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**November 2014**



## Grounds For Preservation Tour

Thank you Ralph Randall, Madeline Jobst, JL Forke and Dave Perry-Miller & Associates for presenting the Fall Architectural Tour on October 25. This year's sell out Grounds For Preservation tour was a dream come true for historic estate (and landscape) lovers. Our guests were welcomed at the Angelika Film Center for continental breakfast and an architectural symposium. Architect Cole Smith, landscape architect John Armstrong and author/historian Michael Hazel provided a unique perspective of this year's tour homes and then we sent our attendees off to explore. A collection of four remarkable houses were open for our tour, with an additional home for Patron ticket holders and Sponsors, and another for our Patron Party. To see house and tour photographs, click [here](#).

## Corporate Partner Spotlight Siebler Remodeling & Historic Preservation

Ron Siebler is a residential contractor and historic preservationist serving customers in the Dallas/Fort Worth community. His portfolio contains an impressive array of projects that include numerous kitchen and bath remodels, additions, new construction, ecclesiastical renovations, historic preservation and museum quality restorations.

Siebler has twice received the ASID Dallas Designers' Choice Award for Remodeler

Contractor (2012 and 2014). And in May 2014, he received the Preservation Dallas Achievement Award for his work on the Pilot Grove Church at Dallas Heritage Village.

Ron's passion for historic preservation dates to 1984, when he was involved with the first restoration of the Denton County Courthouse on the Square. Recent projects include the Pilot Grove Church and the MKT Depot at Dallas Heritage Village, along with the historic Hill-Robberson House in Richardson. Other architecturally significant homes Ron has worked on include a Hal Thomson designed home on Swiss Avenue and two O'Neil Ford homes.



Photo by Charles Davis Smith

In early fall, Ron completed a historic windmill restoration for the A.W. Perry Museum in Carrollton. He is currently working with the Heritage Farmstead Museum in Plano to develop a new windmill and water interpretive program and installation. And with thanks to The Friends of the Farmers Branch Historical Park, one of his newest projects is the restoration and re-installation of the original bell into the Old Church belfry.

Ron has been the featured subject of two recent documentary films, *Views: the Blacksmith* and *Pilot Grove Church*. The Pilot Grove film, by award-winning film maker Mark Birnbaum, takes a thoughtful look at Siebler's recent restoration work to the church that is located on the grounds of Dallas Heritage Village, and can be seen [here](#).

Preservation Dallas greatly appreciates the many years Ron Siebler has been an active supporter and Corporate Partner. If you would like more information about Corporate Partner levels and benefits please contact [Donovan Westover](#).

## Preservation Issues

### Demolition Issue

Since the Public Forum we have continued to work on the demolition issue and ways to establish enhanced protections for historic structures in the city. We have also developed a small Task Force to help us in dealing with this issue. They have been meeting weekly and developing strategies on how to garner support for additional protections. One of the recommendations from the task force was to hire a PR firm to help craft our message and gain additional support from the general public. The Preservation Dallas board is now looking into that and how to fund the

additional expense.

The City Council is scheduled to hear a briefing on this issue from city staff at their November 18 briefing meeting. We need as many people as possible to pack the briefing room to show support for preservation in Dallas! The agenda for the meeting has not been set yet, so as soon as we know where we will be on the agenda we will let everyone know.

### **Cabana Hotel**

The ten-story Cabana Hotel on Stemmons Freeway, built in 1962, was a 297-room luxury hotel with a grand Dallas history. It was owned in part by Doris Day, accommodated The Beatles in 1964 during their first American Tour, Jimi Hendrix stayed there when he was in town, and Raquel Welch worked there as a cocktail waitress. Much of the original hotel features are intact, such as tilework, terrazzo, concrete screen-walls, curved signature walls, and unique concrete umbrellas on the terrace. The most striking feature of the building is undoubtedly its concrete screen façade which was typical of the era, although not often used in such a large scale. Not many buildings with those types of concrete screens remain in Dallas.

In the 1980s the hotel was purchased by Dallas County and converted into the Decker Jail. Now that the jail is closed the county is working to sell the building and in September put out a request for bids and in October reviewed the received bids in an executive session without any public discussion on the future of the building. There were several bids on the property including one from a development company that offered to restore the building back to a luxury hotel; however, they were not selected. Lincoln Properties was selected and appears to not have any desire to retain or reuse the building.

