

Awith Respect to hitecture

MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS



Saturday, June 2, 2012

Owatonna, Minnesota

The building that made Owatonna, Minnesota, famous was opened in 1908. And already by 1912, Owatonna was acclaimed as an architectural pilgrimage destination because of its Louis Sullivan-designed bank, the first and best known of the architect's late series of Prairie School banks. A century later, this picturesque prairie town features a second star attraction: the relocated Winton Guest House designed by Frank Gehry. MNSAH's 2012 Spring Tour will visit both, with lunch in between at a nearby country house designed by Edwin Lundie, and further explorations before and after.

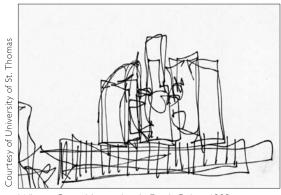
The day will begin with an hour-long walking tour starting from downtown Owatonna's Central Park, where the farmers' market will be in session. Highlights (exteriors only) will include two houses by Purcell and Elmslie, the Pillsbury Academy campus (Old Main by Warren B. Dunnell, 1889), the Carpenter Gothic St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1867, 1884), and the late Prairie School Federated Insurance Building (Jacobson and Jacobson, 1923). The walking tour will return to Central Park, for an interior tour of Sullivan's National Farmers' Bank.

This renowned masterpiece needs no introduction, but, like all truly great architecture, rewards repeat visits. Louis Sullivan and George Grant Elmslie designed the bank for local banker Carl Bennett in 1906, then worked closely for two years with suppliers, builders, craftspeople, and artists to achieve what Sullivan called a "color symphony" in sandstone, tapestry brick, terra cotta, mosaic tile, metalwork, stained glass, paint, and gilt.

Our next stop, the Gainey House, is a hidden and rustic jewel. Besides directing the Josten's jewelry firm in Owatonna, Daniel Gainey raised Arabian horses. In 1945, Edwin Lundie began designing the farm complex just outside of town, now the University of St. Thomas's Gainey Conference Center. Here we will have lunch and tour the exquisitely detailed Norman-style house.

A brief walk across the estate will then bring us to Owatonna's newest architectural celebrity. In 1983, Mike and Penny Winton asked Frank Gehry to design a guest house on the Lake Minnetonka grounds of their Philip Johnsondesigned house. Developing what would become a signature design approach, Gehry conceived the project as a "village" of one-room buildings, which, when viewed from the Johnson house, would appear as a sculptural composition in the landscape, with no visible windows or doors. After the property was later subdivided, Gehry's playful village in brick, limestone, metal, and Finnish plywood was donated to the University of St. Thomas and moved to the Gainey site. Former MNSAH president and St. Thomas art history professor Victoria Young will share the dramatic story of the move and restoration and introduce us to the delights of the Winton Guest House in its new setting.

Our day will conclude with an interior tour of the Hammel House, designed by Richard Hammel, one of the founders of HGA. Built in the 1940s, the early modernist house was built on an expansive site for Hammel's brother. It represents one of the few residences Richard Hammel designed.



Winton Guest House sketch, Frank Gehry, 1983.



Winton Guest House, Frank Gehry, 1983.



Gainey House, Edwin Lundie, 1945.



National Farmers' Bank, Louis Sullivan, 1908.

Spring Tour Itinerary Saturday, June 2, 2012

10:00 a.m. Walking tour of downtown Owatonna

II:00 a.m. Tour of National Farmers' Bank

12:00 p.m. Gainey Center: Lunch

I:00 p.m. Tour of Gainey House and time to

explore the gardens

2:30 p.m. Tour of Winton Guest House

4:00 p.m. Tour of Hammel House

Cost

\$35 for MNSAH members \$40 for nonmembers Includes lunch

Deadline

Deadline for registering for this tour is Thursday, May 17. Please register online at www.mnsah.org or mail your check (payable to MNSAH) and reservation form to:

MNSAH c/o Lock Bounds 2072 Iglehart Avenue St. Paul, MN 55104

Directions and Parking

Take I-35W south. Continue on to I-35 south. Take exit 42A toward Steele County 45/Owatonna. Merge onto Hoffman Dr. N. W. Turn left onto W. Vine St. Take the first right onto N. Cedar Ave. Parking is available on the street and in lots throughout the downtown area.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Karen Duncan

Thinking of the upcoming Owatonna tour puts me in mind of past tours. I have a keen interest in how varied structures and gardens can be in smaller towns, and Owatonna certainly provides variety. It is not often that one sees French Norman, Prairie School, and deconstructivist architecture all in one day.

