**Monuments: Past, Power, Progress**

On June 19, 2020, SAH issued a “Statement on the Removal of Monuments to the Confederacy from Public Spaces.” It reads, in part: “inaction gives these monuments *power*. By leaving them in place, we allow *the dead hand* *of the past* to direct some … away from that which belongs to all …. History has proven that *progress* is possible, but also that the persistent racial schism in our society will not be conquered without radical, sustained action.” This panel questions implicit assumptions about how monuments work.

“Iconoclasm and architectural heritage in today’s Italian culture” initiates our panel in a place where layers of history are measured in terms of millennia, not decades or centuries. Focusing on Italian restoration of Fascist monuments, the paper challenges the notion that objects produced in the past carry fixed or singular ideological identities and questions the legibility of places stripped of difficult pasts.

Turning to post-socialist and American cities, “Of Monuments and Bureaucrats” shifts the inquiry from monuments as political, ideological or even aesthetic narratives to the power hierarchies inscribed in acts of removal. Who has the power, the paper asks, to control the content of symbolic space – local, state, or federal governments – when every decision determines whose history gets recorded in the built environment?

Finally, “The Black Space of Confederate Monuments” examines the necessity of the past as a ground to notions of progress. It argues that removal of monuments to the past will not remove beliefs in the present. In fact, the hand of the past evidenced in the continued presence of such monuments may promote a counterbalancing belief that communities or nations must move forward. Progress, in short, is never just progress toward but is also always progress from.

A single discussion session will follow.

Architect, PhD and Specialist in architectural restoration, Simona Salvo is Associate Professor at Sapienza University of Rome.
Her interests are focused on issues of restoration theory and technology, especially regarding contemporary architecture, and on the dynamics of the spread of conservation culture throughout the world, with specific attention to the trajectories of the Italian restoration culture. For this reason, she carries out research and teaching activities in collaboration with European, North and South American, and Eastern universities and cultural institutions.
Salvo has lectured extensively on architectural conservation in Italian and foreign universities and has coordinated postgraduate courses in China on behalf of UNESCO. She has coordinated and participated in several national and international research projects, starting with the restoration of the Pirelli skyscraper in Milan (2002-2004), in which she carried out scientific and professional work. She has been engaged with research on the conservation of Rome’s university campus, especially on the Institute of Physics (Giuseppe Pagano, 1935) and the School of Mathematics (Gio Ponti, 1935), obtaining in 2018 funding from The Getty Foundation in Los Angeles as part of the “Keeping It Modern” program for a research project on the latter.
She carries out Third Mission activities within the historic center of Rome, focused on the role of architectural heritage within the dynamics with which the historical center of Rome is changing.
She has authored more than one hundred publications including books, essays, and articles in national and international scientific journals.

Kateryna Malaia is an Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture, Mississippi State University. She studies the evolution of quotidian architecture in times of socio-political change through the lenses of cultural practices and material culture, particularly in relation to the collapse of the USSR, and to the rising housing insecurity in the United States. Malaia holds a PhD in Architecture (Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Program) from the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She also holds B.Arch and M.Arch degrees from the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, Kyiv, Ukraine. Malaia’s writing has been published in venues including *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, *PLATFORM*, *Architectural Histories,* and *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (forthcoming).

Christopher Scott Hunter was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Science in Architecture as well as a PhD in architecture from Texas A&M University. His research focus is the study of the socio-cultural influences upon the design and construction of early African American church buildings in the United States constructed from 1800 to 1920.

Dr. Hunter has practiced architecture for over thirty years for several large-scale design firms in Dallas, Texas. He has also served on numerous city council appointed boards and commissions for the City of Dallas and the City of Frisco, Texas, including the Dallas Landmark Commission, the City of Frisco Housing Trust Fund Board, and the City of Frisco Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. He now serves as a member of the Mississippi National Register Review Board of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, as well as a commissioner for the City of Starkville Historic Preservation Commission. Dr. Hunter is a member of the Society of Architectural Historians, the Southeast Society of Architectural Historians, the Mississippi Heritage Trust, an Associate Member of the American Institute of Architects, and AIA | Mississippi. He is also a professional member of the Construction Specification Institute and holds a certification as a construction documents technologist (CDT). He is currently an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Mississippi State University teaching architectural history and various design studios.