

A Dialogue Between Old Florida and New Florida:

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Fifth Avenue / Pleasant Street Neighborhood in Gainesville, Florida

### April 12, 1997:

Fifth Avenue / Pleasant Street Neighborhood Gainesville, Florida

Walking Tour: 10:30 a.m. Meet outside Santa Fe Community College Downtown. Panel Discussion: 2:00 p.m. in the Santa Fe Community College Downtown Seminar Room.

### May 10, 1997:

Seaside, Florida

Walking Tour: 2:00 p.m. Meet outside the Modica Market. Panel Discussion: 8:00 p.m. in the Seaside Meeting Hall

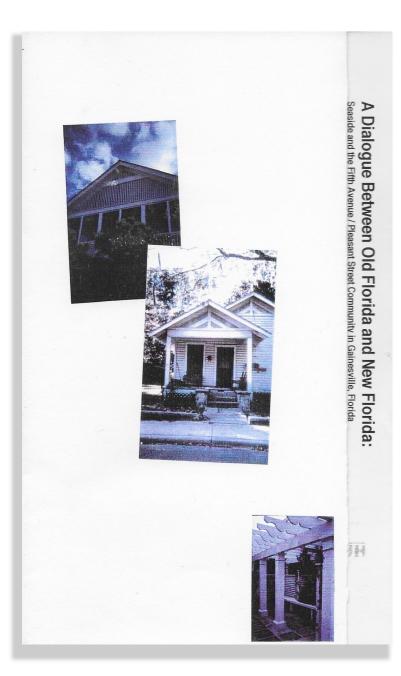
### Through (Y)Our Eyes

An Exhibition of Photographs, Drawings, Maps and Quotations

April 12-May 8, 1997: Santa Fe Community College Downtown, Gainesville, Floirda. May 10-May 30, 1997: Meeting Hall, Seaside, Florida. June 30-September 10, 1997: Various Churches in the Fifth Avenue / Pleasant Street Neighborhood



1514-1/2 E. Eighth Avenue Tampa, Florida 33605-3708



#### Special Thanks to

Robert Davis and the Seaside Community Development Corporation which, as a co-sponsor of this project, donated housing for the Humanities Scholars and guests from Gainesville during the Seaside weekend visit. and

Ruth Brown, Joel Buchanan, Nkwanda Jah, Andrew Mickle, Georege Tedford and Rosa B. Williams for their frank advice and sincere interest in this project, and for their belief in the future of the Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street neighborhood.

Seaside Advisory Committee

Gerald Anderson

Co-Directors Phyllis Bleiweis Executive Director The Seaside Institute Kim Tanzer Associate Professor University of Florida Humanities Scholars Dr. Mildred Hill-Lubin Dr. Anthony Oliver-Smith Dr. Robin Poyner Derrick Smith, Architect Professor LaVerne Wells-Bowie Photographic Essay, "Memories of Vernacular Architecture from Gainesville and Seaside, Florida" Alice Wingwall, with Donlyn Lyndon, Elise Brewster, and Kim Tanzer Exhibit Design and Fabrication Kim Tanzer Tina Mullen Felipe Baharona Rob Bryant David Douglas Bob Hendrick Nick Morisco Navin Pathangay Amy Wirshing Mike Wirshing Symposium Assistants Angela Richmond in Gainesville Kristie Buege, Seaside Institute Assistant Director Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Advisory Committee Ruth Brown Joel Buchanan Pegheen Hanrahan David Herkalo Nkwanda Jah Dr. Lemuel Moore Thomas Saunders Dr. Portia Taylor George Tedford Rosa B. Williams

This program made possible through a grant from

HUMANITIES

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Gordon Burns Robert Davis Richard Gibbs Randy Harelson Barry Mankes James Miles John Packard Cheryl Troxel Robert White Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Photographers Roxy Aycox Buchanan Family Reba Bryan Leslie Cosby Larry Hamilton Nkwanda Jah Larry Sanders George Tedford Seaside Photographers Gerald Anderson Gordon Burns Richard Gibbs Barry Mankes Cheryl Troxel Walking Tour: Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Joel Buchanan Nkwanda Iah George Tedford Rosa B. Williams Walking Tour: Seaside Gordon Burns Richard Gibbs UF Graduate Design Three Studio 1996 UF Design Eight Studio Spring Lunch in Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Catered by Mom's Kitchen Provided by McGalliard and Brady Dinner in Seaside Catered by Josephine's Dining Room Provided by the Seaside Advisory Committee Bottled water provided by Silver Springs Bottled Water Company



#### Schedule of Events

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All events are free and open to the public.



