Society of Architectural Historians

Marion Dean Ross Pacific Northwest Chapter

Newsletter Summer 2008

2007-2009 Officers & Appointed Positions

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The Annual Conference 2008 October 2 - 4, 2008 Tacoma, Washington

This year's meeting will be held in Tacoma, Washington. Tacoma, once the Pacific Northwest's largest city, showcases a rejuvenated downtown with one of the region's premier collections of late-nineteenth-century architecture set against Commencement Bay, Puget Sound, and the majestic backdrop of Mt. Rainer.

Fifteen organizations will welcome attendees to the 2008 Annual Conference on the weekend of October 2-4. Scholars will address the conference theme: "Re-Use, Recycling, and Rebirth: Architecture and Preservation in the Pacific Northwest." Some of the places participants will be visiting are:

North Slope Historic District

The North Slope encompasses more than 1,200 properties, primarily middle-class Victorian, Craftsman, Colonial Revival and Foursquare residences. One of the largest neighborhood historic districts in the country, it is on the Washington State Heritage Register and the National Register of Historic Places as well.

University of Washington Tacoma Campus

Once a derelict section of Tacoma, the UW Tacoma campus is located in the heart of the city's Union Depot Warehouse National Historic District. In May of 1999 the campus was given an Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). In October of 1999 the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded UWT a National Honor Award. The Cherry-Parkes Building and the Mattress Factory were the UW's and Tacoma's first certified LEED silver projects. The adaptive reuse and rehabilitation projects were a collaborative partnership among BOLA, Miller-Hull Partnership, and McGranahan Architects.

Knights of Pythias' Building

The Order of Knights of Pythias is an international fraternal order, established in 1864 in Washington, D.C. It was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an act of Congress. The Tacoma Pythian Temple was designed by the prolific Tacoma architect Frederick Heath. The Tacoma lodge remains active and is particularly engaged with preserving the 1906 structure. Historic Tacoma received grants from the Washington Trust's Valerie Sivinski Fund and the Colonial Dames of Washington to start a pilot preservation project in the Knight's Castle Hall. This two-story hall, completely hidden within the building's interior, is a rich confection of early 20th century woodwork, plaster, lighting, murals and carpeting.

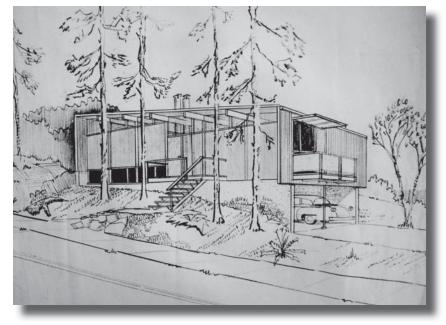
Stadium High School

Stadium High School, or "the Castle" as is it referred to by locals, was built as a luxury tourist hotel by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1891. The immense French Renaissance Revival structure was sited on a bluff overlooking Commencement Bay. The Tacoma School District purchased the building in 1905. In 2004 the building underwent a two-year, \$80 million renovation. The project won a 2006 Tacoma Landmark Preservation Commission award; a 2007 AIA Honor Award for Washington State; and the 2007 Washington State Historic Preservation Office, Valerie Sivinski Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation. The picturesque structure was also featured in Disney's 1999 movie "10 Things I Hate About You."



Walter D. Widmeyer Residence

The Fircrest home of Walter D. Widmeyer was completed in 1954. The Contemporary style home was widely publicized during and after its construction, and featured many new and innovative uses for plywood. The February 1958 issue of Pacific Architect and Builder highlighted the home on the cover and multi-page insert, calling the 1,200 sq ft. dwelling a "delightful experience." Owned by Marion Widmeyer, the house remains true to its 1954 appearance, complete with original furnishings, countertops and paint scheme. Walter Widmeyer graduated from the University of



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Washington in 1949 and became staff architect for the Douglas Fir Plywood Association (DFPA) in 1953.

In 1958, Widmeyer established an independent practice. While still supplying design support for DFPA, Widmeyer's practice grew quickly in the growing community of Fircrest and the south Puget Sound area. Widmeyer continued his independent practice into the 1990s. He passed away in Fircrest on September 9, 2004 at the age of 81.

Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters

Weyerhaeuser Company began more than 100 years ago with 900,000 acres of timberland, three employees and a small office in Tacoma. By the mid-20th century the company needed a more expansive corporate headquarters and moved just north of Tacoma to a 500-acre site near Federal Way in 1971.

