

# THE GRIFFIN NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Fall 2020

Vol. 21 no. 2

ISSN: 1542-0884

**Walter Burley Griffin  
Society of America**  
1152 Center Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63117

**Website:** [www.WBGriffinSociety.org](http://www.WBGriffinSociety.org)  
**Email:** [info@WBGriffinSociety.org](mailto:info@WBGriffinSociety.org)

#### **Society President**

Peter Burley Griffin

#### **Board of Directors**

Peggy L. Bang

*Griffin Homeowner, Mason City, IA*

Rich H. Berry

*Griffin Homeowner, Edwardsville, IL*

Kathleen Cummings

*Architectural Historian, Chicago, IL*

Eleanor E. Grumman

*Chicago, IL*

Tom Hagensick

*Architect, Seattle, WA*

Meg Kindelin

*President of Johnson Lasky*

*Kindelin Architects, Chicago, IL*

Paul Kruty

*Prof. Emeritus of Architectural History*

*University of Illinois at*

*Urbana-Champaign*

Tannys Langdon, AIA

*Langdon Associates, LLC Architects*

*Griffin Homeowner, Chicago, IL*

Rachel Leibowitz

*State University of New York*

*at Syracuse, NY*

Mati Maldre

*Prof. Emeritus of Art/Photography*

*Chicago State University*

*Griffin Homeowner, Chicago, IL*

Jon S. Pohl, AIA

*Sarasota, FL*

Anthony Rubano

*Illinois Historic Preservation Agency*

*Springfield, IL*

George Shutack

*Prairie Multimedia, Inc., Wayne, IL*

Mary K. Woolever

*Art & Architecture Archivist*

*Art Institute of Chicago, retired*

#### **Honorary Director**

Akky van Ogtrap

*President of the Walter Burley Griffin*

*Society, Inc., Sydney, Australia*

**Editor:** Paul Kruty

[pkruty@illinois.edu](mailto:pkruty@illinois.edu)

Please email news items to the editor.

## ¿¿TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING??

**PERHAPS: SATURDAY/SUNDAY, 12-13 JUNE 2021**

**ELMHURST and CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS**

As of mid-December 2020, it has still not been possible to plan with any assurance for a June meeting of the Griffin Society. Should it seem likely in the next few months, and the vaccines become universal, we propose to reschedule the 2020 meeting. That is, centering the Saturday meeting around the Griffin family's hometown of Elmhurst, with a possible Sunday addition, perhaps to visit the historic site of the American Terra Cotta Company in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as originally planned. If so, this would tentatively take place on 12 and 13 June. Another possibility would be to try for a September version of this meeting. Holding a virtual meeting seems to us to be counterproductive, as visiting with friends, hearing live lectures and walking physical sites have been the very point of our meetings for the past twenty years. Please feel free to express your opinions to Peter Griffin or any of the board members about plans for the next meeting.

## **EXHIBITION: "PARADISE ON EARTH"**

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CASTLECRAG**

**PLUS: MMG AT 150!**

On November 7th, a major exhibition hosted by the Sydney Living Museums opened at the Museum of Sydney. Honoring the 100th anniversary of the Griffins' acquiring the three peninsulas on Middle Harbour north of downtown Sydney often collectively referred to today as Castlecrag, the show, as organized by Dr. Anne Watson, is both a celebration of the garden suburb and the career and legacy of Marion Mahony Griffin. The exhibition runs until April 18th. For those of us unable to make it to New South Wales by then, there is an excellent video of Castlecrag and the exhibition available online at [sydneylivingmuseums.com.au](http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au) (or just google Sydney Living Museums). It features historic and contemporary photography, interviews of current owners of many of the houses, and continuing exegeses by Dr. Watson and James Weirick. At the same time, Australia's Griffin Society is hosting a series of events celebrating Marion Mahony Griffin's 150th birthday on 14 February, beginning with a lecture by Anne Watson and a "Birthday Bash" at Castlecrag, and subsequent photo exhibitions and open houses.

