

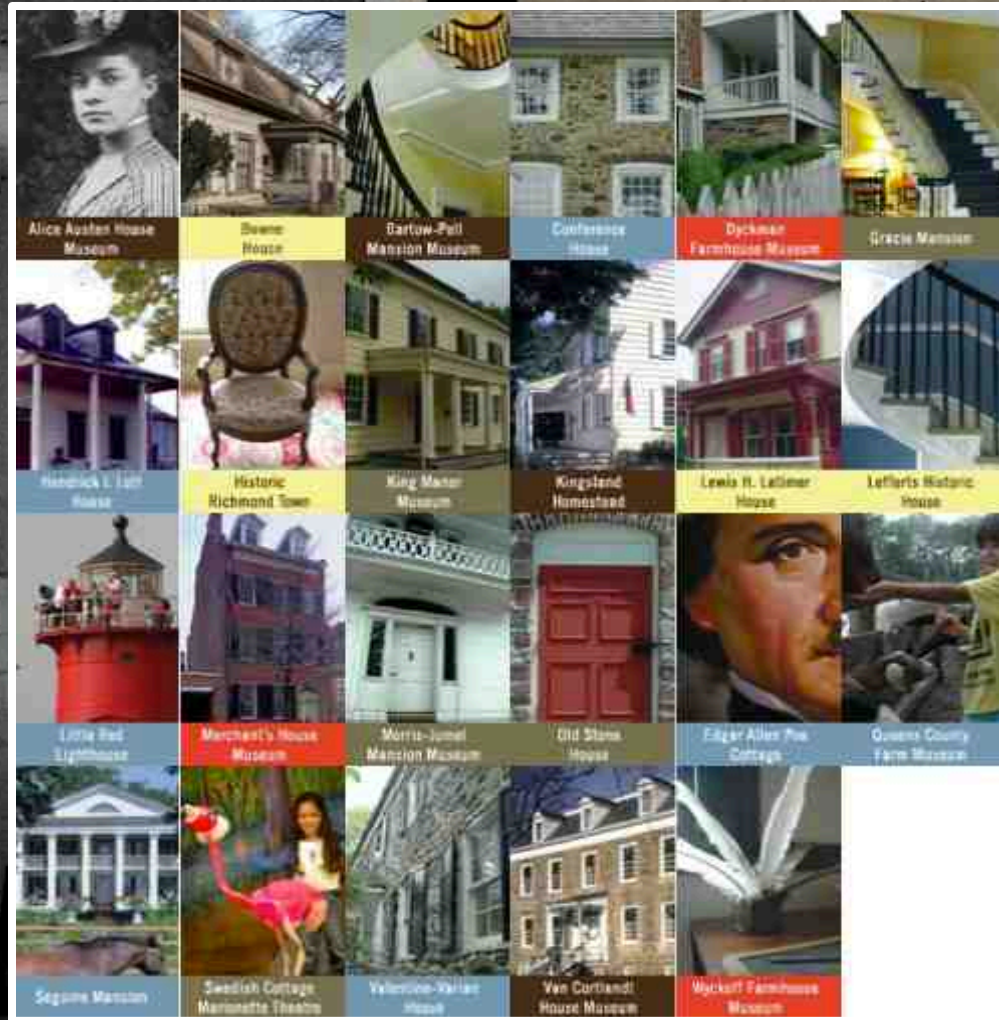
Thoughts on HOUSES & PERIOD ROOMS

Metropolitan Museum of Art Friends of the American Wing



Franklin D. Vagnone

Executive Director of The Historic House Trust of New York City



Franklin D. Vagnone
 Executive Director of The Historic House Trust of New York City



August 22, 2009

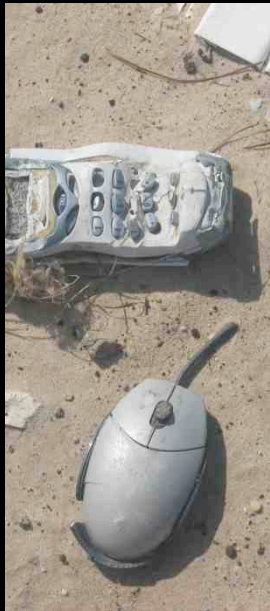
Vagnone Residence, Philadelphia, PA. Built 1920, Arts and Crafts Colonial Revival bungalow



Vagnone Residence, Philadelphia, PA. Built 1920, Arts and Crafts Colonial Revival bungalow



October 15th, 2009



The New York Times

Still Standing in Missouri, A Love Letter in Ruins

Joplin Discusses House Turned Storm Memorial

By A. G. SULZBERGER

JOPLIN, Mo. — As this rebuilding city finishes clearing the rubble from last spring's deadly tornado, one irreplaceable structure has been allowed, at least, to remain.

It is a modest red brick house, built in 1900. All but one of its exterior walls are missing, splintered and scattered in the storm, leaving an impressionist shell. A Christmas tree, a living room arrangement of two sofas and a coffee table.

One reason this house has so far survived the wrecking ball can be found on its walls, on its floorboards, closets and along virtually every remaining surface. They are messages, thousands of them, handwritten by the volunteers who flooded the city to help sift through and cart debris. Every day visitors and locals stop to add a note to the col-

lection. The disaster has its memorials, from the carefully orchestrated monuments that have emerged from city hall to clear the remaining rubble to the tornado that cut through the community on May 22, 2011.

But as that effort wears on, the community is questioning whether to build a memorial that is itself a monument.

Leaders have been discussing whether to move the whole structure or simply take parts of the building to display. "We think there is some value in preserving it," said Mark Rohr, city manager. "But we can't let it sit there."

In the meantime, the walls of the building here at the volunteer house, still standing under the assault of sun and wind. Like a love letter slowly being erased, the peeling paint is filtering redboards with snippets of messages: just a few letters, a name or a date like "home," "retired" and "alone." Newly barren patches, more messages being scrawled.

The serendipity of the monument is in sharp contrast with the deliberate and steel structures put up in Cunningham Park. The first structure is a three-tiered fountain with 22 streams of water on the different levels to symbolize the scale of the storm. Second is an oversized metal replica of a rubber windsocks, hundreds of feet in length, accompanied with the message "Miracle of the Human Spirit." A new honoring relief workers is in the works.

As we see the official memorials, the devastation this month by a collection of



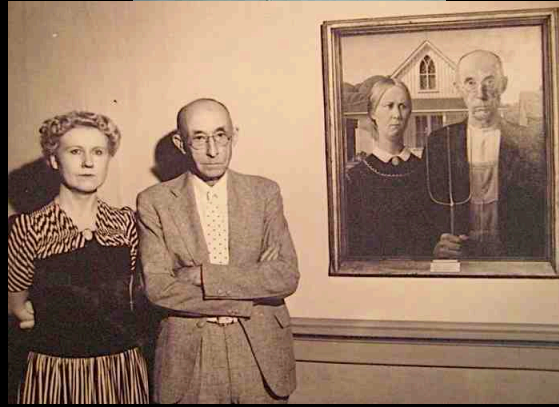
Thousands of volunteers in Joplin, Mo., have written messages, like the one on top, in the tornado-damaged house. Above, one of the official memorials in Cunningham Park. More photographs are online at nytimes.com.



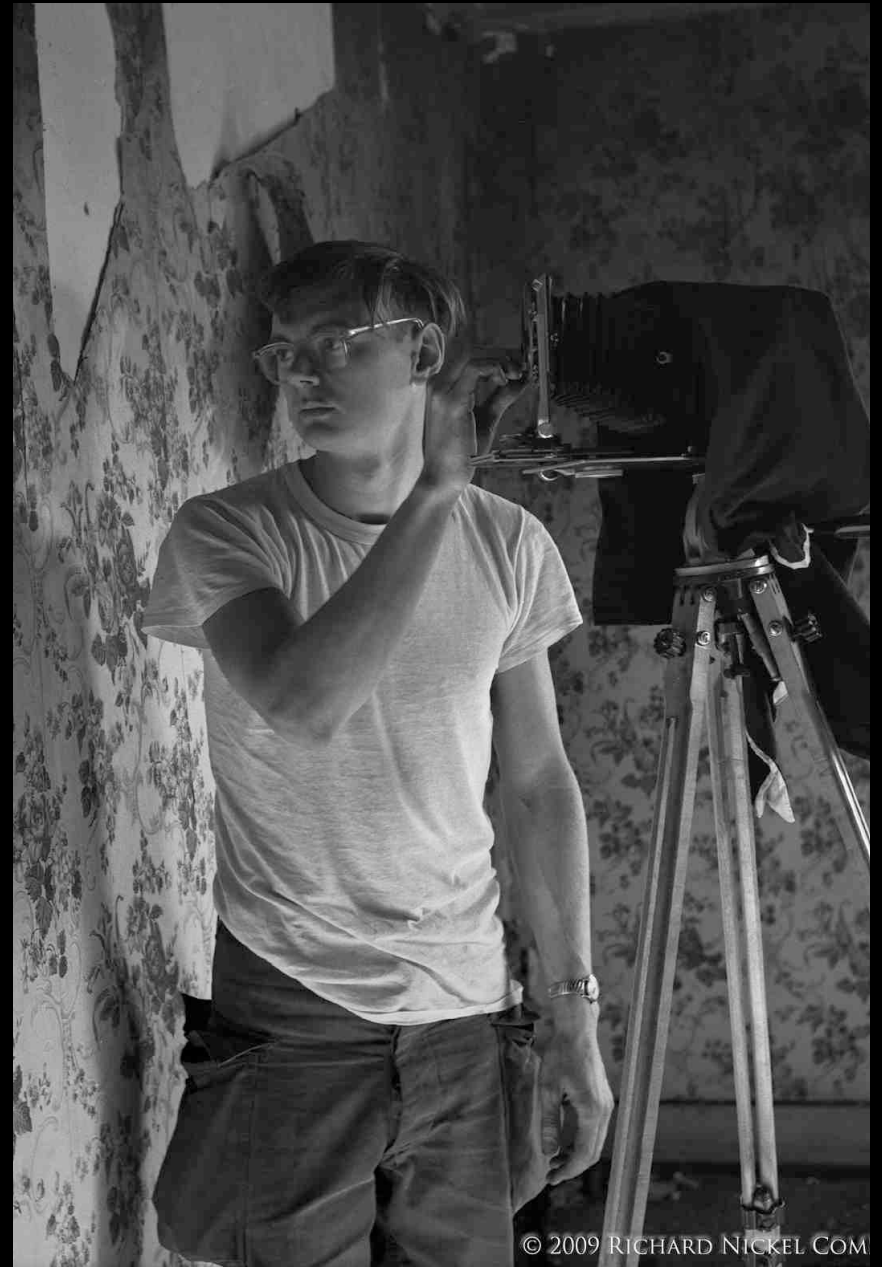
Gulf Coast, Miss. 2005, Katrina Destruction; Joplin, Missouri, 2010 Tornado destruction of residential areas of the town.



