

THE CITY OF DETROIT

The SIA visited Detroit for its 9th Annual Conference in 1980. We are returning 25 years later to look at the changes to its industrial landscape and learn more about its industrial legacy.

Detroit is the oldest major city in the Midwest but its economic and industrial history is really a tale of two cities. Founded in 1701 as a French fur trading post and fortress along a strait ("De Troit"), it was primarily a commercial center until the 1870s, when manufacturing became firmly established. Detroit had a remarkably diversified industrial base in the late 19th century, with nationally significant companies manufacturing railroad freight cars, parlor and kitchen stoves, tobacco products (cigars and chewing tobacco), pharmaceuticals, iron and copper, chemicals, boots and shoes, ships, and a wide range of wood products.

In the early 20th century, Detroit became the center of the American automobile industry and the home of important brands such as Oldsmobile, Ford, Cadillac, Packard, Hudson, Lincoln, Dodge, Maxwell, Chrysler, and many others. By the late 1920s Detroit's economy was dominated by automobile manufacturers and their suppliers. The auto industry's growth brought an enormous influx of immigrants to staff the factories. Detroit's population, only 285,000 in 1900, skyrocketed to 1.6 million in 1930, when it was the fourth-largest city in the United States.

After serving as "The Arsenal of Democracy" during World War II, the automobile industry began moving out of the city starting in the 1950s and this trend has continued unabated to the present. After reaching a peak population of nearly 2 million in the early 1950s, Detroit's population is now under 900,000.

RECOMMENDED READING

Steve Babson, *Working Detroit*

Ford R. Bryan, *Rouge: Pictured in Its Prime*

W. Hawkins Ferry, *The Legacy of Albert Kahn*

Arthur M. Woodford, *This Is Detroit, 1701-2001*

Charles K. Hyde, *Detroit: An Industrial History Guide*

TOUR SCHEDULE

Although we expect tours to proceed as outlined, individual sites and other details may change due to site availability and other factors. Please consult your confirmation letters and the website for updates. Final details will be provided at the registration desk upon check-in.

■ THURSDAY, September 29

EARLY BIRD TOUR – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – *From Farming to Factories to Flying: Henry Ford Village Industry Plants*

Henry Ford, alarmed at the increasing exodus of farmers to the auto factories, began a project in the late 1910s to stem rural population decline by converting old mills into small auto plants. This tour will start at the Fair-Lane Estate on a section of the Rouge River which Ford dammed to produce his own electric power. After touring the historic home and grounds that feature work of the renowned landscape architect, Jens Jensen, we will travel along the upper Rouge River to Historic Northville Village Industry Plant. Here we will tour the restored water wheel and eat lunch at Mill Race Village a re-created 19th-century town. The tour will then proceed along the river past Waterford, Meads Mill, Phoenix, Wilcox, and Newburgh Village Industry Plants. At these historic sites you will see the evolution of the mills from farms to factories to producers of bomber parts during WWII. Our final stop at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center will highlight the first of the Village Industry Plants developed by Ford and see one of the first industrial batteries and generators developed for Ford by Thomas Edison. Visit www.nankinmills.org/History.htm for more about the mills.

RECEPTION – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The reception will be hosted at the historic Ford Motor Company Piquette Avenue plant in Detroit. The Piquette plant, now known as the T-Plex, is the 1904 factory where Henry Ford developed and implemented production of the Model T, which proved so successful the company built and moved to the Highland Park plant six years later. Charlie Hyde will address the industrial history of Detroit and the meal will include Detroit's version of the chili dog. Info: www.tplex.org/

■ FRIDAY, September 30

ALL-DAY PROCESS TOUR – 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We will begin Friday with an early private visit to the new Rouge Factory Tour www.hfmgv.org/rouge/default.asp operated by The Henry Ford. Following a short film and multi-media presentation we will venture above the assembly area as the crews build F-150 pickup trucks. Bob Kreipke, the Ford Company Historian, will join us. Following the Rouge Tour, we will visit several parts suppliers including New Center Stamping, manufacturing replacement parts for vehicles over 40 years old and ThyssenKrupp Budd www.buddcompany.com/ using modern processes for sheet metal stampings and automotive assemblies. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

