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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR 23 JUNE IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Walter Burley Griffin Society of America will be held in Minneapolis on Saturday, 23 June 2012. Similar to this past year, the meeting will be centered around the work of the Griffins' mentors and associates among the architects of the Prairie School, including most importantly Purcell & Elmslie. A special showing of the Griffin material held at the Northwest Architectural Archives of the University of Minnesota has been arranged. The meeting is being coordinated by architectural historian Richard Kronick. An optional tour the next day is being planned, including a visit to Louis Sullivan's National Farmers' Bank in Owatonna.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Two new members were appointed to the Griffin Society Board of Directors at the June meeting: Anthony Rubano and Thomas Hagensick. Anthony is a well-known preservationist with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, while Tom is a preservation architect in Chicago, with experience ranging from Seattle to Indiana. Both have architecture degrees from the University of Illinois.

GRINNELL SHOW

The exhibition "Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin in Iowa" opened on 23 September at the Falconer Gallery of Grinnell College and will continue through 11 December. The exhibition of renderings and photographs of the Griffin's Iowa projects, primarily in Grinnell, highlights the one hundredth anniversary of the College's restored treasure, the 1911 Benjamin and Mabel Ricker house. Bob McCoy of the Griffin Society reports that, among the objects on display, Mahony's drawings of the Melson and Blythe houses, plus her colored version of the Rock Crest/Rock Glen aerial perspective, make the show a must-see. Curated by Daniel Strong, Associate Director and Curator of Exhibitions at the Falconer Gallery, the exhibition is accompanied by a full-color catalogue, including essays on "The Griffins in Grinnell" by Paul Kruty, Professor of Architectural History, University of Illinois, and "Ricker House Since 2000" by Daniel Strong. The catalog sells for \$20, tax included. For more information, contact Daniel Strong, STRONGDJ@Grinnell.EDU

PRAIRIE SCHOOL TILES

Art tile expert and longtime Griffin Society member Richard Mohr has published the first in a series of articles in the *Journal of the American Art Pottery Association* on the use of art tiles by members of the Prairie School, with examples from the firms of Purcell & Elmslie, Spencer & Powers and Tallmadge &

Watson, as well as Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony. Griffin Society members will recall that Mohr lectured on the subject in 2008 at the Grand Rapids meeting.

Featured prominently in the first article are buildings Mohr has visited with the Griffin Society through the years, including Wright's hotel and bank and Griffin's Blythe and Schneider houses in Mason City (seen at the meeting of 2003); Mahony's Irving and Mueller houses in Decatur (meeting of 2007); Mahony's Amberg house in Grand Rapids (2008); and Spencer's Broughton house in River Forest and Tallmadge & Watson's Smith house in Oak Park this past June (2011).

OAK PARK HOSTS TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING AND TOURS

By Janna N. Hagensick, Architect

The Walter Burley Griffin Society of America held its twelfth annual meeting on Saturday, June 25, 2011 in Oak Park, Illinois. The event, including the Friday Board of Directors meeting, was hosted by the Oak Park Historical Society at George Maher's Farnson-Mills house, also known as "Pleasant Home."

As my first Society meeting, it was especially exciting for me personally as my husband, architect Tom Hagensick, was appointed to the Board of Directors at Friday's Board meeting. Having both been taught by Paul Kruty as graduate students at the University of Illinois, we were grateful for Tom's opportunity to share his voice and enthusiasm for the Prairie School. The meeting was followed by dinner in the entry hall of "Pleasant Home," where we shared lively conversation and listened to stories told by several of the "old-timers" on the Board.

Saturday morning could not have been, dare I say, more pleasant. Approaching "Pleasant Home" one is lured by a wide processional walk, leading to a covered porch of considerable width and breadth, before being swallowed up by the massive front door. One could imagine what it would be like to attend a party hosted by one of its original owners, as the house buzzed with anticipation of the conference. As the meeting began, we were greeted by Society President Peter B. Griffin and Oak Park Historical Society's Laura Thompson, who shared with us recent and future restoration work on "Pleasant Home." Julia Bachrach, historian for the Chicago Park District, presented "Prairie School Buildings in Chicago

Parks," in which she demonstrated the depth of our park system and accompanying architectural treasures, as well as her personal "discovery," the work of Clarence Hatzfeld. This was followed by architect John Eifler's presentation of his restoration plan for Griffin's Cooley House in Monroe, Louisiana. The home, originally designed in 1908 and built in 1926, is the last Griffin design built in the United States. The house had suffered considerable alteration over the years but is in the beginning phases of restoration funded by the City of Monroe and the Cooley House Foundation. It is intended to become a house museum and cultural events center. Following a coffee break, Paul Kruty presented his paper "Robert Spencer in Oak Park and River Forest," a captivating story of the life of and work of the Prairie School architect and integral community member, whose work featured prominently on the afternoon tour. Lastly, homeowner Dan Spillane spoke on the restoration of his Spencer home, the Broughton House in River Forest. It was a truly dedicated effort over the course of four years to restore the original ideas and details and incorporate smart building systems to ensure the longevity of the refurbished building.



