Green Preservation: 
Rehabilitating Buildings 
THESIS PROJECT 

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Green Preservation: Rehabilitating Buildings

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Historic preservationists and environmentalists both consider using existing buildings to be an important part of maintaining our environment. Historic preservationists are concerned with the heritage of the environment, while environmentalists interests lie in protecting our surroundings for reasons such as maintaining biodiversity. Incorporating these ideas into the rehabilitation of buildings will not only preserve our heritage but also our air, water, and natural resources.

Two types of studies were conducted in order to determine the present situation and where changes would need to be made in order to incorporate theses ideas. A project fully incorporating preservation and environmentalism was not found. Therefore, the first study involved two cases which demonstrate the difference between a project designed according to historic preservation standards and a project concerned with environmental issues. The example of environmental practices is a fairly well known building in New York City called the Audubon House. For the historic preservation example, a building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Curry-Pierce Building, was examined. These two examples are explained using six specific issues, compared, and then an ideal situation is formulated.
Secondly, an investigation of what regulating information is currently available was conducted. For example, many of the issues which are important to both groups are covered in the Preservation Briefs published by the National Park Service. In conclusion, an ideal situation which includes all the issues in the case studies and suggestions for preservationists and environmentalists to incorporate each other's ideas of using existing buildings to help improve our environment.

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Major Professor

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