7 October 2002

The Jury, AIA College of Fellows, American Institute of Architects:

Linda M. Ramsay, AIA, is in every aspect what an architect ought to be. I am proud to sponsor her candidacy for Fellowship. I have known Linda for 15 years or more and have seen her excel in every phase of her professional and community life.

I met Linda through the AIA, where we were both active preservationists. We formed a good team, since Linda was active in historically important Savannah, and I was active in governmentally important Atlanta. Her efforts to educate her fellow citizens of Savannah have been recognized by the Historic Savannah Foundation, the leading preservation organization in Savannah. The historic King Tisdell Cottage benefitted from her Pro Bono services and is now an important cultural center for the African American community in Georgia. But her concern was not only for preservation in her city but also for preservation throughout the state of Georgia. She chaired the Georgia Association AIA’s Historic Resources Committee and led several “Down Town Design Teams” in their efforts to improve the historic downtowns in smaller Georgia communities.

Linda’s interests extend far beyond preservation. She has devoted much of her time and her professional career to the improvement of the quality of life for the underprivileged and underserved citizens of Savannah. Her Pro Bono work and concern for victims of rape, child abuse, HIV/AIDS, and for the welfare of single mothers and their children are an example for all architects.

Through her talent and commitment Linda M. Ramsay is showing what can be accomplished in historic preservation and community service though intelligence and effort. Her example has enriched her community and our profession.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene J. Surber

Eugene J. Surber, FAIA
# Section 1: Summary

**Nomination**

**Linda M. Ramsay, AIA**  
Nominee's name  
**Ramsay Sherrill Architects**  
Firm's name  
221 East York Street  
Savannah, Georgia  31401  
Complete mailing address  
(912) 238-5906  
(912) 233-9588  
Telephone number  
Facsimile number  
Rsalmr@aol.com  
Email address  
**AIA Savannah**  
September 12, 1982  
Nominee's assigned AIA chapter  
Date nominee became AIA architect member

**Category of Nomination:**  
(select one box)

1. To promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession  
   - design  
   - urban design  
   - preservation

2. To advance the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training, and practice  
   - education  
   - research  
   - literature  
   - practice

3. To coordinate the building industry and the profession of architecture  
   - led the Institute  
   - led a related professional organization

4. To ensure the advancement of the living standards of people through their improved environment  
   - public service work  
   - government/industry organization

5. To make the profession of ever-increasing service to society  
   - alternative career  
   - volunteer work  
   - service to society

**Sponsor**

**Eugene L. Surber, FAIA**  
Sponsor's name  
Surber Barber Choate & Hertlein,  
1776 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 700, Atlanta GA 30309  
Complete mailing address  
(404) 872-8400  
gsparer@sbarch.com  
Telephone  
Email address

**Nominated by**

**Component Nomination**  
**AIA Savannah**  
Name of component organization  

Signature/title of chapter president or secretary  
Jerry Luminack, AIA President AIA Savannah  
Typed name/title of chapter president or secretary  
October 16, 2002  
Date
Section 1: Summary

(Chronological order/secondary education first/most recent last)

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Practice

State(s) or territory(ies) where nominee is licensed to practice architecture:

Georgia

South Carolina

NCARB

Nominee is engaged in the profession of architecture as:

Partner in Ramsay Sherrill Architects
(example: firm owner, designer, educator, government architect, etc.)
Section 1. Summary

Linda Ramsay's selfless dedication to service profoundly impacts the countless marginalized, needy, underserved members of society. Her efforts have ensured housing and help for hundreds, thereby elevating the status of architecture in her community.

As the eldest of seven children, Ms. Ramsay learned early the importance of strong leadership, facilitating teamwork, and service to others. For the past 30 years, she has followed her passion to make her career one of ever-increasing service to society. Using her talents as an architect, Ms. Ramsay has led volunteers on projects designed to help women, children, elderly, poor, and the terminally ill - projects with little or no funding, but accomplished through hardwork and lots of "heart". Her "heart" is further evidence by her contributions to historic preservation and her love of the architectural profession.

Service to Those In Need

"Any community would be fortunate to have you as one of its citizens and leaders, and I am grateful for your steadfastness, loyalty and excellence."
-- B. Avant Edenfield, U.S. District Judge

Historic Preservation

Recognizing that Savannah's many talented architects are in several small practices, and are not able to individually handle all requests for pro bono work, Ms. Ramsay formed a coalition of architects, interns and architectural students to address these needs. The result has been projects that have served the needs of hundreds of AIDS and drug-addicted patients, countless abused and neglected children, and thousands of needy families who have benefited from the crisis intervention, senior assistance, family advocacy, adult literacy programs, and job training offered at the facilities renovated by the coalition. Ms. Ramsay has donated thousands of hours to volunteer architectural services, developing programs to help women in transitional shelters, securing funding for an African American museum, designing rape victims a refuge, and providing spaces for counseling child abuse victims.

Commitment to the Profession

While serving an unprecedented three terms as chair of Savannah's Historic District Board of Review, Ms. Ramsay instituted programs to help both the petitioners who come before the Board and the volunteers who serve on it. She instituted a consent agenda so that petitioners requesting a simple change would not have to wait; she instituted a training program for board members to familiarize them with Savannah's rich architectural heritage and their responsibility to preserve it. Most importantly, she led the effort to educate the City Council on the need to adopt the Manual for Development in the Savannah Historic District and Historic District Zoning Ordinance, which serve to encourage exciting design by the business community, while respecting the unique architectural heritage of Savannah's neighborhoods. The guidelines have enabled millions of dollars to be invested in architectural projects in the Historic District, including work by internationally renown architects.