WALTER  
BURLEY  
GRIFFIN  
SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED

100  
THE GRIFFINS + CASTLECRAG

150

CASTLECRAG'S CENTENARY 2021

MARION MAHONY GRIFFIN'S  
SESQUICENTENARY

## STINSON LIBRARY'S GREAT LOSS

It is with deep regret that we received news that Lisa Livesay, director of the Stinson Memorial Library for more than fifteen years, passed away on September 30, 2020. With a strong love of her community and its architectural masterpiece and armed with a master's degree from the University of Illinois in Library & Information Sciences, Lisa was the perfect caretaker of the treasure that is the Stinson library. As host to the Society in 2010, she made the annual meeting held in Anna the great success that it was.

Lisa was also a strong supporter of the continuing quest to grant the Stinson library status as a National Historic Landmark, a project begun in 2012. The NHL program, in abeyance for the last several years, has recently been reactivated, with a first meeting held in early September. At that time, Alesha Cerny, the program's Midwest representative, reported to Lisa that the Stinson library would probably have a hearing sometime in 2021. Would that Lisa could be there.



Lisa Livesay and Peter B. Griffin at the Stinson Library, 2014.

## KATHY MALDRE

The Griffin Society sends its most heartfelt condolences to Mati Maldre on the death of his wife of fifty years, Kathy. For the Society's first Beverly meeting in 2004, Kathy hosted the board to a fabulous dinner and assisted Mati in every possible way to make this a memorable weekend. Although Mati's dedication to Kathy during her illness curtailed his available time in recent years, he was able to do heroic double-duty for the Society's return to Beverly in 2016.

### UPDATE: SOLID ROCK

Solid Rock, at 82 Essex Road in Winnetka, has been sold. With a price reduced from over \$1 million, it changed hands in September for \$699,999. Chris Enck, a member of the Winnetka Landmarks Commission, reported the rumor that it was purchased as a teardown. Apparently it was offered by the heirs of Bill Brubaker, a major designing architect at Perkins & Will who died in 2002, having been the proud owner of the building for many years. Solid Rock marked a turning point in Griffin's career and is one of the most important buildings he ever designed. Its demise would be a tragic loss to American architecture.

### UPDATE: COOLEY HOUSE IN MONROE

Brian Davis, board member of the Cooley House Foundation and Executive Director of the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, reports that the major restoration project this fall for the Cooley house has been replicating the cork tile flooring. Brian explains, "The original flooring had been covered in carpet, suffered from water leaks, etc, so the new flooring will match the original in size, thickness and pattern." He added, "I've also checked with the paint consultant to see when the historical paint report will be finished."

Despite the cancellation of in-person events, the Cooley House hosted a virtual lecture from Australia on October 8th presented by Michael Thomson, vice president of the Walter Burley Griffin Society of Australia and guest speaker at our own 2018 Park Ridge meeting. Michael's lecture, "A Tale of Three Cities: The Griffins in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney," revealed, according to the advance press release, "the dashed hopes and disappointment in Canberra," shifting "to Melbourne and Sydney, where Walter and Marion's extraordinary creative partnership triumphs. Their inspired buildings and suburban planning in these two cities secure a lasting legacy to their more than twenty-year practice in their 'adopted' country."



Board dinner, Maldre house, 2004.

L to R: Eleanor Grumman, Rich Berry, Mary Berry, Mati Maldre, Paul Kruty, Paul Sprague, Mary Woolever, Bill Hasbrouck.

## TWENTY-ONE YEARS AND RUNNING

The cancelled 2020 meeting of the Griffin Society of America would have been the twenty-first time the group gathered for conversation, lectures, and tours. Members can be proud of such an accomplishment, as we complete our twenty-first year.

