

Top: Fry II house shown perched in the treetops. Photo Rolf Anderson

Bottom: Living room, Fry II house. Photo Rolf Anderson

Right: Stairway, Fry I house. Photo courtesy Spacecrafting

MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

MNSAH

WITH RESPECT TO ARCHITECTURE | FALL 2023



MNSAH Fall Tour

Modernist Gems on Lexington Parkway
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9:30 a.m.



Modernist Gems on
Lexington Parkway



Top: Living room, Fry I house. Photo courtesy Spacecrafting

Right: Fry I house, center, with Fry II house at far right. Photo courtesy Spacecrafting



The Details

DATE AND TIME:

Saturday, October 21, 2023
9:30-11:30 a.m.

LOCATION:

We will meet at the Fry II house at 633 Lexington Parkway South, St. Paul, which is just over a mile north of Lexington Parkway's intersection with West 7th Street. **Parking is available only on the east side of the street.** Please park, cross Lexington Avenue, and proceed up the driveway to the house.

COST:

\$15.00 for MNSAH members
\$25.00 for nonmembers

REGISTRATION:

Online at www.mnsah.org/events/fall-tour or mail a check to:

MNSAH, c/o Bob Frame, Treasurer
178 Goodrich Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

QUESTIONS:

Email info@mnsah.org

MNSAH Fall Tour

Modernist Gems on Lexington Parkway
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Modernist Gems on Lexington Parkway

MNSAH's fall tour will feature two modernist homes perched on a dramatic hillside on St. Paul's Lexington Parkway. The adjacent houses were designed just over 20 years apart for the same client.

In 1956, architect Elizabeth Scheu Close designed a house at 641 Lexington Parkway South for landscape architect Marion Fry and her husband Robert. Referred to as Fry I, the house is built into a steep, heavily wooded site that rises 36 feet from front to back. An open staircase provides access from the ground-floor level entry to the kitchen, dining, and living areas on the second floor. Generous expanses of windows provide an abundance of light and impressive views. Featuring concrete block and redwood siding, the house connects to the landscape via terraces and a deck that wraps around the upper level.

In 1979, Marion Fry subdivided her property and commissioned a second house on land immediately to the north of her original home. Her motivation was to move to a more practical house in which she could age. For this house, Fry chose architect Jeri Zuber, who incorporated an elevator in the design for the house. The three-level Fry II house embraces the site in an even more dramatic fashion than the first. But like the first house, Fry's second home includes expanses of windows that flood the house with light as well as decks and terraces designed for outdoor living.

The tour will be led by architectural historian Jane King Hession, who wrote the award-winning book *Elizabeth Scheu Close: A Life in Modern Architecture*, and architect Jeri Zuber. Our hosts at the Fry I house are Paul Metzger and Lisa Hamlin and our hosts at the Fry II house are Paul Olson and Kelly Johnson.

news

FROM THE BOARD

As previously reported, MNSAH has been supporting the preservation of the Ed Sovik-designed interior of the Summit United Methodist Church on the campus of Ohio State University. Professor Kay Bea Jones of their School of Architecture had contacted MNSAH when she learned the building might be demolished to make way for student housing. She has now contacted us with the encouraging news that support for preserving the building is increasing, including support from Columbus Landmarks, a local preservation organization.



John Yust points out an architectural feature of the chapel at Roselawn Cemetery. Photo Rolf Anderson

MNSAH's Spring Tour, aptly titled "Coffee and Cookies in the Catacombs," featured Roselawn Cemetery in Roseville, a garden cemetery that includes buildings designed in the English Village Architecture style designed by Cass Gilbert protégé Thomas Holyoke. MNSAH thanks the welcoming staff at Roselawn as well as Emily Ganzel and John Yust who guided us through this fascinating site!

MNSAH has provided comments regarding an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that was prepared because of the proposed expansion of the State Office Building. Located to the southwest of the State Capitol, the Clarence Johnston-designed building provides office space for the House of Representatives and is in need of updating.

MNSAH opposes the addition as proposed because of its negative impact on the capitol and the capitol grounds. The addition is to be constructed on the north side of the building and will extend along the west elevation of the capitol. The addition would block views and vistas of the capitol that were part of Cass Gilbert's original vision and which have been respected since the capitol was constructed. The proposed addition, designed by East Coast architect Robert A. M. Stern, also violates the Secretary of the Interior's Standards because it mimics the classical features of the original building and its large size overpowers the building. MNSAH is also concerned about a lack of public awareness of the proposal. Furthermore, the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

(CAAPB), which has jurisdiction over the capitol and capitol grounds, voiced its concerns about the proposed addition, but their comments were disregarded by the state.

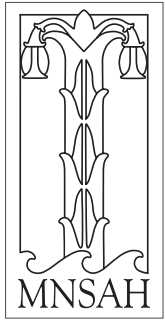
MNSAH encourages the state to reconsider the proposed design and develop an alternative. For a copy of the EAW or MNSAH's response, email info@mnsah.org.

In August, our friends at Docomomo joined MNSAH in sponsoring a tour of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hopkins. Designed by George Rafferty, the award-winning building is an early example of the impact of Vatican II on church architecture. George's son Craig Rafferty served as our tour guide. Craig provided a particularly insightful tour of the church and its innovative features. MNSAH also thanks architect Anna Pravinata for her assistance in making the tour possible. As a result of a merger of congregations, the church is now on the market and its future is uncertain.

ROLF ANDERSON
MNSAH PRESIDENT



Craig Rafferty, center, discusses the design of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Photo Rolf Anderson



MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

105 5TH AVENUE SOUTH
SUITE 485
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401

[MNSAH.ORG](https://mnsah.org)

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 90155

Submissions Sought for Gebhard Award

The Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH) invites the submission of articles and books on the history of Minnesota's built environment for the fifteenth David Stanley Gebhard Award, which honors the Minnesota born SAH president and nationally renowned writer, whose subjects included this state's architectural history. MNSAH sponsors this award in order to help bring new works of architectural history to the widest possible audience.

Eligible books and articles must have been published between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023. Publication may be in print or on-line. Although submitted books and articles must have a Minnesota focus, there is no restriction on the author's place of residence. There will be separate award categories for books and articles.

Submissions must be received no later than October 13, 2023, although earlier submissions are encouraged. MNSAH will publish a list of all submissions in the March 2024 edition of its newsletter and on its webpage (<https://mnsah.org>).

A panel of three judges appointed by the MNSAH board will select the award recipients. MNSAH will present the awards at its Annual Meeting in Spring 2024. The award will include an honorarium (\$300 for a book; \$100 for an article), a one-year membership in MNSAH, and a framed certificate.

Judges are encouraged to make an award in each category, but can at their discretion decide not to make an award, or to award more than one book or article, or to acknowledge a book or article as an Honorable Mention. The judges are advised to evaluate books and articles based on the following criteria:

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



Gebhard Award winners receive a framed certificate recognizing their award.

Applicants should send three copies of the nominated work to:

**David Stanley Gebhard Award
c/o Greg Gaut
1235 Yale Place #408
Minneapolis, MN 55403**

Materials will not be returned. Thank you for your interest.