, "(p)erhaps the largest area of discontent in historic preservation between the disciplines lies with the valuation of the older built environment", and that the "nuances of heritage and what heritage means to people" are what make this subject particularly divisive¹⁴⁰. Though architecture is arguably an equally subjective discipline, at least with regard to design, they are different. It can often be more difficult for the preservationist to prove why the existing trumps the new than it is for the architect to show why the new outweighs the existing. This is typically because it can be difficult to show the adaptability of a historic preservation project and demonstrate that it can serve a new set of functions and

support a new set of users to the degree that new construction would. As with any investment, people want to know they are getting their money's worth.

Proposed Solutions

Though this literature sheds light on the causes of the disconnect and lends credence to the arguments of the forum respondents, it does little in the way of recommending how we should go about mending the divide. However, these texts are part of the solution in the sense that they bring awareness to these issues. One exception is Jeremy Wells and Priya Chhaya's, *Guide to Becoming an Historic Preservation Professional: The Work You Can Do, What Employers Want, and Educational Considerations*, which details information useful to those considering a career in historic preservation, though it is limited in its information specifically focused towards those interested in becoming a preservation architect¹⁴¹.

It is important to stress that, despite the disconnect, architects and preservationists will be expected to work together in practice. Pyburn demonstrates this with a few succinct statistics from 2004: 40% of architectural projects involve existing buildings, there are nearly 12,500 historic districts in the United States and over 1.1 million buildings on the National Register of Historic Preservation, and the culmination of this is that the Federal Historic Tax Credit program generated 3.5 billion in construction value that year¹⁴². These figures have surely increased over

¹³⁸ Gonzalez-Longo, "Can architectural conservation become mainstream?", 4.

¹³⁹ Phillips, "Common Ground", 77.

¹⁴⁰ Wells, "Historic Preservation: Challenges to Collaboration", 86.

¹⁴¹ Wells, "A Guide to Becoming a Historic Preservation Professional", 5.

¹⁴² Pyburn, "Historic Preservation in Architectural Education", 46.

the past 16 years, and theoretically should be creating industry initiatives to increase interdisciplinary practice. He goes on to say, “(a) dialogue between historic preservation and architecture has an opportunity to expand the definition and role of context within the design process to include the significant features of existing buildings, features that have the potential to inform design solutions”¹⁴³, and that “(a) deep and meaningful engagement with historic preservation can inspire creative designs that sustain the productive life of the existing built environment”¹⁴⁴.

Supposition

This literature supports the idea that a disconnect between architects and preservationists exists, and further supplements the arguments and suggestions made by forum respondents. This solidifies the need for greater advocacy around this topic, at minimum for the betterment of the next generation of emerging professionals in both fields.

¹⁴³ Pyburn, “Historic Preservation in Architectural Education”, 49.

¹⁴⁴ Pyburn, “Historic Preservation in Architectural Education”, 50.

VI. THE DISCONNECT: CONCLUSION

It is clear from the previous analysis that the disconnect, as defined, does exist and is impacting the ways architects and preservationists work together. Though the focus of forum respondents and literature slightly differed, the conclusions drawn and recommendations offered were similar.

Comparisons

While it is clear that forum respondents were influenced more by their personal experiences, and the authors of the reviewed literature by trends and history

they have analyzed in both fields, it is clear that both sets of anecdotal data primarily agree that there is a disconnect. At the very least, no strong arguments were presented against this idea. In addition, regardless of whether you agree that there is a disconnect or whether you concur with the semantics of the discussion presented, several challenges facing the fields were identified.

Acknowledging these issues and how they affect both professions at large is mutually beneficial, as is considering some of the recommendations and next steps proposed here.

Recommendations

The following is a concise list of recommendations as summarized from both of the previous chapters:

- Acknowledge the disconnect and the issues raised herein
- Call for institutional change to increase cross-disciplinary exposure
- Restructure educational programs to increase interdisciplinary academic pursuits
- Restructure professional architectural education requirements to include historic preservation, and establish a similar entity and set of standards for historic preservation education programs
- Normalize historic preservation in the architectural community and American culture
- Integrate preservation professionals into projects early to avoid issues later
- Recognize projects that “successfully demonstrate sensitive and innovative design solutions involving historic properties”
- Re-evaluate our ideas about the traditional practice of historic preservation

Next Steps

At minimum, I am submitting the general recommendations listed to the preservation and architecture communities at large in the hope that it will bring greater awareness to this topic. In an effort to make my own personal contribution to emerging professionals seeking to gain a better understanding of both fields, I am providing the content in the next chapter as a resource and set of references. It is not intended to be fully comprehensive, but instead serves as a starting point for your personal research and expansion of knowledge in the areas related to interdisciplinary project negotiations and communication.

VII. CONTEXTS OF NEGOTIATION

Professionals and students alike agree that there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists in the practice of historic building preservation which causes project negotiations to be inefficient and potentially inappropriate in the context of the work being performed. However, now that we have defined these issues, we can begin to tackle them.

Purpose of this Section

This chapter seeks to define what a historic building preservation project is based on who is potentially part of the project team and their respective roles, and what constraints and considerations will shape the project. Emerging professionals of both fields should find this section particularly useful as they are assigned some of their first historic preservation building projects. This chapter is presented as a resource with the hope that users will walk away with gaps in their knowledge filled, a more well-rounded understanding of preservation projects, and a heightened ability to communicate about difficult project decisions.

The following tables identify typical project goals, disciplines, factors and constraints that shape the trajectory of a project. Each table includes a description of each component and lists additional resources that can be referenced for more information. The graphics coincide with each table and help demonstrate the interconnectedness of these components, and also allow the user to map out their own project. *Figures A, B, and C* are provided as examples, and *Figures W, X, Y, and Z* are provided for use by the reader. The interactive graphics build off of one another and can be used to summarize the goals and challenges of a project, and create an overview of who will be responsible for each aspect.

Defining a Historic Building Preservation Project

Objective: Identify project goals

- A project may have more than one goal
- The table below provides a list of common project objectives; your project goal may not be listed

- Use *Figure W* to list your project goals.

General Resources:

- The resources linked in the tables below are useful for the component they are related to, but there are myriad resources for emerging professionals of both the fields of architecture and historic preservation

- Architecture:
 - ◆ American Institute of Architects (AIA)
 - <https://www.aia.org/>
 - ◆ National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)
 - <https://www.ncarb.org/>
 - ◆ National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)
 - <https://www.naab.org/>
 - ◆ Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG)
 - <https://www.wbdg.org/>
 - ◆ Other Organizations
 - <https://www.ncarb.org/about/related-organizations>

- Historic Preservation:
 - ◆ National Park Service (NPS)
 - <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>
 - ◆ National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)
 - <https://savingplaces.org/>
 - ◆ National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE)
 - <http://www.ncpe.us/>
 - ◆ Other Organizations & Preservation Programs (by list)
 - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/preservation-programs.htm>
 - <https://savingplaces.org/stories/10-tuesday-whos-preservation-organizations>
 - <https://savingplaces.org/stories/preservation-tips-tools-whos-who-part-two-more-preservation-organizations>

GOAL	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
National Register (NR) Nomination	Nominate an existing building that is eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.	<p>NPS: What is the National Register of Historic Places? https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/what-is-the-national-register.htm</p> <p>NPS: How to List a Property https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/how-to-list-a-property.htm</p>
Historic Tax Credits	Tax credit incentives that encourage the preservation and re-use of historic buildings through private investment.	<p>NPS: Historic Preservation Tax Incentives https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/taxdocs/about-tax-incentives-2012.pdf</p> <p>National Park Service: Technical Preservation Services https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm</p>
Condition Assessment	A building assessment carried out to identify and document existing condition issues.	<p>National Center for Preservation Technology and Training: Condition Assessments https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/blog/condition-assessments-tips-for-historic-building-owners/</p>
Maintenance Plan	Develop a continuing maintenance plan document for a historic building.	<p>WBDG: Operations and Maintenance for Historic Structures https://www.wbdg.org/resources/operations-and-maintenance-historic-structures</p> <p>National Park Service: Preservation Brief 47 https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/47-maintaining-exteriors.htm</p>

GOAL	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
Repair & Materials Conservation	Introducing appropriate repairs to historic materials as conducted by qualified professionals.	NPS: Preservation Briefs https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm Most material conservation efforts will require additional specific research, testing, and expert consultation
Survey & Documentation	A series of building documentation tasks carried out based on the purpose of the documentation. Typically includes photographing building and recording significant features.	NPS: Secretary of Interior's Standards for Identification https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_2.htm HABS Documentation https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/technote.html Requirements will be situational; for instance RLS and ILS surveys may have specific guidelines, survey areas, and scope
Other Nomination	Nominations for state or local historic registers; requirements may be similar to NR.	NTHP: State Preservation Laws https://forum.savingplaces.org/learn/fundamentals/preservation-law/state-laws See historic preservation guidelines for your city or state. Local history foundations and neighborhood groups are also good resources.

Figure W:**Planning a Project: Identifying Project Goals**

- Use this space to describe major goals for your project.
- Think about:
 - ◆ Define “Who, What, Where, When, Why, How”
 - ◆ Consider possible objectives from multiple perspectives (i.e. the owner versus the community)

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5

Disciplines Involved with the Preservation Process

Objective: Identify project team members

- Descriptions given are general and may not always apply to the referenced project team member; some responsibilities may overlap between professions.
- Responsibilities and scope of work assigned to each team member should be identified at the beginning of a project.

- Use *Figure X* to identify your project team members.

- Roles often depend on the type of contract governing the project
 - ◆ AIA: Four common construction contracts you need to understand
 - <https://www.aiacontracts.org/articles/183501-four-common-construction-contracts-you-need-to-understand->
 - ◆ AIA: List of all current AIA Contract Documents
 - <https://www.aiacontracts.org/resources/6150803-list-of-all-current-aia-contract-documents>

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
Client / Owner / Developer	Establish project goals, budget. Choose main firms involved with project.	Get to know your project client and their goals, limitations, and criteria for the project. Work with them at every stage to ensure the project is on schedule and meeting their objectives.
Architect	Carry out tasks related to design, construction, permitting and project management. Often charged with overall project communication. Provides oversight of certain subconsultants, often engineers and other designers. May provide preservation services if qualified.	AIA: The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice https://www.aia.org/pages/5491-the-architects-handbook-of-professional-pract
Contractor	In charge of construction, materials procurement, cost estimation, and maintaining communication with architect and owner.	National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies https://www.nascla.org/ Check your state's agency for more information. Be sure to research the contractor you are working with.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
City Officials	Review and approve project related documents such as land use applications and permits.	You will work with your city's building department and permitting office throughout your project, in addition to other local departments that govern zoning, utilities, etc. If your city has a historic landmarks commission or a similar committee, you may be required to present the project to them as well. Check your city's website for information on your local mandates.
Preservation Consultant	Provide expertise on conducting preservation work necessary to meet project goals. May also include a conservator or contractor with expertise related to a specific part of the project.	NPS: Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm
State Historic Preservation Office / Officer (SHPO)	Review and approve work related to NR properties and provide historic preservation regulatory management.	NPS: State Historic Preservation Offices https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm
Archeologist	Oversees archeological aspects of site, if any.	NPS: Archeology https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1027/archeology.htm NPS: Archeology Program https://www.nps.gov/archeology/

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
Historian	Researches or provides expertise typically on NR nomination related work.	NPS: Historian Essential Competencies https://www.nps.gov/training/npsonly/RSC/history.htm
Structural Engineer	Assesses condition of existing structure and designs any additional structural or seismic support.	National Council of Structural Engineers Associations http://www.ncsea.com/
Civil Engineer	Oversees site utilities, stormwater mitigation, erosion control, and soil testing.	American Society of Civil Engineers https://www.asce.org/
MEP Engineer	One or more engineers that assess existing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, and design additional related interventions as needed.	American Society of Mechanical Engineers https://www.asme.org/ National Society of Professional Engineers https://www.nspe.org/

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
Sustainability Consultant	Can help your project meet certification criteria for various sustainable design programs.	WBDG: Green Building Standards and Certification Systems https://www.wbdg.org/resources/green-building-standards-and-certification-systems
Landscape Architect	Design outdoor spaces, circulation, and plantings.	American Society of Landscape Architects https://www.asla.org/
Interior Designer	Design interior finishes, assemble material palettes, and choose furniture.	American Society of Interior Designers https://www.asid.org/
Community	Provide input on project throughout review process.	Community outreach and input may be a part of your project, especially if the final product will be for public use.

