



Upfront

Innovation tends to increase efficiency and optimize utility. But there are things that seem impossible to improve.

Old things are aesthetically beautiful in ways an ever-modernizing world can't replicate. Places like Savannah's Historic District thrive based on this truth, as do ancient cities that make Savannah seem like a metropolitan infant.

Rome, Athens...these are among my favorite places on earth. Venice and Barcelona, too, although they are a "newer" version of old when compared to the first two, which significantly predate Christ.

Preserving historical structures is both noble and essential. They link us with our legacies, explain our evolution, and mesmerize us with their irreplaceable blend of grandeur and

decay. In Savannah, the preservation movement is generally traced to the mid-1950s, led by "seven local ladies" who laid the groundwork for the Historic Savannah Foundation and a broader ethos that celebrates the past.

Encyclopedia Britannica, itself something of a relic, defines archaeology as "the scientific study of the material remains of past human life and activities." Such study increases understanding of the human condition, but it unearths some unimaginably impressive man-made marvels in the process. Visiting such sites, one often finds teams of people using the most up-to-date machinery available to ensure our forebearers' remnants remain available for our descendants to come. This juxtaposition between antiquity and of-the-moment can be both stark and stunning. This issue's cover illustrates one such scene.

This *Skinnie* is dedicated to a re-store-and-remodel theme. You'll find articles that include tips for updating your home. Advertisers who work daily to provide their clients with ideal living experiences – real estate professionals, designers, remodelers, construction-service firms – are showcased herein.

Since man began building things, he developed the urge to tweak the things he built. He also maintained respect for his past and sought to honor it. That's the spirit that imbues the words and images of the magazine you hold in your hands.

Scott A. Lauriat

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