

Top: House, Valeria Stupnitsky Batorewicz, undated
Bottom: Model Village House, Marion Alice Parker, 1915
Right: Bell Tower, Dorothy Brink, 1922-1923

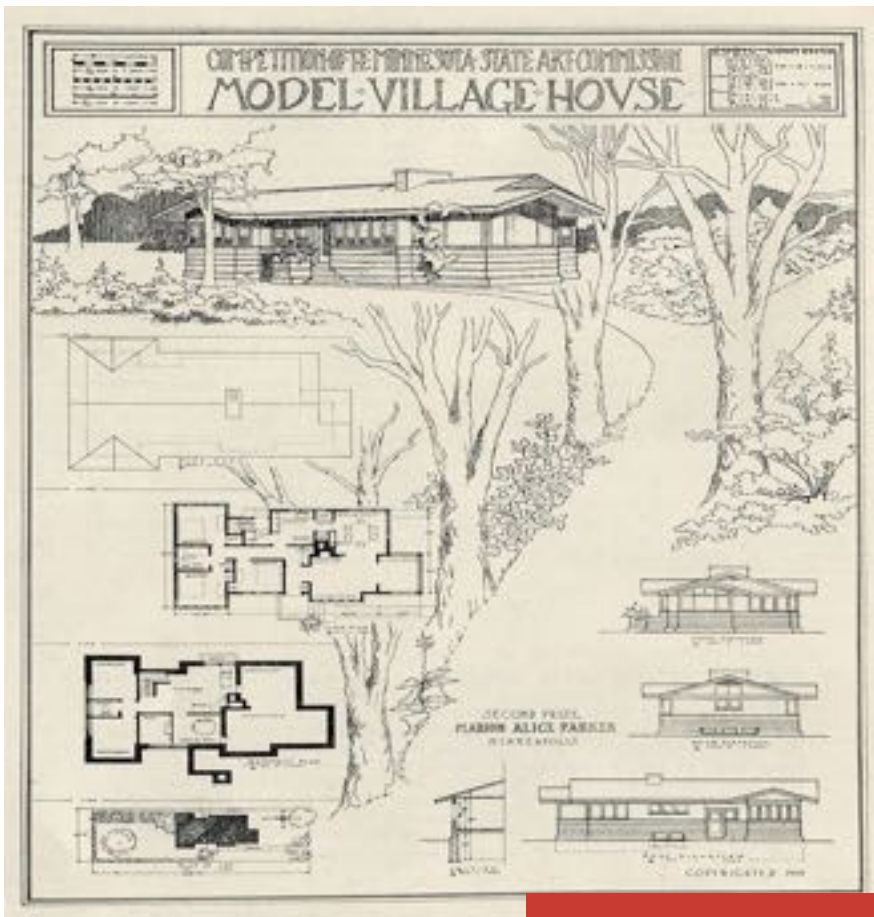
MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

MNSAH Annual Meeting

Minnesota Humanities Center
Saturday, May 10, 2025

MNSAH

WITH RESPECT TO ARCHITECTURE | SPRING 2025



Making Room

CHERYLL FONG, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MNSAH Annual Meeting

Minnesota Humanities Center

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 9:30 a.m.



Making Room: Women's Histories from the Northwest Architectural Archives

Cheryll Fong, Keynote Speaker

This year's annual meeting presentation features Cheryll Fong, who will speak about a current exhibit on women architects that she curated for Northwest Architectural Archives (NAA) along with Jane King Hession, Kimberly Long Loken, and exhibit designer Darren Terpstra.

