

Panelist Biographies

First Annual LP50 Civic Dialogue and Design Symposium

16 October 2006, 4-6:00pm at the Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute, Detroit Michigan

Welcome: **Ms. Cathy McClelland**, President + CEO Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute

Moderator: **Ms. Janese Chapman**, City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board

Panelists:

Mr. Edward D. Francis, FAIA

Principal/ Historic Architect, Gunn Levine Associates

For over 25 years Ed has been a Principal in Charge for work in historic preservation, adaptive reuse, feasibility studies and programming. Ed arranges intensive on-site programming efforts. Through user meetings, interviews, and an interactive gaming process, he thoroughly determines all of a client's goals and needs at the outset. His historic preservation expertise ranges from historic structures analysis to exacting restoration. He has worked on scores of historic theaters and landmark structures nationwide including, most recently, the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the oldest continually operating theater in the United States and recipient of the United States Institute for Theater Technology International Merit Award. Ed has served as President of the Friends of the Capitol and as a leader in Michigan's successful restoration of the State Capitol Building. He served 10 years on the State of Michigan Historic Preservation Board, 11 years on the Franklin Village Historic Commission, is an AIA Detroit and Michigan Gold Medal recipient, and member of the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows. He is presently working with the Tibbits Opera House Foundation on the restoration of their historic 1882 structure.

HONORS & AWARDS

AIA Student Medal

Fellow, The American Institute of Architects

Gold Medal Recipient|AIA Detroit & AIA Michigan

Lifetime Achievement Award|MHPN

Ms. Janine Debanné

Associate Professor of Architecture, Carleton University

Janine Debanné is Associate Professor of Architecture at Carleton University Ottawa where she teaches architectural design and History and Theory of Architecture. She was born in Ottawa and grew up on the Québec side of the Ottawa-Gatineau border, in a Lebanese-Canadian family.

She received a B.Arch in Architecture from Carleton University in 1988. She traveled extensively in the Middle East and Europe pursuing a fascination for sacred architecture. She returned to Canada for architectural work in firms in Ottawa and Toronto, followed by graduate studies, completing the Masters' program in History and Theory of Architecture at McGill University in Montreal in 1995.

Having accepted a position at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture in the same year, Janine moved to Detroit -- a life-changing event for her. She lived first in Hamtramck, then the historic Detroit neighborhood of West Village and, in 1996, moved into Mies van der Rohe's Lafayette Towers where for the next five years she would pursue an inquiry into the enigmatic success of Mies van der Rohe's conception of domestic space and urban design, always focusing on the lived dimension of Mies van der Rohe's architecture.

She has published and lectured in Europe, China and the US on sacred architecture, modernism and on Lafayette Park, and has exhibited photographs and videos of her documentation work on Lafayette Park in the United States and Germany. Her essay interpreting Lafayette Park as "Public" housing as well as some of her photographs of Lafayette Park can be found in the Case Journal on Lafayette Park which appeared in 2004.

In 2001 Janine returned to her native Ottawa to accept a position at Carleton University, in one of Canada's 10 schools of architecture. (She promptly sought out a modernist high-rise, moving into an 11 storey modernist apartment building built the same year as the Lafayette Towers, where she often thought back to her years in Detroit.)

Most recently, she has been researching modernism in the context of Ottawa, Canada, documenting modernism's legacy and reception by its inhabitants in the Canadian National Capital. She has published several articles on this topic as well as on urban issues of the contemporary city. Ms. Debanné has spent the last year completing the documentary film UR MICH 1-1 which she will be showing this evening.

Dr. Jerry Herron

Director of the Honors Program, Wayne State University

Jerry Herron is Professor of English and American Studies and Director of the Honors Program at Wayne State University. His publications include two books, Universities and the Myth of Cultural Decline, and AfterCulture: Detroit and the Humiliation of History, as well as a co-edited collection, The Ends of Theory. His essays and critical articles have appeared in Raritan, Social Text, Representations, Georgia Review, Harper's, and Playboy. He has also written for the Detroit News, Hour Detroit, and the MetroTimes. He is currently finishing a book about Americans' sense of the past: "Not From Detroit: An All-Purpose Guide to American Forgetting."

