



## LIGHT, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF EDUCATION: THE UNIQUE DESIGN OF MAXIMLITE SCHOOLS

by Travis Ratermann and Benjamin Harvey

The schoolhouse has always been one of the central buildings of our communities. The trend for school districts to graduate from tiny, yet sometimes highly ornamented one-room and multi-room schoolhouses, to ever-sprawling school campuses began in the late 1940s. Following years of low birthrates in the 1920s, 30s and early 40s,<sup>1</sup> school sizes remained small in rural areas and only moderately larger in urban areas of the United States. But 75 million Americans were born between 1946 and 1964. With 3.8 million children born in 1947 alone, school systems throughout the United State realized that they had to prepare their educational infrastructure for the increase that was about to hit America's schools.

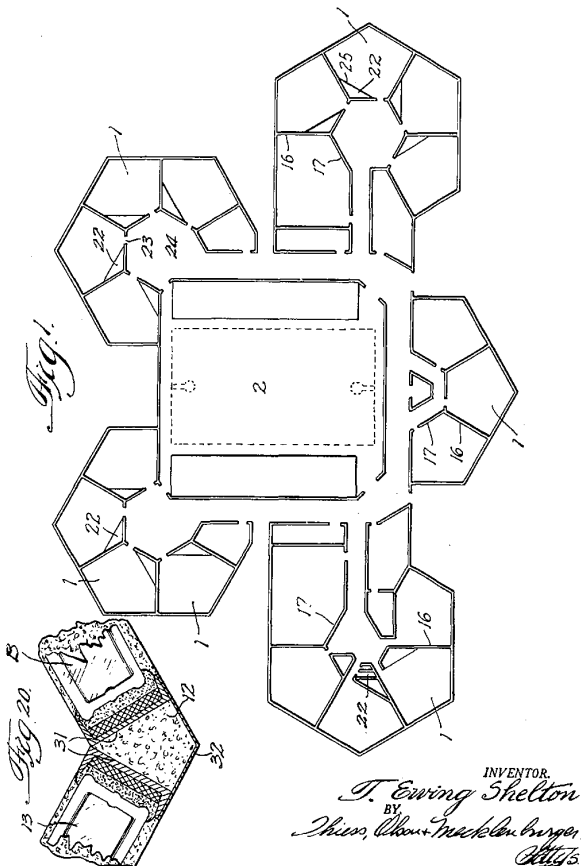
July 31, 1956

T. E. SHELTON  
SCHOOL BUILDING

2,756,584

Filed Aug. 2, 1952

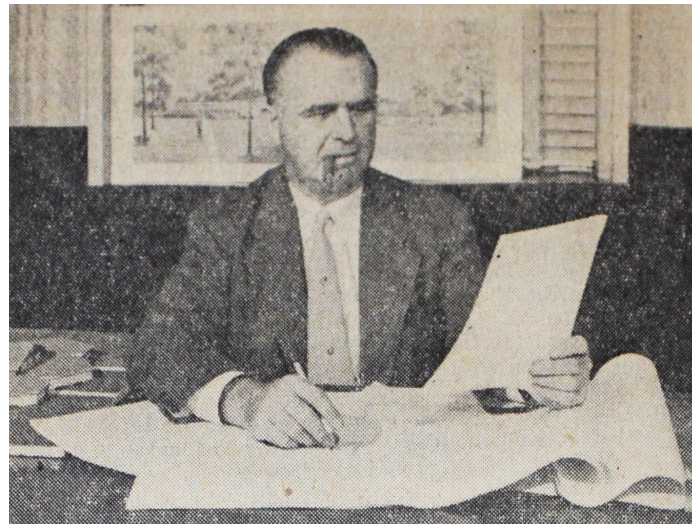
10 Sheets-Sheet 1



Sheet 1 of T. E. Shelton's 1952 application for a patent for school building, approved in 1956

