

PAUL HOMEYER | GENSLER

education background bachelor of environmental design, texas a&m | master of architecture with specialization in historic preservation, the university of texas at austin personal affiliations american institute of architects | leed ap speciality historic preservation

– WHAT DROVE YOU TOWARD HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

I've always been interested in history – and architecture. Our built environment is the most tangible and accessible link to the past. Besides all that, "recycling" or reusing existing buildings is the ultimate in "green" design.

– WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT IT?

On a personal basis, I love the investigative aspect of it. Some projects seem like an archeological dig: We make educated assumptions about what was and then (hopefully) confirm those assumptions through peeling back the layers and researching historic photos, maps, etc. From a larger perspective I love being a part of saving and enhancing these valuable resources for the community and for generations to come.

– CURRENT PROJECT

Julia Ideson Library Building addition and renovation. Will be a LEED Silver project.

– FAVORITE PROJECT

Julia Ideson – of course! It combines the things I'm most passionate about – historic preservation, sustainability and civic contribution.

– TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOME

We are on our third old house. The current one is a 1930's former duplex near Rice that we have converted into a single family home. By virtue of its age and location there are several built-in green features including walking distance to the Hermann Park/ Rice U. METRORail stop and lots of windows for great day lighting and natural ventilation on the three days in the spring and fall when we can open the windows in Houston. We are slowly working toward incorporating more energy saving features.

– SO, THINKING BACK TO THE DRAWINGS YOUR MOTHER HAD UP ON THE REFRIGERATOR WHEN YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...WHAT WERE THEY?

I'm not sure if they were hung on the fridge but I began drawing house plans at a very young age. My dad brought home a desk-sized pad of graph paper and I was in heaven. Of course, my only inspiration in suburban Houston was the house plans published in the home sales section of the Sunday newspaper so my designs started out pretty conservative.

– TELL US, WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, LINCOLN LOGS OR ERECTOR SET?

Lincoln Logs, but my favorite was the Girder and Panel Building Set.

– HOW DID YOU COME TO LIVE/WORK IN HOUSTON AND WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO MAKE THIS YOUR HOME?

I'm a Houston native but have lived in Austin, Washington, D.C. and Mississippi (where my wife is from). A couple years after getting married in D.C. we moved back to Houston to be closer to family and because the cost of living is so much better here. After having enjoyed D.C. so much we wanted to be as "urban" as we possibly could in Houston. That led us to the Montrose/Museum District area. We have been back now sixteen years and Houston has become home again. Our three kids were born



sandra gunn | paul homeyer

here. Our daily lives happen in a five mile radius from home. We love being so close to work, school, church, restaurants, cultural amenities and all the other things Houston has to offer.

– WHAT STAMP OR IDEA DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE ON THE WORLD AND WHY?

"Leave more than you take."



julia ideson library building



hermann lofts | houston



– WHAT CAN THE NEXT MAYOR FOCUS ON TO HELP SAVE MORE OF HOUSTON'S HISTORIC HOMES, NEIGHBORHOODS AND LANDMARKS?

I believe that Houston is a city that will respond more favorably to "carrots" rather than "sticks." While I'd like to see our Preservation Ordinance strengthened, I think the reality is that incentives would work much better here.

– IF YOU WERE NOT AN ARCHITECT, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

A while back I would have said an archeologist, but the times being as they are I'd say an environmental activist.

– IF YOU HAD TO LIVE OFF THE LAND, WHERE WOULD YOU LIVE?

Somewhere where it's cool enough to comfortably live without AC in the summer.

FAVORITES MEAL BREAKFAST AT BRENNAN'S IN NEW ORLEANS **MOVIE** SOUND OF MUSIC **GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED:** WE HAVE A COLLECTION OF MINIATURE SOUVENIR BUILDINGS SO I LOVE RECEIVING NEW ONES TO ADD TO THE COLLECTION - ESPECIALLY THE VINTAGE ONES. **STORE** ADKINS ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUES **CITY (US)** IT'S HARD TO PICK A FAVORITE. EVERY CITY HAS ITS UNIQUE CHARACTER. I LOVED LIVING IN D.C. JUST GOT BACK FROM A VACATION IN NEW ORLEANS AND LOVED IT. **CITY (WORLD)** ROME **STRUCTURE** THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING **FANTASY DINNER PARTY GUESTS** THOMAS JEFFERSON, DOLLY PARTON, JIMMY CARTER, BARACK AND MICHELLE OBAMA **MUSEUM** I LOVE THEM ALL. THE NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON IS ONE FAVORITE. **ON YOUR IPOD** I DON'T HAVE ONE. **BEST PLACE IN HOUSTON TO HANG OUT?** THE BROCHSTEIN PAVILION AT RICE

green tastes good

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(seen here)

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