

**laf** LOUISIANA  
ARCHITECTURE  
FOUNDATION PRESENTS

# ANCESTRAL ARTISTRY

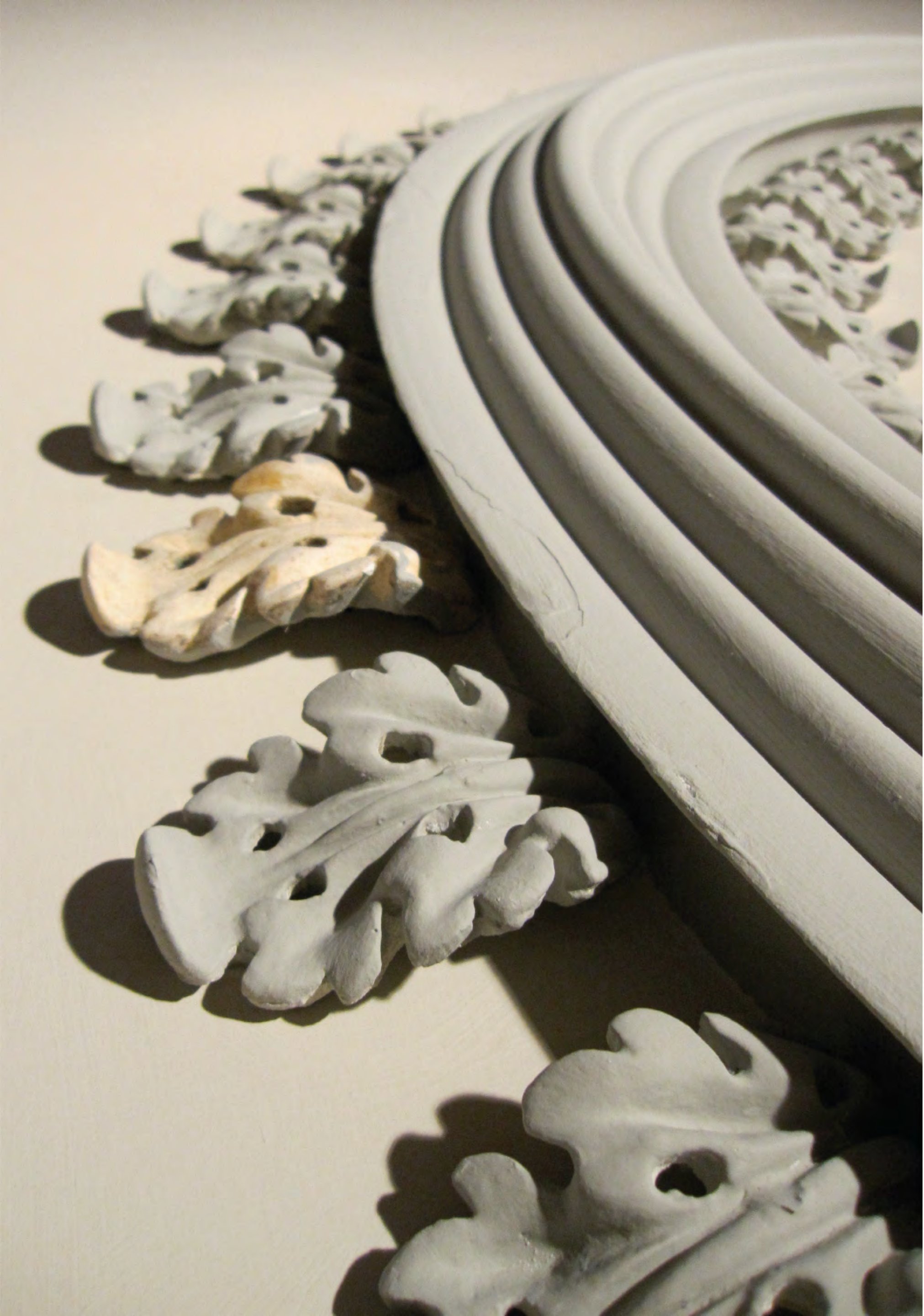
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THE INFLUENCE OF AFRICANS & CREOLES  
OF COLOR ON LOUISIANA ARCHITECTURE

Shining a light on how Africans and Creoles of Color have had a continuous, remarkable impact on Louisiana architecture and the elements that make it so unique.








*“Ancestral Artistry”* (working title) is a documentary that examines the rich architectural legacy that began with early Africans and Creoles of Color in Louisiana. Our focus is on the building trades that—over the past 300 years—produced the distinctive architectural forms that distinguish Louisiana's built environments from other parts of the United States.