Figure A:
Sample Project Team Web

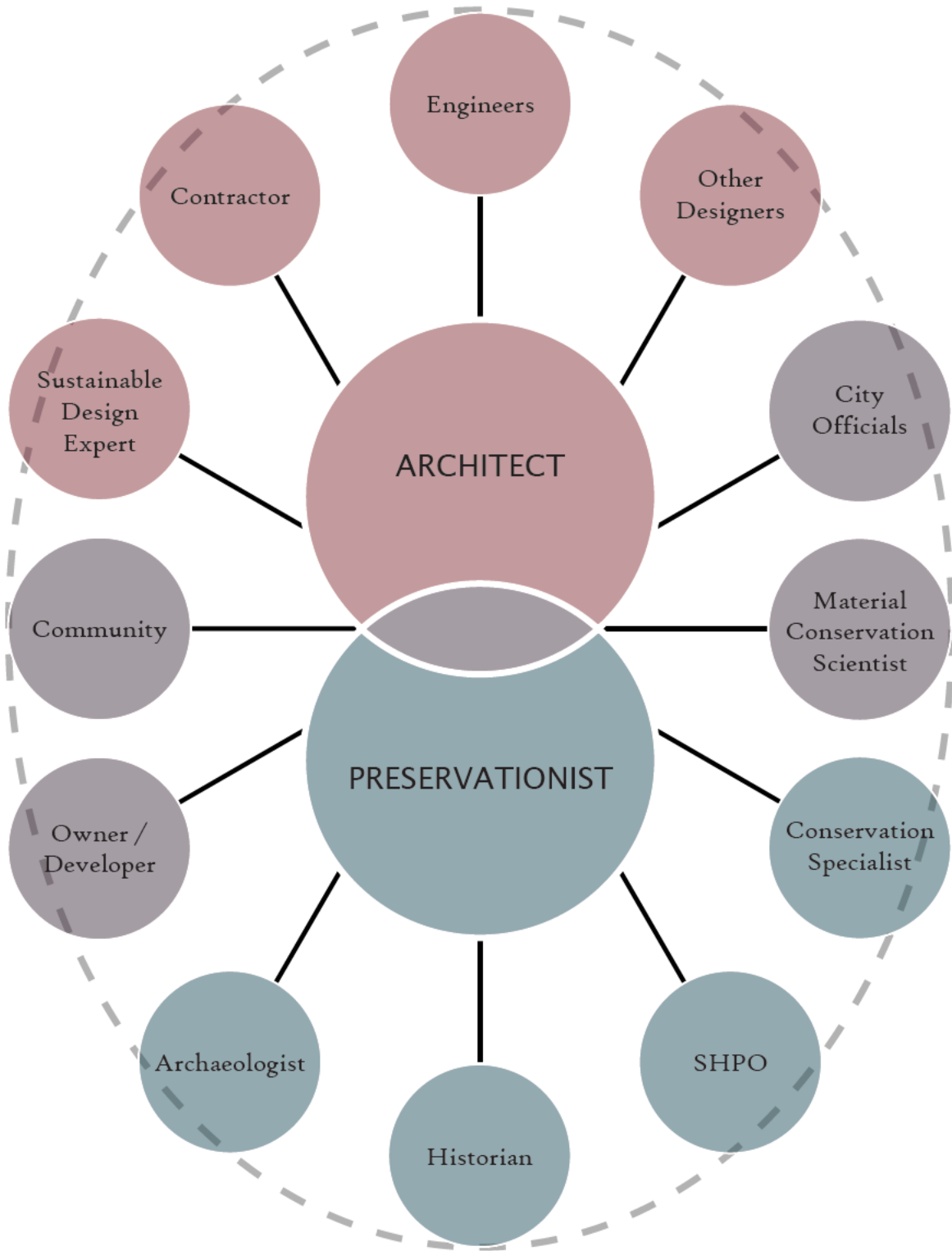
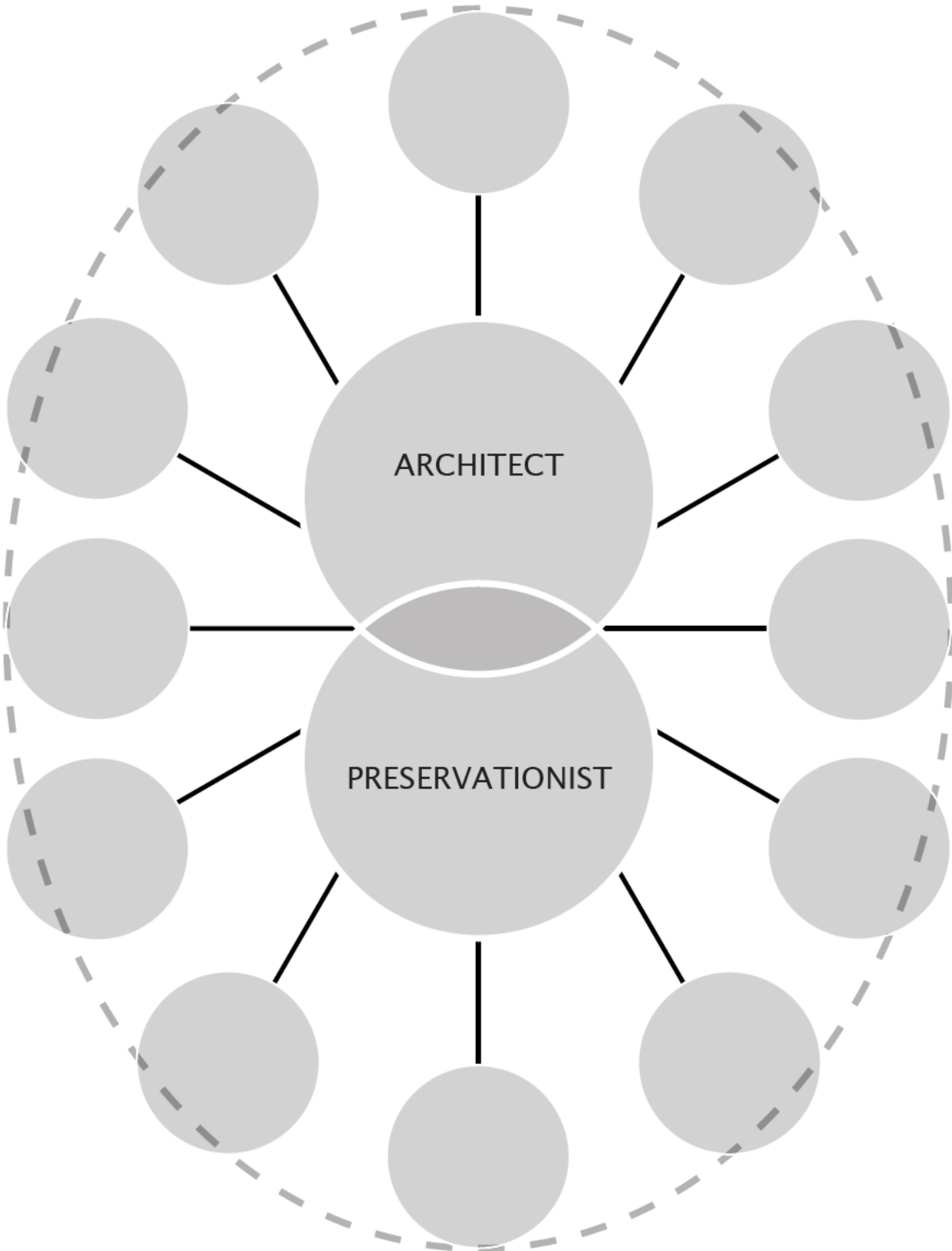


Figure X:
Planning a Project: Identifying Project Team Members



Constraints and Considerations

Objective: Identify project factors and constraints

- Consider what major issues will shape the general trajectory of the project.
- Project goals, such as historic register nomination and sustainability certification, also fall under this category but will not be listed again to avoid redundancy.
- Any of the responsibilities associated with each project team member also fall under this category as considerations and possibly as constraints.

- Use *Figure Y* to categorize factors that may effect your project.

FACTOR	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
Design Philosophy (Architect) (Preservation Architect)	Approach to design that guides decision-making and is often linked to reputation of firm.	Check your firm's handbook and discuss with project architect or firm principle. NPS: Historic Structures Essential Competencies https://www.nps.gov/training/npsonly/RSC/histarch.htm
Preservation Philosophy (Preservationist)	Approach to preservation that guides documentation, nomination, and materials conservation decisions.	Check your firm's handbook and discuss with project lead. NPS: What is Historic Preservation? https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/what-is-historic-preservation.htm
Building Code	Regulate building design and construction minimum standards.	AIA: Introduction to Codes and Standards http://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2016-04/Ind-AIA-Intro-to-Codes-and-Standards.pdf Check your local building codes, often on your city's website.
Life Safety	Code that protects occupant well-being, typically related to fire protection, egress, and occupancy loads.	WBDG: Secure and Safe https://www.wbdg.org/design-objectives/secure-safe WBDG: Life Safety in Historic Preservation https://www.wbdg.org/design-objectives/historic-preservation/accommodate-life-safety-security-needs
Zoning Code & Urban Planning	How land development is controlled and identified by municipal governments.	WBDG: Planning https://www.wbdg.org/design-disciplines/planning Check your local zoning codes, often on your city's website.

FACTOR	DESCRIPTION	RESOURCES
ADA Accessibility	Accessibility standards that govern design with regard to site, building, and amenities access. Historic properties may be required to meet these criteria.	Americans with Disabilities Act https://www.ada.gov/ WBDG: Accessibility in Historic Preservation https://www.wbdg.org/design-objectives/accessible WBDG: Accessibility in Historic Preservation https://www.wbdg.org/design-objectives/historic-preservation/provide-accessibility-historic-buildings
Federal Historic Preservation Laws	Federal laws that govern the practice of historic preservation in the United States.	NPS: Federal Historic Preservation Laws, Regulations, and Orders https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/laws.htm National Park Service: Historic Preservation Standards and Guidelines https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/standards.htm
Historic Integrity	An important consideration for NR nominations, integrity must be maintained for eligibility.	National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf National Trust for Historic Preservation: National Register Guide, Episode 9: Evaluation Historic Integrity https://savingplaces.org/stories/preservation-tips-and-tools-national-register-guide-episode-9-evaluating-historic-integrity

Figure B:
Sample Project Factors Web

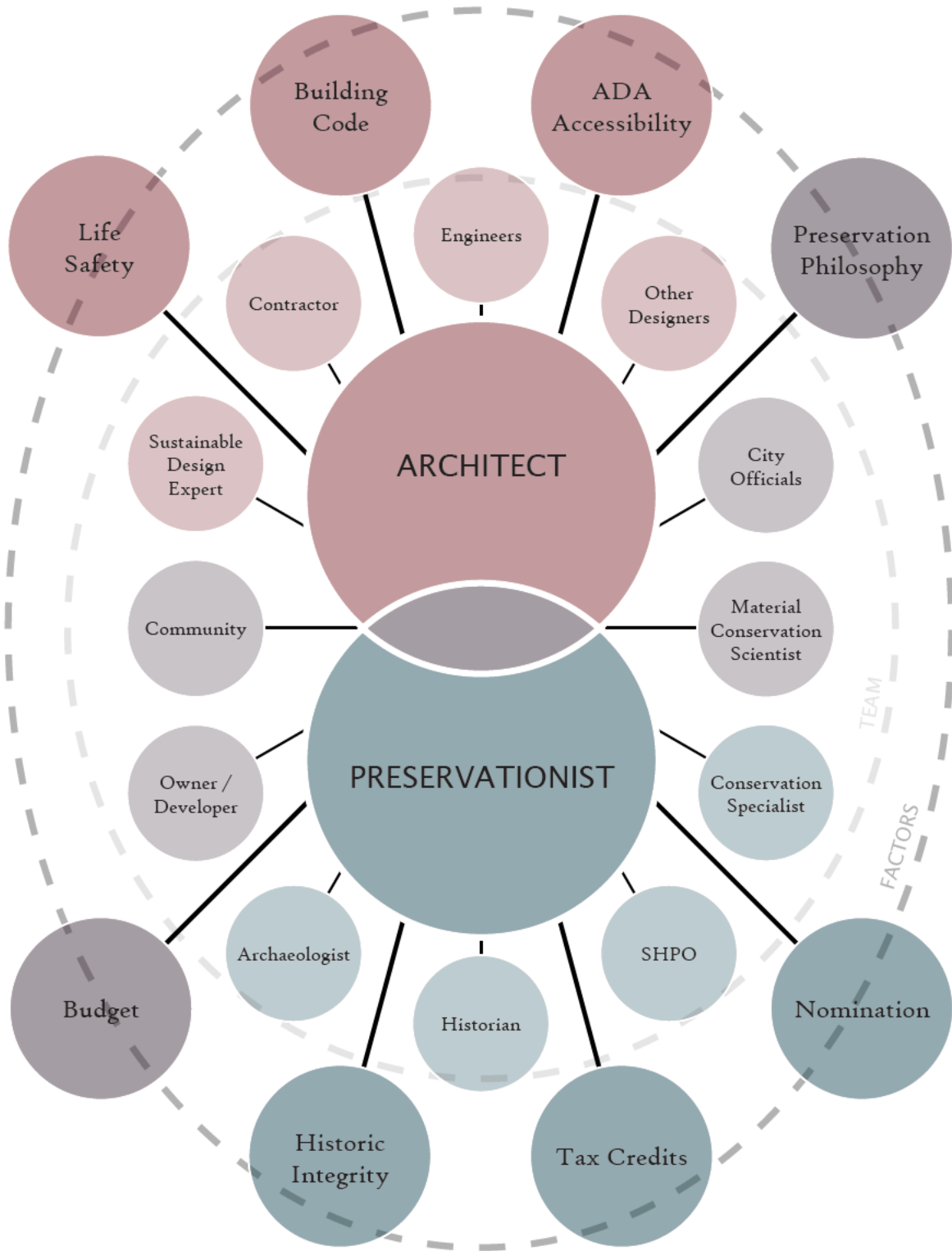
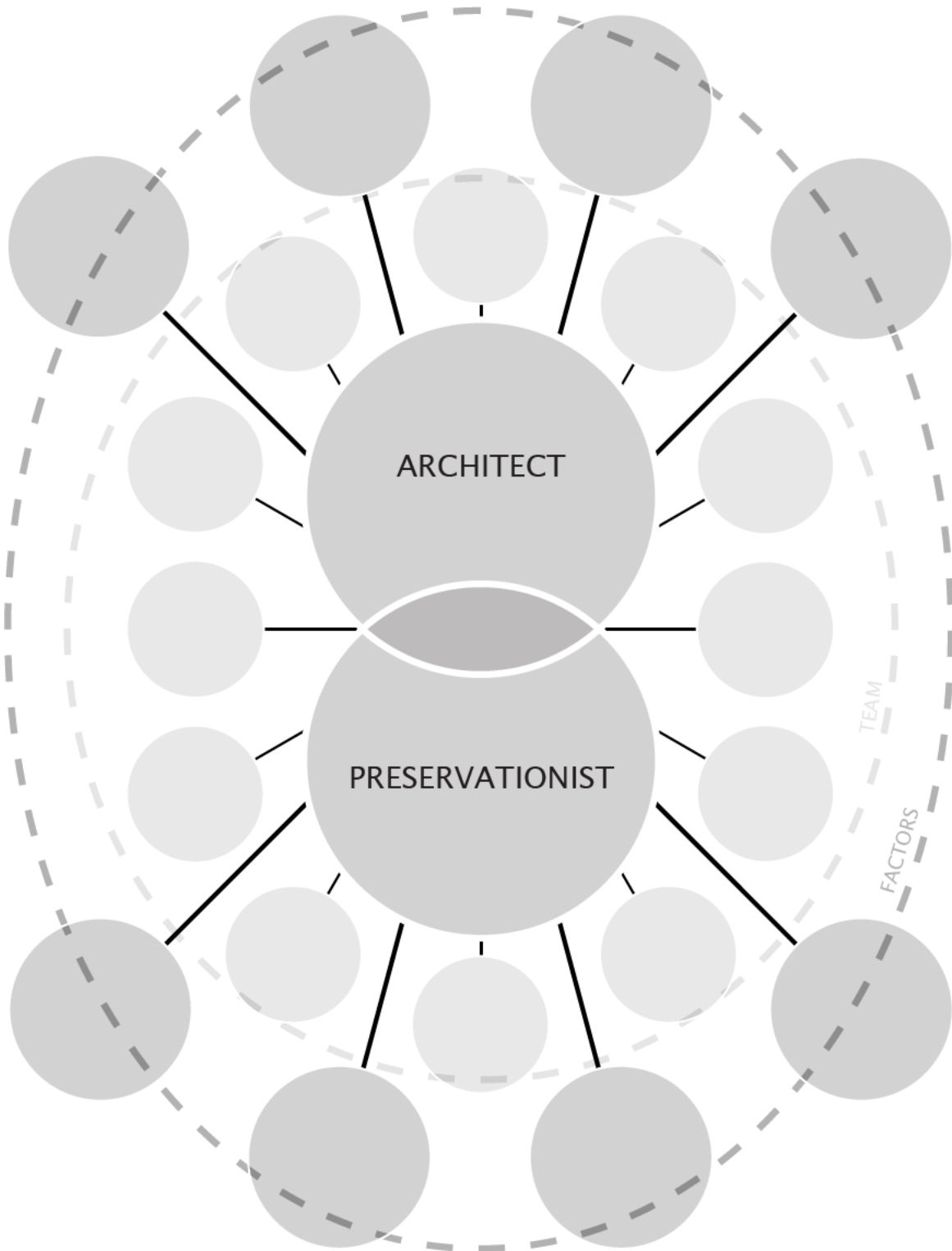