The new building was designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. The headquarters is an exceptional example of successful collaboration between architect, interior designer, landscape architect and owner. It has received numerous awards, including the American Institute of Architects "Twenty-Five Year Award" in 2001. The foundation of the building forms a dam creating an artificial



lake. The headquarters is an early example of open-office landscaping. During our tour we will visit the main reception floor and executive office level, including roof top terraces.

Please see the following program and lodging information for details. A separate registration form is included in this newsletter. We look forward to greeting you in Tacoma in October.

Local Chair, Caroline T. Swope

Cooperating Host Organizations

Artifacts Consulting
BLRB Architects
BOLA Architecture & Planning
docomomo-wewa
Historic Tacoma
Knights of Pythias
North Slope Historic District
The Miller-Hull Partnership

Parametrix
Tacoma Historical Society
Tacoma Public School System
Weyerhaeuser Corporation
Marion Widmeyer
University of Washington Tacoma
University of Washington Tacoma:
Arts and Lectures Committee

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2008 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, October 2, 2008

North Slope Historic District Walking Tour 2:00-5:00 p.m.

To better accommodate various arrival times, the North Slope walking tour is self-guided. All tours will start at the Rhodes' mansion, located at 701 North J Street. Designed by Spalding, Russell & Heath, this home was recently featured in the winter 2007 edition of *Arts & Crafts Homes*. The first floor of the Rhodes' mansion will be open for viewing. Here you will pick up early registration material and a map of the North Slope Historic District.

A walk through about half of the district takes 20-30 minutes without stopping. However, there will be several private residences that will be open to our members, each clearly marked, with docents inside. You can pace the tour to fit your schedule, arrival time, and interest, stopping as many or as few times as you like.

Directions from the Hotel Murano: Go South on Broadway toward South 15th Street (0.1 mile). Turn right on South 15th Street (0.2 mile). Turn right onto Tacoma Avenue South (0.6 mile). Turn left onto 6th Avenue (0.2 mile). Turn right onto South I Street (0.6 mile). Turn left onto North 6th Street (0.1 mile). Turn right onto North J Street (0.1 mile). This drive takes about 5 minutes.

Opening Reception -- University of Washington Tacoma, Garretson Woodruff Pratt Building (GWP), Tacoma Room 320

This building is located on the northwest corner of South 19th Street and Pacific Avenue. The structure also houses the University Bookstore (1754 Pacific Avenue) on the main floor. It is less than a 10 minute walk from the Hotel Murano. Leave the hotel and turn right onto Broadway (South). Turn left onto South 15th Street, then right onto Pacific Avenue.

7:00 p.m.	Social Hour with hors d'oeuvres, no-host wines and brews, soft drinks
7:45 p.m.	Welcome and announcements, Caroline T. Swope, local chair, Edward Teague, president
8:00 p.m.	Michael Sullivan, Artifacts Consulting, <i>Urban Renewal, Preservation, and the Creation of the UWT Campus</i>

Friday, October 3, 2008

Scholarly Papers -- Knights of Pythias, 924-926 1/2 Broadway, Castle Hall (3rd floor)

The Knights of Pythias Building is located on the same street as the Hotel Murano, simply a few blocks north, a 5-10 minute walk. Walk out the hotel, turn left, and continue a few blocks. Building is on your left. If you reach 9th Avenue, you have walked too far.

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7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast

8:00-8:10 a.m. Welcome and announcements

8:10-9:30 a.m. Paper session I

Anne Lawrason Marshall, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Interior Design, University of Idaho, Moscow, *How Has Scholarship in JSAH Changed in the Last Forty Years?*

Elena Cristina Napolitano, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Art, University of Toronto, *Envisioning* "French Rome" in the Seventeenth Century: Israël Silvestre and the Panorama di Roma dal Pincio. 2008 Wendell Lovett Award Recipient

Michael Houser, Washington State Architectural Historian, Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, *Walter Day Hilborn: Built to Last*.

Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, *Origins and Development of Victor Steinbrueck's Seattle Cityscape* (1962).

9:30-10:00 a.m. Break

10:00-11:20 a.m. Paper session II

Wendy McClure, Professor, Department of Architecture and Interior Design, University of Idaho, Moscow, *Negotiating Cultural Sustainability in the Adaptive Reuse of Historic Mining Towns*.

Phillip G. Mead, Professor and Architecture Program Coordinator, College of Art and Architecture, University of Idaho, Moscow, *The Transitional Role of Environmental Health Spa Planning in the Rebirth of Ketchum/Sun Valley, Idaho*.

