Atlanta Conference

Atlanta will be the site of NAOP's 1993 annual conference from April 1-4. Celebrating the centennial of Frederick Law Olmsted's plan for Druid Hills neighborhood, the conference will show how that neighborhood design plan has influenced the development of the city as well as provided a "vision for urban living in the 21st century."

Olmsted's suburban vision and neighborhood plans will be discussed by Olmsted scholars such as Cynthia Zaitzevsky, Charles Beveridge, and Dana White and local experts like Elizabeth Lyon, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and Harold Morgan, Atlanta's Park Commissioner. A bus tour and mobile workshops of some of Atlanta's neighborhoods like Druid Hills, Inman Park, and Washington Park will provide conference attendees first-hand observations of these distinctive neighborhoods.

Other topics, including the resolution of the nationally publicized controversy over the parkway to President Carter's Library, the unique social environment of the South and particularly Atlanta, the relevance of Olmsted's vision to today's city, teaching the Olmstedian landscape, and Georgia native planting, folklife and farmyards, will be discussed.

Wide city support is indicated by the host of sponsors, including Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta, Inc., Druid Hills Civic Association, Preservation Fund, Inc., and City of Atlanta's Department of Parks and Recreation. Co-sponsors include Atlanta History Center, Atlanta Preservation Center, Dekalb County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs, Dekalb Historical Society, Fernbank, Inc., Georgia State University, Heritage Preservation Education Program, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Park Pride Atlanta.

Conference brochures with the full agenda have been sent to NAOP members. However, if you did not receive a brochure, please write or telephone the NAOP office at 202-362-9511. For further information on the conference, telephone Beth Nathan, Conference Coordinator, at 404-817-6787.

This Atlanta conference promises to be another informative and enjoyable NAOP conference. Hope to see you there.

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This issue of the NAOP newsletter will concentrate on Atlanta. Often NAOP arrives in the city where its annual conference is held with limited information on the city's history, sites, and opportunities. It is hoped that this brief background, prepared by the editor and not reflecting any NAOP positions, will be helpful in planning your trip to Atlanta. Information on sites, museums, areas in Atlanta which are not on the conference tours, as well as places outside Atlanta which might be of interest, are discussed. Also included is a brief bibliography.

Some of the planners of the Atlanta conference at work in Azelle Park. L-R: Spencer Tunnell II, ASLA; Lee G. Rose, Assistant Parks & Recreation Commissioner; Harold M. Morgan, Commissioner, Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation; Dana F. White, Professor, Emory University; Edward L. Daugherty, FASLA, President, Preservation Fund.
Atlanta: Where the Olmsteds Met the New South

Atlanta is a young, eager, and energetic city. Began as a railroad terminus in 1842 on a five-acre tract set aside for a station for the state’s Western and Atlantic Railroad, it was incorporated as Atlanta in 1847 after two private rail lines linked up with the Western and Atlantic. That was not only the beginning of Atlanta, but the beginning of its role as a transportation hub. First the hub of the southern railway system, Atlanta then became a major connector in the north-south interstate highway system, and now its airport is known by most travellers as a major hub where you walk long corridors to change planes to go most anywhere.

Transportation, which helped to charge Atlanta’s commercial vitality, was responsible for the city’s downtown street pattern. With the railroad station in the center, the streets were laid out in consecutive grids along the rail lines. While the railroads tied commerce to their rights of way, they also provided the promise of escape from downtown. "The pull of the suburbs was just around the corner," according to Atlanta historian and NAOP Advisor Dana White.

The pull of those rolling Piedmont suburbs was so successful that Atlanta today is one of this country’s major spread cities, sprawling with suburbs—some influenced by Olmstedian principles—and edge cities, all driven by a boosterism, which has attracted expositions, Olympics, and even NAOP.

Atlanta is the New South. It does not linger on its past like traditional Southern cities, but then its past is brief compared to southern cities like Savannah or Charleston. Atlanta never had plantations, despite its association with Gone with the Wind. If it weren’t for its large Black population, Southern accents, graciousness, and magnolia trees, Atlanta could be almost anywhere. "There seemed to be very little of the Old South about it," stated Paul H. Buck. "Many described it as a Southern Chicago."