Figure Y:
Planning a Project: Identifying Project Factors



Planning a Project: Preservation Triage

Objective: Summarize your project based on your previous responses

- Use *Figure Z* to synthesize the major pieces of your project on one page for clarity and ease of reference.
- Use this page for additional notes.

Project Notes:

Figure C:
Sample Project Web

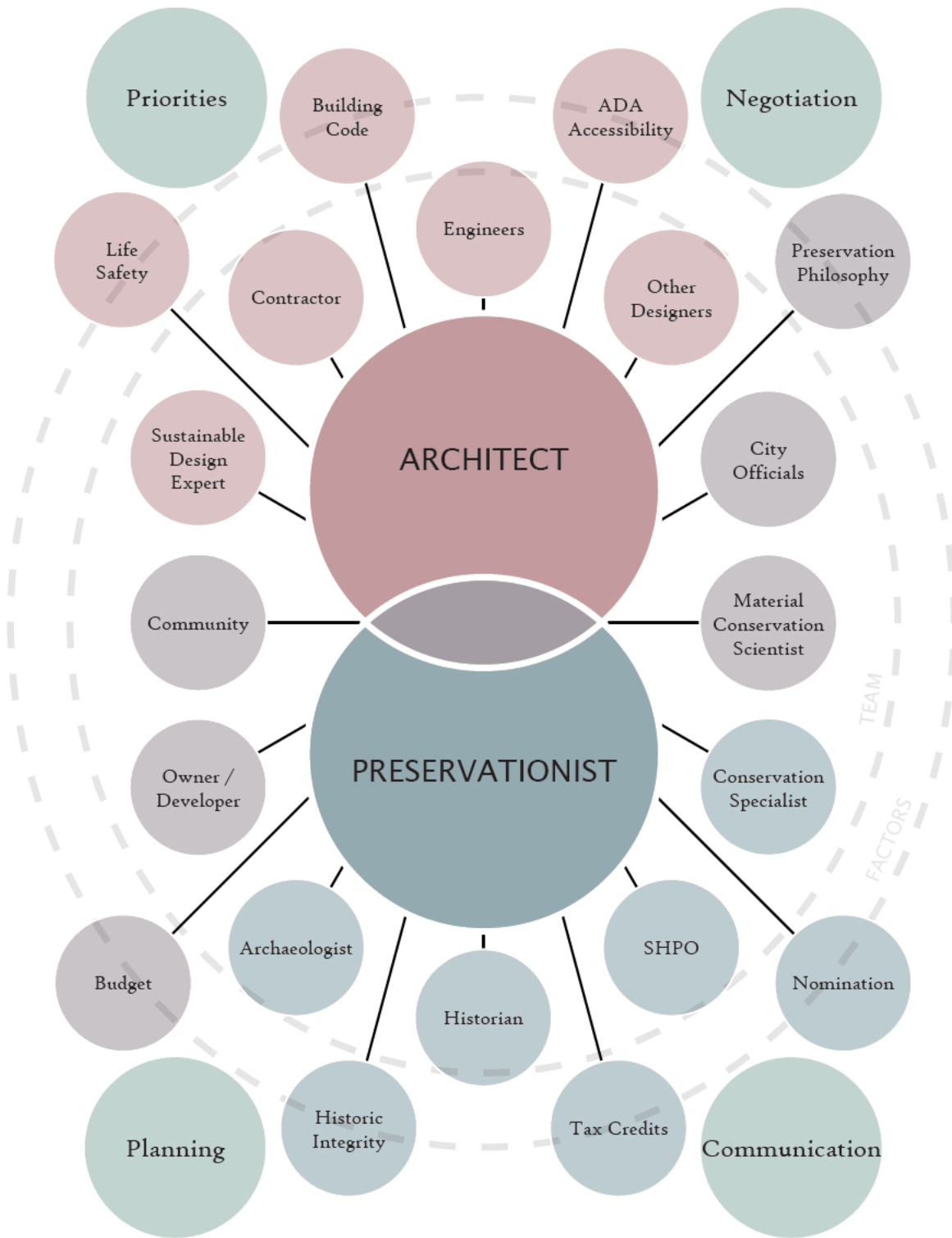
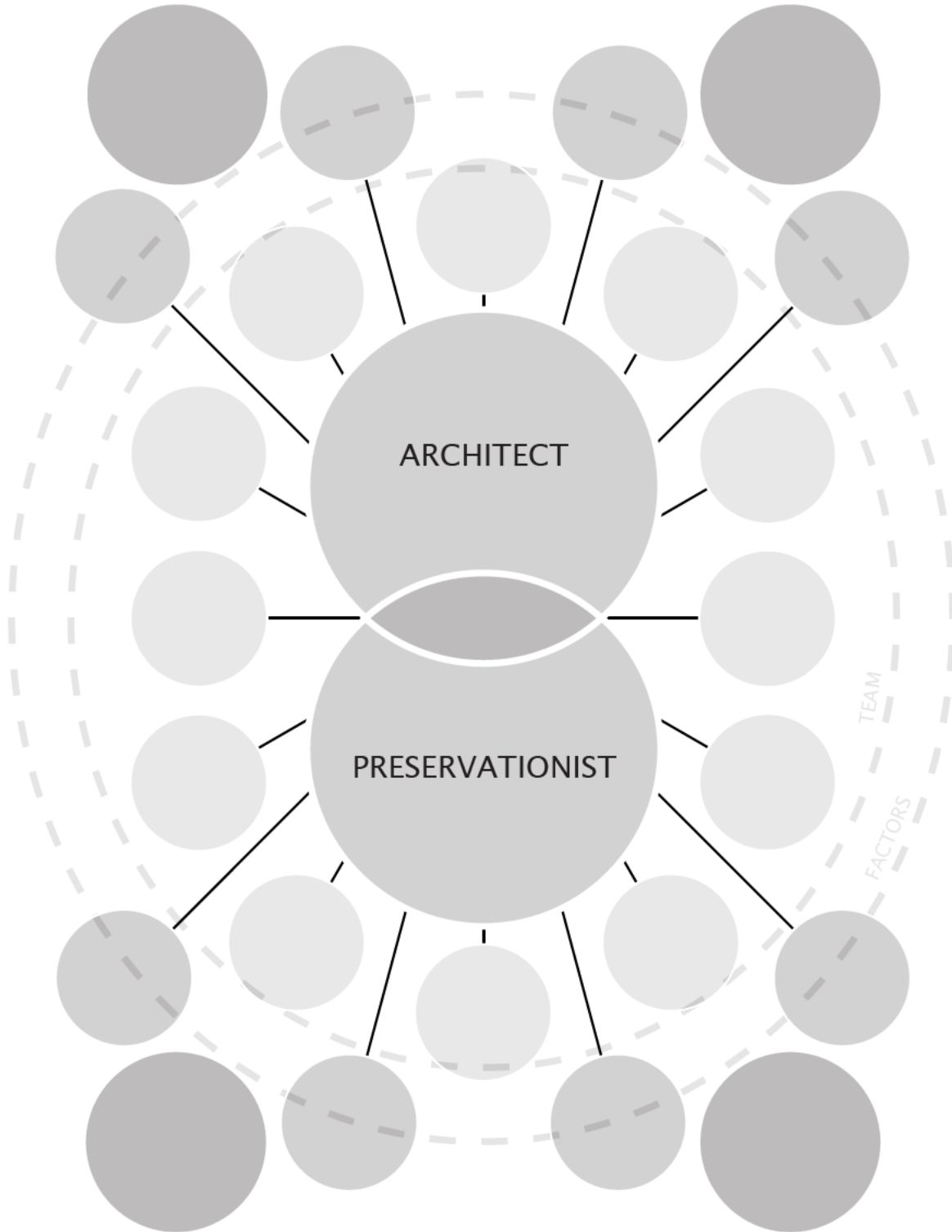


Figure Z:
Planning a Project: Project Web



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Forum Response Appendix

The forum responses contained within this appendix are a representation of opinions held by the architecture and preservation professional communities with regard to the content of this paper. All responses were posted or private messaged voluntarily by respondents.

All personal, identifying information from each response has been redacted to protect the identity of the respondent; the responses have not otherwise been modified. Information about each respondent including professional background, geographical location within the United States, and gender, was recorded in order to give readers context with regard to how representative this sample of voluntary responses is of the community at large. All responses are included in this appendix. Responses appear in the order that they were submitted in a given forum. The original forum post prompt created and distributed by the author is included at the beginning of each section for each individual forum. Private message responses and responses posted in private forums, where membership access is required, have been fully redacted as this information is not publicly accessible. Opinions expressed in redacted responses were included in the summary.

PRESERVATION LEADERSHIP FORUM

ID: Original Forum Post Prompt #oA¹⁴⁵

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt

Date: January 19, 2020

Time: 9:00 am PST

Responses: 20

Content: Note: *This is a time sensitive post seeking responses now through April 2020.*

Hi all!

I am currently developing my terminal project paper (similar to a thesis) for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree. I have a background in architecture, and since I have taken preservation classes as a student of both fields, I have noticed something: there appears to be a disconnect between architects and preservationists in practice and in perception. For my paper, I am exploring the roots of this disconnect and how to combat it.

Below are some prompts to help you respond, but this is not a formal survey and I will not be including any of your personal data in my final submission.

¹⁴⁵ Leavitt, Skyla. "Architects Vs. Preservationists: Is There a Disconnect between the Fields? (Seeking Responses Now!)." January 19, 2020.
<https://forum.savingplaces.org/connect/community-home/digestviewer/viewthread?GroupId=13&MessageKey=c710be6c-d668-4250-b403-537a8f63e643&CommunityKey=d701af53-86f6-40a0-888d-ab43303f575a&tab=digestviewer&ReturnUrl=%2fconnect%2fcommunity-home%2fdigestviewer%3fcommunitykey%3dd701af53-86f6-40a0-888d-ab43303f575a%26tab%3ddigestviewer>.

Instead, I hope to garner a consensus from practicing professionals and students alike that will either affirm or contradict my initial perception. I have avoided defining my interpretation of this disconnect so as not to influence anyone's response.

- *What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)*
- *Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?*
 - ◆ *What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?*
- *Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?*
 - ◆ *Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?*
- *What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?*

I encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences here. Whether you have been on a project team, acted as a consultant, or are currently a student, I am interested in your opinions. Thank you so much for taking the time to read and respond to this post! (It would be great if you could share it with others as well!) I hope to produce a paper that young practitioners of both fields will find useful, but I can't do that without well-rounded input. I really appreciate any and all contributions! Thank you!

Best,

Skyla

Skyla Kapri Leavitt

University of Oregon | College of Design

Master of Architecture | 2020

M.S. in Historic Preservation | 2020

ID: Response #1A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #1)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 12:09 pm PST

Response: 1 of 20

Content: Hi Skylia,

This sounds like a great topic and I'm glad you're writing about it. You might find the articles "Challenging the assumption about a direct relationship between historic preservation and architecture in the United States," and "Historic Preservation: Challenges to Collaboration with Other Disciplines" (attached) helpful. Not only do they contain good discussions about this topic, they also have sources that have surveys/studies about this topic that might be a good springboard for you and/or additional references for your paper.