← Personal (SOCIAL) (POLITICAL) Universal →



Joplin, Missouri, 2010 (Left & Top) demolished home as make-shift memorial; (Right) Formal memorial.

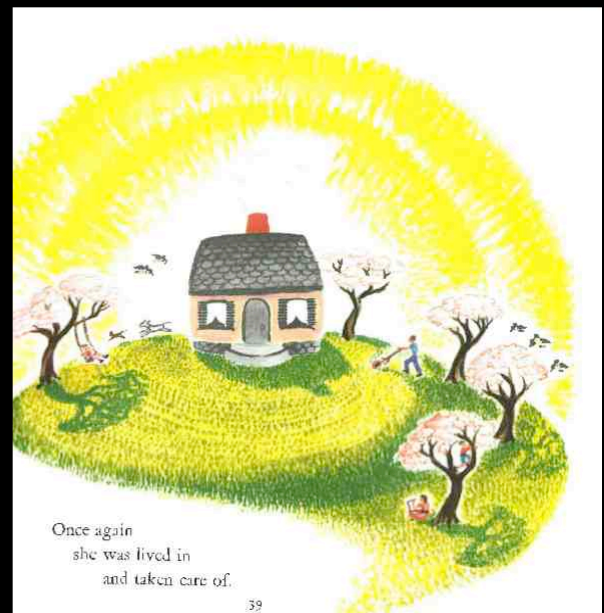
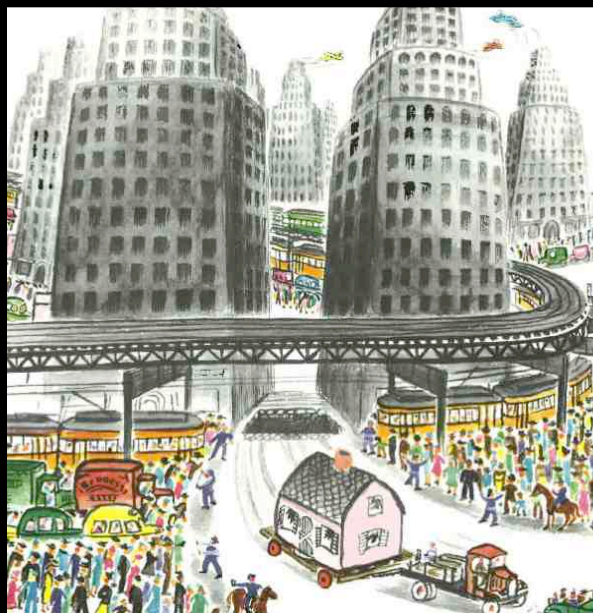
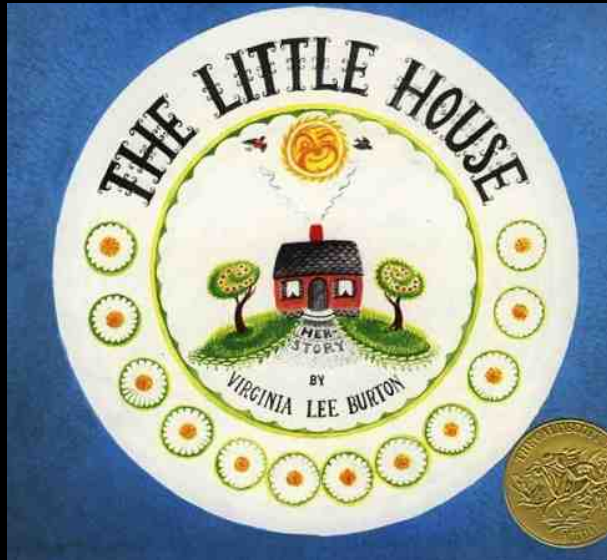
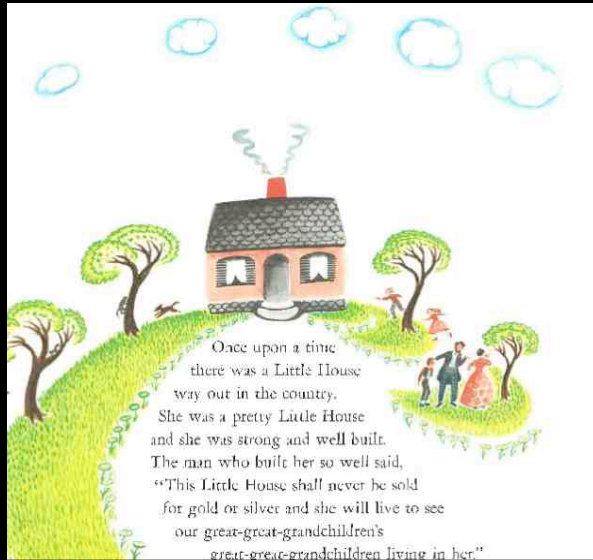


© 2009 RICHARD NICKEL.COM

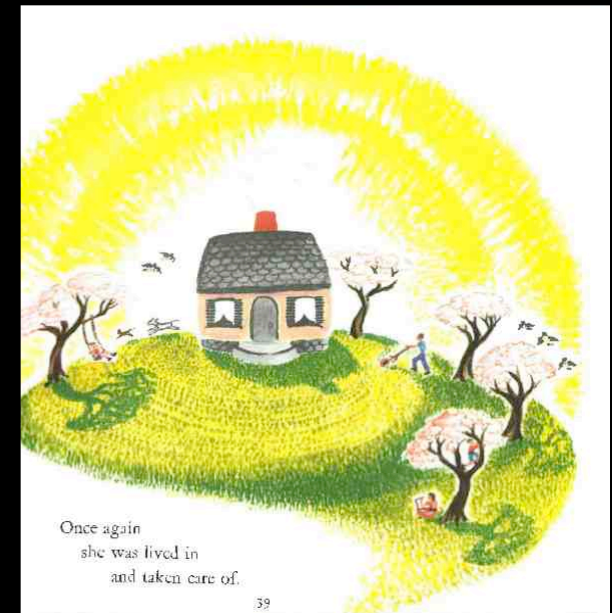
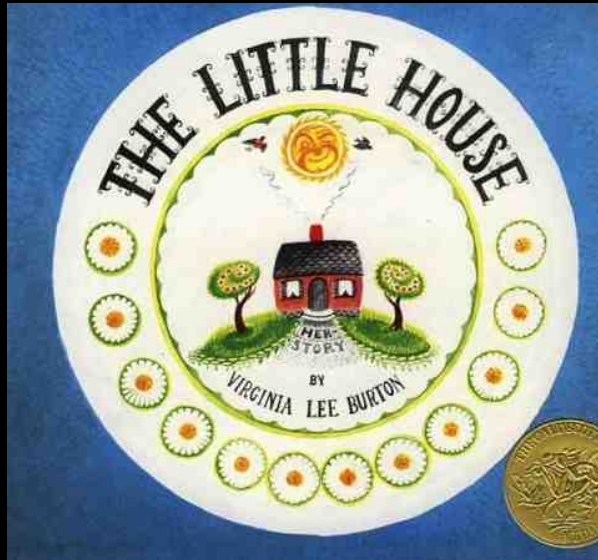
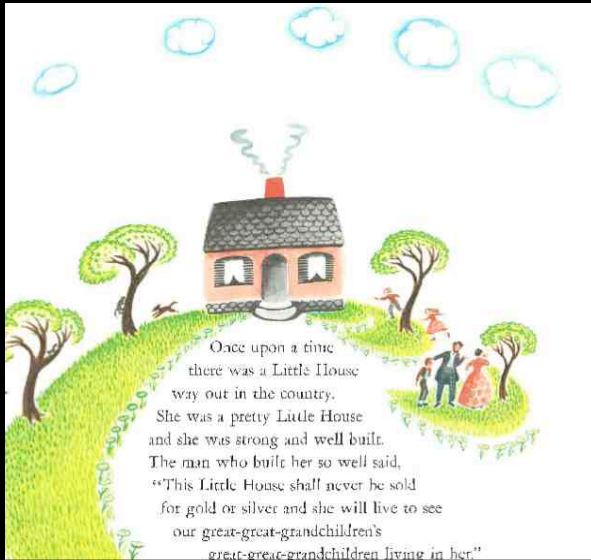
Picketing of the Demolition of Penn Station, NY, NY: Richard Nickel, Chicago.



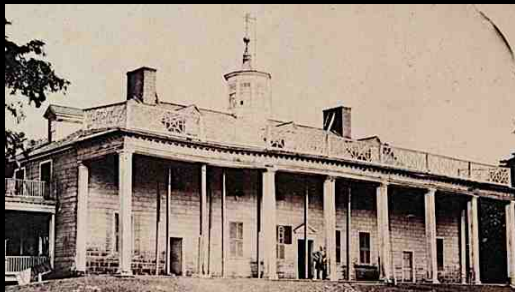
Debris of Penn Station, NY NY; Louis Sullivan architect, Chicago Stock Exchange stair.



THE LITTLE HOUSE: Her Story. Virginia Lee Burton. 1942. Houghton Mifflin Company.



THE LITTLE HOUSE: Her Story. Virginia Lee Burton. 1942. Houghton Mifflin Company.



Mount Vernon Estate

Virginia

Built – 1757 to 1799

Began life as a house museum - 1858



Monticello

Virginia

Built – 1770- 1826

Began life as a house museum - 1923



Alice Austen House

New York City

Built – 1690 - 1844

Began life as a house museum - 1985



Farnsworth House

Illinois

Built – 1945-1951

Began life as a house museum - 2006



Olana Historic Site
New York
 Built – 1870 to 1891
 Began life as a house museum - 1966



Morris Jumel Mansion
New York City
 Built – 1765
 Began life as a house museum - 1904



Fallingwater
Pennsylvania
 Built – 1937
 Began life as a house museum - 1964



Eames House
California
 Built – 1949
 Began life as a house museum - 2006



Little House L.R.
Wayzata, Minn
Built – 1912- 1914
Purchased by the MET - 1972



Powel House Parlor
Philadelphia, PA.
Built – 1765
Purchased by the MET - 1918



Henry Darger Studio Apt.
Chicago, ILL.
Discovered – 1973
Moved to CI & OA - 2000



Eames House
California
Built – 1949
L.R. temp. moved LACMA - 2011

1.

