



Building History Newsletter

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David Parr House conservation and research



Photo: Jane Phillimore

Karen Lim (Cohort 2, pictured), a conservation architect with Cowper Griffith Architects, is currently working on the painstaking restoration of one of the most unusual small houses in the country. David Parr House is an externally unassuming Cambridge terraced house made remarkable by David Parr, an artist-decorator for the Cambridge firm of F. R. Leach & Sons, who worked on buildings for G. F. Bodley and other Gothic Revival architects and designers. Parr lived there from 1887 until his death in 1927; over many years he applied to the interiors the same exquisite skill as he employed to execute the firm's choicest commissions. Rediscovered only a few years ago, the house, now cared for by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) chaired by Tamsin Wimhurst, is being carefully conserved and prepared for public opening with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As part of the current Life and Art in a Worker's House project, Giorgio Bowler (Cohort 6) has recently completed a professional placement researching the work of the Leach firm, whilst Wendy Andrews (Cohort 1) and Deborah Carnwath (Cohort 5) have been volunteering at the house, carrying out research on Frederick Leach's diaries.

Cohort 7 students recently attended an evening at the house hosted by Tamsin Wimhurst, Shelley Lockwood (Audiences & Volunteer Manager) and Jane Phillimore (Project Manager) to hear about the latest research and witness the progress of the conservation project, which includes structural repairs and consolidation of numerous fragile surface finishes. The project poses some interesting challenges – philosophical and financial as much as technical – including how to respond to changes to the house since Parr's death, and how to generate sufficient income from a maximum of six visitors at a time once the house opens to the public next May. For more details, and information in due course on visits (highly recommended), see <http://davidparrhouse.org/>.

Former student wins international competition



Image: Spheron Architects

Tszwai So (Cohort 5) has won first prize in the competition to design a Pan-European Memorial for the Victims of Totalitarianism, commemorating all victims of 20th-century totalitarianism in Europe, to be built on the Place Jean Rey in Brussels. The international panel of judges included the architect Sir Norman Foster. For further details, see <https://www.memoryandconscience.eu/2018/03/28/memorial-competition-winner/>.

2017 Gus Astley Student Award winner

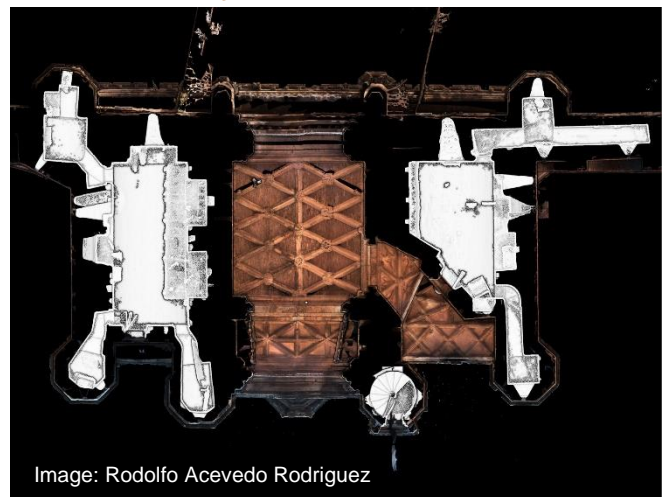


Image: Rodolfo Acevedo Rodriguez

We were delighted to learn that Rodolfo Acevedo Rodriguez (Cohort 5) has won the 2017 Gus Astley Student Award for his dissertation examining the late 14th-century gatehouse at Thornton Abbey, North Lincolnshire, which is in the care of English Heritage. Rodolfo's award was presented at the recent Belfast Summer School of the IHBC, which oversees the competition. His research involved a collaboration with Historic England's Imaging Team which enabled him to make use of state-of-the-art recording technologies, including terrestrial and hand-held laser scanners. The composite image combines them to show the ground-floor ceiling plan.