Yet, Olmsted’s work at the end of his career in 1890 as a consultant in Atlanta to Joel Hurt’s Kirkland Land Company on the design of Druid Hills suburb did not have such social-reform overtones. Although this was not a public project, Olmsted’s work on Druid Hills has had a profound influence on reshaping Atlanta’s cityscape. The Druid Hills suburb was planned astride and nestled along a parkway, Ponce de Leon Avenue, where the individual buildings were subsumed into the totality of landscape. This Atlanta suburb, which contrasted with Olmsted’s earlier more self-contained suburbs like Riverside, was not built until the early 1900s due to unfavorable financial conditions. However, Olmsted’s Druid Hill’s plan, contours and ambiance, a veritable "City in a Forest," became the exemplar for Atlanta. And that Olmstedian style has had a lasting influence on the development of garden suburbs in this spread city.

For Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., fascinated by the forces shaping 19th-century American cities and challenged to see how those cities could be transformed into healthy, attractive communities, Atlanta seemed like a tabula rasa. Southern cities like Atlanta offered more virgin opportunities for civic molding than many older northern cities. "Very soon all our northern cities will have been provided with parks," F. L. Olmsted, Sr. wrote.

Certainly Olmsted’s early studies and writings on different regions in the South, like his Journeys in the Seaboard Slave States, Through Texas, The Backcountry, and Cotton Kingdom, helped him understand the South. Those travels and observations provided him with insights into the conditions of a variety of southern lifestyles, from plantation agrarianism to German Texas settlements. His social conscience, roused by his concern to see emancipated slaves participate more fully in American life, spurred him in 1862 to try to mobilize the federal government to establish a special supportive social environment for black Americans in Port Royal, S.C. Olmsted’s deep concern to create environments where people could become healthy and productive citizens applied to all, but especially to those who were disadvantaged and lacking the opportunities to escape from the grim cities.
As the development of Atlanta has been shaped by private commercial ventures, it is not surprising that the Olmsted influence has been primarily in the private suburbs. Atlanta had no Mayor Speer with a vision of what the city could become physically. Nor did this city, scrambling to make its way, foster visionary social reformers. Neither was there any old money interested in Children's Aid Societies and in bettering housing and building parks and parkways. The outstanding, but brief, term of Dan Carey as secretary and general manager of Atlanta's Parks Commission was one of the few periods of concentrated public attention to the public parks and parkways of Atlanta.

This young and struggling city was slow in developing parks and parkways. Yet, it is important to remember that in 1880 when the two-centuries-old Boston was developing its Emerald Necklace, Atlanta with a population of 37,400 was only 38 years old and was still recovering from Sherman's rampage 16 years before. In 1879 Atlanta, according to Ernest Ingersoll in Harper's, had "substantial business edifices," "new hotels of magnificent proportions," and "churches...lofty in gable and spire," but no parks. By 1908 the city's progressive secretary and general manager of its Parks Commission, Dan Carey, found "Atlanta so far behind in the park movement, so deficient in park development, that it seems almost a shame to write upon such matters."

However, there was park and parkway planning, even though Atlanta may have lagged behind some of the nation's larger and older cities. In 1882 Grant Park was developed. Slow and inadequate public funding and the division of the city into white-and-colored and then separate-but-equal continually impeded Atlanta's park development.

Even though only 1.28 miles of improved streets existed in Atlanta in 1888, there was growing interest in parkways, spurred by examples of "fine boulevards like Chicago's" and other cities, as well as the Ponce de Leon section in the Druid Hills development. Ambitious plans to encircle the city with parkways, connecting battlefields and neighborhoods, were many from the 1880s through the early part of the 1900s. In 1904, even the developers of the Northside subdivision, Ansley Park, advertised as "Atlanta Beautiful," proposed a parkway to ring the city. The Olmsted firm was approached in 1906 for parkway planning, but F. L. Olmsted, Jr., remembering earlier disappointments, declined.