Historic House Museums
& interiors are
educational

Stand, listen and learn



2.

Historic House Museums
& interiors are
entertainment/decoration

Sit back and enjoy



Edu-tainment

1.

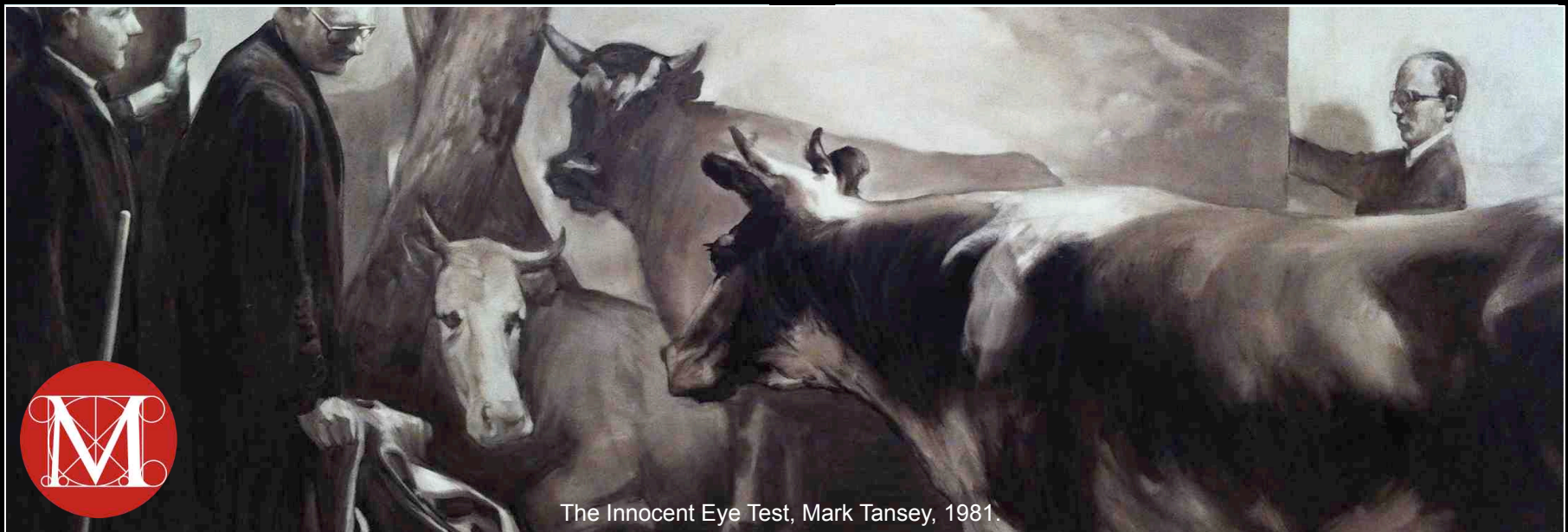
Historic House Museums
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Sit back and enjoy



The Innocent Eye Test, Mark Tansey, 1981.

Edu-*tainment*

Illinois To Close Almost Half its Historic Sites

By Margaret Foster | *Online Only* | Sept. 9, 2008

UPDATE: The state will reopen 14 sites on Apr. 23, 2009.

Because of a budget crisis in Illinois, two dozen of the state's 60-plus historic sites will close this fall.

"It's not permanent, it's for the duration of fiscal year 2009, which ends on June 30," says Dave Blanchette, spokesman for the state's historic preservation office. "Hopefully the legislature will correct the funding problem which caused this in



The New York Times

Real Estate

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION

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Property Search For Sale For Rent Min. Price (\$) Max. Price (\$) Bedrooms Property Type

Enter a country, city, neighborhood or US ZIP Any Any Any Any

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Search History

IN THE REGION | LONG ISLAND

Gifts With Strings Attached

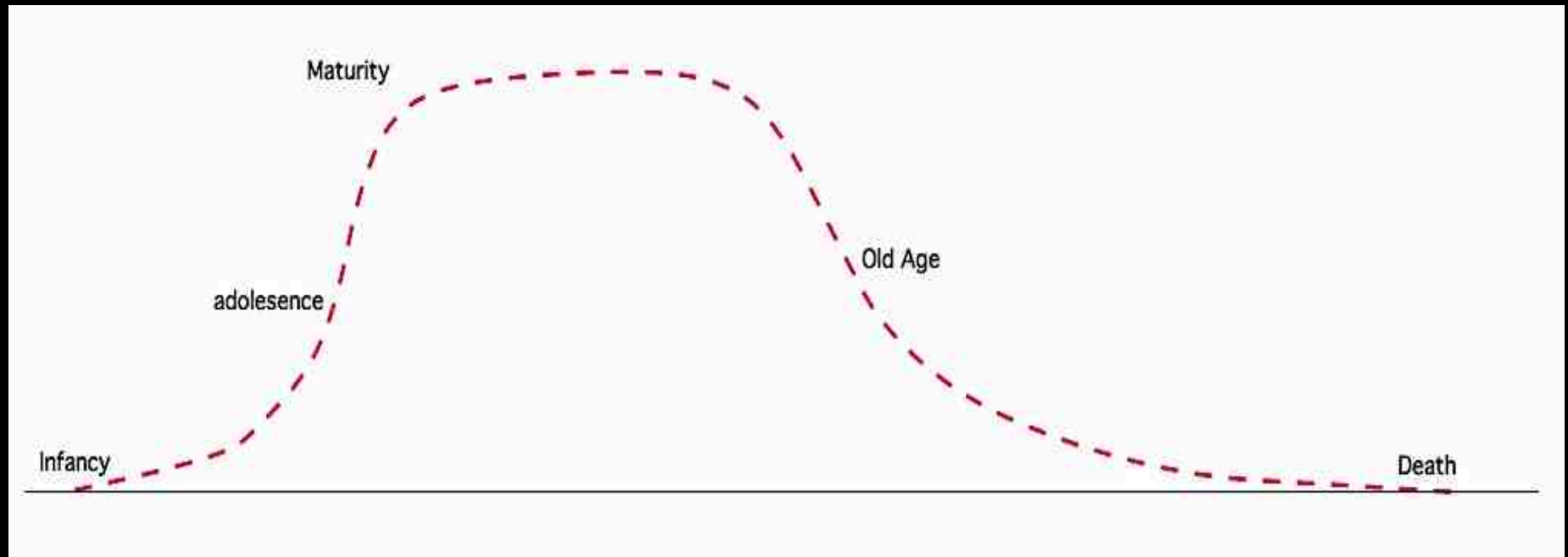


Various newspaper articles 2010-2012 Johnny Cash Birthplace, AK; Whitney Houston Residence, Newark, NJ; Stepping Stones Bedford NY, John Lennon Birth home, London, England.

