

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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GO UP, OVER AND UNDERGROUND ON AN ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR!

(September 14, 2010) – The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia continues its award-winning **Architectural Walking Tour** season with fascinating guided tours led by a lively group of experienced and enthusiastic volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds who share a passion for architecture, urban design and social history.

Upcoming tours include **Up and Over the Ben Franklin Bridge** and **Underground Philadelphia: Subways, Railways and Stations**. Tour-goers can also explore many Philadelphia neighborhoods, including **Powelton, South of South, Society Hill** and **Washington Square**, or can venture out of the city for a tour of **Merion** or **Phoenixville**.

The Architectural Walking Tours run, rain or shine, **Saturdays and Sundays at 10am and 2pm** through October 31. See complete schedule below (and here www.preservationalliance.com/walkingtours). Tickets are **\$10 for adults and \$8 for students** with ID. Children 10 and under are free if accompanied by an adult. Reservations are not required, unless otherwise noted.

The tours, which originated at the Foundation for Architecture in 1986, have enhanced understanding of the region's architectural heritage for thousands of participants and have received awards and accolades. *Philadelphia* magazine honored the walking tours with a 2008 "Best of Philly" Award, noting they are the "best reason to take a walk."

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2010 TOURS

September 18 10am Up and Over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge

Meet at St. George's Church, 4th & New Sts.

\$15 admission includes return fare from Camden on PATCO

You've crossed it by car or viewed it from afar; now experience this magnificent bridge from a whole new perspective! Walk from Philadelphia to Camden with our guide to learn about the history and construction of what was once the longest suspension bridge in the world. Look down on the mighty Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Get acquainted with the past, present and future of waterfront development on both sides of the river. At the end of the tour, walk through the Rutgers-Camden campus for a return trip to Center City on PATCO.

September 18 2pm Powelton

Meet in front of Zocalo Restaurant, 3600 Lancaster Ave.

The small neighborhood of Powelton Village in West Philadelphia has great stories to tell. Settled by Welsh Quakers in 1682, the village was named for the 18th century estate of Samuel Powel, the mayor of Philadelphia during the Revolution. This tour features an eclectic variety of mid- to late 19th c. houses and mansions of this early "street car suburb." Among the designers are some of Philadelphia's foremost late 19th Century architects, including Wilson Eyre, Willis Hale and the Wilson Brothers. The neighborhood also includes innovative 21st century student housing by Erdy McHenry Architecture for Drexel University.

September 19 10am Victorian Washington Square West

Meet at NW corner, 9th & Spruce Sts.

Many of Philadelphia's most beautiful townhouses are located along Spruce and Locust Streets in this Center City neighborhood east of Broad Street. Marvel at the Gothic Revival windows, Queen Anne Revival turrets, balconies, bays, garlands and gables designed by many prominent Philadelphia architects.

September 19 2pm Jewish Philadelphia in Colonial Times

Meet at the benches, Elfreth's Alley at N. 2nd St.

Explore the city's Judaic heritage and learn about its importance in the growth and architectural development of Philadelphia. Hear about Nathan Levy's connection to the Liberty Bell and the Jewish connection to Christ Church.

September 25 10am Skyscrapers Old and New

Meet at North Portal, City Hall, N. Broad St. & JFK Blvd.

Penn Center, one of the country's most acclaimed examples of 20th century, post World War II urban renewal, is a lasting legacy of Edmund Bacon and the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. Learn how this world-famous city planner based this commercial development complex on William Penn's vision that Market Street would be a commercial thoroughfare and see two generations of commercial architecture: Modern & Post-Modern.

September 25 2pm South of South

Meet in front of LaVa Café, 2100 South St.

This rowhouse neighborhood includes variety of modest houses alongside several magnificent 19th c. churches. See the house, now a museum, where famed contralto Marian Anderson lived across the street from Union Baptist Church where she sang as a child. Learn how the splendid Greek Revival Naval Home, a National Historic Landmark by Philadelphia architect William Strickland, became part of a residential development. See surprising St. Alban's Place, an important setting for the film *The Sixth Sense*.

September 26 10am To be announced**September 26 2pm Spring Garden**

Meet in front of Jack's Firehouse Restaurant, 2130 Fairmount Ave.

