

MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

Images from David Gebhard Award submissions
(see p. 3)



MNSAH Annual Meeting and Gebhard Awards

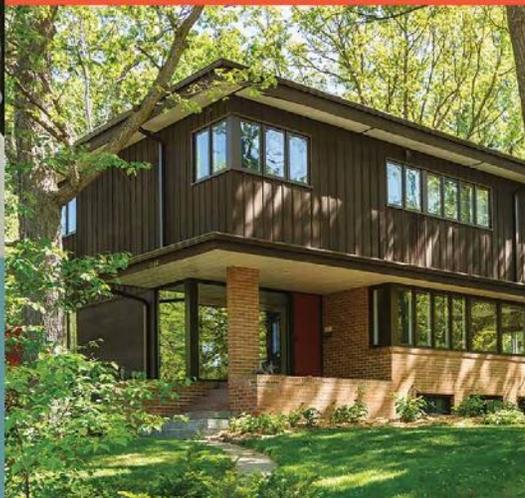
Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

MNSAH

ARCHITECTURE | SPRING 2022



**ELIZABETH SCHEU
CLOSE
A LIFE IN MODERN
ARCHITECTURE**

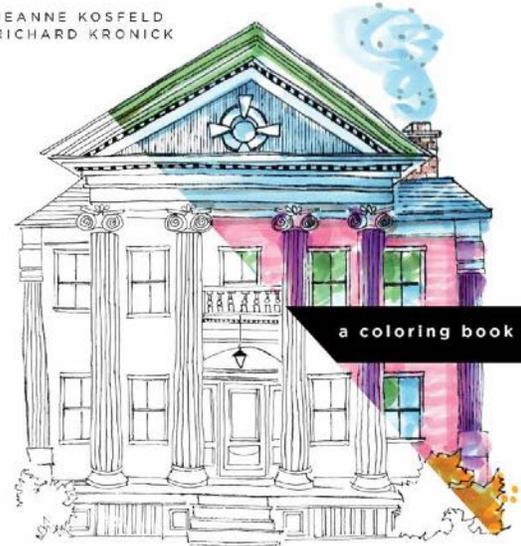


JANE KING HESSION
FOREWORD BY JOAN SORANNO

Neighborhood Architecture

Irvine Park Saint Paul

JEANNE KOSFELD
RICHARD KRONICK





MNSAH Annual Meeting and Gebhard Awards

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Register for MNSAH's Annual Meeting at www.mnsah.org/events/annual-meeting

The State of the Society of Architectural Historians

Victoria Young, Keynote Speaker

Minnesota's own Dr. Victoria Young, President of the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) national organization, will be the keynote speaker for this year's annual meeting. She'll share thoughts on the state of the Society as she ends her eleven-year run as a member of SAH's Board of Directors. During this time the Society has embraced the virtual world, digital humanities, equity and inclusion, conference expansion, connections with chapters, publications, and heritage conservation issues worldwide. She'll also consider where the Society goes next. As a past president of MNSAH, Victoria is well aware that the work we all do, whether on the ground here in Minnesota, or around the world, is essential to protecting our built heritage and landscapes.

Victoria is professor of modern architectural history at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Her research focuses on sacred space in a variety of contexts, from monastic churches to war museums. Her 2014 book, *Saint John's Abbey Church: Marcel Breuer and the Design of Sacred Space*, explored the impact of midcentury architectural modernism and liturgical reform on sacred architecture. The book received MNSAH's David Gebhard Award, Honorable Mention.

Other publications and research have included: "Artists and War Art" in the *Oxford Bibliography* series; the design of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana in the forthcoming *War Memories* from McGill-Queen's University Press; and the baptistry paradigm created by Breuer and Associates in their Catholic church designs in *Water and Sacred Architecture*, soon to be released by Routledge Publishing. Victoria has also curated three architectural exhibitions, "Building the Impossible: Kinetic Architecture" (2005), "Frank Gehry's Winton Guest House" (2011), and "Preserving the Present: The Voorsanger Architects Archive" (2018). And she served as co-editor and penned several entries for the Society of Architectural Historians' Archipedia project featuring historic properties in the state of Minnesota.

Victoria holds her M.A. and Ph.D. in architectural history from the University of Virginia. She is a past member of the Minnesota Governor's Residence Council, and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Review Board. She was named Professor of the Year at the University of St. Thomas in 2019 and in 2018 she received a special award from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for her work as a non-practicing architect to support the field.