With metropolitan Chicago as our hub, the twenty meetings have taken us from Minneapolis, MN, Grand Rapids, MI, Madison, WI, Mason City and Grinnell, IA, to Anna, Decatur, and Edwardsville, IL. Here is the list of dates and locations:

2000, 24 June: Elmhurst, IL  
 2001, 9 June: Evanston, IL  
 2002, 15 June: Edwardsville, IL  
 2003, 5-8 June: Mason City, IA  
 2004, 12 June: Chicago (Beverly), IL  
 2005, 17-19 June: Grinnell, IA  
 2006, 17 June: Evanston, IL  
 2007, 16 June: Decatur, IL  
 2008, 14 June: Grand Rapids, MI  
 2009, 20 June: Kenilworth, IL  
 2010, 22 May: Anna, IL  
 2011, 25 June: Oak Park, IL  
 2012, 23 June: Minneapolis, MN  
 2013, 29 June: Evanston, IL  
 2014, 30-31 May: Mason City, IA  
 2015, 20 June: Madison, WI  
 2016, 18 June: Chicago (Morgan Park), IL  
 2017, 17-18 June: Edwardsville, IL  
 2018, 23-24 June: Park Ridge, IL  
 2019, 1-2 June: Decatur, IL

Fall 2020

In 2010 we reflected on what had been done by recalling some of the highlights of our lectures and tours. Here we bring the record of this accomplishment up to date with a revised list of speakers and buildings. Guest speakers at our twenty meetings (some wearing two hats) have included scholars Don Aucutt, Julia Bachrach, Robert Bruegmann, Kathleen Cummings, Sharon Darling, Ted Ellison, Dustin Griffin, John Holzhueter, Richard Kronick, Paul Kruty, Mati Maldre, Robert McCoy, Richard Mohr, Tim Samuelson, Paul Sprague, Gary Tipler, James Weirick, and Mary Woolever; preservationists, architects, and preservation architects Michael R. Allen, John Celuch, Alesha Cerny, John Eifler, Christopher Enck, Michael Jackson, Wilbert Hasbrouck, Richard Helstern, Tannys Langdon, Dan Naegele, Anthony Rubano, and Lauren Wagner; homeowners Peggy Bang, Richard Berry, Betsy Downs, Tannys Langdon, Debra Nemeth, Gaylord Otte, Dan Spillane, and Tom Zusag; and local historians, directors and curators Peggy Bang, Barbara Bezat, Tom Logan, Michael Mason, Robert McCoy, Sheila Perry, Laura Thompson, Ed Walker, and Milikin University president, Pat White. In addition to James Weirick, who has enlightened us four times, Australian speakers have included Michael Thomson, Adrienne Kabos, and Glenda Korporaal.

And, of course, we have visited buildings in a variety of urban settings, landscapes and neighborhoods, many of them more than once. These have included the interiors of twenty-seven buildings by the Griffins, and the exteriors of seventeen others, many of them more than once. The comprehensive list, according to our records, is as follows:

## THE GRIFFINS

### INTERIORS:

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Emery house (1903), Elmhurst, IL          | 2000, 2006, 2016 |
| 2. Sloane house (1909), Elmhurst, IL         | 2000, 2016       |
| 3. Orth I house (1908), Winnetka, IL         | 2001, 2009       |
| 4. Orth II house (1908), Winnetka, IL        | 2001             |
| 5. Mess house, Winnetka, IL                  | 2001             |
| 6. R. Griffin house (1909), Edwardsville, IL | 2002, 2017       |
| 7. Melson house (1912), Mason City, IA       | 2003, 2014       |
| 8. Page house (1912), Mason City, IA         | 2003, 2014       |
| 9. Rule house (1912), Mason City, IA         | 2003, 2014       |
| 10. Blythe house (1913), Mason City, IA      | 2003, 2014       |
| 11. Schneider house (1914), Mason City, IA   | 2003, 2014       |
| 13. Peters house (1906), Chicago, IL         | 2004             |
| 12. Jenkinson house (1912), Chicago, IL      | 2004, 2016       |
| 14. Van Nostrand (1911), Chicago, IL         | 2004, 2016       |
| 15. Tolles house (1911), Chicago, IL         | 2004             |