■ Saturday, October 1

CRUISE & TOUR – 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

We will start the day with a short walk from the hotel to Hart Plaza at the Detroit River and board an excursion boat with our guide Bill Worden, Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board. In stark contrast to the mills and light industry of the upper Rouge seen on Thursday, we will then venture up the heavily industrialized lower Rouge past Zug Island, home to U.S. Steel's Great Lakes mill, under several tilt and draw bridges to the turning basin of the Ford Rouge

Plant. This tour will provide a contrast to Friday's factory tour as well, giving us an ore freighter's view of Rouge Steel and the plant itself.

After lunch in Hart Plaza, we will board the buses for visits and drive-bys to such sites as Ford's Highland Park Plant, the Packard Plant, the Diego Rivera murals at Detroit Institute of Arts, and the former GM headquarters. *Includes lunch.*

BANQUET – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The banquet will be held at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle, Detroit's island park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Dossin features exhibits on maritime history and Great Lakes shipping. www.detroithistorical.org/aboutus/dossin.asp. A special dinner speaker is planned.



ThyssenKrupp Budd plant, originally Liberty Motors.

Photo by Bode Morin.

Sunday, October 2

STAYOVER TOUR – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Led by Charlie Hyde, this bus tour of the historic Milwaukee Junction industrial district, which surrounds the Ford Motor Company Piquette plant, will offer many photo opportunities. This area was the "nursery" of the early Detroit auto industry, where dozens of auto-related businesses were located in the early 1900s. We will also visit the nearby New Amsterdam Historic District, an early concentration of automobile dealerships and repair facilities. We will also view the General Motors Building (1922) and the Fisher Building (1925), both National Historic Landmarks.

ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN DETROIT – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

From our hotel we will venture into the heart of downtown Detroit, now in the midst of Superbowl beautification. In addition to new plazas, fountains, stadiums and parks, we will visit significant architectural features from the building boom of the 1920s and 1930s. Included on the tour will be several Albert Kahn designed office buildings, important theaters, and several skyline-defining skyscrapers.

Shuttle buses will leave for the airport at 1:30 and at 5:00 p.m.

Accommodations and Travel

HOTEL: The Marriott Courtyard Detroit Downtown, 333 E. Jefferson Ave., is offering a group rate of \$99 for all rooms if reserved by **September 7, 2005**. Call 313-222-7700 or 1-800-321-2211 and ask for the Society for Industrial Archeology 2005 Fall Tour rate. Do not delay your reservation while awaiting confirmation letters from SIA. There is no penalty if you cancel. Parking is \$20 in the hotel garage.

Detroit is an ever-evolving city that hosted the Major League All-star game in July 2005 and will host the 2006 NFL Superbowl. Because of both, the downtown area is being cleaned up and made more accessible. For visitor information see www.visitdetroit.com/media/aboutdetroit/statistics/.

CANADA: Across the river from Detroit is Windsor, Ontario. Several restaurants, a casino, and a really great view of the city may lure you across the border. Just remember you will need a passport, birth certificate or voter registration card to get back into the U.S. and that, at times, border crossings can take up to an hour or more.

WEATHER: Autumn in Detroit can be fabulous and there could even be a few leaves changing color by the end of September. The average daily temperatures range from 47 to 68°F for September/October.

TRAIN: Amtrak's Detroit station is in the New Center Area, approximately 3 miles north of the hotel. Taxi fares from the train station should range from \$8 to \$10. For discounted group fares from Amtrak, use convention fares code **X90H-947**



Accommodations and Travel CONTINUED

when making a reservation at 1-800-872-7245, at an Amtrak ticket counter, or with our travel agent. Convention fares cannot be booked online. Schedule and fare information is available at www.amtrak.com. The convention fare provides a 10% discount off the lowest available fare and is valid for travel from **September 26 to October 5, 2005**. Note that this discount cannot be combined with other discounts, such as senior fares.

