



Building Blocks

East Garrison Ground Breaking a Quantum Leap for Arts Habitat

(Excerpts from comments by Martha Manson, President of Arts Habitat, Inc.,
as invited speaker on the occasion of East Garrison ground breaking,
April 9, 2007, at the former Fort Ord.
The complete version is posted on the Arts Habitat website.)

Welcome to this new neighborhood, full of promise, where the arts will be integrated into everyday life. Since 1991 it has been our goal to create a place for creating art – to create an ARTS HABITAT.

Now, sixteen years later, the artists' vision has become reality, and Arts Habitat is an essential component of the development program at East Garrison.

The early concept was put forward by a committee of Artists Equity Association members, composed of four artists: Mary Buskirk, Gloria C. Mattos Hughes, Richard Mayer and David Wagner. David led the initial efforts, then passed the torch to Richard, who became executive director. All four of Arts Habitat's founders are here today, and we thank them for their foresight and fortitude.

We are now responsible for East Garrison arts programming, and our partner, Artspace Projects, the country's leading developer of spaces for the arts, is responsible for developing sixty-five affordable units of live/work housing, and renovating twenty historic buildings for day studios and other arts uses. We will work together to nurture a thriving community of artists and arts enthusiasts.

This ground breaking signifies our transition from concept to implementation, and this is a time to acknowledge the tremendous assistance we've received from literally hundreds of friends and stakeholders – from individuals to foundations...

...Arts Habitat thanks all who have had a hand in creating this wonderful outcome. We invite you to help us fulfill our mission...

Creating a Place for Creating Art.



...provides Arts Programming for the East Garrison communities of the past, present and future. Would you like to help? sign up at
<http://www.artshabitat.org>

We are now ready to come to grips with the most basic problem of a building or a town: What is it made of? What is its structure? What is its physical essence? What are the building blocks of which its space is made?

We know...that any town and any building gets its character from those events and patterns of events which keep on happening there the most; and that the patterns of events are linked, somehow, to space.

— Christopher Alexander
The Timeless Way of Building
(New York:
Oxford University Press, 1979) —



Groundbreaking Activities



Suncups in April: A Garrison's Legacy

For the East Garrison Groundbreaking Ceremony, April 9 2007

(This poem was written for and read by

Diana Garcia at the Groundbreaking ceremony.)

A pale sun greets you. Caught between fog
and a low pressure system, today
might be a perfect day. You shut your eyes,
recall the dream before waking. Arc
of metal atop scrap radiators:
a dancer's arm tending a breeze. Orange
madder edging Prussian blue: a staged sunset
for a lover's conflict. Clay rising
on the wheel: Bass line weaving string and brass.
Medium doesn't matter. What matters
is space and time carved from a former fort.
Light glistens from sea to clouds to brooding sky,
enters through door and window, nudges you,
partners you, another chance at creation.
Scrub jays fuss, quails scurry, crows claim their share
of sky. What day is it? It could be Tuesday.
What matters is another day to wield
torch or brush or clay. You hear fragments
of a melody, allow your feet
to follow in its wake. Outside, voices
syncopate: one friend edits photos
for an exhibition; another cards
wool from a furze-fed sheep. A band of children
rehearse this evening's drama, spring's interlude.
Dressed as suncups, lupine, shooting stars,
their voices echo, legacy of voices
decades-old. Young men trained for battle drew
these meadows, wrote film scripts, composed soundtracks,
their dreams a shared conversation. You step
outside with tea or coffee, taste the light
for inspiration. One more denizen,
you claim your place in this constellation,
art's magicians beneath a central coast sky.

A Note from East Garrison Partners

The "House Planting" ceremony in April 2007 was a major milestone for the Redevelopment of East Garrison. We want to thank all of the Arts Habitat folks that attended and participated in making it a truly memorable occasion. After so many years of planning, meetings and negotiations, we are extremely excited to be under construction at East Garrison! The efforts of all of the stakeholders, especially Arts Habitat, have created a unique vision for East Garrison that will be a National Model for Base Reuse projects and a local success story for public participation in a real estate development project. The Reuse and Rehabilitation of the historic buildings at East Garrison into usable spaces for artists of all types is an exciting prospect. We look forward to seeing and hearing it come alive with creative people!

Launching "The Houses Project"

Arts Habitat launches its first public art program this spring. Called "The Houses Project", it will call for educators, artists, arts organizations and community members to create works of art on canvas panels in the shape of the Arts Habitat logo: a square + a triangle = a house.

The "Houses" project will launch Arts Habitat's first public art program. It will introduce several other Arts Habitat programs, including a visiting artist program, arts festivals, and arts education outreach.

The completed works will be suitable for public display throughout the county. As "neighborhoods," the "houses" could be temporary traveling exhibits in public buildings, parks, organizations, and sponsor offices. We envision a row along the construction fence at East Garrison: a 'coming attraction' for the creative community that will thrive there.

Our goal is to bring together a creative mix of people as participants in this effort. We hope to initiate an on-going process of arts connections and community-building in the region and at East Garrison. Through the expressive visual medium of this project, we believe that the "houses," once installed, will offer a compelling look into the diversity of the people who call Monterey County home.

Contact denese@artshabitat.org to learn more.



Denese Sanders is a visual artist with a Masters Degree in Fine Art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has taught workshops and college level studio arts classes in drawing, printmaking, and design.

If you are interested in receiving information from East Garrison Partners about purchasing a home, renting artists space, or the nature of the future East Garrison community, go to <http://www.eastgarrison.com>. There you will find an opportunity to sign up to receive updates on construction progress, and other news connected with the development process.

News from Artspace:

The mission of Artspace Projects is to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations.

They pursue this mission through development projects, asset management activities, consulting services, and community-building activities that serve artists and arts organizations of all disciplines, cultures, and economic circumstances.

By creating this space, Artspace supports the continued professional growth of artists and enhances the cultural and economic vitality of the surrounding community.

Artspace will manage the mothballing and restoration of the old buildings at East Garrison. They have selected the architect for the historic building rehabilitation. Architectural Resources Group of San Francisco are working on design documents for the facility. Schematic design documents are scheduled to be completed in June.

Mothballing of the historic buildings is underway. Artspace retained Architectural Resources Group to oversee the work of Randazzo Enterprises, Inc., a contractor based in Castroville.

Randazzo Enterprises is preparing the historic buildings for the three year waiting period before construction will commence.

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Throughout history, art has been a part of East Garrison.

Native American tribes walked, hunted, and lived along the Salinas River.
They made art.

Settlers built houses and buried their dead here.
They made art.

Soldiers trained for five major wars on this site.
They made art.

Soon families will live in houses here and an arts community will be born.

Artists, children, and families will live and work here.
They will make art.

Thank you for supporting the Work of Arts Habitat.
You can help continue the history of art at East Garrison
by making as generous a contribution as you can.