Herron was born in Abilene, Texas; he received his BA (with high honors) at the University of Texas in Austin. He holds MA and PhD degrees from Indiana University.

Since 1982 he has been a resident of downtown Detroit, a city which has provided him with a great subject to write about and an exceptional place to live.

Mr. Joseph Savin, AIA

President, Sanbreen Corporation

Education: University of Michigan, B. Arch., 1953

INSTRUCTIONAL DUTIES: Design Studio

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Lawrence Technological University, 1975 to present

University of Michigan, 1973-1975; 1959-1963

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Booth Traveling Scholarship in Architecture; Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society

Winner Competition Builders' Association

Masonry Institute of Michigan, Award for World Camera & Sound, Inc.

Precast Concrete Institute, Award for Memorial Medical Center

American Institute of Architects, Honor Award for Memorial Medical Center

EXPERIENCE IN PRACTICE AND/OR RESEARCH:

President, Joseph F. Savin Architect, 1990 to present

President, Savin Wycoff Phillips Architects, 1967-1990

Partner, Green & Savin Architects, 1958-1967

Eero Saarinen & Associates Architects, 1956-1958

Henry J. Abrams Architects, 1955-1956

MEMBERSHIPS, OFFICES AND PUBLIC SERVICE:

Presidents Club, Lawrence Technological University

Member of Board, Building Appeals, West Bloomfield Township

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS:

NCARB, Registered Architect: Michigan and Florida

PUBLICATIONS:

Authored "Designing for Profit"

The Architectural Forum, House & Home, local newspapers, and trade journals

Ms. Harriet B. Saperstein

President, HP Devco Inc.

Resident of Lafayette Park since 1963

Harriet B. Saperstein has had a 30-year career as sociologist, researcher and lecturer focusing on urban, recreational and waterfront development issues at a variety of universities in the United States and England, including Wayne State University where she participated in a major research project on the Lafayette-Elmwood area in the 1960's. She joined the City of Detroit's Poverty Program in 1967 and then worked in Detroit's Youth, Development, Planning and Recreation Departments where she helped facilitate improvements to Belle Isle and coordinated the development of the Linked Riverfront Parks on Detroit's East Riverfront. In 1990 she became President of HP

Devco, Inc., a non-profit economic development department serving Highland Park. In this position she has helped facilitate \$300 million of new development including the "Town Center", a \$60 million mixed-use project of affordable and market rate housing and retail along Woodward Avenue. She presently serves as Chairperson of the Woodward Heritage Team, and is a Board member of the Woodward Avenue Action Association, the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund, Wayne Metro CAA and Wayne County Metropolitan Growth and Development Fund as well as several organizations concerned with the Detroit Riverfront including the Friends of the Belle Isle Aquarium. She has lived in Lafayette Park since 1963 when she and her husband, Physics Professor Alvin M. Saperstein, moved to Detroit, and has raised two daughters, and hosted a dozen exchange students and many international visitors in their Chateaufort home. She has received several awards for her community and social justice efforts, most recently the 2004 "Community Peacemaker Award from WSU's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Dr. Larry M. Gant

Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Michigan

Larry M. Gant is Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan. A 25 year resident of the city of Detroit, Dr. Gant's research, teaching and service interests have focused on creating, designing, implementing, and evaluating neighborhood and community level health outreach, education and technology programs throughout neighborhoods and communities in Detroit. Since 1999, Dr. Gant has led the Community Based Initiative (CBI) program in the School of Social Work - a program that trains masters level social work students advanced level skills in community co-design of comprehensive community initiatives. Integrating theories from behavioral ecology and evolutionary psychology with ethnographic and visual arts-based strategies, he invites interested students and community residents to explore communities and neighborhoods with different lenses and perspectives, balancing the assessment of neighborhood needs and gaps with the identification of neighborhood authentic resources and assets. The results are usually transformative for all participants. Of particular relevance for the conference today is his collection and identification of comprehensive community initiatives and 'best practices'. Ironically, while LP is seen internationally as a best practice model of stable, diverse urban community, LP is frequently not recognized locally as such a model. Dr. Gant will provide reflections as to the current state of affairs and offer some interesting remediation ideas.

end biographies