

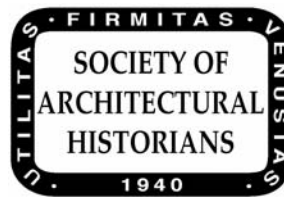
The Society of Architectural Historians
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News Letter

LAURENCE EWALD

by Suzanne Bolten

Laurence Philip Ewald, St. Louis artist and architect, was born in 1869, the eldest of eight children. His father, Jacob, was a successful merchant and the son of the prominent St. Louis physician Philip Ewald. His mother, Clara Bouvier, was born on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe where her family had owned a sugar plantation. Eight-year old Clara entered the United States at the port of New Orleans with her parents and brothers in 1849.

Although his name is often seen as “Lawrence” the family always used the French “u” form. Legally – marriage and divorce papers and death certificate – he was Laurence, the same spelling on his application to the A.I.A. His son was Laurence, Jr. and his grandson, William Laurence. Apparently, the spelling of his given name was not an issue with him and he didn’t correct those who used the more familiar “w” form.



Laurence Ewald, from Portraits of Prominent Saint Louisans in 1916: a Portrait Work of Its Merchants, Manufacturers, Bankers and Professional Men (St. Louis: H. Brown, 1916), p. 101.

Laurence was born into a household of eight adults and one teenage uncle. His parents started married life in the home of Clara’s widowed mother. Clara’s three brothers and three servants were also part of the household. Laurence’s uncle Gabriel was a grain merchant, as was his father, and the men were probably business partners. Later, Jacob Ewald became president of the Merchants’ Exchange.

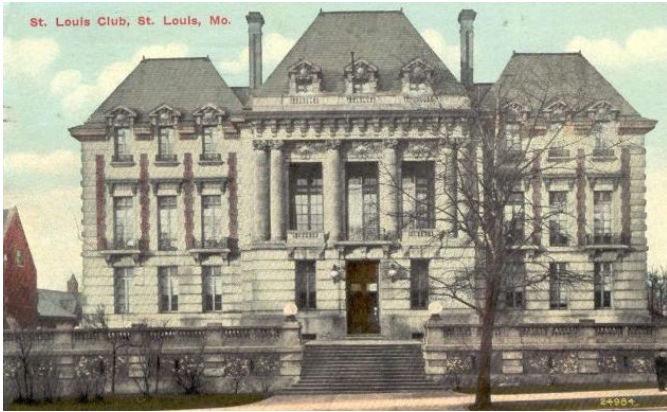
Ewald attended Columbia University in New York and studied with Marcel de Montclos in Paris. He returned home shortly before his father’s untimely demise. His father, a Republican and ardent supporter of William McKinley for president, was stricken with apoplexy and died after marching in the “sound money parade” on October 31, 1896:

He had become enraged at a party of free silver men who were standing ... at Twenty-second and Locust streets. While defiantly shaking his clenched fists at them and shouting for McKinley, death came upon him and he tumbled headlong into the gutter. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch November 1, 1896. Courtesy of Irene Ewald)

From 1898 to 1901, Laurence taught architectural drawing at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts (later Washington University). He also was an instructor of mechanical drawing. Ewald was admitted to the American Institute of Architects in 1901. William B. Ittner and John Mauran 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

Ewald 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.



The St. Louis Club, now St. Louis University Museum of Art, by Friedlander & Dillon with Laurence Ewald, seen in an early postcard

Ewald drew plans for a “floating bathhouse” in 1898 to accommodate 150 bathers, hot and sweaty levee workers who would welcome a refreshing swim in the waters of the Mississippi River. Such structures, popular in Europe and large American cities, consisted of a large wooden box supported by boat hulls on both ends. The slats of the box were positioned two inches apart to allow river water to pass through the swimming chamber. Ewald’s design included a wide walkway around the inner perimeter of the box. Changing booths were arranged along the outer edges so the men and boys could don their bathing suits. The bathhouse was designed to be moored to the levee and swimmers would board it via a plank.

