WESTERN RESERVE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

A Chapter of the SOCIETY of ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

SPRING 2022

PROGRAM & INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
Judith Sheridan at 440.685.4410 or email sheridan@orwell.net, 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 6 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.

2022 WRAH OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President Sarah Klann
Vice President Stephen Kish
Treasurer Joanne Blazeck
Associate Treasurer Anne Meissner
Secretary / Membership Judith Sheridan
Awards & Publications Kenneth P. Goldberg

Barbara Flinn
Julie McKeon
Terrence Sheridan
Anne Meissner
Carol Ganzel
Sarah Klann

Immediate Past President
Trustees
Honorary Advisors
Webmaster

RECENT RECIPIENTS OF THE SAH WESTERN RESERVE AWARD

1997: Foster Armstrong, Richard Klein, & Cara Armstrong
A Guide to Cleveland's Sacred Landmarks
1998: Eleven Authors in Search of a Building
Edited by Cynthia C. Davidson
1999: Elwin C. Robison
First Kirtland Temple: Design, Construction, and Historic Context
2000: Eric Johanneson (Awarded Posthumously)
A Cleveland Legacy: the Architecture of Walker and Weeks
2001: Ann Marie Wieland, Cleveland State University
A Century of Planning in Cleveland
2008: Bratenahl Historical Society
A Place Apart: The History of Bratenahl, Ohio
Dianna Tittle, author, Color photos by Jennie Jones
2012: Walter Leedy, (Awarded Posthumously)
Eric Mendelson's Park Synagogue
Edited by Sara Jane Pearman
2014: Nina Freedlander Gibans and James D. Gibans
Cleveland Goes Modern: Design for the Home, 1930-1970
2018: Laura DeMarco
Lost Cleveland
2021: Jeannine DeNobel Love
Cleveland Architecture 1890-1930
Building the City Beautiful
In 2014 architect Richard Fleischman completed a nearly 10-year project for Dr. and Mrs. Blackstone. The challenge was to create a private residence with a concert hall for a vintage Acolian-Skinner pipe organ. The structure had to accommodate 7,400+ pipes and console and had to have acoustic treatments to maximize the aural capabilities of the instrument. The 9,000+ square-foot structure’s exterior walls are constructed of steel I-Beams and plate glass. No solid walls obstruct views in the concert hall. One looks up to a skylight roof 43 feet overhead, and outwards to grassland and Lake Erie. Inside, copper colored organ pipes are grouped in sculptural configurations. Special paints, curved surfaces, and wide spatial dimensions accommodate long sound waves and heighten reverberations. Following a tour and comments by Dr. Blackstone, students from Cleveland Music Institute will play the organ for us.

**Directions:** From the West, exit I90 on Martin Luther King (MLK). Turn left (north) at traffic light. The road becomes Lakeshore Blvd after second traffic light. Follow the road for 1 mile to Spring Bank Lane. From the East, exit I90 at Eddy Rd. Turn right at traffic light (no turn on red) and proceed north to Lakeshore Blvd (traffic light), and turn left and go 1 mile to Spring Bank Lane. Entrance to Blackstone’s home is on Spring Bank Lane, a private drive off of Lakeshore Blvd. It is the middle home of 3 between Lakeshore Blvd and Lake Erie.

**Parking:** Plenty of on-street parking on Lakeshore Blvd., Burton Ave., Garfield Lane or at the Bratenahl Community Center. all preferable to Spring Bank Lane, which is quite narrow.

Please RSVP reservations to Sarah Klann at (216) 226-2820 or email saklann@netzero.net by Monday, March 14.

**COVID-19 Restriction:** Masks required.

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**WRAH SPRING 2022 PROGRAM**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION**

**Masks May Be Required at Certain Venues**

**Date:** Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 2:00 PM

**Subject:** Blackstone Residence Pipe Organ

**Hosts:** Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Blackstone

**Place:** The Blackstone Residence, 9721 Lakeshore Blvd. (at Spring Bank Lane), Bratenahl, OH

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**COVID-19 Restriction:** Masks required.

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**Date:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 1:00 PM

**Subject:** Malz Performing Arts Center Phase II

**Speaker:** Jordan Davis, House Manager

**Place:** 1855 Ansel Rd. at intersection with E.105th St. Cleveland, OH

Phase II of the Malz Performing Arts Center was created through partnerships between Case Western Reserve University, Temple Tifereth Israel and likeminded philanthropic leaders. This new addition provides a state-of-the-art home for CWRU’s Dept. of Theater and its renowned Masters in Fine Arts Acting Program, plus an important partnership with the Cleveland Playhouse. The new Phase II additions are: a Black Box Theater, the Proscenium Theater seating 250 and the Grand Atrium Foyer and Café. New backstage areas include practice rooms, costume and scene shops. These additions enhance the reputation of the performing arts at the University. Phase I Silver Hall will also be included in the tour.

Please RSVP reservations to Sarah Klann at (216) 226-2820 or email saklann@netzero.net by Friday, April 22.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 11:00 AM

**Subject:** Tour of Center Brook Manor

**Hosts:** Roger & Heather Peterson

**Place:** 8745 State Route 45, North Bloomfield, OH.

Built by Charles Brown and Julia King Brown in 1845. This unique home listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Charles Brown Gothic Cottage features an exceptionally intact interior considering its age. The interior features original windows with interior shutters. The architecture was inspired by Julia's trips to Europe prior to her marriage. The house was built in 1845 with solid walls of laid up planks and is situated on a hillside set well back from the state road. It originally was a 110-acre farm. It was an important stop on the Underground Railroad as the Browns were ardent abolitionists. Charles Brown was instrumental in the founding of Hiram College and signed the original charter. In 1859, Charles and Julia sold the house to her brother, Leicester King. In the last 50 years it has been little changed even though several families have occupied it. The Petersons purchased the house three years ago and are making necessary upgrades but not changing the original features. A separate announcement with lunch reservation information and cost will be sent in April.

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**Date:** Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 1:30 PM

**Subject:** The Staley-Turben House

**Hosts:** Susan and Jack Turben

**Place:** 6363 Lake Road West, North Madison, Ohio 44057

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for Mr. and Mrs. Karl A Staley and constructed over a two-year period beginning in 1950, the Staley-Turben House is a fine example of Wright “Usonian” style. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and one of less than a dozen houses in Ohio designed by the well-known architect, the house was built using stone quarried from the nearby Mill Creek in Madison. Purchased by Susan and Jack Turben from the original owners in 1983, the Turbens donated a preservation easement on the house to the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservatory in 2014 and gifted the home to University School in a life estate in 2019. Susan and Jack Turben will lead a tour of the house and will discuss its design, construction, and history. The Turbens have donated various materials, including original drawings and photographs of the house, to the Western Reserve Historical Society, which now constitute the Mr. and Mrs. Karl A. Staley House Collection.

**Directions:** The Staley-Turben House is located at the corner of Lake and Red Bird Roads. Parking is available on Red Bird and other nearby streets.

Please RSVP reservations to Sarah Klann at (216) 226-2820 or email saklann@netzero.net by Monday, June 5. Reservations are limited for this event.