Miranda S. Anderson, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture and Interior Design, University of Idaho, Moscow, *AgCulture: The Future of Ag-Industrial Sites in the Pacific Northwest*.

Question and Answer Period

Lunch and Annual General Meeting, Knights of Pythias, Dining Room (4th floor)

11:30-1:00 p.m. Box Lunch followed by Annual General Meeting, Edward Teague, Chapter President, presiding

Afternoon Tours: UWT and Stadium High School

1:15 p.m. Meet UWT guides Susan Boyle and Rhoda Lawrence, principals at BOLA Architecture

and Planning, and Sian Roberts of Miller-Hull Partnership at Knights of Pythias. Walk

to UWT (about 15 minutes to reach campus) for campus tour.

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3:15 p.m. Board bus at UWT for short bus ride to Stadium High School

3:30-5:00 p.m. Tour Stadium High School Guides: Paul Popovich of Parametrix and Jonah Jensen of

BLRB Architects

5:15 p.m. Bus returns to Hotel Murano

Banquet and Evening Speaker, Hotel Murano, Burano Room, 3rd Floor

6:00 p.m. Social hour; no-host bar

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Welcome, acknowledgments and introductions

Edward Teague, Chapter President

Evening Speaker: Reuben McKnight, City of Tacoma Preservation Officer

Saturday, October 4, 2008

7:30 a.m. Board of Directors meeting and no-host breakfast at "Bite," in the Hotel Murano

9:00 a.m. Tour bus leaves Hotel Murano

Bus excursion to Widmeyer residence and Weyerhaeuser Headquarters

(limited to **bus only**, for security reasons)

9:15 a.m. Widmeyer residence, guided by docomomo-wewa docents

10:45 a.m. Bus to Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters

11:15 a.m. Tour Weyerhaeuser building, guided by Ken House, Weyerhaeuser archivist

12:45 p.m. Bus returns to Hotel Murano

Conference Ends

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Book Table for Authors

On Friday morning a book table will be set up outside the lecture room for displaying new releases by chapter-member authors. Display copies can be accompanied by ordering information.

Conference Accommodations in Tacoma

This year's conference hotel is the **Hotel Murano**, located at 1320 Broadway Plaza, just minutes from most of our event sites. A limited number of rooms have been reserved for members of the Marion Dean Ross Chapter. The conference rate is \$139.00 plus 13.5% tax for a room with two beds, which includes free in-room wireless internet. Reservations at this rate will be accepted until **September 11, 2008**. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m. Parking is available at the hotel for \$12.00 for self-parking or \$15.00 for valet parking.

To make a reservation online please log onto the following website: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=69583

To make a reservation by phone, call toll free 888-862-3255 or locally 253-238-8000 and inform them that you are a member of the Marion Dean Ross Chapter

To find the hotel, take I-5 to exit 133 for I-705 N/WA-7 S towards City Center. Keep right at the fork to continue toward I-705 N. Keep left at the fork, following signs for I-705 N/City Center and merge onto I-705 N. Take the A Street exit on the left toward WA-509 N/City Center. Keep left at the fork, following signs for Pacific Avenue/S 15th Street and merge onto S 15th Street. Turn right at Broadway.

If you prefer other convenient lodging options, the Best Western and Marriott are both within a short walk or light rail ride to the conference events. The Marriott Courtyard Downtown is located at 1515 Commerce Street. Their number is 1-253-591-9100. The Best Western Tacoma Dome is located at 2611 East E Street. Their number is 1-253-272-7737.

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c/o Jeannette Reynolds 6712 Fifth NW Seattle WA 98117

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Building Oregon Database

The University of Oregon is pleased to announce the premier of "Building Oregon: Architecture of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest," a database that provides approximately 14,000 images and descriptive information about the architectural heritage of the Pacific Northwest with special emphasis on Oregon's built environment. A substantial number of images come from slide collections of Marion Dean Ross, C. Gilman Davis, Michael Shellenbarger, and others who donated to the UO Libraries over the years. In collaboration with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, many images represent works listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Major support for this resource comes from the bequest of Lisa Gillett, a graduate of the UO's School of Architecture and Allied Arts. The SAH Marion Dean Ross Chapter and the Architecture Foundation of Oregon also contributed to this project, as did the Robert and Dorris Thomas Endowment which provided funds to support an intern. The search features of the database allow for browsing as well as complex searches employing fields such as name of work, creator, building type, location, and date.



Detail of Door, U. S. National Bank, Portland (Avard Fairbanks, 1925)

"Building Oregon" can be accessed at http://boundless.uoregon.edu/digcol/archpnw/index.html.