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Editorial correspondence, including manuscripts for submission, should be emailed to Gregory Donofrio donofrio@umn.edu and Chad Randl at cgr5@cornell.edu. Electronic submissions are encouraged, but physical materials can be mailed to Gregory Donofrio, School of Architecture, University of Minnesota, 145 Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. Articles should be in the range of 4,500 to 6,000 words and not be under consideration for publication or previously published elsewhere. Refer to the back of this volume for manuscript guidelines.

Books for review, and book reviews, should be sent to Gregory Donofrio, School of Architecture, University of Minnesota, 145 Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. E-mail donofrio@umn.edu.

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Architectural history, as indicated in the book's subtitle, is Abramson's primary focus. Yet the project's diverse disciplinary explorations—particularly in the early chapters—tempt readers to ponder the implications of obsolescence for the postwar built environment at an even more urban scale and vernacular scope. Where is suburbia in this story, with its sometimes short-lived shopping malls and surprisingly adaptable mass-produced homes? The voices of developers and builders appear in trade literature of the prewar decades, but what were their organizations saying about building

life spans in the postwar era? Further, how did obsolescence figure into the engineering and maintenance of infrastructure like highways? These remain questions for another study. But they are just some of the compelling research paths opened up by this thoughtful history of a decidedly unobsolete architectural past.

FRANCESCA RUSSELLO AMMON

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Virginia Savage McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses (Revised): The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013, 848 pp., black-and-white line-art sketches and grayscale photographs, paperback, \$29.95, ISBN: 978-0375710827.

In 2013, Virginia Savage McAlester published her second edition of *A Field Guide to American Houses*, subtitled *The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. In 2015, Alfred A. Knopf produced the paperback version of this book. The first edition of *A Field Guide to American Houses*, first published in 1984, was authored by both Virginia Savage McAlester and her husband, Lee, unlike the second edition that notably has a single author. For nearly thirty years *A Field Guide to American Houses* has been a staple reference book within the historic preservation and American architectural history curriculums, used by more than a generation of students and practitioners. McAlester has done a very much needed update and expansion of her first work.

The bulk of what Virginia and Lee McAlester had in the first edition carries over into the second. As advertised on the front cover, the second edition has been “revised and expanded to include homes built after 1940 and a new section on how to ‘read’ a neighborhood,” which occurs in the first section of the book, titled *Looking at American Houses*, following the chapter titled

“Structure.” The “Neighborhoods” chapter discusses the types that can be found according to transportation infrastructure, density, design patterns, and land subdivision, and is complemented with illustrations that assist the reader in understanding the material. Besides this, other noticeable additions and changes include a chapter on manufactured housing from circa 1930 to the present within the *Folk House* section of the book. Within the *Colonial* section the chapter on the Adam[s] architectural style has been renamed “Federal.” “English and Anglo-American Period Houses” and “French Period Houses” are now separate subsections of the *Eclectic Houses (1880–1940)* section, though the number and titles of the chapters remain the same. These changes reflect more of an editorial reorganization of material carried over from the first edition.

The bulk of the new material within McAlester's second edition is in the section *Modern Houses (1900–present)*, which before was a subsection of *Eclectic Houses*. The new section on *Modern Houses* includes four subsections: “Early Modern,” “Bankers Modern,” “Mainstream Modern,” and “Styled Houses Since 1935,” each having

three to five chapters. Within “Early Modern” we have the carryover from the first edition: chapters on “Prairie,” “Craftsman,” and “Modernistic.” “Bankers Modern” has chapters on “Minimal Traditional,” “Ranch,” and “Split-Level.” Within the “Mainstream Modern” subsection there are chapters pertaining to “International,” “Contemporary,” “Shed,” “Other 20th-Century Modern,” and “21st-Century Modern.” In the final subsection, “Styled Houses Since 1935,” are chapters on “Mansard,” “Styled Ranch,” “Millennium Mansion,” “New Traditional,” and “American Vernacular.” Following the chapters on architectural styles there is also an appendix on “Approaches to Construction in the 20th and 21st Centuries,” which delves into topics of prefabricated construction, green construction, alternative construction methods, and construction changes in the twentieth century. Throughout, an extensive array of illustrations and pictures are used to convey the visual effects of the architectural styles, in a consistent way that harmonizes the original material of the first edition with the second.

McAlester’s second edition is a thorough update of her first widely used reference book from 1984. The second (paperback) edition comprises 848 pages, in contrast to the first (paperback) edition’s 524 pages, a 62 percent increase in new material that the reviewer considers to be both substantial and warranted. One shortcoming of the second edition, as with the first, is that its focus is nearly exclusively on single-family homes, most freestanding with some row housing. There is little coverage on buildings with multifamily housing, especially in high-density urban areas. Considering recent trends in urban and suburban densification this might be considered for future exploration by the author. Otherwise, the second edition is a welcome updated reference for the professions of historic preservation and architectural history, which the reviewer highly recommends and will likely use on a regular basis.

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Harold Kalman. *Heritage Planning: Principles and Process*. New York: Routledge, 2015. 344 pp., 139 color photographs and illustrations, paperback, \$53.95, ISBN: 9781138017924

It is immensely irritating to review a book that you wish you’d found the time to write yourself and even more irritating to find that it is an excellent overview of those things that are critical to heritage practice, but are rarely written down.

Written by someone with some thirty-five years of practical experience, this book is aimed squarely at practitioners. The planners, architects, historians, archaeologists, developers, and managers—whether paid or voluntary—who every day grapple with the challenges of planning for heritage sites.

The book is structured in two parts. The first section on principles provides the context, dealing with the organization of the sector, the legal and planning infrastructure, ethics and best practice, conventions

and charters, treatments, standards and guidelines. The second section, on process, tackles decision making from understanding sites through to managing change, beginning with research, investigation, and community engagement, and then covering the different elements of managing change including finding a use, selecting a treatment, grants and other incentives, risks assessment, heritage impact assessment, and conservation planning.

The challenge with any book about heritage is how to set the focus—Kalman draws mainly on Canadian, US, UK, and Australian practice, given the legal, linguistic, and ethical similarities, but there is sufficient international practice here to reach a wider audience. The heritage he addresses is mainly place-based—buildings and sites—rather than collections, landscapes, or natural, industrial