The East Texas Architecture of Diedrich Rulfs

Diedrich Rulfs was one of the most prolific architects in the history of East Texas. His work was characterized by a blend of Germanic influence and American vernacular, creating structures that are unique and enduring.

One of his most famous works is Zion Hill Baptist Church, located in the city of Nacogdoches. The church, built in 1914, features two corner towers and Gothic Revival detailing with stained-glass windows above the transom. The church was designed as both a community gathering place and a museum celebrating the neighborhood's African American history.

Rulfs designed the Zion Hill Baptist Church with Gothic Revival detailing, combining elements of Germanic and American architecture. The church stands today as a testament to his talent and craftsmanship.

The Texas Historical Foundation (THF) is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Texas. THF staff member Jennifer Solomon spoke with Chase recently and wrote about how they recognized the value of saving this historic site and purchased the lighthouse in 1947.

Bolivar Point Lighthouse, photo courtesy of the Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation

Nurturing the Next Generation of Preservationists

Every member receives a subscription to Texas Heritage, the Texas Historical Foundation's award-winning magazine. The magazine includes articles on historical topics, like the East Texas Architecture of Diedrich Rulfs, and information on upcoming events and projects.

THF takes seriously its responsibility to educate and promote future generations about the importance of historical preservation. THF has awarded grants to organizations like the Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation to assist in the preservation of historic sites.

Jim Hudson, father of the young man who led the effort, pointed out another important, intergenerational aspect of the project. His grandson, now a young man searching for a worthwhile service project required for him to achieve Eagle Scout rank within the Boy Scouts. This would be it, he decided.

Becoming an Eagle Scout requires a project that demonstrates leadership, service to the community, and commitment to the ideals of the Boy Scouts. Hudson put out a call for volunteers to help with some of the needed work. The project led by a Houston teenager to educate and promote future generations deserves recognition.

Jim Hudson and other local volunteers were instrumental in the success of the project. They worked tirelessly to ensure that this never happens again.

The East Texas Architecture of Diedrich Rulfs

The East Texas Architecture of Diedrich Rulfs is a testament to the rich architectural heritage of the region. Rulfs' creations are a blend of Germanic and American styles, resulting in unique and enduring structures.

The THF's Historic Preservation Conference is Just Around the Corner

The THF's Historic Preservation Conference is an annual event that brings together professionals and enthusiasts to discuss the latest in preservation. The conference includes workshops, lectures, and networking opportunities to learn about best practices and emerging trends in the field.

The Olivewood Cemetery Preservation Project

Jim Hudson, father of the young man who led the Eagle Scout project, pointed out another significant aspect of the project. In that unanticipated exchange, Hudson learned about the cemetery group needed help identifying gravesites. At the same time, the young man was searching for a worthwhile service project required for him to achieve Eagle Scout rank within the Boy Scouts. This would be it, he decided.

Moving quickly after securing the necessary approval, Hudson put out a call for volunteers to help with some of the needed work. The project led by a Houston teenager to educate and promote future generations deserves recognition.

The Bolivar Point Lighthouse, photo courtesy of the Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation

The Bolivar Point Lighthouse, built in 1872, stands on Point Bolivar in the United States. It was the beacon spotted by ship captains, crew, and passengers. The structure is an important part of Texas' history.