As the population grew so dramatically in these years, it also began to shift to the suburbs, impelled by a host of often-studied factors such as demographic change, racial restrictions, and federal subsidies.<sup>2</sup> Many formerly rural school districts were beginning to wonder how they could build new schools or expand existing ones on limited budgets. All kinds of plans were proposed to solve the lack of space at schools, but one particular architect caught the eye of the country (East Coast, West Coast, and Midwest), along with Canada. The architect was T. Ewing Shelton of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Thayer Ewing Shelton was born to farming parents in Fayetteville Arkansas, about 1900 and spent his early years working the farm and managing his family's acreage. Deeds and ads from the 1920s show that Shelton spent a little time selling off woodlots to other members of the community to make a living.<sup>3</sup> Shelton went on to become an engineer and to work in building houses in Oklahoma and Texas, though it is unknown where or if he received a degree in engineering or architecture. What is known is that Shelton was active with the Works Progress Administration, overseeing the construction and renovation of several Arkansas courthouses during the Depression, including the Baxter County Courthouse in Mountain Home and Franklin County Courthouse in Ozark. Following World War II, Shelton moved back to Fayetteville and opened an office in the First National Bank building on Dickson Street. His early efforts at school construction included the St. Paul, Arkansas, School in 1938 and the Berryville, Arkansas, High School in 1946.



T. E. Shelton, from an unidentified newspaper clipping. "Architect T. Ewing Shelton plans new building."

Shelton became most widely known was his design for Maximlite schools. The patent date for his school design from the US Patent Office is July 31, 1956.<sup>4</sup> By this time several Maximlite schools had already been constructed, the first of which was in Eureka Springs in northwest Arkansas in 1954. Shelton went on to build schools in more than twenty states, franchising his designs to local architects who worked under the name of Maximlite Schools. The states with the most Maximlite schools are Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. The farthest reaches of Maximlite design extended to Esparto, California; Bowdoin, Maine; and Boyle, Alberta, Canada. The reach of Maximlite Schools was quite large, though the design was short-lived, with the last Maximlite schools being built in the early 1960s.

The design for Maximlite schools is very distinctive. From aerial photos, the hexagonal outline of Maximlite schools is easily identifiable. Much of the design that went into the schools came from Shelton's own experience, as well as what he believed was the best educational environment for children. The primary feature of the Maximlite school was an attempt to maximize natural light. This was done in several ways. First, the hexagonal wall design allowed greater surface area to capture exterior light and bring it into the classroom. This created oddly shaped classrooms but provided large amounts of light. Secondly, Maximlite schools' walls were usually one-half to two-thirds covered with light-directing glass blocks. These blocks allowed additional light in but directed it upward, so that glare was reduced in the classroom.

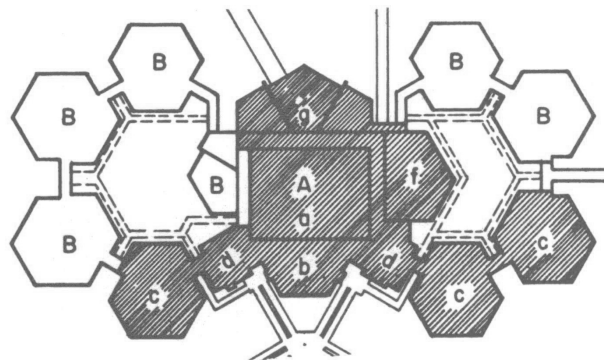


*A corner of the gymnasium wing of Triad High School, Troy, Illinois, showing the light-directing glass blocks that were a critical part of the Maximlite concept*

R. C. Kendall of the American Structural Products Company of St. Louis put all of the Maximlite claims of superior lighting to the test in 1952.<sup>5</sup> They concluded, "This diversity (of light) is better than that obtained in classrooms which have an 'around the corner' fenestration, where the two fenestration walls meet at a right angle."<sup>6</sup> They also said "the brightness distribution throughout this same room as shown on the schematic view is excellent."<sup>7</sup>

Shelton was so confident in the buildings he had created that he asked a local optometrist to review the lighting in his classrooms. G. Melton noted in his letter to Mr. Shelton in 1955, "I am convinced without a doubt that there was no cross light, and the lighting effect is much more efficient than bi-lateral type of lighting, and is equal or superior to any other

type."<sup>8</sup> Dr. Melton was not the only one to sing the praises of the Maximlite classroom's effective lighting. Herbert A. Hemmann, the superintendent of one of the Maximlite schools built in Indiana, wrote to the Department of Health in Indianapolis in 1955 extolling the virtues of his building. In particular he pointed out the ability of Maximlite schools to be lit with almost no artificial lighting and the reduced glare on chalkboards and desktops.<sup>9</sup> Clearly, Maximlite schools could substantiate all of their proudest claims for providing high quality lighting for students and teachers in the classroom. This focus on lighting made Maximlite schools desirable for both students and teachers.