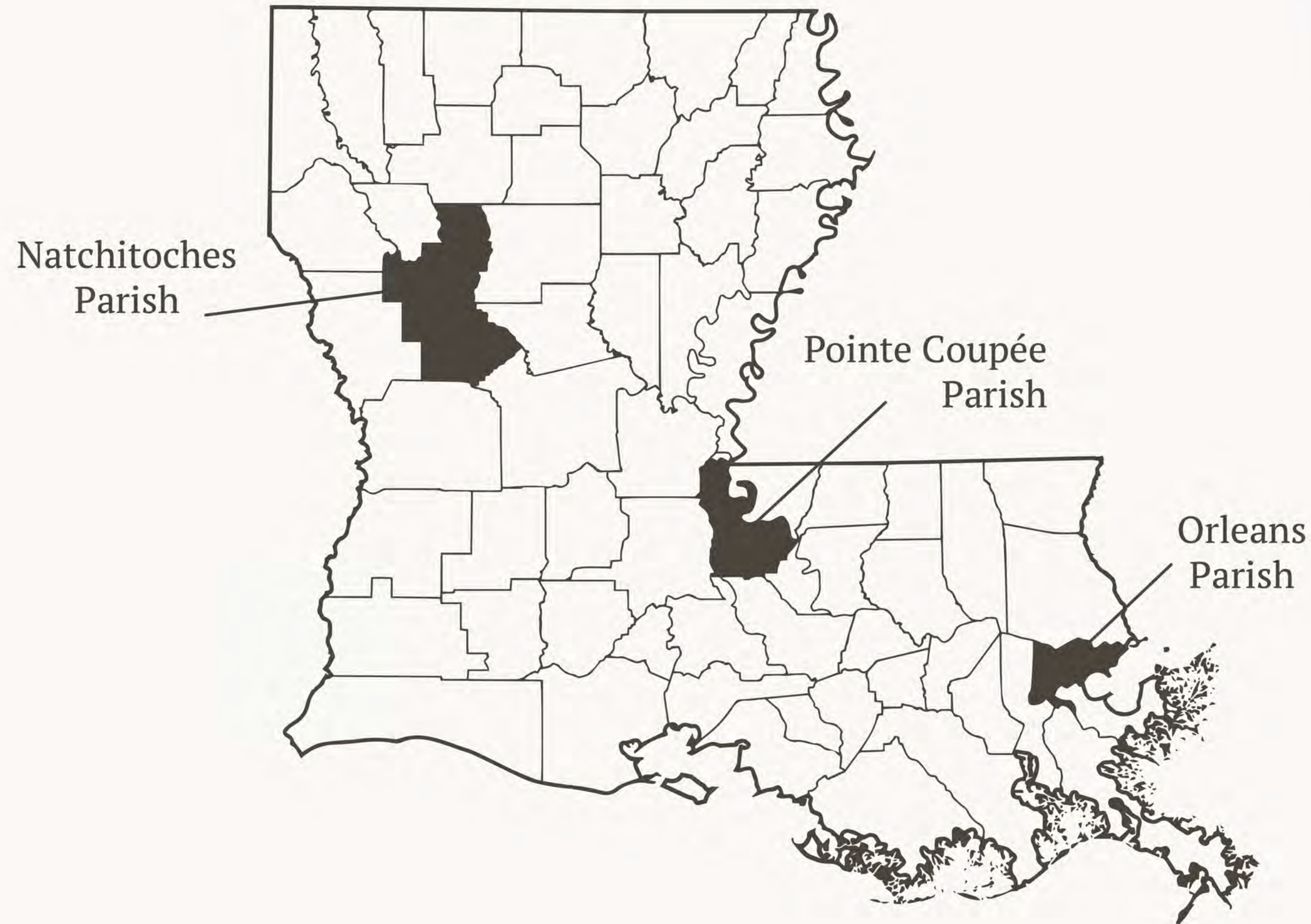
Often handed down within families through the generations, these construction trades—such as carpentry, masonry, iron smithing, and plaster work—have played a surprisingly large part in the history and culture of Louisiana's Creoles of Color. The building trades in Louisiana have roots that reach back to both West African soil as well as European; so do the builders themselves. Unique from the majority of America, Louisiana fostered a large population of free, prosperous, mixed-race people. From the early 18th century on, the building trades continuously provided this community of free people of color with significant opportunities for wealth and social advancement—all during an era when precious few doors were open in America for anyone with African ancestors.

But *Ancestral Artistry* isn't only about the past. It is also about the master craftsmen who still practice those traditional trades today mostly working to restore and preserve the things built by those who came before them. With an emphasis on their personal handiwork, the film weaves together the stories of four contemporary master craftsmen struggling to preserve their fragile traditions while they work to train the apprentices who will succeed them.



## LOCATIONS

Shooting in New Orleans, Natchitoches, and Pointe Coupée Parish, the film will capture not only the beauty of splendid historic structures, but will also showcase the work of the contemporary torch-bearers of ancient skills.



