

## Laurie Ossman Ph.D

Laurie Ossman co-founded History & Conservation Associates, LLC with Mark Rabinowitz in 2023.

She has extensive experience in museum and historic site management, including strategic planning, executive search, collections, exhibitions, interpretations, public programs, and academic initiatives. Most recently, she served as Interim Director of Dumbarton House, the national headquarters of the National Society of Colonial Dames in Washington, DC (2020) and as a member of the Board of Architectural Review for the Old Town and Parker Gray Historic Districts in Alexandria, Virginia in 2021-22. She has consulted on collections and conservation for Evergreene Architectural Arts, Old Sturbridge Village, and numerous private clients.

As Director of Museum Affairs for the Preservation Society of Newport County she oversaw curatorial, conservation, research, and educational initiatives at the Preservation Society's 11 historic properties and their associated landscapes. Director of Woodlawn Plantation and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria, Virginia, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's struggling flagship property, she worked with trustees and National Trust leadership on a strategic plan, leading to a groundbreaking partnership with Arcadia, reintroducing agriculture to the historic plantation within the framework of contemporary discourse on sustainable agriculture and community engagement. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Director of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, Florida where she worked on master planning for the 32-acre campus and oversaw extensive post-hurricane restoration projects. As Chief Curator at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida, she introduced an exhibition program that remains in place today. In addition, she served as Guest Curator of the Maryland Historical Society's "Looking for Liberty" state history overview exhibition and was both Curator and Restoration Project Manager for Cá d'Zan, the Ringling mansion in Sarasota, Florida. She has held research positions at The Smithsonian Institution, Monticello, The Curator's Office at The White House and, in 2011, was an affiliated fellow of the National Trust at the American Academy in Rome in historic preservation. Since 2017, she has been a member of the Advisory Council of The Antiquities Coalition.

Dr. Ossman graduated with honors from Brown University, earning her Master's degree in Architectural History from the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, followed by her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, also from UVA. She has been an instructor in the history of American architecture and urban planning and has lectured and written extensively on architectural history, design and preservation. She is also the author of several books including ***Carrere and Hastings: The Masterworks***, with Heather Ewing (NY: Rizzoli USA), and ***Great Houses of the South*** (NY: Rizzoli USA), as well as a primary contributor to ***The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects*** (NY: Penguin, 2013). She authored the introduction to ***Summer Houses by the Sea: the Shingle Style*** (NY: Rizzoli USA). Her most recent book ***The Gentleman's Farm*** (NY: Rizzoli USA) was released in March 2016 and featured in *The New York Times* in December 2016.

## **Professional Experience**

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**History & Conservation Associates, LLC** Principal (2023-Present).

**Interim Director, Dumbarton House, The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America,** Washington, DC (2020-2021).

**Director of Museum Affairs, The Preservation Society of Newport County,** Newport, RI. (2013-2017).

**Director, Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House,** Historic Sites of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Alexandria, VA (2008-11).

**Deputy Director for Collections and Curatorial Affairs, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens,** Miami, FL (2004-07).

**Chief Curator, The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, Palm Beach, FL (2003-04).**

**Guest Curator: *Looking for Liberty, an Overview of Maryland History*, The Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, MD (2001-03).**

**Curator and Restoration Project Manager, Cà d'Zan, The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL (1996-2000).**

**Historian:** Architecture and Material Culture, *The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects*, for Richard Kurin, **Smithsonian Institution**, Washington, DC (2012- 2013).

Architectural History Scholar, **Decatur House, New Perspectives Interpretation Project**, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC (2007).

**Historian, Baltimore's Commercial and Financial Architecture, HABS/HAER Division, National Park Service, Washington, DC (2001).**

Research Associate, **Old Executive Office Building Preservation Office**, Office of Administration, Washington, DC (1985).

**Instructor:** **University of Virginia School of Architecture**, History of American Architecture; Ancient and Medieval Architecture (1994). *Teaching Assistant:* Early American Architecture; "Later" American Architecture; 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century European Architecture (1991-1993).

**Intern:** **Monticello**, Curatorial Department, The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Charlottesville, VA. (spring semester, 1992)

**Assistant:** **The White House**, Office of the Curator, Washington, DC. (summer 1982)

**Consultant:** **Strategic and Business Planning**, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Washington, DC & Alexandria, VA (2012).

**Preservation and Strategic Planning**, The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society, Austerlitz, NY (2001-2003).

## Books

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***The Gentleman's Farm: Virginia's Living Tradition***, with Debra A. McClane (Rizzoli USA, spring 2016).

***Carrère and Hastings: The Masterworks***, with Heather Ewing (Rizzoli USA, 2011).

***Great Houses of the South*** (Rizzoli USA, 2009).

## Education

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- Ph.D. Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia, 1996.**  
Double Concentration: American Architecture, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century European Architecture.  
Dissertation: *Reconstructing a National Image: The State, War & Navy Building and The Politics of Federal Design, 1866-90.*
- M. Arch. H. School of Architecture, University of Virginia, 1992.**  
Double Concentration: American Architecture; Ancient and Medieval Architecture.  
Thesis: *660 Fifth Avenue: A Study in Gilded Age Patronage and Design*
- A.B. (with honors) Brown University, 1984.**  
Concentration: Art History.  
Honors Thesis: *An Interpretation of the Stylistic Development of Berthe Morisot*

## Awards and Fellowships

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- 2011 (March) Visiting Scholar**, The American Academy in Rome.
- 1994-1995 University Dissertation Fellowship**, University of Virginia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
- 1992 F.D. Nichols Award**, for Outstanding Master's Thesis, University of Virginia School of Architecture.
- 1991-1992 Dupont Fellowship**, University of Virginia.
- 1990-1991 Governor's Fellowship**, University of Virginia.
- 1984 Academic Achievement Award**, for Outstanding Honors Thesis, Brown University.