*A typical Maximlite school floor plan, showing expansion possibilities. The new school is marked A and future classrooms B. a = Gymnasium; b = Library, c = Coassrooms, d = Offices, e = Teachers' Lounge, f = Multi-Purpose Room, g = Shop and Band Wing*

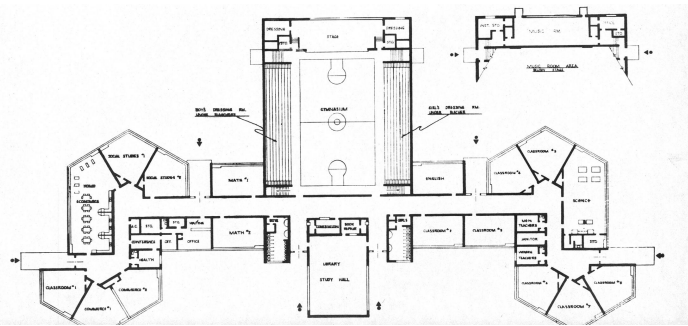
While lighting was the main feature provided by Maximlite schools, several others were promoted by Shelton and his franchisees. One of the most important was that the schools were very inexpensive to build. Costs ranged from approximately \$5.46 to \$8.79 per square foot, with a few outliers. This was one of the least expensive school designs on the market in the 50s and 60s. While other groups like National Homes were trying to achieve economies through the construction of modular schools, Mr. Shelton and his schools focused on the importance of minimizing wasted space in order to achieve economies. Another important characteristic of the school was its safety. In particular, fire evacuations from classrooms could be accomplished very quickly.

One final design feature of Maximlite schools was their ability to be expanded. T. Ewing Shelton himself knew that schools needed to anticipate further expansion. Several of his school designs included hypothetical expansions through the addition of extra "pods" onto the primary structure.<sup>10</sup> These planned expansions allowed school districts to think more long term. All of these features, on top of the large amounts of light allowed into the classrooms, made Maximlite schools a good value and a good design choice for growing school districts. Unfortunately, very few of the schools were expanded with additional Maximlite classrooms, as school building styles continued to change in the 60s, and the number of Maximlite School projects waned.

Many of these factors played into the construction of two schools in the outer fringes of the St. Louis area: the House Springs High School in House Springs, Missouri and the Triad

High School in Troy, Illinois. The House Springs High School was one of the largest Maximlite schools constructed in either the United States or Canada through 1959. Bissman and Matthews, architects from Springfield, Missouri, took the original bids for the contract on April 14, 1954.<sup>11</sup> At the time, the House Springs High School was scheduled to be encompass 45,200 square feet, which included an industrial arts shop located apart from the main school. As the largest school to date of the Maximlite brand, the school was scheduled to contain

15 classrooms, home economics rooms, science laboratory, study hall-library, book repair area, central toilet rooms, general office, private office, conference area, supply storage vault, clinic, teacher's room for men and teacher's room for women, dark storage and light room for science laboratory, 3 janitor clean-up rooms, concession area, gymnasium (seats for 1,000 in bleachers), (20'x60') stage with two dressing rooms, girls locker and shower room and boys locker and shower room located below bleachers, music practice room, music office, [and] instrument and uniform storage located below the stage area.<sup>12</sup>



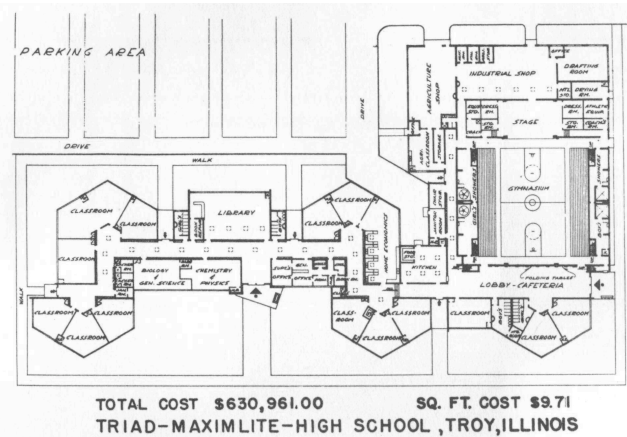
*Original plan of House Springs High School*

The design of the high school implemented many of the ideas promoted by T. Ewing Shelton and his Maximlite patents. The school was constructed with the core of the school surrounding the library- study hall and the gymnasium. Located on either side of this core were identical wings, each consisting of a short corridor entering into an offset pod. Mr. Shelton personally described the polygonal shapes as pods during construction. Since the school was first constructed, the school district has added another pod onto each of the wings. All of this space was originally contracted to cost \$331,984.75, with the cost per square foot coming to \$7.34.<sup>13</sup> This was a very reasonable cost for a building of its size during this period, when similar schools were being constructed for \$10.00 to \$20.00 a square foot.