Although the more ambitious boulevard and parkway schemes never materialized, Olmsted's Ponce de Leon design was built because it was privately financed. Olmsted's Ponce de Leon was a scenic drive. Its key features were that topography determined its course, which was a welcome variant from the city's grid system, and it separated vehicular traffic from the electric railways, whose poles and electric wires were hidden by trees.

While Dan Carey was running the Atlanta Parks Commission from 1908-1911, the Olmsted firm was involved in several projects. Piedmont Park, the former grounds of the 1895 Cotton Exposition, became the largest landscaped open space in Atlanta. In 1909 P.L.O Jr. planned a five-mile drive through Piedmont Park, linking roadways to adjacent Ansley Park. The firm was frustrated by the budget process. "Atlanta is considerably behind in matter of parks," stated John C. Olmsted in 1909. "It will never be able to accomplish anything worth-
while with ... small, yearly appropriations." But even with the frustrations of inadequate financial support, Carey's inability to get a park for the Blacks, and his dismissal from the job, beautification projects did catch on eventually in Atlanta.

What Atlanta lacked in public parks and planning, it made up for in its remarkable private entrepreneurship and promotion of its New South virtues. This commercial spirit has been paramount throughout Atlanta's history. Atlanta's first prominent booster, Henry W. Grady, editor of the *Constitution*, in the 1880s vigorously promoted Atlanta as the "town of giants." He went north to lure industry to Atlanta, a "city newly risen from the ashes of Sherman's fires." Speaking to the New England Society of New York, Grady said, "Sherman was considered an able man in our parts, though some people think he is a kind of careless man about fire," but "from those ashes he left us in 1864 we have raised a brave and beautiful city; that somehow or other we have caught the sunshine in the bricks and mortar of our homes and have built therein not one ignoble prejudice or memory."

Such boosterism has helped this young city survive wrenching calamities like Sherman's march and the 1917 fire that gutted 73 city blocks, and also support its bold ventures to rebuild its flagging downtown with whopping skyscrapers, and to attract and hold major corporations like Coca-Cola, sports teams and even the Olympics. And that can-do spirit probably has helped Atlanta live with its schizophrenic attitudes about its relation to the South and the major southern problem of race. But for NAOP and those interested in urban development, park, parkway and suburb planning, the private entrepreneurial spirit behind this boosterism in Atlanta has stimulated some imaginative garden suburbs and parkway planning begun in the 1890s and now extending into many areas of this spread city. The resolution of the recent long battle to protect Druid Hills from the encroachment of a major highway leading to the Carter Library shows that Atlanta continues to value its Olmstedian legacy.

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**Atlanta Sites and Museums**


**ATLANTA CYCLORAMA**, Grant Park, Georgia & Cherokee Aves, SE, 404-658-7625, daily 9:30-5:30. For Civil War buffs, Atlanta's 1864 battle in an immense painting completed in 1885.

**ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER**, 3101 Andrew Drive NW, 404-261-1837, daily 9-5:30. Historic gardens, house, decorative arts collection, 1840s farm, Civil War and history of Atlanta exhibits.

**ATLANTA PRESERVATION CENTER, INC.,** The DeSoto, Suite 3, 156-7th Street NE, 404-876-2040. Offers eight walking tours, including Historic Downtown, Underground and Capitol area, Druid Hills, Inman and Ansley Parks, Sweet Auburn, West End and Wren's Nest.

**BLACK DISTRICTS AND INSTITUTIONS:**

- Martin Luther King National Historic Site and District, Auburn Avenue on both sides of Route 75/85. Run by the National Park Service, whose Visitor Center is in the Community Center Plaza across from the Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue. Included are King's Ebenezer Baptist Church, the King birthplace, grave, and Center for Nonviolent Social Change, as well as numerous houses, businesses, churches, and institutions important in the life of Atlanta's Blacks during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

- The Atlanta University System, Ella and Hunter Streets SW. This early and well known cluster of Black colleges and universities dating back to 1865, when Atlanta University was opened in a boxcar by the American Missionary Assoc., includes Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse, and Spelman, and Morris Brown Colleges, and Interdenominational Theological Seminary.

