Foundation Commissions Architecture Firm

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation has commissioned the firm of Ayres/Saint/Gross as the architect for an enhanced visitors complex and a new history center, planned for a site near the existing Ticket Office and Shuttle Station, and an administrative office facility, planned for a tract next to Kenwood.

Ayres/Saint/Gross, one of 22 firms invited to submit proposals on the project, was selected from a group of four finalists.

Founded in 1915, Ayres/Saint/Gross is a 90-person firm specializing in planning and design for colleges, universities, and other educational and cultural institutions. Its recent projects have included work at the Bronx Zoo, University of Notre Dame, Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Emory University, University of Maryland, and University of Virginia.

Adam Gross, the firm’s design principal, is leading the Monticello project team with Sandra Parsons Vicchio as the project manager.

Gross, Vicchio, and other members of the Ayres/Saint/Gross staff have made site visits to Monticello and have engaged Foundation officers and staff members in consultation sessions at Monticello and the firm’s offices in Baltimore and Washington.

The design work is in preliminary stages. A schedule for construction is being developed.

The landscape architect on the Monticello projects will be Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd., of Arlington, whose project list includes work at the National Cathedral, U.S.
Supreme Court, Gannett Corporate Headquarters, Johns Hopkins University, Virginia Tech, and UVa. Barton Malow Company of Southfield, Mich., an 80-year-old firm with an office in Charlottesville, will provide pre-construction services.

The new visitors complex, the Hunter and Carl Smith History Center, and the administrative facility are all part of the Foundation’s comprehensive plan to remove as many modern intrusions as possible from the Monticello mountaintop while providing both visitors and staff members with improved and expanded facilities.