The Triad Community #2 Unit School District was part of a larger consolidation of Madison County (Illinois) Schools in 1954. Board members and superintendents of the Marine, St. Jacob, and Troy school districts suggested consolidating their schools in 1953, with the idea of providing “better educational opportunities in the 120 square mile area.”<sup>14</sup> During the initial planning meeting on Monday September 28, 1953, a new centrally located high school was proposed that would allow

for a student population of 400. At the time, there were only 259 high school students in all three districts. The idea of a centrally located high school continued through the preliminary discussions about consolidation, right up through the vote on Monday May 12, 1954, which passed with “no objectors.”<sup>15</sup>

With the consolidation of the three districts, plans for the new centrally located high school were tabled until a bond issue referendum could be passed. The four-part referendum was presented to the voters on March 26, 1955, asking for the ability to “float a \$685,000 bond issue to finance the program; buy a site for the proposed new high school; add a kitchen and cafeteria at Troy; and to alter the [current] Troy High School building to make it suitable for elementary school purposes.”<sup>16</sup> At the election in March, “all of the propositions except the one to purchase the site [were] approved.”<sup>17</sup> Further action was delayed by a court challenge to the legality of the bond issue, and the school board wasn't able to officially accept the three approvals until May 21, 1956, more than a year later.



Before the first election the school board had already optioned a central location for the school, as recommended by a citizens advisory committee. After the May 1956 vote, the board purchased the site, at the intersection of US 40 and Illinois 43.<sup>18</sup> By December 1957, the school had already put out a request for bids for the new school.<sup>19</sup> The firm representing the Maximlite design had submitted an estimate that was approved for \$630,961 at \$9.71 per square foot for the large school of 18 classrooms and gymnasium. With the concrete poured and the steel beams already finished by August 1958, the groundwork was in place for the key defining features of the Maximlite design: 120° angles to allow for maximum exterior light and the light-directing structural glass block. Unlike the House Springs, Missouri High School, which had a central core with wings to the north and south, the Triad High School had two offset pods along central corridor and another group of offset pods, and a smaller corridor leading to a half a pod and the large gymnasium. The difference between the two is that the gymnasium and library that are central to the design in the House Springs High School were reoriented. The gymnasium was relocated to the right side of the design, while the library was centrally located in the long corridor between the two sets of pods. With the school nearly complete by July 1959, bids went out for the final time for “site improvement grading and drainage.”<sup>20</sup> Although the school was completed in late 1959,

the official dedication did not take place until February 21, 1960.

T. Ewing Shelton's Maximlite schools were an important force in educational construction in the 1950s and 1960s. Through their pursuit of efficient and effective lighting and the promotion of low-cost school design, they were able to help many school districts cope with swelling student enrollments and construction costs. The beginnings of school consolidation prompted large building programs in places such as House Springs, Missouri, and Troy, Illinois. The schools that were constructed in these towns were some of the largest Maximlite schools anywhere and became showcase schools for Shelton and his franchised architects. While the Maximlite building program came to a close in the early part of the 1960s, the unusual buildings that continue to dot the landscapes of our American towns are a legacy to the inspired design of their founder and architect.

### MAXIMLITE SCHOOLS IN MISSOURI still standing

- Avilla, Jasper County – Avilla Grade School,  
400 Sarcoxie St.
- Branson, Taney Co. – now city-owned  
300 South 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- Carl Junction, Jasper Co. – Carl Junction Primary,  
206 S. Roney St.
- House Springs, Jefferson Co. – House Springs High  
now Northwest Valley Middle School,  
4300 Gravois Road
- Jasper, Jasper Co. – Jasper Elementary and High  
201 West Mercer St.
- New London, Ralls Co. – New London Elementary,  
1101 S. Main St.
- Platte City, Platte Co. – Rising Star Elementary,  
1009 2<sup>nd</sup> St.
- Pleasant Hope, Polk Co. – Pleasant Hope Elementary,  
311 McCurry St.
- Stockton, Cedar Co. – Stockton Elementary,  
906 South St.
- Webb City, Jasper Co. – Eugene Field Elementary,  
510 S. Oronogo St.
- Wellsville, Montgomery Co. –  
Wellsville-Middletown High, 900 Burlington St.
- Wheaton, Barry Co. – Wheaton Elementary,  
116 McCall St.

