

The Historic Huntsville Quarterly

Volume 26
Number 3 *The Hundley Legacy: The
Architectural and Urban Impact*

Article 1

9-22-2000

From the Editor

Heather A. Cross

Follow this and additional works at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly>



Part of the [Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cross, Heather A. (2000) "From the Editor," *The Historic Huntsville Quarterly*. Vol. 26: No. 3, Article 1.
Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly/vol26/iss3/1>

This Editor's Note is brought to you for free and open access by LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Historic Huntsville Quarterly by an authorized editor of LOUIS.

From the Editor

I revere learning because it is a fundamental inspiration. It isn't just something which has to do with duty; it is born into us. The will to learn, the desire to learn, is one of the greatest inspirations.

— Louis I. Kahn



The Oscar Hundley House — Attic vent flanked by original brick chimney and 1930s elevator tower. Newer vent pipe intersects history and welcomes pigeons. Courtesy Harvie Jones Photo Collection.

You are reading this *Quarterly* because you have a desire to learn about Architecture and its preservation. It's my belief that to truly learn, you must experience Architecture with your entire body. The feel of hewn stone and polished oak. The smell of new pine. The deep echoes of old stone places and vaulted ceilings. The sight of a precisely sloped roofline meeting the sky.

Ours is a sensual experience, one that is most deeply appreciated when we nurture a basis of knowledge that allows us to describe, to define, to shape what we see, hear, feel, smell, and taste—and thereby to share the experience with others.

To cultivate an appreciation of Architecture, each of us must return to it again and again, adding to our impressions and interpretations.

And to foster this appreciation over time—over a lifetime, over *many* lifetimes—Architecture must be preserved.

The only way you can build, the only way you can get the building into being, is through the measurable. You must follow the laws of nature and use quantities of brick, methods of construction, and engineering. But in the end, when the building becomes part of living, it evokes unmeasurable qualities, and the spirit of its existence takes over.

— Louis I. Kahn

This *Quarterly* is intended to offer assistance to those who desire to learn and preserve our connections to the unmeasurable. The necessary tools include a knowledge of the measurable—the brick, the methods of construction, the terms for the units that create the whole—and an understanding of the arbitrary ways in which we differentiate and divide these so they are knowable. The way we divide our world, in order to relate it to our physical bodies and to our consciousness, appears in the size of a doorway, the rise of a stair, and the design of a façade.

In your own experience—and through the lens of the *Quarterly*—look at, listen to, smell, and touch the buildings around you.

If we let Architecture live, we will find knowledge in the spirit of its existence.

— Heather A. Cross

Heather Cross is a graduate student of English at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she also serves as student director of the UAH Writing Center. She has attended Xavier University in Cincinnati and holds an Art History degree from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, where she minored in Architecture. Heather welcomes e-mail from Quarterly readers at HHQEditor@aol.com.