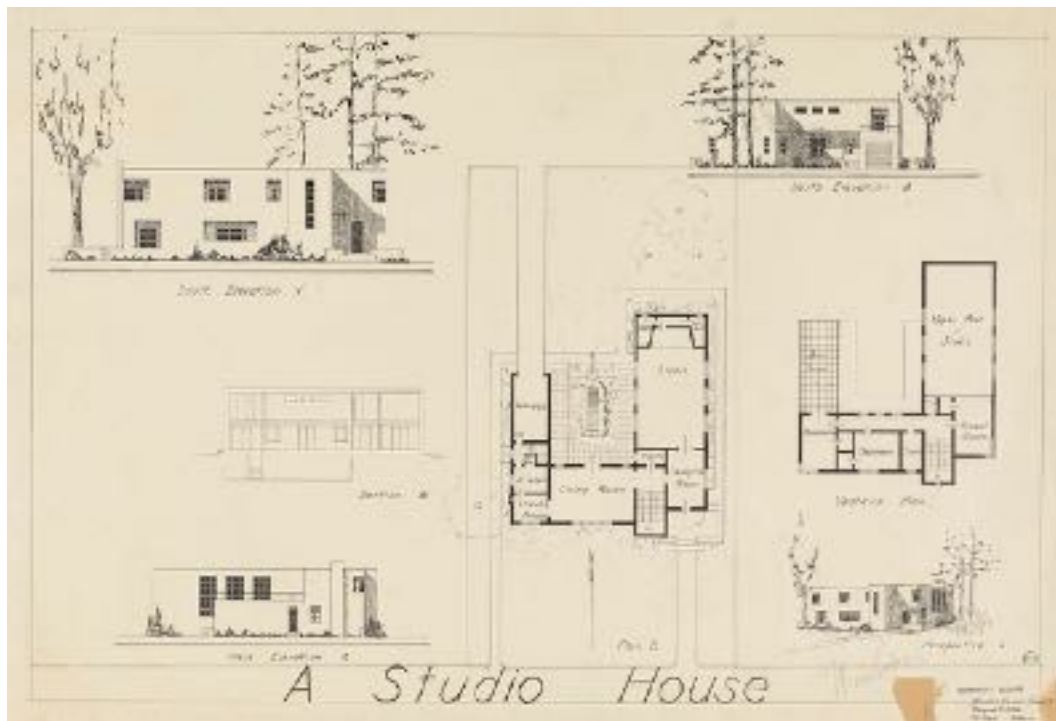
Among the vast holdings of the Northwest Architectural Archives at the University of Minnesota are the histories of women in architecture whose talents have enriched the field in countless ways. Many of these women, particularly those who were educated and practiced during the early decades of the 20th century, are little known today. The goal of this exhibit is to shine a light on these talented and determined women who made room for themselves in a field once reserved exclusively for men.

The path to becoming an architect was not an easy one for pioneering women in the field. Architecture schools were slow to accept women as students. When they finally were admitted, women often found themselves the only females in their class. Women professors, mentors, and role models did not exist. To make matters worse, female students encountered prejudice from some male professors and were not provided with basic amenities at school, such as women's restrooms.

Even when armed with degrees in architecture, women faced an uphill battle when it came to finding employment. They were dismissed as dilettantes or deemed unqualified simply because of their gender. Women were also barred from joining professional and fraternal architectural organizations. Despite the roadblocks along the way, they persevered and assumed their rightful place among their male colleagues.

Most of the women featured in this exhibit studied at the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota and the NAA is fortunate to have extensive holdings on a few extraordinary women, including Elizabeth Scheu Close and Valeria Stupnitsky Batorewicz. But some exceptional women are not as well represented or are subsets of larger collections, such as Marion Alice Parker. Or they are footnotes in their husband's papers, as in the case of Dorothy Brink Ingemann. Too many accomplished women, including Ethel Clare Bartholomew and Helen Marguerite Thian, have no papers at all.

Cheryll hopes that through this exhibit the NAA can further facilitate the collection and preservation of more comprehensive records on the lives, careers, and achievements of Minnesota's women architects, and to encourage additional research and documentation of those histories that have not yet been told. The exhibit remains open through Friday, May 30, 2025.



A Studio House, Margaret Wilder, 1936

Cheryll Fong is the curator of the Northwest Architectural Archives. She holds a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a BA from the University of Minnesota in International Relations, Western Europe. Raised in a lumber-yard family in rural Minnesota, Cheryll states that history, construction, and buildings understood through the voices of individuals and ideas has led her to the most wonderful place: the Northwest Architectural Archives.



Stained Glass Panel, Michaela Mahady, undated

The Details

DATE AND PLACE:

Saturday, May 10, 2025
9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Minnesota Humanities Center
987 Ivy Avenue East
Saint Paul, MN 55106

9:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting
11:00 a.m. Keynote Presentation
12:00 p.m. Adjourn

COST:

\$30 for MNSAH members
\$40 for nonmembers

REGISTRATION:

Deadline: Thursday, May 1, 2025
Please register online at www.mnsah.org/events/annual-meeting/ or mail your check (payable to MNSAH) to:
MNSAH
c/o Bob Frame, Treasurer
178 Goodrich Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

Note: Members who wish to attend the annual meeting and presentation, but not the dinner, may do so at no cost. Please notify MNSAH at info@mnsah.org if you plan to attend only the meeting and presentation.