As the first woman president of AIA Georgia, Ms. Ramsay used her leadership to encourage more women to enter the profession. She has actively organized regional conference events, special art exhibits, and image campaigns - all to bring awareness and appreciation of the architectural profession. Her background as a code consultant was instrumental in placing architects on most of the state's code advisory boards.
2.1 Significant Work: Service to Those in Need

The Phoenix Collaborative
Organized and provides leadership to a group of architects, architectural interns and architectural students to provide pro bono work. 1992 - present

- Phoenix Place

Ms. Ramsay led the design of a 10-bed addition to house homeless people infected with HIV/AIDS. The project evolved to become the complete renovation of the existing structure. The process not only involved the design of the addition, but included securing engineering services and materials, all of which were provided pro bono or at significantly reduced fees. Architectural services were divided among the group, according to each member's areas of expertise, and adjusted to fit each member’s schedule. Coordination of this effort required weekly meetings over eight months. The result is a 3,500 square foot facility that, according to the owner, Union Mission, "... is so beautifully designed and detailed that it simply belies its institutional purposes... The special features illustrate the Collaborative's attention to detail. Simply put, the Collaborative designed this facility as if it were for their own loved ones."

- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Under Ms. Ramsay's leadership, the Collaborative teamed with the Homebuilders' Association of Savannah to design and build playhouses that were raffled to support CASA. This program advocates for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system. The program remains involved in the case until a child has a safe, permanent home. Raffle tickets were sold for the playhouses, which were exhibited at various events, raising thousands of dollars for the CASA program.

- Wesley Community Center

The Collaborative, founded by Ms. Ramsay, most recently provided architectural services to renovate an abandoned church into facilities that can be used for business and computer skill training for women entering or re-entering the workforce. The facility includes a child care area, library facilities, storage space for donated professional clothing, and a kitchen to serve meals.

Christmas in April
Volunteer. 1998-present

- Secured volunteers and supplies to renovate housing for the indigent elderly.

- Led a group of volunteers (skilled and unskilled labor) in a one-day program to make repairs, repaint, and landscape homes for preselected persons who have been recommended by a social service agency. Hundreds of households have benefitted from this program over the last four years.
2.1 Significant Work: Service to Those in Need

Rape Crisis Center
Board of Directors. 1986-1992

- Designed the renovation of a residence to house the offices of the Rape Crisis Center. The Center includes spaces for rape counseling and examinations, child abuse counseling and interviewing, and self-defense classes. Renovation was instrumental in allowing the Center to serve the privacy needs of persons who sought services, as well as provide office space for those providing the service.

- Represented the Center at zoning variance hearings, aided the center in contractor selection, and aided the Center in the construction process.

- In 1998, designed a 836 square foot addition to the facility for much-needed expansion.

- Aided in fund-raising efforts to provide capital funds, as well as funding for the "Good Touch, Bad Touch" program to educate children to be aware of the signs of a potential abuser.

Magdalene Project
Leadership Savannah. 1992-1994

- Chaired a committee that was instrumental in securing funding for the Magdalene Program, by developing an informational brochure about the program. Magdalene Program combines childcare with job training and life skills with the goal of making single mothers more self-sufficient and capable of rejoining the mainstream of society.

- Secured corporate funding for the brochure's production.

King-Tisdell Cottage
Volunteer. 2000-2001

Built in 1896, the cottage was home to a working-class African American family. The cottage, located in the historic Beach Institute neighborhood, now houses a program of art and historic exhibits, tours, lectures, films, fairs and other special events that preserve African American history. The cottage is an example of the type of housing carpenters and craftsmen of Savannah's grand houses built for their families in the 18th and 19th centuries.

- Provided pro bono architectural consulting services, and personally funded engineering services needed to produce a report outlining repairs to stabilize this cottage.

- The report was used to secure funding and bring consensus to the King-Tisdell Cottage Board.

- The work to stabilize the cottage is currently underway.
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.1 Significant Work: Service to Those in Need continued...

Hacienda House
Volunteer. 2000-2002

Housed in a renovated building in the historic Victorian District, the owner had received a grant from the Department of Community Affairs that did not include funding for full architectural services. Ten women currently reside at the recently-renovated home.

- Provided pro bono architectural services for this transitional shelter for women.
- Produced drawings, obtained permits, evaluated bids and provided construction observation.

Junior Achievement - Barlett Middle School
Guest Teacher. 2000-present

- Participates in program to teach 8th & 7th graders job-seeking skills, as well as how to manage family finances.
- Teaches one-hour classes, weekly, for a three-month period at local middle schools. Over 150 students have benefitted from this program to date.

Annie B. Cassie Foundation
Volunteer Teacher. 1987

- Taught class to at-risk teenage girls to help them identify employment skills and encourage them to stay in school.

Second African Baptist Church Child Care
Volunteer. 1986

- Designed the renovation of a Victorian house to accommodate the requirements of a child care facility for students involved in an at-risk program sponsored by the church.

Grady Hospital Pediatrics Department
Volunteer. 1971-1972

- Helped with intake of patients -- taking vital signs and assisting nurses.
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.1 Significant Work: Historic Preservation

Historic Resources Committee, Georgia Association, American Institute of Architects
Chair. 1988-1991

- Recruited participants (architects, landscape architects and graphic artist), coordinated with Historic Preservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and local Main Street staff to present a two-day workshop on changes that could be easily made to improve the appearance and livability of Georgia's Main Street Towns.
- Presented lectures on ways to implement architectural improvements, including lighting, streetscape elements, and landscaping.
- Led the team on tours of main street commercial and retail businesses that had requested help.
- Helped produce a brochure with recommendations and sketches of possible improvements to aid the business owners.
- Participated in Historic Macon's Foundation effort to renovate the existing structure into their offices.

