

“Making Detroit: History and Mystery”

Description: This presentation covers the past, present and future of Detroit and is in three parts: Prehistory to 1950; 1950 to 2001; and 2002-future. 1950 is the year that the population in Detroit began to decline and 2001 is the year of the tri-centennial. The lecture focuses on the cultural forces that caused the physical manifestation of Detroit and is represented in visual images including drawings and photographs. Part one of the lecture shows the evolution from Native American villages, the influences of the French and the British and finally, the creation of a great American manufacturing metropolis. Part two illustrates the causes of the gradual decline of the city over sixty-five years and the devastation caused by economic disinvestment, racism and disastrous federal policy. Finally, part three of the presentation looks at existing attempts to rebuild a great city and possible future actions to spur renewal. It outlines the positive things happening in the city today including an influx of young people, economic investment and the changing quality of life for Detroiters.

The presenter has given various forms of this lecture over the past 25 years to international, national and local audiences. The audiences have ranged from the general public, to urban designers and architects as well as university students and faculty. It is particularly striking to suburban Detroiters who realize they know very little about Detroit. It generally takes a minimum of 45 minutes to accomplish the broad objectives of the lectures although the lecture is a summary of a 14-week graduate seminar taught by the presenter.

The presenter has practiced urban design, architecture and historic preservation in Detroit for over forty years and is currently a Professor of Architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture.

Speaker's name: Stephen Vogel, FAIA

Chapter: AIA Detroit

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Time required: 45 minutes – 1 hour plus q & a

AV equipment required: Digital Projector (can provide if necessary), Large Screen, Microphone/Sound depending on size of audience