Laurence Ewald married Hazel Mayo in June, 1905 and they spent the summer in Europe for their honeymoon. Hazel’s father, William Mayo, was born in Louisiana in 1843. He joined the Confederacy and fought in major battles from Bull Run until Lee’s surrender. He and his wife moved to St. Louis in 1871 and their youngest child, Hazel, was born in 1885. Mayo was a correspondent for the *Daily Times*, a newspaper produced by the Democratic Party, and served two terms as a state senator. In 1875, he was hired by the owner and publisher of *Freemason*. From then on, Mayo devoted his energies to the Masonic brotherhood. He received the 33rd and last degree in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and was elevated to the position of Grand Secretary of the Grand Convention Order of the High Priesthood of Missouri.

Laurence and Hazel lived at 6084 West Cabanne Place, built in 1908 and designed by Laurence. Their neighbors included St. Louis architects, Theodore Link, Charles Ramsey and Robert Walsh. The Ewalds had two sons, Laurence, Jr., born in 1907, and William, born in 1909. The boys were called Binks and Bill. (The West Cabanne Place District is listed on the National Register.)

Ewald’s career as an architect spanned almost 50 years. He designed a number of residences in a variety of architectural styles in both St. Louis City and St. Louis County for middle-class as well as wealthy clients.



Laurence Ewald’s own home, 6084 West Cabanne Place. Photo by Mark Bolten.

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.



Laurence Ewald, Gocke-Vance House, 2615 Poe Avenue, Overland. Photo by Mark Bolten.

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. In June, 1912, Laurence’s uncle, James Howard Ewald of Kirkwood, was issued a permit to build, a “two-story hollow tile dwelling,” 31 ft. x 48 ft. at an estimated cost of \$5,800. Most permits specified frame or brick rather than hollow tile. No architect is mentioned, but undoubtedly, Laurence was consulted on the design. His uncle was the builder.



The Monday Club, 37 S. Maple at Cedar, Webster Groves, showing Ewald building with Armstrong wing at left rear

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.

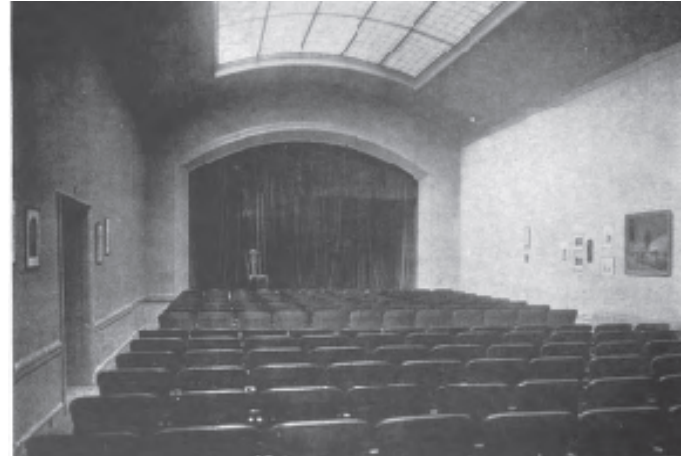
The Monday Club, a familiar Webster Groves Landmark at 37 S. Maple, was designed by Ewald, in 1911, for the oldest women's club in St. Louis. The Monday Club building was expanded in 1929 with plans drawn by Oakland architect, Harris Armstrong.



The St. Louis Artists' Guild, 812 Union, a drawing from the Ewald family collection

In 1915, Laurence Ewald designed an addition to the St. Louis Artists' Guild Headquarters at 812 Union Boulevard, originally designed by Louis C. Spiering in 1907. The dual-purpose room designed by Ewald served as both exhibition hall and auditorium. He devised an ingenious way to incline the floor so the audience at the back of the room could comfortably view stage productions. Risers were out of the question because storage space was limited. The floor was hinged in the middle and a four-ton hydraulic jack in the basement lifted the

back half to a pitch of one inch per foot. Once the floor was raised to the proper height, gravity caused four legs to drop into position and support the weight so the jack could be removed. The room underneath the auditorium was used as a rathskeller. A photograph of the auditorium shows a large curved window in the arched ceiling which cast natural light on the art exhibits.



Artists' Guild Theater, from Irving Pichel, On Building a Theatre: stage construction and equipment for small theatres, schools and community buildings (New York: Theatre Arts, Inc., 1920) The original caption says "This little auditorium is made useful for both dramatic productions and art exhibitions by means of an ingenious device for tilting the floor." Courtesy Google books.