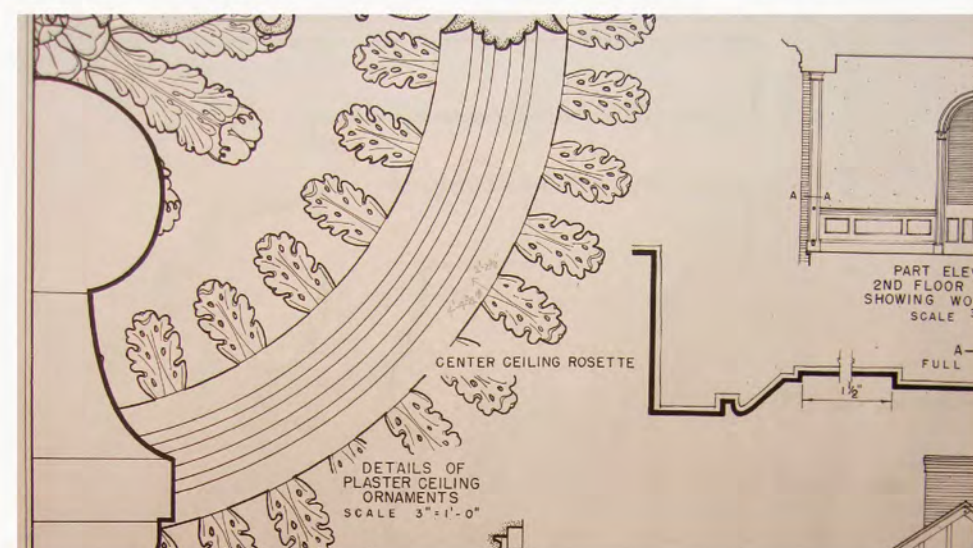
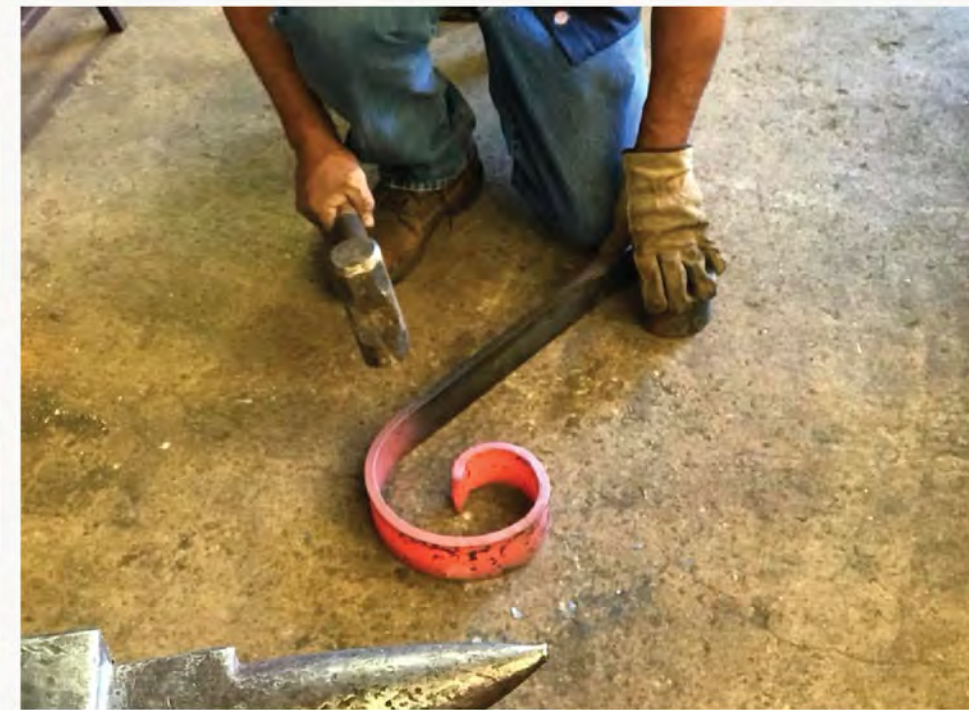
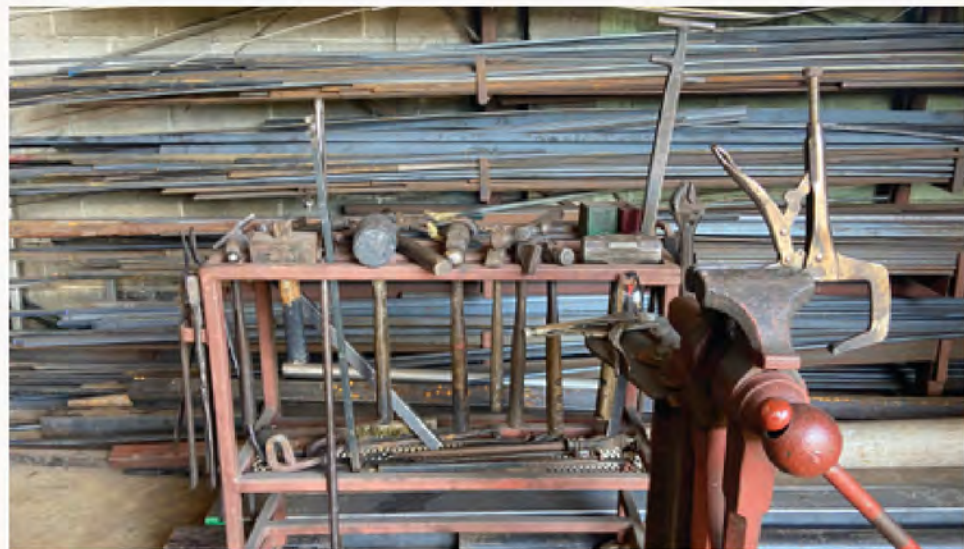
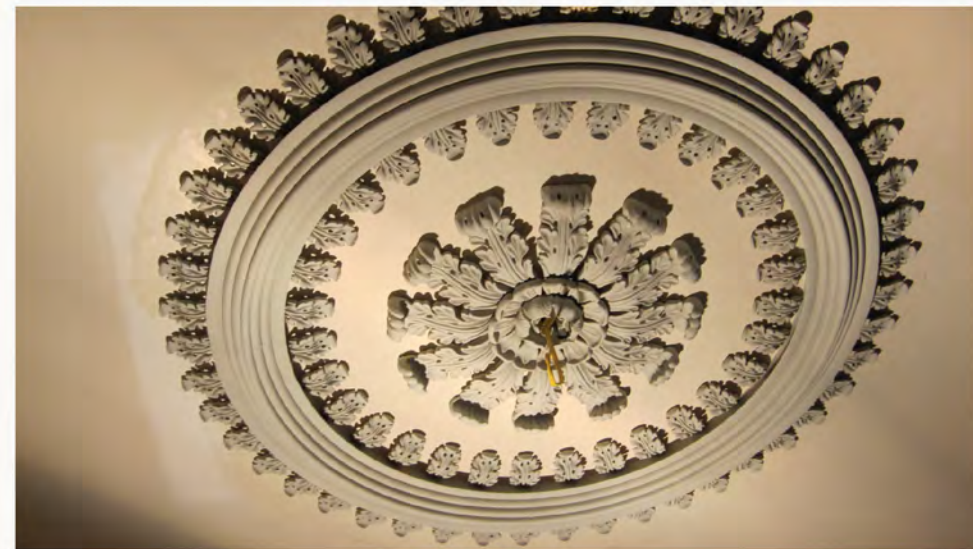