2022 David Gebhard Awards

A panel of three judges appointed by the MNSAH board reviewed nominations for the 2022 Gebhard Award, presented every two years at the annual meeting. Named in honor of the late David Stanley Gebhard, distinguished Minnesota-born architectural historian, the award recognizes the outstanding books and articles on Minnesota's architectural history published in the preceding two years. The recipients of this year's awards will present highlights of their publications at the annual meeting on May 11.

Nominated publications must address some historical aspect of the Minnesota built environment, but there is no restriction on the author's place of residence. Books and articles receive separate awards. The judges are evaluating the submissions based on the following criteria:

- Whether the work advances or deepens a reader's understanding of the Minnesota built environment.
- Whether the sources upon which the work is based are documented.
- Whether the work balances sound scholarship with broad accessibility.
- Whether the work is adequately and effectively illustrated.

The following nominations were received for this year's award, all published between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021:

BOOKS:

Jane King Hession, *Elizabeth Scheu Close: A Life in Modern Architecture*, University of Minnesota Press, 2020

Jeanne Kosfeld and Richard Kronick, *Neighborhood Architecture—Irvine Park, St. Paul—A Coloring Book*. Ramsey County Historical Society, 2021

ARTICLES:

Jeremiah E. Ellis, "St. Paul's Distinct Leadership Tradition: A Century of the Sterling Club." *Ramsey County History* 54, No. 2 (Summer 2019)

Matt Flueger, "A Fort Snelling History Mystery: The Lost Barracks and the Twenty-Fifth US Infantry Regiment." *Ramsey County History* 56, No. 1 (Spring 2021)

Eileen R. McCormack and Aine C. McCormack, "Women and Children First: The Volunteers of America and Louis W. Hill Build Fresh Air Rest Camp." *Ramsey County History* 55, No. 1 (Spring 2020)

Jeremy L. Nienow, "Solving the Mysteries of Fort Snelling through Archeology." *Ramsey County History* 56, No. 1 (Spring 2021)

Sarah Risser, "Take Me to the River: Establishing a Rowing Home in Minneapolis." *Minnesota History* 66, No. 7 (Fall 2019)

Bobbie Scott, "Ramsey County's 'Boy Problem': Snapshots of Boys Totem Town." *Ramsey County History* 54, No. 4 (Winter 2020)

Diane Trout-Oertel, "Built to Last: The Historic Spangenberg Farmhouses." *Minnesota History* 67, No. 1 (Spring 2020)

This issue of the MNSAH newsletter features images from a number of the 2022 Gebhard Award submissions. Sterling Club photo courtesy of Sterling Club archives.

MNSAH Nominating Committee Report and Bylaw Change

MNSAH members who attend the annual meeting on May 11, 2022 will vote on the following slate of officers and board members submitted by the nominating committee (Rolf Anderson, Dennis Gimmestad, Bob Frame, and Barb Bezat). New board nominations may come from the floor.

President	Rolf Anderson
Vice President	Dennis Gimmestad
Treasurer	Bob Frame
Secretary	Barb Bezat
At Large	Renee Barnes
	Martha Douglas
	Nicole Foss
	Greg Gaut
	Gary Reetz
	Matt Seltzer

All officers are nominated for a one-year term. Board members Bob Frame, Barb Bezat, Renee Barnes, Greg Gaut, Gary Reetz, and Matt Seltzer 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 2021.

Article V: Board of Directors

Section 1. Terms are renewable for a total of six [6] consecutive terms for a maximum total of twelve [12] years. *However, the Immediate Past President, even if they have served the maximum number of years on the board, shall serve one [1] additional year in the position as Immediate Past President.*

1965-2022

Denis Gardner



Denis Gardner. Photo Bill Klotz courtesy Minnesota Lawyer

MNSAH is sad to announce the death of Denis Gardner, the National Register Historian at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, who died unexpectedly at age 56. He was a friend and colleague to many MNSAH members.

Denis was born on March 19, 1965 in Germany, where his father was stationed while serving in the United States Army. He later moved to Minnesota and received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in history from Metropolitan State University and earned a Master of Liberal Studies at the University of Minnesota. His thesis focused on the National Register of Historic Places program.

From 1996 to 2002, Denis worked as a Consulting Historian and Architectural Historian for Hess Roise and Company in Minneapolis. From 2003 to 2011, he worked as an independent consultant. In these roles, he completed an array of context studies, surveys, property evaluations, National Register Nominations, and documentation projects for the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER).

