



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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IA IN THE LONE STAR STATE 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REVIEW

SIA's 46th Annual Conference was held in Houston, Texas, May 18 to 21. About 120 SIA members and guests gathered for the first national SIA event to be held in the Lone Star State. Petrochemicals and shipping were the main industries featured in the tours, which were organized around themes of oil & gas, the Houston Ship Channel, NASA's Johnson Space Center, concrete & bridges, and manufacturing & fabrication. The conference headquarters was the high-rise Houston Marriott Medical Center, located just south of Rice University and a short distance from the museum district.

The schedule of this year's conference followed SIA's customary format of pre-conference tours and opening reception on Thursday; process and historic site tours on Friday; paper sessions, business meeting, and evening banquet, held at the Saint Arnold Brewing Co., on Saturday; and post-conference site tours on Sunday. The conference opened with a reception featuring speaker Marty Melosi, author and Director of the Center for Public History at the University of Houston.

Drawing from his works including *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America from Colonial Times to the Present*, *Energy Capitals*, and *Atomic Age America*, he delivered an insightful overview of Houston's industrial history and how the city was shaped, especially by the refining and petrochemical industries.

Thanks to the many member photographers and reporters who generously volunteered to provide the following tour summaries and photos.

Thursday Pre-Conference Tour: Johnson Space Center (NASA) and Galveston. The **Johnson Space Center**, located just outside Houston, has provided mission control services for NASA space missions from Gemini 4 (1965) until the present day. The tour consisted of a tram ride around the site plus a chance to wander around the visitor center with its many space-related displays. We visited Historic Mission Control (today a National Historic Landmark), familiar from many TV news specials, which controlled Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, and space shuttle missions until 1992. A new control center handles the International Space Station today. The

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Diana Bouchard

The Work, Water, & Recreation tour group poses for a photo at the Genesis test rig.

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CALENDAR

2017

Sept. 14–17: SIA FALL TOUR, NASHVILLE, TENN.
See article in this issue. Registration materials were sent out in early August. Info: <http://www.sia-web.org>.

Sept. 24–28: World Canals Conference, Syracuse, N.Y.
Info: <http://wcc2017syracuse.com/>.

Oct. 4–7: Society for Commercial Archeology Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Info: www.sca-roadside.org.

Oct. 11–14: Assn. for Preservation Technology International Annual Conference, Ottawa, Ont. Info: www.apiti.org.

Oct. 11–14: Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) Annual Conference, York County, Pa. Info: www.spoom.org.

Oct. 21: GREAT FALLS SYMPOSIUM ON THE IA OF THE NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY AREA, PATERSON, N.J. 37th annual event held by the SIA Roebling Chapter. Info: <http://roebblingsia.org/symposia.html>.

Oct. 26–29: Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa. Info: www.historyoftechnology.org.

Dec. 11–15: ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, “Heritage & Democracy,” Delhi, India. Info: <http://icomosga2017.org/home-page/>.

2018

May 30–June 3: SIA 47th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, RICHMOND, VA. (Note date change.) Info: www.sia-web.org.

June 7–10: Mining History Assn. Annual Conference, Deadwood, S.D. Info: www.mininghistoryassociation.org.

July 9–13: 6th International Congress on Construction History, Brussels, Belgium. Info: <http://6icch.org>.

Sept. 13–15: XVII TICCIH Congress, Santiago, Chile. TICCIH's first in Latin America. Info: www.ticcih.org. ■