Hope this helps,

 [REDACTED]

ID: Response #2A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt (Respondent #2)

Date: January 22, 2020

Time: 3:03 pm PST

Response: 2 of 20

Content: Hi [REDACTED] (Respondent #1)

Thanks so much for linking these resources! Jeremy Wells is one of the few authors I have come across that has explored this subject directly. I was actually having difficulty finding a copy of the second report that you attached, so that was very helpful.

I hope to share my project in the coming months once it is complete--I'll be sure to send you a copy.

Best,

Skyla

Skyla Kapri Leavitt

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Master of Architecture | 2020

M.S. in Historic Preservation | 2020

ID: Response #3A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #1)

Date: January 22, 2020

Time: 7:28 pm PST

Response: 3 of 20

Content: Hi Skyla (Respondent #2),

Glad I could help! And thank you! I look forward to reading your work.

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #4A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #3)

Date: January 22, 2020

Time: 9:33 am PST

Response: 4 of 20

Content: *For some examples of why architects and preservationists are in different worlds see the following Landmark Illinois web page with significant losses:*
www.google.com/...¹⁴⁶

Architects only can make a living if they can build new steel and glass high rises for developers who have so much money they don't know what to do with it. Also see the on going battel to save Paris for high rises.

Best of luck in your research

ANON

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

¹⁴⁶ Google image search "landmark Illinois losses"

ID: Response #5A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #4)

Date: January 22, 2020

Time: 7:28 pm PST

Response: 5 of 20

Content: ➤ What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)

I have a MSHP with concentrations in architectural conservation and preservation planning. I worked for a state agency for several years and am now working for an architectural firm that has a strong specialty in historic preservation.

➤ Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?

For the most part, yes. But its not universal. More and more firms are recognizing that adaptive use projects make up a substantial part of their business. The AIA states that over 40% of architectural commissions are for existing buildings. One challenge is the lack of rigor in defining the skills and qualifications needed for staff that works in adaptive use and preservation projects. Both arch and HP degrees? a certificate in HP? Some interest? What about conservation, material science, construction history, engineering, etc.? Are there HP programs that integrate that kind of thinking into their programs? What programs does an arch/HP person need to be familiar with (HTCs, building codes, compatible new design, local ordinances and design guidelines?)

- What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?

Personally, I think much of this originates in schools. Architects tend to learn to design from a blank slate. Many HP programs focus on public history, architectural styles and superficial identification, and other less rigorous disciplines.

- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?

Yes, perhaps

- Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?

See above ;)

- What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

NCARB and NCPE need to come together and design an HP Architect program.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]



ID: Response #6A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #5)

Date: January 23, 2020

Time: 10:19 am PST

Response: 6 of 20

Content: ➤ What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)

I am currently a historic preservation planner for a city. I have worked in architecture for 6 or 7 years in a variety of areas. I completed required internship but have never become licensed. I have a BA in art and architecture history, an MArch in architecture, and a MA in art and architecture history. Life and work prevented me from completing my PhD but I am ABD. My Masters degrees come from the University of Kansas where the grad program ends in a design/build project and our building technology was taught by a professor who works in a design/build capacity both with new construction and preservation. A few preservationists have come out of the program including our recent Iowa deputy state historic preservation officer. Obviously I can only comment as an outsider to any program other than my own.

➤ Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?

I do think there is a disconnect but there doesn't have to be. Sensitively remodeling existing buildings is both sustainable and likely more affordable than new construction because of the high cost of new construction and the availability of state and federal tax credits for rehabilitation. Too many

developers lead their architects toward new construction instead of rehab and too many architects would rather create their masterpiece than maintain and work with the existing buildings from the past when possible. I have worked with both sides. The disconnect is likely fueled by the architectural education system too. I know this may be controversial to say but it is pretty apparent in our part of the country. We do have firms who specialize in rehab projects. They are the ones I hope can continue to make a difference and chip away at the disconnect.

- What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?

As mentioned, I think the causes mainly lie in the architectural education system and in the world of development and developers.

- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?

It seems that some architects feel that preservationists apply too many rules that impact their designs. Bernard Tschumi wrote the "Pleasure of Architecture" that was fundamental to my position because I interpret it as follows (it has been 20 years since I have read it so I may be forgetting something): Tschumi he talks about the idea of rules and similar constraints creating a system of bondage on the creativity and process of the architect. By embracing these constraints and designing through them, the architect feels greater satisfaction through design and creates a more successful design. He also talks about how this can become manifest through the experience of the space. The impact on me that has lasted over time is the need to embrace the constraints instead of fighting them. They can become an inspiration instead, just one more aspect of the design. This is again, just my personal interpretation of the situation between preservationists and architects and Tschumi's writing.

- Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?
- What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

Since preservation and sustainability are fundamentally linked, I think that both need to be directly covered and taught in architectural education. I can't speak to the education of the preservationist since I didn't take that route. Education is very important to me so I do feel that preservationists should also be trained in architecture. Maybe dual training as a part of each curriculum could help alleviate the issue.

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ID: Response #7A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #6)

Date: January 24, 2020

Time: 11:00 am PST

Response: 7 of 20

Content: ➤ What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)

I am an architectural historian who has worked as a planner and professor of architectural history in various architectural programs. I have also been an active participant in the California Preservation Foundation's educational programs for the past three decades. CPF produces workshops, webinars and an annual conference that highlights statewide preservation topics. The programs focus on continuing education for preservation professionals, those who work with preservation projects and grassroots preservationists.

➤ Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?

Yes and no. I think architects who specialize in preservation are very aware of the intricacies of the issues, work well with community groups and are consummate problem solvers. Architects who approach historic material as if it were expendable and an impediment to new construction involve a steep learning curve.

➤ What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?

Architectural training: studio work often treats assignments as if they were located in a vacuum rather than a real urban context under the assumption that this encourages creativity. Architectural history courses are treated as an afterthought that has no relevance in the real world and studios don't cross disciplines to include preservation and history into student projects. In fairness, architecture has become so complex that stuffing all the new academic requirements on sustainability, code updates, new materials and computer programs into a 4 or 5 year curriculum is increasingly difficult. Preservation takes a back seat in the classroom as it is perceived as not very important to future architectural careers.

Personal outlook: if an architect is fundamentally uninterested in preservation and wishes to be the next Frank Gehry or Frank Lloyd Wright, there is little that can be done to redirect that focus.

The need to make a living: unless they are independently wealthy, architects work for clients who have the money to build projects. Clients have needs that architects address on their behalf. If a client is disinterested in preservation, they are not going to hire an architect who is a preservationist.

Cultural and legal support of private property rights: both architects and their clients who are not interested in preservation adhere to an American cultural belief that private property rights prevail over community values. This is a deeply held value despite decades of legal challenges and changes that have severely curtailed the absolute right to do whatever you want with your property. Zoning codes, building codes and environmental regulation have much more impact on property rights than preservation, but preservation always gets the bad press. Essentially, cultural values die hard.

Local economic and regulatory climate: how strongly preservation is supported at the local level is reflected in a community's values, its political climate and economic situation. Architects and clients who are dis-intersted in preservation will either change their position or abandon their project if the local political climate supports preservation.

- What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

I have spent the past four decades trying to break down stereotypes and normalize preservation as the obvious way of doing business. The strategy has been to educate all the relevant professions (architects, preservationists, planners, engineers, landscape architects, elected officials, lawyers, realtors) about the cultural and economic value of preservation as well as the nuts and bolts of preservation: identification, evaluation, treatment and mitigation of historic properties.

Implementing effective regulations at the local and state level to ensure preservation needs to be an integral part of the building and redevelopment process, with legal enforcement when it is not. Finally, community members need to monitor their elected officials, city employees and preservation projects to ensure all parts of the system are communicating and acting in good faith. Preservationists need to elect responsive officials; electeds need to hire competent staff and produce regulatory process that foster preservation. Preservationists need to develop good rapport with staff, attend hearings, participate in design charrettes. They also need to consider lawsuits when negotiations fail. When preservation is expected, architects and their clients will comply to meet community standards or take their business elsewhere.

IMHO, preservation is not a simple disconnect between architects and preservationists, but a cultural value that is reflected in wider community expectations and practices. The education occurs on a project by project basis, while institutional change occurs over decades as a result of successes and failures in the system. It usually takes the loss of one or two good buildings and a few spectacular lawsuits to catalyze public support for systemic change. When the market demands that developers and their architects save buildings and adaptively re-use them rather than raze them, they will comply.

I have high hopes that younger generations now in school will continue to advocate for preservation as the general way of conducting business because of its sustainability and beneficial effects on climate change. Recycling our built environment makes much more sense than continually razing it and throwing it in the landfill. But, preservationists will also have to modify their expectations as to what constitutes preservation. There was a fascinating discussion thread on the Forum a few months ago about "Preservation 2.0". We have been using museum methodology on our built environment for the past 50 years. While that is appropriate for some buildings, it is overkill for others. We need to develop more relaxed approaches to preserving certain property types and adaptive re-use projects so properties retain their economic viability. Negotiating with architects and developers takes patience, understanding and an honest exchange of views. It also takes compromise and the willingness to accept mitigation for the loss of an important property. Not everything can be saved.

Finally, when preservation is implemented at the plan level, it clarifies expectations at the project level. Conflict diminishes when realtors, property owners, developers and their architects understand what can and cannot be done with- or to- a property in advance of project design. In San Diego, we implemented a "45 year review" process that automatically checks properties pursuing discretionary permits for historic value. The process is quick and inexpensive. We've also collected data on how many properties undergoing this process are actually designated or treated as though they are designated. Very few. That has dispelled myths about how everything is historic and that the process is capricious, unpredictable and expensive. It has also dramatically reduced angst.

Would more cross-disciplinary training at the undergraduate or graduate level help break down professional barriers? Yes. But, education is a lifelong pursuit. Attending conferences and workshops, reading professional materials and learning on the job also helps educate architects about preservation. When they have to learn preservation to earn a paycheck, motivation improves.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ID: Response #8A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #7)

Date: January 25, 2020

Time: 7:32 am PST

Response: 8 of 20

Content: *Outstanding response. Thanks for sharing.*

I agree, most people don't consider preservation as a starting place but rather a niche, expensive option if you are Interested in the subject. I think work needs to be done to change the narrative of this false dilemma between expensive, little restoration project versus commercially, aesthetically pleasing, economically viable new build.

Thanks for comment.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #9A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #8)

Date: January 26, 2020

Time: 1:37 pm PST

Response: 9 of 20

Content: *Hi,*

I think [REDACTED]¹⁴⁷ makes so many enlightening and excellent points in her 24 Jan post. I could have asked directly to her but maybe others would like to have the sentence copied below explained more too.

"Finally, when preservation is implemented at the plan level, it clarifies expectations at the project level."

When you refer to the plan level, might that be what in reference to the zoning or building code? Please explain more.

On this Sunday morning I'm not clear on what you're saying and I know it is important. This info you share about what San Diego does may be something, like me, our planners would like to know more about to assist with making our process work better.

Thanks for your informative post.

[REDACTED]

¹⁴⁷ Respondent #6 - Response #7A



ID: Response #10A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #9)

Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 11:12 am PST

Response: 10 of 20

Content: *This is an important question for discussion within our field of historic preservation/building conservation. This one I'd love to try to answer.*

It's not actually "vs" or "either or". And there is only a disconnect where the fields don't converge. Architect and Preservationist are two distinct general terms that may overlap in one person.

"Preservationists" encompass a wide array of activities and professions, such as planners, historians, writers, photographers, advocates, conservators, lawyers, engineers and architects, government officials, archivists, skilled trades and craftspeople, architectural designers, interior designers, etc.

A "Preservation Architect" is a subset of preservationists that includes only architects. An architect may not be a preservationist. And a person must have a professional license to call him or herself an architect in most states. As a practicing architect working with interdisciplinary teams I often encounter different uses of the same words.

For example "Plan", both the noun and the verb, is one that often leads to misunderstanding or confusion. My understanding of the statement made by Diane Kane, comes from the design and construction industry, where different levels of planning are done prior to project implementation. And then several

types of plans are made to implement and construct projects. When the project involves an old or historic building, to me, technically, all of the players on the team are preservationists.

To elaborate, generally in a nut shell:

- City and urban planners make plans for zoning and laws to help encourage preservation. This would fall under the term preservation planning.
- Real estate developers and property owners make plans to finance and gain approvals to renovate an old building. This would be project planning and utilize the SOI Standards as/if they apply. Once they have funding and many other components in place, the plan becomes a project for an architectural team.
- Architects, conservators, preservation engineers work together as the architects, engineers and draftspersons make plans, also called drawings and specifications, to implement the project. This is the design phase of a project. These are where the detailed guidelines of the SOI Standards and NPS Preservation Briefs come into play. These plans are used to contract for the management, labor, materials and equipment to construct the project.
- Builders and the construction team plans the final implementation and construction of the project. They schedule and coordinate the work. This is where it's critical to have skilled preservation trades and craftspeople on the team, and oversight of the work to assure that the SOI Standards as called for in the drawings and specs are followed, if they apply.

From my perspective, I would say, a minority of architects are Preservation Architects with the knowledge and skill to create thorough, quality plans and specs and project oversight. (Likewise, a minority of construction contractors are skilled in preservation techniques, means and methods.) And so people who are hiring or working with architects to do historic preservation plans and specifications, or contractors to implement the work, need to be aware of this. Preservation is a specialty within these fields.