I am particularly fond of past tours that explored towns in our region, such as last fall's trip to Rochester. You might also fondly recall: an informed and fascinating tour of Hastings; a brilliantly sunny autumn day in Old Frontenac, along Lake Pepin; the inspired campus of Shattuck-St Mary's (where teen-aged Marlon Brando left his signature backstage at the theater) and historic downtown Faribault; and the unforgettable Milwaukee tour, where MNSAH members had the ultimate behind-the-scenes experience, climbing up into the bell tower of City Hall.

I regret not attending other fabulous regional tours, and the ultimate disappointment is missing the trip to Helena and Butte, Montana, in 2006. I wish I'd made that last bit of effort to sign up and attend!

Note to self: sign up soon for the Owatonna excursion. The wealth of information prepared for our tours and the ability to experience sites in depth make each tour special.

Also, I would like to thank Ann Meyer for her service and welcome David Heide to the board. My thanks extend, as well, to the full board and the committees who work to bring interesting and enlivening programs to you, our members.

Winners of Biennial David Stanley Gebhard Award BY LAURA WEBER

MNSAH is happy to announce the winners of the eighth biennial David Stanley Gebhard Award. The Gebhard Award recognizes authors of articles and books that focus on some historical aspect of Minnesota's built environment and honors the late Minnesota-born Society of Architectural Historians president and nationally renowned writer.

The winning book is *The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition*, by Michael Nordskog, photographs by Aaron W. Hautala, published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2010. Nordskog is an attorney, writer, and editor who lives in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Hautala is creative director and owner of RedHouse-Media in Brainerd, Minnesota.

The Invisible Element of Place: The Architecture of David Salmela, by Thomas Fisher, the University of Minnesota Press, 2011, received honorable mention in the book category.

There was no award given in the magazine article category this year.

The award period was for works published July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

Judges were Barbara Bezat, assistant archivist, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries; Jennifer Komar Olivarez, associate curator, Decorative Arts, Textiles, and Sculpture, Minneapolis Institute of Arts; and Jane King Hession, author and architectural historian.

Modern Masters Update

BY CAROL AHLGREN

The last issue of With Respect to Architecture announced the reestablishment of the Modern Masters committee. The committee was initially formed in 2008 to interview living practitioners who have made significant contributions to the built environment of Minnesota; potential interviewees will also include clients and homeowners. Building on the work done by the original committee (comprised of Karen Duncan, Robert Ferguson, Todd Grover, and Judy Kurtz), the reconvened committee retains Judy and adds John Clouse, Heidi Oxford, and me.

In January 2012 we met with professional oral historian Barb Sommer, who has spent several decades conducting a variety of oral history projects and is co-author, along with Mary Kay Quinlan, of The Oral History Manual. Barb confirmed what she had written to me in an email: "An oral history project is more than sticking a microphone in someone's face—you must have a plan." Barb was generous with her time, advice, and encouragement. Utilizing a checklist she provided to guide oral history projects, I can report that our committee has accomplished the following:

- Developed a mission statement
- Developed lists of general questions to use during interviews, for either practitioners or clients
- Established a list of potential interviewees annotated with contact and project information

- Developed consent forms for interviewers, videographers, and interviewees
- Identified and contacted the Northwest Architectural Archives as the likely repository for material

We hope to begin conducting interviews as soon as possible. While the background work we've done has taken some time, it was critical to establish a solid foundation for this project; having the components in place establishes the credibility of the project and will help MNSAH qualify for grants to fund the project in the future.

Time, of course, is critical. We continue to lose the insights of architects, landscape architects, clients, and others who could provide a unique perspective on the built environment of Minnesota.

We need your help. If you have suggestions for potential interviewees, or are a homeowner or client, please contact me at ahlgren.carol@gmail.com or 763-432-3416. If there are any members who are interested in serving on this committee, we welcome you to join us!

Upcoming Events of Interest

History Architecture Crawls: Mid-Century Modern

Saturday, May 5, 2012; Saturday, May 12, 2012; Saturday, May 19, 2012; Saturday, June 2, 2012 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, Saint Paul, MN 55102 \$20 for MHS members, \$25 for nonmembers To make a reservation, call 651-259-3015 or register online

During the affluent years that followed World War II, pioneering architects created elegant, witty, and sometimes futuristic homes and public buildings that have become classic landmarks of design. Their sophisticated work, loosely known as Mid-century Modern, has been perennially popular. We will tour hallmark examples of the style in several settings, such as the University Grove neighborhood, an architectural time capsule in St. Paul studded with original home designs by Twin Cities architects Close Associates and Ralph Rapson. We will also contemplate public models of the style in churches and government buildings, discuss modern interior décor, and provide information on what's hot in today's market for Midcentury homes. For more information, visit www. minnesotahistorycenter.org/historycrawls.

