

News Release FROM THE NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

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A New Look at a Familiar Structure: The Parking Garage ***House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage* opens at the National Building Museum this fall**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— In a world without parking garages, parking lots would sprawl across our cities. For more than 100 years, the parking garage has provided design and engineering solutions to the parking problem. *House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage* is the first major exhibition to explore the history of this familiar structure and open conversations about innovative designs and parking solutions for the future.

On display from October 17, 2009 through July 11, 2010, *House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage* will reveal the many facets of this building type: a showcase for innovation; a platform for some of the 20th century's best-known architects; and now, potentially, a valuable component of responsible and sustainable city planning. Visitors will learn how the parking facility evolved from an ornate, enclosed structure to the open deck and integrated forms we see today. *House of Cars* explores how the parked car has changed our built environment. The idea for the exhibition was brought to the Museum by Shannon Sanders McDonald, author of *The Parking Garage: Design and Evolution of a Modern Urban Form*, published by the Urban Land Institute in 2007.

The exhibition starts with photographs, drawings, and a vintage 1927 Ford Model A that examine the birth of the parking garage in the early 20th century. The section on engineering invites visitors to test out a ramp system, view architectural plans and patents, learn about 1950s experiments in automated hoist systems, and see examples of the first underground garages. The exhibition features replicas of structural systems such as columns and beams as well as an early time stamp machine, parking attendant hats, and mid-century films in which parking was promoted as the key to a successful urban development. A gallery including fine art and examples drawn from the big and small-screen provides a look at how the parking garage has inspired popular culture throughout the years. Visitors see images and artifacts from innovative garage façades, including reproductions of drawings by architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Eero Saarinen. The exhibition concludes with a look at the future of parking, featuring photographs, renderings, and models of “green garages” as well as new types of parking solutions.

The presenting sponsor of *House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage* is the National Parking Association, headquartered in Washington, D.C. “We are honored to be the presenting sponsor of this exciting exhibition,” said Martin L. Stein, President. “The National Parking Association, which has served the industry since 1951, is the go-to-place for information, education, and networking opportunities for parking professionals. Our partnership with the National Building Museum for *House of Cars* assists us in educating people outside our industry about the history, viability, and important service we provide to the success of cities all across North America. I would also like to recognize members Brett Harwood, Gary Cudney of Carl Walker, Inc., Derek Kiley of WPS North America, Herb Anderson of Impark, and Scott Burr of Tech Painting, for their generous support in making this presenting sponsorship possible.”

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum is developing a variety of education programs intended to further examine the parking garage’s role in our society. A lecture series will cover topics ranging from green design and urban planning to the future of transportation and parking. The National Building Museum will also host a film series surveying the many roles played by the parking garage on screen, from extreme action and intrigue to avant-garde expression. For details and up-to-date information on the exhibition and associated programming, please visit www.nbm.org.

The presenting sponsor of *House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage* is the National Parking Association. Additional support is provided by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Colonial Parking, Inc.; Carl Walker, Inc.; Harwood Properties; Impark; Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners, with International Parking Design; Tech Painting Company; and WPS North America, among others. McGraw-Hill Construction is the official media partner.

The **National Building Museum** is America’s leading cultural institution dedicated to exploring and celebrating architecture, design, engineering, construction, and planning. Chartered by Congress in 1980 and open to the public since 1985, the Museum has become a vital forum for exchanging ideas and information about the built environment through its exhibitions, education programs, and publications. The Museum is located at 401 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. Museum Shop. Café. Public inquiries: 202.272.2448 or visit www.nbm.org.

For more information, please contact Johanna Weber at 202.272.2448, ext. 3458 or jweber@nbm.org.



HOUSE OF CARS: Innovation and the Parking Garage

October 17, 2009 through July 11, 2010
at the National Building Museum

EXHIBITION PRESS IMAGES



Dupont Garage, Washington, D.C.

