

WESTERN RESERVE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS CLEVELAND, OHIO

A Chapter of the SOCIETY of ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS



SPRING 2025 PROGRAM & INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Steve Kish at (440) 382-7454 or email stevekish74@aol.com website www.wrah.org

WESTERN RESERVE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

PURPOSE:

Western Reserve Architectural Historians was founded in 1965 to provide an opportunity for persons from all professions and backgrounds to meet regularly so that they might understand and enjoy the region's architectural heritage. At least six times per year, through walking tours, on-site visits, lectures, and discussions, WRAH members explore the notable, unusual, and significant in the built environment.

AWARDS:

The Western Reserve Award is given when merited, to recognize significant achievements and outstanding contributions to the architectural history of Ohio and the Western Reserve in particular. Some years, as a memorial to Edmund H. Chapman, Professor of Art History, Western Reserve University, a topical book is presented to a local library. On occasion, WRAH trustees may present an award of achievement.

2025 WRAH OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Sarah Klann	Barbara Flinn	Immediate Past President
Vice President	Stephen Kish		
Treasurer	Anne Meissner	Angelina Bair Shirley Lutts Steven Wexberg	Trustees
Associate Treasurer	Will Krause		
Secretary	Laura Peskin	Anne Meissner	Awards & Publications
Chapter Historian	Kenneth Goldberg	Richard Christ	Webmaster

RECENT RECIPIENTS OF THE SAH WESTERN RESERVE AWARD

1997:	Foster Armstrong, Richard Klein, & Cara Armstrong A Guide to Cleveland's Sacred Landmarks	2009:	Timothy Barrett, for Research and Advocacy towards Preservation of Significant Sacred Structures.
1998:	Eleven Authors in Search of a Building Edited by Cynthia C. Davidson	2012:	Walter Leedy, (Awarded Posthumously) Eric Mendelson's Park Synagogue Edited by Sara Jane Pearman
1999:	Elwin C. Robison First Kirtland Temple: Design, Construction, and Historic Context	2014:	Nina Freedlander Gibans and James D. Gibans Cleveland Goes Modern: Design for the Home, 1930-1970
2000:	Eric Johanneson (Awarded Posthumously) A Cleveland Legacy: the Architecture of Walker and Weeks	2018:	Laura DeMarco Lost Cleveland
2001:	Ann Marie Wieland, Cleveland State University A Century of Planning in Cleveland	2021:	Jeannine DeNobel Love Cleveland Architecture 1890-1930 Building the City Beautiful
2008:	Bratenahl Historical Society A Place Apart: The History of Bratenahl, Ohio Dianna Tittle, author, Color photos by Jennie Jones	2024:	Lauren Pacini Empire Builders

WRAH SPRING 2025 PROGRAM

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 9:30 AM **MEMBERS ONLY**
Subject: The History of the Henn Mansion
Speaker: Ginny Petrie, Trustee, Friends of the Henn Mansion
Place: Henn Mansion/Sims Park, 23131 Lakeshore Blvd, Euclid, OH 44123

Albert Henn, founder of the Acme Machine Screw Company, hired architect Earl Andrews to design and build a 9,200-square-foot, three-story, twenty-three room Tudor Revival style home, with Bungalow/Craftsman features, as a birthday present for his wife Gertrude in 1923. Andrews designed over one hundred large houses in the City of Cleveland and the inner-ring suburbs. The home was completed in 1925 but, unfortunately, Henn's wife passed away in 1931. Henn lost his fortune during the Great Depression, and as he was unable to pay his taxes, Henn agreed to a settlement that enabled him to live in the house until his death at which time full ownership and use of the house and property would transfer to the City of Euclid. In 1947, upon Henn's passing, the city took possession and over subsequent years used the house for the extra school classrooms, offices of the Board of Education, and the headquarters of the Recreation Department. After, a new city hall was built, the house stood empty except for police and fire training. By the 1990s, the home had fallen into disrepair. In 1995, the Friends of the Henn Mansion formed to save the structure from demolition and raised funds to restore the mansion. Many of the architectural features have been maintained including the slate roof, leaded windows, and the grand staircase. Today, this former residence is on the National Register of Historic Places and is used as an event venue. The Henn Mansion anchors a 30-acre park and bird sanctuary on the scenic shores of Lake Erie with lakefront amenities, trails, and beaches.