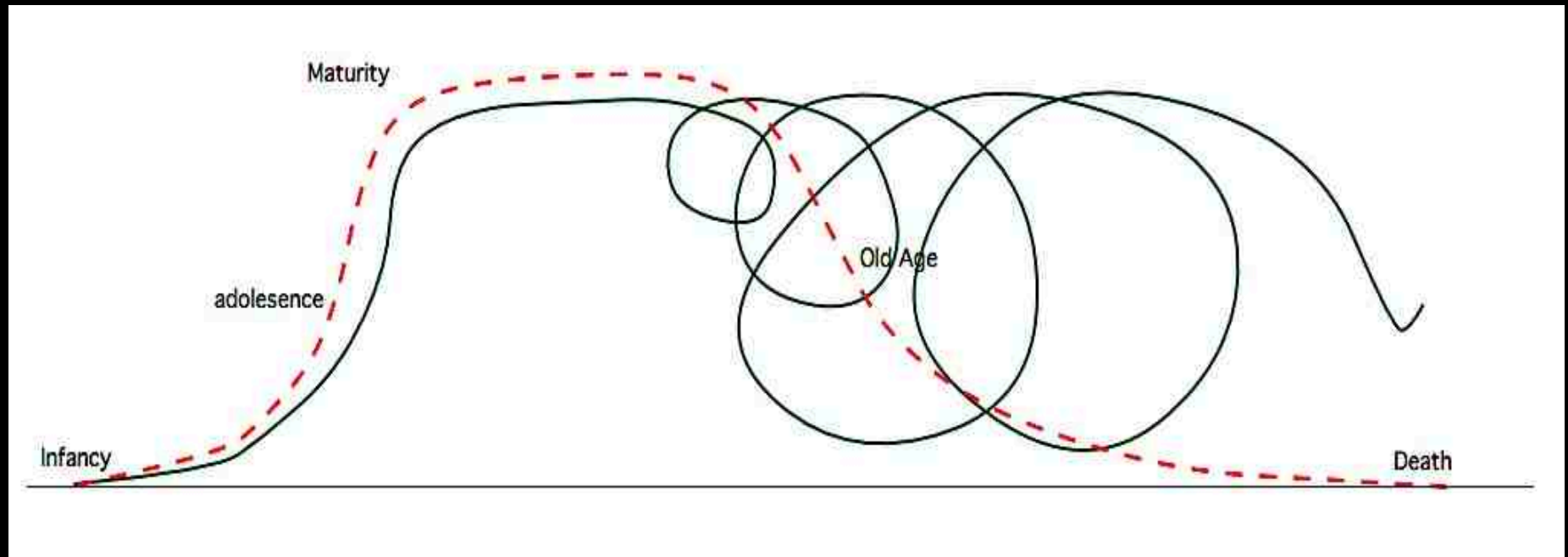


Struggling Museum Now Allowing Patrons To Touch Paintings

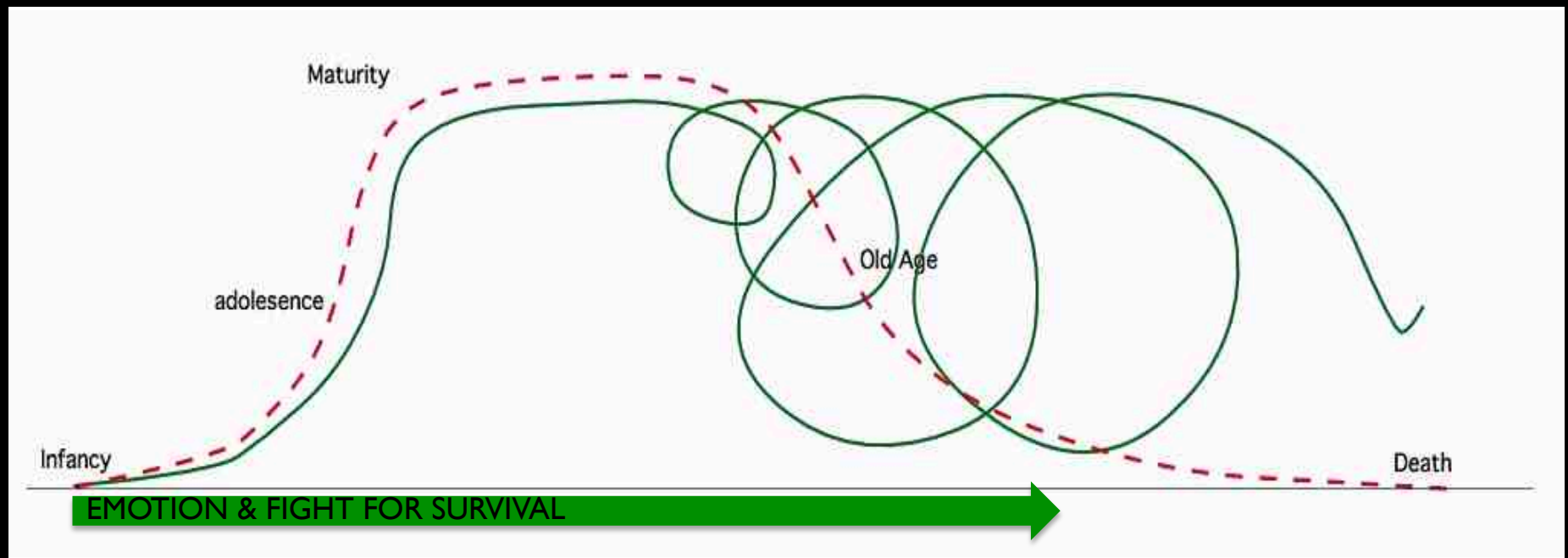




Restored as a museum 1976



Restored as a museum 1976



Restored as a museum 1976



Ceased operations 2011

Historic House Museums are

&



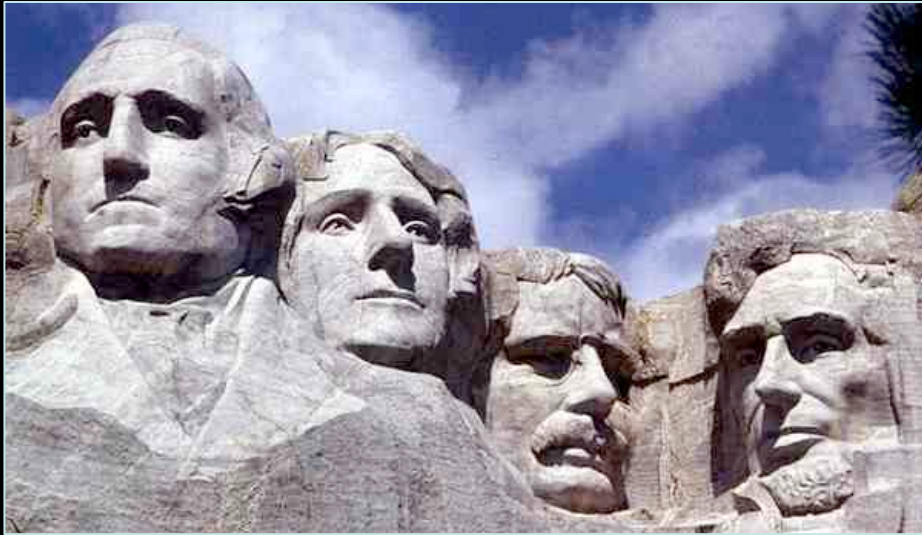
Out of the 86,000 nationally designated historic sites
3% represent minority interests

Historic House Museums are irrelevant & out of touch



Out of the 86,000 nationally designated historic sites
3% represent minority interests

Historic House Museums are political & social propaganda



Stage set for NORTH by NORTHWEST, *Van Damme House*, c. 1959; Mount Vernon Estate, c. 1876; Monticello, Charlottesville, VA, c. 1826; T. Roosevelt Birthplace, New York, NY, (reconstructed 1919); A. Lincoln House, Springfield, ILL c. 1844



From 1992 to 2008 there was an overall 23% decline in attendance to Arts & Culture Institutions (12% decline of college educated).

Historic House Museums are old-fashioned



“I would like a museum that...bought a chunk of the Berlin Wall and put it up in the bathroom...and you got to pee on it.”

American Association of Museums: Demographic Transformation and the Future of Museums, 2010

International Park(ing) Day



Weed Bombing; Guerrilla Gardening; "Re-taking"

Historic House Museums are boring



International Pillow Fight Day: Berlin, NYC, Charlotte, NC



International No-Pants Subway Ride: Istanbul, NYC, Warsaw

3 out of 4 Americans have not visited an Arts & Culture Institution in the last 10 years – when they do it is for entertainment events.

its late afternoon and i am still tired
 this is more like lunch, but poparts will suffice
 going to be a warm one, hopefully its air conditioned
 really? its right there? i had no idea
 camera, notebook, assignment, pen, four dollars, directions
 hope this place is worth the trip: i am leaving way too early
 do i have everything? gah i hope there is no traffic
 stupid GPS, why can't you be more specific?
 not much of an entrance to a historical plantation
 back in and check out the plantation while i wait
 rest of the class is here, guess i have to get out of the A/C
 four dollars? doesnt seem like much for a historical site
 check out the bright yellow paint color! well maintained
 a lot of historical information for a small plantation house
 so many sweet historical artifacts down here, tour departs
 this place is empty? one sweet piano and random artifacts
 mannequin? only semblance of inhabitation
 very awkward space...can picture people huddling at fire
 some authentic furniture finally, interesting to imagine
 what a tiny room for so many girls, stories paint a picture
 benches and some historic photos set story of inhabitants
 most interesting space in house despite unnecessary crap
 wallpaper more interesting than room itself
 interesting pictures from all generations of owners
 more intriguing than most rooms, nice view of overall site
 hutch in column story was more entertaining than tour
 mosquitos galore, more talk about project than rosedale
 glad to be in the air again, and away from rosedale
 how am i going to make a boring place interesting?
 hopefully the pictures are better than the building itself
 for not doing a whole lot, sure worked up a hunger
 i hope the project in NYC is more interesting than rosedale

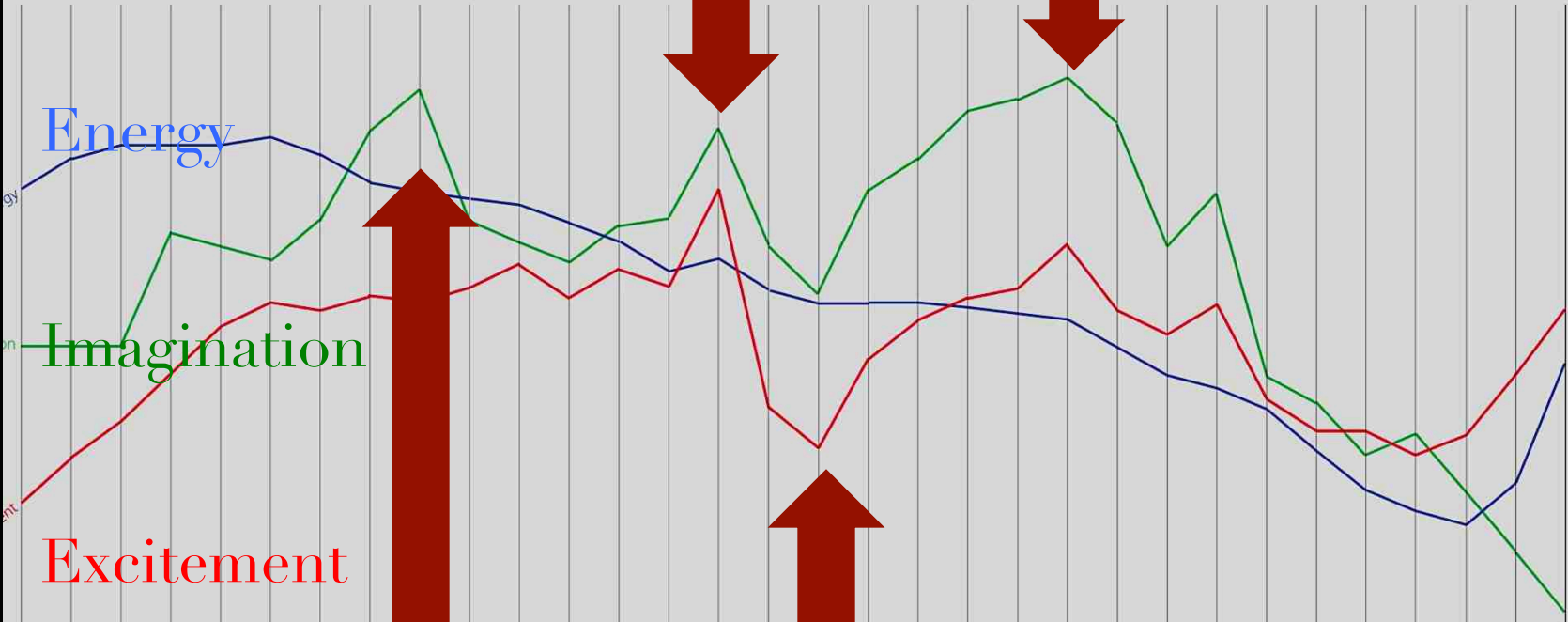




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Re-constructing
a
SHADOW

*Questions about the subjective nature
of
preservation*



“The myth created for Monticello by its restorers is ...that the house was completed in 1809 much the way it looks today...all that reinforces this myth has been salvaged and carefully returned to mint condition; all that does not has been allowed to noiselessly disappear.

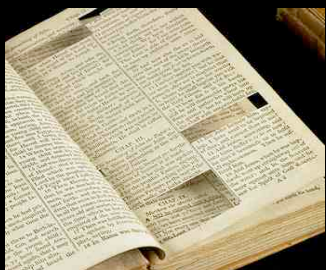


Never in Jefferson's lifetime did Monticello appear the way it does today.”

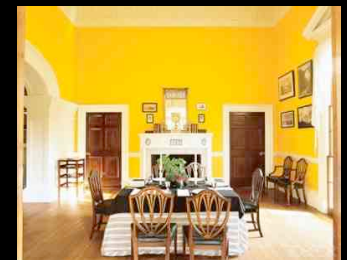





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Never in Jefferson's lifetime did Monticello appear the way it does today.”