As a young man, Laurence taught theater arts at St. Louis University. The Ewald family was clearly drawn to the theater. Laurence drew the designs for sets and costumes. Hazel made costumes and acted in productions by the Artists' Guild Players. Binks also designed sets, and Bill was a member of the Artists' Guild Junior Players. The St. Louis Municipal Theater hired Ewald to design sets for their operettas.

In 1904, Laurence's younger brother, Raymond, won first prize in a competition sponsored by the Society of Beaux Arts Architects in New York while he was a student in the Washington University School of Architecture. By 1910, Raymond and his wife lived in Seattle, Washington. Most of the Ewald clan, including Laurence's mother, three of his sisters and his brother, Mark, were living there, as well. Mark founded the Olympia Canning Company with his brother-in-law William Peck McCaffrey in 1912. The State Capitol Commission sponsored a competition for the design of the Washington State Capitol building in 1911. The New York firm of Wilder & White won, but Ewald, the only entrant from St. Louis, was among the honorable mentions.

Mr. Ewald formed a partnership with architects Samuel H. Allen and Hans C. Toensfeldt in 1915. Toensfeldt remained with the firm only until 1917 but Allen stayed through 1920. Allen had graduated from the Ecole des

Beaux Arts and taught at Washington University. With Allen, Ewald designed a residence for Oscar H. Vieths, at 6432 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 nearby 6447 Cecil in 1913. Allen and Ewald produced a fanciful façade for the Hertz Candy Company, which had a storefront in the Arcade Building.



Hazel Mayo Ewald. Photo by Takura Kajiwara, courtesy Irene Ewald

The Ewald marriage did not last. By 1920, the Ewalds shared their residence on West Cabanne with five roomers. Families generally took in roomers and boarders to supplement their income; sometimes, they did it out of compassion. In 1927, the marriage ended in divorce. Hazel married the affable and colorful St Louis lawyer James C. "Jimmy" Jones, former President and part-owner of the St. Louis Cardinals. She spent her last years with her son, William, and his family.

Lawrence Ewald died of heart disease in 1945 at age 77. As his health failed, his sons helped support him financially. Lawrence had been living with his brother, Sidney, at 253 Elm Avenue in Glendale. He was buried in the Bouvier family plot at Calvary Cemetery. Lawrence, Jr. married artist Marion Butler and he became a well-known restoration architect in Baltimore, Maryland. Hazel lived until 1967. As an elderly woman, Hazel spoke fondly of Jimmy Jones but never mentioned Lawrence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Special thanks to Irene Ewald for generously providing information on Ewald's personal life, for adding to the list of residences he designed and for scanning her very old clipping from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* describing his father's death. Irene is the widow of Lawrence Ewald's grandson, Michael Laurence Ewald.
- Esley Hamilton discovered the Washington State Capitol competition and Ewald's association with Toensfeldt.
- Michelle C. Swatek, American Institute of Architects, St. Louis
- Timothy Willman, Fine Arts Librarian, St. Louis Public Library

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LAWRENCE EWALD RESIDENCES IN ST. LOUIS CITY AND COUNTY

by Suzanne Bolten
with additions by David J. Simmons
and Esley Hamilton

2036 Knox Ave., St. Louis, 1900, Harry G. & Alice Beck; demolished for I-44

228 Oakwood, Webster Park, 1900, Queen Anne, Ralph A. & Elizabeth Quarles

4474 Laclede, St. Louis, 1901, Craftsman, Russell C. Stanhope

343 Oakwood Ave., Webster Park, 1903, vernacular, Chaillie & Benjamin Howard Payne, modeled after "planter's cottage" from Mississippi.

