

MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

275 MARKET STREET
SUITE 54
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55405

Handicraft Guild blueprint.
Image courtesy Northwest Architectural
Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries.

Original painted signage on the 1907 building.
Photo courtesy Rolf Anderson.

MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

MNNSAH
WITH RESPECT TO ARCHITECTURE | FEBRUARY 2017



The Handicraft Guild building designed by William Channing Whitney ca. 1909. Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.

**MNSAH Annual Meeting
Minnesota Humanities Center, St. Paul
Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

The Handicraft Guild | Marcia Anderson and Rolf Anderson, keynote speakers



Arts and Crafts style tile in a fireplace surround.
Photo courtesy Rolf Anderson.



The Handicraft Guild – a center for artists, dancers, musicians, craftspeople, and small businesses up until the present day.

The keynote talk at MNSAH’s 2017 annual meeting will focus on the Handicraft Guild building in downtown Minneapolis. The talk will feature the history of the Handicraft Guild as well as MNSAH’s efforts to research and document the building once it was learned that a portion of the complex was slated for demolition.

The Handicraft Guild emerged as the heart of Minnesota’s Arts and Crafts movement, but its origins are rooted much earlier in the cultural life of the Twin Cities. Interestingly, supporters of the arts in Minnesota in the late 19th century believed that it was more important to establish art schools initially than to develop art museums and great collections. Schools, it was thought, would demonstrate the community’s commitment to art and bring a growing, ever changing, pool of artists

and ideas to the state. The Handicraft Guild emerged as the culmination of an organic development by many overlapping arts organizations in the Twin Cities. Notably, the majority of the patrons, officers, founders, instructors and alumni of these organizations were women.

The Handicraft Guild was first located in temporary space at 710 Nicollet Avenue. But it soon outgrew the space, and plans were initiated to construct a new building and establish a permanent school with a year-round course of study. What distinguished the Handicraft Guild from so many other Arts and Crafts programs nationally was the support from movers and shakers in the Twin Cities that enabled it to acquire its own dedicated facility. In February 1907, it was announced that the Handicraft Guild would construct a building

THE Handicraft Guild

at 89-93 Tenth Street South. Designed by architect William Channing Whitney in the Georgian Revival style, the three-story facility was built at a cost in excess of \$30,000.00 through the generous contributions of Joseph R. Kingman and Mary Emma Roberts. The building contained classrooms, studios, workshops, and an auditorium, as well as a salesroom and tea room.

The student body and faculty grew, eventually including a two-year Normal Art course to train teachers. A wide range of classes was offered including metalwork, pottery, book-binding, woodworking, wood-block printing, watercolor painting, stained glass, interior decoration, art in advertising, costume design, and illustration. Well-known artists of the Arts and Crafts movement in the United States and Minnesota served as instructors at the Guild. Nationally known faculty members Ernest Batchelder, Douglas Donaldson, and James Webb were accompanied by locals Bertha Lum, Corice Woodruff, Mary Moulton Cheney, and many others.

In 1914, the building was expanded with an addition designed by Hewitt and Brown that extended from the east side of the original building to the corner of Tenth Street and Marquette Avenue. A second addition in 1922 by the firm of Croft and Boerner expanded the complex to the south. The firm was a logical choice as its office was located in the Hewitt and Brown addition. Both additions remained faithful to Whitney's Georgian Revival style design of the original building. All three components of the complex were characterized by their finely-crafted exteriors and well-designed interiors featuring ornate tile work and large monitors and skylights.

Eventually, the popularity of the Handicraft Guild's course offerings became apparent to the University of Minnesota, and the entire curriculum was transferred to the University to become the foundation for the newly-created Art Education

program. But the Handicraft Guild building itself continued to function as a center for artists, musicians, dancers, craftspeople, and small businesses up until the present day.

In 2015, plans were announced to demolish the 1914 and 1922 additions to make way for an 18-story apartment building and to convert the 1907 building into the lobby for the apartments and provide space for other functions, although the demolition has not yet taken place. Unfortunately, only the 1907 building is protected by historic designation. Initially, all three components had been designated as historic by the City of Minneapolis. But when a prior owner challenged the designation, the courts only upheld the designation on the 1907 building, stating there was insufficient documentation about the additions.

When the demolition plans were announced, MNSAH decided to document the entire complex, which was applauded by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. Marcia Anderson, Rolf Anderson, and Barbara Bezat researched the complex to try to fill in the gaps in its history. Even the construction history had been unclear. MNSAH enlisted the services of Bill Olexy to photograph both the exteriors and interiors of the buildings. In addition, MNSAH conducted video interviews with some of the long-time tenants including Robert Black of Dahl Violin, which is a 100-year-old business, and Claire Givens and Andrew Dipper of Givens Violin. We were amazed to find that the upper floors of the 1907 building were filled with young artists who carried on the creative tradition of the Handicraft Guild.

MNSAH also offered a tour of the Handicraft Guild to our members so they could experience the 1907 building before it is perhaps irrevocably changed, and before the 1914 and 1922 additions are demolished. MNSAH's research, photographs, and interviews will be donated to the Northwest Architectural Archives.

Bill Olexy photographing Robert Black of Dahl Violin.
Photo courtesy Rolf Anderson.



Marcia Anderson served as a Senior Curator at the Minnesota Historical Society and managed the society's three-dimensional collections. She is the author of "Art for Life's Sake: The Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis," in Minnesota 1900: Art and Life on the Upper Mississippi, 1890-1915.