# THE PEOPLE





# THE ARTISTRY





# INTERVIEW STYLE





# INTERVIEW STYLE



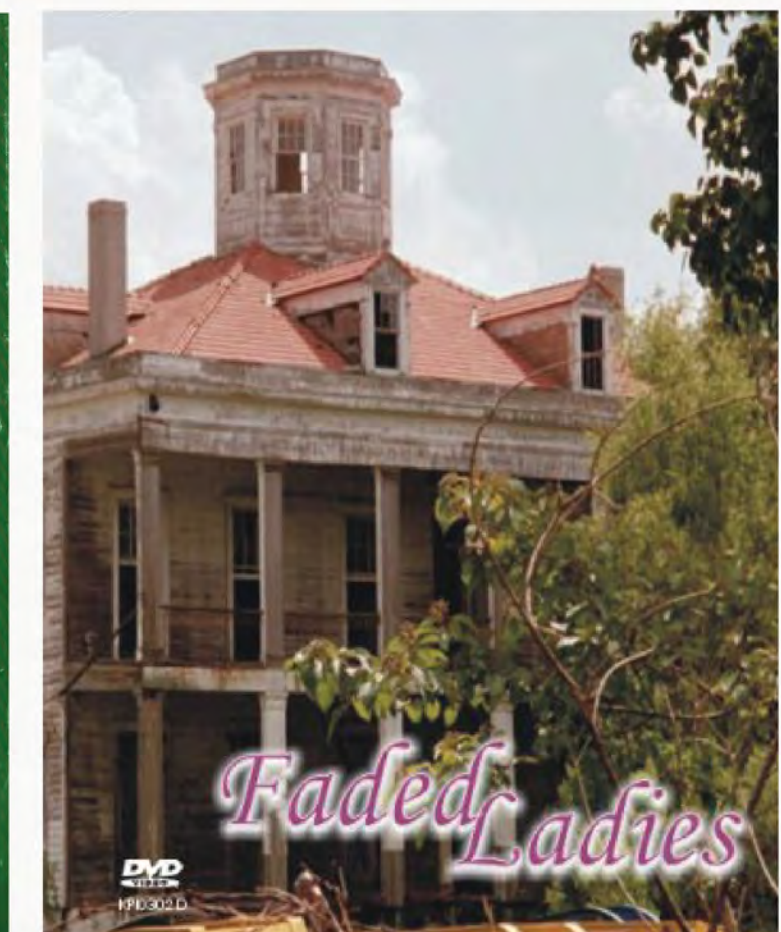
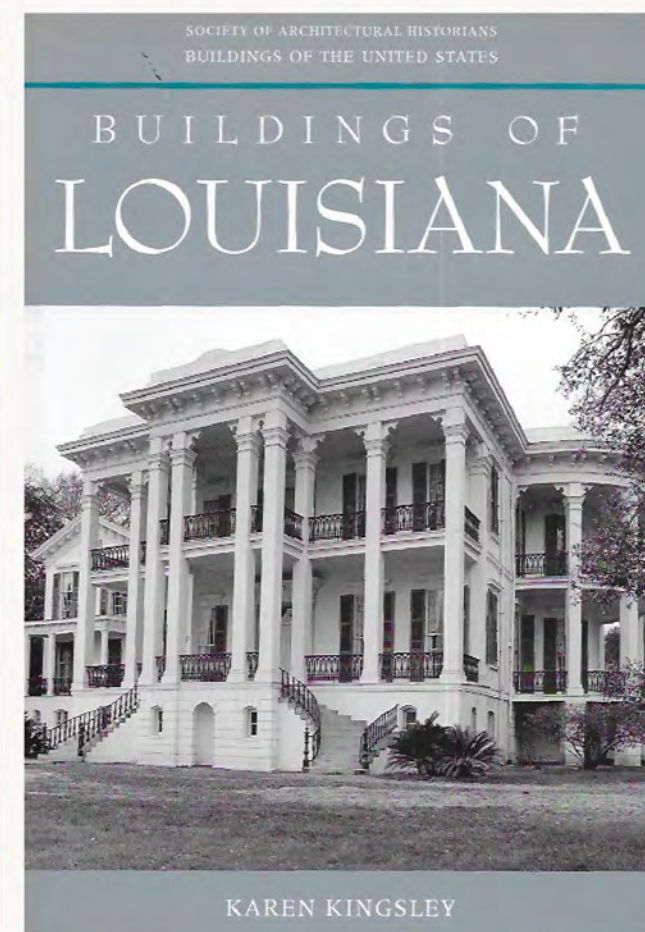