"Overlook Farm" near Clarksville, 1903, George F. Tower inherited by Eugene Pettus and family

236 Oakwood Ave., Webster Park, 1904, Tudor Revival, Judson S. & Martha Bemis

11 (4623) Lenox Place, St. Louis, 1905, Duncan & Lucy Turner Joy

17 (4633) Lenox Place, St. Louis, 1905, Lee & Edith Turner Benoist Lucy Joy and Edith Benoist were first cousins

5224 Wells, St. Louis, 1905, Tudor, Frederick D. Hampson

20 Westmoreland Place, St. Louis, 1906, Mrs. Louis A. Chauvenet (Annie Lee Allen)

43 Kingsbury Place, St. Louis, 1907, Colonial Revival, Mr. & Mrs. William Goddin Boyd

15 (4629) Lenox Place, St. Louis, 1907, Guido & Ellen Colladay Pantaleone

6321 Washington, Parkview, University City, 1908, Craftsman, Tudor details, George Andrew Mackey

236 North Elm, Webster Groves, 1907, Walter & Carrie Warren

6074, 6075, and 6085 West Cabanne, St. Louis, 1908, Amadee J. Taussig (speculative)

6084 West Cabanne, St. Louis, 1908, Lawrence & Hazel Ewald

4 (5310) Windermere Place, St. Louis, 1908, Colonial Revival, A. J. Taussig (speculative), purchased by George H. & Harriet Williams

845 East Monroe, Oakland, 1908, Tudor Revival, Frank & Georgie Parker

100 West Clinton Place, Kirkwood, 1908, frame house, Albert B. Chandler, demolished

5 Kingsbury Place, St. Louis, 1909, American Prairie, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Meston

217 Spencer Rd., Webster Park, 1909, shirtwaist craftsman, Lucius C. & Jessie R. Flagg

441 Park, Webster Park, 1909, craftsman bungalow, Charles J. and Augusta Warren Kendrick

245 West Adams, Kirkwood, 1909, American Four-square, Richard M. & Lydia Day

16 Windermere Place, St. Louis, 1909, Colonial Revival, A. J. Taussig (speculative), purchased by Charles Vinton Anderson

18 Windermere Place, St. Louis, 1909, Tudor, A. J. Taussig (speculative), purchased by F. W. Albree

114 Glen Road, Webster Park, 1910, vernacular (American four square), Frank F. & Lillian Raum

2615 Poe Avenue, Overland, 1910, Prairie from plans by Frank Lloyd Wright, for Edward Gocke (Gocke-Vance House, county landmark)

300 North Taylor at Adams, Kirkwood, 1910-11, tile const, Bernice Wyer

3815 Castleman, St. Louis, 1911, W. E. Martin

405 East Adams, Kirkwood, 1912, George B. & Christine Eno Compton

330 Oakwood, Webster Park, 1912, shingle, John P. & Imogene Adams Henry

12 Kingsbury Place, St. Louis, 1912, English Regency, John L. and Sarah Green

541 South Clay, Kirkwood, 1912, stucco, James Howard & Mary Ross Ewald

411 Algonquin Place, 1913, stucco, Robert Klisack

6447 Cecil, Clayton, 1913, Craftsman, Henry T. & Edith Platt Ferris

701 North Second Street, 4-story factory, 1914 for Daniel Catlin, demolished

5782 Waterman at DeGiverville, St. Louis, 1915, Georgian, G. I. Rupp

3210 North Market, St. Louis, 1921, apartment building for Santino, demolished

7002 Pershing (and 1381 North Big Bend), University City, 1922, 3-story commercial & apartment building

6432 Cecil, Clayton, 1922, Georgian Revival, Oscar H. & Louise Vieths, Ewald & Allen Oscar Vieths was Samuel Allen's first cousin

7164 Princeton Ave. nr Midland, University City, 1923, green tile roof

6416 Cecil, Clayton, 1925, Georgian Revival, William H. & Catherine Burg, Ewald & Allen

7612 Gannon, University City, 1925, Charles M. and Velma Frances Ozment

7266 Westmoreland Dr., University City, 1926, minimal traditional, Albert and Fannie Razovsky

UNLOCATED PROPERTIES

Mrs. E. H. Blair, Kansas City
Country House for Mr. W., St. Louis County
Mentioned in S. Louis Architectural Club, 1900

A. Quinton Kennett, 5089 Westminster Place (originally
McPherson), St. Louis, 1906,
The house at this address was built c. 1897

Oscar L. Biebinger, Lot 7 Larkin Place, Ferguson (east
side Elizabeth Avenue)
DR 4-7-1909