Reception at Pleasant Home of the Griffin Board, including (l to r) Tom Hagensick, Paul Sprague, Jon Pohl, Marilyn Hasbrouck, Bob McCoy, Bonnie McCoy, and Peter B. Griffin.

Following lunch, all were ready for an enjoyable afternoon touring four houses in Oak Park and nearby River Forest, as well as a planned visit to William Drummond's River Forest Methodist Church (for some unknown reason, church members failed to open the building as promised and didn't respond to phone messages), not to mention the array of architecture appreciated just on the exterior. The following homeowners graciously opened their doors

for our indulgence: Dan and Betsy Spillane (Broughton House, architects Spencer & Powers); Susan and John Curran (Pellet House, architects Spencer & Powers); Paul Harding (Davenport House, architect Frank Lloyd Wright); and Marc Martinez and Susan Price (Smith House, architects Tallmadge & Watson).

All in all, it was an exceptional event that would not have been quite as wonderful without the effort and support of so many dedicated people. I look forward to more great experiences with the Walter Burley Griffin Society in the future.

MARION MAHONY GRIFFIN BOOK APPEARS TO RAVE REVIEWS

After a gestation period of more than five years, the much anticipated publication of the lectures on Marion Mahony Griffin presented in November 2005 at Northwestern University has finally appeared. *Marion Mahony Reconsidered* (The University of Chicago Press) includes an introduction by David Van Zanten, who served as editor, and essays by Alice Friedman, Paul Kruty, James Weirick and Anna Rubbo that examine various contexts of Mahony's achievement.

To celebrate the book's appearance, American authors Van Zanten and Kruty made a joint presentation at the Oak Park Public Library on 6 October, while earlier, Australian contributors Rubbo and Weirick explained their work before an enthusiastic audience in Sydney.

RECENT BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL 2000-2011

The following list by Paul Kruty presents a selection of the books, articles and catalogs that have appeared in the last decade related to the Prairie School. Only a small selection of the myriad writings about Frank Lloyd Wright is included. Entries are divided into books, exhibition catalogs, and articles. The articles are sorted by journals, rather than by subject or author.

BOOKS

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Cannon, Patrick F., with an introduction by Paul Kruty. *Hometown Architect: The Complete Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright in Oak Park and River Forest, Illinois*. San Francisco, CA: Pomegranate, 2006.

Cummings, Kathleen Ann. *Pleasant Home: A History of the John Farson House, George Washington Maher, Architect*. Oak Park, IL: The Pleasant Home Foundation, 2002.

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Griffin, Dustin, ed. *The Writings of Walter Burley Griffin*. Port Melbourne, VIC: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

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Kruty, Paul. *Walter Burley Griffin and the Stinson Memorial Library: Modernism Comes to Main Street*. St. Louis, MO: The Walter Burley Griffin Society of America, 2010.

Kruty, Paul, and Paul E. Sprague. *Marion Mahony and Millikin Place: Creating a Prairie School Masterpiece*. St. Louis, MO: The Walter Burley Griffin Society of America, 2007.

Legler, Dixie. *At Home on the Prairie: The Houses of Purcell & Elmslie*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2006.

Longstreth, Richard, ed. *The Charnley House: Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright and the Making of Chicago's Gold Coast*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004.

McGregor, Alasdair. *Grand Obsessions: The Life and Work of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin*. Camberwell, VIC: Lantern (Penquin Group), 2009.

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Miller, Wilhelm, with an intro. by Christopher Vernon. *The Prairie Spirit in Landscape Gardening*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2002.

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Nickel, Richard, and Aaron Siskind, with John Vinci and Ward Miller. *The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan*. Chicago: the Richard Nickel Committee, 2010.

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Plank, Jeffrey. *Aaron Siskind and Louis Sullivan: The Institute of Design Photo Section Project*. San Francisco, CA: William Stout Publishers, 2008.

Pond, Irving K., ed. by David Swan and Terry Tatum. *The Autobiography of Irving K. Pond*. Oak Park, IL: The Hyoogen Press, Inc., 2009.

Quinan, Jack. *Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House: Architecture as Portraiture*. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 2004.

Reid, Paul. *Canberra Following Griffin: a design history of Australia's National Capital*. Canberra: National Archives of Australia, 2002.

Schmitt, Ronald E. *Sullivan-esque: Urban Architecture and Ornamentation*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2002.

Siry, Joseph M. *The Chicago Auditorium Building: Adler & Sullivan's Architecture and the City*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Sloan, Julie L. *Light Screens: The Leaded Glass of Frank Lloyd Wright*. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 2001.

Sokel, David M., with a foreword by Sidney K. Robinson. *The Noble Room: The Inspired Conception and Tumultuous Creation of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple*. Oak Park, IL: Top Five Books, LLC, 2008.

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View from the Path: Jens Jensen in Kenilworth. Kenilworth, IL: Kenilworth Historical Society, 2004.

Wood, Debra, ed. *Marion Mahony Griffin: Drawing the Form of Nature*. Evanston IL: Northwestern University Press, 2005.

