

AIA New Orleans



A Chapter of The American
Institute of Architects

Contact: Eliana Thompson
thompson@aianeworleans.org
504.339.9827 cell
504.525.8320 office

PRESS ALERT

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2012

New Orleans Theater District—A Walking Tour **Exploring the Grand Theaters of New Orleans**

New Orleans, La. (July 14, 2012) AIA New Orleans Architectural Tour Series will explore the grand theaters of New Orleans including the Orpheum, Saenger and Joy, in the two hour tour, *New Orleans Theater District—A Walking Tour*. On Saturday, July 14, join AIA New Orleans at 2:00 pm as we investigate the history of these theaters and learn how they have been or are being restored to their former glory. Registration is limited for this exclusive opportunity so be sure to reserve your spot today.

The Orpheum Theater was designed by G. Albert Lansburgh and built in 1918. Opening in 1921, the Orpheum was listed on the National Register of Historic places in 1982, and the Louisiana Landmarks Society's list of New Orleans' most endangered sites in 2009. Last opened to the public during *DesCours* 2011, discussion will include the future of the Orpheum.

The Saenger Theatre opened on February 4, 1927; designed by Architect Emile Weil the original interior of the theatre was meant to recall an Italian Baroque courtyard. Currently in the midst of restoration, the Saenger is scheduled to reopen in 2013 welcoming back the Broadway New Orleans' series.

The Joy Theater opened in 1947 as a movie



AIA New Orleans



A Chapter of The American
Institute of Architects

Contact: Eliana Thompson
thompson@aianeworleans.org
504.339.9827 cell
504.525.8320 office

theater. The Joy closed for a brief time in 1978 and permanently closed in 2003. The theater was renovated and reintroduced into commerce in December 2011 as a multipurpose venue.

Registration for *New Orleans Theater District—A Walking Tour* is offered to the general public for \$35.00. Discounted rates are offered to AIA and CVB members for \$25.00, AIA Associate members for \$20.00. Space allowing, on-site registration will be offered at 1:45 pm at the Orpheum Theater located at 129 University Place. Cash or check only will be accepted during on-site registration.

To register or learn more about the AIA New Orleans' monthly Architecture Tour series, visit www.aianeworleans.org or call 504.525.8320.

###

About AIA New Orleans:

Founded in 1911, AIA New Orleans is a non-profit whose mission is to represent, educate and serve the architecture profession and entire community as concerns the built environment. AIA New Orleans is a component of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which serves over 80,000 professional architects. Serving over 500 local professional architects and associate members, the chapter hosts more than 75 events annually for its members and the public. Most recently, AIA New Orleans opened the 'AIA New Orleans Center for Design' which serves its members and the public by offering architecture and design education opportunities in the forms of lectures, a study center, special events, and more. AIA New Orleans Center for Design is the only dedicated architecture and design exhibition space in the state of Louisiana.