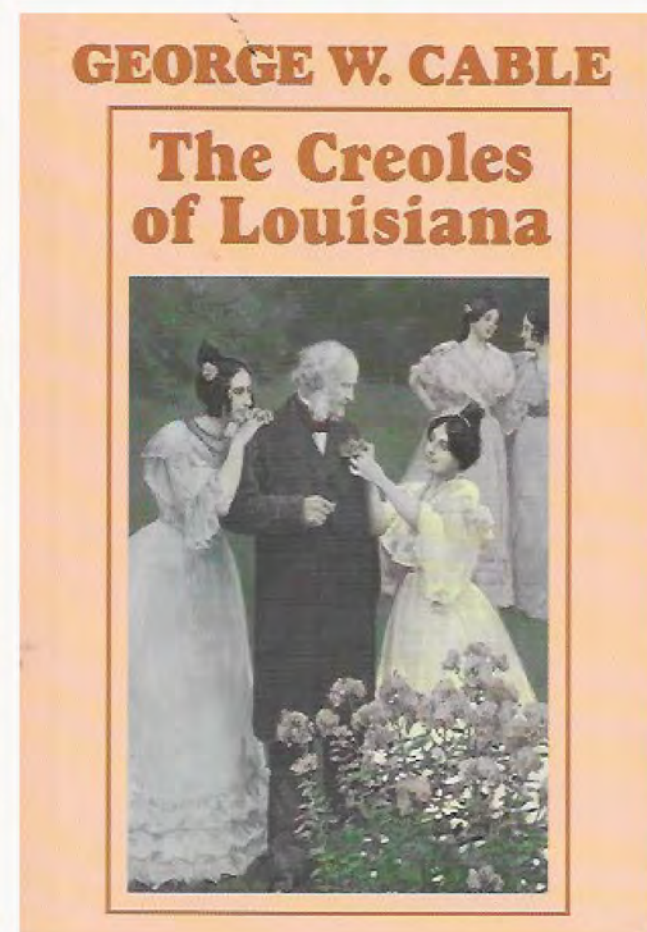
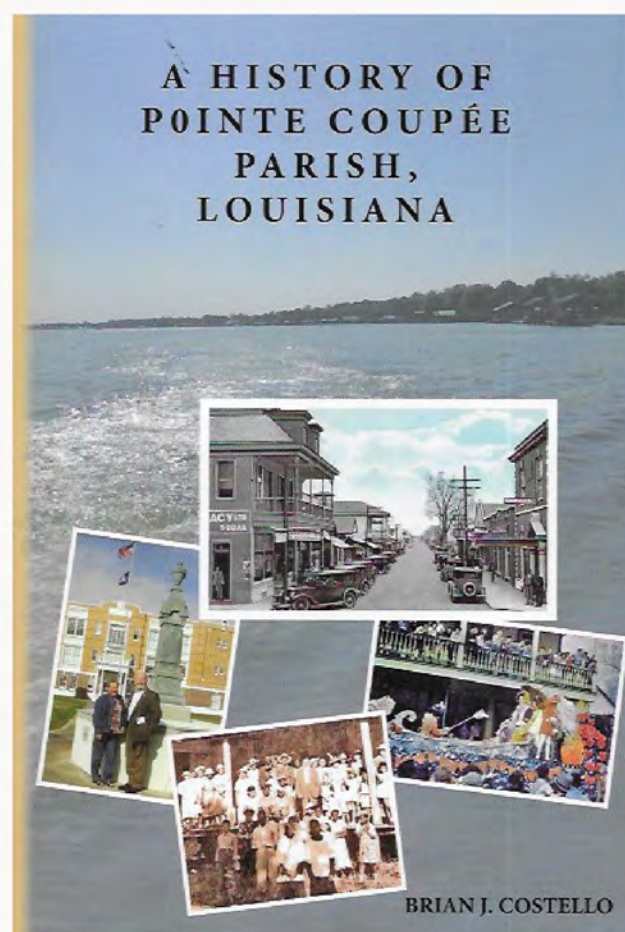
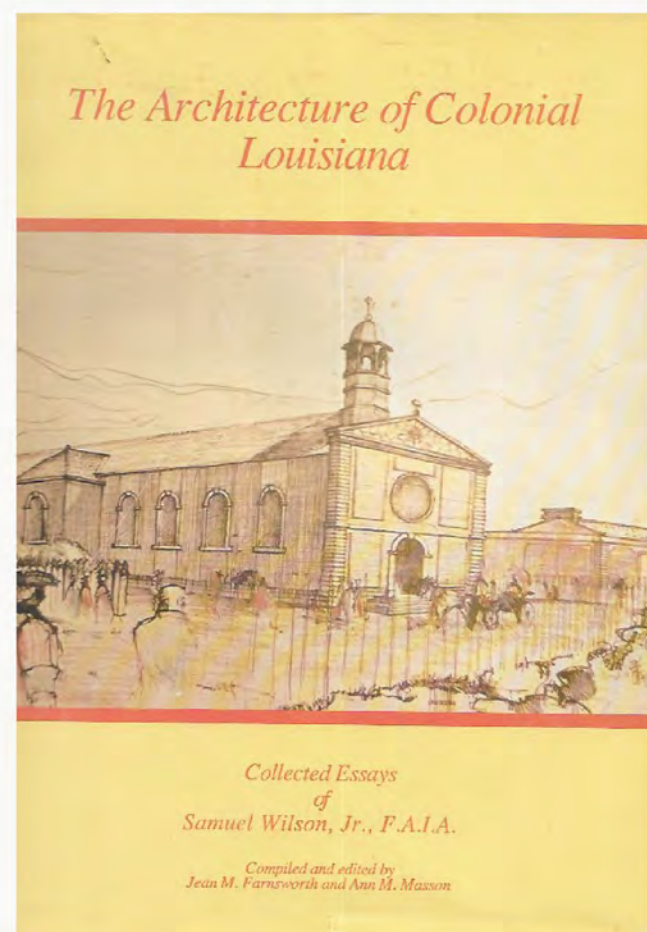
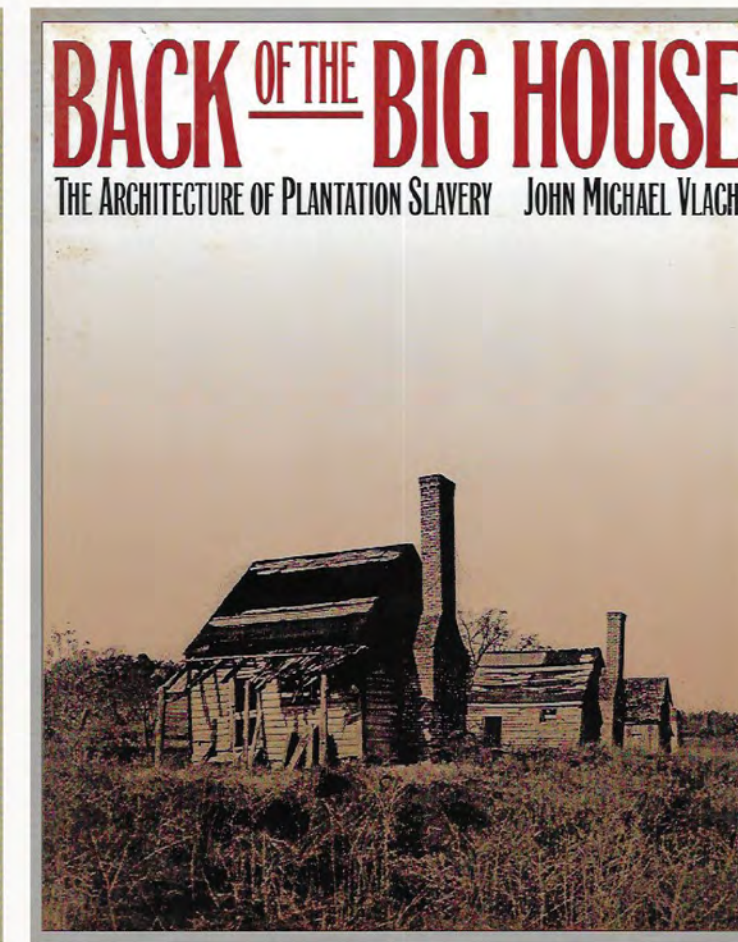