- 16. Ricker house (1911) Grinnell, IA 2005
- 17. Schwartz house (1909), Wilmette, IL 2006
- 18. Carter house (1909), Evanston, IL 2006, 2013
- 19. Stinson Memorial Library (1912-13), Anna, IL 2010
- 20. Comstock II (1911), Evanston, IL 2013
- 21. Garrity house (1909), Chicago, IL 2016
- 22. Clarke house (1913), Chicago, IL 2016
- 23. Salmon house (1912), Chicago, IL 2016

**MAHONY (for VON HOLST):**

- 24. Irving house (1909), Decatur, IL 2007, 2019
- 25. R. Mueller house (1910), Decatur, IL 2007, 2019
- 26. A. Mueller house (1910), Decatur, IL 2007, 2019
- 27. Amberg house (1910), Grand Rapids, MI 2008

**EXTERIOR ONLY:**

- 28. Windes house, Kenilworth, IL 2001
- 29. Esentrot house, Winnetka, IL 2001
- 30. "Solid Rock" house, Winnetka, IL 2001, 2009
- 31. House for Tempel, Winnetka, IL 2001, 2009
- 22a. Clarke house, Chicago, IL 2004
- 23a. Salmon house, Chicago, IL 2004
- 32. Williams house, Chicago, IL 2004
- 33. Hornbaker house, Chicago, IL 2004
- 34. Olmsted house, Chicago, IL 2004
- 35. Blount I house, Chicago, IL 2004
- 36. Blount II house, Chicago, IL 2004
- 37. Furneaux house, Chicago, IL 2004, 2016
- 38. Site of Clark Memorial Fountain, Grinnell, IA 2005
- 39. Bovee Two-flat (1907), Evanston, IL 2006
- 40. Comstock I house (1911), Evanston, IL 2006, 2013
- 20a. Comstock II house (1911), Evanston, IL 2006
- 41. Jackson House remodel (1913), Anna, IL 2010

**LANDSCAPES:**

- Rock Crest/Rock Glen, Mason City, IA 2003, 2014
- Millikin Place, Decatur, IL 2007, 2019

**BUILDINGS BY OTHER PRAIRIE SCHOOL ARCHITECTS**

**Louis H. Sullivan:**

- Wainwright bldg (1890), St. Louis, MO  
2002, 2017 exterior
- Union Trust bldg (1892), St. Louis, MO  
2002, 2017 exterior
- Wainwright tomb (1892), St. Louis, MO  
2002, 2017 interior
- Merchants Natl Bank (1914), Grinnell, IA  
2005 interior
- Nat'l Farmers Bank (1906), Owatonna, MN  
2012 interior
- Bradley house (1909), Madison, WI  
2015 interior

**George W. Maher:**

- Thomason house (1907), Chicago, IL  
2004 interior
- Morse house (1894), Grinnell, IA  
2005 interior
- Kenilworth club (1906), Kenilworth, IL  
2009 interior
- Schultz house (1907), Kenilworth, IL  
2009 interior
- Ely house (1909), Kenilworth, IL  
2009 interior
- Farson house (1899), Oak Park, IL  
2011 interior
- Swift Hall (1908), Evanston, IL  
2012 exterior
- Elliott house (1910), Madison, WI  
2015 exterior
- Webber house (1898), Blue Island, IL  
2016 exterior