In general, most architects are "preservationists", in the broad sense of the term, as the profession values our cultural heritage and the existing built environment. However, that is at the urban planning level. At the project planning, design, and construction level, most architects may not be experienced working with the SOI Standards and have the knowledge or sensitivity for planning or implementing a project to preserve historic fabric as a Preservation Architect would.

I hope this helps, and that my words of caution don't offend anyone.



ID: Response #11A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #9)

Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 1:19 pm PST

Response: 11 of 20

Content: *I came in on this discussion today and provided input in response to one of the participants. But I hadn't yet noticed the Q&A format you're using.*

This is a wonderful and very much needed project and I'm happy to provide my information and thoughts.

I very much look forward to reading/hearing the results!

- *What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)*

Position: Interdisciplinary project manager with the National Park Service/Profession: Architect, licensed since 1993/Background: My interest in saving the embodied craftsmanship and materials of old buildings is inherent in me. Back before the terms "sustainable" or "preservation" were in my vocabulary, I perceived a number of the values in repairing and retaining existing buildings. This led to my undergraduate degree in architecture, six years of practice in preservation oriented architecture firms, and a graduate degree in historic preservation to know more about the profession and practices. Since then my career has been with the NPS in various roles, including both preservation and new construction. In my case, every project involves preservation compliance with both NEPA and NHPA in one aspect or another

in varying degrees. Based on my background, I would consider myself a Preservation Architect. If there were a formal process to claim the title, I humbly believe I would qualify and would be proud to claim it.

- Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?

I think it depends. If you intend to mean in general the professions, in general, yes there is a disconnect. However, on a working level, as individuals, there may or may not be a disconnect. Architects have varying backgrounds in preservation. Preservationists have varying backgrounds in their approach to architecture. Some Architects could be called Preservation Architects, as such should have minimal disconnect with preservationists, but I think "disconnect" may still occur. Likewise, some preservationists could have equivalent knowledge of architecture, and have minimal disconnect. But if an architect specialist in hospitals, airports or new construction were at a table with a preservationist specializing in history, preservation planning, or architectural finishes restoration, there would likely be a big disconnect.

- What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?

At their foundations, these are two distinct professions that have evolved nearly simultaneously in our modern world. In the 21st century each of them has a large number of specialists within the profession that has varying levels of knowledge about their own profession, and their own specialist areas within their profession. They may not even know enough about all the areas of specialization within their own profession, much less about another profession.

- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?

Probably some likely do, yes. But again, this is a generalizing question that differs in each case to varying degrees in actual practice.

- Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?

I'd rather not contribute or repeat incorrect assumptions that would best be dismissed and done away with. I think the better approach is to find ways to address or minimize their impacts.

- *What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?*

First of all, each of us, with our human nature or learned habit to label and categorize 'the other' needs to be consciously overcome or ignored.

Second, I think there are some actions that could be taken by the NTHP, AIA Historic Resources Committee, APT, PTN, and other leading preservation professional organizations in the US to help minimize the disconnects in practice. Number one of these would be to develop more scientific and precise definitions and language about who we are and what each of us do. I would like to see us formalize and normalize specializations within each field with clearly defined roles and titles, such as Preservation Architect, Preservation Planner, Architectural Historian, etc. and the areas of expertise of each sub-field of the profession. In this way we could all better understand the complexity and background required for each sub-field. And could have mutual expectations and respect for the 'other' on the team.

At the same time, in support of this, we need to develop and formalize definitions for preservation typologies. The SOI Standards update of early 1990's was a step in the right direction but I think much more needs to be done, but not by the SOI Standards, but by our profession. SOI Standards are general and geared toward specific project applications, for tax credits. As a profession, our communications, our work, and the perception of our work would benefit by the creation of preservation typologies. ██████████¹⁴⁸ touched upon this when she mentioned "Museum" preservation. We hurt ourselves when we misapply standards of museum quality preservation to adaptive reuse or renovation projects, Finding a way to formalize preservation typologies could go a long way to easing tensions and disconnects in our field. These could then be applied or adopted at the national and local levels for application in practice.

Best wishes with your research and I look forward to the results. This is a very important topic, long overdue to be addressed in a logical and focused positive manner.

¹⁴⁸ Respondent #6 – Response #7A

██████████
██████
██████████
██████████

ID: Response #12A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #9)

Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 1:39 pm PST

Response: 12 of 20

Content: *PS - My comments to this forum are my personal professional opinions, and not those of the NPS.*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #13A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #10)

Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 5:33 pm PST

Response: 13 of 20

Content: *Hi @Skyla Leavitt Thanks for opening this great discussion; I really appreciate everyone's thoughts.*

➤ What is your position/profession/background?

I'm a communications consultant specializing in historic places and preservation. I have 30 years of communications experience, 15 in preservation. I fell in love with preservation after moving to Los Angeles (yes, really) and, four years later, joined the staff of the L.A. Conservancy as their first communications professional. After 14 years, I left the Conservancy to form my own practice. I'm now on a mission to advance the field of preservation through strategic communications.

While I'm not an architect (I was mercifully weeded out of an architecture program after the first semester), I've been around a while and have seen what I hope is enough to contribute, at least from a messaging/narrative perspective.

➤ Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice? What do you think are the causes?

It pains me to see the contrast (either/or) here, as @ [REDACTED]¹⁴⁹ noted in her response. But I get it. I agree with others re. the potential causes of the rift. From a messaging perspective, "preservation" has such a bad rap (at least in L.A. - are we alone in this?) that it's becoming a four-letter word. I know several architects who hate being called "preservation architects" because it's so limiting. They'd much rather be referred to as architects who work with, or whose work includes, existing buildings. You'd think that especially in a place as built-out as Los Angeles that infill and sensitive additions would be the norm. Not so much.

I was fascinated to learn recently that landscape architects consider a site's past -- or at least existing conditions -- much more than architect architects. It makes sense in one way -- needing to design for topographical/hydrological conditions, wind patterns, etc. -- but one landscape architect told me he and his fellow students heard "sense of place" so much during school that they got sick of it, and that landscape architects "draw from the past and bring it into the future." Sorry to be naive here, but I didn't know cultural context played such a key role in their work.

Re. education as a cause of the rift, I've seen leaders of preservation/heritage conservation programs struggle to integrate, or even connect, their programs more broadly within architecture schools. I know of at least one architecture school in Southern California with a widespread reputation for completely dismissing preservation/conservation.

I'm also fascinated by @ [REDACTED]¹⁵⁰ comment that "studio work often treats assignments as if they were located in a vacuum rather than a real urban context under the assumption that this encourages creativity." I always hear (and find in my own experience) that constraints fuel creativity, not the other way around.

- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?

Probably. I wouldn't speak directly for an architect of any kind, but from what I've seen, assumptions include:

¹⁴⁹ Respondent #9 - Response #11A

¹⁵⁰ Respondent #6 - Response #7A

- ◆ *Development and preservation are mutually exclusive.*
- ◆ *Preservation isn't creative.*
- ◆ *Preservation is about freezing buildings in time.*
- ◆ *Preservation is always, 100% of the time, more expensive than new construction.*
- ◆ *Architects care only about making their mark on the world, which is possible only through new buildings.*
- ◆ *Preserving existing landmarks can preempt the creation of tomorrow's landmarks. (Exhibit A¹⁵¹)*

➤ What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

- ◆ *Stop talking about architects and preservationists as two separate things.*
- ◆ *Talk more about context, infill, recycling, expansion, addition, reimagining, transformation.*
- ◆ *As noted by @██████████¹⁵² and in the Preservation 2.0 thread, loosen up the definition of "preservation."*
- ◆ *Do whatever it takes to integrate the two in educational programs.*
- ◆ *Rename and reframe the issue of preservation using social science (see @Jeremy Wells¹⁵³).*

 ██████████
 ██████████

¹⁵¹ <https://www.kcrw.com/culture/shows/design-and-architecture/artist-evictions-should-a-mid-century-bank-be-saved/should-a-mid-century-bank-be-saved>

¹⁵² Respondent #6

¹⁵³ Wells was not a forum respondent, but he did write several of the articles referenced throughout this text.

ID: Response #14A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #10)

Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 5:44 pm PST

Response: 14 of 20

Content: @ [REDACTED]¹⁵⁴ I'd love to know more about your work here:

I have spent the past four decades trying to break down stereotypes and normalize preservation as the obvious way of doing business. The strategy has been to educate all the relevant professions (architects, preservationists, planners, engineers, landscape architects, elected officials, lawyers, realtors) about the cultural and economic value of preservation as well as the nuts and bolts of preservation: identification, evaluation, treatment and mitigation of historic properties.

Could we chat sometime at your convenience?

 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

¹⁵⁴ Respondent #6

ID: Response #15A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #6)

Date: January 28, 2020

Time: 10:09 am PST

Response: 15 of 20

Content: Hi [REDACTED]¹⁵⁵,

Preservation Programs are easier to administer when they are part of an integrated public process that unites long range planning, short term development and the environmental consequences of both. Many local preservation programs were initially set up as Landmark Commissions with duties to bestow honorific titles on isolated properties. They were seen as a process different from from planning and treated administratively like a stunted evolutionary branch that had no connection to planning, development or the rest of city government. When these designated properties began to be protected by federal and state environmental laws, the dis-connect became legally problematic.

The most effective preservation programs are integrated into a city's planning process, where preservation is an equal partner in city development strategies. At the plan level, this means there is a Preservation Element in the City's General Plan that creates a vision and related policies for how the city will treat its historic resources. San Diego updated its General Plan in 2008. The Preservation Element included a legal basis for preservation that tied it into federal and state laws and the city's municipal code. San Diego is a State of California Certified Local Government, which means certain state and federal preservation obligations are delegated to the city as long as it maintains its

¹⁵⁵ Respondent #8 – Response #9A

certification. Requirements include a Preservation Element, a Preservation Commission, with members and staff who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, enforcement of state and local preservation laws, and a system of survey and inventory of historic properties.

The city undertook comprehensive survey work as the General Plan update led to community plan updates. Staff developed contexts, identified and evaluated potential historic properties within each context and mapped individual properties and historic districts. Staff contacted owners, explained program benefits and responsibilities and noted concerns while preparing the community plans. Staff adjusted zoning to take pressure off potential historic districts and suggested mitigation for loss of properties in up-zoned areas. Staff also considered a plan wide Transfer of Development Rights program and the identification of receiver sites when properties could not be retained in place. (Neither of these concepts were adopted, but they remain viable preservation alternatives most easily achieved when considered at the plan level.) The historic surveys were adopted as part of the community plan updates to guide development in the future. The community was involved in the planning process and was informed that certain properties would be subject to historic review if and when they were modified or redeveloped.

Although this sounds like a reasonable approach to fulfill state and local legal obligations towards historic properties, implementation has been rocky. So many historic districts were identified by the surveys (several community plans were updated at the same time) that city staff was overwhelmed by the workload to process them. The city's budget was too strapped to hire more staff, so district implementation slowed down to accommodate available staff (one person). Both owners and city staff were uncertain how to handle identified but undesignated contributors to a potential historic district when they were involved in development projects. City managers decided that until the districts are formally designated, development can proceed apace. Preservationists disagreed. As you can imagine, this is being settled in court with on-going lawsuits. I find this situation puzzling since there already is a well defined process to evaluate individually significant yet undesignated properties for historic significance when they are undergoing modification or demolition. It would seem that an extension of this process to evaluate contributors to a district could address the impasse.

Hence, my earlier comments that preservation proceeds in fits and starts, involves gains, losses, lawsuits and eventually changes in process. San Diego made a formidable commitment to historic preservation with its Preservation Element, Community Plan updates and consequent survey work, but is suffering growing pains in the plan implementation phase. Mitigation (required by the

California State Environmental Quality Act) was never considered during plan adoption, and updates to code and/or administrative processes to address the dis-connect between identified but not yet designated historic districts and their treatment in the development process remain unresolved.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ID: Response #16A

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt (Respondent #2)

Date: February 9, 2020

Time: 9:33 pm PST

Response: 16 of 20

Content: Hi All,

I want to deeply thank everyone that responded for the time, energy, and thought that went into sharing your opinions, whether on this thread or privately with me. If you reached out to me directly, I apologize if I have not had a chance to get back to you--the amount of responses I got was overwhelming, far more than I could ever have hoped for. I am of course very appreciative, but it has also been a lot to keep up with!

In the spring I look forward to sharing my project with all of you; I think the amount of responses I have received is evidence of how important this conversation is to have and be aware of, among all of the other issues these fields face. Your feedback will help me present a well-rounded discussion of these issues, one that will continue to evolve over time with changes in our fields, hopefully for the better.

Sincerely, thank you.

Best,

Skyla

Skyla Kapri Leavitt

University of Oregon | College of Design

Master of Architecture | 2020

M.S. in Historic Preservation | 2020

ID: Response #17A (**Private Message**)

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #11)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 2:15 pm PST

Response: 17 of 20

Content: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #18A (**Private Message**)

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #12)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 3:26 pm PST

Response: 18 of 20

Content: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #19A (**Private Message**)

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #12)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 3:59 pm PST

Response: 19 of 20

Content: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #20A (**Private Message**)

Forum: Preservation Leadership Forum: Forum Connect

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #13)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 9:49 am PST

Response: 20 of 20

Content: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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AIA – HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE FORUM

ID: Original Forum Post Prompt #oB¹⁵⁶

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt

Date: January 19, 2020

Time: 4:11 pm PST

Responses: 25

Content: *Note: This is a time sensitive post seeking responses now through April 2020.*

Hi all!

I am currently developing my terminal project paper (similar to a thesis) for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree. I have a background in architecture, and since I have taken preservation classes as a student of both fields, I have noticed something: there appears to be a disconnect between architects and preservationists in practice and in perception. For my paper, I am exploring the roots of this disconnect and how to combat it.