AIR: Rich Worldwide Travel is the official travel agent for the Fall Tour. Contact Arthur Wright at 914-835-7600, ext. 226 or 1-866-431-1140, or awright@richtravel.com. Let him search for the best airfare for you. There will be a \$40 fee for issuing each ticket.

Several taxi and car companies serve the Detroit/Wayne County Airport. Taxi service can range from \$40 for a regular car to \$50 for a luxury car: www.metroairport.com/transportation/. Unfortunately, **no shuttle service is available**. SIA shuttles will run to airport on Sunday. If renting a car, follow the Car directions below from I-94.

CAR: Detroit is located at the intersection of Interstate-94 and Interstate-75. **From I-94 eastbound:** take I-94 to Exit 215, M-10 South ("Lodge Freeway"). Take M-10 south under Cobo Hall. Follow exit for Jefferson Avenue. Hotel is approximately 1/2 mile from Cobo directly across from Renaissance Center on north (left) side of Jefferson Avenue. **From I-75 northbound:** Take I-75 north to Exit 49, M-10 South ("Lodge Freeway") toward Civic Center. Follow exit for Jefferson Avenue. Hotel is approximately 1/2 mile from Cobo directly across from Renaissance Center on west (left) side of Jefferson Avenue.

Detroit is upgrading several roadways in preparation for the Superbowl. Please visit www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9615-.00.html for the latest construction updates and lane closures.

If you'd like to share a ride, as driver or passenger, from airport or other points, contact Don Durfee who will coordinate.

For more information contact: Mary Habstritt, Events Coordinator, with questions about the schedule or other event details: 212-769-4946 or events@siahq.org. Don Durfee, Office Manager, with registration questions: 906-487-1889 or sia@mtu.edu

REGISTRATION

You can also register online at www.siahq.org

Name: _____

Phone:

Spouse/Guest Name(s) _____

Home _____

Affiliation (for name badge): _____

Work _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

City: _____

The information provided above will be printed in a list provided to other attendees of the Fall Tour. If you do not wish to have information, other than your name included, please check here. ☐

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

EVENT SELECTION

For each selection below, give quantity and total.
All fees are per person.

REGISTRATION

Member: (2005 Dues Paid) _____ X \$150 = \$ _____

Non-member: _____ X \$200 = \$ _____

Student: _____ X \$120 = \$ _____

Registration fee includes opening reception and Friday and Saturday tours, which are open only to those paying the full registration fee.

Thursday Tour: _____ X \$65 = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet: _____ X \$40 = \$ _____

I will require vegetarian meals _____

Sunday Junction: _____ X \$25 = \$ _____

Sunday Walk: _____ X \$15 = \$ _____

Sunday Airport Shuttle:

Leaves the hotel at 1:30 _____ X \$10 = \$ _____

Leaves the hotel at 5:00 _____ X \$10 = \$ _____

These ala carte items do not require payment of the registration fee to attend

Late fee if postmarked after Sept. 16, 2005 _____ X \$30 = \$ _____

Total Registration: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Personal check or money order (in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. bank)
Make check payable to "SIA Fall Tour 2005"

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Account number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Please record the 3-digit CVV2 security code found on the back of your credit card immediately following the card account number: _____

Name of cardholder (printed): _____

Signature (required): _____

MAIL PAYMENT AND FORM POSTMARKED BY SEPTEMBER 16TH TO:

SIA Fall Tour 2005 – Department of Social Sciences
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295 USA

2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES

_____ Individual X \$35 = \$ _____

_____ Couple X \$40 = \$ _____

_____ Student X \$20 = \$ _____

Total Registration and Dues: \$ _____

Cancellations must be made before the registration deadline to guarantee a full refund. A complete refund policy will be provided with your confirmation.