

LAWRENCE EWALD

by Suzanne Bolten

Lawrence Ewald, St. Louis artist and architect, was born in 1868, the eldest of eight children. His father, Philip, was a grain merchant. His mother, Clara Bouvier, was from the West Indies. In 1880 the household also included his maternal grandmother and uncle, as well as four servants. His uncle, Gabriel Bouvier, was a corn merchant and may have been a business partner of Ewald's father.

Ewald attended Columbia University in New York and studied with Marcel de Montclos in Paris. From 1898 to 1901, he taught architectural drawing at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts (later Washington University). Ewald was admitted to the A. I. A. (American Institute of Architects) in 1901. William B. Ittner and J. Mauraan approved and signed his application. Ewald listed these projects on his application:

Apartment House, Olin Street near Vandeventer
Residence for H.G. Beck in Clifton Heights
Warehouse on 2nd St. near Olin-Barnes Estate

Mr. Ewald's career as an architect spanned fifty years. He collaborated with Allan Dillon of the New York firm Friedlander and Dillon on the design of the St. Louis Club at 3663 Lindell. Dillon won the position of chief architect in a competition held in 1896. The building, in the Beaux Arts style, was erected in 1899 and became central to the social lives of prominent St. Louisans. According to Carolyn Toft, it "hosted the most sought-after New Year's Eve celebration in town." The St. Louis Club left the building after a fire damaged the interior in 1925. Later, it housed district offices of the F.W. Woolworth Company. It is currently the Museum of Art for St. Louis University.



Lawrence Ewald, Gocke-Vance House, 2615 Poe Avenue, Overland

Perhaps Ewald's best known building is the Gocke-Vance house in Overland, built in 1910. Ewald based the design on plans by Frank Lloyd Wright for a fireproof house published in *Ladies' Home-Journal*. Wood was used for

doors and window sills; the rest was constructed from fireproof materials steel, tile and concrete.

In 1912, Ewald designed an English Regency residence for John L. Greene at 12 Kingsbury Place. Julius Hunter described the house as "built totally from materials made by Mr. Green's company, the Laclede-Christy Clay Products Company. All the flooring throughout the house is made of glazed tile over concrete, and the walls are made of hollow tile. The house is the first private residence in St. Louis to feature all concrete and steel construction." Ewald may have incorporated ideas and methods learned during construction of the Gocke-Vance house for the Green residence.

Mr. Ewald was the architect for two other houses on Kingsbury Place. Number 43, Colonial Revival in style, was built in 1907 for stock broker William G. Boyd. Ewald designed number 5, an example of the American Prairie architectural style, for Charles Meston. Brothers Charles and Alexander Meston invented an electrical fan which launched their Emerson Motor Company. The Meston brothers were orphans, born in Scotland.

The Monday Club, a familiar Webster Groves Landmark at 37 S. Maple, was designed by Ewald in 1911, for the oldest women's club in St. Louis. The Monday Club building was expanded in 1929 with plans drawn by Oakland architect, Harris Armstrong. In 1915, Lawrence Ewald designed an addition to the Headquarter for the St. Louis Artists' Guild at 812 Union.



Lawrence Ewald's own home, 6084 West Cabanne Place

Lawrence Ewald married Hazel Mayo and they spent the summer on a honeymoon in Europe. Their house at 6084 West Cabanne Place was built in 1908. Ewalds' neighbors included St. Louis architects, Theodore Link, Charles Ramsey and Robert Walsh. The West Cabanne Place District is listed on the National Register. The Ewalds had two sons, William and Lawrence, Jr. By the time the boys married, the Ewalds had divorced, and Hazel, who kept

Mr. Ewald formed a partnership with Samuel H. Allen in 1919. Allen graduated from the Ecole des Beaux Arts. They designed a residence for Oscar H. Vieths, at 3432 Cecil in Clayton. Mrs. Vieths (nee Louise McCreery) was Allen's cousin and Veiled Prophet Queen of Love and Beauty in 1896. Ewald had designed a house for H. T. Ferris at 6447 Cecil in 1913. Allen and Ewald produced a fanciful façade for the Hertz Candy Company, which had a storefront in the Arcade Building.

Lawrence Ewald died of heart disease on October 27, 1945, at age 77. He had been living with his brother, Sidney, at 253 Elm Avenue in Glendale. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Michelle C. Swatek, AIA-St. Louis
Timothy Willman, St. Louis Public Library

SOURCES:

Julius Hunter, *Kingsbury Place: The First Two Hundred Years*, C. V. Mosby Company, 1982. pp 75, 89, 90

Landmarks Letter, Vol. 20, Number 5. September, 1985.

Missouri Historical Society, Sprague Scrapbook, Vol. I, pp. 48, 228, 231

National Register of Historic Places Inventory –
Nomination Form for Wydown-Forsyth District p. 6

The Past in our Presence - Historic Buildings in St. Louis County (St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, 1996).

St. Louis Post Dispatch October 28, 1945, p. 19A

Carolyn Hewes Toft, *St. Louis: Landmarks and Historic Districts*, (Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 2002), pp 88, 137, 142

PARTIAL LIST OF RESIDENCES BY EWALD OR EWALD & ALLEN

in St. Louis City and County, arranged by year:

2036 Knox, St. Louis, 1900, Harry G. & Alice Beck
236 Oakwood Ave., Webster Park, 1904, Tudor Revival,
Judson & Martha Bemis
20 Westmoreland Place, St. Louis, 1906, Chauvenet
43 Kingsbury Place, St. Louis, 1907, Colonial Revival,
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Boyd
6321 Washington, University City, 1908, Craftsman,
Tudor details
236 N.Elm, Webster Groves, 1908, Walter M. & Carrie
Warren
6084 West Cabanne, St. Louis, 1908, Lawrence & Hazel

6075 West Cabanne, St. Louis, 1908
6085 West Cabanne, St. Louis, 1908
845 E. Monroe, Oakland, 1908, Tudor Revival, Frank &
Georgie Parker
5 Kingsbury Place, St. Louis, 1909, American Prairie, Mr.
& Mrs. Charles Meston
217 Spencer Rd., Webster Groves, 1909, shirtwaist
craftsman
441 Park, Webster Groves, 1909, craftsman bungalow,
114 Glen Road, Webster Park, 1910, vernacular
(American four square)
2615 Poe Avenue, Overland, Gocke-Vance House, 1910,
Prairie from plans by Frank Lloyd Wright
330 Oakwood, Webster Park, 1912, shingle
12 Kingsbury Place, St. Louis, 1912, English Regency,
Mr. & Mrs. John Green
6447 Cecil, Clayton, 1913, Ferriss-Rice House, Craftsman
6432 Cecil, Clayton, 1922, Georgian Revival, Oscar H.
Vieths
6416 Cecil, Clayton, 1925, Georgian Revival, William H.
Berg
7266 Westmoreland Dr., University City, 1926, minimal
traditional, Albert Razovsky