Below are some prompts to help you respond, but this is not a formal survey and I will not be including any of your personal data in my final submission.

¹⁵⁶ Leavitt, Skyla. "Architects Vs. Preservationists: Is There a Disconnect between the Fields? (Seeking Responses Now!)." January 19, 2020.
<https://network.aia.org/communities/community-home/digestviewer/viewthread?GroupId=115&MessageKey=3f5297d9-df56-4ffa-95e0-f2f579847d02&CommunityKey=97be49ce-260b-4cbe-8635-511aa3e87715&tab=digestviewer&ReturnUrl=%2fcommunities%2fcommunity-home%2fdigestviewer%3fcommunitykey%3d97be49ce-260b-4cbe-8635-511aa3e87715%26tab%3ddigestviewer>.

Instead, I hope to garner a consensus from practicing professionals and students alike that will either affirm or contradict my initial perception. I have avoided defining my interpretation of this disconnect so as not to influence anyone's response.

- *What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)*
- *Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?*
 - ◆ *What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?*
- *Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?*
 - ◆ *Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?*
- *What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?*

I encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences here. Whether you have been on a project team, acted as a consultant, or are currently a student, I am interested in your opinions. Thank you so much for taking the time to read and respond to this post! (It would be great if you could share it with others as well!) I hope to produce a paper that young practitioners of both fields will find useful, but I can't do that without well-rounded input. I really appreciate any and all contributions! Thank you!

Best,

Skyla

Skyla Kapri Leavitt

University of Oregon | College of Design

Master of Architecture | 2020

M.S. in Historic Preservation | 2020

ID: Response #1B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #14)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 5:33 pm PST

Response: 1 of 25

Content: Hi Skyla,

Terrific questions! I'll try to send you my thoughts later. In the meantime, if you haven't already done so, you may wish to also pose these questions on the Historic Preservation Professionals group on fb. You're likely to get quite a bit of conversation there!

All the best to you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #2B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #15)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 7:44 pm PST

Response: 2 of 25

Content: *Yes, there is a disconnect, particularly between traditionalist practitioners and preservationists although I think modernist practitioners share some of the frustration, for different reasons. In designing additions to historic buildings or infill within historic districts the requirement from Standard #9 to differentiate is commonly exaggerated while the co-equal requirement to be compatible is neglected. Careful coordination of details and materials that would make a design compatible is frequently resisted by many preservationists for fear of creating a "false sense of history". The rigid necessity for design work to "be of its time" is almost always interpreted to mean that new work should not resemble old, even though parts might be machine made vs. hand worked, use new materials instead of old, and be very much of modern times.*

I'm a traditionalist practitioner.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards were inspired by modernist ideology meant to enable modernist design work and to discourage fakery, inadvertently (or maybe intentionally) causing a codified prejudice against traditionalist and historicist design work.

Yes, I think stereotypes exist, including the one I hold that many preservationists are enthusiasts of bad modern design simply because it is modern and are prejudiced against even very good historicism or traditionalist design simply because it is not modern.

Work needs to be done to further define what constitutes compatibility and compatibility needs to be considered equal to differentiation when evaluating new design in the context of existing buildings and historic districts. Work also needs to be done to develop and clarify what should inform the evaluation of infill construction within historic districts or other architecturally sensitive contexts. Obnoxious, stylistically differentiated design needs to be discouraged so that more compatible designs which might be differentiated can become more common.

Generally, architects and preservationists need to become better at what they do and they need to hold design review boards, academics and fellow professionals to the highest standards possible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #3B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #16)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 9:10 am PST

Response: 3 of 25

Content: *Skyla,*

An interesting topic that I actually get to discuss regularly. Glad to share some thoughts with you:

- *What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)*

I am an architect in my 41st year of practice. 31 of those years have been spent dedicated to historic preservation, the focus of the firm I founded. In addition to architectural practice, I have served for much of that time and continue to serve on various professional committees, non-profit boards and regulatory boards and commissions, local and state-wide, all focused on historic preservation. With Modernist schooling and 10 years of conventional architectural practice prior to specializing in historic preservation, I think I have an informed view of both sides of this issue.

- *Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?*

Yes

- What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?

They are very different approaches to architecture with historic preservation techniques being far and away less commonly understood. The design and construction industry (owners, architects, engineers and contractors) is focused on new construction, as it always has been in the US. The techniques that have been developed to make new construction attractive and efficient often don't translate well to renovations in general, and historic preservation in particular.

- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?

Stereotypes certainly exist, but the problem is a basic conflict between approaches to a project stemming from a lack of understanding of what is required of each. When I have worked on the regulatory side of preservation, I have always noted that my biggest and most frequent problems come from intelligent, sincere, talented, well-intentioned architects who have no idea of the goals and techniques of modern preservation practice. They do not understand the goals of preservation and their commonly held assumptions about historic buildings are wrong.

- Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?

The assumptions are common, surprisingly widely held and generally incorrect, such as high cost for preservation, inflexibility or resistance to modern systems, difficult and esoteric approval processes, and especially the idea that historic preservation is only about the aesthetic, the look, which ignores the underpinning concept of preserving authenticity.

- What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

Education about the differences is the primary need. We have been very active in the local AIA to add preservation to CEU options, chapter programs, policies, awards programs, and publications. With the revelation that

preservation is also a very sustainable practice, the opportunity to bridge this understanding gap may be at hand.

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ID: Response #4B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #17)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 4:56 pm PST

Response: 4 of 25

Content: Skyla

I am likely not your typical respondent. Preservationist, licensed Architect, professional architectural conservator.

And yes there is a disconnect. One teaches what one knows. The Vast majority of those teaching preservation are not licensed architects or professional conservators. They are typically preservation bureaucrats teaching that aspect but not really intent on reaching out to or producing architects sensitive to cultural resources. How and where are they to learn?

A significant skill that is not taught at the University is analysis/reading Historic buildings. This is the language imprinted on and within historic sites. Before you beg to differ you must realize that if you are taught anything at all it is at best a conversation level exposure. There are few architectural historians who can translate well enough not to get woefully lost trying to decipher changes made during the lifetime much less those made during construction before occupancy.

Despite the fact that more than 3/4 of all construction dollars are expended on existing buildings that is not a major area of study in schools.

That said, back in the early 1990s I wrote several chapters in an obscure book on the conservation of Wyck in Philadelphia along with Marigene Butler FAIC Head of Conservation at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and others.

The one on "The Architects Point of View"

ID: Response #5B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #18)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 5:45 pm PST

Response: 5 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]¹⁵⁷,

Interesting opinions, but I don't agree to the absoluteness you are representing, in fact, I think this very much depends on local and state preservation offices. I do feel that the positions are often extremist at both ends of the spectrum, and we shouldn't use the term "modernist" in this context, as that is not accurate. "Contemporary" would be the better term? Especially given that many modernist designs are now eligible (and/or have been listed) for historic status (and are very worthy of it, as well).

Could we build an addition in complete masonry, next to a brutalist historic building? (I think we could). Might some preservationists deem it to be not close enough to the original? (I bet they would).

As with anything the execution can widely range, and it can be successful (or not) with very similar (style adjacent) as well as dissimilar (abstract, but proportionately cohesive) design solutions. It takes mastery in either case to be respectful, yet distinct in the solution.

¹⁵⁷ Respondent #15 – Response #2B

Often times, it seems that the judges on preservation panels are lay-people who might be challenged with the determination what is an appropriate (and what isn't) solution. And, granted, it is a very difficult judgement to make, even for us professionals, at times, until we can see the completed project.

Finally, I think the US, due to its limited historic resources, lacks a lightness in its relationship to historic structures, that many European countries have embraced (Italy, France, ...). It would be unlikely that a glass pyramid addition to the Louvre, or a glass cupola addition to the Reichstag, would have ever happened in the US.

And, there is a role for architecture in historic discourse/critical reflection, as seen in the Jewish Museum in Berlin, or the Military Museum in Dresden (both masterpieces by Daniel Libeskind, where arguably most of his work isn't)...

100 miles is a long distance in Europe ... 100 years is a long time in the US.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ID: Response #6B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #19)

Date: January 23, 2020

Time: 6:16 am PST

Response: 6 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]¹⁵⁸ *sums up a number of the issues quite succinctly and mirrors my own experiences. I'd add "time" into the assumptions along with "high cost" - as in "we don't have time to assess and deal with all these unknowns." There often seems to be a strong desire to start with a clean slate and build new as opposed to trying to work around existing features and issues.*

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

¹⁵⁸ Respondent #16

ID: Response #7B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #20)

Date: January 23, 2020

Time: 10:26 am PST

Response: 7 of 25

Content: *With 35 years in the profession and 30 of those in historic preservation, I wholeheartedly agree with [REDACTED]¹⁵⁹ comments. I often work as a consultant to architects who are not familiar with preservation, the creativity it allows and the excitement of breathing new life into a discarded building. I will throw in to this conversation that sometimes, setting one's ego aside and letting the building speak for what it needs and the design statement it already makes is the hardest thing for many architects. Designing a new building allows an architect to express themselves and bask in the glow that goes hand in hand with that expressionism. Putting that ego trip aside is very difficult for many architects, especially if it's in an area, like preservation, where they have little or no training and experience. Putting an addition on a historic building is crippling for someone who can't get their ego under control.*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

¹⁵⁹ Respondent #16

ID: Response #8B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] Respondent #21)

Date: January 25, 2020

Time: 3:09 am PST

Response: 8 of 25

Content: *Your questions were part of the report from 1990 by the HRC vis-a-vis the role of architects in preservation. There are great quotes in that report from the founders of the historic preservation profession who served on the HRC during the post WW II era. Your concern over an apparent disconnect was presaged in that document. You can retrieve from the archives on line in the HRC webpages.*

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #9B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #22)

Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 10:06 pm PST

Response: 9 of 25

Content: *Hello Skyla,*

Echoing previous responses: great questions! Also, echoing other responses: yes, there is and has been a significant and unproductive disconnect. You have gotten some terrific feedback which aligns with my experiences. Here are brief responses to your questions. I'd be happy to get into this more with you at some point if you would find that useful.

POV? About half of my 50 year architecture career has been spent focused on existing building renewal and transformation, including historic preservation (HP). Earlier in my career I focused on design that is both environmentally and culturally contextually-appropriate. I became an early advocate for green building which brought me to appreciate that the importance of existing building re-use and adaptation were largely overlooked by the mainstream of the architectural profession. I coined the phrase: The greenest building is...one that is already built.

Disconnect? I describe my work in the terms of renewal and transformation because I believe a major factor in the disconnect of HP is that it is not considered to be on a continuum of building design. This mischaracterization is as common among architects who consider themselves HP practitioners as those who do not. HP and the existing building re-use and adaptation are, almost

without exception, not taught in architecture school. Where it is, it is usually the passion of a single professor, not a part of an inclusive curriculum.

Stereotypes? Of course. As is often the case, they are based on a grain of truth encased in a thick layer of lack of understanding. I don't think this is a tremendous barrier. Lack of commitment to integrating HP is the essential issue.

How to Improve? The statistics of the building stock are going to force dramatic change over the next two decades. This will bring many more "traditional" architects to work with existing buildings and change the nature of HP. There is an avalanche of mid-century modern-era buildings which are reaching an age when they MUST be renewed. Their characteristics are very different from the generations of buildings which have been addressed in HP practice since 1966. Add climate change and the benefit of existing building re-use is greatly magnified.

Hope this helps. Thanks to [REDACTED]¹⁶⁰ for sharing the AIA paper from days of old.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

¹⁶⁰ Respondent #21

ID: Response #10B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #23)

Date: January 28, 2020

Time: 10:49 am PST

Response: 10 of 25

Content: *Skyla,*

I respect the opinions presented to date - and the professionals who offered their thoughts. I however, do not see the disconnect between between architects and preservationists to be any more significant then the disconnect among architects themselves --those in large firms verses small firms, international practices verses local practices, residential verses commercial or institutional -- and find it more to be the nature of a diverse profession.

- *What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)*

I am an architect with 37 years of practice dedicated to preservation, restoration and renewal of heritage sites with a distinct focus on sustainability, authenticity, community engagement and education. I hold degrees in both architecture and preservation and have rarely in my professional life separated my identity purely to either group.

- *Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?*

I have clearly seen a distinct disconnect between architecture students and those in historic preservation programs. It is here that I believe we need to work toward better integration and understanding of the potential success through cross pollination and drawing upon the education and strengths each bring to the table.

In practice I do not see a disconnect but rather respect and deep engagement between architects and preservationists. That said, I am speaking from the perspective of someone who straddles both disciplines. I have developed profound relationships and partnerships that draw upon the expertise and respect of all professionals on the team culminating in rich and lasting success.

- *What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?*

I have found that the most successful communication and cross pollination between disciplines occurs in the same way as successful communication and sharing of ideas between any two people - Listen twice as much as you speak.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ID: Response #11B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #24)

Date: January 28, 2020

Time: 10:30 pm PST

Response: 11 of 25

Content: Skyla,

You have received some very thoughtful responses, including two from my valued friends [REDACTED]¹⁶¹ and [REDACTED]¹⁶². My POV begins with a combined Beaux Arts and Bauhaus education in the UK as an architect, and later in Town and Country Planning, a practice in Canterbury, England for four years (working with a very demanding legal structure for work to 'listed buildings') and teaching in an architecture program that, for the last 40 years has embraced a structured curriculum leading to a Certificate in Historic Preservation. (The title I now regret, but the concept remains a cross-disciplinary education and skill-set development for any graduate student in any discipline.) I retired from teaching nine years ago, but continue to write and consult.

