

**Report: 2005 Houston Conference
ARLIS/ON Chapter Meeting (13 May 2005)
Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto
Submitted by Irene Puchalski**

As many of you are aware, the ARLIS/NA Ontario Conference Travel award is intended to promote professional development among chapter members, and to encourage their involvement in ARLIS/NA by helping to defray the expenses of attending the ARLIS/NA annual conference. I am honoured to have been selected as the recipient of this award in 2005. In addition to accomplishing the above mentioned, this award also provides recognition with library colleagues within ARLIS and my own institution, and also with administration in my own institution. I thank the chapter for not only keeping this award going, but also for improving it so that the amount does make a difference when we travel to a conference. I encourage all chapter members to apply for this award.

I will just present some of the highlights:

When attending a conference I enjoy learning about cultural aspects of the hosting location. In Houston I learned about **John and Dominique de Menil** and the role they played in introducing Houston to modern art and architecture. It was a treat to not only visit the Menil Collection, a gem of an art collection with a focus on Surrealism, in a museum designed by Renzo Piano, but also to get a sense of the Menil aesthetic by visiting the buildings that make up the "Menil Campus": this included the Cy Twombly Gallery, the Byzantine Chapel, the Rothko Chapel. These buildings are all on a human scale and are located in a park-like setting. I also had the privilege of visiting the restored Menil House which was designed for them by Philip Johnson in 1948. Original paintings by Max Ernst and other Surrealist artists also adorned the walls of their residence.

I also indulged my own fantasies by attending informative sessions such as ***Forgiving Buildings: (Re)Designing the 21st Century Library***. [My fantasy: I will get more library space] and the session ***This Isn't a Ranch So Why Do We Need a Brand: Public Relations and Marketing?*** [My fantasy: our development person will identify a wealthy donor for my library]. The common thread in the session entitled ***Academic Libraries, Visual Collections and Campus Museum Border Crossings*** was the

importance of collaborating and liaising with departmentst within one's own institution. Although I am from an academic library, I found the session on **Art Museums and Their Libraries: A European Perspective** quite enlightening. Comparisons were made between the Uffizi library in Florence, the Stedelijk Museum Library in the Netherlands and the library at the National Gallery in London.

In addition to the Special Events such as the Welcome Party and the Convocation Ceremony and Reception, which were all well attended and enjoyable, I also attended to the business side of things. I am the Canadian content of the ARLIS/NA Nominating Committee and the International Relations Committee (and this is helped by the fact that I was able to attend the conference in Houston, so thank you again).

A highlight of the ARLIS/NA Membership Meeting was the excellent presentation for the Banff 2006 Conference, delivered by Jill Patrick and Marilyn Nasserden with wonderful sound and imagery put together by James Rout. At the Canadian Members Meeting, chaired by Jonathan Franklin, we learned from Barbara Rockenbach that ARTstor is now available for subscriptions in Canada.

...and because he is too modest to tell you himself..., Jonathan Franklin is the recipient of the 2005 Melva J. Dwyer Award for *The Index to Nineteenth Century Canadian Catalogues of Art*. Congratulations Jonathan!