Ruby Fryor, Ferguson, owner; Karl & Karin Jansen
(Jansson), owner & builder, 28 Dartmouth University
City; Lawrence Ewald architect, security bldg; 2 story
frame dwelling 14 x 32 ft lot 3 blk 2 Allen sub. \$1200.
April 2, 1912

Pilgrim Evangelical, 5594 West Florissant at Thrush, op-
posite Calvary Cemetery
DR 9-17-1912, \$28,000
Today an older commercial building is on this site
New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church is at 5580
West Florissant

J. P. Phelan House, Colonial Revival
American Architect Feb 5, 1913
Also illustrated in St. Louis Architectural Club

7467 Kingsbury, University City, for George Dauss
DR 8-8-1929, no such address

A NOTE ON HANS C. TOENSFELDT

Hans C. Toensfeldt was an architect and engineer in St. Louis from about 1910 to 1918, but his name comes up seldom in discussions of architecture of the time. He was born in St. Louis on September 10, 1879 to John Toensfeldt (1845-1930), a native of Münster, Germany, who worked as a general insurance agent. His mother, the former Elise Harder (1854-1929) was also from Germany. From 1910 to 1914 Hans served as commissioner of school buildings for the Board of Education. This was the period when William B. Ittner, the former commissioner, was still designing all the schools, but as a consultant rather than employee. Rockwell Milligan became the new commissioner in 1914. The city directory for that year shows Hans living with his parents at 4512 Westminster Place. They later moved to 5401 Cabanne. Hans had a sister, Grete (1886-1953), who was confined to the Arsenal Street Hospital, and a brother Ralf, an engineer married to the former Lois Meier. Hans was a consulting engineer for a time after leaving Ewald, Allen & Toensfeldt. On September 12, 1918, he registered

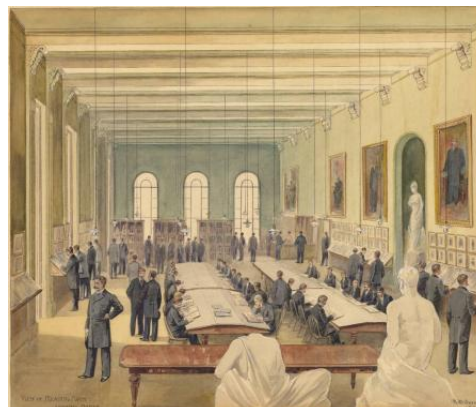
with the draft board for the City of Lorain, Ohio, indicating that he was then chief engineer for the Moreno-Burkham Construction Company. The 1920 census found him in Cleveland, where he was living in a boarding house. By 1930, he was in the Bronx, New York. He is not buried with other members of his family at Valhalla Cemetery, and his death date is unknown.

Thanks to Kris Zapalac for research assistance

A NEW ONLINE EXHIBITION: THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE ST. LOUIS CENTRAL LIBRARY

Waller McGuire, executive director of the St. Louis Public Library, has created an attractive and informative new website about the the architecture of the Central Library at 13th and Olive: <http://central.slpl.org/>. Headed "Library for a Second Century," it is divided into sections that cover the whole history of the institution, including pictures of Cass Gilbert's architectural drawings and blueprints and of the long construction period, which extended from 1908 to 1912. Two sections of the site deal with the current renovation and expansion, one showing perspectives of the new designs by George Nikolajevich of Cannon Design, and another showing the actual progress of the work currently underway.

The Public Library began in 1865 at the suggestion of Ira Divoll, the superintendent of schools, as a subscription library. Four years later it was taken over by the Board of Education and moved to the O'Fallon Polytechnic Building at Seventh and Chestnut (see the Spring 2008 Newsletter). It moved again in 1893 to the top floors of the new Board of Education Building at Ninth & Locust (see Summer 1997). That same year voters authorized an independent library board with its own property tax. But it was Andrew Carnegie's gift of one million dollars in 1901 that enabled the library to initiate the system of branch libraries (see Winter 1999) and to embark on its greatest building project, the Central Library.



Reading Room of the St. Louis Public Library when located in the O'Fallon Polytechnic Building at Seventh and Chestnut.