Part of the 'disconnect' is driven by the interpretation of the term 'historic preservation,' used in the US based on the name of National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the title of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As you well know, most of the rest of the world uses the term Heritage Conservation, stressing the broader scope of the field: heritage, includes cultural as well as physical assets, and conservation that suggests "wise use of resources," not that they resist change but respond to it. (Interestingly a

¹⁶¹ Respondent # 16

¹⁶² Respondent # 22

New York Times editorial by Binyamin Applebaum on 27 January makes the same assumptions that HP is all about maintaining the status quo. I have not responded yet, but Stewart Brand's *How Buildings Change Over Time* is a good guide to my thinking.) James Marston Fitch, the first educator advocate for this field, titled his 1982 book "Historic Preservation: The Curatorial Management of the Built World." The subtitle is the key as far as I am concerned. The NYT editorial suggested that the US should adopt gradations of listing, rather than the two we now have. (National Historic Landmark for the most important heritage assets, and National Register of Historic Places, which is extraordinarily broad and includes neighborhoods with coherent character like the Vieux Carre, but also swathes of other less distinguished neighborhoods that have earned the ire of Mr Applebaum!) In any case, the number of structures that should be maintained in some specific state is really small. Applebaum suggested the National Capitol, which has in fact changed significantly over time! As an adopted Texan I would have to cite The Alamo of course, but that too poses some unique challenges. Whose Alamo are we talking about? The iconic gable was added to an earlier structure by the U.S Army!

My point would be that all architects make change to the existing environment, and all do it by 'design.' I would argue that design from scratch, while challenging and should always recognize context, is perhaps less of a challenge than being tasked with the CURATION of an existing building (making the best of the past) while adding the CREATION of a new layer or chapter in a building history to ensure that it meets present needs and future possibilities, is sustainable economically, functionally satisfactory, and emotionally sustaining . . . that is, it 'adds value' by blending the old with the new to create a new whole.

The AIA Historic Resources Committee (the oldest standing committee of the Institute) recognizes and celebrates that challenge. The Association for Preservation Technology International brings many disciplines together to serve as an exchange of information and talents. The National Council for Preservation Education identifies and qualifies programs, like the one of which I am privileged to be a part, that do indeed have 'structured curricula' to prepare people for this extraordinarily fascinating field. Look for Certificates rather than just the degrees. (For the record, I do not see either HP or HC as a discipline, but as a field of practice that requires the dedicated support and application of many disciplines.)

Good luck in your studies and for your future. Feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #12B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #25)

Date: January 28, 2020

Time: 10:53 pm PST

Response: 12 of 25

Content: *Dear Skylia and all: To add to the pile, a pioneering, and now esteemed preservation architect once told me that when he was in school (at a revered program), and described to his professors that he wanted to study old buildings and learn how to design additions, he was told something to the effect, "If you design additions, you're not an architect." Times have improved, but that sentiment may still be floating around.*

I might add that, for the purposes of your study, you might investigate the even more evident disconnect between the "green building" movement (however you define it) and the preservation movement, though this too has been improving.

Hope this helps.

ID: Response #13B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #26)

Date: January 29, 2020

Time: 11:01 am PST

Response: 13 of 25

Content: *Appropriate treatment of historically significant buildings by architects requires two primary ingredients. First, the architect must have a set of values that drive the initiative to understand each building deeply before engaging in a "design" for new uses. The result of this disciplined research and analysis is the identification of a design context, the building's significant characteristics (materials, details, massing, colors, textures, assemblies, etc.). The second is the application of a disciplined methodology to both define the design context and create a source of design inspiration within and respectful of the historic context. The outcome of design derived from a historic context should be additive, creative and inspiring, not dumbed down.*

One of my favorited projects in my career was a collaboration with Nader Tehrani. Nader, then head of Architecture at MIT and now Dean at Cooper Union, after numerous in-depth discussions about the value or lack thereof of extant/historic fabric would say, "tell me the historic context and i will design to that set of conditions." His outcomes were masterful. The resulting project was exceptional, winning a national Progressive Architecture award among a number of other national and international preservation and design awards.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

ID: Response #14B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt (Respondent #2)

Date: February 9, 2020

Time: 9:34 pm PST

Response: 14 of 25

Content: *Hi All,*

I want to deeply thank everyone that responded for the time, energy, and thought that went into sharing your opinions, whether on this thread or privately with me. If you reached out to me directly, I apologize if I have not had a chance to get back to you--the amount of responses I got was overwhelming, far more than I could ever have hoped for. I am of course very appreciative, but it has also been a lot to keep up with!

In the spring I look forward to sharing my project with all of you; I think the amount of responses I have received is evidence of how important this conversation is to have and be aware of, among all of the other issues these fields face. Your feedback will help me present a well-rounded discussion of these issues, one that will continue to evolve over time with changes in our fields, hopefully for the better.

Sincerely, thank you.

Best,

Skyla

Skyla Kapri Leavitt

University of Oregon | College of Design

Master of Architecture | 2020

M.S. in Historic Preservation | 2020

ID: Response #15B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #27)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 3:01 pm PST

Response: 15 of 25

Content:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #16B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #28)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 3:20 pm PST

Response: 16 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]

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ID: Response #17B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

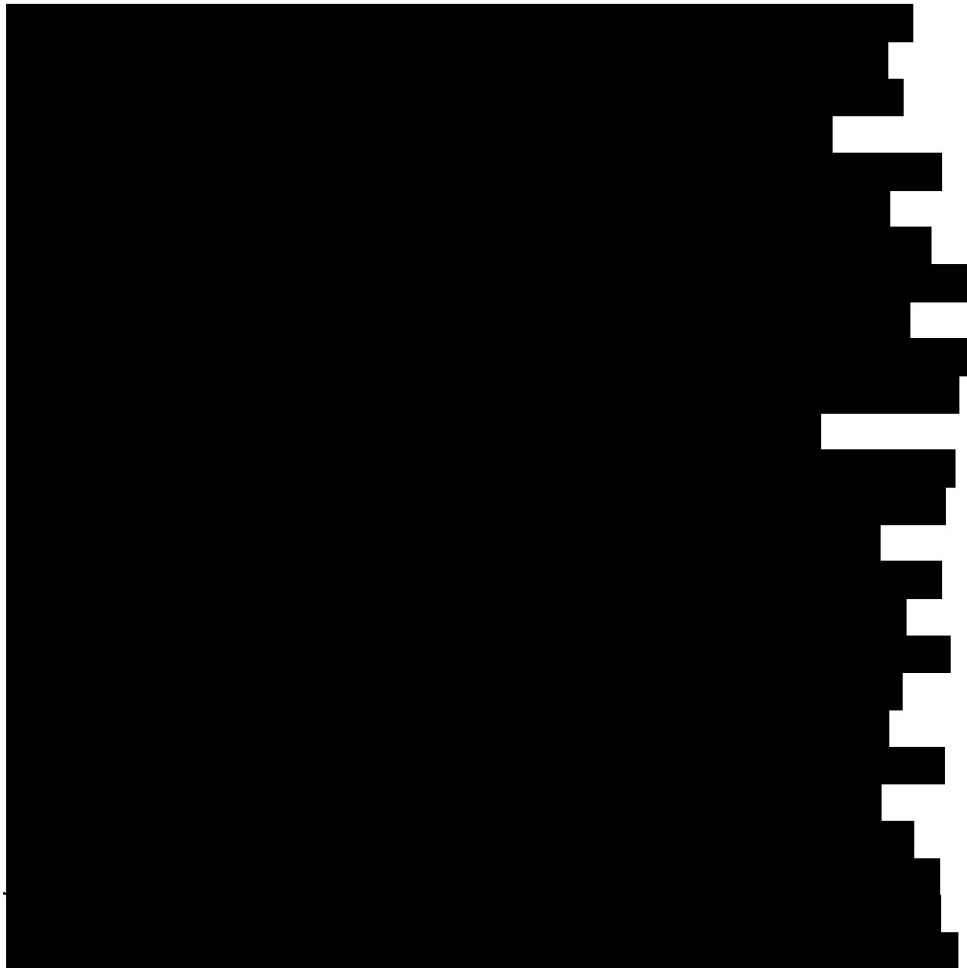
Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #29)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 5:09 pm PST

Response: 17 of 25

Content:



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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ID: Response #18B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #30)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 6:07 pm PST

Response: 18 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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ID: Response #20B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #31)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 3:05 pm PST

Response: 20 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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ID: Response #21B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #32)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 9:47 pm PST

Response: 21 of 25

Content:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

ID: Response #22B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #21)

Date: January 22, 2020

Time: 9:18 pm PST

Response: 22 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #23B (**Private Message**)

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #33)

Date: January 23, 2020

Time: 4:10 pm PST

Response: 23 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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ID: Response #24B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #43)

Date: February 21, 2020

Time: 3:31 pm PST

Response: 24 of 25

Content: Hi Skylia,

I appreciate the challenge you have undertaken. I'm sure you can see from the numerous responses, the question has existed for many years.

I'm a preservation architect having founded my firm in 1977. I was "appointed" to the Historic Resources Committee in 1990, served on its steering committee and was its chair in 1996. I agree with my colleagues, there is a disconnect between architects and preservationist. While I could add some personal experiences to substantiate the claim, I believe you have plenty of evidence from the other respondents.

Upon reading all of the replies thus far, I became curious and checked to see if you had posted the question on the Committee on Design's site. I was not able to find it if you did. It occurs to me that your research could benefit by collecting responses from architects outside of the Historic Resources Committee. Knowledge Communities such as the Committee on Design for example. Also, the Academy, our Knowledge Community made up of architectural educators is another possibility. I doubt it, but perhaps our impression is one sided.

I would look forward to an opportunity to read your final paper.

Thank you for taking on this challenge!

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ID: Response #25B

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Historic Resources Committee Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #15)

Date: February 21, 2020

Time: 5:51 pm PST

Response: 25 of 25

Content: [REDACTED]¹⁶³ *response made me think. We've been trying to address a part of the problem, and that is nebulous criteria for evaluating projects... and has to do with Design Review Bodies... everyone from citizens to owners and developers to architects and preservationists... Anyway, in case you are interested in the draft "guide" we have been working on, I've attached it here.*

 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

¹⁶³ Respondent #43

AIA – YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM

ID: Original Forum Post Prompt #oC¹⁶⁴

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Young Architects Forum

Title: *Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt

Date: January 19, 2020

Time: 4:11 pm PST

Responses: 4

Content: *Note: This is a time sensitive post seeking responses now through April 2020.*

Hi all!

I am currently developing my terminal project paper (similar to a thesis) for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree. I have a background in architecture, and since I have taken preservation classes as a student of both fields, I have noticed something: there appears to be a disconnect between architects and preservationists in practice and in perception. For my paper, I am exploring the roots of this disconnect and how to combat it.

Below are some prompts to help you respond, but this is not a formal survey and I will not be including any of your personal data in my final submission. Instead, I hope to garner a consensus from practicing professionals and students alike that will either affirm or contradict my initial perception. I have avoided

¹⁶⁴ Leavitt, Skyla. "Architects Vs. Preservationists: Is There a Disconnect between the Fields? (Seeking Responses Now!)." January 19, 2020.
<https://network.aia.org/communities/community-home/digestviewer/viewthread?MessageKey=a155041e-546e-4bf0-9fe6-2ea0744f9353&CommunityKey=0cf8c209-b62a-4276-98f4-045d547548e0&tab=digestviewer#bma155041e-546e-4bf0-9fe6-2ea0744f9353>.

defining my interpretation of this disconnect so as not to influence anyone's response.

- *What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)*
- *Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?*
 - ◆ *What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?*
- *Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?*
 - ◆ *Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?*
- *What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?*

I encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences here. Whether you have been on a project team, acted as a consultant, or are currently a student, I am interested in your opinions. Thank you so much for taking the time to read and respond to this post! (It would be great if you could share it with others as well!) I hope to produce a paper that young practitioners of both fields will find useful, but I can't do that without well-rounded input. I really appreciate any and all contributions! Thank you!

Best,

Skyla

Skyla Kapri Leavitt
University of Oregon | College of Design
Master of Architecture | 2020
M.S. in Historic Preservation | 2020

ID: Response #1C

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Young Architects Forum

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #34)

Date: January 20, 2020

Time: 6:38 pm PST

Response: 1 of 4

Content: Ms. Leavitt:

You assume group members share your predicate conclusion - that there IS in fact a demonstrable disconnect [between Architects and Preservationists].

However, you do not set forth the underlying reasoning, or proof (or reference to proof) for that proposition. I do not see how one can provide a meaningful response with input that would be 'usable' by you as part of an objective analysis (and somehow folded into a thesis dissertation) unless you first explain how you arrived at the conclusion(s) you wish others to accept. You say input you receive will not be incorporated into the thesis. Generally a thesis is fact-based and would footnote and include the input/information upon which the author relies - so that it does not simply become an undocumented/unsupported opinion letter.

As a start, with respect to your initial assumption, I would question whether (in practice) what percentage/proportion of preservationists are architects, or trained in architecture - and are thus living a double life (and so could not be any more intimately connected to both disciplines). One of the attributes of well-educated and broadly experienced architects (little A) is a deep appreciation of historic design and construction - both aesthetic and substantive aspects- and the inherent value of preservation. With that in mind, I have some

reticence in buying into the position you take in advance of accumulating the broad input you now seek.

Your proposition may be entirely supportable, but without providing others the basis for it, you leave readers floating in the ether. Is the proposition simply your personal impression - or something you have arrived at after research, study and debate with others more experienced in both fields?