In 2011, Denis joined the staff of the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as National Register Historian. His responsibilities included

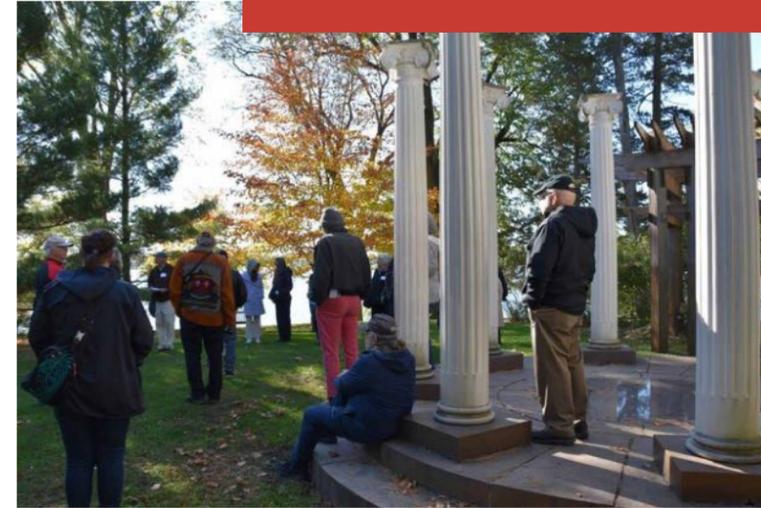
managing the National Register program and providing expertise and coordination for related programs administered by the office.

Denis is the author of *Minnesota Treasures: Stories Behind the State's Historic Places* (Minnesota Historical Society Press), which received a Minnesota Book Award and an Award of Merit and Distinction from the American Association of State and Local History. He is also the author of *Wood, Concrete, Stone, and Steel: Minnesota's Historic Bridges* (University of Minnesota Press), which received MNSAH's David Gebhard Award, Honorable Mention. His most recent book was *Our Minnesota State Capitol: From Groundbreaking Through Restoration* (Minnesota Historical Society Press).

Denis made remarkable contributions to our understanding of the state's architecture and history. We are fortunate that he will live on through his research and publications, which will continue to benefit future generations. But today we reflect on the loss of our friend and colleague and remain grateful for his impact on our lives.

ROLF ANDERSON

Photos from MNSAH's 2021 Fall Tour at Noerenberg Barn and Gardens



Photos by Bob Frame, Jane Hession, and Matt Seltzer



news FROM THE BOARD

October 16, 2021 was a happy day for MNSAH when we held our first in-person event since the onset of COVID-19. The event was a tour of the Noerenberg Barn and Gardens located on Lake Minnetonka. It felt like a particularly joyous occasion to once again see our MNSAH family in person!

Rolf Anderson discussed the history of the property along with staff from Three Rivers Park District that included Bill Walker, Jayne Becker, Mandy Wintheiser, and Arla Carmichiel. Our experience was enhanced by a magnificent fall day. Photos of the event are included in this issue of the newsletter.

Work is progressing on a project to compile biographical, career, and other pertinent information about

the interviewees featured in our Minnesota Modern Masters program. This contextual information will enhance the viewer experience by explaining more about who the interviewees are and why they were chosen to be interviewed. Jane King Hession and Linda Mack are the architecture writers who were chosen to compile the information. MNSAH received a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant to fund the project.

MNSAH has still not received notification about when consultations will begin concerning Phelps Mill in Otter Tail County. MNSAH is a consulting party regarding a proposal to remove the mill's 1908 stone dam to facilitate fish passage on the Otter Tail River. We are

concerned about the possible impact the delay might have on the ability to engage in thoughtful and thorough discussions that will consider alternatives to the removal of the dam. The mill is considered the most complete mill complex in the five-state region.

We hope many of you can attend MNSAH's virtual annual meeting in May. But we are looking forward to leaving the virtual world and organizing in-person events this year so that our members can experience significant architectural sites all together and in person.

Rolf Anderson
MNSAH President

entire rear wall of the interior. The Manfred House represents a high level of realization of the principles of organic design and a remarkable integration of the built and natural environments.

Manfred is an important Minnesota author whose works are known for their historical accuracy, sense of place, and lyrical depiction of heroic characters. A number of his most important works were written from his writer's studio, which is positioned atop the house with expansive views of the surrounding region. The house was later acquired by the state of Minnesota as an addition to nearby Blue Mounds State Park. However, the state has expressed an interest in demolishing the house. As a result, friends and family of Frederick Manfred organized a group called Save the Manfred House in order to try and preserve this important building. Nominating the property to the National Register will call attention to the Manfred House and help to facilitate its preservation.