- Pamphlet of a Tour of African-American Historic Resources in Georgia, published by the Georgia Office of Historic Preservation and the Georgia Minority Historic Preservation Committee, is available from the Atlanta Preservation Center listed above.

**CALLANWOLDE FINE ARTS CENTER**. NAOP reception being held here.

**COMMERCIAL TOURS:**

- CNN, Marietta at Techwood Drive, 404-827-2491, $5 tours. Coca-Cola, 55 Martin Luther King Drive, 404-676-5151, $2.50 tours.
EMORY UNIVERSITY, main gate North Decatur Road. Major university with extensive natural wooded campus, housing among other academic facilities The Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts directed by Dana White, NAOP Advisor and ex Board member.

FERNBANK, 767 Clifton Road, NE, 404-378-0127. A 150-acre environmental/educational complex with natural history museum, where NAOP conference is being held, Fernbank Forest, and planetarium.

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART, 1280 Peachtree Street NE, 404-892-3600, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10-5, Friday 10-9, Sunday 12-5.

PUBLIC HOUSING:
Techwood Homes, Techwood Drive at North Avenue. The first all federal Public Works Administration public housing project in the country. Opened in 1936 by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

University Homes, 668 Fair Street SW. Another early Public Works Administration public housing project (1937), but it was for Blacks.

RHODES HALL, 1516 Peachtree Street NW, Monday-Friday 1-4. A 1902 Richardsonian Romanesque mansion designed by Willis Denny to fit Atlanta business magnate Amos G. Rhode's dream of a Rhineland castle. Now stands as a reminder of yesteryear in midtown Atlanta amidst highrises and traffic. Run by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM OF ATLANTA, 395 Piedmont Avenue, 404-522-5500, Tuesday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5. Ranked among the nation's top ten science museums.

STATE CAPITOL, Capitol Hill at Washington Street. 1889 building with patriotic displays.


THE WREN'S NEST, 1050 Gordon Street SW, 404-753-7735/6, Tuesday-Saturday 10-6, Sunday 2-4. Home of Joel Chandler Harris, famous for the Uncle Remus Tales.

Attractions Not Far from Atlanta

AGRIKAMA, the state's living history museum, in Tifton, GA, 175 miles south of Atlanta; Tuesday-Saturday 9-5, Sunday 12:30-5. Nineteenth century traditional farm, progressive farmstead, industrial sites, and a rural town.

ANDERSONVILLE, GA, 50 miles south of Macon on Highway 49. A famous Civil War town with a prison, where 49,485 soldiers were imprisoned, of whom 13,000 died and were buried in the important Andersonville National Cemetery. Also national headquarters of the American Camellia Society with gardens, greenhouse, and research library.

AUGusta, GA, 2 hours from Atlanta. Master's Golf Tournament practice rounds April 5-6, tickets first come first served; final tournament April 8-11.

BARNESLEY GARDENS, Adairsville, GA, 65 miles from Atlanta via 175, 404-773-7480, Tuesday-Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-6. Thirty acres of gardens laid out in the mid 1800s by an Englishman, Godfrey Barnesley, to reflect his admiration of Downing. The gardens are being restored.

BILTMORE, Asheville, NC. This is a nice drive from Atlanta. In fact, Olmsted used Biltmore as his southern office when he worked in Atlanta and on other southern jobs. And Biltmore is always interesting to visit.

CALLAWAY GARDENS, Pine Mountain, GA, 70 miles from Atlanta on Highway 27, 800-282-8181. Amongst an army of tourist activities, there are some gardens, hot-houses, and experimental horticultural and silvicultural projects.

COLUMBUS, GA, SW of Atlanta via 185 and 1185. At the Columbus Museum there are remnants of Olmsted garden by Marquis.