Historic Savannah Foundation
Tour of Homes Committee. 1989-1993
Holiday Doors Chair. 1994

- Researched and edited architectural content for guidebooks that were used by tour participants. The tour itself is one of the country's oldest and largest and serves as the major fund-raiser for both Historic Savannah Foundation and Christ Church Foundation. The tour is also a major contributor to Savannah's tourism industry.
- Volunteered in a number of capacities, such as leading tours and giving speeches, to educate members and guests of Savannah's unique architectural heritage.
- Organized Historic Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The event is divided into commercial and residential categories. Residents and business owners are encouraged to decorate their doors. The doors are judged by local artists, and donated awards are presented. The event not only ties into other holiday events, but fosters a spirit of camaraderie between business owners and residents in Savannah's historic district, where the unique plan has them in such close proximity. The event was such a success that it has been taken over by the Tourism Leadership Council.
- As president and project chair of the Historic District Garden Club, Ms. Ramsay organized fund-raising efforts to restore plantings in Savannah's historic squares, the Massie Heritage Center, and the Flannery O'Connor House.
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.1 Significant Work: Historic Preservation continued...

Savannah Historic District Board of Review
Chair. 1993, 1994, 1996

- Elected by peers to serve an unprecedented three years as chair.
- Organized the first training sessions for new board members, to acquaint new members with expectations.
- Instituted a process by which noncontroversial projects would be placed on a consent agenda, thereby speeding the process.
- Rewrote the submittal requirements to make them clearer to each petitioner.
- Oversaw the adoption of the Manual for Development in the Savannah Historic District and Historic District Zoning Ordinance. This involved educating City Council, residents, and professionals in order to gain the consensus necessary for the guidelines to be adopted. These guidelines serve to encourage exciting innovative design, while respecting Savannah's unique architectural heritage. As a result, nationally recognized architects are seeing their designs being built in Savannah Historic District.

Savannah Development and Renewal Authority
Member. 2000-present
Executive Committee. 2001-present
Co-Chair Master Planning Committee. 2001-present

- Co-Chair of committee that is tasked to produce a plan to guide and promote development in the next ten years that is consistent with the internationally-recognized Oglethorpe model. This plan will serve as a means of reaching physical, economic, and community goals. The plan will recognize and coordinate existing planning efforts for sub-areas within downtown Savannah and will integrate with other long-range community plans.
- Selected one of the most culturally and economically diverse advisory councils in the history of Savannah.
- Chaired a series of meetings to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that will necessitate a master plan.
- Coordinated the master plan for the Historic District with the City's overall planning effort for the area.
- Since Ms. Ramsay's appointment to the board, there have been private investments along Martin Luther King Blvd of $21.1 million, with 123 jobs being created.
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.1 Significant Work: Commitment to the Profession

Women in Architecture Atlanta
Member 1979-1983
President 1981 and 1982

- Helped to organize Women in Architecture Atlanta (WIA/Atlanta).
- During her presidency, a public art exhibit was held at the High Museum of Art, featuring the National Women Architects Historical Boards Exhibit. WIA/Atlanta obtained copies of the boards and had them printed and mounted for hanging in the museum. The show coincided with the AIA/Atlanta chapter “Archifest”. An opening reception was sponsored by WIA/Atlanta architects in which the public and AIA members were invited.

American Institute of Architects
Member. 1982-present

2002

- Serves Savannah AIA as Honor Awards Chair.
- Liaison to Section 106 hearings of the Federal Transit Administration. Using her architectural background with other projects, Ms. Ramsay recommended a system of “filtering” to evaluate sites, which is now being used by the City and County to locate a controversial transit center.

1999-Present

- Serves on Georgia Association AIA, Architectural Foundation Board of Directors (1999-present). Advances the image of the profession of architecture to the public. Provides scholarships for students attending Georgia’s architectural colleges.

1995-Present

- Founding member of the Urban Design Team, a task force that is called together to educate the public and organize charrettes on architectural issues, to seek input and consensus within the architectural community, and protect Savannah’s fragile architectural heritage.

1990-Present


1985-1995

- Served on the Board of Directors of Georgia Association AIA, 1985-1995.
- Represented the interest of the South Georgia Chapter at virtually every quarterly meeting.
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.1 Significant Work: Commitment to the Profession continued...

1989-1993

- Served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the Georgia Association AIA.
- First woman to be elected as President of AIA Georgia.
- As Treasurer, began the process of providing a narrative to go with each budget item to better explain to members where their money was going.
- As President, attempted to minimize the impact of Interior Design Registration by extensive lobbying and education effort to explain the difference between title and practice legislation.
- As President, established the first committee for Sustainable Architecture.
- Worked to strengthen ties with code officials by seeking linkage with their organizations, appointing a code committee, and speaking at code conferences.
- Hosted AIA 1992 South Atlantic Regional Conference.
- Worked with the Georgia Legislature to establish Georgia's "Good Samaritan Law". The law provides qualified immunity for architects and engineers donating, without compensation, their design services.

1986

- President 1986 South Georgia Chapter AIA.
- Selected speakers and organized meetings.
- Handled chapter's finances when treasurer left after two meetings initiated a more formal treasurer's report.

1982-1984

- Appointed South Atlantic Regional Representative AIA Women in Architecture, tasked with recognizing and encouraging the presence of women as architects in the South Atlantic Region.
- Organized the first meeting of women architects in the South Atlantic Region at the South Atlantic Regional Conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1982. Secured the funding and speakers for this meeting.
2.1 Significant Work: Commitment to the Profession continued...