## Panel Discussion

Introduction and Welcome: Phyllis Bleiweis, Executive Director, The Seaside Institute Moderator's Introduction: Kim Tanzer, Professor, University of Florida Department of Architecture

Presentation by Humanities Scholars Audience Response Presentation by Humanities Scholars Audience Response

#### Humanities Scholars

Mildred Hill-Lubin, PhD., Professor of English Literature at the University of Florida, studies connections between African and African-American literary forms, and the role of the Grandmother in African-American literature. She is co-editor of the book <u>Toward Defining the African Aesthetic</u>.

Anthony Oliver Smith, PhD., Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida, researches reconstruction and resettlement problems encountered by people whose communities have been impacted by natural disasters and large-scale development projects.

Robin Poyner, PhD., Professor of Art History at the University of Florida, researches the art of the Yoruba peoples of Nigeria as well as the Yoruba Diaspora and the Yoruba impact on transatlantic cultures. He recently curated the West African art exhibit "Spirit Eyes, Human Hands" which is currently installed in the Harn Museum in Gainesville.

DerickSmith, Architect, was one of Seaside's first town architects and has designed several houses in Seaside. He currently practices architecture in Miami as a principal in the firm A & S Architects, Planners and teaches architecture at the University of Miami.

LaVerne Wells-Bowie, Professor of Architecture at the School of Architecture at Florida A & M University,has worked on settlement patterns in the Americas with an emphasis on impacts of the African Diaspora on New World communities. Her work has included the Gullah Sea Islands and areas of the Caribbean. Architectural guidelines she produced for the Eastern Caribbean recently won an international Ecotourism award for their contributions to the cultural conservation of St. Kitt's historic urban district.







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#### Constructing the Space of Community

At first glance, the town of Seaside and the Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street neighborhood of Gainesville are dissimilar in many ways: One is new, the other more than 100 years old; one is a holiday town of second homes, the other is in the urban center of a middle sized city; many residents of Seaside are affluent, most residents of Fifth Avenue are not; residents of Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street are predominantly African-American, the residents of Seaside are predominantly white; Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street has grown its own traditions and history, Seaside is too young and its homeowners too often absent to have had the opportunity to develop a common history.

However, on a fundamental, physical level, the two communities share several elements central to their respective identities. Both communities are built using construction techniques and styles common to southern vernacular architecture. Both communities employ traditional urban elements—porches, shallow yards, narrow streets—to provide places for shared experience. These components define what is currently called traditional neighborhood development.

The events outlined here-walking tours, panel discussions and a traveling exhibit of photographs, maps, drawings and quotations-are intended to highlight the common framework these two communities share. In the process of discussing architectural and urban principles we hope to develop a broader dialogue about community building. Perhaps most important, we hope this project will begin to build bridges between citizens of a new Florida.

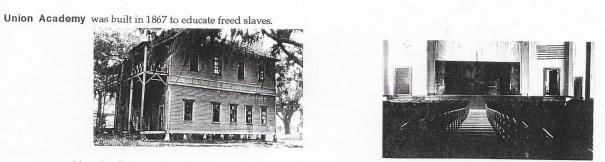
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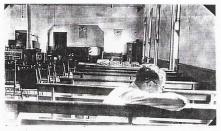






Lincoln School Auditorium was used to educate generations of African Americans, from 1925 until desegregation. St. Augustine Episcopal Mission has occupied the same site for 125 years.





Mt. Carmel Baptist Church is one of over a dozen churches in the Fifth Avenue / Pleasant Street Neighborhood. Lincoln Grill was a popular eatery when this photo was taken in 1938.