## Teaching

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- 1994 Instructor:** Survey of American Architectural History and Survey of Ancient and Medieval Architecture: University of Virginia.
- 1991-1993 Section Leader:** Early and "Later" American Architecture; European Architecture, 1800-present; Ancient and Medieval Architecture: all University of Virginia.

## Selected Additional Publications, Presentations and Lectures

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- 2023: The Influence of the École des Beaux-Arts in America, and Carrère and**

**Hastings, Whitehall Lecture Series, Flagler Museum, Palm Beach, FL.**

- 2015** **Carrère and Hastings and the American Country House**, Cairwood Museum (Bryn Athyn, PA) and The Ringling Museum (Sarasota, FL).
- 2014** **Great Houses of the South**, Lecture, Historic New Orleans Collection Annual Symposium (New Orleans, LA).
- 2011** Lectures related to **Carrère and Hastings: The Masterworks** in Palm Beach, FL; Greenwich, CT; Newport, RI; Washington, DC; St. Augustine, FL; Sarasota, FL; Richmond, VA; Charlottesville, VA/University of Virginia School of Architecture. **Reinventing The House Museum**, Keynote Lecture, Historic House Affinity Group, AASLH Annual Meeting, (Richmond, VA). **Sustainable Museums for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, Presentation and Panel, National Preservation Conference, (Buffalo, NY).
- 2010** Lectures related to **Great Houses of the South** in Washington, DC; Miami, FL; Palm Beach, FL; Richmond, VA.
- 2007** **Vizcaya Museum & Gardens**, Guest Co-Host, episode #10/710, GardenSMART, PBS. **Philip Johnson at The Kreeger Museum** and **Drawing Architecture: David Macaulay at The National Building Museum**, Reviews, Home Miami Sept. 2007 and April 2008. **When the Building is the Collection**, Presentation, Building Museums Symposium, Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (Washington, DC).
- 2006** **Visions of Vizcaya**, Guidebook, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, (Miami, FL). **The Academic, The Archaic and The Avant-Garde: Outdoor Art at Vizcaya**, Lecture, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens (Miami, FL). **Carrère, Hastings and The Invention of St. Augustine's Cultural Identity in The Gilded Age**, Lectures and Panel Discussions, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation/Florida Humanities Council, Flagler College (St. Augustine, FL).
- 2005** **Vizcaya**, Dade Heritage, Summer 2005.
- 2004** **Curator's Choice: The Grand Hall** and **The Flagler Museum**, Antiques and Fine Art, February/Winter 2004.
- 2003** **New & Noteworthy**, Panel Moderator, Southeast Society of Architectural Historians, annual meeting (Savannah, GA).
- 2000** **Is Preservation Dead in Sarasota?** Sarasota Magazine (Jan. 2000).
- 1999** **John Mervyn Carrère** and **John George Stewart**, American National Biography (Cary, NC, Oxford, UP, 1999).
- 1992-1999** Over a dozen lectures on Richard Morris Hunt as architect and various Vanderbilts as patrons, including: Richard Morris Hunt Symposium, Salve Regina University (Newport, RI); The Victorian Society in America, Metropolitan Chapter (New York, NY); National Building Museum (Washington, DC); Society of Architectural Historians

(Asheville, NC).

- 1997**     ***Between the Bearded Lady and Mrs. Astor: Reinterpreting Cà d'Zan in the Context of the Ringling Legacy.*** Virginia Architecture Symposium, University of Virginia(Charlottesville and Richmond, VA).
- 1996**     Moderator, ***Architecture and National Identity***, Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies, University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA).
- 1995**     ***Rediscovering Art Deco, USA'*** Review in Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 54 (September 1995): 362-3.  
***Collecting and Architecture: The Vanderbilt Houses of Fifth Avenue***, Collectors and Collecting (catalogue of Washington, DC, Antiques Show).
- 1994**     ***Materials and Technology***, Moderator, American Collegiate Schools of Architecture Annual Meeting (Montreal, Quebec, Canada).

#### Exhibitions

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- 2004**     **Curator: *Gardens of Paradise: Garden Design in Florida's Gilded Age*.** The Flagler Museum, (Palm Beach, FL).  
**Curator: 'A Genuine Style': The Beaux-Arts Architecture of Carrère and Hastings.** The Flagler Museum, (Palm Beach, FL).
- 2003**     **Curator: *Looking for Liberty in Maryland*.** State History Overview , including associated interactive program, "Landscapes of Liberty" in association with the Imaging Research Center, (University of Maryland, Baltimore County).
- 1999-2000** **Writer: *The Imagined City*.** collaborative text narrative for exhibition, ***1670! The Man with the Wooden Arm***, by artist Leslie Lerner (USF Gallery/Tampa, FL; Palo Alto, CA.Center for the Arts, Palo Alto, CA; Gallery at Beyer, Blinder, Belle, NY).
- 1998**     **Curator: *Deconstruction/Reconstruction: Environment, Materials and The Restoration of Cà d'Zan*.** Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL.

#### Service

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- 2021-2022**     **Member, Board of Architectural Review,** City of Alexandria VA.