Stroll through this early city suburb, developed in the late 19th century, that was home to merchants, workers and even prisoners. Enjoy a diversity of exuberant late Victorian homes and view the world-renowned Eastern State Penitentiary, built in the 1820s and studied by penal experts from Asia and Europe at that time.

October 2 10am Northern Liberties

Meet in front of Liberties Restaurant, 705 North 2nd St.

William Penn stipulated that 10,000 acres north of the original city become "liberty lands." Once home to many of the city's breweries, this funky, culturally diverse neighborhood today is the home of many artists and writers. See the old and the new and make note of the many little neighborhood eateries along the way.

October 2 2pm Banker's Heaven: Architecture and Finance in Philadelphia

Meet at east entrance to Bourse Building, 111 S. 4th St.

October 3 10am Society Hill Stroll

Meet at NE corner, 2nd & Spruce Sts.

Society Hill received its name from the "Free Society of Traders" who were granted a strip of land in this area by William Penn in 1683. Take a leisurely walk through this country's largest, intact collection of original colonial and post-colonial residential architecture. Learn about this neighborhood's mid 20th century renewal efforts and its contribution to establishing Philadelphia as a "livable" city.

October 3 2pm Victorian Washington Square West

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October 9 10am Up and Over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge

Meet at St. George's Church, N. 4th & New Sts.

\$15 admission includes return trip from Camden on PATCO

You've crossed it by car or viewed it from afar; now experience this magnificent bridge from a whole new perspective! Walk from Philadelphia to Camden with our guide to learn about the history and construction of what was once the longest suspension bridge in the world. Look down on the mighty Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Get acquainted with the past, present and future of waterfront development on both sides of the river. At the end of the tour, walk through the Rutgers-Camden campus for a return trip to Center City on PATCO.

October 9, 3pm Underground Philadelphia: Subways, Railways & Stations

Meet at Angel statue, main concourse near east entrance of 30th St. Station

Please note special meeting time. Advance registration/payment required for this tour, here:
<https://pagp.javelinhosting.com/store/Events/>

Explore Center City's extensive transit system and its three main stations. Start at 30th Street Station and proceed via modern trolley (tokens provided) to Suburban Station. See downtown's underground concourse system and The Gallery before ending at Market East Station. Along the way, become acquainted with the Market Street subway line, the Subway-Surface lines, the Broad Street subway line, the Commuter Rail Tunnel and its regional rail lines, and the former Reading Terminal, now the main entrance to the Pennsylvania Convention Center. (The tour includes climbing stairs.)

October 10, Sun. 10am Skyscrapers Old and New

Meet at north portal, City Hall, N. Broad St. & JFK Blvd.

Penn Center, one of the country's most acclaimed examples of 20th century, post World War II urban renewal, is a lasting legacy of Edmund Bacon and the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. Learn how this world-famous city planner based this commercial development complex on William Penn's vision that Market Street would be a commercial thoroughfare and see two generations of commercial architecture: Modern & Post-Modern.

October 10 2pm Merion

Meet at Merion SEPTA Station, inbound side, Hazelhurst Ave. & Idris Road

Explore suburban Merion Station, one of several communities developed along the storied Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. View magnificent estates, grand houses and a spectacular botanical park.

October 16 10am Historic North Central Delaware Waterfront

Meet at NE corner, 2nd & Market Sts.

Walk along the city's original Delaware waterfront from Market to Spring Garden Streets to hear about "the good, the bad and the ugly" along this storied route. This tour provides a wistful and sometimes amusing look at what remains of what used to be one of the most important areas of the city. Learn how Delaware Avenue was transformed from a craggy footpath to the broad Columbus Boulevard that is there today. Both historic and contemporary issues of land use, maritime activity, transportation, urban planning, manufacturing, urban archeology, and historic preservation will be discussed.

October 16 2pm Beaux Arts Philadelphia

Meet at the pool, center of Rittenhouse Square

Explore outstanding examples of late 19th century and early 20th century architecture influenced by the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. From monumental structures along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to equally grand but more intimate residences in Rittenhouse Square, see why Philadelphia is often described as the "Paris of the US."

