John Dilks, renowned expert on wood finishing and restoration specialist, will present a program on the various wood finishes of the 19th & early 20th Century. The discussion will include the 3 basic finishes of: varnish, spirit and oil as they relate to architectural woodwork in homes and to furniture. Also included will be information on “wood-graining” and “gilding.” There will be a “hands on” demonstration as well as slides of some of his magnificent restoration projects.

John Dilks began his career at the age of 12 working for Mike Kane, a sign maker and avid collector of Renaissance Revival furniture. During this period he learned basic woodworking skills including both machine and hand tool use. He spent countless hours carving, oil gilding and finishing redwood signs for doctor’s offices, restaurants and other commercial properties. John has studied organic chemistry to help identify chemicals and to understand the workings of the many materials used in 19th Century paints, varnishes and related finishes. In the process of learning how to duplicate historic finishes all by hand, he also learned methods of cleaning and conserving existing original finishes and how to arrest the decay process.

In this issue 19th & Early 20th Century Wood Finishes, Alameda Point Continuing Saga, Call for AAPS BOD Nominations ...
The Continuing Saga of Development at Alameda Point—AAPS is Meeting with New Alameda Point Developer

by Beth Kease

Since our last newsletter article in March 2007, there has been significant progress in the development of the former Alameda Naval Air Station. In May 2007 the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority (ARRA) selected a new master developer for Alameda Point, SunCal Companies, based in southern California. SunCal is a residential, mixed-use and re-use developer, and is the developer of Mandalay Bay in Oxnard, Park in Chino, and Westport at Oak Knoll in the Oakland Hills, as well as having had much less impact on development decisions.

SunCal has advised that they are progressing with adaptive reuse studies for the buildings that could be reused and which cannot be preserved. SunCal’s project manager, Pat Keliher, and his staff to discuss preservation issues at the Point such as adaptive reuse, and preservation incentives like the 20% preservation tax credit, and Mills Act contracts to reduce property taxes and preservation easements. SunCal appears to be very familiar with these incentives, which AAPS finds encouraging.

AAPS met with SunCal in May and late August. The August meeting was with SunCal’s project manager, Pat Keliher, and his staff to discuss preservation issues at the Point such as adaptive reuse, and preservation incentives like the 20% preservation tax credit, and Mills Act contracts to reduce property taxes and preservation easements. SunCal appears to be very familiar with these incentives, which AAPS finds encouraging.

SunCal has advised that they are proceeding with adaptive reuse studies for Alameda Point buildings and will be inviting AAPS’s input at various stages of the studies. AAPS has been urging completion of such studies as soon as possible to provide a basis for the actual Master Plan. AAPS is therefore very encouraged by this development. Under the previous developer, adaptive reuse studies would have been performed much later in the process, which would have had much less impact on development decisions.

The next few months will be instrumental in reaching conclusions about which buildings could be reused and which cannot be preserved. SunCal has retained Phil Tagami, an Oakland developer of historic preservation projects like the Fox Theater and the Rotunda Building, and Peter Calthorpe, an urban planner recognized for his “new urbanism” designs, both of which bode well for the ultimate plan for Alameda Point. Several of Tagami’s projects used the 20% preservation tax credit.

The AAPS Board has authorized a committee to continue to meet with SunCal to provide input on preserving Alameda Point’s historic buildings.

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Preservation Action Committee meets at 7:00 pm usually on the first Monday of each month to address issues important to the architectural preservation of the City of Alameda. Committee meetings are open to all AAPS members. If you would like to attend a meeting or would like more information, please call Chris Buckley at 510.523.0411. We are making an impact within the community. It’s fun and informative. We encourage all members to get involved!

FREE trees and shrubs in one to fifteen gallon containers are available, including deodora cedars, lindens, maples, oaks, redwoods, viburnums and more. Call Chris Buckley at 523-0411

AAPS Board Members 2007

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Christopher Buckley</td>
<td>523.0411</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>Jeannie Graham</td>
<td>769.9287</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Vice President</td>
<td>Nancy Hird</td>
<td>523.0825</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Bob Risley</td>
<td>864.1103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
<td>Kevi Brownson</td>
<td>522.4966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Birgitt Evans</td>
<td>521.9177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Janelle Spatz</td>
<td>521.4045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor to the Board</td>
<td>Denise Brady</td>
<td>523.8886</td>
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For more information, please contact:
Alameda Architectural Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1677, Alameda, CA 94501    510.986.9232    www.alameda-preservation.org

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2008 AAPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Might you be willing to serve as a member of the AAPS Board? Do you know any AAPS member who might be interested? Please call Nancy Hird, Membership Chair at 523-0825 by November 10th. We will have three vacancies on the 2008 Board! We need fresh ideas and new energy!! We need YOU!!

STUDIO TROUSSEAU

WEDDING GOWN & TEXTILE RESTORATION

For more information go to www.studiotrousseau.com or call Karen Tierney at 510 325 9142

Showed here is the front neckline of an Edwardian wedding gown (1906), before and after repair.

AAPS Newsletter Editor

Karen Tierney
510.325.9142
ktierney@ixigoal.net