1984

- Organized a public exhibit on Art in Architecture at the Historic Scarbough House in Savannah. The exhibit showcased the design process (both current and historically) by displaying renderings and working sketches showing the process of design. The exhibit also featured a lecture on "Art and Architecture" by Stanley Abercrombie, then editor of Interior Design Magazine.

- Founding member of a committee that established Savannah's first Archifest to familiarize the community with the role of an architect through a series of public events.

Department of Community Affairs
Industrialized Buildings Committee
Board of Directors. 1993-present

- Advised committee of issues relating to codes on one of Georgia's major industries. Helped to draft legislation to regulate industry in a way to protect life safely.

Savannah College Art and Design
Juror/Guest Lecturer/Mentor. 1986-present

- Served on a number of student juries.
- Served as guest lecturer and on professional panels.
- Served as mentor to student throughout thesis project, providing advice and guidance and attending juries. The student has since become a registered architect.

Savannah High School/Savannah Technical College
Advisor. 1986-present

- Served as advisor and juror first to drafting department at Savannah High School and later at Savannah Technical College. Evaluated programs and advised faculty about coursework that would be helpful in securing employment for students.
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.1 Significant Work: Commitment to the Profession continued...

Chatham Commerce Club
President. 1998
Board of Directors. 1993, 1997

An organization established to promote a spirit of cooperation and understanding among members, to provide a network of professional contacts, to contribute to the mutual education and encouragement of members, and to promote the recognition of the contribution of its members to the community.

- This business/civic/political organization's main goal is advancement of women in leadership positions.
- Led a committee to honor a founding member of the Club, who served as the first woman president of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce.
- Secured funding and established an award to recognize the accomplishment of women entrepreneurs.
2.2 Significant Awards, Honors, and Recognition

2000  Rotary Club of Savannah, Southside  
Certification of Appreciation for valuable contribution to the effort to help the community by helping the elderly advance their quality of life.

1999  Wesley Community Centers of Savannah  
Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of valuable volunteer contributions to Wesley Community Centers of Savannah.

1997  Historic Preservation Award  
In grateful recognition of outstanding accomplishment in preservation and protection of Savannah's distinctive heritage.  
217 Alice Street  
Historic Savannah Foundation

1997  AIA Georgia  
For a pro bono effort of collaborative design and construction of an addition to Phoenix Place, a transitional living facility for homeless persons with HIV/AIDS.

1994  Historic Preservation Award  
This award recognizes an excellent and compatible addition to the rear of this 1883 house.  
Ed Brennan House Addition  
Historic Savannah Foundation

1993  Union Mission - Phoenix Place  
Specifically commissioned artwork presented in appreciation for unique contribution in design of the addition. Room dedicated at Phoenix Place in the name of the group Ms.Ramsay organized, in appreciation of the work the group had performed.

1993  Savannah Area Council of Garden Club  
Certificate of recognition for distinguished accomplishment.

1993  Bronze Metal  
Georgia Association of American Institute of Architects  
In appreciation of her loyalty, dedication, and service during her presidency, which reflected credit to AIA Georgia, an Association of The American Institute of Architects, and to the profession of Architecture.
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.2 Significant Awards, Honors, and Recognition continued...

1992 Rape Crisis Center
Certificate of appreciation for generous service.

1975 Georgia Institute of Technology
Design Team Award
Member of Design Team to design a village for Mother Earth.

1974 Georgia Institute of Technology
Design Team Award
Member of Design Team for redesign of downtown Conyers.

1965-66 Clemson University
First woman appointed to Financial Review Board -- set up program to answer students' questions regarding school finances in the student newspaper.
2.3 Publications

2001 Peabody Residence
   Host: Joe Ruggerio
   Restore America, House and Garden Television

2000 Zezza Residences
   Host: Bob Vila, Bill Gross
   Restore America, House and Garden Television

1999 Historic Preservation Seminar
   Author: Kim Hendrix
   Savannah Morning News, March 7, 1999

1999 Connect Savannah “Career by Design”
   Author: Ann Ladd
   Connect Savannah, May 1999

1998-1999 U.S. Courthouse Annex Building Savannah, Georgia
   Author: Staff
   Justice Facilities Review, AIA Committee on Architecture for Justice

1998 Cleaning up the “Lady with a Dirty Face”
   Author: Michael Sebacher

1997 $65 Million Courthouse
   Author: Michael Sebacher

   Based on an original story by John Grisham
   Polygram, 1997

1997 Project Achievement
   Author: Staff

1996 Federal Courthouses
   Author: Hedi Landecker
   Architecture, January 1996
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.3 Publications continued...

1994 Phoenix II Dedication
   Author: Jennifer Rust
   The Georgia Guardian, August 12-18, 1994

1994 Outstanding Preservation Efforts
   Author: Staff
   Entablature, Historic Savannah Foundation, Nov./Dec. 1994

1993 Designers of Dreams – Architects with Heart
   Author: Brandie Haywood
   Union Mission "Notes" May 1993

1991 Executive Decisions
   Author: Jane Fishman

1987-1990 Savannah Tour of Gardens and Homes
   Author: Lirida M. Ramsay, AIA
   Historic Savannah Foundation/
   Christ Episcopal Church

1984 Architecture as a Profession
   Author: Josh Lamb
   Montessori Monthly
Section 2. Accomplishments

2.4 Lectures and Presentations

2001  The Importance of the Federal Courthouse Annex to the City of Savannah
       Chamber of Commerce
       Savannah, Georgia

2000  Savannah's Architectural History
       United States Congressional Delegation
       Savannah, Georgia

2000  Architectural Design in Savannah's Landmark Historic District
       Historic Savannah Foundation
       Savannah, Georgia

       Savannah/Chatham County Municipal Association
       Pooler, Georgia

1999  The Accomplishments of Women in the Architectural Profession
       Savannah College of Art and Design
       Savannah, Georgia