The school at Branson was the only one with two stories. The building has been acquired by the city, which has demolished the two-story section but hopes to rehabilitate the remainder.

### NOTES

1. Landon Jones, *Great Expectations: America & the Baby Boom Generation* (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1980), p. 14.
2. *Ibid.*, 22.
3. "Wood for Sale," *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, Nov. 12, 1921, p. 2.
4. T. Ewing Shelton. School Building. US Patent 2,756,584, filed August 2, 1952 and issued July 31, 1956.
5. R. C. Kendall, St. Louis, MO to I. K. Cozzens, St. Louis, American Structural Products Company Intra-Company Correspondence, Unknown Date. Shelton, T. Ewing Architect File, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Little Rock.

6. *Ibid.*
7. *Ibid.*
8. G. Melton, Fayetteville, AK, to T. Weing Shelton, Fayetteville, Dec. 10, 1955. Shelton File, *op. cit.*
9. Herbert A. Hammann to Bert Westover, Indianapolis, IN, Nov. 28, 1955. Shelton File.
10. T. Ewing Shelton, "Another Maximlite School," flyer. Shelton File.
11. "Missouri," *Maximlite School News*, April 1954, p. 3. Shelton File.
12. "Cost Breakdown Maximlite School: High School House Springs, Missouri." Maximlite Schools Cost Breakdown File. Shelton File.
13. *Ibid.*
14. "School Districts Discuss merging," *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, Sept. 29, 1953.
15. "Board Approves Merger of Three School Districts," *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, May 11, 1954.
16. "Triad Unit to Vote on High School," *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, March 10, 1955.
17. "Decision Upheld In Triad Case," *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, March 21, 1957, p. 1.
18. "New Triad High School," *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, Aug. 20, 1958, p. 2.
19. "Illinois," *Maximlite School News*, Dec. 1954, p. 3. Shelton File.
20. "Legal Notices: Notice to Contractors," *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, Aug. 7, 1959, p. 7.

### CHRISTNER'S NEW BOOK Christner: 50 @ 50

Back in the 1920s, prominent architectural firms sometimes collected photos of their best work in bound volumes that they gave to potential clients or in rare cases marketed through bookstores. The two-volume *Monograph of the Work of Maritz and Young*, for instance, has been a boon to researchers and has recently served as the basis of *The Architecture of Maritz & Young* by Kevin Amsler and L. John Schott.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their architectural practice, Christner (Christner, Inc./Architects, Designers, and Planners) has updated this tradition with a new book of photos, **Christner: 50 @ 50**. Like the older models, it is not being widely distributed, but it is available for \$25 at the AIA-St. Louis shop in the Lammert Building, 911 Washington Avenue.



Christner, Inc., Cardinal Ritter College Prep, 701 N. Spring at Washington, 2003

The compact book, about six and a half inches square, gives two pages to each of fifty outstanding buildings erected over the past half century, then adds two shorter sections showing the firm's spiffy offices at 168 North Meramec in Clayton and five notable projects that are now underway, including the new

Shriners Hospital, visible off US 40/I-64 east of Barnes Hospital Plaza. The selection of projects is weighted toward the present, with only three from the first decade and six from the second, including the addition to Mt. St. Rose Hospital in Lemay (1978), which has already been demolished.



