

# ARLIS/New York News

The Newsletter of the Art Libraries Society of North America/New York Metro Chapter

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Winter 2003

## From the Chair

By Deborah Kempe



Can it really be possible that the end of the year is just around the corner? Why is it that December resembles a track star on steroids? Rather than attempt to answer these cosmic questions and muse on the end of my run as chapter chair, I prefer to concentrate instead on new beginnings. As of January, Judy Connorton will be the chapter chair. Her adept planning for the

Dia:Beacon outing this fall gives you a hint of the wonderful programs that will take form during her year of guidance. 2004 will also mark the beginning of terms for recently elected Board members. As announced by Judy at the holiday party, Ken Soehner will join the Board as Chair-Elect, Erin Elliot will be our new Member-at-Large in charge of membership, and Caitlin Kilgallen will serve again as Treasurer. As I move into the advisory post of Past Chair, I look forward to working with them as well as with the continuing officers, Secretary Heidi Hass, and Member-at-Large for Advertising, Faith Pleasanton. Heather Topcik leaves the board after two years of membership services, which included the creation of a membership database. Paula Gabbard steps down after an inspired run in the three-year cycle as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair. Although I promised not to dwell on endings, I must at least state what a pleasure it was to work with such a terrific group of people this year. If I had more space, I could really get gushy. But back to those new beginnings. The chapter will start the year with a healthy bank account, helped by a growing membership, generous donations by our members, and support from some of our partners in

the business of art publishing. This means we can continue our tradition of offering travel awards to members, scheduling programs rich in content and social opportunities, publishing this newsletter, and supporting the welcome party at the ARLIS/NA conference. An Italian book vendor has already committed to sponsoring a meeting in 2004, so you can look forward to an Italian-inspired event coming soon to a museum near you. 2004 will be a banner year for ARLIS, with the national conference taking place here in New York in April. I encourage you not only to attend, but to get involved by volunteering, whether as "tour shepherd," hospitality concierge, registration desk assistant, Monday night guide, or in some other capacity. I hear Christo is thinking of wrapping the Roosevelt Hotel; he'll need some help with that.

This year has seen the retirements of a few of our members and friends; again, by concentrating on new beginnings, we can wish them the very best as they enter new chapters in life (sorry, I can't help using bibliographic analogies). On the other side of the coin, we have gained many new members in the chapter. Some are library school students considering a career in art librarianship. Others are those just entering the field or more seasoned professionals who have relocated to jobs in the metropolitan area. Meeting these new members, many who have quickly become active in the chapter, has been perhaps the most rewarding part of my experience as chair. The enthusiasm, style, confidence, and talent that they exude inspire me. The future of our profession looks good indeed. With that, I will sign off. At next year's meetings, look for me. I'll be the one in the back row with my feet up, eating bon-bons.

**Inside:** Symposium honoring Angela Giral; Holiday party; Fall business meeting and 2004 conference update.

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ARLIS/New York News

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## ARLIS/NY Financial Report

By Caitlin Kilgallen, Treasurer

### INCOME

Bank Balance as of July 10, 2003	\$ 3672.45
Membership (new and renewals)	\$ 150.00
Dia:Beacon Trip	\$ 785.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4607.45</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Dia:Beacon Trip	\$ 685.00
Bank service charge June–August 2003	\$ 36.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 721.28</b>

**BANK BALANCE** as of October 2, 2003 \$ 3886.17

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ARLIS/NY thanks the following individuals, corporations, and institutions for their donations of funds, gifts-in-kind, and services to the chapter in 2003:

Victoria R. Bohm	American Folk Art Museum
Sherman Clarke	Bard Graduate Center for the Study of Decorative Arts
Judy Connorton	Columbia University Libraries
William J. Dane	Eastern Book Company
Alexandra deLuise	Ebsco
Erica Doctorow	Fashion Institute of Technology
Lydia Dufour	The Frick Collection
Maria Fernandes	H.W. Wilson Co.
Angela Giral	The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Edward Goodman	The Morgan Library
Heidi Hass	Ocker & Trapp
Deborah Kempe	Octavo
Rodica Tanjala Krauss	Prestel
Laura Mosher	Strand Bookstore
Josephine Murphy	
Naomi Niles	
Faith Pleasanton	
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ARLIS/NY Members who bought tickets for the Celine Palatsky Travel Award raffle.

# Documenting Architecture in the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century

## A Symposium to Honor

Angela Giral

### On Her Retirement as Director of the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall

Columbia University in the City of New York

Saturday, November 22, 2003

Angela Giral will have retired as Avery Librarian by the time this report is published, but her legacy of accomplishments will last much longer than the many years she has spent there. The idea of a symposium as a way of honoring Angela was suggested by Jim Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, and its theme — emphasizing the future of architectural research and investigating the forms its literature and documentation might take — was her response, a recognition that farewell was best said by greeting the future the library, its staff and users would encounter. Neal was joined in opening remarks by architectural critic and Columbia professor Kenneth Frampton, who noted Angela's success in improving access to the literature by working with the J. Paul Getty Trust to bring the *Avery Index* online, her publication, with predecessor Adolf Placzek, of *Avery's Choice: Five Centuries of Great Architectural Books, One Hundred Years of an Architectural Library, 1890–1990*, her recent and very successful renovation of the oldest part of the library, and the creation of the new Wallach Study Center for Art and Architecture. Joan Ockman, Director of the Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia, concluded the opening comments by congratulating Angela on her skillful stewardship of Avery Library, which holds a special place among the world's architectural libraries, not least by its "unique scholarly and intellectual character" and its prominent physical presence in Avery Hall.

The program was organized into four segments corresponding to the forms architectural documentation has traditionally taken, and is currently taking: Architectural Monographs, Architectural Periodicals, Drawings and Archival Materials, and Born Digital. Speakers on the topic of architectural monographs were asked to consider the literature which has, for the past 500 years, formed the core of architectural library collections: books about individual architects and firms. In an era of shrinking book budgets in libraries, which must increasingly finance the acquisition of online sources, the question was asked: Will monographs continue to hold the same primacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Panel moderator Kitty Chibnik, Avery Library's Associate Director, outlined the importance of the architectural monograph by providing figures on the percentages of books in architectural libraries here and abroad devoted to individual architects and firms. Her panel explored the topic with speakers Kenneth Frampton, Andrea Monfried, an editor with Monicelli Press, and Kevin Lippert, founder and president of Princeton Architectural Press. Responding was Gerald Beasley, Head Librarian and Associate Chief Curator at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, who observed in conclusion that the architectural monograph was indeed in a healthy state, and that librarians are not unhappy about having them continue to be published. "The book is still a successful vehicle for getting the architect's point across."

The second session, on architectural periodicals, was moderated by Terence Ford, Head of Research Databases at the Getty Research Institute, the publisher of the *Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals*. His panelists included Roger Conover, an editor at MIT Press, Mary McLeod, Associate Professor of Architecture at Columbia, and Reinhold Martin, an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Columbia, a practicing architect, and editor of the periodical *Grey Room*. Responding was Ruth Kamen, Director of the British Architectural Library, who voiced concern over the bibliographic control of periodical content created in digital form, and the archiving of emerging e-journals. The panelists themselves reached no conclusion on the future of digital architectural publishing, saying they had not yet had enough experience with it. All the panelists were trained and work in the print environment, and seemed comfortable with it for the foreseeable future.

After lunch, Session Three addressed architectural drawings and archives, and was introduced by moderator Janet Parks, Curator of Avery's own extensive collections. Her speakers were architect Robert A.M. Stern, Dean of the Yale School of Architecture, Hillary Ballon, Chair of the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia and an architectural historian, and Manuel Blanco, Professor of Architectural Composition at the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid. Consensus among these speakers centered around the need to get collections cataloged, while acknowledging the expertise and expense required to accomplish this. Responding was C. Ford Peatross, Architecture Curator at the Library of Congress, who stressed the archivist's need to provide the technologically "last best surrogate" for sustained use of the intellectual content of protected originals. Robert Stern reminded participants and listeners about the importance of architectural models, which can be crucial to the understanding of a building.

The fourth and final session was Born Digital, discussing both those analog forms which are being converted to the digital environment, and those which are truly "born digital," moderated by Roberta Blitz, Digital Collections and Art Research Librarian at Avery. Her speakers included architect Laurie Hawkinson, Andrew Benjamin, Visiting Professor of Architectural Theory at

## Angela Giral Symposium, *continued*

Columbia and Professor of Critical Theory at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, Jeffrey Cohen, Senior Lecturer at Bryn Mawr, and Anthony Vidler, Dean and Professor at the Cooper Union School of Architecture. Responding was Alfred Willis, an architectural librarian and historian at Hampton University.

An overview of the discussions was delivered by Wim de Wit, Special Collections Curator at the Getty Research Library, who concluded that architectural libraries and the traditional forms of materials they have been collecting will endure even as they face the new challenges of image access, arguing for libraries as copyright holders to keep fees reasonable and architectural publishing of high quality. He sees electronic journals as providing content presented in ways not available to print, but also the importance of indexing periodical literature to maintain bibliographic access as a reliable tool in contrast to the uncontrolled Web. Technical standards — an area in which Angela has been a leader in the profession — are more critical than ever. Finally, Phyllis Lambert, founder and director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture, provided a many-layered chronology of Angela's career and accomplishments, from her tenure at the Environmental Design Library at Princeton, to Harvard's Graduate School of Design Library, and ultimately to Avery, during which time she has been active in virtually every organization with an important role to play in the management of architectural collections. A standing ovation appropriately followed, after which a reception was held in Avery Library, with gifts for Angela and for Avery's Classics collection of a vintage photograph and rare book from colleagues at the Getty Center, with tours of the new and renovated spaces and displays from the special collections.

Reported by Barbara Sykes-Austin.

## ARLIS/NY Fall Business Meeting

Fashion Institute of Technology, Nov. 5, 2003

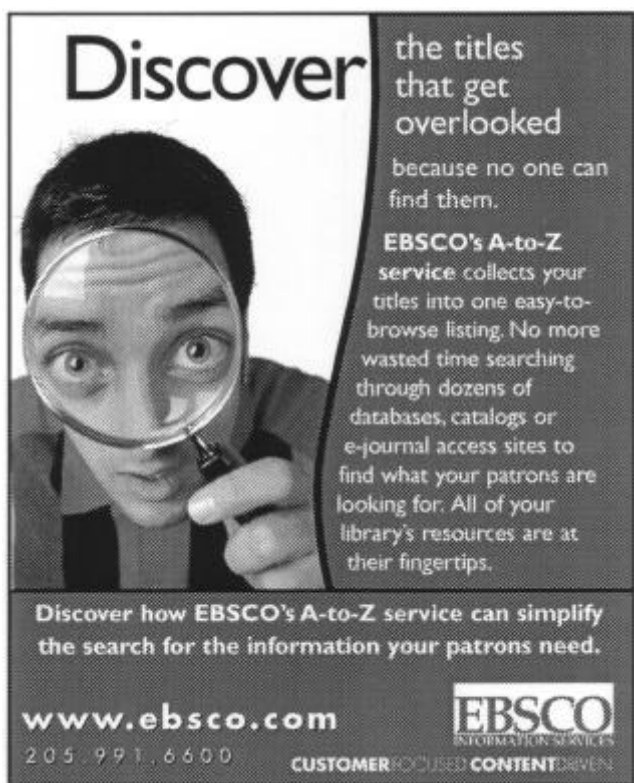
Reported by Heidi Hass

The chapter's fall meeting began with a tour of FIT's current exhibition, "Seventh Avenue: Fashion Walk of Fame." Led by the director of the FIT Museum, Valerie Steele, who also co-curated the show, members were treated to a fascinating display of clothing by the 24 designers elected to the Fashion Walk of Fame between 2000 and 2002. Ms. Steele gave a brief introduction to the history of fashion in New York, from 19<sup>th</sup> century custom-made clothing, through the Civil War's influence on mass production, and World War II, when Paris was shut down as the center of the industry, and American designers were forced to originate their own styles. She also described the consolidation of Seventh Avenue as the center of fashion manufacturing with the development of modern factories suitable for mass production. Ensembles on display varied from sports- and swim-wear, through the most elegant and lavish evening designs. Of particular interest to New Yorkers was the understated "subway" coat of Norman Norell, hiding his stunning sequined mermaid dress. For more information on the exhibition, including slide and video shows, visit <http://www.fitnyc.suny.edu/asp/Content.aspx?menu=FutureGlobal:Museum>

Members also enjoyed "Dressed for Thrills: Halloween and Masquerade Costumes with Photographs by Phyllis Galembo." This exhibition included photographs and a display of vintage costumes in the photographer's collection, some dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Knitters and others were also interested in a smaller exhibit of items made by FIT students with Lion brand yarn.

After a short stroll down the street to the Dubinsky Student Center, the business meeting commenced with a welcome from Greta Earnest, Assistant Director of FIT's Gladys Marcus Library. She introduced N.J. Wolfe, Director, other library staff members, and Debbie Kempe, ARLIS/NY Chair. After some preliminary remarks Debbie recognized Carol Graney, ARLIS/NY's liaison to the ARLIS/NA executive board, who traveled to the meeting from Philadelphia, where she is Director of University Libraries at the University of the Arts. Carol gave members a brief rundown of the board's recent activities, including a discussion of re-structuring; guidelines for roundtables; review of the relationship between local chapters and ARLIS/NA; evaluation of the membership fee structure and of the web site; and an announcement of a forum to be held at the 2004 annual conference in New York to discuss the society's next strategic plan. Carol reminded us that the 2005 conference will be held in Houston; she also let us know that invitations for 2006 and 2007 have been received from Banff and Atlanta respectively.