1998  How to Form a Collaborative for Community Work
       Women in Architecture
       Atlanta, Georgia

1995  The Importance of Codes in an Architectural Practice
       Savannah College of Art and Design
       Savannah, Georgia

1989  Working Together, Architects and Code Officials
       Panel, Georgia Code Official's Conference
       Savannah, Georgia

1987  Designing Code Compliant Buildings
       Savannah Chapter, National Homebuilders' Association
       Savannah, Georgia

1986  Excellence in Design
       South Georgia American Institute of Architects
       Savannah, Georgia

1986  The History and Architecture of Savannah
       South Atlantic Regional Conference of the American Institute of Architects
       Savannah, Georgia

1986  Orchids and Onions, Moderator
       Grassroots Conference
       Washington, DC
Service to Those in Need

Exhibit 1. Phoenix Place
a. Designers of Dreams - Architects with Heart
   Article in Union Mission "Notes" Newsletter
b. Entrance of Addition, Photographer - Greg Clark
   Common Area
   Newspaper photo of dedication
c. Newspaper article describing groundbreaking
   Newspaper article describing nomination for J.C.
   Penney Golden Rule Award

Exhibit 2. Magdalene Project Brochure

Exhibit 3. CASA Playhouse
Playhouses photographed by CASA staff

Exhibit 4. Wesley Community Center
Exterior photography and photos of persons using
program, Photographer - Wesley Staff

Exhibit 5. Hacienda House
Exterior Photograph
Before and after porch photographs

Exhibit 6. King-Tisdell Cottage
Exterior and interior photographs
Photographs by Murray Barnard, AIA

Profession/Community

Exhibit 7. Executive Decisions Newspaper Article
Photographer - Paula A. Gomez

Historic Preservation

Exhibit 8. Manual for Development in the
Savannah Historic District

Nominee's
Architectural Work

Renderings by Robert A.M. Stern Architects

Exhibit 10. Downtown Design Team Manual
Sketches by Peter Drey, AIA

Exhibit 11. Lione Residence
Keowee Keys, South Carolina

Exhibit 12. Olympic Yachting Venue
Savannah, Georgia
Photographers - Rich Hollaman and
Linda M. Ramsay, AIA

Exhibit 13. Brennan Residence
Savannah, Georgia

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all photography was taken by
Linda M. Ramsay, AIA.
THE PHOENIX PROJECT...
a home and programs for people living with AIDS

DESIGNERS OF DREAMS – ARCHITECTS WITH HEART

Ever had an architect come to your rescue? Phoenix Project has had five very special people in the architectural field come to ours! It started with Robert Berz, an intern architect with the Spriggs Group after a call asking for help in writing a grant application for “Housing Opportunities for persons with AIDS”. Robert got permission from Mr. Spriggs and within a matter of days, we had everything we needed to make a successful application for the grant. In January, the Mayor proudly announced a $500,000 grant to purchase and expand Phoenix Place and to provide services to the HIV/AIDS community for three years. After the announcement, several firms expressed interest in providing architectural services but one call stood above the rest.

Linda Ramsay phoned to say that she belonged to a group of female architects that had been discussing taking on a community project and that they would like to consider the Phoenix Place expansion. After determining our needs, the group, Women in Architecture, decided to undertake the project despite the fact that it was a much larger project than they had originally planned. We knew that their work would save us thousands in architectural fees. What we did not yet know was that we would also be gaining four incredibly talented and compassionate friends with rich experience and the desire to make Phoenix Place a home designed around our clients special needs!

Linda Ramsay’s (Ramsay Architects) projects include the Rape Crisis Center, many retail and renovation projects, and code consulting. Ann K. Smith (Ronald Kolman Architects) projects include the Savannah Association of the Blind, The Khoece House and Juliet Gordon Low Center restoration, and Pooler Day Care Center. Sandra Sherrill’s (Forrest Lott Architects) projects include the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Memorial Medical Center and currently Georgia Southern’s Academic and Technology Center. Barbara Cogdell’s (Cogdell and Mendrala Architects) projects range from high level custom residential to low income housing and the beautiful, patient-oriented Hospice House! Learning about all these impressive projects, and knowing that the architects found our project worthy of their time, made us feel special indeed!

We have also learned about the complex “process” of architecture. Our architects are guiding us every step of the way – from the analysis of our needs, to the conceptualization of the design, to the survey of existing conditions, to code research, to the variance requests, design development, and soon we’ll be starting the construction document process! But our architects have not stopped there, they have also acted as advocates for us! They presented our projects to David Sladek and L. F. Vandenbulk, and they agreed to provide us with structural, mechanical and electrical engineering work, pro bono! We are extremely fortunate to have these fine, caring professionals give us their valuable time, expertise, and creativity. Every dime they save us will allow us to better care for our clients. That is extremely important to us, and we wanted you to know about it! Here’s to the designers of dreams!

This article in the Union Mission newsletter “Notes” details the involvement of the group of architects founded by Linda Ramsay and the benefits to the Union Mission of the architects’ involvement.

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

(L-R) Architects Anne K. Smith, Barbara Cogdell, Linda Ramsay and Sandy Sherrill work on Phoenix Place expansion.
The Phoenix Project is a ten-bed transitional housing program for HIV-positive people with community supportive services, targeting the mid-town neighborhood.

Vice President Al Gore called the Phoenix Project "one of the most innovative approaches in the nation."

Phoenix Place was the inaugural project for the Phoenix Design Collaborative, a group of design professionals organized by Ms. Ramsay.

Of the 25 people who enrolled in the program last year, 18 (72%) moved on to independent living. The program also prevented homelessness for 87 residents through Project House Call, which offers emergency assistance and health care services. The program operates out of the Phoenix Place building.