**Frank L. Wright:**

- Henderson house (1901), Elmhurst, IL  
2000 interior 2016 exterior
- Stockman house (1908), Mason City, IA  
2003, 2014 interior
- City National Bank (1909), Mason City  
2003, 2014 exterior
- Park Inn Hotel (1909), Mason City, IA  
2003, 2014 interior
- Smith house (1917), Chicago, IL  
2004 interior
- Bach house (1915), Chicago, IL  
2006 interior
- May house (1908), Grand Rapids, MI  
2008 interior
- Davenport house (1901), River Forest, IL  
2011 interior
- Jacobs house (1937), Madison, WI  
2015 interior
- Gilmore house (1908), Madison, WI  
2015 interior
- Lamp house (1903), Madison, WI  
2015 interior
- Adams house (1900), Chicago, IL  
2016 interior

**William Drummond:**

- Yelland house (1910), Mason City, IA  
2003, 2014 interior
- River Forest Methodist Church (1912)  
2011 exterior

**Tallmadge & Watson:**

Tanner house (1909), Chicago, IL  
2004 interior  
Smith house (1908), Oak Park, IL  
2011 interior  
Kretsinger house (1908), Evanston, IL  
2012 interior

**Spencer & Powers:**

Newland house (1912), Chicago, IL  
2004, exterior 2016, interior  
Broughton house (1909), River Forest, IL  
2011 interior  
Pellet house (1915), River Forest, IL  
2011 interior  
Faculty house (1894), Evanston, IL  
2012 exterior  
Hurlbut house (1910), Evanston, IL  
2012 interior

**Myron Hunt:**

Hunt house (1896), Evanston, IL  
2006 interior  
Van Deusen house (1897), Evanston, IL  
2006 exterior  
Pirie house (1898), Evanston, IL  
2006 exterior  
House for Higginbotham (1898), Evanston, IL  
2006 interior

**Barry Byrne:**

Gilmore house (1915), Mason City, IA  
2003, 2014 interior  
Franke house (1917), Mason City, IA  
2003, 2014 interior  
Cedar Court houses (1922), Park Ridge, IL  
2018 exterior and interior

**John S. Van Bergen:**

B. Erwin house (1922), Kenilworth, IL  
2009 interior  
C. Erwin house (1922), Kenilworth, IL  
2009 exterior

**Purcell & Elmslie:**

Purcell/Cutts house (1913), Minneapolis, MN  
2012 interior  
Powers house (1910), Minneapolis, MN  
2012 interior  
Stewart Memorial Church (1908), Minneapolis  
2012 interior  
Adair house (1913), Owatonna, MN  
2012 interior

**Von Holst & Fyfe:**

Le Bosquet house (1912), Chicago, IL  
2004 interior

**Claude & Starck:**

Gary house (1909), Madison, WI  
2015 interior  
C. Collins house (1908), Madison, WI  
2015 interior  
W. Collins house (1911), Madison, WI  
2015 exterior  
Lincoln School (1915), Madison, WI  
2015 exterior

**Robert Seyfarth:**

R. Seyfarth house (1903), Blue Island, IL  
2016 interior  
R. Krueger house (1913), Blue Island, IL  
2016 interior  
W. Seyfarth house (1926), Blue Island, IL  
2016 interior  
Krueger Funeral Home (1927), Blue Island  
2016 interior  
Schreiber house (1950), Blue Island, IL  
2016 interior

**LANDSCAPING**

Mahoney Park (1933), Kenilworth, IL  
2009 Jens Jensen  
Shakespeare Garden (1915), Evanston, IL  
2012 Jens Jensen

**ORGANIC TRADITION**

T. MacNider house (1959), Mason City, IA  
2003, 2014 Curtis Besinger interior  
Freeman house (1995), Grinnell, IA  
2005 Dan Tindall interior  
Howe house (1974), Burnsville, MN  
2012 John H. Howe interior  
Good Shepherd Com'ty Ch. (1959), Park Ridge, IL  
2018 Lloyd Wright interior  
Turzak house (1939), Chicago, IL  
2018 Bruce Goff interior  
Unseth house (1940), Park Ridge, IL  
2018 Bruce Goff interior  
Ford house (1949), Aurora, IL  
2018 Bruce Goff interior