Preservation Dallas recently sent a letter to the Dallas County Commissioners regarding the importance of the building and concerns for its possible demolition. We urge others to contact the County Commissioners as well to let them know there are many out there that would like to see the building reused rather than demolished. You can find out more about contacting them [here](#).

There is also a [Save the Cabana Facebook page](#) that has been created with more information about the hotel.



*A historic post card of the Cabana Hotel and a current image of the building highlighting its unique concrete screen. Both images are from the Save the Cabana Facebook page.*

## **Director's Letter**

## David Preziosi

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our Fall Architectural Tour this year and helping us to sell it out! It was an amazing program with outstanding homes and landscapes to tour this year. We could not have put on the tour without our wonderful sponsors and our tour chairs - Ralph Randall, Madeline Jobst and JL Forke! The three worked hand-in-hand with Donovan Westover, the Events and Development Coordinator at Preservation Dallas, to secure the homes and organize the tour. Home tours are not easy to put together and Donovan did a wonderful job working with the homeowners, sponsors, graphic designer, photographers, caterer, and the architectural historian who wrote the house descriptions.

Last Friday the Preservation Dallas Board of Trustees met for their annual board retreat and this year focused on strategic planning. The last plan for the organization was completed several years ago, so it is time for an update, especially in the rapidly changing environment of Dallas. A consultant was brought in to facilitate the retreat and help the board identify issues in several key strategic focus areas and ideas on how to address them. From there a plan will be developed on how to address those issues based on funding and staffing resources. This will help define the work and focus of the organization for the next few years.

This week I'm heading to Savannah for the annual [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) conference. This is a chance for preservation professionals and volunteers from across the country to get together to discuss the state of preservation in our communities and learn from experts on how to address the many and varied issues we face in preserving our built heritage. I also attend training specifically for statewide and local nonprofit preservation organizations on how to better deal with issues we face such as funding, advocacy, programming, board governance, and more. Probably the biggest benefit I get though from the conference is the chance to network with other professionals in the preservation field. It is always great to compare notes on how to approach different issues, learn what new programs different organizations are taking on, as well as things that haven't worked. Savannah is also a great city to be in for historic preservation and one that has an extraordinary sense of place and character because the city had the foresight to protect their historic resources. I hope one day that Dallas will fall into that same category!

## Events

### Intown Outing - Continental Gin Complex

**Wednesday | November 12 | 6 p.m. | 3311 Elm Street, Dallas 75226**

Join us for an insider's tour of the Continental Gin complex in Deep Ellum! The complex is a collection of industrial structures constructed for the Continental Gin Company, the largest manufacturer of cotton gins and equipment in the United States. Continental occupied the site in 1888 and several buildings at the site date from this time. Free for members, \$20 for general public. To register, [email](#) or call us at 214-821-3290.

## Advanced Historic House Specialist seminar

**Thursday | November 13 | 8:30am | Wilson Carriage House**

Hone the skills learned in the Historic House Specialist seminar by taking our one-day advanced class. Learn about materials and methods of housing in Dallas, preservation economics, home appraisal, landscape and more. This class includes a trip to the public library for advanced historic building research. 6 hours MCE credit earned for licensed realtors. For more information and to register, go to [Metrotex](#) or call 214-540-2751.

## Preservation Dallas Holiday Party

**Friday | December 5 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Wilson House | 2922 Swiss Avenue**

Join us at the historic Wilson House for the annual Holiday Party! The halls will be decked for you to enjoy refreshments and beverages while catching up with friends. If you would like to attend, or volunteer your time or a food item, please [email](#) or call 214-821-3290.

The annual Holiday Party is a members only event. Please consider bringing a new member guest with you.

## New Members

### Individual

Michelle Castro  
David Kern  
Anita Leone  
Jeff Lovelace  
Josh Nagley  
Donna Swanson  
Lisa Vermandez

### Sustainer

Madeline Jobst  
Gregory Nieberding

### Young Professionals

Elliott Carpenter  
Alyssa Chi  
Jacqueline Converse  
Courtney Evans  
Miguel Garcia  
Timothy Jackson  
Tom Martin  
Ashley McClure

Melissa Pitts

Jourdan Pratt

### Urban Armadillos

Paul Hunter

### Double

Scott & Kelly Bradley  
Chip Harper  
Tim Jerome  
Dave & Peggy Millheiser  
Egelberto & Patricia Preziosi  
Jill Richardson  
David & Sandy Welch

### Contributor

Bettye Heath

Welcome and thank you to our new members!

## 2014 Corporate Partners





Studio Van Enter



Thank you to our Corporate Partners for their support!



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