Savannah Morning News

A Place Of Hope
Phoenix Project Officials, Dignitaries Dedicate Expansion Of AIDS Hospice

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED
Ground Broken for Phoenix Place II

By Jennifer Rost

A triumphant spirit marked the groundbreaking Jan. 27 for the expansion of Phoenix Place, Union Mission's facility for homeless persons with HIV or AIDS.

"The work of Union Mission and of Phoenix Place is a labor of love," said Brandie Haywood, director of the Phoenix Project. "It has to be when you work with people who are so misunderstood."

The extension, known as Phoenix Place II, will add 10 additional beds in a separate wing to the original facility at the corner of East Broad and 14th streets. Construction will be finished in June.

The extension will also allow patients with substance abuse problems to live separately from other patients. "It is very stressful for those two groups to live together," said Haywood.

Phoenix Place came about as the result of an incident in 1990, said Carole Benson, chair of the Board of Directors of Union Mission, Inc., when a homeless man with HIV/AIDS was sent to Grace House, a facility for homeless men, as a last resort. The shelter could accommodate him only by turning a storage closet into a bedroom.

Phoenix Place was opened in April of 1993, and soon housed AIDS/HIV patients from all walks of life.

"We quickly discovered our 10-bed facility was not enough," said Benson. Housing alone wasn't the answer to the needs of the patients, so Phoenix Place became Phoenix Project, an array of services for those with HIV or AIDS.

Funding for the extension came from a combination of public and private monies. In December 1992, Union Mission teamed up with the city of Savannah to pursue a $500,000 federal grant. In January of 1993, the city was awarded one of 10 such grants in the United States, and the only one in Georgia.

Besides the construction of the new wing, the grant also made possible the coordination of community resources and a program of legal services for low-income people with HIV or AIDS.

The city of Savannah also contributed $50,000, as did the Georgia Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless.

The Midtown Neighborhood Association, which had been behind the original project and the extension, played a large role in getting the grant by writing letters to the government. "This neighborhood has been completely supportive," said Haywood.

Architects Anne K. Smith, Barbara B. Cogdell, Linda Ramsay and Sandra Sherrill worked together on the project as the Phoenix Collaborative. Haywood praised the architects, saying: "These people have literally worked nights, weekends and lunch hours, pro bono, to make this possible."

Others on the design team included Thomas and Hutton, Engineers, David Shadle, Engineering Co, and C.E. Vadenbuck Engineering and Landscape Architecture, who contributed engineering services and Gay Mueller of Forrest Lot Architects, who worked on the construction documents.

PHOENIX HOUSE continued from 1A.

The newspaper article to the left describes the groundbreaking and involvement of the architect's group founded by Linda Ramsay.

The newspaper article above outlines the reasons that Linda Ramsay's "Phoenix Collaborative" was nominated for the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award.

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED
The Magdalene Project is a 65-bed facility for homeless families with children. Most of these families had been evicted from rental housing, some had lived in shelters or fled domestic violence.

Ms. Ramsay chaired a group of business leaders who secured corporate funding for the production of a brochure to be used in education and fund-raising efforts to expand the services of the Magdalene Project.

Of the 161 men, women, and children who enrolled in the shelter in 2001, 106 (65%) now live in long-term housing and are no longer homeless.

Student volunteers assist children in Magdalene's after school program.

The Magdalene Project urgently needs the assistance of churches, synagogues, and civic organizations to sponsor transitional apartments for graduates of the Magdalene Project's Life Skills Training Program.

The Magdalene Project
912-236-7426
Savannah, GA

The Magdalene Project is supported by:

- Image Consultants
- Georgia Children's Trust Fund Commission
- Major Housing Fund
- Georgia Housing and Financial Authority
- Georgia Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless
- City of Savannah
- Chatham County Government for the Homeless
- Savannah-Chatham County Public School District

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED
CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, are citizen volunteers who help courts and child welfare agencies deal with the overwhelming increase in child abuse cases. The trained volunteers are appointed by a judge to speak up for the best interests of an abused or neglected child involved in a juvenile court proceeding.

As an innovative approach to fund-raising, Ms. Ramsay organized a team of architects to design playhouses that were constructed by local homebuilders, and raffled. The proceeds were used to train additional volunteers.

CASA volunteers in Georgia have saved taxpayers an equivalent of $2,094,000 by providing volunteer services. CASA volunteers have dramatically reduced the amount of time children stay in foster care, again saving taxpayer monies. The United States Justice Department has recognized CASA as a model juvenile delinquency prevention program.
Wesley Community Center, provides Crisis Intervention Services, Family Advocacy Services, Adult Literacy Programs, and Support Groups for those who have experienced sexual violence. The center also provides Early Childhood Education and Development Programs.

The team of architects founded by Ms. Ramsay provided architectural services to renovate an abandoned church that enabled the center to greatly expand from services that focused on children only, to services that benefited the whole family.

Last year the center helped more than 2,000 children and adults. In addition to education, advocacy, prepared meals, and family support, Wesley furnished 2,767 bags of groceries for families in need of emergency or supplemental food, $8,573 in direct financial assistance, and an additional $2,500 for children. Those served have an average monthly income of $634.
Hacienda House is a ten-bed transitional housing program for females in substance abuse recovery. The program is housed in a historic home owned by a church and rented to the Union Mission.

Ms. Ramsay provided pro bono architectural services necessary for the renovation of the facility.

Of the twenty women who enrolled in The Hacienda last year, sixteen (80%) obtained employment and are now independent.
The King-Tisdell Cottage was built in 1896 and served as home to an African American family. In 1980 it was saved from demolition and moved to its current location in Savannah's Victorian District. The Cottage serves as a museum dedicated to preserving the African American history and culture of Savannah and the Sea Islands. The house features art objects, documents and furniture appropriate to the 1890's.

