Western Hemisphere. Trends and events within archaeology in the Americas during 1983 continued to reflect larger political and economic currents throughout the hemisphere. Whole areas remained unavailable for study and field research. Financial or political constraints throughout much of the Caribbean and Latin America limited the number of foreign research teams in Latin countries. The 1983 financial crisis in South America constricted and, in many places, stopped programs of archaeological research and preservation. The inflationary crisis in Mexico resulted in zero funding and no new field excavation projects by National Institute of Culture archaeologists in 1983. At the same time, and as reported in American Antiquity, a scarcity of funding and the aforementioned political realities brought major shifts in U.S. funding priorities. Instead of support for new field projects, money was allocated for data analysis and the laboratory study of already excavated collections by U.S. scholars.

South and Central America. Within the Andean countries, continued military activities in the highlands of Peru all but stopped high-altitude archaeological research. Instead, recent discoveries had been made in the desert coastal areas of Peru and Ecuador. In Peru excavations by Christopher Donnan at the deeply stratified 1st millennium AD sites of Chotune and Chonancap in the Lambayeque valley revealed a large architectural complex containing a long, six-colour mural that shows a procession of figures, many carrying trophy heads. Along the northern Ecuadorian coast of Manabi, James Zeidler reported the discovery of an elaborate and previously unrecognized northern manifestation of the 3rd millennium BC Valdivia culture. This rich northern Valdivia culture area was revealed at the site of San Isidro, a large ceremonial centre that was distinguished by elaborate ceramics and ornately decorated plaques.

To the north, in the isthmus region of central Honduras, intensive survey and excavation field projects by U.S. and Honduran scholars documented 141 new Early and Late Classic Mayan sites, ranging from scatterers of stone tools to large ceremonial and residential centres with hundreds of structures. Sponsored by the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia and the Empresas Nacional de Energía Electrica and directed by Kenneth Hirth and Gloria Lara Pinto, this systematic regional study was conducted as a first step in the large-scale salvage excavation of the sites threatened by the planned El Cajon reservoir.

Underwater Archaeology. The year was notable for major trends and discoveries in maritime archaeology. In terms of policy, funding, and effort, the concern with underwater wrecks was until recently dominated by privately financed treasure hunters more interested in profit than in scientific control. New discoveries of historic ships commonly disappeared as archaeological sites in a matter of days or weeks, with their contents going to private collectors and the international antiquities market. During the year, however, after a decade of conflict between salvage divers and archaeologists, protective legislation was introduced in the U.S. Congress. The Historic Shipwreck Preservation Act would allow states to lay claim to historic shipwrecks within their waters and, by so doing, provide for the first time a viable national program that would control and limit the number and scope of salvage permits granted. At the same time, it would allow each state to develop preservation and funding programs.

This development came about just as recent discoveries were highlighting the range and historical significance of shipwrecks, not only for the information they yielded on important maritime technologies and undocumented trade routes but also for their value as archaeological time capsules of critical importance for the dating of previously ill-defined historic artifacts. Furthermore, through the use of new techniques and the increasing ability to explore deeper and previously less accessible underwater locations, underwater archaeologists were discovering a variety of exceptionally well-preserved remains that document the material traces of everyday activities that not generally found preserved in contemporary historic terrestrial sites. For example, a recently completed underwater survey of the Cayman Islands by underwater archaeologists for the Institute of Nautical Archaeology in College Station, Texas, provided the Cayman government with an inventory of 70 recently identified shipwreck sites dating from the 16th to the 20th century. A variety of wrecks dating to the 16th and 17th centuries reflected repeated hostile encounters between Spanish and British fishing and raiding vessels. The results of this government-sponsored survey transformed this little-studied group of Caribbean islands into a major new data centre of colonial economic trade patterns.

Marine technology was also providing archaeologists with new access to unlooted, deep-water wrecks. Using underwater robot systems and spacesuit-like diving equipment, underwater archaeologists obtained clear close-up views and made manual contact with well-preserved shipwrecks in two deep-water Canadian sites. Joseph B. Maclnnes, a Canadian underwater scientist, reached the 19th-century British ship "Breadal
Architecture

The mode of architectural design or "style" christened "postmodernism" in the late 1970s had certainly come of age in 1983. The work of U.S. architect Michael Graves, in particular his Portland (Ore.) Building, attracted wide comment and strong emotions. Could this style now be said to be the dominant preferred clothing for new buildings in the United States?

In January John M. Dixon, editor of Progressive Architecture, reviewed the magazine’s 1983 awards and attempted to trace and tabulate trends in design of the winning projects over the past five years. Postmodernism remained the style chosen by a majority of winners of the past two years, though overall there was no one dominant trend in a period characterized by randomness and variety. Dixon’s stylistic categories included modern, postmodern, classical, vernacular, historical ornament, contextual, and energy-conscious. Modern was defined as having "functionally determined form, nonbearing walls, exposed structure, and fluid interiors." This would appear to include many of the buildings described as "high tech," which are distinguished by their brightly coloured exposed service ducts and structural members, often enclosing a "glass box" space and usually having industrial or technological references. "Postmodern," by contrast, is historical in form, if not detail, and is characterized by traditional load-bearing walls, pierced window openings, defined interior rooms rather than interconnecting flowing spaces, complexity, and perhaps irony, ambig-