

# Thursday Evening / “Gallery Night”

April 15<sup>th</sup> is “Gallery Night” in Providence, which means that you can visit 26 museums and art galleries between 5 and 9 pm. We have arranged for a number of **additional buildings** to be open especially for SAH members all along Benefit Street, and hope you will combine visits to the two exhibitions (at the RISD Museum, and Brown’s Bell Gallery) organized to coincide with the SAH meeting with a visit to a number of houses that are rarely (or never) open to the public.

You can walk in 10 minutes from the Westin Hotel to Benefit Street, but you can also catch an “Art Bus” from the parking lot behind the Citizens Bank building 5 minutes away. There are several routes to different parts of the city, the one going to Benefit Street, (with scheduled stops at the Art Club, RISD museum, Bell Gallery, John Brown House) is the “East Side Loop.” The third option is the trolley from Kennedy Plaza (green line, 92), which would bring you to the First Baptist Meeting House before it enters the East Side Tunnel.

See: [www.gallerynight.info](http://www.gallerynight.info)



## **Art Club (next to the First Baptist Meeting House): 10, 11 Thomas Street**

Seril Dodge House I (1786-89, 1906, 1983-4); federal house with 5 bay façade, raised to its present height in 1906 when the current Colonial Revival Storefront was inserted. Seril Dodge House II (1791, 1886). One of the most handsome Queen Anne interiors in Providence; the Art Club was founded in 1880.



## **RISD Museum: 224 Benefit Street (1897, 1904, 1926, 1993)**

Apart from their excellent and extensive permanent collection, there is one exhibition installed in particular to coincide with the SAH conference:

### **The Theater that was Rome: 16th to 18th Century Views and Maps**

This exhibition of printed maps, illustrated guide books, architectural albums and drawings reveals the splendors of Rome as they were laid out for the tourist, engineer, pilgrim, architect and armchair traveler. Also: **Spindles and Spokes: Windsor Chairs and their Legacy in America.**



## **David Winton Bell Gallery: 64 College Street**

(A short walk up from Benefit Street) List Art Building, 1971, Philip Johnson  
”Unbuilt Providence: Architectural Visions, 1856 to 2000”

Wine and cheese reception for SAH members.

This exhibition brings together rarely shown projects by Thomas Tefft, Raymond Hood, William Lescaze, Erich Mendelsohn, Felix Candela, Paul Rudolph, I. M. Pei, Hardy Holzman Pfeifer and others that were designed for Providence but not executed.



## **Providence Athenaeum: 251 Benefit Street (open until 7 o’clock only)**

1836-38, additions in 1868, 1917, 1977-79: William Strickland’s only New England building. One of the oldest private lending libraries in the US. The interior remodeled by James Bucklin in 1868. Don’t miss the Egyptian temple under the main staircase in the basement, designed in the 1830s to house the collection of folios of the “Description de’Egypte.”



**Stephen Hopkins House: 15 Hopkins Street  
(1707, 1743, 1804, moved to current location in 1927)**

**Open especially for SAH members: 5-9 pm!** (A donation of \$ 1.50 is recommended but voluntary. We are grateful to the Colonial Dames of America, especially Katherine Harrington for opening the house especially for us.)

Stephen Hopkins was 10 times governor of Rhode Island, staunch advocate of independence from Great Britain, signer of the Declaration of Independence. George Washington stayed here. (Twice, actually: 1776, 1781);



**Eliza Ward House: 2 George Street** (at the corner of Benefit Street)  
1814, 1892 (Stone Carpenter Wilson) **Open only for SAH members, thanks to Katherine and Bill Barnum. An amazing house.**

2 ½ story Federal House, originally accessed via a broad staircase to the first floor level, the present basement-level entrance with its oriel window was designed in 1892; House of Eliza Ward, daughter of Joseph Brown and later businessman Marsden Perry. French scenic “Dufour” wallpapers: “Les Incas,” ca. 1818, “Rives du Bosphore” before 1812.



**John Brown House: 52 Power Street** (a short walk up from Benefit Street)

One of America's grandest mansions when completed in 1788, it was home to John Brown, the colorful businessman, patriot, politician, China trade pioneer, and slave trader whose impact on Rhode Island still echoes today. Trained tour guides provide hour-long tours through its meticulously restored rooms, where nationally significant treasures help tell the stories of masters, servants, and slaves.



**Nightingale Brown House: 357 Benefit Street  
Open for SAH members only until 8 o'clock!**

1791, 1855, 1864, Caleb Ormsbee Builder, additions by Thomas Tefft and Richard Upjohn. By far the finest wooden house in the city, and the largest wooden house of its time in the country. Excellent furniture, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Zuber wallpaper, etc. etc.

**Dinner afterwards?**

If you are looking for a convenient dinner location after the tour, you have two options: you can continue on Benefit Street and take a left on Wickenden Street at the end, where you will find Italian, Japanese (2), Indian, and American restaurants, as well as a much beloved coffee shop (Coffee Exchange on your right) and two old and traditional bars (half way up Benefit Street on your left.) For perhaps the most fitting one in a nice early 19<sup>th</sup> Century home, Romanza, I would recommend reservations (312 Wickenden St, 401-421-5544). **From the corner of Wickenden/Brooke Street you can take the Green Line Trolley (no. 92) back to Kennedy Plaza, close to the Westin Hotel. (1 \$ per ride.)**

Or you can go down the hill on any of the streets perpendicular to Benefit Street, cross South Main Street and find restaurants such as Parkside (76 South Main) Neath's (262 South Water), Fahrenheit (345 S. Water), Barnsiders and Hemenways (121 S. Main) as well as the Wild Colonial Bar (250 S. Water).