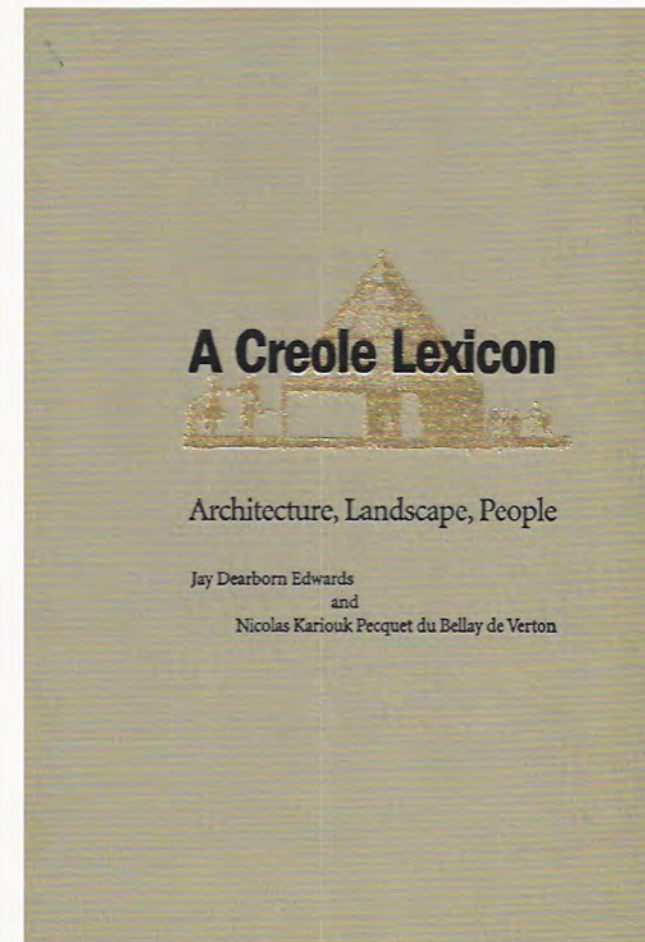
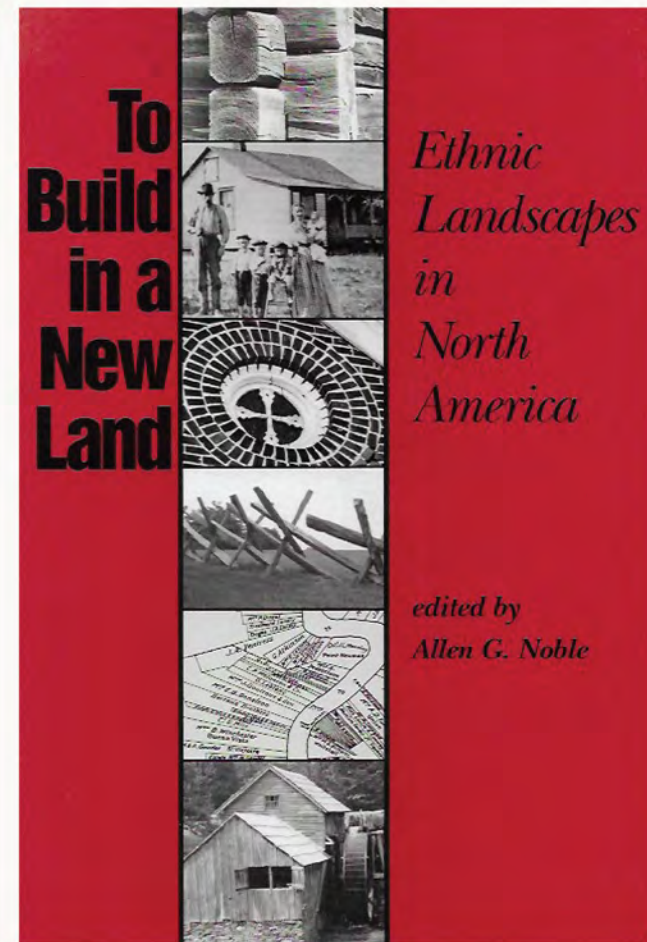
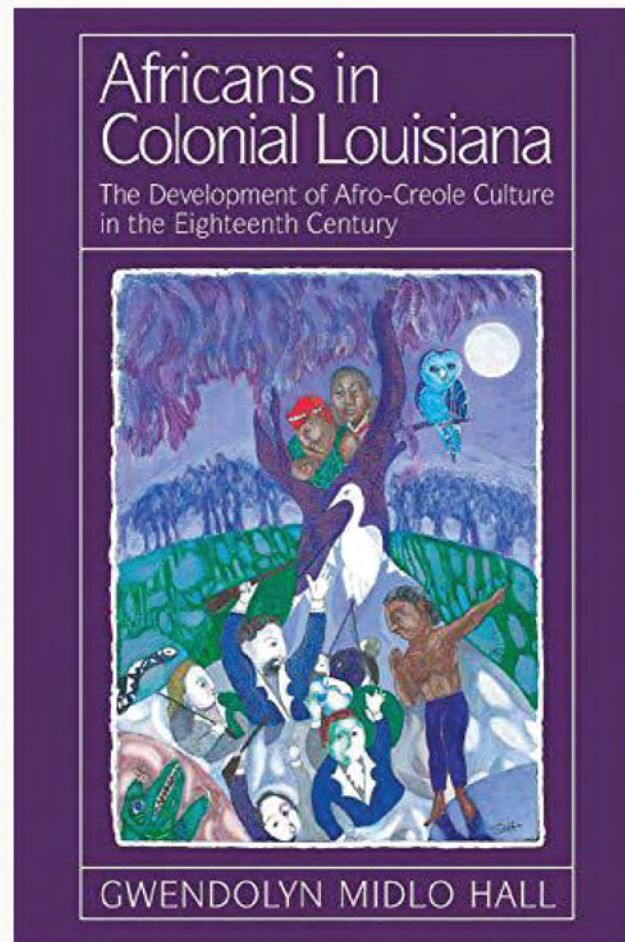
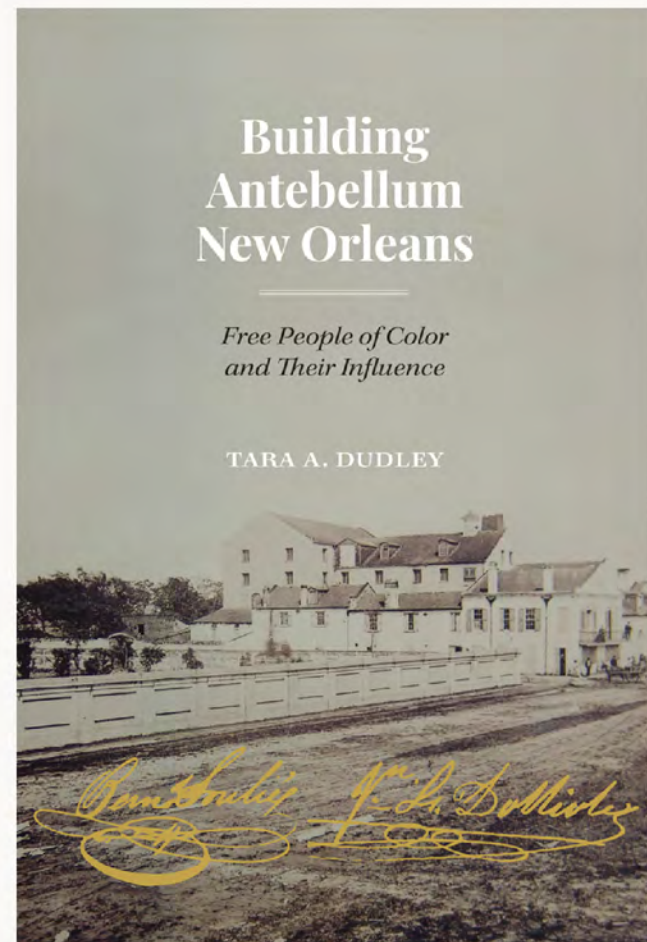