*Christner, Inc., Mercy Heart Hospital, Creve Coeur, 2006*

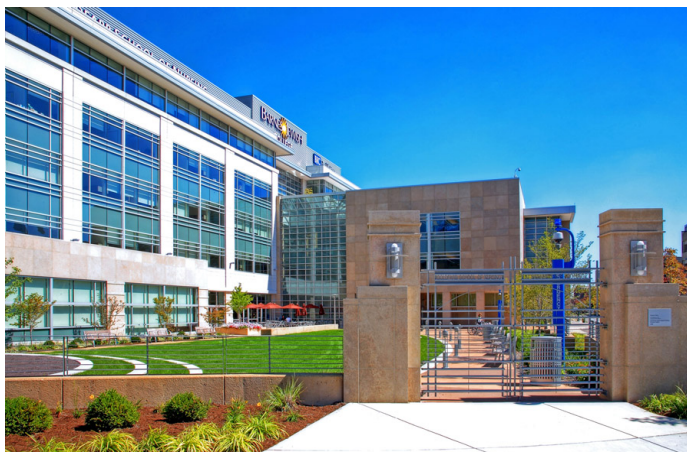
Starting from Ted Christner's fledgling practice half a century ago, Christner has become known especially for schools, offices and medical facilities. Two standouts in these categories are Cardinal Ritter High at Grand Center (2003) and the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish (2007). Their plan combining old and new buildings into a quadrangle at John Burroughs will be dedicated this spring. Their office projects have included some of the most prestigious, including Intrav (for Barney Ebsworth, 1989), Harbour Group (for Sam Fox, 1989), and Express Scripts at UMSL (2007). Among Christner's less expected commissions are the MetroLink Station at Lambert Airport (1993, the Salvation Army's Camp Mihaska near Bourbon (2001), and the Soldiers' Memorial Plaza at Lincoln University (2004).



*Christner, Inc., The Butterfly House, Faust Park, Chesterfield, 1998, now a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden*

Another unusual group of Christner buildings is associated with botany. At the Missouri Botanical Garden, Christner has designed the Schoenberg Temperate House (1990) and Monsanto Center (1998) and has reconstructed the Climatron to a far greater extent than is generally recognized (1990). The Butterfly House in Faust Park (1998) is now also part of the Botanical Garden. Christner renovated Forest Park's 1938 Jewel Box in 2002. Currently the firm is looking forward to the expansion of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in Creve Coeur, originally designed by Nicholas Grimshaw.

Now we need somebody to write an honest-to-goodness history of this firm.



*Goldfarb School of Nursing, Barnes-Jewish College, 4483 Duncan Avenue at Taylor, St. Louis, 2007*

## Events Calendar

### Tour "Lindell Boulevard Goes Modern (Again and Again)"

May 10, 10:00 AM

Meet at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel, Lindell entrance

Every St. Louisan knows Lindell Boulevard, but they might not always see the wide array of modern architecture tucked between the revival-style apartment towers and mansions. Between 1939 and 1977, Lindell Boulevard was reshaped through the construction of major and minor modern works, ranging from the jet-set Optimist Club Building (1962; Schwarz & Van Hoefen) to the elliptical AAA Building (W.A. Sarmiento, 1976). Architectural historian Michael R. Allen and blogger and photographer extraordinaire Toby Weiss team up to tell the architectural tale of Lindell's evolution. Sponsored by Modern STL, the tour is \$5 for non-members.



*The Optimist Club Building, 4494 Lindell, 1962, Schwarz & Van Hoefen*



*The Rauh House, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1938, John Becker, garden front*

**Talk: "Saving the Most Important Modernist House in Cincinnati"**  
 Wednesday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.  
 Saint Louis Art Museum Auditorium

**Emily Rauh Pulitzer**, Founder and Chair, Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, and **Paul Muller**, AIA, Executive Director of the Cincinnati Preservation Association, will speak about saving the 1938 Rauh House, a modernist landmark in Cincinnati. The house is the residential masterpiece of architect, John Becker, who attended Washington University Architecture School with I.E. Millstone and Charles Eames. The speakers will tell the story of how the house, Mrs. Pulitzer's childhood home, was brought from near destruction to pristine condition. This is the annual lecture sponsored by the Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park.

**Exhibit: "Imagining the Founding of St. Louis"**  
 Continuing to Saturday, August 23  
 Sheldon Galleries, 3648 Washington Avenue

Marking the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the French settlement of St. Louis, this exhibition brings together paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by Oscar E. Berninghaus, Karl Bodmer, Charles Bird King, Louis Leopold Boilly, Charles Ferdinand Wimar and others. It also pays tribute to the Native Missourians who lived here at the time of the founding with a beautiful array of Mississippian, Osage, Missouriia and Illiniwek regalia, art and artifacts. Early maps from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a print depicting the Chouteau family mansion, and, for the first month of the exhibit, a handwritten page from Auguste Chouteau's narrative of the settlement will also be on view.