Two Walking Tours: Downtown St. Louis
 Every Saturday April to October, 10 to noon
 East tour starts on west steps of Old Courthouse
 West tour starts outside Grand Hall entrance
 to Union Station, Market at 18th

Doug Schneider is one of several SAH Chapter members leading tours of Downtown St. Louis every Saturday, rain or shine. The fee of \$5 per person benefits Metropolis, an organization promoting downtown living. No reservations are needed, kids are free, and dogs on leashes are welcome.

There are two tours: Eastern and Western. The Eastern Tour includes the Old Cathedral, Old Post Office and the heart of downtown. The Western Tour highlights the little known history and architectural significance of the Memorial Plaza and surrounding district.

NOTE: Parking is free on Saturdays at downtown parking meters. For more information, or to schedule a tour on a day other than Saturday, email architecture@mstl.org.

Twilight Tours at the Frank Lloyd Wright House

Sunday, May 22, 5:30 to 7:15
 Tuesday, May 24, 5:30 to 7:15
 Sunday, June 26, 5:30 to 7:15
 Monday, June 27, 5:30 to 7:15
 Ebsworth Park, 120 North Ballas Road, Kirkwood

See the Ruth & Russell Kraus House in a special way, starting with hors d'oeuvres, followed by a docent-led tour. Tickets are \$25 per person, limited to 10 people per evening. To reserve phone 314-822-8359 or e-mail info@ebsworthpark.org.

Mid-Century Modern "Parade of Homes"

Sunday, May 22, 1 to 4 p.m.
 for locations, visit www.Modern-STL.com

10 houses for sale in central St. Louis County will be open, thanks Modern STL board member Ginger Fawcett, who is a realtor specializing in mid-century modern houses. She has enlisted the help of her professional peers to showcase their MCM listings looking for a new owner who embraces the historic architecture of the atomic age in which they were originally built. The Modern StL Parade of Homes is free and open to the public. Stay tuned to the Modern StL website, www.Modern-STL.com, for addresses of the open homes for sale. They will be revealed the first week in May! And on May 22, look for the distinctive signs in the yards of the featured homes.

Illinois Statewide Preservation Conference
 Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4
 Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey, IL

For the first time in years, the stimulating and informative annual preservation conference sponsored by the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions will take place in striking distance of St. Louis. Events will be held at buildings designed by Theodore Link in Godfrey, just above Alton, with tours to Elsah, East St. Louis, and Sauget. For more information and to register, go to www.iahpc.org/state.html.

Exhibit: Monumental Miniatures
 June 5 through November 28
 Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park
 120 North Ballas Road, Kirkwood

An exhibition of architectural miniatures and souvenir buildings from private collections from around the country will be shown in the Frank Lloyd Wright house this summer. Phone 314-822-8359 to arrange for a tour, which may include a full tour of the property or may focus on the miniatures.

Talk: "Carbondale's First College Buildings"

Wednesday, June 8, 3 p.m.
 Morris Library, Southern Illinois University
 605 Agricultural Drive, Carbondale

Sponsored by the Alumni Association for SIU-C, our member David J. Simmons will speak about the University's first two buildings, the Normal School Building by Thomas Waryng Walsh 1874, burned 1883, and its replacement, Old Main by Isaac Taylor dedicated 1887. It burned in 1969. Both architects were among the ablest of their day but are less widely known today (except among SAH members!)

OPEN Sunday May 22, 1-4 pm

Mid-Century Modern



"Parade of Homes"

Brochures & Maps available at:
www.Modern-STL.com
 — OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO YOUR PHONE —



**Annual Meeting, St. Louis Chapter
Society of Architectural Historians**
Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.
Soldiers Memorial Military Museum
14th and Chestnut

This year's brief meeting will take place in the monumental Soldiers Memorial, a building that every St. Louisan has passed but few have visited. In addition to voting for the officers for the chapter, the morning will include a brief talk by Michael Allen about the development of the Civic Plaza, a tour of the museum, and participation in a flag retirement ceremony at 10:55. The Soldiers Memorial is just a short walk from Metro-link's Civic Center Station at 14th and Clark.



*The Soldiers Memorial, 1936-38, Mauran, Russell & Crowell
Occupying the block bounded by Chestnut, Pine, 13th & 14th.*

News Letter

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

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