Jefferson and Monticello: The Biography of a Builder, Jack McLaughlin, Thomas Jefferson, Ken Burns 1997



Cleaning
the
WINDOWS

*Questions about the cost of preservation
&
the return on the investment*



In the 158 years of Mount Vernon opening as a historic house museum & site it has been in constant restoration/renovation/reconstruction with over 63 Major construction projects taking place.

Approximately one major construction project starting every 2.5 years.

Fallingwater
Pennsylvania
2002-2004
11.5 million dollar
structural work



Gamble House
California
2003-2004
3.5 million dollar RAFTER TAILS



A n s w e r i n g
the
D O O R

*Questions about the mythology & politics
of
“Period of Interpretation”*



Demolition of Matthew Whaley School, Williamsburg, Virginia, to make way for the reconstructed Governor's Palace, early 1930s The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Philadelphia , PA Society Hill Urban Renewal, Demolition (Dr. Paula Spilner); City of Philadelphia Archives; Present Conditions 2012



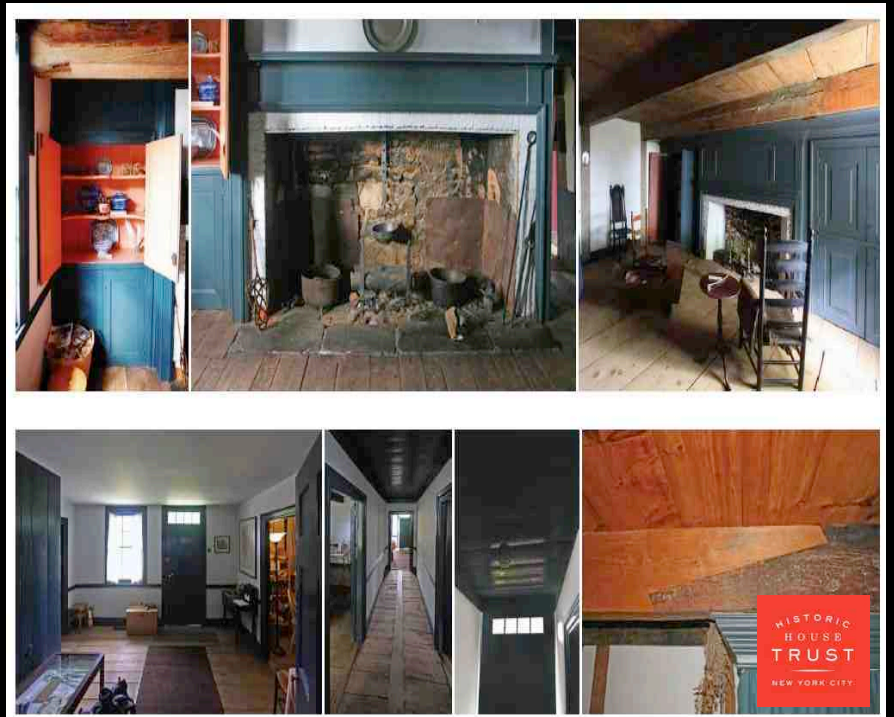
Demolition of Matthew Whaley School, Williamsburg, Virginia, to make way for the reconstructed Governor's Palace, early 1930s The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Philadelphia , PA Society Hill Urban Renewal, Demolition (Dr. Paula Spilner); City of Philadelphia Archives; Present Conditions 2012



Polishing
the
SILVER

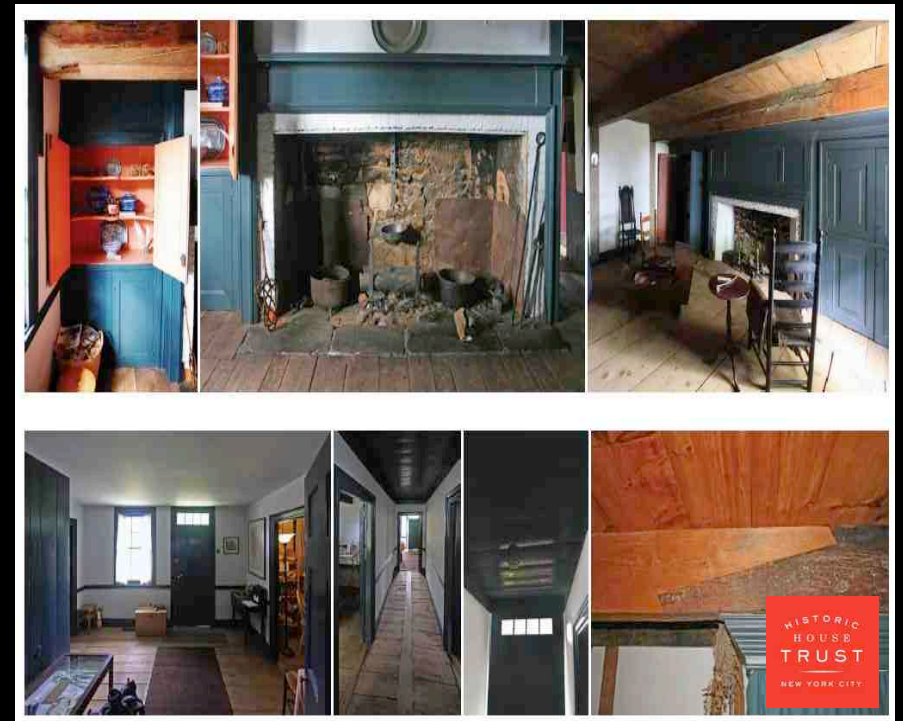
*Questions about the orderliness
of
curated interiors*

THE BEAT GENERATION



PULL MY DAISY (Robert Frank 1959, + Kerouac, Ginsberg, Corso); Mon Oncle (My Uncle), Jaques Tati. 1958; Adriaen van Ostade (Dutch 1610-1685). Peasants in an interior, 1661, Rijksmuseum; Wyckoff Cottage House Museum, c. 1662

THE BEAT GENERATION

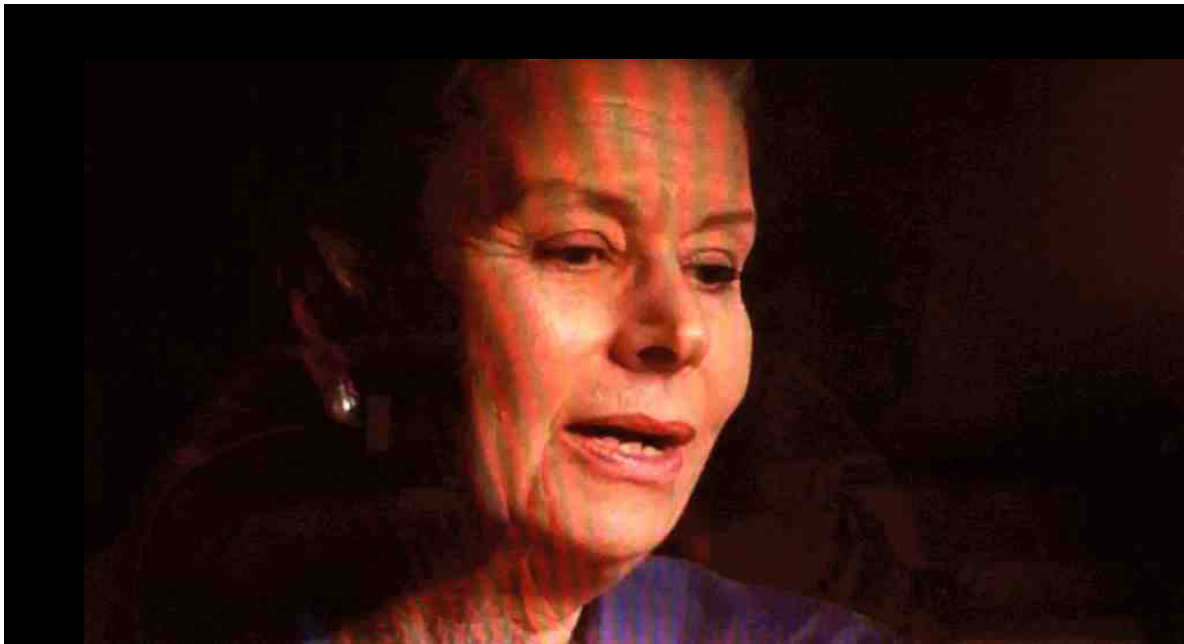


PULL MY DAISY (Robert Frank 1959, + Kerouac, Ginsberg, Corso); Mon Oncle (My Uncle), Jaques Tati. 1958; Adriaen van Ostade (Dutch 1610-1685). Peasants in an interior, 1661, Rijksmuseum; Wyckoff Cottage House Museum, c. 1662

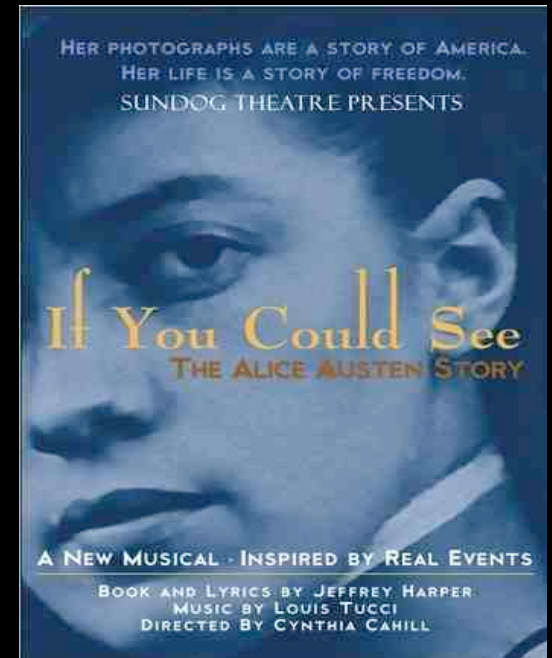


Opening the MAIL

Questions about the simplicity
of
interpreted narratives



Thomas Jefferson by Ken Burns Documentary 1997, 1999 Reunion of Jefferson/Hemmings ancestors at Monticello;
THE FEMALE CLOSET (film clip), By Barbara Hammer, 1998; IF YOU COULD SEE ad. Artwork, Sundog Pictures 2011.