RSVP reservations to Steve Kish at 440.382.7454 or email stevekish74@aol.com by Thursday, March 7.

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM (Station 26) & at Noon (Fire Museum)
Subject: Cleveland Fire Stations / Western Reserve Fire Museum
Speakers: Lt. Michael D. Norman, CDF / Western Reserve Fire Museum Staff
Places: Fire Station 26, SW Corner of East 79th St. & Kinsman (7818 Kinsman) Rd.
Western Reserve Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Lt. Norman, Public Information Officer of the Cleveland Division of Fire, will lead a tour of three different Cleveland firehouses on the southeast side spanning the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries beginning at Station 26 where further directions will be distributed. After visiting the fire stations, the group will rendezvous at the museum. Attendees wishing to skip the tour may meet at the museum at noon. Tour free. Western Reserve Fire Museum admission: WRAH members free & Guests \$10.

Parking limited at all sites – recommend carpooling. At Station 26 park in adjacent driveway to the east of the building – overflow parking on west side of East 78th St. at Kinsman Rd. Park next to/on side of museum or in parking lot across the street on Commercial Rd. Access museum via East 9th Street to Commercial Rd.

RSVP reservations to Steve Kish at 440.382.7454 or email stevekish74@aol.com by Thursday, March 27.

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM **MEMBERS ONLY**
Subject: Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Speaker: Paul Westlake, Jr., FAIA, DLR Group (formerly Westlake Reed Leskosky)
Place: Cleveland Museum of Natural History, One Wade Oval, Cleveland, Ohio 44106
(Please assemble at the main entrance of the museum facing Wade Oval)

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, founded in 1920 and ranked among the top ten natural history museums nationally, celebrated the completion of a five-year-long, \$150 million renovation and expansion project in December 2024. Beginning in 2019 with the selection of the DLR Group (Cleveland office) to lead the "Centennial Transformation Project," a new lobby, visitor hall, exhibit hall, and science labs were created and the planetarium, auditorium, and interior courtyard were renovated adding interactive and immersive elements for visitor experiences. The importance of glaciers and water in shaping Lake Erie and its environs are echoed in the new façade and roofline of the museum including the rippling, grooved panels that swirl from the roofline and cascade downward over the front wall. Mr. Westlake will describe the project and lead a tour of the museum.

Parking: CMNH garage (fee) or on street (not metered on weekends). **Reservations: limited & mandatory.**

Adm. Fee: CMNH members none / Others - \$13 (contact Anne Meissner for discounted WRAH tickets).

RSVP reservations to Anne Meissner at 216.382.7883 or email ammeissner@aol.com by Wed., April 30.

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 10:30 AM
Subject: M. L. King, Jr. Campus of the Cleveland Public Library / Library Lofts
Speakers: Kimberly Hunter, Manager, Martin Luther King, Jr. Campus CPL
Chris Persons, AIA, Associate/Architect, Bialosky Cleveland
Laura Breig, Community Manager, Library Lofts Apartments
Places: MLK, Jr. Library, 10601 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106
Library Lofts, 10555 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Campus of the Cleveland Public Library and the Library Lofts Apartments are an innovative public-private collaboration within a single building. Kimberly Hunter, Branch Manager, will discuss the new library and lead a tour of attendees through the two-story facility. Chris Persons will speak on the overall design and construction of the shared structure. Laura Breig will talk about the apartments and show the group both common areas and suites.

Parking: Free parking in designated areas in garage across alleyway behind building.

RSVP reservations to Steve Kish at 440.382.7454 or email stevekish74@aol.com by Friday, May 30.