# INTERVIEW STYLE





# SOURCES & RESEARCH





## ABOUT LAF



Established in 1996, the LAF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which was created specifically to provide Louisianans with access to knowledge and statewide educational events relating to the value of architecture and design in the built environment. We do this by creating more public awareness of architecture, encouraging public support for architecture, and facilitating public participation in processes that shape the environment. We've hosted a variety of statewide events, such as architectural tours, an annual architecture film festival, and educational seminars. We operate solely with the help of sponsorships, public donations, grants, and income generated by our programs and membership.

## LAF Board of Regents

**Marcel Wisznia, AIA**  
Chairman

**Eddie Cazayoux, FAIA**  
Treasurer

**Andrew Sanders, AIA**  
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**Mark Heck, AIA**  
AIA Louisiana President

**Fritz Embaugh, AIA**  
AIA Louisiana Past President

**Nicole Dufour**  
Executive Director



# THE FILM TEAM

**Conni Castille**

Film Writer/Director

**Charles E. Richard**

Film Writer/Director

**Allison Bohl DeHart**

Producer

**J. Alejandro Moreno**

Director of Photography

**Derek LaRocque**

Sound Recordist

**Tanner Short**

Gaffer

**Bao Ngo**

Assistant Camera

**Patrick McGinley**

Grip





# Advisory Board Members

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## Tara A. Dudley, PhD

Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin  
Author *Building Antebellum New Orleans: Free People of Color and their Influence* (UT Press, 2021)

## Jonn Hankins

Historian & Co-Founder, CEO at New Orleans Master Crafts Guild

## General Russel Honoré

Decorated 37-year Army Veteran & Global Authority on Leadership, Disaster Management, & Climate Preparedness.  
Native of Pointe Coupée Parish, LA

## Margarita Jover

Professor of Architecture, Director of Engineering and Landscape Architecture  
Tulane University

## Emmett Moten

President of Moten Group, a Real Estate Development & Consulting Firm

## Maida Owens

Folklife Program Director  
Louisiana Division of the Arts | Office of Cultural Development | LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

## Theodore “Ted” Pierre Jr.

Architect/Architectural Master Mason & Historic Brick & Mortar Specialist  
Founder of Pierre Masonry, LLC, New Orleans

## Jeff Poreé

Master Plasterer, owner of Jeff Porée Plastering and Paint LLC, New Orleans

## Darryl A. Reeves

Master Blacksmith, owner of Andrews Welding and Blacksmith Shop, New Orleans

## Terrence Sanders-Smith

Artist, Curator, Writer, Publisher of Artvoices Books, Filmmaker

## I. William Sizeler, AIA

Architect, Founder, Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects



## THE AUDIENCE

### Screenings & Events

Film festivals, public screenings, panel discussions, statewide airtime on Louisiana public television, and national exposure on PBS.

### Schools & Universities

Public & private schools and universities across the state & possibly Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) across the nation.

### Museums & Libraries

Museums and libraries across Louisiana, perhaps as part of a traveling exhibit through the Louisiana State Museum system; African American museums.



