Session 1 Sustainable and Authentic: The Greentest Building is the One That’s Already Built

There is growing recognition of the relationship between sustainability and historic preservation. The process of designing sustainable buildings has become an important part of the architectural design process. This presentation will show how the principles of sustainable design can be applied to the design of new buildings and to the renovation of existing buildings. The presentation will also discuss the importance of considering the existing building stock in the design process.

Speakers: Carl Elefante, AIA, LEED AP, Quinn Evans Architects
Ross Sweetland, AIA, LEED AP, AIA, Watson & Henry Associates
Michael Henry, PE, AIA, Watson & Henry Associates
Lise Thompson, AIA, LEED AP, Graham Gund Architects

Session 2 I Love It When a Plan Comes Together: Disaster Preparation and Recovery

Disaster planning and recovery are two of the most important components of historic preservation. The presentation will provide an overview of the process of disaster planning and recovery, including the development of disaster plans, the coordination of disaster recovery efforts, and the evaluation of disaster recovery efforts. The presentation will also discuss the importance of involving community members in disaster planning and recovery efforts.

Speakers: Steven Hardeman, Environmental and Historic Preservation Specialist, FEMA
Deborah Mann, President, MACAT Global, Inc.

Session 3 Debunking Preservation Myths

Debunking Preservation Myths seeks to correct some of the common misconceptions about historic preservation. The presentation will address common misconceptions about historic preservation, such as the idea that historic preservation is too expensive, that historic preservation is too restrictive, and that historic preservation prevents economic development. The presentation will also provide examples of successful historic preservation projects and discuss the benefits of preserving historic buildings.

Speakers: Graham Gund, Architect of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Session 4 The Adaptability of Historic Buildings: Feasibility Assessment For Reuse

Feasibility studies can be some of the most effectively tools for saving “redundant” historic buildings or exploring options for new uses. The process of preparing a feasibility study, as well as frequent shortcomings and mistakes to avoid, will be reviewed. Speakers will also discuss how to analyze the financial, social, and environmental implications of adaptive reuse for historic buildings.

Speakers: Donna Rypkema, PlaceEconomics
Lise Thompson, AIA, LEED AP, Graham Gund Architects

Session 5 Adaptive Use Success Stories

As communities change and certain building types lose their original constituencies, we can examine ways to bring them back to life and ensure their continued vitality. This panel will offer lessons learned from successful adaptive use projects, including schools, religious structures, and medical facilities. The presentation will discuss the strategies used to ensure the success of these projects and the challenges faced during the process.

Speakers: Elisabeth Terry, Partners for Sacred Places
Eric Endersby, New Jersey Bank Community
C. Aidita Milsted, Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Session 6 Brownfield Remediation and Historic Preservation

Industrial buildings are an important component of many New Jersey communities. Their reuse can often be complex, with obstacles such as contamination and public perception. The panel will discuss the potential for these sites to be remediated in a way that allows them to remain in their current condition or serve in a new capacity.

Speakers: Dan Sauder, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
Nancy R. Key, U.S. EPA’s National Brownfield Program
Ken Kline, Office of Brownfield Reuse, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Moderator: Dr. Wolfgang Hoefler, Rutgers University Department of Landscape Architecture
Tour 1
Adaptive Use Trolley Tour
Participants, traveling via “historic” trolley, will be transported to two adaptive use sites: the Cornelius Low House and the Old Mill Condominiums. Cornelius Low, one of central New Jersey’s wealthiest merchants, built a Georgian mansion in Raritan Landing (now part of Parlatovary) in 1741. Once a bustling, prominent port during the 18th and early 19th centuries, Raritan Landing struggled to maintain its prominence after the construction of the Delaware and Raritan Canal and the development of the railroad. Few remnants of the community survive today. Visitors will learn about the many partners who saved and restored the Low House, now serving as a museum, and have a chance to view the current exhibition. From there, participants will travel to Milltown to visit the Old Mill Condominiums, where they will learn about the history and transformation of the former Russell Playing Card Company to housing.

Tour 2
Historic Preservation at Rutgers Walking Tour
Chartered in 1766 as Queen’s College, Rutgers University is one of only nine colonial colleges to have been established prior to the American Revolution. The tour will provide the participant with a brief introduction to the development of the university, focusing on the growth of its Old Queens and College Avenue campuses. The tour will highlight the mid-20th century Brower Commons, 19th-century residential structures along College Avenue, 19th and 20th-century institutional buildings on Voorhees Mall, and the original 19th-century buildings at Old Queens. Each portion of the tour will focus on a specific campus preservation issue: adaptive use of residential buildings for institutional use; preservation issues related to mid-century modern structures; and prioritizing and fundraising for preservation projects within a college setting.

Speakers:
Elizabeth Reeves, Assistant Planner, Rutgers University
Carla Yanni, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Academic Affairs and Associate Professor, Department of Art History, Rutgers University

Closing Plenary
Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (invited)
As Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Lisa P. Jackson leads a staff of 3,400 professionals dedicated to protecting, sustaining and enhancing New Jersey’s water, air and land, and preserving its wealth of natural and historic resources.

Vernice Miller-Travis is Coordinator of Strategic Development and Outreach for Groundwork USA, a network of independent nonprofit environmental organizations that help communities use their assets to eliminate environmental poverty and become vibrant, healthier and safer places to live. She is an Urban Planner and author of numerous articles on race and land-use, environmental justice, brownfields redevelopment and hazardous waste policy, sustainable community development, historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization.