

The mission of the Fitch Foundation is to encourage new thinking and excellence in American historic preservation. To achieve this aim, the Foundation awards research grants to mid-career professionals who have an academic background, professional experience, and an established identity in one or more of the following fields: historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, history of architecture and the decorative arts.

Announcing the New Fitch Grantees

Laura Blokker and Heather Knight
Louisiana's Bousillage Tradition: Investigation of Past Techniques for Future Practice
Ms. Blokker and Ms. Knight received a Fitch Mid-Career grant to study the Colonial building technique of bousillage (wood frame construction with naturally dried tempered clay infill), which was used in Creole and Acadian Louisiana during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They will produce a report that will combine materials analysis with oral history, field studies, trials and mock-ups. They plan to present their findings at conferences in 2011 and aim to eventually publish a full primer as a sequel publication.



Bergeron House, Rural Life Museum, Baton Rouge, LA showing bousillage exposed on front elevation, with detail of interior surface of bousillage, Yucca House, Melrose Plantation, Melrose, LA in background. Photos by Laura Blokker, 2008.

Ned Kaufman
Intangible Cultural Heritage: Identifying and Protecting the Intangible Dimensions of Buildings, Sites and Places
Dr. Kaufman was awarded a Mid-Career grant and will be traveling to Dublin, Ireland for ICOMOS meetings on international practices of conserving intangible heritage. He will lead working groups at the conference and plans to gather information on best practices in this relatively new facet of heritage protection from around the world. His ultimate goal is to develop a best practices model and guide for United States practitioners.



Like the family ritual practiced by these Otomí Indians in the Tolimán region of Mexico, intangible heritage is often linked to particular places. Photo by Ned Kaufman, 2010

The new Fitch Grantees will be celebrated more formally at an event in the Spring 2011. Details about the Grant Award Reception will follow. Be prepared to toast our new Grantees in a great historic venue!

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The Fitch Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Save the Date! February 5, 2011



The Fitch Foundation is pleased to be a co-sponsor of the Fitch Forum 2011, to be held in Wood Auditorium at Columbia University. The forum, 45 Years of Preservation Law, is organized by Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Fitch Foundation Honorary Trustee Adele Chatfield-Taylor will introduce the keynote speaker and discuss James Marston Fitch in relation to the New York City Landmarks Law. For additional information please email FitchForum2011@gmail.com.

Fitch Foundation News

The Fitch Foundation is pleased to welcome two new Honorary Trustees – Page Ayres Cowley and Dr. Michael Tomlan. Ms. Cowley is Principal of Page Ayres Cowley Architects, LLC, an architectural firm specializing in the design, adaptive re-use and restoration of historic buildings. Dr. Tomlan is the Director of the Historic Preservation Planning and Cornell's Clarence S. Stein Institute for Urban and Landscape Studies. He teaches the history of urban development, documentation techniques, preservation planning practice, and museum planning and development.

In September, Liz McEnaney was appointed Acting Executive Director of the Foundation. Ms. McEnaney comes to us with a background in both historic preservation and grant making. A graduate of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Liz has worked with organizations including the New York Preservation Archive Project and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

The Fitch Foundation would like to thank Anne Lebleu for all her work guiding the organization for the past two years. We wish Ms. Lebleu much success in Washington, DC, where she is now working as a philanthropic advisor.

Become a Friend of Fitch!

The Fitch Foundation depends on your support to continue our work. Please make a contribution and become a Friend of Fitch. As a Friend, you will receive an invitation to our annual Grant Award Reception, as well as information about upcoming programs. For more information on how you can contribute, please visit our website (www.fitchfoundation.org) or contact Liz McEnaney at lmcenaney@fitchfoundation.org.

The Fitch Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Friends of Fitch Visit Judd Foundation

In May 2010, corporate and individual supporters of the Fitch Foundation were invited to attend a tour of the Donald Judd Foundation located at 101 Spring Street in the SoHo Cast-Iron Historic District in New York City. The event provided a great opportunity to discuss the pivotal role that James Marston Fitch played in the protection of SoHo's cast-iron architecture in the 1960s. Many thanks to everyone who attended, and a special thanks to the Judd Foundation for allowing us the opportunity to visit!



101 Spring Street, home of the Judd Foundation, is the only intact, single-use cast-iron building remaining in SoHo. Image courtesy of Judd Foundation Archive.