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

ID: Response #2C

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Young Architects Forum

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #35)

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 6:34 pm PST

Response: 2 of 4

Content: Dear Skylia,

Your question elicited the above response from [REDACTED]¹⁶⁵ because you do not define what you mean by "preservationist." I would guess that you have observed differences based on disciplinary boundaries, but that is not clear. If you are more precise about whose values your study is examining, it will aid your selection of participants whose responses will inform your question.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

¹⁶⁵ Respondent #34

ID: Response #3C

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Young Architects Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt (Respondent #2)

Date: February 9, 2020

Time: 9:34 pm PST

Response: 3 of 4

Content: *Hi All,*

I want to deeply thank everyone that responded for the time, energy, and thought that went into sharing your opinions, whether on this thread or privately with me. If you reached out to me directly, I apologize if I have not had a chance to get back to you--the amount of responses I got was overwhelming, far more than I could ever have hoped for. I am of course very appreciative, but it has also been a lot to keep up with!

In the spring I look forward to sharing my project with all of you; I think the amount of responses I have received is evidence of how important this conversation is to have and be aware of, among all of the other issues these fields face. Your feedback will help me present a well-rounded discussion of these issues, one that will continue to evolve over time with changes in our fields, hopefully for the better.

Sincerely, thank you.

Best,

Skyla

Skyla Kapri Leavitt

University of Oregon | College of Design

Master of Architecture | 2020

M.S. in Historic Preservation | 2020

ID: Response #4C

Forum: AIA Knowledge Net: Young Architects Forum

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #36)

Date: February 10, 2020

Time: 5:23 pm PST

Response: 4 of 4

Content: *Hi Skyla - This topic is something that we're going to explore on one of our panels at the Facades+ conference in NY in April. So I'll have to wait to hear what they have to say. Meanwhile, please take a look at the two case studies which you may find relevant:*

- *Adaptive Reuse Challenges in NYC Historic Icons*
- *Meeting technical challenges in preserving Landmarked facades, two firms create respectful but purposefully non-contextual, glittering glass updates to an 1898 sugar factory (10 Jay St. in Dumbo) and 1929's historic Tammany Hall in Union Square.*

Moderator: Françoise Bollack

Presenters:

- Eran Chen
 - ◆ Founder & Executive Director
 - ◆ ODA

- Russ Newbold
 - ◆ Partner

◆ Surface Design Group

- Todd Poisson
 - ◆ Partner
 - ◆ BSKS

- John Ivanoff
 - ◆ Associate Principal
 - ◆ BuroHappold Engineering

- Stefan Zimmermann
 - ◆ Sr. Branch Mgr. Würzburg
 - ◆ Josef Gartner - a Division of Permasteelisa

- Françoise Bollack
 - ◆ Principal
 - ◆ Françoise Bollack Arquitects



TICCO DISCUSSION BOARD

ID: Original Discussion Board Prompt #oD (**Private Forum**)¹⁶⁶

Forum: TICCO Discussion Board

Title: *Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?*

Author: Skyla Leavitt

Date: January 22, 2020

Responses: 5

Content: *As a graduate student of both architecture and preservation programs, I have noticed something: there appears to be a disconnect between architects and preservationists in practice and in perception. Whether you have been on a project team, acted as a consultant, or are currently a student, I am interested in your opinions--I hope to garner a consensus from practicing professionals and students alike that will inform my final paper.*

Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their professional interactions in practice? Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about each other that subsequently impact their communications and negotiations? What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

¹⁶⁶ Leavitt, Skyla. "Architects Vs. Preservationists: Is There a Disconnect?" January 21, 2020. <https://app.go-ticco.co/discussions/36#/community-picks>.

ID: Response #1D (**Private Forum**)

Forum: TICCO Discussion Board

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?*

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #37)

Date: February 6, 2020

Response: 1 of 5

Content:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #2D [REDACTED]

Forum: TICCO Discussion Board

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?*

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #38)

Date: February 11, 2020

Response: 2 of 5

Content: In response to [REDACTED]¹⁶⁷:

[REDACTED]¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁷ Respondent #37

¹⁶⁸ Respondent #37

ID: Response #3D (**Private Forum**)

Forum: TICCO Discussion Board

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?*

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #39)

Date: January 22, 2020

Response: 3 of 5

Content:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ID: Response #4D (**Private Forum**)

Forum: TICCO Discussion Board

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?*

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #38)

Date: January 24, 2020

Response: 4 of 5

Content: In response to [REDACTED]¹⁶⁹;

[REDACTED]¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁹ Respondent #39

¹⁷⁰ Respondent #39

ID: Response #5D (**Private Forum**)

Forum: TICCO Discussion Board

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?*

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #40)

Date: January 22, 2020

Time: 3:59 pm PST

Response: 5 of 5

Content:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LINKEDIN

ID: Original Post #oE¹⁷¹

Forum: LinkedIn

Title: *Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt

Date: January 2020

Responses: 2

Content: *I am seeking some input from students and practicing professionals in the fields of architecture and historic preservation for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree final paper. Attached to this thread is a copy of my prompt with links to the forums I have posted in; replying to this post is fine too! Please pass this along to others who might be interested in responding. Thanks in advance!*
#architecture #historicpreservation #forum #please #thanks

Note: This is a time sensitive post seeking responses now through April 2020.

Hi all!

I am currently developing my terminal project paper (similar to a thesis) for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree. I have a background in architecture, and since I have taken preservation classes as a student of both fields, I have noticed something: there appears to be a disconnect between architects and preservationists in practice and in perception. For my paper, I am exploring the roots of this disconnect and how to combat it.

¹⁷¹ Leavitt, Skyla. LinkedIn, January 19, 2020. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/skylaleavitt_architects-vs-preservationists-is-there-activity-6624800432248143872-lz2g.

Below are some prompts to help you respond, but this is not a formal survey and I will not be including any of your personal data in my final submission. Instead, I hope to garner a consensus from practicing professionals and students alike that will either affirm or contradict my initial perception. I have avoided defining my interpretation of this disconnect so as not to influence anyone's response.

- What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)
- Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?
 - ◆ What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?
- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?
 - ◆ Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?
- What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

I encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences here. Whether you have been on a project team, acted as a consultant, or are currently a student, I am interested in your opinions. Thank you so much for taking the time to read and respond to this post! (It would be great if you could share it with others as well!) I hope to produce a paper that young practitioners of both fields will find useful, but I can't do that without well-rounded input. I really appreciate any and all contributions! Thank you!

Best,

Skylla Leavitt

Forums:

- Preservation Leadership Forum
(<https://forum.savingplaces.org/home>)

- AIA HRC Forum
(<https://network.aia.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=97be49ce-260b-4cbe-8635-511aa3e87715>)
- AIA Young Architects Forum
(<https://network.aia.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=ocf8c209-b62a-4276-98f4-045d547548e0>)
- Ticco (<https://go-ticco.co/>)

ID: Response #1E

Forum: LinkedIn

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #41)

Date: January 2020

Response: 1 of 2

Content: A fascinating question came across the Young Architect's Forum today:
"Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?" A graduate student, Skyla Leavitt is asking for feedback, and I am curious with the LI professional community has to say.

She has thoughtfully asked: "I am currently developing my terminal project paper (similar to a thesis) for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree. I have a background in architecture, and since I have taken preservation classes as a student of both fields, I have noticed something: there appears to be a disconnect between architects and preservationists in practice and in perception. For my paper, I am exploring the roots of this disconnect and how to combat it."

My simple answer is Architects don't typically like subjective rules guiding their trained expertise, and preservation legislation is no different in that lens than an architectural review committee. It takes the social response and responsibility away from a trained professional and gives it to a committee.

Thoughts?

*#architecture #architects #preservation #buildingdesign #buildings
#historicpreservation #design #formingandbeingformed*

ID: Response #2E

Forum: LinkedIn

Title: RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #41)

Date: January 2020

Response: 2 of 2

Content: *Studying in Switzerland I always appreciated their approach to preservation. Specifically Aurelio Galfetti's Castelgrande, where a 13th century castle underwent adaptive re-use in the 1980's, actually casting rectilinear Swiss concrete perfection onto the 800 year old stones. Preservation doesn't need to mean an embalming, it can be an appreciation for what was and how it can live-on today. Making a new whole out of the layers of time - exposing the juxtaposed layers the whole way up. That is a living building!*

http://architectuul.com/architecture/view_image/castelgrande/18172

UO PDX COLLEGE OF DESIGN

ID: Original Post #oF¹⁷²

Forum: UO PDX College of Design: Facebook Group Peer Responses

Title: *Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect between the fields?*

(Seeking responses now!)

Author: Skyla Leavitt

Date: January 19, 2020

Responses: 1

Content: *Hi all! I am seeking some input from students and practicing professionals in the fields of architecture and historic preservation for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree final paper. Attached to this thread is a copy of my prompt with links to the forums I have posted in; replying to this post is fine too! Please pass this along to others who might be interested in responding. Thanks in advance!*

Note: This is a time sensitive post seeking responses now through April 2020.

Hi all!

I am currently developing my terminal project paper (similar to a thesis) for my M.S. in Historic Preservation degree. I have a background in architecture, and since I have taken preservation classes as a student of both fields, I have noticed something: there appears to be a disconnect between architects and preservationists in practice and in perception. For my paper, I am exploring the roots of this disconnect and how to combat it.

¹⁷² Leavitt, Skyla Kapri. Facebook, January 19, 2020.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1629391170446666/>.

Below are some prompts to help you respond, but this is not a formal survey and I will not be including any of your personal data in my final submission. Instead, I hope to garner a consensus from practicing professionals and students alike that will either affirm or contradict my initial perception. I have avoided defining my interpretation of this disconnect so as not to influence anyone's response.

- What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)
- Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?
 - ◆ What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?
- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?
 - ◆ Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?
- What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

I encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences here. Whether you have been on a project team, acted as a consultant, or are currently a student, I am interested in your opinions. Thank you so much for taking the time to read and respond to this post! (It would be great if you could share it with others as well!) I hope to produce a paper that young practitioners of both fields will find useful, but I can't do that without well-rounded input. I really appreciate any and all contributions! Thank you!

Best,

Skylla Leavitt

Forums:

- Preservation Leadership Forum
(<https://forum.savingplaces.org/home>)

- AIA HRC Forum
(<https://network.aia.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=97be49ce-260b-4cbe-8635-511aa3e87715>)
- AIA Young Architects Forum
(<https://network.aia.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=ocf8c209-b62a-4276-98f4-045d547548e0>)
- Ticco (<https://go-ticco.co/>)

ID: Response #1F (**Private Message with Permission to Share**)

Forum: UO PDX College of Design: Facebook Group Peer Responses

Title: *RE: Architects vs. Preservationists: Is there a disconnect?*

Author: [REDACTED] (Respondent #42)

Date: January 20, 2020

Response: 1 of 1

Content: *Skyla,*

Here are my thoughts on your thesis questions. Hope it's going well and you're having a good term! [REDACTED]

- What is your position/profession/background? (for POV context)

HP student, preservation nonprofit board member, communications background

- Do you think there is a disconnect between architects and preservationists that impacts the efficacy and success of their interdisciplinary interactions in practice?

Unfortunately, yes. I think both tend to look at the other with suspicion as if their ends are diametrically opposed to one another.

- What do you think are the causes of this disconnect?

As a preservationist, we tend to value the past above all else. We want to see buildings saved because they can benefit the present and future, but the premise is that old buildings are better at creating meaningful places than new ones. We like historic styles, so new ones often seem ugly to us, and we resent when new

buildings go up in place of historic ones. We're often uncomfortable with the discontinuity that new and old together creates. On the other side, it sometimes seems (though I'm not an architect so can't speak from experience) that architects have no interest in old buildings, that the very basic tenant that architecture students are taught is that new buildings must be of their time. It seems so drilled into architects that they are not allowed to work in historic or vernacular styles that they don't even consider it or are shunned if they do. There also seems to be a star complex, where architects are rewarded for showy buildings that appear new or futuristic but rarely recognized for sensitive reuse. There's not as much glory is restoring someone else's building I don't think.

- Do you think that architects and preservationists hold stereotypical assumptions about the other field that subsequently impacts their interdisciplinary communications and negotiations in practice?

Unfortunately, yes.

- Can you summarize these assumptions as you believe they are held?

Preservationists think architects design ugly, bland, copycat buildings without any concern for their community or historic context unless forced to do think about it by preservationists. Also, they don't write and speak in conceptual language that bears little resemblance to a building's actual experience. They have little sense of history. Architects view preservationists as obstructionist nitpickers stuck in the way of progress, clinging to old ways and unable to recognize that technological and conceptual improvements improve people's lives.

- What do you think can be done to attain more productive interdisciplinary communication between architects and preservationists as it relates to the practice of preservation?

Awards should be given to architects who do good work in restoration and adaptive reuse. Preservation commissions should be kind and understanding of architect's needs, desires, and perspectives and be willing to compromise. We must pick our battles and talk more about why we want things certain ways instead of just demanding that they be so. More conferences and forums should work to bring the disciplines together (like Ticco is doing). Architects should make an effort to integrate restoration work and preservation architects into

EVERY practice. It can be normalized if it is not seen as a niche that only some firms do. Similarly, architectural discourse should not treat architectural history as just a course to get through so you know how not to design, but rather something that can inform current practice. Architects should be allowed to design in historic styles without being ostracized. We must work toward balance and compromise.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Respondent Data

Gender Breakdown

- 42 Respondents Total (discluding author)
 - ◆ 21 Female (51%)
 - ◆ 20 Male (48%)
 - ◆ 1 Unknown (1%)



States Represented

- 19 / 50 states represented (38%) + Washington, D. C.

Alabama	Indiana	Nebraska	South Carolina
Alaska	Iowa	Nevada	South Dakota
Arizona	Kansas	New Hampshire	Tennessee
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Jersey	Texas
California	Louisiana	New Mexico	Utah
Colorado	Maine	New York	Vermont
Connecticut	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
Delaware	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Washington
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Hawaii	Mississippi	Oregon	Wyoming
Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	
Illinois	Montana	Rhode Island	Washington, D.C.

Map of Respondent Locations