Ms. Ramsay produced a report documenting the procedures necessary for the repair of the Cottage. In addition to her services, which were provided pro bono, she paid for the engineering services necessary for a complete report.

Funding for repairs was acquired from SPLOST (Special Option Local Sales Tax), and the repairs have begun. It is anticipated the House/Museum will soon be open to the thousands of tourists who come to Savannah each year.
Executive Decisions

Five Savannah Success Stories Illustrate Barriers Women Face Climbing Corporate Ladder

By JANET PISMAN

When Ellen Repella was in high school, girls were around and picked out silver patterns boys applied to college. If a girl did choose a career, it was something to fall back on when the kids were grown or the marriage didn’t work out.

Like many women from her generation, the 45-year-old Ms. Repella was a good student. Fourth in her graduating class at Johnson High School, she skipped seventh grade and took accelerated classes.

"Yet no guidance counselor ever mentioned anything to me but nursing and teaching. I was not raised to have a career," said the health care marketing specialist who now runs four companies for Provident Medical Center. Americare Home Health Services, Inc., Americare Nursing Services, Inc., AmeriCare Medical Equipment, Inc., and Southern Home Therapies.

It was only because she earned high grades that someone suggested she should study for a baccalaureate instead of a two-year nursing degree. Starting school at the Medical College of Georgia was the turning point. "I realized I could do anything I wanted," Ms. Repella said.

She went on to earn a double master's degree in public health and health care administration at Penn State University in University Park, Pa.

On her first go-around, architect Linda Ramsey received degrees in history and economics from Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., which has an excellent school of architecture.

"It never occurred to me at the time to study architecture," said Ms. Ramsey, 45, whose father was an architect.

Then one day, on a lunch break from her job in an Atlanta advertising firm, she was in a bookstore flipping through a book by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

"It hit me like a light. This is what I want to do," said Ms. Ramsey, one of her main architects in Savannah and president-elect of the Georgia Association of Architects in America.

To support herself during the five-year program at Georgia Tech, she worked at temporary agencies and sold clothes at Rich's department store.

Her career is particularly ironic, she said, because at the time her father graduated architecture school - in 1926 - there were no jobs and he never practiced it. She thought that when he started school he thought it was a whim and he probably wouldn't finish, but in the end he was proud of me," she said of her father, who died in October.

"During a radio interview he once said

See WOMEN, Page 23
The Manual for Development in the Savannah Historic District and Historic District Zoning Ordinance was developed as the result of efforts by The City of Savannah, Historic Savannah Foundation, and the Chadbourne Guidelines Advisory Committee. Designed to be “user-friendly” the manual provides a set of guidelines at the beginning of a project to provide a common vocabulary for everyone participating in the process—the owner, the architect, the review board members, and the staff. New construction guidelines emphasize and define basic design principles such as scale, height and compatibility.

Ms. Ramsay, as Chair of the Savannah Historic District Board of Review, guided the adoption and implementation of the Manual. She educated residents, business owners, developers, architects and city officials on the importance of guidelines to the preservation of Savannah’s unique architectural history and the encouragement of new compatible development.

Over 1,000 applications have been successfully approved since the guidelines were adopted, bringing millions in construction dollars to the city, while retaining its status and one of America’s most beautiful cities. The guidelines have also been used as the basis for similar guidelines nationally.

Photographs and sketches of two of the six predominant street elevations found in the Historic District of Savannah, providing a contextual relationship for new design. Existing height, rhythm of openings, and mass of a city’s buildings can be understood with these example types.
The Savannah Federal Courthouse Annex is an example of how a new 165,000 square foot project costing $42,000,000 can be designed to fit into Savannah's Historic District under the Manual for Development in the Savannah Historic District. The building is sited adjacent to the existing 1890's Federal Courthouse and is designed to accommodate five courtrooms, the U.S. Attorney's offices, the U.S. Marshal's offices, and offices of the Bankruptcy Clerk. The design has received approval from the Historic District Board of Review, but construction has not yet begun.

Ms. Ramsay's firm served as associate architect to Robert A.M. Stern and Rossel Inc. on this project; but it is not included as an example of her architectural work, as the building is not complete. It is included as an example of how the guidelines Ms. Ramsay helped write and guide through the approval process are encouraging new construction in Savannah's Historic District.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**
The Georgia Downtown Design Team, Cordele Georgia Manual is an example of the manuals developed by The Historic Resources Committee of the Georgia Association, AIA. At the invitation of a small Georgia town’s Main Street Coordinator, a team, selected by the Historic Resources Committee and the State Preservation Office, would set up a mini-RUDDAT over a weekend. At the end of the visit, a manual was produced outlining the specific recommendations of the team.

Over the three years that Ms. Ramsay served as Chair of the Historic Resources Committee, she selected a team of professional volunteers including landscape architects, retail and preservation architects and lighting consultants to volunteer their services. She led the team in their presentations to the city officials.

The efforts resulted not only in the redevelopment of a number of small towns based on recommendations from the manual, but also acquainted many persons in rural Georgia with the benefits of architectural services.