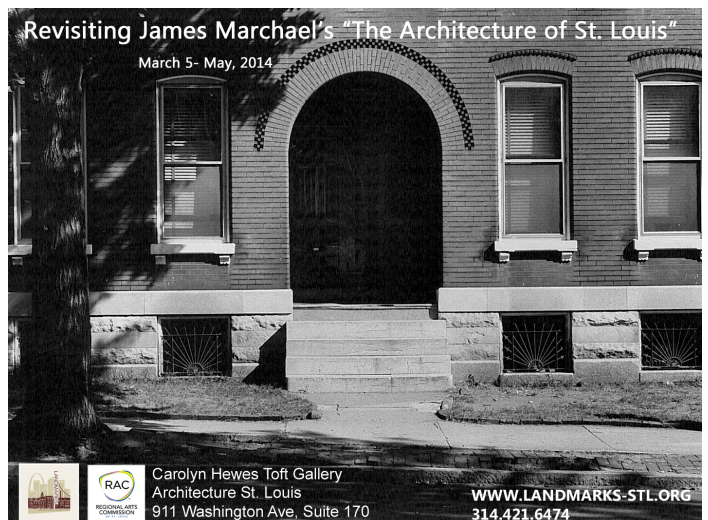
An accompanying resource room provides books, as well as a selection of contemporary works in photography and painting by David Hanlon, Michael Haynes, Sean Standing Bear, Philip Slein and James M. Smith that consider the area's complex histories. A fully illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition, with essays by co-curators Daven Anderson and

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales and by historian J. Frederick Fausz, with contributions by Caitlin Donald, Julie Dunn Morton, Kerrie Mohahan, Kathryn Red Corn and Jill Ahlberg Yohe.

**Exhibit: "Revisiting James Marchael's 'The Architecture of St. Louis' "**  
 Continuing to May 30  
 Landmarks Association of St. Louis  
 Carolyn Hewes Toft Gallery  
 911 Washington Ave., Suite 170

Chicago photographer James Marchael (pronounced Mar-SHALE) was commissioned in 1970 by the St. Louis Art Museum to document St. Louis buildings in black and white photographs. More specifically, his intent was to establish the architectural character of the city from the 1840s to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, looking primarily at the general run of buildings rather than the outstanding landmarks. He began work in April 1970, and the show opened in November 1971. By that time, some of the buildings he had photographed initially had already been demolished. The resulting show frustrated historians by its casual attitude to names and dates but made many aware of the depth of the city's architecture heritage, particularly its long-disparaged Victorian buildings. A particular benefit of the project for Marchael was Evelyn Stacy, a museum employee who became his wife. Born in 1935, he died at the age of 47 in 1982.

The current exhibit offers another look at Marchael's photos. Landmarks staff have been able to identify many of the locations. They found that while many buildings have disappeared, some have changed very little, and others have been lovingly restored. The show juxtaposes the original photos with a selection of current images highlighting continuity and change over 44 years. Gallery hours Monday-Friday 9 to 5.



Revisiting James Marchael's "The Architecture of St. Louis"  
 March 5- May, 2014  
 Carolyn Hewes Toft Gallery  
 Architecture St. Louis  
 911 Washington Ave, Suite 170  
 WWW.LANDMARKS-STL.ORG  
 314.421.6474

**Exhibit: “Walking Grand Center:  
Four Streetscape Designs”**

Continuing to Saturday, May 17

Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture

Sheldon Galleries, 3648 Washington Avenue

This exhibition documents two current projects intended to reinforce Grand Center’s image as a nationally recognized arts, cultural and entertainment community. ArtWalk” will create a lively and engaging pedestrian pathway from Lindell Boulevard, alongside the St. Louis University Museum of Art, across the Scottish Rite parking lot, through Public Media Commons between The Nine Network and St. Louis Public Radio, alongside the western side of The Sheldon to Washington Avenue, then west to the Pulitzer and Contemporary Art Museum, and then north along Spring to the “Burnt Church.” The Sheldon has engaged Benjamin Gilmartin and his team, also designers of Public Media Commons, to create its “Sheldon Plaza,” and Grand Center, Inc. has engaged AxiOme, who designed the new St. Louis Public Radio building, to design the public areas of Art Walk. The “Great Streets” project is being undertaken by Grand Center with the East-West Gateway Council of Governments to upgrade streetscapes and improve lighting, making the district an even more inviting destination. Christner is the architectural firm involved in the Great Streets project, with Hoerrshaudt Landscape Architects. The exhibition will include drawings, plans, photographs and a large model of Grand Center designed by AxiOme as part of the ArtWalk plans.