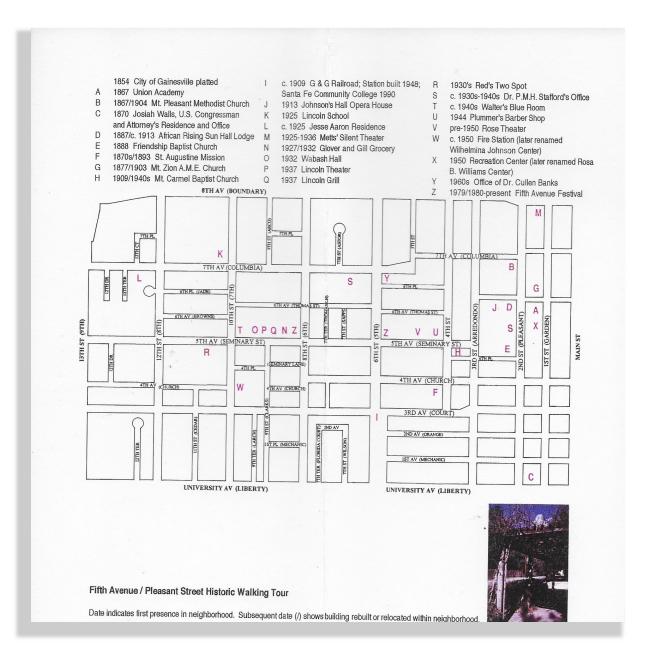




Pool halls such as this one provided recreational focus in the Fifth Avenue / Pleasant Street community.



The Fifth Avenue Festival, begun in 1979, now draws thousands of people annually.



"Through (Y)Our Eyes" compares the vernacular architecture and urban principles of Gainesville's Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street neighborhood with those of Seaside, a much-studied holiday town in northwest Florida. When isolated from their contexts and collected according to common architectural and urban themes, remarkable similarities emerge. In a sense this comes as no surprise, since the designers of Seaside (Andreas Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk) looked very closely at vernacular architecture in an attempt to write an architectural code that would respond to Florida's climate.

Their borrowing is, however, largely unknown in the Gainesville community. One of the exhibit's goals is to juxtapose such images, allowing residents of the Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street neighborhood to see their architecture through fresh eyes.

The second goal of the exhibit is to link architectural form and the space of community. Excerpts from African American literature merge "storied place" with architectural form. This aspect of the exhibit may be of interest to the residents of Seaside, who have not yet had time to develop a common history.

Seven themes are framed in diptychs. These are: The Street; Community Anchors; Commerce; Houses, from Modest to Grand; Porches; Cultivated Nature and Colors. Each diptych collects photographs, drawings, maps and quotations from community residents, archival sources and students of architecture to create a collective expression common to residents of both communities.

### Memories of Vernacular Architecture from Gainesville and Seaside, Florida.

A series of photographs by noted artist Alice Wingwall focuses on a several of streets in Seaside and in the Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street neighborhood.

Wingwall's work expresses an enduring fascination with architectural themes, particularly the porch and the street. In an exhibit entitled "House Is as Porches DO" she looked at porches as "aedicular informational rooms which allowed visual and verbal exchange between dwellers and passers-by." Another exhibit, "Entre Chien et Loup" required viewers to gain information exclusively by passing along the street, 53rd Street in Manhattan.

Photographic techniques used in Gainesville and Seaside, such as the fish-eye lens which captures a wide perspective and close-up shots to focus on architectural details, make the comparison especially persuasive.

Alice Wingwall has exhibited her photographs, video installations and landscape-scale sculptures across the United States and in Japan. In addition to numerous individual and group exhibitions, she has published her work in <u>Building Blocks</u>, <u>Places</u> and <u>GA Houses</u>. She has received many grants and prizes including the Bunting Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Design Arts Award, a Graham Foundation Grant and a Fulbright Grant.

In this project Alice Wingwall was assisted by Elise Brewster, Donlyn Lyndon and Kim Tanzer.







Lunch was hosted at Mom's Kitchen, Gainesville Florida



The Seaside walking tour: Tony Oliver-Smith, anthropologist; N'Kwanda Jah, community activist; Robert Davis, Seaside developer

Gainesville group photo, Seaside Florida 1997



## "Memories of Vernacular Architecture from Gainesville and Seaside, Florida"

Alice Wingwall, Photographer, assisted by Elise Brewster, Donlyn Lyndon and Kim Tanzer.

Exhibited at Seaside Community Meeting Hall (left) and Santa Fe College, Gainesville (right)





A blended exhibition of community members' photographs and quotations, archival sources, poetry, and UF architecture students' photographs

Exhibited at Santa Fe College, Gainesville (left) and the Seaside Community Meeting Hall (right)





A blended exhibition of community members' photographs and quotations, archival sources, poetry, and UF architecture students' photographs

Shown at Santa Fe College, Gainesville



"Through (Y)Our Eyes" Shown at the Seaside Meeting Hall