DECatur, GA, within metropolitan Atlanta on the east. Dekalb Historical Society, 404-371-1088. Walking tours of this town, which was a thriving stagecoach village long before Atlanta came into being. 19th century buildings and Courthouse Square, the center of the city since 1823.

MACON, GA, center of the state. A solid agricultural, industrial, and commercial hub, home of the poet, Sidney Lanier. Calvert Vaux designed the Macon Cemetery.

The Presidential towns of Madison and Washington, both small and early towns east of Atlanta. Washington settled in 1773, with handsome houses and courthouse.

Continued
SAVANNAH, GA is a fascinating city to visit.

STONE MOUNTAIN, 16 miles east of Atlanta on Highway 78 in Stone Mountain, 404-498-5600. Yes, you can telephone a mountain! The world's largest exposed chunk of granite, which is the site of every conceivable tourist attraction from sky rides, auto museums, golf courses, beaches to laser shows.

WARM SPRINGS, GA, southwest of Atlanta. A public spa whose warm waters have been considered to have healing powers by many including F.D. Roosevelt. The building where Roosevelt stayed, The Little White House, and a museum run by the state, are open to the public. 404-656-0772.

Bibliography

AIA Guide to the Architecture of Atlanta, text by Isabelle Gournay, photographs by Paul Beswick, foreword by Dana White, and edited by Gerald Sams, published by the University of Georgia Press, 1992

This guide was just published in December 1992 and is available from the AIA Atlanta Bookstore, in cloth at $45.00 and in paper at $19.95. Add $3.50 for postage. The address of the AIA Bookstore is Colony Square Mall, 1197 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30361.


Truman A. Hartshorn, Metropolis in Georgia: Atlanta's Rise as a Major Transaction Center, Cambridge, Ballinger Press, 1976

Andrew M. Haver, editor, Urban Atlanta: Redefining the Role of the City, Atlanta, Georgia State University, 1980

Anne Rivers Siddons, Peachtree Road, a novel about Atlanta available in paperback

Clarence N. Stone, Regime Politics, University of Kansas Press

The Traveller magazine of the National Geographic features Atlanta in its January/February 1993 issue

C. Vann Woodward, Origins of the New South, 1887-1913, Baton Rouge, 1951

Writers' Program of Georgia (WPA), Atlanta, A City of the Modern South, New York, Smith & Durrell, 1942

Writers' Program of Georgia updated into American Guide Series, Georgia; A Guide to its Towns and Countryside, revised by George G. Leckie with a foreword by Ralph McGill, Atlanta, Tupper & Love, 1954

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Vice President Gore Receives Olmsted Medal

Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. is the third recipient of the American Society of Landscape Architect's Olmsted medal, ASLA's highest honor for an individual outside the profession. ASLA presented the medal in recognition of Gore's "efforts to make environmental issues the central organizing principle of economics and politics around the world."

In accepting the Olmsted medal, Gore lauded Frederick Law Olmsted as "one of the first great environmentalists" who "understood the necessity of balancing natural areas with man-made environments." Olmsted, Gore said, saw environmental preservation as "an integral and necessary part of development." He "understood that communities should come together, not fall apart, in addressing environmental issues." Gore challenged Americans to join with the new administration in working "to preserve the quality of our environment—and at the same time to improve the quality of our lives."

NAOP co-chairpersons Nicholas Quinell and Marion Pressley have congratulated the Vice President on behalf of our organization and have presented him with an honorary NAOP membership.

Previous recipients of the Olmsted medal are The Nature Conservancy and former EPA head William Reilly. Nominations for this honor are solicited from the ASLA membership and voted on by its Board.

No NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY in this issue. You will have to come to the Atlanta conference to get first hand news from NAOP members on what is going in different parts of the country.
Good News and Sad News About NAOP Board Members

NAOP Board member Janet Olmsted Cross, an architect in New York City, married Steven Holl, also an architect in New York, on November 11th at 11:11 a.m. in Cold Spring on the Hudson River. The wedding was featured in the New York Times on Sunday, November 22, 1992 in the new "Wedding of the Week" section in the Styles part of the newspaper.