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A Force of Nature: The Life and Works of Jens Jensen; A Collection of Essays. Chicago: Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, 2002.

Kruty, Paul. *Postscript to the Prairie Style: Six Models of Unbuilt Houses by Frank Lloyd Wright, 1911-1918*. Urbana, IL: School of Architecture, University of Illinois, 2010.

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Kruty, Paul, with an essay and chronology by Paul E. Sprague. *Prelude to the Prairie Style: Eight Models of Unbuilt Houses by Frank Lloyd Wright, 1893-1901*. Urbana, IL: School of Architecture, University of Illinois, 2005.

ARTICLES

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Kruty, Paul. "At Work in the Oak Park Studio," *Arris* 14 (2003): 17-32.

Sprague, Paul. "A New Chapter in the Life of Louis Sullivan: Margaret Hattabough Sullivan and Lester Sullivan," *Arris* 13 (2002): 39-54.

FABRICATIONS, the journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand

Turnbull, Jeff. "The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin: archetypal patterns," *Fabrications* 15 (July 2005): 1-12.

JAAPA, Journal of the American Art Pottery Association

Mohr, Richard D. "Art Tiles in the Prairie School," Pt. 1, *JAAPA* 27 (Fall 2011): 26-40.

JAE, Journal of Architectural Education

Frank, Marie. "Emil Lorch: Pure Design and American Architectural Education," *JAE* 57 (May 2004): 28-40.

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Frank, Marie. "The Theory of Pure Design and American Architectural Education in the Early Twentieth Century," *JSAH* 67 (June 2008): 248-73.

Michael, Vincent. "Expressing the Modern: Barry Byrne in 1920s Europe," *JSAH* 69 (December 2010): 534-555.

NINETEENTH CENTURY, the magazine of the Victorian Society of America

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Sprague, Paul. "A Prairie House on a Mountain-top: Frank Lloyd Wright and the Reverend William Guthrie," *Nineteenth Century* 30 (Spring 2010): 25-34.

STYLE 1900

Cummings, Kathleen. "Chicago's Auditorium Windows," *Style 1900* 14 (May 2001): 44-53.

Kahn, Eve M. "Arts & Crafts Traveler: Architecture's Dynamic Duo—Discover the Midwest masterpieces of Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin," *Style 1900* 21 (Summer 2008): 72-79.

Kahn, Eve M. "Rescuing Wright" [Martin, Westcott & Robie houses], *Style 1900* 18 (Fall/Winter 2005-6): 42-7.

Mohr, Richard D. "Grand Lodge at Yellowstone: the New Canyon Hotel," *Style 1900* 13 (November 2000): 48-55.

WINTERTHUR PORTFOLIO, a journal of American Material Culture

Kruty, Paul. "Wood Bungalows and Burnt-Clay Cottages: Building a Model Brick House at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition," *Winterthur Portfolio* 40 (Summer/Autumn 2005): 133-54. [Robert Spencer's Model Brick House].

SOCIETY'S TWO PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Everyone who is interested in the Griffins and in the Prairie School will want to own the Society's two original publications, available through the website and by ordering directly from the Society's headquarters in St. Louis.

Marion Mahony and Millikin Place presents for the first time the whole exciting story of the development of Millikin Place in Decatur, Illinois. As Paul Kruty explains, "The history of Millikin Place is the personal story of Marion Mahony and Walter Griffin. The chain of events set in motion in September 1909, when Mahony agreed to complete Wright's buildings while he was abroad for a year, not only brought Walter and Marion together in Decatur, but it soon led to their marriage, and later to the extraordinary Rock Crest/Rock Glen commission in Mason City, Iowa, and finally to Australia."

Walter Burley Griffin and the Stinson Memorial Library reveals the international significance of the Griffins' major public building in the United States, a work that H. Allen Brooks called "a brilliant design and a fitting climax to Griffin's American career." Drawing on the priceless collection of letters and documents surviving at the library, Paul Kruty recounts the story of the commission, design, construction, and reception of the building, as well as its contexts in Griffin's career, the public library in America, and the architect's intention to create a Modern representational public architecture.

Marion Mahony and Millikin Place sells for \$29.95, while *Walter Burley Griffin and the Stinson Memorial Library* sells for \$25, plus s & h. Griffin Society members receive a 20% discount on both publications.

MEMBERSHIP

The Walter Burley Griffin Society Of America is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation under IRS Code 501 (c)(3). We invite you to become a "Friend" of the Society. For annual dues of \$25.00, you will receive a periodic newsletter keeping you abreast of the Society's activities, such as lectures, tours, exhibitions, and other events related to the Griffins' work. (\$20.00 for seniors 65 and older.)

The Society seeks comments, advice, suggestions, and news from you, its friends. The Society needs your financial support. All donations are tax-deductible.

If you wish to join the Society or renew your membership in the Society, please fill out the following form and mail it to us at the address below - or email us that you are attending the Annual Meeting (cost \$10) and you can pay for both membership and meeting at that time.

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