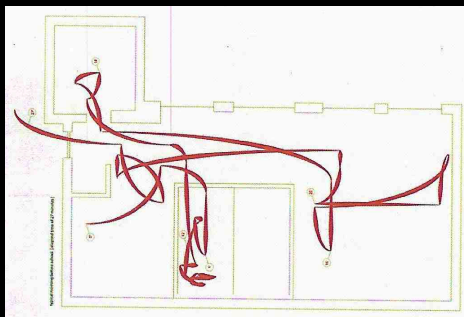
Thomas Jefferson by Ken Burns Documentary 1997, 1999 Reunion of Jefferson/Hemmings ancestors at Monticello; THE FEMALE CLOSET (film clip), By Barbara Hammer, 1998; IF YOU COULD SEE ad. Artwork, Sundog Pictures 2011.

A photograph of a laundry room. In the foreground, a pair of blue jeans and a white shirt are on a wooden floor. In the background, a wooden bench with a white shirt draped over it is visible. The text "Sorting the LAUNDRY" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Sorting
the
LAUNDRY

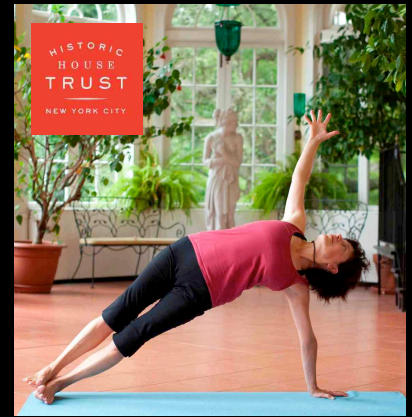
Where do we go from here?

De-centralize the experience: end the passive tour



*walk, stand, sit
just as you would
at your own home*

Film clip from LOVE ACTUALLY, 2003, Directed by Richard Curtis. With Hugh Grant, Martine McCutcheon, Liam Neeson, Laura Linney; UNCC student mapping of habitation in his personal apartment, 2011.



Schindler House Museum, showing furniture interaction,; Van Cortlandt House, Children in nook; Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, corner cabinet bookroom; Great Camp Sagamore (Alfred Vanderbilt's Cottage); Wilderstein House, porch; Mary Lucifer, (American boen, 1944), Video: Sarah's Chair, 2011.

Believe in the intelligence of our guests – stop censoring information



*Embrace complexity &
simultaneity in
narratives*



EMURSIVE Presents Punchdrunk's

SLEEP NO MORE

A LEGENDARY HOTEL.
SHAKESPEARE'S FALLEN HERO.
A FILM NOIR SHADOW OF SUSPENSE.



HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST
NEW YORK CITY

Vol. 2 No. 1
Winter 2010

HISTORIC BUREAU AT HOME
The Historic House Trust is a not-for-profit organization operating in tandem with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Our mission is to provide essential support for houses of architectural and cultural significance, spanning 200 years of New York City life. These treasures reside within city parks and are open to the public.

TRUENING UP A COMPLEX INTERIOR
In this issue, we take a fresh look at the Latimer House, which has undergone extensive changes since its construction in 1770. Through the lens of photographer James M. Graham, we contrast a jumble of time periods to represent the long, complicated history that we grapple with in preservation, finding beauty in the mix.

CONTEMPORARY ART GOES DUTCH
Emergency repairs to Latimer House Wyckoff Farmhouse greets the Dutch Prime Minister

1947

"In their not screaming aesthetic, or at least appearing, in the impulse that dictates that an act of restoration should be so shy as to be invisible"
—JONAS ORENDA-PALLOS

Historic House Trust is a not-for-profit organization operating in tandem with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Our mission is to provide essential support for houses of architectural and cultural significance, spanning 200 years of New York City life. These treasures reside within city parks and are open to the public.

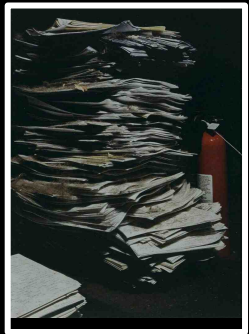
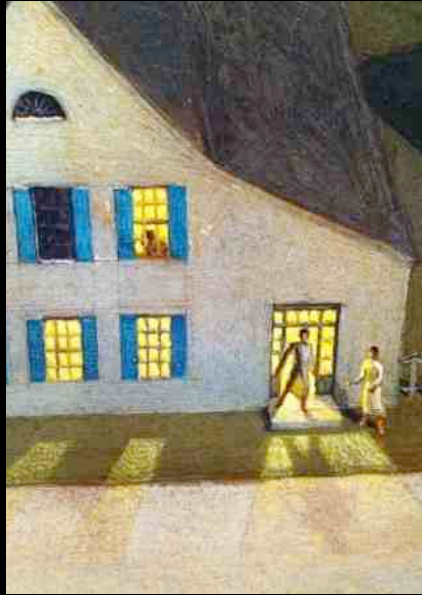
PHOTOGRAPHER SPONSORED BY TRUENING UP A COMPLEX INTERIOR: JAMES M. GRAHAM

As part of the newsletter we do a special feature on the preservation of the Historic House Trust of New York City, the 2009-2010 issue.

www.hht.org

Various images taken from NEW YORK TIMES theater review, April 13, 2011, Ben Brantley writer, Sara Krulwitch photography.

Re-create HABITATION - stop creating magazine spreads

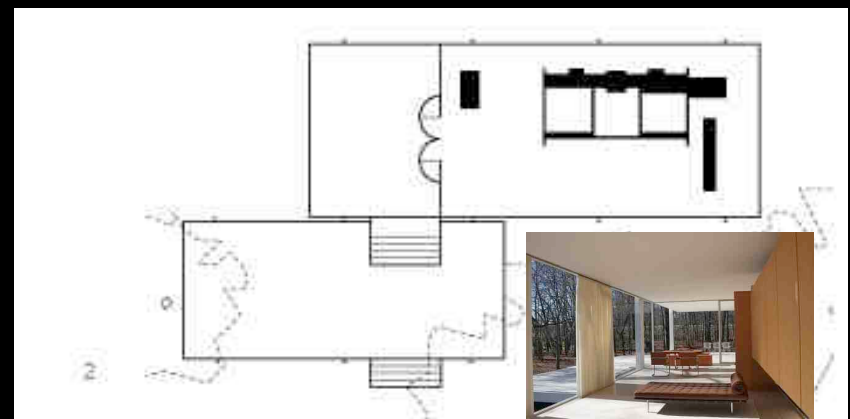
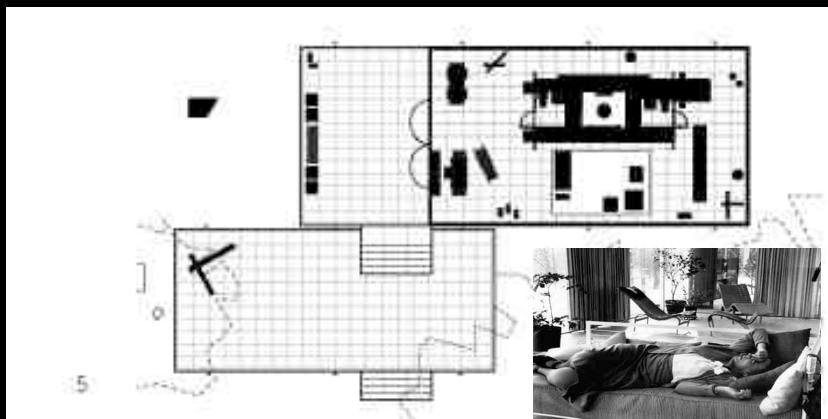


*Create environments that reflect
real life habitation*

“Even if I didn’t want to touch the Mona Lisa, I want to have the option to touch it.

American Association of Museums: Demographic Transformation and the Future of Museums, 2010

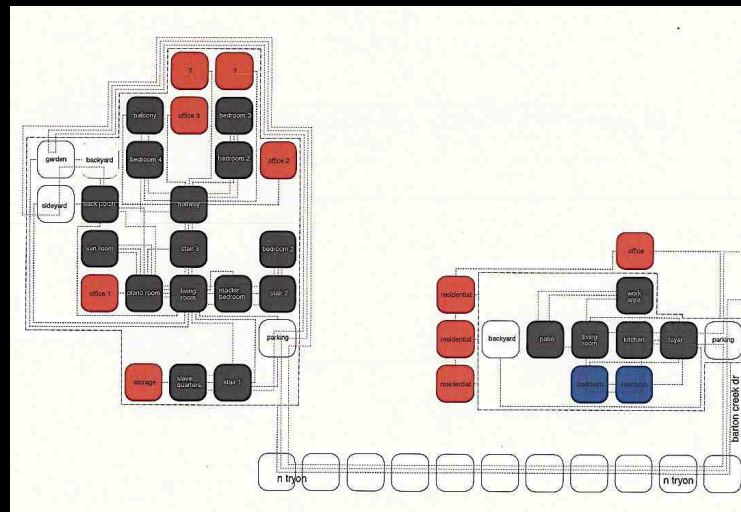
Grant Wood, The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, 1931, MoMA; Fireplace at Camp Sagamore;
The Farnsworth House, Closing the curtains (date unknown); Edward Hopper, Night Windows, 1928, MoMA,;



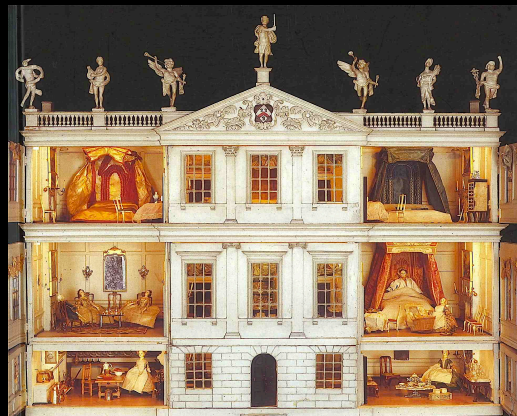
Bacon Studio as reconstructed, Municipal Gallery, Dublin, 2001; ; FURNITURE PLAN. Farnsworth House, Plano, Ill, built 1951, Mies van der Rohe; Actual living layout by Dr. Farnsworth. Farnsworth House, Plano, Ill, ,Built 1951, Mies van der Rohe



Eliminate “denied” spaces



Allow access to
bathrooms, closets, stairs,
cupboards, attics,
and basements



Student Project: MET Period Rooms, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, College of Architecture, Historic House Museum Design Studio, Ms. Deborah Ryan & Mr. Franklin D. Vagnone co-teachers, 2011.

Be honest about the illusion of authenticity



*Embrace multiple theories of preservation
as part of the discussion*



Lott House, Brooklyn NYC, c. 1719 (with additions), 2008 exterior restored, Interior existing conditions 2012; Drayton Hall, SC; Benjamin Franklin House site by Venturi & Scott Brown Associates, 1976.