Debbie then gave the 85 members present a review of this year's events, beginning with H.W. Wilson's presentation in the Trustees' Board Room at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on April 15. Next came a lovely, if rainy, June 19 outing to the New York Botanical Garden and the newly renovated LuEsther T. Mertz Library, and a reception in the Orchid Rotunda in honor of the retirement of



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## Fall Business Meeting, *continued*

John F. Reed, Director of the Mertz Library, which was sponsored by Prestel Publishers and Octavo. The chapter's fall jaunt was to Dia: Beacon, with tours of the museum by Amy Sandback and Matt Harle. Coming in December will be the chapter's annual holiday party, which will take place at Butler Library, Columbia University.

This year's winner of the Celine Palatsky Travel Award was Christina Peter, Frick Art Reference Library, who was able to attend her first ARLIS/NA conference. Since next year's conference is in New York, the chapter is considering alternatives to the award, such as sponsoring local library school students' registration fees. The chapter also customarily donates \$500 for the Welcome Party, and hopes to be able to do the same in 2004.

Debbie continued by stating that in these financial times it has become increasingly difficult to find affordable space for chapter meetings. Many formerly free spaces now charge for guards, caterers, etc. The board is trying to meet this challenge by recruiting sponsors for events, but Debbie warned that it may become necessary to charge for receptions. She encouraged members to keep the chapter in mind for hosting meetings, as well as for charitable giving at renewal time. On the positive side the chapter has over 180 members, which demonstrates our continued vitality.

Debbie mentioned the requirement that ARLIS/NY members must also be ARLIS/NA members. While not strictly enforcing this rule, she did encourage all chapter members to become members of national as well.

Ross Day then spoke on behalf of CPAC, the Conference Planning Committee for 2004. He advised members to look at

the conference web site <http://www.arlisna.org/nyc04/index.htm> for the program and descriptions of the many tours on offer. One feature of the program will be at New York libraries, an "open house" or calling hours; CPAC will be soliciting participation in the coming months.

Liz O'Keefe and Chris Sala described opportunities for volunteers on the registration and hospitality desks, and as tour "shepherds." Please contact them for more information.

Sherman Clarke and Emily Roth described "Monday night out with New Yorkers." (See their preliminary guidelines on p.7.) Daniel Starr described a fundraising event for the ARLIS/NA internship award – a cocktail party with Christo and Jean-Claude in the modern-art filled apartment of Agnes Gund, president emerita of MoMA.

Judy Connorton, Vice-Chair/Chair elect, announced the nominations for ARLIS/NY Board members for 2004. No nominations were received from the floor.

Announcements: Larissa Beringer is the new art librarian at Pratt Institute. At the School of Visual Arts Caitlin Kilgallen is now the Head of Reference Services and Zimra Panitz is the Technical Services/Systems Librarian. Positions open include ILL coordinator at the Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a part-time systems librarian position at MoMA. Daniel Starr encouraged members to remember the ARLIS/NA Society Circle in their year-end charitable giving plans. Emily Roth announced that the Uris Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art will move to temporary quarters for two years beginning Jan.1, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned, and members enjoyed refreshments courtesy of FIT.

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## ARLIS/NY Holiday Party at Butler Library

By James Mitchell

Chapter members and friends gathered on Tuesday, December 16 at Columbia University's Butler Library for our annual holiday party. Always a high point of the season, this event did not disappoint.

Approximately 100 mingled among tables overflowing with sweets and savories contributed by many members. The festivities truly kicked off with a short but inspired performance by special guest Suzie Wrong. The disco lights and table dancing will hopefully become regular features of future ARLIS meetings.

Outgoing Chair Debbie Kempe made several announcements and led a champagne toast and tribute to Angela Giral on her retirement. Incoming Chair for 2004 Judy Connorton then announced the results of the elections for chapter officers. (See page 1.) Congratulations again to Ken Soehner, Erin Elliot, and Caitlin Kilgallen.



Also new this year was a fund-raising raffle, held to benefit the Celine Palatsky Travel Award. Several handsome museum gift shop items were contributed by members. Ticket sales raised \$215 for the Travel Award fund.