MENU:

Hot breakfast buffet

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.



Elizabeth (Lisl) Scheu Close at her drafting table, 1938
Photo courtesy Roy M. Close Family Papers



Analytique, Clarice Berg, 1929-1930

Unless otherwise noted, all images associated with the cover article are courtesy Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries.

MNSAH Nominating Committee Report

MNSAH members who attend the annual meeting on May 10, 2025 will vote on the following slate of officers and board members submitted by the nominating committee. New board nominations may come from the floor.

President	Rolf Anderson
Vice President	Martha Douglas
Treasurer	Bob Frame
Secretary	Barb Bezat
At Large	Renee Barnes
	Leslie Coburn
	Nicole Foss
	Katie Ohland
	Matt Seltzer

All officers are nominated for one-year terms. Board members Martha Douglas and Nicole Foss 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 2024.

1925-2024

Bette Hammel



Bette Hammel and Rolf Anderson,
Woodhill Country Club, December 2016

MNSAH is sad to announce the death of our friend and long-time MNSAH member Bette Hammel, who passed away on November 23, 2024 at age 99.

Bette grew up in St. Paul and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in journalism in 1947. After graduating, she began a career in radio. She later expanded her career to include television, advertising, and public relations, fields that at the time were dominated by men.

While working for WCCO in 1956, Bette realized she would be traveling in Europe at the time of the marriage of Princess Grace to Prince Ranier of Monaco. Bringing a press pass with her, she registered as a member of the media and covered the wedding. Afterword, Bette socialized with the international press in a Monaco casino.

In 1970, Bette married Richard Hammel, one of the founding partners of the architecture firm

of Hammel, Green and Abrahamson (HGA), and her interest in architecture began to emerge. The couple moved to a house in Wayzata across from Lake Minnetonka where they pursued their favorite pastimes, sailing and exploring the lake.

After her husband's untimely death, Bette's writing began to focus on architecture. She wrote a history of HGA, titled *From Bauhaus to Bowties*. Bette also wrote articles for *Skyway News*, *Architecture MN*, and for national architecture magazines. With photographer Karen Melvin, Bette embarked on a series of books on Minnesota architecture including *Legendary Homes of Lake Minnetonka*. She also wrote personal memoirs including *Wild About Architecture*.

In 2016, MNSAH interviewed Bette for its Minnesota Modern Masters program. In the interview, she remarked that in her writing she tried to explain the complicated world of architecture in understandable terms so that the public could grasp how architecture improves their lives.

Bette helped organize one of MNSAH's most celebrated programs, a tour of homes on Lake Minnetonka featured in her book. A dedicated preservationist, she was always concerned about the loss of historic architecture, particularly on Lake Minnetonka. Bette once told me she felt concerned whenever she saw a "for sale" sign on the lake. Her fears were justified as a number of the magnificent homes we visited on our MNSAH tour have since been demolished. Several years ago, Bette and I boated around the lake, expressing our dismay at the buildings that had replaced the splendid historic architecture.

But beyond her dedication to architecture, Bette herself was curious and enthusiastic, and always looking forward to her next adventure. She was constantly engaged in a variety of activities ranging from attending concerts to dancing. It's hard to believe Bette is no longer with us. She seemed eternal. But we will always remain grateful that Bette became part of our lives.

ROLF ANDERSON

news

FROM THE BOARD

MNSAH's Works in Progress program was held on March 27, 2025, via Zoom. Minnesota Modern Masters Committee Chair Gary Reetz introduced the final two interviews completed as part of this multi-year project--interviews with James Garrett, Jr. and Nathan Johnson of 4RM+ULA, and Mohammed Lawal and Quinn Scott of LSE Architects. Edited versions of the interviews were presented to the attendees. They may be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/mnsah>. MNSAH thanks the many individuals involved in the Minnesota Modern Masters project over the years who helped make it such a success!

Architectural historian Kate Solomonson was the second presenter at Works in Progress.

She discussed her newly completed research on the efforts of the federal government to assimilate the Lakota of the Standing Rock Agency in Dakota Territory during the 1880s. Using remarkable nineteenth-century maps and photographs, Kate demonstrated how the Lakota employed architectural and spatial strategies to resist assimilation. She will present her research at the annual conference of the Society of Architectural Historians in Atlanta, Georgia, in May.



