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 Faulconer 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 Faulconer 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 Farsong-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.
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**


Bibliography, continued.


EXHIBITION CATALOGS


ARTICLES

ARRIS, the journal of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians


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


JAAPA, Journal of the American Art Pottery Association


JAE, Journal of Architectural Education


JSAH, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians


NINETEENTH CENTURY, the magazine of the Victorian Society of America


STYLE 1900


WINTERTHUR PORTFOLIO, a journal of American Material Culture

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.

Name: ________________________________

Company: ______________________________

Address: ________________________________

City: __________ State: ___ Zip: _______

Phone Number: ___________________________

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