*The north side of Lucas Place looking west toward the tower of Second Presbyterian Church*

**Exhibit: “Lucas Place: The Lost Neighborhood of St. Louis' Gilded Age”**

Continuing through 2014

Campbell House Museum, 1508 Locust

Experience Gilded Age St. Louis and explore the history, people and buildings associated with St. Louis' premier residential neighborhood of the late 19th Century. Lucas Place was once populated by some of St. Louis most renowned

families and citizens. Its success was short-lived, however, as rapid commercial and industrial development surrounded the street and residents departed for new residential districts farther from the city’s commercial core. Lucas Place is today Locust Street, and the Campbell House Museum is all that remains of this once elegant and fascinating neighborhood.”

**Exhibit: “Blueprints for Democracy:  
Public Architecture in Missouri”**

Continuing through 2014

Kirkpatrick State Information Center

600 West Main St., Jefferson City, MO

*Blueprints for Democracy* surveys the rich history of publicly funded architecture in Missouri. The State of Missouri owns hundreds of buildings in dozens of cities and towns across the state. Hospitals, educational facilities, office buildings, prisons, maintenance garages and more all play an important role in state business. Likewise, county and municipal buildings have become important components of the built environment. From Fort Osage, once the westernmost military outpost in the U.S., to the Gateway Arch, which pushed the boundaries of design and engineering, many of the state’s most significant architectural achievements have been built with public funds. The exhibition includes photos, blueprints, sketches and working drawings of state, county, and municipal buildings from across Missouri, with construction dates ranging from the early 1800s to the present. It will be on display in Jefferson City at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center (600 W Main St) during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for the remainder of 2014. The exhibit is designed with its own free-standing panels and will be available to travel the state beginning in 2015. To inquire about booking the exhibition, please contact Greg Olson at [greg.olson@sos.mo.gov](mailto:greg.olson@sos.mo.gov) or 573-522-2705.



*The present Missouri State Capitol under construction, November 1915. From the new exhibition “Blueprints for Democracy.”*

## SAH ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 7 TOURS WINDERMERE PLACE

This year's annual meeting of the St. Louis Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians will take place on Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to noon. We'll meet at Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located on Union Avenue at Kensington, two blocks north of Delmar (Sally Benson, author of *Meet Me in St. Louis*, lived one block east). Use the parking lot entrance behind the church. Features of the interior are by Charles Eames and Joseph Murphy.



Union Avenue entrance to Windermere Place, from Chris Naffziger's blog, "St. Louis Patina."



Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, 826 Union at Kensington, 1906, Mauran, Russell & Garden, with later work by Jamieson & Spearl, Charles Eames, and Joseph Murphy.

After our brief business meeting, we'll have a preview of the Artists Guild Building being rehabilitated next door. It was designed in 1907 by Louis Spiering, with a notable 1915 addition by Lawrence Ewald. Then we'll cross Union to Windermere Place, a little-known but well-preserved private street dating from 1895, with 29 houses built by 1914, including work by Link, Ewald, Pendleton, Preisler, Barnett, Haynes & Barnett, and Edward Garden's own home.

RSVP Esley Hamilton at 615-0357 or [ehamilton@stlouisco.com](mailto:ehamilton@stlouisco.com).

# News Letter

© 2014 The Society of Architectural Historians. St. Louis and Missouri Valley Chapters.

**NewsLetter** is published quarterly by the St. Louis and Missouri Chapters of Architectural Historians.

Please mail editorial correspondence and submissions for publication to: Esley Hamilton, Editor, 7346 Balson Avenue, University City, Missouri 63130 or contact him by telephone: (314) 615-0357 or by email [ehamilton@stlouisco.com](mailto:ehamilton@stlouisco.com). Deadlines for submission of material for publication in **NewsLetter** are as follows:

Spring issue	15 February
Summer issue	15 May
Fall issue	15 August
Winter Issue	15 November

### St. Louis Chapter, SAH 2013–2014 Board of Directors

John Guenther, FAIA President  
Paul Hohmann, AIA Vice President  
Mimi Stiritz Secretary  
Richard Mueller Treasurer  
Esley Hamilton NewsLetter Editor

### Memberships:

Individual, \$15	Student, \$5
Supporting, \$30	Joint, \$20

**St. Louis and Missouri Valley Chapters  
Society of Architectural Historians  
Post Office Box 23110  
St. Louis, MO 63108**