Thanks are due to all members who contributed food and raffle items, and to the many whose time and effort helped make this a memorable evening. Thanks especially to Paula Gabbard and other Columbia staff who made the arrangements, and to guest bartenders Jesse Sadia and Michael Houk from the Frick Art Reference Library.



Suzie Wrong basks in the limelight

Photo by Maria Oldal.



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## Monday Night - ARLIS in NYC 2004

From: Sherman Clarke (sherman.clarke@nyu.edu) and Emily Roth (emily.roth@metmuseum.org)

As many of you know we are planning to show NYC in a personal way to our ARLIS guests next April. Monday, April 19 is the first ever showing off of the Host City by people who live there. A number of ARLISNYers have already plotted their paths and we would like to share those with you now. We hope they will stimulate your own thinking to add another tour to show the world of ARLIS how we can live here and happily, too.

We will limit the size of each group to a maximum of 12 people (or you can set a lower limit if the spaces would be more congenial with a smaller number). If two NYers do a tour together then the size of the group can expand. The idea however was to make these tours intimate. Also we think that 12 people is the largest size that one person can comfortably handle responsibly. So far we have the following suggestions and the names of the people who have had the initial thought.

Here are some thinking guidelines as you begin to read below:

1. If you want to do something but you have too many ideas and cannot think of which is best, let us help you. Also, if you want to do something and cannot think of anything, we have suggestions. See far below.
2. The sun will set at 7:40 p.m. on Monday April 19, 2004. 7 PM is the designated starting time of the evening, leaving from the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel.
3. The evening must include a clear plan for food (Dutch treat), e.g. a sit-down meal, post-prandial start for jazz club, drinks in a stellar location and then disperse.
4. Every person going on the walking tour with you will have signed a waiver, provided by ARLIS, that frees ARLIS and you from any responsibility of injury, etc.
5. Before we make these tours public in a few months, we will be asking you to fill out an information sheet for us. This sheet will provide us with all sorts of details about your trip, e.g. strenuousness, appropriate clothing, food, cost, timing.
6. *Walk means walking tour of neighborhood.*

Here are the proposed tours in brief in no particular order (numbered for reference purposes) with the name of the host:

1. East Village: view/drinks from a residential balcony, a *walk*, dinner at an Indian restaurant on 6th St. (Meg Black)
2. Clinton Hill: Pratt Library and Power station, a *walk*, dinner on Myrtle Avenue. (Larissa Beringer and Micheline Nilsen)
3. Village Vanguard (a jazz club in Greenwich Village). (Robert Lobe)
4. Printer's Row: *walk*, drinks/dinner in the financial district. (Ken Soehner)
5. Brooklyn Bridge/Dumbo: *walk*, dinner. (Sherman Clarke)
6. Williamsburg: Pierogi Gallery's artist file, *walk*, a bar with many kinds of beer, dinner at Planet Thailand. (Caitlin Kilgallen)
7. West 60s, 70s, 80s: *a walk*, Trump's Riverside South, the 69th St. pier, Zabar's (?), La Caridad 78 restaurant (Sino/Cuban), Fairway, Lincoln Center. (Emily Roth)

So let us know if you would like to lead a group through your neighborhood, or a favorite part of town. We'll help you shape the adventure if you want, or help you put it together with someone else's idea.

## ARLIS/NA Members' Exhibition

April 15 – July 15, 2004

The exhibition presents the work by members of ARLIS/NA. It was inspired by the first display of the Society's members' artwork, at the 1998 conference in Philadelphia. The artists include Margaret Boylan, Yvette Cortes, Mary Jane Cuneo, Deirdre Donohue, Kay Downey, Sheila D. Fox, Tom Grieves, Annette Haines, Elizabeth Hysten, b.j. irvine, Miguel Juarez, Joy Kestenbaum, Robert Lobe, Annamaria Poma-Swank, Jae Rossman, Janette Rozene, Marilyn Russell, Nina Stephenson, Carol Terry, Shannon Van Kirk, William B. Walker, Tony White, Laurie Whitehill Chong, and Tammy Wofsey.

Gallery talk and reception: Sunday, April 18, 1–5 pm.

Sponsored, in part, by the Art Libraries Society of North America.

Location: Queens College Art Center, Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, 6th floor, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367.

Hours: Mondays to Thursdays, 9am – 8pm; Fridays, 9am – 5pm. Closed weekends and holidays.

After May 28th, please call for summer hours.

For more information, visit our website at: [www.qc.edu/Library/art/artcenter03\\_04.html](http://www.qc.edu/Library/art/artcenter03_04.html), or call 718-997-3770.

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ARLIS/New York News

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