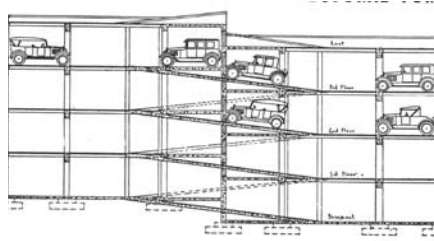


Fig. 9. Section through Garage Showing Patent Ramp Design with Staggered Floors
D'Humy Section with Ramp Design, 1921



Marina City, Chicago, Illinois, 1959-67



Euclid Square Garage, Cleveland, Ohio



Bill Payne Garage & Storage, circa 1936



City Minit Park, Alliance, Ohio



Fairfield Multimodal Transportation Center



Packard Drive Parking Structure Staircase



"Dawn & Dusk," AMTRAK/ Metro Station garage, New Carrollton, Maryland



ZipCar Dispenser Proposal



Cricklewood Apartments Garage



Revelle Parking Structure Rendering

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EXHIBITION PRESS IMAGE CAPTIONS & CREDITS

Dupont Garage, Washington, D.C., 1907

Courtesy the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

The Dupont Garage, on the north side of the 2000 block of M Street NW in Washington, D.C., served area residents and was known as the “neighborhood garage.” Its detailed stone and brick façade blended well with the cityscape.

D’Humy section, 1921, Harold F. Blanchard

Courtesy Prints & Photographs Division,
Library of Congress

The D’Humy ramp system, first introduced in 1918, features split level floors to maximize the number of parking spaces and helped motivate the shift from elevators to ramps in parking garages.

Euclid Square Garage (Wigmore Coliseum Building), Cleveland, Ohio

Courtesy the Walter Leedy Postcard Collection,
Special Collections, Cleveland State University Library

The Euclid Square Garage in Cleveland, Ohio proclaimed itself to be the “Largest Garage in the World” on this 1920s postcard.

Bill Payne Garage and Storage, circa 1936

Courtesy Anaheim Public Library

Many early garages offered automobile servicing, such as brake repairs, as well as storage space.

City Minit Park, Alliance, Ohio

Courtesy the Cleveland Press Collection,
Special Collections, Cleveland State University Library

This 1950s municipal garage used an automated hoist system to lift cars into their spaces.

Marina City, Chicago, Illinois, 1959-67

Bertrand Goldberg Associates [architects]; R. Radic [photographer], c. 1960s.
Bertrand Goldberg Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives,
The Art Institute of Chicago; © The Art Institute of Chicago.

The Marina City towers in Chicago each have a spiral parking ramp on their first 19 floors and residential apartments above. The complex is often called a “city within a city” because it includes a theater, gym, skating rink, shops, restaurants, and an actual marina on the Chicago River.

Fairfield Multimodal Transportation Center

Photo by David Wakely; designed by Stantec Architecture

This parking garage, which uses photovoltaic cells and drought-tolerant landscaping, includes 400 parking stalls, bike lockers, telecommuting center, office building, ten covered bus bays, electric vehicle charging ports, and plans for retail shops.

“Dawn and Dusk,” New Carrollton AMTRAK Metro Station garage, 1998

Photo by Max McKenzie;

Courtesy Heidi Lippman with VanDusen Architects

Parking garages can expose thousands of people to public art on a daily basis. This stone and glass mosaic, with its reference to day and night, was designed to inspire commuters as they connect to their Metro trains at the New Carrollton Station in Maryland.

ZipCar Dispenser proposal, 2004

Courtesy Moskow Linn Architects Inc.

Moskow Linn Architects proposed this “Pez-dispenser” design for a Zipcar garage. This innovative idea, which takes up only a small footprint of valuable land, literally dispenses cars mechanically.

Packard Drive Parking Structure staircase, Arizona State University, 2004

Photo by Tom Story; © Arizona State University

This spiral staircase in a parking garage at Arizona State University mimics the motion of cars on ramps as it leads pedestrians through the space.

Crickelwood Apartments Garage

Photo by AISC Regional Engineer William L. Pascoli, PE

Steel has often been used in garage construction to reinforce concrete, but with coatings to protect against corrosion, it may also be used on its own.

Revelle Parking Structure Rendering

Courtesy of Harry Wolf, FAIA, WOLF ARCHITECTURE

This futuristic circular garage is planned for the campus of Revelle College at the University of California, San Diego and will be surrounded by trees.



EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION	<i>House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage</i>
WHEN	October 17, 2009 through July 11, 2010
WHERE	National Building Museum , first-floor galleries
OVERVIEW	<p><i>House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage</i> is the first major exhibition to explore this familiar structure and open conversations about parking's role in our society and innovative parking solutions for the future.</p> <p>Featuring artifacts such as a 1927 Ford Model A, sculptures and other works of art, architectural models, multimedia from popular movies and television shows, and historic photographs, <i>House of Cars</i> explores how the built environment has evolved to accommodate the automobile. The exhibition also highlights innovative parking solutions from the past century including images of the first underground garages, a touchable model of a ramp system, and parking garage designs by famous architects including Santiago Calatrava and Frank Lloyd Wright.</p>
EXHIBITION LAYOUT	<p><i>House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage</i> is divided into six galleries. Early Car Culture examines the birth of the parking garage in the early 20th century. How Does it Work? focuses on the engineering elements of parking garages including the ramp system, automated hoist systems, and underground garages. The Mid-Century Garage examines the parking garage building boom in the 1950s. How Does it Look? features innovative parking garage designs including reproductions of drawings from architects such as Paul Rudolph and Eero Saarinen. The Future of Parking looks at how garages are being incorporated into sustainable city plans and features photographs of "green garages." An auxiliary gallery in the exhibition Art and the Public Imagination looks at how the parking garage has inspired popular culture from fine art to film.</p>
CURATORS	Sarah Leavitt, curator Deborah Sorensen, assistant curator Stephanie Anderson, curatorial assistant
SPONSORS	The presenting sponsor of <i>House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage</i> is the National Parking Association. Additional support is provided by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Colonial Parking, Inc.; Carl Walker, Inc.; Harwood Properties; Impark; Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners, with International Parking Design; Tech Painting; and WPS North America. McGraw-Hill Construction is the official media partner.

HOUSE OF CARS: INNOVATION AND THE PARKING GARAGE **RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**



In conjunction with *House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage*, the National Building Museum has developed related public programs that will begin in January 2010 and run through the end of the exhibition.

EXHIBITION LECTURE SERIES

To expand on exhibition themes, the Museum will hold an exhibition lecture series that will convene experts from across the nation. Details of this series are still be finalized and programs are subject to change; for up-to-date information visit www.nbm.org.

Lectures topics include:

- *Parking Lots – Architecture or Eyesore?*
This illustrated talk will look parking structures designed by some of the world’s most famous architects, including Santiago Calatrava, LeCorbusier, and Frank Lloyd Wright and will ask if parking garages can be works of beauty. Speakers include **Ned Cramer**, editor in chief, *Architect* magazine.
- *The Future of Parking*
The future of parking garages includes charging stations, solar photovoltaic rooftop arrays, web based parking spot locators, multi-use structures, and rainwater capture. Listen to architects, planners, and engineers discuss plans for the nation’s first LEED parking lot and innovative designs for the parking of smart cars, bikes, and even Segways. Panelists include **James O’Connor**, principal of Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners, designers of the first LEED garage in the country; Director of Washington DC’s Dept. of Transportation; and a former Zip Car executive.
- *Parking is Not Free*
Donald Shoup, professor of urban planning at UCLA and author of *The High Cost of Free Parking*, provides a historical overview to the parking garage and suggests we finally design our cities for people and not cars. (NOTE: This program is not yet confirmed)

BUILDING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY LECTURE SERIES

As part of the Museum’s long-running series sponsored by the Department of Energy, **Shannon Sanders McDonald, AIA**, exhibition consultant for *House of Cars*, practicing architect, and author of *The Parking Garage: Design and Evolution of a Modern Urban Form* will discuss future parking garage materials.

FROM COMEDY TO CREEPY: PARKING GARAGES IN AMERICAN MEDIA FILM SERIES

The parking garage plays a significant role in American film and television from the shadowy world of “deep throat” in *All the President’s Men*; to the absurdity of a confused *Seinfeld* cast; to a frightening set for *P2*, which was filmed entirely inside a parking garage, this modern building form illicit a variety of visceral emotions. *Washington Post* film critic **Ann Hornaday** joins **Deborah Sorensen**, associate curator at the National Building Musuem for opening remarks before each screening.