2012 Twin Cities Bungalow Club Home Tour

Saturday, May 12, 2012 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free for Bungalow Club members, \$5 for non-members

It's that time again! Join the Twin Cities Bungalow Club for its annual celebration of vintage houses. The tour is a great way to get ideas for your own home, chat with like-minded homeowners, and cruise bungalow neighborhoods.

There are five beautiful homes on the tour this year—three in Minneapolis and two in St. Paul.

Pick up a tour map with the homes' addresses and descriptions any time after 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the first house located at 1875 West Juliet Avenue, St. Paul. No reservations are necessary. For more information, visit www.bungalowclub.org or call 612-724-5816.

Nooks and Crannies Tour

Tuesdays, June 5, 2012 through August 28, 2012 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Avenue,
Saint Paul, MN 55102

\$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and
college students, \$8 for children ages 6-17;
\$2 discount for MHS members

To make a reservation, call 651-297-2555

Explore the back staircases, dust chutes, silver vault, and more on this 90-minute behind-thescenes tour of the James J. Hill House. Visitors will see the top-floor attic with original theater, take the back stairs to the basement, view the coal storage area, and take a tour of the gate house overlooking Summit Avenue. Guides will also discuss the technological innovations present in the house at the time of its construction in the late 19th century and the difficulties of preserving such a building today. The 7:00 p.m. tours will be led by a costumed interpreter portraying one of the construction workers who built the house or one of the servants who worked in the house. Group size is limited on these special tours, so reservations are highly recommended.

Eigth Annual Tour of North Shore Vacation Homes

Saturday, July 14, 2012 8:00 a.m. \$150 donation to the Schroeder Area Historical Society suggested To make a reservation, call 218-663-7706

The Schroeder Area Historical Society is planning its eighth tour of cabins and vacation homes

designed by Edwin Lundie on the North Shore. The tour is an important fundraiser for the Society and the restored Cross River Heritage Center in Schroeder, Minnesota. This year's tour will visit the Olson and Kromschroeder cabins. The Kromschroeder cabin was featured on the cover of The Architecture of Edwin Lundie, by Dale Mulfinger. The Olson cabin has been featured in Lake Superior Magazine, and History of Union Grove. The tour will also include four more vacation homes situated on the Shore, several of which have been designed or remodeled by Dale Mulfinger, architect, author, and professor of architecture. In the morning, Dale will give a talk on "Cabinology," the art and science of designing or remodeling your cabin or vacation home. The talk is free and open to the public as well as to tour attendees. The day will end with the popular "Picnic on the Ledge Rock" featuring homemade pies, brats, a wine/beer and beverage bar, and music.

History Architecture Crawls: University Grove Home Tour

Saturday, July 14, 2012 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, Saint Paul, MN 55102 \$30 for MHS members, \$35 for nonmembers To make a reservation, call 651-259-3015 or register online

A unique neighborhood set aside for University of Minnesota faculty and staff, University Grove is a collection of early- and mid-20th century architect-designed homes that has been recognized as an "architectural time capsule" by The New York Times. Enjoy a tour of the exteriors and a rare glimpse at the interiors of selected homes representing the work of such regional architectural giants as Edwin Lundie, Close Associates, and Ralph Rapson. The trolley tour begins and ends at the History Center and includes refreshments

and a brief architectural lecture by Minnesota Historical Society staff. This program is presented in partnership with the University Grove Neighborhood Association. For more information, visit http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/historycrawls.



Shepherd House, Ralph Rapson, 1957.



Shepherd House, Ralph Rapson, 1957.

DULY NOTED

By The Light of The Lantern

Saturday, September 1, 2012 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Historic Forestville, 21899 County 118 Preston, MN 55965

\$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and college students, \$5 for children age 6-17; \$1 discount for MHS members. State park vehicle permit required.

Experience Historic Forestville at dusk when the residents are in evening business and repose. Visitors can explore the site as farm laborers interact and unwind in the barn, ladies of the house discuss important topics such as voting rights, medicines are compounded in the general store, and Thomas Meighen finishes points of business in his office at the end of the day. Live music will be played throughout the evening.



Meighen Store. Oldest surviving building in Historic Forestville, Minnesota, 1923.

MNSAH

Between newsletters, follow MNSAH's activities at our website: www.mnsah.org, or for a more interactive experience, become a member of our Facebook group—just search for MNSAH.

Don't forget our Flickr group, www.flickr.com/groups/mnsah/.