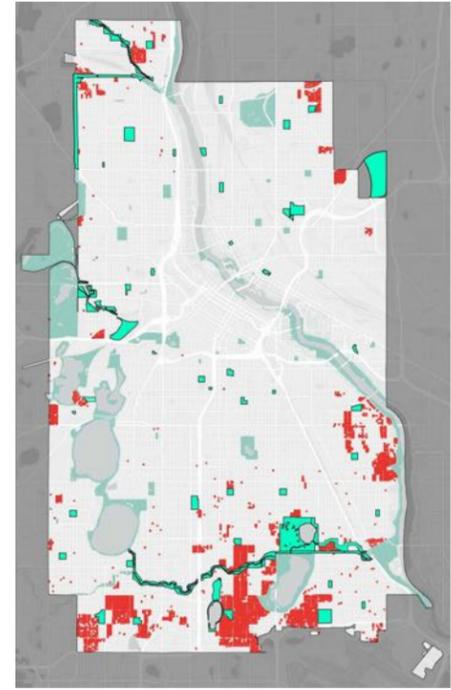
Rebecca Walker - Greenspace, White Space: Race, Real Estate, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Rebecca Walker, a PhD student in urban planning at the University of Minnesota, discussed her ongoing research, which considers how real estate developers in the early 20th century used both racial deed covenants and urban greening initiatives to create spaces of concentrated value and racial privilege, transforming Minneapolis's geography. Beginning in 1910, real estate developers in Minneapolis began adding racial covenants to deeds, clauses that prevented the sale or occupancy by anyone considered not white. Covenants were added

into deeds by both private citizens and real estate developers and were encouraged by city governments as tools for promoting residential segregation. Common in American cities beginning in the early twentieth century, they were also incredibly long-lasting—tied to the property rather than the individual buyer or seller. Covenants remained enforceable regardless of how many times the property was bought or sold until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled them unenforceable in 1948.

The University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice project has been working to uncover the hidden history of racial covenants in Minneapolis, producing the first complete and digitized map of racial covenants for any metropolitan area in the U.S. Rebecca's research builds on the insights of the Mapping Prejudice project, using their maps to study the intertwined history of Minneapolis's park system and the history of racial segregation in the city. She used extensive archival research and digital mapping tools to understand how the developers who added racial covenants to deeds in their developments also shaped where the Park Board constructed and improved new greenspaces.

Developers hoped that the combination of racial restrictions and green amenities would entice prospective buyers and allow them to extract more profit from their developments. As a result, there is a racially covenanted property within one block of more than 75% of the parks opened in Minneapolis from 1910-1955, the period in which racial covenants were used in Minnesota. This outcome is the result of three strategies employed by developers: 1) strategic development of adjacent



Parks that opened from 1910-1955 are shown in red. There was a racially covenanted property within one block of more than 75% of these parks. The Park Board knowingly collaborated with developers adding racial restrictions to their properties. Covenants data from Mapping Prejudice project; cartography by Rebecca Walker

land after the Park Board announced a new park, 2) offering to pay park acquisition and improvement costs if the Park Board agreed to develop a park in their neighborhood, or 3) directly selling or donating a portion of the land in their development to the Park Board for a new park. The result of these activities is a park system that is highly unequal, with park land and amenities disproportionately concentrated in neighborhoods of Minneapolis that today remain overwhelmingly white.

This research shines light on the origins of environmental injustice in Minneapolis, highlights how unequal public investments in greenspace have contributed to the racial wealth gap, and makes clear the long-lasting impacts of our investments in the built environment.

Both presentations may be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/681669355>.

Works in Progress



The Manfred House. Photo Rolf Anderson

Places Nomination for the Frederick and Maryanna Manfred House.

The Manfred House is located in southwestern Minnesota, approximately two miles north of the city of Luverne. Built in 1961 for the author Frederick Manfred and his family, the house is positioned at the southern edge of a geographic feature known as the Blue Mound, a linear escarpment of vibrant Precambrian Sioux Quartzite bedrock. The site for the house was selected because the Blue Mound epitomized Manfred's deep connection to the land and the literary inspiration it provided. Views from the house encompass both Iowa and South Dakota, part of the region that Manfred featured in many of his works.

Designed by architect Myron Kehne, the Manfred House represents an exceptional example

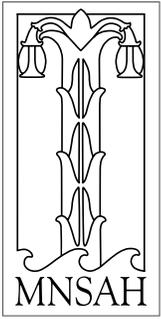
of organic design, also referred to as the Wrightian style. Engaged with a living rock wall, the house is sensitively placed below the crest of a hill and embraces its site. When viewed from the north, east, and west, the building recedes into the landscape and is scarcely visible. The use of native materials, common in organic design, takes on particular meaning as the construction stone was quarried from the Blue Mound itself, allowing the masonry walls to blend visually into the existing rocky outcroppings.

