Thomas Sully: At Home and at Leisure
Curated by Kevin Williams
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This exhibit focuses on residences and yachts designed by Thomas Sully for himself from the 1890s through 1915. Included are original drawings, period blueprints, and photographs. Some of these houses and yachts are documented as being built, while others may have been speculative. For his residences, we included only those that SEAA has documentation of. There are also images from the holdings of Tulane Library’s Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC).

Also, included are original photographs of Sully’s hunting and fishing expeditions on his first yacht ‘Helen’. Most of the photos are mounted to 5” x 8” gilt edge cardstock. Locations and people in the photos are, mostly, unidentified. Most are undated, but the bulk were, probably, taken between 1890 and 1895.

Thomas Sully (1855-1939) was born in Mississippi City, Mississippi, the son of George Washington Sully and Harriet Jane Green Sully. He was named after his great-uncle, Philadelphia portrait painter, Thomas Sully. His family moved to St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana during the Civil War, and Sully was educated in New Orleans schools. Having no formal architectural education, Sully apprenticed in Austin, Texas, with architects Larmour and Wheelock in the early 1870s. He then moved to New York City to work for architects Slade and Marshall, and in 1877, he returned to New Orleans, establishing his own practice in 1881.

Sully became a prolific architect in New Orleans and the Gulf South region. Considered to be the area’s foremost Gilded Age architect, his designs included the Morris Hennen buildings, the third St. Charles Hotel, the Jewish Widows and Orphans Home, and many others. He was hired by many of the city’s wealthy elite to design their own homes, many still standing along St. Charles and Carrollton Avenues. His client list included John Morris, Simon Hernsheim, Isidore Newman, and Durant Da Ponte.

Sully was an active yachtsman, fisherman, and hunter, and was elected commodore of the Southern Yacht Club in 1893 and 1894. He established the Sully Cup of the Southern Yacht Club. In 1910, Sully spearheaded the formation of the New Orleans Motor Boat Club at Spanish Fort, and was its first commodore.

Sully died March 1939 in the home he designed for his family at 7 Richmond Place, New Orleans.

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The exhibit will be on display August 22, 2016 - June 03, 2017, in the Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries, 6801 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA. (504) 865-5699, seaa@tulane.edu.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
2. Design of Cottage for Mr. Thomas Sully (alternate to drawing #1.). Undated. Location unidentified. Thomas Sully, architect. Ink on linen.

*Shows lot plan for drawings #1-4.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC), Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully Smyth West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

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Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
10. Property Plan of Mr. Thomas Sully, Architect
(1531 South Carrollton Avenue, between Jeannette and Birch Streets, New Orleans. Ca. 1901. Ink on linen.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

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Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
15. Design of Cruising Launch (65’ x 11’), inboard profile, for Mr. Thomas Sully. 1906. Thomas Sully, naval architect; Henry C. Delery, delineator. Ink on linen.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.


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Thomas Sully Office Records.
Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC), Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.

23. Design of (56’ x 9.6’) Cruising Launch for Mr. Thomas Sully. 1903. Thomas Sully, naval architect; H.C. Delery, delineator.


Thomas Sully Office Records.
Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.


28. Thomas Sully on his yacht ‘Helen’, ca. 1893. Detail from original photograph.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC), Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
32. Hennen Building, 201-211 Carondelet Street, New Orleans. Ca. 1895. Thomas Sully, architect. Photographer unidentified. Thomas Sully’s office occupied the eleventh floor penthouse, next to the roof garden and just above the Turkish baths on the tenth floor.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
33. Caffery Central Sugar Refinery, Franklin, LA. August 18, 1890. Photographer unidentified. Thomas Sully developed the plans for the operation, and served as facility manager for four years.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

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Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
36. Catch from Sully fishing trip. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
37. Catch from Sully fishing trip. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
38. Thomas Sully on his yacht 'Helen', ca. 1893. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
40. On Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
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Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
44. Unidentified man with deer. Undated.
   Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern
   Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division,
   Tulane University Libraries.
   Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
45. Unidentified man with alligator. Undated. 
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern 
Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, 
Tulane University Libraries. 
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
46. Unidentified man with alligator. Undated.
   Photographer unidentified.

   Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
   Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
47. Ducks from Sully hunting trip. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
49. On Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated.
   Photographer unidentified.

   Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
   Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern 
Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, 
Tulane University Libraries. 
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
52. ‘Helen’, Thomas Sully’s first yacht, designed by him. “He had 21 boats in all”. Undated. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
53. Unidentified women at John Morris’s retreat. August 18, 1890. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
54. John Morris at his retreat. August 18, 1890.  
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern  
Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division,  
Tulane University Libraries.  
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
55. John Morris and his wife (standing) with unidentified women, at his retreat. August 18, 1890. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
56. Unidentified people with Thomas Sully (6th from left) at John Morris’s retreat. August 18, 1890. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
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Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
   Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
   Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
65. Thomas Cottam (center) and Mrs. James Legendre (right). Undated. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
68. Unidentified people on Blind River, Louisiana, in front of Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. July 1895.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
70. On Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
71. On Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
72. Thomas Sully (second from left) next to his yacht ‘Helen’. Undated. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
73. Fishing trip with Thomas Sully (rear left in hat) on his yacht ‘Helen’. Undated. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
74. On Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
Clifford Hall (rear) with unidentified men, by Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated. Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
77. On Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries. Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
78. On Sully’s yacht ‘Helen’. Undated.
Photographer unidentified.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.
79. Only known landscape watercolor by Thomas Sully, possibly, of Mississippi Gulf Coast. Signed Thomas Sully, November 23, 1897. Watercolor on illustration board.

Thomas Sully Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.
Gift of Jeanne Sully West.