Stop the “photo-shopping” of images, narratives, and neighborhoods

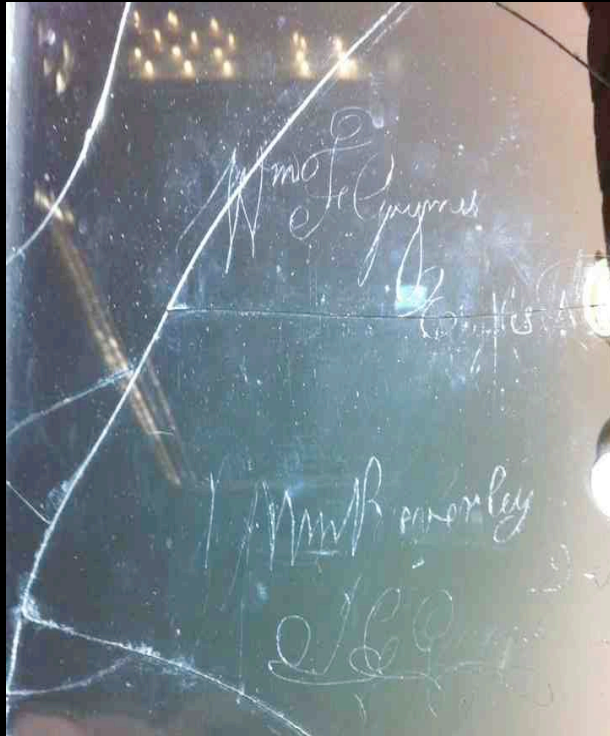


Embrace the neighborhood contextually, programmatically, and in the narrative

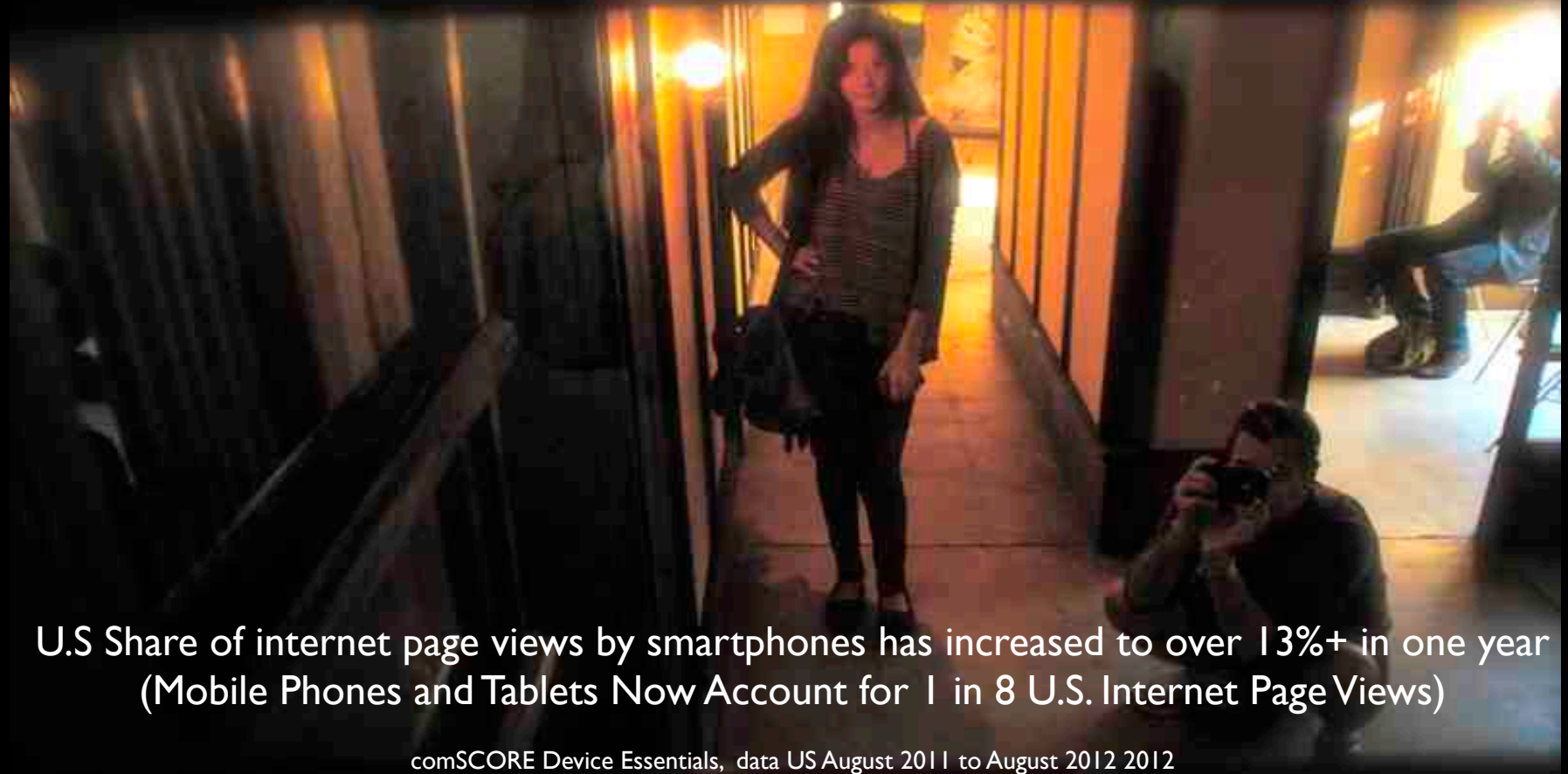
taking the
room outside
the MET



Reconsider all of the “rules” – stop telling people what they can’t do



*fingerprinting
through personal
involvement*

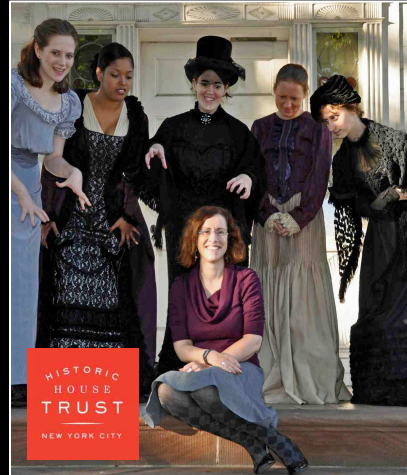


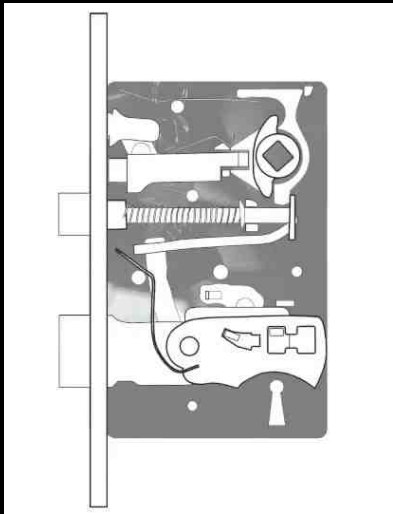
U.S Share of internet page views by smartphones has increased to over 13%+ in one year
(Mobile Phones and Tablets Now Account for 1 in 8 U.S. Internet Page Views)

comSCORE Device Essentials, data US August 2011 to August 2012 2012



Schindler House Museum, L.A., CA. (F. Vagnone) showing multiple experiences using technology during a tour.





PRESERVATION & INTERPRETATION AS TRANSFORMATION

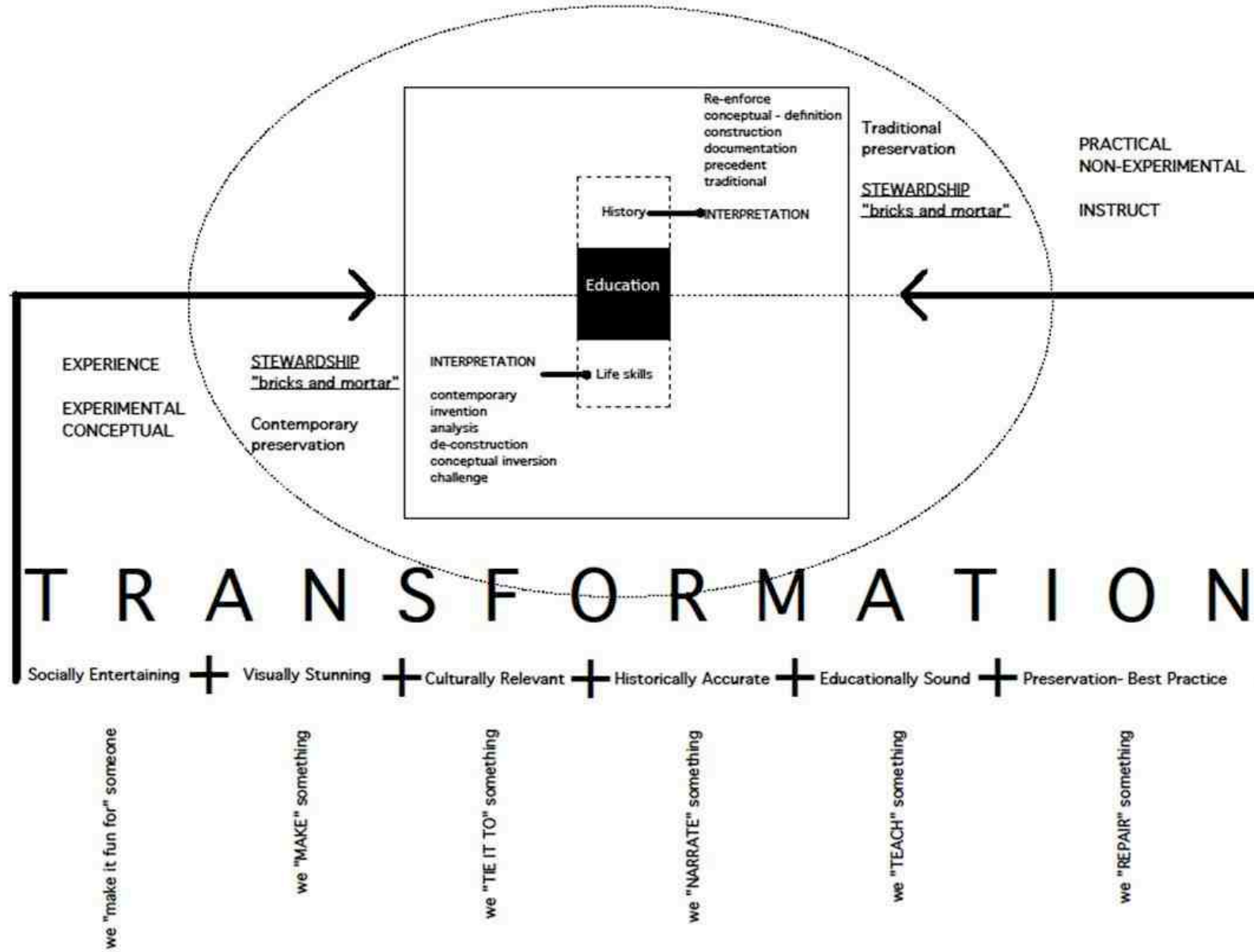


Diagram of fluid historic house management. (Franklin Vagnone)

