CHSA Construction History Society of America

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR THE 5th BIENNIAL MEETING ON CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

(Austin, TX) March 7, 2016 – Leading construction historians and independent scholars will address the theme of *knowledge exchange and building technology transfer* – the dispersal and transfiguration of building ideas from old Europe to the New World – during the Construction History Society's Biennial Meeting, taking place on the campus of the University of Texas, Austin from May 26 – 29, 2016. More than 50 presentations will depict the 500 years of industry growth, creative building solutions and cultural transformations that are the result of cross-ocean and intercontinental knowledge exchanges and transferences in North, Central and South America.

In addition to eleven academic sessions, CHSA will present four guided tours on Saturday, May 28th in Austin and the surrounding region. Led by local expert historians, registrants will select from one of these tours included in their registration: *Bridges – Transportation, Austin and Immediate Surroundings, San Antonio Franciscan Missions, Walking Tour of Austin* and *Painted Churches of Texas*.

The opening lecture will be presented by Dr. Richard Cleary, and invited keynotes by Tom F. Peters and Roberto Meli are scheduled on Friday and Saturday, May 27th and 28th.

Abstract session themes include: Prefabrication in North America, The 19th Century, Bridges, Mid-Century Modern Architecture, Construction Units: Terracotta, Glass & Brick, Pre-colonial and Colonial Latin America, Code, Theory & Management, Shells and Spatial Structures, Skin and Guts: Envelope and Mechanical Systems and Community Based Projects.

INVITED LECTURERS

Dr. Richard Cleary, Page Southerland Page Fellow in Architecture, will open the meeting with his talk *Austin, Growing City Limits* on the morning of Friday, May 27. Dr. Cleary joined the UT School of Architecture faculty in 1995 and is the author of *Bridges* (2007), a volume in the Norton/Library of Congress Visual Sourcebooks in Architecture, Design and Engineering, which surveys the history of bridge design in the United States. *The Place Royale and Urban Design in the Ancien Regime* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), examines the public squares in France designed to honor Kings Louis XIV and Louis XV. Another book and an exhibition, *Merchant Prince and Master Builder: Edgar J. Kaufmann and Frank Lloyd Wright* (Carnegie Museum of Art and University of Washington Press, 1999), investigates the Kaufmann family's long association with the architect, which produced Fallingwater, one of the iconic works of the 20th century, and many unrealized projects for Pittsburgh and elsewhere. Dr. Cleary's current research projects include studies of Frank Lloyd Wright and building technology, for which he recently received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies, and of architecture commissioned, designed, or built by French missionaries in Texas in the 19th century.

Keynote speaker Dr. Tom F. Peters will discuss *Eiffel of Paris, Jenney of Chicago, and their French Engineering Education* on Friday, May 27 at 5:15pm. Peters is Lehigh University Emeritus Professor of Architecture and History. His writing ranges from the theory of technological thinking in civil engineering and architectural design, cultural theory in structural engineering, and pedagogical studies on teaching construction and materials, to treatises on construction history, a field he helped develop from the mid 1970s. He is the author of many influential books, reports and articles and is known for his expertise in antiquarian books that deal with civil engineering and construction.

Professor Roberto Meli will discuss *Building Transference Knowledge in Colonial Mexico* on Saturday, May 28 at 9:00 am. Meli is an Emeritus professor at the National University of Mexico where he has taught since 1967. He was visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin, in 1987. His research activity has dealt with different topics of the structural behaviour of buildings, mainly regarding the effects of earthquakes on concrete and masonry structures. He has kept a continuous and intense activity on research and consulting on structural safety and rehabilitation of historic buildings, being member of the National Council on Monuments in Mexico and of the International Scientific Council on Analysis and Rehabilitation of Architectural Heritage (ISCARSAH-ICOMOS).

TOURS

WALKING TOUR OF AUSTIN

Join local enthusiasts on a walking tour of Austin and hear about the history and legends of this great American city. Visit Austin's National Landmarks: Texas State Capitol (an Italian Renaissance Revival begun in the 1870s) and the Governors Mansion. Travel down Austin's main street (Congress Avenue) and get recommendations from locals on where to eat great BBQ and hear the best music!

BRIDGES - TRANSPORTATION, AUSTIN AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS

This tour will offer an afternoon visit to three innovative wire-supported structures. These bridges are Central Texas transportation landmarks: a multilevel Post-Modernist interchange, a suspended-deck arch bridge, and a fin-back bridge. Co-lead by a retired TxDOT senior bridge engineer and a TxDOT bridge historian.

Hill Country Tour - Sunday (optional)

This day-long tour visits several notable bridges including an extremely rare concrete truss, a rehabilitated suspension bridge constructed by an important Texas builder, and a fin-back. Along the way we will see a sweeping landscape made legendary by Chester Nimitz, Lyndon Johnson, and Robert E Lee. Please note that there is a separate Tour fee which includes Texas-style BBQ for lunch and dinner at a microbrewery specializing in German food.

SAN ANTONIO FRANCISCAN MISSIONS

This afternoon tour will offer a visit to the National Park of the Franciscan Missions at San Antonio Texas. These historic landmarks built during the 18th Century have been designated as World Heritage Site within UNESCO's list. The outstanding craft and elaborate stone carving makes these historic buildings unique in North America. The tour will be guided by specialists involved in the restoration and preparation of the nomination dossier submitted to UNESCO.

PAINTED CHURCHES OF TEXAS

This afternoon tour, guided by local historians, will offer a visit to Central Texas countryside visiting the historic churches also known as The Painted Churches. These buildings near Schulenburg TX reveal the delicate artistry of Czech and German immigrants to this Texan region. Exuberant decorations characterize these historic structures as an example of the cultural transference that took place during the 19th-century.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

5th Biennial Meeting of the Construction History Society of America: May 26 – 29, 2016 at the University of Texas at Austin at the School of Architecture. Registration is currently open at http://www.chsa-5thbiennial.org/chsa-austin-registration/

Registration Fees (Early pricing ends March 30, 2016)

Standard CHSA member - $155 (early), $185 (late)

Non-CHSA member - $210 (early), $240 (late) – includes $20 discounted one-year individual membership in CHSA, valued at $75

Student - $35 (early, late)

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ABOUT CHSA

Established in 2007, the Construction History Society of America is a nonprofit membership organization and the U.S. branch of the Construction History Society, an international organization based in the U.K. The Construction History Society of America focuses attention on all aspects of the history of the built environment, with a concentration on the construction history of the United States. CHSA is a forum for scholars and professionals to meet and exchange ideas and research. Membership is open to a wide range of construction-related disciplines involved in the planning, development, design, construction, operation and preservation of buildings and engineering infrastructure. Members share an interest in examining, researching, and documenting how existing structures were planned, designed and built, with the purpose of using this knowledge to better understand and preserve what we have and to guide us in determining future directions.

Learn more at www.constructionhistorysociety.org