Quadriga Starlight Tours

Thursday, September 13, 2012 and Friday, September 14, 2012 7:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 55155 \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and college students, \$6 for children ages 6-17; \$2 discount for MHS members

To make a reservation, call 651-296-2881

Guides lead visitors on a tour where they meet historical characters Channing and Elizabeth Seabury, who tell stories about the Capitol's construction, decoration, and history. As part of seeing the Civil War paintings in the Governor's Reception Room, visitors will see a Union soldier's uniform and equipment. Following the tour, the group will climb to the rooftop for a rare opportunity to view the quadriga—the golden horses on the Capitol's

rooftop—against the backdrop of the lighted skylines of the Twin Cities. Tours are 90 minutes long.



Closeup of the horses on the Quadriga of the Minnesota State Capitol



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275 Market Street, Suite 54, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405 www.mnsah.org

MNSAH officers

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Please direct comments or concerns about the newsletter to With Respect to Architecture at the MNSAH address above, or to Eva Quigley Timmons at eqtimmons@gmail.com.

Coordinator Eva Quigley Timmons

Linda Schotl (ls.design@comcast.net) Designer

Please direct membership inquiries to Kristin Anderson, 612-330-1285 or anderso3@augsburg.edu. For general comments or program and tour suggestions, contact Karen Duncan, 612-722-5559 or kduncan 102@gmail.com.

MNSAH membership includes a subscription to With Respect to Architecture, which is published four times a year. MNSAH membership does not include membership in the national Society of Architectural Historians (SAH). For national information, write to SAH at 1365 North Astor Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, or go to www.sah.org.

Your views are needed help improve MNSAH

For the first time, the MNSAH board is conducting a member survey to gauge what members think about our current programming, communications, and fee structure. This data will assist the board in its efforts to best meet members' needs.

Members received an e-mail with a link to an online survey in late April. If you have not already filled in the survey, please make a note to do so now. The deadline is May 15.

Please also note that we are looking for volunteers for a follow-up focus group. We envision the focus group to be a pleasant time to socialize with other members at the same time you are providing a valuable service to MNSAH.

If you need a paper copy of the survey, or are interested in participating in the focus group, please contact Laura Weber at l-webe@umn.edu or 612-724-3578.

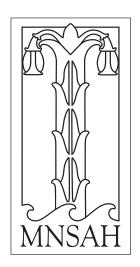
THE PURPOSE OF THE

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS:

To broaden awareness and appreciation of our architectural heritage; to promote research and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas related to architectural history; to offer opportunities to personally experience significant architectural sites, structures, and landscapes; to promote the preservation and recording of important architecture; to cooperate with learned and professional societies in the pursuit of common objectives; to seek financial support from individuals, philanthropic organizations, and foundations in the furtherance of chapter objectives; and to act as an agent for the safekeeping and distribution of funds given to it for these purposes.



for information about an exclusive summer event just for sponsor and corporate level members!

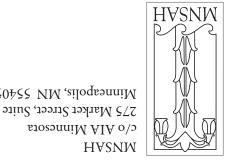


MNSAH SPRINGTOUR 2012

Owatonna, Minnesota

When: Saturday, June 2, 2012 **Registration deadline:** Thursday, May 17, 2012 Tour is rain or shine, so be sure to dress appropriately and wear comfortable shoes Name(s) Address City/State/Zip Phone and E-mail Each person listed must sign the following statement: I understand that the participation of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH) and cooperating organizations and individuals in the MNSAH-sponsored tour, "Owatonna, Minnesota" on June 2, 2012, are limited to providing educational background and guidance, and that MNSAH and cooperating organizations and individuals have no liability or responsibility whatsoever therefore, or for any acts or omissions of others in connection therewith, and shall in no event be under any liability or responsibility whatsoever for the death of any person or any loss, expense, delay, injury, or other damage to any person or property, however occurring, on, during, or in relation to the tour. Signature(s) The tour includes lunch—please check if vegetarian lunch is desired (\$35 member; \$40 nonmember) Amount enclosed: Send this form and your check, payable to MNSAH and arriving by May 17, 2012 to: **MNSAH** c/o Lock Bounds 2072 Iglehart Avenue St. Paul, MN 55104 MNSAH MEMBERSHIP join or renew All are welcome to join the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH). Although many of our members are professionals in architectural history and related disciplines, an interest in architectural history is the only requirement for membership. Student ☐ Sponsor \$20 \$50 Individual \$25 Corporate \$100 Household \$35 Please join or renew online at www.mnsah.org or fill in this form and mail it with your check, payable to MNSAH, to: Kristin Anderson, MNSAH, c/o AIA Minnesota, 275 Market Street, Suite 54, Minneapolis, MN 55405 Name(s) Address City/State/Zip Phone and E-mail

Do you know someone who should be a part of MNSAH? Please provide address or e-mail and we will contact them with MNSAH information only.



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