PRESERVATION & INTERPRETATION AS TRANSFORMATION

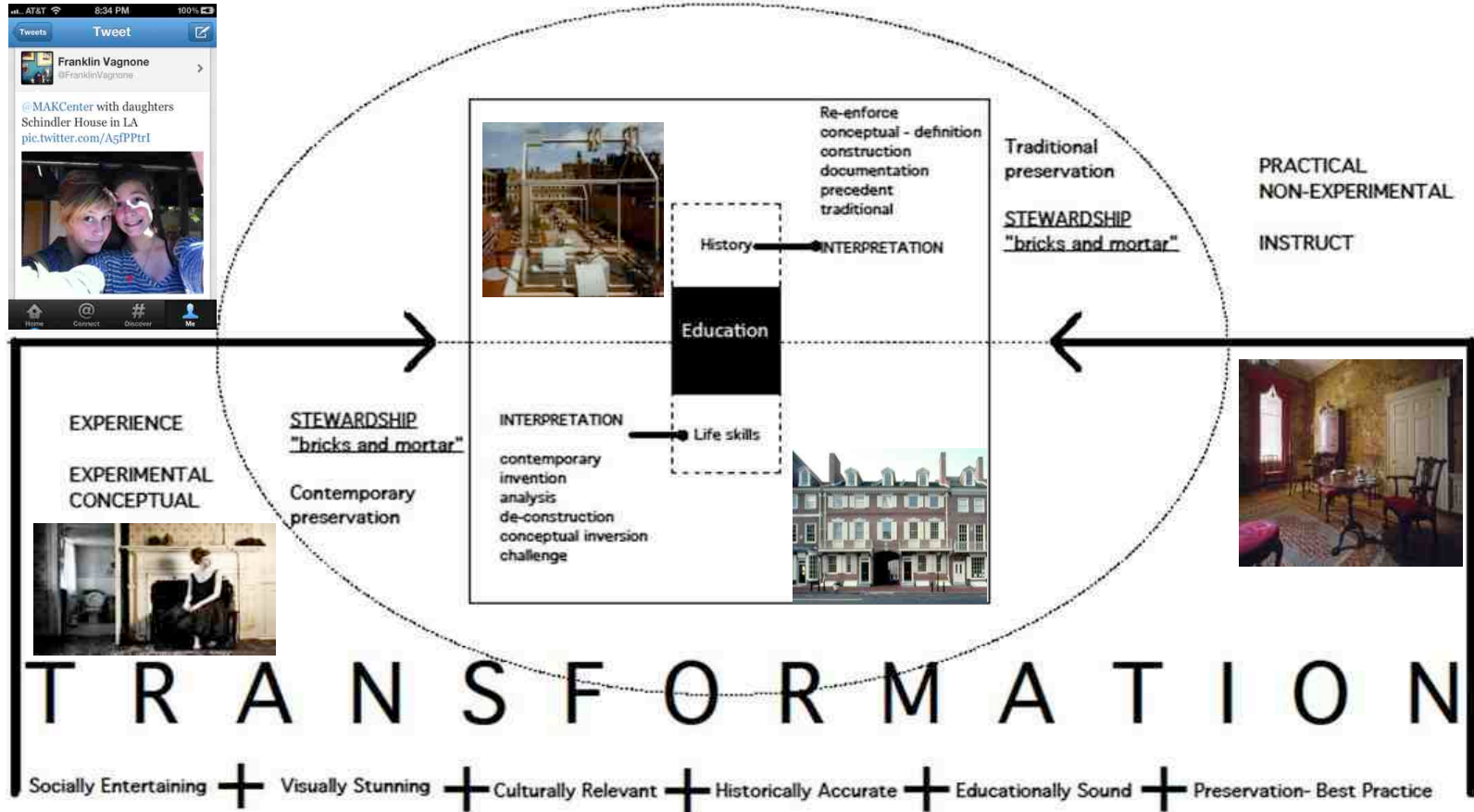


Diagram of fluid historic house management. (Franklin Vagnone)

PRESERVATION & INTERPRETATION AS TRANSFORMATION



Traditional preservation

STEWARDSHIP
"bricks and mortar"

PRACTICAL
NON-EXPERIMENTAL

INSTRUCT

EXPERIENCE

EXPERIMENTAL
CONCEPTUAL



STEWARDSHIP
"bricks and mortar"

Contemporary preservation

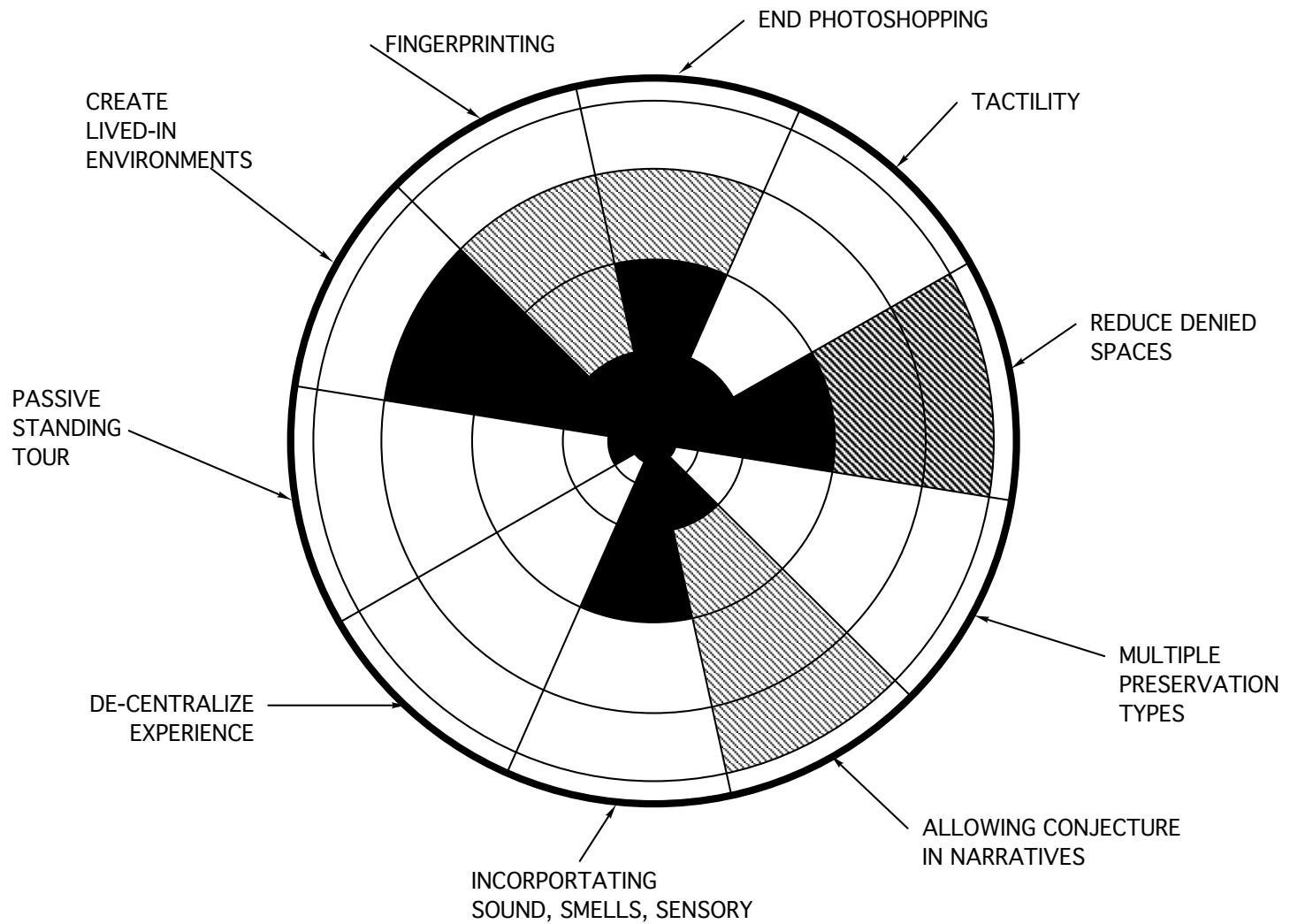


T R A N S F O R M A T I O N

Socially Entertaining + Visually Stunning + Culturally Relevant + Historically Accurate + Educationally Sound + Preservation- Best Practice



Diagram of fluid historic house management. (Franklin Vagnone)





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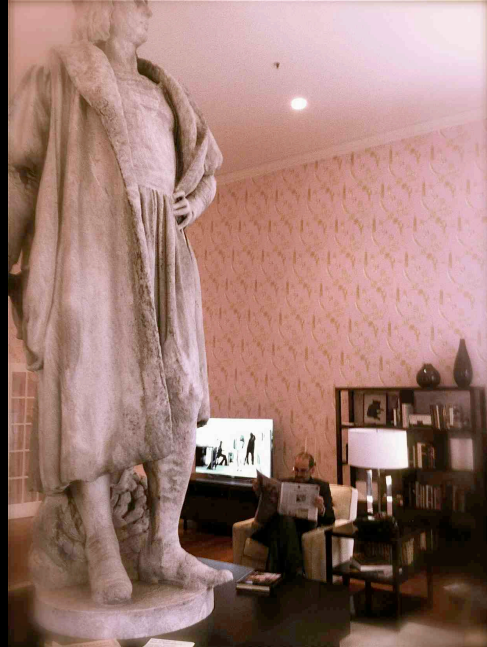
#peopleslibrary has a bookmobile! Designed and built by Alex. pic.twitter.com/jnfrOwM3

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A man in a light-colored shirt and jeans stands next to a blue bookmobile. The bookmobile is a small cart with shelves and a table, parked outdoors. The background shows a blue tarp and a fence.

8 RETWEETS 6 FAVORITES






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