# DOCUMENTARY TIMELINE

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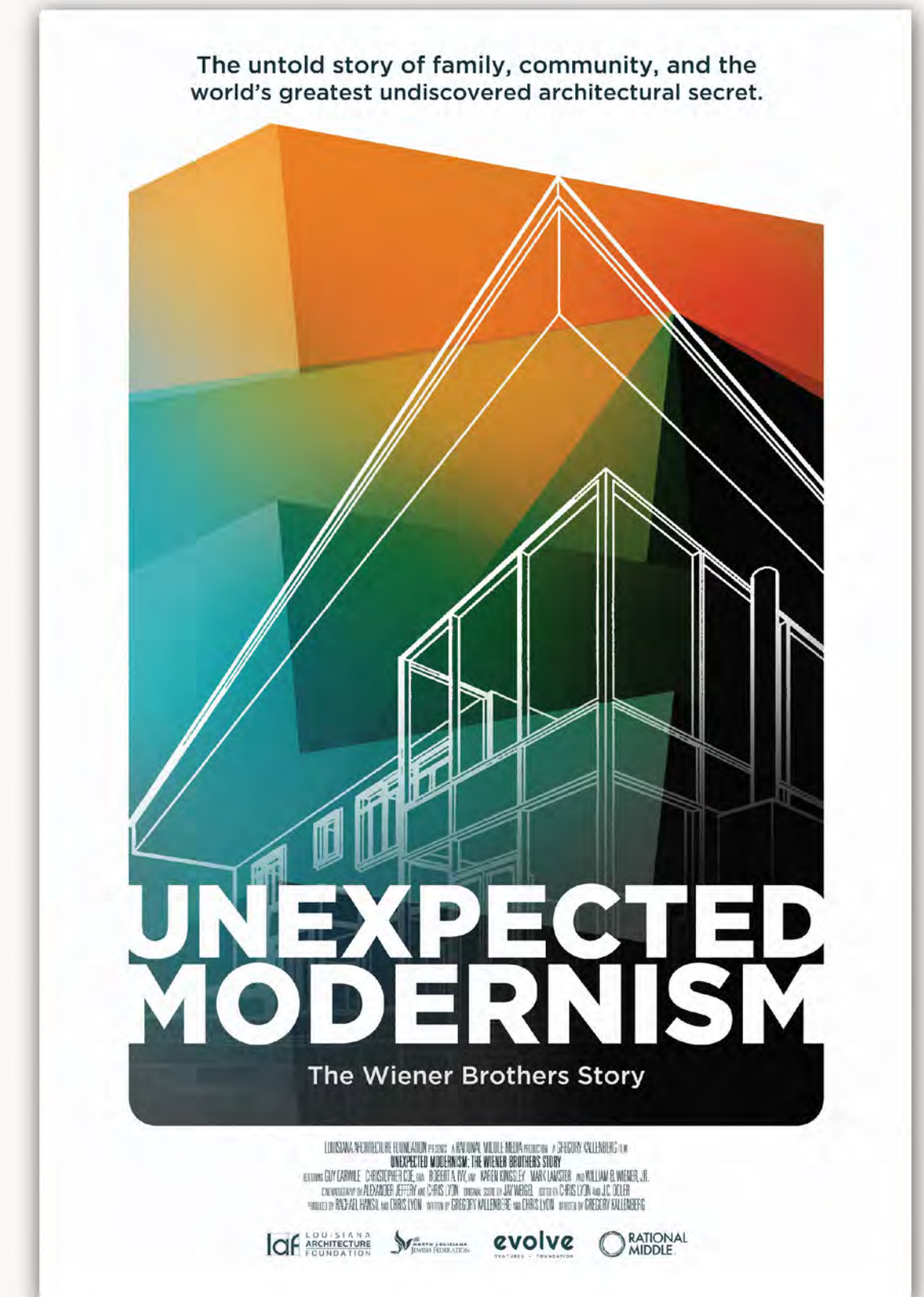
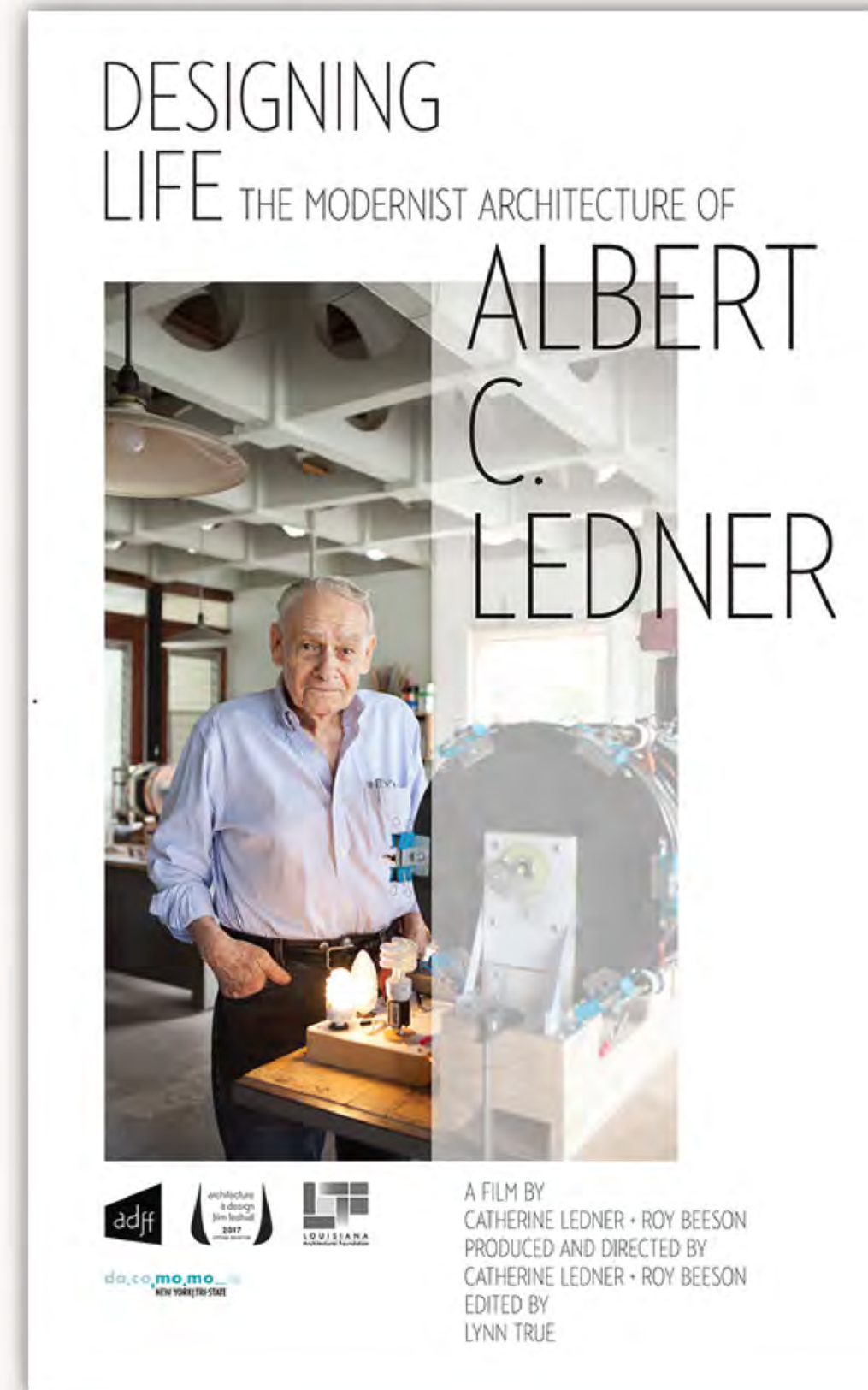
<b>April 2022</b>		<b>Dec 2022</b>	<b>March 2023</b>	<b>Nov 2023</b>	<b>May 2024</b>	<b>June 2024</b>
Development & Research		Pre-Production	Production	Post Production	Picture Lock	Documentary Release



## OTHER LAF FILM PROJECTS

From 2016 to 2019, the LAF hosted the annual Louisiana Architecture & Design Film Festival. The festival showcased Louisiana and nationally-produced films about architecture and architects.

In 2020, the LAF premiered its first film presentation, “*Unexpected Modernism: The Wiener Brothers’ Story.*” The film was entirely funded by grants and donations. The acclaimed film has been screened statewide and was televised on Louisiana Public Broadcasting from 2019 - 21. LPB is working with the LAF to submit the film for national broadcast on PBS. The LAF is also working with Catherine Ledner to help present the final version of her film about her acclaimed architect father, “*Designing Life: The Modernist Architecture of Albert C. Ledner.*”





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## CONTACT US

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*Executive Director*

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