*Sketches of recommended improvements from Georgia Downtown Design Team Manual for Cordele, GA*
Georgia Downtown Design Team

Cordele, Georgia
OCTOBER 26-27, 1990

Cordele Main Street Program

Historic Resources Committee of the
Atlanta Chapter AIA and the Georgia Association AIA

Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Section 3: Exhibits

Exhibit 11: Lione Residence, Lake Keowee, Keowee Keys, South Carolina

Ramsay Architects, original design; Ramsay Sherrill Architects, renovation and addition
Architecture Firm of Record

Ramsay Architects, original design; Ramsay Sherrill Architects, renovation and addition
Design Firm

Built 1991, renovation and addition 2002
Completion date

Design Architect/Principal-In-Charge
Role of Nominee

Synopsis:

Designed to accommodate the needs of a bachelor who enjoys entertaining, this house is sited to take full advantage of the lakeside location and views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The 6,500 square foot house was designed with a series of spaces flowing into each other and a series of overallows the lake and mountains to be viewed from virtually every room. The full height glazing on the north side allows dramatic views from the interior and provides a dynamic presence to the lakeside. Since the house was first constructed, only minor changes have been made. In 2001, interior finishes were updated and a sun porch was enclosed to accommodate an expanded bedroom.

Awards received: NA

Publications: NA

For each exhibit, someone in possession of full knowledge of the specific project (other than the nominee) must certify the nominee's responsibility.

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

- Responsible for design
- Project under direction of nominee
- Nominee's firm executed project
- Other: Explain

Signature

Anne K. Smith, AIA , Principal Lominack Kolman Smith Architects
Typed Name/Title
Section 3: Exhibits

Exhibit 12: Olympic Yachting Venue, United States Olympic Committee Savannah, Georgia

Ramsay Sherrill Architects
Architectural Firm of Record

Ramsay Sherrill Architects
Design Firm

1996
Completion date

Design Architect/Principal-In-Charge
Role of Nominee

Synopsis:
The design of the Olympic Yachting Venue not only utilized the design skills required to renovate five buildings and construct a 4,100 square foot Day Marina, but also the planning skills to accommodate the diverse requirements of the athletes, Olympic staff, press, volunteers, and public. There were two main venues for the Yachting event. The Staging Venue was located on a site made up of five parcels of property with existing buildings. These buildings, with the addition of five parcels of tents specifically designed to resist Savannah's hurricane force winds, had to be designed to meet all the requirements of the Olympic "family", such as food services, emergency facilities, yacht weighing and measuring, and storage of the yachts overnight.

The Event Venue was a Day Marina where the actual yachting events took place in the ocean. It was comprised of a series of five 45-foot x 150-foot barges strapped together to form a spine with three rows of 45' x 150' strapped-together barges extending from the spine. It was from these barges that the yachts were launched. The spine barges had temporary structures attached to serve the needs of the Olympic "family".

It was also the responsibility of Ramsay Sherrill Architects to apply the "Look of the Olympics" to both venues, again being mindful of possible hurricane force winds.

Awards received: NA

Publications: Internationally Televised

For each exhibit, someone in possession of full knowledge of the specific project (other than the nominee) must certify the nominee's responsibility.

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

- Responsible for design
- Project under direction of nominee
- Nominee's firm executed project
- Other: Explain

Signature

Bill Lovett, Vice President, Hussey Gay Bell and DeYoung International Architects & Engineers

Typed Name/Title
Section 3: Exhibits

Exhibit 13: Brennan Residence, 214 East Taylor Street, Savannah, Georgia

Ramsay Architects
Architecture Firm of Record

Ramsay Architects
Design Firm

1994
Completion date

Design Architect/Principal-in-Charge
Role of Nominee

Synopsis:
A 693 square foot addition and total interior renovation of this inherited home allowed the house to meet the needs of a young family. Renovation involved a total makeover of the first floor level. This level had been abandoned for years and served primarily to house outdated mechanical equipment. This level now houses office and family areas. Prior to renovation, the kitchen was a small service kitchen. The original servant’s kitchen, having been located on the first level, was long ago abandoned. A new kitchen ties into the renovated kitchen creating an open, functional room designed to meet a 21st century family’s needs.

The addition was designed to enhance the original design while not replicating it. Similar materials are used to relate contextually to the existing building, while form, details and siting enhance the existing structure.

Awards received: Historic Savannah Award
In grateful recognition of outstanding accomplishments in preservation and protection of Savannah’s distinctive heritage

Publications: Movie, The Gingerbread Man
The renovated house was used in Robert Altman’s movie as Kenneth Branagh’s residence.

For each exhibit, someone in possession of full knowledge of the specific project (other than the nominee) must certify the nominee’s responsibility.

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

- Responsible for design
- Project under direction of nominee
- Nominee’s firm executed project
- Other: Explain

Signature
Edward T. Brennan, Vice President, Palmer & Cay/Carswell, Inc., Owner

Typed Name/Title
Section 4: List of Reference Letters

Gregori Anderson, Assoc. AIA
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Chatham County, Georgia
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912-201-4300
Professional Relationship to Nominee: Knowledge of work with codes officials and community activities.

Richard Bradfield, FAIA
63 Taylor’s Creek Court
Dawsonville, Georgia 30534
706-216-1954
Professional Relationship to Nominee: Knowledge of work with profession.

Michael Elliott
President, Union Mission
120 Fahm Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
912-236-7423
Professional Relationship to Nominee: Knowledge of work with Community Activities

Jordan Jelks, FAIA
McLees, Boggs & Selby, Architects
155 Franklin Street
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Macon, Georgia 31202-0975
478-745-6514
Professional Relationship to Nominee: Knowledge of work with Profession and Historic Preservation

Carol M. Richard, AIA
Richard + Wittschiebe Architects
15 Simpson Street, NW
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404-688-2200
Professional Relationship to Nominee: Knowledge of work with Profession

Robert A. M. Stern, FAIA
Robert A.M. Stern Architects
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Professional Relationship to Nominee: Knowledge of work with Historic Preservation

Lise R. Sundrla
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Professional Relationship to Nominee: Knowledge of work with Historic Preservation and Community Activities.