

STERN STEPS DOWN

APPOINTED DEAN OF ARCHITECTURE AT YALE

Effective September 9, 1998, Robert A. M. Stern left Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation to become Dean of Yale University's School of Architecture. This abrupt change has created a vacancy in the position of Director of the Preservation Program at Columbia. PA is issuing this special edition of *Memo* in order to bring members the latest information on the current status of the Directorship, the search for a new Director, and the role which PA hopes to play in this search.

In the wake of Stern's departure, GSAPP Dean Bernard Tschumi has named Professor Paul Bentel Acting Director. Although he was scheduled for a sabbatical this semester, Bentel has agreed to forego a part of his leave to tend to the administration of the Preservation program.

Shortly after Stern's abrupt departure, members of PA's Board of Directors met with Dean Tschumi to discuss the status of the directorship and the current state of the Preservation Program in general. Tschumi reported that the School's first step will be to assess the pool of internal candidates

(both within the Preservation program and the School at large). If a suitable candidate cannot be found within the School, the Dean will form a committee to conduct a national search.

The timing of a full-time replacement for Stern will depend on the search method. If an internal candidate is selected, Tschumi hopes to name the Director by the end of this Semester. If a national search is implemented, the new Director probably would not be named until late in the Spring Semester, to take over for the Autumn, 1999 Semester.

In his meeting with the PA Board, Tschumi was very open to offers of assistance from the alumni. Board members will be meeting with Tschumi later this month to get an update on the process, and if a national search committee is formed, PA will nominate alumni members for the committee. PA has also agreed to forward names of potential candidates (without endorsement) to the Dean. Alumni are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors with nominees for the position of Director.

AN OPEN TO LETTER TO ALUMNI FROM
ACTING DIRECTOR PAUL BENTEL

Robert Stern's appointment as Dean of Architecture at Yale, which was not announced until shortly before the start of the school year, came as a surprise to many.

Bob left the program abruptly. But he also left it a stronger program.

Among the improvements achieved under his tenure were the reorganization of the curriculum to permit students more time to develop their independent work related to thesis and the hiring of new faculty to solidify and

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SPECIAL EVENTS

PA's Round table Discussions
on Preservation Education

various locations
Autumn, 1998

During our recent meeting with Dean Tschumi, PA was asked to consider what we saw as the future direction of preservation education in general. At the Dean's request, PA will host a series of student, faculty and alumni round table discussions on this topic. This will culminate in a final round table meeting with the Dean to discuss what we see as Columbia's role in preservation education.

These discussions will not be about the position of Director of Preservation *per se*. Instead, they will focus on the needs of the preservation community in terms of professional education, and how Columbia is filling those needs now and into the future. We see this as an opportunity for PA to help inform the future course of the program, and it is our hope that through these discussions we will keep Columbia at the forefront of preservation education in the United States for another 30 years.

Members of the PA Board have already held a meeting with Acting Director Paul Bentel. In the coming weeks, PA will be setting up similar meetings with the Preservation faculty at large, as well as the student body. We will also be putting together a series of meetings with alumni, both in New York City and at the upcoming National Trust Conference in Savannah, Georgia. For a list of upcoming round table discussions, see page 2.

PA Memo is published three times per year. Send queries, classifieds, and announcements to:

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Preservation Alumni, Inc. is a corporation founded by the graduates of the Historic Preservation Program of Columbia University.

Round table Schedule

The following is a list of Preservation Education Round table discussions scheduled to date. To RSVP for limited seating discussions, please call the PA Hotline or e-mail us (see page 2).

Friday, October 23rd
5 - 6 PM
PA Reception
MD's Lounge
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Savannah, Georgia

Tuesday, October 27th
6 - 7:30 PM
Samuel H. Kress Foundation
174 East 80th Street
New York City
Space is limited — please RSVP

Tuesday, November 17
6 - 7:30 PM
Jon Calame Residence
7 West 20th Street
New York City
Space is limited — please RSVP

Bentel, continued from page 1

broaden the course offerings of the program. Under Bob's direction, we have also seen the program develop a higher profile in the University and in New York City. Our work in Lower Manhattan, Morningside and Hamilton Heights, Kew Gardens, Forest Hills and Forest Hills Gardens has garnered praise and recognition for our students. We are presently developing new and active collaborations both within the University and with outside organizations such as the Getty Conservation Institute and the World Monuments Fund

Among our new faculty, Dorothy Miner, former Legal Counsel to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, offers a new course in Preservation Law which has been tremendously popular. Richard Pieper, head of Conservation at Jan Pokorny's firm, gives a seminar on Architectural Metals and has been a stimulating participant in thesis reviews. Glen Boornazian has served as the conservation sector critic in the Planning Studio for the past three years. Through his efforts, our students have developed computer-based survey methods demonstrating

the role which GIS can play in the formulation of conservation strategies for large numbers of buildings. Pamela Jerome's course in Archaeological Site Conservation has attracted students from other disciplines, and this fall will offer a second course in Archaeological Site Management. Together with Norman Weiss, Pamela laid the groundwork for the development of our new certificate programs in Archaeological Site Conservation and Building Conservation.

As Acting Director, it will be my goal to build on these advances and seek out other ways to improve the Program. It is my hope to be able to encourage further enhancements in the integrated curriculum culminating in the Preservation Planning Studio. My fellow faculty members and I are eager to introduce new computer-based technologies into the classroom. As an architect, I am also committed to improving the work of the Design Sector students. I am also eager to reinforce ties to Preservation Alumni by communicating the intentions of the faculty and soliciting your advice and support. To this end, I invite you to drop by the School.

-Paul Bentel, Acting Director

PA at the National Trust! Visit us on Friday, October 23 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah. Details at left.

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