You'll notice we've changed the format for the annual meeting. For many years, the annual meeting has been held in the evening on a week night. But with rush hour traffic that only seems to worsen

and along with driving home in the dark, we thought our members would appreciate a Saturday morning event. Everything else will remain the same except instead of dinner we'll serve a hot breakfast buffet. Let us know if you like the change!

ROLF ANDERSON
MNSAH PRESIDENT

MNSAH Members Receive Docomomo US Awards



Bobak Ha'Eri and Jane King Hession at the Docomomo US awards ceremony in Los Angeles.
Photo Bill Olexy

MNSAH members Jane King Hession and Bobak Ha'Eri were recipients of 2024 Modernism in America Awards from Docomomo US. The awards celebrate the documentation, preservation, and reuse of modern buildings, structures, and landscapes in the United States. The winners were honored at an awards ceremony held on November 7, 2024 in Los Angeles.

Jane received her award for the book *Elizabeth Scheu Close: A Life in Modern Architecture*, and a related exhibition. The book and exhibit represent the first comprehensive effort to document and publicize the work of Elizabeth (Lisl) Close, a pioneering woman in modern architecture in America. Jane's meticulous and exhaustive research provided new information and remarkable insights into her life and achievements. The book was previously the recipient of MNSAH's David Gebhard Award.

Bobak Ha'Eri received his award for creating and managing the Minnesota Modern Registry for Docomomo US/MN, the Minnesota Chapter of Docomomo US. The registry documents modernist works throughout the state and adjacent regions, making them easily accessible with a public-facing Google MyMaps page. The registry has over 9,700 entries largely spanning the years 1930-1980. It is a living, breathing document that continues to grow with the addition of new modernist properties and further information on existing entries. The registry may be accessed at <https://www.docomomo-us-mn.org/modern-registry.html>.

We're very proud that of the sixteen 2024 Modernism in America Awards, two were awarded to Minnesotans!

Recap of MNSAH's Fall Tour of Open Book

MNSAH members enjoyed a memorable event at Open Book during our Fall Tour. Located on Washington Avenue in Minneapolis, Open Book is an umbrella organization formed by three nonprofits that joined forces to create a first-of-its-kind center for book and literary arts. Our program began with presentations by Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, Chuck Leer, Garth Rockcastle, and Karen Wirth, who were all closely involved in the creation of Open Book.

Following the presentations, architect Garth Rockcastle and Open Book's general manager Kellan Christopher guided us through the three buildings that comprise the complex. Garth's

discussion about his innovative adaptive reuse of the buildings and their creative interior architectural features was a highlight of the tour. He remarked how the project had a profound influence on his architectural career.

At the end of the tour, we gathered on Open Book's rooftop terrace to take in the expansive views of the Minneapolis skyline. If you missed the tour, we are pleased to announce that the event was recorded by videographer Bill Olexy. You may access the video at <https://vimeo.com/mnsah>.

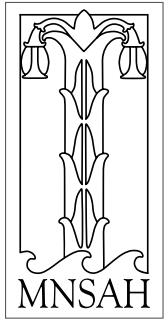
ROLF ANDERSON



Garth Rockcastle at Open Book. Photo Rolf Anderson



MNSAH members on Open Book's rooftop terrace



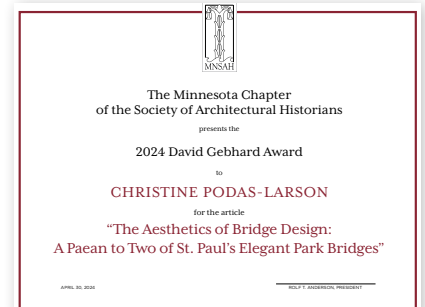
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Gebhard Award Presented to Christine Podas-Larson

On October 1, 2024, Rolf Anderson and Bob Frame presented Christine Podas-Larson with the David Gebhard Award for her article “The Aesthetics of Bridge Design: A Paean to Two of St. Paul’s Elegant Park Bridges” published in *Ramsey County History*. A luncheon event was organized to present the award as Christine had not been able to attend MNSAH’s annual meeting where the other Gebhard Award was presented. When describing the article, the Gebhard judges noted, “Christine Podas-Larson looks at two St. Paul bridges to tell the story of civic philosophies united with the local, transformative engineering of new and novel reinforced concrete. In describing the legacy of well-applied building technology combined with spirit-lifting aesthetic beauty, Podas-Larson’s work is well-timed and very well done.”



Gebhard Award winners receive a framed certificate recognizing their award.



Bob Frame, Christine Podas-Larson, and Rolf Anderson. Photo Kent Larson