The complex geometries of the house are a response to the topography of the site, which, along with expanses of glass, maximize the engagement with the natural environment and the views the site affords. The incorporation of the natural environment continues in the interior with the living rock wall forming the

MNSAH's Works in Progress event on February 17, 2022 featured the following speakers and presentations:

Rolf Anderson - The Frederick and Maryanna Manfred House

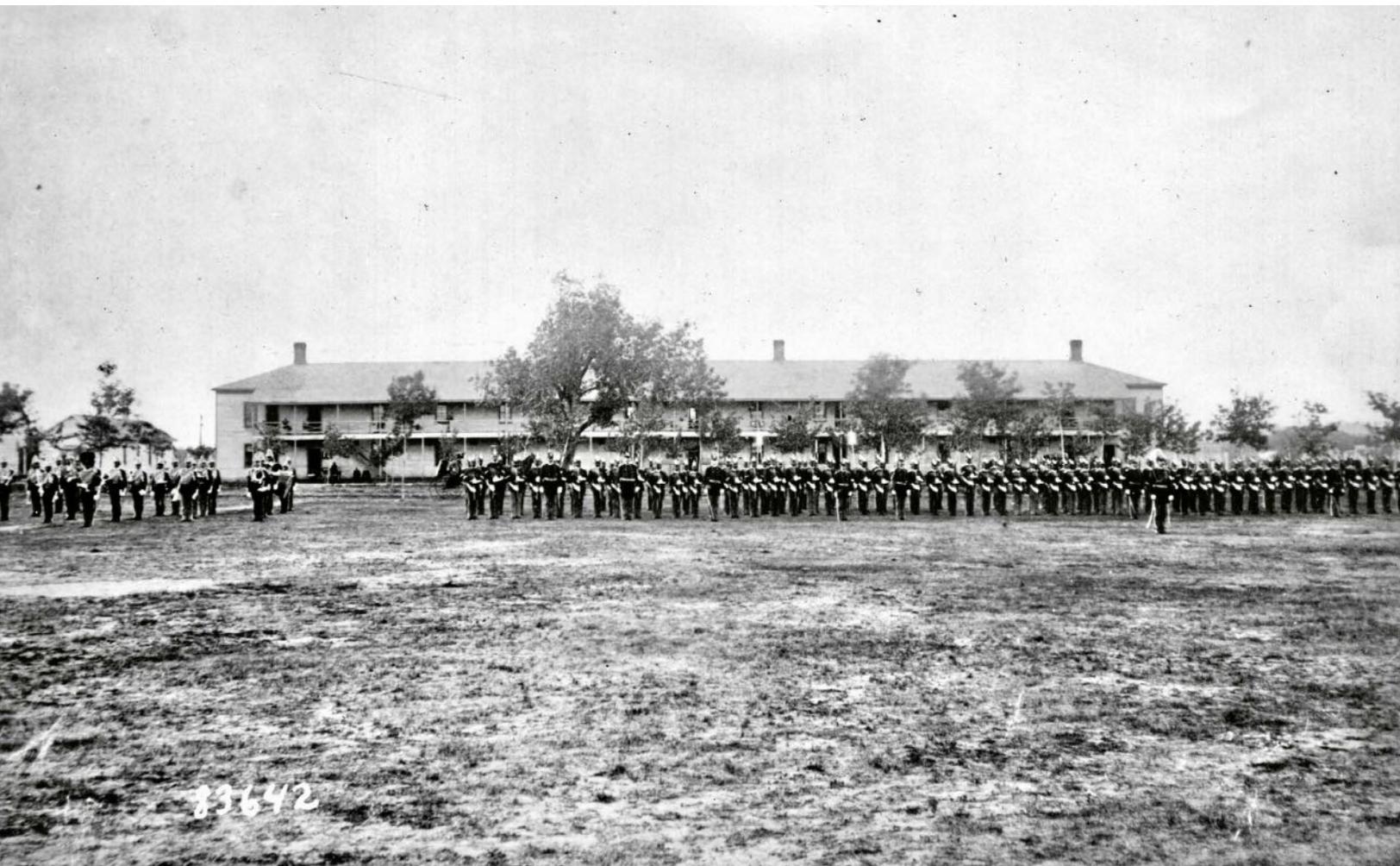
MNSAH president Rolf Anderson shared the research he conducted in conjunction with the preparation of a National Register of Historic



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Lost Barracks.

Photo courtesy of National Archives, no. 111-SC-83642 - ca. 1885