New York City landscape architect Bruce Kelly, a former NAOP board member, died on January 21st at the age of 44. Bruce Kelly was best known for his work in Central Park, the renovation of the Shakespeare Garden at the foot of the Belvedere Fountain, several playgrounds, the Point of the Ramble which juts into the Lake, expansion of Turtle Pond, rebuilding the Great Lawn, and his well-publicized work on Strawberry Fields in memory of John Lennon. He was also a member of the team responsible for the Central Park plan, "Rebuilding Central Park: A Management and Restoration Plan," Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, administrator of Central Park and NAOP board member, said Bruce Kelly was able "to make the landscape speak again." Aside from his work in New York, he had worked on many historic landscape and Olmsted restorations including South Park in Buffalo, Forest Park in St. Louis, Piedmont Park in Atlanta, and Central Park in New Britain. Among his other public projects was the design of the two-acre Eleanor Roosevelt memorial at 72nd Street in Riverside Park and the Boulevard East Promenade in Weehawken, N.J. He also worked on private estates here and abroad. Born in Wren, Georgia, he received a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in historic preservation from Columbia University. He will be sorely missed by his many friends at NAOP and by all involved with historic landscape work. Memorial gifts may be made to the Bruce Kelly Fund, Central Park Conservancy, The Arsenal, Central Park, New York 10021.

Nicholas Quennell, Co-Chairman of NAOP and also a New York City landscape architect who has been involved with historic landscape restoration projects all over the country, was appointed President of New York City's Art Commission, an eleven-person board which reviews all art work on city property, a vast array of buildings and structures from bridges to schools. As New York has a one-percent program for the art work, this commission has been very active in recent years. For Nicholas Quennell this job on the New York Art Commission follows his work on the board of the Municipal Art Society in New York.

Another New Yorker, Darlene McCloud, who has been editing NAOP's Technical Reports, has become executive director of the first regional office for the Land Trust Alliance.

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Calendar

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<tr>
<td>April 1-4</td>
<td>NAOP Conference, Fernbank, Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>NAOP Annual Meeting, Fernbank, Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>&quot;The Landscape Universe: Historic Designed Landscapes in Context&quot; at Wave Hill. Call 718-549-3200.</td>
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<td>May 1-3</td>
<td>American Planning Association annual conference, Chicago</td>
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<td>May 12-15</td>
<td>ICOMOS (International Commission on Monuments &amp; Sites) conference Intervention/Conservation: Urban Squares and Parks, Montreal. For information: COPLANOR CONGRES INC., 511 Place d'Aix #600, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 2W7. Tel: 514-848-1133</td>
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<td>May 12-15</td>
<td>The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation will be meeting in Montreal in conjunction with ICOMOS. For information on the Alliance meeting call Shary Berg, 617-491-3727</td>
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<td>May 12-15</td>
<td>Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting, Natchez, MS. Contact: Belinda Stewart, PO Box 873, Tupelo, MS. Tel: 601-258-6405</td>
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<td>May-Sept.</td>
<td>Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies has a wide choice of short courses on all sorts of preservation practices from preservation and reproduction of metalwork to earth, fire, and water disaster mitigation. For catalogue and information: 203 East Seminary, PO Box 66, Mt. Carroll, IL 61053. Tel: 815-244-1173</td>
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<td>Sept. 21-24</td>
<td>Metropolis 1993, a conference on urban management, Montreal. For information: 2, Complexe Desjardin C.P. 129, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H5B 1E6</td>
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<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>St. Louis Symposium co-sponsored by NAOP, NPS and the National Trust for Historic Preservation</td>
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<td>Nov. 18-21</td>
<td>The Society of American City and Regional Planning's Fifth National Conference on American Planning History, Chicago. For information, write SACRPH, 3655 Darbyshire Dr., Hilliard, OH 43026. Proposals for papers due March 1.</td>
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This newsletter edited by Ann Satterthwaite and Susan L. Klaus with assistance from Sally Harbaugh, Beth Nathan, and Dana White.