October 17 10am Rittenhouse Square West

Meet at the pool, center of Rittenhouse Square

Philadelphia's most fashionable address was developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Enjoy today's ambiance and compare the grand homes designed for the robber barons to the understated, elegant residences on Delancey Street.

October 17 2pm Around Washington Square

Meet at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, center of Washington Square

Walk around one of William Penn's original planned public parks. Learn how this square served as a burial ground for over 1,200 Revolutionary War soldiers, then as a potter's field before receiving its present name in 1825. See The Athenaeum, the first Italian Renaissance building in the US, and learn how the Square became home to the publishing industry in the early 20th century. Today, many of the former office buildings are being transformed into residences as Washington Square serves as an important gateway to the nearby residential Society Hill neighborhood.

October 23 10am Littlest Streets East of Broad

Meet at center of Kahn Park, 11th & Pine Sts.

Stroll a charming labyrinth of streets west of Washington Square, a village-like setting right in the heart of Center City, developed in the mid 19th century. Experience an intimate "hierarchy of streets" where the larger style-conscious houses are on the main streets, the smaller scale houses built for the aspiring middle class are on the middle-sized streets, and what was worker housing is on the smallest alleys. See Philadelphia as a "livable" city at its best.

October 23 2pm City Hall & Center Square

Meet in front of Visitors Center, 16th St. & JFK Blvd.

Explore the exterior of the most magnificent example of French Second Empire architecture in the US, City Hall, the largest municipal building in the country and the tallest masonry structure in the world. Its monumental design celebrates Philadelphia's industrial reputation as "The Workshop of the World" and its location provides this city with a strong "sense of center." Circling around City Hall, you will experience a wide array of late 19th century and early 20th century commercial buildings and learn about Philadelphia's transformation into a modern, post-World War II commercial city for the 20th & 21st centuries.

October 24 10am Skyscrapers Old and New

Meet at north portal, City Hall, N. Broad St. & JFK Blvd.

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October 24 2pm Phoenixville

Meet at Renaissance Park, corner of Main & Bridge Streets.

Phoenixville, today a beautifully restored residential community, has the largest number of historically certified buildings in Chester County. In its earlier days, it was an important center of industry and transportation along the Schuylkill River. Discover its charm and learn about recent revitalization efforts.

October 30 10am Art Deco

Meet at entrance to Liberty Place, NE corner, 17th & Chestnut Sts.

This popular early 20th century style, synonymous with the Jazz Age, has been described as having one foot in the past and one foot in the future. Its sleek appearance foretells the debut of Modernism while its use of Mayan and Aztec motifs echoes the past. Among Philadelphia's outstanding examples featured on this walk is the flamboyant WCAU Building on the 1600 block of Chestnut Street, now home to the Art Institute of Philadelphia.

October 30 Sat. 2pm Avenue of the Arts

Meet in front of PA. Academy of Fine Arts, 128 N. Broad St.

Although William Penn envisioned a grand civic boulevard for Broad Street, he would be dazzled by today's "Avenue of the Arts" with its rich assortment of building styles and functions. Marvel at the ornate Frank Furness-designed Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, celebrating Victorian eclecticism at its best. Gaze upward to the dramatic glass canopy of the new Kimmel Center, designed by Rafael Vinoly, and in between see grand late Victorian and Beaux Arts commercial buildings. See how Penn's late 17th century vision lives on.

October 31 Sun. 10am West Chester

Meet in front of Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St, West Chester

It may be a small town but it has "grand classicism." This charming, well-preserved county seat in the heart of beautiful Chester County boasts a wonderful array of classical architecture, designed by such important early Philadelphia architects as William Strickland and Thomas U. Walter.

October 31 2pm Jewish Immigrant Philadelphia

Meet in front of Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce St.

Relive the Philadelphia experience of Eastern European Jews who settled along South Street in the late 19th century. Explore their humble synagogues and homes and learn about their thriving marketplaces that became prominent businesses.

The Preservation Alliance

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia actively promotes the appreciation, protection, and revitalization of the Philadelphia region's historic buildings, communities, and landscapes. A 501c3 non-profit membership organization, the Alliance leads in setting the agenda for preservation issues of regional importance and advocates strong public preservation policies. www.PreservationAlliance.com

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