Annual Building History Lecture Weekend

On 7 April Nat Alcock delivered the fifth Annual Building History Lecture to an audience of past and present students, delegates at the Construction History Society's annual conference and others. Nat's subject was 'Saddles and skew-pegs: The construction of cruck buildings', a subject of which he has been at the forefront for some fifty years. The lecture was followed by the Annual Dinner in the Great Hall at Queens' College. On the following day a group of students explored two coastal artillery forts: 16th-century Upnor Castle, on the Medway near Chatham Dockyard in Kent, and, on the Thames, Tilbury Fort with its magnificent late-17th-century Water Gate (pictured).



Awards and prizes

Megan Doole (Cohort 3) was awarded an Early Career Researcher bursary to attend the SAHBG Conference in Yorkshire last September.

Jana Schuster (Cohort 4) is nearing the end of the first year of her PhD researching the architectural patronage of the 2nd Duke of Montagu. Her studies have been generously supported by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and the Eranda Rothschild Foundation.

Norry Welch (Cohort 5) has been awarded a Giles Worsley Fellowship to conduct research at the British School at Rome

this autumn. Her work will focus on the Italian architect, Gino Coppedè (1866-1927) and his work, influenced by Art Nouveau, in the eponymous Quartiere Coppedè in Rome.

Students and alumni

Amy Boyington and Karey Draper (Cohort 1), who were both awarded PhDs this year, start new posts, Amy as an Assistant Heritage Advisor with Montague Evans, and Karey as Heritage Consultant with Caroe Architecture.

Megan Doole (Cohort 3) has accepted a PhD place with the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Museums & Galleries, funded by the Midlands3Cities consortium, to study the later history of Wollaton Hall, Nottingham. The research will commence later this year.

Sophie Hetherington (Cohort 4) is now a Full Member of the IHBC.

Holly Lomax (Cohort 6) is now working for Alan Baxter Associates in London, where she previously undertook her professional placement.

Katherine Hardwick (Cohort 5) starts a new job as Collections Co-ordinator at Holkham Hall in July. Katherine, who has recently been working as a heritage consultant, completed her professional placement at Holkham in 2016 and her MSt dissertation explored the experience of visitors to Holkham in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

At CgMs, Jessica Jones (Cohort 6) is now an Associate Director, and Helen Warren (Cohort 4) is now a Senior Built Heritage Consultant.

Nick De Pauw (Cohort 4) has been working for the past two years as a project officer and architectural historian with the interior architect Gert Voorjans in Antwerp, working in Belgium, France and elsewhere.

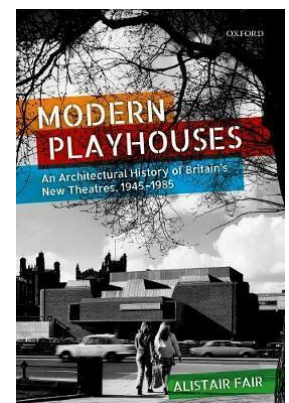
Rachel Reese (Cohort 3), who was recently working for the War Memorials Trust, is now Assistant Secretary to the Georgian Group, where course contributor David Adshead is currently Interim Secretary.

Rodolfo Acevedo Rodriguez (Cohort 5) is lecturing at the Architectural Association while continuing to undertake research for the Paul Mellon Centre.

Tszwai So (Cohort 5) gave a lecture at Glen Tanar Estate on the work of the Victorian architect George Truefitt. Some of Truefitt's most remarkable work is at the Glen Tanar shooting lodge in Aberdeenshire. Tszwai's Belarusian Memorial Chapel has been nominated for the World Building of the Year award at the World Architecture Festival in Amsterdam.

Course contributors

Alistair Fair has published *Modern Playhouses: An Architectural History of Britain's New Theatres, 1945 – 1985* (Oxford University Press), based on his doctoral research at Cambridge.



Application deadlines

Applications for October entry to the MSt are now closed. From September applications for 2019 entry are invited from graduates with a good 2:1 or better. Please contact the Course Director or Course Administrator (email addresses below) for information. Full details: <http://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/courses/mst-building-history-1>.