Rolf Anderson is a MNSAH board member and past president. He is an architectural historian who has completed National Register of Historic Places Nominations on properties throughout Minnesota including the Minneapolis Warehouse Historic District, Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, Fergus Falls State Hospital, and Christ Church Lutheran.

the details

DATE AND PLACE

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Minnesota Humanities Center
987 Ivy Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-772-4242

6:00 Reception
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Annual Meeting
8:00 Lecture
9:00 Adjourn

COST

\$40 for MNSAH members
\$45 for nonmembers

REGISTRATION

Deadline: Monday, March 6, 2017

Please register online at www.mnsah.org/events/annual-meeting/ or mail your registration form and check (payable to MNSAH) to:

MNSAH

c/o Lock Bounds
2072 Iglehart Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Note: Members who wish to attend the annual meeting and the lecture, but not the dinner, may do so at no cost. Please send in the registration form or contact Lock Bounds at 651-659-9932 or lockbounds@yahoo.com if you plan to attend only the meeting and presentation.

MENU

Lasagna with meat sauce and parmesan and mozzarella
or

Butternut Squash and Wild Mushroom Lasagna.

Dinners will be accompanied by a garden salad with house vinaigrette, bread, and triple chocolate cake for dessert.

DIRECTIONS

From Highway 35E, exit onto Maryland Avenue, proceed east 1.7 miles to Earl Street, turn left and go four blocks to Ivy Avenue East, turn left and the Humanities Center will be on your right.

THE YEAR IN review

SPRING TOUR MNSAH's Spring Tour focused on restoration, renovation, and expansion on the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus. The tour included Pillsbury Hall, Nicholson Hall, Walter Library, the Weisman Art Museum, Coffman Union, and Northrop Auditorium. The tour then proceeded to Dinkytown and included a discussion of MNSAH's efforts to preserve this iconic historic district. The tour ended at the Varsity Theater where participants toured the whimsical unisex restrooms that were voted the best in the United States. A team of experts served as our guides for the Spring Tour and included Kristin Anderson, Barb Bezat, Kate Solomonson, Victoria Young, Jim Moore, Rolf Anderson, and Kristen Eide-Tollefson.



Barb Bezat (left) discusses Pillsbury Hall during the Spring Tour.

SPONSOR EVENT In September, MNSAH sponsor, benefactor, and corporate-level members were invited to a special event at the home of long-time members Darlene and Dick Carroll.



MNSAH members are shown with our hosts Darlene and Dick Carroll (center) at the Sponsor Event.

Photos courtesy Rolf Anderson

Designed in 1915 by the firm of Sund and Dunham, the Carrolls' Prairie School-influenced home is located on a high hill overlooking Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. Members enjoyed wine, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation at the Carrolls' beautiful home with its fine gardens and magnificent views of Lake Harriet.

FALL TOUR The Fall Tour featured Saint Paul's little-known West Side, an area that has always been diverse ethnically and architecturally. Tour members walked past bluff-top neighborhoods with spectacular views of downtown and the river valley. Buildings on the tour ranged from Second Empire style mansions and Queen Anne style castles to the modernist St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Highlights included interior tours of the 1886 Watson house by Cass Gilbert and the 2006 Prairie style Barker house by Kelly Davis. The tour was led by Robert Ferguson and Mark Thomas.



Fall Tour participants view the 1875 Second Empire style Yoerg house by architect Monroe Sheire.

WORKS IN PROGRESS The Works in Progress program was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church near Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis. It may have been the best-attended Works in Progress event that MNSAH has ever held. The program included presentations by Gary Reetz and Jane Hession on MNSAH's Modern Masters project; a talk by Rolf Anderson on the architecture and landscape of the Fergus Falls State Hospital; and a presentation by Tim Quigley on disassembling Frank Lloyd Wright's Lindholm house in Cloquet. After the

program, church organist Jacob Manier presented a brief concert followed by tours of the church and the attached Searle mansion by Kathy Kullberg and Bev Wiesner. The event concluded with a reception in the Searle mansion.



Works in Progress attendees at the reception in the Searle mansion.

OUR PURPOSE IS TO:

- Broaden awareness of our architectural heritage
- Promote research and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas related to architectural history
- Offer opportunities to personally experience significant architectural sites, structures, and landscapes
- Promote the preservation and recording of important architecture
- Cooperate with learned and professional societies in the pursuit of common objectives
- Seek financial support from individuals, philanthropic organizations, and foundations in the furtherance of chapter objectives
- Act as an agent for the safekeeping and distribution of funds given to it for these purposes

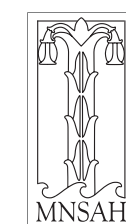
MNSAH NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

MNSAH members who attend the annual meeting on March 15, 2017 will vote on the following slate of officers and board members submitted by the nominating committee (Rolf Anderson, Gary Reetz, and Laura Weber). New board nominations may come from the floor.

- PRESIDENT** *Kristin Anderson*
VICE PRESIDENT *Dennis Gimmestad*
TREASURER *Rolf Anderson*
SECRETARY *Deb Ford*
- AT LARGE** *Barbara Bezat*
Robert Frame
Jo Davison
Jonathan Moore
Gary Reetz
Scott Rohr

All officers are nominated for a one-year term. New board member Jonathan Moore (see bio below) will serve for a two-year term. Board members Deb Ford and Dennis Gimmestad are nominated for an additional two-year term. The remaining board members will be serving the second year of the two-year term to which they were elected in 2016.

Jonathan Moore grew up in southwestern Minnesota. He studied architecture, heritage preservation, and sustainable tourism at the University of Minnesota. In Washington, D.C., he worked as a congressional aide and a city tour guide. Jonathan is currently a Cultural Resource Specialist for the National Park Service at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. He is passionate about integrated approaches to stewardship of place.



MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

275 MARKET STREET
 SUITE 54
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55405

MNSAH.ORG