## MODERN & MIDCENTURY MODERN

- Winton Guest house (1982), Owatonna, MN  
2012 Frank O. Gehry, interior  
Morehouse house (1936), Madison, WI  
2015 Keck & Keck, exterior  
Heimbach house (1939), Blue Island, IL  
2016 Bertrand Goldberg, interior  
Religious Center, SIU-E (1970), Edwardsville  
2017 Buckminster Fuller, interior  
American Stove Company (1947), St. Louis, MO  
2017 Armstrong, Noguchi, interior  
Kroulik house (1965), Park Ridge, IL  
2018 Salvatore Balsamo, interior

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Drake house (1914-16), Mason City, IA  
2003, 2014 Einar Broaten, interior  
Lemley house (1914), Grinnell, IA  
2005 Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, interior  
Shifflet house (1919), Grinnell, IA  
2005 Mortimer Cleveland, exterior  
Fellows house (1914), Grinnell, IA  
2005 Temple & Burrows, exterior  
Sanders house (1914), Grinnell, IA  
2005 Josselyn & Taylor, exterior  
Spaulding house (1905), Grinnell, IA  
2005 Hawlett & Rawson, interior  
Grady house (1909), Decatur, IL  
2007, 2019 Hunt, Eager & Burns, interior  
Rowe house (1915), Grand Rapids, MI  
2008 Osgood & Osgood, interior  
St. Anne's Episcopal Ch. (1886), Anna, IL  
2010 Unknown, interior  
Giant City Lodge (1933), Makanda, IL  
2010 Joseph Booton, interior  
Snyder house (1915), Minneapolis, MN  
2012 Kirby T. Snyder, interior  
Gainey house (1953), Owatonna, MN  
2012 Edwin H. Lundie, interior  
Barnard house (1909), Mason City, IA  
2013 Joshua Melson, interior  
Buell house (1893), Madison, WI  
2015 Conover & Porter, interior  
West house (1858), Edwardsville, IL  
2017 Unknown, interior  
Hadley house (1875 & 1898), Edwardsville  
2017 H. C. Chivers, interior  
Pickwick Theater (1929), Park Ridge, IL  
2018 Zook & McCaughey, interior  
Maine Township High School, Park Ridge  
2018 Zook & McCaughey, exterior  
Three houses by Zook (1920s), Park Ridge, IL  
2018 Harold Zook, interiors

## GRIFFIN SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

**On His Own: Walter Burley Griffin's First Two Houses; The Gables, Diamonds and Flowing Spaces of 1906 and 1907.** By Paul Kruty, with contributions by Richard H. Berry, Tannys Langdon and Paul E. Sprague. 2017.

**Rock Crest/Rock Glen, Mason City, Iowa: The American Masterwork of Marion M. and Walter B. Griffin.** Essays by Robert E. McCoy, Paul Kruty, Paul E. Sprague and James Weirick. 2014.

**Walter Burley Griffin and the Stinson Memorial Library: Modernism Comes to Main Street.** By Paul Kruty. 2010.

**Marion Mahony and Millikin Place: Creating a Prairie School Masterpiece.** By Paul Kruty and Paul E. Sprague. 2007.

Copies of the exquisite posters hand-printed on fine paper by Peter Kruty Editions of Brooklyn, New York, are still available for the past six meetings, including Mason City, Madison, Beverly, Edwardsville, Park Ridge, and Decatur.

To order copies of each, please see our website: [www.wbgriffinsociety.org](http://www.wbgriffinsociety.org)

## 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.) 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 and you can pay for both membership and meeting at that time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

Walter Burley Griffin Society of America  
1152 Center Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63117  
Email: [info@WBGriffinSociety.org](mailto:info@WBGriffinSociety.org)  
Website: [www.WBGriffinSociety.org](http://www.WBGriffinSociety.org)